

@The CROSSING

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

MARCH 2015, VOL. 9 NO. 3



*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making his appeal
through us." 2 Corinthians 5:20*



Communion Thoughts

Justin Lime

John 17 is a prayer of Jesus. It's amazing to hear his words and feel his feelings as he was preparing for his arrest and all that was to come afterward. He prays for himself, then he prays for his disciples, then Jesus says, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20, 21)

First of all just take in the fact that Jesus prayed for you — He mentioned you in prayer. Amazing. But specifically Jesus was praying for unity among His people because He understood that bickering Christians preaching love would be about as effective in spreading the gospel as a 500-pound man recommending his new weight-loss program while devouring Girl Scout cookies. Everybody knows inconsistency kills credibility. When what you're doing starts

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conflicting with what you're saying, you're well on your way to becoming not believable.

This, of course, is why Satan tries so hard to create disunity in the body of Christ. He knows that by turning Christian brothers and sisters against each other, he sets the gospel's credibility back more than a thousand atheists arguing against the existence of God. If you ask most people why they don't go to church, they will say hypocrisy among Christians is a primary reason.

Our Lord, having prayed for our unity, obviously wants us to promote and guard it like a precious jewel, and that's part of what we're doing when we gather as a family around the Lord's table. Yes, we're proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes, but we're also proclaiming our solidarity. By eating the bread and drinking the juice together we are saying there is something that binds us that is greater than any differences we may have. We should seize and savor every opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Christ and our love for each other.

Stretching In 4 Areas - Carl Etchison

To tease you a bit, I will only give you partial info for now.

1) I went to **prison** last month.

(I think I should return...)

2) I'm also in Police Academy now.

(I get to shoot, but I also get shot at.)

Note: These 2 items are unrelated (as far as I know).

3) I am currently preaching **Mark** without notes.

(And without my iPad, too!)

4) I received my official DNA genealogy results.

(Interesting...)

Explanation of #1 and #4 -

1) In **prison** - We are emphasizing "serving others" this year and so I thought that if I am asking others to "stretch their **faith**," then I should find something that would stretch my faith too. Some of us went with a former policeman from church to help him with worship at Huntsville Prison. (He was challenged by giving Bible lessons, and I was challenged by even being there at all!) Well, it went very well! (Sermon Feb 22) I talked to the guys about "wanting to get **out**"; when what you *really* need is to be "**in**" on what is really "**good**." Seems it connected to them! Several of the inmates asked if I would return. I *really* didn't expect this ministry to mean this much to me! (I even tried to get out of it.) Now, I will try to "go to prison" regularly.

4) DNA Results - I didn't even look at my genealogy results when they came. (I will, and I will tell you.) It is just that I am treasuring how important my **spiritual** ancestry is to me. The blood of Christ declares that God is my "Father," and Jesus is my "brother," and the Holy Spirit is my "guide" and my "strength." I am so very grateful to be in **God's** "family!" That is what I am really "into" these days, and what I will be for the rest of my days - in the **Family of God!**

Church Information:

Office Hours 8:30 am-4:30 pm M-F
936.442.5700 • info@gracecrossing.net
www.gracecrossing.net



Facebook:

gracecrossingchurch



Twitter:

twitter.com/gracecrossingtx

At the Crossing:

April submissions due

March 15

newsletter@gracecrossing

Prayer Requests:

prayer@gracecrossing.net

Membership:

kim.sommers@gracecrossing.net

Bulletin Submissions:

bulletin@gracecrossing.net

Newsletter Submissions:

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Website Submissions:

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Building Usage:

brenda.fyllick@gracecrossing.net

Our Shepherds: available for PRAYER & to assist with personal & spiritual needs!

Damon Buffington

James Cox

Dave Gibbs

Jim Kuykendall

Melvin Little

Jeff Long

***David Lowry**

Darrel Mantooth

Godfrey O'Neale

Jerry Riggs

Mike Watkins

Harold Williams

***SHEPHERD OF THE MONTH CONTACT INFO:**

936.442.5780 • shepherd@gracecrossing.net

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



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



Calling all Grandmas and Grandpas!

