

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH

COMMUNICATOR

GATHER, GROW, GIVE, GO!

AUGUST 2017, VOLUME 10, ISSUE 8



CROSSROADS UNIVERSITY Fall Semester 2017

Join us on Sunday evenings!

**CLASSES BEGIN
AUGUST 13**

CLASSES FOR ADULTS 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

▶ **HOW TO WEATHER THE STORMS OF LIFE** - by Adrian Rodgers, taught by Buddy Brazeal

▶ **THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES** - taught by Fred Earls

▶ **ONE TO ONE DISCIPLESHIP** - taught by Len & Verna Harvey

▶ **THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY** - taught by Pastor Jamie Warnshuis

▶ **THE ARMOR OF GOD** - by Priscilla Shirer, taught by Melissa Harman

YOUTH HOME GROUPS 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Groups for our middle and high school students
Locations vary each week, so make sure to follow
Pastor Ross on Instagram & Twitter @rosscooker.

MUSIC & MISSIONS FOR CHILDREN - 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

For ages 4 years - 5th grade
Childcare is provided for ages 3 and under.

Educators Recognition

Service and Reception
Sunday, August 6, at 5:30 p.m.
in the Worship Center

Everyone is invited to attend
as we honor our educators.

All faculty, administration, and staff members of any
educational institutions, from elementary through
college, and home school parents are encouraged to attend.
A reception to honor our educators will be held in
the Fellowship Hall following the service.



3001 Country Club Drive - Valdosta, Georgia 31602
Office: 229.242.7636
Prayer Request Line: 229.249.PRAY (7729)

Connect with us online!

crossroadsbaptist.com /go crossroads @gocrossroads

Dr. Ken Alford Senior Pastor



WE ARE STILL BASKING IN THE AFTERGLOW OF OUR FOUR "MARVELOUS MONDAYS IN JULY"!

Oh my! Those four services were indeed marvelous! The music was just terrific during those worship celebrations, and the preaching of God's word was incredible!

I want to thank all of you who attended any or all of our "Marvelous Mondays." I am especially grateful for those of you who gave so liberally to our love offerings to cover the expenses of this annual series and to provide our guest speakers with a generous honorarium. If you missed any of the services, or if you simply want to experience them again, you can watch all of them online at our church's website, www.crossroadsbaptist.com. To God be the glory for what He did here at Crossroads during our "Marvelous Mondays in July"!

I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE COMING MONTHS HERE AT CROSSROADS! August will provide us with a great kickoff for the fall as kids are back in school and both family and church schedules return to normal. I want to share with you that one of our main outreach events for the fall will be our participation in "National Back to Church Sunday," which will be on September 17th. With vacations over, September will be a perfect time for us to reach new people. For many families, the fall is more of a beginning to a new year than January! We are going to begin in August the process of mobilizing our congregation to get behind the effort to invite people to join us for "Back to Church Sunday." As we saw with "The Big Invite" emphasis leading up to Easter, there is great value in having a church-wide focus on a single event. Once again we will be providing you with tools to invite folks to be here on a special Sunday, and we will be mailing thousands of postcards to selected neighborhoods about that day. We will also once again be targeting specific neighborhoods with door hangers, and we will encourage you to promote "Back to Church Sunday" on social media. On Sunday, August 13, we will unveil our plans for ramping up our outreach efforts leading to September 17th. I encourage you to begin even now to think about people whom you will invite to join us on "Back to Church Sunday," cultivate your relationships with them, and pray for their receptivity to your invitation. Let's go, Crossroads! Let's take advantage of this outreach effort, and let's jump into August with our involvement in all of the other opportunities that are promoted in this copy of "The Communicator"! It's going to be a fantastic fall!

You are loved,

Dr. Ken
Dr. Ken

Follow me on Twitter
 @drkenalford



RESUMES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

STAY CONNECTED

To stay informed on what's happening and coming up in the youth ministry always check
www.crossroadsbaptist.com/youth

Parents, text @croads116 to 81010
to join the parent texting group.

DISCOVER CROSSROADS

LEARN MORE ABOUT CROSSROADS! New Member Orientation Class

This class, taught by Dr. Ken, is for our new members and prospects who are considering joining our church.

The next class will be on Wednesday August 9.

