

River of Love

CROSS CREEK
BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

1050 South West 15th Street,
Oak Grove, MO 64075
www.crosscreekbaptist.com

Pastor Ray Gurney

WHAT FUN MEMORIES by Pastor Ray

Memorable Moments-When Cross Creek was a young church it ordained some men into the deacon ministry, one of whom was Billy Williams, Candy's deceased husband. Billy was a very serious kind of guy. The deacons and I planned a special Lord's Supper in the evening service that would be Billy's first time to serve the bread and juice. The setting was the truck garage church we had fixed up really nice. This night, seated at tables and dressed in our Sunday best, we observed the Lord's Supper. The tables were covered and candlelit to set the mood for those observing the supper. In wicker baskets were layers of tissue paper into which the unleavened bread was placed. Billy was holding the basket in front of each person at his table taking his time as the bread was lifted out. Music was playing softly and the service was going good until suddenly we heard voices; then they were louder.

I couldn't imagine why people were talking so loudly during the communion. Unfortunately, Billy had held his basket over the candle flame a little too long and the tissue paper ignited; no wonder the commotion. Billy beat the flame out with his hand while the church looked on. It was intense for a while but it was funny; people laughed then we finished the supper. It didn't take long for the jokes to start. It was the most memorable Lord's Supper in our history.

Celebrating 25 years of Cross Creek. This event was the biggest I remember in Cross Creeks history. To organize this kind of event requires a lot of planning. It takes thinking, picturing what needs to happen, materials to purchase, tables to set up, invitations to send, speakers to schedule and food to prepare. Wow! It goes on! It's not just one person who pulls off an event like this one. It takes the vision of a

Volume 25, Issue 12

Dec 1, 2023

Inside this issue:

WHAT FUN MEMORIES	1-2
MEN'S BREAKFAST	2
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	2
BELIEVE IN OTHERS AS JESUS BELIEVES IN YOU	3
DEC MENU	3
CROSS CREEK CHRISTMAS	4
LADIES DAY OUT	4

ARRIVAL

Special points of interest:

- ARRIVAL
- LADIES DAY OUT
- CROSS CREEK'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023
at 8:00 AM at Perkins
Restaurant** in Independence, Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.



THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S NAMES

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is a passive command. In other words, you do not fill yourself; the Holy Spirit fills you. So when Paul urges you and me to be filled, he is actually urging us to not block the Holy Spirit from filling us. He's urging us to allow the Spirit to do what only the Spirit can do in us. We must stop resisting the work of the Holy Spirit, because it is in releasing Him to work within us that we discover the power He has to supply.

Tony Evans

You may get this book from the church library.

WHAT FUN MEMORIES...continued from page #1

of a team working together. Example; I thought we should set up seating for 55 people. Vickie was thinking more like 65 or more. Debbie Lyon and Linda Morris had plans for more than 100 people. I'm glad we went with the greater vision because that's what we needed.

The celebration was a thrilling moment for Cross Creek. To hear Brother Randy talk about getting a vision for planting a church in this area and all the steps it took to get Cross Creek launched was seeing God at work. Then Director of Missions, Gregg Boll spoke to us how God is at work in church planting. Twenty-five years ago, BRKC (Blue River Kansas City Baptist Association) committed to provide \$400 monthly to rent the school in Grain Valley for two years for Cross Creek. They believed we would be successful. They knew our sponsoring church, FBC Oak Grove had a leadership team that would help as we needed it.

Others spoke with whom we have partnered over the years. Ron Mills Ministries, Steve Reed, Day Break International Ministries, Pastor Glynn Robison, who has been by pastor friend through thick and thin. Also present was Carita Masters, whom we have partnered in their work in Argentina for more than 20 years.

It was a meaningful day for Vickie and me. The pictures on the overhead told the history of the things Cross Creek experienced to become what God has made it today. Overnight I lay awake thinking about all my friends at church who have faithfully brought their tithes and offerings to keep Cross Creek a ministering church of God. I also thought about all my friends who have left me to do their work while they enjoy living in Glory.

