



March 2014

# Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

## A Moment with Pastor Mike

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Lent, like Advent, is a time of preparation. It's a time of learning what it means to be a follower of Christ. It helps us come to grip with the realities of life, so that we might better understand the Christ who went to Jerusalem and died on a cross. That, in turn, prepares us so we can truly celebrate the joy of Easter.



Here is our Lenten schedule for 2014:

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, at 5:30pm, we will gather for a pancake supper followed by a quiet and meaningful service that will begin our Lenten journey, a time of confession, reflection, and receiving ashes.

Our sermons in Lent will be mostly from the Gospel of John, exploring the ministry of Jesus leading to Holy Week. (see schedule on p. 3)

On Wednesday evenings in Lent, during our DVD sessions, we are pleased to offer a dramatic video of the Gospel of John, exploring the different times Jesus said "I am..."

- March 12 "I am the bread of life." John 6
- March 19 "I am the light of the world." John 8
- March 26 (Also Relational Bible Study) "I am the Good Shepherd." John 10
- April 2 "I am the Resurrection and the Life" John 11
- April 9 "I am the Way the Truth and the Life" John 14 and "I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, we will celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem during morning worship.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7pm, for worship and communion service.

Our Good Friday Prayer Vigil from noon to Saturday noon.

Easter, April 20, brings the joy of celebrating Christ's resurrection! We will joyously celebrate as a people who know the power of new life in Christ, our risen Lord.

Life's journey can bring many challenges and make many demands. We may find ourselves stretched thin, and wondering whether it's worth it all. But our Lenten journey, through our worship together, and through our own spiritual disciplines, can give us the strength to get through and insight to find meaning. Come join us on the journey and find the bread of life that alone can satisfy.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Mike

### Worship times:

Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Worship at 10:45 am.

## 24 Hour Prayer Vigil

Each year the members of Crossroads participate in an unbroken chain of prayer during the Easter weekend beginning at noon on Good Friday, April 18, 2014, and concluding at noon on Saturday, April 19, 2014.

During this time a section of our sanctuary is transformed into a place of quiet thought and reflection. Various written and audio materials for prayer and meditation will be provided to help clear your mind and be attentive to God's still small voice.

A sign up sheet will be provided for you to schedule 1/2 hour increments, or more if you wish. You have

the option of praying at church or in your home. For those who want to pray at church, rest assured that during your time here, someone will be in attendance to let you in and to provide security.



## Did you know?—Lent

The word Lent itself is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning "Spring," and *lenctentid*, which literally means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls.

The number "40" has always had special spiritual significance regarding preparation. On Mount Sinai, preparing to receive the Ten Commandments, "Moses stayed there with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights, without eating any food or drinking any water" (Exodus 34:28). Elijah walked "40 days and 40 nights" to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb (another name for Sinai) (1 Kings 19:8). Most importantly, Jesus fasted and prayed for "40 days and 40 nights" in the desert before He began His public ministry (Matthew 4:2).



[www.catholiceducation.org](http://www.catholiceducation.org)

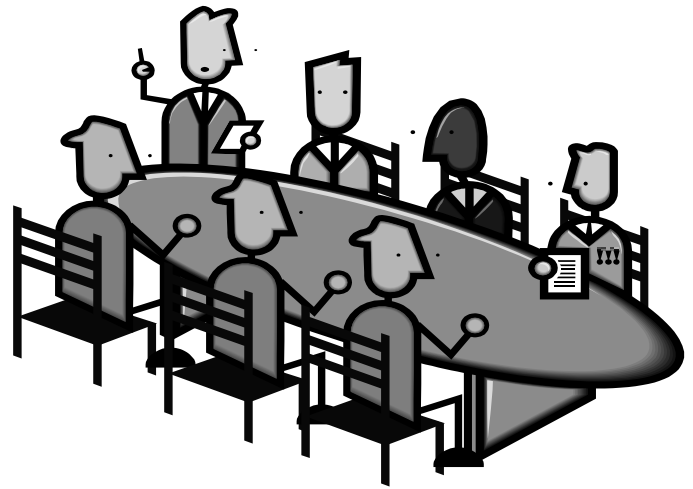
### INTERFAITH BOOK STUDY

The book is *How Big is Your God* by Paul Countinho. The study will commence at Crossroads on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30, as well as April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. You all are more than welcome to join us.

