



# THE FOUNTAIN

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



## Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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[www.thefountaincc.org](http://www.thefountaincc.org)

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## Genesis 8:22

*“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”*

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# BIRTHDAY LESSONS

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Sam Sears

I'll be turning 38 this month. This will make a great excuse to eat some extra carbs of my choice and enjoy some extra family time. There isn't a birthday cake or a party, and while I get a gift here or there, I'm long past the pile of treasures kids can sometimes receive at a birthday party. I've grown since those years, and not just in size. Then, I was more focused on the gift than the givers of those gifts. I now appreciate time spent with family and friends more than an item received, but part of that growth has been tied to some of those gifts and how I responded to them.

It happened more than once: I got a gift that I didn't like. All kids must learn how to politely respond when this happens. Clothes were a fact of life, but when I got a toy of some sort, my hopes were higher. There were a ton of action figures and characters that I liked, but even if it was something I liked, I might be ungrateful because something even grander had captivated my imagination. I can recall getting an Etch-a-Sketch, which my kids today might think of as some sort of ancient artifact, and that is the earliest memory I have of receiving a gift poorly.

When I was around 4, my mom would occasionally take me to the small gas station and convenience store where she worked. One of the owners of the shop once gifted me an Etch-a-Sketch. I didn't dislike it, but when I said, "Maybe I can leave it here so I can have something to play with here," I didn't see any hurt in the giver's eyes, but my mom would later tell me it was there. I had meant that the place was boring, but reflecting on it now, even *that* was unkind. I wasn't thankful that they were paying mom and allowing her to bring me there for a few hours from time to time as my parents switched shifts to make sure food was on the table and I was being watched. Addie was that giver's name; she thought of me when she didn't have to. I was squarely thinking of myself, and how I could have been somewhere else doing something more fun.

My aunt once purchased for me what she thought was a great create your own monster truck playset. I recall being really excited about it when I first saw the package. I didn't even wait until I got home to start tearing out the pieces, only to discover that it was a refill kit which required some more expensive tool. It was an odd take on a boy-themed "easy bake oven" to forge your own unique monster trucks. I announced

my discovery loudly in front of my dear aunt. I could see the confusion and hurt in her eyes. She didn't buy what she thought she had, and I wasn't thankful for the time she spent looking for something just for me. I was just disappointed that my initial expectations, because of the box art, weren't going to be met.

Even when I loved the gift and said thank you, I didn't always take care of the gift itself. While I would blame my neighbor at the time, it was ultimately me who left the Nintendo Game Boy my parents bought me, outside, in a crayon box, to get ruined in the rain. I was convinced that we had a cool hiding place to hang out together when we played outside, and I was stashing it there as a treasure. I was not thinking of its value or if it was truly safe there. Once I realized that I had left it in the rain, I discovered it was broken, the plastic crayon box was not leak-proof, and rain had poured down and soaked the Gameboy. For my poor parents, it was expensive. I learned a hard lesson: It wasn't replaced, even though I had only had it a few weeks. I was careless, and so no one "came to the rescue," and I had to do without and do better the next time. It's a story I tell my son often when I see him being careless with his own portable Nintendo system — now a switch that's even more expensive than my Gameboy was back then.

My poor reception of gifts came to a head when my mother had reconnected with her estranged dad and his new wife. She was the product of divorce before divorce was common, especially in the rural bible belt and she wanted to connect me with her dad. I was given an X-men action figure for a birthday, a Wolverine in a space suit to be precise. I at least muttered a "thanks" before saying, "But I already have one."

My mother had told me many times before, but this time, she really got into my head. Once we were in the car home, she told me that they didn't owe me anything, they didn't have to get me anything, and what I was to be thankful for, was not the gift itself, but the time and thought they had put into it. She reminded me how they were fairly new in our lives, and yet they remembered what my current favorite cartoon was. They had taken the time to listen to me and tried to get something I would like. My mom was very clear: my words hurt them, and showed everyone that I was ungrateful. That reflected on me, not them.

