

creekside

life

NOV/DEC/JAN 2017-18
ELK GROVE, CA



CONNECT GROW SERVE REACH

What is a disciple? Learn about the four points along the Discipleship Pathway! **p. 12**

30 A.D.—THE JESUS STORY

An amazing journey which begins with “Merry Christmas”! **p. 8**

INTERSECTION

Have your face in the right book, not just Facebook. **p. 10**

SKIPPING CHRISTMAS?

Not on your life! Dealing with holiday stress! **p. 15**

Join us for a Creekside Christmas



★ **Youth Choir Production of
Jingle Bell Beach**
Saturday, December 2 at 3:30 & 5:30pm

★ **Women's Christmas Coffees**
December 5, 7 & 9

★ **College Christmas Party**
Thursday, December 14 at 6:30pm

★ **Adventure Crew Funtastic**
Friday, December 15 from 5:30-8:30pm
Parents night out

Tuesday, December 19 from 9am-noon
Parents day out

For more details, see What's Happening on pages 19-20.

★ **Christmas Celebration Services ***
Sunday, December 17 in all services
Message by Pastor Scott Hansen
Worship with the Christmas Choir
and Orchestra

★ **Christmas Eve Family Service ****
Sunday, December 24 at 5pm
Message by Pastor Phil Fuller
Worship with Pastor Scotty Hallman

★ **Christmas Eve Morning Services ***
Sunday, December 24
Message by Pastor Scott Hansen
Worship — 8am with Sandra Stillwell
— 9:30am with Pastor Jeff Carnie
— 11:15am with Pastor Joel Neufeld

★ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ****
Sunday, December 24 at 11pm
Message by Pastor Phil Fuller
Worship with Pastor Bill Maxon



* 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



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- MISSION: We exist to bring glory to God by turning all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- PURPOSE: Moving people closer to Jesus.
- DISCIPLE: Someone who is continuously learning to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.





Welcome to the Fall Edition of Creekside Life

Jesus is alive, and His love for us is mind-blowing! Here at Creekside, our hope is to help people move closer to Him every day. To that end, we have developed a plan to help you interact with Him. We call it the Discipleship Pathway. A disciple is someone who is continuously learning to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.

We become disciples when we spend time with Him and with people who love Him and when we share Him with others. At Creekside we've developed the Discipleship Pathway plan as a tool to help us engage in connecting, growing, serving and reaching all in an atmosphere of worship.

No relationship develops in a straight line, and the same is true with a relationship with Jesus. Truly, you can jump on the Pathway at any point, but for the sake of clarity and the ease of understanding, we offer a rather linear illustration in our feature article on page 12. Check it out.

Connecting. When we talk about connecting at Creekside, we mean connecting with God

through faith in Jesus Christ, baptism, connecting with others who love Jesus, and by joining us here as members.

Growing, that means growing in our relationship with God vertically and with other Christ-followers horizontally.

Serving happens within the local church (and by that we mean Creekside) as you discover and utilize your God-given hardwiring.

Reaching means reaching those in our neighborhood, community and world, inviting them to know and follow Jesus with us.

This issue of *Creekside Life* majors on the things that are happening in the life of our church. We hope these will help you to discover opportunities for you to jump on the pathway in the areas of connecting, growing, serving and reaching.

Our world is swirling with all kinds of anger and angst. Plainly said—people aren't very nice; every day we hear stories that confound us. The Bible says that the people will know that we are Christ-followers, not by our wonderful programs or beautiful buildings, but by the way we love.

I hope that you will find this issue of *Creekside Life* informative, meaningful and helpful as you journey toward continuously learning to live and love like Jesus and lead others to do the same.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. JOHN 13:35

Bill Maxon, Executive Pastor

CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life

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STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: REACH

Total donations:
For Krazy 'Bout
Kirchgater....

139 BACKPACKS
\$2,100
FOR 5TH GRADE
STUDENT
SCIENCE CAMP
SCHOLARSHIPS

\$14,699
TO SAMARITAN'S
PURSE FOR
HURRICANE RELIEF

Way to go, Creekside!
Thanks for your
generosity!!!

IN RESPONSE TO LEARNING TO BECOME A DISCIPLE



On behalf of the Anna Kirchgater Staff and Students, we want to thank you for your generous donations.
You have made a difference in the lives of many of our at risk students, in our community.
Your lovely and generous spirit always warms my heart.
Thank you for your kindness!
Sincerely,
Debbie Layton, Staff & Students

STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: SERVE

A Creekside couple is an example of God's love and grace while they struggle with raising their parapalegic son.

In the meantime, they lead the Deacon Bereavement team, and he serves on the Deacon Leadership Committee. Their concern and works are always for the sake of someone else. When there is a need, they are willing.

For example, they attend memorial services to be with a grieving family, supporting them, even when he has to take time from his work to do so.

Pastor Chuck | Staff

STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: REACH

The Medlin's are jumping on the Discipleship Pathway by going on a short-term mission trip to Pakistan in November with TEAM Missions.

Phil has a habit of searching the web every Friday for short-term mission opportunities. Three months ago he ran across a TEAM Missions opportunity for someone with Auditor skills. He contacted TEAM on Friday. By Monday he received a "YES!"

Phil will use his CPA/Auditing skills at the Abbottabad Christian School and Karen will work with children, similar to her Pakistan mission trip nine years ago.

They are so grateful for Creekside's generosity. All required support, and more, was received in a record three weeks. Over-and-above funds will be used to bless TEAM missionaries as their needs arise.

Phil hopes this short-term mission results in a long-term relationship. He would love to continue to support TEAM Missions through his CPA skills from home... or wherever God calls him!

contact info: philmed@prodigy.net | www.team.org



Encore Travelers at the Zoo

**"HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SAY, 'SEE YOU AT THE POLE'.
ENCORE SENIORS SAY, 'SEE YOU AT THE BUS!'
WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO AN EXCITING
DAY ON THE ROAD...
CONNECTING WITH
OLD FRIENDS, SHARING
CONVERSATION!!"**

J. Lee | via Email



Encore Lunch at Ironstone



Encore Travelers at the Zoo

"Loved David Harris as the speaker! After 42 years we are still learning new ideas about how to have a stronger marriage."

M.Kay | via Email



Couples Retreat



Couples Retreat



Baptism Sunday



Baptism Sunday

"Seeing all three of [our children] baptized today was incredible for us. Thank you all for being obedient to the Lord in all that you do - lives are definitely being changed and we [are] so happy to call Creekside our home."

S. LePage | via Email



LifeGroup Sign-ups



Synergy Basketball



Family Movie Night

HIGH FIVE



KIM ABERCROMBIE

SUPER-VOLUNTEER
COMMUNICATIONS DEPT.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

Oddly enough I didn't want to be anything until my 20's when working for the state I realized I wanted to be a California Highway Patrol Officer.

PROUDEST MOMENT?

I never had children of my own, but my niece lived with me in her teen years. She has since had her own children and I'm proud and honored to be called "grandma" to those kids.

HOBBIES?

I'm ashamed to say, I have too many to name. It's whatever appeals to me at that moment, which means I have a lot of "supplies" for whatever mood I'm in.

