

creekside

life

DEC/JAN/FEB 2018/19
ELK GROVE, CA



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS

THE ART OF NEIGHBORING

We have a shared existence with
those who live next door. **p. 12**

NEIGHBORHOODS & LIFEGROUPS

Can they be connected? **p. 8**

THE VENUE

Faith Amplified. Grand Opening
January 27. **p. 16**

SANTA AND THE NATIVITY

Intersection: Faith+Culture **p. 18**

JOIN US IN DECEMBER FOR THE SERMON SERIES: THE VISIT

This Christmas season we are once again going to *VISIT* the wonderful story about when God became a man. *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us"* JOHN 1:14.

But the human response to this divine *VISIT* was generally less than appropriate. In fact the *majority* response of Israel toward their long-awaited Messiah was rejection. *"He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him"* JOHN 1:10-11.

Even at His birth in Bethlehem, there was no room for Christ in the local inn and King Herod tried to kill Him!

But there was a *minority* response among some that reminds us that God always has a remnant who are ready and willing to respond appropriately to *THE VISIT*. Think Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna. *"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God"* JOHN 1:12.

That's Good News!

So *THE VISIT* series this December is designed to encourage us all to take down the "No Vacancy" sign from our homes and hearts when God approaches us. Regardless of how messy our life is, we need to open the door and make room for the Lord when He comes for *THE VISIT*.

Mark your calendars for these

- ★ Youth Choir Production of *"Straight Outta Bethlehem"*
Saturday, December 8, 3:30 or 5:30pm
- ★ Women's Christmas Coffees
December 4, 6 & 8
- ★ Adventure Crew Funtastic
Friday, December 14, 5-8:30pm
Parents night out
Tuesday, December 18, 8:30am-noon
Parents day out
- ★ Christmas Celebration Services
Sunday, December 16 | all services
Presented by the Creekside Choir and Orchestra
Children 4 years–6th grade will be joining their parents in main services.
Childcare is only available for 0–3 years.
- ★ Christmas Services
Sunday, December 23 | all services
High School, Junior High and Children 4 years–6th grade will be joining their parents in main services.
Childcare is only available for 0–3 years.



For more details,

Creekside Christmas Events

★ Christmas Eve Family Service

Monday, December 24, 5 & 7pm

A family friendly service with a modern take on familiar Christmas Carols

Children 4 years and up will be joining their parents in main services.

Childcare is only available for 0-3 years.

★ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24, 11pm

Exploring the timelessness of Christmas

Childcare will not be available.

★ New Year Celebration Services

Sunday, December 30 | all services

High School, Jr. High and Route 56 students will be joining their parents in main services.

Children 4 years thru 4th grade will be meeting in M-5.



see What's Happening on pages 20-22.



CONTENTS

DEC/JAN/FEB 2018/19

COMMENTS

2 WELCOME

3 PULSE

FEATURES

8 NEIGHBORHOODS AND LIFEGROUPS

Can they be connected?

10 BE MY... NEIGHBOR!

Learn how to "break the ice" when meeting neighbors.

12 ART OF NEIGHBORING

A preview of the January/February Sermon Series.

16 THE VENUE

Faith Amplified!

OUTREACH

15 OUTREACH

Pull up a rocker and sit on the front porch for a bit!

18 INTERSECTION

Why raise our kids in a faith-based holiday atmosphere?

19 WHAT'S HAPPENING

23 ACTIVITY

24 PROFILE

DOWNLOAD THE CREEKSIDE APP AND READ CREEKSIDE LIFE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

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.



WELCOME *to* CREEKSIDE LIFE

These are great days for Creekside! First of all, the Christmas season is upon us and December will bring a very cool focus on *THE VISIT*... a series of messages that examine how the general response to the INCARNATION [when God became man and visited our planet] was less than stellar, BUT there were some very wonderful exceptions! "*He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him... He gave the right to become children of God*" JOHN 1:11-12. So instead of hanging the "No Vacancy" sign on our lives when God shows up, we want to be found among those who—whether our house is in order or not—make room for the Lord at His coming.

Another reason for our excitement these days is that our first VIDEO VENUE worship service is about to

be launched. The official starting date is January 27, 2019. Renovation work looks fantastic and is nearing completion. The volunteer teams have been working hard behind the scenes. The new VENUE worship team has been practicing for months. Hundreds of final details are coming together. Many of you are joining us in praying for the success of this next chapter of Creekside ministry... and spreading the word for people to come. The VENUE is going to happen!

