

Tahoe Community Church

Notes, Announcements, Needs and Reminders

November 2017

Worshiping Together, Making Disciples, Reaching our World



Tahoe Community Church Food Pantry

It's that time of year again, and the Food Pantry is gearing up to give 100-120 Thanksgiving Dinners to those in need through the Food Pantry.

We expect to receive turkeys from Salvation Army again this year, and Catholic Charities is providing hams and bags of food. The bags from Catholic Charities will have some food but will need to have additional items to make a complete Thanksgiving dinner. If you are able, please share your bounty by donating any of the following items:

Stuffing	Butter
Rolls	Chicken Broth
Pies	Can Yams
Mix or can Gravy	Cranberry Sauce
Potatoes	

Everyone is welcome to help us in the set up and distribution! Please join us!

(Please see next column for times)


Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Study Classes
9:30 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up in Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship Time in MPR
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
(Nursery and Children's Church Available)
5:00 p.m. Youth Group in the MPR

Weekly Church Activities

Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study Fellowship at Lakeside upstairs restaurant
8:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering in Sanctuary
3:30 p.m. Awesome Kids
6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice
Thursday 9:00 a.m. Women's Morning Study
5:30 p.m. Women's Evening Study
6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study
Friday 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

Food Pantry Continued

 - Set up will be Monday, November 20, 2017 at 1:00pm in the MPR.
- Distribution will be Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 3:00 in the MPR. Volunteers are asked to be there at 2:00 on Tuesday.

Thank you and God bless you!



Daylight Savings Times Ends

Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 4th, and enjoy the extra hour sleep!



How Do We Know that the Bible is God's Word?

Mondo Gonzales, Pastor

Moses, Jesus of Nazareth, Simon Bar Kochba, Muhammad, Joseph Smith, Jim Jones, David Koresh.... What do all these men have in common? Every one of these men have made claims that they have a unique message from God or have claimed to be the Messiah or one of God's prophets. We could even add to this list all those from the Eastern Religions, but to keep it simple we will stick with these mentioned above. When you have such a variety of beliefs presented by various people, how do we know who really has the Truth? Is it even possible? We might go on to ponder how we are supposed to know which "holy" book is truly from God. For example, we have the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Greek Scriptures (New Testament), the Koran (written around 630 A.D.), and Book of Mormon (ca. 1830 A.D.) along with the other L.D.S. works of the "Pearl of Great Price" and "Doctrine and Covenants" (also ca. 1830).

Has God left us to wonder and hopefully figure it out on our own? The Bible teaches very clearly what we are supposed to look for in discerning which book is from God. We are told in Deuteronomy 18:18-20 that a person who truly was from God would be judged according to whether their words (predictions) came to pass. If their words didn't come to pass then God was not with them and we are not required to obey their words. God takes it up a notch when He mocks all the false religions, gods, and prophets and challenges them to a contest to prove whether there really is more than one god. He says, **"Present your case, says the LORD. Set forth your arguments, says Jacob's (Israel's) King. Bring in gods to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods" (Isaiah 41:21-23; also see Isaiah 42:8-9; 44:7-10; John 13:19).**

God has said that He alone knows what the future holds and He alone will predict the future through His prophets. We are to judge whether the prophets' message came to pass 100% accurately, which would show that he speaks for the only God. Additionally, any book that claims to be from God must also demonstrate its authenticity through prophecy. This is where the Bible stands head and shoulders above every other "holy" book.

How do we Know... (Continued)

According to the Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy there are 1239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 in New Testament. This great percentage of the Bible is boldly claiming that it alone is the Word of God (over 8300 verses). This is an objective standard or test that any "supposed" holy book of God needs to pass. For information on how these very detailed prophecies have been fulfilled, see the above book or Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell.

What about other books? A book by Q.I. Hingora was written in the 1960s highlighting approximately 22 verses that contained prophecies in the Koran (out of 6666 verses). However, upon examination, none of these are prophecies that can be verified today. Most are predictions about the end of the world, which cannot be verified at present. The Bible has some of these too, but hundreds more can be verified historically. Additionally, we are told in the Koran that miracles and prophecies aren't necessary, that we should just believe its words (Sura 29:49-50). I find this unacceptable. If God has spoken, He should be willing to demonstrate it. He has done this hundreds and hundreds of time in the Bible and bids all of us to look at the objective test (Is. 41:21-23).

