

SEPTEMBER 2016

# ARC MAGAZINE

Extend the Truth

C. JOHN STEER | P4

What is the Gospel  
Sermon Series

P5

Discover the Joy  
of Generosity

BOB STANHOPE | P10

## TWELVE BAPTIZED AT FAMILY CAMP



On a beautiful sunny afternoon on August 3rd twelve people were baptized in the lake at Fort Wilderness. They each gave their faith story and expressed their desire to follow Christ.

Those baptized were: Tim Boyce, Gracie Erickson, Madison Exe, Tim Hook, Will McCully, Drew Merry, Pierre O'Driscoll, Arlie Olsen, Luke Ouren, Lydia Pankratz, Paul Sadler, Joe Vaughan



AUTUMN RIDGE CHURCH

SAT. 5:30PM | SUN. 9:00AM & 10:30AM | [AUTUMNRIDGECHURCH.ORG](http://AUTUMNRIDGECHURCH.ORG)

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and serve people.



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**CROWDER**  
AMERICAN PRODIGAL  
**TOUR**

FEATURING  
**TEDASHII** and **THE NEW RESPECTS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 7:30PM**  
**AUTUMN RIDGE CHURCH - ROCHESTER**

Tickets: \$25 general admission and \$40 VIP (VIP includes early entry and post-show meet & greet with photo opp).  
Special rate of \$22 for those who buy at Autumn Ridge services on August 6-7.  
Tickets and information online at [www.AutumnRidgeChurch.org/tickets](http://www.AutumnRidgeChurch.org/tickets) or [www.echoconcerts.com](http://www.echoconcerts.com)

Sponsors: Autumn Ridge Church, echo, Keebler.



## AUGUST SENIOR SAINTS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 10 | BEVERLY PATTERSON  
2205 2nd St SW #316 | Rochester, MN 55902

SEPTEMBER 11 | DALE LAUN  
2205 2nd St SW #438 | Rochester, MN 55902

# CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

## MINISTRY CONTACTS

- Senior Pastor** | C. John Steer
- Executive Pastor** | Pat Wester
- Children** | Pam Cray
- Counseling & Care** | Dan Farm
- Serving** | Karen Foster
- Group Life** | Paul McDonald
- Students** | Jason Motte
- Missions** | Woody Roland
- Worship** | Alan Shoumaker | April Rowe
- Administration** | George Beech
- Generosity** | Bob Stanhope

For a complete listing of our leadership team, please visit the church website at: [AutumnRidgeChurch.org/leadership](http://AutumnRidgeChurch.org/leadership)

You may contact our staff via email at:

[Lastname.Firstname@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Lastname.Firstname@AutumnRidgeChurch.org)

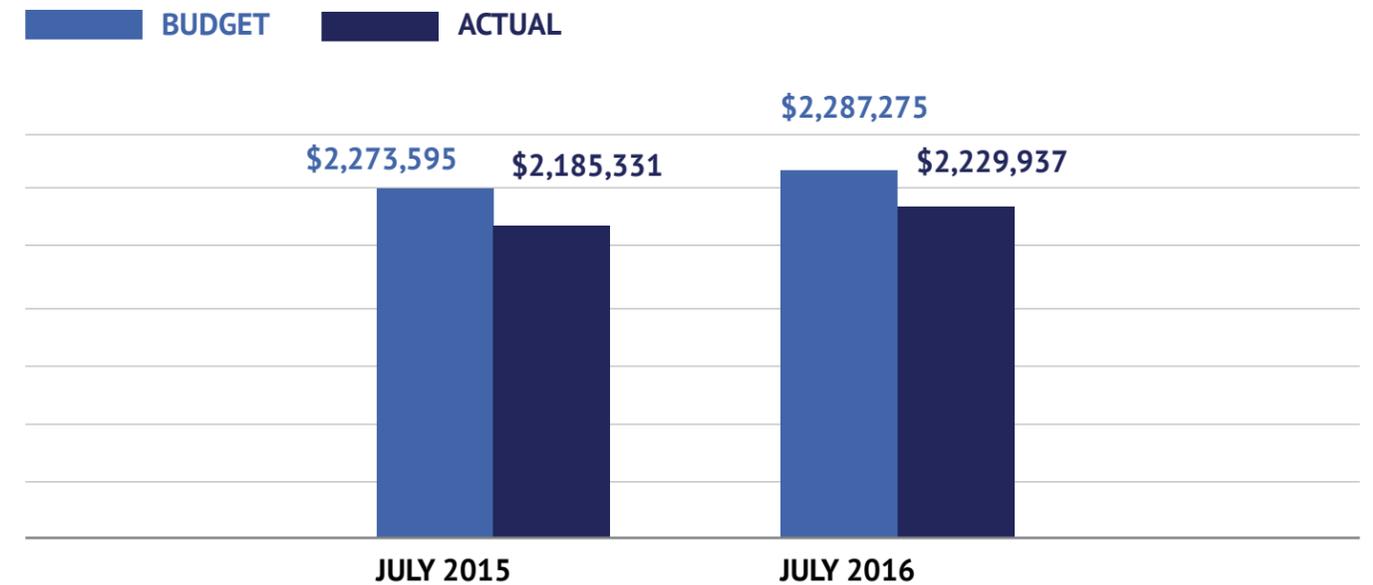
## ELDER BOARD

- Mark Foley – Chair
- Brad Anderson
- Jim Baber
- Harold Burden
- Phil Fischer
- John Folkerts
- Chris Grenz
- Steve Merry
- John Scales
- Cheolsu Shin
- Bob Stanhope
- Mark Topazian

