

# THE FOUNTAIN

#### **CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



#### **Office Hours:**

Tues. -Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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# 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 givea- naming names." The end result was that "seven deaway the pastor is a hillbilly, but most of you already knew that, so here goes. For some reason, dollars was raised and fifty volunteered for missions while Heather and I were recently marveling over the in the Congo on the spot. Even without an surprising ways God can foster growth through invitation, there were at least five hundred rededicachange, I made a casual reference to "The Mississippi" tions, and we all got baptized whether we needed it Squirrel Revival." The puzzled look on my wife's face or not." immediately clued me to the fact this hadn't been part of her "spiritual journey," which was even more God, "Oh the miracles God has wrought in this old of a puzzler to me, since we had lived in Mississippi.

Older readers will certainly recall comic Christian a half-crazed Mississippi squirrel." country musician, Ray Stevens, who is still performing every Saturday night in Nashville at the appreciate the boy (fictional though he might have age of 84. He is probably best known for comedy Grammy in 1971 for Everything is Beautiful, which he both wrote and performed. "

Mississippi Squirrel Revival," which I heard multiple much enjoyment as when laughing with Heather song, Ray claims to be remembering a summer trip when it escaped in the process of showing it off to a friend.

thought it was heaven and some thought it was hell." "The first self-righteous church of Pascagoula" be provided for. turned sideways when that Squirrel went "berserk...As the choir sang 'I Surrender All,' the my head for the past several weeks, providing many to his feet and said, "Something's got a hold on me, tion on the events of the year and my desire for Yeow!"

but was aware of its impact on different individuals. Stevens sings, "It was a fight for survival that broke would recoil at the name "First Self-Righteous out in revival. They were jumpin pews and shoutin Church" as we are to lean on Jesus's righteousness, Hallelujah!"

garters and crossin' her thighs," Sister Bertha, "in the Amen pew (better than you)" begins to confess will is far more important her sins including her love life, and "she started

cons and the pastor got saved, twenty-five thousand

Despite being the instigator, the singer credits world, But the one I'll remember 'til my dyin day, is how he put that Church back on the narrow way, with

Though naturally trying to avoid blame, we can been) recognized God's hand behind the scenes, a novelty songs like The Streak, but he also won 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 In 1984, the year I was born, he released "The meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to times throughout my childhood, but never with as preserve many people alive." (Genesis 50:20) God used the evil intentions of the jealous brothers as a recently when she heard it for the first time. In the turning point in Joseph's journey to becoming second in command of Egypt, where he was able to to Granny's, the highlight of which was catching a prepare for a famine and ultimately save many lives. squirrel, taking it to church in a shoebox, and The Joseph's position provided him opportunity to Glorify Lord using that varmint as an instrument for revival the one true God, YHWH, before countless pagans, revealing the inadequacy, uselessness, of their false gods and idols. All could not help but rec-"What happened next was hard to tell. Some ognize it was YHWH who knew the future and, through his servant Joseph, had arranged for them to

That evangelical squirrel has been stuck in squirrel ran up Harv Newlan's coveralls, Harv leaped additional smiles. It also furthered my ongoing reflecrevival. Changes, both expected and very unexpected, The congregation wasn't aware of the squirrel have shaken things up, but I feel the Lord is working, and asking us all to pitch in. I hope all Christians not our own. One of the greatest obstacles to truly Under the impetus of that squirrel "jumpin' her serving God is pride, with the attribute of Jesus we most need to follow being humility, remembering His 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 forgiveness 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 Hogan	4
John Lauffenberger	4
Cindy Rouch	7
Heather Sears	.17
Mona Rouch	.19
Fred Wilder	.23
Jim Barlogio	.25
Bexleigh Stowers-Quilantan	.25
Madeline Morrow	.27
Robert Rouch	.27

Sharon	Turl	31

Flappy Amiversary!

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.



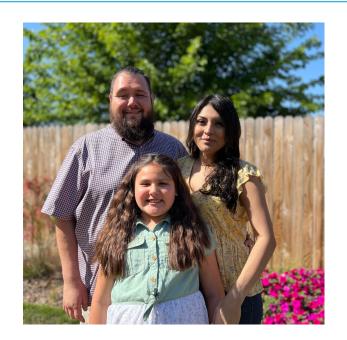
#### APRIL SANCHEZ ~ CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

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.

<u>Health</u>: 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.

<u>Cancer</u>: 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)

<u>Military</u>: Brett Boland – Virginia, Michael Reid – San Diego, CA, Preston Correa – Marine, Tyler

Richwine – Marine

neers, Team Expansion

<u>Missionaries</u>: 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, Pio-

<u>Local Ministries</u>: 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

<u>Ukrainian Individuals in danger:</u> Michael, Andrew, Alex, and Angela. (Last names withheld for safety.)

#### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

June 2023

Average In Person Attendance

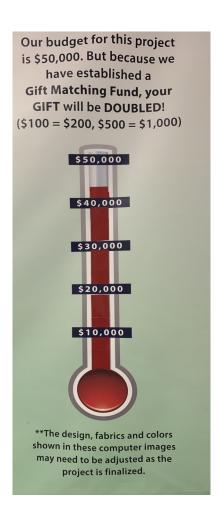
69

**General Offering** 

\$11,370.36

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# **CENTRAL VISION PROJECT**



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.

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 Offic e Close d	5 1:30p Staff	6 10a Berean Watchmen	7 6:30a Men's	8
9 10:30a Worship	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





# 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