



CROSSROADS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Messenger

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2011

- The deadline for the July, 2011 issue of *The Messenger* is Friday, June 17th. Please submit articles to ashaw@mtco.com or send hard copies to the church office.
- Please send address corrections to Beth Bennett at bethbennett@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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From Pastor Bob DeBolt

A Reflection

I look back on the past 9 years and wonder where all the time went. As of July 1st, I am being appointed as the lead pastor of Hanna City and Trivoli United Methodist Churches. This begins an exciting time in my life. The past 9 years have also been exciting and challenging. Crossroads has a future in the greater Washington area. Every Sunday morning I greet you with, "Welcome to Crossroads United Methodist Church where we meet you at the crossroads of your life and offer you the Good News of Jesus Christ." The prophet Jeremiah said it best to the Israelites and to us when he said, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." God has plans for Crossroads. It is to give us Hope and a Future. The hope is found in the Person of Jesus Christ. It is our relationship with the King of kings and the Lord of lords that will see us through any situation or trial we come upon. The future is beyond the four walls of Crossroads. We are to go into the crossroads of people's lives and offer them Someone the world cannot—Jesus Christ—Hope. These past 9 years have given

me a different outlook on life and on people. I have made many friends and have a friendship with many of you. It will be hard to leave. There are many memories and good times. I "Thank You" for the memories. I "Thank You" for your encouragement. I "Thank You" for the times you helped me with the ministry opportunities we present here at Crossroads. Crossroads cannot survive without volunteer servants pitching in. I see you every day, day-in and day-out giving of your time, talents, and passion. Most of all, I "Thank You" for your prayers.

I have the utmost regard and respect for our Directing Pastor, Tom Goodell. He has become a GREAT friend and mentor. Tom, you truly are a servant of God. He has called you to be a Prophet, to witness and testify to the truth found in Jesus Christ. I will continue to pray for you, my friend. God Bless you as you direct the great people of Crossroads.

Finally, I will have the opportunity to lead 2 vital congregations in their quest for a better understanding and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God has called me to be a Prophet, to witness and testify

to the truth found in Jesus Christ. It will also give me the opportunity to preach on a weekly basis. Being "called" as a servant of God is not about us or what we do. It's about God. He has given each one of us a purpose and mission in life. What we do with that purpose and mission is our gift to Him. Colossians 3:23 says it all, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men..."

My time is limited in the active pastoral ministry due to my age, although I'm not that old and I certainly don't feel that old. I have prayed about this move for the past 3 years. I have been fasting the past 6 months for spiritual breakthrough for this move. My heartfelt desire before I die or retire is to pastor a church of my own. God has granted that to me. I have been listening to a song by Damaris Carbaugh with the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir entitled, "He's Been Faithful". God has been faithful to me. I want to be faithful to Him. Our God Reigns.

God is Good – All the Time.

Bob

Pastor of Congregational Care

Farewell to Pastor Bob DeBolt

Congratulations to Pastor Bob DeBolt, who has been appointed Directing Pastor of the Hanna City and Trivoli United Methodist Churches effective July 1st, 2011.

Please join us at a brunch in Bob and LuAnn's honor between services on Sunday, June 19th to thank them for their ministry at

Crossroads. There will be no Sunday School classes (adult or children's) that day.

We will be collecting a love offering for the DeBolts and you will have an opportunity to write a note for a memory book. If you write a check, you may write it to Crossroads and memo "Bob's love

offering". You may turn in your notes or love offering to the church office any time before the 19th.

The Pastor Parish Relations Team is meeting with our Superintendent to discuss our pastoral needs going forward. Please be in prayer for them as they make these important decisions.

Pastoral Notes

Congratulations to:

Amber and Seth Johnsen on the birth of their daughter, Elyse Victoria, on March 21. Elyse was welcomed home by big brother Gavin.

Chad and Joy Whittington on the birth of their first child, Lucas Michael on May 2. Proud grandparents are Bob & LuAnn DeBolt.

Ryan and Amy Beck on the birth of their son, Samuel William Beck on May 10. Proud siblings are Elly and Elijah.

