



February 2019

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

www.cwcgr.org

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

What blessing we received in January, when our leadership reported to us — both during the worship service and during the January business meeting — the news that our finances have more than recovered from the troubling trough we underwent last summer.

And blessing on blessing, our building project is well on its way to completion . . . maybe even by Easter . . . one year after our ceremonial groundbreaking!

We have challenges before us now in finishing off the funding for some essential elements and still keeping our operational finances on track. But we have a great and loving God, Who is blessing us abundantly. And we are grateful.

We pray now for the finances to finish by Easter!



One foggy day in January . . . up goes the roof!

Construction financial forecast

Our \$ goals and timeline goals . . .

Sanctuary air conditioning \$3,165 by 3/2019

Flooring in bldg. addition \$10,000 by 3/2019

Kitchen outfitting TBD by 4/2019

Parking lot repaving \$17,500 by 4/2019

Volleyball & basketball eqpmt. \$6,390 by 4/2019

Phase I renovation of existing bldg. \$35,000 by 6/2020

Phase II existing bldg. renovation \$35,000 by 6/2021



Thank you!

A big thank-you to all CrossWay members and friends who dug deep to fill baby bottles with cash for the Pregnancy Resource Center during January — a blessing for a worthy ministry and an outpouring of God's love for vulnerable moms and their babies.

Inclement Weather?

On rare occasions, we need to call off or postpone activities — even (though infrequently!) a Sunday service. If you are wondering, tune in to WOOD-TV (ch. 8), WZZM (ch. 13) or WCSG Radio (91.3 FM). We'll notify them if we need to cancel.



Coming up at CrossWay Community

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Every Mon. 7 p.m.	Every Man A Warrior
Every Tues. 1 p.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m.	Wholyfit exercise (church hosting)
Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m.	Hinkles' small group
Feb. 2 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
Feb. 2 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Feb. 3, 17 6 p.m.	Alveses' small group @ Doerrs'
Feb. 9, 16, 23 10 a.m.	Spiritual revival prayer meeting
Feb. 20 6:30 p.m.	Women's Ministry event
Feb. 21, 28 6:30 p.m.	Hosting neighborhood Bible study
Feb. 22 7 p.m.	CrossWay Coffeehouse
Feb. 24 6 p.m.	Monthly prayer hour

Reaching in & out ...

Making a Joyful Noise!

Pastor Bob Funk is organizing “CrossWay Coffeehouse” — a fun and entertaining evening of live music, with fellowship, snacks and beverages.

Tune up your musical talent or offer a dramatic reading, and let Bob know you are game to join him in performing.



Or just come enjoy the fun. Do bring friends! This is an outreach event, a sneak preview of opportunities the Lord is already dreaming

up for our new space once it's ready to roll.

Friday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall. (Cherry pie, anyone . . . ? After all, it *is* Washington's Birthday!)

Taking care of business

The CrossWay congregation held its semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, Jan. 19, during the Sunday School hour, hearing ministry reports and being updated on the progress of our building addition. We were also provided with a financial forecast regarding the building and CrossWay's immediate need for additional funding. (Let's each do our part, folks!)

We also selected two members (Bernie Burt and Marcy Greenhoe) from the congregation to serve on this year's audit committee, as well as two members (Bob Johnston and Penny Pullen) to present Elder Board nominations at the annual meeting scheduled for May. Thank you, folks, for serving us!

Online giving

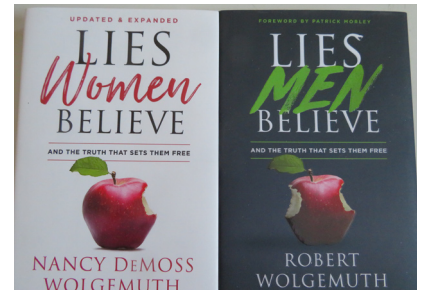
Now you can make your donation online. It's safe, secure and very easy to use! Just go to the new website: www.cwcgr.org. Scroll down until you see “Give Online.” You can give by credit card or from your checking account. You choose the amount, and, if you'd like, you can set it up to make a recurring gift.

