



May 2012

# Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

## Elder's Corner

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**What is Prayer?** The American Heritage Dictionary has several meanings for the word "prayer." The first (therefore, normally the most used) is that prayer is a reverent petition made to God and/or the art of making the reverent petition to God. The second is that prayer is an act of communication with God.

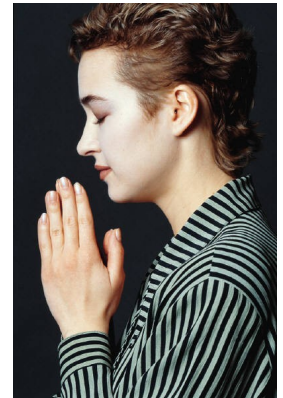
**How should we pray?** The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. His answer, as we all know, was what we call "The Lord's Prayer." Most Sundays we pray "The Lord's Prayer" during worship.

Over the years, I have participated in several Bible studies and/or Sunday School classes on the subject of prayer. In these classes I learned two acronyms that might assist one when praying - - ACTS and PRAY.

- |                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| A Adoration    | P Praise |
| C Confession   | R Repent |
| T Thanksgiving | A Act    |
| S Supplication | Y Yield  |

You'll notice that although the two are extremely similar, neither includes any word suggesting that we are asking God for something. However, that is what each of us does most of the time. Before we condemn ourselves we must remember that the Bible also teaches us to "ask and you shall receive." So there is nothing wrong in asking. That is, there is nothing wrong in asking for the right thing. I can give no clues to what is the

right (or wrong) request. Although I do suspect that sometimes it is the wording. Just as the loving parent knows which flavor ice cream the child will request, the parent still asks. We believe that God knows what we need and what we desire before we ask.



**When should we pray?** Although the Bible does say to "pray without ceasing," I believe when to pray is a subject not for debate but for individual decision. Many people pray and read their Bibles early in the morning, others in the evening just before bedtime. Both are very correct for the individuals who find that the best way for them. For myself, I prefer to carry on lengthy, yet frequently broken, conversations with God. I talk with Him while driving the car, when I see a gorgeous sunrise or sunset, while around the house reading, watching TV, or cleaning, or when at the computer.

During one Bible Study, one of the participants mentioned that when she thinks of a person of whom she has not thought of nor seen in quite some time, that God wants her to pray for that person. She called this type of prayer "Arrow Prayers" and said to shoot an

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Summer Hours  
from Memorial  
Day through  
Labor Day

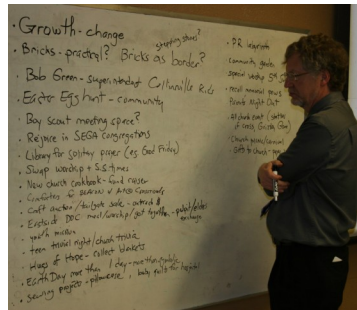
Worship 10:00 am

## Casting and Catching Event

Thanks to the Stewardship & Hospitality committees for helping us Cast & Catch a Vision and to Penny Ross-Corona for her inspiring message. You may pick up a copy of the ideas to help as we



continue to “fish” for ideas at Crossroads.



## Mother's Day

The story of Mothers Day is a long one. It is neither a recent phenomenon as many people believe it to be, nor it is the creation of card and gift marketers syndicate as assumed by cynics of Mothers Day festival. To the surprise of many people, Mothers Day celebrations are first said to have taken place in the time of ancient Greeks and Romans hundreds of years ago. Even Mothers Day celebrations in UK began much before the tradition saw the light of the day in US. In US the efforts of Ms Julia Ward Howe and Ms Anna Jarvis are greatly recognized for starting the tradition of Mothers Day, but several other women too made remarkable contributions to further the cause of Mothers Day holiday.



Today Mothers Day is celebrated in more than 46 countries around the world, though at different times in the month of May, and in some countries it is celebrated in entirely different times of the year. In the present time Mothers Day has come to be internationally recognized as the day to honor all mothers and thank them for the services they impart for the benefit of their individual child and consequently to the development of mankind. - anonymous

Crossroads  
 Christian  
 Church Work  
 Day - Saturday  
 May 12 at 9:00  
 See You There!

## Chips from the Board

19 People were in attendance at the board meeting.

Reports of Officers

Treasurer/Office Manager:  
Monthly Financial report to be filed for audit.

Reports from the various Committees/Task Forces

Stewardship/Finance – Mike Thompson went over the various monthly reports. No date was noted for the next meeting.

Worship – Ken Holmes stated that they had some very interesting items and timelines about our church.

Property – Jim Buckhannon noted that all external doors are in need of repair and painting.

Hospitality – The service and dinner for Maundy Thursday was very successful in addition to the social hour prior to Easter Services.

