



March 2012

Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

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During the six weeks of Lent on Sundays, come hear members of Crossroads Players offer us words of hope from biblical characters.

In many of the classes I teach, I invite students to write a short paper describing their experience with religion. In doing so, I hope to encourage them to reflect on where they have been as they compare the many religious traditions in the United States. Some write about fond memories of growing up in the church, and then explain why they have abandoned the church. Others write about discovering the church for the first time, finding meaning in what the church has to proclaim. One girl wrote about her memories of the special days she celebrated with her family, including what she referred to as “lint.” At first I was confused, until she explained that “lint” was the time leading up to Easter! I gently explained in my comments that “lint” refers to the stuff we clean out of dryers, but “Lent” is the season that helps us prepare for Easter.

As I’ve thought about her misspelling of this season within the church year, I began to realize that the word “lint” is connected to the season of Lent. If one doesn’t clean out the lint from a clothes dryer filter, the heat can build up and cause the dryer to overheat and result in a fire. In a similar way, if we don’t “clean out” the unhelpful

Cleaning out the lint

patterns in our lives, we can burn out as well. Lent offers us a time to “clean out” bad habits and create new opportunities for our lives. Cleaning out the lint during Lent may mean we give up a bad habit that causes harm to our health, or Lent might help someone clean out an unkind way of treating others. When we clean out the lint from our lives, we create space for a new pattern to develop. What are those lint-like places in your life that you want to clean out? Worship with us during the six weeks of Lent as we approach Easter, for together we can discover how God helps us clean out the lint.

Have you ever wondered about heaven or the afterlife? Many religions have explored that question; Pastor Doug invites you to join the conversation with people from various faith traditions in a book study beginning Wednesday, April 11, at 2:30 at Crossroads. During the four-week study we will read *Heaven: Our Enduring Fascination with the Afterlife* by Lisa Miller. Talk with Pastor Doug to reserve a copy of the book.

The Shrine Welcomes Arun Gandhi
Saturday April 21, 2012 at 9:00 am



Arun Gandhi, an Internationally acclaimed peace activist and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, travels the world to promote the nonviolence movement of

his grandfather. He has partnered with such dignitaries as former President Bill Clinton, His Holiness The Dalai Lama and Martin Luther King III. He will make a

presentation about his legendary grandfather and how his influence can still improve the world today. The day's activities include:

- Presentation & Book Signing
- Self-guided prayer pilgrimage
- Lunch with the speaker at the Apartment Community (added cost of \$15.00 per person)
- General Admission:\$20
- Student Rate: \$10

Souper Bowl of Caring

Nationwide 8,160 groups generated \$8,278, 755.

Crossroads donated \$150 and over 200 food items

Thank you for your generous donations.

St. Patrick—Did You Know?

As a boy of 16, Patrick was kidnapped from his native Wales and brought captive to Ireland. After 6 years he was able to escape his captors and returned to his family. After entering the Church, he returned to Ireland as a bishop and is credited to converting the pagan Irish to Christianity. He died on March 17th, which is now celebrated as St. Patrick's Day as a Holy Day by the Irish churches and a celebration of Ireland by everyone else. Some of the legends attributed to St. Patrick are:

St. Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland: It is said St. Patrick chased all of Ireland's snakes into the sea after they tormented him during a 40 day fast. It's more likely that there were never any native snakes in Ireland due to the difficulty of a reptile to navigate across the ocean to a new terrestrial home.

The Shamrock: Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaf shamrock as an illustration to teach the Holy Trinity to new believers. It is now the iconic symbol of St. Patrick's Day.



The Celtic cross: The symbol of the Christian cross combined with a pagan sun symbol has been widely attributed to St. Patrick's effort to convert the populace to Christianity. The cross is superimposed over the sun to show the supremacy of Christ over the pagan sun.



Elder's Corner

As a youngster being reared in a conservative Baptist church, the only thing I knew about Lent had something to do with my Catholic friends giving up eating chocolate or reading comic books for a certain period before Easter. I remember thinking it was a strange ritual and was glad that my church didn't make such demands upon me.

But as I've grown older (both chronologically and theologically) I have come to appreciate the significance of

setting apart the forty days before Easter to commemorate the 40 days that the Christ denied himself during his fasting sojourn in the wilderness. So it is fitting that during these 40 days we identify with the Christ in denying ourselves some temporary comforts. When we consider what God has done for us through sacrificing his son, the Christ, is giving up a chocolate bar too much of a sacrifice for us?

Ken Holmes

Chips from the Board

17 People were in attendance at the board meeting.

The following was reviewed:
Minutes of Previous Meeting – Set into record.

Reports of Officers

Treasurer/Office Manager:
Treasurer's report to be filed for audit.

Church Clerk – Stands in record.

Reports from the various
Committees/Task Forces

Stewardship/Finance – Stewardship committee meeting to be held on Monday, February 20, 2012.

