



# CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

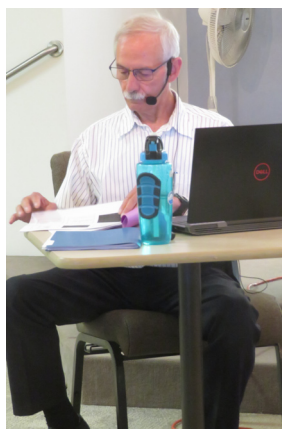
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## CrossWay reboot

Though Bob Greenhoe filled in for our absent board secretary during May's congregational meeting (see right), be assured he is once again serving us as church treasurer. Paul Samuelson continues as secretary, following the new board's first meeting, held June 1.

And the chairmanship is now resting on the shoulders of Michael Stevens, with Bob Johnston filling the role of vice chairman. Pray for our leaders.



Board members are also organized to lead in several areas: Michael Stevens and Pastor Bob Manuel are sharing responsibility for Christian Education. Paul Samuelson remains leader for Outreach and Missions, with Dennis Veurink continuing in Service. Bob Johnston remains concerned with Buildings and Grounds. New member Scott Montgomery has agreed to work toward redeveloping a youth group and addressing security concerns.

## Shop to bless



Time to shop for sales on crayons and notebooks for Camelot Partners drive to fill 200 backpacks for students at Ridge Park Academy, most of whom live in CrossWay's neighborhood as refugees and immigrants. Our goals: 200 24-count boxes of crayons and 400 wide-ruled notebooks of 70 pages.

Please bring your contributions to the narthex or the church office by Friday, July 22.



## Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 9:30 <sup>AM</sup> • Prayer, South Wing classroom  
Sundays • 10 <sup>AM</sup> • Gather for worship together  
Tuesdays • 7 - 9 <sup>PM</sup> • Small group @ Hinkles' home  
Wed., July 6 • 7 - 9 <sup>PM</sup> • Elder meeting  
Sun., July 10 • 11:30 <sup>AM</sup> • Summer Missions at CrossWay,  
Marlan & Mercedes, home from Spain  
Fri., July 22 • Deadline for backpack donations (see above)

## Congrats, grads!

What a blessing to see our young 'uns making milestones and stepping into adulthood.

In our worship service on June 26, we saluted our recent graduates — Isaac Palma from high school, Alison Snoeyink as an occupational therapist assistant and Julia Stevens from college, moving on to grad school.

And we enjoyed cake together in their honor at our June picnic.

## Stepping forward

Aren't we looking pretty these days?

Gardens add so much to the beauty of



our world. Thanks to the Mike Ward family and the Veurinks for their tender ministrations around our edges, making CrossWay so attractive to passersby on East Paris and Burton. And to Bernie Burt for her occasional attention to the rose garden at our front door.

If you have any bent toward gardening — or just want to brighten the CrossWay corner — bring a trowel or clippers and bend your knee. Don't wait to be asked!



### *With heartfelt thanks . . .*

Dear CrossWay family,

It is with deep gratitude that we thank you for the rolled-up-sleeves service you brought to our home on a Friday night in June.

We could not find it within our strength this spring to do the annual cleaning our garage sorely needed after a challenging winter, and just as we were beginning to lose hope, the CrossWay men's discipleship ministry asked whether we knew of anyone they could serve.

That was easy! 'How about us?' And you came with a full crew of muscle and diligence and collegiality. The job was done, the fellowship was delightful (and, Beth, so was dessert!) and we are now striving to keep everything in place and clean.

You have blessed our home and us as well. Thank you!

*Penny Pullen & Pam Reed*

P.S. If anyone else needs service from Cross-Way's men, just ask Pastor Bob.

### *Uninvited*

Subtitled *Living Loved When You Feel Less than, Left out and Lonely*, this book by Lysa Terkeurst deals with topics such as dealing with rejection, living loved (identity in Christ), trust and belonging. We all have dealt with these at one time or another. All solutions end in a relationship — identity with Jesus.

— review of a book checked out of CrossWay library  
by Ann Hackney, frequent visitor

## **“FAT Free Men”**

Pastor Bob Manuel searched for months for a name for his Men's Discipleship program. At the Great Garage Cleanup in Jamestown Twp. last month, he announced that his quest is over. The name shall be FAT Free Men!

He says the name is intentionally playful, yet strategic. The “FAT” part is taken from II Timothy 2:2. Coming from a classic discipleship text, it stands for “Faithful, Available, Teachable,” though the word “disciple” is not used there, but the process of discipleship is implied. It reads: *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will also be qualified to teach others.”* The “Available” is formed and fueled by two main Scriptures, those being Galatians 5:1 and 13, where we are told we have been called to be free and to use our freedom to love and serve one another. That is where the “Free” part of the men's group gets its name. (It can also serve as a double reference since we are an Evangelical Free Church.) We are “Free” men in more than one way.

So, in short, the Fat Free Men at CrossWay are men who are Faithful, Available, Teachable men who use their freedom to love and serve Christ and others.

## **It's summer!**

Regular readers of our page 1 “Coming Up at CrossWay Community” calendar will note some changes to the monthly pattern:

First, please note the Summer Missions at Cross-Way event at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 10, in the South Wing, when we will welcome Marlan and Mercedes, bringing us their in-person report from Zaragoza, Spain, where they are shepherding the church they have planted. They've been unable to travel for the last two-plus years, so this visit will be a treat for them and for us!

Also, please note the absence of the first-Saturday men's and ladies' breakfasts, the Tuesday afternoon ladies' Bible study, and the Friday night men's discipleship program.

Watch for calendar items next month for a women's ministry picnic, currently in planning stages, and the third Summer Missions at CrossWay event, with guest to be announced.





