



CROSSROADS  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

# The Messenger

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2011

- The deadline for the March, 2011 issue of *The Messenger* is Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Please submit articles to [ashaw@mtco.com](mailto:ashaw@mtco.com) or send hard copies to the church office.
- Please send address corrections to [Amber Johnsen at amberj@mtco.com](mailto: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.

## Inside this issue:

Faith & Finance	2
Divorce Care	2
GriefShare	2
Sally's Tip of the Month	3
Prayer Challenge	4
Youth News	4
Just for Kids	5
Stephen Ministry	6
Pastoral Notes	6
New Bible Study on David	7
GETS News	7
Senior News	8
Fellowship Opportunities	8
Conversation Corner	9
UMW	10
Library News	10
Bell Choir Openings	10
Congregational Notes	11

## From the Senior Pastor

Many of us have “honey-do” lists at home. Some of us struggle with completing items on our honey-do lists. A friend of mine has proposed that one way around this struggle is to trade our honey-do lists with others; we would do the things on their list and they would do the things on our list.

Jesus gave the church a mission, a “honey-do list”, in a final sermon (found in Matthew 25). In short, this mission includes:

- caring for the sick
- visiting those in prison or in crisis
- clothing the naked
- feeding the hungry
- welcoming strangers

This is a daunting task for even the most inspired workers. Thankfully we have over 800 of us to complete this mission. The Outreach Team at Crossroads believes that our congregation reached our mission in 2010 by:

- \* **Caring for the sick** through hospital calls, nursing home visits, home communion and Stephen Ministry. Currently our pastors and Stephen ministers make hospital calls and nursing home visits. We also have a faithful crew of home communion stewards who visit every first Thursday of the month. If you would like to serve in this ministry,

contact Sally Charlton, our parish nurse, at 444-2381 or [charlton@mtco.com](mailto:charlton@mtco.com).

- \* **Visiting those in prison or crisis.** Gary and Linnie McCully lead teams into various Correction facilities throughout Illinois. The Outreach Team also sponsors ministries that connect to church members in crisis. To serve in this ministry, contact Pastor Tom at 444-2381 or [pstrtom@mtco.com](mailto:pstrtom@mtco.com).
- \* In 2010, along with nine other churches, we began Threads of Love, a ministry that **provides clothing for those in need.** During much of the year, Threads was housed at Crossroads; now we have a home on Muller Street in Washington. Threads sponsors monthly giveaways, houses an emergency center, and provides special events to connect with area shelters and group homes. We estimate that 200 people attend each giveaway, connecting to 500-1000 people per month. If you would like to serve in this ministry, you may contact Pastor Tom or Cindy Shuford, our Threads liaison.
- \* WHIP (Washington Helps Its People) was established by Washingtonians back in the 1990s and serves 100 people per month (impacting 400-500

total people). Ron Hunt is our contact for this ministry at Crossroads.

- \* We are engaged in **welcoming strangers** to Crossroads (we call them “newcomers”) through our Newcomers Team. Joyce Dawson and Donna Cimino lead this ministry team. If you are interested in serving, contact Joyce, Donna, or the church office.
- \* Finally, we have an active Outreach Team that meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. Through this team, we make plans for Operation Christmas Child, outreach through various social service agencies, Adopt-a-Block, the Good Samaritan Fund and support for our missionaries through this team. Please feel free to join us.

One of the truths of honey-do lists is that they are never completed. There are always things to be added to the list. Accordingly, our mission of caring, serving, visiting, clothing, feeding and welcoming is never finished either. There are always opportunities to serve. Please consider how you will join us on our honey-do team in 2011.

*Grace and peace,  
~Pastor Tom*



## “Boo Hoo Bills” Arriving?

It is the end of January and by now many of you have received your credit card statements verifying the wonderful Christmas you purchased.

- Tired of facing the debt?
- Want to make this year different in managing money?
- Do you want to control

money instead of money controlling you?

- Are you ready to find out how God wants you to manage money?

Crossroads has trained financial consultants that will work with you to manage not only your money, but help you create a plan to get out of debt. These trained consultants

work with you privately and are committed to keep your personal business confidential.

**Ready to find out how to manage money God’s way?**

Contact Pastor Tom and he will connect you with someone who will help you learn a different way, a better way...God’s way.

## Divorce Care Ministry

**A special ministry program for those going through or having gone through, the pain of divorce.**

**Beginning Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>  
For 14 weeks  
6:30-8:00pm**

There is no cost to participate in this nationally recognized, spiritual approach to healing from divorce. There will be open registration at all times during the sessions. Childcare is available upon request.