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# BIRTHDAY LESSONS

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Sam Sears

Sometimes I defended my harsh statements by saying that I was simply telling the truth. I was recently reconfronted with this error as an adult. As part of my DHF pastor's zoom study group, we are reading Lois Tverberg's *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus*, and the author ties this kind of action with the Jewish concept of Lashon Hara, an evil tongue. While we typically think of it as telling lies, it is often used for "the practice of telling negative truths about others that are unnecessary and damaging." (Tverberg pg. 96) So, what if I had one already? That wasn't the point. So what if I didn't even like it? That wasn't the point. I should have kept those thoughts to myself. James 3 warns of the dangers of the tongue, and from my ungrateful heart, I poured out hurtful and unnecessary words demonstrating the truths James was warning us about.

Much of how we respond to others depends on our outlook. Our preconceptions color the way we see their actions, and unless we actively pause and remind ourselves of what really matters, we may respond selfishly, even to the kind acts of those around us if we don't have all the information and if our focus is on our

experience and pleasure, rather than on thankfulness and others. Maybe it's not a birthday gift, but words intended as a compliment that got fumbled, a phone call that just happens to land at the wrong time, a compromise that we don't know how much it's costing in terms of time or effort. Because relationships matter, I'm going to pray that God controls my tongue and helps me to see the heart and intention, rather than a mere snapshot at the moment, and each birthday I have reminds me of my past failures, when I have carelessly been ungrateful towards people I love and calls me to respond better now.

Words spoken reveal a heart issue. Luke 6:45 says, "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart." As you reflect on your own years gone by, I hope you can see God changing your heart by the evidence of how you speak to others, I know I do, and I am thankful He is continuing to transform me, because I still need it!



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## STAFF APPRECIATION

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Tom Lewis

October is national Minister Appreciation Month in honor of those who dedicate their lives in service to others. The Personnel Committee will again be gathering funds donated by the congregation in appreciation of our dedicated staff who at various times are working hard at various church activities or are organizing and coordinating volunteers to enrich your experience at The Fountain and help deepen your understanding of God's word and how it enriches your life.

From the money that is collected we will present a check to Pastor Sam, Associate Pastor Carrie, Music Leader Chuck, Next Gen Pastor Romy, and our

office manager Sheila on Thanksgiving Sunday service, November 20th.

Thank you so much for your generosity in thanking them for their tireless work in furthering the kingdom of God and our Lord Jesus Christ here at The Fountain Christian Church in Visalia and beyond.

Cash gifts may be put in envelopes and marked STAFF APPRECIATION. Checks and online gifts should be marked STAFF APPRECIATION. Please submit all gifts by Sunday November 13, 2022.

The Personnel Committee

# THE POWER OF UNITY

Romy Sagastume

The crispy fall leaves, the cooler weather and pumpkin spice everything is a wonderful reminder of our Fall Festival. As I look back on last year's festival, I am reminded that we aren't just a church but the body of Christ Jesus. The power of unity and love over our lives. A helping hand, a smile, a hug followed by words of encouragement. The sound of laughter, the sight of unity, our community in one accord with our church. Our church, God loving people willing to be the light. I heard so many testimonies of how our Fall Festival had provided a safe fun filled night to many families. Kids eagerly playing games to win candy and parents enjoying some delicious food.



As I planned last year's event my goal was to show the love of Christ to those around us. It's not always about preaching the gospel rather I believe it is far greater to live the gospel. So many families around us that could be going through terrible circumstances and all they may need is to feel love and hope. I went into it willing to give, praying to be a vessel of glory, of love and hope. Never did I think how much I would need that. Living through the hardest circumstance in my life, I look back on that day remembering how our church members were just that, love and hope to my life.



