

CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE CROSSING

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STUDENT INITIATIVE DRIVES THE CROSSING BY DOUG PIERCE

EDITOR:

We have just finished our fourth year at UW–Madison in our new location. Each year, we have sustained growth. This coming summer, we will offer summer programming for the first time, due to interest and student demand.

There is so much that takes place at The Crossing over the course of an academic year that goes underreported. Pastoral care, encouragement, vocational discernment, significant relationships (including romantic), and faith growth—how does one do justice to it all?

Of course our “marquee” programs continue to be our Quest mission and service learning trips and our “informal” Vespers worship services and no-cost dinners prepared by local churches (which draw between 50 and 65 students). Since January, we have sponsored trips to Florida for a Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build, to Honduras, and to Costa Rica (Questa Rica II).

Next year, we are planning a third Questa Rica trip, a Northern Ireland trip, and a North Dakota trip, led by our students. We are also hoping to return to Israel, Honduras, and Florida.

Last year, one of our exciting “new ventures” was the Crossing Choir, led by Nancy Seabold. Fourteen students became part of this outreach venture. We hope to enhance our music programming in the year ahead and are grateful that Nancy plans to continue with us in her role as choir director.

We are delighted that Clare Norelle will continue to lead our Vespers music. Clare’s commitment to justice, peace, and global expressions of music are a perfect fit for us. (Clare’s CD, produced last year, was featured as a

great Christmas gift by *Wisconsin Trails* magazine.)

Katja Marquart, our art coordinator, will be leaving us, but we are pleased she has accepted a teaching position at UW–Stevens Point. Katja’s passion for labyrinths will continue to bear fruit.

This summer, students will be working with her to design a labyrinth that can be used in future programming.

Finally, we are optimistic about another “new initiative”: a coffee house, which we hope will complement and extend the programming, outreach, hospitality, and social justice ministry of The Crossing. Our coffee house picks up on the idea of a “Three Squares” program of The Wesley Foundation past. Although current plans are to begin small, serving “fair trade” coffee and bakery goods prepared with locally grown organic fare, we envision that in a couple of years we might be ready to expand.

All of the above happens because of strong student initiative. We have learned that the maxim, “If we build it, they will come,” is not quite true. A truer maxim seems to be, “If they build it, they will come.” Of course, we are always trying to strike that delicate balance of co-creating and shared partnership.

Opportunities for ministry and outreach continue to present themselves to us. However, they are never without challenges. I am grateful for the leadership and courage of students, staff, board members, pastors, area congregations, and statewide judicatories for their courage, commitment, and vision, which together add up to the ministry and gift that is The Crossing. Thank you for your support! Because of you we are making a difference.



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CHURCH RELATIONS BY REV. WINTON BOYD

My association with The Crossing began in the summer of 2002 when I joined a trip to Israel it was sponsoring to learn from Palestinian Christians about peacemaking, interfaith relationships, and living in the midst of violence. Over the next several months, I met with the emerging group as we planned the trip.

I found the small group of men that traveled to Ibillin in Galilee to be deeply faithful, sensitive, and exciting. They handled the many situations in Israel with grace, sensitivity, compassion, and humor. Their sharing in our group reflection sessions overwhelmed me. It became clear very quickly that the ministry at The Crossing was supporting and nurturing these young people as they were thinking about careers, world issues,

the role of faith in the world, and their own gifts as people of God.

As a local church pastor, I felt then, and continue to feel, that we as a congregation have a great deal to learn from the people and ministry of The Crossing. We have invited students and leaders to our church to lead worship services and discussions. We have sent folks to The Crossing to feed the hungry and receptive students after the weekly Vespers program. We have jointly sponsored events addressing how the church deals with the Middle East and environmental issues before us today. We have had adults participate with students on Habitat for Humanity work trips.

Through all of these encounters, I sense that The Crossing is a place



of experimentation, wonder, and joy. Doug and Karla, their staff, and their student leaders continue to think outside the box. At the same time, we as a local church have provided students with a glimpse

of what an active, socially conscious church can look like. Their energy and creativity and passion are a gift to us. Our sense of community, vibrant worship, and efforts to be radically hospitable have impressed students. It is a partnership that benefits both of us.

We support their work with joy and only wish we could give more. We look forward to continuing to develop this partnership and learn from the faithful, creative, and gutsy work of The Crossing.

Rev. Boyd is senior pastor at Orchard Ridge UCC in Madison.

I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME BY KARLA SCHMIDT

Each Sunday evening, wonderful people arrive at The Crossing with food to feed an army of students! These people come from many local churches and we are so grateful to all of them. Our students love not only the food but the obvious care for them that is expressed in these meals. These churches provided The Crossing with meals this past year:

- COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- DIVINE SAVIOR UMC
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
- FIRST UMC
- JANESVILLE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
- MIDDLETON COMMUNITY UCC
- MONONA UMC
- MONROE ST. JOHN'S UCC
- MONTICELLO ZWINGLI UCC
- ORCHARD RIDGE UCC
- SALEM VERONA UCC
- UNIVERSITY UMC
- WAUNAKEE CROSSROADS UMC
- WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH WINDSOR UCC

We thank each of these congregations and the members who prepared and served meals. We also thank one of our parents who provided two meals, Jane Considine, mother of Ana and Suzie Considine. You all have given the



Where Faith Meets Life

THE CROSSING

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THE CROSSING—A PARTNERSHIP OF MADISON CAMPUS MINISTRY, THE

ABOUT THE CROSSING

The Crossing seeks to provide a Christian community for the University of Wisconsin—Madison where individuals can explore, understand, and affirm their relationship with God, each other, and the world. Our community is grounded in worship, fed by the study of the scriptures, informed by the disciplines of the university and Christian traditions, maintained by fellowship, and seriously engaged with the problems and possibilities of the world.

Rev. Doug Pierce, Director
Rev. Karla Schmidt, Campus Minister
Rev. Cecil Findley, Campus Minister Emeritus
Katie Scanlan, Administrator
Ellen Fast, Communications Coordinator

Are you a past alum of MCM, Wesley, or Wayland? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please send us a card or an email. If you know other alumni, please invite them to contact us. If your address changes, please contact us with your new address.

SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS DRAWS STUDENTS BY KARLA SCHMIDT

Four years ago, we were so happy when 8–10 students gathered regularly for our Sunday evening Vespers service followed by a shared meal. We all sat around one table in those days. Since then, our service and meal have evolved into something new, involving more students, many of whom are involved in planning and leading the worship service.