Jeremy and Staci Arnold on the birth of their son Jacob on May 12. Proud grandparents are Ted & Shirley Mallicoat.

Welcome to our newest

members at Crossroads:
David & Sandra Berner on May 1
Stacy Bridgewater on May 8
Dominic & Kate Lang on May 22

Congratulations to those

baptized at Crossroads:
Stacy Bridgewater on May 8
Kate Lang & her son Jude on May 22

We extend our prayers and sympathy to those who have

lost loved ones recently:
The family and friends of **Gary Barry**, a member of Crossroads who passed away on May 3

Jeanie Winkelmann on the death of her dad, **Donald Day**, on May 7

Gary Rogers on the death of his mom, **Lelia Rogers**, on May 14

Darrell Vasseur on the death of his mother, **Rose Vasseur**, on May 18.



In an effort to be good stewards, we would like to significantly reduce the amount of monthly newsletters ("Messengers") that we send out.

If you would like to continue to receive the Messenger in the mail, please let Angie Shaw know by email (ashaw@mtco.com) or by calling the church office at 444-2381.

If you would like to have the Messenger emailed to you, please email Angie.

Keep in mind that the Messenger is also available on the Crossroads website. (www.crossroads4all.org)

Nurse Sally's Tip of the Month

Prayer Is Good Medicine

When health fails, one of the first responses of both the sick and their loved ones is to pray. The healing that comes from prayer can take many forms, from feeling supported by others and by God, to acceptance of illness if healing does not happen, to an actual cure. Many sick people who pray find greater strength, peace and courage to endure illness.

In a *Time* magazine survey, 82% of those polled believed in the healing power of prayer. In a San Francisco hospital study, patients who were prayed for did better overall in their recovery. Other research concluded that people who attended worship, prayed and read Scripture had lower blood pressure, were hospitalized less frequently and had significantly better health outcomes after serious illnesses than those who did not.

The Bible not only has many examples of healing but also commends prayer as a response to sickness. James 5:13 tells us

to pray for our suffering. The connection among salvation, health and wholeness of body, mind and spirit has always been a part of our faith. One of our traditional images of God has been that of the Great Physician.

Whether you seek healing for yourself or for another, here are some suggestions:

Open yourself to God the Healer. Because God is the source of all life, God must also be the source of healing. As our creator, God knows us inside and out. Since He is so close to us and knows us so intimately, He knows best what we need. Please understand that God uses medical personnel to aid in healing so medical treatment can be part of God's healing.

Support one another in prayer. Prayer not only presents our concerns to God; it also brings them to the attention of others. When you are ill and ask others to pray for you, you feel less alone. People realize you may need a ride to the doctor's office, help with childcare, shopping, etc. You

are giving others the opportunity to serve you. When we serve others, we are serving God.

Explore all the things prayer for healing can do. God responds to prayers in different ways, but always with the best interest of those who pray in mind. Drawing close to God in prayer can give us confidence to face illness and to trust that, whatever the future may hold, we will remain in God's hands. Through prayer we receive the strength to move through illness or find the peace to accept our condition. The philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard wrote, "Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays." In prayer we turn to God and ask for God's healing presence in our lives, which can change and heal us in many ways. Prayer helps us feel less isolated and afraid when we or a loved one is ill. It draws us closer to one another and to God. Prayer for healing is the best medicine we can take on the journey through illness.

Because God is the source of life, God must also be the source of healing.

Crossroads Columbarium Niches Available

What is a Columbarium?

A columbarium is a granite structure designed to house the cremated remains of loved ones. Our columbarium is a permanent structure in the memorial garden, a quiet location that allows for ease of visitation, meditation and prayer.

Why a columbarium at Crossroads?

For many centuries cemeteries were commonly found in

churchyards, allowing churches to minister to the spiritual needs of their members, from baptism through life to death. Clearly, churches cannot build cemeteries today. A columbarium is a modern alternative which Crossroads United Methodist Church is offering to their members and families.