Call JoAnn Petri at 444-8989 or the church office at 444-2381 for more information or to register.



## GriefShare

**Beginning Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm, a new GriefShare session will begin.** There are 13 sessions in the series, and it will conclude on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

GriefShare is designed for those suffering a deep hurt that comes with the loss of someone close. The GriefShare experience includes three elements to help in the healing process:

**Video**  
At each session two videos will be viewed on issues related to grief and loss. These videos feature top experts on a variety of

subjects important to the grief process. On each video we will hear personal stories from people who have experienced grief.

**Support Group**  
After the videos, the group will discuss what was seen and how it pertains to their lives. The group leader will have a set of discussion questions to help guide the group.

**Between Sessions**  
Group members are encouraged to reflect on what has happened at the meeting and how the discussion might apply to

personal circumstances. Everyone will receive a workbook and will be encouraged to work in it during the week.

Sally Charlton and Peggy King will facilitate the group. Anyone who has experienced the loss of someone close is invited to attend. The loss need not be recent. Call the church, 444-2381, to register or with questions. If you have a friend or family member who would benefit from this program, please encourage him/her to attend. **GriefShare is open to the public.**

GriefShare is designed for those suffering from a deep hurt that comes from the loss of someone close.

# Nurse Sally's Tip of the Month

## The Do's and Don'ts of Cutting Medical Costs

About 1.5 million families lose their homes to foreclosure every year because of unaffordable medical costs. Out of pocket medical costs, including many health insurance premiums and copays, have increased in the past five years – and that's for people who have coverage through their employers.

Given the double digit increase in medical costs, you may be tempted to stop going to your doctor, let your prescriptions run out or not take your medications how your doctor prescribed them. But before you go to that extreme, potentially jeopardizing your health, consider the following do's and don'ts for trimming medical costs.

### KNOW THE RULES

Every health plan has its own rules and requirements. Make sure you know what they are and follow them or else it will cost you. For example, your doctor writes a prescription before you leave the hospital after having had surgery. You discover, after you fill the prescription at the pharmacy, that it is not covered because it was written in the hospital. It would have been covered if it had been written in the doctor's office. So it pays to know just what is covered and what is not.

### DO HAVE A MEDICAL HOME

Research has shown that receiving care from your primary physician, as opposed to hopping from specialist to specialist, is associated with lower medical costs. In addition, many health problems can be treated in your doctor's office, saving you a trip to the emergency room.

### DO USE THE EMERGENCY ROOM ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES

Emergency room care is one of the most expensive options you can choose for medical care.

**Please do not hesitate to go if you have severe shortness of breath or chest pain, uncontrolled bleeding or sudden weakness anywhere in your body.** (You get the picture, anything that is life threatening.)

For less severe symptoms, these tips may help you avoid the cost and inconvenience of an emergency visit:

**Have a plan.** If you have a condition that can suddenly worsen, such as heart disease, migraines, diabetes, back pain or asthma, work with your doctor to develop a plan for dealing with new complications. Ask about having medications on hand for common complications.

**Ask a nurse.** Find out if your insurer or employer offers access to a 24 hour nurse line, where you can talk to a nurse trained in directing people to appropriate medical care. You can also feel free to consult with your parish nurse for advice at any time.

**Urgent Care Clinics.** These offices are open evenings and weekends when your doctor's office is closed. They can handle many minor but urgent issues, such as strep throat, bladder infection, etc.

### DON'T SKIMP ON PREVENTION

Some of the most common reasons adults end up in the emergency room are falls, car accidents, fever, chest and abdominal pain. Taking steps to reduce the risk of falls around the house, driving sensibly, getting an annual flu shot and

properly cooking and storing food are just a few of the many ways you can avoid getting hurt or sick. Get on the healthy living bandwagon: eat healthy foods, get exercise and stop smoking. Stopping smoking not only cuts your risk of illness, but also saves you money. For example, a pack-a-day smoker can save \$5 a day, or almost \$2,000 a year.

### CONSIDER GENERIC DRUGS

Generic drugs are equivalent in safety and effectiveness to their brand name counterparts, but cost 30 – 80% less. Talk to your doctor about switching to a generic. If one isn't available, ask the doctor if a less expensive drug is an option. You may also save money just by switching where you buy your medications. Many plans offer a big discount if you use their mail-in pharmacy. Some retail chains, such as Walmart and Kroger, offer popular generics for \$4 for a 30-day supply. If prescriptions are still too expensive, a patient assistance program might be able to help. Ask your doctor or pharmacist, or check on-line.