Lastly, the flyleaf of the Book of Mormon doesn't appeal to prophecy but instead to a subjective experience in verifying whether it is from God. When it does make predictions they end up being false. Joseph Smith predicted in 1832 that a temple would be built in western Missouri by that generation (D&C 84). This never happened and demonstrates that Joseph Smith doesn't measure up to 100% standard in Deuteronomy 18:18-20.

I conclude by saying that the Bible has hundreds of prophecies, which demonstrate that it alone is the word of God. It alone instructs us how we can for sure get to heaven. Jesus said, **"I am the way, the truth, no one comes the Father, except through Me" (John 14:6).** We can be confident that as Jesus told us to repent of our sin and receive Him as the only way to heaven, that if we do this exact thing, from our heart, we can be assured of our eternal destination and relationship with the Almighty God.





Missionary News & Prayer

by Carol Borsos

For more details, and photos on missions, check out the bulletin board in the church lobby.

Mirco & Nada Andreev Macedonia and the Balkins.

- In Macedonia they will celebrate the birth of Christ January 7, 2018. This is because most Macedonians belong to the Orthodox Church and use the Julian' calendar for their festivals.
- Pray for how God will make Himself known during upcoming outreaches and special services in the Evangelical Churches, that Mirco oversees.
- Pray we will receive updates for the many events we prayed for during October.
- Pray for faithfulness of the pastors and their congregations of the many Evangelical Churches in the Balkin Countries, that they grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus Christ and have boldness from God to share the Gospel with friends and neighbors.

Tim and Susan Driscoll Japan Church Planters/currently on USA home assignment

- Continue praying for 10 people to "go" overseas as missionaries either short or long term.
Regarding their road trip and supporting church visits: We are thankful for our reliable car that made it just under 6,000 miles with only having to replace the car battery. We are thankful to visit 3 partner churches, 2 that we weren't able to visit last home assignment. It was good to meet and connect to new pastors at these churches as well. We shared at several worship services, adult Sunday school classes and prayer groups. We were thankful for getting where we needed to go in unfamiliar places. And for God's grace in stressful moments and travel weariness.
We are thankful for a chance to see our family as well and visit our kids at college. They are settling well. We look forward to spending Thanksgiving Day with oldest son, Joel and Kiley. Thank your for praying for our family!!
- Pray for God's providential meetings with Japanese who are here in the USA. Tim loves to reach out to them in conversation about Jesus.
- Continue praying for Saitama Church in Japan. They still do not have a pastor. Tim is seeking out a couple of possibilities. They heard that 2 families are leaving (7 people) = 10% of the church. Not encouraging news. Pray for steadfastness and perseverance for God's Church and His provision.

Missionary News (Continued)

Ryan and Danielle Stauffer Lima, Peru

- Praising our LORD for Lydia Grace who was born October 17th. Everyone is doing well.
- Pray for wisdom, adjustments, and patience with parenting two little girls.
- Pray for sister Adelynn with her baby sister.
- Pray for the Stauffer's marriage to remain strong with Christ as center.
- Pray the Holy Spirit changes the hearts of students at the school, especially the middle and high school.
- Pray for servants hearts for the teachers especially when trials come.
- Pray for unity that comes from Christ.
- Pray for safe travels back to Lake Tahoe for Bob and Jacky Daly on November 7-8, Danielle's parents, after 4 weeks enjoying their family.



New Women's AM Study

The Thursday Morning women's group will be starting a new study on November 9: Margaret Feinberg's "Scouting the divine." This study provides participants with deeper insights into the agrarian world of the Bible to unlock the rich meaning of each passage.

Come join in! Thursday Mornings. 9:00 AM in the MPR

For more information please contact Kathy Pavich, Carol Borsos or Tootie O'Malley.

Women's Thursday PM Study

What would your life be like if you gave all your hopes, doubts, hurts, and dreams to God? Discover how God pursues and cherishes you through a new 10 week Bible study, "Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith", by Julie Clinton. The group meets at 5:30 PM in the MPR. A meal is shared at the start of each weekly session. Please contact Liz Cordero for more information.

Men's Evening Bible Study

The Thursday night men's group is doing a study called "**Behold Your God**" by John Snyder. This study focuses on God's self-revelation in the Bible.

The men gather at 6:00 pm each week. They share a meal, and dive into God's word!



It's Shoebox Time!

