



Crossroads Connections

Crossroads Community Church

January, 2018

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Michael Quillen

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

Sunday School / ESL
9:45 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.



A Fresh Start

Here's a great question to think about as we begin a new year: "What's the difference between 'starting over' and 'starting fresh'?"

This question appeared in an article about family budgeting. The author's point was that moving toward healthier finances often means getting rid of some habits, so you ought to regularly consider redoing your whole budget. That's not giving up or failing, but seeking real improvement. It's not starting over, but starting fresh.

It's more common than you think to get derailed in doing good things. Many Christians are plagued with guilt because they have failed at keeping resolutions to read through the Bible in a year or to pray daily or to get to church every Sunday or to start serving in ministry or ... You get the idea!

Don't stop trying though! One seminary professor used to say, "Blessed is the man who does not stop starting family worship." In other words, "Don't stop starting fresh!"

Make some resolutions about reading through the Bible or improving your prayer life for 2018. Make a resolution to improve worship attendance or serve in a ministry. Resolve to get evangelism training or talk to your neighbor about Jesus.

Those are all important parts of every Christian life. They are the greatest influence on your spiritual health (see the article on page 5 in this newsletter for more information on how they influence your children's future as well).

"We should work hard to help our kids spend time with Jesus—in His Word, in prayer, and in what they put in their minds. And we should help our kids serve others, in the church and outside the church. Those are the biggest influencers on their spiritual maturation."

You will get weak without these habits, but it's usually a slow decline. You can get back on track easily, but you often fall completely off the rails. Why?

I think a key factor is having the right perspective. For example, think about what happens with Bible reading plans. You get behind on the reading plan within a few weeks of starting it. You come back to the plan and try to catch up to today's date. Maybe you get caught up, but it takes a lot of effort. You have less energy the next time you fall behind. You try, but it's just too hard. So, you give up.

You feel like a failure. Why? Because you couldn't keep up with the checkboxes. You forgot the plan is your servant, not your master. You forgot that you live in a fallen world, you have an enemy who opposes you, and your heart remains tainted by sin.

Continued to **From the Pastor's Desk** on Page 2

You need Jesus even while doing a Bible reading plan. In Christ, you *already* started over when you were born again. You can't start over again, but you can *always* start fresh. That's what grace and forgiveness and spiritual growth are all about. That's a perspective that leads to lasting growth because it showcases the work of Jesus rather than your achievements.

Without that perspective, you will fall into the trap of checking boxes or doing ministry or attending worship to prove your worthiness. You will eventually give up because you are crushed by the burdens you bear alone.

With Jesus, on the other hand, starting fresh is not failure, but grace. It is an opportunity for lasting change because Jesus has already started you over.

It's a new year. Make your first fresh start... and resolve to make several more!

-- In His Service, Pastor Mike Quillen

Here are some practical tips to help you with common resolutions:

Bible reading. If you want to read through the Bible, look for a reading plan that allows you to start fresh whenever you realize life has interrupted your efforts. I use one that lets you come back to the plan with no guilty backlog to catch up on because it has no dates. In fact, I usually take 18 months to finish my "Read the Bible in a year" plan. I have to start fresh numerous times. However, I have actually now read through the Bible many times this way (and so have my children as early as age 9). Here's a link to the plan:

<http://ransomfellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Bible-Reading-Program-for-Shirkers-and-Slackers.pdf>

And here's the humorous and helpful article that explains how the plan came about:

<http://ransomfellowship.org/article/bible-reading-program-for-slackers-shirkers/>

Prayer. Consider trying "Our Daily Bread" for a new (and brief) reflection every day on Scripture as well as suggested prayer themes and a reading plan:

<https://odb.org>

Finances. If you want to start fresh in managing your family finances, I highly recommend YNAB ("You Need a Budget"). It is essentially an electronic version of the "envelope" system, but instead of putting cash-on-hand into various paper envelopes, you move money into categories in the app. It is a life changer and marriage saver. Here's their site:

<https://www.youneedabudget.com>

Here's the post about budgeting that I mentioned above:

<https://www.youneedabudget.com/why-starting-fresh-isnt-giving-up/>

Everything else. Get other people involved in helping you. If you are a Christian, you know you need Jesus, but you might have forgotten that Jesus works through His body. Give your spouse, your children, your parents, your friends, and/or an elder at Crossroads permission to ask you how your resolution is coming along.

