



# CROSS ROAD REVIEW

Loving the world through Ministry and Missions

January 2021

Volume 42 Issue 1

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**Children's Director: Laura Gillispie Ministry Assistant: Cheryl Surratt**



## A Word from Pastor Tommy

Now that the holidays are coming to an end, it is time to focus on 2021 at Cross Road.

There is so much on the horizon for our transition. Join us this Sunday, January 3rd, at 9:00 am, in the CLC (mask-optional) and Sanctuary (masks required) for a Congregational Meeting to launch our Mission Focus with vision planning and ministry planning in the days following. (Both facilities will be live together on Zoom.) You are going to receive a wealth of information to inform you of our journey. I want you to hear about what our leaders will be doing to improve, add, adjust, or even delete to better each area. In addition, the Transition Team has put together 9 critical areas of the church, which will be led by sub-groups of our members, to assess and evaluate first, then report back to the church their recommendations for transition, as well.

The main focus of Cross Road's transition is defined by the reviewed and renewed mission of the church. The proposed mission statement to affirm is:

***Cross Road Baptist Church exists because of Jesus Christ and for His glory; to love God completely, to love others sincerely, and to make disciples continually.***

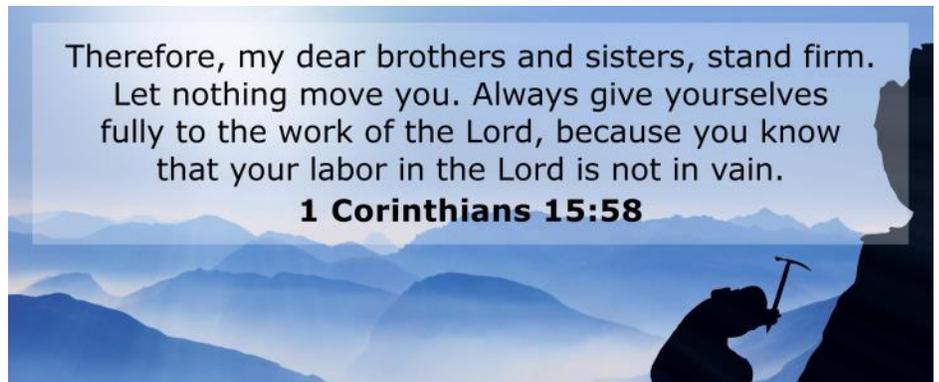
As I continue to lead the church in transition, there will be a great attempt to align every person, every ministry, and all things toward the mission. The whole church and every part has only one and the same mission. This is what honors the Lord, and glorifies Jesus, the Head, as the body functions Biblically. If you want results, you may have to do this differently, but if you want fruit that remains, this is the plan. You can break this down in three ways: 1) Know your mission (purpose), 2) Aim at it (Vision – goals and direction), and 3) Fulfill it (make plans to arrive and remain on the mission). It requires commitment and dedication, but will make for a renewed church. Allow me to walk with you through this process.

Let's do this together in 2021, as the church is making ready for some glorious days and the arrival of a new permanent pastor.

Grace and peace to all,  
Pastor Tommy

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm.  
Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves  
fully to the work of the Lord, because you know  
that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**



**Aftershock Student Ministry (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

2021 is upon us! I for one am glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror. I am looking forward to the newness this year will bring and plan to refocus and seek new opportunities for our student ministry!

**The students will have the opportunity to partner with Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, tentatively on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Jr day.** As indoor activities begin to discover ways of opening safely we will be planning outings as well! I am committed to increasing my time in prayer this year for our students and their entire family. Be blessed this new year as we discover anew the goodness of God!

**January 6, 13, 20, 27 Aftershock Youth 7-8pm** We are so excited to be back to having Bible study and game time on Wednesday nights! Social distancing guidelines will apply.



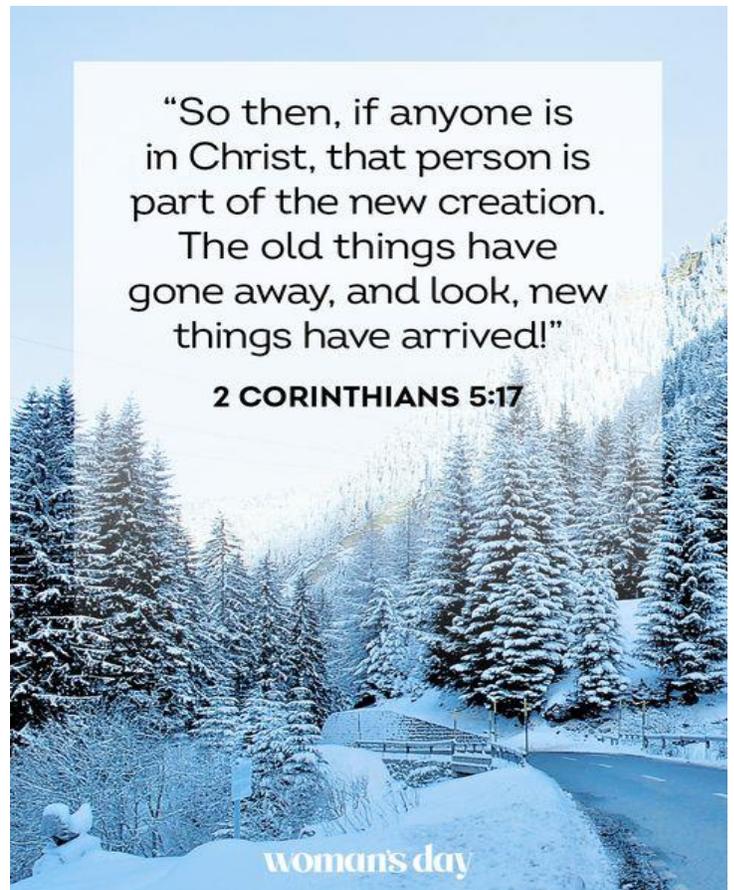
I have enjoyed seeing the College and Young Pro as well as our Young Married Sunday School classes meeting and full! I look forward to getting back to our Sunday night Bible study! It is such a joy to see our newly married couples being blessed with little ones and watching them grow as parents!