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

I am someone who lives in the moment. While I miss those who have passed on before me, and respect those who had great impact in the world, I'd rather have coffee with someone still on Earth. There'll be plenty of time to sit down and chat in Heaven.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DAY?

I love giving back. I love seeing the face of someone who was just blessed by someone or with something.

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

STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: **CONNECT**/BAPTISM SUNDAY

"What an exciting day of baptisms, both scheduled and spontaneous! People just kept coming and coming!"

M. Stone | Staff



Spontaneous baptisms were mind blowing because I got to counsel a young lady who was one of my (pre-teen) 56'ers...she is a very reserved and cautious young lady. But the Holy Spirit prompted her to do something spontaneous with confidence. The enemy was defeated by the confidence God gave her. Stoked!

J. Donnelly | Staff

RECAP FROM ALL THREE SERVICES:

29 SPONTANEOUS BAPTISMS
16 SCHEDULED BAPTISMS

2 SALVATIONS
many RE-DEDICATIONS

Children AND Parents
Husbands AND Wives
AGES RANGED FROM **8-87** YEARS OLD

Standing in front for an altar call or baptism response at the first service can be nerve-racking and uncomfortable. The majority of the congregants have been Christians for years.

However, this past baptism Sunday one little boy promptly and proudly walked forward to be baptised. I believe that response prompted an older lady who had been hurting to have the courage to respond.

J. Neufeld | Staff

STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: **GROW**

23 people Attended our September 17 Membership Workshop and are considering church membership!

**STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-
DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: GROW**

“God provided a brand new LifeGroup while people were registering at the sign-up tables. A young father was looking for a LifeGroup with childcare, and I told him that I didn’t have an open group unless he wanted to lead one.

A senior lady next to him said, “Oh, are you looking for LifeGroup leaders?”

Conversation ensued

Leader application was completed. . . .

Now God is providing a new LifeGroup led by this senior lady and her husband to minister to young families while also providing childcare in their home. PTL!” 🙌🙌🙌

M. Yocum | Staff

**STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-
DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: SERVE**

“I saw God moving at this morning’s service through the many volunteers greeting and welcoming people with their warm smiles and handshakes.

People who are new can really feel at home here at Creekside! It’s so awesome to see the people in the atrium fellowshiping, sharing, smiling, laughing, having coffee from Higher Grounds. Creekside is an amazing place to be!”

E. Catindig | Staff

**IN RESPONSE TO FORWARD TO FREEDOM
SERMON SERIES-SPIRITUAL WARFARE**


I wanted to let Creekside Church and the pastor know that the service this morning was really good! I don’t attend regularly *shies away* 😊, but when I do, I enjoy the service. The pastor at the 9:30am service today [Pastor Scott Hansen] seems to always hold my attention and the message he preaches is so clear; he reads from the Bible and helps in guiding us to understand the messages better (Bible verses). Thanks for a wonderful and powerful service today! 🙌🙌🙌

S. Kind | via email

**“Excellent series:
I will be watching this
each week. Thank you!”**

[one week later]

**“Love, love this
message. So clear and
full of truth. Can’t thank
our friends enough for
sharing their pastor
with us!**

**God bless you Pastor
Hansen. Listening here
on the border of Texas
and Mexico.”**

loveministry7 | via YouTube

STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: REACH/SYNERGY BASKETBALL

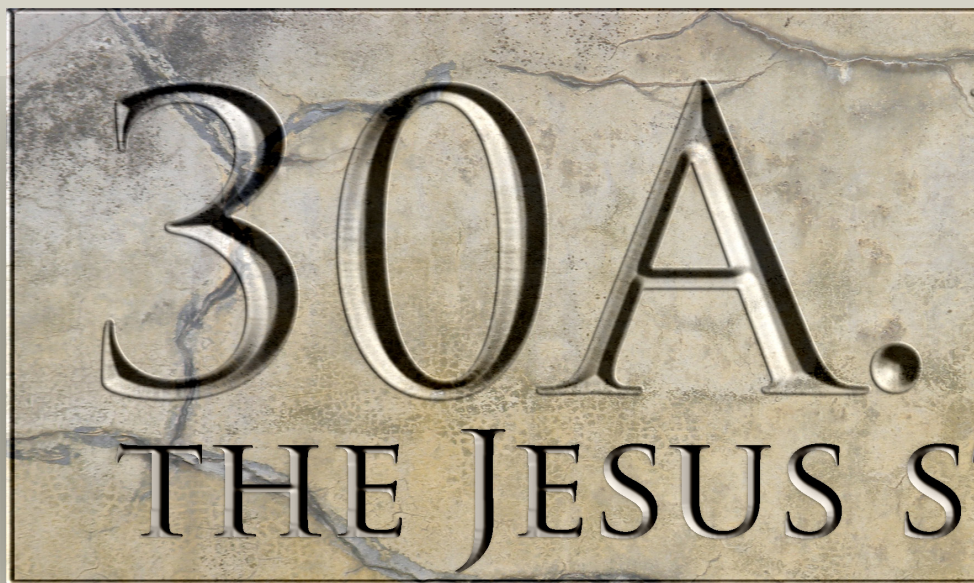

SYNERGY, Creekside’s completely volunteer basketball outreach program, recently finished an amazing summer season.

Teams, comprised equally of church kids and kids from the community, play a weekly schedule and enjoy music by Christian artists during the games. At halftime, coaches lead an interactive devotional, resulting in meaningful relationships.

There was an exciting God-moment this past summer season. One coach invited his entire high school team to the Men’s Huddle Breakfast. Three boys came. Only one was a Creekside member. As a result, our volunteer coach has become a Godly mentor to these boys—which is just a taste of some of the blessings from this summer’s ministry.

J. James | via email

ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS FOR A PASTOR OF A GREAT CHURCH LIKE CREEKSIDE IS FIGURING OUT WHAT KIND OF SERMONS SHOULD BE PRESENTED FROM THE PULPIT ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. IT'S A DAUNTING TASK. BUT IT'S ALSO A STIMULATING CHALLENGE THAT I ENJOY. CHOOSING AND CRAFTING A COMING SERMON SERIES IS A BIT LIKE BUILDING A SPIRITUAL PUZZLE FOR ME.



I talk to God about it; I consider the building momentum of what has been previously presented; I look at the current spiritual condition of who attends Creekside; I try to get a feel for what is happening in our nation and world; I consult with other pastors here at Creekside. And from this puzzle-process, the Lord somehow always seems to lead exactly where we need to go!

So after such a powerful series like SPIRITUAL WARFARE, where do we go from here? Well, in case you might be tempted to think that the "sermon temperature" around Creekside is coming down, let me clue you in on what is coming next. 30 A.D. – THE JESUS STORY.

