



# Crossroads Communicator

Volume No. 5

Issue No. 11

November 2005

## **CROSSROADS Members** **Respond To the Call!**

Just one month ago your Finance Committee was really struggling!

Despite our gradually growing membership over the past couple of years, we were looking at the fact that giving has been down during 2005. We were also figuring in the \$32,400 that will not be available from Head Start in 2006. As a committee we had come to the conclusion that in order to be good stewards we must use the amount pledged to build our budget for 2006. So as we worked to try to project a 2006 budget and then to reconcile that with the pledges we had received from the congregation, we were stumped!

We were unsure just what the message from the congregation was. At the "All Members Canvas" meetings we heard concerns about some issues, including worship space and finances, but overwhelmingly we also heard enthusiastic support for Crossroads' work in the community, for our worship, for our pastor, and for our music ministry. The pledges we received, however, were so far short of what we needed that the only place left for us to consider cuts was in **staffing**. The only thing we knew to do was to come back to the congregation.

At the time the letter was sent, we had received approximately **\$152,000** in pledges for the 2006 budget. We were looking at a budget of **\$230,907**. Even after subtracting the income we could project from other sources, including "loose offerings," we needed **\$208,597** in pledges

in order to meet the budget. **\$152,000** didn't even come close.

The letter asked that all members prayerfully take a look at their giving on the grow one step chart and move up at least one step towards tithing. The response since that letter has sent a clear message! A large number of additional pledge cards came in, and that certainly made a difference. Additionally, a number of people sent in "replacement" pledge cards that indicated a decision to increase the amount they had originally decided to pledge. When added to the original pledges, it was clear that Crossroads' members had responded to the call! We have now received **\$208,098** in pledges toward the needed **\$208,597**. (That's a shortfall of just \$499. The incredible thing about this is that one of our congregation members just two weeks ago brought us their savings that had been for a "rainy day." That person wanted the money to go toward Crossroads' 2006 budget. That check just happens to be in the amount of \$500!)

We still face challenges as a congregation. One financial challenge that remains is the roughly \$15,000 shortfall projected for the remainder of 2005. One very encouraging indicator is that some members have responded to the call to increase their 2005 giving to their pledged 2006 level **now** rather than waiting until January! If all of us make a similar commitment to help insure that we do not end 2005 with carryover debt, our outlook for 2006 certainly becomes much more positive. I can't imagine a better way to show the commitment of Crossroads to make disciples for Jesus Christ!



## Attention all who are in Grades 4 - 12

The Youth of Crossroads UMC and Parkview UMC have joined together. We have a few activities in the works for the fall:

- November 13<sup>th</sup> – meet at Crossroads at 4:00 p.m. Those from Parkview will be picking us up shortly afterward in their church van. We'll be having a bonfire and fellowship at the home of a member of Parkview. Parent chaperones will be welcome. Please see me for a permission slip if you will be attending.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> -Advent event at Parkview in early afternoon. Please see me or the youth bulletin board (in the hallway by the Narthex) for definite time and more details as it gets closer.
- December 26<sup>th</sup> –31<sup>st</sup> there is a tentative plan to visit Zoolights during that week. Parent chaperones will be welcome. Please see me for a permission slip if you will be attending. There will be some sort of cost associated with this activity unless you have a Zoo membership.

**And** we will be having meetings (starting in January 2006) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (location to be determined) The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be together and the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will be together for a lesson, we'll then have common activities such as games, icebreakers, and snacks, etc. Please see or contact Dawn Depner at 272-6176 for more details.

## Crossroads Youth Group Fall Fundraisers

The Crossroads Youth is selling 2006 Wall Calendars as was done last year for \$6.00 each. The calendars have a pretty picture for each month and a verse on each Sunday. Please think of holiday gifts for your friends and relatives and support the Youth Group with this fundraiser. Thank you to all who have pre-ordered your Calendars. The calendars will be available in Mid-November.

Like last year, we are selling Greeting Cards, which are blank inside. A pack of 12 cards is \$6.00. If you need a 2-year pocket calendar, we'll have some of those available as well.

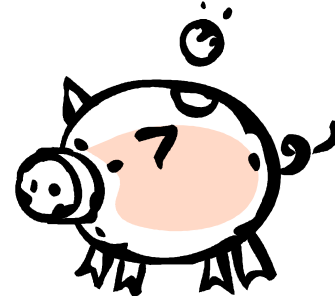


The cost is \$2.00 each. Thank you to all who have pre-ordered these as well.

License plate frames are a new fundraiser this year. They are black with white lettering and say "Crossroads UMC" at the top and "Columbus, Ohio" at the bottom. They are designed to be installed around your license plate. The cost is \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00. Thank you to all who pre-ordered these but we will still have some to sell when they come in.