By Ted & Karen Beverage

Our 2017 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoebox drive is underway! We began on October 22 and we have already received 9 completed boxes and about 10 empty GO boxes have been taken to be filled.

As you prepare to pack your boxes, please remember that toothpaste and candy are no longer permitted. Also there has been an increase in the shipping cost from \$7 a box to \$9 a box. The \$9 includes "The Greatest Journey" a gospel presentation in the recipient's native language.

Our annual shoebox packing party will be on November 11th at 1:30 pm in the MPR. At this point we have enough items to pack 150 boxes!

There are now 4 ways to contribute to our packing party:

1. Donate \$10 each to Stuff a Box
2. Donate \$9 each to Ship a Box
3. Donate items to fill our boxes (see the list below)
4. Come out and pack boxes with us on November 11th

OCC Gospel Opportunity Boxes (GO Boxes) and donation envelopes are available in the foyer.

This is what we pack into each box

- Spiral notebook, coloring book
- Pens, pencils, crayons
- Pencil sharpener, sticker sheet
- Soap, washcloth
- Tooth brush, comb or brush, hair clips
- Beanie baby, tennis ball, cars or jewelry
- Socks and underwear
- A personal note from the packer to the recipient
- \$9 for shipping and lots of prayer

a weekly preschool

Please continue to pray for Tahoe Community Church to reach a God-sized goal with this mission project.



Two new Babies

1. Lydia Grace Stauffer. Born on October 17th at 8:50 am to Danielle and Ryan Stauffer. The proud grandparents are Bob and Jacky Daly. Lydia weighed 8lbs. 14oz.

2. John and Tina Tugwell became grandparents on the same day. Congratulations to all!

How to Pray for Your Pastor

Editors Note: This article was in an e-mail I received from "The National day of Prayer" organization. Since we have a new Pastor, I thought it appropriate to include it this newsletter.

Every Christ-follower engaged in a local church has a pastor. These followers of Christ should pray for their pastor.

Stand on God's Word When You Pray for Your Pastor

Paul was praying this for the believers in Colossae, and these words can be prayed for your pastor.

"For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light." Colossians 1:9-12

5 Specific Ways to Pray for Your Pastor

Pray for your pastor to be:

1. Filled with the knowledge of God's will

Father, give my pastor the full knowledge of Your will in all things at all times, personally and for our church.

2. Filled with all spiritual wisdom

Heavenly Father, fill my pastor with Your wisdom and perspective about all things in his life, in our church, and in this world.

3. Filled with spiritual understanding

Lord Jesus, fill my pastor with spiritual understanding that will help him put facts and information together biblically, spiritually, and practically.

4. Walk worthy of the Lord

Oh Lord, empower my pastor to walk in a way that would exemplify You to all persons, pleasing You in all ways, and bearing fruit in every way before others.

5. Strengthened with God's power

Oh God, strengthen my pastor with Your power that fills him with spiritual life daily, including the difficult days of life and ministry; and leading him to persevere with joy and thanksgiving.

Pray for your pastor daily.

Ronnie W. Floyd

Senior Pastor, [Cross Church](#)

President, [National Day of Prayer](#)



Yuliya-and-A Puppy A Shoebox Story

The stuffed dog in my shoebox became my new best friend, and I still have it 14 years later.

Yuliya received a shoebox at age 9 in a Central Asian country.

When I lifted the lid on my purple plastic shoebox, the first thing I saw was a stuffed dog. I was filled with exuberant joy! I just remember hugging it. Even though I had toys growing up, the dog was an item you couldn't find in my country. It was really soft and had puppy eyes. It was my new best friend, my newfound treasure.

My second favorite item was bubble gum-flavored toothpaste that came in a pink tube. We didn't know such a thing existed. We would squeeze out a bit the size of the tip of a match so we could get a little bit of flavor and make it last as long as possible. Word traveled fast. My friends would line up in our bathroom and my sister and I would squeeze out a tiny amount on their toothbrushes. I think we made it last about two years.

My third favorite item was an Etch A Sketch. At first we had no idea what it was. We kept pushing down on the buttons and asking, "Why is it not working?" After having it displayed on a shelf for a couple of months, my sister was dusting and she turned the knobs. When she saw the line going up and down on the screen she was so excited. The item we thought was broken was drawing!

The toys were the most important things to me as a 9-year-old but it also stood out that the letter in the box said, "I am praying for you." As time went on, I realized why.

"Here was someone I'd never met ... yet she was still praying for me."

