

creekside

life

SEPT/OCT/NOV 2018
ELK GROVE, CA

Character, perseverance and sportsmanship. Oh, my!

DON'T MISS IT!

A parenting journey from birth to high school graduation.

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COUCH POTATO or
MARATHON READY

Which are you?

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FILL UP SO YOU CAN
REACH OUT

Family Ministry

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CHARACTER
ON AND OFF THE FIELD

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- ▶ **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.



WELCOME *to* CREEKSIDE LIFE

Life is a race.

The fall is upon us and with it comes a new sports season. I don't know about you but I love sports. And why do I love sports so much? Because they teach us so much about life: the grit, the perseverance, the constant learning, the triumphs and sorrows.

There is a piece of scripture that likens life to a great athletic contest: "...since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." HEBREWS 12:1

Life is a race and we're all running—whether we call ourselves a 'runner' or not. Every race has a goal, a

finish line, and the only worthwhile goal of this life-race is to run after Jesus: to live and love like Jesus and help others to do the same. The challenge we often face, is knowing what to throw off or say no to so that we can keep focused on our goal. And that's exactly what this issue of *Creekside Life* is all about: persevering as we run after Jesus.

So let me give you a little spoiler on how Creekside can encourage you to persevere in whatever challenges you're facing today. In this edition of *Creekside Life* you'll experience:

- parenting lessons to help you overcome the hurdles to raising God-honoring kids
- practical ideas for cultivating strong character
- a spur in your side to get you off the couch and into training for spiritual growth
- and a glimpse at how we're pushing through challenges to bring the Venue to life.

I hope these pages encourage you to push on toward living and loving like Jesus, our one and only worthwhile goal. I'm on this journey with you, so let's run well together! **CL**

Pastor Phil Fuller, Associate Pastor

📌 What is your favorite part of the Fall season?

CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life
 Bill Maxon, *Executive Pastor—Pastoral Oversight*
 Marci Stone, *Communications Director—Editor-in-Chief, Creative Director*
 Kathy Herbold, *Project Management, Graphic Design*
 Jeff Carnie Studios, *Photography*

“Perfect weather for wearing jeans & boots.”

“Going to Apple Hill.”

“Pum. Kin. Pie. And football.”

“Cider. Pumpkins. Thanksgiving. Sweaters.”

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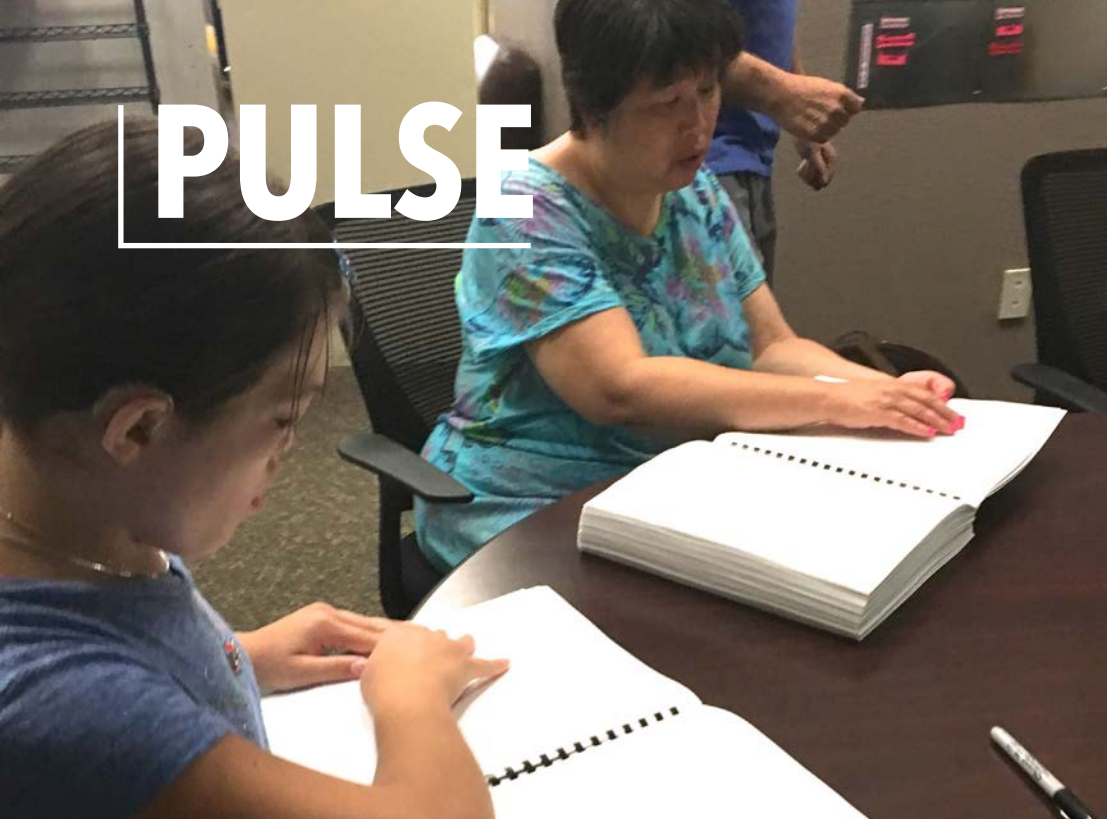
“Color of the trees.”

“Pumpkin Spice, cool mornings, colorful leaves.”

“Vibrant colors, cooler weather”

“Orange & red foliage.”

PULSE



Having a Braille Bible at home is great if you are Brianna Fejita, one of Creekside's former *Hearts in Motion* kiddos. But as you can imagine, it is too large to bring back and forth to church because it must be printed in several volumes rather than in one book!

In March 2015 Creekside Staffers wanted to find ways to help fifth grade Brianna engage in discussion-time with the other children by looking up Scripture. They reached out to an organization called Lutheran Braille Writers (LBW), which is run by volunteers who make and bind each New Testament volume one at a time. Every so often, as they completed a volume, they sent it to Creekside completely free of charge. It has been a long process—more than three years—to receive the complete New Testament in Braille.

In addition to the New Testament volumes, "mysterious" packages continued arriving from LBW. *Mysterious* because nothing in these packages was marked for the sighted! Over time, three smaller "books" and a dozen stapled packets had accumulated.

To solve the mystery, in June, Creekside's Youth Staff brought together Brianna, who is now an incoming freshman, and Connie Bateman, another visually impaired Creeksider, and they worked side-by-side with Staff to identify and label (for the sighted) what the Braille pages said. Brianna and Connie identified the smaller "books" as calendars and the stapled packets as newsletters full of inspirational quotes and antidotes, similar to *Guideposts*.