Since many of the students are already active in the church of their choice, Vespers is not intended to be a formal worship service. Instead, it is an evening service filled with music, a message (sometimes given by a student or group of students), and prayer. It is meant to give students an opportunity to take a moment to reflect more deeply on God and their faith, to lift up their joys and concerns in prayer, to lift their voices in prayer and song, and to share signs of peace with one another. The meal, which is always generously provided by a local church, is an opportunity to socialize with friends and meet new ones.

The highlight of our spring Vespers programming was a visit by Madison-based author Parker Palmer on February 27.

He spoke on the story of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46–52, reminding us of the courage it took Bartimaeus to throw off his cloak (his identity as a beggar for so long) and come to Jesus (empty of his old identity and ready to claim a new identity) and

answer Jesus' question, "What do you want me to do for you?" Palmer encouraged us all to learn from Bartimaeus about what it means to live a life of bold faith. Palmer is the author of numerous books, the most recent being *A Hidden Wholeness*. Following the Vespers service, he met

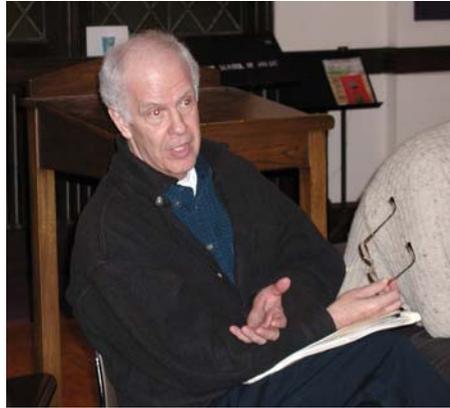
with a group of students to talk more deeply about discerning life choices. It was an incredible evening,

and we thank him for giving to The Crossing in such a personal and profound way. After his visit, students held a book study on his book, *Let Your Life Speak*.

Other highlights of this semester's Vespers include leadership by two student peer ministers, Brianna Sundal

and Jeni Olson. (Please see their reflections on page 4.) Messages were given by the students who participated in our various work projects to Honduras, Florida, and Costa Rica. We were all touched by their experiences and the insights they received (for an example, see the article written by Jenny Beissinger on her experience in Honduras on page 11). Various students put together a PowerPoint presentation to help lead each service. Finally, we are blessed with a wonderful student music team and music coordinator Clare Norelle. The music of Vespers consists of familiar hymns and praise songs, as well as songs composed by local musicians (including Clare) and various ethnic sacred songs. Our most recent new song was taught to us by Jiaying Shen and is in English and Mandarin Chinese!

On May 1, we held an end-of-the-year picnic. The only problem was that that day it rained, snowed, sleeted, and hailed outside! It was nasty weather, so we stayed indoors and turned our fireplace into a fire pit. We made the best of it and had a wonderful time. At this service we recognized our graduates and sent them on with prayers and song.



MADISON-BASED AUTHOR PARKER PALMER VISITS THE CROSSING.

GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

This year, we congratulated 14 students who graduated. One of these students, Leah Hart, is a pioneer student who has been with us from the time we restarted this ministry here at The Wesley Foundation building four years ago. The graduates, including Wayland residents, are the following:

JENNY BEISSINGER
NAOMI DELVANTHAL
LEAH HART
TOMEK KRZYZOSTANIAK
KATJA MARQUART
KAITLIN MARTIN
ANNEMARIE PETTIT
BEN PORTER
DIEGO ROMAN
ALVARO ROURE
JIAYING SHEN
LISA VALENTI-HEIN
LAURA VELTMAN

WEI ZHANG

Each graduate was given a book with the hope that the one selected for them would encourage their continual growth in the faith. Various titles include *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg, *Kitchen Table Wisdom* by Rachel Naomi Remen, *Mornings with Henri J. M. Nouwen* and *The Inner Voice of Love* by Henri Nouwen, *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker Palmer, *Contemplative Prayer* by Thomas Merton, *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith, *Pondering the Labyrinth* by Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion, and *Grace in Action* by Richard Rohr.

Congratulations and blessings as you move forward in your journey of faith and share your amazing

PEER MINISTERS REFLECT BY JENI OLSON AND BRIANNA SUNDAL

First came to The Crossing my freshman year for the “Welcome BBQ,” which provided free food and fun for anyone passing by. Once I was there, I chatted with a few people and filled out a survey about my interests. One thing I checked was preparing the slide shows for the Vespers service every Sunday. In all honesty, I left the get together not really thinking I’d be coming back, but I was contacted that week to help with PowerPoint for the next Sunday. I decided I didn’t have much to lose and that I would give this place a try. Little did I know at that time what amazing experiences, new friends, and spiritual growth awaited me at The Crossing in my next two years.

Going to Vespers every Sunday and helping out with the service was something I began to look forward to every week. I was meeting new friends, the majority of whom had a different faith background than me, as I was raised Roman Catholic. Vespers became a place to have some fun in a relaxing yet spiritual environment. During the winter break, The Crossing offered a trip to Florida to build Habitat for Humanity homes. I decided to take advantage of this opportunity, stepping out of my comfort zone, and the trip became one of the best experiences of my life so far. It was a trip that really defined a lot of my freshman year and solidified my belonging and feeling welcome at The Crossing.

All in all, attending The Crossing my freshman year really helped me transition into college smoothly and easily and helped me begin to define who I was and what I wanted my faith to really mean to me. Once my sophomore year began, things just seemed to fall into place at The Crossing. I co-led the Florida trip that year, focusing on bring-

ing a spiritual and reflective side to the trip. It was a great experience, and I felt so blessed to have been given the opportunity. After the first semester, I was asked to be a peer minister, focusing on planning the Vespers services and being more available to peers for talking, listening, and fellowship. I was also involved in the Student Organization meetings and was able to give insight and learn more about the behind-the-scenes planning that goes on to make The Crossing what it is. In addition to these other activities, I also helped plan The Crossing’s first retreat. That was a great experience as well and really challenged me and my Catholic faith when speaking with others who have various backgrounds.