With my shoebox, here was someone I'd never met and never seen, yet she was still praying for me.

We became pen pals and she would always close her letters, "I am praying for you." I always wondered, "Why is she praying for me?" The impact hit me more than seven years later after I became a Christian. She was showing me the love of Christ all along, starting with the shoebox and continuing in her prayers.



A Shoebox Story (Continued)

"She specifically chose that dog for me and wanted to use it to communicate God's love."

The shoebox was a seed. That's how the Lord works. He patiently knocks on the door of our heart and waits until we open the door. Sometimes you see fruit right away and other times it takes years for the seed to grow.

I still have my stuffed dog 14 years later. That's a glimpse of how much the shoebox meant to me because it was packed with love and prayer. It wasn't just any dog. I could tell she specifically chose that dog for me and wanted to use it to communicate God's love.

Editor's Note: So how many shoebox "seeds" will you plant this Year?

Church Financial Changes

By Ted Beverage

We recently made two changes in how we do business at the church.

First, we have ended our contract with "Pushpay" our electronic giving provider. It was not being used enough to be cost effective. Pushpay charged a flat fee of \$120 a month for their services plus financial charges on each transaction.

When we started using Pushpay, they guaranteed that if we did not see a 5% increase in income in the first year, the flat rate would be refunded. Well, we did not see a 5% increase, in fact, our income went down significantly. Therefore I have applied to get out flat rate of \$1,400 refunded. I should be hearing from them soon.

Second, We have canceled our account with Bank of America Merchant Services. This is how we processed credit card payments. It was used mostly for preschool payments. We are now using "Square" to process our credit card payments. They only charge a per transaction fee. This action will save us some money.

We are looking into a method of using "Square" so that we will be able to accept on line contributions. We will keep you informed of that as we go along.

In the Lord's Service,

Ted

Announcements

- **Fellowship Meal:** Our next fellowship meal will be on Sunday November 5th at 12:00 pm in the MPR.

- **Church Business Meeting:** Our next Business meeting will be held on Sunday, November 5th, following the fellowship meal. The topic will be budget and finance.

Scripture Memory Verses for November

- November 5th Psalm 67:4
- November 12th 2 Chronicles 2:5
- November 19th Psalm 139:13
- November 26th Matthew 6:4



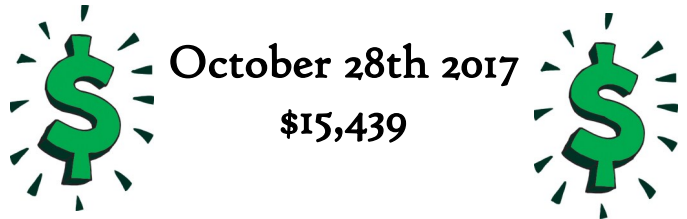
A Thanksgiving Psalm

Psalm 136:1- 4 "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever. Give Thanks to the God of gods; His love endures forever. Give Thanks to the Lord of lords; His love endures forever. To him who alone does great wonders; His love endures forever." Verse 26 "Give thanks to the God of heaven; His love endures forever." Amen!!



Long and Short Term Debt

09/30/97	\$265,035	09/30/09	\$397,864
09/30/01	\$278,828	09/30/10	\$383,690
09/30/02	\$241,864	09/30/11	\$355,488
09/30/03	\$550,917	09/30/12	\$295,593
09/30/04	\$521,707	09/30/13	\$212,440
09/30/05	\$516,005	09/30/14	\$128,343
09/30/06	\$450,399	09/30/15	\$107,830
09/30/07	\$395,653	09/30/16	\$ 57,725
09/30/08	\$391,909	09/30/17	\$ 26,819



Here to Serve You:

Elders: Jeff Brumbach, Bob Daly, Mondo Gonzales, Leonard O'Malley

Deacons/Deaconesses: Susie Brumbach, Jacky Daly, Jerry Klosterboer, Bob Pavich, Kathy Pavich, Tootie O'Malley, Suzette Waite, Ted Beverage

Church Staff: Mondo Gonzales, Pastor; Ted Beverage, Music Director

Preschool Staff: Sarah Tran, Director/Teacher. Teachers: Lauren Marshall, Monique Doyle

Teacher Assistants: Kamala Clark, Annie Preciado, Theresa DeGraffenreid. Office Manager: Thomas Tran

IN GOD WE TRUST



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