

# Introduction to the Ministry

Welcome to Crossroads!

We are glad that you found us and are interested in learning more about our ministry. We hope you find the brief introduction below informative and inspiring.

Additional information can be found at our website: [cbfchurch.org](http://cbfchurch.org)

A great place to start is with our **Vision...**

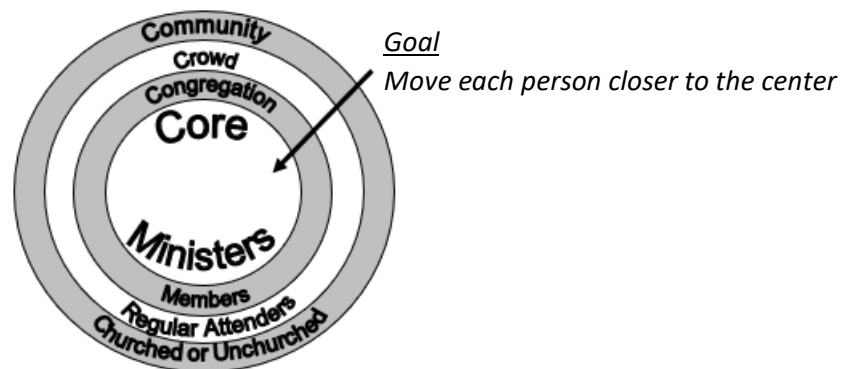
**More To Christ**

**More Like Christ**

**For His Glory**

We are a community of believers in God who desire to reflect the life and character of Jesus Christ. We want to help people come to know Him in a personal way. Together, we strive to learn His ways, celebrate His greatness, draw on His resources, and provide opportunities for serving one another and sharing life's passages, struggles, and victories.

The strategy for accomplishing our **Vision** is best understood through the diagram below. The concentric circles illustrate the various groups of people in relationship to the church. This illustration helps us to focus our energy and strategy toward identifying the different needs of each group and working to move them closer toward the center of the circle (*arrow pointing from outside the circle toward the inside of the circle*). For example, there are the felt needs of the **Community**, the seeker needs of the **Crowd**, the growth needs of the **Congregation**, and the enablement to minister for the **Core**.



<b>Community</b>	<b>Churched &amp; Un-churched...</b> <i>...they aren't sure what they are looking for.</i> Not attending church, but may attend fishing pool events like a picnic, basketball, youth group, or Euchre tournament
<b>Crowd</b>	<b>Regular Attenders...</b> <i>...they are looking for fellowship, spiritual growth, &amp; support.</i> Attending Sunday service and other activities
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Members...</b> <i>...they are looking for body life, spiritual growth, accountability.</i> Baptized believers, walking with the Lord, supporting CBF Vision and Mission, attending CBF events
<b>Core Ministers</b>	<b>Ministers...</b> <i>...they want to build up and equip the body of Christ</i> Embracing our Vision and Mission both in principle and practice, committed to small groups and using their spiritual gifts in the church, ministering to the needs of others

*More to Christ*

This aspect of our Vision focuses on the **Community** and the **Crowd**. We want to be known as a church that loves people and demonstrates that love through sharing an uncompromised Gospel message with all who would listen. We have tried many ways to reach out to these two groups through the years, but we are always seeking fresh ideas to reach the current generation.

*I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.* - 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

While we regularly share the Gospel as part of the Sunday morning experience (both in-person and online), we have also held special events like simulcasting a Harvest Crusade on a Saturday night and hosting a golf tournament with a Gospel-centered devotional, among many other things. We have a relatively new CORE evangelism ministry (Crossroads Outreach through Relational Evangelism) focused on creating purposeful opportunities for one-on-one evangelism. A great example of this is the monthly food pantry that we run for two hours after church, where we talk, pray, and share the gospel with all who come, in addition to meeting critical physical needs. We have seen multiple people respond to this gospel invitation.

*More Like Christ*

This aspect of our Vision focuses on the **Congregation** and **Core Ministers**. These groups are looking for ways to mature in their faith and become more like Christ. Our Sunday morning experience provides many opportunities for these individuals to grow, but we also form small home groups regularly throughout the year that provide a vehicle for growth, an opportunity to build deeper relationships, and a way to share our spiritual gifts with one another.

The way we realize our **Vision** is summarized in our **Mission**, which describes six key pillars that scripture holds up for the New Testament church. Our goal is to prioritize our time and treasure toward these activities before all others.