Our new, evolving Braille library has become a valuable resource at Creekside and is now available in the Youth Office so that others with visual impairment can read God's Word! **CL**

HEARTS IN MOTION

Creekside's Special Needs Ministry intended for children (Kindergarten through 6th Grade) with developmental and medical disabilities. It is primarily provided so that parents/guardians may attend service and feel their child is being well cared for.

Our Special Needs Ministry provides buddies for children which allows for individual care, guidance and encouragement for each child to participate and engage in the Bible lessons and activities in their own, unique way.

Sundays | 9:30am in Rm B-4

PULSE



Volunteer Appreciation



Our Creeksiders



Our Creeksiders



Our Creeksiders



Our Creeksiders



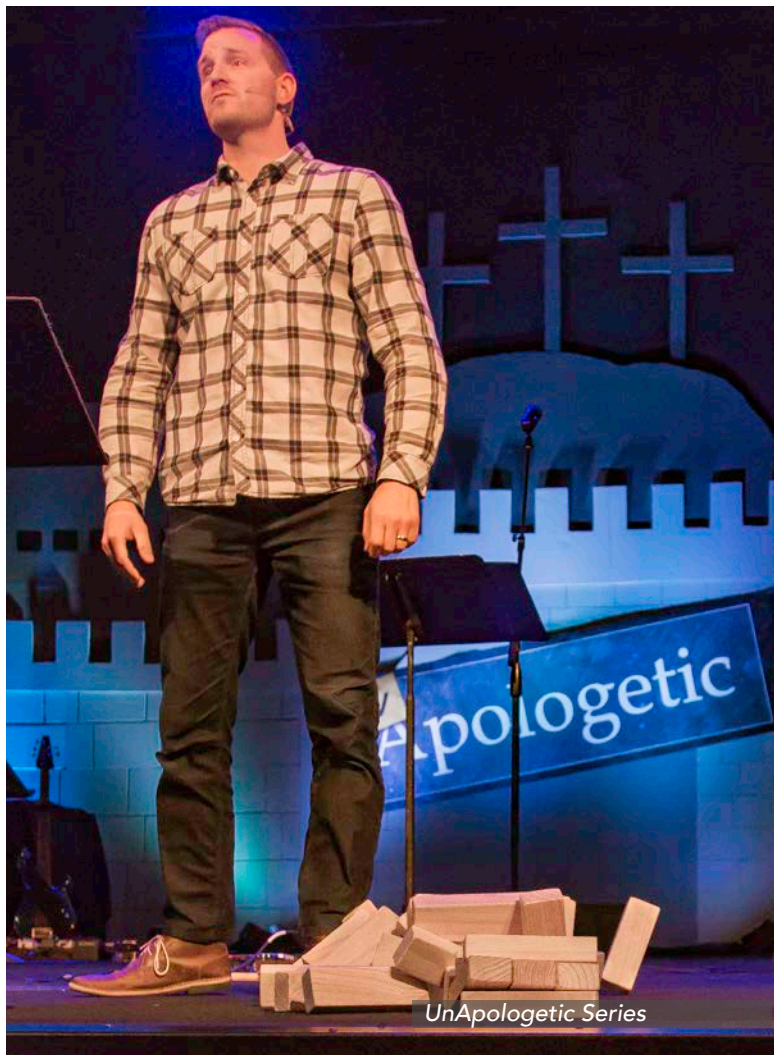
Men's Huddle



Men's Huddle



UnApologetic Series



UnApologetic Series

“The Word of God is not compromised in this place from the pulpit! Pastoral staff are very transparent and humble giving praise to the Lord Jesus Christ for who [He] is as God in the Flesh who descended upon this earth to set the captives free! **This is one of the most friendliest and comfortable bodies of Christ that I have fellowshiped with** since I have been a Christian. Come if you have questions about the Lord. Come if you want to worship God Almighty just come as you are.”

Arlene Dillard | via email



Elvis Sili having fun!!



Creekside Life team

HIGH FIVE



MIKE HARDING

CAMPUS OPERATIONS

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

A firefighter. I was a volunteer firefighter with the Florin Fire District.

PROUDEST MOMENT?

Graduating alongside my son from William Jessup University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Organizational Leadership.

HOBBIES?

Golf, bbq'ing and enjoying good food. I also like to watch people enjoying life. It's a reason I enjoy leading the Harvest Festival.

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

I'd love to sit down with Joseph. He lived both ends of life; serving as both a slave and a leader.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DAY?

Waking up in Hawaii to the scent of an amazing cup of coffee, sunrise, a perfect round of golf at Kapalua, all-you-can-eat sushi with my wife and friends, watching the sunset. *I also LOVE getting high-fives from the Shining Star's preschool kids following a fire-drill.*

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



CREEKSIDE SIGNS OF LIFE

On Celebration Sunday, June 10, 2018, we learned that over the past 12 months Creekside is showing healthy signs of LIFE!

REACH

*Getting involved in OUTREACH activities is something Creeksiders excel at. We call it *living "missionally".*

Creeksiders supported 20 Missionaries beyond our Elk Grove borders • 551 packages sent around the world for Operation Christmas Child • Creekside campus facilities were loaned to the Community for Graduations and Police events • 500 pairs of shoes donated to Share-A-Sole • A record 4,000 people attended Harvest Festival community-wide (see page 17) • \$22,000 given for World Vision Famine Relief • Ansari People Outreach—94 Church Plants, India • 600 people from all over California attended the Renewal Conference to learn to teach children • 14% of the annual budget goes toward local/global missionary efforts • Many Creeksiders participated in Share your Faith Story Workshops (see page 19 for details about the next scheduled workshop) • And there is so much more! •

→ THE LIFE OF JESUS LIVING THROUGH CHRISTIANS AT CREEKSIDE



CONNECT

Creeksiders are CONNECTING through:
 Spiritual Rebirth: 227
 Professions of Faith • 84 Baptisms • 62 New Members • 22 Child Dedications • Attendance up 2%—at capacity •

SERVE

In order to learn how each of us should SERVE, many Creeksiders have attended the Gift Discovery Workshop • 1,259 Volunteers doing 1,872 Service Roles •

