



# Crossroads Connections

Crossroads Community Church

December, 2016

## In This Issue

	Page
From the Pastor's Desk	1
Session Report	2
Finances & Attendance	2
Missions Highlight	3
Women in the Church	3
Stewardship	4
Kids Fair Photos	5
Dates to Remember	6
December Sermon Schedule	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Nursery & Greeter Lists	7
December Calendar	8

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Office Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Michael Quillen

Sunday Worship Services  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School / ESL  
9:45 a.m.



*What child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*  
-- "What Child is This?", by William C. Dix, 1865

### Christmas Around the Manger

Christmas brings out some of our most beloved hymns. We call them Christmas "carols" to indicate, according to the Merriam-Webster's dictionary, they are songs of joy or mirth.

Ironically, my favorite carols do not sound very joyful musically. In fact, a friend of mine jokingly accused me of picking dirges throughout the Christmas season. I tend to pick songs in minor keys.



For example, I love "What Child is This?" by William Dix (see *Trinity Hymnal*, #213). It is a little bit of a melancholy tune. However, the mood matches the content. The source of true joy is not merely the child in the manger, but the crucified Messiah.

In verse 1 the cozy picture of a baby sleeping in his mother's lap transitions to angel anthems and shepherd guards who announce that this baby is Christ the King (cf. Matthew 16:16; John 4:25-26). This baby is Immanuel, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

In verse 2 the scene expands to include animals. They are eating right next to the baby. Why is the King in such humble circumstances ("mean estate")? Because this baby is "the Word made flesh" (John 1:1, 14; Philippians 2:6-7). He has come to grow up so that he might save his people from their sins: "Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you." (Matthew 1:21; 20:25; Mark 10:45).

In verse 3 the invitation is presented. This child is the Christmas gift to be received by high and low ("come, peasant, king, to own him"). This child is also worthy to receive every gift, especially your loving obedience ("bring him incense, gold, and myrrh... let loving hearts enthrone him").

What you and I need this Christmas is a joy beyond the manger. We need a joy that exceeds packages from Amazon.com and iTunes gifts cards. We need to know that the baby in the manger has come to solve our major problem. He has come to die for us. That is a minor key melody, but truly a *Christmas* carol.

***Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.***

-- In His Service, Pastor Mike Quillen

# Session Report



The session of Crossroads Community Church met on November 14 with the deacons. Pastor Mike opened by reading Ephesians 2:1-10, reflecting on the grace of God, and praying for our time together. As is our custom, we broke into groups and prayed for the specific needs of our particular flocks.

After reconvening, we formally kicked off the budget process for 2017. We review the timeline of events, the budget forms and appointed the following members to serve as the budget committee this year: Lou Ford, Deacons Lyle Sine and Jim Buchanan, Elders Hadden Smith and Dudley Reese. We dealt with several administrative and property details (calendar, setup for Missions Conference, building and grounds, etc.).

We discussed an email from Donna Martin. She runs the pre-school across the street from Crossroads and has asked several area churches to prayerfully consider taking over her outreach ministry. Even though many of us are familiar with the school, we decided there were too many open questions to have a good discussion. We appointed Pastors Shibu, David, and Mike to meet with Donna for more information.

After prayer, the elders and deacons met separately to handle matters specific to their callings. The elders handled a few membership issues. Pastor Mike reported that a great group of guys are regularly coming to his Leadership Class. We noted that a new leader will be needed for the Martin/Ladeau Growth Group. Next, Elder Matsinger shared an outline of the plan for the 2016 Mission Conference. We were encouraged by reports on Kids' Clubs on Sunday nights (formerly Pioneers), Good News Clubs at Stonehurst Hills Elementary School, and Pastor Shibu's attempts to re-start Young Life at Beverly Hills Middle School.

We agreed to let Michael and Jacqueline Harper host a support group for family members of someone dealing with mental illness in the Crossroads building one Thursday night per month. Like our support of Delaware County ESL, this group will provide a bridge for us to meet people at the Crossroads of life and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We agreed to ask Pastor Josiah A from Nigeria, a student at Westminster Seminary, to preach at our Watchnight service, December 31.

We had some further discussion of proposals and ideas from Elder Planning Day - look for more information in early 2017!

We closed in prayer for the items covered in the meeting as well as for specific needs of several Crossroads' families.

