

# 2024 FEB-APR NEWSLETTER

## THE LATEST FROM THE CHURCH:

*Letter From the Pastor - 2*  
*Christian Education - 3*  
*Children's Ministries - 4*  
*Committees - 5-7*  
*Finance - 5*  
*Missions - 5*  
*Congregational Care - 6*  
*Trustees - 6*  
*Outreach - 7*  
*Connect with Us - 8*

## SERMON SERIES COMING UP

*February - little "g" gods*



*March - Holy Week Experiences*



*April - The Way of Love*



## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

It's never too late to join the Pastor's Bible Study - and you don't have to show up every week. Join us any/every Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:00. We begin with Sunday's scripture and Points to Ponder and then take the conversation wherever we want/need to go. The conversation is lively, all questions are respected and we even discover new ways of looking at familiar scriptures!

# WHERE I'M FINDING HOPE, PASSION, AND STRENGTH

If you were in worship between January 21st and February 11th, you might be tired of hearing me talk about our leadership retreat, but I just need to get this out!

I can't remember every being this excited about the direction of the church! I've been active in church leadership since I was 13 years old. I've been in large churches with a lot going on, in small churches with very faithful people, and everything in between. But I don't know if I've ever seen a church fired up in so many different areas at the same time. *(I'm working very hard to not use an exclamation point for every sentence, I'm just that excited.)*

We have five program teams:

- Christian Education: teaching and training for all ages
- Congregational Care: providing hospitality, fellowship, and care during times of transition
- Missions: service projects for Liberty Hill and beyond
- Outreach: connecting with our community for fellowship, ministry, and events
- Worship: providing worship opportunities for all

And we have three administrative teams:

- Finance,
- Trustees (care for the facilities and grounds)
- Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC - the HR department of the church)

Each of these teams spent several hours making plans and setting agendas for 2024 with many of the goals creating opportunities that will reach into the future. By the time this newsletter is finished and out for delivery, every single team will have met at least once and will have something planned to engage our church, our community, and/or needs beyond our city limits.

The Holy Spirit is moving and I'm here for it!

There are times when I get tired of meetings or frustrated that I haven't had a true day off in a while. There have even been times over the past three years that I've wondered if anything I do really matters.

And then we have a planning retreat and God reminds me that God has been at work in all of us and has been preparing us for "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). These plans and the energy I'm witnessing from our people have reminded me that my hope is in the Lord (not my efforts) and Go has renewed my strength (Isaiah 40:31).

I hope you are getting a sense of the new life that is getting ready to spring forth from the people of Cross Tracks Church! I hope you are joyfully anticipating stepping into ministry that will transform the world!

Soaring on wings like eagles,





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Teresa - ChristianEducation.CTC@gmail.com

## MOMS PLAY DATE GROUP

Every Friday morning from 9-11 AM the Christian Education Building and often the playground, are buzzing with happy little voices, and Moms fellowshipping. This group has been meeting since November under the leadership of Kandice Wright and Jacqueline Rockett. Cross Tracks wants to share our amazing facilities with the community with no intentions except for fellowship and fun!



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Children ages 4 years old through 5th grade are continuing in their study of a 3-year Cokesbury curriculum called "Grow, Proclaim Serve". In this curriculum the children are exploring families in the Bible, learn how today's faith families care for children as they grow, build loving relationships, and find out what it means to be part of God's family!

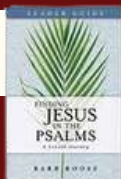
## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL



During February we will be studying a 4-week series Love Stories This 4-week series explores what true love looks like by studying four great love stories in the Bible. (Abraham and Sarah, Ruth and Boaz, Mary and Joseph, and Jacob and Rachel.)



## F.R.O.G. CLASS



is currently studying "A Lenten Journey Through the Psalms."

## LIFE CLASS

is finishing up the study "Multiplying Love: A Vision of United Methodist Life Together".