Overall, in my two years since being at college, The Crossing has most helped me realize the many different types and ways there are to live a life of faith in God. The experiences there have helped me to become a better Christian myself, as I’ve developed better communication skills, leadership skills, and especially a better understanding of other’s faith lives and what that means to them. I have come to truly appreciate and value the differences and similarities among all of us living together in this world with our God. Truly, loving one another is our purpose here on this earth, and at The Crossing, I experienced this over and over again—loving others and being loved in return.

Jeni Olson is a junior from Fennimore, WI, looking to go into nursing school. Her background is Catholic.



As I think back on the semester and my experience as a peer minister, I am very grateful to have had such a wonderful opportunity. By being in a leadership position, I gained a new perspective of The Crossing and a better understanding of our mission to reach out to all people and many spiritual backgrounds.

This open-minded approach was inspiring and challenging for me. I especially enjoyed the after-Vespers discussions that I helped facilitate. Talking with my fellow Crossing members and Vesper-goers was a spiritually uplifting time for me. I



loved gaining new insight from others while I sought answers to my own spiritual questions. Our discus-

sions pro-

voled a greater curiosity in me, regarding issues such as the Gnostic gospels and different religious backgrounds. I am so proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of individuals!

My time as a peer minister helped me grow closer to The Crossing Student Organization, closer to wonderful fellow students and campus ministers Karla and Doug, closer to the Vespers planning team, and most important, closer to God. I will be spending my fall semester in London, but when I return, I will enthusiastically continue on my spiritual journey with The Crossing.

Brianna Sundal is a junior from West Bend, WI, studying elementary education and environmental studies. Her background is United Methodist.

JENI AND BRIANNA

ANOTHER BUSY SEMESTER FOR STUDENT ORG. BY ANA CONSIDINE

Spring semester was a busy and fruitful time for us! The Student Organization organizes social and volunteer activities to expand the opportunities for students to get to know each other at The Crossing.

One of the semester's first activities was the Valentine's Day weekend babysitting fundraising event. About 10 young children came to play, eat dinner, and watch movies while their parents were able

to go out for the holiday. Parents donated to the Student Organization in return for the service. Covenant Presbyterian Church graciously allowed us to use their building for this event.

The movie nights, as always, were successful events, providing a monthly opportunity for fellowship

over dinner and a movie. This semester, one movie night was a special treat. Movie night organizer Kirk Rappe was able to get funds through ASM (Associated Students of Madison—a student government body on campus) for advertising and movie rights to *Bonhoeffer*.



THE VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND BABYSITTING EVENT. SOMETIMES IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TELL THE COLLEGE KIDS FROM

Bonhoeffer, who was one of the first voices of dissent against Adolf Hitler during WWII. A reflective and powerful discussion followed the movie.

During the first weekend in March, a retreat was held at Cedarwood cabin at the American Baptist camp in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

Through these efforts, several new people found out about and attended this movie night. *Bonhoeffer* is a documentary-style film on the life of theologian Dietrich

sin. The event was a time for the 15 students attending to relax in the quiet wilderness as well as reflect on the topic of the retreat—an exploration of how a person's faith affects the world around them through the environment, politics, and social order.

In late April, a large group from the Student Org participated in Relay for Life, a fundraising event to fight cancer. (See the article below.)

Early in April, Student Org members Travis Tennesen and Phil Kollmeyer went to lunch with students from Journey House Campus Ministry in River Falls, Wisconsin, who were traveling through Madison. It was a unique opportunity to discuss campus ministry and get to know students from another group.

As these events show, the semester was, to say the least, successful for the students as they strived toward teamwork, leadership, faith growth, service, and fun.

Ana Considerine is a senior from Portage, WI, studying engineering mechanics. Her background is Presbyterian Church, USA.

RELAY FOR LIFE BY MEGAN KRUG

This past April, The Crossing participated in The Madison Indoor Relay for Life on the UW-Madison campus. The Crossing team had 15 members and reached their fundraising goal by raising almost \$3,000.

As team captain, I was really glad that so many people came out and showed support for such a good cause. I think this event is so successful because it is important to people from all walks of life.

Relay for Life is a fundraiser sponsored by the American Cancer Society that seeks to raise money for cancer research and awareness. This year's event had double the number of registered teams; it was by far the

biggest turnout the Madison campus has seen yet.

The Madison Indoor Relay for Life was held at the Shell Recreational Facility, next to Camp Randall. Students and their team members filled the area around the track with tents, sleeping bags, and folding chairs to prepare themselves for the overnight event.

When people heard that Relay for Life is an overnight event they got a look of dread on their face. But what they didn't realize is that the overnight aspect to the event is what makes it so much fun!

If you were unable to donate to



MATT ANDERSON (WHITE SHIRT) WALKS ON BEHALF OF THE CROSSING.

The Crossing's Relay for Life team, you can still make donations to the American Cancer Society. For more information, visit www.cancer.org.

Megan Krug is a fifth-year senior from Fond du Lac, WI, studying journalism. Her background is Catholic.

REPLACING FEAR WITH PERCEPTION IN COSTA RICA BY SARA HILLEGAS

On March 18, 2005, 10 University of Wisconsin students and one very brave Doug Pierce set forth on an expedition of learning and service in the forests of Costa Rica. The adventure actually began months, and even years, before, as the Quest program has taken shape through trips to Israel in 2003 and Costa Rica in 2004. Guided by the bold direction of The Crossing, Quest has given UW students the opportunity to explore the world, their personal passions, and the essence of their spiritual lives. The 2005 Quest trip (a.k.a. Questa Rica II) was no different, examining the Christian call to be stewards of the Earth and searching for those spiritual connections to the land in the rain and cloud forests of Costa Rica.

Having participated in the 2004 Quest to Costa Rica, I was on an eco-spiritual high in the summer of 2004. When Doug and Karla asked me to lead the 2005 return trip, how could I say no? I couldn't. But then reality struck. What was I getting myself into? I actually have to help others experience this amazing connection to God that I was only beginning to comprehend! The fear set in, and many times that summer I thought of running scared, but the promise of experiencing more fully God's presence in nature was more than enough to give me motivation. When our group first formed in October, my strength was boosted even more. The advertising and interview process had resulted in a bounty of fruits by the names of Jennifer, Ana, Maria, Amy, Kerry, Charis, Libby, Joel, and George.