### CHECK YOUR BILL BEFORE YOU PAY IT

Review your bill carefully and question anything that doesn't look right. Make sure you actually received the treatments or tests for which you are being billed. If you need help interpreting the bill, feel free to ask your parish nurse for help. Medical lingo can be intimidating to many folks. I hope these tips will help you. Please contact me if I can be of service to you. You may reach me by calling the church at 444-2381.



~Sally Charlton, Parish Nurse

## Prayer Challenge

When I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, my teacher caught me talking to a friend and accused me of cheating on a test. I explained that I couldn't see what was written on the blackboard. The teacher didn't reprimand me, but did change my seat to the front row. I told my mom what had happened at school and that the teacher said I need to have my eyes checked. I had always gotten good grades and could read ok, so Mom couldn't see a problem. My older sister had just gotten glasses and Mom thought I just wanted some too. So, no eye test, no glasses.

*I kept praying that one day I could see.*

Two years later, I was sitting next to Mom at a basketball game and I kept asking her what the score was. It was then she finally realized I couldn't see. I got glasses. Wow! A whole new world opened up for me. I could see the leaves on the trees and the eyelets in my shoes. Plus, I no longer had to sit in the front row at school.

As years went on, my eyesight got worse. In high school, my lenses were very thick and heavy. I went to a doctor for contact lenses. I told him I could see the big "E"; he said, "no, we already passed it." I resolved to the fact that I

would never be without glasses or contacts.

In 2008, I had a macular hole in my left eye. Illinois Eye Center gave me a 50/50 chance of seeing. I went to Mayo Clinic and the percentage there was much higher. I had a cataract removed and then the macular hole fixed. Hallelujah! Vision resorted in the left eye! In 2010, I had cataract surgery on my right eye. Sight restored! No glasses, no contacts! ***God was listening, and it happened in his time.*** Pray on! Seeing is believing!

~Darlene Dixon

## 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:

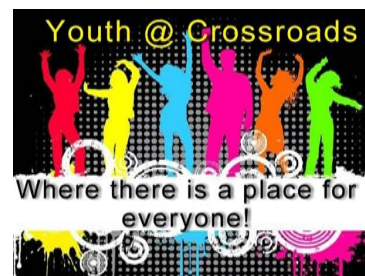
Every Wednesday night  
6:30-8:30pm  
Dinner, small groups, games, lesson, music and more!

### Middle School Impact:

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sunday evenings  
6:30-8:00pm  
Fun, games, lesson, snacks and much, much more!

### Follow Lighthouse News!

Text "follow xroadlighthouse" to 40404



# Just for Kids

## Kids for Christ

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

### Remaining 2011 dates

February 11  
February 25  
March 25  
April 8  
April 29

## Communion Workshop

*\*\*Offered to Second & third graders & their parents\*\**  
**Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30-11:30am**

To sign up for the Communion Workshop please contact the office (444-2381) by Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

We will be accepting a \$5.00 donation per child attending. We highly encourage parents or grandparents to attend this workshop with their child. There will be a time when we divide into family groups. It will be your continued interaction & discussion at home that will make communion a meaningful and lasting part of your child's Christian walk.

Through this workshop kids will learn why we take communion, how we should respond to the celebration of communion, and the promise offered to us through this act. A pastor will lead the discussion about communion. Then the students will have an opportunity to make a communion chalice. We will end our session with pizza for lunch.

## Mark your calendars:

**The Light  
Kids Conference**  
Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>  
8:30am-2:00pm

The Light is a conference designed to reach children in grades 1-5. Through inflatable games, worship, videos, drama, lunch, snacks, Bible Study, recreation, and music, students will be inspired to explore their faith in Jesus.

For more information, including how to register, visit [www.kidsconference.org](http://www.kidsconference.org).

**Family Easter  
Celebration**  
Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
9:30-10:45

## David: Big Giant, Big Challenge, Big Faith

All children in grades K-5 are invited to participate in the current Sunday School unit which focuses on David and how he was chosen by God to defeat the giant Goliath. The theme for the unit is that God looks at what is inside our hearts, not at our outward appearance.

Children will attend a different workshop each week, accompanied by their grade level's shepherd.

**Bible Variety Workshop –**  
Learn the story of David and Goliath. Learn how God prepared David. Explore ways that God prepares us to do his work. Engage in a backpack relay and a faith stone game.

