

creekside

life

MAR/APR/MAY 2019

ELK GROVE, CA



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

We have a shared existence
with those who live
next door

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FRONT YARD GARDENING

Growing more than just
tomatoes

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THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

The Gospel... illustrated

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THE VENUE

Exciting launch for
the Venue

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CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Developed for those seeking to move closer to Jesus.

Sign-up for one or more of Creekside's Next Steps and begin the pathway to becoming a disciple.

What is a disciple? It's simple... *a disciple is someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.*

For more details about Next Steps at Creekside contact Jennifer Sandlin at jennifer@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER WORKSHOP

Saturday, Mar 2, 9am-noon | Rm. E-102
A practical approach to increasing intimacy between you and the God who loves you while bringing life into your times of conversation with God.
[Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com](mailto:jennifer@creeksideeg.com)

BAPTISM CLASS

Sundays, Mar 24, May 19, 12:45-2pm | D-5
This class will answer your questions about baptism and prepare you for this step of faith with Jesus.
[Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com](mailto:karen.n@creeksideeg.com)

GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIBLE

Sundays, Mar 31, April 7 & 14
11am-12:30pm | A-5
A three-week course for people who are new to the Bible. Topics include an overview of the Bible, why you can trust the Bible and Bible study basics.
[Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com](mailto:nancy@creeksideeg.com)

SHAPE WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 7, 1:30-4:30pm | E-101
We are all uniquely shaped by God for His purpose. Come and discover your personal SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences) and your God-given

hardwiring for serving Him.
[Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com](mailto:jennifer@creeksideeg.com)

PRAYER RETREAT

Friday-Sunday, April 26-28 | Camp Del Oro
Deeper Still: Retreat with God in Prayer. Are you hungry for a more intimate and conversational prayer life? In this small group weekend retreat, we will spend time in reflection, structured silence and solitude as we learn to be still and know God. Cost: \$160/person.
[Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com](mailto:jennifer@creeksideeg.com)

LEARNING TO PRAY

Thursday, May 2, 7pm | M-3 or
Sunday, May 5, 9:30am | A-5
This one-hour workshop will help you get started with prayer. We'll look at the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray.
[Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com](mailto:jennifer@creeksideeg.com)

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, May 5, 1:30-4:30pm | A-1
What is church membership at Creekside? What is our history? What do we believe? This class will answer these questions and more.
[Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com](mailto:melissa@creeksideeg.com)

SHARE YOUR STORY

Sunday, May 19, 1:30pm | E-101
Learn to build your salvation story so you can confidently share it with friends, neighbors or anyone within your circle of influence.
[Karen Stoneburner | karen.s@creeksideeg.com](mailto:karen.s@creeksideeg.com)



LIFEGROUPS

CURRENT SESSION:
April 7-Current session concludes

NEXT SESSION:
Mark Your Calendars:
Sunday, Aug 4, Signups begin | Atrium
Sunday, Aug 18, New Leader Training
12:30-3:30pm | A-1
Aug 25-Nov 10, Next session



CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHILDREN**5TH-6TH GRADE BLOWOUT**

Friday, Mar 15, 6:30-8:45pm | E-108
Pre-Teen Social for 5th & 6th graders
Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

KIDS BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday, Mar 24 or April 7, 11:15am | M-6
Class for children considering baptism
Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Friday, April 5, 9am-3pm | Leadership Advance
Saturday, April 6, 8am-4:15pm | Conference
Campus-wide

Designed to renew a calling, ignite passion, and equip people who work with children.

Details and registration online:

therenewalconference.org

Lindy Giesser | lindy@creeksideeg.com

EASTER FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 13, 10-1pm | Creekside Campus

Family event to celebrate Easter.
Denise Griffin | denise.g@creeksideeg.com

FAMILY WORSHIP

Easter Sunday, April 21
No Sunday School for Pre-K through 6th grade.

ADVENTURE CREW FUNTASTIC

Friday, May 10, 5:30-8:30pm | Main Campus
Tuesday, May 14, 9am-12pm | Main Campus
Childcare for parent night/day out.
Register on-line.

Jan James | jan@creeksideeg.com

PARENT ORIENTATION FOR CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, May 5, 11:15am | M-6
Orientation class for parents considering child dedication on Mother's Day, May 12.
Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

AWANA YEAR-END CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 8, 6:15-8pm | Main Campus
Closing night for Awana participants.
Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

5TH-6TH GRADE END OF YEAR BLOWOUT

Friday, May 10, 6:30-8:45pm | E-108
Pre-Teen Social for 5th & 6th graders.
Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

KIDS BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday May 19, 11:15am | M-6
For children considering baptism.
Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 2 | All services
Children promoted to next grade level in Sunday school.

YOUTH | JUNIOR HIGH**SUNDAY SERVICES**

Sundays, 9:30am | E-108
A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.

Sundays, 11:15am | E-205

Upstairs with HS, we will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.

Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

TREK (AWANA)

Sundays | 3:15-5:15pm | E-108
Curriculum that challenges students to discover and grow their own faith.
*Dan Shafer | 916-266-1566 or
Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com*

TACO TUESDAYS

1st Tuesday monthly | 3:30-4:45pm
Elk Grove Park near the volleyball courts
Come hang out with your Creekside leaders and enjoy Free Tacos! A great opportunity to invite your friends.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

LIFEGROUPS

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm | E-108
Themed games with small group discussion time.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

G.E.M. PARENT FELLOWSHIP

Fridays, Mar 22, April 26 & May 17
9-11am | offsite
Giving Encouragement to Moms.
Share discussion, victories, struggles, spend time in Scripture and prayer.
Adrienne Lepp | 916-230-1693

MISSION TRIP TO INNER CITY SAN FRANCISCO (ICSF)

Applications now being accepted for the trip in July.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

"WHO STOLE LALE THE LLAMA?" EVENT

Thursday, April 4, 6-9pm | E-108
Join us for this awesome, active game!
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

8TH GRADE GRADUATION DINNER

Wednesday, May 15, 5:30pm | Location TBA
\$10 per person, dress to impress.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

MEADOW RANCH**SUMMER CAMP AT HUME LAKE**

June 23-29 | Go online to register
www.creeksideeg.com/student-ministries
Approx. \$600. Space is limited.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

YOUTH | HIGH SCHOOL**SUNDAY SERVICES**

Sundays, 9:30am | E-205
A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.

Sundays, 11:15am | E-205

We will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.
Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

JOURNEY (AWANA)

Sundays | 3:15-5:15pm | E-205
Establishing students as lifelong disciples through a deep study of God's Word, to live with a godly perspective and evident faith.
*Dan Shafer | (916) 266-1566 or Shelby Arriaga |
Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com*

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3rd Tuesday monthly, 7:00-9:30pm | offsite
An opportunity to serve the homeless in our community. Space is limited.
Carpool from Creekside.
Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

LIFEGROUPS

Wednesdays, 6:45-8:45pm | offsite
A place to know God and others on a deeper level in homes by grade with small group discussion time.
Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

G.E.M. PARENT FELLOWSHIP

Fridays, Mar 22, Apr 26 & May 17
9-11am | offsite
Giving Encouragement to Moms.
Share discussion, victories, struggles

while spending time in Scripture and prayer.

Adrienne Lepp | 916-230-1693

MISSION TRIP TO UTAH

Applications are now being accepted for the trip in July.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

CPEx FOR SENIORS

Wednesdays, April 24, May 1 & May 8
6:45-8:45pm | offsite

A three-week course aimed at prepping students for the next stage of life as they exit high school.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

GRADUATION BANQUET FOR THE CLASS OF 2019

Friday, May 10, 6-10pm | Frasinetti Winery
\$50 per person, formal attire.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

PONDEROSA or WILDWOOD SUMMER CAMP AT HUME LAKE

June 23-29 | Go online to register
www.creeksideeg.com/student-ministries
Approx. \$600. Space is limited.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com



COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

HIKING DAY

Saturday, April 6, 6am | Folsom Lake
Meet at Creekside for carpool

Join us as we explore God's creation together. Bring water and lunch.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

CELEBRATION BANQUET

Friday, May 17, 7pm | Venue

Let's celebrate what God has done this year with fun, food and festivities!

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ

Thursday, May 30, 6:30pm | offsite

Come hang out with friends as we BBQ and launch into summer.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

2nd Wednesday monthly
7:30-9:30pm | offsite

An opportunity to serve the homeless in our community. Space is limited. Carpool from Creekside.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

LIFEGROUPS

Thursdays, 7-9pm | E-108

A place to belong and move closer to Jesus as you deepen your knowledge of God among friends.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

GUYS' & GIRLS' BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays, 7:30pm | offsite

A place to explore and dive deeper into God's Word.

Facilitators:

Girls: Krista Fuller | kristafuller00@gmail.com

Guys: Matt Smith | trixademix@gmail.com

SATURDAYS WITH THE BOYS

2nd Saturday monthly

Join us at 8am in the Venue for the Men's Huddle. Then join us at Elk Grove park at 1pm for BBQ and Frisbee.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com



MEN

MEN'S HUDDLE

2nd Saturday, 8-9:45am | Venue

For guys in all stages of life. Join us for breakfast, worship and inspiring speakers. Bring a friend along! \$7 donation for breakfast.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER GROUP / BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | M-2

Prayer, 7:30-8am | Bible Study: 8-9:15am

An awesome, biblically sound Bible study. The first 30 minutes is spent praying for our families and other concerns. Topic: "Walking with Others" (Discipleship Study).

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6-7am | Atrium

A perfect morning start, seeking God first! Spend time contemplating Sunday's sermon, followed by Bible study. Led by Gary Grace.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

HOMELESS MINISTRY OUTREACH

1st Fridays, 7:15-8:45pm

Union Gospel Mission, Sacramento

Join us as we serve the homeless by conducting Chapel. Time spent that we believe you will never regret!

Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S CAMPOUT -

Friday-Sunday, July 26-28,

Loon Lake, El Dorado Natinal Forest.

A weekend filled with fellowship, outdoor activities, worship and God's Word. Details and registration available online in April.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Friday, June 21, 6:30-10pm | Venue

Saturday, June 22, 8:30am-noon | Venue

"What's Playing in The Theater of Your Mind - PHIL 4:8-9."

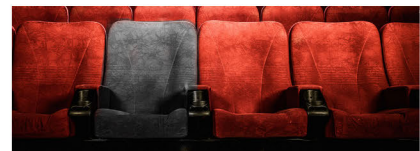
Learn the truth about the porn and sex-trafficking industries which deceive and enslave.

Speakers: Harmony (Dust) Grillo, former sex industry worker from "Treasures," Jenny Williamson, president of "Courage House International," Senior Pastor Scott Hansen and Tony Bell.

See page 15 for more details.

Details and registration online.

Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com



CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WOMEN

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 9:30-10:45am | M-2

Study the Bible with a loving, prayerful group of women. All ages are welcome. Led by Ruby Parsley.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-203

A service group supporting and ministering to the needs of local and global missions by assembling hygiene kits, making

baby layettes, cutting and rolling bandages, and more.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-204

Knit and crochet shawls and pray for those who receive them. Completed handmade shawls can also be donated at the Women's kiosk.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

DORCAS CIRCLE

1st Wednesdays, 9-11:30am | E-203

A service group ministering to the needs of our local community and missionaries overseas by making quilts, rolling bandages, and more.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*SPRING BIBLE STUDIES - MORNING BREAK

Tuesdays, April 23-May 21, 9-11:30am

Education Building

Grow in your relationship with God, whether you've studied the Bible for years, or are just getting started.
Details and registration online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*SPRING BIBLE STUDY - EVENING EDITION

Tuesdays, April 23-May 21, 6:30-9pm

Education Building

An evening option to grow deeper in relationship to God. Many ladies attend who work during the day.
Details and registration online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*HEART2HEART MOMS

Alternating Thursdays, through May 9

9-11:30am | E-108

For mothers of all ages and stages. Time together includes breakfast, special events and guest speakers.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

WOMEN ALONE FELLOWSHIP

Saturdays, monthly, noon-2pm | Atrium

For all ages, but mostly senior ladies widowed, divorced or single. Share a potluck lunch, meet new friends, enjoy inspiring speakers and music.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SENIOR ADULTS 55+

SPRING FLING

Thursday, Mar 21, 11:30am-2pm | Venue

Join us for a wonderful time of food, fellowship and singing much-loved hymns! Sign up on Sundays in the Atrium to bring a potluck dish to share.

