

"Honor God by connecting people to a grace-filled relationship with Jesus."

@the CROSSING

FEBRUARY 2015, VOL. 9 NO. 2

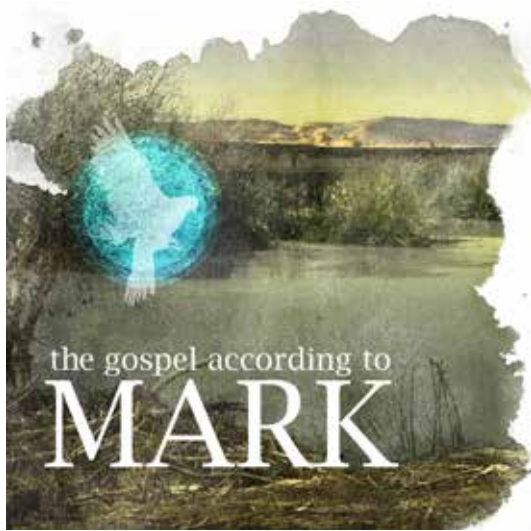
"So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us." 2 Corinthians 5:20



GRACE CROSSING MEN'S RETREAT

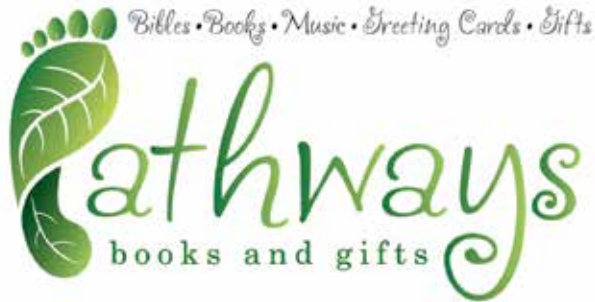
FEBRUARY 20-21





The Message of Mark (The Bible Speaks Today) - Carl Etchison

At first sight the Gospel of Mark is a simple account of the ministry of Jesus with lots of stories, plenty of action, a large amount of human interest, and some very straight and searching questions, mostly from Jesus himself. Yet underlying the Gospel is the cross and the cost of discipleship, focusing the question of who Jesus was, and how people should respond to him. Donald English's *The Message of Mark* picks up Mark's focus on faith as a risky, total commitment to Christ, and on its mysteries - preeminently, why some people believe, and others do not, even to the point of opposition.



Pathways

Because of the inventory reduction over the holidays, Pathways Books and Gifts has many new items. Come see the new jewelry, books, cards and gifts.

Let's do this! Melvin Little

One of the sayings within Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech was – "Let freedom ring. Let freedom ring all across this country everywhere."

After the Emancipation Proclamation, black people were granted freedom here in America. After being granted that freedom they were faced with the question, "I am free, now what do I do?"

Believers in Jesus Christ are faced with that question after we have been set free from the bondage of our sin. "What do I do now that I am free?"

I am so glad that we are not without help or without guidance, as the black man was when he was given his freedom. We have instructions, guidance from the Bible and also help from the Holy Spirit. Now it is time for us to help others become free. As a matter of fact, God went first to show how to do that and what it looks like.

Let us make a decision to help as many people as we meet to receive the freedom in Jesus Christ that we have.



Study on the go or with your family this year. Over 2000 online video resources for kids, youth & adults. RightNow Media is FREE for our members. For login info, email rightnow@gracecrossing.net.

Community Prayer Walk

As we get ready to host one of our largest community events on April 4, Eggapalooza Easter Festival at Harper's Landing Park, we want to cover the park and surrounding area in prayer. This is intentional prayer for the hearts of the people who will attend this free event.

For 7 weeks beginning Feb. 15, we invite you to picnic with your family, meet with life group or walk the dog each Sunday at Harper's Landing Park and pray for the thousands that will come to enjoy a fun family event. For details and prayer points, gracecrossing.net/egg.

