

# First Edition



## October 2017

First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

## An October Opportunity Is Yours

By Pastor Marc Heinz

On October 11th the Mid-Week Bible Study will resume. This year we will be studying 1 Samuel. I am eager to see how the Lord will use this powerful book to help us grow deeper in our knowledge and love of Him. I hope you will join us as we work our way through this insightful, relevant, and timeless section of Scripture!

Recently, as I began reading through the first eight chapters in preparation for our study, I was reminded how quickly and easily God's people turned away from following wholeheartedly after the Lord. Seemingly overnight they adopted foreign gods and were worshipping them. And it is clear that the Israelites were strongly attracted to the worship of Baal and Ashtaroth, so they erected local high places where sexually oriented and highly charged cult rituals could be practiced.

Tragically, this depraved worship quickly spread, and resulted in Israel's breaking of many of God's commandments including the commandment to have no other gods before Him. Now you need to understand that this way of life was in total opposition to everything Israel should have stood for as the people of God. As God's chosen people they should have known better! Yet, they chose to leave God out of their plans, and as a result they stumbled and fell bringing tremendous suffering on themselves, their children, and their nation.

The first commandment is: *"You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in*

*heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."*

Exodus 20:3-5.

A simple or basic definition of an idol would be that an idol is anyone or anything that takes your focus away from God. Scripture makes it clear that our loyalty and love must first and foremost be given to Him. God must be our #1 priority. While we may not be tempted to worship stone or metal gods, or participate in weird cult rituals, don't be fooled into thinking that you are living in a world devoid of false gods or false worship. Quite the contrary, our world is not a godless world but rather a world that worships that which is false. And when people become enslaved to the worship of these kinds of things, they are dehumanized and destroyed just as quickly as Israel and her neighbor's were.

Now the reality is that we are actually living in a world that is far more driven by idolatry and sensuality than the one the Israelites faced. But the "false gods" and idols that are worshiped today have different names. And may include the worship of things like: self, power, relationships, career, possessions, hobbies, addictive substances, money, beauty, sports, politics, clothing, leisure activities, pornography, television, and on and on it goes.

If you really think about it, it is obvious that we are living in a world that for the most part has lost its bearings because it has abandoned God and it worships the creature rather than the Creator. It is a world that promises personal fulfillment but actually destroys the indi-

vidual because it is based on a distorted anthropology that says material things are more important than people

Studying this portion of scripture caused me to ask "How could someone ever turn away from worshipping the One, true living God, in order to turn to that which is false?" I also wondered why Israel's relationship with God had grown so cold. What happened? More importantly, I was compelled to ask myself: "What must I do to insure that something like that never happens to me or to the ones I love?"

Fortunately, Samuel gave God's people the key to victory. He declared that repentance from idolatry and loyalty toward God are the prerequisites for blessing. Therefore, we must be singularly minded and focused on God and His Word. Folks, we need to allow God to set the pace and the priorities in our lives! We also need to be alert and diligent so that the world will be unable to squeeze us into its mold.

We please the Lord when we maintain an exclusive, loyal relationship to Him. And you know what? God not only demands that He be the priority of our lives.... He deserves to be our #1 priority! God and God alone is the One to whom all praise, honor, worship and glory is due!

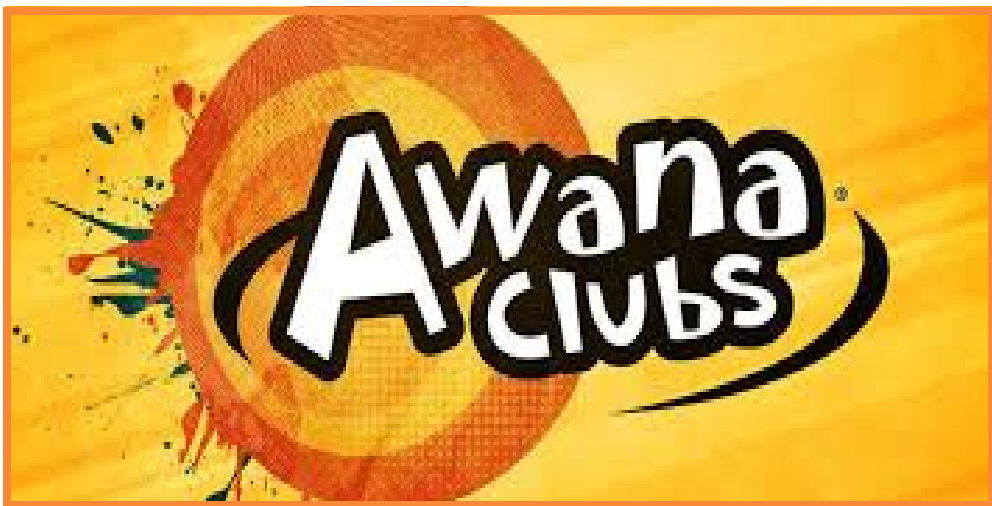
So what about you? Any idols? Anything you need to change? Saint's, its never too late to stop where you are and regroup, and then move forward in the strength and power of Almighty God.