## Our Mission

<p><b><u>Teaching</u></b> (Acts 2:42)</p>	<p>We strive to learn and apply God’s truth in life-changing and relevant ways</p>
<p><b><u>Fellowship</u></b> (Acts 2:42)</p>	<p>We strive to connect with one another frequently through Sunday services and various small group settings that provide encouragement, sharing of spiritual gifts, and opportunity for growth</p>
<p><b><u>Breaking of Bread</u></b> (Acts 2:42)</p>	<p>We strive to remember and celebrate our Lord weekly in a biblical and relevant way</p>
<p><b><u>Prayer</u></b> (Acts 2:42)</p>	<p>We strive to depend upon God in prayer through praise, confession, thankfulness, and requests for needs</p>
<p><b><u>Evangelism</u></b> (Matt 28:18-20)</p>	<p>We strive to share the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that our generation can understand - in Rochester, Monroe County, and the world.</p>
<p><b><u>Discipleship</u></b> (Matt 28:18-20, Eph 4:11-13)</p>	<p>We strive to equip each other to become true disciples of Christ, and to use our giftedness from God in service for others.</p>

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*  
- Acts 2:42

*Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*  
- Matthew 28:18-20

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. From Him (Jesus) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*  
- Ephesians 4:11-13,16

Crossroads has utilized many different types of ministries and tools to fulfill our Mission and Vision, including Sunday schools, one-on-one discipleship, small groups, adult fellowship, preacher training, elder training, deacon training, evangelism training, and conferences.

## Leadership

**Elders** serve the primary function of pastoring (shepherding) the local church, and are responsible for all spiritual aspects of the church. Elders are appointed by the existing elders, with input from the congregation. According to scripture, the word “pastor” is not an office in the church, like Elder or Deacon, and doesn’t limit the use of the term to just those who are in fulltime ministry. We do not use the term “pastor” as a title, but instead use it as a description of a spiritual gift (see Ephesians 4:11). At Crossroads, we practice the leadership model described in the New Testament, which is a plurality of leaders. We believe that gifts such as pastor or teacher, are not necessarily limited by the Holy Spirit to one primary leader. Further, we embrace the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5-9), in that all believers have direct access to God through Jesus Christ, and are called to serve Him with zeal in the local church in a variety of ways according to their gifting and talent.

**Deacons** are appointed by the elders, with input from the congregation, are biblically qualified, and assist the elders in looking after the well-being of God’s people. They tend to the benevolent, financial, material and/or physical needs of the congregation. (Acts 19:22; 2Tim 1:18, 2Cor 3:3, Matt 4:11, 8:15)

*Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ... They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*  
- Acts 6:3,6

## History

A little information about our history and affiliations may also be helpful for rounding out the picture of who we are. **Crossroads began** in June of 1995 when eight individuals followed the Lord in the process of starting a new church in the Rochester area. After receiving the blessing and support of their home church, Congress Avenue Bible Chapel, they spent six months meeting twice per week to pray and discuss their vision and doctrinal statement for a potential new church plant. This culminated in the first meeting of Crossroads Bible Fellowship in January of 1996. After one year of meeting in a residential home, the church moved into a rented facility, the Norman Howard School, and had a grand opening service on Easter Sunday 1997. Over the years, Crossroads has met in several rental facilities, with Sunday attendance typically fluctuating between 25-75 people. Over the years, programs, ministries, and leadership teams have changed, but the Vision of the church has remained the same: **More to Christ, More like Christ, for His Glory.**

We desire to have a **building of our own** in the near future, as the Lord wills. Crossroads established a building fund in 2002, which has grown significantly over the years. We have put several offers in for land at various times, but the Lord has closed the doors, instead providing us with an amazing rental facility, Pieters Family Life Center. Since 2007 we have rented this facility on Saturday evenings and Sunday. Pieters is operated by Heritage Christian Services, which ministers to the developmentally disabled in our community in various ways. We are praying for the Lord to bring us additional workers, as well as seekers who desire to grow in their faith.

# TOWNS & VILLAGES

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE, ROCHESTER, N.Y., MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1997 3B

## Fellowship shuns traditions to beckon 'the unchurched'

### No organ, no pastor, no pews as 100 Christians gather in Henrietta gym

By ERIKA ROSENBERG  
STAFF WRITER

HENRIETTA — In place of an organ, there is a band.

Instead of a pastor, there is a rotation of Sunday speakers.

Where you usually see pews and a pulpit, there are folding chairs and a lectern.

Services for the new Crossroads Bible Fellowship are held in a school gym, but it is every bit a church, with its center planted firmly in the Bible, organizers say.

The departures from tradition are intentional, aimed at attracting people who want a relationship with God but are turned off by some aspects of most churches.

"We're not trying to reach people that are in a church right now and growing," said Jennifer Myles, a Brighton woman and one of about eight people who planned the new church. "We're basically trying to reach the unchurched."