GROW

Healthy habits have made us GROW:
GROW VERTICALLY (US + GOD) • Giving was up 6% • 7 additional Staff positions were filled • On a weekly basis we have: 350 kids in our Children’s Department Sunday School, 200 JH/HS Students, 80 College Ministry members, 190 Shining Stars Preschoolers, 425 Awana kids + 182 Awana Volunteers (Largest in Northern California) • Creekside’s Counseling Department helped hundreds • 52 Holy Land travelers •
GROW HORIZONTALLY (US + OTHERS) • 1,004 LifeGroup Participants • 142 LifeGroup Leaders •

***How does one live missionally, you ask? It’s easy!** • Pray and engage with neighbors by walking and praying for each one • Eat with other people like lunch with co-workers • Join with others in reaching out • Serve your neighbors • Volunteer • Be hospitable/show appreciation to community workers • Be compassionate, share a kindness kit with the homeless. *For more information and ideas pick up Missional Living Ideas at Guest Services.*





**Couch Potato *or*
Marathon Ready**

I've never run a marathon, but a quick Google search tells me it might take as little as 16-20 weeks of training to prepare myself for this grueling competition. *Runnersworld.com* says that the key is consistency. Apparently, even couch potatoes like me can become accustomed to running long distances if we strengthen our core and start with an easy pace at shorter distances several times a week. Over time, as we build strength and endurance, we will be able to run further and faster until race day arrives.

In many ways, the Christian life is like a marathon. Joining God's family as a believer in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is easy. Living our day-to-day lives to honor him is not quite so easy. Like runners training for a race, we need to stretch and train our spiritual muscles so that we have the stamina to run strong and finish well.

The good news is that all the training equipment we need is

easy to find and simple for anyone to use, whether we've been following Christ all our lives or just a short while. What are these tools, you ask? We start with the basics: Prayer and Bible reading. These two habits form the basis for every aspect of Christian living, and at Creekside we want to equip you well so that you can grow stronger in your faith.

If you're not really sure how to pray, we offer a **Learning to Pray Workshop** that will teach you to pray as Jesus taught his disciples. Do you feel like your prayer life is stale and you want to go a little deeper in your conversations with God? Then you might want to spend a Saturday morning at our **Prayer Workshop** here on campus, or you may want to plan for a whole weekend in **Prayer Renewal Retreat** at the beautiful Camp Del Oro in the Sierra foothills.

Our other basic training tool is the Bible, God's written Word to all people. Are you new to the Bible? Wondering where it came from, how it's put together, and why we can trust it? Our three-week **Getting Comfortable with the Bible Workshop** will answer all your questions and give you some basics so you can confidently begin reading and studying. Once you start reading the Bible, you might find that you want to know and understand more. Attending one of our many **Bible Studies** or

joining a **LifeGroup** will help you connect with others who can help you along your journey.

So, are you wondering, "Why would anyone ever want to train for a marathon?" or "Why do I need to spend time in prayer or Bible study?" Just like we want fit bodies, we need strong, healthy spirits. Spending time in daily prayer makes it easy to turn to God when we are going through crises. As we see Him answer prayers, we have confidence that He hears us and cares about us. Reading His Word gives us instructions for living and answers life's tough questions. The Bible is full of wisdom about marriage, childrearing, work relationships, friendships, money, and much more. But most importantly, it tells us the complete story of God's love for us, and that's a story we need to be reminded of every day.

So, check out this issue of *Creekside Life* to see a list of "Core Opportunities" on page 19, or online at creeksideeg.com/core-opportunities. We have a variety of workshops, classes and Bible studies, all available to help you grow stronger in your faith. Join us as we run this marathon together! **CL**



This FEATURE ARTICLE is written by Jennifer Sandlin who serves as the Volunteer Coordinator at Creekside.

the Venue

Have you ever started a project and found yourself wondering when or if it will ever be completed? Maybe you've taken the first steps but now it's evident that it's going to TAKE A LOT OF PERSEVERANCE to finish strong? I think we've all been there at times.


And that's exactly where we at Creekside have been during this season as we've started down the path toward launching the Venue.

The Venue will be an all-new worship experience featuring a café and family room, modern worship music, and a gospel-centered message delivered through video. This is an environment where you can come as you are and experience authentic relationships and the life-transforming power of Jesus.

We're now about two years down the road and it feels like we're finally seeing progress:

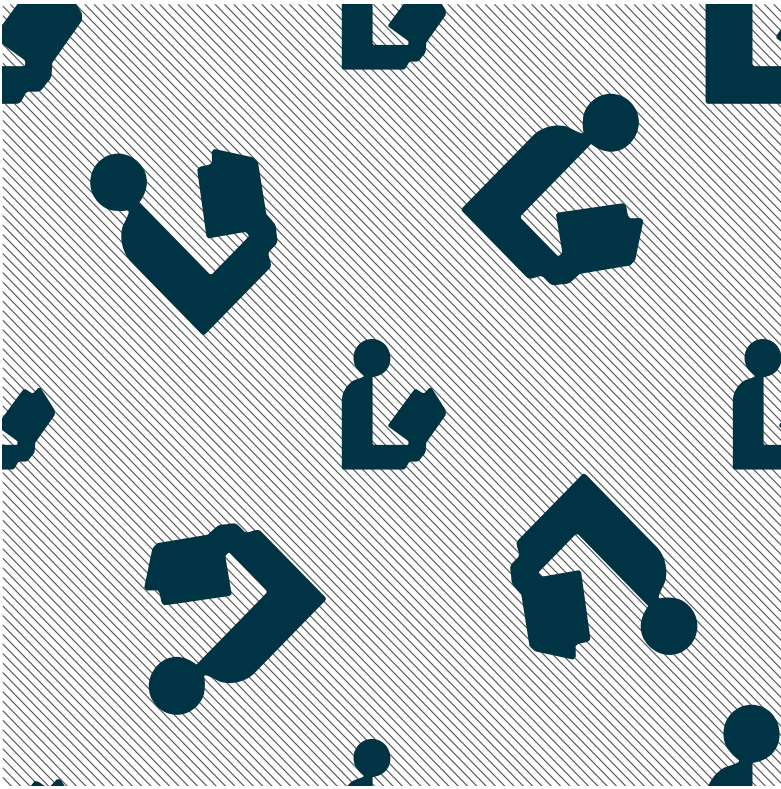
- ✓ We've now raised nearly \$1.1 million dollars toward our goal—thank you!—and the permitting process has begun with the City of Elk Grove.
- ✓ RCP Construction is working hard to remodel the space with the hope of completing the project before Thanksgiving.
- ✓  Austin Mua has joined the team as our Worship Leader and is practicing with the Venue band.
- ✓ Volunteer teams are beginning to meet and create the Venue culture.
- ✓ Many other pieces are moving toward completion as well.