As we head into a new year of walking by faith with Jesus Christ, let's remember that we are on an amazing journey of cooperating with our Lord to MAKE DISCIPLES... more Christians [reaching those who don't yet know Jesus] and better Christians [joining others on a pathway of obedience toward spiritual maturity]. Our prayer goal is always changed lives... people transformed into Christ-likeness! **CL**

Scott Hansen, Senior Pastor

CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life

Bill Maxon, *Executive Pastor—Pastoral Oversight*

Joel Neufeld, *Communications Director*

Marci Stone, *Editor-in-Chief, Creative Director*

Kim Abercrombie, *Project Management, Communications Team*

Amy Atkins, *Lead Photographer, Communications Team*

Kathy Herbold, *Graphic Design*

EDITORIAL

Dawn Maxon, *Lead Copy Editor*

ON-STAFF CONTRIBUTING COPYWRITERS:

Scott Hansen, *Senior Pastor*

Phil Fuller, *Associate Pastor*

Joel Neufeld, *Worship Pastor & Young Families*

Melissa Yocum, *Executive Director and LifeGroups Leader*

Rose Herrera, *Operations Team*

Jessica McLarty, *Student Ministries Coordinator*

CONTRIBUTING COPYWRITERS

Marci Stone, Bobbi Brown, Pete Cruz



PULSE



FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO OUR OWN "BACKYARD"

Once again the people of Creekside have generously impacted people in so many places in so many ways.

Typhoon Haiyan struck the PHILIPPINES in November, 2013, just five short years ago. Pastor Scott and Karen Stoneburner recently traveled to the Philippines to see the results of the generosity and to attend services there. The \$25,000 donated by Creeksiders was enough to rebuild the church in Tacloban, Philippines.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD exceeded expectations and blessed more children in countries across the world with "shoeboxes" full of toys and supplies, sent with prayer.

Sunday donations-at-the-exit-door exceeded \$7,000 in November to help victims of the CAMP FIRE in Paradise, CA.

And, through the SHARE-A-SOLE event, Creekside blessed five of 23 local schools with 912 pairs of shoes. **CL**



Creekside generosity continues in our own "backyard"—and the HARVEST FESTIVAL can only happen with LOTS of volunteers and a literal TON of candy, and that is just what happened again this year.

Through this event Creekside was able to touch the lives of thousands and thousands of our Elk Grove neighbors... more than ever before.

VOLUNTEERS:
345 PEOPLE DOING
394 JOBS

CANDY DONATED:
2,200 lbs

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT CREEKSIDE





Harvest Festival—2018



Harvest Festival—2018



Harvest Festival—2018



Harvest Festival—2018



Seniors' Banquet



Harvest Festival—2018

“Love our church!

Growing spiritually in a closer relationship with Christ through the teaching from God’s Word which Pastor Scott delivers well.

The love in this place and the presence of Jesus fills the room as we gather and worship our Lord in Spirit and truth together.”

Marilyn Rigsby | via Yelp



Share-A-Sole



Share-A-Sole



Seniors' Banquet



Share-A-Sole

The Creekside Question

Q. What is your fave way to



A. Krista Fuller

“The park and at the kid’s school. Side-by-side time.

Phil has gotten to connect consistently [while] doing yard work and intentionally talking to neighbors when they pass outside.

We’ve been trying to make more of a habit of hanging out on our front porch as well.”



A. Deniz & Sommer Garrett

“We enjoy sharing our pool and backyard with our neighbors. Anytime the kids are in the pool swimming, Sommer or I will send a text to our neighbors, “pool’s open!”

We both enjoy hosting events and people at our home. We help plan/host our annual court BBQ.

We also make a point to hangout in our front yard when the kids are playing and talk with our neighbors.”



A. Samson Ayodele

“One of the ways to get to know really who they are, is to connect with what is going on in their culture. Be the one who will start that initial point of connection to initiate further discussion.

Relating with people... someone has to initiate discussion. Usually I go there first. There is power in greeting people first.

People really want to connect but they find it difficult to start it.”

"neighbor?"



**A. Chris & Sharon
Losey**

“...There are 20 homes on our street including ours. We’ve intentionally targeted nine homes closest to us.

We started by greeting them when we see them then we give out Martinellis at Christmas along with a note. We’ve taken food to new neighbors ... and recently we had a Taco Tuesday dinner in July and a Neighborhood BBQ in September. Both were fantastic!! We have a Christmas dessert coming up in December, too.

We are also trying to watch for needs they may have that we can meet.”



**A. Byron
Wong**

“A ‘neighbor’ also means how I interact with people I work with or attend church with. Checking in with them, praying with them, and sending biblical quotes and encouragement are all things I do regularly. Just letting someone know I am there really helps.

My wife also is really in-tune with the needs of kids at school and will often try to provide food and clothing.”

HIGH FIVE



NANCY AIRD

PASTORAL CARE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

A veterinarian, until I found out you had to be good at science!