You may contact the Elders via email at:

[Elders@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Elders@AutumnRidgeChurch.org)

# GIVING REPORT





# Extend The Truth

## Year Two of Three Years of Truth

C. John Steer

Autumn Ridge is engaged in Three Years of Truth. The theme for our first year was Embrace the Truth. We went through The Story of Scripture, memorized God's word, and encouraged daily Bible reading. This month we move to Year Two with the grand theme of Extend the Truth. Good news is to be shared with others. Henri Amiel noted that, "Truth is not only violated by falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence." God's people must speak out the truth. Our goal is that by the end of the year all of us will be able to present the gospel in a winsome way.

Over the past six months, a number of Autumn Ridgers have taken part in focus groups about how we can do this. A consensus emerged that we want to impact our community for Christ. We acknowledge our main obstacle to doing this is fear. We don't feel equipped for the task. Our elders and pastors have worked on a statement articulating our desire to do better. It reads, "In the power of the Spirit, we will equip Autumn Ridgers to be disciples where they live, work, and play, and to share our hope in Jesus."

So very simply we want to Share the Hope. This is particularly important because Rochester has a high percentage of people who don't affiliate with any faith. It is quite likely we will see significant growth in our community because of the Destination Medical Center. Therefore, the

need to bring the gospel to our corner of southeast Minnesota has never been greater.

In this year of evangelism, we are praying God will use the following events to deepen our faith, increase our courage, and broaden our outreach.

- **Go Fish** Life Group curriculum on personal evangelism training
- **Faith Stories** expressing how people share their faith
- **"What is the Gospel?"** sermon series
- **Miracles of Mercy**, Life Group curriculum that explores how we can work through acts of mercy to share our hope
- **City Circles**, a plan to start 36 new groups that will meet in public spaces, based on ideas from the Disciple Making Movement
- **4 Chairs** evangelism training weekend
- **Dare 2 Share** for our youth
- **Introducing Your Child to Jesus**
- **Starting Point Groups**, Introducing seekers to the basics of the Christian faith

In the weeks to come, we will tell you more about these opportunities, but in the meantime, let's all pray that the Holy Spirit gives us a desire to Share the Hope.

We Christians face three challenges when it comes to the truth. The first is to hunger after truth in a never-ending quest. The second is how to live in a society in which truth is doubted, suppressed, and denied. The third is to speak about the truth in a way that can be understood in a pluralistic world. We draw courage that the truth will be with us forever, for truth is rooted in the eternal God who is all-powerful and unchangeable. As followers of Christ, we are to walk in the truth, believe the truth, and speak the truth in love.

### SAVE THE DATE:

Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, September 17, 2016  
8:00 am

Common Grounds Café  
Cost: \$7.00

Watch the website for registration.  
Any questions, please contact Carmen Livingood:  
Livingood.Carmen@AutumnRidgeChurch.org



### FALL SERMON SERIES WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

If we are going to Extend the Truth in this Second Year of Truth, we need to know what the truth is. Twenty of the New Testament books refer to the impact of the gospel. We will look at six of them. It will help us to see something of this multifaceted jewel of truth God has entrusted to his church.

**Date:** September 24-25  
**Sermon:** THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT JESUS  
**Scripture:** The Gospel in Mark

**Date:** October 1-2  
**Sermon:** THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS  
**Scripture:** The Gospel in Luke

**Date:** October 8-9  
**Sermon:** THE GOSPEL IS SAVING  
**Scripture:** The Gospel in Romans

**Date:** October 15-16  
**Sermon:** THE GOSPEL IS TO BE PROCLAIMED  
**Scripture:** The Gospel in First Corinthians

**Date:** October 22-23  
**Sermon:** THE GOSPEL IS A PARTNERSHIP  
**Scripture:** The Gospel in Philippians

**Date:** October 29-30  
**Sermon:** THE GOSPEL IS ETERNAL  
**Scripture:** The Gospel in Revelation

# Doing and Being

Jeremy Walker

*Copied with permission from eardstapa.wordpress.com*

It is too easy to make our witness to Christ programmatic and mechanical. There is no doubt that some measure of order and organization is often profitable. There are many right and proper endeavors that demand structure, planning and management in order to do them well. People must be gathered and equipped, instructed or trained or encouraged, informed where to be and what to do, and so the program begins. I am by no means suggesting that all such endeavors need to be culled – far from it!

However, could it be that too often we think of doing evangelism rather than simply being evangelists, of being fully and readily evangelical? We are, after all, gospel people, are we not? We are the ones who have been called out of darkness into God's marvelous light in order that we might proclaim his praises (1Pt 2.9). In a sense, our witness to grace ought to be the most spontaneous, instinctive, natural thing in the world.

There are times when – because of fear, weariness, laziness, busyness, sickness, doubt or other reasons – we have to take ourselves in hand and stir ourselves up and spur ourselves and others on. Nevertheless, we should not need to be beaten into testifying of the grace of God in Christ. It bubbles out of a man like the apostle Paul under a variety of motivations, but it rarely seems to need to be drawn out, only directed as it flows.