The Grandparent Nursery is recruiting new volunteers for snuggling, giggling, and playing with our youngest members, so mommies and daddies can attend worship. We are on a rotating schedule, so no one volunteer gets all the fun. We have to share these little bundles! Please contact Pattie Williams at 281-381-3432 or pattiebwilliams@gmail.com, if you have hugs to spare.

We are GREATLY in need of women who would like to be Fairy Godmothers (personal shoppers) or seamstresses on our

The Giving Gown Foundation

Boutique Day weekend of April 9-11, held at the Bammel Church of Christ Teen Center. Currently we have over 700 girls registered to attend Boutique Day, with still two months left to go. We ESPECIALLY need volunteers on Thursday during the day, as we have a group of 150-200 homeless teen girls from shelters all over Houston who will be coming that day.

The Giving Gown Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides junior and senior girls who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend their formal events with everything they need for prom. At Boutique Day, each girl is paired with a personal shopper (her Fairy Godmother) and is able to choose a prom gown (sizes 0-36), shoes, jewelry, handbag, have on-site alterations, attend a self-esteem seminar, enjoy a boutique lunch, and receive a swag bag of hygiene and beauty products. The best part is that it's ALL FREE OF CHARGE!! In a society that praises unrealistic body images, we strive to teach our princesses that they are beautiful and valuable just as they are.

Volunteers can register on our website at www.givinggown.org or contact us for more information at contact@givinggown.org.



MEN'S MINISTRY



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

The Men's Spring Retreat was a hit! Thank you to all that helped put it together.

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

On Tuesday evenings, beginning March 10, Lynne Boyer will be leading a class specifically for single parents. This class will run for six weeks in room 1617, beginning at 6:30pm. Lynne was a single parent herself and has a passion for sharing her knowledge and experience. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to becky@gracecrossing.net so we can plan for childcare.



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)!



Eggapalooza is fast approaching! Our annual Easter celebration in Harper's Landing will be April 4 from 2:30-4:30pm. Beginning March 1 we will begin accepting plastic Easter eggs and candy in the Atrium. You can also order eggs online to be delivered directly to us! This year we're again showing support to Sunny Bunny Easter Eggs, a nonprofit organization which provides jobs to people with disabilities. You can purchase pre-filled eggs at very affordable prices. For more information about this ministry and pricing, check out their website at sunnybunnyeastereggs.com. March 18 is the last day to order for on-time delivery.

Parent/Teacher 2015 Kick-Off Lunch

KidzCrossing is hosting our annual "hoorah" lunch for parents and teachers to share our plans for 2015. Lunch (fajitas), door prizes and much more! Join us Sunday, March 8, in the Great Room after second worship at 12:15.



Parenting a Legacy of Faith

Although our parenting series has come to a close, it is never too late to begin intentional parenting in order to leave a legacy of faith to your children. You do, however, need to begin with a plan. If you missed any of the lessons, check out KidzCrossing's Facebook page for the teaching videos. Or, if you were not able to participate, email becky@gracecrossing.net for instructions on how to begin the study on your own. More than anything, we encourage you to:

1. Decide what beliefs, values and expectations you have for your family.
2. Formulate your family's mission statement.
3. Outline steps to get there.

As you see in the picture, one of the bulbs from our first class is blooming. With just the right nurturing, watering, etc, it will blossom into the beautiful flower God intended it to be. Big shout out for Claire Boyer, Derek Mauro and Pressly Parker for memorizing the verse from our UnFrozen series! They were able to recite this from memory two weeks after the series ended! Wow!

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.

Since Feb. 15, GC has been praying for lives to be touched by this event. We invite you to picnic with your family, meet with your life group or walk the dog each Sunday at Harper's Landing Park and continue to pray for the thousands that will come to enjoy a fun family event. For details and prayer points, gracecrossing.net/egg.

