

# River of Love

**CROSS CREEK**  
BAPTIST MISSION  
*Moving Mountains!*

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**Pastor Ray Gurney**

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## **GREATEST OF ALL TIME by Pastor Ray**

**Virginia Robbins'** granddaughter, Heather Davis-Book, wrote this about her grandmother. I thought it worthy to be published in our newsletter this month to honor our dear Virginia.

How do we even begin to summarize 9 decades of grandma's life? I have struggled to find the words that I wanted to say because there are just so many wonderful memories. Simply stated, in the football analogy, she was the **GOAT**, just like Tom Brady or her beloved Patrick Mahomes. And for those of you who don't know what that means, it's the **greatest of all time**. Grandma loved fully, without judgment, and was anyone's biggest cheerleader and fan. We all felt like we were her favorite. Grandma has seen the world drastically change, she had a hard life, but you would have never known that because she was so strong and remained happy and positive through it all. I have a lifetime full of memories together that I cherish and can look back on and remember it just like it was yesterday, and I know all of you do too. Grandma, you will never be forgotten, your love lives on through us all, and that is the greatest gift that we can take with us today. I know you are with grandpa again smiling down at us all.

The day I got the urgent call to see Virginia was the day before we were supposed to leave for our trip to Illinois. We changed our plans and I went to have my final visit with her. When I arrived, she was in her recliner looking herself. I got on my knees and took her hand as we visited. She asked how the church was doing, what certain people were up to even calling some by name and asking about them. She wanted to know how the Cruise, Blues & Barbeque had gone. I told her that she was a little early but we were getting ready. She said how she loved to get with the women and pull the pork for the events. I'd guess

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### **Special points of interest:**

- CRUISE, BLUES, & BARBECUE
- 25TH ANNIVERSARY
-

**THE GIVING CRISIS**

*"If I invest the money now, I'll have more to give later."*

What this excuse implies is that we can outperform God. God knows what is best for the world and best for your life: trust God with your money now. Trust that God will bring a better profit from it than the market ever could. Right now is the time to give. God can make a better return on your giving. Spend your life being a part of His work.

**LADIES DAY TRIP**

We are having another Ladies Day Trip **Oct. 24th 10:00 am**. We will be going on a Fall Journey. Applies, pumpkins, pecans, mums, these are just some of the goodies we'll find along the way. If you would like to attend please sign up on our signup sheet on table. We will stop at Tuscono's in Buckner for lunch. Hope you can come!

Vickie

**GREATEST OF ALL TIME...continued from page #1**

she helped at six or seven events, maybe more. Debbie Lyon told me Virginia was always the first to volunteer when she put out the sign-up sheet.

Shortly into our conversation she looked me in the eye and said, "I don't think I'm going to make it much longer. I think this is the end. I had to agree based on her daughter's evaluation of her medical reports. So we talked about her future destination and I prayed with all my heart that she would have a peaceful transition from this life to the next. The girls assured me that she went very peacefully. We will miss Virginia and her sweet personality every Sunday morning.

**Cross Creek Baptist, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** This November first, marks 25 years since we had our first official service held in the grade school cafeteria in Grain Valley. I hope we can celebrate this milestone in the month of November. Watch for dates in the program and next newsletter.

**Cruise, Blues & Barbeque** is almost here. Things are well organized; the pork butts are smoked and most everything else is running as planned. The kids area will be a blast, there are workers to help Annie in the Field of Dreams. The morning of the event we have some great help lined up for set up. We have a couple of key people missing in the food area but I think we'll see some others step up and help. Finally, don't forget to bring homemade cookies and finger kind of desserts. Lemon bars, brownies and that kind of thing. Pies and cakes don't do very at the Cruise, Blues and Barbeque. We hope to see you at the event! **October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** to be announced.

I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all,

But what I have given into God's hands I still possess.

-MARTIN LUTHER

## Use Your Words to Build Others Up by Chrissy Kirkman

In Cross Creek Kids children's church, we've talked about how our words can be like a sledgehammer. We swing away without thinking, and suddenly we look around and realize a pile of relational rubble surrounds us. When we thoughtlessly sling our words around and tear people down, our relationships will suffer.

God revealed His desire for us to use our words to build others up! Ephesians 4:29 says, *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen"* (NIV).

One reason we aren't as effective with our words as we could be is that forget our mouths and words are powerful, God-given tools. We say things without thinking. And people remember them. Maybe you can still remember certain things people said to you in a careless way—even as far back as grade school. That's how powerful words are. So when it comes to the words you say, think of them as a power tool and be extremely careful.

I recently read a post by a pastor who saw the following in his owner's manual for a power saw. He was floored by how closely it relates to the words we choose to say. The directions said:

1. Know your power tool.
2. Keep guards in place.
3. Be careful around children.
4. Store idle tools when not in use.
5. Don't overreach.
6. Never use in a volatile atmosphere.

How can you use your words more carefully, so you are using it to build relationships and not to tear people down?

**1. Stop excusing.** Stop saying, *"I didn't really mean to say that"* or *"That's just how I am before my first cup of coffee."* Realize that what you say impacts everybody around you.

**2. Talk less.** We often get in trouble because we just don't know when to stop talking. If it's a power tool, you shouldn't have to use it as much, right?

**3. Listen more.** If you listen more, you can better understand people's needs. God created us with two ears and one mouth... maybe there's more to that than being aesthetically pleasing.

**4. Start building.** Let your first thoughts be, *"What does this person need?"* *"How can I use a word of encouragement to build him up?"* *"What can I say to make a difference in her life?"*

Consider making this part of your morning prayers: *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer"* (Psalm 19:14, NIV).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

### Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM.

The cost is \$6.00 a person for ages 7 years through adult. 6 years and under are \$3.00.

The menu for the month is listed on the right.

**Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week.** If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

**Oct. 4, Beef Stroganoff**, mashed potatoes, green beans, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

**Oct. 11, Spaghetti & Meat Balls**, Green beans, garlic bread, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

**Oct. 18, Chili & Hot Dogs**, corn bread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert.

**Oct. 25, Grilled Pork Chops**, cheesy potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad & dessert

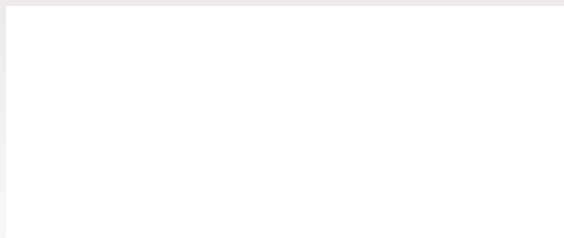
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**God is my SALVATION and my glory; the rock of my STRENGTH, and my REFUGE. PSALM 62:7**

## Cruise , Blues, & Barbecue



**Saturday, October 7, 2023** will be our 11th annual Cruise, Blues, & Barbecue event. Starting at 4:00-7:00 PM. If you have a classic, antique, hot rod, car, truck, or motorcycle you'd like to exhibit, join our car show, free food, children's corner, and music, share your stories about your rides with the crowd. Bring your family and friends to this great event! **WHAT'S YOUR CRUISE?**

## LIBERTY HIGHWAY BAND

