

# The Crosswalk

First Christian Church  
2501 N Park Lane

SEPTEMBER  
2017



## God is on the Move

Does God still interact with his people? If you're like me you believe that he does, but couldn't point at a specific time and place where you "saw God." You've probably never seen a time when the laws of physics were broken and a genuine miracle took place. If we define a miracle as a breaking of the laws of nature and we've never seen that, why do we believe that God still interacts with his people? I often hear people complain that if only they could have lived in Bible times and seen the miracles described, belief would be so much easier. But is that really true?

First of all, even if you lived during Biblical times the chances of you seeing a genuine miracle would be slim to none. Outside of a few places and times in scripture (such as the Creation, the Exodus, the ministries of Elijah and Elisha, and the ministries of Jesus and his Apostles) there are almost no miracles recorded. There are a few outliers, but for the most part if you didn't live in that generation, or weren't present at the exact right place and time, you would have missed the miracle. In that sense we have it better than they did. We at least have the historical account of the miracle. They would have had to rely on word of mouth to bring them news of this amazing event. If they were lucky enough to have that, then they would be in the same boat as us. To believe or not to believe?

Secondly, just because people see miracles doesn't mean that belief comes easier. The Israelites of the Exodus saw more miracles than almost anyone in history. They saw Egypt leveled by plagues, the Red Sea split open, bread fall from heaven and God descend on a mountain. Yet, within 40 days of that they were already worshipping an idol of their own making! King Ahab saw Elijah pray and God send fire from heaven to devour a water-logged sacrifice and yet he did not turn from his evil. Judas saw Jesus walk on water, he helped distribute the five loaves and two fish to 5,000 people, and was there when Lazarus walked out of his own tomb. Yet in the end he still rejected and betrayed Jesus. Sight does not grant us faith; faith grants us sight.

The reason we assume that miracles were happening on every street corner during Bible times is because it was written from the perspective of faith. Even though there were most likely natural explanations for what was going on they saw what was really taking place behind the scenes, and wrote it down so that we would know that God had moved that day. Were they miracles? Not in the strictest sense, but they were natural events caused by God. The lions didn't eat Daniel. Does he say, "Well, I guess they weren't as hungry as you thought they were." No, he says, "My God sent his angel and shut the lion's mouths." His faith allowed him to see what was really happening as opposed to letting what happened determine whether or not he should have faith. When we look through the lens of faith we can see God moving even in the natural turnings of the world.

Through the month of September I'm going to be preaching through a few different stories that illustrate this point. Some of them don't even mention God yet they have found their way into our bibles. How is that? Because, even without bringing him up they so plainly demonstrate that God doesn't need to break the natural laws to accomplish his purposes. He is on the move even in the ordinary. I'm going to be telling those stories from the perspective of someone who experienced them so that we can see what it would have been like to see some of those amazing events ourselves. And perhaps to learn to look at our world through the lens of faith as well.

I'm not saying that God can't or doesn't perform genuine miracles anymore. He most likely does all the time and we simply don't hear about it. What I'm saying is that we need to learn to have eyes of faith that can see what is happening behind the scenes in our own lives. I know that the sunlight having to travel further distances through the atmosphere causes the red shift in the light at sunrise and sunset, but that doesn't mean I can't see the glory of God at work in those moments. I understand the natural processes of childbirth, but when I hear that first cry of a newborn you can't convince me I'm not watching a miracle take place. When I look at it from that perspective I can't help but be excited because the fact of the matter is God is on the move!

In Him,  
Ben

# SEPTEMBER 2017

-SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2  SANCTUARY RESERVED
3  SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	4  OFFICE CLOSED  LABOR DAY	5  EDUCATION MTG 5:30PM	6  SERVICE & ACTION MTG 9:30AM  ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM	7  WORSHIP MTG 6:30PM	8	9
10  BACK TO SCHOOL DINNER  SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	11	12	13  LADIES BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM  ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30pm	14  ELDERS MTG 6PM DEACONS MTG 6:30PM BOARD MTG 7:00PM	15	16
17  SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	18	19	20  LADIES BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM  ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM	21	22	23
24  SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	25	26	27  LADIES BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM  ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM	28	29	30



