

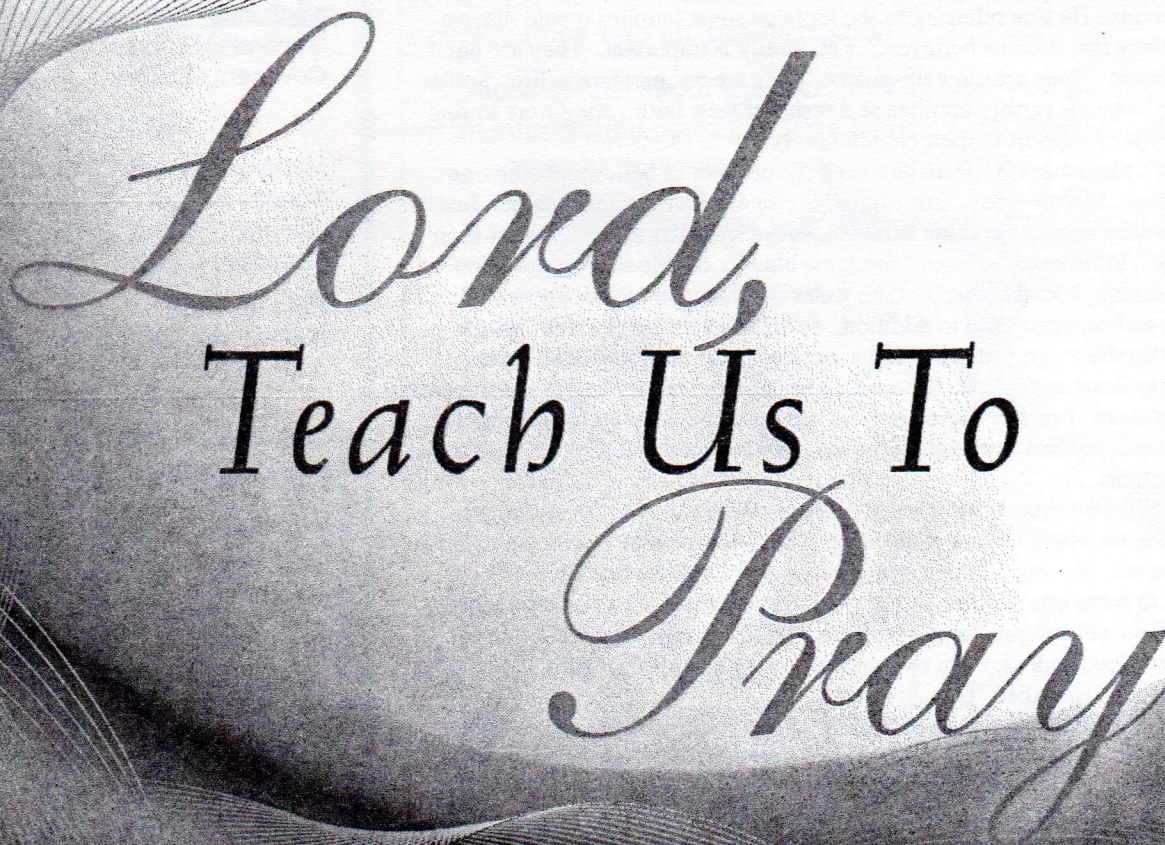


# *InRoads*

*The Newsletter of Crossroads Christian Church*

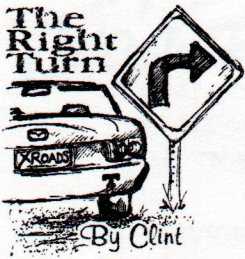
January 2010

*New Sermon Series Beginning January 3rd*



*Lord,  
Teach Us To  
Pray*

Do you know something about prayer that you'd be willing to share? Perhaps how God answered a prayer for you? Or maybe a method you've used that helped discipline yourself to a consistent prayer life? Or maybe even an important lesson you've learned about prayer? Whatever you've experienced concerning prayer that drew you closer to God I want to know. More, I'd like permission to share it with the church. And if you so desire, I will not use your name...but we are beginning a new sermon series on prayer, and I'd love to share your story. Please email me at [Clint@crossroadsgray.org](mailto:Clint@crossroadsgray.org) or call me at: 423-791-1234. Thanks!