6:00 - 7:30 p.m
In room 6 of The Barn

To register, contact Leah Harrison at 229.242.7636
or online at crossroadsbaptist.com/discover

Mark Avery Administration/Outreach Pastor



Dear Crossroads Family,

Welcome back from a summer of vacations, trips, and time spent with family! We've upgraded some Crossroads systems and facilities, and

we hope that you enjoy the results. While we've been on summer break, Pat Sutter and his crew have been hard at work resetting the campus for the new school year and making improvements to our facilities. They worked hard to paint classrooms, install new classroom flooring, upgrade the playground surface, mulch flower beds, and update our kitchen facilities. I hope that you enjoy having a well-maintained space for ministry and school! If you see a member of the Facilities Team give them a pat on the back for how well they serve our church family and our Lord!

Our church database system was updated in July from ACS to Planning Center Online. The new system provides a lot of behind-the-scenes functionality that will help us grow and connect better in future years. Here are a couple of highlights that will affect you as we begin to implement this new system: First, I encourage you to schedule your giving online using the new system. Scheduled giving helps you stay faithful to tithe & give throughout the year and it helps us manage ministry funds and budgets more effectively. Second, nearly every event that requires a sign-up will be available online through an events portal from our website. Third, in September, parents of young children will be able to check in their kids digitally at new check-in stations. This approach will mean a new process, but I think that you'll be happy with the results. Finally, if you're part of a Connect Group, you'll be connected in new ways this year. During the month of August, we'll be rolling out an online Groups system. Attendance (for most) will become a digital process, and the new system will allow you to see a roster and calendar of events for your Connect Group. (Think the church directory and calendar, but for Connect Groups and without the annoying delays!)

Speaking of directories and delays... yes, the new church directories will be here this month. As a new pastor, I have learned so many things – near the top is the challenge of getting directories ready. I HUMBLY beg your forgiveness – I wish I could have had them here so much faster. They will be a little dated (after all, those pictures were taken last year), and not everyone had their picture taken. However, I hope that they will be a useful tool to help you connect and minister!

Finally, let me say a little about privacy and ministry. Our church is made up of hundreds of individual members who share a common faith and love for Jesus. One of the tools that we give members is the contact information of other members. These directories and lists are not for business purposes, political purposes, gossip, or stirring up trouble – they are for serving the Lord with gladness. Please respect others' privacy and do not use our tools of connection for non-ministry purposes. I would appreciate it, and everyone else would too!

We serve a wonderful, unchanging God. Hebrews 13:8 says "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." But, boy, does church ministry have some new tools in 2017! I hope that you will be open to the new changes and how they can help us connect our world to a loving God. When God commissioned Joshua (1:9b), He challenged him: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." That word is for us, even as we move into the digital frontier! It is my absolute joy to serve God by serving with you.

Blessed beyond measure,

Pastor Mark

Crossroads School News

Friday, August 4 - OPEN HOUSE

Crossroads Baptist School is having its **OPEN HOUSE at 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center.**

Monday, August 7

First day of CBS classes for the new school year.

Supplies

The supply list for K-3 through 5th grade can be accessed at crossroadsbaptist.com/school.

Prayers For CBS

Please be in prayer for our 2017-2018 school year. We have an exciting year ahead of us, and we ask that you would bathe our staff, teachers, and students in prayer.

Please call the school office at 229.241.1430 for more information.

DEACON NOMINATIONS

Deacon nominations begin Sunday, August 6, and continue through Wednesday, August 20. Nomination forms and collection boxes will be located in the Worship Center foyer, the lobby of the church office, and in the Fellowship Hall by the coffee station.

Acts 6:3-8 instructs us to choose men, "Full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom," and "full of faith."



Apples OF Gold

Mentoring Program

The Women's Ministry is hosting a six-week Bible Study for young women beginning Monday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m. Space is limited. If you'd like more information or to sign up, please call Diana Waldrep at 229.404.0240 or e-mail her at dianawaldrep@yahoo.com.

Celebration Choir & Orchestra

FALL KICK-OFF

Wednesday, August 9, in the Worship Center

If you've ever thought about joining our Celebration Choir & Orchestra, now is the time! The kick-off for choir begins at 6:00 p.m. and at 7:15 p.m. for orchestra.

Learn more by calling Pastor Tony or Pastor Shane at 229.242.7636 today!

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS - Part I

THE CREATION

**THURSDAY EVENING BEGINNING AUGUST 17
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL 6:15 - 8:00**

Childcare is available. Call or e-mail Frances Strite at strite5@att.net, or call 717-658-4369 for more information or to request childcare.

Join us for this 4-week study on the first two chapters of Genesis.