This is an exciting time for Creekside as we embark on a new journey to reach our community with the love of Jesus Christ. And it's a good reminder for all of us that even when our plans are taking too long to come through or things aren't working out the way we'd hoped, that God is still in control. In fact, it reminds me to rest in this scripture: *"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"* PHILIPPIANS 1:6. I know this is true of God's work in every single one of us. And I'm confident it's true of the good work He's doing—and will do—through the Venue at Creekside.

Please join me in praying for God to use the Venue in just this way! 



This FEATURE ARTICLE is written by Phil Fuller who is the Associate Pastor at Creekside.



CREEKSIDE PASTORS ANSWER DIFFICULT QUESTIONS:

How do I read the Bible to become a better disciple and build my character?

It's an exciting time to be at Creekside Christian Church. People from all kinds of backgrounds are coming through our doors. Some people know a lot about God and the Bible; for some people it's all completely new to them. It is clear that God is drawing people to Himself, taking people where they are, and doing fresh new things in their lives as they come to know and love Him.

RECOGNIZE GOD EXISTS. Most people, if they are honest, recognize there is a God; in fact, it's harder to believe there is not a God—His fingerprints are everywhere: from the smallest cell to the vast reaches of the Universe. PSALM 19:1 says *"The heavens declare the glory of God!"* Clearly, God is there.

To acknowledge God exists is a huge first step. So many people have theories about God. To actually understand what God says about Himself makes an even greater difference in our lives. In the Bible, God specifically reveals things about Himself, and through Jesus, we see the character and love of God.

SPEND TIME WITH JESUS. Who better than God, the One who wired you, can meet the deepest needs of your heart? Only God

can help your soul find the meaning that it actually craves. The character of who we spend time with often rubs off on us. When we spend time with Jesus, our own characters definitely change for the better. We become more like Jesus.

READ WITH AN OPEN HEART. When you study the Bible, you may feel you are on a treasure hunt of sorts, and maybe you will come to say as the writer of PSALM 119:161 once said, *"My heart stands in awe of Thy words. I rejoice at Thy word, as one who finds great treasure."*

Reading the Bible grips those who read it with an open, honest, hungry heart. In a world increasingly full of conflicting messages, challenges and instability, it's such a relief to find an anchor for our souls.

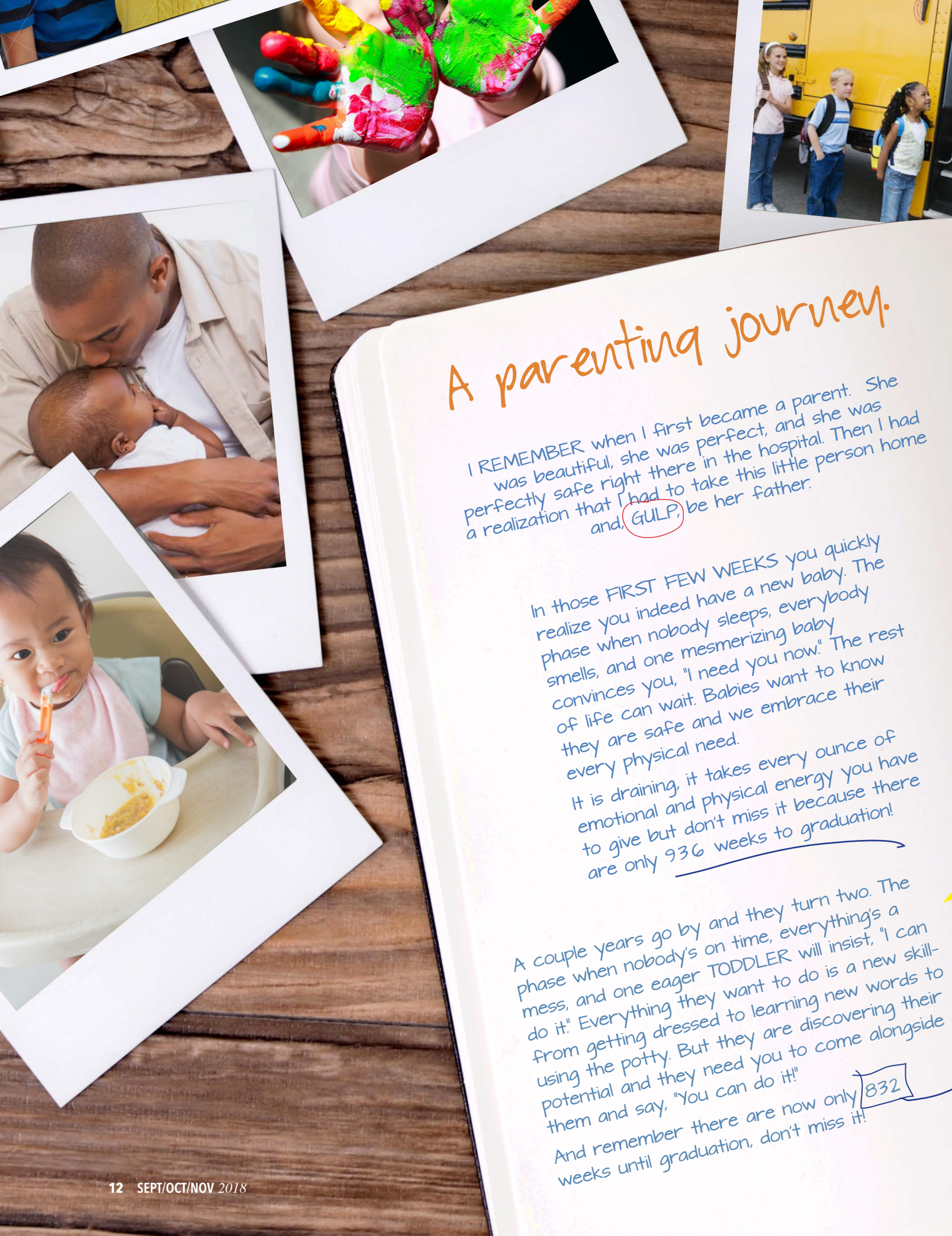
First time readers of the Bible sometimes have a hard time understanding the Bible. At Creekside, we have many opportunities for you to learn to know and to follow wholeheartedly after God. I encourage you to sign up with one of our *LifeGroups* (see page 16) or, check out our three-week *Getting Comfortable with the Bible Workshop* (see page 19 for details).

Your heart was created for God. Come eager to learn and grow. God wants to be found by you. God wants to meet you right where you are. **CL**



This issue's ASK A PASTOR is written by Lynn Marie Gault who is the Women's Pastor at Creekside.

