creekside

FEB/MAR/APR/MAY 2018 ELK GROVE, CA

INTERSECTION

HOPE! Turn from the darkness of despair to the light of hope! *p. 10*

25 YEARS, 2 CONSTANTS

Linda and Karen, giving, loving, serving after 25 years. *p.8*

CREEKSIDE AT 94

Look back. Look forward. Hope for the community. *p.12*

FAMILY MINISTRY

Hope and blessing of children through adoption. *p.16*





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For more information about DOUBLE OUR IMPACT, visit: creeksideeg.com/thevenue

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CREEKSIDE AT 94 A look back. A look forward. Learn about Creekside's

deep roots in the Elk Grove community.

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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* CREEKSIDE LIFE

I'm so glad you picked up a copy of *Creekside Life*! We publish this magazine quarterly (although this edition will be distributed through May) as a way to offer you an informative read on the pulse of Creekside. Beyond sharing information about what we've been doing and where we're headed, this magazine is also designed to be an invitation for you to dive into the fast moving current of where we believe God is leading us as a church family.

HOPE—the theme of this edition of *Creekside Life* is simply defined as having a positive anticipation of the future. It's what motivates us to get out of bed each morning and seek to improve our lives, raise good kids, be productive employees, engage in meaningful friendships and make lasting contributions to the world we live in.

As we look around at our world, it's easy to see a lot of hopelessness. YOU might even wrestle with feelings of hopelessness. And that's pretty normal if such feelings are short-term. But extended periods of hopelessness are another thing. Such experiences exact a heavy price on our health, personal well-being, families, friendships, work, etc. So allow us to give you a little "transfusion of hope" with this edition of *Creekside Life*.

We want to encourage you to find a comfy chair and read through this magazine. We're going to share some stories that we think you'll find up-lifting, hopeinspiring, and maybe a little therapeutic. You'll hear from some of our counselors as well as people who open up about some pretty dark times in their lives. And, you'll also hear how they got through such times and found hope.

You'll also want to read through our WHAT'S HAPPENING section, as well as take a peek at some of the major events we have planned for 2018. FYI—You don't have to be a member of Creekside to attend our worship services or any of our classes or workshops. In fact anyone and everyone is welcome here at Creekside. We invite children and youth to be part of what we believe to be some amazing groups where it's safe to explore and grow in faith and also to make friends and have fun!



CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life Bill Maxon, *Executive Pastor–Pastoral Oversight*

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STORIES FROM AROUND CREEKSIDE-CREEKSIDE GENEROSITY: REACH

Creekside's generosity continues according to LUKE 6:38:

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over..."

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD





OVER FLOWING HANDS



G CREEKSIDEEG

All responses taken from Creekside social media and staff. Send us your feedback on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or email us at creeksidelife@creeksideeg.com



"Just a thank you to all the wonderful people

at your church who participated in the celebration for the children and their families for Halloween. It was just awesome and very much appreciated. The children and the parents and grandparents loved it. Thank you again. E.G. Resident | via email



For more about the Harvest Festival and how it is Reaching our community for Jesus, see page 4!







"Hello Creekside, I live in the houses to the north of your athletic field. I have been bringing my daughter to your harvest festival for years. Thank you so much. I cannot tell you what a great job you all do with this event. I know several families in the neighborhood and at my daughter's school who have your harvest festival as an annual event. Thank you again. Very well done!"

R. Mackenzie | via Email





















"Awana side-story... the Welche's attend Bridgeway and live in Roseville. William, Kristin and their three teen girls have come all the way to Elk Grove every week to serve at our Awana club for the last several years."

S. Ju | via Email

HIGH FIVE



ELENITA CATINDIG ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP? A teacher as a little girl. In high school and college I loved accounting classes

and thought, "I think I will be an accountant." But after 22-years of working with a semiconductor company in San Jose I thought being an accountant was out the window...then God put me here at Creekside and now I work as an Accounting Assistant.

PROUDEST MOMENT?

When my kids told me they wanted to accept Jesus as their Savior and seeing them serve Him now.

HOBBIES?

Just the occasional shopping with my girls, lounging, reading, coffees with friends. Is taking naps a hobby?

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

There's a friend that I haven't seen in years, but I'd love to have coffee with just anyone and enjoy each other's company.

ULTIMATE DAY?

When all tasks are done for the day and I still have time to myself.

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



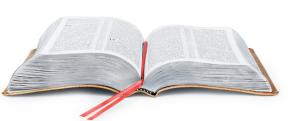
"I've seen God work through our Double Our Impact campaign. It's amazing to see the funds coming in from so many generous people in our congregation. It's like watching God break His piggy bank and pour it in to Creekside."

E. Catindig | Accounting Dept. Staff





"I see people of all races and backgrounds worshipping together on Sunday mornings – a tiny preview of God's kingdom and Dr. King's dream." N. Aird | Pastoral Care Admin



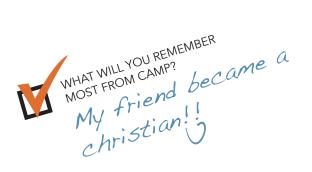
"A senior woman who has been a believer for decades was beaming when she shared with a staff member that she just finished reading through the entire Bible for the first time in her life! In fact, she has already begun to do it again this year.

"Way to go, sister!" S. Hansen | Senior Pastor

"COMFORT.

IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD. AS I STAND IN THE ATRIUM BETWEEN SERVICES, I SEE ALL KINDS OF COMFORT GIVERS. I AM CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH A TIME OF STRUGGLE AND TO RECEIVE HUGS AND SINCERE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND PRAYER IS A VERY REAL COMFORT."

K. Stoneburner | Missions Coordinator



"On evaluations from High School Winter Camp, numerous kids celebrated the fact that one of their friends accepted Christ for the first time; they had all been praying for this individual." K. Mann | Youth Admin



"A YOUNG MAN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WORKS WEEKLY AT HIGHER GROUNDS SUPPORTING BARISTAS WHEREVER AND HOWEVER HE'S NEEDED. HE IS GROWING IN CONFIDENCE, SMILES MORE AND WORKS HARD!" L. Stone | Atrium Ministries Coordinator

"Special needs teen, Joshua Gailey, has taken it upon himself to be the 'teacher' of the special needs classroom. He sets up the learning stations and draws on the white board as he teaches the lesson and interacts with his peers. Joshua and two other boys teamed up to assemble the new tables. It's an amazing story of how God can work in and through His children, regardless of their abilities." S.Ju Children's Pastor



"We have regular hangouts with students monthly, in both Junior High and High School, focusing on a particular school and meeting after school at local establishments with the purpose of connecting with students unfamiliar with Christ or our church. They usually run about 10-15 students at each. On Tuesday, November 14, we had a "hangout" for Franklin and Consumnes Oaks high schools at Rubios. **57** *kids showed up!!* I don't do math, but that is like, four times more than usual. This was in part thanks to Haneen Razzouk who did an exceptional job inviting school friends, but some of it was because the word that there would be 'free tacos' after school spread around like wildfire.

"Many kids just showed up and were able to connect with Steven and Hannah. One new student went on to attend LifeGroups the next night. Steven said it was exciting to see new faces and 'edgier' kids and to have the opportunity to make some great connections."

K. Mann | Youth Admin



These two scenarios describe what our church would feel like if two very important people hadn't been involved over the last 25 years. **Yes**, **that's right, 25 years.**

25 years ago, Linda Stone and Karen Stoneburner joined the staff at Creekside Christian Church, and ever since, our church is stronger because of them.







KAREN STONEBURNER

Picture this: You've been following Jesus for a year now and you have never felt more whole. Over time, your desire to tell more people all over the world of Jesus has grown and grown. You've heard some of your friends have done mission trips before and you're curious as to what this is and how you can be a part of it.

You read in the Bible that 'Jesus is sending us out and has already commissioned us to GO and make disciples" (MATTHEW 28:18-20) but you don't know what this looks like for you, where to even start building the skills for that, and where you are being called to "go". You try to find some information on Creekside's website and then check with your friends and/or mentors, but they don't answer all your questions. You're left with a burning desire and no place to take it.

aren Stoneburner, currently our Mission Coordinator, says it best: "I help people give themselves away for the sake of the Kingdom of God." Being our Mission Coordinator, Karen keeps a "vigilant eye for what God is doing and where God is leading Creekside to get involved in His Kingdom plans." She helps equip people to live missionally.

What does this mean? It means learning how to share your faith story because your story combined with God's story makes a powerful witness to those who don't know Jesus. She also helps to develop opportunities for "Creeksiders" to follow Jesus's example and feed the hungry, clothe the poor and help the oppressed. Karen is pivotal in making God and His unchangeable Word, truth and promises accessible to all people.

That much is clear in her dreams for the next 25 years. Karen prays that "Creekside will continue to be a beacon of truth and will disciple people to maturity so that they may make more disciples."

LINDA STONE

Now picture this: It's a Sunday morning and you're walking into Creekside Christian Church. Let's say you're attending the 8am service but you woke up at 7:15 and had to rush to get ready in order to make it out the door. The one thing that's keeping you afloat this early Sunday morning is the fact that there will be coffee at Creekside's "Higher Grounds".

You arrive at church and rush in so that you can get your glorious coffee, but as if it were a bad dream, you walk in and there are no volunteers which means...no coffee. Even more than that, you look around and there are no smiling faces to greet you "hello". Your start to Sunday has officially been ruined.

inda Stone, currently our Campus Coordinator, has served in many areas of our church, and she makes sure the details run smoothly. Not only does she schedule the church activities from 7am-9pm, she oversees our "state of the art kitchen," makes sure the staff is certified in First Aid and trains the Sunday morning greeters and baristas.

Linda oozes with the joy of Jesus. That much was clear when she said she wants even faster growth in the next 25 years. Why? "Because that would mean more and more people are learning about Jesus as their Lord and Savior."

In a world that is always changing, Creekside is a better, stronger and more consistent place because of these two constants. Their dedication to the church, its people and bringing glory to God is evident in the work they've done and, Lord willing, will continue to do...maybe even for another 25 years.











by KAYLA HALLMAN



Meet Greg and Sheryl, two intern marriage and family therapists from Creekside's Counseling Department.

"Hope is a necessity from a counseling perspective because it gives me and my clients the confidence that someone bigger, that we can trust is at work and ultimately in control. Hope allows us to engage in faith in order to relinquish big picture control of how our life's processes play out. Hope flames the courage necessary to persevere even when the obedience we are asked to undertake does not make sense from our small, limited perspective. Hope allows us to take care of today and rest in His arms with the confidence that tomorrow is covered."