Starting November 19, we will begin the amazing journey of working through the Gospel according to Luke. Now each of the four gospels (Matthew,

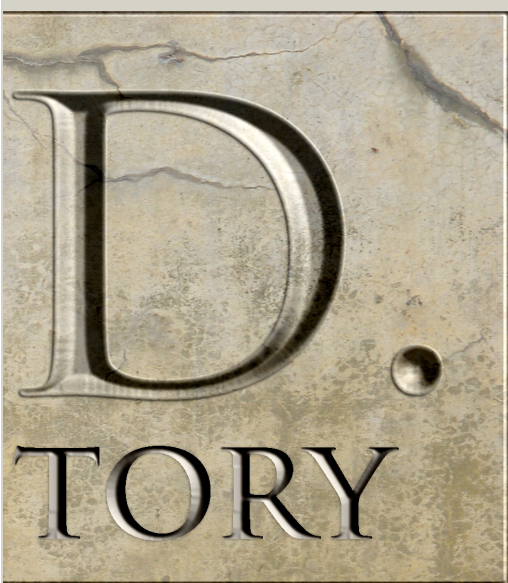
Mark, Luke and John) in the New Testament offer us unique perspectives on the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. But Luke's gospel kind of glows in the dark when I read it! Here are some of the features of the Gospel of Luke that make this book so special:

GENTILE AUTHOR

This is the only gospel written by a non-Jewish author. And from the very beginning of Luke, we begin to see Jesus not only as Israel's Messiah, but the Savior of the World. With Luke, the good news goes global! (That's a big deal since most of us here at Creekside don't come from a Jewish background.)

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Luke gives us very specific details about the life of Christ that are often not found in the other gospels. His introduction speaks of a time period where



by **PASTOR SCOTT HANSEN, SENIOR PASTOR**

he interviewed eye witnesses and gathered meticulous facts about Jesus. Remember, Luke was a doctor by trade... and you know how doctors can be! BTW, only Luke writes a follow-up volume after the resurrection of Jesus about the early history of the Church (the Book of Acts). Details matter.

EMPHASIS ON THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

Luke has been rightly “accused” of presenting the most human picture of Jesus Christ found among the four gospels. The way our Lord interacts with people makes you feel like you can see Him, smell Him, hear Him breathing, and touch Him. With a little imagination you feel like you are present as Jesus beautifully meets human needs and administers the compassion of heaven to person, after person, after person. Yes, Jesus is God in the flesh. But Luke brilliantly

presents Him as the perfect human being as well.

APPRECIATION FOR WOMEN

In a culture that was very male dominant, it is refreshing how Luke brings so many women in and out of the gospel story. And unlike many ancient authors, Luke presents these various women as some of the greatest spiritual heroes and examples of bold faith in action. Since over half of the family of God is female, this artistic touch is extremely encouraging!

FOCUS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Apart from JOHN 14-16, no other gospel writer places such an emphasis on the presence, power and working of the Holy Spirit as we find in the Gospel of Luke. Without the writing of Luke in the New Testament, our understanding of the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives would simply not be complete.

Have I whet your appetite yet? Hope so! AND THERE’S MORE:

The Gospel of Luke gives us information not found elsewhere about what leads up to the birth of Jesus Christ. That makes this gospel the perfect diving board for moving into the Christmas season! The Christmas story doesn’t really begin with the incarnation of Christ, but rather with the details of the birth of the forerunner of Christ... John the Baptist! The opening chapter of Luke wishes you and me a very Merry Christmas! So here we go with 30 A.D. – THE JESUS STORY according to Luke!



The INTERSECTION

WHERE FAITH & POP CULTURE MEET

FINDING JOY
AMIDST STRUGGLE
IN DAILY LIFE
AND A CLOSER
CONNECTION
WITH GOD LED
HUNDREDS OF
WOMEN TO THE
"LIVING LOVED
IN OUR MESSY,
EVERYDAY LIVES"
CONFERENCE
FEATURING
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
LYSA TERKEURST
AND HOLLYWOOD
COMEDIAN KERRI
POMAROLLI.

"God, I know you love me, and I love you."

Lysa touched hearts sharing that she is in "a season of suffering," yet she has joy despite her circumstances. "It's not easy to do as we are being pressed living between two gardens... There is no perfection this side of eternity, except through Christ."

Despite devastating news about her marriage and her family's pain about her husband's addiction and marital infidelity, she trusts God who uses all things for good emphasizing that no matter what we face, we can find joy. As a result of going public, she found that sharing their circumstances unleashed "an army of prayer support."

by **MELISSA MAY**



Throughout Lysa's teaching, she noted that often we play "the comparison game" and that social media largely adds fuel to the fire about how our lives "should look." But she says that's "deception from the enemy."

Instead she suggested asking ourselves "what am I saturating my mind with?"

"Have your face in the right book, not just Facebook." That

*"Have your face in
the right book,
not just Facebook."*

may mean starting our days with the Bible, not social media.

Saturday, Kerri Pomarolli who emphasizes that she is a Christian and a comedian working in mainstream Hollywood uses humor as a way to stay connected and to find joy in tough times. "God loves the weird ones," she shared, as she definitely had the women laughing.

The stand-up comedian shared her memory of hearing God's voice saying, "You have a big mouth and a crazy family, I can use you." Her message included her words to "take heart; we aren't all the same. We all have purpose."

Kerri also referred back to Lysa's

message of "Living Loved," and choosing to forgive others as a part of that.

One participant from San Francisco, Becky Wilson shares that she uses the "First 5 app" from Lysa's Proverbs 31 Ministries to begin her day with a Bible verse and connecting with God. The idea is that we give the first five minutes of our days to God's Word, not the world's worries.

Mother of four Beth Mammet says her favorite part of the teaching was Lysa's sharing of her personal story that God works in her life even in the difficult times. "I guess I try and see God in everything," Beth says. "When I iron clothes for my kids, I pray over each part of them. When I am frustrated with housework, I think about glorifying Him by being faithful in my responsibilities."

Joanne Doolittle says hearing Lysa's honesty about walking through a "season of suffering" was authentic and relatable. Joanne attended the conference with a good friend, and says she loves personal connections made through a woman's group.

Prayer, time in God's Word, humor and face-to-face connections can help us find joy no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in here on Earth, or in this garden as Lysa puts it. She adds we can do our part to "Bring the atmosphere we want to live in" regarding living joy-filled lives.

She also suggested following the command Jesus gave his

disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane to "Keep watch." Keeping watch together may also make this journey easier and sweeter.

Lysa shared a prayer she says repeatedly every night, "God, I know you love me, and I love you."

For all of us, this simple truth never changes, no matter what life here on Earth may bring. **CL**

*For more
information:
First 5 App
<https://first5.org/>*

*Chance for
Community:
Brunch Bunch
JAN 27,
10am-noon
Creekside
See page 20
for details.*



CONNECT GROW SERVE REACH

by JENNIFER SANDLIN, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



It was Valentine's Day weekend 2015 as Jerry and I were celebrating our 27th anniversary with a trip to Point Arena, along the northern California coast. Just a few steps from our cabin we could clearly see the lighthouse, so we headed out across the field to make our way towards it. As we were walking, I remember saying, "This would make a great object lesson about being focused on a target and heading straight

for it. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, it's easy to stay in the right direction."

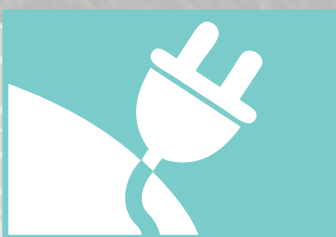
But it wasn't long before we found ourselves surrounded by muddy earth hidden beneath the meadow. The farther we went, the more we continued sinking in the mire. We finally decided to avoid the beautiful green field and make our way back to the road. Later that day, we asked about an easier way to get to the lighthouse,

and we were told there was a path along the cliff. Sure enough, the next day we took the longer route and enjoyed a beautiful pathway along land's end, surveying the expansive blue Pacific and easily reaching the lighthouse. And I realized that my original idea for an object lesson would need to be tweaked. Yes, we still need to fix our eyes on Jesus, but sometimes the seemingly straight line isn't the best path.

