



CROSS ROAD REVIEW

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Loving the world through Ministry and Missions

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It seems like every year during February, LOVE is the topic at hand! Maybe it's the commercialism of Valentine's Day, but being mindful of love is never a bad thing. I have been thinking about God's lovingkindness toward us in the recent months. He has been good to us here at Cross Road Baptist Church. God has been so gracious to us in blessing us with wonderful times of worship and fellowship. Our small groups are thriving. We are seeing visitors come to join us for Awana and Bible studies on Wednesday nights as well as worshipping with us on Sunday mornings. We have been blessed as God has used our guest speakers to faithfully preach the Word to us. His presence in the life of our church is an expression of His love for us.

My prayer for our students following our winter retreat and looking ahead to 2023 is for deeper community and that prayer has extended to our church at large! What is community if not an expression of our love for one another?

What's more, we get to show our love as a church by helping expecting mothers in crisis with our baby bottle donations and baby shower items this month for Your Choices Randolph!

It reminded me of **1 John 3:18**,
"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

May that be true of us toward each other as well as those in our community, not just this month but every month – as God gives us the ability and opportunity – that it might bring Him glory!

- Pastor Justin



Children's Ministry

Parents, don't forget the special theme nights coming up this year. See the Theme Night list below. As we move into a new calendar year, Pastor Justin would like to put together a team for planning activities and events for our children's ministry. If you are interested please contact him and let him know!

Awana Theme Nights:

Feb. 8 - Red Night (wear as much red as you can)

Mar. 8 - March Madness (wear clothing in support of your favorite sports team)

March 18 - Sparks-A-Rama and T&T Awana Games in Charlotte

April 5 - No Wednesday Meeting (Easter Week)

April 19 - Awana Car Derby (ask your leader about getting a car kit)

May 24 - Awana End of Year Awards Ceremony

Youth Ministry

We had such a great time at our Strength to Stand conference. We saw God move in many several ways. In fact, God moved in my heart to increase my fervency in praying for the spiritual development of our students and children. We are spending the next few weeks looking Biblically at what it means to go deeper in our faith and our obedience to God. I pray we see revival in our students as well as our families as a whole this year and I hope you will join me in that prayer!

This month we are taking the students to Winter Jam in Greensboro Sat Feb 25th Cost is \$40 per person. We will leave at 2:30pm and return by 11pm. During February, we have been asked to provide breakfast for the teachers and staff at SWRHS as well, if anyone would like to help serve, please contact Pastor Justin. Lastly, on Sunday Feb 12th we will have a brief parent meeting in the youth room following the morning worship service to go over information for this summer's mission trips/camps for students 6th-12th grade.

Wed. Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 6:15-7:45pm Aftershock Bible Study

Sun. Feb. 12 Parent Summer Trip Information Meeting in youth room after service

Sat. Feb. 25 Winter Jam in Greensboro. Cost is \$40.

Young Adult Ministry

Our College and Young Pros are doing a study with Dave Ramsey on finances during our Life Group meetings on Sundays at 8:45am.



Senior Adult Ministry

February 7 - 11:30am
Senior Adult Lunch (Potluck)
 Please sign up on the Senior Adult Bulletin board with your name and what you will be bringing to the lunch. (entrees, sides and desserts)



WOW Women's Ministry



WOW Moms Meeting February 21 6-8pm.
 Our theme this month is **"Comfort in the midst of crazy!"** Let's take time to relax and pamper ourselves. Dress in comfy clothes and bring your favorite comfort food dish or dessert! Moms of all ages, with or without children in the home, are welcome. If you need childcare, please let Candace Curry know!

Ministry Projects: Baby Shower and Baby Bottles This month we are helping Your Choices Randolph in two ways. Pick up a baby bottle in the foyer and fill it with your spare change or write a check to Your Choices Randolph and place in the bottle if you wish. We are also "showering" them by collecting baby items for them. These include: diapers, wipes, large bottles, small stuffed animals, neutral colored onesies as well as larger items such as car seats, pack and plays, baby monitors, bassinets and swings. There will be collection containers in the worship center foyer and the church office foyer. All baby bottles and any items donated need to be in by the end of February.



Worship Ministry

We are excited to continue CRBC Worship Choir rehearsal on the first and third Sundays of each month in the choir room from 4:30-5:30pm. February rehearsals will be on the 5th and 19th. If you are interested in joining the worship choir please contact me.

"The best preparation for worship is not a rehearsal, but surrender." A.W. Tozer

Looking forward to what God has in store for CRBC in 2023!

-Danielle Kelly



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My Valentine Story

With the new year well under way, and the time of normal reflection on the year just past fresh on my mind, I realized some awesome things about my Heavenly Father I thought I would share during this month of love. He has had his hand on my life for 60+ years, without which there is no telling where I would be.

I was a child of the 60's, raised in a strict Christian home. We were taught right from wrong, the meaning of responsibility, how to work together to share the load. Church every Sunday was a big part of our lives, but, the 60's and early 70's were a time of rebellion for a lot of young people. Thankfully, the Lord kept His hand on me and I did not succumb to the "hippie" ways. That looks like love to me!

Higher education was a weird time for this naive country girl. New friends and experiences were a challenge. It seemed like I was an odd duck compared to people around me. The Lord guided me and sustained me through those turbulent times. Seemed like love to me!

I was a newlywed, young mother, and working full time. They were happy times and overwhelming times. My faith was not as strong as it should have been; I didn't feel like I could let anyone know that, after all I was a Christian. There was a tug on my heart to let that child of the 60's out--to experience life like other people do. In that weakness, I rebelled and ran to the wilderness and stayed there for 20 years. But, all during that period, I felt the hand of God and heard His voice calling me back. I didn't think I was worthy anymore and couldn't imagine that He could love me or ever use me again. But, He never quit calling me, never quit chasing me; for that I am eternally grateful. That seems like love to me!

My daughter invited me to CRBC several times before I gave in. I knew I was under conviction and I was frightened by that. In time I did agree to visit. The very first Sunday I attended the Lord filled my heart with such love it was indescribable. I practically ran down the aisle, squalling and slobbering like a baby, among strangers, no less, to repent of my sins and get out of that wilderness as quickly as I could! Jesus was waiting with open arms and a big smile on His face, asking, "What took you so long?!" That was the epitome of love!

Now, almost 20 more years have passed. Has it been perfect? No. Have I been perfect? Definitely not. But, I know who held my hand all during the wilderness years and who holds it now. I am grounded in my love for Jesus. His mercies are new every morning. He is calling me to a deeper place with Him. This year of intentional prayer is taking me to new heights, new discoveries, a new awareness of needs all around me. It's Jesus, my oldest and most reliable friend. He's been with me all through the years. Feels like love to me!

(Joyce Blackwelder Prayer Team Coordinator)