Please see us at our table, which is currently located in the old Headstart office (the room right off the Narthex).

Thank you for any support you can give us.



Feel free to contact me at 272-6176 if you are interested in obtaining any of these items and haven't seen us.

Thank you! ~ Dawn Depner, Advisor

## Crossroads Youth Participated in Crop Walk

The Youth of Crossroads participated in the Crop Walk this year on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who have made pledges. Please see a member of the Youth Group if we haven't collected your pledge as we must have our pledges collected by mid-November. We have received pledges totaling \$310.00 for our Three-mile walk. This year your Crossroads representatives were Amy Fox, Sarah Fox, Jonathan Depner and Dawn Depner. We'd love to have more participants next year.



### Youth Soft Drink Sales

We have purchased a dorm size fridge which is located in Room 1 and are selling cans of pop for 50 cents a can on the honor system. There is an envelope sitting on top of it.

A great big thank you goes to Kathy Donovan who found us a great deal and even picked it up for us.

With your support, we would like to also look at selling chips/crackers or candy as well. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter this will be in place on a trial basis.

Thank you for your past support. We hope that you will continue to support the Crossroads Youth.

### Have you checked out the newly decorated bulletin board?

It is in the hallway by the Narthex and was designed and put together by our own, Ami Fox. She has drawn the pictures and taken the photographs that are on the board. Stop by to check it out if you haven't. She'll be updating it periodically so be sure you see it.



## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service Thursday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> - 7 p.m.

Please help fill our Food Pantry shelves. Let us remember what this season is all about. Bring non-perishable food items or a cash donation to this worship service. -the Worship Team



### Kroger Update Oct. 2005

We have been selling Kroger certificates since 1999 and made almost \$7,000. Kroger is changing their gift certificate program. They will no longer issue paper gift certificates. Instead gift cards will be available which can be reloaded at the service desk or at the register (before groceries are rung up.) Crossroads still receives 5% rebate for every \$5000 spent. Valerie DeWood will be selling the remaining paper certificates over the next few weeks. If you are interested in a gift card in the initial order, please see Valerie. A minimum order of \$200 must be made for gift cards initially. A card can be ordered for \$5 or any amount. If you are a Kroger customer and want to help with this fundraising opportunity, please see Valerie to either purchase remaining paper certificates (while they last) or put in an order for a gift card.

Thanks for your support of this program.

## Celebrations in November



### Birthdays

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Betty Davies     | 10 – Bundy Hill        |
| Emily Michalak       | 11 - David Burris      |
| Donna Rodgers        | Mark Bayer Jr.         |
| Patricia Showman     | 14 – Elizabeth Heilman |
| 2 – Jack Snyder      | 17- Dean Fenner        |
| 6 – Vicki Jones      | Larry Wolfe            |
| 7 - Andrea Snodgrass | 20 – Riley DeMatteo    |
| 8 - Bill Moreland    | 29 – Irene Waltz       |
| 9 - Mildred Jaccaud  | 30 – Kim Fox           |
|                      | William Ray            |



### Anniversaries

- 1 - Bundy and Ruth Hill
- 17 – Ernest and Karen Muetzel
- 24 – Greg and Jennifer Branum

### Words of Thanks Received

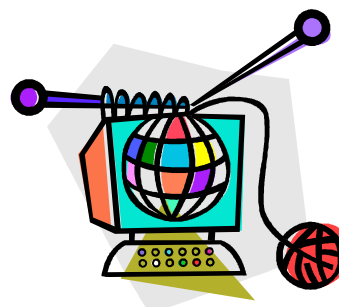
Dear Ladies of Crossroads United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your lovely card and message. I do hope to get back to church one of these days and meet with all of you. Till then, take care and enjoy!

My love to all,  
Gladys E. Parkey

Many thanks to everyone for their cards and gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month! I certainly feel appreciated and my family feels your love everyday!

Blessings in Technicolor,  
Pastor Steven



<[crossroads.columbus.org](http://crossroads.columbus.org)>

Did you know that Crossroads has entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century? You bet! Now we have our own website designed and constructed by dedicated members of our own congregation. You should check it out, and check it regularly. Along with general information, the site will carry updated materials, events calendars, activity photos and much, much more. Many thanks to Kathy Donovan, Frank Torma, and Dave Burris for their hard work.



### Newsletter Goes ONLINE

Beginning this month the Communicator will be sent to you via the internet, if you have access. Near the first of every month, two things will happen; you will receive your church newsletter via e-mail, and the Communicator will be posted on our new website! Eventually, the newsletter will only be posted on the Crossroads website. Those without internet access will continue to receive the Communicator via the U.S. Mail.

Articles, information, and other interests can still be shared with the church office, or sent directly to our web-master, Kathy Donovan, via the website contact address.