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

EPHESIAN

Come discover life through an authentic connection to God and His Church.



CONNECT
TO GOD THROUGH FAITH
IN CHRIST AND TO THE
LOCAL CHURCH.



★ Attend, engage with weekend Church services

★ Join the Church (membership)

Join us as we learn to know and live in response to God's love.



GROW
IN RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD ↓
AND WITH
OTHERS ↔



★ Develop healthy spiritual habits

★ Give

A DISCIPLE IS SOMEONE WHO IS CONTINUOUSLY LEARNING TO LIVE

★ Experience new life in Christ

★ Take the step of baptism

★ Join a LifeGroup

As Christ-followers, we are called to be disciples and to make disciples—MATTHEW 28:18-20. As a matter of fact, Creekside’s mission statement is that “we exist to bring glory to God by turning all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.” But what does that mean? What is a disciple? What path do we follow to become disciples?

A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who is continuously

learning to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same. To help people become disciples, we have defined a “Discipleship Pathway,” made up of four components: Connect, Grow, Serve, and Reach all of which transpire in an atmosphere of worship.

CONNECT: The first stop is all about connecting—connecting with God, and connecting with the Church.

We are a cross-generational, cross - cultural congregation, and we welcome all people wherever they are along their spiritual journey. It is our desire that everyone would come to connect with God and know Him in a personal way by accepting His gift of salvation through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross. The next faith-step of water baptism is core, as we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus in

1 COR 4:11-16

Discover how God has uniquely equipped you to strengthen Christ’s Church and bring joy to your soul.



SERVE
THE LOCAL CHURCH BY RECOGNIZING AND UTILIZING YOUR GOD-GIVEN HARDWIRING.

★ Serve regularly

Find out how to understand and share your spiritual journey with others.



REACH
THOSE FAR FROM CHRIST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY AND WORLD. INVITE THEM TO KNOW AND FOLLOW CHRIST.

★ Plan to share your faith story

LIVE AND LOVE LIKE JESUS AND LEADS OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

★ Discover your spiritual gifts

★ Every relationship with God results in a unique faith story

★ Participate in mission experiences



a symbol of a commitment to Him. Once people have connected with God through salvation by faith and followed Him obediently in baptism, it is our hope that they would connect with Creekside Christian Church through membership.

GROW: The next step is growing in relationship with God (vertically) and in relationship with other Christ-followers (horizontally). We offer core opportunities for growth here at Creekside, both in relationship with each other and in relationship with God. Our LifeGroups are fundamental, as almost 80 small groups meet each week to spend time together developing Christian friendships and in digging deeper into scripture. Creekside also offers several Core Workshops. From the basics to deeper studies, these opportunities are designed to help you cultivate healthy spiritual habits for growth.

SERVE: As people serve, they move closer to Jesus, and we have a variety of opportunities for you to serve. Some are easy for anyone, like helping with our annual Harvest Festival; and some are more intense, like leading a Bible study. Some are weekly, like teaching or helping in children's Sunday School, and some are occasional, like assisting with baptism or communion. Some take place behind the scenes, like setting up auditorium chairs each week; and some take place up front, like singing or performing with a worship team. Some are relational, like greeting or leading a small group; and some are administrative, like assisting with office projects.

It is our desire that everyone serves out of their personal SHAPE—Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences—so we offer SHAPE Workshops three times a year to help you

discover how God uniquely designed you to serve.

REACH: The fourth point on our Discipleship Pathway is Reach. We want everyone to be able to share their own faith stories, and we offer workshops several times a year to teach you to do this. We would also like everyone to get involved in at least one mission experience. What is a mission experience, you ask? It might be helping with Winter Sanctuary, delivering shoes to disadvantaged kids, participating in a community workday. Or it might have a global focus, like traveling on a short-term overseas mission trip.

All of this connecting, growing, serving and reaching happens in an atmosphere of worship. Worship is the loving response of a person when he or she encounters God or His actions. Sometimes the activities involved in engaging the Pathway help people to encounter Jesus, and sometimes encountering Jesus inspires people to take next steps. Regardless, our hope is that people will worship with all of their hearts, and no matter where they are on the journey, worship becomes the equalizer.

Without question, the Pathway is not always linear. You can get involved wherever you feel most comfortable to jump on. And just as pathways meander a bit, you might find yourself hopping from point to point along our Pathway or being in multiple places at once.

Most important, the Pathway is all about movement. We want you to move closer to Jesus, and our Discipleship Pathway is our way to help you take those steps. So join us on this lifelong journey, and let's walk along this Pathway together. **CL**



SKIPPING CHRISTMAS?

NOT ON YOUR LIFE!

TRIPS TO THE SNOW, FESTIVE LIGHTS ON HOUSES, SIPPING WARM DRINKS BY A FIRE: THE HOLIDAY SEASON BRINGS JOY TO MANY PEOPLE.

For some, the holiday season is a chance to see family near and far, and for others, well, you may have the same sentiment as George Burns who once said, "Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city."

Let's be honest, the holiday season can also bring a great deal of stress. Maybe you have the over-competitive sibling or the parent who just can't be pleased or satisfied. But still they are your family and you can't just say no when they say, "let's get together this Christmas."

So let me give you some tips on how to give yourself and others some grace this holiday season.

DON'T TAKE YOURSELF TOO SERIOUSLY.

This may come as a huge surprise to everyone, but I am not perfect. I know, crazy right? Everyone

makes mistakes. We need to give ourselves (and others) a little more grace. What you do does not define you; what your kids do does not define you; what your spouse does or does not do does not define you; and what your parents and siblings think about you does not define you.

So when your sibling keeps pointing out how small your house is or your parents ask you if you are really roasting beef and not baking a ham for Christmas dinner, just smile and remember: don't take things too seriously.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE TO ANYBODY.

This is where a lot of family dynamics get "wonky." We keep trying to prove ourselves to others. Remember we are not called to please others, we live to please God, so let's be who God has called us to be. To Him you are enough. If you find yourself trying to prove yourself, but can't seem to be enough for your parents and siblings, then you are on a straight path to stress and depression. So remember, "I am enough for God!"

DON'T BE DEFENSIVE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

Help them learn that you aren't going to prove yourself to them and that they also don't need to prove themselves to you. Just offer grace.

When hot button topics come up in the conversation—religion, politics etc.—politely change the conversation. Take time to pause before you answer questions. If you feel your blood pressure rising during a conversation, make sure to stop, take a deep breath and maybe even take a step outside or excuse yourself to the restroom.

ALWAYS ASSUME GOOD MOTIVES IN OTHERS.

I live with the motto that it's better to be gullible than cynical. This is hard for me to do at times, but life is so much better when we assume and possibly even strive to look for the good in others. If I assume my parents and siblings love me and want the best for me, their idiosyncrasies diminish greatly.

