**The Future Is So Bright I Need Sunglasses**

*By Pastor Sid Robbins*

I went to the eye-doctor last week and just to prepare you, I will be sporting new spectacles in the near future. I will actually be able to see the folks sitting on the back row! As part of a “special deal” I got a pair of sunglasses, too. I’m all prepared for our bright future!

The six months I have been at Crossroads have been exciting, fun and up-lifting. I feel encouraged to experience the positive spirit present in our church. I feel inspired to think of all the people we have helped: feeding the children at Gladden Elementary, supporting the congregation struggling in Africa, providing Christmas for local families in need, caring for troubled youth in our community, as well as some amazing events for children and families such as Vacation Bible School, Family Fun Day and the Christmas Musical. Even the new paintball field has opened up new opportunities and possibilities. Thank you for your help, support, encouragement, generosity and love!

I am excited to see where God is going to lead us in 2012. God has been working miracles in our midst and I believe he will lead us to reach out to new people and show us ways to touch our community in positive ways. I believe God will show us ways to deepen our relationship with Christ and strengthen our relationships with each other. It becomes fun to work together to build momentum, worship

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Please write separate checks for building fund and general fund contributions. These funds are kept in separate bank accounts. Thank You.

Please have your articles for the February Reminder to the office by the Friday, January 20th deadline.

Sign up for 2012 Altar Flowers now. A tear-off order form with available dates can be found in the bulletin.

Giving envelopes are available in the office or on the information table.

Please contact Dana Pearis 331-2285, Margaret Kershaw 331-6530 or the church office 331-5258 to add, update or remove someone from the prayer list. Those on Immediate Concerns are individuals with urgent concerns and will remain here and receive prayers for two weeks unless you specify that their need is greater or shorter. Those placed on Continuing Concerns are individuals with longer term concerns expected to last 30 days or more and will remain here and receive prayers for two months unless you specify that their need is greater or shorter.

Have you noticed the blue recycle bins around the church? These bins are for recycling plastic bottles, aluminum cans, paper, etc. A list providing the specific items that can be placed in the bin is attached to or near the bin. You may continue to put paper in the big outdoor bins which are located in the lower level parking lot and ink jet printer cartridges & cell phones in the box in the office hallway. **WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO RECYCLE TONER CARTRIDGES.**

Our security team is always looking for volunteers to assist with securing the church. Please call Gib Pearis if you would like to learn more about this ministry 331-2522.

**Hand Bell Choir** – Bell Choir rehearsal is every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm in the multi-purpose room. All are welcome to come and ring. No experience necessary and you don’t have to be able to read music. Come join Virginia Robbins in this music ministry!

**Chancel Choir** CrossRoads has a wonderful group of people who make music every week: the Chancel Choir, led by Director Bob Goodin. Previous choir experience is not necessary, only a love of music and a desire to join with others who also like to sing. The group meets at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings for about an hour. Laughter and fellowship is a big part of the evening, but the goal is to be ready to sing every Sunday in worship at 10:10 am.

**SonLight Players Drama Team** is always looking for anyone interested in performing. Please contact Michael Crowley if you’d like to participate.

**Good News Productions** – Various Sundays for the 8:00am service and/or the 10:10am service. Training provided. Please call Keith Parks at 331-3518 if you are interested in assisting with this audio/visual ministry.

**Hospitality**– If you would like to join the Hospitality Team, please contact Donna Shoemaker. Duties include filling the roles of ushers and greeters, as well as assisting with refreshment preparation and clean-up. This group collects the offering, lines up volunteers to serve communion, welcomes new visitors to CrossRoads, and monitors attendance books.

**Back to the Manger**

Our CrossRoads children performed in the musical play “Back to the Manger” on Dec. 18th. Thanks to all who volunteered to bring this outstanding production to our Worship Service. The kids all did a great job with their roles and their singing! Special thanks to Bob Goodin, Brandy Austin, and Cheryl Ashbaugh.
Educational Ministries

CrossRoads Youth Group
Wednesday, Parsonage, 7pm

Kids Quest Sunday School
During 10:10am Worship after Moments with the Children segment
Ages 3 years to 5th grade

Adult Bible Study Sunday School
Room 210 at 9:00 am, led by Jim Jenkins

Adult Explorer’s Sunday School
Room 105 at 9:00 am, led by Carl Gum

New Small Groups Forming
New group beginning soon. See page 6.