There have been times when the weight of being pastor has gotten overwhelming. Without understanding and caring friends, I might not have made it. I could have been like some pastors who don't have a wife who supports them but Vickie and I were called as a team and that has been key in our ability to stay the course. Thank you all for the wonderful celebration of being Cross Creekers for 25 years. We love you. God is amazing.

Christmas is arriving just too fast. For the next five weeks I have a series of messages about the **Arrival** of Jesus Christ. Each year we hope to focus more on Jesus. Jesus is the reason for celebration; not gifts and toys. Come join us as we weekly glorify Jesus, the King of Kings!

BELIEVE IN OTHERS AS JESUS BELIEVES IN YOU by Chrissy Kirkman

Jesus believes in you. And I know it's true because there's plenty of proof in the Bible! Take a look at these verses: *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you"* (Matthew 17:20 NIV).

"Everything is possible for one who believes" (Mark 9:23 NIV).

"If you have faith and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more." (Matthew 21:21 NLT).

Jesus believes you can do all these things because He knows that, when you place your trust in Him, His Holy Spirit lives inside you. He also wants you to help others believe this about themselves. The apostle Paul offered this encouragement: *"When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours."* (Romans 1:12 NLT).

Each day you encounter people with low self-esteem. We ALL have insecurities. And many people have a tape playing on repeat in their mind of comments someone made long ago that they wouldn't amount to anything.

How can people reverse a curse others have tried to place on them? You can help them start believing what Jesus says about them instead of believing lies from the enemy. Recognize and call out shame verses conviction!

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 13:7, *"Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."* (NLT).

That's what God wants you to do. He wants you to show faith and confidence in others so they can believe what God says about them.

One of the best ways we do this at Cross Creek is by being engaged in a small group such as Sunday school, Wednesday night supper, prayer, and Bible study. When you've had a really tough week and you're doubting and down and discouraged, you need a group of trusted people who will believe in you and for you. And you can do the same for them. Followers of Jesus don't just believe in Christ. We also believe in each other.

Cross Creeker, will you be more intentional to speak genuine truth in love and encouragement to those around you? If so, please don't wait until the new year... let it begin today.

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.

- **Dec. 6, Chili & Broccoli Cheese Soup**, corn bread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert
- **Dec. 13, Beef Stroganoff**, mashed potatoes, cottage cheese, sweet potatoes, salad & dessert.
- **Dec. 20, Lasagna**, green beans, cottage cheese, garlic bread, salad & dessert
- **Dec. 27, NO SERVICE**

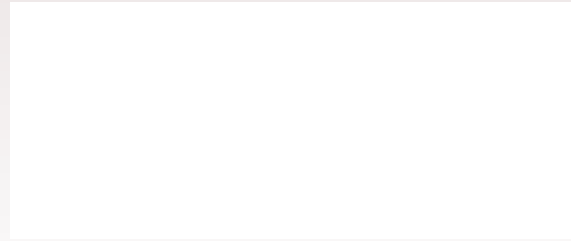
CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

THE CHURCH ON A MISSION

1050 SW 15th Street
Oak Grove, MO. 64075

Changing lives...

Phone: 816-690-0019
Email: rayg2day@sbcglobal.net
News Letter Editorials:
vmg2day@sbcglobal.net
www.crosscreekbaptist.com



HIS GLORY covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise... His ways are everlasting. Habakkuk 3:3,6

CROSS CREEK CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 10th after our Sunday morning service we'll have **CROSS CREEKS CHRISTMAS DINNER**. Please come and bring your favorite casserole, salad, veggie dish, or dessert, as well as a friend! Ham, brisket, mashed potatoes, gravy and drinks will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

Ladies Day Out

Ladies saddle up your horse we're headed to the Hereford House. As a locally and women-owned and operated staple in Kansas City, Hereford House has upheld its standards of traditional Midwestern steakhouse cuisine since its inception in 1957. It serves Certified Hereford Beef, which is aged for a minimum of 21 days, hand-cut daily in-house, and cooked over charcoal by some of the city's finest grill masters. In addition to their generous cuts of steak and guest favorites like their Steak Soup, Prime Rib, and Carrot Cake, Hereford House also serves an impressive selection of seafood."

Meet us at church for our Christmas Ladies Day Out, Dec. 5th at 10:45 AM.