When you do this you will also find that you become less defensive, realize you have nothing to prove and will learn to not take yourself so seriously. **CL**



by **JOEL NEUFELD**
WORSHIP PASTOR
AND YOUNG
FAMILIES

Creekside is pushing forward with an exciting new area for WORSHIP EXPRESSION coming in the fall of 2018: our NEW VENUE.

IN RESPONSE TO MEETING THE DEMANDS OF SEATING CAPACITY, WORSHIP STYLES, STEWARDSHIP, AND MAXIMIZING RESOURCES, WE'RE EXCITED TO OFFER THIS NEW VENUE FOR INTRODUCING THE GREATER COMMUNITY OF ELK GROVE TO THE LIFE CHANGING PERSON OF JESUS.

This new worship expression will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in a newly renovated Chapel. The renovation will include new finishes — flooring, paint, ceiling, decor, backdrop — lighting, audio systems, video projection, seating, and coffee service.

The Chapel will be redesigned to reach young families and young adults. Though all ages are welcome, the ambience, musical style, and sermon via video will be presented with the younger family worshiper in mind.

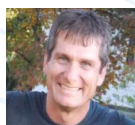
Over the past year, \$600,000 has been earmarked for the necessary upgrades to the Chapel. Although the current estimate for the proposed work is greater than the earmarked amount, the largest portion of the cost is due to necessary upgrades to sync the chapel with the auditorium's audio and video systems. Over the next several months more work will be done to find other possible design solutions and to apportion funds for design, installation, equipment and construction costs.

To this point, conceptual designs have been completed. The next step will be to move to architectural designs: blueprints, schematic, and technical drawings. This will happen over the next several months and will necessitate an updated cost assessment.

New teams of volunteers, new service options, new leadership opportunities and new faces will all be a part of this new worship expression.

Please continue to pray as we work to make this ministry possibility a reality.

CL



by **SCOTTY HALLMAN,**
LEAD WORSHIP PASTOR
and **PHIL FULLER,**
ASSOCIATE PASTOR & COLLEGE



For the past five years, Creekside has been involved in the Elk Grove Winter Sanctuary (EG WINS) program. EG WINS is a joint effort with nine other local churches to offer temporary, emergency shelter for homeless men, women and families in Elk Grove. This year we are anticipating 5 to 20 homeless guests at Creekside for a hot meal and a safe place to stay.

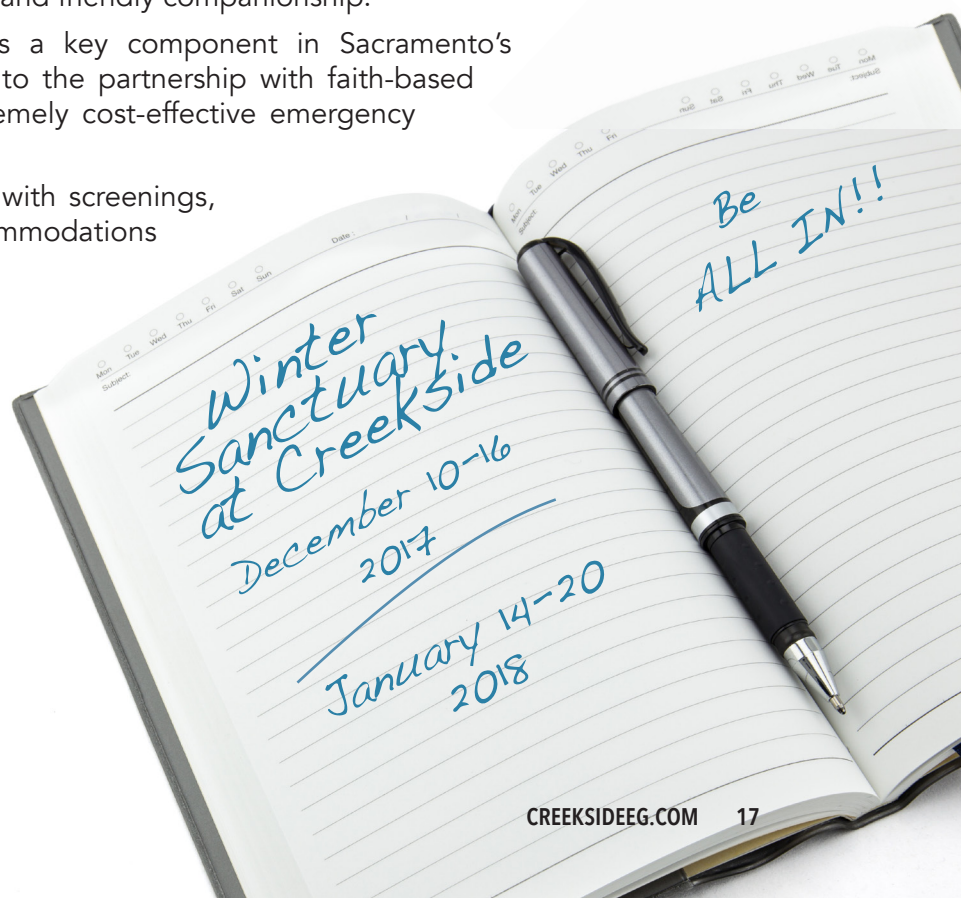
As we approach the winter season, we are looking for volunteers to help serve those less fortunate. There is a great need for men, especially, to serve overnight. This is also a great opportunity for LifeGroups to join together and serve in showing Jesus' love to those who are in need of hope. For more information, questions or signing up to serve, please see page 21 for details.

About Elk Grove WINTER Sanctuary

This program, EG WINS, of Elk Grove HART is based on the successful model used in Davis, CA since 2007. It is supported by Sacramento Self Help Housing, Elk Grove Food Bank Services and the City of Elk Grove. This is the fifth season where local churches provide accommodations for men, women, and families with a warm and dry place to sleep, a hot meal, and friendly companionship.

The Sanctuary program is a key component in Sacramento's homeless safety net. Due to the partnership with faith-based communities, it is an extremely cost-effective emergency shelter option.

Funds provide our guests with screenings, some food, sleeping accommodations and support personnel.





CREEKSIDE PASTOR ANSWERS YOUR DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

“How do we kindly connect with people who believe differently than we do?”



by **SCOTTY HALLMAN,**
LEAD WORSHIP PASTOR

Kindness starts with an understanding of Shalom. Shalom is not just peace but it's where everything is in harmony. When God created the Earth, he created it to be in Shalom: in harmony, balance and togetherness.

Ultimately, this is what we are called to be doing as Christ-followers—trying to bring Shalom to the Earth. In doing so, we must work to keep division and separation from happening in relationships while still maintaining an understanding of who God is, as a holy, set apart and perfect God.

So what does that mean for us as imperfect Christ-followers? It means we need to understand who we are in Christ. If we don't understand who we are in Christ then we will be, or rather

could be, reactive to others to define who we are. If we know who we are in Christ and we have that understanding, we can approach others with helpful postures.

Another aspect that helps us connect with kindness is to try our very best to understand where someone is coming from, even if we disagree. Listening is necessary for this to happen. Sometimes the reason we don't get along with people is because we just don't take the time to understand who someone is and what they are trying to communicate. We can do this by learning their personal stories.

Being willing to listen, acknowledge and understand someone during and after a discussion, even if we don't agree, could better help us relate (in kindness) which will ultimately aid in bringing wholeness, or Shalom, to the Earth. **CL**

Have a difficult question? Email subject line: Ask A Pastor at creeksidelife@creeksideeg.com and look for your answer in a future issue of Creekside Life.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Connect Grow Serve Reach with us!



