

January 16th, 2020

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PASSING THE TORCH

An important message from Karen Cubic

CROSSROADS

A new sermon series

UPCOMING EVENTS

This week @ Friends



TheFriends.church

**WHERE
FRIENDS
ARE FAMILY**

“PASSING THE TORCH”



Karen Cubic

One of the many ministries our church supports is The City Mission. For over 30 years, on the 3rd Sunday of each month, we provide a hot, nutritious meal for up to 100 men. These men are obviously in a difficult stage of their lives since they are living in a homeless shelter, but they are working daily to improve things, with the help of The City Mission.

Before I started volunteering there, I didn't know much about The City Mission. They are a Christian based charity whose mission statement is, "To provide help and hope to all people through the transforming power of God's love." They have residential capacity of about 110 beds, along with a small additional number for emergency and short term housing. The men who live there participate in individualized programs to help them to be able to find employment and housing. The City Mission offers programs to help the men deal with mental, emotional, and spiritual concerns of their past and present lives. Their resource center offers classes to teach men skills to be able to support themselves when they graduate.


I have been involved in this ministry since September 2004. Over those 15 years, I have met literally thousands of wonderful, grateful men. It has been a privilege and blessing in MY life to be a small

part of theirs. Since the men tend to stay for several months, we get to know some of them, and we can share parts of our lives with each other. I take planning these meals very seriously... just as if I was have them to my home. To quote James 2:15-16, "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in



peace; keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" We can't just hope that "someone else will do it". We are called to take the responsibility ourselves. This is one way I have been able to share the love of God.

However, it is now time for me to "pass the torch". I have other responsibilities that need attention, and to be honest, I'm older and things hurt more! March will be my last month. I ask that you please be in prayer about participating in this wonderful ministry. Of course I will mentor the next person and provide all the help needed. If you have any questions, just ask me or Pastor Chad. ☺



from all of your friends at Friends, we would like to extend a very special thank you to Karen Cubic for the years of hard work and dedication she has devoted to our City Mission ministry. She has made this ministry possible and touched hundreds, if not thousands, of lives through her generosity and love.

As we navigate the transition process in leadership, we ask that you would partner with us in prayer that God would appoint the next leader to take up the torch and continue building His kingdom by serving Jesus through serving those in need.

If you are interested in serving or leading our City Mission ministry, please let us know! You can contact Karen, Pastor Chad, Pastor Luc, or use the "Contact Us" page at www.TheFriendsChurch.com.



GOD CAN DO MUCH WITH LITTLE

In, For and Through Us!

Pastor Chad DeWeerd

Remember the miracle of the bread and the fish? The people were without food and hungry. A boy gave his meager lunch to Jesus. And Jesus turned this humble offering into a great feast, enough to feed thousands, with leftovers to spare. Yes, God can do a lot with a little. So why are so many Christians afraid to share their faith with others? Is it because we think God can't do miracles through us?

We need to be more like the boy who offered his lunch—whatever and all that he had. God wants us to offer ourselves to Him, no matter how little we think of our contribution. We were saved by the grace of God for exactly this purpose. You might think that God can't use you. Maybe you've heard that inner voice remind you that you lack a theology degree without any published works to your credit or the gift for public speaking. Well, here's the good news: you don't need any of those things to be used by God!

In fact, those traits you consider to be your flaws or weaknesses may be your greatest assets when it comes to doing your part. God made each and every one of us unique. He uses us in our uniqueness to build His kingdom. There is someone right now who doesn't need a great sermon from the pulpit as much as they need the kindness of a friend. A friend exactly like you. It may just be your "weaknesses" that make you seem more accessible and more believable when you tell of the great things God is doing in your life.

God has placed people in your path—people with needs. Neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers, all burdened with the cares of this world. You probably have thought the best way to help these folks is to somehow get them to go to church where they can hear from the pastor. And although that's a good idea, God has an even better idea. Just be yourself—the new creation that God made you, saved you and is making you to be.

And if you need a bit of confidence, remember what God has done for you. Remember how he brought you to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Remember how your eternal future is secure in Christ. And while you are considering this, do whatever you can to reach out to those around you. Offer a kind word (Truth spoken in love), a cup of coffee, a hug. You will be amazed at how God will use you to encourage others. Sharing the good news of Jesus is the most important work in all the universe. And God has placed this work in our hands and hearts.

Let's reach out in faith and expect God to do amazing and wonderful things—*through you and even me!*

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3-6, NIV)

**“PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU;
MY PEACE I GIVE YOU. I DO
NOT GIVE TO YOU AS THE
WORLD GIVES. DO NOT LET
YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED
AND DO NOT BE AFRAID.”**

JOHN 14:27

C R O S S R O A D S

Over the past few weeks, we've been journeying "The Roadmap To Change". Along the way, we've looked at how to navigate not only the New Year, but a new you. Our new sermon series moves us to the next step and lays out Biblical guidelines for what to do when life's path brings us to what we've come to know as a "CROSSROADS".

With a new road comes new opportunities and new obstacles! Unfortunately, when traveling the roadway of life, we are often faced with decisions that seem difficult to make. Without godly guidance and biblical principles to lead us, we can struggle for clear direction and stumble over situations and circumstances that have us choosing between...

- What's easiest over what's best!
- What's convenient over what's correct!
- What's comfortable over what will build my character!

When making these wrongful decisions, wouldn't it be great if we could just make a spiritual U-turn, set back the hands of time, and erase all of the ill-effects that resulted from our bad choices? No harm, no foul! But it doesn't work that way, does it?

Praise the Lord, that His forgiveness of sin is immediate and final! But too often, the consequences of our sinful attitudes and selfish actions linger on and create a roadblock that keeps us from growing in faith, living in freedom,

and experiencing the fulness of God's goodness.

Throughout the month of January, we'll be taking a look at the Crossroads that all of us face in our lives from time to time. Things like Past Problems, Current Conflicts and Future Fears! When we come to these crossroad moments, what path will we follow? Which road will we take? Will we choose God's way or give in to our own wishes?

The fact is, most of us want our lives to be characterized by doing God's will. We want to be identified as one who sets our sights on His purposes, seeks Him first and walks in His way. BUT, because popular opinion, worldly wisdom and political correctness often seem more alluring, seductive and simpler, we make momentary choices that will affect our character, morality, and even our eternity by choosing the world's way over God's will and His Word!

That's why the question "How do we handle life's CROSSROADS?" is so important. Our theme verse comes from Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet who gives us both good and godly advice for handling the new year, becoming a new you, and navigating the new road that lies ahead...

"This is what that Lord say, 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'"

-Jeremiah 6:16

U P C O M I N G



CITY MISSION

This Sunday evening we will be heading up to the City Mission in Cleveland to serve a meal and host a worship service for homeless men in our city.

If you are interested in joining us for a night of service, worship, and a whole lot of fun, let us know. We'd love to have you!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will meet next Saturday, January 25th, (and on the last Saturday of each month) at Michael's Place restaurant in North Royalton.

All men are invited to join us for a morning of "Bros, Bible, and Bacon." See you there!



SUNDAY MORNING STUDY

If you have been looking for an opportunity to grow deeper in the Word of God while growing closer with your church family, this is what you've been looking for!

We currently have three studies meeting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. There is something for everyone!