Again, it is worth bearing in mind that we might wish to ensure that when speaking to unconverted men and women of the Lord Christ and his death and resurrection there are certain truths that we strike each time, every time, and time and time again over time. There is a certain core of truths that needs to

be held up and pressed home. Here once more is something of fixed substance. But at the same time, there need be no rigidity, no dry formula, in speaking of him whom not having seen we love. It should be a ready, cheerful and unforced testimony – the sort of enthusiasm which we would struggle to quell in almost any other sphere.

And how do we cultivate this relatively artless and effortless expression? By meditating much upon the person and work of Christ, by walking closely with him, communing with him, and delighting ourselves in all he is in himself and to us.

Let us be less about doing evangelism and more about being evangelists. Let the truth flow from us readily as we go about our business. “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2Cor 2:14–15).

*“Too often we think of doing evangelism rather than simply being evangelists”*



Years ago in Costa Rica, I had the privilege of serving as the interpreter for author Dann Spader as he presented a training conference for pastors in the Central Valley. In the seminar, he told a story about Vince Lombardi's last season as head coach of the Green Bay Packers.

Everyone who worked for and around Lombardi knew the game of football. But on this day, the famous coach faced a difficult challenge: where to begin after a humiliating defeat on the previous day. There was little he could say to his team that hadn't already been said. The men were professionals. They knew their performance on the field yesterday had been terrible. They knew their execution bore no resemblance to their game plan. They were angry, frustrated, and disappointed.

Lombardi decided to meet the challenge head-on. Picking up the familiar leather ball, he went directly to the heart of the matter. In a deliberate manner he brought everyone's attention back to the basics with the five simple words: “Men, this is a football.” One of his players who understood exactly how badly they needed to review the essentials spoke up, “Hold on Coach, you're going too fast!”

Just as Lombardi began that day by forcing his men to look at the fundamentals of the game, we need to examine the mission that lies at the heart of everything we do at Autumn Ridge Church.

On Saturday, September 10 from 9:00am to noon we will have our first “Four Chairs Seminar” to talk about organic, natural disciple-making. In this short time, we will talk

about how Jesus went about beginning a disciple-making movement and how we can imitate Him. We'll be meeting in the Upper Room, and I will explain the “Four Chairs” process.

Jesus knew the people He encountered were at different stages of growth and development, and He intentionally challenged them to move to the next level or “the next chair.” Because of that, he made four distinct invitations to people throughout His three and a half years of public ministry.

First, He invited people to come and see. That's all it was. Come and see who I am. Check me out. Learn from me.

Second, Jesus encouraged some to, “follow me.” This required more commitment. Still, it was a learning phase which every Christian (even today) needs to go through.

Third, Jesus challenged His followers to become fishers of men. He invited His disciples and each one of us to actually engage in the ministry of reaching others. Now, more than ever, we need fishers of men right here in southeastern Minnesota.

Finally, Jesus promoted the multiplication of His disciples by telling them to, “go and bear fruit.” He encouraged His disciples to multiply other disciples who would make disciples.

I encourage you to go to the website and sign up for “The Four Chairs” seminar on September 10th. The cost of the book is \$15. We will drink some coffee, eat some donuts, and explore how we can be disciples who make disciples.



Jesus said more about **MONEY** than **LOVE**

**Sundays, 9:00am in the Upper Room. Begins Sept. 18, 2016**

**Please visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) to register**

**What:** Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

**When:** Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 9:00 AM for 9 weeks

**Where:** Autumn Ridge Church, Upper Room

**Contact for More Information:**

[Livingood.Carmen@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Livingood.Carmen@AutumnRidgeChurch.org)

**Preregistration (recommended but not required):**

[daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) If you didn't pre-register, come anyway.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY IS  
A MESSAGE OF HOPE**

Over 500 people from Autumn Ridge Church have attended Financial Peace University (FPU). Many of these Autumn Ridgers have continued on this journey and are now reporting they are debt free for the first time in their adult lives. They did it by following biblical financial principles from the following 9 weeks of classes:

1. Super Saving: Common Sense for Your Dollars and Cents
2. Relating With Money: Nerds and Free Spirits Unite!
3. Cash Flow Planning: The Nuts and Bolts of Budgeting

4. Dumping Debt: Breaking the Chains of Debt
5. Buyer Beware: The Power of Marketing on Your Buying Decisions
6. The Role of Insurance: Protecting Your Health, Family, and Finances
7. Retirement and College Planning: Mastering the Alphabet Soup of Investing
8. Real Estate and Mortgages: Keeping the American Dream From Becoming a Nightmare
9. Unleashing the Power of Generous Giving: Give Like No One Else

FPU is not just hope for families who are struggling financially; it is for ordinary families who are doing well and want to take their financial peace to the next level. Whether you are a young adult just starting your career, a family with children, or retiring with dignity, FPU can help you achieve financial peace from the Prince of Peace.