CORE

Sharon Sorrentino | sharon@creeksideeg.com

GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIBLE

Sundays, Jan 14, 21, 28, 9:30am | M-2

This three week course is 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.

LEARNING TO PRAY

Thursday, Feb 8, 7pm | M-2

Sunday, Feb 11, 9:30am | M-2

This one-hour workshop will help you get started with prayer. We'll look at the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

Sharon Sorrentino | sharon@creeksideeg.com

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, Jan 28, 1:30pm | A-1

What is church membership at Creekside? What is our history? How did we get where we are today? What do we believe? This class will answer those questions and more!

Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com

STEPS TO FREEDOM

Sunday, Nov 12, 3-5pm | Auditorium

No pre-registration required. Led by Pastor Scott Hansen.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, Jan 10, 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. Immediate opportunities in our area are found at: daveramsey.com

LIFEGROUP SESSION

Jan 21-Mar 18

LifeGroup Signups begin January 7 in the Atrium

Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com



CHILDREN

Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

PARENT ORIENTATION FOR CHILD DEDICATION

Sundays, Nov 5 and Jan 14, 11:15am | M-6

Orientation class for parents interested in dedicating their infant or toddler.

CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, Nov 19 and Jan 21

9:30 and 11:15am services | Auditorium

An opportunity for parents/guardians to stand before the church body and commit to raising their child in the Christian faith. *Orientation class attendance is a pre-requisite.*

SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT

Sunday, Dec 31, 9:30 and 11:15am | M-5

Children ages four years through 4th grade will combine during Sunday school to see Rev. Tony Borders, local Children's Evangelist, give the gospel message through humor, ventriloquism and illusions as he presents, "The Bear Who Slept Thru Christmas." An awesome opportunity for kids to invite their friends to church!

56 BLOWOUT DAY HIKE

Friday, Nov 10, 8am-noon | Location TBD

A day hike for 5th-6th graders to connect with each other and God in nature.

Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

56 BLOWOUT THROWBACK TIME

Friday, Jan 19, 6:45-8:30pm | E-105

A time for 5th & 6th graders to grow in faith by studying God's Word while enjoying time with their peers in a fun, creative setting.

Justine Donnelly | justine@creeksideeg.com

AWANA GRAND PRIX

Friday, Nov 10, 6-9pm | Auditorium

A pine-car derby event for all Awana students and their families

Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

ADVENTURE CREW FUNTASTIC

Friday, Dec 15, 5:30-8:30pm | Main Building

Tuesday, Dec 19, 9am-noon | Main Building

An opportunity for parents to enjoy a date night or have some free time while their children participate in fun, themed activities led by our Adventure Crew staff. Pre-registration required—space is limited! creeksideeg.com/adventure-crew

Jan James | jan@creeksideeg.com

YOUTH

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

JUNIOR HIGH SERVICE

Sundays, 9:30am | E-108

Connect with God through laughter, music, videos and compelling messages from God's Word; a place any student can come and feel comfortable, relax and be challenged to grow closer to Jesus.

Jonny Hansen | jonny@creeksideeg.com

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE

Sundays, 9:30am | E-205

Connect with God through laughter, music, videos and compelling messages from God's Word; a place any student can come and feel comfortable, relax and be challenged to grow closer to Jesus.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL LIFEGROUPS



Jr High—Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm | E-108

Sr High—Wednesdays, 6:45-8:45pm | Off-Site

High school groups are in homes. Check the calendar (on the web or app) for specific locations.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

JINGLE BELL BEACH

YOUTH CHOIR PRODUCTION

Saturday, Dec 2, 3:30 and 5:30pm

Auditorium

Jingle Bell Beach Youth Choir Production is a fun and exciting musical production presented by Creekside Youth Choir. Invite your friends and family, and be reminded that Christmas is about our Savior.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Connect Grow Serve Reach with us!



HIGH SCHOOL UGLY SWEATER BROOM BALL

Saturday, Nov 11, 3:30pm | Offsite
Meet at Creekside

Bring \$10, invite your friends and join in the fun on ice!
1009 Orlando Ave, Roseville.
Hannah Schmidt | hannah@creeksideeg.com

JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CAMPS

Dec 29-Jan 1 | Camp Del Oro

Amazing worship, spiritual growth, awesome games and activities!
Early Bird: Oct 22-Nov 16—\$170
Late Reg: Nov 19-Dec 10—\$190
Forms and non-refundable deposit due at registration.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

Jr High-3rd Tuesday | Sr High-2nd Wednesday

We meet in the north parking lot of Creekside at 6:45pm and carpool to UGM to serve dinner to the homeless. We return to campus at 9:30pm.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

PARENT'S PRAYER GROUP

Wednesdays, 7-8pm | B-5

Meet these dates: 11/15, 12/6
Adriene Lepp | leppfrogs@yahoo.com

COLLEGE

Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT (18-25)

Thursdays, 7pm | E-108

A community of College and Young Adults rooted in Christ, branching out to those in need. A place to belong, that will Biblically challenge and equip you.

POTLUCK THANKSGIVING

Thursday, Nov 16, 6:30pm | Bramlett's House

Join us for a Thanksgiving Potluck, as we celebrate in community with laughter and giving thanks! We will also be collecting canned goods for the Elk Grove Food Bank.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, Dec 14, 6:30pm | E-105

Join us as we celebrate the end of 2017 with games, food, and a jolly good time!

WOMEN

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*MORNING BREAK

WINTER BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays, Starting Jan 9, 9-11:30am
Education Building

*EVENING EDITION

WINTER BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays, Starting Jan 9, 6:30-9pm
Education Building

Whether you've studied the Bible for years, or are just getting started, you'll find a group to help you grow in your relationship with God. Winter study details online in December.

*HEART2HEART MOMS

Alternating Thursdays | Sept-May
9-11:30am | E-108

*HEART2HEART MOMS—

WEEKEND EDITION

2nd Saturday | Sept-May
9-11am | A-1

A group designed for mothers of all ages and stages. Time together includes breakfast, special events and guest speakers. The 2017-18 schedule is available online.

WOMEN ALONE FELLOWSHIP

Last Saturday, noon-2pm | Atrium

A group for all ages, but mostly senior ladies who are widowed, divorced or single. Come have a good time, eat, meet new friends and enjoy inspiring speakers and music.

DORCAS CIRCLE

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

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

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

Groups of women who do projects for mission agencies and outreach organizations, both locally and internationally. A wonderful time of community. Learn new skills like quilt making at Priscilla Circle.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

Join us as we knit and crochet shawls and pray for those who will receive them. You can also bring completed handmade shawls to the Women's kiosk to donate anytime.

BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 9:30-10:45am | A-1

Study the Bible with a loving, prayerful group of women. All ages are welcome.

CHRISTMAS COFFEES

Tuesday, Dec 5, 9am and 7pm | Offsite
Thursday, Dec 7, 9am and 7pm | Offsite
Saturday, Dec 9, 10am | Offsite

Enjoy tasty food, meeting new friends and hearing an inspiring Christmas devotional. Register in the Atrium or online at creeksideeg.com/women

BRUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, Jan 27, 10am-noon | E-108

A bunch of women having brunch and talking about Jesus, striving to live more fully and love more deeply. All women welcome, single or married; moms or not. Food provided.