Nancy | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am | A-1

A warm and friendly crowd will be pleased to welcome you to this on-going, in-depth Bible study. Led by Mike Jones.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 10-11am | E-101/102

If you are a Bible student, or want to be...this is the place! Join us for teaching directly from the Bible by a seasoned leader, George Burris.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com



SUPPORT

SCALES

2nd Fridays, 7-9pm | E-103

A monthly confidential support group for families and friends impacted by a loved one with mental illness.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MARRIAGE

THE ULTIMATE MARRIAGE WEEKEND

Friday-Sunday, Aug 9-11

Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe

Refresh marriages and enjoy getting to know other Christian couples.

Speaker: Dr. Gil Stieglitz.

Details and registration available online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

CHURCH SERVICES

- 8am | Classic
- 9:30am | Contemporary
- 9:30am | Venue
- 11:15am | Contemporary

NURSERY

- 8, 9:30 & 11:15am
- Newborn to 4 yrs

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30 & 11:15am
- Check-in: Rm. M-9 or South Wing/Main Bldg

SPECIAL NEEDS FOR KIDS

- 9:30am | Rm. B-4

PRETEEN MINISTRY 56'ers

- 9:30 & 11:15am | Rm. E-201

JUNIOR HIGH

- 9:30am | Rm. E-108
- 11:15am | Rm. E-205
- (combined with High School)

HIGH SCHOOL

- 9:30 & 11:15am | Rm. E-205

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30am | Rm. A-1

Easter

CALENDAR

*The Easter cross and empty tomb speak loud and clear.
They remind us of our great worth (or value) we have
individually before God.*

SAT
APR
13

Easter Festival

Saturday, April 13, 10am–1pm | Creekside Campus

A family-friendly event that includes jump houses, an egg hunt, carnival games, activities and a hands-on experience of Christ's journey to the cross.

FRIDAY
APR
19

TUE-FRI
APR
16-19

Private Communion

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 16–17, 7am–8pm | Auditorium
Thursday, April 18, 7am–9pm | Auditorium
Friday, April 19, 7am–2pm | Auditorium

You will have an opportunity to experience the feel of the nails that pierced His hands, the sting given from a crown of thorns, the taste of the vinegar and more as you walk at your own pace through this experience.

SUNDAY
APR
21

THURS
APR
18

Thursday Night Worship & Drama

Thursday, April 18, 5:30pm & 7pm | Venue

Join us for worship and drama as we revisit the events of Jesus' life from Palm Sunday through the crucifixion. The crowd that enthusiastically welcomed Jesus as he entered Jerusalem quickly turn on Him and demanded His death, leaving his followers in a state of confusion and despair. Reflect on these events and then allow time to walk through the Private Communion experience. Both events will prepare your heart for the joy of the Easter celebration.

SAT-SUN
APR
20-21

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*Now available on all your favorite devices.
For more information, visit creeksideeg.com*

- ▶ MISSION: We exist to bring glory to God by turning all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ PURPOSE: Making Disciples—More Christians and better Christians.
- ▶ DISCIPLE: Someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.

They also offer us proof that God can give us all the power we need to bring needed change or face any difficulty that life brings our way.

Good Friday Baptism Celebration

Friday, April 19, 7pm | Auditorium

Celebrate the life of Jesus and His resurrection. We will witness public declarations of faith, with many people being baptized, following the example of Jesus and declaring their life in Him.

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 21, 6am | Outside by the fountain

Join us for a time of worship and a message of Christ's resurrection as the sun rises.

Easter Services

AUDITORIUM

Saturday, April 20, 6pm

Sunday, April 21, 8, 9:30 & 11:15am

VENUE

Saturday, April 20, 6pm

Sunday, April 21, 9:30am & 11:15am





WELCOME *to* CREEKSIDE LIFE

This issue of Creekside Life focuses on how to be better neighbors as a church in our community and as individuals in our neighborhoods.

At Creekside, we've always wanted to be a blessing to those God has placed around us. Many are already reaching out to our homeless or by filling backpacks with school supplies for needy families. We have people who brighten corners at a children's hospital, and others who make sure children of incarcerated people receive presents for Christmas.

Currently, Creekside is even more intentionally reaching out to the people around us. At a time when our world seems murky and complicated, punctuated by loud voices taking sides about all kinds of issues, how wonderful would it be for us to be even greater

salt and light as God has asked us? To make things better for someone?

Throughout the Bible, we read about how important people are to God. One of my favorite things about Jesus was how He noticed people, especially those people who might be on the fringes of society: the hated tax collector in the tree, the woman bleeding for many years, the Samaritan woman shunned by her own people. Jesus noticed, connected, and cared for them. He asks us to do the same.

Too often, our culture tends to be isolationist. We drive into our garages, closing the door. We wave to neighbors, while not ever speaking a word. The only interaction some have is through social media. Could it be that many are lonely, longing for face to face connection with someone who genuinely cares?

If you're like I am, you're racing through a to-do list, not always noticing when God might have someone He wants you to care for. Together, let's commit to being more intentional as we listen to God as He brings others our way.

As you read this *Creekside Life*, you will face inspiration and challenge! Continually, God tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Please join us as we learn to love like Jesus.

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself', you do well!" JAMES 2:8.

Lynn Marie Gault, *Women's Pastor*

CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life

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Rose Herrera, *Operations Team*

Jessica McLarty, *Student Ministries Coordinator*

Justine Donnelly, *5th & 6th Grade Coordinator*

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PULSE



CREEKSIDERS AT JR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CAMP

In January, you would have found some of our Creekside Youth at Winter Camp, spending time with friends, having fun and learning how to live closer to Jesus!



Send us your story, testimony or feedback.



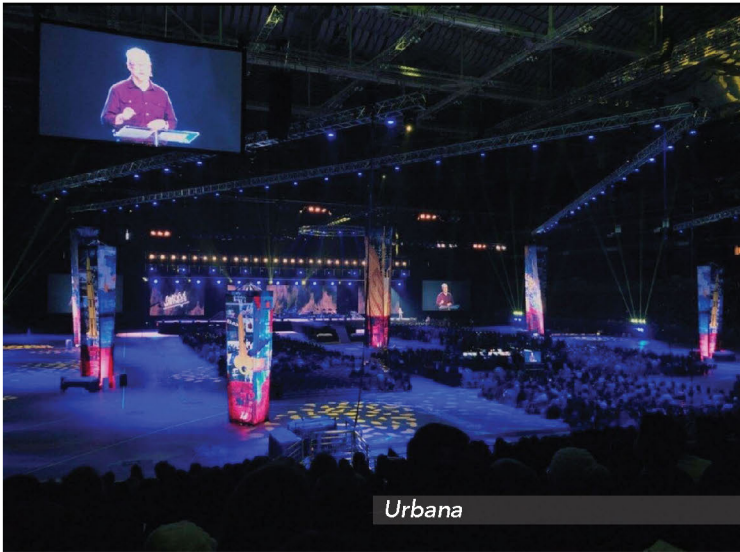
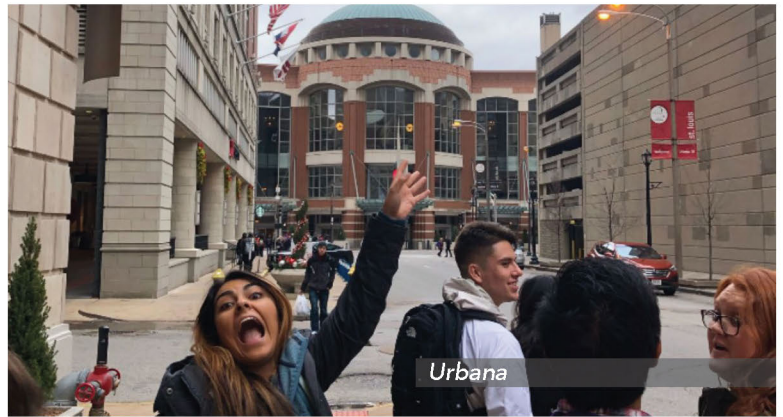
CreeksideEG



CreeksideCCeg



creeksidelife@creeksideeg.com





Happy 95th Birthday, Creekside

“The first time I attended Creekside I knew this would be my home church. Friendly people, outstanding teaching, cutting edge music, and ministries that touch every age group. My wife and I have been to all three services, each one possessing a different flavor. This church reaches every age group and has an amazing children’s AWANA program, and children and youth ministries. Its a big church with a small church feel. If you want to get connected and grow in Christ, this is definitely a place to check out. We love it!”

Chris Losey | via online media



Happy 95th Birthday, Creekside



Venue Grand Opening



Venue Grand Opening



Venue Grand Opening

The Creekside Insider

Get to know some of our VOI



1 Keisha Holliman

Women's Bible Study Coordinator

“In the more than three years she has helped coordinate Women’s Bible study, Keisha has seen God orchestrate wonderful things. Ladies who would otherwise not want to go to a Bible study somehow find the lessons of that day to be pertinent. She has developed a community around the women and has been moved to tears and laughter. Everyone comes together to help each other and she cites Lynn Marie, Women’s Pastor, and Nancy Aird, Pastoral Care Administration Assistant, as great Creekside leaders and role models.”



2 Kayla Hallman

Greeter for the Venue

“Kayla has a passion for greeting as it allows her to work with an awesome team who work together to show God’s love. Whether she smiles, shakes hands or offers an umbrella, she shows love to others well, demonstrating “ridiculous Biblical hospitality.” From serving, she hopes that loving others at Creekside spills over to loving others off campus and that she can go the extra mile in all aspects of her life. She did not expect to be passionate for being a greeter, but it is something that has happened.”



3 Matt & Hally Baker

LifeGroup Leaders

“Not only does Matt play guitar with the worship team, he is also a life group leader. Hally leads by example, setting meetings and hosting. They love LifeGroup because it allows them to grow in their faith in community. Despite their large LifeGroup of 19, they share personal experiences and fellowship with laughter and tears. They depend on the power of prayer. Hally told of a seriously ill neighbor their group was praying for, and when the person found out, he was humbled by the group’s loving care. Now, he attends Creekside and has joined their LifeGroup.”

Volunteers.



4 Ken Mar

Kindergarten Bible Teacher

“After 25 years of serving at Creekside, Ken continues to have fun working with young children. Recently, he was heartened to hear from a great grandmother that her great grandson who learned from Ken is now serving as a volunteer in children’s ministry. In his free time, Ken loves comforting the babies in the nursery. Even if he does not see the kids after they grow up, he hopes that he left a lasting impression for the kids to remember and that it points them in the right direction, that is, towards Jesus.”



5 Alexi Zachariou Remp

Tech Support

“Alex joined as a volunteer for tech support in part due to the leadership of Deniz Garrett (elder) and Joe Diaz-Romero (tech arts lead). With the upgraded equipment and video capabilities in the Venue, Alex wanted to learn and serve. He appreciates the loving and Godly drive of leaders. As part of the crew that serves “upstairs,” he feels their relationships have grown a community that uplifts others. Committed to Creekside, Alex feels that volunteering through the creative process encourages others as much as it encourages him. Volunteering is such a joy that it is “automatic” for him.”

HIGH FIVE



JENNIFER SANDLIN

NEXT STEPS TEAM, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

I grew up wanting to be my daddy’s secretary. After Heald Business College, I became a secretary, but not for my dad. Instead, I worked for an international construction and engineering company.

PROUDEST MOMENT?

My proudest moment was the day my daughter Ashley graduated from high school. Her graduation represented the culmination of my 18-year career as a homeschool mom.

HOBBIES?

Daily, I work the New York Times crossword puzzle. Right now, I am working to complete my bachelor’s degree in Organizational Leadership from William Jessup University.

IF YOU COULD GET COFFEE WITH ANYONE LIVING OR DEAD...

My grandfather—Russian born, 1894. He lived through their revolution, and moved his family to Canada escaping the communist regime in 1928. I never met him, but he sounds fascinating!

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DAY?

One without any schedules—waking in a cozy cabin in the woods, a scenic walk and then curling up next to a crackling fireplace with a good Agatha Christie mystery.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit www.creeksideeg.com/staff/

FRONT YARD GARDENING: Growing more than just tomatoes

SPRING is here and in my family springtime means gardening. I love being able to go out in my back yard and pick a fresh tomato or cucumber right off the vine. We have eight different peach and nectarine trees that all ripen at different times, so we have fresh peaches for at least four months. There is simply nothing better.





The gardening bug comes from a long line in my family. My Grandpa had a half-acre garden he tended to until he physically was unable. My Mom planted a garden in every house we ever lived in, and she currently has a beautiful terraced garden leading down to the canyon in their back yard.