**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE**

**When:** Thursday evenings starting October 6, 2016

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. for 8 weeks

**Location:** Luther Room B

Group size limited to 12 attendees

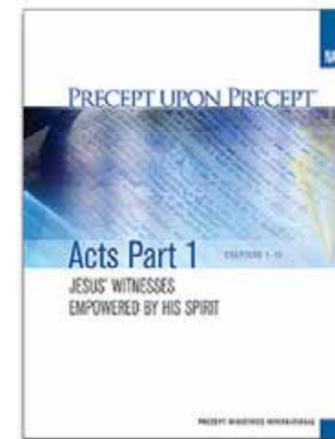
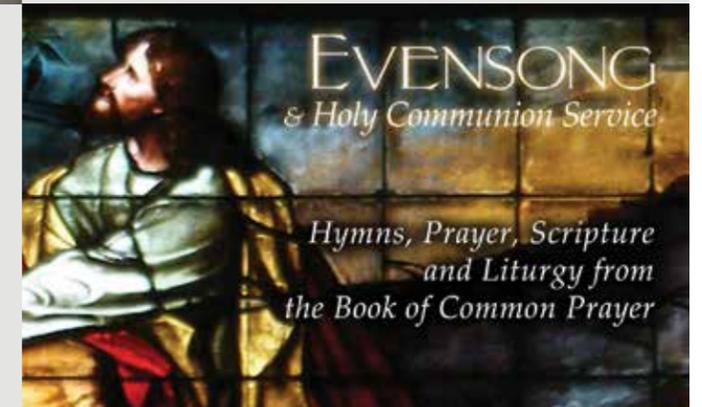
**Prerequisite:** Minimum of 3 months after the loss  
Pre-registration is required.

To register please contact Carmen Livingood at the church (507) 288-8880 or email at [Livingood.Carmen@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Livingood.Carmen@AutumnRidgeChurch.org).

**EVENSONG AND HOLY COMMUNION**

**6pm • Sunday, September 25 • Timothy Chapel**

John and Gretchen Steer invite you to join them for a service of hymns, prayers, scripture readings, and liturgy from The Book of Common Prayer. Evensong meets once a month during the school year.



**Acts: Jesus' Witnesses Empowered By His Spirit**

What happened after Jesus' death and resurrection? How did the gospel spread and the church begin to grow numerically, geographically, and culturally? Come study the book of Acts, stand in awe of the power of the Holy Spirit working through His witnesses, and learn to embrace this same power in your own life. This study is open to men and women of all ages.

**Beginning September 6, 9:30-11:00 a.m. or 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Luther Room**

Register at: [AutumnRidgeChurch.org](http://AutumnRidgeChurch.org)

For information about the morning class contact Julie Smestad: [juliesmestad@charter.net](mailto:juliesmestad@charter.net).

For information about the evening class contact Karen Rucker: [ruckerka@yahoo.com](mailto:ruckerka@yahoo.com).

# Discover the Joy of Generosity

Bob Stanhope

For many of God's people, the joy of generosity extends deeply into all aspects of their lives. As disciples of Jesus Christ, this suggests giving to others something of great value. But often, it's simple acts of kindness like serving meals to a family stricken with illness, providing child care or transportation for someone in need, showing compassion to someone grieving, or recognizing the need for emotional support. Generosity also involves sharing personal resources that help meet the ministries of the church, such as sending youth to experience missions, paying a bill for someone who is hurting or sick, extending a hand to someone unchurched, welcoming visitors, as well as providing for our pastoral ministries, and supporting our church facility. In addition to local ministries, Autumn Ridge Church has been blessed to support 32 missionaries in distant lands and Compassion Evangelical Hospital in Guinea, West Africa.

Year after year, the people of Autumn Ridge demonstrate generous giving, and year after year we celebrate a day in late December when we have met our year-end budget. For some churches meeting the proposed annual budget is an unusual event. Here at Autumn Ridge, it is an anticipated and highly celebrated regular event. Our congregation has practiced generosity in giving for many years. For the 25 years we have been a part of this congregation, it has been a privilege to join in the celebration of generosity.

From a personal perspective, being a part of the Autumn Ridge family has been a blessing to my wife, children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren. Along with so many others, we have learned that generosity is a wonderfully simple way to express our love for Christ and what He does in our lives. Becoming more generous has brought my family more

happiness, greater purpose in life, and an enormous sense of personal well-being. Gratefulness to God fills my heart every day.

Because of God's grace, my wife and I may retire or become semi-retired from our employment. For me being semi-retired means there is more time to give back to the Lord and especially to the work of our church. Seeking the advice of Pastor Steer was extremely helpful in imagining what that could mean, and after prayerful consideration, the opportunity to encourage generosity and identify opportunities for others to engage in generosity has emerged. I am thankful for this opportunity to give back and welcome others to join me.

For me every new day begins with Bible reading and prayer in preparation for the work of the day. Recently, the Apostle Paul's focus on God's generous provision for each of us has become an inspiration.