United Methodist Women (all are welcome!)
Guild, 1:30pm, 3rd Monday of month
Joy, 7:00pm, 2nd Thursday of month
Sunshine, 10:00am, 2nd Monday of month
Girl’s Night Out, 6:30pm, 2nd Tuesday

Learn to Dance in an Evening

Square Dance and Line Dance Instruction. No experience necessary. Bring a friend! Fun & Fellowship while improving fitness. Friday, January 27 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm in the multipurpose room.

Square Dancing
SonShine Squares Square Dancing Friday, January 27 from 7:30pm – 9:00pm in the multipurpose room.

Contact Ella Jane Anderson with questions at 331-2522.

Boy Scouts

Troop #210 is selling trash bags. . . White, Yellow & Blue. . .§9.50 each. Order forms for trash bags are on the information table in the multipurpose room. Your support of our Boy Scouts is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events

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<th>Date</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>UMW Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Mason Baby Shower</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Special Events Meeting</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Grief Workshop</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Girls Night Out at Lorenzo’s</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Cub Scout Committee Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>In the Light Christian Performers Dinner &amp; ‘Far Far Away’ Performance</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Joy Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>In the Light Christian Performers Silent Auction &amp; ‘Far Far Away’ Performance</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Trustee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Grief Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Cub Scout Den Leaders Meeting</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Finance Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Kids First Governing Board Meeting</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Grief Workshop</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Boy Scout Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>In the Light Christian Performers Dinner &amp; ‘Bye Bye Birdie’ Performance</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Food Ministry Meeting</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Learn to Dance in an Evening</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>SonShine Squares Square Dancing</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Mid America Food Distribution</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Boy Scout Pine Wood Derby</td>
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<tr>
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<td>In the Light Christian Performers Silent Auction &amp; ‘Bye Bye Birdie’ Performance</td>
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<td>Grief Workshop</td>
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Kids First Preschool & Daycare

Kids First Preschool & Daycare has a few openings. Please call Gwen or Nancy at 816-322-9603 for more information.

Special Events Team

Are you interested in helping with VBS, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Craft Fair, or other Special Events at Cross-Roads? All interested persons are invited to join us at our first meeting of 2012 in Room#105 at 6:00 pm on Jan 9th! We meet monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month. Please contact Cathy Parks for more info at 331-3518.
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God and help those in need. It brings joy and meaning to each new day.

Please join me in praying with thanksgiving for the blessings we have experienced and with anticipation for the new ways God will use us to love others this coming year. God will lead us to a bright, new day! Praise God in 2012!

Church Mailing Address
When mailing correspondence or offerings to the church, please use our post office box. The church mailing address is:
CrossRoads UMC
PO Box 167
Belton MO 64012

Our forwarding order has expired. Mail sent to our street address will be returned to the sender. Thanks for your cooperation!

Jim’s Trivia

It’s a New Year!

These are famous firsts in the Bible.
1. Where was the first beauty contest in the Bible and who won?
2. Who was the first Christian martyr?
3. Who was the first person to fall asleep during a sermon?
4. What is the first commandment in the Bible?
5. Who built the first city?
6. What is the first book in the Bible named after a woman?
7. Where did Jesus work his first miracle?
8. What was the first of the ten plagues of Egypt?
9. Who was the first king of Israel?
10. Who was the first judge of Israel?

(Answers to trivia questions on the birthday page)

Children's Ministry

Our children's Christian educational development is a priority at CrossRoads. As a result of our recent brainstorming sessions for our Children's Ministries, we have decided to combine our Kids Quest Sunday School and our Children's Church.

Children will attend the worship service in the sanctuary through the Moments with the Children segment during the 10:10 am service (as they do now) and will then be accompanied upstairs for Kids Quest Sunday School, utilizing the existing Kids Quest format.

Beginning in January, one leader and two shepherds will be needed each week to teach the class. The Kids Quest Team will develop the lesson and all materials will be provided, and the class plan will be given to the session’s leader in advance. The Bible story units consist of lessons involving Art, Science, Games, Video, and Food, with a different workshop taught each week for 5 weeks.

We hope to involve many helpers on a rotation basis in this children’s ministry so the volunteers will have the opportunity to attend worship regularly themselves. Please contact Pam Eaton at 322-1532 if you feel this is an area in which you can serve CrossRoads and our children. Thanks for your support of this vital children’s ministry at CrossRoads!

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who helped with hospitality duties during 2011. Whether you were a greeter or usher, helped with collection, served communion, or made cookies for an event or for Sunday services, I very much appreciate your willingness to always step up and take on the task. Thanks again.

Donna Shoemaker