PROUDEST MOMENT?

When I worked at Hallmark Cards Canada, I represented my country on a North American project team. At the end of the project, the Americans all sang “O Canada” for me.

HOBBIES?

I love to read and travel. When I’m not traveling, I’m reading about my next destination.

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

Civil rights leader and former slave Frederick Douglass. He was in a mixed race marriage like me—I’d love to know what that was like in the 19th century.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DAY?

Taking a day trip with my husband Cecil to explore northern California, getting gelato at Divine Gelateria in Sacramento and spending the evening watching British dramas on PBS.

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



Neighborhoods & LifeGroups.

Can they be connected?

God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Hmmm... how can we ever do this, if we don't even *know* our neighbors!?

It's easy to move at such a fast pace that we don't take time to slow down and visit. Jim and I have some new neighbors in our very eclectic neighborhood, and many of them have a completely different culture and faith base than we do. Before we can ever love them like Jesus, we need to get to know them.

We are taking small, but very intentional, steps to engage with our neighbors. Instead of driving into the garage and dropping the door, we are leaving the door up and lingering a bit. When a neighbor is outside as we drive home,

we don't just wave: now we stop and talk with them.

When we see a neighbor go to the mailbox, we also go get our mail and invite conversation. Our children are raised and no longer home, but when kids are on the street playing, we go out to encourage them. These small but intentional steps help us build relationships and a bridge to sharing our faith.

You might be thinking that life is too super full and who really has time to reach out to others, possibly even strangers, who may or may not know Christ?

Well, one of our LifeGroups recently reached out, and I hope their story encourages and challenges you!

“A

bout a year ago we had new neighbors move in next door to us. When we saw them moving in, we went over to introduce ourselves to see if we could help with anything. Immediately we understood that they were not Christian, but rather Muslims. But that did not matter to us.

We went over to talk with them every day for several days and expressed interest in them, observing how we could help. After being invited in to their home we realized that the house had not been kept up and was a wreck. We told them we would love to help them and had a group of friends who would also be willing to help. Our neighbors thought that that would be wonderful.

The next week at our LifeGroup meeting, we shared this story with the group. Our leaders and group members were excited about the opportunity to serve. We told our new neighbors and set a date.

For most of a Saturday, eight of our LifeGroup team cleaned walls, lights and floors. We painted an entire living and dining room and even chopped down a tree. In one day we made a huge difference in their home and had a great time working together. Our neighbors were blown away that people they didn't even know would come to their home and spend a day off helping them!

Since then we have continued the relationship, and the woman has even attended our church once! My wife had dinner with this couple when I was out of town, and she talked to them about the Bible, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael and Jesus Christ. We truly believe that God has used our LifeGroup in a profound way to help teach our new friends about Himself. God is working in the lives of our neighbors and we are privileged to be a part of that! ”

As a LifeGroup, you can also be on the lookout for opportunities to serve others. Some groups even invite their neighbors to join them! Talk and pray with your LifeGroup, then make a plan to each “do something neighborly.” Hold each other accountable! Maybe one of these ideas will help you get started:

- Take a welcome gift to a new neighbor
- Host a gathering... holiday, Super Bowl or block party
- Invite a neighbor to your house for a meal
- Walk your neighborhood and engage in conversation
- Identify one or two neighbors who are not yet believers and pray often for them

LifeGroups provide an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to do His incredible work. Our next LifeGroup session

will run January 27 through April 7, 2019. If you are not yet in a LifeGroup, we encourage you to sign up for one—in the atrium or on-line every Sunday in January. See page 19 for more details.

LifeGroups help us grow in our relationship with Jesus and with others. LifeGroups help us become bolder in our faith. It's my prayer that you will ask your group and the Lord to help you see ways to invite, encourage or serve your neighbors.

Together, we can make a difference! May you be encouraged as you step out in faith and build relationships both inside and outside of your LifeGroups! **CL**



This FEATURE ARTICLE is written by Melissa Yocum who serves as the Executive Director & LifeGroup Leader at Creekside.

Won't you be my.

“Welcome to the neighborhood! I’m so-and-so.”

It may not seem all that long ago that you received a greeting like this when moving into a new neighborhood. Likely, the greeting was followed by “If you need anything, don’t hesitate to let me know. My family and I live just down the street.”

But nowadays, how many of us actually get to know our neighbors?

One of my neighbors is Kathy. I love her. When I see her on the street, she is always the first to smile and wave, or to stop and chat when she and her husband, Gary, are out for a walk.

Me? I’m not as outgoing. I wave, I say “hi” when it’s garbage night and the neighbors are out, but never once have I visited a “new” neighbor and welcomed them to the street; Kathy on the other hand, makes them homemade pretzels [which are A-MA-ZING!].

