



Calendar of Events:

- * **4 - Labor Day, Office Closed**
- * **11 - Board Meeting, 6:30pm**
- * **16 - Fall Clean-up (all church event)**
- * **17 - Back to Church Sunday, Potluck**
- * **25 - Elders Meeting, 6:30pm**

Autumn Blessings

By Deborah Ann



Autumn brings to the soul relief,
as hot Summer days, slip to an end
God sent the season for weary hearts
to restore, repair and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,
that shed their changing leaves
God sent the season for failing hearts
to adhere, embrace and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,
there comes a new refreshing rain
God sent the season for fraying hearts
to increase, grow and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb,
and dips much earlier into the night
God sent the season for sleepy hearts
to rise, shine and awake in His light.

God gave to us the Autumn season,
so we could have a respite and rest
for it is the season for our beset souls
to see how much we are blessed!



CROSSROADS
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Prayer

What is prayer? Why do we need to pray? What does it really do?



What is prayer?

Definition: a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God; a request or petition to God.
Gynny's definition - Basically, it's how we communicate with God.

Why do we pray?

God commands us to - He wants to communicate with us. This is how we build relationships, even with God.
(Philippians 4:6-7)

What does prayer really do?

It fulfills needs, acts as a potential witness, strengthens bonds between believers. Prayer keeps us humble, gives us power over evil, and allows us to hear God's calling for our lives. (Luke 2:36-38; Ephesians 6:18-19; Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 10:2)

One of the main goals of the Minister Search Committee is to re-examine how we focus on *God's church*, our own hearts and foundation of beliefs. We were asked to read a book called "Autopsy of a Deceased Church." I'm only a few chapters in and have goose-bumps of all the similarities I see. "A decline in facilities, ministries, in the prayer lives, and hopes and dreams of the members that remain ..." those statements hit me hard. That scares me! I want to see our church succeed and not die out. The decline in numbers doesn't bother me as much as the decline in spirit I feel.

For God to receive the glory and for us to receive the gifts that God has prepared for us - we need to trust in Him and lift Him up in this process. It may not come easy, but know that it is always available to us. We can drive and pray (please do not close your eyes!), pray in the morning or the evening or any time in between! Our relationships are built on communication - there's no better way to talk to God than to pray. Take some time today and lift your thoughts to Him- you won't regret it!

As we are in this important season of finding a new minister, let us lift up the process to God. It is important that we pray continually (I Thessalonians 5:17) regarding several topics:

Pray for the minister that God has in store for CrossRoads.

Pray for the search committee and their families.

Pray for the Salinas community.

Pray for the encouragement of the body at CrossRoads.

Thank you,
Your Search Committee



God answers prayers, not because WE are good, but because HE is good. -A.W. Tozer

A Relational Search Process and the Next Generation of Leaders

by Tim Woodroof

How does a church raise up the next generation of leaders, train them to think in kingdom ways, and form them into Christ-like servants to whom the future can be entrusted?

Judging by our plans (or lack thereof), most churches seem to think the development of future leaders is largely a serendipitous process. How many churches do you know that have an intentional strategy for identifying fresh leaders, mentoring them, and grooming them to step into leadership roles when an older generation falters and fades? How many shepherds or ministers purposely take younger, full-of-potential believers under their wings to teach, encourage, and model the joys and pains of leading churches?

Certainly, God is at work in the lives of the next generation of church leaders, gifting and equipping them, calling them—like Moses—to a challenging (and sometimes unwelcome) role in his kingdom. God, in spite of our lack of initiative, will not leave his people leaderless.

And yet, surely there is a human element in raising up new leaders for God's people. Think of Paul adopting Timothy with an eye to the future. Think of Barnabas and John Mark. Think of Aquila and Priscilla with Apollos.

The Opportunity of the Search Process

The search process is about finding your next minister, right?

That's the short-game goal. The long-game goal is broader. The search process is also about identifying future leaders of your church, inviting them to participate in a process that is critical to the church's health and effectiveness, and then using that process to shape, mature, and equip those future leaders for ... well ... the future.



This long-game goal is one of the pivotal reasons we recommend churches utilize a Search Committee. Couldn't elders conduct the search process themselves? Certainly. But that's not the point. Wouldn't an elder-led search process be more efficient and timely? Probably. But, again, that's not the point. Won't elders, ultimately, have to make this decision anyway? Why not cut out the middle-man-committee? Again ... well, you get the point.

The point is that search committees are a great tool for raising up the next generation of church leaders.

