



October 2019

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

www.crosswaygr.com

Getting closer! (Let us pray!)

Could this be the month?

Inquiries to our church leadership in recent weeks about the projected date of completion for our ambitious building project have most often, lately, produced this answer: Could be mid-October.

October is here; progress is apparent to those of us who have toured the addition, so stayed tuned. It could actually be mid-October!

Tours are available after church each Sunday, so you can personally either check out progress (if you've toured before) or get a peek into the possibilities (if you haven't ventured out there yet).

For all of us, this is a time to renew our prayers for the workmen's safety and diligence and for their satisfaction in their work ... our prayers for completion of this long-prayed-for expansion of our building ... our prayers for God's vision for its use. And to thank Him for providing the resources — just as needed — throughout this several-year process.

As we near completion, the need for specific resources becomes apparent and urgent. Please look over your personal finances and prayerfully consider helping bring us to the goal line. We are listing the most urgent needs at right. Could there be one or more that call to you as your personal investment in Cross-Way's ministry future?

And while you're checking the list, please consider what you can do to ease our general fund deficit.



Another prayer answered . . . the HVAC equipment (for heating and air conditioning) is installed on the sanctuary roof!

Building Needs

Coffee service equipment*	\$1,500
Volleyball equipment	\$ 2,940
Athlete-safe flooring	\$25,000 (est'd)
Lobby furnishings balance	\$2,500 (est'd)
Kitchen pass-thru "doors"	\$5,045
Classroom table/chairs	\$1,500 (est'd)
Parking lot paving	paid for - PTL!

*** most urgent!**

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School (all ages)
Every Sun. 6 p.m.	Book Club
Every Tues. 1 p.m.	Ladies Bible study (conf. rm.)
Every Wed. 7 p.m.	Hinkle small group
Every Thurs. 6:15 p.m.	Wholyfit exercise (church hosting)
Every Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.	Learn Biblical Hebrew (at church)
Oct. 5 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
Oct. 5 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Oct. 6 & 20 6 p.m.	Alves small group @ Doerrs'
Oct. 8 & 22 6:30 p.m.	Veurink small group @ A. Le's
Oct. 27 6 p.m.	All-church prayer meeting

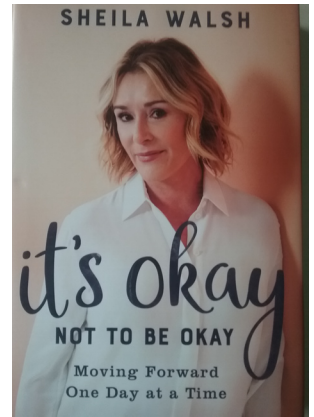
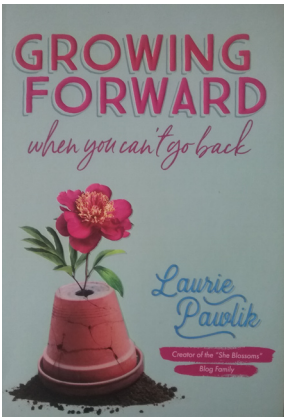


Wisdom at your fingertips

New to our church library this month is a pair of books written to assist Christians in getting on with their lives after loss and strife.

Laurie Pawlik shares practical tips stemming from her pathway through multiple losses, coming out the other side to flourish. She offers help to take small yet powerful steps toward healing and letting go.

Sheila Walsh rejects the pop culture self-help movement and suggests we apply Biblical wisdom for God-help. She helps you overcome the same old rut of struggles and pain by changing the way you think about God, yourself, and your everyday life.



'Small group' invitation

CrossWay members and attenders are welcome to participate in a "small group" for fellowship and spiritual development. This fall, four small groups will be meeting. Choose one you'd like to visit (if you're not already connected), and let the host know you're planning to attend. (If you don't have a fellowship directory, you can discuss it with the host on Sunday or check with the church office for the host's phone number and address.) Dates and times are listed in our "Coming Up" calendar, on page 1.

Sarah & Cody Hinkle open their home each Wednesday. Every other week, Becky & Alvin Alves

Fall sermon series

The Life & Work of Jesus Christ— 12 BIG Words for Today's World

September sermons centered on His Life: Incarnation (John 1:14), Humiliation (Phil. 2:7-8), Crucifixion (Phil. 2:8), Resurrection (John 11:25-26)

Oct. 6	Ascension (Acts 1:11)
Oct. 13	Exaltation (Phil. 2:9-11)
And His Work	
Oct. 20	Salvation (Matt. 1:21, 1 Tim. 1:15)
Oct. 27	Propitiation (Heb. 2:17)
Nov. 3	Reconciliation (Col. 1:19-20)
Nov. 10	Mediation (1 Tim. 2:5)
Nov. 17	Intercession (Rom. 8:34, Heb. 7:25)
Nov. 24	Glorification (Rev. 5:13)
Dec. 1	Advent 1

lead a small group at the home of Annette & Alan Doerr, and Amanda Le hosts a new Bible-study small group, beginning with Colossians and led by Marie & Dennis Veurink.