**HAPPY  
LABOR  
DAY**

**Serving In September**

September 03

**Meditation:** Rick Weinkauf  
**Com Servers:** Bob McGuire, Carol Carson  
 \*John Signorelli, ?  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Ben & Kristen Partin  
 Worship Service - ? , ?  
**Children's Church:** Roma Weinkauf  
**AV Booth:** Robert Crawford/PP, Randall Coffman/Sound  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Bob & Jane Clark  
 \*Offering Prayer

September 10

**Meditation:** Jerry Gibson  
**Com Servers:** Doug Tritle, \*Iris Felix  
 Jane Clark, John Signorelli  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Robert & Crystal Crawford  
 Worship Service - Katie Bronson, ?  
**Children's Church:** Sarah Skiles  
**AV Booth:** Robert Crawford/PP, Randall Coffman/Sound  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Bob & Jane Clark  
 \*Offering Prayer

September 17

**Meditation:** Doug Dalton  
**Com Servers:** John Signorelli, \*Wanda Jones  
 ? ?  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Marilyn Wright, Wanda Jones  
 Worship Service - Richard & Christina Barnes  
**Children's Church:** ?  
**AV Booth:** Robert Crawford/PP, Randall Coffman/Sound  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Bob & Jane Clark  
 \*Offering Prayer

September 24

**Meditation:** Jim Jones  
**Com Servers:** Brenda Gibson, Jackie Morey  
 \*John Signorelli, Richard Barnes  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Jackie Morey, Wendi Noon  
 Worship Service - Brian & Colleen Buss  
**Children's Church:** ?  
**AV Booth:** Robert Crawford/PP, Randall Coffman/Sound  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Bob & Jane Clark  
 \*Offering Prayer

Secretary's Report  
August 2017

Average Attendance 51.75  
 Average Visitors 3.2  
 Total Average Attendance 55  
 Total Offerings \$6,694.00

Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am  
 Worship Service 10:30 am

Wednesday Services

Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

**In Our Prayers**

**Judy Folkner - cancer**  
 (Kathy Morrow's friend)  
**Kenney Thomason - back surgery**  
 (church member)  
**Betty Hayes - breast cancer**  
 (Christina Barnes' mother)  
**Nick Williams - ALS**  
 (Altus teacher)  
**Sherri Merrill - uterine cancer/chemo**  
 (Rick Weinkauf's sister)  
**Amy Dodson - brain cancer**  
 (Ruth Carson's friend)  
**Jo Parnell - inoperable lung cancer**  
 (Lee Barnes' son-in-law's mother)  
**Debbie Cleland - cancer**  
 (Christina Barnes' co-worker)

Periodically the Prayer List will be updated. If we remove someone that you still want on the list, please let us know and we will be glad to put them back on.

*If you have a prayer need or know of any changes, please contact the church office.*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

09/05 Wanda Jones  
 09/08 Isaac White  
 09/16 Doug Dalton  
 09/18 Ruth Partin



**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
*dinner*  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH**  
**FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Your Elders

Phil Carson, Randall Coffman, Doug Dalton  
 Gene Drechsler, Jerry Gibson, Jim Jones

Your Deacons

Richard Barnes, Jane Clark, Crystal Crawford,  
 Brenda Gibson, Wanda Jones, Brenda Risner

**TIME TO GET BACK INTO THE**



**OF THINGS**

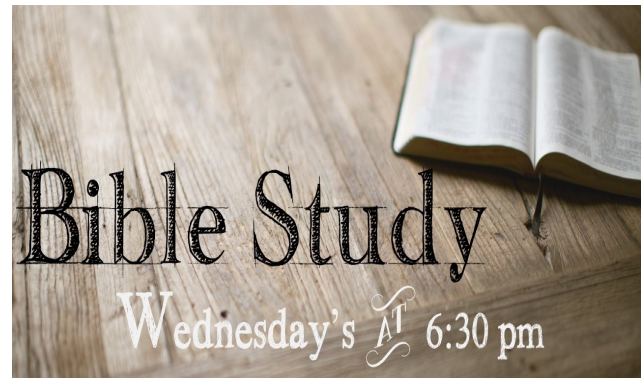
*Wednesday*  
*Morning Women's*  
bible studies

**SEPTEMBER 18TH - 9:30AM**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**CONTINUING OUR STUDY OF  
"BACK TO BASICS"**

**BEGINS SEPTEMBER 6TH**  
**"WHAT REALLY HAPPENED"**



**COMMUNITY  
GROUPS**  
[ life together ] BIBLE STUDY | PRAYER | SERVING

**COME  
JOIN  
US**