



The Search Team and Elders rejoice to present... Pastoral Candidate Finalist: Pastor Bill Hodgeman

- Wife: Bethany
- Children: Brennan (6) and Evie (3)
- Formerly served as Associate Pastor of Youth and Interim Co-Pastor at Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA
- Also served at New Covenant Baptist Church in North Berwick, ME, Bethany Church in Greenland, NH, and Grace Church of Glendora, CA
- Education: BA in Communication & Biblical Studies at Azusa Pacific and MDiv at Gordon Conwell, South Hamilton, MA

Bill's Story

I grew up the middle child of a nuclear engineer and a Kindergarten teacher on the New Hampshire seacoast. Jesus became more than just a word to me through the spiritual nurture and godly example of my parents and so many others during my childhood. In 1994, I attended a Winter Retreat at Monadnock Bible Conference with my youth group. Tom Sparling led worship that weekend. I remember the time and care he took in describing Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and what it accomplished for sinners. He talked about how the curtain in the Temple was split in two, just as Jesus breathed His last and said, "It is finished." He talked about how the Holy of Holies exploded outward from the Temple and began to fill all of creation—giving those who trust Jesus full access to God through Him. I remember thinking to myself, at age 13, "Wow—if that's what it cost God to forgive me and draw near to me, that I better take this seriously." And I have ever since.

It was halfway through High School (when I was dreaming of being a sports broadcaster) when God redirected my plans and gave me the irresistible call to pastoral ministry. Specifically, I've felt called to be a senior pastor for several years now. The pastoral tasks that bring me the most joy are preaching, leadership and pastoral care. I love New England, I love the church, and I'm excited about what God is doing and will do in and through Crossroads Community!

Beth's Story

My faith in Jesus grew with me from a young age. I was raised by Christian parents (my father was a pastor) and I cannot remember a time when I did not have an understanding of Jesus as a savior who paid the price of sin for me. There were, however, several milestone's where that understanding and faith moved to new levels. I was baptized at the age of eight, after giving personal testimony to my church about what salvation meant. In Junior High, I rededicated my life while at summer camp after a particularly moving sermon preached by a visiting pastor, which drove home the reality of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, and what he suffered in order to offer us a chance at redemption and rightness with God. Upon graduating from high school, I attended Gordon College. This time was one of particular growth, living in community with other Christians, learning to question what I had been taught and come to a place where faith became more than only what my parents believed but what I had grappled with, wrested with God about, and come to believe myself. I participated in and then lead several missions trips while at Gordon, which had a profound effect on my view of God, the Church as a global community, poverty and social justice. Faith is certainly a journey that I'm still travelling, but those are the highlights thus far.

What do you cherish most right now about your relationship with Jesus?

His grace. God owes me nothing. I have no rights to stand on in His presence. And yet He freely gives me life, forgiveness, acceptance, adoption, redemption and blessing after blessing through His Son Jesus. It's all grace! And I know that there is so much grace that I have yet to experience—grace that will sustain, transform and flow through me in the future. What's more is God does not put me in His debt. It is true that "Jesus paid it all – all to Him I owe" – and yet, it is not duty that constrains me to live for Him, but His beauty, and a heart filled with love and gratitude for all He's done for me.

What spiritual disciplines do you practice yourself? As a family?

I want Jesus to be my first thought when I wake up and my last thought when I go to sleep—so I try to begin and end each day with prayer. My children are early risers, and our house is a noisy place, so I usually read the Bible in my office at church after I drop my son off at school. In recent years, I've found myself drifting to the Psalms more frequently, praying the prayers slowly and meditatively, with Jesus. In preparation for teaching and preaching, before dipping into the commentaries, I let the text preach to me—by reading it slowly, often several times, in multiple translations, so that I do not by-pass my own soul when I teach and preach. I often go for walks so that God and I can ask each other questions and listen to each other. A couple times a year I retreat—either

to a quiet place (like a monastery) or with a colleague—to pray, discern and worship God. I fast from time to time, especially during Lent, so that I can focus my prayers and deepen my awareness of my dependence on God. My wife and I cheerfully and sacrificially give our “firstfruits” to God through our congregation and other Kingdom causes.

As a family, we are very intentional about living out the spirit of Deuteronomy 6. A typical day provides so many opportunities to notice and talk about God together, especially with our kids. We pray together before meals and at bed time, and read the Bible every night. We teach our kids about God’s heart for the poor and the lost, and pray regularly with our kids for our sponsor children and missionaries. On Sunday mornings, our son Brennan (6) joins Beth and I for the first part of the worship service. This past year we began celebrating Advent and Lent more fully with our children—teaching them the language of faith and immersing them in God’s story of redemption.

What can Crossroads expect from you in the coming days?

- Biblical preaching that is clear, interesting and relevant, and a commitment to preaching the full counsel of God
- Courageous Leadership that leverages itself through others
- A change agent who will lead by example, and consistently inspire the church to more faithfully fulfill the Great Commandments and the Great Commission
- A shepherd who loves both the congregation and the community
- An equipper committed to Leadership Development and building dynamic and sustainable ministry teams
- A bridge builder between the generations
- Lots of energy and creativity
- A person who is devoted to tending his soul, renewing his mind and growing professionally
- A commitment to praying daily for the church, its ministries and members

Pastor Bill’s Bookshelf

- “Pastor” by Eugene Peterson
- “A Light In the Attic” by Shel Silverstein
- “Liar’s Poker: Rising through the Wreckage on Wall Street” by Michael Lewis
- “King’s Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus” by Tim Keller
- “Because Your Daddy Loves You” by Andrew Clements
- “Baseball Prospectus 2011” by Baseball Prospectus
- “Love and Respect” by Emerson Eggerichs
- “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain
- “Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy” by Eric Metaxas

Really Important Stuff...

- Sports teams: Celtics, Patriots, Red Sox!!!
- Favorite Authors: Tim Keller, Eugene Peterson, Khaled Hosseini, John Irving
- Games: Ultimate Frisbee, Cribbage, Settlers of Catan, R.B.I. Baseball, Corn Hole
- Movies: Mary Poppins, Lord of the Rings Trilogy, anything by Christopher Guest or the Coen Brothers
- Music: Paul Simon, Billy Joel, James Taylor, Jethro Tull, Jazz, Blues, Burlap to Cashmere, Caedmon’s Call
- Verse: “To Live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21a
- Anniversary: June 14, 2003
- Facebook: <http://facebook.com/Bill.Hodgeman> & <http://facebook.com/beth.hodgeman>

Bill’s thoughts on joining Crossroads

My family and I can’t wait to become a part of the Crossroads family! We are honored and humbled by this call of God, and eager to get to know each of you, and your stories. We’ve been so blessed by the people we have met so far—by their love for each other and for the Lord. We’re looking forward settling in, growing deep roots, and embracing Crossroads and its community, even as we are embraced by you.

Please feel free to contact us in the coming weeks. We’re looking forward to meeting you on the 28th!

Bill, Beth, Brennan & Evie
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