

CROSSWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Congregational Letter
October 2010



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Message from Mike Bullmore

Dear People of CrossWay,

One of the images that the Bible uses to portray Jesus' relation to the church is "Chief Shepherd" (I Peter 5:4). It is an image that speaks of Christ's leadership, his care, his protection and his provision and it should evoke in us a grateful and restful trust. To be under such a shepherd as Jesus is indeed a great and blessed privilege.

In the same passage where that title appears God's word speaks of the elders of the church as "shepherds" (I Peter 5:1-2). Elders are to serve the Chief Shepherd as under-shepherds of his flock. In fact, the main responsibility of elders is to "shepherd," that is, provide spiritual leadership, protection and care for the people of the church.

The word "pastor" actually means "shepherd." In the New Testament the words "elder" and "pastor" are used to refer to the same role—"elder" speaks more of the position or office and "pastor" speaks more of a responsibility. Pastoring is what elders do.

At CrossWay we have both vocational elders and lay elders. Currently our vocational elders are Bruce Hoffmire, Steve Moore, Mike Salvati, David Vecchitto and me. Our current lay elders are Mark Gunderson, Brian Kumkoski, Bob Peoples and Jeff Trimark. We use the title "Pastor" for our vocational elders and "elder" for our lay elders. These designations are fairly commonly used and they work just fine as long as we understand that *all* the elders of CrossWay share the task of shepherding the people of this local church.

As we grow as a church it will be necessary for more men to be added to the number of elders to help carry the responsibility of shepherding. God's word gives very clear qualifications for those who would be elders (see I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9). We are grateful to God for his provision of such men and also for that fact that he continues to raise up more. As we look to add new elders in the days ahead let us be looking to the Chief Shepherd with a confident trust that he will continue to provide all we need.

So thankful to be one of your pastors,

Pastor Mike

"To be under such a shepherd as Jesus is indeed a great and blessed privilege."



Thanksgiving Service

We encourage everyone to attend our Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 21 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The first hour will be spent worshiping and expressing gratitude to God, followed by dessert and fellowship together.

Second Service Update

CrossWay, after the elders made a preliminary decision to move toward two services, God has used all of you to affirm our sense of His leading. We have heard you clearly say we believe God is leading us to two services, we are in faith for what God is going to do, and we believe it is good for our life together and our mission as a church. Thank you, CrossWay, for being the kind of church that is willing to sacrifice and serve for the greater mission of bringing glory to God through the transformation of lives by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have committed to move permanently to two Sunday services by early March or April of 2011. We are also committed to hosting two services for our Christmas Guest Sunday which has been moved to December 19. This will allow us to accommodate more guests at our Christmas service and it will help us learn a few lessons as we move toward a more permanent change.

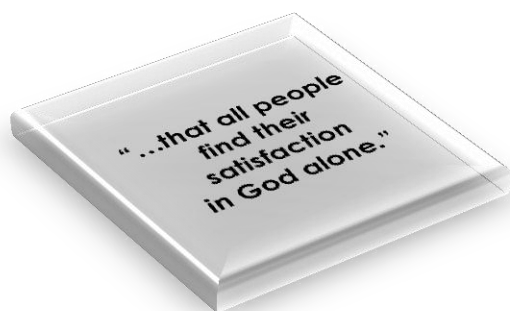
The staff team recently met to determine how our Sunday morning spheres of responsibility will be affected. Obviously, we will need more volunteers on Sunday morning, so please begin praying about how God might want you to start serving in a new way. We are currently taking a survey in our Care Groups to determine the best time to schedule our two Sunday services, and to predict our classroom and volunteer needs for our children's ministry.

Thank you, CrossWay, for your encouragement and faith as we move toward two Sunday services. Please continue to pray that God would give the Leadership Team wisdom, strength, and faith to lead our church body to two services in unity, strength, and faith for how God is going to use CrossWay.

Youth Ministry

What is CrossWay's youth ministry all about?

In order to talk about the youth ministry of CrossWay, we first need to talk about the mission of CrossWay as a whole. And here is why: the reason CrossWay's youth ministry exists is the same reason CrossWay Community Church exists – we are committed to bring glory to God through the transforming of lives by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. After all, we are all a part of the same body. So, our primary goal as a youth ministry is for students to know, treasure and live for Jesus Christ. God hardwired us in such a way that we devote our lives to the things we think are most important. We live for what we treasure. Jesus is the greatest of all treasures. The Apostle Paul said it this way, "I count everything as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." So, we're committed to helping young people know Christ in order to treasure him. But that is just the start. We are also committed to helping our young people treasure Jesus in every aspect of their lives. So what's CrossWay's youth ministry all about? The same thing CrossWay Community Church is all about: that all people find their satisfaction in God alone.