**Drama Workshop –** Learn that God makes a "big choice" in choosing a young shepherd boy named David to anoint as

king. Find out how God equips us with gifts. Participate in a scriptless drama.

**Comedy Club  
Workshop –**  
Learn that God chooses people by looking at their hearts - not their outward appearance. Recognize that God's choice of David was not a joke. Enjoy visiting the comedy club presentation by the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class.

**Game Workshop –** Learn how David overcame his fears by having faith in God. Practice making right decisions. Play "Giant Steps" (Mother, May I?) and help each other take "little steps of faith."

**Mission Workshop –** Learn about the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm - written by David. Explore "Psalm 23" as it applies today. Serve God in a big way by serving others. Decorate bags, fill them with breakfast food, and give them away to others through W.H.I.P. (Washington Helps Its People)

**Movie Workshop –** View the movie *David and Goliath*. Find out about King Saul and David and Goliath. Learn that God judges people by their hearts and not their outward appearance. Complete the lesson with a movie quiz for the older children and a rebus puzzle for the younger children.

Each week, children will collect items to put in their "David's Shepherd Pouch" that they will take home at the end of the unit. Brochures with class schedules, workshop descriptions, and activities for home can be found in the Sunday school hallway and in the Fellowship Hall.



Coming in

March:

Scrapbooking

Holy Week-

The Good

News!



## Stephen Ministry

Fulfilling part of our mission, on February 6<sup>th</sup> ten lay people will be “sent out” into a special ministry of care and concern for others. This service of commissioning wraps up a period of training for these Stephen Ministers in a program of lay caring ministry developed by Stephen Ministries St. Louis. Our Stephen Ministers have studied and practiced skills in such areas as dealing with feelings, listening, asserting oneself with gentleness and firmness, and numerous other topics to prepare them to help people who are

experiencing difficulties in their daily lives. Life struggles such as hospitalization, retirement, financial setback, the loss of a loved one, illness and disability, loneliness, discouragement, etc. are just some of the issues we all may experience at some time in our lives. Our Stephen Ministers will be assigned to minister to you privately and confidentially. On a weekly basis they will listen, care, encourage, support and remind you of Christ’s presence in your life. Please join us in thanking God that these ten

people have answered His call to care for others. Please pray for them as they begin their caring ministry.

If you would like to receive the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Lori Samp at 367-9422 or saved57@gmail.com.

Our Stephen Ministers are: Alice Bower, Tracie Carey, Barb Cleckner, Joyce Dawson, Janita Goldman, Larry Goldman, Rick Lavaux, Lynette Salazar Vior, Kathy Trowbridge, and Linda Wicks.

## Pastoral Notes

Congratulations to **Dash Robert Moehle**, son of Matt & Amy Moehle and grandson of Bob & LuAnn DeBolt, who was baptized on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We welcome **Margie Brown**, who joined our church on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Our sympathy and prayers to:*

**Deb Fox** on the death of her mother, Clestene Humphreys on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Angie Thomas** on the death of her father, Charles Pelton on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Staff News and Notes

Welcome to **Tim Lee**, our new sound technician and sound team coordinator. Tim will be working with the sound

team and praise team during rehearsals on Thursday nights, services on Sundays and special events, weddings and funerals. He has church audio/visual technical experience and also has played in bands and has done live studio recording and performance mixing for musical groups. It is great to have him on board here at Crossroads.

We are also pleased to have **Maureen Hotkevich** join our staff. She has taken the position of Children’s Ministry Elementary Coordinator, working mainly with the rotational Sunday School program and other ministries involving elementary age children. Maureen comes to us with over 30 years of experience in the public school system.

She taught Language Arts and Social Studies for several years before serving as the Technology Directory for District 52 in Washington.

**Jim Bayless**, our 11:00am worship coordinator and leader of the praise team, is taking a leave of absence through early April. Jim has worked with the praise team ministry for over 15 years and this is a well deserved time of rest. During his leave various members of the praise team will be leading the 11:00 service.

**Brian Wierenga**, our accompanist and special events coordinator, is taking a medical leave of absence through March following wrist surgery. Blessings to Brian as he recovers.

# “Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed” Study

**New! Seven Week Bible Study for Women**

**‘Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed’**

A Character Study on the Life of David

**Open to Women of ALL ages!**

Previously recorded live at the ‘Deeper Still’ Conference

Featuring three generations of vibrant speakers: Kay Arthur,

Priscilla Shirer & Beth Moore.

Meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 16, 2011 at Crossroads UMC, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sign up through the church office, (309) 444-2381,

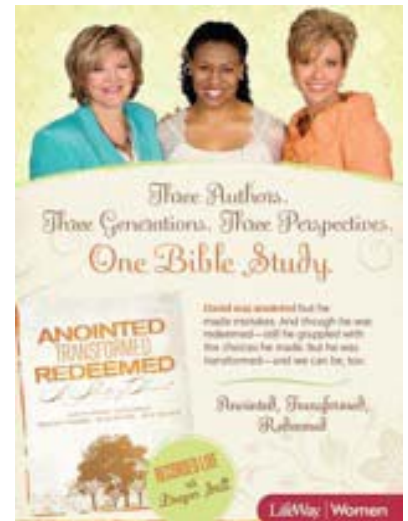
Lynda Young, (309) 256-4630, or younglynda5@gmail.com.

*A small donation for participant guides will be collected at the first meeting.*

**David was anointed but he made mistakes.**

**And though he was redeemed—still he grappled with the choices he made.**

**But he was transformed—and we can be, too.**



## Garrett Evangelical Seminary

At the start of a new year I would like to introduce to you Tasha Sargent, a student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Tasha’s home town is Grove, Oklahoma where she attended Grove First United Methodist Church.

Tasha earned her B.A. in Religion from the Oklahoma City University. She is in the First year of the Master of Divinity program. After graduation, Tasha is seeking ordination as an elder in The United Methodist Church and plans to serve in the Oklahoma Conference. In addition to the typical functions of preaching and parish administration, she plans on being an advocate for those who have been silenced by society, for the least, the broken, the poor, and for those who simply need to be loved.

Tasha Sargent was born in Kansas City, MO, and lived in Connecticut and Kansas before her family finally settled down in Oklahoma. She is the oldest of four children and comes from a long line of Catholics on her mom's side of the family. Needless to say, she broke the mold attending and joining The United Methodist Church in high school but her family has been incredibly supportive of her

decision to go into ministry.

Why did Miss Sargent chose Garrett-Evangelical? She was first introduced to Garrett-Evangelical by her campus minister, Rev. Jennifer Long, an alumna of Garrett-Evangelical. Rev. Long had great things to say about her time in seminary (except for the Chicago winters of course). Then Tasha found out her Hebrew Bible professor in undergrad, Dr. Lisa Wolfe, graduated with a PhD from Garrett-Evangelical, and Dr. Wolfe also had many positive things to say. Tasha knew she wanted to attend a seminary that would challenge her academically, form and nurture her spiritually, and prepare her to be a pastor in the UMC. After a couple of visits to Garrett-Evangelical, she knew that this was an institution that could do all of those things and more. The excellent academics, highly qualified faculty, friendly and helpful staff, beautiful campus, diverse programs, and the community that embraced her before she was even student here convinced her that this was where she was suppose to be for seminary.

Tasha felt the call to ministry while she was in high school. Initially, she believes that she

was called to do youth ministry. God, however, had others plans. In college, she was blessed with a number of mentors who happened to be strong women who were all ordained elders, and she began to ponder the idea of being ordained. After spending two years as a youth director, and two years of arguing with God that she couldn't possibly be a pastor, she came to understand and accept that her calling was not to be limited to youth ministry. She is called to be an ordained elder. She is called to a ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service. She is called to show the love and grace of God to all people. She is called, and while it still scares her half to death at times, she has never been happier.

Crossroads has established an endowment fund at Evangelical Theological Seminary for the purpose of assisting students who are entering the ministry in the United Methodist Church. If you would like donate to this fund, please send your check marked “GETS” to the church office. Thank you for helping the students at GETS answer God’s call!

~Cliff Smith

**Attention  
all golfers!  
A GETS Golf  
Fundraiser is  
being planned  
after Easter.  
Watch for  
more  
information  
coming soon!**

## Senior News

### M & M's Program with Pastor Bob Lawry

On February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the chapel, the M and M's are again blessed to have Pastor Bob Lawry as a guest speaker. Pastor Lawry will share with us the background and history of "The Trouble" in Northern Ireland from 1968 – 1998. After the program we will

enjoy dessert in the fellowship hall. Please call the church, 444-2381, to register for this interesting program. If you need a ride to the church please let it be known when you call the church. If you would like to attend and you are not yet an M and M (Mature and Methodist), please feel free to join us. New to our congregation? This is a perfect opportunity for you to get acquainted.