Brenda Weilnau will lead a book-club small group at the church weekly, a new opportunity, beginning with C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*.

October: Pastor/s Appreciation Month! Some thoughts

Someone has decided that October is Pastor Appreciation Month, when here at CrossWay, every month is!

But October's theme gives us an opportunity to ponder how to show appreciation to our two shepherds.

Some ideas to add to your own:

- Set a date with a Bob to take him & wife to lunch or invite them to your home for dinner.
- Send a Bob a note or a ministry appreciation card (Dayspring has 'em).
- Tuck a personal check or gift card inside.
- Buy a Bob a couple of tickets to a concert or sporting event.
- Say "yes" if a Bob calls and asks you to volunteer for something ... or at least pray about it!
- Give a Bob a book of inspiration or even fun.
- Pray for a Bob or two in earnest supplication.
- _____ Come up with your own!



This message
from Pastor Bob Funk

Be still and know . . . a contemplative meditation



One of my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 46:10. It is revered by many who hear the Lord calling to them, often in the midst of difficulties and trials. “Be still and know that I am God.”

In its context, the Lord is speaking both to the nation and to His people. The Psalm begins with the beloved words, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear” Verse 7 continues, “The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” By the time we arrive at verse 10, “Be still ...”, we are prepared to embrace the comfort of God’s saying to us, “Cease your striving, let go, relax, and know that I am in charge. I am the Lord of the nations and of your lives.” But there is so much more.

1. “Be ...”

There are many ways of “being.” We can *be* happy or sad. We can *be* at peace or in conflict. We can *be* fearful, worried, nervous, stressed, concerned or weary. We can *be* full of faith or doubt. We can “be” in many acute or chronic states that affect our ability to function well. Our state of being is something we can change. We can learn to be ...

2. “Still ...”

We often think of stillness in terms of something that is not moving. In that sense it is an external characteristic of our bodies. We sit still. We stand still. We hold something still. But stillness is also something we need internally, in our minds, hearts and souls. Stillness of the body is connected to stillness of the soul. When we read what many of the saints have written about prayer over many centuries, we discover that stillness is a key ingredient of the spiritual life for Christians. It has been ignored in recent decades, much to our peril, for many followers of Christ are characterized not by inner peace and wellness of soul but by turmoil and anxiety.

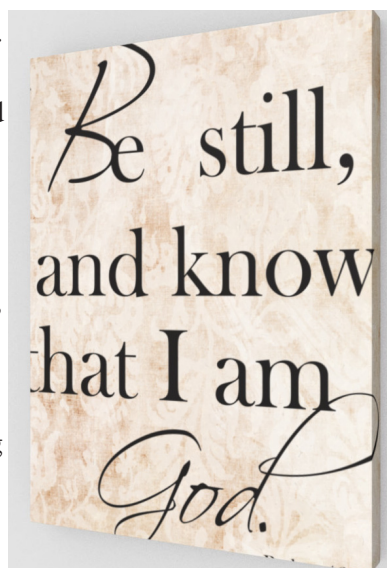
At its core, stillness is just resting — simply being — in God. It is an intentional respite from being too busy with many things. It is also an intentional letting go of our over-dosing on words, thoughts, plans and decisions. So, what is it that stillness frees us for? “Be still and ... ”

3. “Know that I am God”

In short, the quest for inner stillness is our return to intentionally being with God. Just as Christ emptied Himself (Phil. 2:7), so do we empty ourselves of our preoccupations and strivings in order to wait upon the Lord Who dwells within us. We cease our talking and fretting so that we can be receptive to the inner work of the Spirit. Some have called stillness the mother of all virtues, pure contemplation and a path to experiential union with God’s Presence.

The implications of all this are immense. Ours is not an age that values stillness. We must hurry up to get something done. We must be productive! — Be still? Contemplation? — Take some medication and get busy! And that unbalanced mind-set has led us to an epidemic of stress, burnout, anger, depression, troubled kids, broken marriages and conflict.

Our God is not known through hurrying, hollering and hurricanes. The still small voice is heard by those who can cease their striving and talking and doing in order, by the grace of God, to be still in the presence of God. And when we learn how to still our body, mind and soul, we can rediscover the One Who dwells in us, deeper than the turmoil of nations, politics, relationships and hardships. We learn to pray by resting in God. We realize once again that we don’t have to “be God.” We are helped and healed as we hear the Lord of the universe love us with His gracious encouragement. “Be still and know that I am God.”



CrossWay Community Mission Statement:

God has called us to make disciples of Jesus Christ who respond to His Gospel by committing ourselves to loving God, one another and the world in Christ’s name.