Have a difficult question? Email creeksideeg.com and look for your answer in a future issue of Creekside Life.



A parenting journey.

I REMEMBER when I first became a parent. She was beautiful, she was perfect, and she was perfectly safe right there in the hospital. Then I had a realization that I had to take this little person home and, GULP, be her father.

In those FIRST FEW WEEKS you quickly realize you indeed have a new baby. The phase when nobody sleeps, everybody smells, and one mesmerizing baby convinces you, "I need you now." The rest of life can wait. Babies want to know they are safe and we embrace their every physical need.

It is draining, it takes every ounce of emotional and physical energy you have to give but don't miss it because there are only 936 weeks to graduation!

A couple years go by and they turn two. The phase when nobody's on time, everything's a mess, and one eager TODDLER will insist, "I can do it!" Everything they want to do is a new skill- from getting dressed to learning new words to using the potty. But they are discovering their potential and they need you to come alongside them and say, "You can do it!"
And remember there are now only 832 weeks until graduation, don't miss it!

Don't Miss It!

A couple more years go by and it's time for PRESCHOOL. The phase when anything can be imagined, everything can be a game, and one curious preschooler wants to know, "why?" Life for a preschooler can be confusing. It's ok to throw a ball but not a rock. You can't pick your nose and eat it...at least in public. Every day preschoolers are learning new rules, usually after breaking them. They want to know, "Am I okay?" We as parents come alongside them and say, "I love you just as you are."

Oh yeah, there are 728 weeks until graduation, don't miss it.

DON'T MISS IT! Now it's time for big school. Starting off with KINDERGARTEN and then on to FIRST GRADE. The phase when unfiltered words make you laugh, school drop-offs make you cry, and life becomes a stage where your kid shouts, "Look at me!" It's a season of big changes. They want to know, "Do I have your attention?" It is a time where we lean into and engage their interests. Did I mention? There are now...

624

On to SECOND then THIRD GRADE, the phase when fairness matters most, differences get noticed, and your enthusiastic kid thinks anything, "Sounds like fun." Kids are becoming more socially aware and learning to compare. It's why at this stage fairness matters. They want to know how they measure up. Who really is the fastest kid in the 3rd grade? They want to know, "Do I have what it takes?" We as parents continue to encourage them and let them know they are loved just as they are. Graduation? Well its only 520 weeks away. ~~Don't miss it!~~ ~~Don't miss it!~~

DON'T MISS IT!

Enter FIFTH GRADE. The phase when friends are best friends, games are for competition and your confident kid will insist, "I've got this." Friends become a huge influence at this stage. They want to know, "Do I have friends?" Sometimes it is easy for parents to back off during this stage but more than ever they need positive experiences with parents and mentors to navigate the preteen years. There are 416 weeks to graduation, **DONT MISS IT.**

Then they transition from the preteen to the teen years.

SIXTH GRADE, the phase when there's never enough pizza, too many hormones, and a dramatic kid needs someone to prove, "Who cares?"

SEVENTH GRADE, the phase when nothing you do is cool, what they feel right now matters most, and one suddenly social kid wants to know, "Who's going?"

EIGHTH GRADE, the phase when it's cool to have choices, it's not cool to answer questions, and one smart kid will remind you, "Yeah...I know."

In these stages they want to know, "Who do I like?" "Who am I?" "Who do I want to be?" During this time we as parents affirm their personal journey. Help 'gently' steer them into positive directions. But most of all let them know we love them unconditionally.

By the time 8th grade rolls around there are only

260 WEEKS TO GRADUATION. **DONT MISS IT.**

And now the HIGH SCHOOL years are upon us.

NINTH GRADE, friendships shift, grades count, and interests change so often your teenager has to explain, "This is me now."

TENTH GRADE, the phase when "Everyone else can..." and "Nobody else has to..." And one resolute teen will push you to answer, "Why not?"

ELEVENTH GRADE, there's less drama, more stress, and your very busy teenager answers all your questions with, "Just trust me."

TWELFTH GRADE, your emerging adult pulls away, gets closer, does things for the last time, and you both start asking, "What's next?"

In this stage they are asking questions like, "Where do I belong?" "Why should I believe?" "How can I matter?" and "What will I do?" As a parent our role is to now mobilize their potential.

Oh yeah and don't forget there are now only 52 WEEKS LEFT to graduation. **DONT MISS IT.**

I won't miss it!




ONLY 52 WEEKS LEFT to graduation. **DONT MISS IT.**



Our job as parents is really never done. However, when it comes time to enter that last year of high school I trust as it is written in PROVERBS 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

In each stage of life I want to enter into my child's world and let them know they are loved, that they are cared for.

I want to start them off well. I hope that I can teach them to Love God and Love others in a way that will help them not turn from God.

So I encourage you, whatever stage you are in with your children, **"DON'T MISS IT!"** 



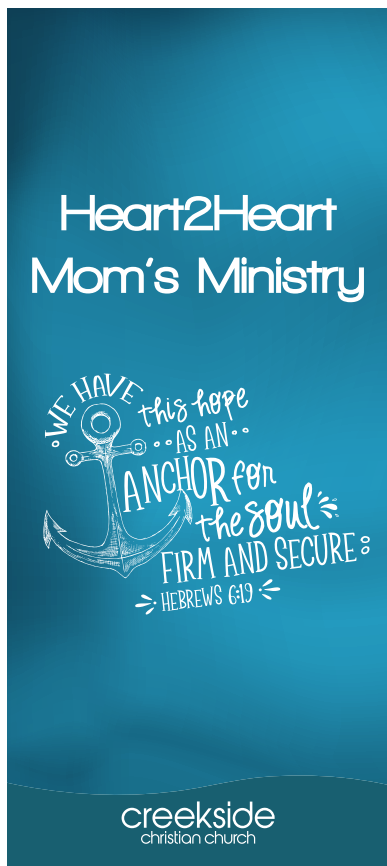
This issue's FEATURE is written by Joel Neufeld who is a Worship Leader and Pastor to Young Families at Creekside, and a father of four.

You can't pour from an empty cup.

Here are some Creekside ways to get filled up again.

For details about these three opportunities, see page 21.

Or pick up information in the Atrium or from any of the brochure centers, or go online to creeksideeg.com



Moms of babies, pre-schoolers, school aged children, married or single. We all thrive on lots of spiritual support and connecting!

Join us two Thursdays or one Saturday each month for great food and wonderful speakers who share ways to stay close to God during this busy phase of your lives.

