

Cross Roads Connections

A monthly newsletter of the
Cross Roads Presbyterian Church
“Where Monroeville Meets Christ”

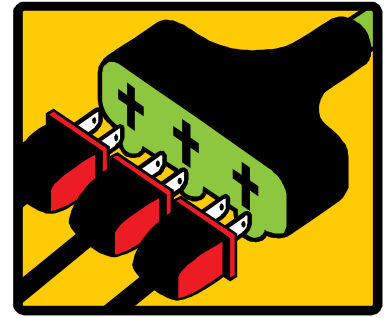
2310 Haymaker Road, Monroeville PA 15146

☎ 412-372-2226

📧 crossroadspresbyterian.com

Vol. 5 Issue 2

February, 2012



CONNECTIONS



Friends in Christ,

February is a typically a time when our thoughts are drawn to those we love, as we celebrate Valentine's Day. The Worship and Music Committee has been talking a lot about love and devotion. More specifically, how we at Cross Roads show our love and devotion to God through our worship. Overall, the group is of the opinion that our worship is a time that is quite pleasing to God. I have to agree. Our Sunday mornings are a time when our devotion and praise draws one closer to God. With this in mind, the group also discussed some ideas to make our Sunday mornings an even more worshipful time with God.

One of the items that I hear often from visitors to Cross Roads is that we are a very friendly congregation. This is certainly a good thing! As often is the case, what one person views as a blessing can also be viewed as disruptive to another individual. Let me explain. Many churches have a “gathering area” outside of the sanctuary where people gather and talk prior to worship. They then quietly enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship while a “Prelude” is being played. The setting at Cross Roads is not as conducive for this. Our small Narthex, which is open through the choir loft to the sanctuary, allows for conversations in the Narthex to travel freely into the Sanctuary. Once in the Sanctuary, people enjoy greeting one another and often welcome those who are seated near them. These conversations add to the noise level during the Prelude. The committee prayerfully sought a way for us to prepare for worship, while at the same time, allowing us to be the friendly congregation that we are. The Worship and Music Committee came up with a couple of ideas to implement.

You may have noticed that an “Organ Interlude” was added following the “Welcome and Time of Sharing.” The idea here is to provide some time to “refocus” our hearts and minds on worship after the noise and commotion present as we gather, greet, and hear announcements.

Beginning in February, you will notice another change to our order of worship. The “Expression of Friendship” will now follow the “Welcome and Time of Sharing.” The “Organ Interlude” will follow. Once again, we believe that this move creates a better flow during worship. This placement creates less of a disruption during worship, while providing time for us to be who we are - friendly. We'll see if this helps.

During the month of January, you may have noticed a couple of other “tweaks.” At the end of the “Welcome and Time of Sharing,” the Liturgist asked if there are any additional announcements. We noticed that from time to time, announcements would arise at other times during the worship service. Most often, this occurred during the time of Joys and Concerns. The committee thought that by providing this additional opportunity for announcements, items that the Liturgist did not highlight, we could meet the need for sharing information regarding community events. This allows us to focus on our joys and concerns.

Again, the intention of these changes at Cross Roads is simply to enhance our worship of God. This is always a work in progress, and we value your input. I pray that in the weeks ahead, as we implement these few changes, the people at Cross Roads will continue to grow in our love and devotion of God as we worship together.

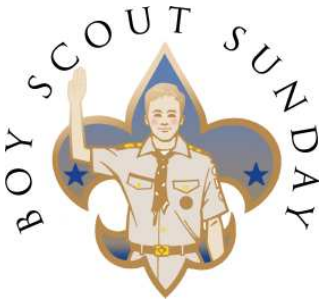
Happy Valentine's Day!

In Christ,

Pastor Rob

Worship Opportunities for February

Worship is held each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Join us!



February 5 - Scouting Sunday – Pastor Rob’s message will be “Signs and Wonders,” based on 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 and Mark 1:29-39. Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law and then heals many others who are in great need. What are we to make of the miracles of Jesus? The Gospels agree that Jesus performed many signs and wonders. He was a miracle worker. Jesus is not simply love, but he is active, resourceful, miraculous love, love in action. His miracles are signs of the wondrous in-breaking of God’s kingdom.

February 12 – Communion – This morning’s message will be “Expect the Unexpected,” based on 2 Kings 5:1-14 and Mark 1:40-45. Our gospel text is a healing story: the curing of a man with leprosy. Jesus tells him to tell no one of his healing. The man, instead, tells everyone what Jesus has done for him, making it difficult for Jesus to move about freely. Sometimes our healing and help come to us from unexpected sources. God sends us help, but not always from where we expected to receive help. Jesus Christ came to us; God in a form we did not expect. We must forego our prejudices of just how God must act and pray for the openness to the movements of God among us. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper together. Following worship, everyone is encouraged to stay for the Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation, as we receive our 2011 Annual Report and our 2012 Budget, elect members of our nominating team, and conduct other business of the church.

February 19 – Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday - Today’s texts are 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and Mark 9:2-9, and Pastor Rob’s sermon will be “A Spiritual High.” On the mountaintop, Jesus is gloriously transfigured. In worship, Christians are brought close to the God who has come close to us. However, worship is more than a conventional spiritual high, more than an emotionally fulfilling experience. Specifically, Christian Worship is worship “in the name of Jesus,” which means that it is prayer and praise that occurs on the way to the cross. Following worship everyone is invited to stay for our “Taste of Soup” in Fellowship Hall.

February 26 – First Sunday in Lent - Pastor Ben’s sermon will be “I Saw the Sign,” based on Genesis 9:8-17 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. Mark tells the story of Jesus’ baptism and his immediate temptation in the wilderness. Jesus began his ministry by going into the fearsome wilderness. There, out beyond the boundaries of safety and civilization, he was confronted by “wild beasts.” And there we catch a glimpse of the world, now that God has become flesh and dwelt among us. The work of Jesus is cosmic, world-changing work. In Jesus, creation is being continued and a disordered, chaotic, and often-threatening world is being healed.