Greg Hutchings, Marriage & Family Therapist Intern IMF#80055

"...the darkness behind me had masked the **hope** in front of me, but without having experienced the darkness I wouldn't have seen the **light.**"

H allmark Murders & Mysteries... most often that is the channel you'll find airing on my cable box. *Matlock, Columbo*, and don't even get me started on *Murder She Wrote*! And to put a cherry on top, Hallmark regularly adds new murder mystery movies. Happy day, oh happy day. Pa

But four months ago, I wasn't watching to be entertained, I was searching for hope.

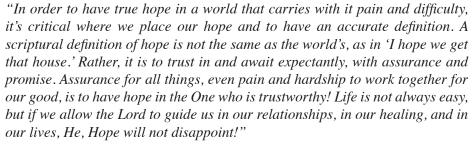
On August 30 at 7:25am my father passed away, my world stopped, and immediately I felt what I can only describe as a darkness all around me. I couldn't see it, I could feel it. Dread, fear, sadness, but most of all, hopelessness.

Amidst memorial service preparations, complete breakdowns, and trying to be strong, I sought solace in Hallmark Murder & Mysteries. I remember saying to myself about a character in the movie, "She lost her dad and got through it." I watched countless movies searching for reassurance. But the darkness remained.

Days went by, arrangements were made and then came the Memorial



by MARCI STONE CREEKSIDE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR in eal. so ope.



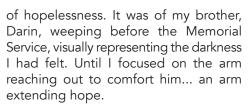
Sheryl Sturis, Marriage & Family Therapist Intern IMF#93763

Service. Like the light of the sun breaking through the clouds, the darkness began to fade as I was reminded that our hope isn't in the things of earth, but in the love and sacrifice of the One who gave His life for us.

During the service, the darkness faded a bit. With every hug from a friend, it faded more. With every kind word, with every smile, with every prayer, it faded.

Weeks passed and I thought I was doing "pretty okay."

But then I looked at pictures taken at the service. One picture destroyed me; it ripped the air from my lungs and immediately, I was back in that time



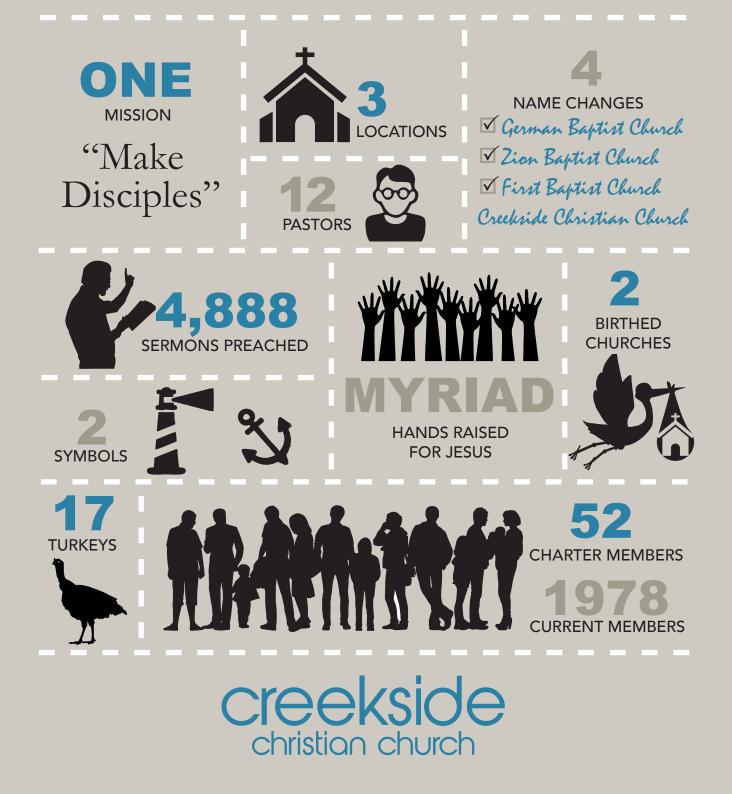
It's now four months since my dad passed. I am sitting on my bed, writing this article on my iPhone at 1:54am in complete darkness, tears streaming down my face, and I can't find any tissues.

But the tears are subsiding, and even now, in this very moment, I see that time in my life a little differently. I have a new perspective: the darkness I felt behind me had masked out the hope in front of me, but without having experienced the darkness I wouldn't have seen the light.

Disappointment, regret, loss we all have something in our lives that will cause us to lose hope. But I believe that without having experienced it, we can't truly see the light of hope.



After 94 years of moving people closer to jesus



Launching a dream

Launching a dream—that's what a group of German immigrant farmers did 94 years ago on February 10, 1924. Today, we call that dream Creekside Christian Church.

Clearly a huge step of faith, some of those first members borrowed against their homes and farms for the necessary funds for that first church building housed at the corner of Hood Road and Franklin Boulevard.

And so our church began.



Looking back...

ver the decades, our church has experienced three location moves, four name changes and twelve different senior pastors. But the message and mission have always been the same. The vision birthed in 1924 is alive and well today at Creekside Christian Church!

