



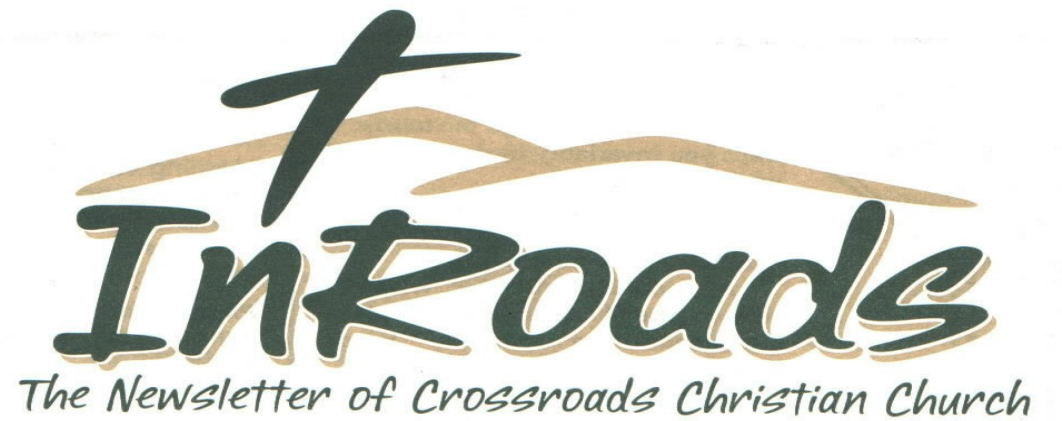
1300 Suncrest Drive  
Gray, TN 37615

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423-477-2229

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December 2012

## Crossroads Student Ministry

### Upcoming Events-

- December 8- Riverwood Christmas
- December 16- Dessert Auction
- January 11-13- TCTC
- February 3- BIG Game Party

**Dessert Auction-** Join us December 16 during services for the silent auctioning of many delectable desserts hand-crafted by folks in our Faith Family. Then come back that evening for a live auctioning of several other treats that have gained a reputation for the tastiness! All proceeds to benefit the 2013 high school mission trip to Haiti.



**FEED 500-** Thanks to all who helped with food drives and the Thanksgiving meal. We were able to feed 100+ people from our community who would not have otherwise enjoyed the warmth of a meal, the fellowship of others and the joy of the season.

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

Sunday:

- Worship @ 9:30 am
- Discipleship Groups @ 10:55 am

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

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

Wednesday: see below

### Wednesday Night Youth Group:

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Field 44 meets in The Greenhouse. Wild Branches in the Gym.

- 5 COMBINED- Riverwood gift wrap/meal/worship
- 12 Field 44- Injustices- Abuse and STOP (Simple Time of Peace)
- Wild Branches- Getting Along with Parents/Handling the Pain of Divorce
- 19 Christmas Break
- 26 Christmas break

**Student Life Groups-** These are age and gender specific groups that meet in homes on a weekly basis to discuss how God's Word speaks into our every day lives.

- MS Guys- Meet @ Cox home (Craig Moorhouse leading)
- MS Gals- Meet @ Moorhouse home (Amanda/Salena Cox leading)
- HS Guys- Meet @ McNeely home (Andy/Craig Shaw leading)
- HS Gals- Meet @ Hunigan home (Jenni Graham/Janet McNeely leading)

**PARENTS-** Get in the loop by emailing [andy@crossroadsgray.org](mailto:andy@crossroadsgray.org)

**On December 9**

**6:30 p.m.**

**The Cherub Choir will present**



**AND**

**The King's Kids will present**



**Everyone is invited to enjoy an evening of GOOD NEWS!**



December 16– Again this year, the Adult Choir is hosting this wonderful evening of food, entertainment and inspiration. It will begin at 5:30 with a CARRY-IN dinner and the **Student Ministry Dessert Auction!**

Each family/person is asked to bring dishes to share. But **DON'T** bring desserts!

purchase something from the Student

help support their mission trip to Haiti. The program will begin at entertainment by singers, dancers and actors!! Make plans now to bring your whole family! Child-care for age 5 and under will be provided during the program.



several Plan to Ministry to 6:30 with

by Clint Andrews

About the time large crowds began to follow Jesus, instead of pandering to them, he said hard things. For example, in Luke 14 the record reads, *“<sup>25</sup> Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup> ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers*



*and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’”*

Not exactly the kind of thing you’d say if you wanted to keep the masses happy and contented. On the contrary... anyone present the day Jesus spoke those things would have known instantly he was more interested in thinning his numbers...rather than gaining more. They would have known Jesus was looking for committed followers...not just followers.

But the lesson that strikes me when I read this passage is that of “finishing well.” You see, many are called. And honestly, many will start the Christian journey. But... not many will finish well.

Am I reading too much into this? Maybe. But I think of the 5,000 who were there when Jesus performed the miracle of the loaves and fishes...and just the 500 who were numbered among his true followers at the time of his death. I look at those numbers and it occurs to me Jesus knew what he was talking about. To start is one thing. To finish, quite another. And...to finish well...that is altogether something else...and I’m not sure it happens very often.

