



THE FOUNTAIN

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Office Hours:

Tues. -Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

1023 N. Chinowth St.
Visalia, CA 93291-4114
Phone: (559) 732-6623
FAX: (559) 732-6625

Website: www.thefountaincc.org

Follow Us on Social Media

Facebook @ The Fountain Christian Church

Instagram @ thefountain_vis

Sam Sears, Senior Pastor

Sam@thefountaincc.org

Brandon Stephens, Worship & Youth

Brandon@thefountaincc.org

Davey Totty, Office Administrator

Davey@thefountaincc.org

April Sanchez, Children's Director

April@thefountaincc.org

www.thefountaincc.org

Genesis 50:20

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A SQUIRREL...

Sam Sears

A revival story centered on a squirrel is a dead giveaway the pastor is a hillbilly, but most of you already knew that, so here goes. For some reason, while Heather and I were recently marveling over the surprising ways God can foster growth through change, I made a casual reference to “The Mississippi Squirrel Revival.” The puzzled look on my wife’s face immediately clued me to the fact this hadn’t been part of her “spiritual journey,” which was even more of a puzzler to me, since we had lived in Mississippi.

Older readers will certainly recall comic Christian country musician, Ray Stevens, who is still performing every Saturday night in Nashville at the age of 84. He is probably best known for comedy novelty songs like *The Streak*, but he also won a Grammy in 1971 for *Everything is Beautiful*, which he both wrote and performed. “

In 1984, the year I was born, he released “The Mississippi Squirrel Revival,” which I heard multiple times throughout my childhood, but never with as much enjoyment as when laughing with Heather recently when she heard it for the first time. In the song, Ray claims to be remembering a summer trip to Granny’s, the highlight of which was catching a squirrel, taking it to church in a shoebox, and The Lord using that varmint as an instrument for revival when it escaped in the process of showing it off to a friend.

“What happened next was hard to tell. Some thought it was heaven and some thought it was hell.” “The first self-righteous church of Pascagoula” turned sideways when that Squirrel went “berserk...As the choir sang ‘I Surrender All,’ the squirrel ran up Harv Newlan’s coveralls, Harv leaped to his feet and said, “Something’s got a hold on me, Yeow!”

The congregation wasn’t aware of the squirrel but was aware of its impact on different individuals. Stevens sings, “It was a fight for survival that broke out in revival. They were jumpin pews and shoutin Hallelujah!”

Under the impetus of that squirrel “jumpin’ her garters and crossin’ her thighs,” Sister Bertha, “in the Amen pew (better than you)” begins to confess her sins including her love life, and “she started

naming names.” The end result was that “seven deacons and the pastor got saved, twenty-five thousand dollars was raised and fifty volunteered for missions in the Congo on the spot. Even without an invitation, there were at least five hundred rededications, and we all got baptized whether we needed it or not.”

Despite being the instigator, the singer credits God, “Oh the miracles God has wrought in this old world, But the one I’ll remember ‘til my dyin day, is how he put that Church back on the narrow way, with a half-crazed Mississippi squirrel.”

Though naturally trying to avoid blame, we can appreciate the boy (fictional though he might have been) recognized God’s hand behind the scenes, a reality we see all through Scripture. When encountering his brothers, who threw him in a pit and sold him into slavery, Joseph tells them, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (Genesis 50:20) God used the evil intentions of the jealous brothers as a turning point in Joseph’s journey to becoming second in command of Egypt, where he was able to prepare for a famine and ultimately save many lives. Joseph’s position provided him opportunity to Glorify the one true God, YHWH, before countless pagans, revealing the inadequacy, uselessness, of their false gods and idols. All could not help but recognize it was YHWH who knew the future and, through his servant Joseph, had arranged for them to be provided for.

That evangelical squirrel has been stuck in my head for the past several weeks, providing many additional smiles. It also furthered my ongoing reflection on the events of the year and my desire for revival. Changes, both expected and very unexpected, have shaken things up, but I feel the Lord is working, and asking us all to pitch in. I hope all Christians would recoil at the name “First Self-Righteous Church” as we are to lean on Jesus’s righteousness, not our own. One of the greatest obstacles to truly serving God is pride, with the attribute of Jesus we most need to follow being humility, remembering His will is far more important than our own.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A SQUIRREL...