In obedience to the mandate given by Christ in Matthew 28:18-20, we are to MAKE DISCIPLES... more Christians (evangelism) and better Christians (discipleship).

According to Pastor Scott, a beacon and an anchor symbolically have communicated the value and impact of Creekside over the past 94 years: A beacon offers light and hope for people trying to find their way in life through the darkness; and, an anchor offers stability and security in a volatile world of unrest and confusion.

"As I interact with people living in the Elk Grove area, I am encouraged by the strong 'beacon-anchor' reputation that Creekside has rightfully earned," Pastor Scott said. "Our beautiful location alongside Highway 99 is a continual reminder of our divine calling to share the light of Jesus Christ and to help the people of Elk Grove and beyond find in our Lord (and our church community) a firm anchor for their souls."





Looking Forward...

So as a beacon of gospel light anchored firmly in the soil and blood stream of the Elk Grove area, where does Creekside plan to go from here? Glad you asked!

The emphasis from our pulpit in the coming months will be on the life and early ministry of Jesus Christ, 30 AD – Gospel of Luke, as well as how to share this life of Jesus with others in our community (Apologetics).

After Easter, we plan to have ANSWERS IN GENESIS come and address numerous issues about God's amazing role in creation and how such discoveries offer us (and those we plan to invite!) unique purpose and hope for the future.

But the above only answers the question of our message. What will we be doing to pursue our call to MAKE DISCIPLES... more Christians and better Christians? Glad you asked again!

Our big vision step this year is to launch our first Video Venue worship service in the Fall of 2018 in a fully renovated Chapel. The financial costs of this huge faith step will land around \$1.2 million. 'I am encouraged by the strong 'beaconanchor' reputation that Creekside has rightfully earned...'' And praise God, to date, we have already raised \$961,028 toward this goal.

Also, we will need the prayers and active participation of people like you to make this dream become reality. As we continue in the footsteps of those believers who sacrificed in the past to bring Creekside to where it is today, we need you to continue honoring this faith legacy by stepping up in the following ways:

- Raising the remaining \$238,972 to complete the preparation of the Chapel.
- Praying that God will stir new families in the Elk Grove area to join us.
- Volunteering to serve on one or more of the various teams needed to launch this new venture.
- Helping promote this new outreach so that the Kingdom of God advances where God has planted us right here in the Elk Grove area.



by **SCOTT HANSEN SENIOR PASTOR**

GLORY TO GOD THROUGH OUTREACH

Aiming to reach a younger demographic of women, ages 20-30, **Brunch Bunch's** hope is to give women who sometimes don't feel like they have a place in the church or people who relate to them the environment for which they long.

"But there's no age limit" Brooke says. "We don't want any woman to feel left out. We will be talking about things that all women struggle with, whether she's single, married, widowed, mother or not."





by KAYLA HALLMAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER Three different outreach programs, the same goal. Brooke Frick of Brunch Bunch, Joel Neufeld of Family Movie Night, and Karen Stoneburner of Short Term Mission Training, pray similarly: walking alongside others to bring God glory. These three outreaches vary in objective but what they strive for is plain and clear.

While Brunch Bunch is trying to reach the women who sometimes feel misplaced, **Movie Night** for Young Families is striving to create an opportunity for the whole family to come together. So many programs target only men, only women or only children, and Joel Neufeld wants to change that. With a movie picked to target kids 6th grade and under, the environment will be safe and also will allow other families with similar aged kids to get to know one another. This leads to community which ultimately, helps us walk closer to Christ.

Finally, Short Term Mission Training works to equip people to lead others in mission endeavors. The two day workshop thoroughly addresses essential material for best practices in short term missions in a fun and interactive way. While cost effectiveness of short term missions is controversial, Karen feels it is an effective method of discipleship when done well which is why she wants to train the leaders for their outreaches.

In fact, one of the chief goals of short term missions is to increase a person's capacity to see the world through God's eyes and live wholeheartedly and sacrificially for God. A short term mission trip can and should be life changing. A well trained leader is essential in helping the team focus on what God is doing and by having a positive impact for God's glory.

While these three outreaches aren't the only ones happening at Creekside, they all work together, in a sense, creating environments that target specific people all to bring the most glory to God.

A glimpse of Hope...Yours, Mine & Ih

y sister and brother are eight and seven years older than I am. I like to tell people that I was not "an oops," but rather a regret. My parents fully planned having me but after my arrival was imminent, they quickly asked, "what are we doing?"

I never doubted the love of my parents. They loved us just the same, my older sister, my adopted brother and me the "what are we doing? baby." And, we loved each other. I watched them pour out love on my adopted brother combined with my extreme love for

> For our family, the word adoption represents hope and joy. Our adoption

> journey has been life-

changing, full of beauty

and challenge, tears and

celebrating, and most

of all love. We are so

grateful that God chose to

grow our family through

fostering and adoption.

PROVERBS 31:8

AARON AND JOY BRUNTON

him that helped me to understand the hope we have in Christ as we are called His "adopted children."

My brother and I are very different. For one, he is both African American and Native American. He was an all-American basketball and football player. I was, well...not any of those things. Growing up in primarily white communities, I saw the ugly side of racism, but no matter what anyone could ever say or do, nothing could turn my parents away from their son. We are family, bound together by hope and love.

