



February 2020

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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A piece of paper can be a thing of beauty!

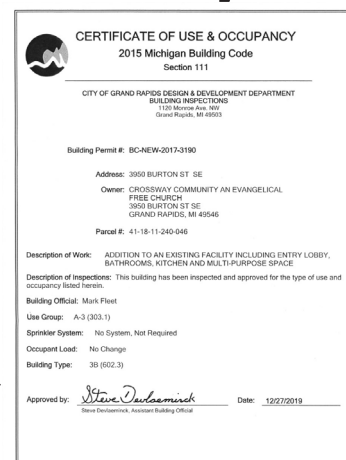
At right you will see what looks like a mundane, bureaucratic form; to us at CrossWay, it is a priceless treasure: The permanent occupancy permit for our addition. After much prayer and work, the Lord has graced us with a beautiful, useful south wing, offering robust opportunities to expand ministry.

Readers of this publication have seen the drip-by-drip progress of construction over the past nearly two years. Longtime CrossWay congregants have prayed and donated and given their own elbow grease, at times, to see this day come.

It is here, it is in use and it is ours — debt-free — glory to God!

Dedication being planned

A service of thanks and dedication is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23 — a great time to invite family and friends to join us in celebrating what God has done and is doing at the corner of Burton & East Paris in Grand Rapids.



CrossWay Coffeehouse: Free!

Join us on Friday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. for the next big event in our new “Big Room” — the 2020 CrossWay Coffeehouse!

Bring some friends, relatives or neighbors for a free night out. Bring a snack and enjoy all the free refreshments.



Enjoy two bands and a special soloist as they fill the Big Room with big sounds that free the spirit and cause toes to tap uncontrollably.

Set yourself free from winter house incarceration. See you there!

Ladies! You are invited!

Instead of our usual first-Saturday breakfast at I-HOP, the ladies of CrossWay are invited to a “Kitchen Shower” to help equip the sparkling new kitchen in our new south wing. Continental breakfast will be served in the multi-purpose room, 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Suggested kitchen items to donate are featured on



“wish-list” slips in the new lobby. If you can donate an item or a bit of cash for kitchen supplies, it would be such a blessing.

But in any case, come celebrate with us ... and bring friends for the festivities.

Lent Light begins this month!

Mark your schedules for Wednesday, Feb. 26; that is when our annual Wednesday Night Lent Light begins. It is also “Ash Wednesday.”

After a light supper of homemade soups and bread, Pastor Funk will present Scripture lessons and teachings on the theme of “Keeping Lent.”

See his column in this newsletter which includes the complete schedule for this Lenten series, including the services for Holy Week and Easter.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

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|------------------------|--|
| Every Sun. 10 a.m. | Worship together |
| Every Sun. 11:30 a.m. | Sunday School (all ages) |
| Every Sun. 6 p.m. | Book Club (coordinator Brenda Weilnau) |
| Every Tues. 1 p.m. | Ladies Bible study |
| Every Wed. 7 p.m. | Hinkle small group |
| Every Thurs. 2-4 p.m. | Learn Biblical Hebrew (here) |
| Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m. | Wholyfit exercise (church hosting) |
| Jan. 31 7 p.m. | CrossWay Coffeehouse |
| Feb. 1 9 a.m. | Ladies' Kitchen “Shower” (here) |
| Feb. 1 9 a.m. | Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans |
| Feb. 2 & 16 6 p.m. | Alves small group @ Doerrs' |
| Feb. 11 & 25 6:30 p.m. | Veurink small group @ A. Le's |
| Feb. 23 | Pregnancy Ctr. baby bottles due |
| Feb. 23 11:30 a.m. | CrossWay building dedication |
| Feb. 23 6 p.m. | All-church prayer meeting |
| Feb. 26 6 p.m. | Lent Light |

Thank you . . .

. . . to Marie Veurink and Mike Bryant for accepting nomination and election as the congregation's representatives on the nominating committee, to report for elections being held at the annual meeting in May;

. . . and to Audrey Johnston and Dennis Veurink for accepting nomination and election to the audit committee, which will report in May;

. . . and to all those who stayed, gave us our quorum, listened to reports, reviewed the construction of the addition, asked questions and voted at our semi-annual congregation meeting on a very snowy day in January;

. . . and to our glorious, gracious God for bringing us together to worship Him, to love each other and to reach out to the lost in His world.

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.



About our denomination

CrossWay Community is the only church in Grand Rapids and immediate environs which affiliates with the Evangelical Free Church of America, an association of autonomous churches united around the same theological convictions.

Many of us were drawn to acquaintance with CrossWay by the denomination's commitment to sound Biblical preaching. Upon formally joining, our members become knowledgeable also about the denomination's Statement of Faith and are asked by our pastors to subscribe to that statement.

