



CROSSROADS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Messenger

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2010

- The deadline for the January, 2011 issue of *The Messenger* is Friday, December 17th. Please submit articles to ashaw@mtco.com or send hard copies to the church office.
- Please send address corrections to Amber Johnsen at amberj@mtco.com or call the church office at 444-2381.
- The monthly birthday list is available at the Welcome Desk and on the Crossroads website.

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The Difference Between Rich and Poor

Life is all about giving thanks for something. We give thanks for food. We give thanks for good weather. We give thanks for health. And the list goes on and on... But we are always looking for that one thing we don't have. There is always something that eludes us and we can't quite get ahold of it. And so life goes on trying to catch the elusive butterfly.

What do you give thanks for? A job, money, the house you live in, or the car you drive? Or is it some lofty thing that is far beyond your reach or means? I received the following story that is a good illustration of "Giving Thanks".

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered:

"I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.

Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." This is the day to give thanks. To give thanks for all the blessings of God, even if they don't stand up to what others have.

God is good – all the time.

~ Pastor Bob DeBolt



"All You Need Is Love"
A church-wide small group study on
First John
January 9th-30th



Come home this holiday season!

*We invite you to revisit the true meaning of the season with our series
"Coming Home for the Holidays"*

- December 5* *God sent Jesus Christ into the world to help us find our way home*
- December 12* *20 miles from home: How our doubts about the Christmas message may cause us to wonder if we truly want to go home.*
- December 19* *10 miles from home: How guilt and shame may cause us to want to stop or turn around*
- December 24* *Almost there: God calls us the rest of the way home*

Christmas Eve Services

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>5:00pm</i> | <i>Family Friendly Service</i> |
| <i>7:00pm</i> | <i>Candlelight Service</i> |
| <i>11:00pm</i> | <i>Candlelight Service</i> |

Nursery Care will be available at the 7:00 service.

March to the Manger

December 19th at both services

Enjoy a special music presentation at the 8:30am service by the Chancel, Chapel, and Cherub Choirs and the Adult and Chapel Handbell Choirs.

This year's March to the Manger offering will go to the Children's Home in Peoria, the Lessie Bates Davis Home in East St. Louis, and the King David United Methodist Church Project in Zimbabwe.

Nurse Sally's Tip of the Month

Eight Gifts That Don't Cost A Cent

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to perfect gifts for those we love. Please read on to find priceless gifts, not only at Christmas, but year around.

1. The Gift of Listening

But you must *really* listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming and no planning your response. *Just listen.*

2. The Gift of Affection

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds.

3. The Gift of Laughter

Clip cartoons. Share funny articles and stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you".

4. The Gift of a Written Note

It can be a simple "I love you" note, a "Thanks for the help" note, or a full sonnet. A brief handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime or may even change a life.

5. The Gift of a Compliment

A simple and sincere, "You look great in red", "You did a great job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make somebody's day or week.

6. The Gift of a Favor

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind for someone.

7. The Gift of Solitude

There are times when we want nothing more than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others when appropriate.

8. The Gift of Cheerfulness

The easiest way to feel good is to make others feel good.



Of course, as believers, we know that the greatest Gift of all times is God's gift to all of us...His Son Jesus Christ. Without Him we would be lost souls but instead, we have everlasting life.

Thanks Be To God!

Bloodmobile

Unfortunately, the demand for blood never takes a holiday. The need for life-saving blood does not lessen during the Christmas season. Typically, blood donations begin to decline around Thanksgiving and continue to falter through mid January. The Red Cross understands that everyone is super busy during December, but the need for blood is ongoing and that need must be met every single day.

Our church is sponsoring the bloodmobile on December 6th at Five Points in Washington. It is the perfect time to give someone the gift of life.

Please call the Red Cross at 1-800-REDCROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment. The adult body contains 10 – 12 units of blood; your donation only takes one unit and you will replace it in no time. Giving blood is safe and simple and only takes about an hour.

As a special thank you, donors from December 1st through the 31st will be eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card to be raffled each day.

Feel free to call the Red Cross (677-7272) or Sally Charlton (444- 2381) if you have questions about blood donation.

This holiday season is the perfect time to give someone the gift of life.

Prayer Challenge

Christian Maturity is being a responsible son or daughter of God. I think that the mature in Christ are people who have stopped being concerned about their own needs and pursuits and have entered into the global vision of the Father so that they may transform a hurting world. The mature go out as his agents in order

to accomplish the aims of the Lord's Prayer, "Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

It's like a son who is being brought into the family business. Instead of racing fast cars and running around with girls, he finally buckles down and says,

"Dad, I'm part of it. It's my business too, and I'm going to work hard and undertake the burden of this work." That is real maturity.

