

Good News

May 2012

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. Galatians 5:25 (The Message)

On April 20th, about 20 of us sat down for a potluck meal at church on an early Friday evening. We began our evening chatting with each other about our lives, little league, and the good food that we were eating together. Soon, however, our conversation turned toward the purpose of our gathering, our study of Experiencing God. We reviewed the seven realities of God at work in our lives and discussed what particularly challenged and motivated us spiritually. One person said, "I learned that I don't have to figure everything out." The context was that God will lead us spiritually where He wants us to go. Another said, "I need to be moldable, so that God can work through me." Another said, "We need to see where God is at work around us." And one said, "Let's step out in faith."

These are all true and encouraging statements! I am glad that each person chose to come and that we got to share our learning from Experiencing God together. The next step is putting our learning into action through our Spiritual Disciplines Study. The study will be available on April 29th when this newsletter is published. We will be challenging you through the six week process to not merely learn about what God is doing, but to start living the life that God calls His followers to live.

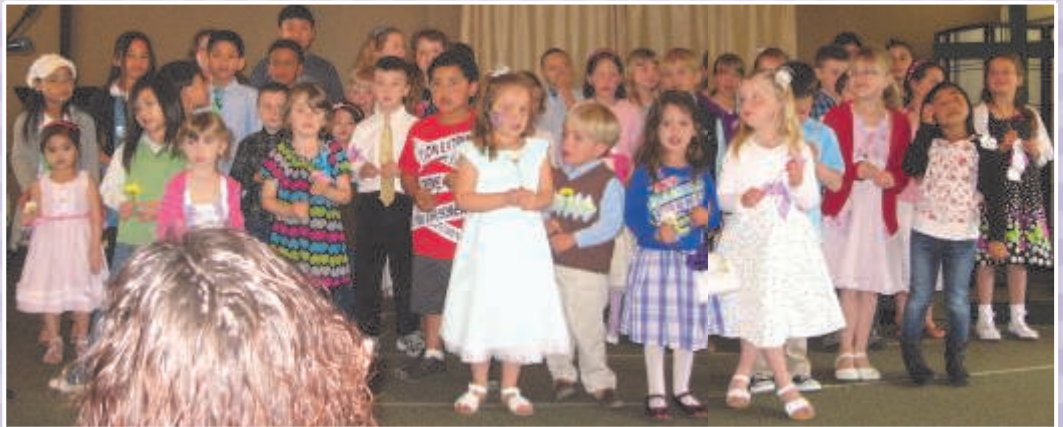


Let me know how I can help you in this process. I believe that you will be blessed by practicing the Spiritual Disciplines over the next six weeks, because God is faithful to meet us when we actively seek after Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

Happy Easter!





This Easter was Amazing!

We had the pleasure of ministering to 43 children! God blessed us with gorgeous weather and the children decorated a Cross with beautiful flowers. It is amazing, how out of the brutality, devastation, and utter despair of what happened on Good Friday, came a beautiful cleansing and restoration of our very souls that put us back into the right relationship with God Himself. I have such a hard time understanding why Jesus chose that death, even though I know the answer. I know it is because He loves not just us, but me! He loves Stacey!

I told the children that we remember Jesus and what He did for us on the cross on Easter. I also told them, we, most importantly, remember how He rose from the dead, just as He said He would. But I also told them to remember this every day. I hope the memories of Easter do not quickly fade with our busy schedules and busy minds. Jesus wants us to celebrate and remember with Him, the Risen Living Savior, every single moment of every single day.

Thanks to all the volunteers - Ina, Lori, Lenny, Phillip, Frances and Jean. God bless you!

Love in Christ,

Stacey



I opened the paper today, and there was a theme that seemed to infect most articles. Negotiations, talks, administration. All unhappy people, with the things they were experiencing. All unfair in their eyes. It was involving everyone from teachers, politicians, students and everyday regular people, just living life.

I'm not sharing this to pick on one group or another, rather, to show the general discontent that surrounds us on a daily basis. What would make most people happy? Truth be told, the number one response would probably be "we get it our way", knowing that would truly be the fair way. Certainly someone would not approve. We are, in general, a people of discontent. I am sure, if we could all slip into a third world country for a day, we would come out of it very appreciative of where God has placed us.

Paul says in Philippians that He has learned to be content in all circumstances whether in want or in plenty. What brings you contentment in your circumstances? Jesus says if your burden is heavy, to take on His yoke and learn from Him - you will find rest for your souls.

As we look at our lives and our children's lives and circumstances, do we teach them to be content or anxious? Children are like sponges, they soak up their surroundings, the emotions spoken or unspoken. They are much wiser than we give them credit for. They may not have the language, rather, you will see the discontent in their behavior. We need to learn from Jesus when He shares in Matthew, when we give Him our fears, concerns, and anxiousness of the unknown. He will give us His peace. We know that we never walk through any circumstances alone. He will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus truly is the best friend you can ever have. Life can be hard at times and very unfair, but we have hope and comfort amidst the crises in our lives. There is an old hymn that has a message that is still right no matter where you find yourself today. It says, turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. That is where we all need to stay focused daily and moment by moment for the contentment we all seek.

Jean

A lit candle in a holder, with the text "TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS" overlaid at the bottom. The candle is lit, and the flame is bright. The background is dark with a subtle pattern. The text is in a stylized, bold font, with "UPON JESUS" in a larger, more prominent font than "TURN YOUR EYES".

TURN YOUR EYES
UPON JESUS



Pastor Jess Ciupek & Pastor Matthew Real



**Ina, Stacey Frances, Jean, Christie,
Edward, Lenny, Phillip, Monica, Leonard**

Teacher Appreciation

We appreciate all of our
dedicated teachers and
recognize the tireless
work that they do.

