



1300 Suncrest Drive
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The Newsletter of Crossroads Christian Church

December 2011

Crossroads Student Ministry



Dessert Auction- Help support the Crossroads Student Ministry by purchasing a dessert at the annual Dessert Auction on Sunday, December 18. We will have a huge selection of desserts available for silent auction during morning services. Then come back that evening at 5:30 pm for the Live Auctioning of several select desserts. Plan to bring your dinner and stay for the Crossroads Christmas Cabaret following the auction.

TCTC 2012- January 6-8 we will be taking 7-12 grade students on a weekend get-away to Gatlinburg for the TN Christian Teen Convention. The cost is \$110 (plus a free t-shirt) if you are paid by December 12. We will be collecting payments for TCTC 2012 in the back of the sanctuary following services on Dec. 4 and 11. Payments made after Dec. 12 should be in the amount of \$120. Checks should be made payable to CSM.



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

Sunday:

Worship @ 9:30 am

Sunday School @ 10:55 am- All start in Youth Room

Small Groups @ 5:45 pm- Meeting in homes

7-8 grade gals at the Aurigema home

7-8 grade guys in SMB (Student Ministry Building)

9-12 grade gals Purity Group at the Hunigan home

9-12 grade guys Purity Group at the McNeely home

9-12 grade mixed gender group at the Craig home

Wednesday: see below

Wednesday Night Youth Group:

From 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm we will be taking a look at some difficult questions people have about Christianity. We'll have different speakers throughout the study and we'll have break out discussions so you can join the conversation.

12/7: Objections to Christianity: A loving God wouldn't allow suffering

12/14: Christmas Party!

12/21: No Youth Group: Enjoy family time!

12/28: No Youth Group: Merry CHRISTmas!

Sunday School- This month we will wrap up our study on Old Testament Characters of the Bible. 7-8 grade students will meet downstairs beneath the gym in a classroom and so will the 9-10 grade students. 11-12 grade students will meet in the SMB (Student Ministry Building).



Christmas Events

Tuesday, December 6 — 6:30 p.m. Christmas Tree Lighting at Dairy Queen

Saturday, December 10—Noon Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11—6:00 p.m. King's Kids & Cherub Choir Programs

*Wednesday, December 14—6:00 p.m. Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa

*Sunday, December 18—5:30 p.m. Christmas Cabaret — Carry-in Dinner and entertainment by members of the Adult Choir, Teen Choir and King's Kids. Dessert Auction during dinner hour.

Saturday, December 24—6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25—10:30 a.m. Family Worship—One worship service; no Sunday School; no children's classes

**See details inside*



The Right Turn!

by Clint Andrews

It's always an encouragement when someone asks for a copy of my sermon. Of course, I'm trusting they don't want to use it to line their kitchen shelves...as much as they found the message a help in some way...and they'd like to go back and review it at their leisure.

Such was the case this past Sunday. I had about a half a dozen folks come up to me and talk about my sermon on being thankful in ALL circumstances. But the truth is, all of us can identify with the idea that we need to "give thanks even in the midst of trials and suffering." If for no other reason, the fact that we're usually guilty of doing the exact opposite. We've all moaned and groaned in the midst of what we consider to be difficult circumstances. So to hear a message on being thankful in ALL circumstances...especially when you don't feel like being thankful...kind of strikes home for most of us.

Take what happened to me today. After having enjoyed a relatively easy week what with Thanksgiving and all...I was visiting some of our members in the hospital when I thought to myself, "I'm tired. I could use a nap." So I was just in the process of beginning a pity party when some guy, a little younger than me, joined me on the elevator. He was using a cane. And his cane was obviously not for looks. I don't know what his physical problem was, but his limp was very pronounced. But even as he joined me on the elevator, he smiled the brightest smile I'd seen all day. And here I was, only 24 hours after having delivered a message on the need to be thankful in the midst of difficulties, and his smile was a sermon in itself. It was as if I needed to be reminded that all in all, I've got it pretty good. Perhaps what my message was for you...that man's smile was for me; another reminder that things could be worse...that the truth is, God is good...all the time.

