



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 25, 2018

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here!
We pray that you will encounter
God as you worship with us.

Today

- 8am First Worship Service
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
- 9:30am College / Young Adult Bible Classes at Williamsons' home
- 10:45am Second Worship Service

This Week

- Nov 26 Women's Bible Study (7pm)
- Nov 26 Monday Night Guys' Group (7pm)
- Nov 28 REFRESH (6:30pm)
- Nov 28 Hungry Thirsty group at the Wall home (6:30pm)
- Nov 29 Conejo School Tutoring (6:30pm)

Upcoming Events

- Dec 2 CVCC Photo Update
- Dec 7 LEON Party
- Dec 9 Carols and Candlelight (6pm)
- Dec 16 All-Church Christmas Party at the home of Rick and Paula Marrs (5pm)
- Dec 23 Christmas Celebration Services

Be the Blessing: One Year Out

By Andy Wall

Last year, on October 22, we introduced our "Be the Blessing" campaign whose goals include new outreach initiatives and a three-stage building project. Together we reflected on the pioneer members of the Conejo Church who in the 1970s planted the acorns of faith that have grown into the oaks of ministry of the past 45 years. We talked candidly about the need in our day to plant new acorns of faith that will bless the next generations in our community. Like the calling of Abraham and Sarah, we described our calling as one of being the blessing, taking on fresh God-sized challenges and making the most of our God-given gifts and opportunities together.

By God's grace, we have much to celebrate at the one-year mark! We have created new outreach ministries, both to share the good news of Jesus and to serve those in need. We have hosted two community dinners for Conejo School families, providing us with the opportunity to build deeper relationships with our neighbors. This fall, we hosted Alpha groups which met weekly to share a meal and discuss questions of faith; ten community guests participated along with over thirty Conejo members. Our teens have practiced being the blessing as well, visiting some of our home-bound seniors and building connections with them. Thank you to all who have served so faithfully in these new outreaches!

On November 11 of 2017, we invited our congregation to fill out pledge cards, making two-year commitments for the first phase of the building project. Together, we pledged \$1,139,000 toward the phase one goal of \$2,000,000. We are now just past the one year mark in gathering these pledges and have already received \$682,825, or sixty percent of the monies pledged! Thank you so much for your commitment to giving generously and for your faithful follow-up!

On the day after the Borderline shooting, we received an unexpected and convicting *new* pledge from a former Conejo member. Here is part of the email, edited for length:

My wife and I attended Conejo Valley when we were freshly out of college. Shortly after we arrived in 2002, I wasn't able to find work, and we were in need of some financial assistance. We did not know anyone at the church, but we felt like we were out of options and asked the church for some help. The church responded in a huge way. In addition to helping me connect with a number of job opportunities, one of which became the first stepping stone in my eventual career, the church lent us money to help us cover our immediate expenses. When we were finally able to pay them back, they asked us to pay it forward instead. We have a great deal of gratitude for the church, so when we recently learned of the Be the Blessing campaign, we were immediately delighted to sign up for a monthly donation to give back to the church and help support this congregation and the surrounding community that you engage with. It is amazing to see the same generosity and spirit that we witnessed all those years ago is alive and well in the church.

Thank you, Church, for being the kind of congregation that for 45 plus years has blessed people like this young couple! Thank you for entering this new season of planting acorns of faith. Thank you for participating through ministry outreaches and generous giving. May God be honored and glorified as we continue to respond to God's call to be the blessing!

What's Happening at Conejo

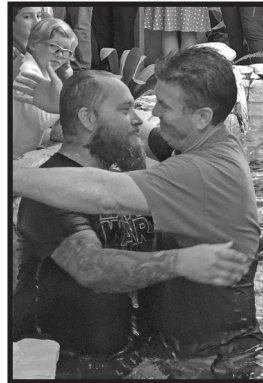


Many Mansions Holiday Gift Program

Next week, we will be collecting the presents for our Many Mansions Christmas Gift Program. Please bring your wrapped gift(s) to church on December 2nd and make a note indicating the name and age of the child. Thank you so much!

If you would still like to sign up to "adopt" a child or teen for Christmas, see the link at goo.gl/M7FjKb. Contact Kellie Van Atta at vanattakellie@gmail.com with any questions.

And the Angels Rejoiced!



Last Sunday, Silas Opdahl was baptized during second service. Silas, we rejoice with you and your family upon your baptism into Christ. Our prayers are that your journey as Christ's follower will be filled with joyful service to God and to all who are around you as you share your time, talents, and the love of God with them. May God bless you in your decision and empower you to walk faithfully in Jesus' steps.

Save the Date: LEON Party / Dec. 7

All parents of school-aged children are invited to the LEON Christmas party at the home of Keith and Liz Hinkle on Friday, December 7, at 6:30pm. Please save the date for this fun Conejo holiday tradition. This party is adults only (except for infants), so reserve your babysitters early! Each family unit will bring one wrapped "re-gift" for the gift exchange—be creative! Look for an email soon with a link to sign up for food items.

