

COMING SOON

40 Days of Compassion
beginning Sunday,
September 12th.

Pray for our team working with Jonathan to prepare daily devotions, podcasts, Home Group lessons and special interactive elements online for this upcoming series.



Jonathan Atwell
Senior Pastor

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Welcome to issue number one of the CrossRoads newsletter. A couple months ago several of our regulars, including Cindy Dunn who is editing this issue, told me that we needed a snazzier way to let you know what's going on in the life of our church. Here is our first shot. Our initial goal was to start with a small, colorful product that will keep you caught up with the life of our church. Our next goal is to get you involved. We want your words and photos to make our next issue even better. So, get out your cameras and fire up your word processors. We would love for you to share your perspectives on our church family in the future. If you are interested in writing a short article, sharing your story (like Sherry in this issue), or letting us see your pictures, just send us a note at info@crossroadsfortworth.org. We want to hear your stories of how God has made a difference in your life through CrossRoads Church. Thanks Cindy, Sherry, Alan and Tom for your contributions!

See you Sunday!
Jonathan

A WEEK WITH THE TEENAGERS

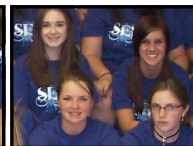
Every year the youth of CrossRoads look forward to a week at Falls Creek. To be honest, so do I. This



year was special because we were blessed to get a bus. All of the youth would be able ride together and not caravan style. When the bus pulled up to camp, we were greeted by yet another blessing; we were sharing a cabin with Grandview Baptist Church from Muskogee, OK. For the first time, we would have enough kids to play all of the sports.



Twice a day, the kids made their way to the Tabernacle. The morning services were separated between Jr. and Sr. high; but at night, the entire camp got together and thousands of teenagers rocked to the tunes of The Kyle Cantrell Band. Afshin Ziafat was the feature speaker of the week. His message about Jesus Christ and the roles that we need to play as Christians was inspiring. The service that all the kids will surely remember was Thursday morning's service. Ask one of them to share it with you. Meanwhile back at the cabin, we were honored to be entertained by the band Him, Big and Them. They sang for us "Dew on a Spring Morning" and "Questions Unanswered". (Make sure to ask Chris and Cinnamon to share these hits with you!) Roger kept us entertained with his games and it will be a long time before anyone forgets Ooga Booga. It's a secret society thing that we cannot divulge, unless you want to join next summer at camp!



After a great week of giving glory to God, we all returned home to be examples of God's grace. *Tom Herskowitz*

UPCOMING EVENTS and BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Friend Day	2	3	4 Youth 7:18	5	6 Tom Gosdin	7				1 Lauren Vickers Youth 7:18	2	3	4
8 Andrew White	9	10 Layla Caraway	11 Chelsea Homan Youth 7:18	12	13	14	5	6	7 Carl Holtz	8 Youth 7:18	9	10	11 Claire Delgado
15 Children & Youth Worker Training 2:00 p.m.	16 Billy Griffin	17	18 Leslie Alford Paige Hogue Youth 7:18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15 Alicia Brents Youth 7:18	16 Global Fusion Summit in Fort Worth	17 Global Fusion Summit in Fort Worth	18 Global Fusion Summit in Fort Worth
22 Kimberly Caudle Fantasy Football Draft 2 p.m.	23 Bryan DeMore	24	25 Youth 7:18	26 John Rodriguez Travis Brents	27	28 Joseph Jackson	19 Karen Pennington Home Renovation Project begins	20	21 Rory Day	22 Stephanie Reid Youth 7:18	23	24 Anthony Reed	25 Home Renovation Project continues
29 Communion 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.	30	31 Billy Walden					26 Sarah Reed Larry Estes Windy Lockett Communion 9:15 & 10:45	27	28	29 Youth 7:18	30		

A SIMPLE INVITATION

A couple of Sundays ago my wife, Melanie, and I went to a neighborhood and knocked on the doors of homes for a simple purpose. We wanted to invite people to church. The whole experience took about an hour, and our process was simple. When they answered the door, we introduced ourselves and asked if they had a church home. What was the reaction? Were people rude? Was it awkward? Did they get angry? Were we made fun of? With the exception of a few people who were not overly excited to see us, the answer to all of these questions is no. We invited about ten people to church. Out of those ten, four showed a serious interest in coming. One man asked us about the music at CrossRoads. One guy, who looked like he was about eighteen, said he might come and bring a friend with him. One couple had been to a bigger church, but they were looking for something closer. One man wanted his seven year old son to have somewhere to go to church. Nobody yelled at us and told us to get off of their lawn. Nobody threatened to call the cops. And, nobody we invited currently had a church home. This made me realize how many people must be out there who need to be invited to church.



