

THE FOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

www.thefountaincc.org

Depth in Love, Truth, and Life



The Fountain Christian Church

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St.
Visalia, CA 93291



The First Annual Andrew Challenge

By Pastor Sam Sears

John 1: 40-42 “One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother, Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

We don't hear a lot about Andrew in Scripture. He isn't a “son of thunder” he doesn't seem to have his brother's “gift of gab,” he isn't one of the closest three or “inner circle,” nor does he betray our Lord. While we know more about James, John, Judas, Peter, and even Phillip, Andrew was important. Even if Andrew had done nothing else in his ministry, which we know he did, there was something incredibly impactful accomplished in John 1:40-42. He shared the Gospel, as revealed so far, to his brother. This was no simple family interaction but would help change the course of history.

Declaring “We have found the Messiah” was a bold statement for Andrew. The Jewish people were looking for someone foretold by Scriptures, a miracle worker, and a king. By his statement, Andrew was declaring his own allegiance to that promised king. This is whom Andrew was now following, and he was convinced that others should follow him, as well; so he started with his brother.

Later, Jesus would ask his disciples, “Whom do you say I am?” and the response came from Andrew's brother. Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16) At that point, he recognized that not only was Jesus King, but when a Jewish person used “son” they meant of the same kind. Peter knew Jesus wasn't just a man, but was something far more. He would worship him, as God in human flesh. As much as we remember Peter's declaration and his activity in the book of Acts, it started with an invite.

While God knows what would have happened had Andrew not brought Peter to Jesus, we don't. Andrew probably didn't understand the impact it would have on his own life, or his brother's life. While God wasn't surprised by Peter's journey of faith, it did involve a declaration and an invitation from a family member. Unless God had given Andrew some gift of prophecy in that moment that Scripture doesn't speak of, Andrew couldn't have known in advance how his brother would respond. We can see that elsewhere Peter spoke bluntly and quickly. We remember him for his strong will. If I were to talk to a person with Peter's personality, I might fear he would respond with bold denial, rather than with curiosity. We can't know how Andrew felt, but his allegiance to Jesus, his conviction that Jesus was the promised Messiah, compelled him.

There are more spotlights on men like Peter in the world than on men like Andrew, but we wouldn't have the Peters without the Andrews. All Christians are called to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) but not all of us are called to do what Peter did as a pastor, church planter, missionary and miracle worker. I pray that in 2022 you will find a deeper passion to see others con-

The First Annual Andrew Challenge

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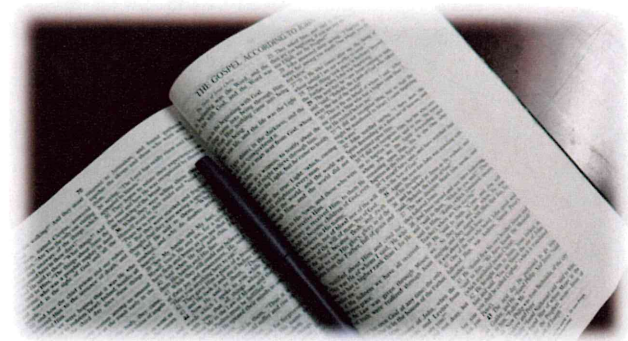
nected to Jesus, and I encourage you to start with the simple steps that takes.

In 2022, I'd like to ask you to take an Andrew-inspired annual challenge. I want you to pray and ask God to show you one person in your life who isn't following Jesus. I want you to pray for them until either the year ends, Jesus comes back, they get saved, or they leave this life. I would encourage you to pray for opportunities to tell them “We have found the Messiah” and to introduce them to Jesus. Love on them, take them out to lunch, or have them over to your house for dinner, board games, a movie, or whatever.

As you know, we talk about “Organic Outreach” here — intentionally, but organically, in the relationships we have and build, sharing the gospel and telling people about Jesus. I've seen some folks bring in friends this past year, and it makes me happy every time. I know God sees those invites, as well as all those invites that were declined. I know it reflects a heart of love for other people. I pray that God grows that love even more this year, as we face a new era where there isn't really a status quo in the same way as we had before the pandemic, and the government restrictions and so many rules, events, and more are in flux. I pray that God will help us to see each opportunity we have in that kind of setting, and that we can be empowered to use it for His glory.

I'm praying over my selection, and it's hard to narrow it down! I'll pray about multiple individuals on my prayer list, but I want to pick one for more committed serious prayer and focus. I'm happy to be used as God's shotgun, but sometimes it takes something precise and focused to make an impact. As I think about my top candidates, they are dads, and I can't help but marvel at the potential impact on their children if they get on fire for Jesus. I also wonder if Heather and I can pray about members of a marriage or couple together and what kind of impact that would hold.

When you have picked somebody, let me know. While we can each focus on being our own Andrew to our own Peter, we can occasionally pray for one another. And when God does something in their life, we can celebrate, together.



A December Experience

By Rona Swanson

In mid-December, I joined a small group of people from *The Fountain*, and we went caroling. We sang to those who are shut-ins in their homes and at two senior care facilities. It was wonderful!

As we sang those old familiar carols, many of those we were singing to seemed transfixed, often mouthing the words. Their eyes were often drawn to the four children in our group....and would light up with warmth. When they happened to look my way, I returned their look with smiling joy.

Toward the end of the evening the small children had been taken home, and so it was adults only as we stood in the lobby of a nursing home.