—Jan Evans

## Chips From the Board

- Pat McAllister elected by Elders as their new chairman
- Maggie Daugherty agreed to chair the Pastoral Search Committee
- Crossroads is to host the SEGA Dare to Lead groups Saturday, March 1 and help will be needed to provide a continental breakfast and lunch for approximately 25-35 members
- Carload of “white” products recently delivered to Caseyville Food Pantry. Thanks to all who donated. Publicity regarding Blanket Sunday coming soon.



## Lenten Season Sunday Sermons

Lent is the Christian season of preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days prior to Easter. (Sundays are not counted) It is a time of spiritual reflection and discipline as we contemplate the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



March 5, 2014      Ash Wednesday

March 9, 2014      First Sunday in Lent  
 The Message: Choices, Choices  
 Scriptures: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11

March 16, 2014      Second Sunday in Lent  
 The Message: Looking Up to Jesus  
 Scriptures: Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:1-17

March 23, 2014      Third Sunday in Lent  
 The Message: Outside Our Comfort Zone  
 Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7 and John 4:5-42

March 30, 2014      Fourth Sunday in Lent  
 The Message: Into the Light (Drama)  
 Scriptures: John 9:1-41 and Ephesians 5:8-14

April 6, 2014      Fifth Sunday in Lent  
 The Message: Preview of Easter  
 Scriptures: Psalm 130 and John 11:1-45

April 13, 2014      Sixth Sunday in Lent  
 The Message: Making and Entrance  
 Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Matthew 21:1-11

April 17, 2014      Maundy Thursday  
 Scripture: John 13:1-35

April 20, 2014      Easter Sunday  
 The Message: There Comes a Time  
 Scripture: John 20:1-8

## Prayers

- Andrew (grandson-in-law of Wayne & Marie) returned home from Afghanistan after a year's deployment
- Pat Hayes at home with bronchitis
- Larry (Jim's brother-in-law) undergoing further cancer treatment and is not doing well
- Curt Sutton at home with an eye infection
- Marie Reichling recovering at home after recent surgery
- Death of June Warrick (mother of Kim Hampton). Prayers for Kim and family during this difficult time

## Week of Compassion Update

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) struck the central Philippines. With a maximum sustained wind of 235 kilometers per hour, it ravaged multiple communities before heading out to sea. Tacloban City in Leyte experienced the most significant impact, as the storm obliterated the entire urban center.

Countrywide, 4.1 million people remain displaced from their homes, of whom nearly 102,000 are living in evacuation centers. 2.5 million people remain in need of life saving food assistance. More than 1.1 million houses were damaged, including at least 550,000 that were completely destroyed. Food relief remains a critical issue, as does the redevelopment of critical infrastructure and livelihood support. Housing, land, and property rights are also emerging concerns.

Our partners at Agricultural Missions have responded to Typhoon Haiyan by working to strengthen the capacity of partners and local agricultural and fisher organizations and associations-thus addressing the needs for rebuilding in the current situation, as well as supporting local community efforts to build resilience against future disasters and to lay the groundwork for long-term sustainability.

**Reminder!!**  
**Daylight Savings Time begins**  
**Sunday, March 9 at 2:00am.**  
**Don't forget to set your clocks**  
**ahead one hour.**