## That's Why God Called Us "Family"

It has been a wonderful and exciting Christmas, what with both my daughters, their husbands and their children in for the holidays. In fact, they are still here. While I'm here at the office putting together this article, they are all at the house sleeping in from long conversations into the night. Well, the adults are anyway. The grandkids have Nana up and fixing breakfast. Until you have grandkids, you

cannot appreciate how satisfyingly pleasant it is to be surrounded by the laughter and noise of children, perhaps especially at Christmas. Funny. I don't think I felt that way when my own children were young. But now it makes me smile to hear the squeals of delight and enthusiasm of my grandkids.

Anyway, like I said...I have had a great Christmas in spite of the fact that with four granddaughters, it was more pink and purple than it was red and green. (I did sneak in a red Dodge Viper for Carole and Lee's middle child, who has some Tom-Boy tendencies!)

But as I was showering this morning...and doing that thing where I line up my day inside my head...it occurred to me that God calls us "family" for a reason. He named Himself as our Dad...and called us His children. The early church carried that theme by calling themselves the "Brotherhood"... and addressed each other as "brother" or "sister so-and-so."

There were practical reasons why this was important. Jesus predicted that as a result of his ministry...he would turn parents against children. Children against parents. He was referring to the fact that some families would disown their members that became believers. Yet, family is important. They are our support system. They are our care-givers. They are our partners in life. So for those who lost their earthly families as a result of their faith...they were to find the same type of support in their church family!

It's almost as if God underscored the concept of believers being one family in lots of subtle ways. For example...we all wear the same name. Just as earthly families share a common surname, so we wear the name of Christ as in "Christian." More over, we are of the same blood...the blood of Jesus. You've heard the saying "blood is thicker than water"? That refers to family ties of allegiance and support. And in addition, we all share the same "birth" in the sense that we die to our old self...and are raised up as new people in Jesus according to Romans 6. Even the concept of "Elders" carries with it older, wiser family members. I'm sure there are other subtle allusions to all of us being the family of God, but that's enough. Besides I want to move on where I want to go with this article...

Have you ever thought about what family is supposed to do for each other? Sure, we ought to love each other. That goes without saying, but there is so much more. We ought to encourage each other...to bear one another's burdens...to serve one another...to pray for one another. As it turns out, the Bible suggests something like nine different things Christians ought to do for each other. You can look them up...or buy a wonderful little classic Christian book by Gene Getz called "One Another."

But there is one thing we ought to do that isn't included in the Bible. So this must be in "My Book." And that is, we ought to delight in one another.

When I think of my grandkids...they make me smile. One has colic. One refuses to listen unless you warm up her britches. One is syrupy sweet. And one is suspicious of everything and everyone. But all of them have one thing in common...they have my delight. I can't help but smile when I think of them. I'm not in their lives to make judgments. Maybe one day. But not at this young stage. Right now, I just teach...encourage...and delight.

I wonder what the church would be like if Christian brothers and sisters acted that way towards each other? If we loved each other as we love our own families? If we cared for each other's needs as we care for our earthly families? If we delighted in each other as a grandfather delights in his grandkids?

God loves you. You are his child. We are family. And I love you as my sister...or my brother.

May God bless our family!

### 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

Kit Dotson, Student Minister  
926-9808

Jim Goehner, Children's Minister  
557-6385

Carter Warden, Church Administrator & Worship Leader  
753-2222

Robin Johnson, Secretary  
477-2229

### SUNDAY STATISTICS

#### December 20, 2009

Morning Worship	368
No Sunday School	
General Offering	\$21,541.99
Covenant Offering	\$12,736.00

#### December 27, 2009

Morning Worship	494
Sunday School	
General Offering	\$25,086.37
Covenant Offering	\$8,236.00

**Please note:** The 2009 General Fund budget requires an average weekly offering of \$14,903.85.

### Crossroads Newsletter Changes

Beginning with this newsletter, we will be publishing only one newsletter per month in 2010. Each newsletter will be available on the church website so it can be downloaded and printed. Because of this option, we are asking those who can to opt out of receiving the printed newsletter in the mail to do so. This will cut down on printing and mailing costs. Please call the church office and let Robin know if you would like to move to the electronic newsletter. An email notification will be sent when the newsletter is available on the website. We will still be mailing out the newsletter once a month to all who prefer a printed version or do not have internet access.