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

*"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."*

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

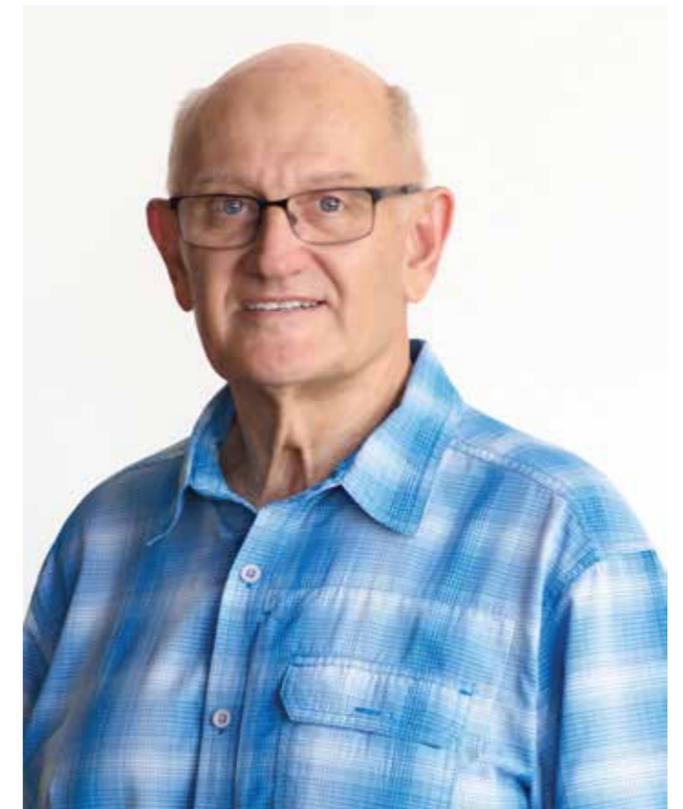


Many Autumn Ridgers will attest to the blessings they have received following the practice of generous giving which has become central to their spiritual lives. Generosity is ultimately an expression of love. Let us continue to love God from a position of gratitude, making giving a spiritual discipline as well as a spiritual decision.

## 2 Corinthians 8:7

*"But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also."*

It is my hope in the months to come that you will join me in the Autumn Ridge Journey of Generosity. Our church body has many needs, spiritual, physical, and material. God takes great delight in blessing each of us for our faithful and consistent giving.



# Desire & Knowledge

Ben Creo

Over the next year, the ARC Magazine will regularly feature selections from “Outside the Walls,” a report of the Local Mission Committee. The goal of this report was to understand how the church may better reach our local community.

There are many unmet needs in the Rochester area. Responding to these needs requires wisdom. Wisdom, in turn, requires information on which to act. If we can understand how churches and Christians are generally perceived in town, then we can structure our outreach efforts to be more effective.

Over the next few months, this series will present information gathered from surveys of Rochester area residents and local community leaders.

*“Desire without knowledge is not good--how much more will hasty feet miss the way!”*

What are some of the needs people may have in this community which churches are currently attempting to meet? On which issues are they doing better, and on which are they less effective, in your view? Why? (From Survey of Community Leaders)

If a leader was not already connected to a local church (and even in some cases if they were), they often could not provide an answer to this question. Many leaders indicated that they truly did not know and were unable to answer this question. “Don’t know” was a common response from community leaders. It was a remarkable indication that the work of

churches is not widely known in the community. One leader, who was a Christian and could identify ministries, stated, “Christians are a force in town, but we are not a face.”

One leader summarized his view: “Churches are successful in the things they’re involved in but are not necessarily involved in many things.”

Another leader, who was a Christian, shared, “Most churches are effective in serving their community. I’m talking about their church community,” but that they don’t set expectations of serving the broader community beyond their walls. The same leader wondered, “How many things do the churches do together and invite the community into?” He later continued: “My fear is that the church turns inward, and that’s not what we need in Rochester, and that’s not what we need as the community grows.”

Of the leaders who could answer this question, they almost always responded that the church does an excellent job with food distribution. “The backpack program” [Acts 4 Kids] was a frequently cited response.

The Salvation Army was also frequently cited. Leaders believe the Salvation Army has an excellent reputation in town. The other ministry frequently mentioned very positively was the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Several leaders were aware of and impressed with its efforts.

Leaders who were connected to churches frequently lamented that Carefest was no longer occurring: Carefest was a huge demonstration of churches coming together. It was felt that Carefest was great publicity for the churches in town. While Carefest was largely “mechanical” in what was asked (e.g. paint homes, pick up garbage), it was a great way for many Christians to serve together and received widespread press coverage. One leader noted he felt people would see Carefest on TV and say, “Wow, Christians are okay and not being hypocritical.”

If active community leaders could name very little to no activities by churches to serve and engage the community, we suspect the average resident would not be able to do so either.

For a full copy of this local mission report, please visit [AutumnRidgeChurch.org/ministries/missions-and-outreach/](http://AutumnRidgeChurch.org/ministries/missions-and-outreach/)

May the Lord bless our church as we seek to share the good news and serve our local community!



## Israel Trip

Paul McDonald

Join Pastor Paul and Peggy McDonald for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

**Departing March 21st 2017**

**13 days walking in the footsteps of Jesus:** Jerusalem, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Caesarea, Mount of Olives, Calvary, and many other locations in the Holy Land. Much more than informational, this trip is transformational.

**More information at:** [Mcdonald.Paul@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Mcdonald.Paul@AutumnRidgeChurch.org) or call Paul at 288-8880.