For those who would like the verses I used to convey the idea that we are COMMANDED to be thankful in all things, here they are:

Ephesians 5:4 – *"Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."*

Philippians 4:6 – *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*

I Timothy 2:1 – *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone..."*

And our text for the day was I Thessalonians 5:16-18 – *"¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

In 1984, Benjamin Weir, Presbyterian Missionary to the Middle East, was captured on the streets of Beirut and held hostage for some 16 months. Once set free, he was asked in an interview, "How did you deal with the despair of captivity?" In response, Benjamin Weir responded, "I counted my blessings." "Blessings?" the reporter responded incredulously. "Yes," he explained. "Some days I got to take a shower. Sometimes there were some vegetables in my food. And I could always be thankful for the love of my family."

We might think Weir's answer was flippant...or that he was playing to the cameras...but Benjamin Weir knew full well what had been taken from him. He had once said of his captivity, "When I was captured, everything in a short space of time was taken away from me: family, friends, work, possessions, opportunities to engage in some kind of creative activity with other people - all that was stripped away and I felt very vulnerable." Yet, he survived...not by focusing on the negative...but on the positive. In other words, he looked for the good he could be thankful for in the midst of bad circumstances.

Is that possible? Can we really look for good in the midst of a divorce? When a loved one is diagnosed with cancer? When the business we birth and nurtured along is about to fold in the midst of this economic turmoil?

The answer is yes.

To know that God is with us...and promises to never desert us...is to know that *"All things work together for the good of those that love the Lord and are called according to his purposes."* (Romans 8:28)

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

Jim Goehner, Children's Minister
557-6385

Andy McNeely, Student Minister
217-521-5768

Carter Warden, Church Administrator & Worship Leader
753-2222

Robin Johnson, Secretary
477-2229

SUNDAY STATISTICS

October 30, 2011

Morning Worship	559
General Offering	\$12,599.34
Covenant Offering	\$3,062.16

November 6, 2011

Morning Worship	574
General Offering	\$23,812.25
Covenant Offering	\$10,220.50

November 13, 2011

Morning Worship	591
General Offering	\$19,511.76
Covenant Offering	\$4,153.97

November 20, 2011

Morning Worship	601
General Offering	\$16,312.50
Covenant Offering	\$2,175.00

November 27, 2011

Morning Worship	599
General Offering	\$13,592.78
Covenant Offering	\$4,546.83

Please note: The 2011 General Fund budget requires an average weekly offering of \$15,575.00. The weekly Covenant needed—\$7,307.69.



Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa

December 14—6:00 p.m.

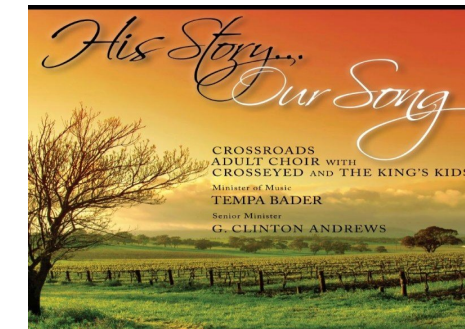
Please gather near the Front Porch/Children's Ministry Building at 6:00 to load up. At approximately 8:00, we'll come back to the Student Ministry Room for Cookies and Cocoa. Everyone is asked to bring a batch of Christmas cookies to share. Hot Cocoa will be provided. Reminder – Children 6th grade and under should be accompanied by an adult (18 or older).



SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 10
Noon—3:00 p.m.

Crossroads Christian Church Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, good food, entertainment and door prizes. For more information or if you need a ride call Tony Barnes (913-2695).



CROSSROADS' MUSIC MINISTRY 10TH ANNIVERSARY CD IS HERE!