Think about what committee members experience during the search process:

- They are invited to take on a task of great importance and consequence to the church—this isn't "make work" or counting noses.
- They are entrusted, by people they respect, with a task of great importance and consequence to the church.
- They are called to a task that makes great demands on them, requires significant sacrifice, and trusts in their best efforts and highest competencies.
- They receive a formal "charge" from their shepherds (including laying on hands and a special blessing) that explicitly highlights the spiritual nature and kingdom dimensions of their work.
- They sign a "covenant" that binds them by honor to a level of prayer, discernment, and deference that few of them have ever experienced before.
- They are asked to wrestle with theological issues like "calling" and the church's "vision" and ministerial gifts/responsibilities and the nature of spiritual leadership at a level and to a depth that rarely happens for most church members.
- They learn how to think and talk in ways that put the Holy Spirit at the center of the process in which they are engaged ... to make the Spirit a tangible partner in the search.
- They are involved in deep discussions with candidates who have dedicated their lives to serving God's people. They run to keep up with candidates who eat, breathe, and regularly handle holy things. They are thrown into the deep end of the ministerial pool and expected to swim.
- They are asked to make decisions that affect not only their congregation but a score of ministers, minister families, and the future course of their ministries.

A Relational Search Process and the Next Generation of Leaders (cont.....)

by Tim Woodroof

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They are asked to make decisions that affect not only their congregation but a score of ministers, minister families, and the future course of their ministries.

They are expected to believe (and act out of confidence) that God is working through them, revealing his will to them, empowering and equipping them to be competent for the task they have been given.

Why should it surprise us, then, that the result of such an experience is the formation of leaders who will bless the church for decades to come?

It's All in the Relationship

It is the relational nature of the search process that is primarily responsible for its formative influence on committee members. Not the process details or the documentation or the tasks to be checked off. Cultivating deeper, more intimate, and challenging relationships—something a relational search process requires and encourages—develops wiser, seasoned, and capable leaders for tomorrow's church.

First and foremost is the richer relationship committee members forge with **God, his Spirit, and his Word**. When prayer and the Spirit are at the center of the search, when listening to God and discerning his will is seen as the goal of the search, when digging into Scripture and wrestling with God's priorities and purposes has an essential place in the search, a relationship with God comes alive for committee members who, as a result, are profoundly affected and transformed. "I've never felt so close to God," committee members regularly confess.

Second is the relationship committee members build with **candidates**. Learning about a minister's life and family, listening to his heart and struggles, talking about ministerial victories and failings, dreaming about making a difference in a broken world: these discussions create levels of intimacy with ministers that few committee members have ever experienced. They get to walk in the shoes of ministers for a while. They get to see the world through kingdom-tinted glasses. The friendships they develop with ministry candidates change them, change their perspectives, and change their sense of life priorities. "I've known ministers," search committee members will tell you, "but now I understand them. I've learned to think like a minister—and that's a good thing."

The third formative relationship committee members experience is the one they build with their church. As they interact with church members (talking about their hopes and worries for the church), as they assess the church's health and effectiveness, as they wrestle with the church's mission, committee members learn to love their church as Christ does ... not a love of church in theory or a soft-focused, romantic love of church based mostly on a lack of information ... an open-eyed, fully-informed love of church that leads as much to forgiveness and forbearance as warm and fuzzy feelings. "It was easier when I was just a member, before I saw how the sausage is made," committee members comment. "Now that I've looked behind the curtain, I feel called to love my church warts and all."

Last but not least, the relationship committee members form with each other ends up forming them. These people spend months together, meeting and praying and talking, sometimes disagreeing and arguing. Each of them is asked to share his/her story, to speak of mentors and core beliefs, to confess faith and failings, and to express hopes for the future. Over time, they learn to understand each other ... and then to respect each other ... and then to love each other. They learn to listen to divergent viewpoints ... that you don't always have to agree in order to honor ... that trust will allow you to defer even when you see things differently. Those, of course, are critical leadership skills. "I've never belonged to a group of people so different but so committed to loving each other and doing what was best for the church. This committee taught me how church ought to be 24/7."

BACK TO ...

When you see the two words above what does it cause you to think of? This time of year, for a lot of people it is “Back” to school. There was even a movie several years ago called “Back to the Future.” Does going back mean starting over? Sometimes, when we are working on a project, and it is not going well, we need to start over, or go “Back” to the drawing board.

Sometimes starting over, or going back does mean something else; it’s reconnecting, or maybe a reunion. In our church, we are going through a new minister search. (No, we are not bringing back a former minister.) Our Search Committee has been working very hard to put together information. Information from us, and our community, in order to find a minister who will partner with us, and reconnect us as a church to do the work that God wants us to do for Him here in this valley.

I have found that in reality, we never really do go back, because nothing ever stays the same. Even when we return to school, or attend a reunion, none of us are ever the same as we were back when we last saw one another. I’m sure that when you have attended a family, high school, or college reunion, you will find that most everyone has moved on, and that some, unfortunately, are no longer with us. I’m pretty sure that most kids would even tell you that they would not want to go back to the grade they just left. So, going back is not necessarily a bad thing.

Hopefully, our relationship with God has progressed as well. Some of us continue to move forward, some of us need to go “back” (a little), some of us need to reconnect, or have a reunion with Him. Wherever you are in your walk with Him, I know that we are all moving forward the best we can. It’s not a race; it is a journey. My journey is not the same as your journey. This is a good thing, because each of us have a journey that brings us together, to help one another, to get through this awesome life that God, through His grace, has given us.