**A 10-week Class**  
**September 12 – November 14, 2016**  
**Autumn Ridge Church**

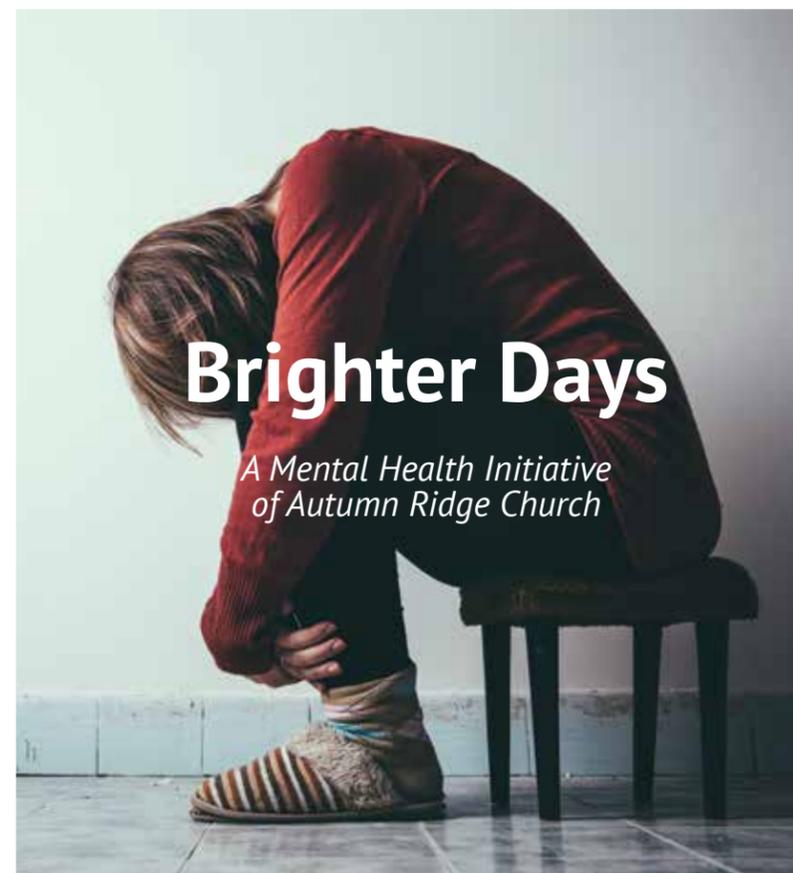
*“When Someone You Love Is Facing a Mental Health Challenge”*

**Objective:** To empower participants with education - provided by guest speakers who will address a variety of mental health diagnoses, crucial life skills, Biblical foundations for mental health stability, and the development of an essential support network, all for greater stability in their own lives as they seek to support their loved one.

**Registration Required:** For more information or to register, contact Gloria Stumvoll at [507-288-4614](tel:507-288-4614)/[gstumvoll@charter.net](mailto:gstumvoll@charter.net). Prerequisite for registration: you have someone in your life facing a mental health challenge. Class size limited.

**Support Team:** If you do not have someone in your life facing such a challenge, but would like to help launch this important ministry, contact Steve Cray at [847-217-3020](tel:847-217-3020)/[stevencray524@gmail.com](mailto:stevencray524@gmail.com).

*“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.”*  
- Isaiah 40:31

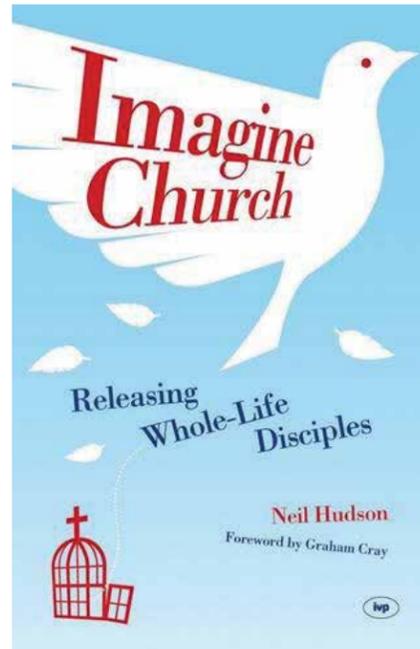


## Brighter Days

*A Mental Health Initiative  
of Autumn Ridge Church*

# Elder Update

Mark Foley



The Elder Board has been working through the Vision Statement for Autumn Ridge, which Pat Wester drafted with input from members of the congregation, pastors, and elders (see Pastor Steer's article in this magazine). Our Vision Statement provides one to three clear priority items that Autumn Ridge will focus on for the next few years. Our Mission Statement of "Loving God, Serving People" remains, while the Vision Statement gives a more focused direction within that. The elders desire us to focus on a deeper spiritual training and equipping to enable us to share our faith in Christ within our circle of influence.

Most years the board reads a book together. This year we are reading the book "Imagine Church." It highlights our careers as a calling to serve God wherever he has placed us. The book has provoked good discussion amongst us and has given us ideas that we will look to implement.

The board meets once a month, and at our June meeting we discussed a report from the Local Missions Committee. We

approved three ideas from the report: 1. Preach outreach-focused sermons throughout the year; 2. Highlight local outreach, and; 3. Use a Life Groups curriculum designed to share our faith. Several pastoral staff will be implementing these things in the fall.

At our July meeting, we heard a report from Olmsted Outreach, a ministry created by our church in the late 1990s to be an umbrella organization for new ministries. They provide a tax deductible organization to donate money, get accounting help, and provide umbrella liability coverage – areas where many new ministries need help. It has been a highly successful incubator for ministries that are now independent, and each year the Olmsted Outreach board evaluates ideas from those who want to start a new ministry. Olmsted Outreach is looking for additional people to come onto their board - if you have an interest in this strategic ministry incubator, contact George Hemenway for more information.

