

FIRST EDITION

Newsletter of First Baptist Church, San Mateo

SEPTEMBER 2019

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THE PRIMACY OF THE WORD

Pastor Marc Heinz

A number of years ago I decided to read through the entire Bible during the summer months. More clearly than ever before I could see that the Bible was not simply a collection of stories, but rather a comprehensive guide to daily living. In the Bible everything fits together, from Genesis to Revelation. At times it all seems so clear and easy to understand. Other times when I look closely at a passage things cease to be clear.

Over the years I have discovered that passages of scripture which seemed clear from a distance are not so clear when I study them more fully. At times it would seem that the harder I look, the more difficult it becomes to understand. Has that ever happened to you? It's not always easy to understand God's Word is it? I find that understanding God's Word isn't the only tough part... the really tough part is applying what God has said to my daily life.

Understanding and applying God's Word is not easy! It demands commitment. It demands discipline. It's hard work and it takes time. Yet, it is God's desire that each of us be continually growing in our love and knowledge of Him, and one of the key ways to do that is through the study of His Word.

Webster's College Dictionary defines the word *study* as: "the application of the mind to the acquisition of knowledge as by reading, investigation, or reflection." I find that this definition is both insightful and helpful, because it reminds me that it is only through the application of all three of these elements can I effectively study and find Biblically founded solutions to the issues which I face in my daily life.

While learning to understand and apply God's truth may not always be easy, it is always worthwhile! Remember that God's Word is not only active and living, but it is powerful! Therefore if you want your life to be all that it can be, if you want to be growing in your personal relationship with the Lord, make spending time with God a daily priority. It all begins by going back to the basics of studying God's Word. Allow God to teach you and mold you through His Word! May God bless you as you spend time in His Word!

The first night of Awana was on September 4th. This Wednesday night program runs from 6:30-8:00 PM.

Awana Clubs provides an opportunity for children to: hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and learn how the Bible applies to their daily lives, listen to Bible stories and/or stories of great Christian leaders to inspire and encourage them to walk in obedience and faith in Jesus Christ, learn the Word of God through memorization and recitation of key verses, fellowship with others through activities and games.

The Awana Clubs offered this year will be:

- Cubbies: Three to five year olds
- Sparks: Grades K-2 (5 to 7 years old)
- Truth & Training: Grades 3-6 (9 to 11 years old)
- Trek/Journey: Junior High/High School (12 to 18 years old)

At Awana the children come each week excited to participate in all the activities. Many of the children come from church homes where they are being encouraged to memorize the Word and to become servants of the Lord. Others come from all kinds of backgrounds, some even hearing the gospel for the first time!

We are always in need of leaders to help with this ministry. We are looking for dedicated Christian men and women who love the Lord and love to serve Him in a ministry with children. This involves a weekly commitment of time with the children. It does not involve preparation time. Leaders encourage the children to be attentive during story time and participate in singing. They listen to the children recite verses and help them participate in game time. We have an application process for all potential workers (some checking of references) and we provide training. If you are interested or need more information, contact Ron Thomas at awanaronthomas@yahoo.com.

Choir Returns

*Wednesday, September 25
7:00 pm*

Worship Retreat

*Friday & Saturday,
September 27-28*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, here at First Baptist Church we all know how important communication is in building a meaningful relationship. I do believe we all desire to grow our relationship with our loving God. The primary way we do that is through prayer. Hopefully, we all do that privately, but another way to pray is corporately, with a group of fellow believers in the church. The power of prayer is undeniable. When we pray together, I believe Jesus is pleased.

Every Sunday after second service, we meet for prayer from 12:15 to 12:30 in room 250. It is sad that very few take advantage of this opportunity. It's only a few minutes that can change peoples lives, the world we live in, and so much more. Please come and be part of a powerful time of prayer. I will be praying for you. God bless.

Hard to believe that summer is almost over. It has been a good time of rest and also much growth. The Lord had us spend time together and most importantly WITH Him. As we started the summer off at Hume Lake Christian Camp, the Lord directed our focus to spending time with Himself and His word. This year at camp, God had us really examine Who Jesus is and if we are truly following Him. Many times we can just follow the crowd, the culture, or even our own wants and desires. But Jesus calls us distinctly to know, love, and follow. He is worthy of everything we have. And though it may seem like the cost is high, it's not compared to what He gives.

From there we had our Summer Ignite Event. This was an event like our youth VBS/Off Campus events in the past. Team competition, games, worship,

teaching and small groups, but with one very important addition: significant time alone with God. We challenged our youth to put away their devices, get alone with God and His Word, and see what He would say to them and do in their hearts. Our focus this year was to introduce them to pursuing intimacy with God in their everyday life. It was a powerful time together.

In addition, this summer we've had our regular meetings on Sunday and Tuesdays, we've also been meeting for coffee and Bible study on Fridays at Starbucks. Along with summer fun special events (bowling, fireworks, laser tag, escape room, and more). Now that summer is coming to a close, we are looking forward to our fall events where we will continue bond together and grow in Christ.

WEEKLY YOUTH EVENTS

- Youth Service: Sundays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm
- College/Young Adult Fellowship: Alt. Sundays, 12:30-2:00 pm
- Youth Group: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm

UPCOMING FALL YOUTH SPECIAL EVENTS

New Fall Youth Group Series: The Big Questions in Life

These last few weeks we've been examining our call to be ambassadors for Christ and what that really means. We are preparing to do a fall outreach to our local youth and invite them to our fall series asking the "Big Questions" of life. This Tuesday night series will be an excellent time of asking and examining the hard questions of life from a scientific and philosophical perspective as well as the Biblical account. For those teens who know Jesus, this will deepen their faith and equip them to handle the tough questions they have and other people ask. For teens who don't come to church, this series is a great introduction to Christianity.

Maze Night: Tuesday, October 1, 4:00-8:00 pm, \$15

Join us for a night of FALL FUN in Half Moon Bay. We'll meet at church and head over to the Arata Farm's Hay Maze, have some pizza and come back. Great event for new kids.

Questions about any of these events? Contact Doug Andrews!



MEN'S MINISTRY

CLAY MINTER

October 4–6, FBC's Men's Ministry is heading to Mount Hermon's Fall Men's Retreat. We'll enjoy a time of bonding in the peaceful, refreshing setting of Mount Hermon. Be challenged by, and grow in the Lord with, brothers in Christ who are walking journeys similar to yours.

To secure your space, register now! Sign up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Clay Minter at 650-274-1443 or clayminter11@yahoo.com. You will also find more information about the retreat at mounthermon.org.

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 1 John Arnot

Sept. 22 Garrett Smith

Sept. 30 Leo Dufficy

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SANDY MURRAY

We're so grateful to the whole church body for making our recent garage sale and car wash such a success. Together, we raised over \$800, which will go to FBC's Women's Ministry, Teen Challenge, and other ministries as determined by prayer. We're also grateful for the wonderful times of fellowship that we had as we worked together.

WORD OF THE MONTH: FAITH

πίστις *pistis*

(from 3982/peithô, "persuade, be persuaded") – properly, persuasion (be persuaded, come to trust); faith.

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:6

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."



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