Just this past year I was in Washington visiting my parents, and I noticed something very strange. In their front yard, lining the street was a garden box. Our gardens have always been in the back yard, and in fact I can't remember seeing a garden in a front yard in the suburbs ever.

I asked my parents, "What's up with the garden box in the front yard." My mom said, "oh that's for the neighbors, especially the kids. Everyone knows that everything that grows in that garden is free for anyone to take and eat."

Sure enough while we were there, kids from blocks away came out of their houses and picked fresh vegetables and played in front of my parents house, because there was an endless

supply of snacks. What a brilliant way not only to get to know your neighbors but to show them great hospitality.

If you grow a garden in your front yard you are communicating to them, "You are always welcome here." When you tend to your garden, you are making yourself available for people to come say hello. And, in my experience whenever people gather together around food, great conversation happens.

What would it look like for you to grow a garden in your front yard, maybe even just start with a couple of tomato plants? The great thing about a garden is that God has given you everything you need to start one; soil, water, sun. Seriously that's all you need. Ok so you need a seed or a plant to start but to keep it going soil, water, sun. Your hospitable God has provided that for you. Use it to offer hospitality to others.

Maybe digging in the dirt isn't your thing, or maybe you just simply

don't like vegetables. Perhaps barbecuing or smoking some kind of meat is your thing. I have a friend who built a house and installed a propane line in the front of his house. The contractors thought he was crazy. When the house was completed, he bought a gas grill and plugged it into that line in the front yard. Every weekend he barbecued in full view of the neighborhood. Even better, he shared his delicious barbecued meat with all his neighbors. Talk about perfecting the art of being a neighbor!

Maybe this spring and summer can look a little different in your neighborhood. What would it take for you to wheel out your BBQ to the front yard and dig up a little bit of grass to grow some vegetables for the neighborhood to share. I dare you to try it and get to know more about your neighbors. I guarantee you will find you have more in common than you think.

CL



This Feature article is written by Joel Neufeld who is a Worship Pastor & Communications Director at Creekside.

FOR over a year we have been trekking through the Gospel of Luke, exploring the story of Jesus. Luke begins with the story of Jesus' miraculous birth and sees Jesus live a life of power and grace unparalleled in human history. It becomes evident that Jesus is way more than just another teacher...

- A UNIFIED, TWO-VOLUME WORK FROM THE SAME AUTHOR: **LUKE**
- A TRAVELING CO-WORKER WITH PAUL (COLOSSIANS 4:14; PHILEMON 24)

1:1-4 PREFACE
HOW & WHY LUKE WROTE HIS "orderly account about the things that have been FULFILLED among us..."

HOW: CONSULTS EYEWITNESS TRADITIONS

WHY: TO SHOW HOW THE STORY OF JESUS FULFILLS THE STORY OF GOD & ISRAEL ... & THE WHOLE WORLD

LUKE COMPARE 1:1-4 WITH 1:1-2 **ACTS**



1-2 INTRODUCTION

PARALLEL BIRTH STORIES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST & JESUS

JOHN THE PROPHETIC MESSENGER WHO PREPARES ISRAEL TO MEET THEIR GOD

MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION! (2:29-32)

MAY THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL BE PRAISED! (1:67-79)

UNLIKELY PROMISE OF A SON → POEMS OF CELEBRATION

MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR! (1:46-55)

JESUS THE MESSIANIC KING WHO WILL BRING GOD'S REIGN & BLESSING

ANNA & SIMEON

CONSISTS MOSTLY OF JESUS' PARABLES & TEACHINGS "ON THE ROAD"

9b-19a

15 PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

3-9a JESUS & HIS MISSION

3 JESUS' BAPTISM & GENEALOGY

YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON.

Jesus: SON OF DAVID, SON OF ABRAHAM, SON OF ADAM.

JESUS IS THE MESSIANIC KING WHO BRINGS GOD'S BLESSING TO ALL HUMANITY

4 JESUS LAUNCHES HIS KINGDOM MISSION

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, TO PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE **POOR** & **FREEDOM** FOR PRISONERS; NEW SIGHT FOR THE BLIND & **FREEDOM** FOR THE OPPRESSED. (4:18=ISAIAH 61:1-2)

GREEK: aphesis
 "RELEASE." REFERS TO YEAR OF JUBILEE (SEE LEVITICUS 25)
 -ALL SLAVES RELEASED
 -DEBTS CANCELLED

HEBREW: ANI
 PEOPLE OF LOW SOCIAL STATUS OR OUTSIDERS

YOU'VE NEGLECTED THE JUSTICE & THE LOVE OF GOD! (11:42)

JESUS' BANQUETS WITH ISRAEL'S LEADERS (11:37-52, 14:1-24)

1-8 HEALING THE SICK: JESUS' GOOD NEWS FOR "THE POOR"

6-12-49 FORMING A NEW ISRAEL:

MANIFESTO OF AN UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM
 GOD'S LOVE=REVERSAL OF OUR VALUE SYSTEMS
 RADICAL GENEROSITY, SERVANT LEADERSHIP, PEACEMAKING, FORGIVENESS, DEEP PIETY THAT REJECTS RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY

WELCOMING THE OUTSIDER: TAXES + TOLLS

FOLLOW ME! I'M FORGIVEN!

9:18-27 A NEW REVELATION

RESISTANCE FROM LEADERS LEADS TO

HE DISHONORS OUR TRADITIONS! (5:33, 6:2)

HE'S A DRUNK! (5:30, 7:34)

HE BLASPHEMES GOD! (5:21)

I AM THE MESSIAH, AND I'M GOING TO DIE IN JERUSALEM. SEE ISAIAH 53

7:28-36 JESUS' TRANSFORMATION

THIS IS MY CHOSEN SON.

...TALKING TOGETHER ABOUT JESUS' EXODUS TO BE FULFILLED IN JERUSALEM.

JESUS: A NEW MOSES, FREEING HIS NEW ISRAEL FROM THE TYRANNY OF EVIL

GO AWAY FROM ME & ANNOY YOUR KINGDOM HERE

10 JESUS SENDS OUT THE 70

He is the Savior of the world! Let this illustration of Luke's Gospel paint a picture of who Jesus is. And join us on Sundays throughout the Spring as we continue on this journey.



Phil Fuller, Associate Pastor at Creekside.

ACCORDING TO LUKE

LUKE PORTRAYS FOLLOWING JESUS AS A JOURNEY... YOU LEARN AS YOU GO!

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

A FOOLISH SON RUNS AWAY... BUT COMES BACK REPENTANT

LET'S THROW A PARTY! MY LOST SON IS FOUND!

GOD'S JOY WELCOMES EVERYONE INTO HIS FAMILY

THE TRAGEDY OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS WHO REJECT JESUS & HIS KINGDOM

JESUS' CONTINUED MISSION TO "THE POOR"

I CAME TO SEEK & SAVE THE LOST! (9:10)

ZACCHAEUS

THE SICK

SAMARITANS

THE BLIND

JESUS' KINGDOM BANQUETS WITH "THE POOR"

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT:

- PRAYER (11:1-13)
- TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROVISION (12:1-12)
- WEALTH, POSSESSIONS & GENEROSITY (12:13-31; 16:18-18-30)

HEAD OF UNCLE: GOD'S AS ARRIVED!

21:33-53 THE CONCLUDING SCENE

THE SCRIPTURES HAD TO BE FULFILLED, THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD SUFFER DEATH & BE RESURRECTED.

GO ANNOUNCE GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO THE NATIONS, BUT WAIT FIRST FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

KEEP READING INTO ACTS...

ISAIAH

PSALMS

19b-24 JESUS' FINAL WEEK IN JERUSALEM

19b ARRIVAL & REJECTION IN JERUSALEM

IF ONLY YOU HAD RECOGNIZED THE WAY TOWARD PEACE. (19:42)

20-21 JESUS PREDICTS THE TEMPLE'S DESTRUCTION

THIS HAS BECOME A DEN OF REBELS! (19:46)

JERUSALEM WILL BE SURROUNDED BY ARMIES!

ITS DESOLATION IS NEAR! (21:10)

22 JESUS' LAST PASSOVER

HE'S DONE NOTHING WORTHY OF DEATH. (23:4, 14, 15)

HEROD ANTIPAS

PILATE

NEW SYMBOLS ABOUT A NEW EXODUS

BROKEN BODY & SHED BLOOD WILL LIBERATE JESUS' NEW ISRAEL

HE SAYS HE'S A KING!

REMEMBER ME, JESUS!

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM. (23:34)

TODAY YOU'LL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE. (23:43)

24:1-12 THE EMPTY TOMB

JESUS IS RISEN!

24:13-32 THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?

WE THOUGHT JESUS WOULD REDEEM ISRAEL, BUT HE'S DEAD...

JESUS!

THE POINT: ONLY WHEN WE SUBMIT OURSELVES TO JESUS' UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM, EPITOMIZED BY THE CROSS, CAN WE TRULY EXPERIENCE THE REAL JESUS

created by the Bible Project

WHO is my neighbor?

MY neighbors include people you might recognize: a CRC student, a grandma, a college professor, a Marine veteran, an Apple employee. All fit nicely into who a “neighbor” is.

But things are not always what they appear.

These people are homeless—in Elk Grove. And I bet you would not know unless told—they look a lot like you and me. Does homelessness affect how you choose to be neighborly? If so, you’re not alone.

Being neighborly back when...

The Good Samaritan story (LUKE 10:25-37) provides insight for helping a needy



neighbor. A lawyer learns that inheriting eternal life includes not just loving God, but also loving his neighbor. He understood loving God was the correct answer, but Jesus’ statement about “love your neighbor as yourself” perplexed him.

Likely, the lawyer was more than willing to be neighborly to people like himself. He could wave “hi” from across the street or grocery aisle, engage in occasional small talk, maybe even get to know the name of the neighbor’s children. That’s what neighbors do, right? Thinking he understood, he bravely asked Jesus: “And who is my neighbor?”

As Jesus shares this story, we learn being neighborly requires more than meets the eye: compassion for people in rough situations (v.33), it’s messy (v.34), and it costs time and money (v.35). Further, the Good Samaritan is a Samaritan, meaning he’s a foreigner. Despite this, he chooses to get involved with his “neighbor,” a total stranger.



Neighborly now...

Truthfully, being neighborly is easy when it's not too messy. Yet this is Jesus' message. Just as the Good Samaritan went way out to connect to his needy "neighbor," Jesus stepped way out to connect with our needs. He didn't wait for us to "clean up" first.

When considering who and how to be neighborly, consider this: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Taking action...

ASK, DON'T TELL. God gave me two ears and one mouth for a reason. Ask the person about his/her situation. More times than not, I've found my neighbor is willing to say a lot. When the opposite occurs (for example, the person is quiet or disengaged), perhaps go slow or even back off.

SAVE YOUR "DOUGH," JOE. Easing your conscience by giving a \$10 bill is not what your neighbor, or you, really need. If the situation is safe, consider stopping to share a coffee or burger with the person. Sounds messy right? It is, and it also creates a real connection.

COUNT ME OUT, FOR NOW. If you're squirming a bit that is not necessarily bad. My first experience with homeless neighbors occurred by mistake. As an unscheduled chaperone for my son's Inner City LA trip, I found that God used this to open my heart to my neighbor in need. With God's guidance, our group started the Elk Grove Winter Sanctuary program for local people experiencing homelessness. The program hosts up to 20 guests at local churches for the 12 coldest weeks of winter.

What does God have in store for you? You'll know once you take that first step toward your neighbor. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Fred Bremmerman,
enjoys meeting homeless
neighbors, as well as
spending time camping
with his wife Kimberly.
Fred is a Creekside
member and Elk Grove
HART volunteer. For more
information about HART,
visit: ELKGroveHART.org



This Feature is written by Fred Bremmerman who is a Contributing Copywriter for this issue of Creekside Life.

A Modern-day Good Samaritan story



TIM and I lived in the same homeless camp under a freeway in Sacramento, and he knew I had a beat up old van.

One Sunday he asked if I could go to Camp Pollock to pick him up. He was there attending a Stand Down event for homeless veterans, and he needed help transporting supplies he received back to the homeless camp. I was glad to help because it brought back fond memories of when I was not homeless but employed by IBEW local #340. I had volunteered to use my skills to wire phone lines to all the event tents. In fact, I enjoyed volunteering for this event so much that I returned two years in a row.