Sam Sears

I'm sure a real instance of public confession like sister Bertha's would cause a lot of chaos initially. Like some medicines, truth can be very bitter and difficult to take. But truth, coupled with love, cooperation, and the recognition we all need for-giveness is so much healthier and more productive than keeping resentment, bitterness, guilt, and shame bottled up in the dark.

The songwriter indicates the truth also sparked a spirit of generosity in that Pascagoula church. Like it or not, ministry work requires funding as well as volunteers. We find ourselves with a huge mission field around us. Rather than go to the Congo, I would love to see 50 more folks on mission right here in Visalia. Hopefully, the humor of the song will help us examine ourselves to test whether we really are on "the straight and narrow," serving our Lord with our whole hearts. Whether it is the inspiration of a squirrel or whatever, I pray that God moves to bring us all to revival, repentance, and re-engagement with our mission. He can use whatever means He likes; it's His church after all. (Thanks to my editor, Robbie Rouch for helping this hillbilly communicate more effectively, and thanks to my wife, Heather, who no doubt would wisely prevent me from bringing an actual squirrel to church to use as a sermon illustration.)



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July 2023

Joyce Hogan4
John Lauffenberger4
Cindy Rouch7
Heather Sears17
Mona Rouch.....19
Fred Wilder23
Jim Barlogio.....25
Bexleigh Stowers-Quilantan ...25
Madeline Morrow.....27
Robert Rouch27

Sharon Turl..... 31

Happy Anniversary!

Don & Peggy Jones..... 24
Roger Johnson..... 27

BRANDON STEPHENS ~ MUSIC AND YOUTH DIRECTOR

Brandon and Dani were married in 2015 and have three kids: Scarlett, Jedidiah, and Strider. Before working at The Fountain, Brandon was the youth pastor with EFCA for 3 1/2 and he has worked in various areas of ministry throughout his life. Brandon and Dani have always had a heart for youth and have felt the need to invest in them. They love to see youth grow physically and spiritually in their own walk with Christ as well as in their everyday lives.



APRIL SANCHEZ ~ CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Rene and April Sanchez have been married since 2011 and have 2 Beautiful daughters, Jersey and Renesmay. April has been involved with children and children's ministries for over 15 years. She attended Bethany University in Scotts Valley, California. April has a passion for children and knows that's what God has called her to do. The Sanchez family loves to travel and make memories going camping, to the beach, and visiting different amusement parks. April joined us in June 2023, as a part time Children's ministry director



RENO “DAVEY” TOTTY ~ OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Davey and Vanessa have been married since 2012 and have one Child: Arianna, and are expecting there second little one the second week in July. Before The Fountain Davey has served in a plethora of ways in the church. Davey a self professed “Utility Worker” has served in the office, Children’s ministry, Youth Ministry, Music Ministry. Davey’s wife Vanessa is a “PK” (Preachers Kid) so the Totty family are no strangers to serving.



PRAYER CONCERNS

June 2023

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: Nadine Lack, Ana Morales, Ann Elder, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Fred Wilder, Heather Smith, Jason McKaughan, Jean Lamb, JoAnne Jordan, Jordan Lewis, Kevin Guy, Kevin Ray (DHF pastor), Marilee Douglass, Pam Shattuck, Tim Sears.

Cancer: Bill Morland, Charlene Brazil, Clay Jones, David Thomas, David Welch, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Randy Gurule, 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: Michael, Andrew, Alex, and Angela. (Last names withheld for safety.)

