



March 2013

Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

Elder's Corner

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We have begun our journey to the foot of the cross. Jesus was born in the most humble beginning and lived a spotless life on his journey to the cross and knew he would be the sacrifice for each one of us. Jesus lived as an example to love and serve each other. It is very easy to shut God out of our lives and go against his principles and commandments to do our own thing. It is our human nature to put blinders on at times and make excuses for ourselves. To look around us and observe our neighbors experiencing pain in one way or another, and ignore them is not the way Jesus lived. When we choose to be a servant to others, whether it is a listening ear, helping financially, a hug or smile, we are traveling the path that God wants for each of us. Remember: *You may be the only Jesus the world will ever see.*



—Mona McAllister

Lenten Activities

Worship times:

Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Worship at 10:45 am.

- Explore the **meaning of the Last Supper** (Wednesday evenings Feb. 20-March 20, 5:30): We will begin with dinner, watch segments of a five-week series on the Last Supper, and discuss how this central event affects us today.
- **Book study** of the novel *Joshua* (Wednesdays in March, 2:30-4:00): Meet the carpenter Joshua who arrives in town and stirs up conversation and controversy. How might his journey help us along our Lenten path?
- **Crossroads Players** will offer dramatic readings during worship each Sunday during Lent, helping us reflect on this season.
- **Maunder Thursday** (March 28): Come and remember the final meal Jesus ate with his disciples before he died. How does this meal affect your continuing journey in faith? Worship with us at 7:00.
- **Prayer Vigil** (March 29-30): Pray at home or church during a 24-hour vigil from noon Friday to noon Saturday. Sign up at church or call the office to reserve a time.

Crossroads Outreach Giving 2012

Budgeted outreach

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Beacon | \$601 |
| Southeast Gateway Area (SEGA) | \$1,401 |
| Total budgeted outreach | \$2,002 |

Loose change offerings

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Jan: Good Samaritan (emergency fund) | \$116 |
| Feb: Food pantries (Souper Bowl) | \$150 |
| March: Week of Compassion (tornado relief) | \$88 |
| April: Violence Prevention Center | \$183 |
| May: Heifer Project | \$125 |
| June: Deacon Fund (help for emergencies of Crossroads members) | \$101 |
| July: Food pantries (Fairview & Caseyville) | \$111 |
| August: Call for Help (emergency call-in center) | \$82 |
| Sept: Good Samaritan (emergencies for people in community with Beacon consultation) | \$127 |
| Oct: Bread for the World (advocacy for hunger issues) | \$100 |
| Nov: Beacon | \$96 |
| Dec: Woodhaven (adults with special needs) | \$70 |
| Total loose change offerings | \$1,349 |

Disciples Mission Fund (DMF)

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Easter (general ministries) | \$594 |
| Pentecost (new churches) | \$185 |
| Reconciliation (to end racism) | \$269 |
| Thanksgiving (higher education) | \$171 |
| Christmas (regional ministries) | \$340 |
| Week of Compassion (general disaster relief) | \$396 |
| Week of Compassion (designated for tornado relief) | \$152 |
| Week of Compassion (designated for hurricane relief) | \$280 |
| Total DMF | \$2,387 |

Direct gifts by members on behalf of Crossroads

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Beacon | \$1,275 |
| Compassion Int. (sponsorship of Mukunzi Olivier) | \$424 |
| Week of Compassion | \$1,100 |
| Total gifts by individuals to agencies | \$2,799 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Total all cash gifts | \$8,537 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|

Donated items (est. value)

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 50 school kits with supplies (\$15 each) | \$750 |
| 22 school kit bags w/o supplies (\$5 each) | \$110 |
| 169 food items (Thanksgiving) (.50 each) | \$85 |
| school supplies to local elementary school | \$100 |
| 196 food items (Souper Bowl) (.50 each) | \$98 |
| Christmas gifts for local families | \$450 |
| Total donated items | \$1,593 |
| Overall total cash & donated items | \$10,130 |

Although it's tempting to make value judgments based on the number of people attending a church or on the amount of income received, another indication of a church's health is looking through the lens of outreach giving. Does a congregation use all its resources for itself, or does it graciously share the gifts that God has provided?

In compiling our outreach giving for 2012, I was amazed at the generosity of our congregation. We budgeted money for outreach, gave to the Disciples Mission Fund through Special Day Offerings, collected a monthly loose change offering for outreach, and gave in so many other ways. When I totaled the amounts, I discovered that we gave over \$10,000 in outreach this past year, compared to our General Fund offering income of \$84,406. Our General Fund expenses were just over \$96,000, which means our outreach giving was 10.5% of our giving! Look at the spreadsheet on the left to celebrate the many ways we gave generously. What a wonderful model for each of us to strive to follow.

In order to meet all our financial expenses, we did have to draw from our savings in the amount of \$19,760, but in today's economy, many individuals and families also draw from savings in order to pay bills. It's good to know that as a church, we continue to be generous

Pastor Doug

Chips from the Board

- Board approved a recommendation from Stewardship Committee to approve Lisa Cripe's request to use church facilities for children's Musikgarten program and music lessons with a rental fee to be determined.
- Hospitality will sponsor an Easter Brunch on March 31 at 9:15 am in lieu of Sunday School. Sign-up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall for those planning to attend and meal donations.
- Saturday Task Force group will not meet until further notice. Dare to Lead group will meet Saturday, March 9.