As I said earlier, this is a very helpful and practical book! I hope you will join us this Fall, as together we learn how to live more faithfully and fully for the Lord!

# Good News!

## October 4th

*Do you like to sing?  
It's time for you to  
join.*



### **GOD'S AMAZING BLESSING**, By Cathy Thomas

The Lord is truly blessing the ministry here at Awana this year. We have grown in numbers as we have 93 children and youth attending on Wednesday evenings.

If you enjoy working with children, this just may be the place for you!

It is wonderful to come alongside the children as they hear Bible Stories and/or Stories of Great Christians and/or participate in Bible Study, depending on their age group. The children also worship the Lord in song, spend time in memorizing and reciting Bible Verses, and engage in fun and active games.

We still have a number of needs. **We need leaders to help in our Cubbies and Sparks Clubs, with 20+ and 33 children respectively in those clubs. We need someone who could lead music and worship in our Sparks and T and T Clubs, and we need a Club Secretary to help with record keeping.**

If you think that God is calling you to be with us each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00, we would welcome your assistance. Please contact Ron or Cathy Thomas or email us at [awanaronthomas@yahoo.com](mailto:awanaronthomas@yahoo.com)

***"Call to Me and  
I will answer  
you, and will tell  
you great and  
hidden things  
which you do  
not know."  
Jeremiah 33:3***

### **Special offerings**

for the month of October will go toward funding the Harvest Festival Outreach, covering such needs as the petting zoo. Also needed, of course, are lots of people available to provide help with all the various activities.

**All are needed to help!**



**First Baptist  
Church of  
San Mateo**



**Fun  
Activities  
for the  
Whole  
Family**



**ALL FREE!**

[fbcsanmateo.org](http://fbcsanmateo.org)

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**



**OCTOBER 31, 4-6 PM**



# First Baptist Church of San Mateo

28th Ave & Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA  
650-345-1965 - [FBCSanMateo.org](http://FBCSanMateo.org)



Free Fun for the Whole Family

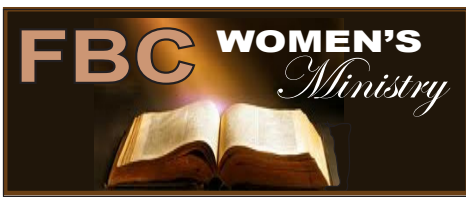
**Pony Rides, Petting Zoo, Children's Show,  
Jumpy House, Carnival Games, Video Games,  
Face Painting, Crazy Maze, Crafts, Cupcake  
Walk, Family Pictures, Food, Candy, Raffle  
Prizes and more.**

**Come be our guest...**

**ALL FREE!!!**







## Women's Ministry News

By Sandy Murray

Fall has officially arrived and the Women's Ministry is in the planning stages for the 2017-2018 season. As we seek the Lord's guidance in planning events for the ladies of FBC, we always keep our vision statement in mind. It begins with the following: "Our vision is that all who participate in this ministry will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18 NASB) and that they will encourage their family and friends to do likewise." With that in mind, we are looking forward to the following events this year.

We are planning a Christmas Tea on December 16th in the chapel. It will be an outreach, so we are hoping you will invite your family and friends. Please save the date and be in prayer as to whom you might invite. If you have daughters in the Sunday School or youth programs we would like to encourage you to invite them as well.

We are in the planning stages for a Women's Retreat most likely in the spring. As soon as we know more about this, we will get the information out to you.

Finally, we have been invited to attend an event at Grace Bible Church on May 19, 2018. This will feature Cynthia Heald, a well known Bible teacher and author of many Bible studies. Please save that date as well. We have attended events with her in the past and they have always been a blessing.

We will be continuing with our Bible Study this year. We will be studying the Old Testament Book of 1 Samuel. The study begins on October 11th. Please come and invite your friends. God has really blessed our time together studying His Word.

If you have any ideas that the Lord has laid on your heart for Women's Ministry please feel free to talk to any of the Leadership team or myself. We love to hear from you.

## OUR MISSIONARIES AT WORK

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We are always thanking the Lord for you!

As we have mentioned before, Sacramento State University has many students from India. We met many of them outside the International Students Orientation, gave them a Welcome Gift and invited them to our activities. Our regular Thursday Talk Time meeting has had 17 students from India visit! This past Saturday, we held our annual Golf Day and several Indian students joined us. On Thursday night this week, we will have our first South Asian Social of the semester. The South Asian Social will have food prepared by local families from India who attend churches in our area.