As Crossroads Christian Church celebrates our 10-year anniversary, our choirs look back and remember. As

we remember, we desire to give praise. As we offer that praise, we are moved to sing. Why do we sing? Because time and time again we have experienced how God has used music in powerful ways to touch the hearts of those who listen, and to stir the souls of those who hear. In each and every season, whether the seasons of the year or the seasons of life, He has placed songs in our path—songs that tell HIS Story, and music that has become OUR Song. These songs have taught us to be mindful of His faithfulness, aware of His activity throughout history, and in awe of His mighty power. They have reminded us of the birth of our Savior, His death on our behalf, His resurrection, and the hope that we have of spending eternity in Heaven with Him. We share these songs with you in part because they are among our favorites, but more so because they point to Him. We hope that as you listen you will see that He is at work in you, and we pray that HIS story will be your song! This CD entitled "His Story - Our Song" features the Crossroads Adult choir (with soloists, Carter Warden, Missy Trivett, Melissa Brock, Becky Harris, Nikki Long, Stan Kinnett, Tim Coffey and Karen Cooper), the King's Kids and Crosseyed (Teen Choir). The cost of the CD is \$15 and all proceeds over the cost of production will go to the Crossroads' Covenant Campaign. THE FIRST 50 PEOPLE WHO PURCHASE A CD WILL RECEIVE A FREE METAL CD CASE WITH THE CHURCH LOGO! Purchases may be made in the Lobby.

Christmas Cabaret

Sunday, December 18 — 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening that will begin with a carry-in (potluck) dinner at 5:30. Bring your favorite entrees and sides to share! Drinks will be provided.

DON'T bring desserts - instead, buy something from the Student Ministry Dessert auction which will take place during the dinner hour that evening and share it with your table! (See details in the Student Ministry news)

Dinner will be followed by entertainment featuring members of the Adult, Teen and King's Kids choirs. Enjoy everything from instrumental music, to singing and dancing! We encourage you to bring the whole family, as well as anyone that you'd like to introduce to Crossroads!

Together we KNOW others as God knows us!

DECISIONS

November 6, 2011
Baptism

Alexa Garrison
105 Bentwood Ln.
Gray, TN 37615

November 12, 2011
Baptism

Hannah Robinette
135 Jack Martin Ln.
Gray, TN 37615

November 27, 2011
Baptism
Dylan Hyatt
172 Harmony Farms Dr.
Jonesborough, TN 37659



News

1. Young Discipleship Team Christmas Party:

Date of Event: Sunday, December 4

Time of Event: 6:00 PM—7:30 PM

Place of Event: Cowen's Home

Contact Information: Everyone on the team should have received invitations. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Jim at 477-2229 (ext. 32) or email him at jim@crossroadsgray.org.

2. Parents! Check out the December Issue of the Parentlink Newsletter!

It is packed full of information and activities for you and the entire family! Pick one up at the Children's Information Center! We will be printing the Parentlink monthly and will be available to you the first Sunday of each month!

3. Important Date Changes:

- **Wednesday, December 14** - No Children's Ministry Programming due to Church-wide Christmas Caroling.
- **Wednesday, December 21** - No Children's Ministry Programming due to Christmas.
- **Wednesday, December 28** - No Children's Ministry Programming due to Christmas & New Year's.
- **Sunday, December 25** - No Children's Ministry Programming due to the special Christmas service.

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

With the opening of the Dig Site, there comes many opportunities for us to get involved in serving. Several areas of the Children's Ministry are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in being a part of the Children's Ministry please contact Mr. Jim. There are many blessings just waiting for you! Please contact Jim Goehner (Children's Minister) for more details: Call 477-2229 ext. 32 or email jim@crossroadsgray.org.

Immediate Volunteer Needs:

- Assistant teacher for the 2's class during the 1st Sunday's at 10:55.

Children's Guest Services -

- Volunteers to help check-in children and welcome visitors (Sundays at either service.).

Preschool Curriculum Prep. Crew:

Time Commitment: 1 ½ to 2 hours per week

Responsibilities:

To organize the supplies that will be used in teaching for Sunday mornings.

All supplies will already be purchased and ready for you to put them in bins for each preschool class.

Cutting, drawing & creativity (Crafts & Activities)