* ADVENTURE CREW KIDS-CARE AVAILABLE | jan@creeksideeg.com

MENNancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com***MEN'S HUDDLE**

2nd Saturday, 9-11am | Chapel

A monthly event where guys in all stages of life come together. Join us for breakfast, worship and inspiring speakers. Be sure to bring a friend along!

PRAYER GROUP / BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | A-1

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

Looking for an awesome, biblically sound, and unbiased Bible study? Come to our weekly Men's Bible Study! The first 30 minutes are spent praying for our families and other concerns.

SENIOR ADULTS—55+Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am | E-101/102

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

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 teacher. Led by George Burris.

AUTUMN BANQUET

Thursday, Nov 9, 6-8:30pm | Auditorium

"Faithful Followers Finishing Well". Speaker will be former pastor Don Loomer, with musical entertainment led by Darrell Schuh. Tickets available in the Atrium and church office for \$20/person.

SUPPORT GROUPGreg & Marti | westee4@sbcglobal.net**SCALES**

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

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

MISSIONSKaren Stoneburner | karen.s@creeksideeg.com**COMMUNITY CANCER SYMPOSIUM**

Saturday, Nov 4, 9am-noon | Auditorium

This FREE event will feature a panel of experts in various oncology fields. There will also be a Q&A time. You have questions—they have answers. Bob Rose | rje@frontier.com

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOEBOX DRIVE**

Oct 2-Nov 12 | Atrium

Bring hope and joy to needy children worldwide. Pick up a plastic shoebox (while quantities last) and instructions at the Connection Center. Return your filled shoebox to the church no later than Sunday, November 12.

For more information:

samaritanspurse.org/occKaren Stonburner | karen.s@creeksideeg.com**ELK GROVE WINTER SANCTUARY**

Week 1: Dec 10-16

Week 2: Jan 14-20

Creekside will be hosting homeless guests overnight for 2 weeks this winter. Volunteer to serve in 4 ways:

1) Overnight Team, 2) Meal Team, 3) Night Leader, and 4) Donations—gas cards, food cards, and new socks. Volunteer sign ups in the Atrium in November.

Fred Bremerman-916-524-0563

fbremerman@gmail.com**WORSHIP**Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com**WORSHIP PREVIEW**

Sunday, Jan 21, 12:45pm | B-4

Worship Preview is an exciting time for musicians to learn about Worship Arts Ministry. If you are a vocalist, instrumentalist or interested in being part of our technical ministry, please join us.

**SUNDAY
SERVICE TIMES****CHURCH SERVICE**

- 8am | Classic
- 9:30am | Celebration
- 11:15am | Passion

NURSERY

- 8am | Newborn to 4 yrs.

**CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**SPECIAL NEEDS
FOR KIDS**

- 9:30am | Rm. B-4

**PRETEEN MINISTRY
56'ERS**

- 9:30am | Rm. E-201

JUNIOR HIGH

- 9:30 | Rm. E-108

HIGH SCHOOL

- 9:30 | Rm. E-205

**SENIOR ADULT
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

- 9:30 | Rms. E-101/102





Lindy Giesser

DIRECTOR OF SHINING STARS PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

LINDY SEES SHINING STARS AS... "AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE CHILDREN THAT GOD LOVES THEM, AND WILL NEVER LEAVE THEM." SHINING STARS OFFERS THIS SOLID FOUNDATION.



Every day is an adventure for a three to six year old at Creekside's Shining Stars preschool, according to Program Director Lindy Giesser. She believes that this "window" in a child's life is an opportunity for an eternal impact. The goal of Shining Stars is that the children will have memories and a Christ centered education that will last a lifetime.

In 1999, Creekside's preschool and kindergarten was established with a staff of six and 50 children. Fast forward to present day and the staff has grown to 35 with a student body of approximately 185.

A staff member for eighteen years, Lindy is proud to share that the first year students are presently in college. She's a mother of three and a grandmother of four. Two of her grandsons are in the Shining Stars program this year. One in Prekindergarten and the other in Kindergarten.

"It is our ministry and goal to prepare children for kindergarten or first grade," Lindy shares. She understands that she and her team have a special opportunity to minister to a variety of people with a wide range of beliefs.

She also considers herself and her team the bridge that connects families to Creekside because they represent our church to the community.


The students come from diverse religious and cultural

backgrounds. Many students do not have family that attend Creekside Christian Church.

As the Program director, Lindy understands that the Shining Stars staff might be the first point of contact to many families. In order to encourage students and their families, Lindy works hard to keep continuity in staff and have low turnover.

"I consider the Shining Stars staff a family," Lindy said. "It has been an amazing experience," she continues as she thinks about the growth of Shining Stars.

Lindy, along with her team, looks forward to many more impactful school years in Elk Grove.

To learn more about the Preschool and Kindergarten program at Creekside, visit: shiningstarseg.com 

If you would like to have your child(ren) be part of our amazing Shining Star Preschool & Kindergarten, check out the information below:

- Registration for 2018-19 school year is Saturday, FEB 1, 9am, in the Atrium
- Registration packets will be available JAN 10 in both school and church offices.
- Call for a tour. We LOVE to give tours of our school!