Our  
 Homebound

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



## Lay Worship Leaders—March 2014

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
<b>Worship Leader</b>	David Kennedy Jr.	Patty Buckhannon	Jessie Hull	Ken Holmes	Pat McAllister
<b>Elder</b>	Ken Holmes	Pat McAllister	Mona McAllister	Carole Thompson	Jan Evans
<b>Deacons Prepare</b>	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith	Virginia Johnasen Susan Johnasen-Smith
<b>Deacons Serve</b>	Mike Thompson Betty Allen	Mike Thompson Betty Allen	Mike Thompson Betty Allen	Mike Thompson Betty Allen	Mike Thompson Betty Allen
<b>Deacons Candles</b>	Pat Hayes	N/A	Pat Hayes	N/A	Pat Hayes
<b>Deacons Sanctuary</b>	Marie Reichling	Susan Johnasen-Smith	Marie Reichling	Susan Johnasen-Smith	Mike Thompson
<b>Greeter</b>	Pat Killian	Curt Sutton	Marie Reichling	Jim Buckhannon	Pat Killian
<b>Audio-Visual</b>	Pat McAllister	David Kennedy Jr.	Pat McAllister	David Kennedy Jr.	David Kennedy Jr.



# March 2014

**SEGA Prayers for the Month**

3/2-3/8 St. Charles Christian Church, St. Charles, MO  
 3/9-3/15 First Christian Church, Poplar Bluff, MO  
 3/16-3/22 The Northeast, Northwest, and Ozark Lakes Areas  
 3/23-3/29 First Christian Church, Sikeston, MO  
 3/30-4/5 All of the Christian Church (DOC) General Ministries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	3	4	5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 5:30 Pancake Dinner & Worship	6	7	8
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	10	11	12 5:15 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Board Meeting	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</i>	18 12:00 Lunch Bunch	19 4:15 Elders Meeting 5:15 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	24	25	26 5:15 BEACON dinner 7:00 Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	31		<i>Happy Birthday!</i>			

**Happy Anniversary!!**  
 16 Ed and Pat Hayes

3 Tim Hampton  
 4 Mary Clay  
 5 Willie Burgess  
 6 Gwen Boggan  
 9 Mary Jane Tucker

15 Drake Trebing  
 18 Jim Buckhannon  
 Mary Moss

22 Joe Weygandt

23 Wayne Reichling  
 25 Jennifer Lewis  
 27 Mike Thompson  
 28 Brittany Clark  
 30 Clay Marshall

## Church World Service—Blanket Sunday

Our extra Outreach Project is going to be so much fun! It is called Blankets+. We are going to have a Blanket Sunday, soon to be announced. I did not want to miss the publishing deadline of this newsletter.

Here's what I can tell you now: On March \_\_, we are going to ask everyone to bring their favorite blanket/quilt/throw to church. You can place it on the pew behind you. You may want to be prepared to tell the blanket's story to folks as we file out after church. Yes, every blanket has a story.

My baby brother had one that was very much loved, as was he, with a three-inch satin edge that he rubbed while he fell asleep. He called it "Banky". After much loving, "Banky" was reduced to a small square with a very tattered satin edge.

Youngsters and adults far and near have a tough time that we can't possibly imagine. They have not one single thing because of wars or natural disasters.

If we can provide a blanket (for \$5), it would mean so much to adults and children. I'll bet you didn't know that there's more than one use for a blanket, did you? Stay tuned...you'll see what I'm talking about.

—Jan Evans

### What is the CWS Blankets+ Program?

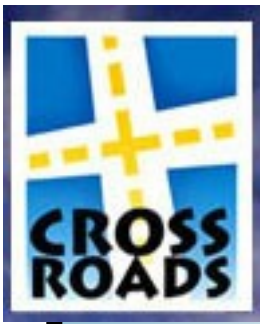
Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world.

For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.







Christian Church

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Interim Pastor - Rev. Michael Dixon  
medixon2@earthlink.net

Office Manager - Patrick McAllister  
crossroadsdisciple@sbcglobal.net

Hours: M,T,W,Th 8-12

Music Director - Carol Brookshier  
clbrookshier@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 18, the Lunch Bunch will meet at noon, at a location to be determined. Sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.



## Mark Your Calendar



### **Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner & Worship**

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 5:30pm

### **Prayer Walk at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows**

Saturday, April 5, 2014 9:15am to noon

### **Maundy Thursday Service**

Thursday, April 17, 2014 7:00pm

### **Crossroads 24 Hour Prayer Vigil**

Friday, April 18, 2014 begins at noon

Saturday, April 19, 2014 ends at noon

### **Easter Breakfast at Crossroads**

Sunday, April 20, 2014 9:00am