Hospitality –meeting to be held on March 4, 2012 directly after church.

Elders - Ron Goff presented his view on the Interdenominational Worship from our church held at Knollwood.

New Business:

Pat is requesting volunteers for cleaning old paperwork from the choir room.

Next Board Meeting to be held on:

Sunday, March 18, 2012.

During Lent, come on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for dinner and a five-week video series on the life of Jesus.

Upcoming Events

Save The Date

Crossroads welcomes our Area Minister, Penny Ross-Corona on Sunday April 22, 2012.

A fellowship dinner and a celebration of the Crossroads ministry will follow worship.

BEACON Senior Information

Ms Sharon Hamilton from PSOP (Programs and Services for Older People) will be the featured speaker and will provide information about PSOP programs.

The meeting will be held March 5th at 7 pm at the Swansea Firehouse #2, located at 144 Huntwood Rd. (near Wolf Branch School). Attendees will receive a free Senior Citizens Resource Directory.

Concerns

- Marie R.
- Charlotte W.
- Marsha (daughter of Marie D), radiation treatment
- Brooke (friend of Jan), heart problems
- Dan (Pat P. cousin), heart surgery
- Missy (friend of Jennifer), custody issues
- Lenny (son of Faye P)
- Kay (friend of Marie R) lung cancer
- Diana's mother (co-worker with Maggie), stroke
- Mother of student at Lebanon Kids, recovering from surgery
- Paula (friend of Pat P.), cancer
- Leslie (sister of Mary P.), hospital
- Hedy and Leroy
- Tom (Jessie's husband)
- Dwight C.
- Adina (Jennifer's sister), safe pregnancy
- Nerissa's brother (Maggie's friend), motorcycle accident
- Tashia, recovering from foot surgery
- Hollie, loss of grandfather
- Kaleigh (tutor with Lebanon Kids), recovering from surgery
- Shirley (Susan's mother-in-law), liver cancer
- Ken & Shirley's brother-in-law
- Pat D.'s cousin's husband died. Pat's cousin, chemo
- Cheryl, mother of Jamie (friend of Staci), health concerns
- JoAnn (sister of Staci's friend), cancer, stroke
- Death of Brian (Margaret and Pat's nephew)

Global Concerns

- Death of police recruits in Baghdad due to suicide bomber
- Global Mission Partners in China
- Those living in the Middle East, especially Syria
- Homeless
- Children living in chaos

Joys

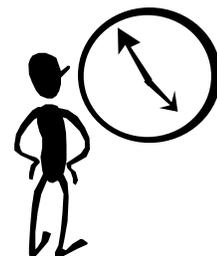
- Successful MLK event with Lebanon Kids
- Lauren, made girl's basketball team
- Marie R., passed stress test
- Thanks to Susan for new chair for sound system desk
- Elvie, cast off, house passed inspection
- Jan's heart back in rhythm

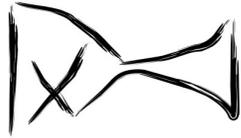


Don't Forget!

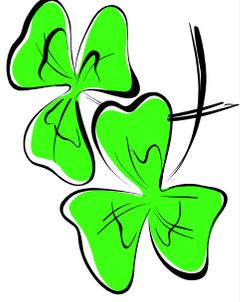
Daylight Savings begins on Sunday March 11, 2012.

Set your clocks ahead one hour.





March 2012



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 4 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Hospitality Mtg. | 5 | 6 | 7 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study | 8 9 | 10 | |
| 11 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Refreshments in Fellowship Hall 10:45 Worship 12:00 Art at Crossroads | 12 10:00 Elder's Worship at Knollwood | 13 10:00 Grief Group | 14 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Choir | 15 16 7:00 Elders' Meeting | 17 | |
| 18 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Board Meeting | 19 | 20 12:00 Lunch Bunch | 21 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study | 22 23 | 24 | |
| 25 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship | 26 | 27 | 28 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study | 29 30 | 31 | |



Maundy Thursday
 April 5 Meal 6 pm
 Worship 7 pm

24 Hr. Prayer Vigil
 Friday April 6 noon to
 Saturday April 7 noon

Happy Anniversary!
 16 Pat and Ed Hayes

Happy Birthday!