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| <p>Church Information: Office Hours 8:30 am-4:30 pm M-F 936.442.5700 • info@gracecrossing.net www.gracecrossing.net</p> <p> Facebook: gracecrossingchurch</p> <p> Twitter: twitter.com/gracecrossingtx</p> <p>At the Crossing: March submissions due February 15 newsletter@gracecrossing</p> | <p>Prayer Requests: prayer@gracecrossing.net</p> <p>Membership: kim.sommers@gracecrossing.net</p> <p>Bulletin Submissions: bulletin@gracecrossing.net</p> <p>Newsletter Submissions: newsletter@gracecrossing.net</p> <p>Website Submissions: website@gracecrossing.net</p> <p>Building Usage: brenda.fyllick@gracecrossing.net</p> | <p>Our Shepherds: available for PRAYER & to assist with personal & spiritual needs!</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Damon Buffington</td> <td>David Lowry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James Cox</td> <td>Darrel Mantooth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dave Gibbs</td> <td>Godfrey O'Neale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jim Kuykendall</td> <td>Jerry Riggs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melvin Little</td> <td>Mike Watkins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*Jeff Long</td> <td>Harold Williams</td> </tr> </table> <p>*SHEPHERD OF THE MONTH CONTACT INFO: 936.442.5780 • shepherd@gracecrossing.net</p> | Damon Buffington | David Lowry | James Cox | Darrel Mantooth | Dave Gibbs | Godfrey O'Neale | Jim Kuykendall | Jerry Riggs | Melvin Little | Mike Watkins | *Jeff Long | Harold Williams |
| Damon Buffington | David Lowry | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Like us - facebook.com/gc4women
for info and events



Expecting Mothers' Ministry - Jessica Legan

Romans 12:15 says "Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn." Personally, I have felt that deeply at Grace Crossing, as our church family mourned with us over the loss of our daughter and rejoiced with us over the birth of our son.

Over the past year, I've felt God calling me to start the Grace Crossing Expecting Mothers' Ministry, which will do exactly what Romans 12:15 refers to. As believers, we know life starts at conception and every life is precious, planned and purposed by God. Therefore, we will rejoice over life in its earliest stages and mourn if that life is shorter than we hoped. This ministry has a support system in place for expecting mothers, adopting mothers, and women experiencing the difficulty of waiting on God's timing. It offers regular prayer, support for the trials and joys of pregnancy, and peer counseling in the event of difficulties or loss. If you are an expecting mother, please contact me so we can celebrate God's gift with you and lift up your family in prayer!

We are always looking for people to join our prayer team, be peer counselors and help with baby showers. To be involved in the Expecting Mothers' Ministry email jessica.legan@gracecrossing.net.

MEN'S MINISTRY



Like us - facebook.com/gc4men
for info and events

We are excited to announce our upcoming Men's Retreat for Feb. 20-21st at Trinity Pines Conference Center. This year's speakers will include former Houston Texan ND Kalu and senior pastor of Eastern Hills Church of Christ in Athens, TX Dustin Bartee. Free time activities will include fishing, disc golf, basketball, games, and some peaceful down time if you prefer. Cost is \$60 per person and includes room and meals provided by the camp. Prepare to be encouraged, inspired, and ready to grow spiritually. This is our first stay away retreat in 8 years and is something you don't want to miss. Registration is limited so don't wait around and miss out. Sign up in the Atrium during service or at gracecrossing.net/events.



MARRIAGE AND PARENTING

Marriage mentors needed! Cheri Long

A mentor is "an experienced and trusted advisor", according to the dictionary. And there are many couples who could benefit from your years in a successful marriage.

We all know that no person, and no marriage, is perfect. Your marriage doesn't have to be perfect. If the two of you have learned and practiced relational approaches and skills that have made it better, you may have something to offer other couples.

We will provide training and any support you might need in working with younger, less experienced couples. We have couples who have succeeded in marital therapy and are now needing a seasoned couple to help them maintain their gains. Some just need listening ears and advice to help them over rough spots.

If you are interested and have been married at least 7 years, contact Eddie Boyer, eddie.boyer@gracecrossing.net!