Through the months leading up to

our trek, we met biweekly, fundraised furiously, and explored topics such as "Nature and Christian Spirituality" with Professor Cal DeWitt, "Deep Ecology" and "Tropical Forest Conservation and Ecology" with Margaret Buck and Professor Don Waller, and Michael Dowd's crusade to show how science can enhance religion. But nothing fully prepared us for what we encountered in Costa Rica.

After a passport dilemma, an unintended night at the Atlanta Hilton, a group reunion, and the chaos of San Jose, we finally arrived in the rain forest of Arbofilia. The bumps of the van ride up and down the rocky mountains were soon forgot-

tive American heritage, Miguel has developed a passion for the land, an understanding of how "life supports life through biodiversity," and a hope of restoration through people who have a spiritual connection to the land. He was an inspiration for us all and inspired the writing of this article by saying that we must "replace our fears with perception."

That lesson followed me through Costa Rica. Our nights in Arbofilia were spent in Swiss Family Robinson-style abodes, and my first trial of fear was on the top bed bunk. An assortment of insects had congregated around the light bulb that was mere feet from my head. A



LEFT: SARA HILLEGAS PLANTS A TREE IN ARBOFILIA. RIGHT: A HOLY WEEK PROCESSION IN SAN JOSE.

ten when we set our eyes on the luscious, green forest. In Arbofilia we met Miguel Soto, a man who, in less than 20 years, has almost single-handedly created a vibrant, sustainable, "analog" forest from barren grassland. (Analog forestry tries to achieve a balance of ecosystem health and economic stability for the land and people.) Through his Na-

gigantic praying mantis waited patiently, and a batlike blur flew around me during the night. I'll admit, I was afraid, and I got very little sleep that night. But the next day, Miguel blessed me with the words, "replace fear with perception," and that night I exercised my mind and overcame my fear.

In Arbofilia, we spent our days

hiking through the lush forests and learning from Miguel about a variety of plants, trees, and wildlife. We swam in streams and participated in some native rituals rooted in and inspired by the natural setting. The days felt long but refreshing, and too soon we had to leave Arbofilia, enchanted by the spirit of this place. The cloud forest of Monteverde offered a different view of Costa Ricans' interaction with the land, from an ecotourism perspective. Our time spent hiking the forests, working with the Monteverde Institute's Sustainable Futures project, and visiting the local Quaker community showed us people who truly know their envi-

hotel! The fear returned. But this time, I was a little wiser and quickly calmed my nerves, assessed the situation, and realized this was a challenge I could overcome. I still had everything that I needed. So I went shopping for something to wear and was blessed by the generosity of my fellow travelers.

The adventure had been awesome, but we were eager to return to the United States. Only one obstacle stood in our way—a furious system of thunderstorms and tornados over Atlanta, Georgia. The pilot informed us of the situation, providing more detail than we wanted to hear, and warned of turbulence right be-

as we endured the storm and the pilot maneuvered the aircraft to the other side of the storm clouds. At touchdown, the entire cabin broke forth into cheering and applause. We were all grateful to be on safe ground, although a night at the airport awaited us. Looking back on it now, Miguel's words ring true in the helplessness of flight and in my everyday trials. Forever I will strive to sense my surroundings and listen to the spirit that is reassuring me by replacing my fears with perception.

If you or someone you know would be interested in hearing more about our experiences in Costa Rica, we invite you to contact Doug Pierce



LEFT: THE QUESTA RICA II GROUP POSES IN MONTEVERDE. CENTER: MIGUEL SOTO WAS AN INSPIRATION THROUGH HIS WISE WORDS AND HIS PASSION FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY. RIGHT: THE ENTRANCE TO ARBOFILIA.

ronment and are living their lives with respect for other creatures.

At the end of our time in Costa Rica, we relaxed along the beaches of the Pacific with other *ticos* (Costa Ricans) enjoying the Holy Week vacation. However, relaxation became panic for me as my only suitcase, with all of my clothes and toiletries, was swiped from the entrance of our

fore the plane seemed to drop out of the sky on a downfall. Amid screaming and the flashing of lightning all around us, Joel, Amy, and I clasped hands. Making contact with another person gave me a calm reassurance. Others in our group sang songs, meditated, and comforted others with their encouraging spirit. The chaos seemed like it would never end

at The Crossing. All of us are excited about the opportunity to share our Quest with you!

Sara Hillegas is a graduate student from Fairhope, PA, studying water resources engineering. She is finishing her research writing in Seattle, WA, where she will then look for a job. Her background is United Methodist.

THE CROSSING IS ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY! BY KATIE SCANLAN

Each day, The Crossing welcomes fresh energy into its walls. The building and property at 1127 University Avenue is managed and maintained by The Wesley Foundation, one of three partner ministries that together make up The Crossing. One important goal of The Wesley Foundation is to honor this property with *good stewardship*.

The Wesley Foundation accommodates a multitude of events and activities in these facilities, ranging from large-scale community celebrations to the most intimate of gatherings. We love to work with groups and individuals that help us achieve the full potential of The Wesley Foundation's facilities. Here are some of the people who have gathered here over the past year—some on a regular basis and others for a one-time event!

- Madison FolkDance Unlimited
- Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies
- Badger Ballroom Dance Team
- Shorei Kempo Karate
- Findley & Spear Mediation Services
- UW—Extension AIDS Education Classes
- Meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous

- Community dinners in celebration of Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- International Forgiveness Institute
- Interfaith Hospitality Network
- University United Methodist Church
- Weddings
- Recitals (by students of the UW School of Music)
- And 15–20 individuals who work or attend school on campus have valued the convenience of The Wesley Foundation's parking lot rental!

All this is *in addition to* The Crossing's active role in the building, which in the past year has included Sunday evening Vespers services, study programs, service-learning trip meetings, Student Organization activities, dinners to honor donors, and meals and meetings of The Crossing's board members, who work diligently to keep things operating smoothly!

The Crossing extends a huge THANK YOU to all the people and groups that keep the building bustling with energy and excitement!

Katie Scanlan is The Crossing's administrator.

FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD GOES TO JIM HOOK BY JENNY ARNESON

Each year, the Wisconsin conference United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry recognizes one individual who has made a significant contribution to fostering the church's ministries in higher education at the local, district, or annual conference level.

This year's Francis Asbury Award was presented to Jim Hook of Crossroads United Methodist Church

in Waunakee. He has served on the Wesley Foundation Board at UW—Madison since 1998 and as chair of that board since 2000.