Session Report



The Session met on December 11, 2017 together with the Deacons. The meeting opened with prayer and an exhortation from Pastor Quillen. The Officers divided into groups to pray for their respective flocks for approximately 20 minutes and then resumed their meeting together noting needs that all of the officers should be praying about. In particular the Officers focused on prayer for those who were ill and needed encouragement.

The Officers received a report and draft budget from the Budget Committee and discussed the proposed budget and various recommendations from the committee. The budget will be finalized at the January meeting once the final figures for 2017 have been received. The Officers adopted the recommendations from the budget committee which included among others (a) allocating all facility improvements for audio-visual equipment to the audio-visual fund; (b) allocating expenditures related to maintaining the Manse and Centennial House to the building fund; and (c) updates to the Current Fund Action Plan Procedure as well as implementation of the recommendations made in 2016 regarding the utilization of staff and volunteers and budget focus. In keeping with these recommendations, the Officers noted that several individuals have contributed items in kind to the church – paper goods, cleaning supplies, office supplies, etc. – and agreed that the church's administrative assistant should coordinate the contributions from these generous people so that the church's needs can be clearly communicated.

After approving the draft budget, the officers received an updated status report regarding the search for an intern to serve as Youth Director. Pastor Quillen gave a positive report about the preschool and it was noted that the school's revenues to-date have paid for its expenses. It was noted that the Armstrong Hall renovation project is still in the planning stages and that one item to address is whether or not the water problems in the basement are being alleviated by the installation of new rain gutters.

In light of the recent rash of violent incidents in churches throughout the country, there will be a training seminar at the church on how to respond to an active shooter provided by the Upper Darby Police Department. The Deacons are currently developing an emergency response plan and protocol for the church.

After ending their joint meeting in prayer, the Session and Deacons separated to address matters. The Elders continued to meet and began by interviewing a seminary student for the position of youth intern. The meeting was positive and included a personal testimony, a review of the candidate's life experiences, educational background, work history and philosophy of ministry. The interview closed with a time of prayer.

Several administrative items were addressed including the approval of the proposed 2018 salary and housing allocations for the ministers. Pastor Quillen gave a report on the young adults and the ongoing efforts to address the needs of this vital demographic group. The results of the survey regarding the church retreat were inconclusive due to low participation in the survey although a large majority of the participants did respond positively and committed to attend. In order to better evaluate the potential number of attendees before making any financial commitment, there will be additional efforts to gauge the congregation's interest. The Elders approved the proposed preaching schedule for the upcoming quarter and reviewed the upcoming Christmas and New Year's activities. They closed their meeting in prayer asking the Lord for His continued guidance and direction.

Family of the Month



This month the Crossroads Connections spotlight is on Jillian Smith

Jillian Smith grew up in southeastern Tennessee and northern Georgia. Her dad, Randy, is an engineer and lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with her step-mom, Denise. Her mom, Kelly, is a 5th grade teacher in Staunton, Virginia. She has an older sister, Olivia, who is a lawyer in Virginia Beach, and a younger brother, Ian, who lives with her mom in Virginia.

After attending Covenant College as an undergrad, where she studied biology and minored in Spanish, Jillian went on to get her master's degree in nursing at Vanderbilt University. While living in Tennessee, she attended First Presbyterian Church, where Pastor Mike previously pastored. She was already looking to move out of the South, and with the Quillen family now at Crossroads, moving to Philadelphia seemed like a great fit. She would know people in the area and would have a church home even before moving.

Jillian found a job as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Esperanza Health Center in North Philly, and she moved here in January of 2017. At Esperanza, she works with a predominantly Spanish-speaking population and does most of her patient visits in Spanish. Outside of work, Jillian loves to run, hike, and travel--all with her dog, Shea, when possible.



One of Jillian's favorite aspects of Crossroads is the diversity. She shares, "It is very rare in the church to see such a varied group of people from a variety of countries and cultures. I think it really lends perspective to church, to faith, and to life in general."

~ Written by Colleen Kelly

New Youth Ministry Director / Intern



The session of Crossroads is pleased to introduce Mr. Ifeoluwa "Ife" Ojetayo (ee-FAY-oh-loo-wah, oh-JE-ty-oh) as our new Youth Ministry Director / Intern. He will officially start serving with us in mid-January.

Ife has a heart for young people and theological commitments that line up with what we believe at Crossroads. He has experience as well, having spent the last seven years as Youth Minister of Good Shepherd Anglican Church (an evangelical Anglican communion that pulled out of the US Episcopal Church while he was there). He also served actively with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship while in college.