The columbarium is self funded, using income derived from the sale of niches. It is completely

separate from church funds. If you would like to learn more about purchasing a niche in the columbarium, please contact Sally Charlton, your parish nurse, or make an appointment to discuss it. Her cell phone is 369-5293 or call the church, 444-2381.



Mission Possible

Mission Possible #9 Love Packages in Butler, Illinois

This will be the ninth year we have taken a day mission trip to work in Steve Schmidt's Love Packages warehouse. Love Packages is the primary endeavor of his Eagle Nest Ministries. Since 1975, Steve has dedicated his life to sending tons of Christian literature and Bibles to countries in need, such as Kenya, India and the Philippines.

Since he operates with a very small staff, he is dependent upon volunteers to process the huge volume of donated materials. We have been blessed with faithful workers, some who have gone every year. And each year, new volunteers join us and discover what a rewarding experience it is. Steve has jobs for everyone: sit-down, heavy-duty, and in-between.

Date: Wednesday, June 8

Depart: 7:00 am

Return: 7:00 pm

Who: Adults and high schoolers (Crossroads people and friends)

Cost: Your brown-bag lunch and money for a dinner stop in Springfield

Travel: Crossroads vans

To sign up: Call the church office at 444-2381

Questions: Call Ron and Marilyn Hunt at 444-5160

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!

Follow Lighthouse News!

Text "follow
xroadlighthouse"
to 40404

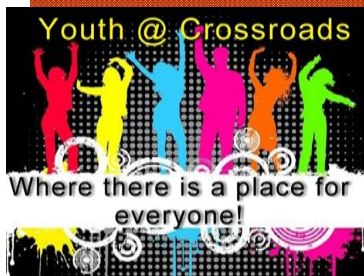
Middle School Impact:

6th-8th Grade
Sunday evenings
6:30-8:00pm

Fun, games, lesson, snacks
and much, much more!

*Youth Groups will
not meet during the
Summer.*

See you this fall!



Just for Kids



Summer Sunday School Fun for Grades K-5

All aboard! With tickets in hand, kids will board a train bound for glory. From the engine to the caboose, each week they'll explore a different car on the train. Each car focuses on a well-known Bible verse which they will learn how to apply to their lives. The children will understand how Christian living sustains them through the journey of life and keeps them on the right track. The children will be able to recall these nuggets of Bible wisdom no matter how bumpy their journey of life becomes.

Don't take a vacation from Sunday School this summer. Get Aboard the Glory Train!

Vacation Bible School 2011

Mark your calendars for this summer's VBS

July 11-15

9:00-11:30am

for children ages 3 1/2 years through 6th Grade.

Registration begins June 6.

Look for information on the church website:

www.crossroads4all.org.

VBS Teachers/Helpers

It's not too late to sign up to "Serve Your Savior" by volunteering to help with VBS. Inventory/interest cards can be found by the VBS display in the Narthex. Please fill out a card and return it to the VBS display table.

We will not have adult or children's Sunday School Classes on June 19 so that everyone can attend Pastor Bob's farewell brunch.



June Sermon Series & Colossians Bible Study

Colossians Bible Study

Tuesdays, June 21 – July 19,

1:00-2:00pm

Sundays, June 26- July 24,

6:30-7:30pm

Join Pastor Tom for a study of Colossians, Paul's letter to the church. Colossians tells us who Jesus Christ is and how we should rightly worship Him. Colossians teaches us to pray for others. Colossians challenges us to seek God's will and not always ask God to do our will. Colossians reminds us that we live in a dangerous world and faith is a path through that danger.

You may RSVP for either time through the church office or by emailing pastors@mtco.com. Childcare will be offered if we have enough requests; include your children's names and ages when you RSVP.

And...don't forget, Bob Lawry is leading a study of Hebrews every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-2:00pm. You are welcome to join his study any Wednesday.

June Sermons

Christianity keeps making the evening news, the cover of magazines, and the talk show

circuit, particularly when it comes to controversial questions of the faith such as:

- "Does heaven really exist?"
- "Can science and faith co-exist?"
- "What do Christians believe about Muslims, Hindus, and other faiths?"