I am so grateful for this family, for this body in Christ. Last year was great and I know this year will be even better. Let's come together church and do it again. This year we are incorporating new attractions. We will be having more carnival games, a pony ride and our first ever "Pie In The Pastor's Face". Pastor Sam, Pastor Carrie and myself have very kindly volunteered to be "pied in the face" to help raise money for a Mission called Hebrews 13:3. The Bible says in Hebrews 13:3 "Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies". Mission Hebrews 13:3 is based in Tijuana Mexico. Their goal is to live out scripture. For over fifteen years, this mission has helped minister to the sick, drug addicted, and homeless. Their rehab center provides food, shelter, and medicine to those in need. I have been blessed to read all the stories of those that have come to Christ through this mission. We are unaware of the hardships of those around us. Let's shine for Jesus. We did it last year, we showed Jesus, let's do it again!!



## FALL FESTIVAL SPONSORS NEEDED



\$300



\$200

Would you or your company like to sponsor an attraction for our Fall Festival?

\$200

\$350



INFLATABLE TARGET



**Contact Romy to be a sponsor!**

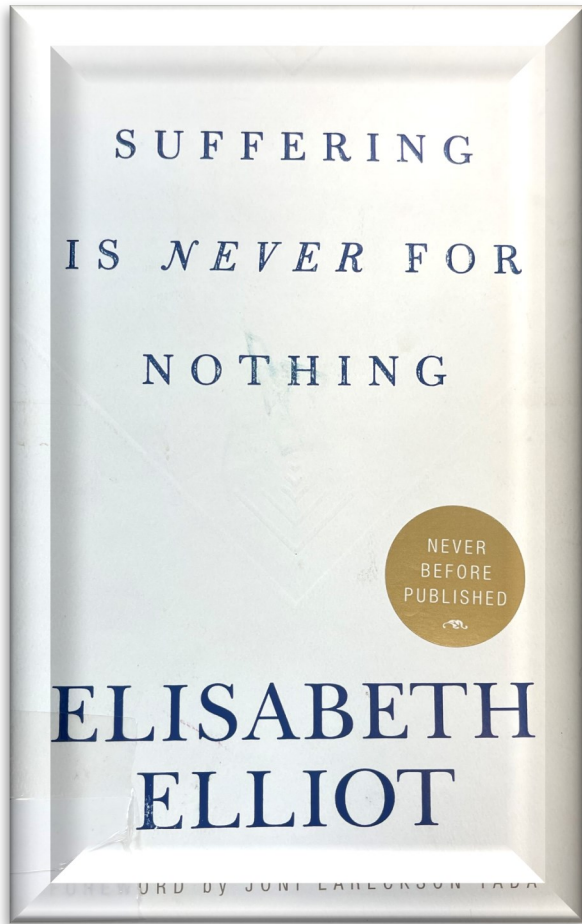


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## A LOOK INTO OUR LIBRARY

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Roma Swanson



Good News of the gospel with them. They had flown over the tribe and dropped gifts of food and useful items to them for weeks. Finally, they landed the plane on a sandy strip of ground by the river. They entertained some of the people at their camp and radioed their wives to pray that relationships could be built with the isolated tribe. The next day, all five men were murdered, speared to death, after their overtures and attempts to befriend the people.

Elisabeth was a young mother at the time, but she journeyed and lived among the Waoroni tribe for years...and shared the love of God with them. They accepted the beautiful story of Jesus and His love for them.

The story is memorialized in the movie End of the Spear.

Elisabeth passed away in 2015 after a life of service to others.

The lesson series that became the book Suffering is Never for Nothing, is her beautiful reflection of what God had done in her life and how she had traveled through heartache and loss.

She famously said, "Whatever is the cup that God is offering to me, whether it be pain and sorrow and suffering and grief along with the many more joys, I'm willing to take it because I trust Him."

We all go through times of suffering. Elisabeth blazes a trail through the tangled ruin of pain.

Elisabeth reminds us that "Love still wills my joy!" and "If we learn to know God in the midst of our pain, we come to know Him as one who is not a High Priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He is one who has been over every inch of the road."