I drove over in my unregistered van (no funds to register it). Tim, as usual, wasn't ready, so I sat in my van and waited, staying hidden because I didn't want anyone to recognize me.

After the event was over, I looked around and saw a table loaded with over 100 bagged lunches. I was so hungry and I knew the other people who lived on the river and under the freeway were too. I approached the tall, debonair man by the food table who wore a uniform adorned with

many medals. He looked nice; I assumed he was in charge.

"Excuse me sir, I was wondering if you could spare some of these bagged lunches?" I asked. He looked at me with disgust and said, "NO!" I was stunned. I didn't expect to be turned away so disdainfully. Since I was so hungry, I decided to try again. I told him about the many hungry people who would appreciate some food. He said several unkind, sarcastic remarks, and we began heatedly conversing. As the yelling escalated, another man asked me if there was a problem. I explained the situation, and was surprised when he said, "I knew I remembered you from somewhere...from volunteering here!"

I was embarrassed that he remembered me from a time when I was a fiber optic technician (since now I stood before him dirty and homeless). I started crying. He hugged me and said, "Rose, you have carte blanche here!" It turned out he was in charge of the whole event. Immediately he instructed some soldiers to fill my van.

When Tim showed up, his jaw dropped to see the lunches, cases of water, and bags of clothes loaded in my van! I told him...It was God!

Despite that I lost my cool for a moment, God still showed up. On that day, through a seemingly random series of circumstances, God met my needs and the needs of many hungry homeless. I had only been a Christian a few months at this point and I remember feeling that only God could have made it all work together for good...more good than I could have imagined. I was hoping just to feed me, but God fed hundreds.

Now that I know the parable of the Good Samaritan (LUKE 10:25-37) I can say that the man in charge of the Veterans Stand Down truly was a good Samaritan to me. Jesus reminds us to love our neighbors...We all are worthy of being loved...even if we are dirty and living under a freeway. **cl**



This Feature article is written by Rose Herrera who is part of the Operations Team at Creekside.

WHAT'S PLAYING IN THE THEATER OF YOUR MIND?

MEN'S CONFERENCE JUNE 21-22, 2019

Men, come and learn how to protect ourselves and our children from the multi-billion dollar sex industry.

Harmony is a victim of exploitation turned UCLA honor student. She has a goal to help those entrenched in sexual exploitation find freedom. In 2003, she founded Treasures, a faith-based outreach and support ministry.



HARMONY GRILLO



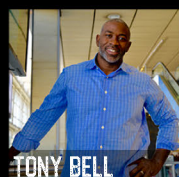
DR. SCOTT HANSEN

Scott is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary. He has well over 18 years experience in the mission field both nationally and internationally. He has spent the past 15 years pastoring two churches.

Jenny is the founder and CEO of Courage Worldwide, an international, non profit organization that builds homes for children rescued out of sex trafficking. She is also a passionate motivational speaker.



JENNY WILLIAMSON



TONY BELL

Tony is the Lead of Creekside's Men's Ministry. He is a 28 year veteran of the California Dept. of Corrections/US Marshal Task Force, and a Parole Agent, supervising sex offenders.

WARNING: CONFERENCE CONTAINS MATURE SUBJECT MATTER

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure...think about such things." Philippians 4:8

Friday: 6:30-10:00pm
Saturday: 8:30-noon
Early Registration \$30 (After June 1, \$40)

creekside
8939 E. Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove, 95624
1.916.685.4821



REGISTER ONLINE CREEKSIDEEG.COM/MEN



Exciting Launch for the Venue

After years of prayer, months of hard work and weeks of dry runs, the Venue launched on Sunday, January 27 during the 9:30 hour.



"I was a beautiful morning where God's evidence was shown through and through. From watching a sea of people, both new and old, fill the actual Venue space to experiencing a new worship team, there was proof of God moving not only at Creekside but also in Elk Grove," according to Phil Fuller, Associate Pastor.

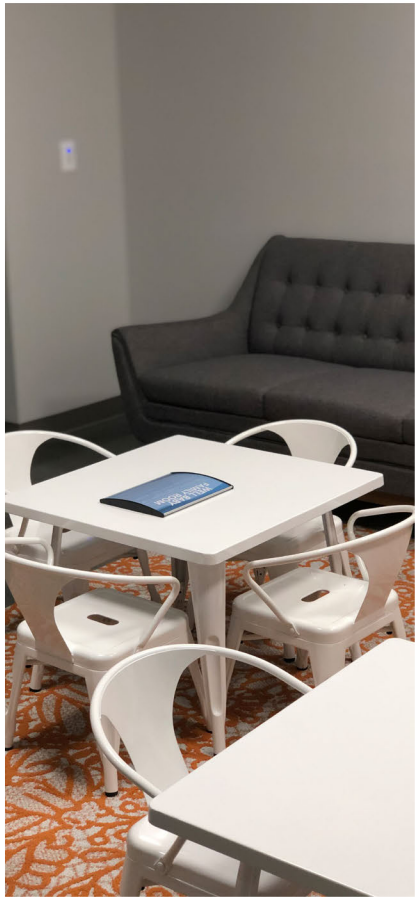
With over nine different teams of volunteers, the Venue staff have cohesively worked to create an experience with ridiculous biblical hospitality. Guests enjoyed the brand new, colorful pop signs, held by our team of greeters, making them feel valued as soon as they walked onto campus. They also were ushered into the

Venue, showing them where we have open seating during our service.

Full of friendly faces who are eager to answer any questions about Creekside, the Venue's Connection Center volunteers gave our first time guests a new gift. In addition, they can enjoy a free pastry each Sunday and order a delicious cup of coffee or tea. The goal is to serve and to welcome.

The Venue was filled with lots of young families this past weekend which was exactly what the hope was! In fact, in the rear area of the new Venue space, guests will find a quaint family room that allows kid's to play quietly while parents and/or guardians can still enjoy





the worship and sermon. This past weekend was a hit for the family room allowing families the opportunity to worship together. Hopefully, the Venue will continue to connect to the young families in Elk Grove giving them a place where they feel comfortable to come and spend their Sunday mornings.

Not only was the worship experience new for the Venue, but the layout is fresh and exciting. High side tables and tables in the back of the room allow guests to feel comfortable bringing their devices (such as laptops and ipads) to take notes during the sermon and to spread themselves out a bit more. All of these elements work together to reach those in our community,

welcoming them exactly as they are.

To complete Sunday's launch of the Venue, a new worship team also took the stage publicly for the first time. A diverse and talented team, the worship on Sunday was musically driven, powerful and full of freedom. Songs like "So Will I" and "Tremble" remind the congregation of God's great power in a modern and exciting way.

Opening day saw 284 guests in the Venue. In addition to that, Creekside as a whole had 21 first-time guests on January 27 alone! This means the Venue is already off to such an exciting start.

Please pray the Venue will

continue to grow, reaching and resonating with those in our community who do not yet know Jesus. And, that we, as a congregation, continue to welcome our neighbors with ridiculous biblical hospitality in the Venue and beyond. **cl**



This FEATURE ARTICLE is written by Kayla Hallman who is a Contributing Writer for Creekside Life.



INTERSECTION
FAITH + POP CULTURE

Hopping or Hoping into Easter?

WELL hello there! The name's Justine, and here at Creekside I coordinate the adventures of Preteen Ministry.

I just wanted to share a few simple and potentially not so simple thoughts about Easter.

Have you ever walked into your local store only to find that the shelves have been overtaken by heaps and heaps of greenery, plastic eggs, candy, you name it, we got it? Yeah. Same. I'd like to say I find it exciting...but, if I'm honest, it's just not.

It's like underlining all this "tradition" we've kind of lost the heart of the actual celebration. I joke, but then again, where IS Jesus?

On the personal side, Easter is a bittersweet time of year filled with the unintentional reminders of lost loved ones and cancer diagnoses. Of the whole year it seems everything painful got dumped on this one month. It's just hard, if I'm real. I wish I could say I'm stoked on the eggs, the candy, the rabbits but I'm just not.

Here's the thing...

I'd have nothing to celebrate, no fun to invite people into, if it wasn't for the hope I have in Jesus's resurrection. It's easy for me to cry leading up to Easter. You see, I've imagined myself at the foot of the cross wailing because my Jesus hangs there lifeless.

If it wasn't for the hope of the resurrection, I'd have nothing to celebrate. This, and this truth alone is what I have to offer my family, my friends, my neighbors. Any hope, joy, celebration or peace I bring to Easter comes from the victory of the cross over the grave.

My hope is the same would be true for you, your family, your friends and your neighbors.

As Christians, we have ALL THE MORE reason to celebrate. So, assuming I'm not the only one in this community who needs a serious dose of hope, a genuine hand of hospitality and a bubbling overflow of joy, please, invite a neighbor. Go the extra mile to assume, YOU ARE a shining light in a dark world, and Easter, really is a beautiful celebration. **CL**



INTERSECTION is written by Justine Donnelly who is 5th & 6th Grade Coordinator at Creekside.

Make a “Blessing Bag” for the homeless

WHEN my firstborn son was just 4 years old, we lived in San Jose. In our daily routine of traffic on Stevens Creek Blvd heading for day care and work, we would see a particular homeless man on the freeway exit corner. My analytical son would observe this man from the privacy of our tinted windows from the backseat. One day after asking 20 questions about who he was and why he was there, he exclaimed, “I want to help that man have a home.”

Out of the mouth of babes, right?

While my mind said, we can’t bring him home, I didn’t want to deny my son’s caring heart. I smiled and exclaimed in my best super hero voice, “Let’s find a way we can help him!”

After a bit of research, I discovered the Blessing Bag.

It’s simple: fill a Ziploc bag with goodies, keep them in your car in arms reach, and hand them from the car. Just this past Christmas season, our Creekside Bible study leader Holly Brovant led our group to put together 45 of these bags for our families to hand out. It worked great! Amazon has some good deals for bulk items, and it cost each family about \$35 (that’s only one trip to In-n-Out Burger, y’all!).

Some suggested items include:

1. Warm Socks: this is top of the list
2. Wipes: a close second on the list of needs
3. Beanie: especially in a colder time of the year
4. Water bottle
5. Goodies like fruit snacks, granola bars, and applesauce packs
6. Sugar-free gum or mints
7. Chapstick
8. Most importantly, the Gospel and a hand-written note of encouragement to let them know they aren’t alone. Get the children involved to draw a happy picture or write a note. **CL**



This ACTIVITY is written by Amy Atkins who is a part of Creekside’s Communication Team.

KAREN STONEBURNER

With a passion for adventure and a desire to understand different cultures, Karen Stoneburner has learned to reach her neighbors in amazing ways. She has been a part of Creekside for over 30 years, with 29 of those serving on staff, currently as our Missions Director.

Shortly after graduating from the UCLA, class of 75, Karen surrendered her life to Jesus, and six years later, she began pursuing missions. Since then she has gone to nine different countries on short term and long-term missions.

When asked about what she enjoys the most in her role at Creekside, she replied, "I love equipping people to step into God's will for their life especially on the mission field. Another one of my favorite parts about this position is that I get to meet a variety of people and hear their stories. Even though I work with people who have a relationship with Jesus; God uses this role to place people in my life who do not know Him."

Karen lives the message of ROMANS 1:16-17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." She embraces this and loves to share God's beautiful story of redemption.

Not only does Karen equip missionaries to go and make disciples, she also strives to use her singleness as a tool to remind single men and women that there is fullness offered in a life with Christ and marriage is not the standard to a full life. Karen embodies a life of fullness through Christ and uses it to encourage everyone around her to lean on Him in all circumstances. **CL**



This issue's PROFILE is written by Jessica McLarty who is Student Ministries Coordinator at Creekside.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit www.creeksideeg.com/staff/



FAMILY

Single and serving Him

EDUCATION

Graduate, University of Los Angeles

ROLE AT CREEKSIDE

Missions Director

BACKSTORY

30 years attending Creekside. 29 years on staff. Mission trips to 9 countries

Sneak peek into summer!



creekside

Mark your calendars now and make plans to join us this summer at Creekside for a season full of fun for the whole family.

June

2

Family Picnic

18

Creekside University starts with a great lineup:

- Jesus & the Gospels
- Best. Marriage. Ever.
- Financial Peace University
- Reaching Out

21-22

Men's Conference

23-29

Jr High and High school Summer Camp

30-July 6

Route 56 Summer Camp

July

Coming in July

Family Unity Night F.U.N.