### Senior Meal

Our Senior Meal will be Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at noon in the fellowship area. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. The food and fellowship will be outstanding. Please call the church office at 444-2381 if you can join us.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in the chapel. Join us for supper, a testimony, a Bible study, and prayer. We are currently viewing the video series "The Measure of a Man", which teaches about the 20 character traits of a godly man. 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 book for February 15<sup>th</sup> will be No Turning Back: My Summer With Daddy King by Gurdon Brewster, a seminary student who spent time with Dr. King. We meet at 1:00 in the library. In March, we will discuss The Wounded Healer by Henri Nouwen.

Please join us even if you have not read the book! For more information, contact Nancy Bullard at 444-5140.

### A Girls Night Out Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 - 10:00pm

Come out for a girls night of friends and fellowship. Want to quickly get those stacks of photos into albums? Or get those holiday photos off your memory stick? Traditional, digital, or slip-in albums... whatever you prefer, I can show you how to get it done quickly and easily. Whether

you want to come and cross-stitch, sew, work on a craft project or even clean out a junk drawer, let's get together for some great fellowship! *We will meet once a month through May.*

Contact Tammy Miller at 444-2408 for more information.

### Corn Stock Summer Theater

Again Crossroads United Methodist church will attend Corn Stock summer theater. We have done this for over 20 years. This season looks exceptionally exciting. The discounted cost to our group is \$59.40 per person for the five shows. The bus will be available for some of the shows – otherwise we will carpool. If you choose to attend, make a check out to Corn Stock Theater and mail it to Alice Nobles Arn, 605 E. Jefferson, Washington, IL 61571. Call 309-219-4719 with any questions. Please have your check to her by March 31.



# CONVERSATION

## CORNER

This month's spotlight will focus on Kathy McGuire, 8:30 Communion Coordinator at Crossroads. Kathy and her husband Joe are members of Crossroads and have been attending since 2006.

I spoke with Kathy one afternoon to ask her about her responsibilities as the 8:30 Communion Coordinator and to help us get a better understanding of why she volunteered for this position.

In the United Methodist tradition, Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday of each month. People come to receive the elements of Bread and Cup to remember what Jesus Christ has done for us on the Cross of Calvary. Crossroads has been gaining in attendance over the past few years and is closing in on 900 each Sunday. A typical 8:30 service has around 350 and 11 Praise has around 550 in attendance. As you can see, there is quite a bit of work to do in preparing the communion elements.

I asked Kathy why she volunteered for this position. She first got involved a couple years ago after she saw a 50 Ways to "Serve Your Savior" video during worship. After giving it some consideration,

she decided to volunteer. She thought this was something she could do.

In former days, we received the elements by Intinction—the practice of dipping a piece of bread into the chalice of juice then partaking of both at the same time. As you can see this would be a simple, easy, and fast method of preparing for communion. After some consideration the decision was made to have the elements separate—bread and small cup.

Because of the amount of work involved, Kathy prepares ahead of time. She cuts the bread into small pieces at home and sometime during the week before communion Sunday she comes in to load the empty cups into the trays. Sunday morning consists of filling the cups and placing the bread into the 4 plates. Imagine filling 900 small cups with juice each communion Sunday. This also requires taking the trays into the sanctuary and placing them on the Altar. Once the worship service is over, she takes the trays to the kitchen and cleans them for the 11:00 Praise service. She does give the 11:00 Praise service a hand by refilling the trays with empty cups. The 11:00 Praise Communion Coordinator then starts the process over again.

Kathy also schedules the servers at each station in the sanctuary. This requires recruiting 6 other servers per communion Sunday. We have changed the way we serve the servers. Kathy made the suggestion that we serve them from the main floor. She got a resounding "Yes" from servers, plus this made it easier for people who have a hard time traversing the steps.

Kathy volunteered because she could see the vital need not only to serve, but this was something she could do. And she says, "We are always looking for new servants at BOTH services."

If this is something God is calling you to do and you want to "step out of the boat", please give Kathy a call or stop by the Welcome Desk to volunteer. Remember: God is counting on YOU!

~Pastor Bob DeBolt



## Walk to Emmaus News

**Men's Emmaus Walk**  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

**Women's Emmaus Walk**  
February 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

For more information on any of these events, visit  
[www.ilheartlandemmaus.com](http://www.ilheartlandemmaus.com)

# United Methodist Women



## UMW Connections

"...Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying."  
~Luke 10:39

United Methodist Women seek to grow in faith and to understand their involvement in God's mission through prayer, Bible Study, worship, reflection, and interaction with others.