Single Parenting Class

Beginning March 10 on Tuesday evening Lynne Boyer will be leading a six week class for single parents at 6:30 pm in room 1619. Lynne was a single parent herself and has a passion for sharing her knowledge and experience. Childcare will be available. Email becky@gracecrossing.net for more information and to sign up.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



facebook.com/gc4kidzcrossing
for info and events

VOLUNTEERS
WELCOME AND ALWAYS NEEDED FOR EVERY
EVENT IN KIDZCROSSING! CONTACT BECKY TO
SERVE (BECKY@GRACECROSSING.NET)!

Parenting a Legacy of Faith

We are so thankful for the great participation in our new parenting series! It is encouraging to witness our families devoting a school night for such an important, life-changing series. We know they will be blessed!

If you have missed any of the series, you can find the previous videos on KidzCrossing's Facebook page. The children are enjoying UnFrozen and the games and lessons they have been participating in! Don't forget to use the 'Make It Stick' take home papers for review!



Vacation Bible School

It is that time again to start planning for VBS! If you have a passion for this and would like to join the planning team, email becky@gracecrossing.net. We will have our first meeting February 22.



Valentine Brunch

Our annual PrimeTimers Valentine's Day Brunch will be held Sunday, February 15. If you are sixty years or older, be watching your mail for your invite! Our kiddos look forward to serving you!

Fun With The Kids

In KidzCrossing we are always looking for more party guests! Ok, maybe we meant volunteers, but to our current workers, every Sunday is a celebration with them! So if you are called to serve in the toddlers or the tweens, we would love for you to help! Serving opportunities last three months or the school year. Email becky@gracecrossing.net to get in on the fun!



Two of our teens participating in a teaching challenge for Leadership Training for Christ (LTC). This sweet picture was of the children reading the Bible passages that pertained to their lesson.



Miss Nancy has faithfully taught the two year old class for ten years. She incorporates fun into her Bible stories each week!



Deep Thoughts by Jay Blackburn

It's too costly

How many times have you walked into a store to look for a particular item only to see that it cost too much? Isn't it incredible to think that God looked down to earth and sent his Son because we were worth it! Thank the Lord that the cost was paid, completely, in full. He wants us and not only does he want us...He wants us to be a part of what he's doing. The problem many times though is that we don't see what He sees. We look at what He might be calling us to and think, that's too costly. "In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:10) Every person was created by God, yes? How much does he love everyone? Sometimes the places or people He calls us to may not seem worth it, but then He whispers in our ear, "it was worth everything."

Concert at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion



Chris Tomlin with Tenth Avenue North and Rend Collective April 25. Lawn tickets \$21 before 2/15, then \$26.25. Get your ticket today! (ticketservant.com)



GIVE IT UP • Luke 14:33

This year's theme is "Give it Up" as in Luke 14:33 which says "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples." We've talked a lot with the kids about what this verse means to them, and I've been amazed at the depth of understanding of even the youngest LTCers. They know where to store up their

Leadership Training for Christ

Jennifer Fulton
LTC 2015 is in full swing. Drama and puppet scripts are being written, songs are being sung, brains are being exercised for Bible Bowl, and we are all having fun and enjoying each other. This

treasures, even if it's much easier said than done. I want to send out a great big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who have made it possible for our kids to take part in LTC again this year. Each of them has such a heart for this program and gives so much of their time and love to the kids: Jodi Lamberti, Diane Mullis, Tracey Mullis, Rani Duncan, Grant Brady, Jay Lowry, Amy Hernandez, Scott Fulton. Thank you also to Raelon and Mort Morris and Leslie Buffington, for continuing to provide your wisdom and support even though you have "retired" from LTC. And thank you to the ministers and staff for all of your support of our young leaders-in-training as well! We can't wait to share our accomplishments in just a few weeks!

