

*Crossing the world with the message of the cross.*

*“CHANGING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST”*

## THE CROSSING

Great Crossing Baptist Church  
**CELEBRATING 225 YEARS SERVING THE LORD**

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PILGRIM PARTNERS

Dr. Ray Roach, Pastor

### **Prove Our Stewardship Sundays**

I have been preaching a series of sermons on Stewardship and I hope all of us have considered our stewardship from several angles. In this series I have emphasized how we are stewards in every area of our lives and how we are stewards on the level of our responsibility to others as well as our responsibility to God and His church. As a follow-up to this series I would like to challenge the members and those who attend Great Crossing Baptist Church to “Prove our Stewardship” on the first Sunday of the next two months. What does it mean for us to Prove Our Stewardship? What will it mean to Great Crossing Baptist Church if we take this effort to heart?

Stewardship is a term to describe the Christian’s response to God in using all of the gifts and resources that God has given to him or to her for God’s glory. The scripture teaches us that every good and perfect gift comes from God.” Thus our talents, gifts, time and money are all entrusted to us by God, and it is our privilege to use all we have been given, responsibly. To emphasize this concept of stewardship and to provide our church and ourselves with a demonstration of what it could mean if we follow God’s plan for financing His work in His church, I would like for us to set aside the first Sunday of October and the first Sunday of November as “Prove Your Stewardship Sundays.” For those who have not

learned to give a tithe it would be a matter of proving to yourself that it is possible to give a tithe of your income to the Lord through your church. As you perhaps know, the tithe is a tenth of your income which is designated in the scriptures as an amount a person should consider to belong to God. The Scriptures suggests that we should begin our giving with the practice of tithing or giving through the church a tithe of our income. This is the way God has chosen to finance His work. God says in Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this", says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Therefore we can see that the concept of proving the tithe is scriptural and the results of proving the tithe will be untold blessings from God. I would challenge those who already tithe to go one step beyond the tithe and increase your giving to even a higher level. On "Prove Our Stewardship" Sunday lets increase our giving by 5% and see how God will bless. What would happen if every attendee of Great Crossing Baptist Church brought a tithe or more of his or her income as an offering on these two Sundays? Only God knows! I am sure the results would be tremendous because God blesses His Word and He certainly keeps His promises. In addition to having enough to finance the work of His church, He would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that would overflow. Can you imagine what He might do in your life through a step of faith in giving the tithe or increasing the tithe to an offering beyond the tithe?

Let's share in this great effort. Let's participate together to see what the results of obeying God in tithing will be. The idea is for each of us to bring a tithe or more as our offering and to place it in the collection plate on the first Sunday of October and the First Sunday of November. Some of us already tithe; therefore we should make a special effort to give a gift beyond the tithe. "Prove Your Stewardship Sundays" will be effective only to the extent each of us participates. Will you help your church to "Prove our Stewardship" the first Sundays of October and November? I will be interested to hear from you about how God speaks to you and blesses you through this shared effort.

♪   ♪   **Billy's Notes**   ♪   ♫

**Billy Day, Minister of Music**

“O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth!” Well it’s not quite time to celebrate our Savior’s birth yet, but it won’t be long. Christmas is right around the corner, so it’s time to begin rehearsals on the Christmas music. On Sunday night, September 5, the Adult Choir will begin rehearsing the Christmas musical, O Holy Night! This is a glorious and majestic setting of classic carols and hymns along with some newer songs by Chris Tomlin and Steven Curtis Chapman. Some of the classic carols include “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, “Silent Night”, and “O Holy Night”. This musical is easy-to-learn and easy-to-sing. If you have ever wanted to join the Adult Choir, here is your chance. Choir practice is from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday evening in the choir room. Come and join the choir as we lift up our praise and worship to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you don’t feel led to join us in singing, there is still an opportunity for you to serve. There will be a drama as part of the musical this year made up of characters such as Mary, Joseph, and Isaiah. We will need six men and two women to help us with these roles. If you would be interested in portraying one of these characters or if you know of anyone in our church who would like to take part in the drama, please contact me as soon as possible.

Please be in prayer for the choir and the drama team as we prepare for the upcoming Christmas season. Pray that God will use our choir and drama team to proclaim the message of the Gospel to our congregation and community through the music that we sing and the words that we proclaim.

In Christ, Billy Day

## Kevin's Corner

**Bro. Kevin Buntain, Youth Minister**

Well August is over and school is back in session. The youth and I have been having some great Bible studies on Wednesday nights as we are studying the book of Revelation one chapter each week. I am looking forward to all the new youth that are coming up from the children's department. We as a church are very blessed to have so many youth. Keep praying for our youth. They are faced with so much these days and need our prayers.

Blessings, Kevin



EDITORS PAGE

Sunday School Year for 2010-2011

*September 5<sup>th</sup> begins our new Sunday School year. As we begin our new year, let us seriously consider the work that God has for us here at Great Crossing Baptist Church. As officers, teachers, committee members, and students we need to do our best in whatever position we have accepted. Sometimes we want to be on a committee but we do not realize the importance of serving in that position.*

*To have your name on a position, you are not serving the Lord in that position if you are not giving it your very best. Positions are useless if they are not active. As we begin this new year, let's make a covenant with the Lord that we are going to be active in the position that the church has trusted us with and give our very best for the Lord.*

*If we are serious about wanting our church to grow in the Lord and see great things happening here at Great Crossings, we will make the church year 9/10-8/11 the best year yet. God is already doing great things here at Crossings and we want to be a part of greater things to come as we reach out into the community "Changing People for Christ".*

*James 2:14-24 NIV says, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

*But some will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that---and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone."*

*Let's have a wonderful year by doing our very best for the Lord and bringing people to Christ. As a church we are one body in Christ.*

**CELEBRATION CORNER FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 \*ANNIVERSARIES**

01-Elizabeth Willoughby	18-Barbara Kitzmiller
03-Ernest Wood	19-*Linda & Tommy Bell
04-Betty Smith	20-Delbert Coots
06-Mary Alice Pratt	22-Levi Brandenburg
08-Kim Ritchie	23-Amanda Mattox
10-Beverly Parker	23-Josie Moore
11-Ted Holland	23-Bernice Tackett
15-*David B & Bonnie Glass	23-Staci Elam
16-*Kara & Heath Oliver	26-Kevin Buntain