Adoption, to us, is the most beautiful thing on earth. The struggle and brokenness are so real, but then we get to see the rescue, the new beginning, and the unfolding of a whole life that may have gone a completely different way. I can't think of anything more hopeful than that. **CHRIS AND JEN WARD**

During our five year adoption process, we leaned heavily on the hope only the Lord can give. This hope gave us the courage to wait while He worked out the details. Because in our waiting God is working, and hope is way better than worrying.

FREDDY AND DEANNA GALLARDO

It's amazing how God gives us these stories to catch a glimpse of HIS great big grand story. It is wondrous how He allows us to participate in telling this story. To tell the story of adoption is to tell the heart of the gospel story.

eir adoption stories

It is the same way with God's love. We are bound together by hope and love, and well that is everything.

Paul tells us in Romans:

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him" ROMANS 8:14-17.

Several families at Creekside have expressed their hope and love and have reached outside of themselves to adopt children into their families. These are just a brief snapshot into their stories:



by JOEL NEUFELD WORSHIP PASTOR AND YOUNG FAMILIES

Adoption has always been about seeking after God's heart and pursuing the things that matter most to Him. Each time we have added to our family through adoption, we have been witnesses to God's miraculous healing power in the lives of our children and in ourselves. Our hope and faith have been strengthened by seeing how deeply God loves each and every one of us.

JATHAN AND CHRIS CASTANEDA

Adoption is more than just caring for 'the least of these' in our community. Adoption is seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Every child is a precious gift from God giving us a glimpse of His unconditional love and our grafting into His eternal family. What a privilege we have been given to honor Him through adoption.

KARL AND VANDERLENE UEBELHOER



It gives us so much hope as we watch the Lord do miraculous things with the babies we foster. Thank you for being a part of praying with us. For the last five years every baby who has left our home into adoption has gone to a beautiful Christian couple. Praise the Lord!

ROB AND CINDY LOPEZ

you want to know more about being adopted into God's family, I would love to talk with you. If you would like more information about adopting a child into your family, these families would love to talk to you about their resources and experiences. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at anytime either at: *joel@creeksideeg.com or call me at (916) 685-4821 ext.134*

WHAT'S HAPPENING **CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



CORE

Sharon Sorrentino | sharon@creeksideeg.com

LEARNING TO PRAY WORKSHOP Sunday, Feb 11, 9:30-10:30am | A-5 Thursday, May 3, 7-8pm | M-2 Sunday, May 6, 9:30-10:30am | E-102 We will look at the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray to help you get started with prayer. Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

SHARE YOUR STORY WORKSHOP

Sunday, Feb 11, 1:30-4:30pm | M-3 Sunday, May 20, 1:30-4:30pm | M-3

Learn to craft your salvation story so you can confidently share it with others within your circle of influence. Karen Stoneburner | karen.s@creeksideeg.com

SHAPE WORKSHOP

Saturday, Mar 3, 8:30am-noon | M-6 Sunday, Mar 4, 1-4:30pm | M-6

We are all uniquely shaped by God. Have fun and discover your "SHAPE" (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences) and your Godgiven hardwiring for serving Him. Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeq.com

BAPTISM CLASS

Sunday, Mar 4, 12:45-2pm | D-5 Sunday, May 20, 12:45-2pm | D-5 This class will answer your questions about baptism and prepare you for this step of faith with Jesus.

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER WORKSHOP Saturday, Mar 17, 9am-noon | A-1

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

PRAYER RENEWAL RETREAT Friday-Sunday, Apr 6-8 | Camp Del Oro

Hungry for a more intimate and conversational prayer life? We will spend time in reflection, structured silence, and solitude as we learn to be still and know God. Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com

GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIBLE

Sundays, Apr 15, 22, 29, 9:30-11am | A-5 A three-week course especially for people who are new to the Bible.

Topics include an overview of the Bible, why you can trust the Bible and Bible study basics. Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, May 6, 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

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

LIFEGROUP SESSION

Current Session: through Mar 18 New Session: Apr 22-Jun 3

Go online to join a group in session. Sign-ups begin April 8 for the next session. Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com

EPISTLES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sundays through Apr 15, 11:15am | A-1 Interactive and inclusive class about the Second Coming of Christ, believers resurrection, and that eternity is the Truth, not a theory or philosophy. Bob Rose | rjejrose@frontier.com

THE ULTIMATE

MARRIAGE WEEKEND

Friday – Sunday, Aug 10-12 Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe

Refresh marriages and enjoy getting to know other Christian couples. Speaker: Dr. John Jackson. Details and registration available online. Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

CHILDREN Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

BAPTISM CLASS FOR KIDS

Sunday, Mar 4, Mar 18, May 20, 11:15am | M-6 To help children understand more about what salvation and baptism mean and to prepare them for baptism. Required for baptism.

EASTER FESTIVAL

Saturday, Mar 24, 10am-1pm | Campus Family-friendly event includes jump houses, egg hunt, carnival games, activities and a hands-on experience of Christ's Journey to the Cross. Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

JANA ALAYRA CONCERT

Friday, Apr 20, 6:30pm | Auditorium

Live, interactive concert for families featuring popular praise and worship artist Jana Alayra. Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, Apr 21, 8:30am-4pm Campus-wide

passion, and equip people who work Lindy Giesser | lindy@creeksideeg.com

PARENT ORIENTATION FOR CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, Apr 29, 11:15am | M-6

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

CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, May 13, All three services | Auditorium Parents/guardians stand before the church body and commit to raising their child in the Christian faith. Orientation class attendance a pre-requisite.