Special Ash Wednesday Worship

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012. We will offer worship with Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Pastor Rob will offer a sermon entitled “Seeking a Clean Heart,” based on Psalm 51. Our morning worship will be followed by a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we begin this most holy season in the church.



Mid-Week Worship for Lent

Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium hosts worship on Wednesdays during Lent at noon. Worship is held at the Monroeville United Methodist Church. Lunch follows, sponsored by the preaching Pastors’ church. Pastor Rob will preach at noon on February 29, and our Women’s Association will prepare lunch.

Day Camp Dreams

Last Summer, God's Great Earth Summer Day Camp offered five consecutive weeks of full-day camp for children in the community, beginning on July 18 and continuing through August 19. The camp was offered to children age 6-12, and included a science class in the morning, and games, arts and crafts, Bible stories, and swimming in the afternoons.

The camp ministered to 54 individuals, filling 92 camp spots with an average of 18.4 kids here each week. 100% of the surveys returned by parents indicated that they were "very likely" to send their children to this camp again next summer.

To build on this success, we are pleased to offer seven full weeks of camp this coming summer. Although the cost of \$140 per week per camper is comparable to other day camps in our area, it is often beyond the means of families with two or more children. Additionally, funding supplies for the camp can be challenging. We are asking you for help as we strive to improve and grow this ministry. Please consider making a donation, however small, to aid in our program. Below is our "wish list" for Summer 2012 – items that will only be possible with the help of donations from you. Checks may be made payable to Cross Roads Church, with "summer day camp" in the memo portion. Thank you for supporting this wonderful ministry!

Wish #1 – Straws and Connectors

Cost: \$40 for 700-piece set

Wish #2 – Lego Bulk Brick set, 884 pieces

Cost: \$50.00

Wish #3 – Lego doors, windows and roof bricks, 278 pieces

Cost: \$35.00



Wish #4 – No ends building set

Cost: \$100, or 10 gifts of \$10

Wish #5 - Scholarships for Children

Cost: \$140 each, or 10 gifts of \$14

Mission Statement:

The Mission of the God's Great Earth Day Camp is to nurture children ages 6-12 in an intentionally Christian setting through relationship building, exploration of the world around us, and Bible study.



God's Great Earth Summer Day Camp

For Children Age 6-12

Looking for a great Summer Day Camp program in Monroeville? Want to challenge your children to grow both academically and spiritually? Bring them to *God's Great Earth Summer Day Camp*, with seven full weeks of learning and fun!

All Sessions are from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Extended care is available from 8:00 – 9:00 each morning

June 11-15 – “Let’s Travel to Mexico”

How much do you really know about our Southern neighbors? Mrs. Rita Jury, former Gifted Support Teacher for Gateway Elementary Schools, will be leading this one-week exploration of Mexico, its history, people, cultures and customs, without ever leaving Monroeville! Each day we’ll learn a little Spanish and discover something new, ending the week with a Fiesta!

June 25-29 – Mad Scientist 1

Have you ever wanted to perform your own science experiments? Here’s your chance! We’ll explore chemistry and physics in a very hands-on way! Break out those beakers, and come ready to mix, swirl, pop and swoosh! Mrs. Batson will lead this encore presentation of last summer’s most popular camp!

July 9-13 – From Fire to Ice

Travel through time and explore pre-historic earth as it transforms from a fiery tropic through the onset of the ice age. Dinosaurs weren’t the only inhabitants of this early time – let’s learn about trilobites, ammonites, pterosaurs, and plesiosaurus, mammoths and saber tooth cats. Mrs. Batson will bring the resources of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History to you in this fresh exploration of the time of the dinosaurs and beyond.

July 16-20 – Around the World in a Week

Curious about our world? Each day we’ll discuss a different continent and explore the native cultures. What makes Australian wildlife unique? Is Africa all the same? Do you really know all about the Americas? Who lives in Antarctica? Join Mrs. Batson on this fascinating exploration of the world in which we live!

July 30-August 3 – Mad Scientist 2

This “electrifying” week of discovery is perfect for those who have completed Mad Scientist 1 and want to come back for more! Mrs. Batson will expand our explorations of chemistry and physics to include magnetism, sound, movement, and light, as well as introduce concepts involved in electricity.

August 6-10 – The Vast Ocean

Two-thirds of the earth is hidden beneath our oceans. This marine environment is home to the most diverse wildlife imaginable. Mrs. Batson will help us explore life in the deepest depths and see who lives there and how they’ve adapted to their harsh eco-system. Discover creatures that glow, sting and squirt!

August 13-17 – A Space Odyssey

Suit up and blast off for the unknown in this fresh look at cosmos. Did you know our galaxy is on a collision course with its nearest neighbor? Where can you find black holes and what purpose do they serve in the universe? Mrs. Batson will go beyond what’s commonly known for a look at the very nature of the universe, including gravity in space, the effects of mass and size, orbits, how telescopes work, and more!

God's Great Earth Summer Day Camp ~ Registration Form

Camp Fees (per week): First child is \$140; Second child *from the same household* is \$130, third and additional children *from the same household* are \$120 each. Pre-camp care from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. is an additional \$20 per week. An Early Bird discount of \$10 per child is available if you register prior to April 15. Please make checks payable to Cross Roads Presbyterian Church. The deadline to register is the Wednesday prior to the start of camp. Payment is due at the time of registration to secure your child's place in the camp.