August

9-11

The Ultimate Marriage Weekend



20th Anniversary Celebration

Shining Stars

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

June 14, 2019

Mark your calendars now for this fun event.

Details coming soon.



Summer 2019

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm

Are you looking for a way to grow in your faith this summer? Creekside University is a series of summer courses to help you take that next step in your walk with Jesus. Choose from four course offerings:

● **Jesus and the Gospels**

June 18-July 30 | \$50 per person | Taught by Dr. David Nystrom

Do you ever find it challenging to wrap your mind around who Jesus is and what He taught? *Jesus and the Gospels* will distill Jesus' life and teachings to help you know Him more and to live and love like Him.

● **Best. Marriage. Ever.**

June 18-July 30 | \$40 per couple | Taught by Mike Beckner, LMFT, and Counseling Team

These seven weeks will unpack a marriage toolkit to help you experience the Best. Marriage. Ever. From the purpose of marriage to the everyday expressions of love and respect, you'll be empowered to move toward the marriage you've always wanted.

● **Financial Peace University with Dave Ramsey**

June 18-August 13 | \$110 per family | Facilitated by Dean Cunday

Do you ever feel like there's too much month left at the end of your money? Or do you have big questions about your long-term financial health? This life-altering resource will help you learn to manage the money God has entrusted to you.

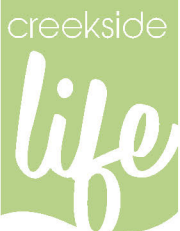
● **Discovering the Story You Were Made to Tell**

July 9-July 30 | \$10 per person | Taught by Chris Sapinosa

Isn't it incredible that God invites us to join Him in His healing and redeeming work in this world? This course will empower and equip you with Scripture and practical tools to engage in relationships and share your faith in any context.

Kids' Care is available at a nominal cost.

Get more information and register for classes at creeksideeg.com/university



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creekside
christian church

8939 E Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove, CA 95624

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Auditorium: 8, 9:30 & 11am | Venue: 9:30am

creekside

life

MAR/APR/MAY 2019

ELK GROVE, CA



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

We have a shared existence
with those who live
next door

p. 12

FRONT YARD GARDENING

Growing more than just
tomatoes

p. 8

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

The Gospel... illustrated

p. 10

THE VENUE

Exciting launch for
the Venue

p. 16

CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Developed for those seeking to move closer to Jesus.

Sign-up for one or more of Creekside's Next Steps and begin the pathway to becoming a disciple.

What is a disciple? It's simple... *a disciple is someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.*

For more details about Next Steps at Creekside contact Jennifer Sandlin at jennifer@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER WORKSHOP

Saturday, Mar 2, 9am-noon | Rm. E-102

A practical approach to increasing intimacy between you and the God who loves you while bringing life into your times of conversation with God.
Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

BAPTISM CLASS

Sundays, Mar 24, May 19, 12:45-2pm | D-5

This class will answer your questions about baptism and prepare you for this step of faith with Jesus.
Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIBLE

Sundays, Mar 31, April 7 & 14
11am-12:30pm | A-5

A three-week course for people who are new to the Bible. Topics include an overview of the Bible, why you can trust the Bible and Bible study basics.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SHAPE WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 7, 1:30-4:30pm | E-101

We are all uniquely shaped by God for His purpose. Come and discover your personal SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences) and your God-given

hardwiring for serving Him.

Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER RETREAT

Friday-Sunday, April 26-28 | Camp Del Oro

Deeper Still: Retreat with God in Prayer. Are you hungry for a more intimate and conversational prayer life? In this small group weekend retreat, we will spend time in reflection, structured silence and solitude as we learn to be still and know God. Cost: \$160/person.
Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

LEARNING TO PRAY

Thursday, May 2, 7pm | M-3 or
Sunday, May 5, 9:30am | A-5

This one-hour workshop will help you get started with prayer. We'll look at the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray.
Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, May 5, 1:30-4:30pm | A-1

What is church membership at Creekside? What is our history? What do we believe? This class will answer these questions and more.
Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com

SHARE YOUR STORY

Sunday, May 19, 1:30pm | E-101

Learn to build your salvation story so you can confidently share it with friends, neighbors or anyone within your circle of influence.
Karen Stoneburner | karen.s@creeksideeg.com



LIFEGROUPS

CURRENT SESSION:

April 7-Current session concludes

NEXT SESSION:

Mark Your Calendars:
Sunday, Aug 4, Signups begin | Atrium
Sunday, Aug 18, New Leader Training
12:30-3:30pm | A-1
Aug 25-Nov 10, Next session



CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHILDREN

5TH-6TH GRADE BLOWOUT

Friday, Mar 15, 6:30-8:45pm | E-108
Pre-Teen Social for 5th & 6th graders
Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

KIDS BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday, Mar 24 or April 7, 11:15am | M-6
Class for children considering baptism
Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Friday, April 5, 9am-3pm | Leadership Advance
Saturday, April 6, 8am-4:15pm | Conference
Campus-wide
Designed to renew a calling, ignite passion, and equip people who work with children.
*Details and registration online: therenewalconference.org
Lindy Giesser | lindy@creeksideeg.com*

EASTER FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 13, 10-1pm | Creekside Campus
Family event to celebrate Easter.
Denise Griffin | denise.g@creeksideeg.com

FAMILY WORSHIP

Easter Sunday, April 21
No Sunday School for Pre-K through 6th grade.

ADVENTURE CREW FUNTASTIC

Friday, May 10, 5:30-8:30pm | Main Campus
Tuesday, May 14, 9am-12pm | Main Campus
Childcare for parent night/day out.
Register on-line.
Jan James | jan@creeksideeg.com

PARENT ORIENTATION FOR CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, May 5, 11:15am | M-6
Orientation class for parents considering child dedication on Mother's Day, May 12.
Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

AWANA YEAR-END CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 8, 6:15-8pm | Main Campus
Closing night for Awana participants.
Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

5TH-6TH GRADE END OF YEAR BLOWOUT

Friday, May 10, 6:30-8:45pm | E-108
Pre-Teen Social for 5th & 6th graders.
Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

KIDS BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday May 19, 11:15am | M-6
For children considering baptism.
Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 2 | All services
Children promoted to next grade level in Sunday school.

YOUTH | JUNIOR HIGH

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays, 9:30am | E-108
A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.
Sundays, 11:15am | E-205
Upstairs with HS, we will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

TREK (AWANA)

Sundays | 3:15-5:15pm | E-108
Curriculum that challenges students to discover and grow their own faith.
*Dan Shafer | 916-266-1566 or
Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com*

TACO TUESDAYS

1st Tuesday monthly | 3:30-4:45pm
Elk Grove Park near the volleyball courts
Come hang out with your Creekside leaders and enjoy Free Tacos! A great opportunity to invite your friends.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

LIFEGROUPS

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm | E-108
Themed games with small group discussion time.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

G.E.M. PARENT FELLOWSHIP

Fridays, Mar 22, April 26 & May 17
9-11am | offsite
Giving Encouragement to Moms.
Share discussion, victories, struggles, spend time in Scripture and prayer.
Adrienne Lepp | 916-230-1693

MISSION TRIP TO INNER CITY SAN FRANCISCO (ICSF)

Applications now being accepted for the trip in July.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

"WHO STOLE LALE THE LLAMA?" EVENT

Thursday, April 4, 6-9pm | E-108
Join us for this awesome, active game!
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

8TH GRADE GRADUATION DINNER

Wednesday, May 15, 5:30pm | Location TBA
\$10 per person, dress to impress.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

MEADOW RANCH

SUMMER CAMP AT HUME LAKE
June 23-29 | Go online to register
www.creeksideeg.com/student-ministries
Approx. \$600. Space is limited.
Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

YOUTH | HIGH SCHOOL

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays, 9:30am | E-205
A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.
Sundays, 11:15am | E-205
We will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.
Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

JOURNEY (AWANA)

Sundays | 3:15-5:15pm | E-205
Establishing students as lifelong disciples through a deep study of God's Word, to live with a godly perspective and evident faith.
Dan Shafer | (916) 266-1566 or Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3rd Tuesday monthly, 7:00-9:30pm | offsite
An opportunity to serve the homeless in our community. Space is limited.
Carpool from Creekside.
Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

LIFEGROUPS

Wednesdays, 6:45-8:45pm | offsite
A place to know God and others on a deeper level in homes by grade with small group discussion time.
Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

G.E.M. PARENT FELLOWSHIP

Fridays, Mar 22, Apr 26 & May 17
9-11am | offsite
Giving Encouragement to Moms.
Share discussion, victories, struggles

while spending time in Scripture and prayer.

Adrienne Lepp | 916-230-1693

MISSION TRIP TO UTAH

Applications are now being accepted for the trip in July.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

CPEX FOR SENIORS

Wednesdays, April 24, May 1 & May 8
6:45-8:45pm | offsite

A three-week course aimed at prepping students for the next stage of life as they exit high school.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

GRADUATION BANQUET

FOR THE CLASS OF 2019

Friday, May 10, 6-10pm | Frasinetti Winery

\$50 per person, formal attire.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

PONDEROSA or WILDWOOD

SUMMER CAMP AT HUME LAKE

June 23-29 | Go online to register

www.creeksideeg.com/student-ministries

Approx. \$600. Space is limited.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com



COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

HIKING DAY

Saturday, April 6, 6am | Folsom Lake

Meet at Creekside for carpool

Join us as we explore God's creation together. Bring water and lunch.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

CELEBRATION BANQUET

Friday, May 17, 7pm | Venue

Let's celebrate what God has done this year with fun, food and festivities!

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ

Thursday, May 30, 6:30pm | offsite

Come hang out with friends as we BBQ and launch into summer.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

2nd Wednesday monthly

7:30-9:30pm | offsite

An opportunity to serve the homeless in our community. Space is limited.

Carpool from Creekside.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

LIFEGROUPS

Thursdays, 7-9pm | E-108

A place to belong and move closer to Jesus as you deepen your knowledge of God among friends.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com

GUYS' & GIRLS' BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays, 7:30pm | offsite

A place to explore and dive deeper into God's Word.

Facilitators:

Girls: Krista Fuller | kristafuller00@gmail.com

Guys: Matt Smith | trixademix@gmail.com

SATURDAYS WITH THE BOYS

2nd Saturday monthly

Join us at 8am in the Venue for

the Men's Huddle. Then join us at Elk

Grove park at 1pm for BBQ

and Frisbee.

Zach Carriker | Zach@creeksideeg.com



MEN

MEN'S HUDDLE

2nd Saturday, 8-9:45am | Venue

For guys in all stages of life. Join us for breakfast, worship and inspiring speakers. Bring a friend along!

\$7 donation for breakfast.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER GROUP / BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | M-2

Prayer, 7:30-8am | Bible Study: 8-9:15am

An awesome, biblically sound Bible study. The first 30 minutes is spent praying for our families and other concerns. Topic: "Walking with Others" (Discipleship Study).

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6-7am | Atrium

A perfect morning start, seeking God first! Spend time contemplating Sunday's sermon, followed by Bible study. Led by Gary Grace.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

HOMELESS MINISTRY OUTREACH

1st Fridays, 7:15-8:45pm

Union Gospel Mission, Sacramento

Join us as we serve the homeless by conducting Chapel. Time spent that we believe you will never regret!

Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S CAMPOUT -

Friday-Sunday, July 26-28,

Loon Lake, El Dorado Natinal Forest.

A weekend filled with fellowship, outdoor activities, worship and God's Word.

Details and registration available online in April.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Friday, June 21, 6:30-10pm | Venue

Saturday, June 22, 8:30am-noon | Venue

"What's Playing in The Theater of Your Mind - PHIL 4:8-9."

Learn the truth about the porn and sex-trafficking industries which deceive and enslave.

Speakers: Harmony (Dust) Grillo,

former sex industry worker from

"Treasures," Jenny Williamson,

president of "Courage House

International," Senior Pastor Scott

Hansen and Tony Bell.

See page 15 for more details.

Details and registration online.

Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com



CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WOMEN

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 9:30-10:45am | M-2

Study the Bible with a loving, prayerful group of women. All ages are welcome. Led by Ruby Parsley.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-203

A service group supporting and ministering to the needs of local and global missions by assembling hygiene kits, making

baby layettes, cutting and rolling bandages, and more.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-204

Knit and crochet shawls and pray for those who receive them. Completed handmade shawls can also be donated at the Women's kiosk.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

DORCAS CIRCLE

1st Wednesdays, 9-11:30am | E-203

A service group ministering to the needs of our local community and missionaries overseas by making quilts, rolling bandages, and more.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

***SPRING BIBLE STUDIES - MORNING BREAK**

Tuesdays, April 23-May 21, 9-11:30am

Education Building

Grow in your relationship with God, whether you've studied the Bible for years, or are just getting started.