Soul Link – Feb. 27–Mar. 1

Gtown Mission – March 16-18 (tentative)

Senior Sunday – May 3

JH Retreat – May 15-16

Kadesh – June 7-13

Trek – June 19-26

Bandina – July 5-11

Honduras – July 27- Aug 3

Register for OneWay Youth events online at gracecrossing.net/events

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES • VITAL SIGNS • PRAYERS

To have your birthday or anniversary appear in @The Crossing, e-mail: newsletter@gracecrossing.net

Adult Birthdays

- Feb 1 Cyndie Lowry
Jennifer Allen
- Feb 3 Doran Golemon
- Feb 5 Ken Dickey
- Feb 6 Allison Lime
Lance Cross
- Feb 8 Catherine Artman
Frances Ellis
- Feb 10 Susan Jones
- Feb 13 Denise Bicknell
Jean Musich
- Feb 14 Rick Happe
- Feb 15 Harold Williams
- Feb 16 Karen Hagen
Connor VanSteenberg
- Feb 17 Joe Bradburn
- Feb 18 Matt Morrow
- Feb 19 Armando Durell
Diane Brady
- Feb 20 Nancy Ashworth
Becky Williams
- Feb 22 Ryan Dickey
Dan Howard
- Feb 23 Natalie Palacios

- Feb 24 Lee Daniels
- Feb 25 Jay Lowry
- Feb 27 Pat Hyde
Jaron Sommers
- Feb 28 Pauline Haugland

Children's Birthdays

- Feb 1 Oliver Sommers
- Feb 23 Ellie Fulton
Rylee Selman
- Feb 24 Dylan Campero
- Feb 25 Eli Blackburn
- Feb 26 Emma Gibson

Youth Birthdays

- Feb 1 Felicia Keenright
- Feb 7 Matthew Hamilton
- Feb 10 David Reeder
- Feb 16 Alicia Hamilton
- Feb 20 Kristina Pavey

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE



Emma Glenn
Baptized January 18

Happy Anniversary!

- Feb 2 Dave & Joy Gibbs
- Feb 7 Danny & Shonda Majors
- Feb 13 Billy & Gerri Fuller
- Feb 14 Stephen & Rita Ford
- Feb 27 Mickey & Christi Johnston

PRAYING for our Soldiers

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CM2 Chris Reinhold† (USN) | 2nd Lt. Matthew Smith (USA) |
| LTJG Dennis Roper (USN) | Pvt. Wade Martin |
| SSgt. Brian Master (USA) | Gy Sgt. Jeff Liddic (USMC) |
| Daniel Collins (USMC) | SSgt. Charlie Vardman (USA) |
| Sgt. Kevin Chase (USMC) | Clayton Ueckert (USA) |
| SSgt. Jack Gibbs (USMC) | Garrett Anderson (USA) |
| ITSN Skyler Mullis (USN) | Pvt. Daniel Funk |
| LCPL Zane Mullis (USMC) | SR Gage Mullis (USN) |

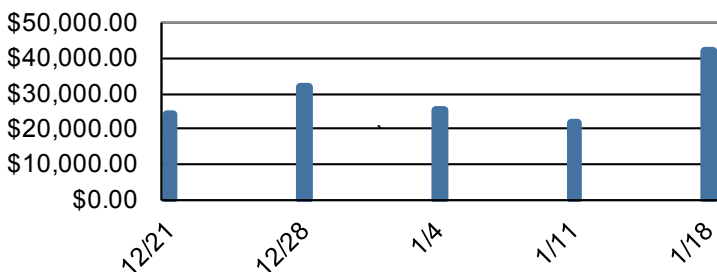
We prayerfully remember our friends and family that are currently serving in our military. Let's remember to lift up the personnel on tour overseas. When they return, we will list a praise report. To add or update status, e-mail newsletter@gracecrossing.net

Family Calendar

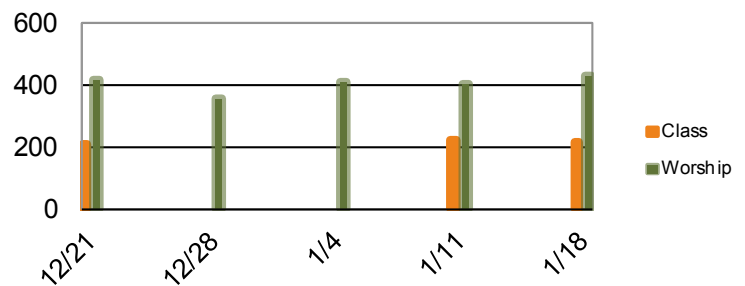
GC calendar also published online at gracecrossing.net.