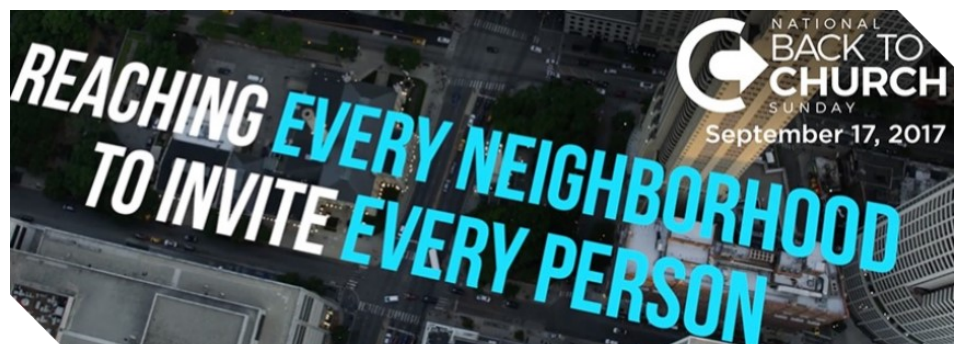
So, we get to have a reunion, every Sunday! Our church is doing a search for a minister that will work with us, and help us grow, and change, and move forward, and not look “back.”

We have an opportunity to reunion with one another on September 17, 2017. This day has been designated as “Back to Church Sunday.” We will have a potluck after the service. Please invite someone to come and join us. Just like all reunions, there will be great food, and fellowship, just what a reunion is for!

Please keep our church, and the search committee in your prayers, and pray for those who God lays on your heart, those on our Prayer List, and our Prayer Chain.

In His Love,

Debbie Lemmon





September Birthdays

Grace Lemmon	9/03
Camilla Carr	9/07
Kathy Mc Bride	9/10
Chris Madruga	9/10
Alecia Hernandez	9/11
Cris Reyes	9/12
Jacob Reyes	9/18
Rosendo Hernandez	9/19
Rosendo Hernandez, Jr	9/21
Claudia Struby	9/23



White Chicken Chili

Derived from a recipe shared by Nan Madruga and Thom Delacruz (via Pampered Chef)

Ingredients:

- 2 poblano peppers, peeled chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 tbsp olive oil, divided
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 1/2 lb cooked chicken, shredded
- 2 tbsp Southwestern Seasoning Mix
- 1 cup chicken broth/stock
- 2 cans (15.5 oz each) Great Northern beans, drained
- 1 jar (16 oz) salsa verde



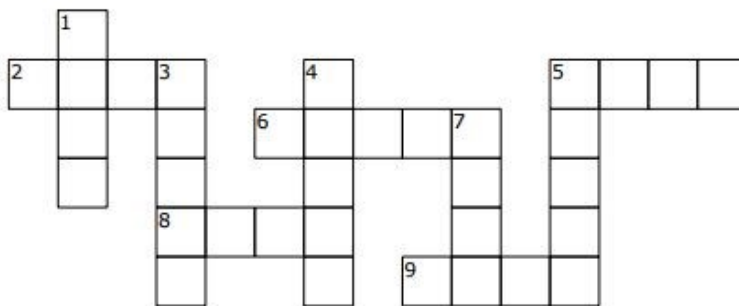
Directions:

1. Sauté peppers, onion, salt and pepper for 3-5 min., add garlic and cook another 2-4 min.
2. Add remaining ingredients; bring to boil over medium heat.
3. Reduce heat and simmer 30 min.

Serve this chili with optional toppings such as shredded cheese, sour cream, lime wedges, diced avocado or chopped cilantro.

Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The natural movement of air
5. To travel along on your feet
6. Moving swells on the surface of the sea
8. A small vessel for travel on water
9. An unpleasant feeling caused by danger

DOWN

1. To go downward in water
3. A lack of confidence or belief in God
4. A firm belief in God
5. A liquid that comes down from the clouds as rain
7. To rescue someone

FEAR	FAITH	DOUBT	WAVES	WATER
SAVE	WIND	BOAT	WALK	SINK

Crossroads Christian Church

Church Secretary: Brandy Stark

Phone: 831 444 9104

Office Hours: 9am-2pm, Monday - Friday

crossroadschurch@sbcglobal.net

Like us on  Crossroads Christian Church Salinas

Elders:

Jerry Lemmon

Alan Stark

Lyn White

Current Groups/Classes

Sunday Morning

Please join us for one of our Bible studies.

Plan to arrive early and join us for coffee and pastries.

9am

Adults - "A Church That Flies"

Tim Woodroof/Jerry Lemmon

10:30am - See schedule

Nursery/Toddlers

Pre-K

K-5th grades

Sunday Evening - 5:30pm @ CCC

Sermon Discussion - Alan Stark

Wednesday Morning - 9:30am @ CCC

Women's Bible Study

Chronological Walk through the Bible

See Susan Vargas or Tonna Henson with any questions

Thursday Evening - 6:00pm @ CCC

Women's Bible Study - "It's Good to be Queen"

Becky Cromer

Prayer Chain

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Our Vision

GLORIFY GOD

Our Mission

Grow in Christ

Serve in Love

Bring others to Jesus