PRETEEN EVENTS

Friday, Feb16, 6:30-8:30pm | E-108 Friday, Mar 16, 6:30-8:30pm | E-108 Friday, Apr 20 | Off-Campus adventure Friday, May 11, 6:30-8:30pm | E-108

A social event for 5th and 6th graders to get and stay connected with peers in a safe, fun, creative setting. Justine Donnelly | justine@creesksideeg.com

AWANA YEAR-END CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 2, 6:15pm | Auditorium Celebrate accomplishments of all our clubbers. Present awards, reflect on what God has done, enjoy refreshments, jump houses and more. Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

FOR FULL DETAILS CHECK OUT THE CREEKSIDE APP OR CREEKSIDEEG.COM



Designed to renew a calling, ignite with children.

Connect Grow Serve Reach with us! CREEKSIDEEG

ADVENTURE CREW FUNTASTIC Tuesday, May 8, 9am-noon | Main Building Friday, May 11, 5:30-8:30pm | Main Building

Opportunity for parents to enjoy a date night or free time while their children (infants-6th grade) participate in activities led by our Adventure Crew staff. Preregistration required-space is limited! creeksideeg.com/adventure-crew Jan James | jan@creeksideeg.com

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 27, 6:15pm | Auditorium Children (2 yrs-11th grade) move to the next grade level and new classrooms. Denise Griffin | denise.g@creeksideeg.com

MEGA CAMP (BIBLE DAY-CAMP)

June 25-29, 9am-noon | Campus May 29-Jun 17, online registration www.summermegacamp.org Through a variety of interest tracks (Creative Arts/Performing Arts/ Sports) children 3-years-6th grade can explore their talents and natural abilities and discover what it means to trust in Jesus' love every day Shelby Arriaga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

YOUTH Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

JUNIOR HIGH SERVICE Sundays, 9:30am | E-108

Connect with God through laughter, music, videos, messages from God's Word; come, feel comfortable, and be challenged to grow closer to Jesus. Jonny Hansen | jonny@creeksideeg.com

JR HIGH LIFEGROUPS



Themed nights with games and break outs into small groups by grade (7th and 8th).

Jonny Hansen | jonny@creeksideeg.com

TREK (AWANA) FOR JR SCHOOL

Sundays, 3:15-5pm | E-108

Curriculum that challenges Jr High students to dive deep into scripture and allows them to own their faith and discover what they actually believe. Dan and Beckie Shafer, (916) 716-5542

VIDEO SCAVENGER HUNT JR HIGH

Wednesday, May 2, 6-9pm | E-108 Contact Jonny for more information. Jonny Hansen | jonny@creeksideeg.com

8TH GRADE GRADUATION DINNER Wednesday, May 9 | Location TBA

Contact Jonny for more information. Jonny Hansen | jonny@creeksideeg.com

JR HIGH BEACH TRIP Saturday, May 12 | Location TBA

Bring \$10 for lunch. Parent drivers are needed! Contact Jonny for info. Jonny Hansen | jonny@creeksideeg.com

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE Sundays, 9:30am | E-205

Connect with God through laughter, music, videos, messages from God's Word; come, feel comfortable, and be challenged to grow closer to Jesus. Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

HIGH SCHOOL LIFEGROUPS

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm | Off-Site Meets in homes by class. Check the calendar or app for specific locations. Hannah Schmidt | hannah@creeksideeg.com

JOURNEY (AWANA) FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Sundays, 3:15-5pm | E-205 Establishing students as lifelong disciples through a deep study of God's Word, mobilizing them to live with godly perspective and evident faith. Dan and Beckie Shafer, (916) 716-5542

GRAD BANQUET FOR SENIORS CLASS OF 2018

Friday, May 11, 6-10pm | Delta King Cost and details coming soon. Hannah Schmidt | hannah@creeksideeg.com

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, May 16, 6-9pm | Auditorium Details coming soon.

Hannah Schmidt | hannah@creeksideeg.com HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ Thursday, May 17, 6:30-10pm Creekside Back Lot

Join the Vine college group at their summer kick-off BBQ. Phil Fuller | phil.f@creeksideeg.com

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS Zach Carriker | zach@creeksideeg.com

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT (18-25) Thursdays, 7pm | E-108

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

"REDEFINED" LADIES BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30pm

8971 Four Seasons Dr.

Digging into God's Word by focusing on our identity and who God says we are. Contact: Krista Fuller (916) 214-1893

THE VINE-SERVE AT LOVE INC.

Thursday, Feb 22, 5:30-9:30pm

Meet in the Creekside parking lot.We will return to campus by 9:30pm. Love Inc.- 6750 Florin Perkins Rd, Sacramento

HIKF

Saturday, Apr 21 | Location TBA Check with Jesse Good for information (916) 647-3154

SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ

Thursday, May 17, 6:30-10pm Creekside Back Lot

Contact Phil Fuller for information. Phil Fuller | phil.f@creeksideeg.com

WOMEN

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BRUNCH BUNCH

Saturdays, Feb 24, Apr 28, 10am-noon | Chapel A bunch of women doing brunch and talking about Jesus, striving to live more fully and love more deeply. All women welcome, single or married; moms or not. Register online.