I’ve told Kathy, “I want to be like you when I grow up!” and of course she just laughs at me, but I’m serious. Kathy knows ALL of our neighbors, and since I want to be like her, I’m going to change the pattern I find myself in. And, I challenge you to join me.

Let’s meet our neighbors! We need not go crazy and anticipate becoming best friends with all of them, but let’s get to know them well enough to say “Hi!” if we see them in the grocery store, and to wave and not feel weird when they drive by our houses.

Personally, I’m going to take them something yummy [see recipe—next page] as a great ice-breaker. Everyone likes to receive something homemade. But if you’re not a baker, just pick up a tube of cookie dough and bake up something delicious. The point is that we’re meeting our neighbors and beginning relationships with them. Knowing our neighbors is more important than we realize.

See you around the neighborhood! [And if you’re one of my neighbors, just act surprised when you get your own Winter Gingerbread Trifle.] **CL**



This issue’s FEATURE is written by Marci Stone, Editor in Chief and contributing copywriter for Creekside Life.



..Neighbor!



Winter Gingerbread Trifle

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/3 teaspoon cinnamon
1 (30 oz) can pumpkin pie filling
1 package instant vanilla pudding mix

2 (14 oz) packages gingerbread mix
1 (12 oz) carton frozen topping (such as Cool Whip)
1 cup gingersnaps (broken up)

Directions:

Bake the gingerbread according to the package directions; cool completely. Meanwhile, prepare the pudding and set aside. Stir the pumpkin pie filling, sugar and cinnamon into the pudding. Crumble 1 batch of gingerbread into the bottom of a large, clear bowl. Pour 1/2 of the pudding mixture over the gingerbread, then add a layer of whipped cream. Repeat with the remaining gingerbread, pudding, and whipped cream. Sprinkle the top with crushed gingersnaps if desired. Refrigerate overnight. You can also prepare this recipe in to-go containers... perfect for sharing with your neighbors!



the Art of

I feared the floodwaters might reach my house. Record rainfall drenched the Sacramento area in January-February, 2017.

The downpour cascaded to my end of the block causing leaves and debris to plug the storm drains. By evening residents were forced to park their cars above the flooded street corner and walk across my yard to their homes. News footage of the train derailment near Highway 99 in south Elk Grove weighed on my mind.

In the dark, cold, and drizzle I pulled at anything my rake could latch onto. I was determined to keep the drains at my corner and across the street unobstructed.

In time a neighbor, whom I'd never met, trekked toward me hat on head and rake in hand. She ventured from the cul-de-sac at the other end of the street seeking other drains to conquer.

"Do you think this is how Noah got his start?" I said in jest. She chuckled, but as we continued on our task she mentioned she attended Creekside Church. I was already a believer, but had stopped going to church because I struggled with a long, dry season of shaky confidence in the Lord. The falling raindrops contrasted with my parched faith. My newfound neighbor lent a sympathetic ear and prayed over me.

Shortly after midnight our efforts were rewarded by the surging flow of water into the unplugged storm drains. Our street was clear once again. In the weeks after I began to attend Creekside Church.

My neighbor had reached out to me through service, which is just one way to engage in *"The Art of Neighboring."* Looking at your fellow residents from a perspective of care and service may inspire you to develop friendships with them.

Some of us don't possess the social ease to reach out. It's natural to feel afraid when approaching someone we don't know.

Neighboring

My advice: be prayerful and ask God for the strength to make the first move. Often relationships start with a smile and a wave. Many neighbors are just as hesitant and would welcome the opportunity to connect on a personal level.

Here are some easy things you can do to break the ice:

- Linger a little longer in your yard. As people happen by, greet them with a simple hello.
- At the cluster mailbox, comment, "I hope the check's in the mail instead of more bills."
- When walking your dog, "I love what you've done with your flowerbed."
- As you relax on your porch or front area, "Nice weather we're having."

When Jesus said, "*Love your neighbors*," He meant inclusive of everyone, despite our different backgrounds. Our neighborhoods are multi-ethnic just like the schools our kids attend. We can take a cue from our children, who on the playground, see beyond external differences and only see potential friends.

Aside from cultural differences our neighborhoods may be comprised of younger or older people, single and divorced people, single parents, those from different socioeconomic backgrounds or of various religious preferences.

As you build relationships you will find we lead the same lives and have many of the same concerns about paying our mortgages, keeping our jobs, and hopes for our families.

[continued page 14]

“We have a shared existence with those who live next door... They are a blessing to us as we are a blessing to them...”

As you get to know your neighbors...