On a very cold January morning I braved the weather and attended the Mom's Bible Study led by Maureen Boyd. My heart was warmed by the discussion with guidance from God's word. The coffee and goodies also helped warm me up!!! This Bible Study group is a circle of UMW and is for moms. My purpose in

attending was to encourage the moms and perhaps offer some grandmother perspective. The group is currently studying The Power Of A Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian. I am praying for all these moms and their children. I hope more moms will take advantage of this time of study and reflection.

*In His Love,  
Nancy Bullard, President  
Crossroads UMW*

## "Happy Birthday to You"

Ladies, join us for a Birthday Tea Party on **Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm in room 107.** Bring an item or memory from a past birthday to tell the group about. Our hostesses will treat us to birthday cake and there will

be singing too. Please come prepared for our annual pledge service. If you need child care during the meeting, please call the church office at 444-2381 by Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you there!

## Looking Ahead:

**March 3rd: Project Day**  
Meet us at noon in room 106 and bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

**March 28th at 8:30am: District Mini Mission** at Mossville UMC. We will carpool.

**Questions?** Call Nancy Bullard (444-5140) or Rebecca Bell (444-2570).



# Library News

Thank you for using the suggestion box in the church library. Replies to your suggestions are taped onto the check-out cart. We appreciate all the interest in the church library and we want to keep up with your

wants and needs. Check the top of the smaller bookshelves for new books or books that may be of special interest to you. We also have a display of books read by the Spirited Discussion Group and the

UMW Reading Program participants. Anyone may check these books out and you will find them interesting. For library information, contact Nancy Bullard [nanrb@mtco.com](mailto:nanrb@mtco.com).



# Bell Choir Openings

**The "Crossroads Ringers" Handbell Choir has openings!** We practice on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30pm and play for the 8:30am service one Sunday per month.

Necessary musical skills include the ability to read music and to be familiar with time signatures and "counting". We will teach you everything else you need to know, including

many different fun handbell techniques. We hope you will give us a try! Contact Cliff Smith at 444-8516 for more information.

# Notes from Our Congregation



Please join us in celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> **Wedding Anniversary of Bill and Mary Hatfield.**

The Open House will be held on Saturday, March 5 from 2:00-4:00 at Crossroads. No gifts please.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to Pastor Tom and Pastor Bob for their visits and prayers and all others for their phone calls, prayers, and get well cards during my stay at OSF Hospital.

~**John Cole & family**

As a new year begins, the United Methodist Women would like to thank all funeral food donors and helpers. Because of you, this ministry continues to serve many families. We very much appreciate your gracious support of this mission. Thank you!

~**United Methodist Women**

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for participating in the "Crossroads Christmas Angels" program. Because of your contributions, eleven committed and participating Crossroads members had their Christmas wishes fulfilled. Personally, this mission gives us great comfort, and at the same time, humbles us and makes us realize that we are indeed our brothers' keepers. While we hope there is no need next Christmas, we know that we will once again jump out of the boat and ask for your support - and that you, too, believe in this project and will respond. Thank you so much for once again making this a huge success.

~**Ron & Marilyn Hunt**

When life takes its twists and turns we so need to be grounded. Thank you dear church family; you have always done this for me and you are

still doing it. We are all parts of the same body of Christ and our family gives God all the praise for His presence through you and your expression of love. Thank you for being there for us. You made the rough places smooth. To God be the Glory! Special thanks to Pastor Tom and Bob for leading us through the maze. What was hurtful became bearable.

~**The Everett Russell Family**

I wish to thank Crossroads for everything they did for my family this Christmas. We had a wonderful Christmas because of the generosity of our church family. My husband was able to get new work boots and we all had special gifts because of your love. God bless each and every one of you.

~**A thankful church family**

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Angel Tree for our group homes. Because of your generosity the residents will enjoy trips to go out to eat and to shop for quite awhile. You have made a big difference in their lives for this year. Thank you again for your giving hearts.

~**Sandy Tunnell**

Thanks to all of you for the sympathy expressed to the Crossroads United Methodist Women on the passing of Nola Finson. Nola was our Social Action Coordinator and a faithful worker at all our events. Your thoughts and prayers have sustained us in this time of sorrow.

