



First Trinity Student Ministries

Parent and Volunteer Newsletter

December 2012

What's Happening in Crossroads...

Sunday Mornings

This last week we wrapped up our **"Explode Your Bible"** series. In that series students were taught a way to mark their Bibles in order to find verses for specific situations and to see the relevance of God's Word in their lives.

We also started a **4-week Advent series** during which we'll focus on four main themes of advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Each week we'll have activities that help us focus on Jesus and where we need those 4 things in our lives. We will also spend some time discussing how we can use this holiday season so share our faith with people who could use hope, peace, joy, and love in their lives.

Thursday Nights

Crossroads CONNECT, will wrap up our fall semester this Thursday, **December 6** with our **Christmas Party** from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Students can bring a snack to share as well as a donation to help others during this holiday season. Students will get a chance to decide where that money will go at the event.

This will be our last Thursday night programming in 2012. Regular programming will resume on January 10, 2013 with a **Crossroads Youth Family Game Night**. All Crossroads families are invited to gather with other youth and their families for a fun night filled with games, food, laughter, and more.

Parent/Family Resource Corner

Have you ever dreamed of having time to gather around God's Word together as a family, but just don't know where to start? Or maybe it's something you've done in the past, but it got put to the back burner. The season of Advent is a great time to start or restart! Below are some resources that can help you gather around God's Word as a family this month. Whether it's once a day, once a week, or even just once this entire month. I challenge every family to make a point to focus on Jesus together this Advent.

Weekly Family Devotion Ideas:

<http://www.ctrkraleigh.org/mediafiles/advent-sermon-devotional-2009.pdf>

(Perhaps pick and choose pieces that work for your family. Note, it was originally written for a different year but there is no reason it can't be used this year.)

Daily Devotions:

<http://www.lhm.org/advent/>

(Can be read individually or as a family; focused on Christmas memories and traditions)

Upcoming Events

December 6

All Youth Christmas Party
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

December 9

Workcamp Meeting
12:30 - 2 p.m.
(Payment #1 Due)

December 31 - January 1

New Year's Eve Lock-in
8 p.m. - 10 a.m.

Looking Ahead to 2013

January 10

Crossroads Family Game Night

January 26

Workcamp Alumni Service Day
(FT is partnering with Westside Ministries for a day of service to honor the 20 year anniversary of youth going to Workcamp!)

February 22

Youth and Family: Snow Days Fun

March 3

Project Prom Dress

March 31

Easter Breakfast

April 26-27

30 Hour Famine/Saturday of Service

June 2

HS Senior Blessing Event

June 6

Year-End Celebration

July 13

Car Wash Service Project

July 15-18

VBS

July 20-28

Workcamp

Catch The Vision - Student Leadership

This section of the newsletter each month is dedicated to sharing about one specific aspect of the overall vision for high school ministry. This month, our focus is on students in leadership positions. This is an important element of Crossroads ministry because it not only gives the youth a voice in what happens, but also trains them and equips them to be leaders in the church and the world. Here are a few areas where we are currently focusing on student leadership:

- Each week that our middle school ministry, Cornerstone, has confirmation, one of our high school students kicks off the lesson by sharing a 5-10 minute devotion themed around the Confirmation topic of the day before. So far, each student has blown us away with their commitment to this task and their ability to connect with the middle school students in a very real way. It is so neat to see them revisiting chief elements of our faith and finding new applications of God's Word in their own lives. In addition to being a leadership role, this is a great chance for the students in grades 7 and 8 to interact a little with the high school students before they become one too.
- As we begin planning and preparations for our summer Workcamp trips, it is important for us to let the students have ownership in those trips. Each Workcamp participant joins a pre-camp crew to help make decisions regarding our after-event, t-shirt design, our Wednesday night celebration to honor the seniors and more.
- A new opportunity for students in leadership is the chance for a few youth to be student representatives on the Crossroads Leadership Team. Students in this position will have the chance to help make ministry decisions and relay input from other students in that process. Any student who desires to take on this role can talk to Bekah.



Share the Story

On November 24, twelve adults and nine youth spent their Saturday serving the people of Keansburg and Union Beach, NJ in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. I still find myself amazed at the way God pulled together that team in just only 8 days as well as by the amount of work we accomplished in just one day. Lives were changed that day, both in our group and among the residents we served.

What excited me most was to hear the reactions from some of the adult participants as they saw how hard the First Trinity students worked and how dedicated they are to serving others. Here are a few of their comments:

"Beyond our work and people we met there (which was awesome!), it was a pleasure getting to know people on our team too. Very impressed with our youth group ...they worked their tails off!"

"I was so impressed by the work ethic of each and every person on the team, especially our youth. Every single person took the initiative to figure out what needed to be done, jumped right into working, assisted and worked together with others on the team, worked hard, and did a fantastic job. Way to go team!"

Check back here next month to hear another story of God at work through Crossroads Students!

Join the Team

Effective youth ministry takes a BIG team and we need YOU! Look below to see if there are ways you can join the team:

- Set up, Decorate, or Clean up for the New Year's Eve Lock-in
- Help plan our January or April Saturday of Service
- Help plan the Senior Blessing Event
 - Recruit other volunteers
- Chaperone all or part of the New Year's Eve Lock-in
- Help organize Project Prom Dress
- Join the Crossroads Leadership Team to help in long-range planning for Crossroads Ministry
- Get breakfast ready for the New Year's Eve Lock-in
- Help plan the 30 Hour Famine
- Help develop our student leadership program
- Help sell SCRIP cards on Sundays
- Coordinate with other churches for the 30-Hour Famine
- Serve as a youth volunteer on Sundays or Thursdays
- Help expand our SCRIP program

Questions? Concerns? Want to Get Involved? Contact Rebekah Freed, Director of High School Ministries
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