The giving report in this magazine shows there is a lag in our budgeted giving, and our staff has done a great job of trying to contain spending to balance our budget. We will continue to monitor this closely and are implementing tools to measure total church involvement. We are trying to monitor changes in our church life, things I previously wrote about as part of the ground work for a senior pastor transition in the future.

Your comments/questions are appreciated. At Family Camp, Pastor Steer offered if anyone wanted to share concerns or discuss faith topics to please contact one of the elders. I extend that offer to you here in Rochester as well. We will discuss your concerns over a cup of coffee or tea - our treat! Or feel free to send them to the board at [Elders@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Elders@AutumnRidgeChurch.org) or text me directly at 507-250-7345.



A Time for Women is held the second Thursday of each month during the school year at Autumn Ridge Church in the Upper Room from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The purpose of A Time for Women is to provide a special time for women of all ages to connect, relax, and do something fun and different. This is a time where you can get to know others better, invite friends to attend, learn and share talents, all with a spiritual emphasis. Each month is a different program. There are no dues, and no RSVP is required.

We would love to have you come and join us. Following a meaningful devotional and brief demonstration on a topic of interest, there will be time to work on projects or relax and connect with others. Feel free to bring any project you would like to work on: coloring, hand sewing, beading, etc. Sweet and healthy treats and beverages will be served.

A special Time for Women will meet this fall on September 8th. Patti Gloff will be sharing a devotion on "Gardening with the Master" and also will be demonstrating flower arranging. Upcoming programs include: Setting a Pretty Holiday Table; Making Christmas Cards for shut-ins; Quick and Healthy Cooking; and Quilt Show and Tell, when you can bring a favorite quilt to show and share a quilting tip, if you have one.

On October 13th, Lorie Dahlstrom will present the devotional "True Beauty." Bead Bonanza Demos will follow, with several ladies demonstrating beading techniques, from simple to complex. This will vary from our usual format, with demonstrations going on simultaneously. Also, there will be a hands-on demo where you can learn how to make a simple earring. Feel free to bring beading tools and beads to work with if you have them. A limited selection of beads and supplies will be available to purchase at cost from other members, anywhere from 25 cents on up, and some freebies will be available too.

You can find more information on upcoming programs and announcements on the church website or check us out on our Facebook page. Please come and join us!

Sincerely in Him,

**Heart Sisters Leadership Team:**

Mert Armstrong, Carol Denny, Karen Gustafson, Joleen Larsen, Sandie Luck, Dawn Pruett, Karen Schouweiler, Lori Solmonson, Dawn Wester

# Worship Ministries Update

Pat Wester



We welcome Alan Shoumaker as our Pastor of Traditional Worship. Alan and his wife, Kim, have lived in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the last twenty-five years, where both have served their church faithfully. Alan has served as the lead Worship Pastor during that time.

Married for 35 years, they have four children: Lindsay Silvio ( Kyle), Laura Beth Figueiroa (Lester), Mitchell and Dustin Shoumaker, and Benjamin Shoumaker. They also have seven grandchildren. They are extremely proud of their family and feel blessed that they all are loving and serving the Lord faithfully.

Alan has a Bachelor of Church Music Degree from East Texas Baptist University, a Masters Degree in Church Music from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Worship Studies from the Robert Webber Institute for Worship Studies. But most importantly – he has felt God’s calling on his life since he was a teenager to be involved in worship leadership and to minister to God’s people through the avenues of music in the church.

He is excited to come to Autumn Ridge Church to work with our talented choir and orchestra as a ministry to our congregation. He will oversee the 9:00 am Sunday morning service, work with our Front Door Ministries, assist in the pastoral ministry of our church, and work with the rest of the Worship Ministries Team as they seek to develop environments where people can freely worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to join the choir or orchestra, call Dorothy Morris at 288-8880 or send an email to [Morris.Dorothy@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Morris.Dorothy@AutumnRidgeChurch.org) to receive more information.



We are still working to meet all the legal requirements to get approval for Jamie Robinson’s visa application to be our Pastor of Worship Ministries. We have advocates helping us from the office of US Senator Amy Klobuchar and an Immigration attorney to work with the USCIS and IRS in order to get all the correct documentation. We still don’t have an exact timeline for the approval of the Religious Worker’s visa for Jamie, but we hope and pray for a late November arrival. Continue to pray for this process, our church, and the Robinsons that we can stay the course and be patient as we await a positive outcome.

# Praying for France

C. John Steer

David and Vicki Harbert are members of our congregation. Their son-in-law, Jonathan Porteous, is Assistant Pastor at a church in La Garenne-Colombes near Paris. This is the only evangelical church in the city, with a congregation of about a hundred. Jonathan and his wife visited Autumn Ridge last month. Pastor John Steer asked them how we could pray for the people of France following the tragedy in Nice when 84 people were killed. Jonathan writes:

*Pray for the families who have lost loved ones and for the wounded. Pray for the Christians who will witness to them--that they will show them Jesus Christ.*

*Pray for the French leaders--that they will promote justice and peace in this time where difficult decisions must be made. We shouldn’t be naive about what radical Islam is - ISIS is not ‘nothing to do with Islam’ - yet at the same time,*

*a lot of Muslims understand their religion peacefully and want to live peacefully.*

*Pray for Christians as they witness to Muslims, pray that they will show the love of Jesus Christ, and speak the truth with love to them. Pray for my Muslim colleagues and friends: Feysel and Khaled.*

*Pray for the French nationals. In this time of fear and grief, pray they will not blame it all on religion - as they are used to -, but be open to hear about the good news of Jesus Christ. Like my friend Mike Evans said, “History is replete with reminders that the enemy’s unrestrained rage is the stepping stone for gospel advance... Death is suddenly real. Questions about evil abound in the face of unimaginable and indiscriminate violence. Now is the time to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as never before.”*



You’ve brought your new baby home from the hospital, so now what? A New Parent’s Class is being offered for all those who have recently dedicated their babies or who would like to in the near future. During this class, we’ll talk about what it means to dedicate a baby, how that is different than infant baptism, and how Autumn Ridge dedicates babies. In addition, we’ll look at the partnership between the church and parents in the spiritual nurture of children.