There are people all around you every day that would come to Crossroads if they were asked. There are people all around you that are looking for a church for many different reasons. Don't be afraid to invite them. If they do yell at you, make fun of you, or act awkwardly around you, don't worry about it. Remember that you are offering them something great. You are offering them what they desperately need. You are offering them a place to hear about Christ. *Alan Dorsett*

SHERRY'S STORY

I spent my early years in West Texas. It was the Bible belt, so we all went to church! A church where the pastor was so loud he was guaranteed to pound the sin right out of you! You can imagine my surprise upon visiting CrossRoads. I realized it was going to be different when I saw the nifty cheat sheet they provide. I noticed the band and the contemporary music that was exciting and fun to listen to. The real surprise came when the service started and the pastor was sitting (yes sitting) on the stage! My daughter had talked me into coming so I asked her, "Does he always sit?" For my apparently ridiculous question I received the "eye roll." That was almost two years ago! It did not take me long to realize that just because Jonathan was not standing or speaking loudly did not mean he was not delivering the right message! Each week I find I have received a bit of the strength needed to continue my walk with Christ throughout the following week.



In my time here I have seen two of my children baptized, worked with the band, and joined our women on a much needed retreat. I have also watched my family blossom as they made new lasting friends while becoming involved in the welcome team and teaching children in Sunday school. More than any of that, however, I have found my faith again. It took me longer than I would like to admit to understand how important fellowship really is and that attending the right church is one of the most important things we can do in our lives. *Sherry Jones*

BIG COMPASSION SEPTEMBER

In September you have big opportunities to help us share God's compassion in our neighborhood and around the world.

Next month will be all about compassion at CrossRoads. On September 12th we will begin *40 Days of Compassion*, a study of the book of James. James is one of the most practical descriptions of how to live a Christian life. James emphasizes humble obedience to God and compassionate love for our neighbors.

With the beginning of *40 Days of Compassion* you will receive a book with 40 days of personal devotions that will help you understand God's compassion and help you find ways to show his compassion to others. You will also have the opportunity to share your acts of compassion toward others on an interactive web site.

September 17th and 18th you are invited to participate in the Global Fusion Summit at First Baptist Church Burleson. Here we will gather with churches from all over the country and workers from Central Asia and the West Coast to help you become part of our work showing God's compassion on the other side of the world and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

You will also have the chance to show God's compassion right here in our neighborhood as we partner with the City of North Richland Hills to help give a local family a better place to live. Beginning Sunday, September 19th, we will be renovating a home in our area as part of North Richland Hills' Neighborhood Initiative Program. We hope you will be part of showing God's compassion in September.

HOME GROUP HIGHLIGHT

Are you interested in hosting a Home Group during 40 Days of Compassion?

With the beginning of *40 Days of Compassion* CrossRoads will begin new Home Groups that focus on reaching out to neighbors and expressing God's compassion to others.

We need about three families or individuals who would be interested in having six to twelve people in their home every week during *40 Days of Compassion*. We also want to encourage you to be part of Home Group and bring a friend with you who is interested in knowing our compassionate God.

All *40 Days of Compassion* Home Group hosts will receive materials that include an interactive DVD that will teach Home Group lessons for you.

If you are interested in hosting a *40 Days of Compassion* Home Group or would like more information about which Home Group would be a great fit for you, send a note to Jonathan at info@crossroadsfortworth.org.

HOME GROUPS

Women: Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
6331 Boulevard 26, Suite 250
in North Richland Hills
Contact: Jennifer 817.333.9755

Couples and Singles: Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
6501 Briley Drive
in North Richland Hills
Contact: Donna 817.498.2675

20 & 30 Something Couples and Singles: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
9104 Addison Drive
in Fort Worth
Contact: Johanna 817.337.1035