The 10 topics of the EFCA Statement of Faith will be featured, one each month, in the *Current* during 2020. In this February edition, we offer the Statement's first principle:

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

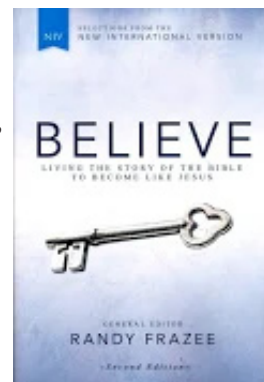
New to the CrossWay library

Featured this month is *Believe: Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus*.

General editor is Randy Frazee, but the content is deeply scriptural and divided into three principal challenges:

- What Do I Believe?
- What Should I Do?
- Who Am I Becoming?

Approach the answers to these profound questions while bathing in on-point Scripture to feed your soul.



Baby bottles due this month

What an easy way to make a difference in this world of ours. CrossWay invites you to take home a baby bottle and fill it



up — with coins, cash or check. Then bring it back on Sunday, Feb. 23, for donation to the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Our friends who work at this ministry to young moms (and dads) put our dimes and dollars to work to provide baby formula, diapers and other items beyond the necessities to bring joy into the lives of struggling families. The support they offer can make all the difference when a young woman is making that all too crucial decision to bring a new life into the world.

Construction financials

Though a few items remain to be finished as we close out our addition project, we can now report some totals, as presented at the congregational meeting on Jan. 19:

Grand Total Project Spending ... \$889,206.98
Remaining available for optional projects ... \$3,996.99
Remaining for lobby furniture ... \$549.97

The plans presented to the congregation in 2018 included, additionally, an athletic-safe floor, parking lot paving and remodeling of areas in the original building (Phase II). The sanctuary roof also needs repair. Moving ahead with these items will be up to us in the future.

The Board of Elders thanks the congregation for its generous giving to complete Phase I. All glory to God for His management of this major project, debt-free. Let's see what else He has planned for CrossWay!

This message
from Pastor Bob Funk

***‘Wednesday Night
Lent Light’
– A 40-Day Observance
for Lent 2020***



Just as many folks can't remember having 20/20 vision, many are also adjusting to the fact that we have begun another decade: 2020. We can't actually see the passage of time, but we do feel the effects, not only of our bodies changing but also of everything around us inexorably moving forward, sometimes for the better, sometimes not.

Lent is a time for renewed spiritual vision, looking backward and inward and upward in order to look and move forward. It is a season in which many millions of Christians will pause for special reflection, prayer and spiritual disciplines.

May I ask you to meditate upon the words of David Tripp. He writes of Lent:

“It is a time of spiritual combat, of exercises in self-control and mastery over temptation and self.

“It is characterized by confidence in spiritual victory through grace. It is a resolute donning of the Christian's armor.

“It represents an opportunity for spiritual growth, but this personal growth will be reflected in outward goodness and good effects upon others. Lent calls Christians to be better spouses, parents and children, to find new harmony in their family life. There is a new purity in thought and personal relationships. The special temptations, such as self-righteousness and hypocrisy which are attendant upon religious practice, will be seen for what they are and confronted.”

I invite you to join your CrossWay family for the 40-day observance of Lent that we call “Wednesday Night Lent Light.” It begins on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6-7:30 p.m., and continues each Wednesday through April 1.

We will gather for:

... a Light Lenten Meal of soups and breads (40 minutes), followed by

... a Lesson for Biblical understanding, spiritual reflection, prayer and practical application (40 minutes).

This is an opportunity to gather and to invite others to join us for a season of spiritual renewal in preparation for “Holy Week” and Easter. You will find the weekly teaching themes and Biblical topics listed below and in Sunday bulletin inserts.

Many of us may no longer have 20/20 vision, but by the grace of God and with our faithful effort, we can endeavor to see more clearly as we follow the path upon which Jesus is leading us forward to newness of life.

**Wednesday Night Lent Light
A 40-Day Observance for Lent 2020
CrossWay Community Church**

“Keeping Lent”: A Season for Reflecting and Practicing

Schedule: 6 Wednesday Evenings

Lent Light Soups and Bread Supper 6:00-6:40 p.m.

Teaching Series 6:45-7:25 p.m.

Closing Prayer 7:25-7:30 p.m.

Scripture Lessons and Themes

Feb. 26 – Introduction: The What & Why of “Lent”

Matthew 4:1-11, 6:16-18 – Fasting: Jesus’ and Ours

March 4: Ephesians 4:13 – Maturing

March 11: Ephesians 4:20-22 – Changing

March 18: Psalm 40:10, Luke 10:38-42 – Resting

March 25: Joel 2:12-14 – Returning

April 1: Matthew 3:1-12 – Repenting/Preparing/Producing

Summary: The Essence of “Keeping Lent”

Looking Ahead . . .

April 5: Palm Sunday Service (10 a.m.)

April 10: Good Friday Service (7 p.m.)

April 12: Easter Brunch (8:30 a.m.)

