

November-December 2011

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## Preparing for Youth

I remember when I was in Jr. High I was terrified of the huge high school youth. So much so that when my parents asked me to go get my older brother so we could leave from church, I would wait outside the youth room until someone came out and I asked them to get my brother. The thought of walking through that door was almost more than I could handle. I have not seen that same terror in the eyes of our EPIC and Jr. High youth, but I am aware that there is always fear of the unknown. Traci Bray and I want to help with the transition from 6<sup>th</sup> grade (EPIC) to Jr. High and from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. We are brainstorming different possibilities we will unfold over the next few months.

For 8<sup>th</sup> graders; we are working to have a small group experience starting in January every other week on Wednesday nights. This will follow the church Wednesday night schedule. This will allow the 8<sup>th</sup> graders an opportunity to be a part of a small group during the week which will be an important part of their experience in high school. For 6<sup>th</sup> graders; we are working on a Wednesday night time in the spring where they are learning and discovering deeper spiritual truths that will prepare them for youth group. We covet your input so if you have any questions, please email me at [mbaldwin@golove.org](mailto:mbaldwin@golove.org).

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## Dessert Theater 2012

Planning for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dessert Theater is under way! Things kick off with a **parent meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 8 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. on January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. At this meeting, you will have a chance to sign up to be involved in Dessert Theater. The rehearsal kickoff is **February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Regular rehearsal will take place after church each Sunday through the week of the show. Lunches will be \$5 on site. On **March 10/11**, we will be performing the finale in the weekend services. **March 13 & 15** will be our only two dress rehearsals with the show falling on the weekend of **March 16, 17 & 18**. More information can be found in the news section of [golove.org/youth](http://golove.org/youth).

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## Super Bowl Party



On **February 5<sup>th</sup>**, we'll be hosting another Super Bowl Party in the Youth Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. We are asking youth to bring snacks based on the first letter of their last name. Those specifics will be released as the time gets closer.

# The Road Back Home

Post and Photo by Reggie Joiner

I love the road. There is something about it that clears my head, awakens my senses, and gives me some distance from the drama of life. All roads have something in common—they either take you closer to home or farther away. I don't think I really thought about that until I started living with a GPS. Now I go everywhere with a visual reminder of where I am in relationship to home. I love the fact that I can take any back road that interests me, get off the path to discover new places, and all I have to do is hit a button that says "home" to take me back. Sometimes when I think about that button on the GPS, I wonder about the people who either won't or can't press the home button. I meet them often when I travel. I'm not always sure why they can't go back.



[www.orangeparents.org](http://www.orangeparents.org)

Maybe it's too painful or messy.

Maybe they are convinced no one wants them.

Or maybe they don't actually have a place to call home.

Our concept of home is a powerful force. It either invites us back from the roads we take to refuel us, or it can drive us farther away to find escape. There is a classic story of a son who left his dad to "get away" so he could discover a new life. He left home to get rich, gain popularity, and have fun. Interestingly enough, since he had never taken a Dave Ramsey money management course, he wasted what money he had, lost all of his friends and ended up homeless. The turning point of the story happened when he remembered something about home. It was the memory of his relationship with his dad that compelled him to take the road home and start over. He simply concluded that he could go home, admit his failure, and his dad would forgive him.

The classic reunion of the prodigal son with his father teaches a powerful principle about the road home. Not only did the father forgive his son, but he threw him a party. I think the son was able to hit the home button, because he knew what to expect at home. Whenever you create a home that's characterized by joy and forgiveness you give your kids a reason to know that whatever happens, wherever they go, they can always come home. It's one thing to start over with people you don't know and give life a shot. But the best way to experience unconditional love in life is to learn how to start over with people who have history with you.

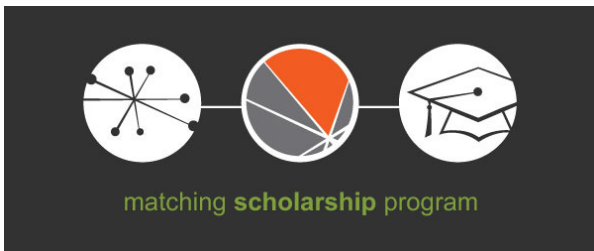
Don't forget that as a parent you are making a lasting impression on how your kids view home. How do you want your kids to feel when they think about home?

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## Parent Cue App



If you're an iPhone, iPad or Android owner and are looking for some great ideas on how to incorporate Christ centered fun and conversations into your time with family, check out the Parent Cue app from Orange at the App Store for \$1.99.



Parents of Seniors! Attending a Christian college is expensive but Church at the Crossing is committed to helping you! Because of the generous donation of friends and family at CATC, the Matching Scholarship Program provides dollars for youth to attend Anderson University, Taylor University, or Indiana Wesleyan University.

This is not a budgeted item and is dependent upon the charitable donations from alumni, previous recipients, parents and others. The scholarships are available for full-time undergraduate students attending these universities.

	CATC Max Contribution per Year	University Max Match per Year	Total
<b>AU</b>	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
<b>Taylor</b>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
<b>IWU</b>	\$750	\$750	\$1,500

Applications can be downloaded online at [golove.org/matchingscholarship](http://golove.org/matchingscholarship) under "students". The deadline for the application to be returned to CATC is **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**.

## Sr High Work Camp and IYC

Final plans for IYC 2012 are coming together. Information and brochures will be released soon. The tentative dates are **June 27 - July 8**. We will be participating in a work camp and then attending IYC in Denver. IYC is a life changing experience that we hope every Sr High youth can be a part of! Check out [iyc2012.org](http://iyc2012.org) or [golove.org/IYC](http://golove.org/IYC) for more info.



## Jr High Work Camp

The Jr High will head down to the Henderson Settlement for another great year of serving the people in that area. The dates are **July 15 - July 21**. Be on the lookout for more info!

## Unite Spring Retreat

Sure, Christmas isn't even here yet, but we are already thinking and planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Unite Spring Retreat! This is a time each year where we get away to learn and practice what it truly means to be a community and the body of Christ. We will be going to Camp Allendale on **April 20 - April 22**. This is going to be an awesome weekend we hope no one misses!



important.info.

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## Living Christmas Trees

The Living Christmas Trees show is coming up soon! Make sure you don't miss out! You can see the show on December 8,9 and 10 at 7 p.m. or December 11 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. We will not be having any youth programming that weekend (SNO or Youth XP) due to the LCT.

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## Text Updates

Interested in getting periodical text updates from Youth at the Crossing?  
Sign up at [golove.org/youthtxtupdates](http://golove.org/youthtxtupdates).

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## allPARENTmeetingJANUARY21/22

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### Holiday Dates

11/26-27	Normal Youth Programming
12/10	NO SNO due to LCT
12/11	NO XP due to LCT
12/24	NO SNO due to Christmas Eve
12/25	NO XP due to Christmas Day
12/31	NO SNO due to New Year's Eve

### SNO Dates

11/5	SYC
11/12	Unity
11/19	Game Night
11/26	Deck the Halls
12/3	TBA
12/10	LCT (NO SNO)
12/17	Christmas Party
12/24	Christmas Eve Services (NO SNO)
12/31	SATC Service at 5:30 p.m. (NO SNO)