Childcare provided | creeksideeg.com/women



Connect with men who are honest, transparent and involved in ministries. Join us for a speaker and breakfast every second Saturday! Our goal is to provide a safe environment for men to meet other brothers in Christ who want to grow and become better at pleasing God.

We are involved in outreach to Homeless, Union Gospel Mission, Prison Ministry, Angel Tree, Men's Retreat, Bible Studies, Father/Son Campout and more.

creeksideeg.com/men

LifeGroups are formed to provide an environment where both new and current church attendees can pursue Christian maturity together while developing authentic relationships with one another. We hope all participants discover what it really means to live life together as the body of Christ.

Our LifeGroups meet in 9-11 week sessions. During each session groups come together to discuss Biblically based topics, enjoy fellowship and pray for one another. We also encourage groups to deepen their relationships through enjoying meals and serving together in our church and in the local community.

*Sessions: Aug 26–Nov 11, 2018 | Jan 27–Apr 7, 2019 | Aug 25–Nov 10, 2019
Details at creeksideeg.com/next-steps/lifegroups*

CANDY, PIZZAS, VOLUNTEERS AND LOVE IS ALL IT TAKES!

One of the ways we love our neighbors here at Creekside is through our annual Harvest Festival. Over the decades it's become a well-known safe harbor for families wanting a fun environment for their children on Halloween night. Looking back it's easy to understand how the Festival has become such a successful event. It's because every year God shows up and shows off through His people.

Creekside's Harvest Festival is a unique event where families in our community show up on our campus and are open to accepting the love and care we have for them. The cool thing... they tell their friends about it!

If you've never been to a Harvest Festival you might be thinking it's just an event where kids play carnival games, get candy, jump on inflatables, are entertained by awesome stage acts and eat all kinds of carnival foods on the cheap. Well, these things are certainly true. But when you look closer these are actually tools God uses to show off His love through us to our neighbors.

People get to give and receive, practice hospitality, serve, be generous, and the list goes on and on. Truly, it's an event and environment where God's people get to exercise their gifts together reflecting His love. In JOHN 17:22-23 we see how Jesus prayed to the Father for us. He prayed: "I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one, I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfectly united, so that the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me."

I see Jesus' prayer manifest in the Harvest Festival and it's clear He gets all the glory and success that come along with it. It's no wonder every year seems to be better than the last when we come together in this way. **CL**



This issue's OUTREACH is written by Mike Harding who oversees Campus Operations at Creekside.

DID YOU KNOW?



4,000 people attended last year's Harvest Festival—the most ever!



2,200 pounds of candy donated.



180 pizzas were eaten.



340 volunteers served.

See back cover for details about Harvest Festival—2018.



INTERSECTION

FAITH + POP CULTURE

Character on and off the field.

Sports are an incredible tool in personal development... and are just fun! Thinking back though, there were times (shocking as it is) that I “lost my cool” or let my integrity slip on the field. I recognized that this stemmed from what I valued most in those moments...winning.

Healthy enjoyment of sports and competition can so easily get clouded when higher value is placed on winning or personal accomplishments. We—as family, friends, teammates, coaches, or role models—must keep focused on what’s truly important when it comes to athletics because we so quickly influence what this next generation values. And as a result, what character will be developed through sports and life.

Winning is fun, winning is great, I mean, the Gospel stems from Jesus’s victory over death but in sports winning cannot be everything. That has to be kept in perspective. Sports so often don’t go your way and when winning is the primary focus frustration, outbursts, pride, and entitlement can crowd out godly character and integrity. Instead, we can train the next generation to have an eternal focus, ingrain values that go beyond athletics.

Jesus makes two truths very clear which ought to shape our values: growing a deeply connected relationship with the Father and loving people with the same love we’ve experienced. These truths should set the foundation of our homes by being known, repeated, encouraged, and demonstrated. Modeling this is crucial because when it comes to spiritual guidance and teaching character, as a mentor of mine once said, “you can’t lead others in what you aren’t practicing yourself”.

If these values/commands are at the root of EVERYTHING we do, we will start to view sports differently. They become more than opportunities to enjoy competition, camaraderie, and the sport itself but also are a platform to value people and display the Lord’s character, especially in the critical moments. Let’s start the trend and see beyond bad calls, beyond the competition, and enjoy sports in a way that honors the God we claim to serve whether we’re on the field or in the stands. **CL**



This issue's INTERSECTION is written by Matt Rau who is Junior High Pastor at Creekside.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



CORE OPPORTUNITIES

Developed for those seeking to move closer to Jesus.

Sign-up for one or more of Creekside's Core Opportunities 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.* See this issue's feature article on page 8 and learn more.

For more details about Core Opportunities at Creekside contact Jennifer Sandlin at jennifer@creeksideeg.com



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sundays, Through Nov 4, 9:15am | E-104

Wednesdays, Through Nov 7, 6:30pm | A-1

This is a life-altering, light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel resource that will help you learn to manage the money God has entrusted to you. Classes take place once a week for nine weeks and are approximately 90 minutes long. Cost: \$99/family.

Register at daveramsey.com

PRAYER WORKSHOP

Saturday, Sept 8, 9am-noon | E-102

A practical approach to increasing intimacy between you and the God who loves us, and bring life into your times of conversation with God.

Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIBLE

Sundays, Sept 16, 23, 30, 9:30-11am | A-5

A three-week course especially 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

MEMBERSHIP

Sunday, Sept 16, 1:30pm | A-1

What is church membership at Creekside? What is our history? What do we believe? This class will answer those questions and more!

Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com

BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday, Sept 23, 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

LEARNING TO PRAY

Sunday, Oct 14, 9:30am | M-3 or

Thursday, Oct 18, 7pm | M-3

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

PRAYER RENEWAL RETREAT

Friday-Sunday, Oct 19-21 | Camp Del Oro

Hungry for a more intimate and conversational prayer life? In this small group retreat, we will spend time in reflection, structured silence, and solitude as we learn to be still and know God. Registration required by September 30. Cost: \$150/person.

Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

SHARE YOUR FAITH STORY WORKSHOP

Sunday, Nov 4, 1:30pm | E-102

Learn to craft 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

Aug 26–Nov 11, 2018

Jan 27–Apr 7, 2019

Aug 25–Nov 10, 2019

See page 16 for more details.

WHAT'S HAPPENING CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHILDREN

56 BLOWOUT

Friday, Sept 14 & Oct 19
6:30-8:30pm | E-105

A time for 5th & 6th graders to grow in faith while enjoying social time with their peers in a fun, creative setting.

Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

CHILDREN'S BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday, Sept 16 or Sept 30
11:15am | M-6

For children scheduled to be baptized or interested in exploring the meaning of salvation and/or baptism.

Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

AWANA LEADER CONFERENCE

Saturday, Sept 29, 8-4pm | all campus

Leadership training for Awana volunteers, Children's and Youth Ministry workers.

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

CHILD DEDICATION PARENT ORIENTATION CLASS

Sunday, Oct 21, 11:15am | M-6

Informational meeting for parents interested in dedicating their infants or toddlers.

Denise Griffin | denise.g@creeksideeg.com

CHILD DEDICATION SERVICE

Sunday, Oct 28 | all three services

Families dedicate their infant or toddler during worship service.

Denise Griffin | denise.g@creeksideeg.com

AWANA GRAND PRIX & CAR SHOW

Saturday, Nov 10, 11-2pm
Main Building

Awana participants and volunteers build and race pine cars

Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

5TH-6TH GRADE DAY HIKE

Monday, Nov 12, 8am

Meet in parking lot

Veterans Day hike in the Sierra Foothills.

Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com



YOUTH

JH LIFEGROUPS

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm | E-108

Themes, games and connection to form deeper relationships with God and others.

Jonny Hansen | jonny@creeksideeg.com



JH MANIA BLAST

Friday, Oct 12, 6-10pm | Campus

High energy outreach for Junior Highers to invite their friends to hear about Jesus with crazy games, food, and fun.

Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

HS LIFEGROUPS

Wednesdays, 6:45-8:45pm / Offsite

A place to know God & others on a deeper level. We meet in homes throughout the community by class.

Hannah Hamm | hannah@creeksideeg.com



HS UNION GOSPEL MISSION

Third Tuesday of each month, 7-9:30pm

Join us as we serve dinner to the homeless. Space is limited, sign-ups are in E-205.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

AWANA TREK

Sundays, 3:30-5:30pm | E-105/108

For JH students including games, activities and book time to communicate Bible truths and small group time for discussion.

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

AWANA JOURNEY

Sundays, 3:30-5:30pm | E-105/205

For HS students, providing relevant content with a strong emphasis on life application through apologetics and Scripture memory.

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

Youth Calendars are available online at creeksideeg.com/student-ministries

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 7pm | Offsite

An interactive time for young women to engage in a deeper relationship with God.

Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 7pm | Offsite

A time for young men to share food and discussion as they dive deeper into the Word of God together.

Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

Second Wednesday of each month,
7-9:30pm | offsite

Join us as we feed the homeless in our community. Space is limited.

Nathan Lowe | djlnlowe@aol.com

LIFEGROUPS

Thursdays, 7-9pm | E-108

A place to belong and move closer to Jesus. You'll find fun, friends and a deeper knowledge of God here.

Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com



WOMEN

*FALL BIBLE STUDIES - MORNING BREAK

Tuesday, Sept 4-Nov 13

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

*FALL BIBLE STUDIES - EVENING EDITION

Tuesdays, Sept 4-Oct 16

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, Sept 6-May 16

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

*HEART2HEART MOMS - WEEKEND EDITION

DATE CHANGE 1st Saturday, Oct 6-May 4

9-11am | A-1

For working moms to come together once a month. Enjoy food, friendship and guest speakers.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

WOMEN ALONE FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, monthly, noon-2pm | Atrium

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

DORCAS CIRCLE

1st Wednesday, 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

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

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

Serving people both locally and internationally. Using crafting abilities to serve local children's hospital and hospitals in Africa.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

2nd Monday, 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

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, 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

RETREAT

Friday-Sunday, Oct 26-28

Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe
SOLD OUT!

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BRUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, Oct 20, 10am-noon | Auditorium

A bunch of women doing brunch and talking about Jesus, striving to live fully and love deeply. All women welcome. Register online. Cost: \$10
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com



CHRISTMAS COFFEES

Tuesday, Dec 4, 9am & 7pm | Offsite

Thursday, Dec 6, 9am & 7pm | Offsite

Saturday, Dec 8, 10am | Offsite

Enjoy tasty food, meeting new friends and hearing an inspiring Christmas devotional. Register online or in the Atrium starting late October.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MEN

PRAYER GROUP / BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | M-2

Prayer: 7:30-8am / Study: 8-9:15am

An awesome, biblically sound, unbiased Bible study. The first 30 minutes is spent praying for our families and other concerns.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, 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

FATHER SON CAMPOUT

Friday-Sunday, Oct 5-7 | Rancho Seco Park

Make memories to last a lifetime! Join us for camping, campfires, lots of laughter and guy-time. Details and registration online.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

HOMELESS MINISTRY OUTREACH

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

Union Gospel Mission, Sacramento

Join us as we serve the homeless by conducting Chapel.
Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S HUDDLE

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SENIOR ADULTS 55+

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

A warm and friendly crowd will be pleased to welcome you to this ongoing, 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.

Led by George Burris.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

FALL FLING POTLUCK

Thursday, Sept 6, 11:30-2pm | Atrium

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

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

AUTUMN BANQUET

Thursday, Nov 15, 6-8:30pm | Auditorium

Join us for a full-service, catered sit-down dinner, musical entertainment and an inspiring speaker! Watch for details and ticket sales in the Atrium on Sundays.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com



FAMILIES

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, Sept 8, 6:30-9:30pm

Movie starts 7:30pm, SE corner of the field behind the playground—weather permitting.

Come out for a family friendly evening. Bring a blanket and chairs as we sit outside and enjoy a movie together. Come early and join in on some lawn games.

Joel Neufeld | joel@creeksideeg.com

"LAUGH YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MARRIAGE" SEMINAR

Friday, Sept 21, 7-10pm | Auditorium

*Saturday, Sept 22, 9am-noon | Auditorium

Mark Gungor explores the dynamics of male/female relationships, with humor that makes his teaching enjoyable, effective and memorable. Details and registration available online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com



WORSHIP

WORSHIP PREVIEW

Sunday, Sept 9, 12:45pm | B-4

Want to be a part of a GREAT team that helps people connect? Do you have experience or an interest in the arts, whether vocal, instrumental or technical? Whether you would like more information, or you are ready to audition, this event is for you.

Please RSVP.

Shannon Schulze | shannon@creeksideeg.com



SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

CHURCH SERVICE

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

NURSERY

- 8am | 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

- 9:30am | Rm. E-201

JUNIOR HIGH

- 9:30am | Rm. E-108

HIGH SCHOOL

- 9:30am | Rm. E-205

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30am | Rm. A-1

SUPPORT

SCALES

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

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

Greg & Marti | westee4@sbcglobal.net

MARRIAGE & FAMILY COUNSELING

Creekside has a great Community Counseling Center which provides Christian Marriage and Family Therapy and Professional Counseling at affordable prices.