Pastor's Report - Thanked everyone involved in the "Casting & Catching" event.

New Business:

The Church Work Date is set for Saturday, May 12th at 9:00 a.m.

please come prepared to assist Jim Buckhannon and others to repair/ paint exterior doors.

Wanting to participate in the weekly service? See David for an exciting and successful learning experience with our new audio/ visual system. Our first volunteer is Jan Evans.

With Jennifer Lewis being our student minister at Crossroads she will be focusing on developing the Youth & Children program here at Crossroads.

Next Board Meeting to be held on: Sunday, May 20, 2012.

## Elder's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

arrow prayer is always good. Sometimes it is just as simple as "God, I know you know why 'what's-her-name' needs this prayer. Please give her the care that you know she needs."

I believe that we are in constant communication with God. "Communication" means a two-way conversation, listening as well as speaking. Our thoughts can be sometimes, if not frequently, God communicating with us. If I'm concerned about something (i.e., how to word a question to a friend) and I finally think of a phrase that seems better than any others of which I've thought, that could be God telling me how to word the question.

Prayer and praying form a tough debatable subject on which many of us will agree with part of the answers/ suggestions we hear and few of us will agree with all of the answers/suggestions we hear. Thus it is that God made us as individuals and not clones of each other. Praise God for individuality.

Kay Marshall

## Prayers

- Jade (BEACON), upcoming surgery on May 1
- Death of Ben, Howard H's brother
- Reece (niece of Jennifer), no cystic fibrosis!
- Those who suffer from mental illness
- Marie R. cousin's oldest son died
- Lori (Staci's breast cancer exercise class), cancer
- Charlotte W., moved to Fountains of Shiloh
- Marvin S, hospital
- Phil & Judy (friends of Staci), heart catheterization
- Death of Bulah; Allen, stroke (Jennifer's friends)
- Don Brookshier, back pains
- Death and destruction from Midwest tornadoes
- Eastern Orthodox Easter celebration
- Kinslee, seizures (newborn of Adam's former dance teacher)
- Larry (friend of Ron, heart surgery)
- Family of Pat H. carrying for mom
- Barbara (friend of Marie R.), health
- Judi (friend of Jan & Marie D), surgery
- Dale's 101 year old mom
- Joe W. (Onnie's husband)
- Vera H. recovering from surgery
- Elvie's son (custody issues)
- Steve B.
- Tom (Jessie's husband)
- Denise (friend of Cathy M.), father ill with cancer
- Those in prison
- Payton (baby sister of McKenzie's friend)
- John C. (friend of Mike Holmes), cancer

## Graduations

Connie Berry Green has completed her studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology and will be conferred with the Doctor of Ministry in Preaching on May 11, 2012

Jonathan Cripe from DePauw University on May 20, 2012

Rebekah Cripe from Belleville West High School on May 23, 2012

Rylie Rae Joelner (great-granddaughter of Ken & Shirley Holmes) from kindergarten on May 3, 2012

## Our Homebound

Pat Beyer  
 Ray Doctorman  
 Rollie & Jodie Hoehn  
 Rosellen Hoerr  
 Mary Moss  
 Nelson Rodriguez-Arté  
 Nancy Stone  
 Charlotte Walz

- Confirmation of Connor (friend of Cathy & Eric)
- Thalia (family of Susan & Virginia), Young Authors' award
- Thanks to Shirley & Dale (arranging kitchen), Mike & Jon (trim bushes), Vyganté, Rebekah, & Pastor Doug (planting flowers)
- Health care debate and those without insurance
- Women's prison in Dwight, IL closing
- Lindsey (granddaughter of Marie R.), preparing to be deployed to Afghanistan
- Trenton & Jess (friends of Staci & Doug), death of grandmother



## Lay Worship Leaders— May 2012

	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Ron Goff	Jennifer Lewis	Dan Upton	Pat McAllister
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Jennifer Lewis	Pastor Doug	Pat McAllister	Pastor Doug
<b>Elders—Bread Cup</b>	Pat McAllister Ken Holmes	Pat McAllister Jennifer Lewis	Ken Holmes Pat McAllister	Ken Holmes Jennifer Lewis
<b>Deacons Prepare</b>	Patty Buckhannon Pat Hayes	Cathy Mielke Eric Mielke	Shirley Holmes Mary Weygandt	Pat Hayes Cathy Mielke
<b>Deacons Serve</b>	Patty Buckhannon Jim Buckhannon Pat Hayes Curt Sutton	Patty Buckhannon Jim Buckhannon Eric Mielke Meredith Moder	Jim Buckhannon Pat Hayes Curt Sutton Mary Weygandt	Pat Hayes Cathy Mielke Eric Mielke Mary Weygandt
<b>Deacons Candles</b>	Pat Hayes	N/A	Pat Hayes	N/A
<b>Deacons Sanctuary</b>	Shirley Holmes	Patty Buckhannon	Shirley Holmes	Mary Weygandt
<b>Acolytes</b>	Andrea House	Adriana House	Eric Mielke	Lauren Dueland
<b>Greeter</b>	Cathy Mielke	Pat Killian	Curt Sutton	Staci Cripe
<b>Audio-Visual</b>	David Kennedy	David Kennedy	David Kennedy	David Kennedy
<b>Scripture</b>	Acts 8:26-40 Illuminating Words	1 John 5:1-4, 13-16a Mother's Day	John 4:19-26 Sacred Geometry by Ken Holmes	Acts 2:1-8, 12-17 Pentecost