- Please pray for friendships to be made between the families and the students.
- Pray that the students from India will continue to come to our activities.
- Pray their hearts will be drawn to Christ, and pray they will come to our Fall Camp October 13-15th. We are praying for at least 30 students to come to Fall Camp.



Bible study. ● Please pray for Sonia to be used by the Lord in powerful ways.

Audrey is meeting with Sonia weekly for discipleship. Sonia is from India and was formerly a Sikh before her aunt led her to Christ. We first met Sonia at the South Asian Social at the end of last school year. Since then she has faithfully come to our Friday night Leaders Meetings. She often comes early to help set up for the meeting. Audrey has been able to help her have assurance of her salvation and help her grow in Christ. Sonia has a heart to reach out to other students and is interested in starting a

Thank you again for your faithful support!  
Alan and Audrey Dianich



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**FRIDAY  
October 27,  
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.**

**Popcorn, hotdogs,  
and drinks are  
provided.**

**Please bring a  
dessert or  
salad to share**

**Movie begins at  
7:00 P.M.**

What is prayer? The youth in CAD/TNT can tell you. It's being with God. The most common answer people will give is "Talking to God". Some will say "communicating with God" which is better because it implies a two way conversation as it should be. Listening for a response from our Creator while praying is always desirable, but as we know, it doesn't always come. One reason is our impatience. We are in a hurry and not willing to wait. Another is distractions that come in many forms. Outside noise, electronic devices, the ever present busyness in our minds and so on. Solitude and silence is golden in personal prayer time.

Another thing the students have been learning and is very applicable to all of us is found in a book by Kenneth Boa called "Face to Face, Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship". In it, he guides us through the process of praying Scripture back to God. It enables us to think God's thoughts after Him and to personalize them in our thinking and practice. It also provides us with a balanced prayer experience. Boa uses eight forms seen in The Lords Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13). They are adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, thanksgiving, and closing prayer

For myself, adoration is a must. It sets my mind on to Whom, exactly, I am praying. Jeremiah 32:17: "*Lord God! behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is to difficult for you.*" This is The Almighty God to Whom I am Praying and growing my personal relationship with through prayer. We are so, so fortunate to have a God who wants this relationship with us. Praise the Lord! He is truly amazing.

The next part, confession, is one most of us forget to do or choose to skip for many reasons. Either we think we don't sin, which is impossible because of our sin nature. Or we might be afraid of the consequences of our sin and think if we don't tell Him we might get away with it, which is also impossible. For what ever the reason, it is important to confess so

that we don't create separation from our Heavenly Father.

Renewal is next and is also a neglected part of prayer. "*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*" The necessity of renewal as we face the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil. Please Lord deliver us as we cannot do it without You.

Petition and intercession we seem to be the best at. Asking God things for ourselves and others. I think this part requires more thought than we normally give it. First our requests have to be in His will. Our motivation in our prayer asking is huge. We should examine our motivation carefully to see if it is His will or our selfish wishful desires. Every thing we ask should be for our Great God's glory.

The principle of affirmation is agreeing with God's will and submitting to it. "*Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*". Simple to say, hard to do, we will keep working on it. Agreed?

The next part is the easiest at least for me. Thanksgiving goes hand in hand with the first part, "adoration". There are uncountable reasons to thank the LORD. Life itself, how He keeps our heart beating until He decides to stop it. His breath that becomes ours, His never ending love and faithfulness. Eternal hope, strength, example for life here on earth and on and on and on.

The closing prayer is where it really takes off. You apply all the other parts into your heart and mind and let the Holy Spirit lead you into a fulfilling "Time with God". That will leave you with a peace beyond all understanding.

Of course how you pray is completely between you and God. I have found this method in one form or another to be very helpful. We all know that prayer is important but making the time to actually do it is just as important and so, so rewarding.

We have an "Awesome God", not just a song but a fact. As in many times before while I am preparing for a class or writing an article such as this His giving nature comes out. It

has been on my heart to write something for "First Edition" for a couple of months now. I just didn't know the subject.

So He used a suggestion from Pastor Marc to give me the subject: "Prayer", something that is near and dear to my heart. His giving didn't stop there, while praying and prepping, His word and more than one devotional talked about, you guessed it: "Prayer!" I would like to share part of one with you.

From "Experiencing God Day by Day" by Henry and Richard Blackaby. Sept. 13. "Prayer is Preparation":

'Prayer does not give you spiritual power. Prayer aligns your life with God so that so that He chooses to demonstrate His power through you. The purpose of prayer is not to convince God to change your circumstances but to prepare you to be involved in God's activity.

"The fervent prayer of the people at Pentecost did not induce the Holy Spirit to come upon them. Prayer brought them to a place where they were ready to participate in the mighty work God had already planned.