...perhaps you can build relationships as follows:

- Host a Backyard Cookout. Barbecues bring people together. Some of your neighbors may already know people from other households to invite.
- Attend meetings such as HOA, Neighborhood Watch, or community projects. You'll learn of your neighbors' concerns and their hopes.
- Host a play date with other stay-at-home moms or dads. What a great way to get to know each other while your kids are playing on the swings?
- Hold a Super Bowl party. Gather around for one of the most popular sporting events in America to cheer your favorite teams.
- Give produce from your garden or baked goods from your oven. It's always easy to say, "I had extra and thought you might like these."

The Art of Neighboring is not about targeting specific households, Bible in hand, to impose a faith agenda. Forced conversations about faith could derail budding relationships. As you come to know one another, you will have opportunities to share your faith in ways that are appropriate and authentic.

You may not have the same spiritual beliefs as others, but God favors establishing relationships with believers and non-believers alike. You and your neighbors will develop a sense of community and security where distrust and isolation may have existed before.

Sometimes relationship building as a Christian amounts to planting a faith seed. Often it's easy to insert into your conversations that you attend church. Eventually others will come to know you as a person of God. You never know when months or years later that reticent, put-off neighbor asks, "Didn't you say you go to Creekside Church?" That person very well could be asking, "Tell me more about your faith." He or she could be in a place where prayer is needed.

God created us in His image to support, encourage, and befriend those around us. We have a shared existence with those who live next door, across, or down the street. They are a blessing to us as we are a blessing to them.

Even better, we don't have to wait until the next flooded street to get to know them. It starts with God and a smile. **CL**



This issue's FEATURE ARTICLE is written by Pete Cruz who is a Creekside member and Contributing Copywriter.

**JOIN US IN JANUARY
and FEBRUARY FOR
THE SERMON SERIES:**

**The Art of
Neighboring**

At Creekside we want to kick the New Year off with a sharp focus on learning how to become better neighbors!

Jesus Christ summed up the Law of God with two simple commands: *Love God with your entire being and love your neighbor as yourself.* MATTHEW 22:35-40.

We often talk about loving God, but I can't remember the last time we examined *THE ART OF NEIGHBORING*. How do we truly practice this in an increasingly polarized world where most people live near others without even knowing their names?

Relax! This is not a call to aggressive evangelism or some other intimidating activity. It's simpler than that. Our goal in early 2019 is to help move Creekside saints toward healthy, consistent, neighborly engagement.

See you there neighbor!



Pull up a rocker and sit on the front porch for a bit!

Long gone are the days of knowing our neighbors. Studies show that only an estimated 31 percent of Americans know their neighbors.

This used to be the fabric of American neighborhoods. Before the inventions of the television, air conditioning and computers, most Americans sat on their front porches after eating a good home cooked family dinner.

...only an estimated 31% of Americans know their neighbors.

The porch was the catalyst in helping people know their neighbors. The more frequently a neighbor saw you on the porch, the greater the chance to engage in social interactions. The porch would offer ways to invite a neighbor for coffee or invite their children to play with yours.

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we seemingly find ourselves living inside of our boxes, also known as our COMFORT ZONES. Our homes and even our churches can become boxes. Sometimes, we don't

like to venture out because it affects our routines or our comforts.

Sometimes, we may be guilty of turning away from helping our neighbors, or even strangers. Jesus did the opposite. He calls us to do the same (John 13:34, Hebrews 13:1-2). Sometimes when we take a step out of our boxes, we can clearly see opportunities to be Christ like as we help others.

God is calling us all to step out of our comfort zones.

Get out of the box and do the counter cultural thing to make His kingdom even greater! You don't have to travel to a foreign country, you can start here in your own backyard!

Creekside offers so many volunteering positions to be filled by someone just like you! If you don't know where to start volunteering, just come in to the office and ask at our reception desk.

Make it your challenge this month, give an hour or two! Take just one step out of the box and see your world open up great Godly adventures! **CL**



This issue's OUTREACH is written by Rose Herrera who is part of the Operations Team at Creekside.



the VENUE

faith amplified

God has been moving mightily at Creekside throughout our 94 year history—no mistake about that! And one constant along the way has been our heritage of Godly leaders who constantly ask “how can we better reach our community with the gospel?” This is what led a German Baptist Church eventually to become First Baptist Church in the '40s and finally Creekside Christian Church a few years ago.

This is what moved our church from the outskirts of Franklin to the heart of Elk Grove, and then years later, from that Old Town Elk Grove location to our current site. Since then we've seen the city grow up around us, and God bring people to faith in Him in droves.

Since 2000, however, we've seen trends of bumping up against our capacity ceiling for Sunday services over and over again... but we've never been able to break through it. So, four years ago we began tackling the question of how to accommodate the growth that God was bringing to Creekside. This has taken us on a journey of launching a service wherein we could accommodate hundreds more Jesus-seekers for weekend services and other events.