## Reflections on a Long Pastorate

Having completed 25 years of ministry with you as your pastor, I was asked recently to offer some reflections on a quarter of a century of ministry here. It's a bit mind boggling to think that I have been your pastor for almost half of my entire life. The years go quickly. Writing about this is not as easy as it sounds. I mean, where to start? I trust something in what I share here will help you in your walk with Jesus:

First, 25-plus years was never our plan. I can say, when Sue and I candidated here, we both felt the next pastor would have to stay at least 10 years for long-term healthy changes to take root. Statistics vary depending upon your source, but the average stay of a pastor in a North American church is around 4-6 years. In general, it takes at least 3-4 years, I believe, for a pastor to even earn the trust of a congregation. So, according to the average tenure, a pastor leaves about the time significant trust has only just begun. So, we were committed to stay, if God led, at least 10 years. Well, He doubled that and then some! Application for you? Be careful with "your" plans. Be flexible. God's plans might not be what you think!

Yes, there have been times I have wanted to quit, or move on to "greener pastures" as occasionally other churches would contact me, asking me if I'd be interested in being their pastor. This shouldn't surprise you. Most of us, I believe, far too easily can succumb to the "greener pasture" lie. But I never pursued any of these "opportunities," nor did I ever quit. For good or bad, I always felt, unless God made it clear I was to move on, I would stay. Along with this, pastoring a smaller church (the median-sized church in America is 65 people) has its challenges and its joys. The challenges often come in the area of "metrics." How do you measure "success?" In America, Nickels, Numbers, and Noise is the most popular (easy?) way to measure whether a ministry is deemed "successful." In America, "bigger is better." With that mindset, I have been a relative failure as your pastor. It's easy to dismiss the

bigger-is-better mantra from a cognitive/biblical perspective, but it's far too easy to still feel it as true on the emotional level. Especially on a Monday morning where many pastors battle bouts of discouragement! Application for you? Let God and *His* metrics define and shape you.

The joys. How about the joys? In short, the joys are you, the people. I have had the incredible joy of watching so many of you "grow up" both physically and spiritually. I have had the honor and privilege of marrying and burying many. My family and I have been the recipients of countless kindnesses. I am also thankful that my kids got to grow up without moving every few years. I wanted that for them and am grateful to you and the Lord that we were able to raise them here without the challenges of moving every few years as pastor families tend to do. As a pastor I don't "deserve" these privileges but have received them as an act of grace. I am eternally grateful. Application for you? Bloom where you are planted.

Changes I have seen over the years? This is one of the most encouraging aspects. Years ago, pastors and churches in this city had very little cooperation. Very little unity. Very little in the way of relationships, especially across denominational and racial lines. This is changing. I see and have experienced much more unifying prayer and desire for revival. Pastors are getting to know one another across racial and denominational lines. While this is risky and scary for some, the rewards in my opinion far outweigh the risks. Application for you? God is on the move in His church. Will you be a part of it?

I feel blessed to be your pastor. You have been kind to me and my family. You have been patient and supportive. And, like a marriage vow, for better and for worse, if you will have me to continue serving you, I will be here until "retirement" comes, or the Lord calls me Home. Whichever comes first! In the big picture, only God knows when that might be. Till then, I truly covet your prayers that I might be a good and faithful servant.

## Special visitors

CrossWay member Melva is home for a couple of months after travel restrictions have kept her on the job in a large Asian country.

She gave us a lively look into her life for about 15 years, as she overcame her fears and followed the Lord's call to serve as a special needs teacher overseas. She's added English as a Second Language to her portfolio and



plans to return at the end of this month to fulfill her contract and resume her friendships.

Over the years, Melva has been promoted to become the director of Special Needs and ESL for Leadership Development international, supervising programs in both Asia and the United Arab Emirates.

RaeAnne Hansberry steers a prayer & communications support team for Melva.



Dr. Luke and Nancy (pictured to the right of Pastor Bob and Jared) enjoyed a casual time of food and fellowship with Marcy Greenhoe and their prayer and communications support team of Marie Veurink and Penny Pullen, with husbands Bob Greenhoe and Dennis Veurink (and missions coordinator/photographer Pam Reed) also greeting our missionaries.






They have served the Lord for 38 years at Bach Christian Hospital, Abbottabad, Pakistan, where Nancy has been assisting the medical staff, using her ultrasound training, while Luke has been surgeon, medical director, and CEO.



Dr. Luke has recently named a new medical director from the surgical staff, moving the hospital away from the missionary model in light of the difficulty they've experienced in obtaining visas. These frontliners will return to Pakistan to ease this transition at the end of this month but hope to visit CrossWay on a Sunday sometime this fall.

The couple is splitting their time these days between Pakistan and their Virginia home, where they are caring for Luke's mom and enjoying getting to know their grandchildren.

Please pray for:

-  Luke's relationship with Bach Christian Hospital's new medical director
-  Bach's staff to become comfortable with the new management pattern
-  Christian staff members to embrace their opportunity to witness for Jesus through their jobs
-  Travel mercies for this dear couple as they split their time between homes in the U.S. and Pakistan
-  Safe birth for their seventh grandchild, expected on September 15



*Plan to join us in the South Wing after worship on Sunday, July 10, for an update on Christ's work in Spain, with Marlan and Mercedes.*



# Summer Kickoff at CrossWay . . .



Celebrating the newest Stevens with a baby shower for Julie, hosted by Cousin Julia, welcoming Elliana Mae Ann to the CrossWay family . . . born not long after . . . on June 25, weighing in at 7lb. 8oz. and “standing tall” at 20.25 inches. Can’t wait to meet her!

. . . then celebrating our fellowship  
at our outdoor picnic  
on a beautiful Sunday  
in June