There was not a soul in sight when we began singing, but as we continued, people came from their rooms to gaze down from the landing above or quietly take seats on the sofa or loveseats in the lobby. Some sat with their eyes closed, drinking in the sound.

When we finished a few carols, we took requests, and it was fun to see them join in.

It was such a lovely experience, as the songs took them back to a simpler time, a treasured memory. Those moments, the faces wreathed with joy, linger with me.

Several of the shut-ins that we sang to had prepared goodies for us, or wanted to show us their trees and decorations. We took the time to notice, to hear the memories, and to taste the cookies so lovingly prepared.

Even as Christmas passes and a new year begins, I hope that you will carve out some space and share some of your time with those who are eager to be heard and seen. It will continue to shed a whole new light on the meaning of Christmas.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." – John 13:34



A December Experience

By Rona Swanson



January 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| | | | 1 | | | 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR |
| 2 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship | 3 10:40 Prayer Warriors | 4 10:00 Staff | 5 | 6 10:00 Berean Watchmen | 7 6:30 Men's Group | 8 |
| 9 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship | 10 10:40 Prayer Warriors | 11 10:00 Staff | 12 6:00 Family Night * | 13 10:00 Berean Watchmen | 14 6:30 Men's Group | 15 |
| 16 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship | 17 10:40 Prayer Warriors 11:30 Father/Daughter Lunch at The Vintage Press | 18 10:00 Staff | 19 6:00 Family Night * | 20 10:00 Berean Watchmen | 21 6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Roe V Wade | 22 |
| 23 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship | 24 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study | 25 10:00 Staff | 26 6:00 Family Night * | 27 10:00 Berean Watchmen | 28 6:30 Men's Group | 29 |
| 30 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship | 31 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study | *Family Night { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awana Youth Group Men's Bible Study Women's Bible Study | | | Annual Congregational Meeting February 6th at 10:10 am Between the two services. | |



The staff would like to offer
a loving THANK YOU to our church family for the wonderful staff appreciation gifts in 2021.

We are blessed by your love, generosity and faithfulness!

Wishing you blessings in this New Year,

Sam, Chuck, Carrie, Romy, Chris, Matt & Sheila

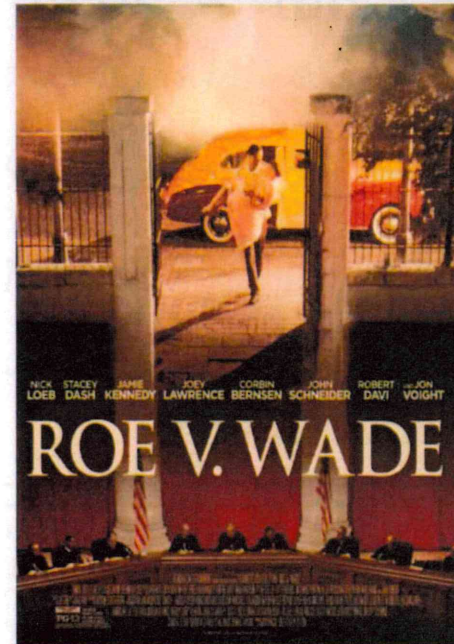
Attendance & Giving

December 2021

| Date | Average In Person Attendance | Total Giving |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|
| | 85 | \$42,021.31 |



Roe v. Wade 1973 - 2022



Not a
solution
then...

still a
tragedy
today

TULARE-KINGS RIGHT TO LIFE'S

Roe v. Wade Memorial Observance

Friday
January 21, 2022
6:30pm

The Fountain
Christian Church
1023 N. Chinowth, Visalia

Please join us for a viewing of the 2019 film,
Roe v. Wade

which depicts the untold conspiracy
that led to the most famous and
controversial court case in history.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Call 559.732.5000 or visit www.tkrl.org

Annual Congregational Meeting

2022



February

6th ~ 2022

At 10:10 am between service
The items on the agenda this year will be:

1. Approval of new Elders
2. Approval of the 2022 Budget

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 2022

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| Kevin Guy | 1 | Ruthy Shane | 27 |
| Presley Rodriguez..... | 8 | Chris Sagastume..... | 28 |
| Zion Sagastume | 8 | Lennon Sanchez | 28 |
| Donna Eastin | 9 | Caleb Gunning..... | 30 |
| Donna Black | 10 | | |
| JoAnne Jordan | 13 | | |
| Jeremiah Shane | 13 | | |
| Katherine Guy | 15 | | |
| Andrea Lara | 15 | | |
| Don Jones | 18 | | |
| Kenley Gunning | 24 | Mike & Susan Leary | 10 |
| Caleb Guy | 26 | Pat & Joyce Hogan | 26 |
| Ann Johnson..... | 26 | Chuck & Donna Romer..... | 26 |

Happy Anniversary!

At the beginning of each year we update our prayer list. If you have someone who needs prayer please contact us.

Email:

sheila@thefountaincc.org

or call the office:

559-732-6623

To add someone to the list.



Prayer Concerns

January 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, Barbara Grant, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Harold Hoppert, Heather Smith, Jean Lamb, Jeff Rolph, Kevin Guy, Marilee Douglass, Mary Stemkoski, Pam Shattuck, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

Cancer

Ann Johnson, David Thomas, Jiggy Greene, Jim Shackelford, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Michael Elder, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Sandra Campbell, Shannan Ajluni

Other Needs

Nina Suttles (Vision)

Military

Andie Richwine – Marine, Brett Boland – Virginia, Michael Reid – San Diego, CA, Preston Correa – Marine, Tyler Richwine – Marine