Over the last several years, Jim and the Wesley Foundation Board have worked to merge three campus ministry programs into one strong ecumenical campus ministry, The Crossing.

Jim has played a significant leadership role in the revival of a Wesley Foundation presence at UW—Madison and helped guide the board and the ministry through a challenging time of transition and restructure.

Any time we are part of a process of transition and restructuring, we know it takes time, energy, commitment, and vision to stay in the process. Jim has that level of passion for ministries in higher education and believes that the

church's work and a Wesley Foundation presence makes a difference on our college and university campuses.

Luther Felder, assistant general secretary of the Division of Higher Education Campus Ministry Section in Nashville, says of Jim, "You were nominated for this honor by your annual conference board of higher education and student ministry. These persons have recognized your faithful labors in supporting, strengthening, and promoting the church's work in higher education ministries, offering outstanding leadership above and beyond your basic responsibilities. This award celebrates and gives thanks for your contributions and commitment to fostering the ministries of higher education of The United Methodist Church."

Congratulations, Jim!

Jenny Arneson is chair of the Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry of the Wisconsin conference United Methodist Church.



JIM HOOK, CENTER, WITH CROSSING STAFF AND WESLEY FOUNDATION & MCM BOARD MEM-

CELEBRATE WHAT'S RIGHT BY LEAH HART

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
—Philippians 4:8

In an environmental studies class last semester, we were shown a video made by Dewick Jones, a photographer for *National Geographic*, entitled “Celebrate What’s Right with the World.” Jones narrated his story of learning to do what he feels *National Geographic* does in its pictures and stories—celebrate what is right with the world. He said, “We do live in a world that seems driven by fear, competition, and scarcity . . . but that is only true if we believe it.”

He told a story of trekking out to take some shots of a field of dandelions

against a mountain backdrop. The light wasn’t quite right, so he thought, “I’ll come back tomorrow.” Tomorrow turned into next week, and when he finally got to it, the dandelions had all turned to puffballs. He turned to walk away and then stopped. He thought, “I might as well take pictures of puffballs, then.” Soon, he was on the ground, in amidst the puffballs, looking at them from every angle. And the result was a picture, looking up into the puffball from the ground, and it was in the center of the sun. It had a silvery radiance, enhanced by the photographer’s perspective.

It’s not like we should ignore the injustice, poverty, and pain of the world or the difficulties of our own lives. It is simply recognizing that, by celebrating what is right with the world, we find the energy to fix what is wrong with it. The

trips that people from The Crossing take to Florida or Israel or Costa Rica are often so invigorating for that very reason. Building Habitat for Humanity houses in the poorest of Florida’s counties, entering the war-ridden country of Israel, or going to a third-world country where the rates of deforestation are still devastatingly high could be a depressing experience.

But we can all attest to the exact opposite if we remember to celebrate what is RIGHT in all of those places. And that is the love, faith, and hope of the people.

Leah Hart graduated with a degree in Spanish and an environmental studies certificate. She is from Potosi, WI, and her background is United Church of Christ. She hopes to work with the Latino community in Madison. This article was adapted from a Vespers message.

SCHOLAR PAGELS DISCUSSES LOST GOSPELS BY KIRK RAPPE

Jesus said, “I am the light that is over all things. I am all. From me all came forth, and to me all extends. Split a piece of wood, and I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there.”
—Thomas vs. 77

Mysterious gospels and lost sayings? Something from *The DaVinci Code*? Not exactly!

Elaine Pagels, author of *The Gnostic Gospels* and *Beyond Belief*, explained the amazing find of a collection of lost gospels in upper Egypt in 1945. In April, six students including myself heard her discuss these lost “Gnostic” gospels at First United Methodist Church in Madison. Pagels was featured at the David P. Lyons Lecture-ship in Theology.

What is a “Gnostic” gospel anyhow? And one may ask, why are they not included in our Bibles? *Gnostic* in Greek means “to know,” and the Gnostic Christians were one of many diverse groups in early Christianity. Their faith was different because they focused on the indwelling of the light of God in every person and did not adhere as strictly to the doctrine of Jesus as the

only way to God. Even today, the central question for any Christian is “Who was and is Jesus?” For the Gnostics, Jesus represented a divine teacher and guide to knowing God; for “official” Christianity, he *became* God.

During the first three centuries of the Christian era, the Catholic Orthodox church found itself under duress from the Roman Empire, competing



STUDENTS DISCUSS BEYOND BELIEF.

religions, and, as many early church fathers eventually decided, the Gnostic Christians. By the end of the 3rd century A.D., through various political maneuvers and a successful effort to destroy Gnostic texts, Gnosticism was effectively wiped out.

Yet now, miraculously, we have these texts to examine for ourselves.

Professor Pagels’s lecture was an excellent introduction. Sara Hillegas, a graduate student who went to the talk, explains, “For me, Elaine Pagels has opened an exciting new experience of Christianity! Her fascinating lecture inspired me to explore the Gnostic gospels more deeply. In the short month since hearing her talk, I already sense my faith being strengthened by the insight from the gospels of Jesus’s lesser known disciples.”

We all agreed that whether you find the Gnostic Christians to be Spirit-filled or heretical, the Pagels lecture certainly made for an interesting Saturday! This summer, several of us are continuing this discussion by studying Pagels’s book *Beyond Belief*. It is an opportunity to learn more about church history, examine our beliefs more deeply, and grow in faith.

More about the texts can be found at: <http://www.nag-hammadi.com/>. Or read *Beyond Belief* as we are!

Kirk Rappe graduated with a degree in history and is from Manitowoc, WI. His background is United Church of Christ, and he hopes to return to graduate school in the future.

REVERSE MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS BY TRAVIS TENNESSEN

“Change your life, change the world...let’s go!”

With these promising words, I advertised an excursion to Honduras. In the months leading up to the trip, our ranks filled to 19, including 12 college students. On January 3, we departed for 10 days of home-building in the small village of Cofradia, just north of the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa. Foundations were dug, walls built, food, songs, and worship shared, sights seen, and friendships solidified. But what of my claim that our short, 10-day stint in Honduras could, and would, actually change our lives and the world? Surely I had been carried away with pretrip exuberance. After all, what can change in just 10 days?

