

Parenting Resources:

Baby & Child Care, Paul C. Reisser, MD with Physicians Resource Counsel, Focus on the Family

Boundaries With Kids, Henry Cloud & John Townsend, Zondervan Publishers

Bringing Up Boys, Dr. James Dobson, Tyndale House Publishers

Bringing Up Girls, Dr. James Dobson, Tyndale House Publishers

Parenting from Your Strengths, John Trent with Rodney Cox and Eric Tooker, Broadman & Holdman Publishers

Raising A Modern-Day Joseph by Larry Fowler

Shepherding a Child's Heart, Ted Tripp

Habits of a Child's Heart, Valerie E. Hess and Dr. Marti Watson Garlett
Home Point Resource Center (FBC atrium)

Most of these resources can be found at your local Christian book store or at www.christianbook.com

Faith-building at Home Resources:

Family Time Training www.famtime.com

Awana at Home www.awana.org/athome

Elevate at Home www.elevateathome.com

www.biblicalparenting.org

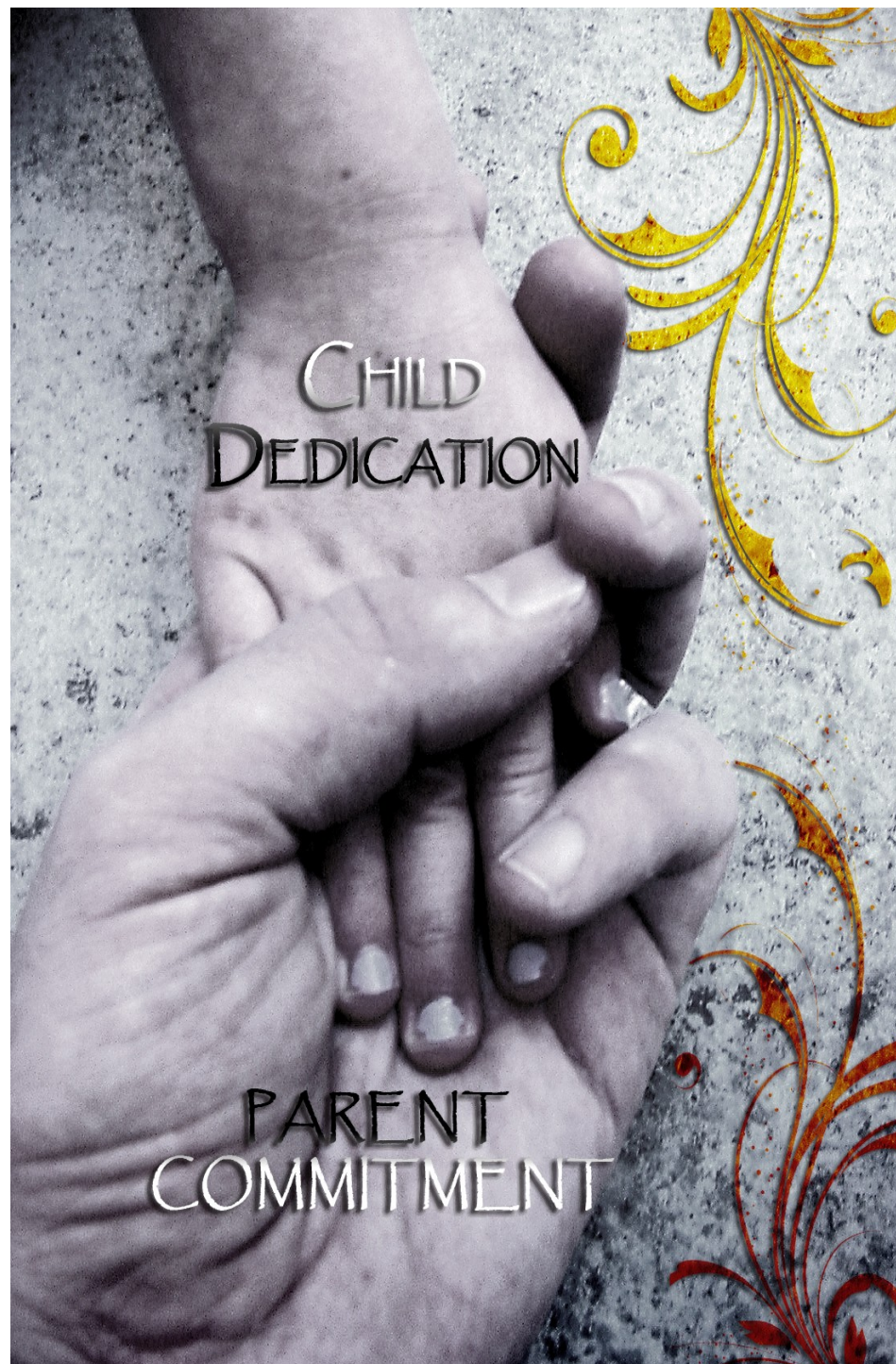
Visit FBC Home Pointe Center and Library for more resources

