



CROSS ROAD REVIEW

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Loving the world through Ministry and Missions

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May is always a busy and exciting month. The weather allows for more activity. We have Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekends. Students begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel and are getting excited for the summer. The flowers are blooming, the grass is growing (I can't be the only one that loves the smell of fresh cut grass!?). It's a good time for us to reflect on the new life and exciting things we see and experience around us.

My prayer this May is that as we make plans, be they celebrations, activities, games, cookouts and get-togethers, or be they memorials and somber moments of reflection, that we allow this season to reflect on the life of the body of Christ, on the life of Cross Road Baptist Church. May we recognize, along with the new blooms, new spiritual growth in our lives and the lives of our families! May we be reminded of our new life in Christ as Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...". May we see lives changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we be active in being a part of God's work in the Holy Spirit to make light shine in dark places, to bring life in place of death, to see Christ bring change to our own lives and that of our families, to the glory of God! Jesus, our Lord and Savior is alive and well, He desires through His Holy Spirit to be active in us and through us. What a privilege! I believe God is saying to us the same thing He said to Israel through the prophet Isaiah in Is. 43:18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." God reminded Israel of their longing during the exodus from Egypt to go back to the way things were.

It is true that change can be uncomfortable, unfamiliar, and cause anxiety but without change, new growth, progress we become stagnant and decay. God is a God who is active! He is a God who is about doing new things about making a way for us in the midst of desolate places! The call from God is that we perceive what He is doing so that we can experience Him, His presence, His work, His grace! May His praise be on our lips and may His glory be made known in our midst and in our community through His people! - *Pastor Justin*



Children's Ministry

Awana Awards Night

May 24 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Join us as we celebrate all our Awana clubbers! This Award Night will be for Puggles, Cubbies, Sparks and Truth and Training.



There will be NO activities on May 31st. We are taking a week off before we start our summer Missions program for RAs, GAs and Mission Friends.

Youth Ministry

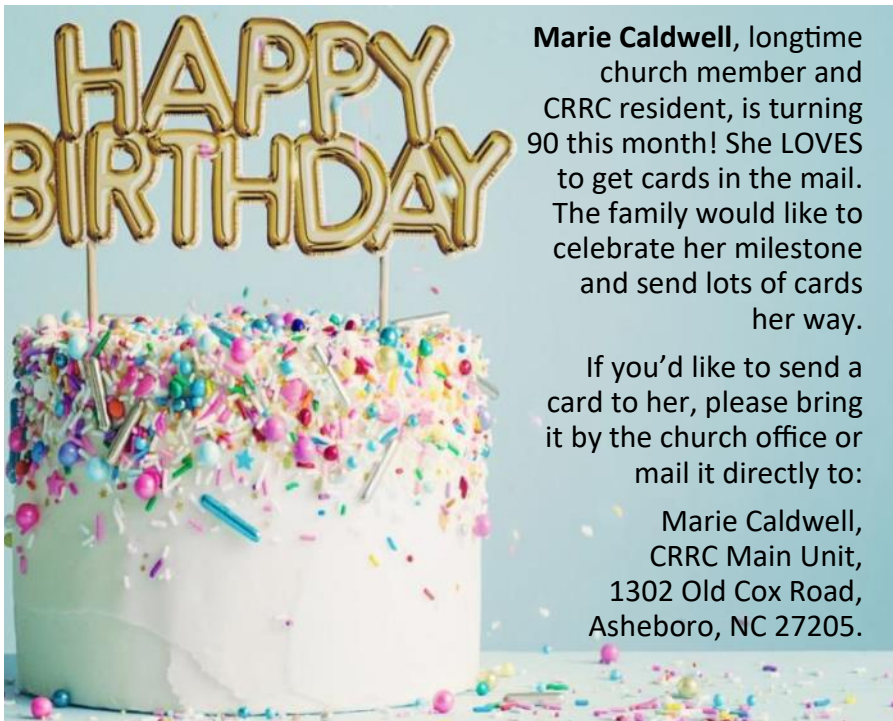
We will be bringing breakfast for the SWRMS teachers and staff on Tues May 9. On Saturday, May 20, we will be helping out with the YMCA's kids triathlon. Plan to meet at CRBC at 8am and head to the Y. We will cheer the athletes and direct them to their rotations! We will plan to eat lunch together afterward.

Wed. May 3, 10, 17, 24 6:15-7:45pm Aftershock Bible Study

Wed. May 31 - No Wednesday Bible Study

May 9 Serving Opportunity: Breakfast for staff at SWRMS

May 20 Kids Tri at the Y. We will be helping the YMCA with this event. Meet at CRBC at 8am. Lunch after!



Marie Caldwell, longtime church member and CRRRC resident, is turning 90 this month! She LOVES to get cards in the mail. The family would like to celebrate her milestone and send lots of cards her way.

If you'd like to send a card to her, please bring it by the church office or mail it directly to:

Marie Caldwell,
CRRRC Main Unit,
1302 Old Cox Road,
Asheboro, NC 27205.

