



First Trinity Student Ministries

## Parent and Volunteer Newsletter

November 2012

### What's Happening in Crossroads...

#### Sunday Mornings

This last week we began our second series called **"Explode Your Bible"**. Through this series students will have a chance to mark and personalize their Bibles to be able to use God's Word as a guide and comfort in every day situations.

Our hope is that students will not only see the relevance of God's Word in their own lives but that this new marking system would help them share God's Word as well.

This study is focused on # 3 in "The Seven" which is "Personalize Scripture". (See the "Catch the Vision" section on page two for more information about "The Seven.")

After this study we will begin a study that will focus on "Compassionate Service" which is our other main theme for Crossroads this year and #6 in "The Seven".

#### Thursday Nights

Crossroads CONNECT, continues to be a great opportunity for students to pause in the middle of the week and connect with each other and with God. Each night includes an opening game, sharing highs and lows, a devotion, and an activity (describe below).

#### Coming Up On Thursday Nights:

**Nov 8** - Each year at Workcamp we use the tithe from our SCRIP fundraiser for the Food Drive. This year we ended up with about \$100 leftover. On Nov 8 we will have a game that involves going to stores across the street to purchase food for our food pantry using the leftover money.

**Nov 15** - Service Project: Writing Letters to Veterans and Kairos Ministry

**Nov 22** - No CONNECT

**Nov 29** - Game Night in the Gym

**Dec 6** - Christmas Party (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

#### Other Events and Activities

**Workcamp 2013** preparation is well underway! So far 24 youth have registered to serve others in Jesus' Name in Hastings, MI. For those who have children attending, THANK YOU for your commitment to helping your children develop lives that exhibit *Compassionate Service* (The Seven - #6) by encouraging and supporting them.

The **All Youth Christmas Party** will take place on December 6. We will meet with the middle school students from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. More details will come in on a postcard later this month. This will be our last Thursday night youth group activity in 2012.

### Upcoming Events

#### November 3

Mission Madness  
(Workcamp Fundraiser)

#### 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 - Jan 1

New Year's Event (Details TBD)

### Resource Corner

#### *Emergency Response Plans*

A blog post about preparing for when teenagers make mistake and how parents/youth leaders can respond:

<http://stickyfaith.org/blog/emergency-response-plans>

#### *"No Rules by Age 17 1/2"*

An article for parents about preparing students now for the day they will be out on their own: [http://](http://www.jonathanmckeewrites.com/archive/2012/10/24/no-rules-by-age-17.aspx)

[www.jonathanmckeewrites.com/archive/2012/10/24/no-rules-by-age-17.aspx](http://www.jonathanmckeewrites.com/archive/2012/10/24/no-rules-by-age-17.aspx)

#### *Finishing Strong:*

Advice for Parents of

High School Seniors: [http://](http://www.collegetransitioninitiative.com/files/2012/10/cti_finishing_strong.pdf)  
[www.collegetransitioninitiative.com/files/2012/10/cti\\_finishing\\_strong.pdf](http://www.collegetransitioninitiative.com/files/2012/10/cti_finishing_strong.pdf)



Tie-Dye Adventures at CONNECT

## Catch The Vision - "The Seven"

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, I wanted to share a little more about "The Seven".

"The Seven" is a list of seven actions we know from God's Word, as well as research, that help us grow closer to Christ. If you haven't already, you'll be hearing more and more about these over the coming months and years in connection with all the ministry areas at First Trinity, not just Crossroads.

The Seven Actions are:

1. **Joyful Worship** - Joining in worship with other Christians
2. **Regular Prayer** - Connecting with God often in prayer
3. **Personalize Scripture** - Reading and applying God's Word in our everyday lives
4. **Shared Study** - Gathering around God's Word with others
5. **Nurture Relationships** - Building healthy relationships with those around us and using relationships to share Jesus
6. **Compassionate Service** - Giving of our time in service
7. **Outrageous Generosity** - Giving of our resources

You may remember me mentioning these seven things at the beginning of the year meeting and how the 4-year plan for Crossroads involves focusing on one or two of these things more in-depth each year. With this process, students will prayerfully be fully trained and equipped to connect with God in each of these ways confidently by the time they graduate high school. While all seven will be lifted up consistently, this year we are focusing in on Personalize Scripture (#3) and Compassionate Service (#6).



## Share the Story - Fall Retreat

The Crossroads Fall Retreat was a great opportunity to grow closer to God and each other. Though a little cold and rainy, participants had the chance to explore the concept of trusting God through our time out on the High Ropes Course. Friday night we played games, toasted marshmallows (in the rain), and laughed a lot!

Saturday we started our day with a devotion called "Breakfast on the Beach with Jesus" based on the story of Jesus inviting his disciples to have breakfast with him on the beach after his resurrection (John 21). While we actually ate inside, we spent our time with Him reflecting on what it means for us personally to trust God.

The rest of the day was spent either out on the ropes course or in discussions about how what we were doing out there connects with our lives and faith. God was compared to a belay facilitator; no matter what we do, He's always got us on belay. We discussed the times when it's difficult to trust God and what tools He gives us to get through life. After many adventures on the course (including upside down repelling for a few!), the day wrapped up in worship and talking about what the concept of trusting God looks like in our lives back home. A verse we looked at many times throughout the weekend was Psalm 32:10, "The Lord's unfailing love surrounds those who trust in Him."

## Join the Team

As you can probably figure out, you can look here each month has opportunities for people to get involved with what's happening in high school ministry in a variety of ways. If at any point you have an interest to serve at First Trinity (in high school ministry or other places) please contact me or another staff member so we can see where you could best use the gifts God's given to serve Him and His people! Here are some ways you can get involve in what God is doing:

### Workcamp

#### **Adult Leadership Team - Go to WC**

Apply to be a workcamp driver/chaperone at [FirstTrinity.com/Sign-Ups](http://FirstTrinity.com/Sign-Ups)

#### **Workcamp Coordinator**

Help Bekah plan logistics of housing, transportation, after-events, etc.

### High School Ministry Team

Join a group of 6-7 adults and youth to focus on high school ministry planning, goal-setting, evaluation, training, and more. (5-6 meetings throughout the year with a few responsibilities beyond those meeting times.)

### **Sunday Small Group Leader—** Adults

are needed to facilitate discussion among small groups of youth on Sunday mornings. Able to serve in 6-7 week segments throughout the year.

**MANY other opportunities available.**

Contact Bekah for info

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