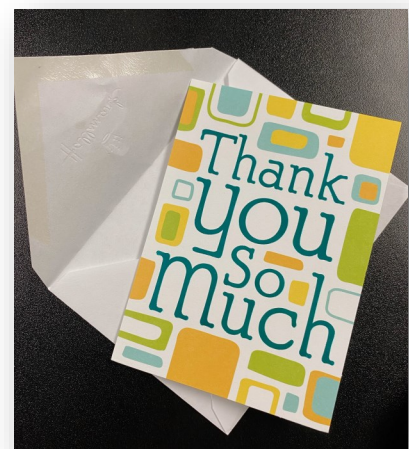
I want to introduce you to the latest book by Elisabeth Elliot titled Suffering is NEVER for Nothing.

It is a rich gem of material that was recently printed from a lesson series Elisabeth had done for a women's meeting.

Perhaps the name Elisabeth Elliot is familiar to you. Her first husband, Jim, was a pilot and a missionary. He and several other men were attempting to reach the Waoroni people in Ecuador and share the

*Thank you everyone for all the birthday cards. They made my day!*

*- Neoma Cowing*



# CHURCH HISTORY

Buz Southard

Over the years I have videotaped many Church events. These are moments that are preserved to relive or see for the first time. Rather than allow these important parts of the Church history to be lost in my cabinets, or maybe thrown away upon my death, I decided to have these moments and events transferred from the original video tapes to DVD's that could be shared by anyone who would have the desire to relive or see for the first time some important Church events.

What are some of those events? I have transferred about 12 hours of DVD watching for things like the following:

1. The last Sunday service at 100 School St. It was special.
2. The Roy and Dorothy King farewell dinner prior to their return to Texas. Great appreciation speeches, entertainment, and many faces now with the Lord.
3. A complete history of the grounds dedication, construction and first service in our new Church building. The progress is depicted weekly in short snippets. It contains pictures of scripture writing on all the walls by Church members and on the floors and girders of the building now covered by the construction. You will see the scripture writers and location. It contains a beautiful singing rendition of the Lord's Prayer by Kerri Welker in an almost completed building.
4. A video of the Cantata practice prior to presentation for the dedication of the new Church. The Cantata was written and directed by Churchill Cooke the Choir Director.
5. There is a DVD of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Oak Tree Celebration and some pictures of the last Bean Feed. It also includes a very entertaining 60's presentation by various Church members at a gathering while meeting at St. Paul's school during construction of the Church. Very enjoyable DVD.
6. There is a DVD of the going away party at Roger and Ann Johnson's for Vi Spencer prior to her acceptance as the pastor in Loomis, Ca.

Each DVD has special moments and Church members that you may have forgotten. The DVDs are to be shared and can be checked out from Sheila in the Church office for viewing on your DVD player at home. Please take care of the DVD's and return them in a reasonable time for others to share. I am sure you will enjoy reliving some important moments or seeing them for the first time.

Enjoy!

Buz and Donna Southard



# WE ARE MAKING THE 2023 BUDGET, AND I'D LIKE PRAYER!

Sam Sears

Blessings Church. I want to begin by saying I'm thankful for all of those who continue to faithfully equip us in ministry. We in turn use that to do the upkeep on our building, pay our staff, reach out to our community, and partner with ministries from local to international. As we head into this season, we are preparing our budget for next year. Apart from a special movement by God and His people, difficult decisions will need to be made, and the Elders would appreciate your prayers.

This is our first full year without The Seventh Day Adventist Church as a renter. This has significantly impacted income and we did not adjust our budget when they left, praying that giving would increase to match it. In the past few years, we have also added payroll and accounting services. So, our overall income has gone down and our costs have gone up. These costs are necessary and we are thinking long term. The accounting service will eventually allow us to qualify and apply for discounts through a site called tech soup, that can save us thousands in tech and software expenses. These factors don't include the rise in electricity costs, materials, inflation, and the recession impacting nearly every transaction.