Enter the Venue, a newly renovated space and an excitingly distinct worship experience coming to Creekside in early 2019.

In the Venue we'll show the same sermon for weekend services via video partnered with live music and worship elements alongside it in a fresh, new environment. The music will be electric-driven, bumping loud, and usher you in to reflecting on the greatness of our God. You'll be greeted with ridiculous hospitality through new Guest Services teams that are being launched, enjoy free pastries from different cultures, and have the option of sipping espresso or tea from the Café. Among the varied seating options are higher bar stools in the side alcoves and the Family Room in the back which will welcome in those with young children so families can worship together.

So, the question everyone wants answered: what's the status on the Venue launch? The renovation

was completed in mid-November and A/V fully installed in mid-December. Our worship band has been preparing for months and we have dozens of new volunteers stepping up to serve with our Guest Services teams—including Parking, Greeters, Ushers, Café, Connection Center, and Prayer & Care. The first events in the Venue will take place in December and we'll spend the rest of December and January preparing for our Grand Opening weekend on January 27.

Our team, led by Mike Harding over construction and Scott Hallman over all things worship and tech, has done a phenomenal job bringing this vision into reality. Now that lights are in and the stage is set, we are praying God will use this space to reach our community, bringing hundreds into a saving and growing relationship with Him. And you can join us in this work:

- Pray for God to lead us forward and bring new faces who need His salvation.
- Invite your friends and neighbors to experience God's love and grace through the Venue@Creekside.
- Volunteer with one of our Guest Services teams either with the Venue or ongoing worship services.

In ISAIAH 43:18-19 God says, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!”* Creekside has a rich heritage, that's for sure. The Venue is a “new thing” to build on that heritage and lead us in to a new season of reaching Elk Grove for Jesus. How will you be a part of it? **CL**



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

...we'll spend the rest of December and January preparing for our Grand Opening weekend on January 27.



INTERSECTION

FAITH + POP CULTURE

Why raise kids in a faith-based Holiday atmosphere?

Christ at the Center of Christmas.

Sometimes the baby lying in a manger becomes just another decoration in the midst of the noise at Christmas time. Now don't get me wrong I love the rest of the noise.

I love the lights, I love decorating the tree, and I especially love eating the Christmas cookies. I even enjoy that Jolly Old Elf we call Santa Claus.

But in the midst of the noise, how do we quiet it all down to focus on Jesus as the center of Christmas?

One of my mentors tells the story of growing up in a very conservative Christian home in New England.

One Christmas, someone gave him a plastic Santa Claus on skis with lollipops in Santa's bag.

He knew his mother would not approve, so he hid the Santa under his bed.

The next day he looked for the Santa and found it missing.

He knew his mother must have found it, and he feared he might be severely disciplined.

He walked out into the living room and to his amazement when he looked at the crèche he saw his Santa lined up with the shepherds and the wise men.

Santa was skiing to the manger. That simple act by his mother had taught him that Christ is at the center of Christmas; that everyone else, even Santa, needs to come and worship the Christ child.

So this Christmas season as you bake cookies, look at lights, gather around the Christmas tree, even when you take pictures with Santa, take time with your family to point everything back to worshipping Jesus. **CL**



INTERSECTION is written by Joel Neufeld who is a Worship Leader and Pastor to Young Families at Creekside.

WHAT'S HAPPENING CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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.*

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



GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIBLE

Sundays, Jan 13, 20, 27, 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

SHAPE WORKSHOP

Sunday, Feb 3, 1:30-4:30pm | E-102

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

Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

LEARNING TO PRAY

Thursday, Feb 7, 7pm | M-3 or

Sunday, Feb 10, 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

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Wednesdays, Jan 9-Mar 6, 6:15-8pm | 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. This is a 9-week course and each class is approximately 90 minutes long.

Cost: \$99/family.

Register: daveramsey.com

Contact: ljohnson1951@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Sunday, Feb 10, 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

SHARE YOUR STORY WORKSHOP

Sunday, Feb 24, 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

Sunday, Jan 6, Sign-ups Begin | Atrium

Jan 27 - April 7, 2019, Next Session

Session groups come together to discuss biblically based topics, enjoy fellowship and pray for one another.

Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



CHILDREN

ADVENTURE CREW FUNTASTIC

Friday, Dec 14, 5-8:30pm

Tuesday, Dec 18, 8:30am-noon

Main Campus

Childcare for parent night/day out.

Cost \$10 per child.

Register online.