Armloads of Love / Community Dinner

Last Sunday's Armloads of Love and Community Dinner provided a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our neighbors at Conejo Elementary School. Thank you to all who brought groceries on Sunday morning, as well as all who provided food for the potluck, helped with the childcare program, did setup and cleanup, and engaged in friendly and meaningful conversations with our guests. It was wonderful to come together and share in this meal with our neighbors, particularly given the events of the past few weeks.



Advent Class / Starts Dec. 3

Starting next Sunday, our adult education program will feature a combined auditorium class that will explore The Prayers of Advent. Each week will feature different characters, surrounding the birth of Christ in Luke 1 and 2, who prayed in response to all that God was doing in the Incarnation of Jesus. The first week of class will feature prayer stations that will highlight the themes from these four prayers and serve as an introduction for the rest of the Advent series.

Welcome to Conejo

We're delighted to welcome Ty and Eliza Erickson to the Conejo family! We pray that we might encourage and nurture each other throughout our shared journey of faith.

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Eliza: (425) 375-8687 Ty: (425) 478-4138

eliza.b.erickson@gmail.com tylerjarviserickson@gmail.com

Photo Updates Rescheduled

Photos for the photo directory in the foyer will be taken December 2, after both 1st and 2nd worship services. Please meet with Ron Hall on the front steps.



Carols and Candlelight

At 6pm on the evening of Sunday, December 9, you are invited to our annual Carols and Candlelight Service. This special service will feature the singing of favorite holiday carols, the reading of the birth narratives of Christ, a children's choir, and the renewing experience of the wonder of Christ's radiant coming as we share in the lighting of the candles. We will have cookies and fellowship following the service. Be sure to invite friends and loved ones to this favorite holiday tradition as we enjoy the season of Advent together.

All-Church Christmas Party / Dec. 16

The congregation is invited to a very special Conejo holiday gathering on Sunday, December 16, beginning at 5pm at the home of Rick and Paula Marrs. Make plans now to come share in a delightful evening filled with warm holiday fellowship, Christmas carols, and tasty treats. Please bring substantial hors d'oeuvres or a favorite dessert to share.

Amazon Non-Profit Program

Amazon.com has a program to support nonprofits based on certain product sales. We've registered with Amazon to allow the Conejo Church to participate in this program. For this to work to our benefit, simply shop at smile.amazon.com and designate the Conejo Valley Church of Christ as your chosen charity. Amazon will send the Conejo Church 0.5% of sales on certain products.

High School + Middle School

REFRESH / Wednesdays at 6:30pm

From 6:30pm to 8pm weekly during the school year, the entire youth group is encouraged to gather at the church building to reconnect and encourage each other in the middle of the week. Bring your own meals and meet for dinner at 6:30. At 7pm, everyone gathers for a variety of activities focused on building community and studying God's Word. Come, connect, and be refreshed!

HS Sunday Night Studies (Last meeting TBD)

The high school 8-week separate gender studies were supposed to be in week 8, the final meeting. However, all the chaos from the fires last week prevented us from having our last separate meeting. Stay tuned for information on when our last meeting will be. This won't be for at least few weeks due to other calendared events.

Extravagodysey

Friday night, **December 14**, will be a night of "extra" proportion. The middle school and high school groups will gather at Conejo with other area-wide youth groups to celebrate the 2018 year

and to look forward to taking greater strides in our walk with Christ in 2019. This will be an all-night event filled with worship, prayer, and loads of fun. More details coming soon!

CVCC is Thankful for our Youth Group!

Thank you, teens, for bringing helping hands, loving hearts, probing questions, fun events, and lots of laughter to our congregation. Your encouragement to the young and the old is noticed and appreciated. We are thankful for the way you serve in this community. We love you and are blessed to be on this journey with you!



Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Classes Fall 2018

Our 1st-5th grade bible classes have transitioned to a new rotation model curriculum. Students will engage with God and His Word in the following spaces:

- Museum of **Biblical History** (left paw classroom)
- How Great Thou **Art Studio** (large classroom by nursery)
- Matters of Faith **Lab** (large classroom by nursery)
- Let There Be Light **Theatre** / Be the Blessing Worship Center (children's worship area)

Our 4,5,K Bible Class will continue to meet in the newly-created large classroom off the main foyer while our 2's/3's Bible Class will be gathering in their cozy classroom by the resource room.

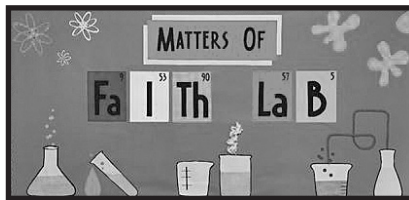
Save the Date: Family Advent Experience

This year's Family Advent Experience has been set for Sunday, December 16. Families, please mark your calendars and plan to be a part of our special time together. Additional details will be provided in the near future.

