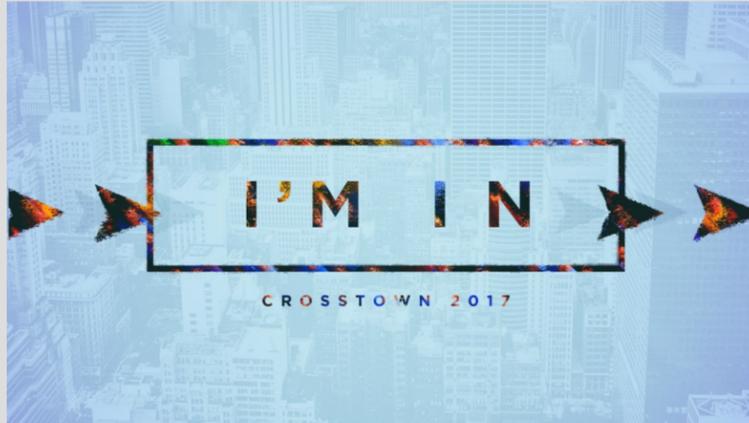


SERMON NOTES



“Church: Why Bother?”

- Ephesians 2:11-22

• A New _____.

- Divided by two groups: _____ and _____

- Common ground in _____

- “The _____ of the Bible” (cf. Acts 2:9-11)

- God thinks _____ is a good thing
(cf. Rev. 7:9-10)

- The church: _____ of the gospel

- _____ we can do so little, but _____
we can do so much!

FAMILY UPDATES

Members with health issues: Jim & LaFerne Caldwell, Peggy Cardwell, Kathleen Corns, Ernest Dean, Harlon and Maerene Hawkins, Terry Howard, Alyssa Layman, Cristin Martin, Sherry Meadors, Marilyn Parnell, Glenna Pickel, Micheal Robison, Cathy Sharp, Sterling Thomas, Earl Tillery, Janice West.

Prayer Requests

Marshall Brooks was hospitalized on Monday and treated for Pneumonia and other health concerns.

Responses

Keenan Meadors: has an upcoming termination hearing, prayers requested for truth to prevail and his reputation to be restored.

Prayers for Friends and Family

Javier Hancock Sr. -**Debra Rodriguez** son was hit in the eye with a high-pressure washer, which has caused a blood clot behind his eye. Debra asks for prayers for healing, because he could lose his eye, even though the swelling is now going down.

Stephanie Newman: Prayers for my family and for my pregnancy, I have lots of pain. I would also like prayers for my friend Chelsey Marshal, she delivered a premature baby, and the baby has a 50% chance of survival. The baby's skin is falling off, and they think it's from a rare disease.

Helen Troy: she has been in the hospital recently and unable to write cards or send emails to offer comfort and support to her friends at Crosstown, and that she feels bad about it since so many have been ill and have lost loved ones. She is staying in a rehab facility now but is still having ongoing health problems.

Unknown prayer request was given to pray for the safety of players who choose to kneel.

Unknown prayer request was given that our nation can learn unity, love and respect for each other.

Food Pantry Guests

David: will have colon surgery on October 26.

Debra: has cancer.

Sasha: needs prayers for her brother, who is in the hospital, her relationship and her finances.

Thank You

Crosstown Family, Scott and I want to thank everyone who came to our celebration. We are so blessed to have such wonderful friends that made the time to be with us at such a happy occasion. Thank you for all the lovely cards. Love you all.
Scott and Kenna Fields.

To everyone at Crosstown, Thank you for all the love support and prayers that you've given me during my loss of William “Bates”. I still miss him so much.
Love Always, Marie Powell.

Directory Updates

Kareda Tea
7802 W 7th St, Tulsa, OK 74127
918-849-8951

TODAY >

October 8, 2017

You can still join us for Crosstown's All-Church Retreat

October 13-14th

At New Life Ranch

160 New Life Ranch Road, Colcord, OK
74338



You may register online (crosstownfamily.org) or pick up a form in the foyer and return it to the red basket on the table. Payment can be placed in the lock box located in the foyer or given to ministry staff or an elder. (If cash, please seal in clearly marked envelope.) Come join us, eat, sing, pray, play, relax, explore together, and unite, during our All-Church Retreat.