Ife and Lisa recently moved to Pennsylvania from New York with their two boys, Bendik (3) and Anders (14 months), so Ife could attend Westminster Theological Seminary. He is halfway through his first year and expects to finish his degree work in 2021. Lord willing, he will spend 15-20 hours per week working with our youth until graduation.



The family is already joyfully worshiping with us because they immediately felt at home on their first visit back in early November. They fit very well into our diverse body. Ife was born in Nigeria (Yoruba people group) and came to the USA at age 10. Lisa is the daughter of Norwegian immigrants and grew up in Georgia (USA). They are both from Christian homes.

After seminary, Ife would like to eventually pastor and/or church plant in a cross-cultural context. While the core role of Youth Ministry is a priority, we will give him opportunities to prepare for ministry as church needs allow.

The family plans to move into the manse in early January.

Please welcome Ife, Lisa, and their children to the Crossroads Community!



Research Reveals the 5 Biggest Influencers on Your Child's Spiritual Health

By Eric Geiger

What do you think makes the biggest impact on a child's spiritual development? Dinner as a family? Parents who don't miss special events? Having church friends? Being at a good Christian school? Being at a church with a vibrant kids and student ministry?

While surely those are all good things and things I want for my daughters, none of them showed up in our recent LifeWay Research study on how kids really grow spiritually. We must be careful we don't spend a lot of time thinking about things that don't make the biggest impact. The study analyzed 2,000 Protestant adults who finished their parenting journey with one or more kids now between 18-30. The study looked at faith characteristics of those kids now, all grown up, and looked at the parenting practices and habits of the children as they were growing up. Jana Magruder masterfully unpacks the research in her new book, *"Nothing Less: Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith"*, which I highly recommend to parents and leaders in kids/student ministry.



So what did show up in the research as the biggest influencers? Jana spends time in the book unpacking the 10 biggest influencers of spiritual health, but I am going to briefly offer the top five. If you care for your kid's spiritual journey, this research is gold:

1. The child regularly reads his/her Bible while growing up.

This, not surprising to me because research on adults has concluded the same thing, was the largest impact on a child's faith journey. Quite simply, kids who regularly read the Bible are much more likely to walk with Christ as adults than those who do not. More important than a family meal, more important than the school the child attends, more important than the church or the kids' ministry or the youth group, is helping children fall in love with reading their Bibles. If there is one thing, and only one thing, we as parents and ministry leaders should do, it is this: Live Bible reading in front of our kids. Show our kids how to read the text. Read the Bible with them. The research says, "Do whatever it takes."

2. The child regularly spends time in prayer growing up.

Similar to reading the Scripture, a child who looks to Jesus in the Word and in prayer is going to be continually changed and set on a trajectory for a lifetime of faith.

3. The child regularly served in church while growing up.

The research also revealed that the family attending church is very significant for the child. From a research vantage point, each drop-in frequency of a family's church attendance correlates to a drop in the child's faith development. Bottom-line: an infrequent, church-attending family is adversely impacting the faith development of their children. So, attending church matters. But even more than attending, serving in the church while growing up makes a profound impact on a child/teenager.

4. The child listens primarily to Christian music.

Okay, I did not expect this to be the fourth biggest influence and there will be some haters on this one. Some folks think Christian music is cheesy or creates a bubble or is commercialized. Still others think it is worldly. Do what you want with this point, but the research says that it was the fourth biggest factor on a kid's spiritual growth. So, if you pay attention to the research you may end up singing hymns as a family, loading up a minivan and going to a concert, and being happy when your kid's room bumps loudly with Christian rap.

5. The child participates in church mission trips and projects.

Serving in the church impacts the development of a child/teenager, but so does serving in the community. Mission trips and mission projects ranked high on the list.

So, what do we do with this research? I find it liberating because it reminds us of simple truths we already know. We should work hard to help our kids spend time with Jesus—in His Word, in prayer, and in what they put in their minds. And we should help our kids serve others, in the church and outside the church. Those are the biggest influencers on their spiritual maturation.

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In June of this past year, our oldest child stood on the stage at Crossroads with three of her friends, graduating from high school. Why Crossroads? Because after twelve years of homeschooling, and nine years of participating in the CHEER co-op, her K-12 journey was at an end, and it only seemed fitting that she should launch from the place that had given her a deep community and connection to her peers. Our homegrown ceremony, and the CHEER teachers and families who joined our own relatives that night, made the occasion a full celebration of a job well done.