*SPRING BIBLE STUDIES -**MORNING BREAK**

Tuesdays, Apr 10 - May 22, 9-11:30am **Education Building**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



*SPRING BIBLE STUDIES – EVENING EDITION

Tuesdays, Apr 10 – May 22, 6:30-9pm Education Building

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

*HEART2HEART MOMS

Alternating Thursdays through May 3 9-11:30am | E-108

For mothers of all ages and stages. Time together includes breakfast, special events and guest speakers. The 2018 schedule is available online.

*HEART2HEART MOMS – WEEKEND EDITION

2nd Saturdays through May 12, 9-11am | A-1 For working moms to come together once a month. Enjoy food, friendship and guest speakers. The 2018 schedule is available online.

WOMEN ALONE FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, monthly, noon-2pm | Atrium

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

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

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

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

Serving people both locally and internationally. Using crafting abilities to serve local children's hospital and hospitals in Africa.

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

them. You can also bring completed handmade shawls to the Women's kiosk to donate anytime.

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.

MEN

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

*MEN'S HUDDLE

2nd Saturday, 8-9:45am | Chapel For guys in all stages of life. Join us for breakfast, worship and inspiring speakers. Bring a friend along!

PRAYER GROUP / BIBLE STUDY Sundays | M-2

Prayer: 7:30-8am | Study: 8-9:15am An awesome, biblically sound,

unbiased Bible study. The first 30 minutes are spent praying for our families and other concerns.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6-7am | A-1

A perfect morning start, seeking God first! A short time will be spent contemplating Sunday's sermon, followed by a detailed study of Proverbs by Gary Grace.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

A warm and friendly crowd will be pleased to welcome you to this ongoing, 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 leader. Led by George Burris.

SPRING FLING POTLUCK

Thursday, Mar 22, 11am-2pm | Atrium Join us for delicious food, an inspiring speaker and warm fellowship! Watch for sign-up details in the Atrium.

FOR FULL DETAILS CHECK OUT THE CREEKSIDE APP OR CREEKSIDEEG.COM

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

SUPPORT GROUP

Greg & 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.

WORSHIP

Karen Nowlan | karen.n@creeksideeg.com

WORSHIP PREVIEW

Sunday, Apr 8, 12:45pm | B-4

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/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 | Rm. A-1







GOOGLE "A LITTLE HOPE!"

Recently I was asked – "Bill, how do I have hope when the world seems so hopeless?" The answer depends upon your understanding of hope. So I "googled it."

"Hope is a feeling of trust or grounds for believing that something good may happen; a person or thing that may save someone."¹ The quality of our hope is based on the object of our trust. Hope that gives courage, peace, comfort or strength requires a source or object that is worthy.

Growing up in a home where my father fiercely protected me, we had this saying, "Don't mess with Bill Maxon's boys." (My dad's name is Bill, too) That kind of foundation fosters courage and HOPE. But what happens if you don't have that kind of dad? And even then, he doesn't hold much sway over world events.

The answer: we hope in the Father, the One who holds it all together. Moses similarly asked, "What kind of God are you that I should place my trust and hope in you?" The response he received: "I am who I am."² "I am the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin . . generation after generation."³

Pastor John Comer explains it. God basically says, "Whatever I am, I will be...meaning, whatever this God is like, He's that way consistently, He's unshifting, stable 24/7. For example if God is compassionate, then He's compassionate all the time. If God is gracious, then He's gracious all the time. If He's slow to anger, then He's slow to anger all the time... God is true to His character, and that is a God you can rely on."⁴ "So...how do you have hope when the world seems so hopeless?"

Now for those of you who may be wondering if God even exists (which is a premise raised by many), I find my assurance bolstered by the statistics. Skeptic turned theologian Josh McDowell set out to disprove God's existence, and in the process found the evidence to the contrary (see *More Than a Carpenter*). The statistical probabilities surrounding Jesus' birth demonstrate that God has gone to extraordinary lengths to identify his Son Jesus. "Because there are over 60 Old Testament prophecies (with about 270 additional ramifications) fulfilled in one person named Jesus, we can be more than confident. The probability that all these prophesies were fulfilled in one person just by chance is overwhelmingly small."⁵ The probability is "one in 10^17– that is a number with 17 zeros."⁶

So the God of the early part of the Bible is the God of the later part, and the countless testimonies of lives transformed and empowered by His unfailing love and faithfulness continue as evidence that He is the only source or object that is worthy, sure and unfailing.

So "how do you have hope when the world seems so hopeless?" Take this advice from the Psalmist who, too, was struggling with the milieu of his day.

"Yes, my soul, find rest in God. My hope comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God... Trust in Him at all times you people, pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge. Why so downcast oh my soul, put your hope in God."⁷



by BILL MAXON, EXECUTIVE PASTOR

- ¹ Google Dictionary
- ² Exodus 3:13-14
- ³ Exodus 34:4-7
- ⁴ God Has a Name, by John Mark Comer Zondervan Press, January 2017
- ⁵ Is There Proof for Jesus as Messiah by Seanmcdowell.org
- ⁶ Mathematical Probability that Jesus is the Christ, Bible Believers. org.au
- 7 Psalms 62:5-7 and 43:5 NIV

Grass Hair People

These are cute and fun and give children responsibility to keep the plant alive!