As we wrestle with how to adjust our budget, we are prayerfully approaching God asking for wisdom. We know we must "keep the lights on" and are commanded to do outreach in our community and serve one another, as well as support those going to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:19-20). Missions aren't just something we send money to, we are to be missionaries here, but both are important. We are looking at ways to decrease costs, including looking into solar, but unless offerings increase, we will need to make some difficult cuts next year. I know as a former full time missionary, when those things happened to me, it did impact me, and my family.

If you know me well, you probably know this is my least favorite topic. I am thankful that God has preserved us as a church, and overall, we are doing well in comparison to other churches. The church world is suffering, as are individual members as the economic landscape has drastically changed, as has our culture. Many used the pandemic and the lockdown as a time to exit the church. I heard too many sermons that were

inappropriately focused on money when I was a poor kid, and I don't want to repeat that mistake now, but I'm sharing this information with you to be transparent. Heather and I give to the church, and we cheerfully give a little more than 10% and we also give personally to a few missionary organizations. I don't want a pat on the back, I just want you to know I'm not asking you to do anything I am not doing. I have personally been blessed to encounter people and ministries aided by the church and I know my equipping is part of that. It's an act of worship, and I'm convinced God deserves it and I do it for Him.

I don't know where you are. I know for the most part, giving has stayed the same, and it's the rising costs that have really hit us. I don't want to guilt you, or shame you or tell you that God is somehow going to make us all rich via a spiritual Ponzi scheme, as I'm convinced the real rewards for faithfulness now, come in Heaven, not here. Although again, I have had blessings I think are connected to being faithful to what God has blessed me with. I know that some folks do not have an income to give from, if that's you, don't feel guilty. That's all between you and God. What I do want to do is to invite you to pray about it.

I know our world needs us as ambassadors for Christ, it's what scripture commands. I'm convinced our society desperately needs a church that isn't afraid to give truth, but also does so with love, not divisive anger. As I look at church infighting, I'm convinced our world needs more churches just like us, we can agree to disagree on secondary issues. As I look at the generational divide, I think God can and is using our intentional desire for unity in worship. I see so many lives impacted by our congregation, and I see so much potential in the future.

Everything we do is for God and his Glory. We do dream of building improvements and needed technology updates that we have dreamed about, but those are to aid us in worshiping more effectively, welcoming more effectively, being better stewards of God's resources and to more effectively serve one another. I want to keep heading in that direction and certainly desire to keep our current ministry efforts at the same level they are now. If you share that desire, to Glorify God, obey him, serve one another, and be ambassadors

# WE ARE MAKING THE 2023 BUDGET, AND I'D LIKE PRAYER!

Sam Sears

for Christ to our unbelieving neighbors, please pray about giving, or volunteering in a way to keep that happening. And please pray for us as Elders, as we navigate this new economic period for our country. I will close on a positive thought. In the past few years well over 20% of churches have closed their doors for-

ever. Many more are struggling to keep the doors open. I'm convinced God has seen us through the difficult pandemic and lockdown for a reason. I'm excited to be a part of whatever He does next, and I hope you are too. He gets the glory, and we get to participate.

The Fountain Church Presents...

# FALL FESTIVAL

Jump Houses • Food • Candy • Games •  
• Pony Rides and More!

**OCT 29**  
**5-7:30PM**  
**1023 N Chinowth, Visalia**

**PASTOR PIE IN THE FACE**  
*Supporting*

HEBREOS 13:8

Go to our website for more information:  
**THEFOUNTAINCC.ORG**  
**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS**

# PRAYER CONCERNS

October 2022

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith! Our Nation and Leaders. Teachers & Students in Visalia. Our Brothers & Sisters at Elim.

