

# The Encourager

## Service Times

### Sunday Service

Breakfast.....8:00AM  
 Sunday School.....9:00AM  
 Morning Worship.....10:25AM

Discipleship Training.....5:00PM  
 Preschool & Children 's  
 Classes.....5:00PM  
 Youth Connect  
 Groups.....5:00PM

Evening Service.....6:00PM

### Wednesday Service

Supper.....5:00PM  
 Adult Prayer.....6:15PM  
 Children & Preschool  
 Classes.....6:00PM  
 Youth Service.....6:00PM

## Office Hours

Monday.....8AM-5PM  
 Tuesday.....8AM-5PM  
 Wednesday.....8AM-5PM  
 Thursday.....8AM-5PM



### *“An Attitude of Thankfulness!”*

*“Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...” Ephesians 5:20*

Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians while in prison! How could Paul have an attitude of gratitude, or an attitude of thankfulness while sitting in a prison cell?

For one thing he was thinking about the new followers of Jesus Christ in Ephesus. He said in [Ephesians 1:16](#), “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” All His efforts to share the Good News of Jesus the Messiah, even in the face of opposition and persecution had not been wasted! There was a thriving church in Ephesus with people who were carrying on Christ’s kingdom work.

Also, as we see in Ephesians 5:20, Paul always kept in mind that he belonged to Almighty God through his faith and trust

in Jesus Christ! All the power of Rome couldn’t hinder that. As a matter of fact, Paul knew he would be vindicated on the Day when Christ judges all nations (including Rome) and all mankind.

As he sat in his prison cell he could be thankful that “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

I recently ran across this familiar poem that seems so appropriate every day of the year, and especially during the Thanksgiving season...

“I cried because I had no hat till I saw a man who had no coat. I cried because I had no coat till I saw a man who had no shirt. I cried because I had no shirt till I saw a man who had no socks, I cried because I had no socks till I saw a man who had no shoes. I cried because I had no shoes till I saw a man who had no feet. I cried because I had no feet till I saw a man who had no legs. I cried because I had no legs till I saw a man who had no life.”

How can we maintain an attitude of thanksgiving? As in all things, the answer is found in God’s Word. [Philippians 4: 4-8](#). “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Giving Thanks to God for You!  
 Bro. Neil



### Church Family

Thank you to all that helped at the Fall Fest. It was a huge success!

We are going to have the Kids Christmas Praise Team again this year!! This team will help lead worship in a couple of Christmas songs with our church's Praise Band on Sunday, December 9th in the morning worship service. We will begin having practices for this awesome performance soon. If you would like your child/children to be involved, please make sure they can be at every practice that is offered. Also, they will need to be willing to lead worship on stage with the Praise Band.

Serving Him  
Amanda Wilson  
Preschool/Children Director

### Regular Schedule

#### Sunday

Sunday School.....9:00am  
Nursery.....9:00am  
Worship.....10:15am

Nursery.....5:00pm  
Mission Friends.....5:00pm  
GA's & RA's.....5:00pm  
Worship.....6:00pm

#### Wednesdays

Nursery.....6:00pm  
Kids Worship.....6:00pm

### Contact Information

**Email:** [awilson@firstcal.org](mailto:awilson@firstcal.org)  
**Phone:** Office: (318) 644-5101  
Cell: (318) 245-9978





### Look to Jesus for Your Joy

*"They do all their deeds to be seen by others. . . . They love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others."*(Matthew 23:5-7)

The itch of self-regard craves the scratch of self-approval. If we are getting our pleasure from feeling self-sufficient, we will not be satisfied without others seeing and applauding our self-sufficiency.

Hence Jesus's description of the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:5, "They do all their deeds to be seen by others."

This is ironic. Wouldn't you think that self-sufficiency should free the proud person from the need to be made much of by others? That's what "sufficient" means. But evidently there is an emptiness in this so-called self-sufficiency.

The self was never designed to satisfy itself or rely upon itself. It never can be self-sufficient. We are not God. We are in the image of God. And what makes us "like" God is not our self-sufficiency. We are shadows and echoes. So, there will always be an emptiness in the soul that struggles to be satisfied with the resources of self.

This empty craving for the praise of others signals the failure of pride and the absence of faith in God's ongoing grace. Jesus saw the terrible effect of this itch for human glory. He named it in John 5:44, "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" The answer is, you can't. Itching for glory from other people makes faith impossible. Why?

