



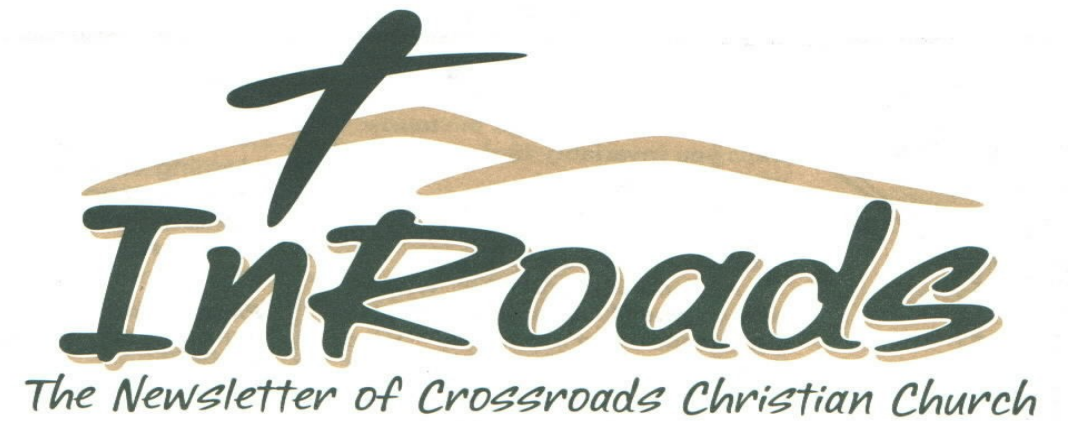
1300 Suncrest Drive
Gray, TN 37615

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact us by telephone at:
423-477-2229

Visit us on the web at:
www.crossroadsgray.org

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April 2013

Crossroads Student Ministry

Summer Events- (sign up in The Greenhouse)

- CIY Believe- May 3-4 (Middle School)
- Yard Sale Fundraiser- June 14-15
- Middle School Mission Trip- June 18-22
- Haiti Mission Trip- July 5-13
- CIY MOVE- July 29- August 3 (High School)



Weekly Events: Crossroads Student Ministry is for those in grades 7-12

Sunday:

Worship @ 9:30 am

Discipleship Groups @ 10:55 am

The entire Crossroads Faith Family is journeying through The Story together. It's God's story told through Scripture and the Student Ministry is walking through The Story during Sunday morning Discipleship Groups. Join us in The Greenhouse.

Student Life Groups @ 5:45 pm- Meeting in homes

Wednesday: see below

Wednesday Night Youth Group:

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Meet in The Greenhouse.

Field 44: The Walking Dead- Alive Again (Galatians 5)

- 4/3 Peace/Self-control VS. Gluttony/Greed
- 4/10 Love/Goodness VS. Pride
- 4/17 Service Project
- 4/24 Gentleness/Patience VS. Wrath/Rage

Wild Branches:

- 4/3 The Value of Solitude
- 4/10 Memorizing Scripture
- 4/17 Service Project
- 4/24 Identify Your Pain and Struggles

PARENTS- Get in the loop by emailing andy@crossroadsgray.org

CROSSEYED presents



SUNDAY
APRIL 21
7:00 P.M.



Crosseyed is the teen choir of Crossroads Christian Church. Please join us for an evening of high energy music and humorous & inspirational sketches.

For more information go to
www.crossroadsgray.org

Crossroads is located next to DBHS



by Clint Andrews

This falls under the category of “Thank God, it will never happen here...”

Fumi-e (a combination of two words: “stepping on” and “picture”) is Japanese for the method of exposing covert Christians. In the year 1629, Christians were being persecuted in Nagasaki, Japan. But how do you prove who is a Christian or not? After all, a Christian Japanese and a non-Christian Japanese look pretty much the same. The Tokugawa shogunate of Japan came up with a solution. Place an image of Jesus on the ground...have the man or woman accused of being a believer step on it. If they were willing...then either they were not Christians...or their faith was of little importance. But if they refused. Well...they called it a “persecution” for a reason...and many died when they didn’t recant their faith.

Just before World War II, the Japanese revisited the practice of *fumi-e*...this time in Korea. The occupation of Korea cost many Koreans their lives... but one specially targeted group was Christians. Once again, the Japanese sought to discover who the believers were by *fumi-e*. A portrait of Jesus Christ was placed on the ground...and those suspected of being Christians were invited to step on it. It was, in fact, a very effective way of finding out who were the true believers.