FRIDAY

6:30pm: **Dinner** (Dining Hall)

7:30pm: **Orientation** (Conference Center)

7:45pm: **Devotional** (Conference Center) Guest Speaker: David Lopez

8:30pm: **S'mores** (Outside Conference Center)

SATURDAY

8:00am: **Breakfast** (Dining Hall)

9:00am: **Devotional** (Conference Center) Speakers: Robert Prater and Elders

9:45am: **Group Games** (Conference Center)

11:00am: **Free Time**

11:00am: **Zipline:** (Misti, Hannah, Shannon, Merle, Jaiden, Danielle, Austin, Ashton, Mackenzie, Cheala, Sydney, Allison)

12:00pm: **Lunch** (Dining Hall)

1:00pm: **Free Time**

5:30pm: **Dinner** (Dining Hall)

SPECIAL EVENTS

1:00pm: **Trail Ride** (Stables) Hannah, Cecilia, Makenzie, Ashton, Elysha, Sean, Sydney, Joanie, Roddy, Homer, July, David

1:00pm: **Skeet Shooting** (open to anyone not on trail ride)

2:30pm: **Pony Ride** (Stables) open to all children and teens

2:30pm: **Riflery** (open to anyone)

4:00pm: **Archery** (open to anyone)



Church van leaves on Friday, October 13th at 4:45pm. Caravan or ride church van. Contact **Sean Layman** to ride van 918-361-1393



AMONG FRIENDS with Robert

Many of us woke up this past Monday morning to the absolutely horrific news of a mass shooting on the Las Vegas strip. Videos show the fear and horror as gunshots can be heard breaking through the noise of the crowd. A 64-year-old man armed with more than 10 rifles shot and killed 58 people and more than 500 others were injured in what is being called “the largest mass shooting U.S. history.” Almost sixty precious souls whose lives have been snuffed out by an act of violence. Events like these trigger our collective memory—Pulse nightclub in Florida, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, San Bernardino, and the list goes on. My heart is broken and so is the heart of this nation.

Evil. Yes, that’s what it is. Evil. There’s no other word for it. We can see it. We can feel it. We can hear it. To deny its presence or pretend it’s something less is to willingly ignore the obvious. It would be like closing your eyes and insisting that the sun—bright and warm as it is—doesn’t exist. To admit evil is to admit that something is very wrong. In response, Country star Jake Owen who had gotten off the stage minutes before the shooting said: “This isn’t what our America is supposed to be like.” No it’s not. But more, it’s not what our world is supposed to be like. There’s a big problem.

And, in displays of evil like this, many well-meaning people want to find a cure for the evil. Gun control. Less political rhetoric. Stricter laws. Statements of solidarity. Positive feelings and well-wishes. Are these cures? Well, a cure depends on knowing the source. When doctors deal with sicknesses they don’t simply treat the symptoms, they have to treat the source. Without knowing the source, a cure for evil can only address the symptoms. So, what is its source?

The Bible says, “*The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick.*” (Jeremiah 17:9) Jesus taught, “*What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of a man come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.*” (Mark 7:20-23). What if that’s true?

If it’s true then it means we need a cure that goes more than skin deep. We need a *heart cure*. Politics can’t change hearts. Laws can’t change hearts. Psychology can’t change hearts. Positive vibes and well-directed thoughts cannot change hearts. Rather, the Bible says only the gospel of Jesus Christ can—only it can address the problem of the heart. Jesus said, “*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.*” (Mark 2:17)

The gospel offers a cure for the sickness of the heart. The gospel is a message that does heart surgery and gives a heart transplant, “*I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*” (Ezekiel 36:26).

This past week, once again, I have grieved the evil I see and hear. Even more, I grieve the evil and sin that is in my own heart. But I’m also reminded why we need the Great Physician, “*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—whom I am the worst.*” (1 Timothy 1:15). So let us mourn with those who mourn, and do so for as long as it takes to bring the heartsick to the Physician and the life-giving medicine of the gospel.

--Your friend,
Robert



MINISTRY UPDATES



Children’s:

Bible Hour — available for 2&3-year olds and 4,5,&6-year olds in our east wing. Children will be dismissed prior to the sermon.

Bible Basics—offered to students in grades 2-6 on 1st & 2nd Sunday of each month. Room 128. Dismissed prior to the sermon.