Child's Information (Please print legibly)

Child's name (first/middle/last) _____ Name called _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Male Female Birth date _____ Age (as of registration date) _____ T-Shirt size _____

Check all that apply to your child, or check "None" for those that don't apply:

- Allergies (type) _____ None
 ADD ADHD None
 Special circumstances (use additional sheet and provide additional information if necessary) None

Family Information

Parent/guardian's name _____
 Home address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Home # _____ Work # _____ ext. _____ Mobile # _____ Pager # _____
 Email address _____

Sessions Requested

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | June 11-15 Mexico | Pre-camp care needed? Y N |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | June 25-29 Mad Scientist 1 | Pre-camp care needed? Y N |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | July 9-13 From Fire to Ice | Pre-camp care needed? Y N |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | July 16-20 Around the World in a Week | Pre-camp care needed? Y N |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | July 30-Aug. 3 Mad Scientist 2 | Pre-camp care needed? Y N |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | August 6-10 The Vast Ocean | Pre-camp care needed? Y N |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | August 13-17 A Space Odyssey | Pre-camp care needed? Y N |

Each afternoon's activities include a Bible lesson, outdoor games, crafts and snacks, and Friday swims at Gateway Heights Swim Club. A camp t-shirt will be provided the first week the child attends camp.

Joan Batson: Mrs. Batson has been a Natural Science Academy teacher at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History teaching classes on many different sciences including Paleontology, Geology, Entomology, and Archaeology. She has developed museum programs for schools, Scout groups, summer camp, and homeschoolers. Mrs. Batson taught an Ancient Egypt course for the North Hills Catholic Diocese Middle Schools' gifted program. Mrs. Batson teaches weekly science classes at Cross Roads Church for preschoolers and kindergarten students, and is returning for her third summer with us.

Rita Jury: Mrs. Jury has a degree in Early Childhood Education from California University of Pennsylvania and a Masters Degree from Penn Sate. She began her career as a classroom teacher, then became the gifted support teacher for all of Gateway elementary schools. Although Mrs. Jury retired from Gateway in June, 2010, she continues to substitute in the schools. Her years of experience, energy and imagination will challenge, inspire, and motivate our campers!

Friday Swim: We are grateful to the board of Gateway Heights Swim Club, located on Ramsey Road, for accommodating our camp each Friday afternoon for swimming. Gateway Heights features a heated pool, diving board, staff of certified lifeguards, and a full-time pool manager. If you are interested in becoming a member of Gateway Heights Swim Club, please contact them at membership@gatewayheights.com, or call the pool at 412-372-3019 for more information.

From The Director of Children's Ministries

One Great Hour of Sharing



It is said that children do not have a genetic predisposition to participate in mission projects, they are taught by others – family, friends, teachers. This year Cross Roads Children's Ministries will again participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing mission project. One Great Hour of Sharing funds the Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People programs. When a natural disaster hits, where people need relief, food, shelter and comfort, when people are displaced, jobless and alone, the money from One Great Hour of Sharing aids these people. You, by giving generously, give them relief, comfort, food, shelter, hope and much, much more.

On Sunday, February 12, the children in Church School, God's Kids and Children's Church will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks, calendar and information about them. They should begin using their calendar on Sunday, March 1. The banks are to be returned on Palm Sunday, April 1.

Please help your child by reviewing the calendar and helping them determine their contributions to this project.

Sunday Mornings at Cross Roads

Church School

Learning about God's love and God's grace is exciting! Please give your children the opportunity to experience this excitement. Church School for children of all ages meets from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. Children in pre-school – sixth grades meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 for a short opening and move to their classes. Please join us!

God's Kids and Children's Church

Immediately following the Time with the Children during worship, children ages 3 through kindergarten are taken to Room 127 for God's Kids. Adults will provide a light snack, a Bible Story, games, crafts and other activities. Children in first through sixth grade will be taken to Room 208 where Miss Rennie and Miss Kelsey provide a Bible Story, singing, games and crafts.

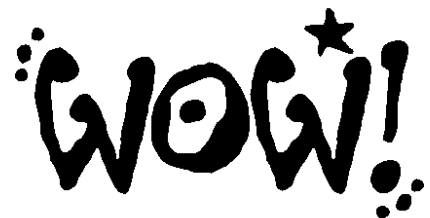
Jesus and Me (J.A.M.)



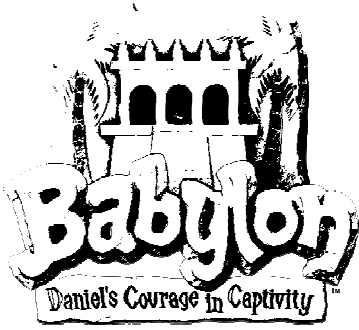
J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) is a youth group comprised of 4th, 5th and 6th graders. We next meet in Fellowship Hall on February 8 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Please bring \$4 to help for pizza and hot chocolate.

W.O.W.

WOW (Worship on Wednesday) is a mid-week program for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. We will meet at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in room 208 every Wednesday from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. for fun and learning! New students are always welcome!



Vacation Bible School – A Journey to Babylon!



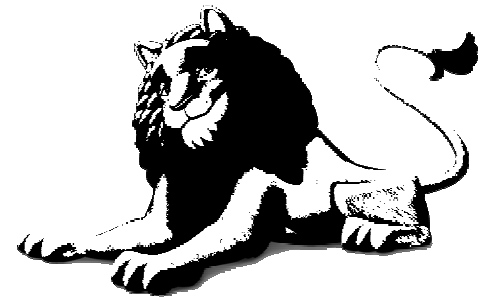
Mark your calendars! VBS will be during the week of July 23 - 27. Ginny Cochenour will be the Director for 2012. Martha Wintersgill will be the Administrator for the program. Rennie Rhodes will be the Resource Director.