# ARMORED SPORTS CAMP

June 17th-20th 20204

Sports Camp

8AM-12PM

Followed by:

Dodgeball Camp

1PM-5PM



Kids registered for both camps would NOT need to be picked up by their parents for the lunch hour (12PM-1PM). They'd just need to be sent to camp with a morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!"

July 14-18, 2024, 5:00-7:30 PM

Cost: \$10 (scholarships available)

Registration coming soon!



This VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met.

At the center of the Food Truck Party is a special food truck called "On a Roll." Here, Kids (or "Chefs") will learn from the food truck's Top Chef, along with DJ Skillet (an adorable cupcake puppet), about the Daily Specials (Daily Learnings), which are lines from the well-loved prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs.

# CHURCH COMMITTEES

---

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our fantastic finance team works hard to make "cents" of our financial picture here at Cross Tracks.

Invigorated by a fruitful planning retreat in late January, we are excited to tackle this year and guide the church in stewarding our finances well. We're kicking off the season strong with the launch of the 2024 Capital Campaign, based on Pastor Michele's "Building for the Ages" sermon series.

During this season, the best way to help is through your commitment to the Capital Campaign - building a generational legacy for Cross Tracks and our community in Liberty Hill.

---

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Join us to start planning mission projects for the year. We have come up with a bunch of ideas. Now it's time to vote for and organize these events!

Monday, February 5th  
7:00-8:00pm

Chairs:

Bonnie Reichert  
breichert@thereicherts.com  
(512) 778-5107

Luther Lucko  
lutherluck@yahoo.com  
(512) 260-8942

**CROSS TRACKS CHURCH**  
is hosting our first

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
**BLOOD DRIVE**

**April 24th**  
**10am - 4pm**



**How you can help:**

- Sign up to give blood
- Donate nutritional snacks & drinks
- Be a friendly face for an hour or two
- Help with setup (8am) or teardown (4pm)
- Share in your neighborhood
- Share the Facebook event



---

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Our committee has developed a working outline and Monthly goals and guidelines. Each topic will require more in-depth outline/goals as we meet each month. Each month we will be working on additional ideas as caring partners for those with exciting life events or thoughtful ways to support those in need.

Currently the priority topic is creating a volunteer base for the Greeter position and recruiting volunteers for Sunday morning time slots to welcome guests and church family. The Lobby Café is a perfect place for everyone to share a few minutes while enjoying the Coffee and Breakfast Bar. The 2nd Sunday of each month will be Taco Sunday with the famous Soto (Manuel and Glenda) breakfast tacos being served.

Greeter sign-ups are ongoing! Please choose a Sunday morning, greet our guests and say "Hello"! Who knows, it could be fun!

Our regular monthly meetings will be following church services on the 1st Sunday of each month, with our next meeting being on Feb 4, 2024.

We welcome your ideas if you would like to share with one of us.

---

## TRUSTEES AND CHAPEL RESTORATION

The interior of the Chapel Restoration continues – but not at the pace I had hoped!

We have done the following:

1. Removed the ductwork above the suspended ceiling
2. Removed the old lighting
3. Installed new HVAC outlets and returns
4. Installed new lighting
5. Repaired the ceiling and painted it



TRUSTEES: We are upgrading the Education Building with the same access system that is on the Worship Center.

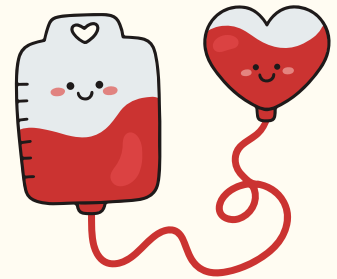
## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our First Meeting was on Monday, February 5th at 6:00pm. Those in attendance were Reverend Michele Lott, Mike Bowles & Richard Woodings-Ybarra. Our opening prayer was as follows:

*“God, thank you for giving us constant access to your Holy Spirit. Even when we don’t know what or how to pray for it, your Holy Spirit prays on our behalf. Thank you for being the God who is always present. Today, draw us nearer to you, align us to be the center of our lives. In your Holy Name, Amen”*

We discussed the branding of the blood drive. We motioned for the name to be: Cross Tracks Blood Drive for Life with The American Red Cross. The representative from the American Red Cross confirmed all areas of the website with respect to registration online. All marketing materials will be branded as such in time for the current blood drive and all future blood drives.