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Tim Hampton | 17 Nell Peters | 25 Jennifer Lewis |
| 4 Mary Clay | 18 Jim Buckhannon | 27 Nancy Stone |
| 5 Willie Burgess | Mary Moss | Mike Thompson |
| 6 Gwen Boggan | 22 Joe Weygandt | 28 Brittany Trebing |
| 9 Mary Jane Tucker | 23 Wayne Reichling | 30 Clay Marshall |



Lay Worship Leaders—March 2012

| | March 4 | March 11 | March 18 | March 25 |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Worship Leader | Ron Goff | Pat McAllister | Jennifer Lewis | Dan Upton |
| Reflection w/ Children & Youth | Pat McAllister | Jennifer Lewis | Pastor Doug | Pat McAllister |
| Elders—Bread Cup | Mona McAllister Dale Hodges | Ron Goff Dale Hodges | Mona McAllister Ron Goff | Ron Goff Mona McAllister |
| Deacons Prepare | Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith | Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith | Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith | Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith |
| Deacons Serve | Betty Allen Jan Evans Carole Thompson Patty Peterman | Betty Allen Jan Evans Carole Thompson Patty Peterman | Trish Dueland Marie Reichling Connie McAllister Jessie Hull | Trish Dueland Marie Reichling Connie McAllister Jessie Hull |
| Deacons Candles | Marie Reichling | N/A | Connie McAllister | N/A |
| Deacons Sanctuary/Prep | Trish Dueland | Marie Reichling | Susan Johnasen-Smith | Virginia Johnasen |
| Acolytes | Andrea House | Adriana House | Eric Mielke | Lauren Dueland |
| Greeter | Cathy Mielke | Pat Killian | Curt Sutton | Staci Cripe |
| Audio Visual | David Kennedy Eric Mielke | David Kennedy Eric Mielke | David Kennedy Eric Mielke | David Kennedy Eric Mielke |

Disciples News

Eight Disciples Deliver Sermons

Eight Disciples participated in the third annual National Festival of Young Preachers in Louisville, Kentucky in January. They joined 108 other young people from around the country to deliver sermons inspired by the Sermon on the Mount.

The festival was hosted by the Academy of Preachers, an ecumenical organization for young people aspiring to a vocation of preaching and ministry. Chalice Press has compiled and published sermons from the past two festivals and will publish an installment from the 2012 gathering.



From left: Karen Powell, Matt Eversole, Carlene Demiany, and Christian Smith.

Modern Day Slavery

Disciples Women have made their social action emphasis for 2010 - 2014 the effort to end modern-day slavery as it attempts to educate and resource Disciples on human trafficking. Many people understand slavery to be a thing of the past, an embarrassing, unjust part of our history. Unfortunately, it is an all too real part of our current day world. Women, children, and, yes, even men are being traded for sexual exploitation or forced labor or services by fraud or debt bondage, force or coercion. This is often thought to be a problem in developing countries. That is true. But, it is also a problem right here in the United States, in your state, in your neighborhood.

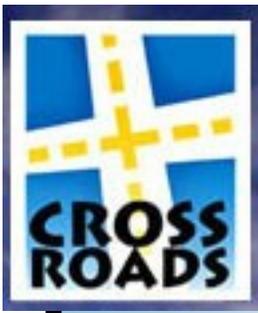
Worldwide there are 27 million people in modern-day slavery

- 1.3 million children are exploited by the global sex trade, every year
- 300,000 American children and youth are estimated to be at risk of sexual exploitation
- Disciples Women proposed a resolution to the General Assembly in 2011, which passed unanimously, calling for the assembly to declare its opposition to human trafficking and to engage in education and advocacy in their local communities about this criminal practice. What action can you take?

Easter Offering 2012

- From the doorsteps of your congregation to the ends of the earth, the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) resource congregations for mission. The 2012 Easter Offering provides 20-25% of the annual funding for General Ministries.
- The General Ministries serve on your behalf around the globe. In Central America, the Church has long-term partnerships for theological education, and agricultural and medical training. In Africa, which is among our largest global presence, there are more members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo than in the US and Canada. In Southeast Asia, our missionaries operate after-school programs keeping children from being sold into the sex trade. These ministries and many more around the globe are dependent on your

(Continued on page 8)



Christian Church

2415 North 89th Street
Caseyville, IL 62232
(618)398-1587

Pastor—Rev. Dr. Douglas Cripe
ddcripe@gmail.com

Music Director—Lisa Cripe
lacripe@charter.net

Custodian—Gary Elkins
Nursery—Rebekah Cripe

We're Disciples: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world

Easter Offering 2012

(Continued from page 7)

generosity. Your congregation connects daily to partners to provide education, medical, social and sustainable development resources in over 190 countries! Your Easter Offering gifts provide critical presence, meeting God's people at the place of deepest need.

- In the United States and Canada, your financial support provides leadership to

congregations seeking missional assessments and strategic planning. Your gifts provide resources to bring together college students and young adults for leadership training and development where the students learn, but also help direct the future of the church through honest conversation about cultural and generational relevancy. Your gifts provide supplemental pension payments to clergy who served in the mission field or small congregations and whose retirement benefits are insufficient to keep them above the poverty level. Your gift provides a safe and stable environment for developmentally disabled adults and children in foster care transition. Your gifts bring life and resource your congregation for mission! The General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are YOUR partners in mission, resourcing and equipping congregations for ministry. YOUR gift to the Easter Offering provides vital support of a critical common witness! Together, we are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world!