Join Daniel-torn from his home and forced into the king's service. Imagine the pressure of learning a new language and culture, and the shock of discovering your best friends have been tossed into a fiery furnace! Explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar! Kids and adults will find that they're not much different from Daniel and his friends, who kept their faith in a faithless culture.

With amazing music, Bible-times crafts, and Daniel as your Bible teacher, each moment of Babylon vacation Bible school focuses on what matters most: immersing families in God's love. Kids and adults leave the city of Babylon knowing that God is with them....

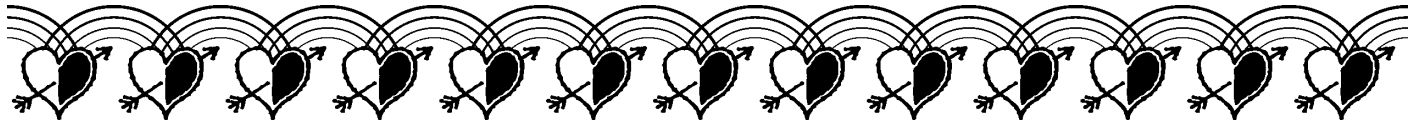
when things change.
when they need help.
when they're afraid.
when they're lonely.
and when they're thankful!

If you would like to visit ancient Babylon and become a tribe leader, please let us know!



Blessings,

Miss Rennie



From the Associate Pastor

*Notes From
Pastor Ben*



It's time for some February FUN!

The Senior High Youth Group will meet each Sunday this month at the Metz' house, including Super Bowl Sunday. We will play games, have great conversation, and continue learning about how we can make a difference in the world one day, one person at a time. Each meeting begins at 6:30pm and concludes at 8:00pm. Invite a friend!

Soup-er Bowl of Caring

On February 5 the youth of Cross Roads will be observing SOUPer Bowl Sunday. Following worship, youth will be stationed at the exits of the Sanctuary with pots and pans accepting monetary donations that will go to the Cross Roads Food Pantry. Last year 260,000 youth collected \$9.5 million for hunger-relief. However, this year the need is even greater. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one in seven households in our nation is food insecure, affecting more than 16 million children. Please remember to help fight hunger this Super Bowl Sunday!

More Youth News....

Annual Meeting Luncheon

February 12 is the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church Annual Meeting, which means it's also time for the Annual Meeting Luncheon hosted by the Junior and Senior High Youth. Before the meeting begins several soups and sides will be served for lunch. There is no set cost for the lunch; however, we do ask that you donate as you see fit for the meal as well as to support the Summer Mission Trips for the youth.



Confirmation Lock-In

On February 17-18 the confirmation class will have a lock-in at Cross Roads. The lock-in will begin at 7pm Friday and will conclude at 10am on Saturday. At this lock-in the confirmands will spend time together playing games, watching a movie, and learning more about Statements of Faith. Please continue to keep the confirmation class and their mentors in your prayers and they continue on this faith journey.

Just for Junior Highs

The Junior High Youth Group will continue to meet each Wednesday of this month at 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Cross Roads except for February 22. Junior High Youth Group will NOT meet on February 22, instead I ask that the youth and their families come to Cross Roads for the Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:30pm where we will celebrate Communion and offer the imposition of ashes.

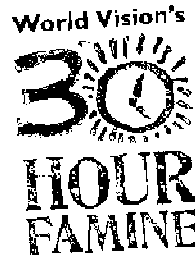
Mystery Dinner Theater

The next Mystery Dinner Theater is in the works. *Shooting Star at Studio 66* is a show based off of life in the 80's that is absolutely hilarious. Come join us for a meal, a show, and try to figure out Whodunit before you finish your dessert. Signs will be going up soon with dates and times. As usual, all proceeds benefit the Youth Summer Mission Trips.

Junior High Mission Trip Meeting

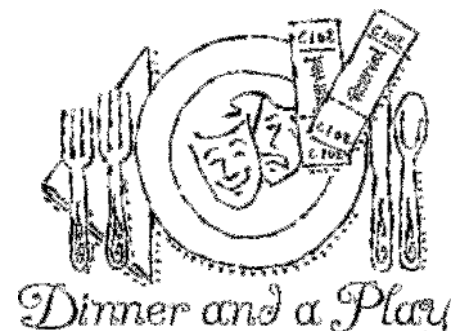
On Sunday, February 19, there will be a Junior High Mission Trip meeting at noon, following the time of fellowship. All youth, and their parents, who are interested in going on the Junior High Summer Mission Trip with Crestfield, July 29-August 3, please plan to attend this informational meeting. The Junior High Mission Trip is open to all youth who will have just completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade at the end of this school year. Anyone who is interested in chaperoning the Junior High Mission Trip and having the best week of the year with some awesome youth, please come to the meeting or let me know that you are interested!

30-Hour Famine



On March 2-3 the Junior and Senior High Youth will participate in a 30 Hour Famine. The famine will begin at 12 noon on Friday and conclude at 6pm with the celebration of Communion. Youth will begin fundraising very soon so be on the lookout

for how you can help fight hunger. Please make all checks payable to Cross Roads. Any parents or other adults who interested in helping the youth with the Famine, from helping to cook their "Break The Fast Meal," to chaperoning the lock in, to helping with their mission project during the fast, please let me know!





You are invited to... Cross Roads Church's Italian Buffet



Who: EVERYONE! (open to the public)

When: Friday, February 3, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Cross Roads Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall

Eat in or take out

Adults \$8 Children ages 4-12 \$5
Children age 3 and under FREE

Menu includes: Choice of pasta and sauce, lasagna, pizza, salad, bread, dessert and drink

Proceeds benefit our mission outreach and
the Cross Roads Preschool Higgs scholarship fund.