Scripture Memory

*How you made me is amazing and wonderful.
I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful.
I know that very well.*

Psalms 139:14



**"Matters of Faith"
Lab**
Grades 1, 2, and 3

**"Let There Be Light"
theatre**

Grades 4 and 5



Opportunity for Children - Carols and Candlelight Service

Our annual Carols and Candlelight Program is scheduled for Sunday evening, **December 9**. Jeremy Johnson is leading the music for the program and has invited our children (ages 5 and older) to participate. Lorna Thomas has graciously agreed to teach the children the music for the program. She will work with the children during Children's Worship at second service on November 25, December 2, and December 9. There will also be a rehearsal in the afternoon on December 9.

For our children who attend 1st Service, the playground will be available if you want to bring a lunch/snack and stay until the rehearsal begins when the children are dismissed from the 2nd worship service, or you could grab a quick lunch after Bible classes and then return for the rehearsal.

Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

PRAISES

BAPTISMS: Silas Opadhl, Janice Manning, Ashlyn Thomas

NEW MEMBERS: Ty & Eliza Erickson; Zach & Abigail Carstens; Silas & Erin Opdahl (Sebastian and Kimmy)

THOSE GRIEVING

Penny White – loss of her dear friend, Connie Roberts, to cancer

Nicole Montanez – loss of her grandfather, Howard Segar

Rob West – loss of his mother, Helen West

Michael family - loss of Joella's brother, Jon Hayes

Christina Eng – loss of father, Cleve Littlefield

Carol McNutt – loss of brother, Ellis Jett

The Families of **Stephanie Walsh, Lorna Thomas, and Claudia de Bruyn** – loss of nephew, Chris Davis

FIGHTING CANCER

Ted McAllister (former member) – diagnosed with multiple myeloma; will begin treatments immediately

Dick Williams (father of Heather Phillips) – esophageal cancer that has spread to lungs and liver; chemo starts in October

Sandy Stivers – recovery from surgery for removal of uterine cancer

James Wooley (uncle of Rene Heard) – bone cancer

Taneisha Schuman (friend of

Buzz Guilbault) – diagnosed with Stage IV cancer

Valerie Corbet (sister of Abby Wilson) – inoperable Stage IV brain cancer; undergoing six weeks of chemo and radiation

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – multiple myeloma, loss of job

Ryan Lohoff (Julia Chesson's dance teacher) – Stage IV brain cancer

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) – responding well to treatment for Stage IV squamous cell thymic carcinoma

Joella Michael – recovery following mucosal melanoma treatments

Amy Arroyo (friend of Thomasons) – emotional suffering from battle with cancer

Yashica Budde's friend, **Ruth** – final stages of cancer

Cielo Iglesias (friend of Grace Price) – uterine cancer

Dana Sheehan (friend of Lisa Scott) – undergoing chemo treatments

Jesse Carrington (Michele Carrington's father) – spine cancer, pain relief

Mark Poblete (Grace Price's brother) – lung cancer

Aaron Robinson (friend of the Audeninos) – back to work following surgery for a grade IV glioblastoma multiforme

Marlene Michaels (friend of Lisa Scott) – stage IV cancer

Susie Baston (Cindy Randolph's cousin) – spinal cancer

Justice Howard (Yashica Budde's cousin) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Gary Scott – at home recovering from rotator cuff surgery

Scott Lease (former member) – in critical condition with an infected sternum following open heart surgery in May

Conejo Tutoring success

Pat Tudor – chronic kidney disease and other disease processes

Peter Thompson (Pepperdine's Volunteer Center Director) – recovering from surgery to remove brain tumor

Kathy Cocks – pulmonary fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension

Margie Caldwell – heart issues

Vera Davis – aortic valve tear

Sam Audenino – recovery from bicycle accident

Karine Matsumoto (Michelle Jack's sister) – pulmonary fibrosis

Wayne Estes (Carol Scott's father) – recovering following surgery and rehab

Harriet Nutter (Daphne Green's mother) – received a defibrillator/pacemaker

Betty Brown – pain relief, healing, and regaining of strength

Sarah Ballard – chronic back pain

Karla Chismar – for daughters, Rachael, Kiara, and Hannah

Carol McNutt – neuropathy

Mary McQuillan (Kay Falletta's sister) – Parkinson's disease

Caleb Rodriguez (7-year-old son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

MILITARY SERVICE

Tyler Scott – serving in the Navy in Camp Lejeune, NC

Bobby Blackburn – serving in the Navy in Pensacola, FL

Micah Smith – serving in the Army Rangers

Derek Willis (Tim Willis' nephew), serving in PA in the Army

Michael Warford – stationed in San Diego with the Navy

MISSION EFFORTS

Megan Randolph – teaching in Thailand

Michael and Sarah Rivas – Por Los Niños in Honduras

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia

Raul & Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama

Charles & Darlene Coulston – mission work in Kenya

Tom Bonner – mission work in Albania

David & Danna Willis – mission work in Samoa

Attendance + Giving

November 18 Attendance	
8am Service	74
10:45am Service	118
Total Attendance	192

November 18 Giving	Unavailable
Weekly Giving Average (2018)	\$12,418
Weekly Giving Budget (2018)	\$12,569
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$682,825
Wall Settlement	\$225,000

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