Pastor Tom Goodell will preach a sermon series entitled "Deep Questions" on June 5, 12 and 19 and will help us reflect on these questions and more in a Christian context.





Prayer Challenge

For those of you that missed the National Day of Prayer event we had on May 5th on the square, I would like to challenge you as I did to those present at the event. “We hope that you and your family will be impacted by this event and that praying for our nation moves from a one day event to a lifetime endeavor”. I understand that not everyone can attend such gatherings, but that does not inhibit us from praying for our nation on a continual basis. Here are some guidelines to help in that regard.

Pray for our local, state and federal leaders. Ask God to grant them wisdom, discernment, and hearts that are open to His leading, so that biblical principles might prevail in the public square and throughout the halls of government. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

Pray for unity among the believers in the Body of

Christ. Ask God to inspire and empower His children for His purposes. To reach the lost for His glory and encouraging one another in Christ. Read Matthew 5:14.

Pray for the brave men and women serving in our armed forces. Ask God to grant courage, protection, and strength for our military as well as for their families awaiting their safe return. Read Joshua 1:9.

Pray for families in our community and across the nation. Ask Him to strengthen marriages, encourage parents toward His priorities, heal relationships, and secure traditional values in the home. Read Mark 3:25.

Pray for God’s presence in our schools, colleges, and universities. Ask Him to select teachers and administrators who honor His statutes, protect our

children, and inspire them to discover their God-given callings. Read Proverbs 2:3-5.

Pray for Christian influences in the media industry. Ask God to honor actors and artists who stand for Christ, bless the producers who recognize the need for family friendly entertainment, and increase the success of godly films and initiatives. Read Philippians 4:8.

Pray for divine intervention in our nation’s economy. Ask God to reward honest work and provide for His people while raising up wise business leaders who honor Christ and exemplify His principles. Read Deuteronomy 25:15.

*Your servant in Christ,
Garry Guimond*

(Excerpts taken from the NDoP prayer guide)

Celebrate Recovery News

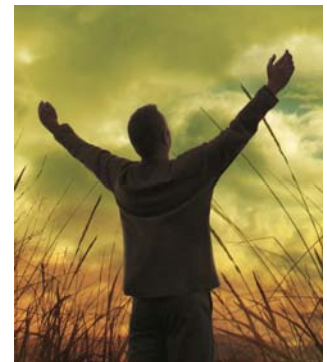
After four years of blessing lives with the hope of recovery through Jesus Christ, Celebrate Recovery at Crossroads has ended.

During its time at Crossroads, this ministry has helped numerous people receive support and direction in their lives.

We are grateful for the leadership of the CR team, for the countless hours spent

in training, preparation and prayer, and for the Thursday night meetings. Special thanks to Jerry and Lynda Young who have shepherded this ministry since its beginning.

There are many CR groups that meet in the greater Peoria area. To find a group in the local area, visit www.celebraterecovery.com



Real Men Do Stephen Ministry!

Are you a caring man and a good listener? Are you spiritually gifted with compassion and want to fill an important need at Crossroads? Would you like to gain some life skills?

A "real man" said, "For many men, friendships rarely get beyond surface issues. Stephen Ministry gives men who have a need to talk about deep feelings a safe haven to do so. It is

gratifying to be able to listen and occasionally share my own personal experiences." *Tom, a Stephen Minister from Minnesota.*

Stephen Ministers are caring, confidential listeners. When you really need someone to listen as you share your concerns and feelings, a Stephen Minister would benefit you.

New Stephen Minister training

begins in September. If you would like to become a Stephen Minister or if you would like to have a Stephen Minister visit you, please contact Lori Samp at 367-9422 or saved57@gmail.com.



Notes from Our Congregation

Thank you for the use of your church fellowship hall and kitchen for the annual banquet and meeting of the Washington Historical Society on April 25. The access is wonderful for so many seniors.

Sincerely,
Darlene Henderson
Treasurer

THANK YOU FROM MARGARET AND JACKIE MACHINGA

It was such a Blessing for Jackie and myself to come to Crossroads on May 1st. Such a joy to see some old friends and to be able to share our stories of the challenges and success that God has put in our path.

