

River of Love

CROSS CREEK
BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

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

Pastor Ray Gurney

Volume 24, Issue 8

YOU'RE ALREADY THERE by Pastor Ray

August 1, 2023

Kathryn Ricker Paine

Kathy Ricker Paine left us July 4, her destination; Heaven. She was a unique woman who loved and cared for other people. Most of her adult life, Kathy cared for her parents, children, veterans, or someone connected to the church.

Vickie and I became friends with Kathy and Richard more than 20 years ago and spent a lot of time together riding motorcycles. We took a 5,000-mile trip across Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana taking multiple detours due to heavy flooding. At the end of a long day, we were thankful to God and told him so over dinner.

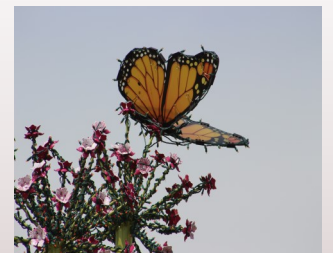
Kathy loved her profession as a Social Worker. I can't begin to imagine the number of people she influenced in a positive way while working at the Veterans Hospital. She and Richard took Veterans with spinal cord injuries to Vail, Colorado annually to compete in sporting events. It was a huge undertaking. Richard drove the vehicle and helped the Vets getting in and out as well as handling the luggage. As I've mentioned; it was a big chore but they worked together so well.

She took care of her mentally ill mother for many years and I know firsthand the challenges Kathy encountered. She had the ability to make hard decisions and follow through with them so that her mother had the best of care. The following years, she experienced the same scenario with a daughter. Vickie and I were amazed how Kathy was able to control her emotions during the most difficult situations. She remained cool when I would have flipped.

You may not be aware, but Kathy traveled nearly 200 miles round trip each Sunday to worship with her Cross Creek family. That, my friend, is a dedication rarely found! Kathy loved, loved, loved to sing on the praise team. I recall at Gloria's husband's memorial service, when we were meeting in the old truck garage, that Kathy came to both Vickie and me following a hard time we had gone through in our church and said that the memorial service spoke to her. She wanted to continue as a Cross Creeker and join the praise team. That was many years ago and she remained faithful *through it all*. She was proud of her girls, each one in their own way. Lindsay, her daughter, was with Kathy all the way through the illness. Billie kept Marissa, Kathy's grand-

Inside this issue:

YOU'RE ALREADY THERE	1-2
MEN'S BREAKFAST	2
LADIES DAY TRIP	2
GOD HELPS US IN OUR GRIEF	3-4
AUGUST MENU	3
THE HOLY SPIRIT (THE HELPER)	4



Special points of interest:

- You're Already There
- Going to Tiff n Jay's

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday, August 19th,
2023 at 8:00 AM at**

IHOP in Blue Springs.

Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us.

August 22, 2023 is our next LADIES DAY OUT event. We will leave the church at **10:45 AM** to go to **Tiff n Jay's** in Lee's Summit, MO. We will stop on the way home and get a dessert.

Come join us for a day out with "the girls". Bring a friend. Please sign up on the sheet on the front table. Hope to see you there.

Vickie

**YOU'RE ALREADY THERE...continued from page #1**

Daughter, and is caring for her still today.
Kathy Ricker Paine, well done, you good and faithful servant!

Donald Wayne Cone

My dad and brother-in-law were builders and worked on projects with Don. They became friends who met for coffee nearly every day at the truck stop in Oak Grove. My family thought the world of Don. At some point Don started using his skills at the Home Depot (HD) in Blue Springs. With his vast knowledge about building and construction, Don was a perfect fit. He could be found in the electrical or plumbing department most of the time. I wonder how many people like me came to HD trying to fix a project at home and didn't have a clue how to complete the job. "Doctor Don" to the rescue! He knew what the customer needed by asking a few questions, then helped them find the items.

Don and Diane's home is beautiful. Don built every inch of the place. There is nothing Don couldn't do when building a home. He had a great work ethic and all three of his children learned that trait from him. His daughter, Jamie, told us at his memorial service that Don took his children to work with him. Sometimes the job site was so far away that he'd stay there for two or three days at a time sleeping in cold with the kids along side of him. What a wonderful dad.