## Crossroads 2009 Year End Financial Update

As we come to the close of 2009 the Finance Ministry would like to thank everyone who has contributed financially to Crossroads this year. In light of uncertain economic times, you need to be especially commended for your giving. You have allowed God to work through you in mighty ways and your commitment and faithfulness is a testimony to his goodness. Below you will see a record of 2009 giving to both the regular budget and the campaign.

### 2009 Crossroads Operating Budget

Budget set at \$775,000  
Total Giving \$791,400.44  
Avg. Weekly Offering \$15,219.40

### 2009 "Take The Next Step" Campaign

Total pledges over 5 year period—  
\$1,950,000.00  
1st Quarter \$65,085.55  
2nd Quarter \$79,046.33  
3rd Quarter \$54,154.47  
4th Quarter \$107,722.30  
Special Thanksgiving Offering —  
\$14,756.67  
Total Campaign Giving to Date—  
\$428,225.47



## News

### 1. Crossroads Kids Children's Ministry - A GREAT PLACE TO SERVE:

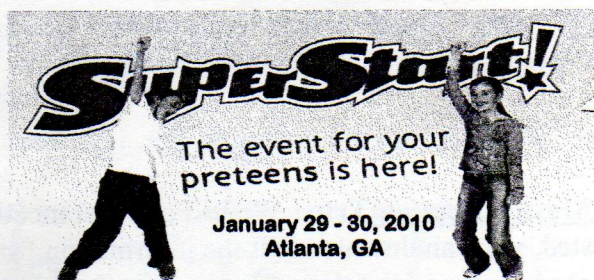
Is God tugging on your heart to jump out of the boat and serve in a dynamic way? There are many rewards just waiting for you volunteer in the Children's Ministry. If you are interested in being a part of the Children's Ministry please contact Mr. Jim.

### 2. SuperStart Conference for Club 56 - A Conference Just For 5th & 6th Graders!

#### What To Expect -

SuperStart is a two-day event put on by Christ In Youth that is specifically for pre-teens. During the event, SuperStart wishes to provide avenues for age-appropriate worship, relevant teaching, drama and fun. You can expect the weekend to be filled with Biblical teaching, worship, enthusiasm, small group opportunities and off-site recreation.

For more details about the awesome conference, please pick up an information packet at the Children's Information Center.



To the Crossroads congregation,

We are once again amazed at the generosity that you have shown through the Christmas love offering that we were presented. These words do not give justice to the depth of gratitude with which we receive your gift. We consider it a privilege and a tremendous blessing to be involved in sharing God's grace and love with such a wonderful church family. May the hope, peace, joy, and truth of the Christmas season be real to each and every one of you.

Crossroads Ministry Staff

*Chris Lantz Carter Sempa June Curtis Cole*

# Crossroads Student Ministry

www.crossroadsgray.org

**Weekly Events:** The Student Ministry @ Crossroads is for those in grade 7-12

- Sunday:
  - Worship @ 9:30 am
  - Sunday School @ 10:55 am- All Start in The Garage
  - Small Groups- Small Groups will start back on January 17th
- Wednesday: Youth Group @ 7:00 pm in The Garage

**Small Groups:** Small Groups are over until Jan. 17th because of all the Christmas Events, vacations, and TCTC.

**High School Mexico Mission Trip:** We had our first meeting a few weeks ago but if you were not able to be there and are interested, you can download all the information from the meeting from the Crossroads Website by going to [www.crossroadsgray.org](http://www.crossroadsgray.org) and then selecting "Students" and then "2010 summer mission trips." Reminder, your non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is due no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**TCTC Signups:** TCTC is January 8-10, 2010. Stay tune for final information for those who signed up.

**College Mission Trip:** We will be going to New Orleans to work with Samaritan's Purse May 9-15, 2010. Stay tuned for more info soon.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

- December 30: No Church
- January 8-10: TCTC
- February 7- Superbowl Party
- February 20- Skiing Trip
- May 9-15: College Mission Trip to New Orleans
- June 4-5: Yard Sale
- June 20-25: Middle School Mission Trip to Riverwood
- July 8/9-July 17/18: High School Mission Trip to Mexico

**TEEN CHOIR STARTS SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 3 AT 5:00 P.M.**