Details and registration online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

***SPRING BIBLE STUDY - EVENING EDITION**

Tuesdays, April 23-May 21, 6:30-9pm

Education Building

An evening option to grow deeper in relationship to God. Many ladies attend who work during the day.

Details and registration online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

***HEART2HEART MOMS**

Alternating Thursdays, through May 9

9-11:30am | E-108

For mothers of all ages and stages. Time together includes breakfast, special events and guest speakers.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

WOMEN ALONE FELLOWSHIP

Saturdays, monthly, noon-2pm | Atrium

For all ages, but mostly senior ladies widowed, divorced or single. Share a potluck lunch, meet new friends, enjoy inspiring speakers and music.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SENIOR ADULTS 55+

SPRING FLING

Thursday, Mar 21, 11:30am-2pm | Venue

Join us for a wonderful time of food, fellowship and singing much-loved hymns! Sign up on Sundays in the Atrium to bring a potluck dish to share.

Nancy | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am | A-1

A warm and friendly crowd will be pleased to welcome you to this on-going, in-depth Bible study. Led by Mike Jones.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 10-11am | E-101/102

If you are a Bible student, or want to be...this is the place! Join us for teaching directly from the Bible by a seasoned leader, George Burriss.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com



SUPPORT

SCALES

2nd Fridays, 7-9pm | E-103

A monthly confidential support group for families and friends impacted by a loved one with mental illness.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MARRIAGE

THE ULTIMATE MARRIAGE WEEKEND

Friday-Sunday, Aug 9-11

Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe

Refresh marriages and enjoy getting to know other Christian couples.

Speaker: Dr. Gil Stieglitz.

Details and registration available online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

CHURCH SERVICES

- 8am | Classic
- 9:30am | Contemporary
- 9:30am | Venue
- 11:15am | Contemporary

NURSERY

- 8, 9:30 & 11:15am
- Newborn to 4 yrs

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30 & 11:15am
- Check-in: Rm. M-9 or South Wing/Main Bldg

SPECIAL NEEDS FOR KIDS

- 9:30am | Rm. B-4

PRETEEN MINISTRY 56'ers

- 9:30 & 11:15am | Rm. E-201

JUNIOR HIGH

- 9:30am | Rm. E-108
- 11:15am | Rm. E-205
- (combined with High School)

HIGH SCHOOL

- 9:30 & 11:15am | Rm. E-205

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30am | Rm. A-1

Easter

CALENDAR

*The Easter cross and empty tomb speak loud and clear.
They remind us of our great worth (or value) we have
individually before God.*

SAT
APR
13

Easter Festival

Saturday, April 13, 10am–1pm | Creekside Campus

A family-friendly event that includes jump houses, an egg hunt, carnival games, activities and a hands-on experience of Christ's journey to the cross.

FRIDAY
APR
19

TUE-FRI
APR
16-19

Private Communion

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 16–17, 7am–8pm | Auditorium

Thursday, April 18, 7am–9pm | Auditorium

Friday, April 19, 7am–2pm | Auditorium

You will have an opportunity to experience the feel of the nails that pierced His hands, the sting given from a crown of thorns, the taste of the vinegar and more as you walk at your own pace through this experience.

SUNDAY
APR
21

THURS
APR
18

Thursday Night Worship & Drama

Thursday, April 18, 5:30pm & 7pm | Venue

Join us for worship and drama as we revisit the events of Jesus' life from Palm Sunday through the crucifixion. The crowd that enthusiastically welcomed Jesus as he entered Jerusalem quickly turn on Him and demanded His death, leaving his followers in a state of confusion and despair. Reflect on these events and then allow time to walk through the Private Communion experience. Both events will prepare your heart for the joy of the Easter celebration.

SAT-SUN
APR
20-21

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*Now available on all your favorite devices.
For more information, visit creeksideeg.com*

- ▶ MISSION: We exist to bring glory to God by turning all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ PURPOSE: Making Disciples—More Christians and better Christians.
- ▶ DISCIPLE: Someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.

They also offer us proof that God can give us all the power we need to bring needed change or face any difficulty that life brings our way.

Good Friday Baptism Celebration

Friday, April 19, 7pm | Auditorium

Celebrate the life of Jesus and His resurrection. We will witness public declarations of faith, with many people being baptized, following the example of Jesus and declaring their life in Him.

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 21, 6am | Outside by the fountain

Join us for a time of worship and a message of Christ's resurrection as the sun rises.

Easter Services

AUDITORIUM

Saturday, April 20, 6pm

Sunday, April 21, 8, 9:30 & 11:15am

VENUE

Saturday, April 20, 6pm

Sunday, April 21, 9:30am & 11:15am





WELCOME *to* CREEKSIDE LIFE

This issue of Creekside Life focuses on how to be better neighbors as a church in our community and as individuals in our neighborhoods.

At Creekside, we've always wanted to be a blessing to those God has placed around us. Many are already reaching out to our homeless or by filling backpacks with school supplies for needy families. We have people who brighten corners at a children's hospital, and others who make sure children of incarcerated people receive presents for Christmas.

Currently, Creekside is even more intentionally reaching out to the people around us. At a time when our world seems murky and complicated, punctuated by loud voices taking sides about all kinds of issues, how wonderful would it be for us to be even greater

salt and light as God has asked us? To make things better for someone?

Throughout the Bible, we read about how important people are to God. One of my favorite things about Jesus was how He noticed people, especially those people who might be on the fringes of society: the hated tax collector in the tree, the woman bleeding for many years, the Samaritan woman shunned by her own people. Jesus noticed, connected, and cared for them. He asks us to do the same.

Too often, our culture tends to be isolationist. We drive into our garages, closing the door. We wave to neighbors, while not ever speaking a word. The only interaction some have is through social media. Could it be that many are lonely, longing for face to face connection with someone who genuinely cares?

If you're like I am, you're racing through a to-do list, not always noticing when God might have someone He wants you to care for. Together, let's commit to being more intentional as we listen to God as He brings others our way.

As you read this *Creekside Life*, you will face inspiration and challenge! Continually, God tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Please join us as we learn to love like Jesus.

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself', you do well!" JAMES 2:8.

Lynn Marie Gault, *Women's Pastor*

CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life

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PULSE



CREEKSIDERS AT JR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CAMP

In January, you would have found some of our Creekside Youth at Winter Camp, spending time with friends, having fun and learning how to live closer to Jesus!



Send us your story, testimony or feedback.



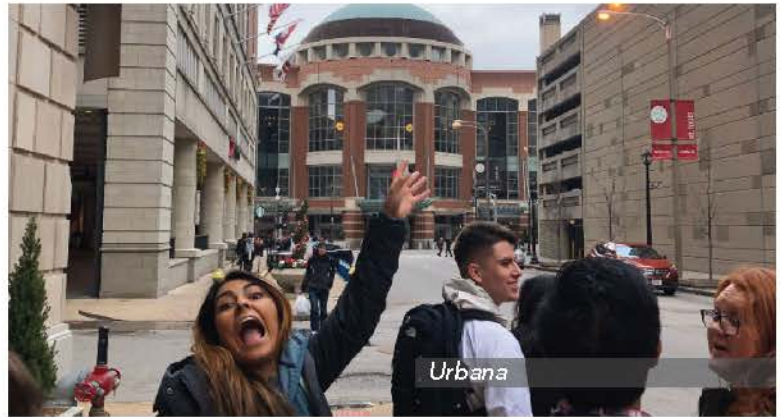
CreeksideEG



CreeksideCCeg



creeksidelife@creeksideeg.com





Happy 95th Birthday, Creekside

“The first time I attended Creekside I knew this would be my home church. Friendly people, outstanding teaching, cutting edge music, and ministries that touch every age group. My wife and I have been to all three services, each one possessing a different flavor. This church reaches every age group and has an amazing children’s AWANA program, and children and youth ministries. Its a big church with a small church feel. If you want to get connected and grow in Christ, this is definitely a place to check out. We love it!”

Chris Losey | via online media



Happy 95th Birthday, Creekside



Venue Grand Opening



Venue Grand Opening



Venue Grand Opening

The Creekside Insider

Get to know some of our VOI



1 Keisha Holliman

Women's Bible Study Coordinator

“In the more than three years she has helped coordinate Women’s Bible study, Keisha has seen God orchestrate wonderful things. Ladies who would otherwise not want to go to a Bible study somehow find the lessons of that day to be pertinent. She has developed a community around the women and has been moved to tears and laughter. Everyone comes together to help each other and she cites Lynn Marie, Women’s Pastor, and Nancy Aird, Pastoral Care Administration Assistant, as great Creekside leaders and role models.”



2 Kayla Hallman

Greeter for the Venue

“Kayla has a passion for greeting as it allows her to work with an awesome team who work together to show God’s love. Whether she smiles, shakes hands or offers an umbrella, she shows love to others well, demonstrating “ridiculous Biblical hospitality.” From serving, she hopes that loving others at Creekside spills over to loving others off campus and that she can go the extra mile in all aspects of her life. She did not expect to be passionate for being a greeter, but it is something that has happened.”



3 Matt & Hally Baker

LifeGroup Leaders

“Not only does Matt play guitar with the worship team, he is also a life group leader. Hally leads by example, setting meetings and hosting. They love LifeGroup because it allows them to grow in their faith in community. Despite their large LifeGroup of 19, they share personal experiences and fellowship with laughter and tears. They depend on the power of prayer. Hally told of a seriously ill neighbor their group was praying for, and when the person found out, he was humbled by the group’s loving care. Now, he attends Creekside and has joined their LifeGroup.”

Volunteers.



4 Ken Mar

Kindergarten Bible Teacher

“After 25 years of serving at Creekside, Ken continues to have fun working with young children. Recently, he was heartened to hear from a great grandmother that her great grandson who learned from Ken is now serving as a volunteer in children’s ministry. In his free time, Ken loves comforting the babies in the nursery. Even if he does not see the kids after they grow up, he hopes that he left a lasting impression for the kids to remember and that it points them in the right direction, that is, towards Jesus.”



5 Alexi Zachariou Remp

Tech Support

“Alex joined as a volunteer for tech support in part due to the leadership of Deniz Garrett (elder) and Joe Diaz-Romero (tech arts lead). With the upgraded equipment and video capabilities in the Venue, Alex wanted to learn and serve. He appreciates the loving and Godly drive of leaders. As part of the crew that serves “upstairs,” he feels their relationships have grown a community that uplifts others. Committed to Creekside, Alex feels that volunteering through the creative process encourages others as much as it encourages him. Volunteering is such a joy that it is “automatic” for him.”

HIGH FIVE



JENNIFER SANDLIN

NEXT STEPS TEAM, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

I grew up wanting to be my daddy’s secretary. After Heald Business College, I became a secretary, but not for my dad. Instead, I worked for an international construction and engineering company.

PROUDEST MOMENT?

My proudest moment was the day my daughter Ashley graduated from high school. Her graduation represented the culmination of my 18-year career as a homeschool mom.

HOBBIES?

Daily, I work the New York Times crossword puzzle. Right now, I am working to complete my bachelor’s degree in Organizational Leadership from William Jessup University.

IF YOU COULD GET COFFEE WITH ANYONE LIVING OR DEAD...

My grandfather—Russian born, 1894. He lived through their revolution, and moved his family to Canada escaping the communist regime in 1928. I never met him, but he sounds fascinating!

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DAY?

One without any schedules—waking in a cozy cabin in the woods, a scenic walk and then curling up next to a crackling fireplace with a good Agatha Christie mystery.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit www.creeksideeg.com/staff/

FRONT YARD GARDENING: Growing more than just tomatoes

SPRING is here and in my family springtime means gardening. I love being able to go out in my back yard and pick a fresh tomato or cucumber right off the vine. We have eight different peach and nectarine trees that all ripen at different times, so we have fresh peaches for at least four months. There is simply nothing better.





The gardening bug comes from a long line in my family. My Grandpa had a half-acre garden he tended to until he physically was unable. My Mom planted a garden in every house we ever lived in, and she currently has a beautiful terraced garden leading down to the canyon in their back yard.

Just this past year I was in Washington visiting my parents, and I noticed something very strange. In their front yard, lining the street was a garden box. Our gardens have always been in the back yard, and in fact I can't remember seeing a garden in a front yard in the suburbs ever.