We are grateful for the continual support and caring. Your partnership to build an addition to King David Church building will be a "Sanctuary" for all who

enter the Sanctuary for the people of our country in these challenging times.

Rev Gift Machinga sends his Greetings and appreciation too.

Grace and Peace,
Margaret Machinga

On behalf of my family, we want to thank you with all of our hearts for your love, prayers, visits, gifts and compassion during my illness. I was in the hospital for 6 1/2 weeks and unconscious part of that time. You gave us everything we needed to support myself and my family in the worst situation of our lives. Your prayers saved me, through Jesus Christ, your prayers saved me. I still am struggling to get strength back through therapy and I appreciate every bit of prayer and reassurance I get from my

church family. And to those on the staff and in the congregation that were part of the "Wishes For Don" video, you have no idea how that lifted my spirits at a time when I didn't know if I would ever walk again. And the visits from Pastor Tom and Pastor Bob were such a highlight during those long days. May God bless each of you.

Our love,
Don, Cindy and Bethany Shuford and Ian Emser

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

Senior News

Senior Adult Fellowship



M&M's to visit Engineward Garden Railroad in Hudson Sunday, July 10th

Last year we enjoyed our first visit to a backyard railroad here in Washington. On July 10th we will be travelling to Hudson to visit *an even more spectacular* backyard railroad. Following our visit to the railroad, which will take approximately one hour, we will have an early supper at the Busy Corner Restaurant in Goodfield. The bus will leave the church at 2:00pm. Please call the church (444-2381) to reserve a seat before July 6th. We should return to the church by approximately 6:00pm. If you need a ride to the church please let it be known when registering. There is no charge to visit the railroad.

Please call Sally at the church with questions.

M and M activities for the remainder of 2011:

Sunday, July 10 Hudson Backyard Railroad and lunch. We will leave the church at 2 pm.

Sunday, August 14

Brunch and theater at Conklins Barn in Goodfield. Leave the church at 11:30am for brunch served between noon and 1:00pm. Reservations for 25 available at \$34. Pay when making reservation. Don't wait too long.

Thursday, September 15

Pontiac Mural Tour then lunch at the "Old Log Cabin." Leave the church at 9:30am.

Saturday, October 29

Leave church at 4:30pm for supper, then enjoy

Storytellers at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, November 15

Dinner at the Fish House. Leave church at 4:30 pm.

Saturday, December 10

Eastside Christian Church Christmas Program in Normal.

More details of each activity will be available in the Messenger and bulletins.

Senior Meal

Our senior meal will be **Tuesday, June 14, at 12:00** in the fellowship area. It has been great seeing some new friends join us for a wonderful meal. Mark your calendars now and call the office (444-2381) to make a reservation. **We will not have a Senior Meal in July because of Bible School.** Perhaps some of us could volunteer to help out during that week.

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 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.

Spirited Book Discussion Group

The Spirited Book Discussion Group will meet on June 21st at 1:00pm at The Blend. We will have a "book sharing" time. Come and tell about a book you have read that others might enjoy. We will not meet in July and August. The church library has many books you may enjoy this summer! Happy Reading!

Girls Night Out Friday, June 24th 6:30 - 10:00pm

Come out for a girls night of friends and fellowship. Learn to do Faithbooking. Learn a few photo tips on how to take better photos. Learn quick photo solutions on how to get all of your photos into albums,

storybooks, quickbooks or everyday displays for your family to enjoy. Free mini lessons available. Or if you simply want to come and work on something you have been meaning to get done, let's get together. Meet once a month. We will take the month of July off & resume Friday, August 26th, 6-10 pm. Contact Tammy Miller 444-2408 for more information.

Cherry Festival Christian Concert

Thursday, June 2,
6:00-10:00pm

Come and enjoy a night of great Christian music featuring music from several area churches, including our own **Acts 29** at 7:20pm and **From Dust** with Adam Penn at 6:40pm.