Taste of Soup February 19



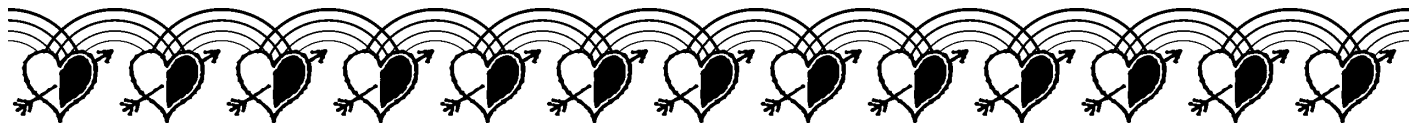
Our Fellowship Ministry Team is hosting the Second Annual "Taste of Soup" Fellowship Hour on Sunday, February 19 following worship. Please sign up on the Current Happenings Board to prepare a batch of your favorite soup to share! Then be sure to join us for a heart warming fellowship hour full of wonderful flavors from our kitchens!

Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

The Session of Cross Roads has called a meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Cross Roads Church for Sunday, February 12 at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At this meeting we will receive the 2011 Annual Reports, elect members to our Nominating Committee, receive the 2012 budget, and conduct any other business as appropriate.

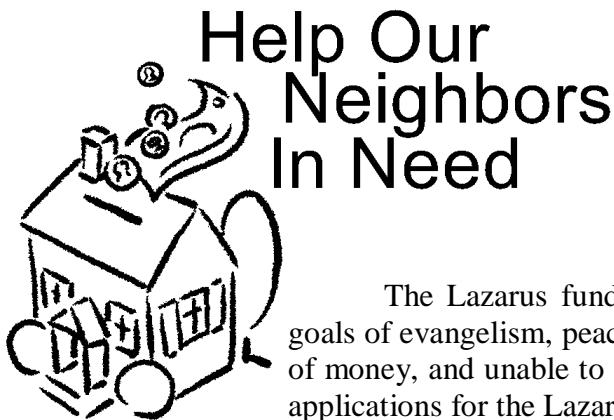
A luncheon will be available prior to the meeting, prepared by our Junior and Senior high youth as a fundraiser for their summer mission trips. There is no set cost for the lunch, but donations will be accepted.

Please make every effort to attend.



Special Offering for The Lazarus Fund

"There was a rich man who lived in luxury every day. At his gate was a beggar named Lazarus... longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table." Luke 16:19-31



Help Our Neighbors In Need

The Lazarus Fund Ministry Team's mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by providing financial assistance to families and individuals of Allegheny County for rent, mortgage payments, security deposits and utilities, enabling them to overcome their economic difficulties through the grace and love of Jesus Christ as demonstrated through the giving of individuals and congregations of the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

The Lazarus fund is a unique and important tool for working toward larger goals of evangelism, peace, and justice. But for almost half of 2011, the fund was out of money, and unable to meet its goals. In December we once again began accepting applications for the Lazarus Fund, and we need your generous support. Special Lazarus Fund offering envelopes are in the pew racks for the month of February. Your gift can help a family with children stay in their home, maintain heat in the winter months, or provide electricity in dark times. The fund has no overhead costs, and every dollar you give goes directly to help those in need. But we can only help if you do... we can only meet the needs of others by your generosity. Help us help others. Thank you.

Upcoming Events At Cross Roads

Boy Scout Sunday February 5

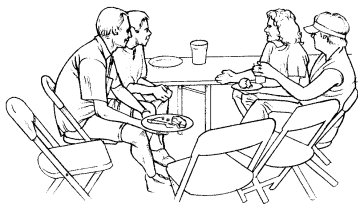


On Sunday, February 5, Boy Scouts from Troop 184 will be participating in our worship service and hosting a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast for us from 9:00 until 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Cost for the breakfast is \$3.50 per person, \$6.00 per couple, or \$8.00 per family. Cross Roads Men's Association sponsors the Boy Scout Troop, and they hold their weekly meetings here in our Fellowship Hall. The Scout Breakfast has become an annual tradition, as part of their way of thanking Cross Roads for its sponsorship. Please join us for this delicious meal!



Souper Bowl February 5

On Superbowl Sunday, take a few minutes to think about those who have no food for a tailgate party, who don't know where their next meal is coming from, those who don't even have a bowl of soup to eat. We ask that you help to meet their need through our *Souper Bowl of Caring*. Following worship on February 5 our youth will be at the doors of the sanctuary with soup pots, to collect your donations for our Food Pantry, as we provide real "soup" – and so much more – those in need!



Theology and People February 20

Our TAP (Theology and People) Group continues to meet on the third Monday of the month. This month we will meet on February 20 at the Rivertowne Pour House at 7pm. We'll be discussing the belief of mainstream Mormonism. You can even bring a friend! Please let Ben know if you plan on attending so we can reserve enough seats.

Men's Dinner February 14

Don't miss the next Men's Dinner! It will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14. Invite a date and enjoy a wonderful meal, and hear about the plans of the Monroeville Parks and Recreations Department. Chef Karen Kutz will prepare a wonderful meal, and all men are invited to bring their wives or girlfriends to join us! Space is limited, and so it is requested that you reserve your place early by calling the church office at 412-372-2226 or Ray Robinson at 412-378-2749.



Men's Breakfast February 21

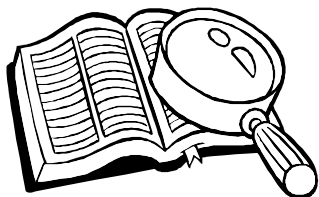


The monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, February 21. We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Denny's Restaurant on Route 22 in Monroeville. All men of the church are invited to join us for good food, and great conversation.

Women's Circle February 21

Our Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Come join us for our Bible Study on Revelation, led by Pastor Rob. We'll be concluding our study with Lesson 9. Please read Revelation chapters 21 and 22. All are welcome.