After traveling from Milwaukee to Chicago to Miami to San Pedro Sula, a long and windy bus ride took us into the heart of Honduras. Jumping from Wisconsin to rural Honduras in one day is like running out of a sauna and plunging into an icy lake—it shocks the system. The senses search for familiar sights, sounds, smells, and tastes but come up empty. If you have never before understood the concept of “foreigner,” you do now. As the days pass, however, you begin to connect with the land and the people. You begin to feel the pulse of the country through shared efforts like digging ditches and mixing cement, through spoken and unspoken communication with your Honduran partners, and by recognizable patterns in the landscapes and lifestyles you encounter. You begin to connect. Your sense of neighborliness expands until an unexpected shock, larger than the one that struck upon arrival, knocks you back on your heels.

Suddenly you realize that Honduras and its people have been your

neighbors for your entire life. Maybe it happens when you recognize the tune of a favorite hymn sung in Spanish, maybe when you discover a Honduran friend who follows the same college sports team, or maybe when you see a coffee plantation owned by an American company. You realize that your life is interwoven with the life of each Honduran you meet, connected by

economies, politics, religion, and pop culture, but most of all by your shared humanity. To realize that your life touches others all around the globe takes open eyes and an open heart. It also takes a lot of faith because once you cross the line, you know you cannot return. The people and landscapes of Honduras have left an indelible impression on you and will remain in your heart and mind forever. Just as you hope and pray for peace and well-being in Wisconsin and America, so too, will you forever include Honduras. Other distant lands also begin to seem less foreign, less inaccessible, and much closer to your heart.

If we were overwhelmed by such revelations, what exactly did we give back to our Honduran hosts and their country? Though our excursion was billed as a “reverse mission trip,” acknowledging that perhaps we Americans are more “needy” in some ways than our Honduran hosts, I am proud of the small gifts we were able to give. Many examples come quickly to mind—the laughter of orphans overjoyed by the smiles and presents from American visitors; the tons of cement, rock, sand, and gravel that were moved, mixed, and set into place to build solid foundations and walls for two new homes; and the smiles, hugs, songs, and prayers that connected two faith communities separated by language and international borders.

But one gift became the talk of the trip. One day in the middle of the trip, a young woman in our group, Michelle, brought several Spanish-language children’s books along with her to the worksite. Huddling together amidst the clatter of shovels, pick-axes, and wheelbarrows, she read the books to Danny, the four-year-old son of



TOP TO BOTTOM: TRAVIS TENNESSEN AND JENNY BEISSINGER FILL CONCRETE BLOCKS. STUDENT WORKERS SHOVEL CONCRETE. THE FOUNDATION OF A HOUSE BEGINS TO

one of our Honduran co-workers. Though this may seem a small gift, it opened up a new world for Danny. The fascination and excitement that spread across his face revealed that he had never been read to before and that perhaps this book was the first he had ever encountered. Who can say how this small gift will shape Danny's life, but the gleam in his eyes will not be forgotten.

Many hugs and smiles shared, a few hearts and minds opened a bit wider, two new homes on the way, and one little boy with a book in hand and a flashing grin on his face.

Change your life, change the world? You bet!

On behalf of all the trip members, especially the college crowd, I would like to extend a heartfelt

thanks to the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ and the Honduran Partnership Committee for their generous financial support. May each of us pass on these gifts to our communities and the world.

Travis Tennesen is a graduate student in geography. He is from Mineral Point, WI, and his background is United Church of Christ.

IT IS SIMPLE TO BE CONTENT BY JENNY

We're riding in a yellow school bus along a bumpy dirt road that wraps its way around the mountains like a boa constrictor squeezing its prey. I look out the window, eager to take in the beautiful, tropical, Honduran countryside, but instead I am shocked at what I see. Houses perched precariously along crumbling cliff sides; doors made out of patches of cloth draped by clothespins over entrances to homes; walls of scrap wood, sticks, and cardboard, held together by twine and the rare nail; a naked little boy sitting in the dirt in front of a ramshackle home. The sight is disheartening, shocking. Shame washes over me as I think of all of the *stuff* I own, the privileges I have, the places I travel. Didn't I spend a whole minute this morning trying to decide which shirt to wear? My clothing crisis suddenly seems petty, insignificant, selfish.

I glance back at the naked boy and feel pain. But I notice something unusual. The naked little boy sitting in the dirt is laughing. His smile stretches from one side of his face to the other, and he looks content. How peculiar. Farther up the road, I see a cluster of kids chasing each other. Their clothes are dirty, and they

are barefoot, but their happiness is radiating. We pass more people along the road, all laughing and talking together. One woman is washing her clothes outside, 50 feet from her house in a muddy basin that must also serve as a kitchen sink and bathtub. She looks up from her work, smiles widely, and waves to us as our bus goes by.

We pass many people going about their daily routines, and not a single one is frowning. I think of a typical day for me in Madison: hitting the snooze bar five times before I reluctantly crawl out of bed, cursing under my breath when I miss the bus and have to walk a few extra blocks to class, throwing out the remainder of my lunch because I don't feel like eating the rest of it, canceling plans with friends because I'm too busy, stressing out about an upcoming exam. Why? What good does any of this do? Doesn't it just make me feel lost? Hopeless? Overwhelmed?

I suddenly realize that these Hondurans don't demand my

sympathy at all. In fact, it's quite the opposite. They are teachers from whom I can learn an invaluable lesson. They are teaching me how simple it is to be content. They have nearly nothing, yet they have everything: They know how to be happy. They know how to love each other. They know how to appreciate life. Because they have so few material goods, they are able to value the important parts of life. Through their poverty they are wealthy.

As our bus arrives at the worksite, I am refreshed and excited. I realize that it's not what you have; it's what you do with what you have. We can all learn from the naked little boy sitting in the dirt, laughing.

Jenny Beissinger graduated with a degree in biology and a certificate in environmental studies. She is from Oak Park, IL, and her background is Reform Judaism. She will be teaching high school biology, chemistry, and environmental science in inner-city Oakland, CA, through Teach for America. This article was adapted from a Vespers message.



TWO HONDURAN CHILDREN HAVE FUN IN A WHEELBARROW.

HABITAT TRIP TEACHES SERVICE LEARNING BY MEGAN KRUG

For Phil Kollmeyer, being able to build two houses in a week over winter break is the highlight of his year, but the frequent doughnut breaks during construction come in a very close second.