For new users, you'll “Register For An Account” and fill in your contact information. Once you're registered, all you'll need in the future to sign in is your email address and the password you choose.

When you can't get to a worship service, you can still give to CrossWay! If you have any questions, contact Cindy at the church office (616/949-5690).

New to the CrossWay Library

Just donated: a dual offering, written by a pair of Christian leaders who have recently teamed up as newlyweds and who share an interest in promoting Truth.



Nancy Leigh DeMoss wrote *Lies Women Believe* (subtitled: *And the Truth that Sets Them Free*) in 2001 and has, in her new name, released an updated edition of this million-plus seller in conjunction with her husband's *Lies Men Believe* (similarly subtitled), recognizing that all Christians are called to live out the Gospel in love and truth.

Some of us may want to check out both copies at the same time and discuss them together as couples; they're each valuable standing alone, too.

Ladies: This is for you!

Mark your calendar now for the next Women's Ministry event . . . Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m. with coffee and refreshments in the church fellowship hall.

We will be hearing from clinical health and wellness coach Sarah Bramstedt on “Decoding Sugar Cravings and Addiction — Taming Your Sugar Monster.”



She'll be opening up to us the root cause of cravings and giving us some tips on navigating those cravings in a healthier way. Bring a friend!

Reaching out ...

Welcome Camelot Partnership!

The association of neighborhood churches in the Camelot community (surrounding our corner) has chosen CrossWay to host a new Bible study (called a “Conversation” to appeal to unchurched area residents) on Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 21. First topic: the Gospel of Mark . . . and of course, getting-to-know-you conversation. All are encouraged to participate.

*This message
from Pastor Bob Funk*

Lent 6 6 6

Sometimes “666” is a good thing.

Like March 6th, 6 weeks, at 6 p.m.

Lent is late this year! It begins on Wednesday, March 6, at CrossWay, with our third 6-week season of “Wednesday Nite Lent Lite,” starting with a light meal at 6 p.m., followed by a Lent-appropriate teaching series.

(Palm Sunday is on April 14, and Easter Sunday is April 21.)

Since this newsletter is for the month of February, I’d like to offer a collective “heads up” to give us a “leg up” for spiritual readiness for Lent 2019.

Mark Roberts wrote a helpful article entitled, “How Lent Can Make a Difference in Your Relationship with God.” I’d like to share some of it with you here:

“Growing up as an evangelical Christian, I experienced Lent as little more than a joke. ‘What are you giving up for Lent?’ my friends would ask. ‘Homework,’ I’d say with a smirk, or ‘Obeying my parents.’ Lent was one of those peculiar practices demanded of Roman Catholics — another great reason to be Protestant, I figured. It never even occurred to me that Lent was something I might actually be interested in, or benefit from, or decide to keep, or come to value as a way of getting to know God better.

“In the last 20 years, I’ve discovered that Lent is in fact recognized by millions of Protestant Christians, in addition to Catholic and Orthodox believers Lent (the word comes from the Middle English word for “spring”) is a six-week season in the Christian year prior to Easter. (Technically, Lent comprises the 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays — or 46 days in total.)

“In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, all Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for penitence and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter.” — <http://blog.beliefnet.com/markdroberts/>.



I, too, believe that Lent can make a difference in our lives. No, it is not a means of earning God’s favor through self-imposed disciplines or good works. We do not earn or merit God’s grace by trying to make ourselves more worthy to celebrate Good Friday and Easter. However, Lent can be a season for growing more deeply in God’s grace, for seeking grace to repent of sin and renew one’s intimacy with the God Who dwells within us.