To be fair, the idea of *fumi-e* wasn’t invented by the Japanese. The Romans had done something similar when they unleashed their bitter attacks against the early church. Subjects of Rome were ordered to offer a pinch of incense with the words, “Caesar is Lord.” If anyone refused to give the tribute to Caesar, they were burned at the stake. Polycarp was one such martyr. His death is one of the most well-documented events in antiquity. When faced with the ultimatum, his response was, “*Eighty-Six years I have served Christ, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me.*”

I was kidding when I said that this column can be filed under the category of, “Thank God, it will never happen here...” because it already did...just this past month. On March 21st it was reported that Ryan Rotela was suspended from a class at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton for not stepping on “Jesus.”



To explain: As a part of Florida Atlantic’s *Intercultural Communications* course, professor Dr. Deandre Poole, asked his students to write the name “Jesus” on a sheet of paper, place it on the floor beside them, stand up, and stomp on it. Rotela, a Mormon believer in Jesus Christ, refused. And the punishment for his refusal was suspension from class...and possible dismissal from college. That, according to the University, has already been rescinded.

As it turns out...this isn’t just an isolated case by a renegade professor. Dr. Poole was following an exercise suggested in the teacher’s manual for a textbook entitled, “**Intercultural Communication: A Contextual Approach, 5th Edition**.” The writers of the textbook explain, “*This exercise is a bit sensitive, but really drives home the point that even though symbols are arbitrary, they take on very strong and emotional meanings...*”

Here’s my question...was Ryan the only Christian in his class? Where were all the others raised in Sunday Schools and Youth Groups? I am afraid churches have relegated Jesus to that of a “good, spiritual man”...someone worth emulating...rather than the Holy Son of God, Savior and Lord.

No matter the consequences...I don’t think I’ll step on that.

Crossroads Christian Church
477-2229
www.crossroadsgray.org

Larry Albrecht, Adult Discipleship Minister
483-5503

Clinton Andrews, Senior Minister
791-1234

Rob Aubrey, Community Involvement Minister
791-2719

Tempa Bader, Music Minister
926-0325

Curtis Booher, Associate Minister
543-7989

Christy McGriff, Interim Children’s Ministry Coordinator
963-0944

Andy McNeely, Student Minister
217-521-5768

Carter Warden, Worship Minister
753-2222

Robin Johnson, Secretary
477-2229

SUNDAY STATISTICS

March 3, 2013

Morning Worship 523
General Offering \$13,426.67
Covenant Offering \$6,843.33

March 10, 2013

Morning Worship 558
General Offering \$16,239.88
Covenant Offering \$3,308.00

March 17, 2013

Morning Worship 537
General Offering \$21,134.43
Covenant Offering \$4,890.00

March 24, 2013

Morning Worship 558
General Offering \$16,202.05
Covenant Offering \$6,045.33


Please note: The 2013 General Fund budget requires an average weekly offering of \$15,769.23. The weekly Covenant needed—\$7,307.69.

DECISIONS

March 17, 2013

Baptism

Charles Cartron
414 Crystal Springs Circle
Gray, TN 37615

There will be a

BRIDAL SHOWER
for
Adrienne Atkins
(bride-to-be of Brad Warfield)
April 14
2:00—3:30
in The Overflow
She is registered at Target, and Bed, Bath & Beyond.



All women and girls are invited to dress up in their best '50's attire and come to Flo's for a great meal and some rockin' entertainment!

Tickets will be:
\$10.00 for adults (age 12 & older)
\$5.00 for age 2– 11
Free— age 2 & under

Tickets will be on sale April 21, 28 and May 5 in the church Lobby.

APPALACHIAN CHRISTIAN CAMP NEWS

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Get a discount if you register before May 1st.



Go to campacc.com to see the 2013 schedule, register online, or print a registration form to mail in. You can also request a form from the camp office (423) 743-3910. It's going to be another phenomenal summer. Come be a part of it!

Open House—Saturday, April 6th—10 a.m.—12 p.m. This is a great opportunity to see the camp and learn more about the programs that are offered for all ages. Come meet the summer Program Directors, tour the facilities, and enjoy some refreshments. Various games and indoor rock climbing will be available in the gym. Registration information and sign-up will be available. Come catch the excitement of the 2013 summer camp season!



Mark Your Calendars for our 2013 Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 2—Thursday, June 6

Volunteer Round-Up Coming Soon!!

If you've had a baby since Mother's Day 2012 and would like to participate in Baby Dedication Day, please contact the church office (477-2229).



THE STORY – THE MUSICAL

Sunday, May 5, 2013
4:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

The Crossroads Adult Choir will present this breathtaking musical that presents God's redemptive plan for His people from Genesis to Revelation. Based on "The Story", our faith family will be able to celebrate together as we conclude our 31-week study. Through music, narration and a vivid dramatic video, we will revisit the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God who loves His children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to Heaven. The musical will be presented at two times: 4:30 and 7:00. Everyone is encouraged to invite friends, family and neighbors to join us for this special time of celebration as we remember that God is alive and active today – still listening, still acting, still pouring out His grace on us!