Because faith looks away from self to God. Faith is being satisfied with all that God is for you in Jesus. And if you are bent on getting the satisfaction of your itch from the scratch of others' praise, you will turn away from Jesus. That is not what he is like. He lives for the glory of his Father. And calls us to do the same.

But if you would turn from self as the source of satisfaction (repentance), and come to Jesus for the enjoyment of all that God is for us in him (faith), then the itch of emptiness would be replaced by a fullness — what Jesus calls "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).

Here are some Dates to know about.

#### Fall Retreat:

November 9-11 we will be having fall retreat @ Camp Ch-Yo-Ca with several area churches. Not too late to sign up! Cost:\$50

#### DNOW:

January 18-20 we will be having DNOW with several area churches. Sign up coming soon! Cost:\$50

You can pay for any of the above trips in advance. Turn your money into Bro. Joey and we will keep a record of your payments.

Love, Peace and Chicken Grease!

**BRO. JOEY**

Student Pastor, First Cal



### Things To Check Out

#### Music:

"Hymns Vol.1" Shane and Shane  
"The Reveille Vol. III" Austin Stone

#### Books:

Ben Stuart - Single, Dating, Engaged, Married

#### Book of the Bible:

New Testament– Ephesians  
Old Testament– Hosea

### Weekly Schedule

**Monday Night Basketball–6:30–9:00pm**

**Wednesday Worship–6:00–7:15pm**

**Sunday School– 9:00–10:15pm**

**Sunday AM Worship Service @.10:25pm**

**Connect Groups–Sundays @ 5:00pm**

### Devotional Apps

**Daily Devo  
Shane and Shane**



**Solid Joys  
John Piper**



**First 5  
Proverbs 31**



### Student Ministry Contact

Email: [janwar@firstcal.org](mailto:janwar@firstcal.org)  
Cell: 318-573-9580

Check us out on facebook:

([www.facebook.com/firstcalstudentministry](http://www.facebook.com/firstcalstudentministry))

Twitter at:

@fbCalStudents

Friend us personally if you wanna chat with Rach or myself on:

[www.facebook.com/joey.anwar](http://www.facebook.com/joey.anwar) or on

Instagram–janwar and rachelanwar

# FIRST CAL



WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

## November Birthdays

- 2nd James Ellis Kilpatrick
- 3rd JP Rieger, III
- 5th Diane Stanley  
Jason Rieger
- 6th Nicholas Rieger  
Karlee Guerra  
Sarah Beth Duke
- 7th Dixie Reynolds  
Frankie Tanner
- 8th Beth Brown
- 9th Charlie Staples  
Holly Thompson  
Will McDowell
- 10th Jerard Toney
- 12th Jimmy Holton  
Hannah Goodfellow
- 13th Alicia Jones  
Case Goodfellow
- 14th Ima Nae Green  
Chris Weaver
- 15th Chris Craighead  
Nicole Dray  
Trey Knighten
- 16th Dude Halley  
Alicia Minter  
Makayla Herrington  
Justin Neal
- 17th Sara Williams
- 18th Randy Wilbanks
- 19th Betty Hale  
Stephanie Nance  
Lesley Mizell
- 20th Julian Johnston  
David Petch  
Sonya Taylor  
Katie Calhoun
- 21st Nancy Machen  
Amanda Goforth
- 22nd Ronny Naron
- 25th Joellen Retz  
Lyn Rieger  
Sheila Taylor
- 27th Kayla Temple  
Andrew Lockhart  
Breanna Benson
- 28th Shirley Turner  
Matthew Petch
- 30th Gloria Blakeney  
Michael Guntharp

**Our world mission offering is designed to make donating to Georgia Barnette, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and David Terry easier.**

**When you donate money to the World Mission Offering a percentage will go to each of the above listed missions on a monthly basis. See the breakdown of percentages listed below.**

- Lottie Moon.....50%**
- Annie Armstrong.....30%**
- Georgia Barnette.....15%**
- David Terry.....5%**

**Below are the World Mission amounts for the dates of:  
3/1/18–2/28/19**

<b>Lottie Moon.....</b>	<b>\$1,860.50</b>
<b>Annie Armstrong.....</b>	<b>\$1,116.30</b>
<b>Georgia Barnette.....</b>	<b>\$558.15</b>
<b>David Terry.....</b>	<b>\$186.05</b>
<b>Total for World Mission.....</b>	<b>\$3,721.00</b>