Contact: 916-509-8285, leave a voicemail



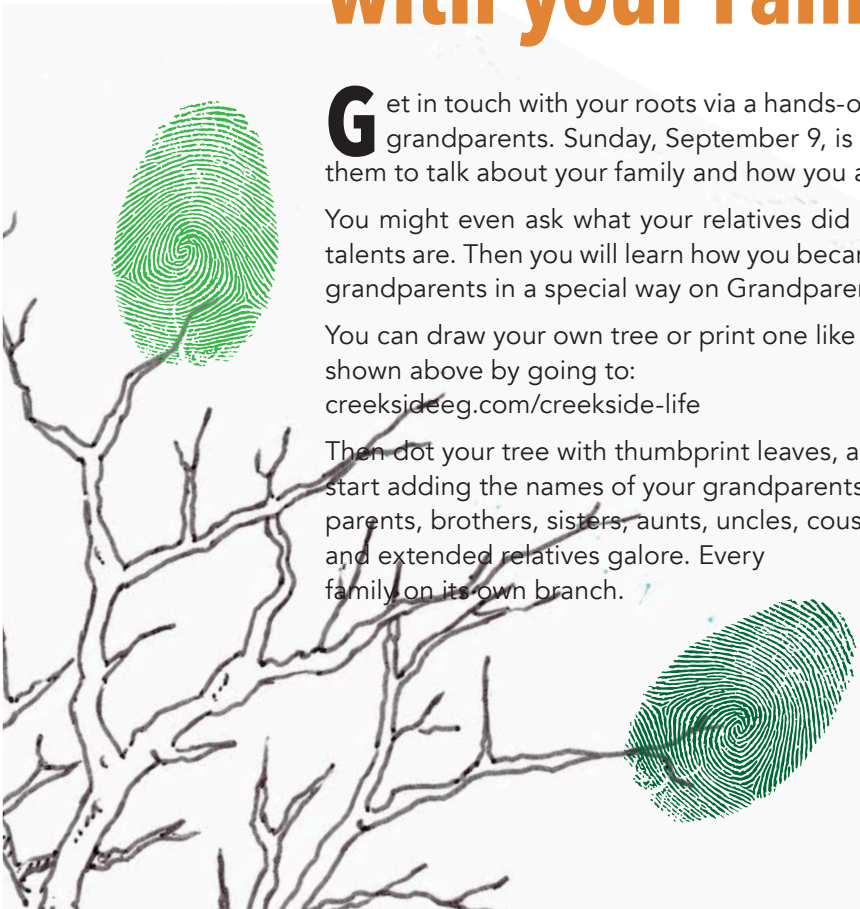
Make a Family Tree with your Family

Get in touch with your roots via a hands-on story time with your parents or grandparents. Sunday, September 9, is National Grandparents Day. Ask them to talk about your family and how you are all connected.

You might even ask what your relatives did for a living or what their special talents are. Then you will learn how you became so special and can thank your grandparents in a special way on Grandparents Day!

You can draw your own tree or print one like we've shown above by going to: creeksideeg.com/creekside-life

Then dot your tree with thumbprint leaves, and start adding the names of your grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and extended relatives galore. Every family on its own branch.



MATT RAU

"A penguin just walked into your office. Why is he there?" That was one of the questions we asked Matt Rau during the interview process as a candidate for our Junior High Pastor. He gave his answer without hesitation and with his trademark smile, and we all knew he would have no problem fitting with our team and were more excited than we had been through the whole search process.

Growing up here at Creekside and Elk Grove, Matt graduated from Franklin High School and then Azusa Pacific University with a degree in Applied Exercise Science. He is a force to be reckoned with; a true free spirit, charming, energetic, compassionate and can be felt in any crowd.

Matt loves anything and everything about the outdoors, being with people, coffee, Taco Bell and smoothies which makes him a great fit for our Junior High Pastor position. His spontaneity has already made him approachable to the students, interesting to talk to and he has an empathetic disposition.

Challenging the status quo and social norms are where Matt's passions lie, especially when dealing with teens. "If what we are doing isn't encouraging one's pursuit of the Lord or stirring our affections for Him, then why are we doing it?" He has an unquenchable fire for the truth of God's word and strives to get students to feel the same. How? By creating environments to make fun, exciting memories that build relationships and foster a godly community that exemplifies the joy, peace and love that comes from Jesus Christ.

The fact that he gets to do all this in his hometown and home church is just icing on the cake. "I am extremely thankful for my family and their prayers and for the Lord's will over my life continually. It was so clear that it was the Lord's hand guiding my path back to Elk Grove and I wouldn't change a thing!" **CL**



FAMILY

Handsome
27 and single!

EDUCATION

Applied Exercise
Science Degree
from Azusa Pacific
University

ROLE AT CREEKSIDE

Junior High Pastor

BACKSTORY

Born and raised in Elk
Grove, CA

Mark your calendar for a

2018 CREEKSIDE CHRISTMAS

DEC
4, 6, 8

WOMEN'S
CHRISTMAS
COFFEES
Dec 4, 6, & 8

DEC
8

YOUTH CHOIR
PRODUCTION of
"Straight Outta
Bethlehem"

Saturday, Dec 8
3:30 & 5:30pm

DEC
13, 18

ADVENTURE CREW
FUNTASTIC
Parents Day Out
Thursday, Dec 13
Tuesday, Dec 18
9am–noon

DEC
16

CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION
SERVICES •

Sunday, Dec 16
All services

Message by
Pastor Scott Hansen

Worship with the
Christmas Choir and
Orchestra

DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY SERVICE ••

Monday, Dec 24
5pm and 7pm

DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE ••

Monday, Dec 24
11pm

SEE
creeksideeg.com
FOR
DETAILS

• 4 YEAR OLDS-6TH GRADE: No classes. Children to worship with their families in big church.
NURSERY CARE provided (Infants–3 year olds) 8, 9:30 & 11:15am
SPECIAL NEEDS CARE provided (K–6th grade) 9:30am

•• No Children's classes and no Nursery care provided



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Join us for some Family Fun

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

FROM 5:30-8PM

8939 E. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove 95624
916.685.4821 | creeksideeg.com

Rock Wall & Bungee Jump, Inflatable Slides, Bounce Houses, Carnival Game Booths, a TON of candy, the Kent Family Circus, Food Concessions* & more
* available at a nominal cost



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