April 12: Easter Sunday Service (10 a.m.)



This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel

What is a “good” church?

When I spend time with other pastors, it is not uncommon to hear the phrase or the idea that says, “Oh, yes, that’s a good church.” I have often wondered what exactly is meant by that idea. What exactly is a “good” church?

To answer that question, we must first consider a few things a good church is not:

- A good church is not necessarily a big church — or a small church. That is, size really has little biblical bearing on whether or not the church is “good.”
- A good church is not necessarily one that always makes you feel good. There are many feel-good churches in our day that Jesus would tell you to stay away from.
- A good church is not necessarily one that is doing “good” things for the community. Yes, it’s good to do good things (!), but if a church is engaging only with “justice” issues and leaves Gospel truth out of things, it ceases to be a good church.

What other things would you mention as not necessarily signs of a good church?

Attempting to describe a “good” church could take up a full book, but since we are spending our Sunday mornings in I & II Peter this year, let me take some cues from Peter of what is meant by a “good” church.

As you read these descriptors, it would be good to bear in mind something I wrote in my recent Jan. 19 bi-annual report to the congregation: “Hell doesn’t care how idealistic we are, or even whether our ideals are noble, so long as we never put them into practice.”

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.

So, what I’ll share with you from Peter’s epistles should not be read as “ideals” but as descriptors of real-life obedience to our Lord. To the extent these ideals are only talked about or dreamed of but not practiced, that will be the degree to which we could no longer be considered a good church. This list is not meant to be exhaustive! Consider, then:

- A good church is eagerly looking forward to the return of Jesus. (I Peter 1:13; II Peter 3:8-10)
- A good church has people who are energetically practicing biblical holiness. (I Peter 1:14-16; 2:11-12; 4:1-6; II Peter 1:3-11; 3:11-14)
- A good church practices sincere and deep love for one another. (I Peter 1:22; 4:8)
- A good church is full of people who crave/love the Word of God. (I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:1-2)
- A good church is full of people who love to praise God. (I Peter 2:9)
- A good church’s default mode is to respect, not bad-mouth, the civil authorities. (I Peter 2:13-17)
- A good church is full of people who know how to suffer well. (I Peter 2:18-25; 3:8-17; 4:12-19)
- A good church is full of husbands and wives who love and respect one another. (I Peter 3:1-7)
- A good church is full of people who pray and are serving one another. (I Peter 4:7-11; 5:1-5)
- A good church is aware of and avoids false teaching and teachers. (II Peter 2:1-22; 3:3-7, 17)

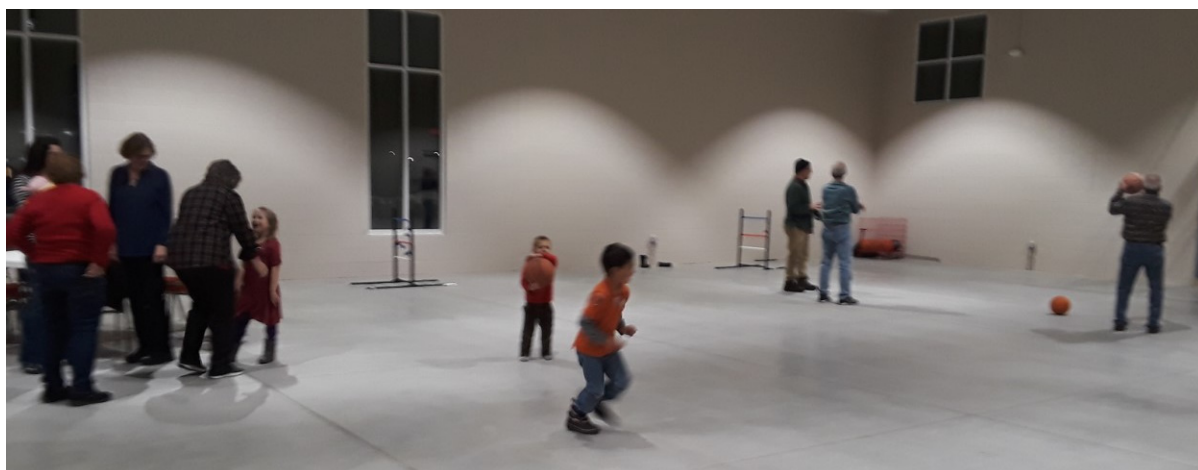
A couple of closing questions for you as you ponder the “good” church:

- As you read the list above, how are you personally helping or hurting our call to be a good church?
- As you read I & II Peter, what marks of a good church have I left out?



Happy New Year's Eve
in CrossWay's new
south wing!

Board games . . .



Basketball!

Snacks 'n' beverages . . .



A big thank-you to Sandy & Brad
Williams for organizing our eve
of fun, food & fellowship & to
Linda Stevens for providing
these photos!



Fellowship
(Elder Mike Stevens & everyone's friend Mike Batson)