



Down on the Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm
April, May, June 2026

Come Grow With Us!

Crossroads Farm is growing, and you are a part of that growth! Thank you for being a part of this ongoing miracle and for trusting in our miraculous God with us.

CRF the Shed's fundraiser included an incredible silent auction (with a few bidding wars) and live music. CRF the Lanes featured a comedy act with the talented Daren Streblow, a tour of their building dedicated in April 2025, and testimonies from an RCI church. CRF the Mine featured human bingo, live music, and a celebration of God's faithfulness in Crossroad's impact for three generations of a family. Encouraging fellowship and delicious food, of course, were enjoyed at all events as well.

The chances we get to connect you with our students and their stories are a privilege and fewer than we'd like. We hope you loved hearing from them and getting to know their stories as much as we do. These events were a time to celebrate and a time to reflect on where God is providing the growth in our own lives. May God do more in the lives of rural teens through Crossroads Farm! 🌱



Summer Camp

June 15-19, Crossroads Farm returned to camp for our fourth year partnering with SpringHill Camp! We'll let our students tell you about their week:



"I made the decision to follow Jesus and I want to follow him for the rest of my life!"



"Only Jesus can save people but we can introduce them to Him."



"The best part of camp was seeing my friends from other branches"



"Prayer helped me open up about my feelings and lead me closer to God."



"I have a lot of issues going on at home and haven't felt welcomed anywhere else. I don't think I've ever smiled like I have this week. I felt so welcomed and loved here."

"The most impactful part of camp was all the people that prayed for me."



"I grew in my faith and the talks showed me more to what it means to be embraced in God's love."

"No matter what, God has your back in any battle, even the hardest."



Ending and Launching

Malachi 3:3–“He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver...”

The end of the school year is full of endings and launchings. We say goodbye to our seniors. Some have attended since 6th grade and some for mere weeks. It's our privilege to launch them into the next. "God has taught me at CRF the value of being surrounded by other Christians", one senior said. May God continue to teach them lessons like these and refine them as silver until they reflect Him, and may our seniors walk with their unchanging and never-leaving God into the next.



Our school year ended with an epic Water War and root beer floats at the Shed, a CRF Amazing Race and bonfire at the Mine, and bowling, pizza, and ice cream at the Lanes. We had a record number of 5th graders attend and 39 students at the first stop of a 44-passenger bus. It was an awesome time to reflect on God's faithfulness in students' lives and another year of ministry.



We pray for God to do more. Summer can be a long and difficult time of year for a student. Some students have the opportunity to see their CRF friends at summer bonus program nights held at our branches. For many, they look forward to Bible studies, camp, and the summer trip to reconnect with their friends and continue growing in their relationship with God. Please pray for our students as we end another school year and launch into what God has for them this summer and fall!

Good Friday

It's not often that we get to walk our students through the whole narrative of the Bible in one event. In April, all three branches of Crossroads Farm had the privilege of reflecting on everything from the Fall in Genesis to the birth, death, and coming resurrection.

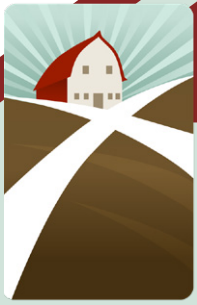
Our annual Good Friday Prayer Breakfast is a different experience than our normal Sunday nights. CRF the Mine partnered with an RCI church to provide a worship event where each song corresponded to a verse and prayer. CRF the Lanes created a reflective atmosphere with a cross in the center of a dim room with individual and partner prayer prompts. CRF the Shed prepared a worship set, interspersed with

Scripture reading, movie portrayals of Christ's journey to Calvary and prayer stations. Students at the Mine and the Shed were given an opportunity to respond to all that had been shared in journals and in worship. One student at the Lanes was so moved, he stopped the conversation and felt moved by the Holy Spirit to pray right then by the cross.

Students, coaches, volunteers, staff, and pastors alike described the morning as "engaging" and "powerful". The true weight of Christ's work on the cross moves to our knees in prayer and thanksgiving. An RCI pastor who led worship said, "I was so moved by watching the students engage in worship...I saw them singing more and the emotions on their faces as they were processing everything. I couldn't even look at them, because I knew I'd start crying."

"This is my favorite thing I've come to at Crossroads!" said a middle school girl from CRF the Mine...but she could also be referring to the Chick-fil-A breakfast that was provided afterwards.