Prior to meeting each other, both Don and Diane swore that they'd never remarry. Ha ha ha, Don! She got you, buddy! God knows how to make good things happen even when it's against our wishes. I've learned (kinda) to never say I'm not going to do something when it involves telling God what I'm not going to do. It was the best decision the two of them could have made.

Finally, Don was a dedicated soldier who worked hard serving our country during the Vietnam War. He attempted to do what others wouldn't think of doing. He was brave, he was courageous, and he was a victor. He was a proud Veteran who paid a costly price serving our country. He is the kind of soldier we honor on Veterans Day with great pride.

Two wonderful Cross Creekers entered Glory following a long hard life here on earth. Neither of them had it easy but both left this world honored and adored by those of us who loved them beyond what words can describe. Words fall short, they miss the mark. Goodbye for now dear friends; see you real soon.

God Helps Us In Our Grief by Chrissy Kirkman

Life is difficult. The world is broken, and nothing works perfectly. Our bodies don't work perfectly, the weather doesn't work perfectly, the economy doesn't work perfectly, and no relationship works perfectly. Life is full of losses.

As we learn to rise above life's inevitable losses, we need to understand some truths that will give us better perspective.

First, God does not expect us to be happy all the time.

There is this myth that Christians should always be smiling, always happy, always cheerful.

The Bible says, *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens . . . a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 NIV).

Sometimes the only appropriate, logical response to life is grief. The Bible says we should grieve over our losses, including our disappointments, our sin, the suffering in the world, and our friends who are spiritually lost. God doesn't expect us to be happy all the time. In fact, He wants us to be intentional in our grief.

Second, grief is essential to our health.

If we never grieve over anything, it means one of three things: We're out of touch with reality, we're out of touch with our own emotions, or we don't love. When we love and we see sad things, grief is a natural response.

Grief is a healthy and helpful emotion. And it's God's gift that helps us get through the transitions of life.

God promises that for all who mourn, ". . . he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair . . ." (Isaiah 61:3 NLT).

Great news... we aren't alone!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM.

The cost is \$5.00 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.

Aug. 2, Smoked Ham, baked potatoes, broccoli, rolls, salad & dessert

Aug. 9, Sloppy Joes, Mac' & cheese, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

Aug. 16, Grilled Pork Chops, mashed potatoes, , cottage cheese, corn, salad & dessert

Aug. 23, Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, salad & dessert

Aug. 30, Grilled Hamburgers & Hot dogs, Chips, Baked beans, Potato Salad & dessert

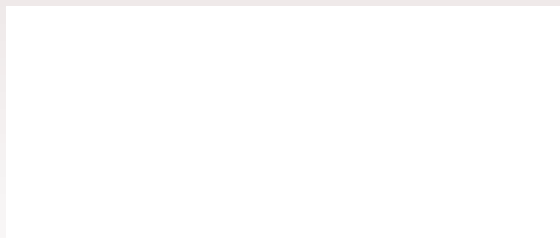
CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

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



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

God Helps Us In Our Grief ...continued from page #3

God grieves with us. When you grieve, God may seem a million miles away. But what you feel and what is real are not always the same thing. In fact, God has never been any closer to you than when you are grieving.

And He has given us a Cross Creek family for support. We're better together! We are meant to grieve and heal in community through our church family... even the leaders need that support in seasons.

"In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others . . . Be devoted to one another in love . . . Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:5, 10, 15 NIV).

Cross Creekers, let's get through this together.

THE HOLY SPIRIT "THE HELPER"

Jesus was preparing His disciples that He would be leaving. He could hear it in their voices that they were sad. That's why He calmly said, "Do not let your heart be troubled," (John 14:1). He told them He was going ahead to prepare a place for them.

Then Jesus introduced them to the person and work of the Holy Spirit. He said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17) Remember we have a HELPER! If you haven't accepted Jesus as your Savior you don't have that Helper. To learn more join us Sunday at 9:00 am.

Vickie