**Lottie Moon Update: We have collected over \$26,000 as of this writing and STILL have some coming in! Thank you for your generosity in helping our church achieve and surpass our goal of \$25,000!**



“So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!”

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**



# Thank You

**Dear CRBC,** I received a kind and compassionate note with a prayer for me from II Corinthians verse 1 that God comfort me during the healing of my eye injury. What obedience that my brothers and sisters show His love to the sick. Thanking God for mercy and for Christian friends.. P.S. Beware of stepping on the blade of a hoe; the handle may fly up and injure your face! His Kingdom will come! **Love from Melda**

**Dear Tommy and the Cross Road staff,** As we approach Christmas I want to thank you once again for your incredible support of the ministry. Each woman who walks through our doors is impacted by your partnership. I can't begin to guess how many lives have been saved over the years through your love of the unborn and how many women have come to know Jesus because of your investment. Merry, Merry Christmas! **In Christ alone, Caralynn (Your Choices Randolph)**

**Dear CRBC,** Thank you so much for the lunch and the Christmas gifts that you sent to each Cross Road Retirement Community employee. It was very generous of you and very much appreciated. I feel blessed to work in such a Christian environment supported by such caring people like all of you at Cross Road Baptist Church. Once again, thank you from all of us at CRRC. **Merry Christmas, Mamie Byrd (Cross Road Retirement Center)**

**Dear CRBC,** Thank you for the gift of money you gave me. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.. **Alice Richardson, Dietary Employee, Cross Road Retirement Center**

**Dear CRBC,** It's wonderful to have a church family that's there for you in your time of need. Thank you to everyone that lifted us up in prayers, sent cards, texts, phone calls, food & the plant at the passing of my dad (Terry). God bless you all. **Wendy and Terry Bishop and family**

## Notes from Mitch

**Wishing... hoping... praying.** However you put it, I believe everyone is strongly wanting a better 2021. I'm with you, still most things are out of our control. That's really a good thing

because the Creator of the Universe is always best suited to order the universe. However, there are some things you and I **can do**.

Beginning with me (insert your name in place of the me), I'm going to increase my intentional activity in the following areas, whatever they are. Now I'm not talking about our typical New Year's Resolutions (you know, the ones that never last). I'm talking about faith resolutions. As an example, for Mitch Duncan, it's more time in God's Word and more modeling and encouraging my church family in worship and discipleship in 2021. Our worship times are precious to me and I want them to continue to be "spirit and truth" filled. Discipleship is something a number of our church family have mentioned in Transition surveys and conversations. We're taking the next couple of months to contemplate what discipleship means to you, followed by what that requires of you (and me) when it comes to walking the walk.

I must admit that getting more serious about the Great Commandment and the Great Commission sounds great but is daunting at the same time. The good news is this... "and behold, I [Jesus] am with you always, to the end of the age." As we pray for a better 2021, let's join together in praying that God will strengthen and encourage each of us individually to take *living out our faith* to the next level. Let's also pray together that God will continue to hold CRBC in the palm of His hand and help us as a church family to *step it up*, all for His glory! *Pastor Mitch*

## WOW Women's Ministry

**January 19th 6-8pm WOW MOMS** Food and Childcare provided. Meeting will be in the CLC dining room.

**Feb. 19-21 Fort Caswell Women's Retreat** Please let the office know ASAP if you are going. Space is limited. See Renea with any questions!





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## **We Don't Worship a Distant God Who Doesn't Want to Speak To Us**

We read in Exodus, long before the birth of Jesus, that Moses had to wait for God to speak to him on a mountaintop or through a burning bush. At that time, mankind did not have constant access to an intimate relationship with God. Sometimes, it can be easy to slip into this old mentality of communicating with God. How often do we still ask for our own burning bush, wishing for an explicit, tangible sign or a clear word from Him? Even as Christians, we can start to believe God is far away when it feels like we're waiting and waiting to hear from Him.

We need to remember that Jesus has bridged the gap between us and God. He is God's answer to our desire for a burning bush or a mountaintop conversation with Him. We don't worship a distant God who doesn't want to speak to us. Jesus has restored our relationship with Him and made a way for us to daily approach His throne with boldness.

He hears your prayers, and He is for you. If God can mend our broken relationship with Him, think of what He can and will do in our lives and on our behalf!

*Except taken from Church of the Highlands  
Devotional*

*Note: If you have something about prayer and/or our current situation you would like to share, please email it to me at [ssheilacox@gmail.com](mailto:ssheilacox@gmail.com).*

“Out of heaven  
He let you hear  
His voice, that  
He might instruct  
you”

The graphic features a background of a blue sky with white clouds and a view of a coastline with green hills and a blue sea. The quote is written in a white, sans-serif font, with the opening and closing quotation marks being significantly larger than the rest of the text.

Deuteronomy 4:36-38