This class will take place in the Upper Room on Saturday, September 24 from 9:00-11:00. Childcare will be available for free to those who **RSVP to Lauren Hershey (Hershey. [lauren@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:lauren@AutumnRidgeChurch.org)) by September 10th.**

# Sprint into Fall with the Children



## Barnabas Ministry offered Sunday 10:30

This class is designed for special needs children ages 5-18. Children worship, hear Bible stories, and engage in meaningful activities.

## Midweek Programs

### Monday Nights Starting September 19, 6:15-7:45

#### Trail Life Boys

Trail Life exposes kids to outdoor experiences and teaches life skills with a Christian world view. Emphasis is on character building, leadership, and integrating spiritual development into day-to-day life.

### Wednesday Night Kid's Club

#### Starting September 14, 6:15-7:45

#### Stompers

Preschool children worship, learn Bible stories, play, and enjoy various activities in a fun environment.

#### Quest 252

Children learn character qualities so they can make wise choices, trust God, and treat others the way they want to be treated.

To register for any of the programs mentioned on this article go to [AutumnRidgeChurch.org/children](http://AutumnRidgeChurch.org/children).

## Sprint into Fall with the Children's Ministry Programs

### Weekend Programs

DiscipleKids Kicks off September 10-11

Nursery offered Saturday 5:30, Sunday 9:00 & 10:30

Children from birth through 2 years old are lovingly cared for and prayed over by trained volunteers.

Preschool offered Saturday 5:30, Sunday 9:00 & 10:30

Children ages 2 – 4 learn foundational truths of the faith in an age-appropriate way through stories, song, and games.

Elementary offered Sunday 9:00 & 10:30

Children from K-5 learn stories from the Bible and how they can apply them to their everyday lives. This is done in the context of a small group with a leader committed to spiritual growth.

# Donate Your Clothing & Household items

And Help Support Safe Families for Children!

Safe Families for Children is partnering with NP Community to collect donated items. As you donate your clothing and household items to Safe Families for Children, NP Community will collect and pay a generous price per pound for those donations. Certain donated items will be given to local outreach programs as needs arise. We will then earmark the funds collected for Safe Families for Children's operating expenses.

Donate your items 24/7 by placing them in the collection bins located in the parking lot northeast corner.

### Items that can be donated:

- Clothing, Jackets, Shoes, Boots, Belts
- Scarves, Ties, Hats, Caps, Gloves
- Table Linens, Bedding, Throw Pillows
- Curtains, Purses, Wallets
- Luggage, Packs, Jewelry, Eyewear
- Toys, Sporting Equipment
- Small Electrical Appliances, Phones
- Tools, Home & Garden, Auto Devices
- Camera Equipment, Clocks, Radios
- Audio, Video, & Gaming Equipment

- Musical & Performance Equipment
- Cookware, Dishware, Glassware, Flatware, Food Preparation Utensils
- Games, Puzzles
- Journals, Stationary, Knick-knacks, Collectibles, Craft Supplies & Displays
- Office & School Supplies
- Computer Equipment (No Old Monitors)
- Hardwired Electrical Fixtures, Lamps
- Wall Hangings, Pictures, Frames, Art
- Pet Products (Non-Perishable Only)

### Items that can't be accepted:

- Furniture, Large Appliances
- Tube TVs, Books
- Beds & Frames
- Gas, Oil, Chemicals
- Baby Cribs, Baby Baths, Car Seats
- Dirty/Moldy/Filthy Items
- Christmas Trees





# ARCHWAYS

## THE PATH TO PARTNERSHIP

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**ArchWays Path to Partnership Class Fall Schedule**  
All classes are offered three times each weekend:  
Saturdays @ 7:00 pm, Sundays @ 9:00 & 10:30 am

ArchWays class series is three weeks long,  
beginning on September 24/25 and concluding on  
October 8/9.

Topics will include the following:

- Autumn Ridge History, God's Gift of Salvation
- What are Our Purpose, Personality, and Beliefs?
- How are We Organized and Where are We Going?
- How Has God Made You and How Can You Contribute?

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God has given the church of Jesus Christ a mission, and you can partner with us at Autumn Ridge Church! If you want to learn more about what this partnership looks like, we offer the ArchWays classes twice a year. These classes are our way of helping you find out about what makes Autumn Ridge unique as a church. It also gives you the opportunity to formalize your partnership with us through church membership if that is your desire. If you have questions about the ArchWays classes or becoming a member, e-mail us at [Membership@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Membership@AutumnRidgeChurch.org).

Be sure to stop by any monitor or the CENTER lobby to see the latest group of people who took this important step in partnering with Autumn Ridge through membership.