Blessings,  
~**United Methodist Women**

A huge "thank you" to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner. Because of all of you, we served 135 people! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

~**Nikki Hudson & Gary Barry**

Dear friends,  
Sue and I would like to thank you for the many Christmas cards we received this year, as well as the gifts of cookies, candy, fudge, breads, and more. We also were touched by the generous Christmas monetary gift that was presented to us on behalf of the entire congregation. We continue to feel very appreciated and supported by our church community. It is a pleasure to work and worship with you. May God's presence bless and guide us all in this coming new year. Thank you.

~**Bob and Sue Lawry**

I want to say "Thank You" for the Love Offering received this past Christmas. God has been good to me and LuAnn over the past year. It was reflected in the offering from all of you at Crossroads. It is both a privilege and honor for me to be serving at Crossroads. 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 to be a "welcoming congregation" 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. 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 encourage and welcome more into the kingdom.

~**Pastor Bob DeBolt**

Tom, Sherry, Andrew and Nick Goodell thank our church family for your generosity this Christmas season. We were blessed by cookies and cards,

gift certificates and a wonderful love offering all of which remind us how blessed we are to be a part of the Crossroads Church family. Thank you for your care for us.

~**The Goodell Family**

250 Christmas cards were sent to our military men & women serving active duty. We sent 60 cards to a group of Marines serving in Afghanistan. Three care packages were also sent. Thank you to all who signed a card and a special thank you to the Hacker family for helping with expenses!

*The following received cards:*  
**Susan Gray, Brice Turner, Jarrod Stoutenborough, Jonathan Parks, Kyle Garmen, Nathan O'Bear, Justin Brown, Jonathan Schumacher, Steven Fitton, & Travis Linke.**

Hi Pastor Tom,  
Just wanted to thank you and your congregation for sending the uplifting & encouraging Christmas cards to me. I know it takes time & effort to get these holiday messages out to the deployed service members but it really means a lot to those of us who are separated from our families during this time of year. I also enjoyed the Bible story from Genesis you included in your card. Pass on the thanks to all those who attend Crossroads, especially Mrs. Ohlman's Little Lambs (loved the thumb prints) & Rosie & Roy Fischer. God bless & Merry Christmas,  
~**Jonathan Parks MAJ, MC,CSH Baghdad, Iraq**

My son has mentioned several times receiving the cards and care packages that sure help when away from home. It lets us know people care. Thank you and the church again!  
Bright Smiles,  
~**Mother of Nathan O'Bear**

**Pastors & Staff**

**Directing Pastor**

Tom Goodell  
pastors@mtco.com

**Pastor of Congregational Care**

Bob DeBolt  
pastors@mtco.com

**Pastor of Discipleship**

Bob Lawry  
pastors@mtco.com

**Assistant to the Pastors**

Angie Shaw  
ashaw@mtco.com

**Parish Nurse**

Sally Charlton  
charlton@mtco.com

**Youth Director**

Trevor Bartolomucci  
trevorb@mtco.com

**Director of Christian Education**

Sue Husted  
sueh@mtco.com

**Children's Ministry Elementary Coordinator**

Maureen Hotkevich  
maureenh@mtco.com

**Nursery Coordinator**

Stephanie Wendte  
stephw@mtco.com

**Building Manager**

Craig Hibbard  
chibbard@mtco.com

**Business Administrator**

Debbie Royer  
droyer@mtco.com

**Receptionist**

Brenda Thornburg  
brendat@mtco.com

**Assistant to the Business Administrator**

Amber Johnsen  
amberj@mtco.com

**Video Director**

John Sitler  
jsitler@mtco.com

**Director of Music Ministry**

Will Meachum  
wmeach@mtco.com

**Worship Leader**

Jim Bayless  
praiseways@yahoo.com

**Accompanist**

Brian Wierenga  
bwier@mtco.com

**Sound Technician**

Tim Lee  
timothyclee@mac.com

**Handbell Director**

Cliff Smith

**Youth Handbell Director**

Kathy Palmer

**Little Lambs Preschool Director**

Tracie Carey  
mstracie@mtco.com

**Little Lambs Teachers**

Traci Ohlman  
mrsohlman@mtco.com  
Amy Jones  
msamy@mtco.com

Leslie Garrison

Teri Richie

**Wedding Coordinators**

Beth Bennett  
Melissa Sullivan

Nonprofit  
US Postage Paid  
Washington, IL 61571  
Permit No. 17

Return Service Requested

**Crossroads  
United Methodist  
Church of Washington**

P.O. Box 299  
1420 N. Main St.  
Washington, IL 61571

*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](http://www.crossroads4all.org)