Dare to Lead

Ten members of our congregation participated in the Dare to Lead leadership event on February 15-18 at Affton Christian Church. In addition to Crossroads, five other congregations participated in this event. We engaged in some team-building exercises (pictured), active listening exercises and discussed demographics and trends of churches today. We are gathering data

for our congregation here at Crossroads, and we plan to meet again for another Dare to Lead event at the end of May. If you would like to know more or have any questions about this process, feel free to contact any of the participants: Doug Cripe, Staci Cripe, Lisa Cripe, Jan Evans, Ken Holmes, David Kennedy, Jennifer Lewis, Kay Marshall, Pat McAllister, or Cathy Mielke.

Calling all instrumentalists!

Please contact our Director of Music, Lisa Cripe (581-8294, lacripe@charter.net) if you would be interested in playing in the Crossroads Band for Easter Sunday service on March 31, or another future date.

Do you have an instrument hiding in your closet? Why not bring it out and blow off the cobwebs? Lisa will be happy to help you renew your musical skills, or consider making your instrument available for someone else to learn to play.

Lisa would also like to start a Recorder Ensemble. She has 4 extra recorders to loan, and will teach anyone who is interested. Recorders are easy and fun to play!

Musikgarten Family Music Classes for families with Newborns, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and 5-7 year olds will begin at Crossroads on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings beginning March 14 and March 16. Please contact Lisa Cripe (581-8294, lacripe@charter.net) for more information to share with friends, neighbors, and relatives.



Prayers

- Brenda M (friend of Pat P) in hospital with cancer
- Debbie (friend of Pat P) several challenges
- Peggy (friend of Pat P) in an accident
- Death of Nell Peters
- Ricky S, 1 year old (great great nephew of Kim H) hole in heart. Doing much better! Family thanks church for prayers
- Tina (friend of Staci) breast cancer
- Emilee Rose & Martha (friend of Kim H) trying to adjust to loss of mother and new family
- Kim (friend of Pat P) recovering from lung cancer surgery, hard time with chemo
- Jennifer K (ex-step mother of David K) loss of 24-year-old son in shooting
- Jim B, thank you for the beautiful columns in the sanctuary
- Bernard (Kim H. Dad) polyps on liver were NOT cancer
- Mark (son-in-law Marie R) foot surgery
- Kate (daughter-in-laws mother Wayne & Marie R) 4 brain surgeries in 3 weeks
- Andrew (son-in-law of Wayne & Marie R) deployed to Afghanistan
- Dorothea (sister of Wayne & Marie R) knee replacement
- David (Pat P) loss of lives at mission in Ethiopia
- Death of Dwight Coleman
- Marsha B recovering from heart surgery
- Death of Trish Dueland's brother's step-daughter



Our Homebound

Pat Beyer
 Ray Doctorman
 Rollie & Jodie Hoehn
 Vera Hudson
 Mary Moss
 Nelson Rodriguez-Arté

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for welcoming me so warmly back to church with applause, and I also appreciate the Deacon Emeritus pin and certificate. I will be back again when Jessie can bring me.

—Carolyn Percivall

Notes

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to work with your congregation and be a part of this church family. I am very sad to be leaving and pray only the best for all of you and for this Church.

—Dawn Standridge

Lay Worship Leaders—March, 2013


| | March 3 | March 10 | March 17 | March 24 | March 31 |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Worship Leader | Pat McAllister | Kay Marshall | Ken Holmes | Mike Thompson | Lori Burgess |
| Elders – Bread & Cup | Jan Evans | Mona McAllister | Pat McAllister | Jennifer Lewis | Ron Goff |
| Deacons Prepare | Pat Killian Marie Dyar | Pat Killian Patty Buckhannon | Marie Dyar Pat Killian | Marie Dyar Pat Killian | Pat Killian Marie Dyar |
| Deacons Serve | Lori Burgess David Kennedy | David Kennedy Lori Burgess | David Kennedy Lori Burgess | Lori Burgess David Kennedy | Lori Burgess David Kennedy |
| Deacons Candles | | N/A | | N/A | |
| Sanctuary | Carol Brookshier | Marie Dyar | Pat Killian | Marie Dyar | Carol Brookshier |
| Greeter | Curt Sutton | Marie Reichling | Doug Cripe | Pat Killian | Curt Sutton |
| Audio-Visual | Kay Marshall | David Kennedy Jr. | Kay Marshall | David Kennedy Jr. | Kay Marshall |
| Fellowship | | Carole Thompson | | | |
| Scriptures | Psalm 27 John 9:1-2 “Lighten Up” | Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 “Cleanup Time” | Psalm 126 John 12:1-8 “Wasteful Scents of Laughter” | Psalm 95 Luke 19:29-40 “Shouting Stones” | Psalm 118 Luke 24:1-12 “Rolling Stones” |