Adult Education for February



Study of the Gospel of Matthew

All adults are invited to join the Bible Study each Sunday morning in the Parlor for a verse-by-verse examination of the book of Matthew. Brian Zeisloft and Jim Sutherland are leading a wonderful journey through God's Word, where you are sure to discover something you never knew before! All adults are welcome to join our discussion group at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.

Faith Works

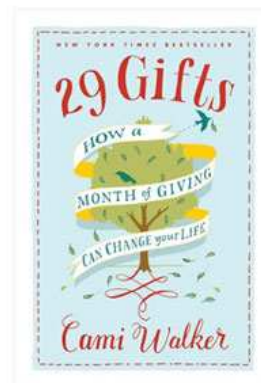
Our Faith Works class meets at 9:15 each Sunday morning in Fellowship Hall to discuss ways we can bring our faith to life! Join us each week in February. Our upcoming schedule is as follows:

February 5 – No class, due to the Scout Breakfast in Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.!

February 12 – Our Worship and Music Ministry Team will lead a discussion about our worship experiences, and recent changes to our order of Worship. Join Team Chair Darla Carras and Pastor Rob for this look at the heart of our fellowship, our Worship.

February 19 – Marie Fowler and Faye Junker will present a discussion of 29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life by Cami Walker. If you would like to read the book in advance of this discussion, several copies are available at the Monroeville Public Library, but you do not need to have read the book to participate in the discussion.

February 26 – Join us on this First Sunday in Lent as we embark on our Lenten study.



Sunday Night Women's Bible Study



All women are invited to join our twice-monthly Women's Bible Study, held Sunday evenings at the home of Monica Schirm, 162 Penn Lear Drive. We'll be studying "Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent" by Beth Moore. Just as a song or poem can express feelings of fear, doubt, hope, and joy, these 15 Psalms model how study participants can voice their own petitions and praises to our God, who is always available and ready to hear us. Explore the major feasts of Israel and journey through Psalms 120-134. Themes such as unity, joy and gratitude, redemption, repentance, the power of blessings, facing ridicule, and more are explored in detail. Modern-day believers can learn

much from these treasured Psalms in their journey toward greater intimacy with God. We will meet on February 12 and February 26 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. If you would like to purchase a study guide, please call Monica at 412-372-7558.

Who's New in the Pew?

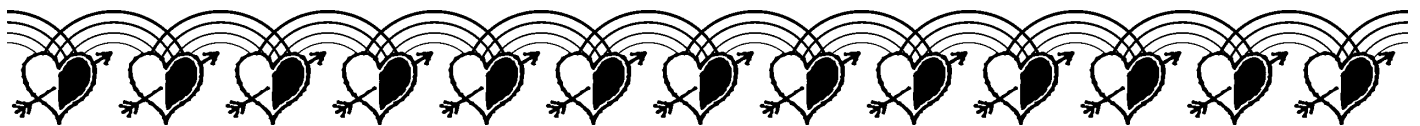
On Sunday, January 22, six new members joined our family. Read a little bit about them here, and make them feel welcome when you see them on Sunday morning!

Lucille Jenkins grew up in Cross Roads, and was a member here until she moved to Washington State about 15 years ago. Lucille returned to Monroeville in 2008, and now lives at 142 West Patty Lane, with her husband, Jim. She enjoys volunteering for the Western PA Humane Society and Rabbit Wranglers, and she houses foster rabbits awaiting permanent homes. Lucille also enjoys jewelry making and reading. Since her return to Cross Roads she has volunteered as leader in our Vacation Bible School and Wednesday after school children's programs, and she is an active participant in our Women's Association. When asked why she comes to church, she replied that her mother "made her" come as a child, but now she enjoys the sense of being known by others and being useful. She joins Cross Roads by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Trevor Kosko also grew up in Cross Roads, and was confirmed here. He works as a union carpenter in the Dick Building, and enjoys video games, movies and music. His fiancé, **Nora Weimer**, works for the University of Pittsburgh in Customer Service. She's lived in Monroeville for a year and a half and enjoys photography, movies, music and washing cars. The couple live at 120 Donley Drive, and are planning a May wedding here at Cross Roads. They both join by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Patty Kysliger was introduced to our congregation through our Summer Day Camp program last year. Her daughter, Molly, attended all five weeks of camp, and became part of our church family. Patty works as a scientist/concrete petrographer at RJ Lee Group, and enjoys serving as a girl scout leader for Molly's troop. In her spare time, Patty enjoys crocheting, home canning, and reading science fiction/fantasy books. She grew up in the Monroeville area, and was a girl scout leader for five years before having Molly. Patty and Molly live at 1345 Cavitt Road, and Patty joins us by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Eugene and Nancy Butler live at 2321 Haymaker Road. They are retired. Eugene enjoys collecting coins and yard work, repairing old houses and house upkeep. Nancy enjoys sewing, crocheting, writing poems, and cooking. She crocheted more than 100 lap robes for nursing homes around the Clarion area for a mission project, and is an ordained Elder in the church. The couple attended a dinner here several years ago and received a warm welcome, so when they moved to Monroeville they sought out Cross Roads for worship. The friendly people make them feel at home. They join by letter of transfer from New Rehoboth Presbyterian Church in Greenville.



Singers Needed

Pittsburgh Presbytery is hosting *General Assembly* at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, June 30-July 7, 2012. There is an opportunity for a combined choir of the churches in Pittsburgh Presbytery to sing at the Opening Worship Service on Saturday, June 30, from 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM. The COLAWorship Committee hopes to have a maximum of 290 singers and to have as many churches in the Presbytery as possible represented from both large and small congregations, keeping in mind the need for a balance of singers over all four parts (soprano, alto, tenor and bass).

Several rehearsals will be held in different districts throughout the Presbytery prior to the combined dress rehearsal on the morning of Saturday, June 30 at the convention center. Copies of the music will be provided. Watch for more information!