We all need to grow up for Jesus' sake.

~Don Brubaker

Celebrate Recovery News

"I was blessed to attend a Celebrate Recovery Seminar in Tinley Park on November 6, 2010 with other members from the Celebrate Recovery Team. John Baker, founder of Celebrate Recovery, was in attendance along with his son, Johnny. It was inspirational to see how Celebrate Recovery has grown though out the United States, other countries and in the prison system to help others find freedom from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. Celebrate Recovery has lead so many to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Celebrate Recovery emphasizes eight recovery principles and related Christ-centered 12 steps.

During baseball season 2012, there will be a movie out called "Home Run", which is about Celebrate Recovery. The producers of this movie came to John Baker to ask permission to make this movie. Even the producers of this film are going through the 12 step

study. Please visit the website: www.HomeRunTheMovie.com. Pray for those who would never darken the doorway of a church...but will sit in a darkened theater.

Another life-changing program is coming for teenagers. It is called "The Landing". This program will give teenagers *hope* for all the amazing things God has in store for them and *truths* that will help them overcome life's challenges and develop wisdom by learning to lean on Jesus. They will embark on an exciting, year-long journey with engaging videos, meaningful experiences, vibrant worship, and great conversation with other teenagers traveling the journey to freedom. For more information please contact crecover@mtco.com.

I ask that you be in prayer for the Celebrate Recovery Ministries, for there are many people who have

hurts, hang-ups and habits and don't know where to turn."

~A Christ Follower who struggles with Food, Money, and Co-Dependency

"Crossroads is blessed to host Celebrate Recovery on Thursday evenings. On November 6th, we sent 7 people to Tinley Park for a one-day training summit. We all came back even more excited about the lives that will be changed through this program. We came away encouraged and hopeful as we continue to minister to those struggling with a hurt, habit or hang up. If you are struggling, join us on Thursday evenings beginning with dinner at 6:00. Together we can work through our hurt, habits and hang-ups one day at a time."

~ A Christ Follower



Just for Kids

Kids for Christ

A Kids Club for
3rd, 4th, & 5th graders
Bible time, Games, Music,
and Snacks
Fridays, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Remaining 2010-2011 dates

December 3
January 14
January 28
February 11
February 25
March 25
April 8
April 29



Youth News

The mission of the Crossroads Youth Ministry is to be committed to loving and caring for youth in the Washington area.

We will accomplish this goal by:

providing a safe and loving place so that youth can be who God created them to be, meeting them where they are in their spiritual development, helping them grow into young men and women of faith, and equipping them to share their faith with others now and in the future.

High School Lighthouse:

Every Wednesday night
6:30-8:30pm
Dinner, small groups, games, lesson, music and more!
**We will NOT meet on December 29th or January 5th

Follow Lighthouse News!

Text "follow xroadlighthouse" to 40404

Middle School Impact:

6th-8th Grade
Sunday evenings
6:30-8:00pm
Fun, games, lesson, snacks and much, much more!
**We will not meet on December 26th or January 2nd

College Youth News:

On November 21st, we celebrated "College Youth Sunday". We received an offering to support the college youth mission trip to Dulac, LA and also for the Crossroads GETS (Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary) Scholarship Fund. If you did not get the opportunity to donate and would like to, please send your donations to the church office and mark your check accordingly. Thank you!

Reality Check is now Auxano!

Also on November 21st, the college group unveiled their new name, *Auxano*, which means "to cause to grow."



*Stephen
Ministers give
the gift of
themselves...a
listening ear.*

Stephen Ministry

Sharing the blessings of Christ at Christmas!

As the class continues to train throughout the holidays, we are thinking ahead and planning to give you a very special holiday gift. While it won't be ready until February, we want you to begin thinking about it now.

We're giving the gift of presence - ourselves - to

people who are in want of a listening ear. A gift of caring, a gift of sharing time, a gift of trust and prayers will be given.

When the Stephen Ministers have completed the first 50 hours of their training, they will be commissioned in February, 2011. These Stephen Ministers will then be ready to minister to Care Receivers (any of you with a need of the gifts we give). Most importantly, we share the gift of

confidentiality! Stephen Ministers do not share any of your concerns or situation with others. They cherish your trust of them.