Praise Team and Worship Opportunities

Praise Team Group Vocal Lessons

If you interested in developing your voice to sing during church services, join us for group vocal lessons this summer. Whether you want to sing as part of the 11:00 Praise team, the 8:30 choir, or as a soloist for the services, this will be a great opportunity to improve your vocal skills. We will meet in the Choir room (101) two times a month for an hour to work as a group on developing basic and advanced vocal techniques. We will work on breathing techniques, improving tone quality, blending into an ensemble, harmonization, intonation and other techniques. You can come to one or all of the lessons, as each one will be different and unique. If you are interested, contact Will Meachum at wmeach@mtco.com or show up on any of the following dates from 6:30-7:30 pm:

Thursday, May 19
Wednesday, May 25
Wednesday, June 8
Thursday, June 23
Thursday, July 7
Wednesday, July 20
Thursday, August 4
Wednesday, August 17
Thursday, September 1

Summer "Show-Up-and-Sing" Sundays

Psalm 100 says "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!". This summer, at the 8:30 service, you are invited to join other members of the congregation to sing some simple hymn arrangements as a group for the Anthem and Offertory song sections of the service. You don't need a background in music, just a desire to have fun singing songs that you already know and love. There are no practices for these Sundays in the weeks

leading up to these dates, but **we will meet at 7:40 am in the sanctuary on those dates to run through the music as a group.** We will sing no matter how large or small, but we'd love to pack the choir risers with voices. Even if you've never sung with the choir at Crossroads, this is a great opportunity to find out what its like to stand on stage and praise God in this way. Its a fantastic opportunity and will be a lot of fun for both the congregation and participants. If you have questions, please contact Will Meachum at wmeach@mtco.com. Or you can simply "Show Up and Sing" on the dates listed below.



June 12th

July 3rd

(We'll sing Patriotic Music!)

July 31st

August 21st

Walk to Emmaus News

Men's Emmaus Walk

July 21st-24th
October 20th-23rd

Women's Emmaus Walk

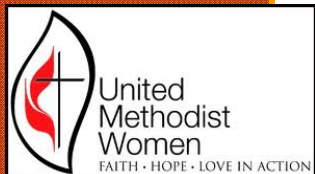
August 4th-7th
November 3rd-6th

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

Emmaus Liaisons:

Valerie Kruzan
745-3321 or vkruzna@aol.com
Jim O'Malley





United Methodist Women

We rejoice that 75 ladies (little and grown-up) were in attendance to enjoy the Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet on May 13. We enjoyed a delicious potluck and were thankful for the 7 men who generously gave their time to clean up. We thank Mary Penn for her delightful program of “Tales of Mothers and Daughters”, including stories from her own life and walk with God. (Thanks also, Mary, for the exercise sessions, strategically inserted into your program! ☺) We appreciate and thank all who helped in any way to make this a special evening. God Bless You!

Visiting Day

June 2, 2:00pm

We will visit our friends in the nursing home and supportive living. Meet at Crossroads at 1:45pm to carpool.

UMW District Personal Growth Seminar

June 27, 8:30am
Hanna City UMC

UMW Conference Weekend School of Christian Mission

July 29-31
Northfield Inn & Suites,
Springfield, IL

Weekday School of Christian Mission

July 31-August 3

“Attic Treasures” Sale

This year, the UMW are “stepping out of the boat” and into the attic, for an “Attic Treasures Sale” (formerly the “Rummage Sale”) **August 15-17:** Bring your sale items to Crossroads **August 18-19:** “Attic Treasures Sale”

All proceeds will go to mission work locally, nationally, and globally. We thank you in advance for your donations of CLEAN items in GOOD CONDITION including:

- household items (dishes, glassware, etc.)
- Linens
- Books
- Toys
- Craft items

Please, no furniture, baby furniture or equipment (due to governmental regulations), electronics, or clothing. Please take your clothing items to Threads, Hope, and Love or to Goodwill. Thank you for following our new guidelines.

UMW District “Day Apart”

August 23, 8:30am
Living Springs Camp in
Lewistown

King David Church Building Project

In May we announced our latest building project to add to the sanctuary and fellowship hall of King David Methodist Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Their pastor is Rev. Gift Machinga, who served as associate pastor at Crossroads in the early 1990’s. His wife, Margaret,

is a social worker in Mutare (currently completing her studies in the United States). The church project will enable their growing congregation to worship indoors (they now have worshipers standing outside on Sunday mornings) and to offer health and education ministries to Mutare.