## Finances & Attendance



### Report for November, 2016

Date	Attendance			Offerings			
	8:30 a.m. Service	11:00 a.m. Service	Total	Current Fund	Missions Fund	Deacons Fund	Building Fund
6	73	164	237	\$ 4,670.23	\$1,734.50	\$ 455.73	\$ 495.00
13	64	182	246	\$ 3,826.00	\$1,298.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 432.00
20	78	177	255	\$ 3,538.25	\$1,016.75	\$ 515.00	\$ 530.00
27	66	163	229	\$ 2,324.25	\$ 771.75	\$ 568.00	\$ 200.00
November Totals:				\$ 14,358.73	\$4,821.00	\$1,838.73	\$1,657.00
Current and Missions Fund November Budgets:				\$ 23,477.69	\$4,382.23		

## Missions Highlight



### Wali Ahmad

Wali Ahmad, longtime Crossroads member and supported missionary, continues his work of sharing God's love with the propagation of the Gospel to unbelievers both here at home and overseas. Wali has a particular passion for training indigenous pastors and new missionaries in the far corners of the world. Born in Guyana, on the north coast of South America, he is well acquainted with the cultures of the Caribbean and has spent much of his career fostering ministry there. Wali, his wife Marcia, and children Stephen and Faith have been Upper Darby residents for many years and, when not in the field, Wali can be seen (and heard) enjoying fellowship with our congregation.

Wali's heart for soul-winning has enabled him to be instrumental in the formation of training programs for non-formally trained pastors in destitute countries around the world where seminary trained pastors are in short supply. Recently 2000 trainers from over 100 countries attended a global congress in Thailand, designed by Wali and his associates, demonstrating the effectiveness of such programs.

Most interestingly, in light of a particular recent event there, an Evangelism Explosion Clinic was held recently in Cuba, bringing thirty pastors together for gospel sharing training in a country where opportunities could now abound, God willing. Wali has asked us to please be in prayer as he works with Cubans to expand this outreach in the coming year, especially with the possible opening up of Cuba that a change in power for the first time in fifty-seven years may afford.

Please be in prayer for Wali, his family and their ministry as they seek to represent their Savior and Crossroads to the world and our community.

## Women in the Church (WIC)



### WIC News

2016 has been an exciting year for the Women in The Church. We planned and experienced our first Multi-Church WIC Luncheon with Julia Quillen as the Guest Speaker on April 2, 2016; helped with a shower and wedding; and now are looking forward to enjoying the WIC Christmas Craft Celebration as the next and final event in this busy year.

Betty O'Dero, Julie Reese, Gloria Jarwood, Gretchen Wilson, Joyce Buchanan, Fran Sine and Debbie Matsinger held a WIC planning meeting on November 15, 2016 to discuss upcoming events for the Crossroads Ladies.



We planned a Christmas Craft Celebration to be held on December 10th in the Church Narthex from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We will be decorating unique quart Mason Jar lighted centerpieces. It will be a fun time for prayer, praise, fellowship, creativity and delicious food. The \$10 cost will offset the cost of the materials and help to support our missionaries.

Our next meeting will be held on February 21, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. We will be planning an adventure for our ladies to enjoy in the Spring of 2017. Please feel free to offer us your ideas for an outing as we look forward to sharing time together.



## The Gospel and Stewardship

by Donald Whitney

Stewardship is the care and management of that which belongs to another. While we often speak of things as “ours,” the reality is that all that we have and all we are belongs to another — God. As the Apostle Paul put it, “What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Cor. 4:7). So, it is from God that WE HAVE received our lives and everything in them for which we are responsible. Temporarily — that is, until God requires them from us — we are stewards of these gifts.

Though too often associated merely with money, stewardship has been memorably described as being stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. But stewardship isn’t just about being good managers of our schedules, our skills, and our stuff. The discipline of biblical stewardship calls us to use all these things in the way the Lord wants, to employ them for His glory. However, no one can be a biblical steward who doesn’t first understand the gospel — the story of what God has accomplished through the life and death of Jesus Christ.

### The Gospel Creates Stewards

The gospel is infinitely more than a ticket to heaven. It is a message that changes not only a person’s destination in eternity but his heart and mind here and now. The gospel transforms more than a person’s relationship to God; it also transforms a person’s relationship to everything else.

That’s why one of the most reliable evidences that a person has been converted is that he begins looking for ways to use his time, talent, and treasure in service to the gospel. When a person eagerly begins to use his resources to serve and spread the gospel, it testifies to the value he places upon the gospel and to the fact that he treasures the God of the gospel above all.

Sin makes us selfish and wasteful with all that we have and all that we are. But “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4) helps us to see that knowing Him is infinitely more important and valuable than grasping the clock and the dollar for ourselves. It causes us to find spiritual pleasure in using these things to meet the needs of others and to enable them to hear the gospel and turn to Christ. Coming to know Christ through the gospel leads us to evaluate our resources on the one hand and the souls of lost people on the other, and to say with the apostle Paul: “I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls” (2 Cor. 12:15).