- Feb 11 Mobile Food Bank - Pavilion
- Feb 15 Primetimers Valentine's Brunch
- Feb 17 24 Hour Prayer
- Feb 20-21 Men's Retreat
- Feb 27-28 Youth Soul Link
- Mar 8 Daylight Saving Begins
- Mar 11 Mobile Food Bank - Pavilion
- Mar 17 24 Hour Prayer
- Mar 22 Blood Drive
- Mar 27-28 Tides Women's Spring Retreat

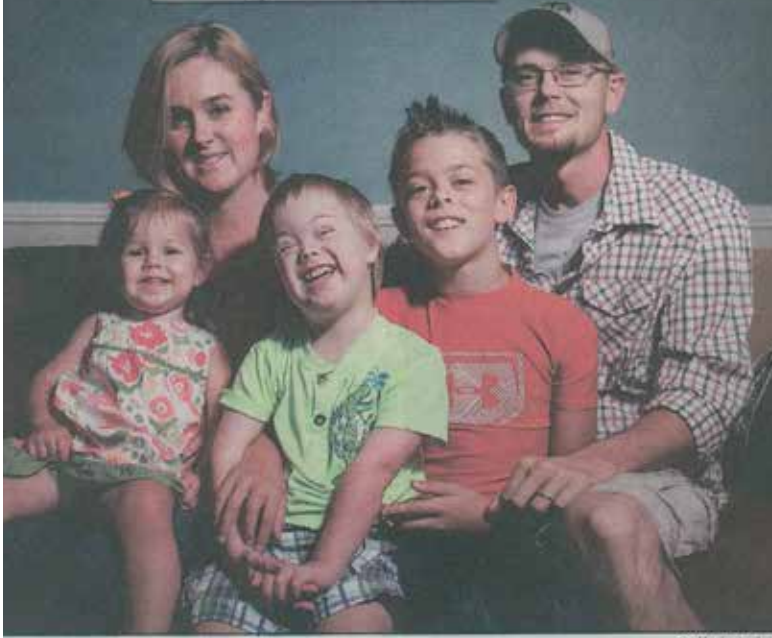
Weekly Contribution



Weekly Attendance



GRACE CROSSING NEWS



KC's Knights

The Locke family is raising funds to participate in the Down Syndrome Association of Houston's Buddy Walk in honor of their son Kendall on Nov. 8. This walk celebrates the accomplishments of people with Down Syndrome. Through the Buddy Walk they became involved in a chapter of DASH in The Woodlands that provides families with group activities, resources and a support system. Last year, they raised \$800 but this year they have a special incentive for donors. For every \$25 donated, the donor's name will be entered in a raffle for a \$1500 cruise voucher. So far the KC's Knights have raised \$2600. Nearly 100% of proceeds go toward funding the Houston area programs. This is an event the Lockes look forward to every year, especially Kendall. To donate, contact jessicaclocke@yahoo.com.



Camp Blessing and Shelby Newhouse

Few Christian camps in the country specialize in ministering to children and young adults with special needs. Camp Blessing Texas does just that! Since 2006 they have served hundreds of campers, including Shelby Newhouse, who has been greatly blessed by this ministry. Shelby is actively involved with our Children's Ministry and is a regular helper in KidzWorship. Now she is reaching out on behalf of Camp Blessing. Over the years, the camp has outgrown its current location and is in the process of raising funds to build a year-round fully accessible camp near Tomball. Monthly supporters and single gifts are needed. Please visit www.campblessing.org to learn more about this wonderful ministry and how to donate.



Mobile Giving

Use your phone to give online. Download the GC app and click the "Give" icon, or text the word GRACECROSSING to 818-668-3865.



amazonsmile

Help support the ministries of GC while shopping! Simply go to smile.amazon.com and choose Grace Crossing as your charity. Amazon will give GC .5% of your purchases.



Get Your Directory

New Grace Crossing directories are now available in Pathways Books & Gifts.