Young Adult Ministry

Our College and Young Pros are doing a bible study called Unstuck during our Life Group meetings on Sundays at 8:45am. There is also a D-Life group meeting for High School, College and Young Pro men on Sunday evenings. See Pastor Justin if you are interested in joining them.





Dear Cross Road Baptist Church, We want to thank you for the beautiful Calla Lily potted plant. It is sitting in my living room. We really appreciate your support and prayers during this difficult time. Love, Teresa Ward and Family

Dear CRBC, Thank you for all the prayers, flowers, and the meal for our family. We appreciate your love and kindness during this time. Family of Vivian Bean

Cross Road Baptist Church, During a time like this we realize how much our friends mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered by the Family of Juanita Messervey.

Dear Cross Road Baptist Church, We are so very grateful to have the privilege of using your space this past year. Thank you! Asheboro Classical Conversations (Homeschool on Thursdays)

WOW Women's Ministry

will NOT be childcare for this meeting. See you then!

WOW Moms Meeting May 16 6-8pm. Join us at Una Mas Mexican Restaurant for our last meeting before summer! There

Worship Ministry

I thought I would share the backstory of one of my favorite worship songs this month. I love researching how a songwriter pens the powerful lyrics to our most beloved worship songs.

The song dates back to the late 1990s, born from a period of apathy within Matt Redman's home church, Soul Survivor, in Watford, England. Despite the country's overall contribution to the current worship revival, Redman's congregation was struggling to find meaning in its musical outpouring at the time.

"There was a dynamic missing, so the pastor did a pretty brave thing," he recalls. "He decided to get rid of the sound system and band for a season, and we gathered together with just our voices. His point was that we'd lost our way in worship, and the way to get back to the heart would be to strip everything away."

Reminding his church family to be producers in worship, not just consumers, the pastor, Mike Pilavachi, asked, "When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?"

Matt says the question initially led to some embarrassing silence, but eventually people broke into a cappella songs and heartfelt prayers, encountering God in a fresh way.

"Before long, we reintroduced the musicians and sound system, as we'd gained a new perspective that worship is all about Jesus, and He commands a response in the depths of our souls no matter what the circumstance and setting. 'The Heart of Worship' simply describes what occurred."

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come / Longing just to bring something that's worth that will bless your heart... / I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, Jesus

Redman remembers writing the song quickly in his bedroom soon after the church's journey together, with no grand intentions, by any means, for it to become an international anthem. He viewed the words simply as his personal, subjective response to what he was learning about worship.

But when Matt shared "The Heart of Worship" with Pilavachi, the pastor suggested making a few small adjustments to the lyrics so any member of the church could relate to it as well.

Amazed by how God has since taken the song around the world for His purposes, the songwriter smiles in regard to his own lack of foresight. "It nearly didn't go any further than my bedroom. But I love that..."

May we come back to the heart of worship. It's all about Jesus. - Danielle Kelly



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Standing in the Gap James 1:2 says "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds" ESV That's not my favorite verse. It trips me up on a regular basis. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit puts a check in my spirit before I moan too much about circumstances that come my way. I have way too many blessings and too many times the Lord has rescued me to complain about anything.

Today, however, I want to moan about other people's circumstances. We have had several in our church family with serious health issues. Faithful and devoted folks. Members who are huge prayer warriors for our church and others in their lives. Many times no one knows they are praying, but the Lord of all creation hears and answers these prayers in the way that He sees best. One of my concerns is for an individual resident at Cross Road retirement community that has numerous ailments, but is always cheerful, doesn't complain about what can't be fixed and wants to know what prayer needs for others that they can pray about. I think about the caregiver for their spouse who has a long term illness, the 60+ single female that had to quit her job to care for her ailing mom, who passed within a few weeks of that decision. I think about those who are grieving the great loss of loved ones--senseless, unexpected deaths. The young mom on bedrest as she awaits the delivery of a new baby. Relationships that are strained. These and so many more we all can think of that should be on our radar for prayer and an act of kindness from their church family.

These things can and do often overwhelm us. There is no shame in that. I believe the Lord knows that is part of our fleshly DNA and He is patiently waiting for us to come to Him to vent, to let it all out and then to trust Him to lead us to the next step and the next. I am so thankful that God is omnipresent, that He can be everywhere at the same time, that we don't have to wait in line for our turn to talk to the Father. There still might not be an easy or quick fix, but we can rest in His strength and His great love for us. We can trust that the peace that passes all understanding is waiting for us in Him. I don't know how it works, but I have experienced it and it is so wonderful and so comforting.

Now, back to James; verses 3-4 says "for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."! Now we know we can't be perfect on our own; it requires a surrendered will to God's plan. The result will be maturity, sanctification, which leads us to becoming more like Jesus.

Let us as a church regularly and fervently, lift up our brothers and sisters; commit to pray for the circumstances of their lives that at certain times they are too weak, too sad, too overwhelmed to pray for themselves. Let us stand in the gap and hold them up like Aaron & Hur did for Moses during a time of war. Be that bridge that makes it possible for hope and healing to shine forth! " Our praying needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage that never fails."E.M. Bounds - *(Joyce Blackwelder Prayer Team Coordinator)*