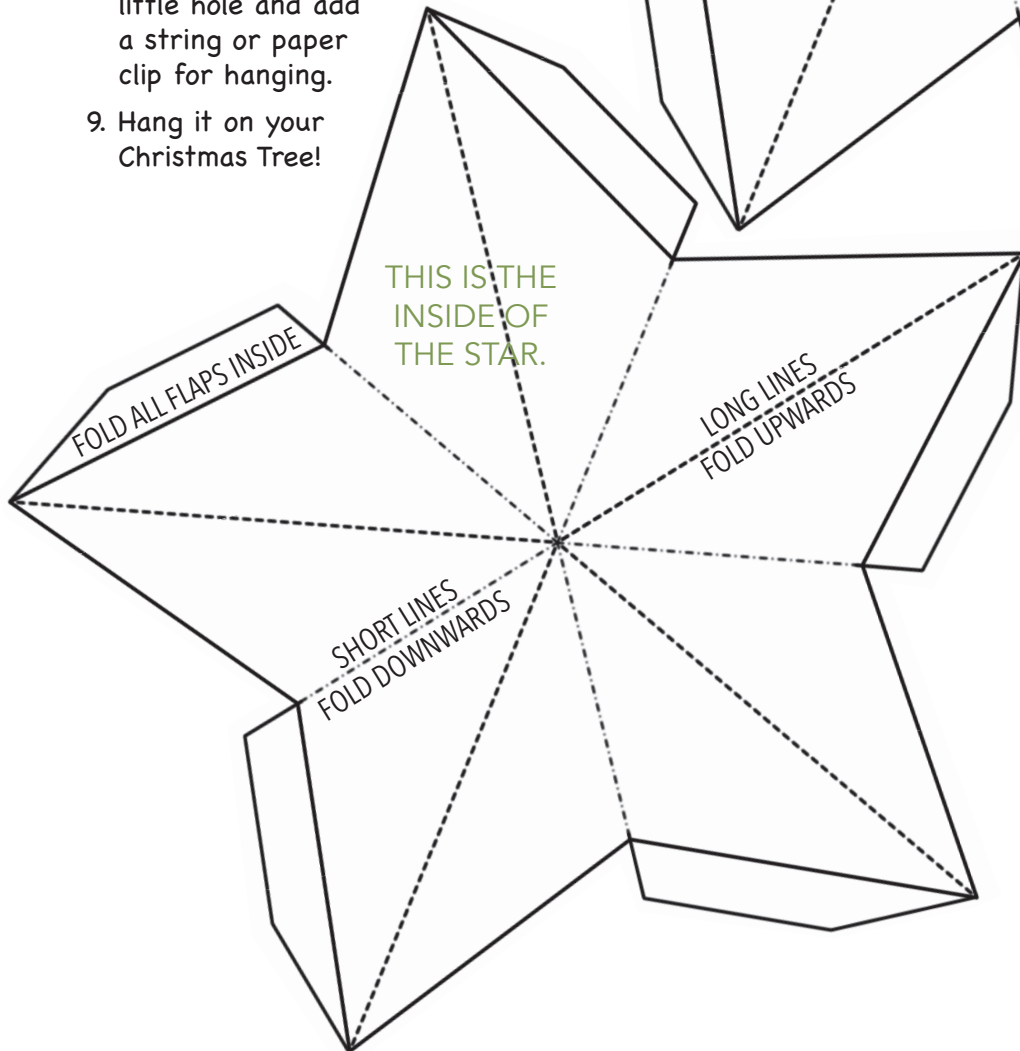
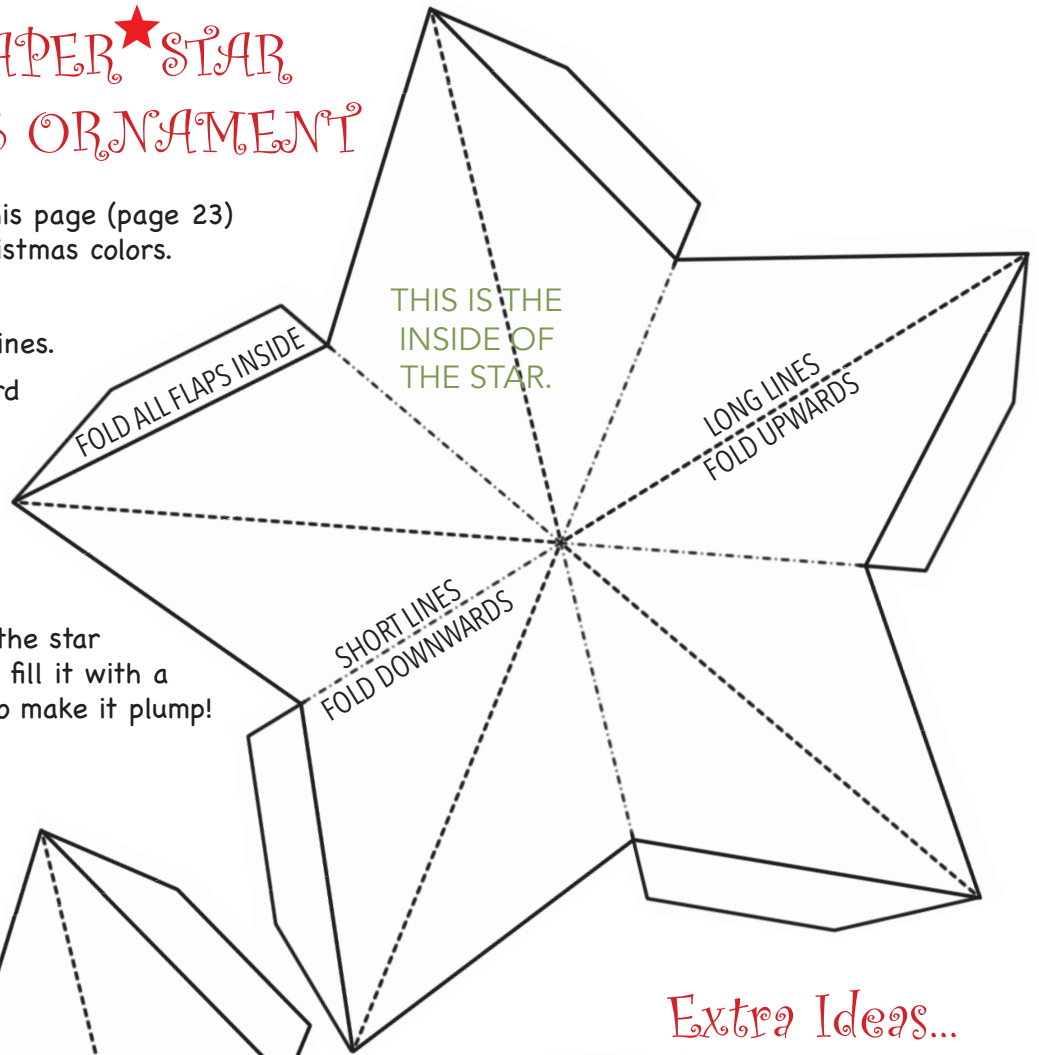
COLOR THIS PAGE

Then turn to page 24 and
make a beautiful Paper Star
Christmas ornament for
your family Christmas Tree!

ACTIVITIES

MAKE A PAPER★STAR CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

1. Color the back of this page (page 23) in your favorite Christmas colors.
2. Cut out the stars
3. Fold on the dotted lines.
4. Fold the flaps toward the inside.
5. Put some glue on the flaps
6. Press the stars together to stick.
7. Press the edges of the star to give it volume, or fill it with a cotton ball or two to make it plump!
8. Have your parents help you poke a little hole and add a string or paper clip for hanging.
9. Hang it on your Christmas Tree!



Extra Ideas...

- ★ You can fill your star with beans or macaroni to make it noisy... be sure to ask an adult first!
- ★ WANT TO MAKE MORE? Pick up extra star templates at the Guest Services counter in the Atrium.

★ Parents!

If your child is interested in contributing an activity piece to be used in a publication of Creekside Life, please contact us at: creeksidelife@creeksideeg.com



Thanks
Bill

Welcome,
Kim



IN THIS EDITION of *Creekside Life*, we want to highlight someone who means so much to so many—Bill Felkins. Bill served faithfully as our CFO/Business Administrator for 12 years before he and his wife, Dian, decided it was time to retire and move to Texas to be near family.

Bill is crazy-smart! A graduate of Wharton (Harvard's business school), he was highly trained in management, strategy and finance. All that knowledge made Bill an asset, a wealth of knowledge and a man worth respecting. Kind and patient when he needed to be, he also challenged the staff to think bigger. He was loyal to his team, their biggest cheerleader.

While Bill's last day on staff was October 13, his passion for the church and people learning and growing in their faith will be in our hearts, and his love for desserts will be shared by all of us.

Bill's right hand when it came to finance was Kim Shepherd who worked as our Financial Manager. She in her own right is an accomplished CPA with a strong financial background and a history working with the IRS. Kim is now the CFO/Business Administrator here at Creekside and we look forward to working with her in this new role. **CL**



by **MARCI STONE,**
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR &
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, CREEKSIDE LIFE

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