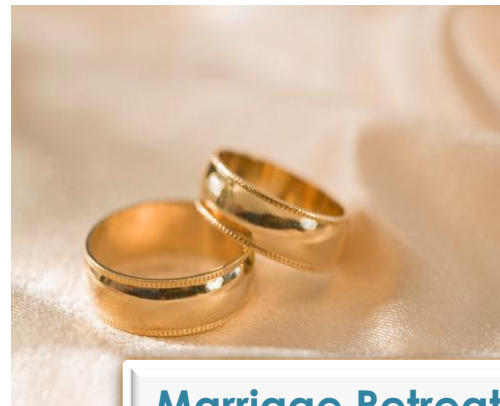


Counseling and Mutual Ministry

We believe that God's Word is necessary and sufficient for us to grow in the midst of the struggles and trials we face every day. We also believe that the primary responsibility for counseling resides within the church. Given these beliefs, we want to envision and equip every member of CrossWay to provide biblical counsel to one another. We recognize that some will be called and gifted to provide care to particularly difficult situations, but we believe everyone is called to speak biblically to one another. Given the differing needs of the congregation, we are proposing a multi-phased approach to equipping. The equipping is broken into three levels of training intensity (from highest to lowest):

- 1) Elders, Sphere Group leaders, and Lay Counselors
- 2) Care Group Leaders and Ministry Team Leaders
- 3) Congregation

The current training, which began in September, includes elders and their wives and lay counselors. The training consists of 12 weekly meetings utilizing the How People Change curriculum from the Christian Counseling and Education Foundation (CCEF). In the spring, we pray that this group will begin the second 12 week training from CCEF called Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands and that another group of 14-16 people will participate in the How People Change training. Also in the spring, we will devote Care Group leader sphere meetings to covering a summary of the How People Change material. Ministry team leaders will also be invited to these 3 sphere meetings. Over time we hope that all Care Group leaders and ministry team leaders will be able to complete the 12 week CCEF curricula. In the fall of 2011, two sermons on mutual care and counseling will be preached. Our hope is that Care Groups will eventually complete the CCEF curricula as well. The books from which the trainings come, Helping People Change and Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands will be available at the bookstore.



Marriage Retreat

Circle these dates in red! The 2011 Marriage Retreat is scheduled for April 8-9, close to home at The Grand Geneva in Lake Geneva. Married couples will especially benefit from focused teaching and ministry together, but interested singles are also encouraged to attend. All of us have a responsibility to guard, pursue and encourage Christ-honoring marriages at CrossWay. Our marriage retreat is an every-other-year event, so you won't want to miss this opportunity.

Sermon Series

November brings a return to the Gospel of Matthew. We will start at chapter 19, with some words of Jesus regarding marriage.

Nov 7 "Getting Married"

Nov 14 "Being Married"

Nov 21 "Staying Married"

Nov 28 "Dying Married"

We will dedicate the entire month of December to anticipating and eagerly awaiting Christmas.



Diaconate Plans

Earlier this year we announced plans to establish a diaconate ministry at CrossWay. We continue to move in this direction, however at a much slower pace, in order to care for our larger church body as we move toward two services, new elders, and staffing changes. It is our hope that by the summer of 2011 we will have a fully functioning diaconate ministry at CrossWay.

The diaconate ministry will serve as a kind of mercy ministries for the people who call CrossWay their church home. Men and women deacons will oversee the practical needs of our church body. The kind of ministry the diaconate would oversee might include:

- The periodic practical maintenance of the homes and cars of those who are either unable to physically do those things or who don't have the finances to pay for them; the elderly, sick, widows, and single moms.
- The administration of benevolence for those who have financial needs; elderly, sick, unemployed and underemployed.
- The providing of meals for those who need meals during a season of life; new baby or long-term illness.
- Providing other practical needs for those who are experiencing the effects of long-term illness; rides, childcare, grocery shopping, house cleaning, lawn care, cleaning windows, etc.

We don't envision the diaconate replacing the effective care that already exists within Care Groups, but complementing the care within Care Groups and extending care to those who are not currently members of Care Groups. Please continue to pray for the design, timing, and future deacons of a diaconate ministry at CrossWay.

Staffing at CrossWay

We thank God for the way Tom Werth has served as the Business Administrator for CrossWay over the past twelve years. Tom has established CrossWay on a solid foundation of good and wise financial stewardship as he has overseen our finances, budget, building, and property, while also providing wise financial counsel to our members. We thank God that the Werth family will continue to attend, serve, and invest relationally at CrossWay Community Church.

Though we recognize we can never replace Tom Werth, we are excited to see who God raises up and how this person is going to uniquely serve in this next stage of our life as a church. We have recently completed pre-screening interviews with four candidates and we are entering a more thorough interview process with some of those candidates. Tom transitions to half-time on November 1 and we are working toward having a new Business Administrator in place by January 1 at the latest. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as we seek God for a new Business Administrator.

Steve Handler continues to meet his personal growth plan as he moves toward a more permanent position focused on evangelism and mercy ministries. Please pray for Steve's continued growth and for wisdom and discernment as we work toward Steve's transition.

Upcoming Events

Daylight Savings Time Ends	Nov 7
Discovering CrossWay	Nov 14
Sunday Evening Gathering	Nov 21
Office Closed (Thanksgiving)	Nov 25 & 26
Women's Meeting	Dec 4
Guest Sunday	Dec 19
Office Closed (Christmas/New Year's)	Dec 23, 24 & 31
Men's Pancake Breakfast	Jan 8
Anniversary Sunday	Jan 9
Sunday Evening Gathering	Jan 23
Exploring Christianity	Jan 26-March 16
Men's Meeting	Feb 5
Discovering CrossWay	Feb 13
Women's Meeting	Feb 19
Youth Winter Retreat	Feb 25-26
Vision & Values	Mar 18-19
Marriage Retreat	Apr 8-9
Easter/Guest Sunday	Apr 24
Age of Opportunity Luncheon	Apr 30
Sunday Evening Gathering	May 8