You can even make some small ones to set by each place-setting at a special family dinner!

You will need:

- Pot (you can use any color or a glass candle holder)
- Grass seed
- Potting soil
- Anything you like to make a face: google eyes, string or yarn, stickers, anything!

Mom

• Glue dots or double stick tape

- 1. Attach eyes, and face pieces.
- 2. Fill the pot 3/4 with soil. Leave 1" space so you can add seeds and more soil.
- 3. Cover seeds with 1 spoon of soil.
- 4. Water regularly.
- 5. Once it grows, you can give them hair cuts and funny hair styles.

Papa

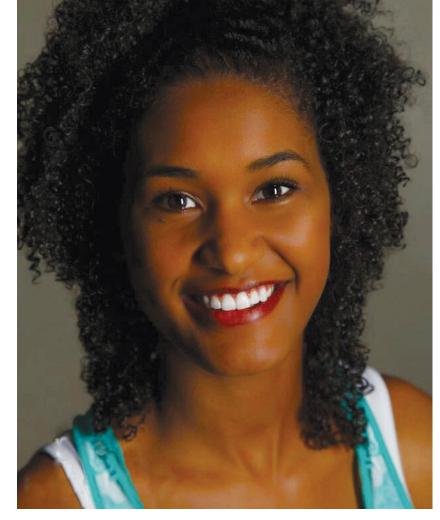
Egg Carton Flowers

Make a bouquet to go with your Grass Hair People creations or as a special family dinner centerpiece!

You will need:

- Egg Cartons
- Paint
- Straws
- Glue
- Pom poms
- Cut egg cartons into flowers with four "petals".
- 2. Paint your flowers.
- 3. Glue or tape a straw to your flower as a stem.
- 4. Glue a pom-pom to the center of your flowers.

CREEKSIDEEG.COM



QUINN WILLIAMS

"...children have always been my real calling and God has definitely had His hand in bringing me to Creekside." When a preschool parent says, "I know nothing about church, but my child wanted to come," Quinn Williams, Children's Ministry Preschool Coordinator is reminded that God is active, and He believes in the future! Quinn says, "There's a lot of hope in that!"

Serving Creekside children ages 4 and 5, about 300 total, and their families, Quinn also leads and equips 45 volunteer preschool leaders and helpers. She believes that God has placed an in-born curiosity in children to seek God.

Her formative years were spent in both the Bay Area and in Southern California. She played volleyball for Long Island University and University of California Santa Barbara on a full-ride scholarship, but injuries placed her on a different path. Quinn transferred to the University of the Pacific and completed her degree with a major in Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences. Raised in a Christian home, she encountered God at a young age, but later fell into a time in life when she says, "you believe you can create your own path." In the midst of trying, when she was 23, she realized, "I can't do this alone. I need Jesus." Quinn began diving into the Bible and was soon reminded that Jesus had been there all along. "Jesus walks with me and guides me and He always did, even when I felt very, very lost."

Quinn's family has attended Creekside for 16 years, and upon returning to Elk Grove, she returned to Creekside, where her love for ministering to children was reignited. After meeting Sherry Ju, Children's Pastor, Quinn learned that she had a place here as well as finding the community that she needed.

"I've always loved being around children, and I've been part of volunteering with preschools and daycares since I was 12 years old." says Quinn. "The minds of children are pure and innocent. Every minute counts, and one positive reaction is something that they can hold on to and remember for a lifetime."

"She has a way of ministering to kids on the margin," Sherry said, "and it gives me hope when I see that a young adult like Quinn can be so in-tune with what God is doing."

Quinn said "Even though I studied in the sports medicine realm, children have always been my real calling, and God has definitely had His hand in bringing me to Creekside."



by **BILL MAXON, EXECUTIVE PASTOR**

creekside university

Coming Summer 2018

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3- to 7-week Growth Opportunities

DOCTRINE

This isn't your stereotypical fall-asleep-in-your-chair doctrine class. Discover what Christians believe and how to synthesize doctrine with daily life—all from a world class Bible scholar, Dr. David Nystrom.

COURSE LENGTH: 7-weeks INSTRUCTOR: Dr. David Nystrom

HABITS

We all want them. We all *need* them. But most of us don't even know where to begin.

Cultivate the habits you need to help you grow in your relationship with God and know His heart. Explore scripture, prayer, solitude, celebration and other spiritual practices which will transform your life.

COURSE LENGTH: 4-weeks INSTRUCTOR: Creekside Staff

PARENTING WITH LOVE & LOGIC

Let's be honest: parenting is tough. But there is help! Get the tools you need to raise God-honoring kids.

COURSE LENGTH: 7-weeks INSTRUCTOR: Mike Beckner, LMFT

BLESS LIKE JESUS

Maybe you've heard the challenge to share your faith with your friends and neighbors but you're lost on what this looks like practically. Learn to show and share the love and grace of God in your everyday life.

COURSE LENGTH: 3-weeks INSTRUCTOR: Joe and Sarah Caples

GROW YOUR FAITH ONE WEEK AT A TIME

Are you looking for a way to grow in your faith this summer?

Creekside University is a series of summer courses to help you take that next step in your walk with Jesus.

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PHIL FULLER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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with Dr. Terry Mortenson and Bryan Osborne A Free Live Event



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N GENESIS

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