creekside
christian church

Children's Ministry Staff

Sherry Ju	Children's Director
Denise Griffin	Admin. Assistant
Shelby Arriaga	Awana Admin. Assistant
Dawn Storm	Nursery Coordinator
Quinn Williams	4yr-Kinder Coordinator
Denise Huft	1 st -4 th Grade Coordinator
Justine Donnelly	5 th -6 th Grade Coordinator
Jan James	Adventure Crew Coordinator

Creekside Christian Church 8938 East Stockton Blvd. Elk Grove, CA 95624
916-685-4821 www.creeksideeg.com



Welcome!

We are so glad that you have chosen to dedicate your child at Creekside Christian Church!

The goal of this class is to help you understand what Child Dedication means at Creekside Christian Church and to help prepare your family for the Child Dedication service.

Because Creekside Christian Church is made up of many people from various faith backgrounds, we want to be sure your questions regarding the difference between child dedication and baptism are well explained.

Child Dedication is...

- An opportunity for you to make a commitment before the Body of Christ to raise your child in a Christian environment and to the glory of the Lord.
- To affirm you in laying a spiritual foundation that will lead your child to grow in the knowledge and grace of God so that one day he/she will come to know Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.
- To challenge the church body to assist and support you in the spiritual training of your child.
- A time for celebrating the gift that God has given you.
- A Biblical tradition.
Old Testament example: 1 Samuel 1-2 – Elkanah & Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord by giving him to Eli to be raised.
New Testament example: Luke 2:28-34 – Joseph & Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be dedicated.
- Not a sacrament. In other words, it is not a rite established by Jesus Christ to bring grace to those participating in or receiving it. It does not impart salvation, which is eternal life with Christ in Heaven. Salvation only comes to those who believe in Christ. Acts 4:12 *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*

Baptism is...

- According to Acts 8:12-13, all believers are to be baptized. Faith in, or accepting Christ, makes you a believer. Accepting Christ means agreeing with Him about your sin nature, asking Him for forgiveness and inviting Him to be the new leader of your life. When children are old enough to understand the concept of sin and the responsibility for that sin, then they are ready to make the decision to accept Christ as their personal Savior and assure eternal salvation. Therefore, Creekside does not baptize babies and children until they are old enough to articulate their understanding and belief.
- Baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you are a believer. Just like a wedding ring, baptism is an outward symbol of an inward commitment that you have a new life in Christ- it shows others that you believe

Child dedication isn't all about your child, it's about you. It is not possible to commit to raise your child to know Christ if you have not received Christ's gift of salvation yourself. If you have not had the opportunity to receive Christ's salvation, please let the Children's Director know and she will be happy to lead you through that discussion privately.

God has blessed you with your child and has given you the primary responsibility and authority over your child. You have the most influence and most significant role in developing your child's faith. The Children's Ministry staff and volunteers are here to help in that. In fact, that is our purpose - to assist in building a spiritual foundation that will lead your child to grow in the knowledge and grace of God. It is our hope that you will feel supported and encouraged as a parent in all that we do to help your child mature in his/her faith. It is our prayer that, through these experiences and with participation in any program or event we offer, your child will come to know Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and to love and serve Him.

Preparing for the service:

- High quality digital photo
- Unique story to introduce your family to the congregation (e.g., significance of your child's name or how you selected it)
- Confirm date/time of dedication service
- Confirm spelling of child's full name, date of birth
- Provide name(s) and age(s) of other siblings
- Invite family and friends
- Bring a camera/video camera
- Where to meet the Children's Ministry Staff member prior to the service

Parent Encouragement:

Being a parent/guardian is a tough job. It requires daily dependence on God and His Holy Spirit. To be successful in parenting, we need to think with the end in mind. This means we should focus on who God wants your child to be when he/she becomes an adult. As you prepare to dedicate your child, think about what hopes you have for your child's faith and character when he/she grows up. Here are a couple of ideas in communicating your hopes for your child:

1. Choose a life verse for your child, frame it and pray over it with your child often.
2. Write a letter to your child
 - Tell your child how much you love him/her.
 - Tell why you chose to dedicate him/her and why that is important to you.
 - Why is your personal faith important to you?
 - What hopes do you have for your child's faith?
 - Share with your child what you are committed to doing to help him/her mature in faith.
 - What kind of character do you hope your child will have?