### Stewards Need Discipline

The discipline to steward our resources in an intentional, Godglorifying, gospeldriven way doesn’t arrive fully formed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit — it must be cultivated. Stewardship must be a discipline, for there’s always something else clamoring for our resources. Without discipline, the best intentions to use our time, talent, and treasure for the gospel will be overwhelmed by circumstances and the feelings of the moment, resulting in inconsistency or, worse, neglect in using our resources most effectively for the gospel.

In a sense, the discipline of stewardship is central to all other spiritual disciplines. If we don’t develop a God-centered use of our time, for example, we won’t consistently engage in personal disciplines such as prayer or the intake of God’s Word, nor will we participate faithfully in interpersonal spiritual disciplines such as corporate worship or Communion.

One of the classic passages on stewardship is Jesus’ parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14–30; Luke 19:12–27). In it, the master rewards those who stewarded well the resources he committed to their care, and he punishes those who did not. While there’s much more we could apply from this text, one obvious point is that those who were considered faithful stewards were intentional — disciplined — about using for their master the resources he temporarily entrusted to them. God is pleased with disciplined — not careless — stewardship of that which belongs to Him.

What does disciplined stewardship look like? It’s using your spiritual gifts to serve God in your local church. It’s designating a portion of money for the church each month before paying other bills, so that the use of your treasure is consistent with your most treasured priorities.

Discipline enters the stewardship picture because it is so easy to waste our time, squander our talent, and be careless with our treasure. But even the most scrupulous use of our resources is worthless apart from the gospel. For it’s only through the gospel that we receive eternal time in heaven, glorified talents, and the richest of treasures — God Himself.

*“The Gospel and Stewardship”, Copyright 2011, by Donald Whitney, reprinted from the Ligonier Ministries website.*







# Dates to Remember



**Missions Conference**  
Friday, December 2 to Sunday, December 4

**Mighty Men's Ministry Breakfast**  
Saturday, December 3 at 8:00 a.m.

**Communion Services**  
Sunday, December 4 at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Together Experiencing a Ministry (T.E.A.M.) Nights**  
Wednesdays, December 7 and 21 (Christmas Caroling)

**WIC Christmas Craft Celebration**  
Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

**Crossfire Progressive Dinner**  
Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m.

**Kids Club Christmas Party**  
Sunday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.

**Officers' Meeting**  
Monday, December 12 at 7:15 p.m.

**Crossroads Young Adults Christmas Party**  
Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

**Children's Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.

**Mighty Men's Ministry Bible Study**  
Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Morning Worship Service (Combined)**  
Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m.

**New Year's Eve Watchnight Service**  
Saturday, December 31 at 10:30 p.m.

## Christmas Poinsettias



Please use the envelopes found on the table in the narthex or on the radiator covers in the sanctuary to order your poinsettias. The poinsettias can be dedicated in memory or in honor of someone and will be on the platform in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The cost for each plant is \$7.50 – The deadline for handing in your envelope and money is Sunday, December 18.



## Crossroads Sermon Schedule December 2016

**December 4**  
**Missions Conference**  
**"Let Your Light Shine"**  
Matthew 5:14-16  
Pastor Shibu Oommen

**December 11**  
**"Into History"**  
Matthew 1:1-17  
Pastor Mike Quillen

**December 18**  
**"To the Rescue"**  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Pastor Mike Quillen

**December 25**  
**"Lessons & Carols"**  
Pastor David  
Van Meerbeke

## He is Risen! by Steve Cunerd

"He is Risen!" We say that as a greeting on Easter with the reply, "He is Risen, Indeed!" So, you may find it a little unusual to have an article about the resurrection in the December and Christmas newsletter.

Too many of us don't stop and think about this fact – He is just as risen on Christmas as He is on Easter. He is just as risen every moment of every day of the entire year. It's that we aren't accustomed to celebrating it on other days. Most people don't think of celebrating it at Christmas, or any day other than Easter Sunday. We need to remember that Jesus came for the express purpose of dying and rising again.

Actually, we should celebrate it every day of the year. The Bible tells us that if Jesus is not risen, then we are still in our sins. The resurrection of Jesus provides the proof that Jesus' sacrifice was accepted and for us, nothing will ever be the same again. Praise His Name.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### December Birthdays

01 – Madolyn Barch  
01 – Emi Briggs  
01 – Aiden Griffin  
05 – Madelina Brindle  
05 – Ralph Suny, Jr.  
05 – Jean Antonio Vincent  
06 – Doris Goe  
06 – Janell Mahn  
07 – Abigail Groff  
07 – Chuck Stafford  
10 – Helena Daliah/White  
11 – Francis Darko, Jr.