Michael P. Frank III

Director of the Combined Pittsburgh Presbytery Choir

Food Pantry News



The Food Pantry is looking for a volunteer to start and maintain a photo album. We also need a volunteer to send thank you cards to donors of food from sheets filled out in the entrance hall to the church. Volunteers contact Jim Manner.

The Food Pantry was very busy in 2011 with a record year for individuals served. For the years 2008 to 2011, the Food Pantry has gone from serving 1250 to 1927 individuals per year; an increase of 54%. Thanks to our great volunteers and the generosity of donors, we have been able to meet the challenge.

Jim Manner, director



Honors and Memorials

The Planned Giving Ministry Team gratefully acknowledges the following contributions to our Honors and Memorials program:

Food Pantry

Given By:

Virginia Repas

On Memory Of:

Jennifer Repec

Landscaping

Given By:

Tom and Ilona Beatty

In Memory Of

Sarah Hopkins

Pathways Fund

Given By:

Libby Enos

In Memory Of

Marian Ramp

Undesignated

Given By:

Laurie and Carl Saporito

In Memory Of:

Marian Ramp



Love Notes

Dear Friends,

I just can't thank you folks enough for all your spiritual and physical help you gave me during my stay in the hospital and my home recovery. Your many prayers, cards, visits, flowers, gifts, etc., reminded me of the constant love and memories present in our congregation, and available to those in need. I am so indebted to all of you for my progress and hope to be back in a few more weeks.

With love and gratitude,

Jeanne Furrie

Thank you all so much for your cards, prayers, and thoughts as my broken leg is slowly but surely healing. All of the love from this congregation has meant so much to me!

Nicole Marrow

Thank you so much for the delicious meal and beautiful baby blanket. We are so grateful to you all for your kindness. Cadence is a true blessing and we cannot wait for everyone to meet her!

Love,

Shane and Caitlin Kuehn

Dear Pastor Rob and members of the church,

Thank you for your generous contributions towards my Eagle Scout Project.

From,

Scott Yusko

Dear Rob, Martha, Ben and Church Family,

Just a note to let you know we had a wonderful Christmas and Christmas week. Our grandchildren and great-grandchildren were all here for the whole week. However, New Year's Day we had to take Jack to the Emergency Room as he was very weak and coughing and low oxygen level. He had pneumonia and was in the hospital for five days. We had all kinds of tests on him. He is doing much better now. The hospital was only 20 minutes away and I was able to find it on my own. It was nice to have the support of family though. Keep him in your prayers. The weather has held up really good this year, so far. Say "hi" to all. You are all in my prayers daily.

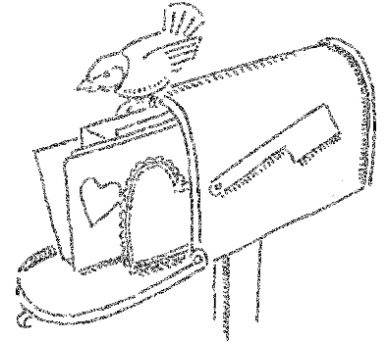
Love in Christ,

Carolyn, Jack and Cyndy Hutchinson

Dear Pastor Rob, Pastor Ben and our Cross Roads Family,

Thank you so much for the thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, condolences, concern, and funeral home visits after mom's death (May Schwab). All are greatly appreciated. We are blessed to be part of the Cross Roads family.

Kim, Dan and Claudia Shafer



December 24 – 7:00 p.m.	216
December 24 – 10:00 p.m.	244
December 25	133
January 1	104
January 8	243
January 15	221
January 22	233

Senior

Associa

Directo



ATTENDANCE

Rennie Rhodes

Organist/Music Director:

Randal Broker

Children’s Music Director:

Debbie Broker

Church Secretary:

Martha Wintersgill

Custodian:

Barry MacDonald

Preschool Director

Faye Junker

Nursery Caregiver:

Diane Testa

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Office Telephone:

412-372-2226

Office FAX:

412-373-6199

E-mail:

office@crossroadspresbyterian.com

January 3.
January 7.

Lane,

Cross
church
15.
church

Directory Changes:

In Our Father’s House:

Marian Ramp passed to eternal life on
Bob Laughlin passed to eternal life on

New Address:

Dave Anderson, 1303 Eagle’s Nest
Monroeville, PA 15146, 412-855-2212



- Articles for the March issue of the Roads Connections are due in the office by Wednesday, **February**. Articles may be emailed to the at

office@CrossRoadsPresbyterian.com.

- In case of severe winter weather, the Church Office will follow the schedule of Gateway Public Schools for closings and delays.



CROSS ROADS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Planned Giving Program Financial Support Form

2310 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, PA 15146-4326

412-372-2226

www.crossroadspresbyterian.com

CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

Your Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

HONORS & MEMORIALS

Contribution in Honor/Memory of: _____

Amount: \$ _____ (Note: Acknowledgements will not indicate an amount)

Acknowledgment Sent to: _____

Address: _____

GIFT DESIGNATION

I would like my gift credited toward the following **Special Needs Fund** to support the ministries of Cross Roads:

- General Fund** **Food Pantry** **Landscaping** **Preschool Scholarship**
- Special Music** **Children's Ministries** **Undesignated Planned Giving**
- Pathways Capital Campaign (Parking Lot)**

I would like my gift credited towards the Church's **Endowment**:

- General Endowment** **Pastor's Housing** **Music Maintenance Fund**

PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to have lasting impact on our Church by including Cross Roads in your gift and/or estate plans. Your enduring statement of faith will be used to further Christ's work and will have an impact on future generations of our church family. Individuals who have included the Church in their gift or estate plans are eligible for the **Pillars of Cross Roads Program**, which recognizes individuals who have made or who are making bequests, estate plans or irrevocable gifts.