You can support this project by making a check payable to Crossroads and writing “King David” in the memo line. We will regularly update the status of our building project in worship, and we are looking to send a ministry team to King David in the near future.

CONVERSATION

This month's spotlight will focus on Peggy King, who guides the Dorcas Sewing Group.

Peggy was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. After marrying her husband Jerry in 1950, they settled in Greenville, Pennsylvania, where Jerry worked in telephone communications. Jerry had a dream of one day living in Alaska. In 1975 he was offered a job there, but the timing wasn't quite right and he turned it down. Five years later, another job offer was presented to him and this time he accepted. Their three children were grown and out of the house by then, so in January of 1980, Peggy and Jerry packed up, moved across the country and settled in Anchorage, Alaska. A year later, daughter Pamela and her family moved to Anchorage and later that same year, when son Rick left the Air Force, he also moved to Anchorage.

When Jerry retired in 1992, they moved back to Pennsylvania. Jerry died 5 years later in 1997 and since Peggy had two children (not to mention grandchildren!) residing in Alaska, she decided to move back there to be closer to her family.

Ten years later, Peggy began to get a little tired of the long, dark winters in Anchorage and decided she might like to spend her winters in a warmer climate. ("Warmer climate" is a relative term since she would be locating in Illinois!) At the time, her daughter Lori, who is married to Mike Samp, was living in Metamora. So Peggy asked Lori to try and find an apartment or condo for her so she could spend her winters in this area. In the process of Lori

searching for a small apartment, Peggy said she received a gentle nudge from God suggesting, "Peggy, you need to move to that area and plant roots." Which is exactly what she did in 2007.

Her first Sunday with us was in June of 2007. I asked her what the "draw" was. "Being born and raised a Methodist, it was only natural that I drifted in your direction." But what made you come back a second time? You know the old expression, "You seldom get a second chance to make a good first impression"? She says her first impression of Crossroads was wonderful. We were still worshipping in the multi-purpose room, but we had a welcome desk right by the main entrance. As you have already guessed, "Joyce and Judy" made a warm first impression on her and made a point of "inviting me back." And so she came back and joined the church on September 16, 2007.

I asked her what she got involved with when she joined our church family and she said "I pretty much brought with me what I enjoyed doing in Alaska and started it here." The Dorcas Sewing Group meets every Wednesday from 9:00am-noon. Their focus is making quilts for Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana. When a number of quilts are finished, they are blessed by the pastors and congregation and then taken to Urbana. When new residents arrive at Cunningham they are, as a part of their welcome, given a quilt of their very own. So as they go to bed that night they are covered by a handmade quilt which is the first of many gestures which remind the youth that they are loved and precious, in God's eyes and in ours. Peggy also makes fleece

blankets for our newborn babies and serves as a facilitator for *Grief Share*.

I asked Peggy what might have been a turning point in her relationship with God and she quickly answered that her faith became the most real to her during and after the death of her husband. God became much less theoretical and a lot more relevant and real when she found herself being stretched and tested. And it made a tremendous difference to her and in her.

Faith, for Peggy, is that sense of beginning each day with a quiet time during which she humbly places that day into the hand and providence of God. "No matter what happens that day, it will be okay. Not in any simplistic sense, but rather in the sense that this day, and my life, are always surrounded by the great and gracious perspective of God. I know that I am held by God's grace and I am confident in where I am going when this earthly life is finished."

Sue and I have known Peggy for the 3 years we've been at Crossroads and we both believe that one of her spiritual gifts is the gift of Appreciation. One of the things that makes her so attractive is that she speaks so highly of everyone but herself. She is one of those people who, when they speak about how much they appreciate their church family, their children, their pastors, and their friends, they are not mouthing flowery phrases, but are speaking from the heart.

Peggy, you are a wonderful asset to our church and a warm and gracious testimony to God's grace.

~Robert and Sue Lawry

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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

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