The Apostle Paul is one of those folks we often point to as having finished well. Take his words at the close of his life for evidence. *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* (II Timothy 4:7) But did you know that earlier in his ministry, he was concerned with whether or not he would succeed? In Acts 20:24 he made the statement, *“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”* “If only...” Those words suggest that even the great Apostle Paul was aware there was a chance he might not finish well.

Perhaps we shouldn’t be too quick to assume we will. Perhaps we ought not take for granted our finishing well. The truth is...we can’t say with absolute certainty whether we will or we won’t.

So...what can we do? What can we do to finish well? Good question. Allow me to make a few suggestions...

- 1. Keep the “faith”.** The Bible says “faith comes by hearing the word of God,” so be “in the Word.” That will go a long, long way to keeping us on track.
- 2. Stay close to Jesus.** In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said one man was lost because he failed to have a relationship with him. We cannot neglect ours.
- 3. Go to church.** Besides church attendance being a command, it provides instruction, encouragement, friendship, and shepherding.
- 4. Be teachable.** Never think we are beyond learning or being corrected. This is a qualification of the Elders! It follows that it should also be ours.
- 5. Avoid sin.** Or as Paul puts it, throw off every weight and hindrance that would entangle us and prevent us from running the Christian race.
- 6. Make Christianity a priority.** In every aspect of life, seek first his kingdom by being Christian spouses, parents, employees, citizens, etc.
- 7. Invest in others.** Giving to others is more blessed than receiving...but there is more to give than just money. How about time, interest, effort?

If we do these things...like Paul, we will finish well!

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, Worship Minister  
753-2222

Robin Johnson, Secretary  
477-2229

**SUNDAY STATISTICS**

November 4, 2012

Morning Worship	586
General Offering	\$12,793.40
Covenant Offering	\$5,737.00

November 11, 2012

Morning Worship	654
General Offering	\$18,615.09
Covenant Offering	\$7,567.00

November 18, 2012

Morning Worship	672
General Offering	\$21,863.00
Covenant Offering	\$2,858.00
Special Covenant Offering	\$17,158.00

November 25, 2012

Morning Worship	594
General Offering	\$13,678.57
Covenant Offering	\$2,505.00
Special Covenant Offering	\$3,030.00

**Please note:** The 2012 General Fund budget requires an average weekly offering of \$16,134.62. The weekly Covenant needed—\$7,307.69.



**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
COOKIE SWAP**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19**  
**6:30 P.M. — 8 P.M.**  
**LOWER AUDITORIUM**

Bring 4 dozen of your favorite homemade Christmas cookies and take home 4 dozen cookies from what others bring! Each participant is asked to bring copies of the recipe to share. Some of you might have a special story connected with the cookies you bring. If you do we’d love for you to share it with the group. Hot cider, coffee and hot chocolate will be provided.



**SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
at Crossroads Christian Church

December 8

Noon until 3:00

Food — Entertainment — Fun & More

Need a ride or more information—call 913-2695.



Monday

December 24

6:00 p.m.

A worship service for the whole family (no childcare provided).



(for adults close to 50 & older)

Tuesday, December 18  
Dollywood

If we get 15 or more the price is \$48.25 per person. Wheelchair rental is \$8.00 if you need to rent one. Leave church at Noon; Eat lunch before you come or bring it with you. Bring money for 1 meal at Dollywood.

We will see *Christmas on Ice* Show and other Christmas shows & musicals.

May not start return home until park closes at 9:00 p.m.

Bundle up—dress warmly.

**Reservations and payment due by December 2.**

Signup envelope is at the Information Desk. Make

checks payable to

Rebecca Sapp.

Questions—

call Rebecca (306-0878) or the church office (477-2229)

**No Wednesday night classes on the following dates:**

December 19

December 26

January 2



There is a Christmas Mailbox in the Lobby for anyone at Crossroads to send Christmas cards and letters to people here at Crossroads and it is completely free. Simply bring your cards and letters and place them in the corresponding mail slot (by last name) and then check to see if you have any Christmas mail.



## News

### DECISIONS

November 18, 2012  
Membership  
Jenny Underwood  
242 Alfalfa Ln.  
Jonesborough, TN 37659

Rodney & Donna Ballew  
1 Allison Ct.  
Gray, TN 37615

#### **SUNDAY MORNING SNOW POLICY**

In the case of weekend snow or wintry weather which causes a schedule change for Sunday services at Crossroads, we will notify our church contact list by phone using the One Call Now notification system. We will also update our message line at the church office as soon as possible to indicate if we are on a "snow schedule".

A "Snow Schedule" is: 10:55 (second) worship service only with no Sunday school classes. Second hour nursery, preschool and K.I.D.'S Church will be provided.

#### **WEDNESDAY EVENING SNOW POLICY**

In case of a snowfall or wintry weather which causes a schedule change for Wednesday evening services at Crossroads, we will notify our church contact list by phone using the One Call Now notification system. We will also update our message line at the church office as soon as possible to indicate schedule changes.

#### **1. Young Discipleship Team Christmas Party:**

**Date of Event:** Sunday, December 2

**Time of Event:** 6:00 PM—7:30 PM

**Place of Event:** Lab 56 Room of the Dig Site

**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](mailto: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 19** - No Children's Ministry Programming due to Christmas Break.
- **Wednesday, December 26** - No Children's Ministry Programming due to Christmas Break.

#### **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](mailto:jim@crossroadsgray.org).