I asked my parents, "What's up with the garden box in the front yard." My mom said, "oh that's for the neighbors, especially the kids. Everyone knows that everything that grows in that garden is free for anyone to take and eat."

Sure enough while we were there, kids from blocks away came out of their houses and picked fresh vegetables and played in front of my parents house, because there was an endless

supply of snacks. What a brilliant way not only to get to know your neighbors but to show them great hospitality.

If you grow a garden in your front yard you are communicating to them, "You are always welcome here." When you tend to your garden, you are making yourself available for people to come say hello. And, in my experience whenever people gather together around food, great conversation happens.

What would it look like for you to grow a garden in your front yard, maybe even just start with a couple of tomato plants? The great thing about a garden is that God has given you everything you need to start one; soil, water, sun. Seriously that's all you need. Ok so you need a seed or a plant to start but to keep it going soil, water, sun. Your hospitable God has provided that for you. Use it to offer hospitality to others.

Maybe digging in the dirt isn't your thing, or maybe you just simply

don't like vegetables. Perhaps barbecuing or smoking some kind of meat is your thing. I have a friend who built a house and installed a propane line in the front of his house. The contractors thought he was crazy. When the house was completed, he bought a gas grill and plugged it into that line in the front yard. Every weekend he barbecued in full view of the neighborhood. Even better, he shared his delicious barbecued meat with all his neighbors. Talk about perfecting the art of being a neighbor!

Maybe this spring and summer can look a little different in your neighborhood. What would it take for you to wheel out your BBQ to the front yard and dig up a little bit of grass to grow some vegetables for the neighborhood to share. I dare you to try it and get to know more about your neighbors. I guarantee you will find you have more in common than you think.

CL



This Feature article is written by Joel Neufeld who is a Worship Pastor & Communications Director at Creekside.

FOR over a year we have been trekking through the Gospel of Luke, exploring the story of Jesus. Luke begins with the story of Jesus' miraculous birth and sees Jesus live a life of power and grace unparalleled in human history. It becomes evident that Jesus is way more than just another teacher...

- A UNIFIED, TWO-VOLUME WORK FROM THE SAME AUTHOR: **LUKE**
- A TRAVELING CO-WORKER WITH PAUL (COLLOSSIANS 4:14, PHILEMON 24)

1:1-4 PREFACE
HOW & WHY LUKE WROTE HIS "orderly account about the things that have been FULFILLED among us..."

HOW: CONSULTS EYEWITNESS TRADITIONS

WHY: TO SHOW HOW THE STORY OF JESUS FULFILLS THE STORY OF GOD & ISRAEL ... & THE WHOLE WORLD

COMPARE 1:1-4 WITH 1:1-2

LUKE ACTS



1-2 INTRODUCTION

PARALLEL BIRTH STORIES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST & JESUS

UNLIKELY PROMISE OF A SON → POEMS OF CELEBRATION

MAY THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL BE PRAISED! (1:67-79)

MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR! (1:46-55)

JOHN THE PROPHETIC MESSENGER WHO PREPARES ISRAEL TO MEET THEIR GOD

MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION! (2:1-24:32)

JESUS THE MESSIANIC KING WHO WILL BRING GOD'S REIGN & BLESSING

ANNA & SIMEON

3-9a JESUS & HIS MISSION

3 JESUS' BAPTISM & GENEALOGY

YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON.

Jesus: SON OF DAVID, SON OF ABRAHAM, SON OF ADAM

JESUS IS THE MESSIANIC KING WHO BRINGS GOD'S BLESSING TO ALL HUMANITY

4 JESUS LAUNCHES HIS KINGDOM MISSION

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, TO PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE **POOR** & **FREEDOM** FOR PRISONERS; NEW SIGHT FOR THE BLIND & **FREEDOM** FOR THE OPPRESSED. (4:18=ISAIAH 61:1-2)

GREEK: aphesis "RELEASE" REFERS TO YEAR OF JUBILEE (SEE LEVITICUS 25) -ALL SLAVES RELEASED -DEBTS CANCELLED

HEBREW: ANI PEOPLE OF LOW SOCIAL STATUS OR OUTSIDERS

4-8 HEALING THE SICK: JESUS' GOOD NEWS FOR "THE POOR"

FORMING A NEW ISRAEL: 6:12-49

MANIFESTO OF AN UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM

GOD'S LOVE=REVERSAL OF OUR VALUE SYSTEMS

RADICAL GENEROSITY, SERVANT LEADERSHIP, PEACEMAKING, FORGIVENESS, DEEP PIETY THAT REJECTS RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY

WELCOMING THE OUTSIDER: TAXES & TOLLS

FOLLOW ME! I'M FORGIVEN!

RESISTANCE FROM LEADERS LEADS TO **9:18-27** A NEW REVELATION

HE DISHONORS OUR TRADITIONS! (5:33, 6:2)

HE'S A DRUNK! (5:30, 7:34)

HE BLASPHEMES GOD! (5:21)

I AM THE MESSIAH, AND I'M GOING TO DIE IN JERUSALEM. SEE ISAIAH 53

9:28-36 JESUS' TRANSFORMATION

THIS IS MY CHOSEN SON.

...TALKING TOGETHER ABOUT JESUS' EXODUS TO BE FULFILLED IN JERUSALEM!

JESUS: A NEW MOSES, FREEING HIS NEW ISRAEL FROM THE TYRANNY OF EVIL

CONSISTS MOSTLY OF JESUS' PARABLES & TEACHINGS "ON THE ROAD"

9b-19a

15 PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

YOU'VE NEGLECTED THE JUSTICE & THE LOVE OF GOD! (11:42)

JESUS' BANQUETS WITH ISRAEL'S LEADERS (11:37-52, 14:1-24)

GO AWAY FROM ME & ANNOUNCE THE KINGDOM HAS COME!

10 JESUS SENDS OUT THE 70

He is the Savior of the world! Let this illustration of Luke's Gospel paint a picture of who Jesus is. And join us on Sundays throughout the Spring as we continue on this journey.



Phil Fuller, Associate Pastor at Creekside.

ACCORDING TO LUKE

LUKE PORTRAYS FOLLOWING JESUS AS A JOURNEY... YOU LEARN AS YOU GO!

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

A FOOLISH SON RUNS AWAY... BUT COMES BACK REPENTANT

LET'S THROW A PARTY! MY LOST SON IS FOUND!

GOD'S JOY WELCOMES EVERYONE INTO HIS FAMILY

THE TRAGEDY OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS WHO REJECT JESUS & HIS KINGDOM

JESUS' CONTINUED MISSION TO "THE POOR"

I CAME TO SEEK & SAVE THE LOST! (9:10)

ZACCHAEUS

THE SICK, THE BLIND, SAMARITANS

JESUS' KINGDOM BANQUETS WITH "THE POOR"

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT:

- PRAYER (11:1-13)
- TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROVISION (12:1-12)
- WEALTH, POSSESSIONS & GENEROSITY (12:13-31; 16:18-19; 30)

21:33-53 THE CONCLUDING SCENE

THE SCRIPTURES HAD TO BE FULFILLED, THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD SUFFER DEATH & BE RESURRECTED.

GO ANNOUNCE GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO THE NATIONS, BUT WAIT FIRST FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

KEEP READING INTO ACTS...

ISAAH, PSALMS

19b-24 JESUS' FINAL WEEK IN JERUSALEM

19b ARRIVAL & REJECTION IN JERUSALEM

IF ONLY YOU HAD RECOGNIZED THE WAY TOWARD PEACE. (19:42)

20-21 JESUS PREDICTS THE TEMPLE'S DESTRUCTION

THIS HAS BECOME A DEN OF REBELS! (19:46)

JERUSALEM WILL BE SURROUNDED BY ARMIES! ITS DESOLATION IS NEAR! (21:10)

22 JESUS' LAST PASSOVER

HE'S DONE NOTHING WORTHY OF DEATH. (23:4, 14, 15)

HEROD ANTIPAS

PILATE

NEW SYMBOLS ABOUT A NEW EXODUS

BROKEN BODY & SHED BLOOD WILL LIBERATE JESUS' NEW ISRAEL

HE SAYS HE'S A KING!

REMEMBER ME, JESUS!

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM. (23:34)

TODAY YOU'LL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE. (23:43)

24:1-12 THE EMPTY TOMB

JESUS IS RISEN!

24:13-32 THE ROAD TO EMPMAUS

WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?

WE THOUGHT JESUS WOULD REDEEM ISRAEL, BUT HE'S DEAD...

JESUS!

THE POINT: ONLY WHEN WE SUBMIT OURSELVES TO JESUS' UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM, EPTIMIZED BY THE CROSS, CAN WE TRULY EXPERIENCE THE REAL JESUS

created by the Bible Project

WHO is my neighbor?

MY neighbors include people you might recognize: a CRC student, a grandma, a college professor, a Marine veteran, an Apple employee. All fit nicely into who a “neighbor” is.

But things are not always what they appear.

These people are homeless—in Elk Grove. And I bet you would not know unless told—they look a lot like you and me. Does homelessness affect how you choose to be neighborly? If so, you’re not alone.

Being neighborly back when...

The Good Samaritan story (LUKE 10:25-37) provides insight for helping a needy



neighbor. A lawyer learns that inheriting eternal life includes not just loving God, but also loving his neighbor. He understood loving God was the correct answer, but Jesus’ statement about *“love your neighbor as yourself”* perplexed him.

Likely, the lawyer was more than willing to be neighborly to people like himself. He could wave “hi” from across the street or grocery aisle, engage in occasional small talk, maybe even get to know the name of the neighbor’s children. That’s what neighbors do, right? Thinking he understood, he bravely asked Jesus: *“And who is my neighbor?”*

As Jesus shares this story, we learn being neighborly requires more than meets the eye: compassion for people in rough situations (v.33), it’s messy (v.34), and it costs time and money (v.35). Further, the Good Samaritan is a Samaritan, meaning he’s a foreigner. Despite this, he chooses to get involved with his “neighbor,” a total stranger.



Neighborly now...

Truthfully, being neighborly is easy when it's not too messy. Yet this is Jesus' message. Just as the Good Samaritan went way out to connect to his needy "neighbor," Jesus stepped way out to connect with our needs. He didn't wait for us to "clean up" first.

When considering who and how to be neighborly, consider this: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Taking action...

ASK, DON'T TELL. God gave me two ears and one mouth for a reason. Ask the person about his/her situation. More times than not, I've found my neighbor is willing to say a lot. When the opposite occurs (for example, the person is quiet or disengaged), perhaps go slow or even back off.

SAVE YOUR "DOUGH," JOE. Easing your conscience by giving a \$10 bill is not what your neighbor, or you, really need. If the situation is safe, consider stopping to share a coffee or burger with the person. Sounds messy right? It is, and it also creates a real connection.

COUNT ME OUT, FOR NOW. If you're squirming a bit that is not necessarily bad. My first experience with homeless neighbors occurred by mistake. As an unscheduled chaperone for my son's Inner City LA trip, I found that God used this to open my heart to my neighbor in need. With God's guidance, our group started the Elk Grove Winter Sanctuary program for local people experiencing homelessness. The program hosts up to 20 guests at local churches for the 12 coldest weeks of winter.

What does God have in store for you? You'll know once you take that first step toward your neighbor. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Fred Bremmerman,
enjoys meeting homeless
neighbors, as well as
spending time camping
with his wife Kimberly.
Fred is a Creekside
member and Elk Grove
HART volunteer. For more
information about HART,
visit: ELKGroveHART.org



This Feature is written by Fred Bremmerman who is a Contributing Copywriter for this issue of Creekside Life.

A Modern-day Good Samaritan story



TIM and I lived in the same homeless camp under a freeway in Sacramento, and he knew I had a beat up old van.

One Sunday he asked if I could go to Camp Pollock to pick him up. He was there attending a Stand Down event for homeless veterans, and he needed help transporting supplies he received back to the homeless camp. I was glad to help because it brought back fond memories of when I was not homeless but employed by IBEW local #340. I had volunteered to use my skills to wire phone lines to all the event tents. In fact, I enjoyed volunteering for this event so much that I returned two years in a row.

I drove over in my unregistered van (no funds to register it). Tim, as usual, wasn't ready, so I sat in my van and waited, staying hidden because I didn't want anyone to recognize me.

After the event was over, I looked around and saw a table loaded with over 100 bagged lunches. I was so hungry and I knew the other people who lived on the river and under the freeway were too. I approached the tall, debonair man by the food table who wore a uniform adorned with

many medals. He looked nice; I assumed he was in charge.