I can go on at length about what makes CHEER a special homeschool co-op. We have an incredibly diverse group of 25-30 families, representing many races and ethnicities, ages, and neighborhoods. We supplement families' core curriculum with electives and enrichment that round out their other studies and, hopefully, expand their worlds. The 70+ students range in age from 4 to 18 and they take art; physical education; performing arts, such as drama and music; sign language; cooking, and a rotating selection of topics based upon the expertise and interests of our parents.



This past semester, Bob Styer brought back his terrific Math Olympiad group, guiding 4th-8th graders through problem solving challenges. The art classes explored art history by completing projects based on past eras. Their clay pots, tissue-paper stained glass windows, and medieval calligraphy were excellent! Physical education classes got some fresh air at the nearby park as they learned to collaborate in group games. Drama, recorder, handbell choir, and preschool students alike prepared pieces for our December program. In the electives classes, our teens completed a survey of world cultures, hearing presentations from believers representing twelve different countries, many of whom are Crossroads members, who gave graciously of their time to share their stories. Next semester they will tackle study skills to help them with their increasingly rigorous schoolwork. Our middle schoolers are working their way through a fun, hands-on course in human anatomy and health, while our elementary kids are enjoying hearing foundational stories from world literature and folktales and learning how cultures share and adapt stories.

While most families come to CHEER looking for classes for their kids, they find that fellowship is truly the heart of the group. After a week of being in "close company" at home, both moms and kids eagerly look forward to Fridays as the different routine, new faces, and fun activities offer a change of pace. Moms of young children sit at the back of the sanctuary and chat with older moms, asking questions, sharing challenges, and gaining wisdom from a variety of mentors. Moms of older kids take a turn helping in the nursery and enjoy a little baby time, while expanding the circle of loving adults around our littlest members.



Throughout the day, kids of all ages connect with their friends, and it isn't uncommon for families to leave with a carload of other people's children as playdates and outings are planned. Over the years I have been so thankful for the teachers and other CHEER moms and dads who have invested themselves in both me and my children, knowing us, loving us, and walking alongside us as we follow the calling to teach our kids at home.

So, that graduation ceremony was a tangible expression of what CHEER is all about: a loving community of Christians learning together, encouraging each other, and knitting our together lives as we shepherd our children from preschool into adulthood.

~ Written by Deborah Ghrist

Dates to Remember



Together Experiencing a Ministry (T.E.A.M.) Nights

Wednesdays, January 3 and 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Come join us in intercessory prayer, dynamic evangelism, friendship and encouragement, discipleship, and spiritual mentoring. Everyone can participate in one of five teams: Prayer; Encouragement; Evangelism; Discipleship; or Hospitality.

Mighty Men's Ministry Breakfast

Saturday, January 6 at 8:30 a.m.

Church Un-Decorating

Saturday, January 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Communion Services

Sunday, January 7 at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

All Church Ice Skating

Saturday, January 13 at 1:45 p.m.

Joint Officers' Meeting

Monday, January 15 at 7:15 p.m.

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Sunday, January 21

Missionary update during Sunday School by Jay Matsinger

Down the Road

Crossroads Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 4 at 12:45 p.m.

Crossroads Winter Series

Wednesdays from February 7 through March 21

More details to follow

Crossroads Sermon Schedule January 2018

January 7

"Serving Your Lord"

Joshua 24:14-24

Pastor David Van Meerbeke

January 14

"Celebrating the Goodness of God"

Psalms 34:1-10

Pastor William Jarwood

January 21

"Behind the Frown"

Psalms 44

Pastor Mike Quillen

January 28

"Soaring Higher"

1 Peter 2:9-10

Pastor Mike Quillen

Finances & Attendance



Report for December, 2017

Date	Attendance			Offerings			
	8:30 a.m. Service	11:00 a.m. Service	Total	Current Fund	Missions Fund	Deacons Fund	Building Fund
3	81	178	259	\$ 4,225.00	\$ 1,938.00	\$ 599.00	\$ 652.35
10	57	146	203	\$ 3,399.41	\$ 1,119.97	\$ 380.00	\$ 207.00
17	75	192	267	\$ 16,341.50	\$ 615.00	\$ 543.00	\$ 453.00
24	---	275	275	\$ 29,919.16	\$ 1,089.22	\$ 2,278.50	\$ 231.91
31	55	148	203	\$ 2,968.00	\$ 490.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 550.00
December Totals:				\$ 56,853.07	\$ 5,252.19	\$ 4,165.50	\$ 2,094.26
Current and Missions Fund December Budgets:				\$ 26,783.04	\$ 5,784.30		