**Health:** Ana Morales, Brad Sears, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Heather Smith, Jason McKaughan, Jean Lamb, Jeff Rolph, Jeremy Holley, JoAnne Jordan, Kevin Guy, Kevin Ray (DHF pastor), Marilee Douglass, Mary Stemkoski, Pam Shattuck, Fred Wilder

**Cancer:** Ann Johnson, Bill Morland, David Thomas, David Welch, Janet Hagan, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Sandra Campbell, Shannan Ajluni

**Other Needs:** Nina Suttles (Vision)

**Military:** Brett Boland – Virginia, Michael Reid – San Diego, CA, Preston Correa – Marine, Tyler Richwine – Marine

**Missionaries:** some of our missionaries cannot be listed for their safety.

**Nationally Based Global Mission Organizations:** Adolfo Ibarra, Crosslink Development International, Central Missionary Clearinghouse, Soaring for Christ, Radical Truth, Maven, Gideons International, Our Daily Bread Ministries, Jews for Jesus, Pioneers, Team Expansion

**Local Ministries:** Care Pregnancy Center, Good News Jail Ministry, Hands in the Community, Love In the Name of Christ, Stephen Ministries, Tulare Kings Right to Life, Turning Point, Visalia Rescue Mission, Visalia Senior Housing

**Ukrainian Individuals in danger:** Valentyna, Michael, Andrew, Alex, and Angela. (Last names withheld for safety.)

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

October 2022

Angelica Lara .....	2
Yvette Rojas.....	6
Abdul Massaquoi.....	10
Leila Ritter .....	14
Sam Sears .....	16
Edward Grant .....	18
Jack Lowery .....	19
Praise Subejano.....	19
Glenda Gunning .....	22
Ian Yale.....	27
Jeri Eubanks.....	28

*Happy Anniversary!*

Phil & Frankie Parker.....	1
Kevin & Carrie Guy .....	7
Greg & Kelli Stowers.....	15
David & Shannan Ajluni.....	27

# ATTENDANCE & GIVING

September 2022

Average In Person Attendance

81

Total Giving

\$ 16,636.52

# October 2022

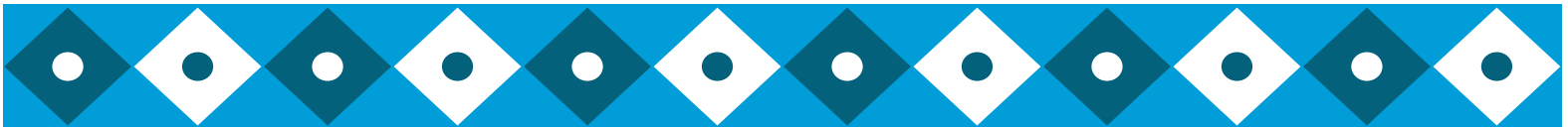
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  11:00 Ann Johnson's Celebration of Life
2  10:30 Worship	3  10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Study	4  10:00 Staff	5  6:00 Family Night	6  10:00 Berean Watchmen	7 6:30 Men's Group	8  8:00 Prayer Walk
9  10:30 Worship	10  10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Study	11  10:00 Staff	12  6:00 Family Night	13  10:00 Berean Watchmen	14 6:30 Men's Group	15
16  10:30 Worship	17  10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Study	18  10:00 Staff	19  6:00 Family Night	20  10:00 Berean Watchmen	21 6:30 Men's Group	22
23  10:30 Worship	24  10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Study	25  10:00 Staff	26  6:00 Family Night	27  10:00 Berean Watchmen	28 6:30 Men's Group	29  5:00 Fall Festival
30  10:30 Worship	31  10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Study					

\*Family Night

Kid's Study  
Youth Group  
Men's Bible Study  
Women's Bible Study



The Fountain  
1023 N Chinowth St  
Visalia, CA 93291



## ***Coming Events***

***October 8th - Prayer Walk - 8:00am***

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***October 29th - Fall Festival - 5:30 to 7:00pm***

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Stop by our website for more information on Bible Studies  
and coming events at [www.thefountaincc.org](http://www.thefountaincc.org)