One Scripture that motivates me to enter into the spirit of Lent is Ephesians 4:22-24: “You were taught, with regard to your former manner of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Yes, there are things we can do to cultivate and cooperate with the grace of God that has saved us and which also transforms us. That’s our focus for our Wednesday evening series, featuring homemade soups and practical teaching. Mark your calendar for the 6-week series, beginning at 6 p.m. on March 6th. Make it a priority. A discipline. An offering of self and time to the God Who loves us and is drawing us ever more deeply into an experiential union with Himself.

May this third year of “Wednesday Nite Lent Lite” inform and encourage us as we offer the Lord our time and our hearts, so that, by His grace, we may “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Look for the series details soon at church!



NOTE: We invite both our pastors to pen a column for *CrossWay Current* each month . . . but we stress to them that their participation is optional. Pastor Manuel has asked to be excused this month, and we are happy to oblige while anticipating his wisdom in March!

Reaching out . . .

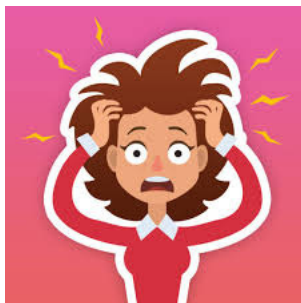
Cradles, redux

Sometimes it takes patience and perseverance to begin a new ministry. During the fall season, Marcy Greenhoe and RaeAnne Hansberry met with dedicated staffers of the Pregnancy Resource Center every Thursday morning, prepared to offer a Bible study to young moms. Problem was, this new time of day for a Cradles of Grace Bible study didn't attract any takers.

Never discouraged, our PRC partners took a break for Christmas and then put their heads together to develop a new plan.

Same place, same time, new curriculum: Tips for Stressed Out Moms will be offered at CrossWay for a few weeks beginning in early March.

Seems that this video/discussion series used to be the offering at PRC's service center before their partnership with Cradles of Grace. Some of the moms who've enjoyed TfsOM have been asking for its return. So, instead of offering it at the PRC office as before, PRC will bring it to CrossWay as an introductory effort. And they already have at least one mom signed up for it! The Pregnancy Resource Center is excited to bring this outreach ministry to the community at CrossWay, and we're excited to welcome them!



Please pray for its success in attracting and serving young moms from our area who need to develop some new skills and who will benefit from the fellowship that will arise out of this opportunity.

Blasphemy acquittal confirmed

After nine years on Pakistan's death row and several months in hiding after her release, our sister in Christ, Asia Bibi, is now technically free to leave her country and seek asylum abroad.

At the end of January, the Pakistan Supreme Court heard an appeal of her October 31 acquittal and dismissed it without testimony. Ironically, she has been in protective custody – not actually free – since being released from prison because religious extremists in that country spent days rioting. Unconfirmed reports have circulated that her opponents have been searching her neighborhood to threaten her life. It's not unusual for released Christians to be murdered outside the court system once they have been "freed."

Please pray for Asia Bibi's safety and that of her courageous attorney, who returned from temporary asylum in the Netherlands to represent her at this most recent hearing and, in doing so, lost his asylum rights.

Mission teams complete

During our worship service on January 20, CrossWay commissioned its new Missions Outreach Steering Committee: Annette Doerr, Stella Michael and

**To explore joining a
CrossWay missionary
support team, contact
Pam Reed, Missions
Coordinator**

Paul Samuelson. These representatives of the congregation will be praying and working together to develop friendships among the refugees and immi-

grants living in our church's vicinity. Please pray for them as they begin a lengthy project to share Jesus and fulfill our part of Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28).

Reaching in . . .

Marcy Greenhoe offers grandmotherly wisdom to Cody Hinkle after a worship service at CrossWay, part of our informal intergenerational ministry . . . in the Name of our Lord. Cody is cradling Baby # 4, after serving on our children's ministry team and waiting for the congregational meeting to begin.



Reaching in & out . . .



A tableful of CrossWay ladies welcome missionary wife Kari Greenhoe and baby Clark during her family's stateside visit, at January's IHOP breakfast, combining our monthly ladies' fellowship with our missionary support.

Looking back to January at CrossWay



Getting
there . . .



Now
let's
finish
strong!