During this Advent season, as you prepare to receive God's gift of Jesus' birth, prepare to receive the gift of a Stephen Minister. We'll soon be ready!

Prayer Bears Needed

We have a wonderful outreach ministry where we give "Prayer Bears" to people who are going through a difficult time in their lives, or simply to let them know we are praying for them. Bears are blessed and given a special tag before they are given to their new owners. The donated

prayer bears can be new or gently used.

Prayer Bears are needed for the Christmas Season for several Children's homes. Please put your donations in the basket by the multi-purpose room door.

Thank you!



Sewing Circle Sale

The Dorcas Sewing Circle will be selling handmade items between services and after 2nd Service on December 5th. Some of the items we will be selling are pillows, cakes, candy, Christmas decorations, and wall hangings.

The money will go for supplies to make quilts for the kids at Cunningham Children's Home.

Operation Crossroads Christmas Angel

It's that time of year...the beginning words to a great Christmas song!! Once again, it's time for "Operation Christmas Angel". This program is different from any we support during the year because our resources are used to provide Christmas only for Crossroads members.

Last year, small groups and Sunday School classes were more than generous and provided Christmas gifts to seven families who are active,

contributing, and participating members of our congregation. These families, due to a downturn in the economy, or employment, were unable to provide for their children and were most appreciative of the help given to them.

Operation Crossroads Christmas angel is done anonymously through the pastors. To recommend a family, contact Pastor Tom. If you would like to donate cash or gift cards, please do so through the

collection plate (mark your check "Crossroads Christmas Angel"), your Sunday School class, or small group. For more information, please feel free to contact Marilyn or Ron Hunt at 444-5160. Thank you for your support last year and let's make this year even better!

Angel Tree

This year's Angel Tree will again be for residents in area group homes. The residents enjoy receiving gift cards as some will receive little else this Christmas. Each angel will have a person's name on it. Gift cards from stores, restaurants or area events are appreciated.

Please tape gift cards to the back

of the angels and put them in the gift wrapped box located in the church office from November 28th until December 19th.

Thank you for helping to give a Merry Christmas to these individuals. Please contact Sandy Tunnell at 444-9546 if you have any questions.



"Thank You" from Operation Christmas Child

Just before Thanksgiving, we delivered the last of the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to the East Peoria collection center. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we were able to deliver **318** shoe box gifts!!! To everyone who packed a shoe box, delivered shoe boxes to the collection center, prayed

for this ministry, or helped in any way, **THANK YOU!** Your generosity has helped reach over 300 children and families for Jesus Christ.

God bless you, and have a Merry Christmas !!!



Senior News

Senior Meal

Our meal for seniors will be Tuesday, December 14th, at 12:00 in the Fellowship Area. Put this on your calendar so that you won't miss enjoying the holidays with good friends (new and old) and a delicious meal. Take a moment to invite a friend to join us. Call the church office (444-2381) to make a reservation.

M & M's Potluck Dinner

Bring your favorite dish and join the M & M's for a potluck on January 10th at 5:00 p.m. If you are so inclined, include the recipe

for your wonderful dish, or you may want to be coy and keep it a secret! You may bring a vegetable dish, salad, rolls, or dessert. Chicken will be supplied.

Following the meal, the very talented Julie and Jim Bayless will honor us with their wonderful praise music. We are so blessed to have such great talent as part of our church family. They will also join us for dinner.

A potluck dinner is the perfect opportunity for older adults to become acquainted with new friends.

Please call the church at 444-2381 to let us know you are coming. If you have questions, call Sally Charlton at the church.

If you need a ride to the church and back home again, just let that be known when you call.



Fellowship Opportunities

Sewing Circle

The Dorcas Sewing Circle meets *weekly* on Wednesdays from 9:00am to noon. Even if you are not an experienced sewer, you are welcome to join us for some great fellowship and to share ideas.

Men's Fellowship

Guys, join us at the Men's Fellowship Group, which meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the chapel. Join us for supper, a testimony, a Bible study, and prayer. We encourage all men to come, and invite your friends. This is a great opportunity to see what God is doing among us.

Spirited Book Discussion Group

The Spirited Book Discussion Group will meet on December 7th at 1:00pm at The Blend. **Notice this is a special time and place.** Please bring a book you have read and enjoyed. Each person will say a few sentences about their book. Come and enjoy this special "book potluck"!

At the meeting in the church library at 1:00pm on January 18th, 2011 we will discuss So You Don't Want To Go To Church Anymore by Wayne Jacobsen and Dave Coleman.