"Prayer is designed to adjust you to God's will not to adjust God to your will. If God has not responded to what you are praying you may need to adjust your praying to align with God's agenda. Rather than focusing on what you would like to see happen, realize that God may be more concerned with what He wants to see happen in you."

Just a word about corporate prayer or praying out loud with others. Many people are afraid to do this and won't. First of all God's word tells us 365 times "Do not be afraid." When you pray with others it develops a unity among His believers. It also opens your heart to the concerns of your brothers and sisters. It provides perspectives other than your own. There are many other positive reasons for corporate prayer, so step out and do it.

I would like to close with a prayer. "Oh Lord God, thank You that You desire to hear our prayers. AMEN."

HIS child, Clay



# FBC Youth

## October Youth Regular Events:

### FBC YOUTH Service- Sunday Mornings 11:00 - 12:15

**pm** Games, fun, worship, and our next teaching direction for our Sunday youth group meeting is going to focus on Exploring God's word and integrating knowing Christ into our daily lives.

### College/Career Fellowship - Sundays 12:30-2:00 pm

**Part 3 of our "True University Series" - Who is Jesus?** As always, we have great discussions together about the topic we are discussing but are relating it to our own personal relationship in knowing Jesus. Lunch provided. (Note: No College Group on Oct 29th because of other Harvest Set-up)

### FBC YOUTH Mid-Week - Combined CAD and TNT (High/Jr. High) - Tuesday Nights 7:15 - 9:00 pm

Our teaching direction for our mid-week youth group meeting focusing on "Walking with the Lord" in our lives.

## October Youth Special Events:

### Maze Night - Tuesday, October 17 @ 4:00 - 8:00pm

Come join us for a night of FALL FUN in Half Moon Bay. We'll meet here at church and head over to the Arata Farm's Hay Maze, have some pizza and come back. Cost: \$15. Contact Doug for more info.

### October 31st Game Night - Tuesday, October 31 @ 7:30 - 9:30 pm

After Harvest Festival, we'll be having our annual FUN Game Night!!! Fun Costume contest, Candy, Pizza, and all the run-around-the-church games you can handle!!! Bring your friends and have fun with us instead of all the craziness of Halloween.



**Men's Breakfast**  
**Oct. 7, 8:30 am**  
**In the Chapel**  
**ALL MEN are welcome.**



Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available.

Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.

The office staff will order your bouquet to be delivered -- so convenient, and so appreciated by your loved ones.

"Trust in the  
LORD with all  
your heart  
And do not lean  
on your own  
understanding.  
In all your ways  
acknowledge Him,  
And He will  
make your paths  
straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6



# October 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1  <b>Communion</b>	2	3	4 6:30-8:30 pm Choir Kick-off 6:30pm AWANA	5	6	7 8:30am Men's Breakfast	
8  Sign-ups for Harvest Festival Begin	9	10 7:15 FBC Youth	11 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	12	13	14	
15	16 Columbus Day	17 FBC Youth	18 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	19	20	21	
22	23	24 7:15 FBC Youth	25 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	26	27 6:30pm Movie Night Dinner Movie begins at 7pm.	28	
29  12:30 p.m. Work Day	30	31  4-6 p.m. Harvest Festival	<b>SUNDAY MORNINGS:</b> 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship After Church: College/Career Study & Fellowship				<b>All Events Are            Subject to            Change.</b>





First Baptist Church  
2801 Alameda de las Pulgas  
San Mateo, California 94403

## Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) for our use.

### October

Sun.	01	Habakkuk 1-3
Mon.	02	Zephaniah 1-3
Tues.	03	Haggai 1-2
Wed.	04	Zechariah 1-3
Thurs.	05	Zechariah 4-6
Fri.	06	Zechariah 7-10
Sat.	07	Zechariah 11-14
Sun.	08	Malachi 1-2
Mon.	09	Malachi 3-4
Tues.	10	Matthew 1-3
Wed.	11	Matthew 4-6
Thurs.	12	Matthew 7-9
Fri.	13	Matthew 10-12
Sat.	14	Matthew 13-15
Sun.	15	Matthew 16-18
Mon.	16	Matthew 19-21
Tues.	17	Matthew 22-24
Wed.	18	Matthew 25-28
Thurs.	19	Mark 1-3
Fri.	20	Mark 4-6
Sat.	21	Mark 7-9
Sun.	22	Mark 10-12
Mon.	23	Mark 13-16
Tues.	24	Luke 1-3
Wed.	25	Luke 4-6
Thurs.	26	Luke 7-9
Fri.	27	Luke 10-12
Sat.	28	Luke 13-15
Sun.	29	Luke 16-18
Mon.	30	Luke 19-21
Tues.	31	Luke 22-24

## *A Beautiful Prayer*

*“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

**(Jude 24-25)**