Primetimers Valentine Brunch

Our 3rd-5th graders did an outstanding job serving our Primetimers! Thank you to the adult volunteers who assisted the kiddos, flipped pancakes, plated food, etc. Your help allowed Mr. Sal and Ms. Phyllis to take the day off and be served along with the Primetimers. They were so appreciative. And, of course, in the spirit of our brother Jesus, Mr. Sal turned around and served the children after everyone had finished. Definitely a day full of love!



YOUTH MINISTRY

facebook.com/gc4youth
for info and events



Meet the 2015 Summer Interns



Zach Casey

Zach is from Fort Collins, CO, and is one of seven children including five brothers and one sister. His younger sister and two brothers were adopted from Chihuahua, Mexico. Zach is a sophomore at Abilene Christian University and is studying Biblical Text.

Zach is super excited to work with Grace Crossing's youth and is looking forward to building Christ centered relationships with them. He is also very excited to see what God does in their lives and how the Spirit is going to move through this experience.

Over the last year, the notion that God is still working in the world and is making all things new through the life and death of Jesus has been at the forefront of his life. God has been teaching him the power of His redeeming love in a world that is broken and corrupted.

FUN FACT:

If Zach was given a clothes pin, a Twizzler, a nickle and a piece of duct tape this is what he would do:

First, Zach would eat the Twizzler.

Second, with the nickle he would buy another Twizzler, maybe two depending on the price.

Finally, he would make an airplane out of the duck tape and the clothespin, which then would fly in the very foreign, unbelievable, and hopefully forgettable, West Texas wind.

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

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



Naomi Faltin

Naomi is from Shenandoah TX, and has been a member of this church family since she was little. She is the only child of Mike and Barbara Faltin, and currently attends Texas State University in San Marcos. This is Naomi's second year in college studying Mass Communications in Public Relations, with a concentration in digital media. (Yes. It's a mouthful.) She has fallen deeply in love with the Texas Hill Country and with college. As she would say, "I was born to be a college kid."

Naomi is beyond thrilled to be apart of the Grace Crossing team this summer! After experiencing such a rich and nurturing youth group environment, she is most excited to give back to the ministry that meant so much to her as a student in Grace Crossing.

This past year, The Lord has been teaching her more about her role and identity as a woman and his place for her in His Kingdom. God has also shown her how beautiful and fully he can restore hearts and has been teaching her about the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit.

FUN FACT:

If Naomi was given a clothes pin, a Twizzler, a nickle and a piece of duct tape she would:

a) Ask, "Why?"

b) Clip the clothes pin on her nose, put the nickle over her eye and pretend its an eye patch, use the Twizzler as a mustache, and put the duct tape over her mouth.



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)

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES • VITAL SIGNS • PRAYERS

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

Adult Birthdays

- Mar 2 Billy Fuller
Vicki Cleveland
- Mar 3 Marla Leyva
Rani Duncan
- Mar 4 Marie Boleslawski
- Mar 5 Miranda Kelly
Terry Black
- Mar 6 Jamie Blackburn
Bob Boleslawski
Jerry Riggs
- Mar 7 Joleine Jones
- Mar 8 Angel O'Neale
Dean Bass
- Mar 12 Robert Ray
Cindy Salmeron
Jay Blackburn
Shannon Meredith
- Mar 13 Caleb Miller
Fayburn Gage
- Mar 14 Carolyn Jackson
- Mar 15 Mylinda Wilson
- Mar 17 Kellie VanSteenberg
- Mar 18 Jeannie Stallings
Grace O'Neale
- Mar 19 Betye Fawcett
- Mar 21 Rafael Gil
Margaret Fuller
- Mar 23 Jacob Wolf
Karen McCleskey
- Mar 24 Jonathan Williams
Travis Purifoy

- Mar 25 Raelon Morris
Joe Trudgeon
- Mar 26 Michelle Schneider
- Mar 27 Danita Jones
Curtis Purifoy
- Mar 28 Kylie Kerlick
Mamie Guynes
- Mar 29 Cara Young
Georgeline O'Neale
- Mar 30 Melissa Richards
Chris Coffey
Joette Timmerman

Happy Anniversary!