The book for February 15th will be No Turning Back: My Summer With Daddy King by Gurdon Brewster, a seminary student who spent time with Dr. King.

In March, we will discuss The Wounded Healer by Henri Nouwen. Come and enjoy fellowship and good discussion.

For more information contact Nancy Bullard at 444-5140.

CORNER CONVERSATION

CORNER

Ron and Dottie Folkerts began attending Crossroads UMC (then called "Washington Methodist Episcopal Church") in 1960 when Rev. Richard Mader was the pastor. At that time their oldest son, Gary, was a baby. They got involved in the church early on; Ron joined the choir and Dottie taught Sunday School.

Ron served on various ministry teams at the church. He also served by sharing his handyman talents at the church. He remembers working on a project to pipe hot water to various bathroom sinks in the building, which required a lot of "mental energy" as well as the physical work. These projects helped Ron feel good about serving God, and also helped him get to know others at the church.

When the congregation moved from Elm Street to Main Street, members helped finish the new building. Ron helped a crew build the stage in the

multipurpose room (where we used to worship). He especially enjoyed helping to create a worship space.

Ron worked as an electronic technician first for Sears, and then at Methodist Medical Center and Thompson Electronics before retiring.

Recently he has joined the Tuesday morning crew, a group of retired (or nearly retired) men who work in the church and in the community on various projects. They helped complete the youth center, have worked backstage on offices and choir space, repair and fix issues around the building and recently installed our new playground.

The playground has been the most memorable "experience" Ron has had at the new church. The project has required much labor, imagination and creative thinking to complete. The guys dug 49 post holes in the ground to set the play ground.

Ron especially enjoys the camaraderie of working with other guys and reports that the fellowship and fun make Tuesday mornings a highlight of his week. (And, by the way, if you would like to join the group, contact Terry Hillegonds, call the church office, or simply show up on a Tuesday morning around 8:00am).

One other way that Ron has stepped out of the boat is in sharing his voice. He has sung in the church choir since 1960. While in the army, stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington, Ron sang "O Holy Night" in a chapel service in 1957.

Ron feels good when he serves God and the church and shares the gifts he has been given. So, please join him... Step Out of the Boat!

~ Pastor Tom Goodell

Pastoral Notes

Welcome to the newest members to join Crossroads UMC:

John and Laura Beam joined Crossroads on October 17th. They live in Washington. Ryan Riggins and Holly Kefauver also joined our church on October 17th. They will be married at Crossroads in December. Tom and Gail Beamer joined Crossroads on October 31st. They are the parents of Miles, Chase, Cassidy and Kolton and live in

Washington. Gary Rogers also joined October 31st, he is engaged to Dixie Smith.

Crossroads celebrated three baptisms:

Olivia Paige, daughter of Corey and Julie Pennington was baptized October 31st. Jensen Doran, son of Justin and Angie Bainter on November 14th, and Evan William, son of Tim and Lisa Bonsoe also on November 14th.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to:

Finally, our prayers surround Jerry Young on the death of his sister, Shirley Ludolph, on October 26th; Linnie McCully on the death of her brother, Roland Krowlek, on October 27th; Pat Brown on the death of her father, Robert Heinzmann, on November 9th; and Lynda Young on the death of her father, C. Jack Dalton, on November 9th. Our church family extends our prayers and sympathy to those who mourn.

United Methodist Women

UMW Connections

Crossroads UMW is thankful for all the blessings received in 2010. We attended a wonderful Day Apart spiritual retreat, we enjoyed fellowship and sharing with other United Methodist Women at District meetings, we explored what we can do about social and racial injustice, and we heard about conditions in other parts of the world at a Personal Growth Seminar. We were able to provide monetary help to Cunningham Children's

Home and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. We paid all our pledge money plus extra items. We are thankful that we are able to serve the needs of others. Thank you to everyone who supported the UMW through our fundraisers and for praying for our work. 2011 will be an exciting year for Crossroads UMW. We are "stepping out of the boat" and making some changes. Watch for some activity oriented meetings, more visiting of shut-ins, and new opportunities for all ages.

"In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women." Book of Discipline 2008, paragraph 256.

For more information contact Nancy Bullard or the church office.

Looking Ahead:

Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 4th at 9:00am

NOTE: There will not be a UMW meeting in January 2011.



Find the United Methodist Women on Facebook and see how the UMW is helping children, women and youth all over the globe.

UMW Cookie Walk

**Saturday,
December 4
9:00am-1:00pm**

Get ready for the holiday season by purchasing some delicious treats at the UMW Cookie Walk!