Jan James | jan@creeksideeg.com

FAMILY WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE

Sundays, Dec 16 & 23 | all services

No Sunday School for Pre-K through 6th grade. Children may worship with their families in main service.

Denise Griffin | denise.g@creeksideeg.com

SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION SERVICE

Sunday, Dec 30 | all services

Combined Sunday School Program for Pre-K through 4th grade.

Denise Griffin | denise.g@creeksideeg.com

PARENT ORIENTATION FOR

CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, Jan 13, 11:15am | M-6

Orientation class for parents considering child dedication on Jan 20.

Quinn Williams | quinn@creeksideeg.com or

Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

5TH-6TH GRADE BLOWOUT

Friday, Jan 18, 6:30-8:45pm | JH Room

Pre-Teen Social for

5th & 6th graders

Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

5TH-6TH GRADE OFF-CAMPUS BLOWOUT

Friday, Feb 15, 6:30-8:45pm

Rockin Jump

Pre-Teen Social for

5th & 6th graders.

Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

YOUTH

JH/HS LIFEGROUPS-CHRISTMAS BREAK

Wednesdays, Dec 12, 19 & 26

NO LifeGroups on Wednesdays, Dec 12, 19 and 26.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

JH/HS YOUTH SERVICES-CHRISTMAS BREAK

Sundays, Dec 23 & 30

NO Youth Service on Sunday, Dec 23 and Dec 30. You are encouraged to join your family in worship in the main service.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

LIFEGROUPS RESUME JAN 9, 2019

JH-Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm

Bunker E-108

HS-Wednesday, 6:45-8:45pm

In homes by class

Check the website or app for specific locations.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

JH/HS WINTER CAMP

Registration through Sunday, Jan 6

JH Camp-Feb 1-3 | Camp Alta

HS Camp-Jan 18-21 | Camp Del Oro

Reserve your spot.

Go to <http://creeksideeg.com/student-ministries/> "Camps & Trips"

JH - TACO TUESDAYS

1st Tuesdays, Dec. 4, Feb 4, 3:35-4:30pm

Elk Grove Park-near volleyball courts

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

Invite your friends for some free tacos and hang out with your Creekside leaders!

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

HS - SERVE THE HOMELESS

3rd Tuesdays, 7pm | Union Gospel Mission

Meet at Creekside at 7pm.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

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

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, Dec 20, 6:30pm | Loft E-205

Join us for a formal, catered dinner and a game of Family Feud!

Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com

90's THEMED DODGEBALL NIGHT!

Thursday, Jan 10, 7pm | Creekside Campus

Dress in your 90's best as we go head-to-head in a Dodgeball tournament!

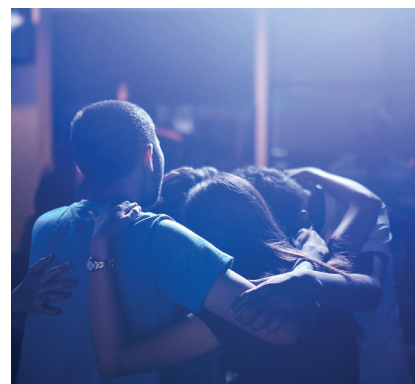
Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

Second Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm | offsite

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

Nathan Lowe | dljnlowe@aol.com



LIFEGROUPS

Thursdays, 7-9pm | E-108

No LifeGroups Dec 27 and Jan 3

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

Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com



WOMEN

*WINTER BIBLE STUDIES - MORNING BREAK Tuesdays, Jan 8-Mar 26, 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

*WINTER BIBLE STUDY - EVENING EDITION Tuesdays, Jan 8-Mar 26, 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, Jan 10-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

*HEART2HEART MOMS - WEEKEND EDITION 1st Saturdays, Jan 5-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 Wednesdays, 9-11:30am | E-203

A service group supporting and ministering to the needs of local and global missions by making quilts, cutting and rolling bandages, and more.

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 making quilts, 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

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



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.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BRUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, Feb 23, 10am-noon

Location to be announced

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



MEN

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

PRAYER GROUP / BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | M-2

Prayer: 7:30-8am / 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, 6-7:00am | 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

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 on-going, in-depth Bible study. Led by Mike Jones.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 10-11am | E101-102

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

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.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

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

MARRIAGE

THE ULTIMATE MARRIAGE WEEKEND

Friday-Sunday, Aug 9-11, 2019

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 in January.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

YOUTH CHOIR PRODUCTION of "STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM"

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

A heartwarming musical filled with singing orphans who live and serve at the Inn of Bethlehem. This year's Youth Choir production reminds us that no one is unwanted, no one is alone, and no one is an orphan, because God has bought us with the gift of His Son.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE

Sunday, Dec 16 | all services

Presented by the Creekside Choir and Orchestra. Invite your friends to join us as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Children 4 years-6th grade will be joining their parents in main services.