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

June 2023

Average In Person Attendance

69

General Offering

\$11,370.36

CENTRAL VISION PROJECT

Our budget for this project is \$50,000. But because we have established a **Gift Matching Fund**, your **GIFT will be DOUBLED!**
(\$100 = \$200, \$500 = \$1,000)



****The design, fabrics and colors shown in these computer images may need to be adjusted as the project is finalized.**

Central Vision Project: Nearly 2 years ago we began a building improvement project. At the time we had two services, and it was designed to help both. It would address lighting issues that washed our projected area, allow us to still see the Fountain and the trees outside, and allow us to close the window for a darker look and to prevent nighttime glare for candlelight services or movie nights. The movie nights it would allow could provide a great way to get more folks into our building and ultimately to Jesus.

Earlier this year we had 2 experienced pastors give us a spiritual health assessment. They affirmed our need to upgrade where we project for Sunday mornings to better connect with younger families and to have clearer visuals for all. As we are nearing our goal, we are rechecking prices. Because donations are matched, we are currently less than 3,600 from completing our goal. We thank all of you have contributed and would welcome any who are able to go beyond their regular tithes and offerings and help us close the gap.



**Church
Potluck
Aug 13.
Right after
service,
more details
coming soon.**

WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 15-17, 2023

A weekend of rest and refreshment



Speaker
Carole
Leathem



Music
Kelsey
Luis

Contact the Office For more details

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30a Worship	3 10:40a Prayer 12p Women's	4 Office Closed	5 1:30p Staff	6 10a Berean Watchmen	7 6:30a Men's	8
9 10:30a Worship	10 10:40a Prayer 12p Women's	11 1:30p Staff	12 4p Missions Meeting	13 10a Berean Watchmen	14 6:30a Men's	15
16 10:30a Worship *Elder Meeting After Service	17 10:40a Prayer 12p Women's	18 1:30p Staff	19	20 10a Berean Watchmen	21 6:30a Men's	22
23 10:30a Worship *Membership Class After Service	24 10:40a Prayer 12p Women's	25 1:30p Staff	26	27 10a Berean Watchmen	28 6:30a Men's	29
30 10:30a Worship	31 10:40a Prayer 12p Women's					



By Robbie Rouch

There is no hiding it, the world can plainly see, America is shedding morality
Once freedom's pillar, a beacon of truth, now heeding zealots sent by Ruth
Openly campaigning for ending life, perverting the roles of mother and wife
Pursuit of happiness endowed by God, 'neath CRT jackboots brazenly trod
Accepting lies and false condemning, society now following the fate of lemmings
Plunging into cultish truth-denial, with orchestrators seemingly immune to trial
Mindlessly touting undefinable equity, callously discarding hard-won equality
Dividing us by ethnicity and race, smothering real diversity with contrived safe space
Convincing our daughters to transition to boys, overruling parents with legal ploys
Belittling warnings as conspiracy, distorting truth and science with hypocrisy
The list goes on of society's ills with open mockery of what Our Creator wills
He spelled it out plainly for all to see---judgment for eternity is reality
For some, mentioning God turns reason and logic off, but even the scientists no longer scoff
Recent evidence available for all to see convinces truth seekers of Design Reality
Clearly not a myth, our divinely inspired Bible has proven repeatedly archaeologically reliable.
God's Word, though not always easy to understand, spells out quite clearly His long-range plan
Boundless love prompted Him to create, and for folks to trust Him He seems willing to wait
Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. Rather than deny it, eye-witnesses chose to die instead
The solution to the problems listed above is turning to the Power whose essence is love
He teaches loving humility, putting self behind others, not a false love that coddles or smothers
Wisdom and common sense show the truth society is stealing does not hinge on transitory feelings
Jesus offers salvation with a sacrificial love that is pure, and that, my friends, is the ultimate CURE



The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St
Visalia, CA 93291



Coming Events

YOUTH KICK-OFF!!! ~ Sat, July 8th ~ 6:30pm

Elder Meeting ~ Sun, July 16th ~ After Service

Membership Class ~ Sun, July 23rd ~ After Service

Church Potluck ~ Sun, August 13th ~ After Service

Back To School Bash ~ Wed, August 16th ~ 6:00pm

Stop by our website for more information on Bible Studies
and coming events at www.thefountaincc.org