Birthdays & Anniversaries



January Birthdays

01 – Anaya Fraz	11 – William Jarwood, Jr.	23 – Shibu Oommen
01 – Lori Martin	12 – John Henry Jarwood	23 – Joseph Yeboah
01 – Utheri Wagura	14 – Faith Ellis	25 – Anthony Mitchell
02 – Oneil Varney Bropleh	15 – Sikander Shad	26 – Debbie Barrolle
04 – Benjamin Batzel	17 – Awa Dia	26 – Rickie Weah
04 – Brook Batzel	17 – Marion Judge	28 – Bonnia Lyon
04 – Angel Love	20 – Shanti Shreekumar	30 – Aniela Briggs
04 – Christopher Wilson	21 – Winston Bachan	30 – Michelle Hill
06 – Epiphane Afantchao	21 – Joshua David	30 – Kyle Rosander
07 – Victor Gbolo, Jr	21 – Britne Hill	30 – Cheryl Wheeler
07 – Micah Jones	22 – Sarah Melbourne	30 – Marc Wheeler, Jr.
08 – Ashley Aris	22 – Elana Porter	31 – Nate Quillen
08 – Gary Ladeau, Jr.	23 – Brendan Hill	
09 – Ada Okechukwu	23 – Joshua Howard	

January Anniversaries

None

Nursery & Greeter Lists



Report at:

Nursery

Greeters

Jan. 7

8:10 a.m.	Pam Widger; Jen Widger	
9:30 a.m.	Heather Smith; Sara Coffin	
10:40 a.m.	Julie Reese; Beth Mulgrew	Inf: Colleen Kelly

Brad Wilks, Zonia Smith
Maddie Barch, Pat Cavaliere
Udo Umoh & Emilia Adah, Onye Briggs

Jan. 14

8:10 a.m.		
9:30 a.m.	Bobbie Smith; Joyce Buchanan	
10:40 a.m.	Uzezi Omuyeh; Grace Ellis	Inf: Dana Ellis

Anthony Yeboah; Fran Froelich
Louines Louis, Esther Cooper
Lynn Brown, Oretha Dahn

Jan. 21

8:10 a.m.	Wendy Toy	
9:30 a.m.	Fran Froelich; Pam Bronson	
10:40 a.m.	Bob Styer; Jhansi Chikkala	
	Inf: Cindy VanMeerbeke	

Victoria Goodlin, Doris Goe
Ann Cherian, Lana Aris
Kathy Ford, Seah Geeh

Jan. 28

8:10 a.m.	Natalie Tibbels; Gloria Jarwood	
9:30 a.m.	Julia Quillen; Brook Batzel	
10:40 a.m.	Peggy Styer; Chimwemwe Doctor	
	Inf: Naomi Mureria	

Marge Madrak, Mary Finnerty
Maddie Barch, Pat Cavaliere
Ami Koroma-Gbolo, Jocelyne Keke



January 2018

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. ~ Philippians 4:8

	1 New Year's Day	2 Preschool classes resume 9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	3 6:00 Discipleship 7:00 p.m. TEAM	4 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Revival Prayer 7:30 p.m. CHOIR	5	6 8:30 a.m. MMM Breakfast Un-decorate church 10:00am
7 Communion	8 7:00 pm - Prayer at Centennial House	9 9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	10 Growth Groups 6:00 Discipleship	11 11:00 a.m. Revival Prayer 7:30 p.m. CHOIR	12	13 All Church Ice Skating 1:45 p.m.
14	15 7:15 p.m. – Joint Officers Meeting	16 7:00 pm - Prayer at Centennial House 9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	17 6:00 Discipleship 7:00 p.m. TEAM	18 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Revival Prayer 7:30 p.m. CHOIR	19 8:45 a.m. CHEER Spring semester begins	20
21 <i>Sanctity of Life Sunday</i> 12:10 pm Gospel Praise Ensemble	22 7:00 pm - Prayer at Centennial House	23 9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	24 Growth Groups 6:00 Discipleship	25 11:00 a.m. Revival Prayer 7:30 p.m. CHOIR	26 8:45 a.m. CHEER	27
28 12:10 pm Gospel Praise Ensemble	29 7:00 pm - Prayer at Centennial House	30 9:00 p.m. Women's Prayer Line	31 6:00 Discipleship	Women's Call-In Prayer Line Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. Phone: 605-475-6006 Enter Code: 333732		