About 100 people went to the Norman Howard School, 275 Pinnacle Road, for yesterday's grand opening of the nondenominational Christian church.

Music was provided by singers and people playing drums, keyboards and guitar.

Chuck Gianotti, one of four men who will share speaking duties

each Sunday, talked about how the resurrection of Christ almost 2,000 years ago can give hope and meaning to people's lives today.

"We feel that there's a need for new expressions of faith," said Gianotti, who lives in Chili. "We're committed to communicating in ways relevant to our generation."

In addition to contemporary music and a casual atmosphere, the new church will aim at that goal with weekly meetings of small groups on particular subjects.

The groups — covering topics ranging from dealing with depression to learning about the Bible as a family — should help people get to know each other and find a place in the fellowship, Gianotti said.

Gianotti said the mission of the church is twofold. The organizers hope the church will guide people toward a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

And they want the church to help them incorporate the teachings of the Bible into their daily lives.

"A lot of people today desire to get back into church and learn more about God," Myles said.

Another difference: Crossroads Bible Fellowship will not pass a collection basket during Sunday services.

Sunday is when the church in-



MAX SCHULTE, staff photographer

#### Addressing the faithful

Chuck Gianotti leads Easter service yesterday at the Crossroads Bible Fellowship. Instead of a pastor, a different member of the group speaks each week.

vites in guests and visitors. "If we invite people into our home, we don't ask them to pay for the meal," Gianotti said.

"We just want people to feel absolutely no pressure."

But the church will invite and accept donations from people who get involved and make a bigger commitment, he said. □

## Affiliations

Understanding **our affiliations** is also an important piece in understanding who we are. Crossroads is an independent, non-denominational church with no official ecclesiastical ties. We are not subject to outside denominational control, but to God alone, with Jesus Christ as our Chief Shepherd. We can be described simply as "evangelical, bible believing". We endeavor to serve the Lord in harmony with all other evangelical, bible-believing churches who faithfully preach the word of God. Our members come from a variety of denominational backgrounds, as well as non-churched backgrounds.

## Distinctives

Two key distinctives of our church are **plurality of leadership** and observance of **the Lord's Supper weekly**. There are other churches around the world similar to us in this regard, including three in the local Rochester, NY area: Cornerstone Bible Chapel, Northgate Bible Chapel, and Faith Community Church. In addition, some of our congregants participate in children's ministry at Camp Li-Lo-Li (near Salamanca, NY).

The original founders of Crossroads came from a "Plymouth Brethren" or "assembly" background. We do not generally refer to our local church in these terms because we consider Crossroads to be an independent, non-denominational church.

**Deacons** are appointed by the elders, (with input from the congregation), are biblically qualified, and serve the congregation. Deacons also assist the elders in looking after the well-being of God's people. They tend to the benevolent, financial, material and/or physical needs of the congregation. (Acts 19:22; 2Tim 1:18, 2Cor 3:3, Matt 4:11, 8:15) \*\*\*\*

## What does this Church Believe?

### 1. In essential beliefs - we have **unity**

We strive for unity in our Foundational Doctrine. Anyone desiring to become a member must have these doctrines in common with us.

### 2. In non-essential beliefs - we have **liberty**

We recognize that godly people can disagree. Our desire is to take Scripture seriously and apply it as faithfully as we can. We recognize that some of these issues are potentially divisive, so we wish to affirm our love and care for those who may disagree. While we feel that it is important for members of Crossroads to agree on our Vision, Mission, & Foundational Doctrine, we feel there is room for a measured difference of opinion on non-essential beliefs.

*2 One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ... 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. ...17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.*

- Romans 14:2-4, 12, 17-18

### 3. In all our actions - we show **love**

*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

- 1Corinthians 13:2

## Foundational Doctrine

**God:** There is one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect, holy, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. [Gen 1:1; Deut 6:4; Ps 18:30; 103:8; 119:156; 86:15; 25:10; 9:7-8; Is 6:3; Matt 28:19; John 1:1-3; 15:26; Eph 4:6; Col 1:16; 2:19; 1Tim 2:5; Heb 9:14]

**Jesus Christ:** The Lord Jesus Christ is truly God and truly Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is sinlessly perfect. He died sacrificially as our substitute, suffering God's punishment for our sin. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended to his Father's right hand where he now ministers as our Great High Priest. [Luke 1:26-35; Rom 5:19; 1Cor 15:1-19; 2Cor 5:21; Eph 1:20; 1Tim 2:5-6; 3:16; 24:39; Heb 4:14-16; 1Pet 2:22,24; 1John 2:1; 3:5]

**Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is personal and fully God, possessing all the divine attributes. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. At conversion he 1) Baptizes (joins) the believer into the body of Christ 2) Indwells him personally and permanently 3) Seals him, guaranteeing his eternal security 4) Sets him apart for and enables him to live a holy life 5) Endows him with spiritual abilities (i.e., gifts), which benefit the church. [[Rom 8:9,11](#); [1Cor 12:6-13,28-31,6:19](#); [Gal 5:15,22-23](#), [Eph 1:13-14,2:20](#), [4:30](#)]

**Bible:** The Bible is verbally inspired by God and without error in the original documents.<sup>1</sup> It is entirely reliable and is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The grand theme of Scripture (the written Word) is God's glory revealed through Jesus Christ (the Living Word). [[Luke 24:27](#); [John 1:1,14,5:39](#); [1Thess 2:13](#); [2Tim 3:16-17](#); [2Pet 1:20-21](#)]

**Mankind:** Mankind was created by God in his image, and as such, has the capacity for fellowship with God. Mankind, though, has rebelled and is sinful by nature and practice. The result of this condition is separation from God that leaves mankind deserving a lost eternity in hell. [[Gen 1:27,2:16-17](#); [Ps 51:5](#); [Is 53:6,59:2](#); [Jer 17:9](#); [Rom 3:23,5:12](#); [Rev 20:15](#)]

**Salvation:** Humankind needs to be saved from the consequence of sin and restored into a living relationship with God, which is impossible for a person to accomplish by works or religious observances. Salvation, rather, is accomplished by the death and resurrection of Christ and is viewed as a gift of God by grace. Any person who, in faith, acknowledges his or her sinful condition and trusts in Christ's finished work is, at the moment of conversion 1) Forgiven and saved from the consequences of sin and brought into relationship with God (eternal life) 2) Made secure in this salvation and relationship forever. [[John 3:3,16,36,5:24,10:27-29](#); [Rom 3:28,10:9,10,13](#); [Eph 2:8-9](#); [Tit 3:5](#); [Heb 9:11-14](#); [1Pet 1:18-19](#), [1John 5:11-13](#)]

**The Church:** The universal Church is not an *organization* but a living *organism* known as the body of Christ. It is composed of all true believers in Jesus Christ, regardless of where they meet. The local Church is a gathering of believers in a locality who meet in unity and oneness for fellowship, teaching of God's word, worship and prayer. They also evangelize those who are outside of Christ with a view to making new disciples. Governance and discipline are the responsibility of the local church. [[Matt 28:18-20;18:15-17](#); [John 4:23,17:21](#); [Acts 2:42](#); [1Cor 5:1-6:4](#); [11:23-26](#); [Eph 1:22-23,4:11-16](#); [Phil 1:1](#); [Col 1:18](#)]

**Two Symbols:** There are two very particular commands that Christ left the Church to practice throughout the years: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. [[Matt 28:19](#); [Acts 2:41](#), [8;12,8:35-39](#); [Rom 6:3-6](#); [Col 2:12](#), [Matt 26:26-29](#); [Acts 2:42,46,20:7](#); [1Cor 11:23-26](#)]

**Satan:** God originally created a large number of spiritual beings (angels) for his service. One of these beings, Satan, led many others (now called demons) in rebellion against God. While their ultimate judgment and condemnation is certain, they currently seek to hinder the purpose of God by influencing believers to sin. [[Job 1:6-2:10](#); [Matt 4:1-11,25:41](#); [2Cor 11:13-15](#); [1John 4:3-4](#); [Rev 20:1-3,10](#), see also [Isaiah 14:3-23](#), [Ezekiel 28:12-19](#)]

**Future Things:** Believers look for the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ to remove them from the world after which he will physically reign on the earth for a thousand years. God will then create a new heaven and a new earth. All people who have ever lived will be raised and brought before God's judgment. The lost will be judged by their deeds and condemned, but the saved will be rewarded and welcomed into eternity with God forever. [[Matt 25:31-46](#); [John 5:28-29](#), [Acts 1:11](#); [1Cor 15:51-55](#); [Phil 1:23,3:20-21](#), [1Thess 4:14-18](#); [Tim 2:13](#); [Heb 9:28](#); [Rev 20:1-6,10-15](#); [21:1-22:5](#)]

While the brief introduction above is not able to describe all aspects of our ministry, we trust that it will provide a sufficient baseline for further interaction.

---

<sup>1</sup> There are numerous excellent translations available that convey very well the meaning of the scriptures from the original languages.

Sincerely,  
*Rick Myles and Bill Wendlandt*  
Elders, Crossroads Bible Fellowship