Proceeds go toward missions.

Cookies are donated by our church family. If you can help bake cookies on our baking day at the church or can donate some homemade cookies or goodies, contact Carla Fulton at 444-5956.



Walk to Emmaus News

Men's Emmaus Walk
February 3rd-6th

Women's Emmaus Walk
February 10th-13th

Annual Potluck Gathering

Saturday, December 18th
Crossroads UMC
6:00pm
Worship at 7:00pm

For more information on any of these events, visit www.ilheartlandemmaus.com.



Notes from Our Congregation

Thank you to all our Christian friends at Crossroads for your prayers, cards, and support and to Bob DeBolt for his time and service at the time of Mom's (Hazel) passing.
Love in Christ,
Tom and Mary Warren and family

Thank you very much for the beautiful prayer bear and especially for all your prayers. It is a lovely surprise. The bear is a wonderful reminder to me of all your food wishes and prayers. Thanks so much.
Mary Willock

Dear Crossroads Friends,
We wish to thank all of you who have supported us with prayers and well wishes as Carol and I were married on October 23rd at Crossroads. A huge thanks to Pastor Tom for making our ceremony so very special, to our small group for the perfect reception, to Will Meachum for the glorious music, and to Ruthie Sons for the gorgeous fall decorations. We are truly blessed and thank God for all of you.
Don and Carol Brubaker

Thank you to the following for helping, donating money, and providing food for the Woodford County Teen Jamboree at our church on Friday, November 12th. The United Methodist Women realized \$235.25 for your efforts. *Mary Kerr, Betty Ernst, Albert Bell, Brenda Thornburg, Helen Hickman, Judy Hillemonds, Ann Roberts, Georgia Koch, Joyce Blankenship, Peggy King, Jurl Thurston, Helen Fecske, Sharla*

Davis, Nancy Wright, Julie Robinson, Kathy Witmer, Kathy Susin, Carol Brubaker, Joyce Witt, Gloria McNett, Kay Cram, Jeanette Pritchard, Becky Bjorklund. Finally, a huge thank you to *Mary Schultz* for organizing the meal and all of the volunteers.

It is both a privilege and honor for me and my family to be serving at Crossroads. This past year has been one of continual growth for me and for our church. The most important thing is working with all of you; the encouragement, your prayers at the right time, and your generous support has yielded "much fruit." Your willingness to step out in faith and "welcome the least of these of mine" into our fellowship demonstrates that the Holy Spirit is working in your lives. The kingdom is growing and people are coming into a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I want to say **"Thank You"** to those who participated in Pastor Appreciation Month by your gifts, letters, notes, cards, gift certificates, other acts of kindness. Your love has not gone unnoticed. Your kindness and generosity demonstrates the Love of God in Jesus Christ. May the Grace of God and the Love of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you throughout the coming year as we welcome more into the kingdom.

Pastor Bob DeBolt

Dear Crossroads Family:
We are exceedingly grateful for your condolences, prayers, cards, letters, phone calls &

hugs during the last 10 weeks as we have grieved the loss of several family members. This journey has been a mysterious and frighteningly difficult one filled with much sorrow and pain. The grief would be inundating were it not for our faith, the blessed assurance that our loved ones are now with our Master & Lord, the support of our extended Celebrate Recovery family, Christian friends from many area churches, and most especially our loving church family from Crossroads. Truly you have lifted us with new wind, divided & shared our burden and comforted us in our time of deep grieving. This is none other than the peaceful serenity of Christ. May He continue to pour His blessings upon you
~**Jerry & Lynda Young and families**

I would like to extend a grateful "thank you!" to all those that were involved to make the November 19th *Cache Connections Live!* event a successful evening! From the Spirit filled praise & worship of Acts 29 to the godly teachings of the licensed Christian counselor to the Christian fellowship and refreshments, God was glorified! At the foundation were prayers from the prayer team, constant pastoral & staff support, generosity from the Crossroads bakers & door prize donors and service from the kitchen help & clean up crew. Thank you again for your service!

Sally Opper

**"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God."
Philippians 1:3**

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*Our mission is to grow disciples
and send them out into the
crossroads of our communities to
impact lives for Jesus Christ.*

Office Hours

Monday –Thursday

8:30am-4:00pm

Friday

8:30am-1:00 pm

Phone: (309)444-2381

Fax: (309)444-9818

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 am

Spirited Traditional

9:45 am

Christian Education
for All Ages

11:00 am

Casual Contemporary

www.crossroads4all.org