"Excuse me sir, I was wondering if you could spare some of these bagged lunches?" I asked. He looked at me with disgust and said, "NO!" I was stunned. I didn't expect to be turned away so disdainfully. Since I was so hungry, I decided to try again. I told him about the many hungry people who would appreciate some food. He said several unkind, sarcastic remarks, and we began heatedly conversing. As the yelling escalated, another man asked me if there was a problem. I explained the situation, and was surprised when he said, "I knew I remembered you from somewhere...from volunteering here!"

I was embarrassed that he remembered me from a time when I was a fiber optic technician (since now I stood before him dirty and homeless). I started crying. He hugged me and said, "Rose, you have carte blanche here!" It turned out he was in charge of the whole event. Immediately he instructed some soldiers to fill my van.

When Tim showed up, his jaw dropped to see the lunches, cases of water, and bags of clothes loaded in my van! I told him...It was God!

Despite that I lost my cool for a moment, God still showed up. On that day, through a seemingly random series of circumstances, God met my needs and the needs of many hungry homeless. I had only been a Christian a few months at this point and I remember feeling that only God could have made it all work together for good...more good than I could have imagined. I was hoping just to feed me, but God fed hundreds.

Now that I know the parable of the Good Samaritan (LUKE 10:25-37) I can say that the man in charge of the Veterans Stand Down truly was a good Samaritan to me. Jesus reminds us to love our neighbors...We all are worthy of being loved...even if we are dirty and living under a freeway. **cl**



This Feature article is written by Rose Herrera who is part of the Operations Team at Creekside.

WHAT'S PLAYING IN THE THEATER OF YOUR MIND?

MEN'S CONFERENCE JUNE 21-22, 2019

Men, come and learn how to protect ourselves and our children from the multi-billion dollar sex industry.

Harmony is a victim of exploitation turned UCLA honor student. She has a goal to help those entrenched in sexual exploitation find freedom. In 2003, she founded Treasures, a faith-based outreach and support ministry.



HARMONY GRILLO



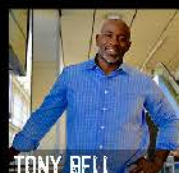
DR. SCOTT HANSEN

Scott is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary. He has well over 18 years experience in the mission field both nationally and internationally. He has spent the past 15 years pastoring two churches.

Jenny is the founder and CEO of Courage Worldwide, an international, non profit organization that builds homes for children rescued out of sex trafficking. She is also a passionate motivational speaker.



JENNY WILLIAMSON



TONY BELL

Tony is the Lead of Creekside's Men's Ministry. He is a 28 year veteran of the California Dept. of Corrections/US Marshal Task Force, and a Parole Agent, supervising sex offenders.

WARNING: CONFERENCE CONTAINS MATURE SUBJECT MATTER

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure...think about such things." Philipians 4:8

Friday: 6:30-10:00pm
Saturday: 8:30-noon
Early Registration \$30 (After June 1, \$40)

creekside
8939 E. Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove, 95624
1.916.685.4821

SCAN FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTER ONLINE CREEKSIDEEG.COM/MEN



Exciting Launch for the Venue

After years of prayer, months of hard work and weeks of dry runs, the Venue launched on Sunday, January 27 during the 9:30 hour.



"It was a beautiful morning where God's evidence was shown through and through. From watching a sea of people, both new and old, fill the actual Venue space to experiencing a new worship team, there was proof of God moving not only at Creekside but also in Elk Grove," according to Phil Fuller, Associate Pastor.

With over nine different teams of volunteers, the Venue staff have cohesively worked to create an experience with ridiculous biblical hospitality. Guests enjoyed the brand new, colorful pop signs, held by our team of greeters, making them feel valued as soon as they walked onto campus. They also were ushered into the

Venue, showing them where we have open seating during our service.

Full of friendly faces who are eager to answer any questions about Creekside, the Venue's Connection Center volunteers gave our first time guests a new gift. In addition, they can enjoy a free pastry each Sunday and order a delicious cup of coffee or tea. The goal is to serve and to welcome.

The Venue was filled with lots of young families this past weekend which was exactly what the hope was! In fact, in the rear area of the new Venue space, guests will find a quaint family room that allows kid's to play quietly while parents and/or guardians can still enjoy





the worship and sermon. This past weekend was a hit for the family room allowing families the opportunity to worship together. Hopefully, the Venue will continue to connect to the young families in Elk Grove giving them a place where they feel comfortable to come and spend their Sunday mornings.

Not only was the worship experience new for the Venue, but the layout is fresh and exciting. High side tables and tables in the back of the room allow guests to feel comfortable bringing their devices (such as laptops and ipads) to take notes during the sermon and to spread themselves out a bit more. All of these elements work together to reach those in our community,

welcoming them exactly as they are.

To complete Sunday's launch of the Venue, a new worship team also took the stage publicly for the first time. A diverse and talented team, the worship on Sunday was musically driven, powerful and full of freedom. Songs like "So Will I" and "Tremble" remind the congregation of God's great power in a modern and exciting way.

Opening day saw 284 guests in the Venue. In addition to that, Creekside as a whole had 21 first-time guests on January 27 alone! This means the Venue is already off to such an exciting start.

Please pray the Venue will

continue to grow, reaching and resonating with those in our community who do not yet know Jesus. And, that we, as a congregation, continue to welcome our neighbors with ridiculous biblical hospitality in the Venue and beyond. **CL**



This FEATURE ARTICLE is written by Kayla Hallman who is a Contributing Writer for Creekside Life.



INTERSECTION
FAITH + POP CULTURE

Hopping or Hoping into Easter?

WELL hello there! The name's Justine, and here at Creekside I coordinate the adventures of Preteen Ministry.

I just wanted to share a few simple and potentially not so simple thoughts about Easter.

Have you ever walked into your local store only to find that the shelves have been overtaken by heaps and heaps of greenery, plastic eggs, candy, you name it, we got it? Yeah. Same. I'd like to say I find it exciting...but, if I'm honest, it's just not.

It's like underlining all this "tradition" we've kind of lost the heart of the actual celebration. I joke, but then again, where IS Jesus?

On the personal side, Easter is a bittersweet time of year filled with the unintentional reminders of lost loved ones and cancer diagnoses. Of the whole year it seems everything painful got dumped on this one month. It's just hard, if I'm real. I wish I could say I'm stoked on the eggs, the candy, the rabbits but I'm just not.

Here's the thing...

I'd have nothing to celebrate, no fun to invite people into, if it wasn't for the hope I have in Jesus's resurrection. It's easy for me to cry leading up to Easter. You see, I've imagined myself at the foot of the cross wailing because my Jesus hangs there lifeless.

If it wasn't for the hope of the resurrection, I'd have nothing to celebrate. This, and this truth alone is what I have to offer my family, my friends, my neighbors. Any hope, joy, celebration or peace I bring to Easter comes from the victory of the cross over the grave.

My hope is the same would be true for you, your family, your friends and your neighbors.

As Christians, we have ALL THE MORE reason to celebrate. So, assuming I'm not the only one in this community who needs a serious dose of hope, a genuine hand of hospitality and a bubbling overflow of joy, please, invite a neighbor. Go the extra mile to assume, YOU ARE a shining light in a dark world, and Easter, really is a beautiful celebration. **cl**



INTERSECTION is written by Justine Donnelly who is 5th & 6th Grade Coordinator at Creekside.

Make a "Blessing Bag" for the homeless

WHEN my firstborn son was just 4 years old, we lived in San Jose. In our daily routine of traffic on Stevens Creek Blvd heading for day care and work, we would see a particular homeless man on the freeway exit corner. My analytical son would observe this man from the privacy of our tinted windows from the backseat. One day after asking 20 questions about who he was and why he was there, he exclaimed, "I want to help that man have a home."

Out of the mouth of babes, right?

While my mind said, we can't bring him home, I didn't want to deny my son's caring heart. I smiled and exclaimed in my best super hero voice, "Let's find a way we can help him!"

After a bit of research, I discovered the Blessing Bag.

It's simple: fill a Ziploc bag with goodies, keep them in your car in arms reach, and hand them from the car. Just this past Christmas season, our Creekside Bible study leader Holly Brovant led our group to put together 45 of these bags for our families to hand out. It worked great! Amazon has some good deals for bulk items, and it cost each family about \$35 (that's only one trip to In-n-Out Burger, y'all!).

Some suggested items include:

1. Warm Socks: this is top of the list
2. Wipes: a close second on the list of needs
3. Beanie: especially in a colder time of the year
4. Water bottle
5. Goodies like fruit snacks, granola bars, and applesauce packs
6. Sugar-free gum or mints
7. Chapstick
8. Most importantly, the Gospel and a hand-written note of encouragement to let them know they aren't alone. Get the children involved to draw a happy picture or write a note. **CL**



This ACTIVITY is written by Amy Atkins who is a part of Creekside's Communication Team.

KAREN STONEBURNER

With a passion for adventure and a desire to understand different cultures, Karen Stoneburner has learned to reach her neighbors in amazing ways. She has been a part of Creekside for over 30 years, with 29 of those serving on staff, currently as our Missions Director.

Shortly after graduating from the UCLA, class of 75, Karen surrendered her life to Jesus, and six years later, she began pursuing missions. Since then she has gone to nine different countries on short term and long-term missions.

When asked about what she enjoys the most in her role at Creekside, she replied, "I love equipping people to step into God's will for their life especially on the mission field. Another one of my favorite parts about this position is that I get to meet a variety of people and hear their stories. Even though I work with people who have a relationship with Jesus; God uses this role to place people in my life who do not know Him."

Karen lives the message of ROMANS 1:16-17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is *the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*" She embraces this and loves to share God's beautiful story of redemption.

Not only does Karen equip missionaries to go and make disciples, she also strives to use her singleness as a tool to remind single men and women that there is fullness offered in a life with Christ and marriage is not the standard to a full life. Karen embodies a life of fullness through Christ and uses it to encourage everyone around her to lean on Him in all circumstances. **CL**



This issue's PROFILE is written by Jessica McLarty, who is Student Ministries Coordinator at Creekside.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit www.creeksideeg.com/staff/



FAMILY

Single and serving Him

EDUCATION

Graduate, University of Los Angeles

ROLE AT CREEKSIDE

Missions Director

BACKSTORY

30 years attending Creekside. 29 years on staff. Mission trips to 9 countries

Sneak peek into summer!



creekside

Mark your calendars now and make plans to join us this summer at Creekside for a season full of fun for the whole family.

June

2

Family Picnic

18

Creekside University starts with a great lineup:

- Jesus & the Gospels
- Best. Marriage. Ever.
- Financial Peace University
- Reaching Out

21-22

Men's Conference

23-29

Jr High and High school Summer Camp

30-July 6

Route 56 Summer Camp

July

Coming in July

Family Unity Night F.U.N.

August

9-11

The Ultimate Marriage Weekend



20th Anniversary Celebration

Shining Stars

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

June 14, 2019

Mark your calendars now for this fun event.

Details coming soon.



Summer 2019

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm

Are you looking for a way to grow in your faith this summer? Creekside University is a series of summer courses to help you take that next step in your walk with Jesus. Choose from four course offerings:

● **Jesus and the Gospels**

June 18-July 30 | \$50 per person | Taught by Dr. David Nystrom

Do you ever find it challenging to wrap your mind around who Jesus is and what He taught? *Jesus and the Gospels* will distill Jesus' life and teachings to help you know Him more and to live and love like Him.

● **Best. Marriage. Ever.**

June 18-July 30 | \$40 per couple | Taught by Mike Beckner, LMFT, and Counseling Team

These seven weeks will unpack a marriage toolkit to help you experience the Best. Marriage. Ever. From the purpose of marriage to the everyday expressions of love and respect, you'll be empowered to move toward the marriage you've always wanted.

● **Financial Peace University with Dave Ramsey**

June 18-August 13 | \$110 per family | Facilitated by Dean Cunday

Do you ever feel like there's too much month left at the end of your money? Or do you have big questions about your long-term financial health? This life-altering resource will help you learn to manage the money God has entrusted to you.

● **Discovering the Story You Were Made to Tell**

July 9-July 30 | \$10 per person | Taught by Chris Sapinosa

Isn't it incredible that God invites us to join Him in His healing and redeeming work in this world? This course will empower and equip you with Scripture and practical tools to engage in relationships and share your faith in any context.

Kids' Care is available at a nominal cost.

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