Kollmeyer, along with 17 other University of Wisconsin–Madison students, journeyed down to Crescent City, Florida, in January to build two houses in Putnam County’s annual Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build. Kollmeyer, a UW senior majoring in electrical engineering, was the leader of the trip, sponsored locally by the The Crossing.

“You can only learn so much in school,” said Kollmeyer. “This trip was a chance for all of us to get away from our commitments and really focus all of our energy into something simple like building houses for people who really need them.”

The trip, in mid-January, was the fourth year The Crossing has been involved with Habitat for Humanity in Putnam County. Traditionally, the trip was an exchange program designed to send the excess Madison Habitat volunteers to Putnam County, where there is often large shortage of volunteers.

Karla Schmidt, campus minister for The Crossing, said, “Originally, the week-long Blitz Build was organized for adults at other churches; eventually, there was less and less of

interest among them. So they asked us if we wanted to participate. The first year the students went, they earned a lot of trust from the adult Habitat volunteers. I think they won over the hearts of the people down there.”

Over the years, the trip has been very successful with the student organization and has successfully recruited more students every year to participate in the build said Schmidt.

According to Crossing director Doug Pierce, it has been hard sometimes to justify The Crossing’s desire to volunteer outside of the Madison area. Pierce said he believes that by stepping outside of your own community, it is easier to understand the needs of others and helps volunteers to really focus on the task at hand.

“In normal life, when you try to help someone you don’t see the results immediately. But when you build a house, you do,” said UW sophomore and co-leader Jeni Olson.

The trip this year was Olson’s second and Kollmeyer’s fourth year going on the trip.

“I keep going back because I get a good vacation and I have more fun than I do any other time of the year,” said Kollmeyer. “I get to meet new people and form strong connections with them, and I get to build a house.”

Kollmeyer also said he feels it is an obligation to help out the less fortunate because it is something he feels our society places less of an emphasis on. “But we always get so much more out of the experience than we give anyway.”

“This generation really wants to make a difference,” said Pierce.

Although the prospect of building two single-family homes in five days sounds unbelievable, the students agree that the actual work doesn’t feel like work at all.

“It is definitely a unique trip,” said Olson. “For some reason life just seems to stop, and building this house seems like the only thing you have to do. It becomes that important.”

Schmidt, who participated in the build the first year, agrees that the importance of your regular life seems to melt away. “The spirit there among the students is like a big family,” she said. “It is really sad when it is over.”

According to Pierce, The Crossing intends to do the Habitat for Humanity trip to Florida next year and for many years to come.

Megan Krug is a fifth-year senior from Fond du Lac, WI, studying journalism. Her background is Catholic. This article was originally submitted for a journalism class.



LEFT TO RIGHT: IT TAKES TEAMWORK TO BUILD A HABITAT HOUSE. LIANG WANG HAMMERS SIDING ONTO A HOUSE. A ROOF NEARS COMPLETION.

MAKE FRIENDS, INCREASE FAITH AT WAYLAND BY JIAYING SHEN

There are numerous advantages to living at Wayland, such as the great location, reasonable rent, spiritual growing opportunities, and chances to make friends with people from different countries.

The Wayland community is located at the center of the UW campus, a very convenient site, within walking distance to the engineering school, business school, several libraries, gym, and other facilities. To me, it is really a pleasure to have enough time for breakfast in the morning and then walk down the streets to class or the office. I no longer need to rush to catch the bus like I did in the past four years. On those not-so-busy days, I can always walk back home and sit in our big, clean dining room to enjoy my fresh lunch.

Wayland is a unique place since you can not only grow in your faith, but also practice it in your daily life. There are always listening ears for your concerns, your confusions, and even your fears and sadness. No matter how little you know about the Bible and Jesus and no matter how badly you express yourself, you

can always feel the encouragement, the patience, and the love. We live together, we understand each other, and we support each other. The more we share our experience with the Lord with each other, the more we feel his spirit and love. Of course, there are challenges to living in such a big community, but I'm sure you will understand the spirit of love much better once you follow it to successfully solve those unpleasant situations that you have to face. It is a good learning experience that you can't achieve anywhere else.

Wayland is also a good place to make friends, especially international friends. You have the chance to come across different cultures and learn several languages. For someone like me, who tries to improve her English, this is the best place. We have good cooks from many different countries. The most significant feature of our communal Kerk dinner is the international flavor.

I will graduate and leave Madison at the end of this summer. The year I spent at Wayland is a very precious experience, and I will benefit from it my whole life.

Wayland has been for me an essential part of my university experience because it adds a facet that can not be found in the classroom or in the laboratory—it adds the experience of human interaction. Both the cultural and Christian diversity that are found at Wayland have been integral to my spiritual growth, and simply learning to live with other people with different tastes and different opinions is an experience that I think everyone must experience in order to be ready for other tests in life.

—Andy Meier

www.waylandcommunity.org

Jiaying Shen will receive a PhD in industrial engineering this summer and will then begin working at Honeywell in Minneapolis. She is from Shanghai, China.

Andy Meier is a junior from Spirit, WI, studying forest science. His background is Baptist.



LEFT: WAYLAND RESIDENTS FEAST ON BARBEQUED FARE. RIGHT: A COMMUNAL KERK DINNER.

CROSSING STUDENTS GAIN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES BY KARLA SCHMIDT

One of the joys of working with students is keeping in contact with those studying abroad who are having some amazing experiences. They certainly make our life back here in Madison look humdrum! I thought I would share a few email stories from students who have traveled in Egypt, France, Germany, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and one from Mozambique by a student who recently graduated and is in the Peace Corps. All of these excerpts are taken from emails they sent out to a group of family and friends (including The Crossing director Doug Pierce and myself).



TOMEK, LEFT, WITH FRIENDS.

TOMEK KRZYZOSTANIAK FROM EGYPT:

A week ago I traveled for two days and a night into the Sahara to camp with the Bedouins. . . . The way to the Sahara takes one through western Cairo. As you leave the city you realize how incredibly close the pyramids are to the buildings. Something that postcards don't show is that the pyramids are basically a suburb of Cairo, no farther than a block from a residential area. . . .

During our safari, we visited the Black Desert, White Desert, Flower Rock, and Crystal Mountain. All these places were located off-road, so one did not spend much time on the paved road. This brings me to one of the most thrilling experiences of the trip—riding on top of the jeep in the desert. The best way to describe it is to say that we were rid-

ing on a roller coaster, with a never-ending track and no safety bars. It was exhilarating. We stopped at a small oasis to have lunch, which our Bedouin guides made, a delicious salad of tomatoes, cheese, and cucumbers, along with pita bread and some fruit.