Our first **Cross Tracks Blood Drive for Life** is scheduled for **April 24th** from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** We are committed to **40 donors** which will make a total of 26 units. For reference: **Every 1 donor, we impact 3 lives.**



Our needs for the Blood Drive are as follows:

- Northern quarter of the worship centers space approximately 1,200 square feet. – Scheduled and confirmed ✓
- 6 rectangular folding tables – Scheduled and confirmed ✓
- 20 covered cloth chairs – Need covers, padded chairs confirmed ✓
- Need to have available or donated:
  - Nutritional snacks & drinks for any accompanying children.
  - Possibly 1 person for those who ask about our worship services (Informative Materials available).
  - Volunteers of course. We need approximately 20 on rotation. 2 people for setup between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. 2 people for teardown & cleanup between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. And 16 people (MINIMUM) for DEDICATED rotation in assisting those registered donors.



Last and equally as important, Cross Tracks has committed to the sponsorship of the Girls Softball Team. Our \$400 commitment comes with the need for dedication. Dedication by us as faithful followers of Christ to show our support by attending their softball games. Check your Sunday Bulletin for dates, times and locations.



# THINGS WE DO

*Connect with us*

## *Administration*

**Trustees** - mow the grass, care and maintenance of buildings and everything in them, prepare for future growth. Talk to Frank Funk

**Finance** - manage the budget, make financial decisions for ministry and future growth. Talk to Spencer Kendall.

## *Internal Ministries*

**Children's Team** - coordinate ministries (find leadership for Sunday School, VBS, etc.), build and support connections with the preschool, create a spirit-filled space for our children, dream big dreams for our future. Talk to Pam Turner or Courtney Pyle

**Youth Team** - support youth Sunday School, Sunday evening Youth, mission trips, retreats, and more. Talk to Ann & Michael Hartsfield

**Christian Ed** - plan, implement, and support opportunities for adults to grow in wisdom and in faith. They are also invested in creating multi-generational opportunities.

Talk to Teresa Kingsbury

**Congregational Care** - coordinate the Coffee bar on Sunday mornings, provide support and care of our family of faith (provide meals for hospital stays, births, etc., reach out to members who might need extra care). Talk to Cristy Browning

**Grandies** - Our older and wiser members gather each week to send cards, fellowship, and prepare their mission projects. Talk to Ella Williams.

**Worship** - Plan and prepare for all aspects of worship (order of worship, music, children's connection, special services, visual components, etc.). Talk to Angie Nicholson.

## *External Ministries*

**Outreach Team** - Creating opportunities to serve, connect with, and invite the community of Liberty Hill. Talk to Anthony Buck

**Missions Team** - Meeting the physical needs (ramps, home rehab, flood remediation, etc.) of our community and beyond. Talk to Mike McCown.



*SPECIAL THANKS FOR OUR CONGREGATION!!*

Members of  
Cross Tracks Church  
P.O. Box 266  
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

January 19,2024

## Thank you!

Dear Members;

I just wanted to send a special thank you for the gift of \$642.00 that we received.

The Lord has entrusted His children into our care. We are able to do His work because of the support from members like you.

I am always available to come to the church or your groups to tell the story of Hope House so you may know about the special local mission you support.

Thank you all for this gift and for caring about our disabled children,



Erland Schulze  
Development Director



hopehouse

eschulze@hopehouseaustin.org  
512-755-9531- mobile