This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel

God's Building Project (You!)

Has your life ever felt like a building project that is taking far too long to complete? Not sure why that analogy comes to mind (!), but bear with me and ponder the question. Perhaps there are times when you have looked at your life and think/feel something like the following . . .

— I didn't know following Jesus would cost so much.

— Shouldn't this part of my life (be it an attitude or an action — you fill in the blank) be further along or close to finished by now?

— I sure thought my life would look different at this point.

— Why can't/won't God (our "General Contractor") use better material? I sure wouldn't have built me like this.

I could go on, but hopefully you get the idea. I suggest most folks feel this way from time to time. Sometimes, thoughts like the above are entertained only for a few moments, and sometimes for a day, a week, a month, or a season. No matter how you may look at your life, we need to remind ourselves "we are God's building" (I Cor. 3:9), "temple" (I Cor. 3:16), and are being built up as a "spiritual house" (I Pet. 2:4-5). As our "General Contractor," God is in total control of our lives. Someone once told me that, when you own a house, it seems that wherever you stand in it and look around, you see something that needs updating/repair, but you don't have the funds to do it all. Following Jesus sometimes feels like that. You look within all the crevices of your heart, and you see so much work to be done. Sometimes, we feel overwhelmed. So, if you ever feel like a building project that is dragging on, I'd like to leave you with a few words of encouragement.

— God is not "behind schedule" in your life (II Pet. 3:8-9). He knows exactly what He's doing, what is needed in your life, when it is needed, and He has the resources to complete His work. He Who began a good work in you will complete it on the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6).



— Trust God's good heart to complete His work. You and I can't make our selves grow. Yes, we are to vigorously plant, water, etc., but only God

can make things grow, and He is more committed to your growth than you are (I Cor. 3:7).

— You/we are God's masterpiece/poem/workmanship (Eph. 2:10). He doesn't do shoddy work. He thinks, because of what He's doing in and through you, that you are pretty spectacular.

Speaking of building projects that seem to be taking longer than expected (!), before I close this article, let me encourage you to take a "tour" through our addition before/after our worship service. While work still remains, MUCH progress has been made. So, likewise, take a slow step back and look at your life. No, if you're reading this article, I can assure you, you're not "finished" yet, but God thinks you're doing just fine, and if you can show yourself a bit of kindness, you will see God believes you are right "on time."

Loving...Serving...Building!
CrossWay Community Church

Our Missions Weekend with Tom Becker



CrossWay's missionary to the Roma people Tom Becker began his September visit to Grand Rapids with an on-air Friday visit to the 89.3FM Moody Radio morning show, where he was able to inform a wide audience in West Michigan concerning this marginalized people group and the EFCA/ReachGlobal work in their midst.

Perry LaHaie and Shawna Beyer graciously hosted Tom for three hours of conversation, interspersed with



Christian music and news of the day, speaking in generalities as well as providing stories of individual Roma coming to faith in Christ and going on to evangelize both their own people and, in some case, the dominant people around them. Tom expressed his belief that the Roma (formerly known as Gypsies) are undergoing a significant revival and becoming God's instrument for reviving the entire spiritually dark continent of Europe.

Tom briefed our congregation on Sunday morning about his family, former CrossWay members, and came back Sunday evening for a presentation and fellowship time. The event was attended by 27 CrossWay adults and four children, plus six adults and three children from the Rwandan church that meets weekly in our fellowship hall, as well as a couple of long-time local supporters for the Beckers and a gentleman from our church's neighborhood who had seen our "Missions Event" banner on Burton.

Tom will be traveling to Europe this month to lead a conference of frontline workers who are serving as the Lord's representatives to the Roma. He seeks our prayers for clarity and favor as he prepares for this meeting.

Thanks to Heather Dilly for coordinating refreshments and to Dennis Veurink and Bob Greenhoe for their A/V help; also to Troy Dilly, Dennis Veurink, Bob Johnston and Dick Ritsema for setting up and removing tables and chairs for the informal part of the evening. Thanks to Sue Manuel for kitchen help.



Thanks to Pastor Funk for introducing Mr. Becker and opening us with prayer.



A good time
was had by all
@ our annual
church picnic,
this time in
September ...



Griller Alvin Alves served up
the burgers & dogs ...



... while CrossWay
folks helped ourselves
from the buffet table



... and ate
to our hearts' content!



Then came the games ...



... what's a lawn for?? !



Soon . . .
these photos
will be
memories!

Restroom stalls & counters are now in!

The new classroom, with mounting for video equipment on far wall — drywalled and painted, ceiling framed out, finishing touches & furnishings definitely still needed! Looking out over East Paris, off the hallway across from the restrooms.



Ministry center about done,
it's now a staging area
for equipment,
as attention turns
elsewhere.