March 2013

SEGA Prayers for the Month

3/3-3/9 St. Charles Christian Church, St. Charles, MO
 3/10-3/16 First Christian Church, Poplar Bluff, MO
 3/17-3/23 The Body of Christ Christian Church, St. Louis, MO
 3/24-3/30 First Christian Church, Sikeston, MO

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|---|
| 3 Tim Hampton 4 Mary Clay 5 Willie Burgess 6 Gwen Boggan | 9 Mary Jane Tucker 18 Jim Buckhannon Mary Moss 22 Joe Weygandt | 23 Wayne Reichling 25 Jennifer Lewis 27 Mike Thompson 28 Brittany Clark | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship | 5 | 6 | 6 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir | 7 | 8 | 9 Dare to Lead 10:00 |
| 10 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Worship | 12 | 13 | 13 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir | 14 6:00 Musikgarten | 15 | 16 9:00 Musikgarten |
| 17 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship | 19 | 20 | 20 4:15 Elder's Meeting 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir | 21 6:00 Musikgarten | 22 | 23 9:00 Musikgarten |
| 24 Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship | 26 | 27 | | 28 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm | 29 | 30 24 hour Prayer Vigil noon-noon |
| 31 Easter Sunday 9:15-10:15 Breakfast 10:45 Worship |  Happy Anniversary! 16 Pat and Ed Hayes | | | | | |

10,080 Minutes for Mission: Week of Compassion 2013

How many minutes are there in one week? How many minutes make up one Week of Compassion? We often lift up “Minutes for Mission” during our worship services to help us understand exactly what we are doing in the world, and how our offerings are making that happen. Even though I have always understood that there is only so much time available during a service, I must admit that I have always been uncomfortable with giving just one minute (or two) to mission. Surely our mission—our purpose—our calling deserves more than a minute.

Yes. Yes! While there were four Minutes for Mission included in the Planning and Resource Guide this year, we could have easily shared 10,076 more with you. Here are more mission moments that highlight what your offerings from last Week of Compassion have made possible in 2012:

--Week of Compassion supported the building of disaster recovery mission stations in Joplin, MO, and Tuscaloosa, AL. WoC's partnerships with local Long Term Recovery Organizations, local Disciples congregations, Disciples Volunteering, and in the case of Joplin, with the Disaster Response Ministry of the United Church of Christ (UCC), provided Disciples from all over North America with a chance to participate in the recovery of these communities and help people whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the tornado to get back home.

--WoC provided solidarity grants to members of Disciples churches in New York and New Jersey who were displaced by Hurricane Sandy, many of whom lost their homes. We also supported the work of Church World Service (CWS), which has provided material resources and long term recovery training in affected communities.

--When the most unthinkable violence occurred

in Newtown, CT, senselessly taking the lives of our children and their teachers, WoC gifts reached Central Christian Church in Danbury who helped us provide their partner agency, Families and Children's Aid (FCA), with copies of the children's book dealing with trauma and violence, *A Terrible Thing Happened* which they distributed to children who have been affected by the Sandy Hook shootings.

--WoC partnered with Foods Resource Bank and local growing projects connected to our congregations to help invest in food security in vulnerable communities all over the world. We've been exploring the possibility of launching new growing projects in Lexington, VA; Hiram, OH; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; and Visalia, CA. Such partnerships will help fight hunger all over the world.

--WoC gifts have been working to alleviate the needs of the thousands now displaced and on the run in Syria, where we are collaborating with the Middle East Area Office of Global Ministries, CWS, and International Orthodox Christian Charities, our partner in the ACT Alliance. WoC has helped to provide emergency assistance, food, water, and aid to refugee camps.

We could continue. But I'm not sure how many of you would have the time to read the thousands more Minutes for Mission your Week of Compassion gifts have made real. One week. 10,080 minutes. Countless lives changed. All because we shared.

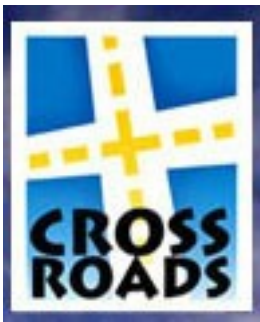
Sharing changes lives. Sharing brings joy—52 weeks a year, thanks to your gifts during this one Week of Compassion.

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

With profound gratitude and joy for your ongoing generosity,

Amy Gopp

(for a complete list of missions please visit www.weekofcompassion.org)



Christian Church

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

Office Manager - Patrick McAllister
crossroadsdisciple@sbcglobal.net

Hours: M,W,Th 8-12

Music Director - Lisa Cripe
lacripe@charter.net

Nursery - Connie McAllister

Custodian - Richard Reichling

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

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch

On Tuesday, March 19, the Lunch Bunch will meet at Hokkaido Seafood Buffet and Grill, 4580 N. Illinois in Swansea at noon. Sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.

Masterworks Concert

The Masterworks Chorale and Children's Choruses present their most popular concert of the year at 7:30pm, March 9, at The Hett on the campus of McKendree University. Lisa Cripe is singing with the chorale and has advance tickets available. Prices are \$15 for adults; \$5 for students.

2013 General Assembly