Thank You !!



**Christy, C. J., Nora, Scott, Kasama, Barton and Heidi
Not Pictured: Eric, Yvonne and Alicia**



Ms. Leonisa



Ms. Sheila ~ Director



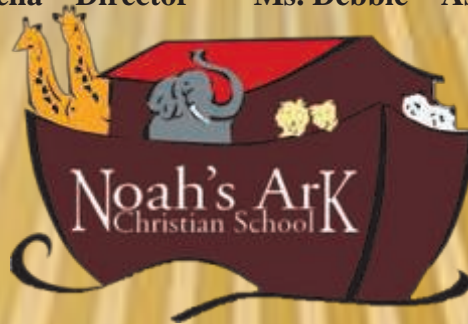
Ms. Debbie ~ Asst. Director



Ms. Jean



Ms. Samantha



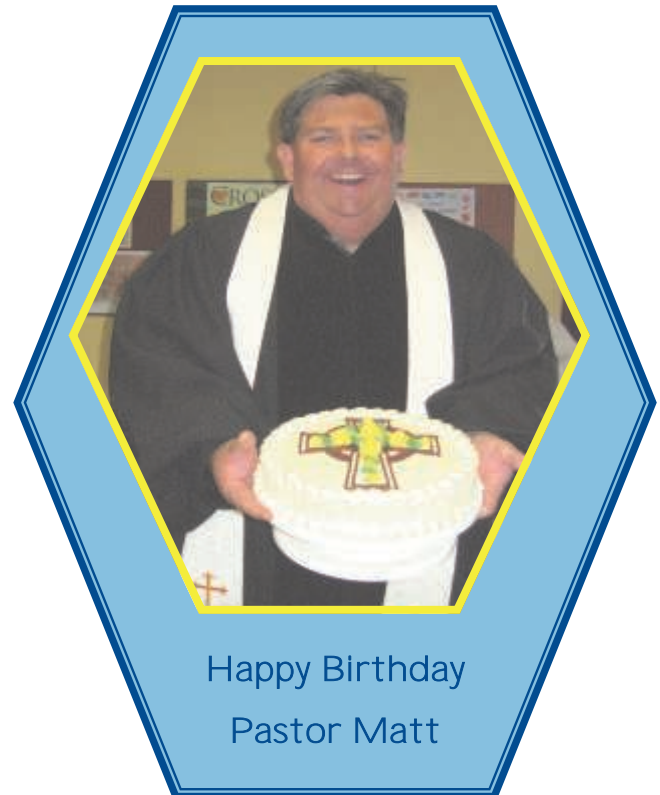
Ms. Stacey



Ms. Jennifer



Ms. Amber



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

June 1st & 2nd, 9:00-3:00

We will be collecting clean and usable items
now through May 31st.

Contact Toni Jo (amcantoni@comcast.net)
or Virginia (vemly1@aol.com) for more info.

The sale will provide funds for our ongoing
Children's Ministries to our community,
including our Vacation Bible School.

An illustration showing a woman in a red dress and a man in a blue shirt working with boxes and a clothing rack. A blue umbrella is also visible.

A logo for the church, featuring a cross with a circular emblem in the center containing a cross and the text "Abundant Life Church".



When we think about God's will for our lives, we often consider a career or major family or financial direction - God has a higher priority. God's will is for us to worship.

We are made for worship. Jesus says in John 4:23, "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and Truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks."

Yes, Jesus calls for obedient followers. He also tells us to pray that laborers be sent into the harvest. But, above these, there's a prior calling; to worship Him in Spirit and Truth. This is our ultimate purpose. When this life is over, when the Lord has returned, when the multitudes are gathered before His Throne, we will know we exist only for worship. But for now, we are missing the point if we focus on service or accomplishments and don't realize the necessity of worship first. With the regular practice of worshipping - we are then continuing out in a world that needs Christ - to worship Him in the very act of telling, loving, helping and healing.

Every workman knows you need the right tool for the right job. Managers know how to assign people the right tasks. But, in our relationship with God, we sometimes miss the point that we are created for His Glory. We find, we are employment misfits in the Kingdom of God, because we do not see our proper role. Above all else, Christians' lives must be characterized by worship.

There is a reason Jesus pointed to our love for God as the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37). It fulfills our purpose. We are designed for worship, and the Father is seeking those who know that.

Pastor Jess



May 19th

Ages 3 - 10

6th Annual Trike - for - Life

Sponsored by
American Canyon Community Church
2 Andrew Rd,
American Canyon
Phone: (707) 644-0576
email:office@amcanchurch.org



Last Day to Register
May 13th

Saturday, May 19th, 2012
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm



*Dr. Scott Ringler
Leader*

All skill levels
are welcome !

Bring a friend
and lets
get fit together !

CROSS FIT



Every Saturday

8:30am-9:00am
for Beginners

9:15am-9:45am
for Intermediates



March - Financial Report

General Giving: \$ 8,604.90
Needed to meet Budget: 10,577.00

Difference: \$ - 1,972.10

Building Relationships for Jesus



Weekly Children's Church at 10:30am

May - Helpers

Kasama
Barton
C. J.



**Openings are available
for Summer and Fall.**



**2 Andrew Rd, American Canyon
(707) 644-6465 or
noahsark94503@yahoo.com**



May 28th ~ MEMORIAL DAY



**American Canyon
Community Church**

2 Andrew Road, American Canyon, CA 94503
(707) 644-0576 ☎ www.amcanchurch.org

Church Office Hours:
8:00am - 11:00am ~ Tuesday & Thursday
Closed on Wednesdays