11 – Jim Nurmela  
12 – Rosemary Sadyalunda  
13 – Hellen Apio  
15 – Asaph Brindle  
15 – Denisha Wolo  
16 – Pam Widger  
17 – Steve Boley  
17 – Betty Otero  
19 – Jackie Serafim  
19 – Warren Smith  
20 – Amani Jones  
21 – Justus Brindle

22 – Emilie Afantchao  
23 – Bobbi Ann Suny  
25 – Emmanuel Shad  
25 – Aku Umoh  
25 – Cynthia Zelee  
26 – Rubina Fraz  
26 – Shiwoh Kennedy  
26 – Steven Love  
29 – Mfon Ekwere  
29 – Joshua Ellis  
29 – Gretchen Wilson

### December Anniversaries

12 – Myron and Nancy Pross  
18 – Emmanuel Shad and Rahila Clara  
26 – Siraj and Ribina Fraz

## Nursery & Greeter Lists



### Report at:

### Nursery

### Greeters

#### Dec. 4

8:10 a.m. William and Gloria Jarwood  
9:30 a.m. Fran Froelich; Victor Sesay  
10:40 a.m. Peggy Styer; Grace Ellis; **Inf:** Chimwemwe Doctor

Doris Goe; Zonia Smith  
Esther Cooper  
Ron and Lynette Vessels

#### Dec. 11

8:10 a.m. Brandon and Traci Burks  
9:30 a.m. Sara Coffin; Heather Smith  
10:40 a.m. Bob Styer; Jhansi Chikkala; **Inf:** Naomi Mureria

Mary Finnerty; Anthony Yeboah  
Louines Louis  
James and Susanna Mahn

#### Dec. 18

8:10 a.m. Sue Robinson; Amelia Robinson  
9:30 a.m. Joye Buchanan; David Van Meerbeke  
10:40 a.m. Jermaine Jones; Faith Ellis; Cindy Van Meerbeke  
**Inf:** Alayna Jones

Victoria Goodlin  
Anne Cherian  
Udo Umoh; Lynn Brown

#### Dec. 25

8:10 a.m. NO SERVICE  
9:30 a.m. No Staffed Nursery  
10:40 a.m. No Staffed Nursery

Brad Wilks  
Pat Cavaliere  
Jocelyne Keke; Dolapo Olowu



## December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Women's Call-In Prayer Line ❖ Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. ❖ Phone: 605-475-6006 ❖ Enter Code: 333732						
<p>"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." ~Isaiah 9:6</p>				<b>1</b> 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Revival Prayer 7:30 p.m. CHOIR	<b>2</b> 8:45 am CHEER 7:00 p.m. Young Peoples' Mission Roundtable	<b>3</b> 8:00 a.m. MMM Breakfast 3:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil 5:30 p.m. Missions International Buffet Dinner
<b>4</b> MISSIONS CONFERENCE  Communion  6:00 pm MISSIONS GIFT NIGHT	<b>5</b>  7:00 p.m. Prayer at Centennial House	<b>6</b>  9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	<b>7</b>  6:00 Discipleship 7:00 pm T.E.A.M	<b>8</b>  11:00 a.m. Revival Prayer  7:30 p.m. CHOIR	<b>9</b>  8:45 am CHEER	<b>10</b>  10:00 a.m. WIC Christmas Craft Celebration
<b>11</b> 3:00 p.m. Crossfire Progressive Dinner  6:00 p.m. Kids Club Christmas Party	<b>12</b>  7:15 p.m. Officer's Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:00 p.m. Prayer Centennial House  9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	<b>14</b>       <div>← Growth Groups →</div>	<b>15</b> 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Revival Prayer 7:30 p.m. CHOIR	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m. CHEER program  7:00 p.m. CYA Christmas Party	<b>17</b>       
<b>18</b>  4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program	<b>19</b>  7:00 p.m. Prayer at Centennial House	<b>20</b> 7:30 p.m. MMM Bible Study  9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	<b>21</b>  7:00 p.m. TEAM Christmas Caroling	<b>22</b>       	<b>23</b>       	<b>24</b>  Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.
<b>25</b> 9:45 a.m. Sunday School <i>One Service:</i> 11:00 a.m. <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b>       	<b>27</b>       	<b>28</b>       	<b>29</b>       	<b>30</b>       	<b>31</b>  Watchnight Service 10:30 p.m.