Childcare is only available for 0-3 years.

Shannon Schulze | shannon@creeksideeg.com

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Dec 23 | all services

High School, Junior High and Children 4 years-6th grade will be joining their parents in main services.

Childcare is only available for 0-3 years.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICES

Monday, Dec 24, 5 & 7pm | Auditorium

A family friendly service with a modern take on familiar Christmas Carols. Experience how the Light and Love of God came to us on Christmas.

Children 4 years and up will be joining their parents in main services.

Childcare is only available for 0-3 years.

Shannon Schulze | shannon@creeksideeg.com

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Monday, Dec 24, 11pm | Auditorium

A traditional Candlelight service exploring the timelessness of the Christmas story and how it influences our traditions to this day.

Childcare will not be available.

Shannon Schulze | shannon@creeksideeg.com

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Dec 30 | all services

High School, Jr. High and Route 56 students will be joining their parents in main services

Children 4 years thru 4th grade will be meeting in M5.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@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



Creekside Rocks

Rocks.

Rocks aren't necessarily something we all pay attention to when we walk by them. But if a rock is "smiling" at you, would you notice? We're hoping you will!

One of our creative friends at Creekside, Barbara [Bobbie] Brown has painted 25 rocks with varying faces and scripture references written on them, and we have scattered them around the Creekside campus.

We're hoping that as you travel from building to building, or perhaps as you walk talking with God, you'll discover the rocks and they'll put a smile on your face.

[Please note, finding them a new home isn't necessary.] 😊

We think painting rocks is a fantastic activity to do with the kids in your lives. It's inexpensive, you can use crayons, markers, watercolor paint, oil paint, house paint... whatever you have, to decorate the rocks; the possibilities are endless. Let your imaginations be your guide.

When you're done, put them in your garden, in your front yard, or share them with neighbors. Just keep in mind that if you want to leave them outside, you will need to use acrylic paint or acrylic pens and seal them with a clear gloss or modge podge.



JOCELYN CASTILLO

"Love your neighbor as yourself." This commandment is manifested through God's people in various ways. Here at Creekside, staff member Jocelyn Castillo displays the character of a loving neighbor in all that she does—particularly with Synergy Basketball.

In 2011, Jocelyn felt God leading her and a few other families to begin a ministry known as Synergy Basketball. The focus of this ministry is to empower youth to live and to serve like Jesus. Students learn how to use their God-given talents and spiritual gifts to bring glory and praise back to Him.

Further, Synergy gives students the opportunity to bring non-Christian friends to the team that encourages sportsmanship, positivity, and an authentic relationship with Jesus. Not only have students' lives been changed, but also many adults have started attending Creekside because of their connection to Synergy.

"In obedience to the Bible we are compelled to share the love of God for people," Jocelyn claims. "We want to partner with the church to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven within our community and to this world."

With this in mind, she and the other Synergy volunteers are hoping for a partnership between surrounding schools and churches to expose more students to the gospel, while also providing a safe place to play the game they love.

While Jocelyn gives countless hours in her busy schedule to minister to her community, she is also praying continually over what God is doing, and that growth in the hearts of the community will be the result. **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.creeksideeeg.com/team/



FAMILY

Two college age sons, Aaron and Jadon . Aaron will graduate in December!

EDUCATION

Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Communications from SF State and University of Phoenix

ROLE AT CREEKSIDE

Finance Manager and Synergy Volunteer

BACKSTORY

Grew up in SF. Moved to Elk Grove in 2000.



FEB
23 2019
10am-noon

.....
Live Full
Love Well
.....

Register online at:
creeksideeg.com/women
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEB 18

Brunch Bunch

The Brunch Bunch is as simple as it sounds:
a bunch of women doing brunch
and talking about Jesus.
Striving to learn how to live more fully
and love more deeply, just like Him.

All women are welcome,
single or married; moms or not.
Come as you are!

Food will be provided...
so come hungry for Jesus and food.

the VENUE

faith amplified



COMING JANUARY 27



KAYLA

“I am excited to create a culture where everyone feels welcome and they can come as they are in a new way.”

“This is a big move to bring in a new life and community [to Creekside]. It’s cool to see what God has done to make this happen.”



JONAH



RAVEENA

“I’m looking forward to the great atmosphere as well as the coffee and pastries!”

Find out more [#thevenueatcreekside](#) on Instagram + Facebook



creeksideCCeg



creeksideeg.com/venue



facebook.com/creeksideEG



**DOWNLOAD THE CREEKSIDE EG APP AND
READ CREEKSIDE LIFE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.**

CREEKSIDE EG.COM

*Now available on all your
favorite devices.*