From the President

June 2026

I realize by the time you receive this, Father's Day will be long past, but this day carries significant weight. Please accept my belated "Happy Father's Day" to those of you who are dads, those who will be dads, and those who are celebrating dads. I suppose that is almost everyone. On this day, I remember my own father who went to be with Jesus a little under two years ago. It is important that I take a moment to remember him and the legacy of being his son. I am thankful. One day I am sure we will be together in the home my great Father has prepared for me. In the meantime, can I share a few things my earthly dad taught me which may fly in the face of traditional advice.

1. Never start a fight. If someone else starts a fight with you, be sure to win.

This rule applied to school or our neighborhood. When on the ice, the rule was something entirely different. Dad was a hockey player of some note and success in the 1950s. He told me stories about some of the old minor league arenas that had very limited hot water. In order to have a hot shower, it was fairly common for him to start a fight with only five minutes left on the game clock. Fighting is a five minute major penalty, making it a part of the game. He would essentially be kicked out of the game and would head to the lockers for a nice warm shower. The lesson I learned is that there is a time and a place to fight. A man should know the times and places.

2. Snakes are not scary, because if you grab them by the tail and snap them like a wet towel, their reign of terror is over.

Our life wasn't really all that violent but there were different rules back then. These were more untamed days. A man needed to take action in the event of scary things. This one rule taught me that decisive action in the course of fear bears results. I really never had to snap a garter snake ever again because I had learned they were actually harmless.

3. Smelling good is a value because it is memorable.

Dad always was a cologne man. In the early days, I would use his old Brut boxes as storage for my Johnny West tack. He smelled like Brut and then Hia Karate. His signature scent was always Royal Copenhagen Musk. He used gallons. No complaints here. I routinely used his cologne. Sometimes, guys would make fun of me. They thought smelling good was a sign of femininity. I learned that people knew you had walked out of a room because of your essence. Leaving something imperceptibly memorable matters. It may be a wise comment, a smile, a kind word, or your signature scent, but it matters how you leave a room.

4. Never be so important that you cannot laugh at yourself.

Gene Dexter and Bill Crump were my Dad's best friends. In those days, it was pretty common to lose friends too early. Both passed away young. I cannot imagine losing both of my friends who got me most in the world. The way I knew they got him is that they were singing lyrics back and forth, telling stories, or playing gags on the golf course. Once, Gene timed my dad's backswing and perfectly slid his own driver across the ground, dislodging my father's ball off the tee. My dad's club made contact with Gene's, and the intruding club head exploded on impact. A club and a shot were destroyed. The two of them laughed so hard that they both fell on the ground and never got back the game.

I learned that outcomes are not so important that you fail to enjoy the moments. By the way, if you every find yourself golfing behind me, I'll be the annoying one picking Mulberries and wild black raspberries instead of finding my errant ball. Dad taught me finding





wild black raspberries was a better find than an old Titleist too.

5. Failure cannot steal Faith.

The most important thing in my father's life was the imminence of eternity. He spoke to people as if their eternity was more important than their temporary lives. He was willing to ask about it. It could be embarrassing. What if they were easily offended? What if it sounded a bit judgy? Any failure my dad may have experienced (he did and I do),

had no power over the grace he had experienced through Jesus.

I am learning that opinions don't matter in light of God's glory and grace. The lesson is that we turn our eyes upon Jesus, looking full in His wonderful face, and the things of this earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

My dad knows this experientially now. Thanks, Dad. See you soon. 🏡

Grateful to have Berean Baptist Youth on our main campus for a work project in June.



Our Vision for the Future is

BOLD

As of June 29th, the Bold Building Campaign is at 21.32%. This image of The Ashton Youth Barn will grow to cover a full page spread as the campaign is realized. Cheer. Pray. Share. Give. For His glory. 🏡

The Ashton Youth Barn—National
Offices and Training Center

Scan the QR code with your phone's
camera to help grow this image.



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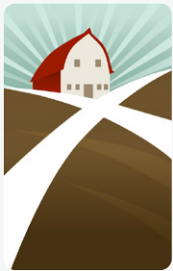
For the ongoing work in the lives of rural youth, special gifts were given:

In Memory Of

Will Tew



What a 24 hr gift to spend time as branch directors in prayer, planning, and sharing in spiritual truths together. 🙏



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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- The provision of expanded meeting space for CRF The Mine
- Missionary Candidate: Ministry Director in Training for CRF The Dairy began his support raising process
- Missionary Candidate: Program Associate for CRF The Shed is in the support raising process
- New believers at summer camp
- Summer programming in full swing

Take It To Jesus:

- Branch director positions needed for both Ministry and Administrative giftings
- Summer trips and small group Bible studies
- Our students at home throughout the long summer-may they know Jesus as Friend and Father.
- National Building Campaign 🏠