Today’s Volunteers — Nursery: **Robin A. and Meri Sue B.**

2&3s Bible Hour: **Molly Couch and Elysha Byrd**

4&5s Bible Hour: **Joanie R., Jaiden B., Jordan W., Mackenzie P.**

Bible Basics: **Beckie Null and John Null**



Women’s:

Women’s Bible Study — Walking In the Light Daily. Every Thurs. at 9:30am in Room 122. For more info, see **Mary Parker**.



Small Groups:

Small Group Bible Study — Led by **Keenan Meadors**. Sundays at 4pm.

Monday Night for the Master — Mondays 3:30-6:30pm

Life Groups — Connect / Grow / Serve. Contact an elder, a minister, or **Chris Clayton** to join a group.



Singles:

Monthly Activity — October meeting cancelled. Please join in the All-Church Retreat.

Food Pantry:



You may make a donation using the ‘Food Pantry’ envelopes in the back of the pew, and placing them in the contribution plate. Or you can donate online from our website, and specify your donation is to go to the Food Pantry. We need **PAPER SACKS**, please leave by food pantry door.

Security:

Today — Class: **Louis Robison**. Worship: **Owen Roberson and Gene Anderson**

Miscellaneous:



Fall Festival: Sign up to volunteer, donate candy, and pick up invitations to invite your friends and neighbors, at the table in the foyer. Event is October 29. 5:30-7:00pm. Monetary donations should be given to ministry staff, lock box or an Elder. Candy can be put in any of the baskets located throughout the building.

All Church Fellowship Meal: November 5, immediately following services. Please bring food according to the first letter of your last name.

- A-F: Vegetable/Potato dish
- G-L: Salad/Fruit dish
- M-R: Dessert/Bread
- S-Z: Casseroles/Main Dish
- Set Up/Clean Up Responsibility: (Bible Class Room 213)

Please bring enough to feed two times the number in your family attending.

Welcome Visitors: You are our honored guests. Please complete a visitor’s sheet, located inside the Connection Books that will be passed out during our worship service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October:

10-13	All-Church Retreat
10-29	Fall Festival 5:30-7pm
11/5	All Church Fellowship

BIRTHDAYS

Upcoming

10/9	Della Brewster
10/9	Patsy Hunter
10/12	Jerry Buchanan
10/13	Jo Hill
10/14	Shirley Schellhorn



Student Movement (6th - 12th Grade)

Wed. Night Hang Outs ~ Wednesday nights at 6pm. Bible Class will follow at 7pm.

Transportation ~ If you need a ride to church or an event, please contact Sean.

Area Wide ~ TODAY! October 8 at North Heights Church of Christ in Bixby. Van leaves at 3:50pm and will return 7:30pm. Dinner provided. As a group service project we collecting monetary donations to help a family in one of our congregations with adoption fees. We will be collecting at each area wide event until April.

Contact Kids ~ Service Project: October 17th at 5:30-7:30pm, dinner provided. Meet at Contact Church, 1529 West 49th St. at 5:30pm or van leaves crosstown 5:15pm and returns at 7:45.

Halloween Festival at the Castle of Muskogee: October 27. 5:15-9:50pm. We encourage parents to join us. This event is a-la-carte so you must sign up on our website @ www.crosstownfamily.org **TODAY** is the deadline.

“Spooky” Movie Monday ~ October 30 @ Sean’s house. Pumpkin carving contest, Hocus Pocus and Food, so please bring \$5 for food and prizes. Van leaves @ 5:45pm and returns at 9:15pm.

Fasting 24 Fundraiser ~ November 4. Beginning at 8:00am Saturday morning until Sunday morning services. Breakfast served at 8:00am. Bring bedding, bath towel, toiletries and clothes for church in the morning.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday
Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Worship 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday
Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

CONTACT US VIA EMAIL:
> info@crosstownfamily.org

GIVE TO CROSTOWN ONLINE AT
> www.crosstownfamily.org/donate

PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT
> www.crosstownfamily.org

- WHERE YOU WILL FIND:**
- Info on events & ministries
 - Our roster of elders & staff
 - Sermon audio & other resources

CHURCH INFORMATION

3400 East Admiral Place
Tulsa, OK 74115-8227
Phone: 918-834-1395

CHURCH STATS

Sunday, October 1
Bible Class Total 120
Worship Total 216

Wednesday, October 4
Bible Class Total 67

Statistics: Week of October 1
Weekly Budget \$9,100
Contribution \$9,159
Contribution YTD \$349,621
Budget YTD \$364,000
Under YTD (\$14,379)