I/we would like to know more about how I/we might make a planned gift to Cross Roads.

I/we have already included Cross Roads in my/our estate plans.

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

The legal name of our Congregation is "*Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville, Pennsylvania*"

Happy Birthday To...

February....

- 1 - Ken Wintersgill
- 2 - Nick Lenosky
- 4 - Brian Teaman
- 6 - Geoff Phillips
- 9 - Bobbie Kendig
- 11 - Maureen McGowan
- 12 - Jean Bernhart
- 13 - Gayle Manculich

- 14 - David McCutchan
- 16 - Jim Brown
- 16 - Mark Schmiedel
- 17 - Sue Keane
- 17 - Elizabeth Kendig
- 17 - Bob Kendig

- 19 - Ronald Koerner
- 22 - Kathy Fagan
- 23 - Kara Rupchak
- 25 - Marie Brendlinger
- 26 - Robert Anderson
- 26 - Thurm Brendlinger
- 27 - Maureen Hill
- 28 - Randy Baker



THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

- Dominic and Caroline Zappa 2/8/86
- Paul and Audrey Lees 2/17/51
- Todd and Alice Leighton 2/22/80
- Ronald and Shirley Koerner 1/27/53



February at Cross Roads

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

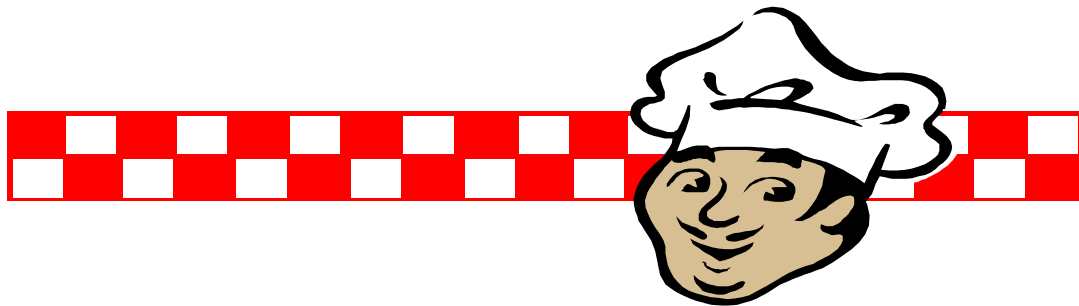
<p>Every Sunday at Cross Roads 9:15 a.m. Church School for All Ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour</p>		<p>1 12:00 p.m. AA 4:00 p.m. WOW 6:00 p.m. Jr. Highs 6:30 p.m. Chess Club</p>	<p>2 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Web 2 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>3 9:30 a.m. International Women's Club 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Italian Buffet</p> 	<p>4</p>	
<p>5 Scout Sunday 9:00 a.m. Scout Pancake Breakfast 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Team Meeting 12:00 p.m. Mother/Daughter Banquet meeting 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir 5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:30 p.m. Senior High Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Committee</p>	<p>6 6:30 p.m. Zumba</p>	<p>7 9:30 a.m. Women's Sewing 6:30 p.m. Bears 7:00 p.m. Web 1 7:00 p.m. Deacons</p>	<p>8 12:00 p.m. AA 4:00 p.m. WOW 6:00 p.m. Jr. Highs 7:00 p.m. JAM 6:30 p.m. Chess Club 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:30 p.m. Tigers 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Team</p>	<p>9 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>10 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch 7:30 p.m. PAS</p>	<p>11 Dustbusters Team D</p>
<p>12 12:15 p.m. Meeting of the Congregation 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Senior Highs</p>	<p>13 6:30 p.m. Zumba 7:00 p.m. Trustees 7:00 p.m. Pack 184 Committee</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>9:30 a.m. Women's Sewing 6:30 p.m. Bears 6:30 p.m. Men's Dinner 7:00 p.m. Web 1 7:00 p.m. Soccer Board</p>	<p>15 <u>Connections</u> articles due 12:00 p.m. AA 4:00 p.m. WOW 6:00 p.m. Jr. Highs 6:30 p.m. Chess Club 7:00 p.m. Session</p>	<p>16 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den 7:00 p.m. Web 2 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. ACOA 7:00 p.m. Web 2 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>17 7:30 p.m. PAS Confirmation Lock-In</p>	<p>18 Confirmation Lock-In Concludes</p>
<p>19 11:30 a.m. Taste of Soup 11:30 a.m. Junior High Mission Trip Meeting 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Senior High Fellowship</p>	<p>20 President's Day 6:30 p.m. Zumba 7:00 p.m. TAP</p> 	<p>21 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Women's Circle</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. AA 4:00 p.m. WOW 6:30 p.m. Chess Club 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. Worship</p>	<p>23 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. ACOA 7:00 p.m. Web 2 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>24 7:30 p.m. PAS</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 First Sunday in Lent 3:30 p.m. Brownies 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Senior High Fellowship</p>	<p>27 6:30 p.m. Zumba</p>	<p>28 9:30 a.m. Women's Sewing 7:00 p.m. Pack 184 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed Team Meeting</p>	<p>29 12:00 p.m. AA 12:00 p.m. Interfaith Worship at Monroeville United Methodist 4:00 p.m. WOW 6:00 p.m. Jr. Highs 6:30 p.m. Chess Club</p>			

Cross Roads Connections
Cross Roads Presbyterian Church
2310 Haymaker Road
Monroeville, Pa 15146

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsburgh, PA
PERMIT No. 4034

Return Service Requested

Time Value Material



You are invited to...
Cross Roads Church's Italian Buffet

When: Friday, February 3, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Cross Roads Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall

Eat in or take out

Adults \$8 Children ages 4-12 \$5
Children age 3 and under FREE