# May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	7	8	9 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Choir	10	11	12 9:00 Church Work Day
13 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Fellowship 10:45 Worship	14	15 12:00 Lunch Bunch	16 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Choir	17 7:00 Elder's Meeting	18	19
20 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	21	22	23 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study 7:00 Choir	24	25	26
27 <b>Pentecost Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship	28 <b>Memorial Day (Office Closed)</b>	29	30 10:00 Pickle Ball 5:30 Dinner/Bible Study	31		
<b>Happy Anniversaries!</b> 3 Tom and Mary Petrekovich      9 Sarah and Leo Levesque 16 Ron and Debi Johnson      17 Jim and Patty Buckhannon 21 Guy and Sherri Kraus      22 Doug and Staci Cripe 28 Mary Jane and Joe Tucker						
<b>Happy Birthdays!</b> 3 Lauren Stehlick      9 Sean Daugherty      18 Pat Beyer 4 Al Boggan      9 Guy Kraus      19 Jill Schmidt 4 Leroy Madison      11 Jan Evans      23 Nicole Rickert 6 Jackie Rickert      13 Betty Raines      31 Allison Weygandt 7 Stacey Boggan      15 Debi Johnson 7 Lisa Cripe      17 Howard Harpstrite						

## ARK (Adults Relating to Kids)

Dear Disciples:

Children are a top priority for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a "... movement for wholeness in a fragmented world". Making children a priority means we do everything we can to meet the needs of children--those within our doors and those beyond our doorsteps. It also means recognizing the God-given gifts of children and providing opportunities for those gifts to be shared.

Giving support to parents and care givers is one of the best ways I know to make sure that children are cared for and offered opportunities to develop into the persons God created them to be. The ARK (Adults Relating to Kids) Program can help us to do so. ARK employs a small-group process and helps parents deal with practical issues such as bully-proofing, homework, and sibling rivalry.

In cooperation with the University of Texas School of Public Health, Reverend Doctor Glenn Wilkerson (a Disciples of Christ minister) developed ARK in the 1990s. The program is based on the idea that knowing how to give and receive unconditional love develops the best possible self-esteem in children and enables them to grow and blossom into all they can be. It helps parents to discipline the behavior while still valuing their child as a child of God.

The ARK process encourages parents to become vessels through whom the unconditional love of God, revealed through Jesus Christ, is poured into the lives of our children. Dr. Wilkerson says, "... the gift of unconditional love is an adult's greatest contribution to the life of a child."

Many churches have used ARK groups to offer information and

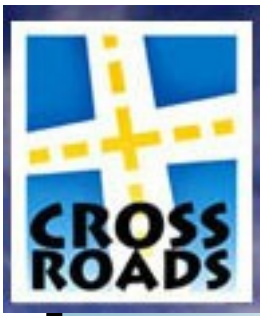


support to church members - parents, church school teachers, and others who care for children. Over the years, ARK groups have expanded beyond the local church and are now used to help educate and support teachers in public school and Headstart programs. ARK groups for parents, teens and children are even being used by juvenile justice systems to help families stay together and grow in their understanding of one another.

As your General Minister and President, I endorse the ARK program and encourage you to learn more and get involved in developing ARK groups in your congregations and in the wider community.

Blessings to you and the children in your life!

Sharon E. Watkins  
General Minister and President



Christian Church

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Custodian—Gary Elkins  
Nursery—Rebekah Cripe

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

## Upcoming Events

Affton Christian Church is looking for anyone age 13 and up who is interested in going on a **mission trip to Joplin** on May 18th-20th! Any skill level is welcome! They will be working with United Way on projects assigned and staying in hotel rooms. Please contact Pastor Brittany at [bbick@eden.edu](mailto:bbick@eden.edu) for more details or to let her know if you'd like to volunteer in this opportunity for joint mission with all the SEGA area churches.