- Mar 3 Dusty & Claudia Crawford
Jim & Kay Waters
- Mar 5 Bob & Marie Boleslawski
- Mar 6 Bob & Lori Berry
Jim & Sue Greene
- Mar 10 Nathan & Elizabeth Thompson
- Mar 11 Bryce & Lindsey Bicknell
- Mar 12 Jaron & Kimberly Sommers
- Mar 26 Johnny & Pat Hyde

Children's Birthdays

- Mar 1 Bentley Armstrong
Tyler Cox
- Mar 10 Tate Bass
- Mar 15 Claire Boyer
- Mar 27 Cristian Leyva
- Mar 28 Kylie O'Neal

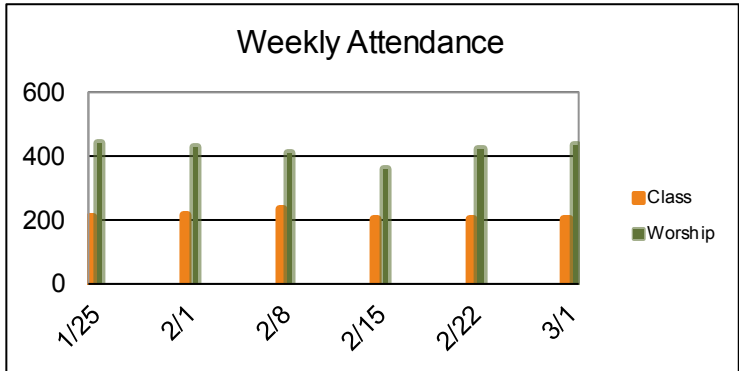
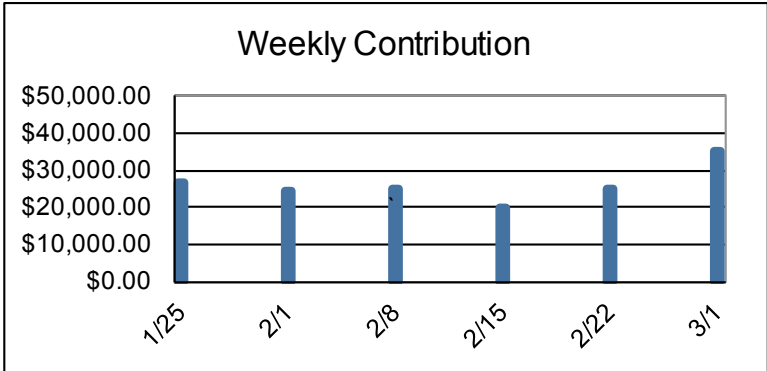
Youth Birthdays

- Mar 1 Garrett Black
- Mar 5 Avery Martin
- Mar 7 Claire Winters
- Mar 23 Corbin VanSteenberg
- Mar 25 Regan Lamberti

PRAYING FOR OUR SOLDIERS

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

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



GRACE CROSSING NEW MEMBERS



Amy Covington

Ella - 4th grade

Amy is an Occupational Therapist and loves being able to serve others at her job. She loves doing yoga in her spare time.



Terry & Angela Black

Wyatt - 6th grade

Terry is an IT Manager and Angela is a Hostess at a local restaurant. Both are interested in getting more involved at GC in teaching roles. Terry loves to hunt, fish and read and Angela enjoys sewing and doing crafts.



Gloria White

Gloria is self-employed as a Realtor. She is currently involved at GC visiting the elderly and participates with Impact Back to School night. She is interested in fundraising for the women in Honduras with breast cancer.



Family Calendar

GC calendar also published online at gracecrossing.net.

- 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



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.



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

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