At night we made camp in the White Desert. Our jeeps were parked at right angles to provide a wind breaker. We set up mats and sleeping bags and slept under the stars. I had never in my life seen so many stars, surrounded by a perfect nothingness—it was spectacular. Before we went to sleep we played games with our drivers and our head guide, Ali. They taught us some “traditional” Bedouin games, which I am convinced are games simply invented to make fun of foreigners, and we in turn taught them Duck, Duck, Goose, which proved very popular.

I think one of the most striking things on this trip was to observe the culture of the desert. Primarily, and for obvious reasons, no food or water was wasted. Even though we were not as separated from civilization as we would have liked to think, it was still important to make use of everything. Second, it was curious to see that whenever we crossed people who had stopped in their cars or were waiting at an oasis to hitch a ride, our driver would stop. He would offer help or explain to the waiting hitchhikers that he already had pas-

sengers. This tradition of going out of your way to help people is especially true in the desert. One never knows when he himself will be stranded, so one treats others as he himself would like to be treated. It was interesting to see this appear even in our modern world.

(For more stories from Tomek, check The Crossing website, www.crossingministries.org.)

LISA VALENTI-HEIN FROM FRANCE:

I have found a new church; it is actually two different churches in the same building, one in the morning in French (the Apostles' Creed in French is an interesting thing to try to recite when you don't know it!!) and another at night in English. One of the other girls in the program has been going to the English one with me, and then we

switch off cooking so that we aren't entirely on our own during the weekends at dinnertime. (Both of us opted for lower rent and cooking for

ourselves on weekends.) Don't worry Mom, I'm going to look at the Catholic churches too—you can't be in Aix and not go to at least one Catholic service. The big Catholic church here is amazing.



STEVEN SENDELBACH FROM GERMANY:

I am meeting all kinds of people over here. French, Spanish, German, Finnish, Belgian, Russian, Canadian, you name it. Mostly exchange students. . . . They are all really nice. I get to field the occasional George W. Bush question, but so far no one has threatened

DUSTIN KINCAID FROM COSTA RICA:

Mi familia Tica is one of the warmest families I have ever met. They welcomed me with open arms, made sure I understood that it was my house as well as theirs, and are an amazing window into the wonderful culture of this place.



Everyone has cellphones! Oye, I thought I could escape it, but I would wager I have seen more cellphones per capita here than in Madison...en serio.

This past weekend I ventured to the beautiful Pacific Coast to relax at La Playa Hermosa—a breathtaking black sand beach, caressed by the intense waves of the Pacific. The fresh ocean breeze cleared my lungs and rejuvenated my mind and body. Nothing beats the sunset though.... I cannot find the words to describe it, ence of tranquility.

KATE FLICK FROM ECUADOR:

My Ecuadorian days are coming to an end (rather quickly at that). . . .I'm currently in the Galapagos, quite content after a filling fish, beans, rice, and ensalada din-

ner. Gorda y feliz. So I played with sea lions and swam with sharks today. It was a big step for me, since I have a tremendous fear of those teathy *tiburones*. I blame watching *Jaws* at too young of an age, but I put on my scuba mask and hopped right in with those puppies. Ok, so



KATE, RIGHT, WITH FRIENDS.

domesticated, furry balls quite yet, but we're making progress.

KATIE BARTELS FROM MOZAMBIQUE:

I finally broke my violin out, and all the neighborhood kids came flooding into the living room of our tiny house to listen. They'd never in their lives heard nor seen someone playing a violin. I played for an entire hour and they all sat around me fixated! That was the first time I saw some of the street kids in Massaca calmer than usual, patient, content. . . .

Am slowly realizing the real purpose I'm here. Have been asking more questions about AIDS in my community and it's just such a taboo to talk about it. I think the problem lies in just that. So many crazy myths people believe here—that the AIDS virus is actually in the lubricant of a condom, and so that's a good reason to not use a condom. Another myth the family of a friend was saying—they wanted to know why black people

are poor and have AIDS and not white people. The mother came to the conclusion that Jesus was white and that's why black people are so sick. Wow . . . how do you even begin to refute that one? So depressing, but the need here is becoming oh so evident and I'm really anxious

to start some AIDS discussion groups, especially for women in my classes, and some question boxes in my classroom so students can ask any questions at all that just aren't talked about in everyday life.

Tomek Krzyżostaniak graduated with degrees in international studies and history. He is from Poznan, Poland, and Middleton, WI. His background is Roman Catholic. He plans to work with Sojourners as an intern.

Lisa Valenti-Hein graduated with degrees in French, ILS, and Euro studies. She is from Appleton, WI, and her background is Presbyterian Church, USA. She will begin graduate studies at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Steven Sendelbach is a senior from Rochester, MN, studying electrical engineering and physics. His background is Assemblies of God.

Dustin Kincaid is a senior from Stratford, WI, studying zoology, biological aspects of conservation, and environmental studies. His background is Catholic.



KATIE, LEFT, WITH DANCE TEAM

Kate Flick is a senior from Rosholt, WI, studying sociology and envi-

THANK YOU FROM THE CROSSING!

We could not do the work we do without the faithful and loyal support of our individual contributors and friends. Below is a list of people who have supported us through a gift to MCM, Wesley, or Wayland in the past year (June 2004–June 2005). We are extremely grateful for this support! We would not be here without it. We have even made it easier to support us. We now have a PayPal link on our website (www.crossingministries.org) that will accept credit card payments on our behalf. While we know this type of service is not for everyone, we also know some of our supporters will welcome the convenience of this option. If we have inadvertently left you off the list, please let us know.

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As a way to say thank you for supporting us, Crossing students, staff, and board members delivered geraniums to Madison-area supporters who donated \$100 or more over the past year. All other supporters received a packet of seeds and a card that said, "Our ministry at The Crossing is growing thanks to your support." We are grateful to Gordon at Kopke's Greenhouse (Oregon) for designing our geranium baskets and giving us seeds at cost. This allowed us to be thankful for the generosity others have shown us this past year. Left: A group prepares to deliver geraniums to donors. Right: Crossing student Phil Kollmeyer presents Bill and Judy Craig with their gift.

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