

The Encourager

Service Times

Sunday Service

Free 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

Wednesday Night
 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

A Life of Meaning and Purpose

“A Life of Meaning and Purpose”

Matthew 16:25, “Jesus said, ‘For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it.’”

Consider this comment a girl posted on an atheist website:
 “I’m confused ... I always believed science would be the cure-all for my problems, but I don’t know if I can keep living without eternal life. I guess I’ll just have to find a way myself to make it through this meaningless existence. I just wish I knew of someone who could show me the path to eternal life. If science can’t provide the answers, though, then who or what can!? *sigh* Doesn’t it seem like there is a higher power that gives our lives purpose? Well, science says there isn’t, so there isn’t.”

Have you ever felt like this girl? Can you relate to her angst? Have you ever really wondered, in an atheistic universe, if there is any point at all? Even Bertrand Russell, the great and influential philosopher, realized that an atheistic universe is truly meaningless.

Hope is in short supply in our culture these days. If life as one sees it now on this pain-filled planet is all there is, then existence is indeed

meaningless and one must, as this girl says, “find a way myself.” She realizes there is one thing that would make everything meaningful: eternal life. She once expected science to find a way for humans to live forever, but she has come to realize that it cannot.

At one point in history, there was a band of people who trusted in someone they fervently believed would truly change the world for good. A handful of devout Jewish people thought a man named Jesus was the Messiah—the deliverer who would break their oppressive bondage under the Romans and set up a permanent and truly godly kingdom on earth. Their prophet Isaiah had prophesied in the ancient Jewish writings that the Messiah would come and restore all things to a paradise, where there would be no more fighting, oppression, fear, or death (Isa. 11; Isa. 35). Everyone would live together in peace forever.
 (Source: Josh and Sean McDowell, “The Resurrection and You”)

We find meaning and purpose in life by coming into fellowship with our Creator! God created us to be with Him in complete fellowship for all eternity. However, our sin has separated us from our loving yet holy Heavenly Father. Through Jesus death on the cross our sin was paid for. He willingly took our punishment. Now a just God can offer us a pardon when we sincerely repent of our sin and follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

“Jesus said, ‘Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’ (John 10:7-10)

Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

According to the Bible, our purpose (the reason we are here) is for God’s glory. In other words, our purpose is to praise God, worship Him, to proclaim His greatness, and to accomplish His will. This is what glorifies Him. Therefore, in this we find that God has given us a reason for our existence—a meaning for our existence. We were created by Him, according to His desire, and our lives are to be lived for Him so that we might accomplish what He has for us to do. When we trust the One who has made us, who works all things after the counsel of His will, then we are able to live a life of purpose.

Glorifying God Together,
 Bro. Neil



The Back to School Bash was a success! Thank you to all who helped to make it possible.

We welcome Mrs. Nancy Huey as our new Children's Director/Interim! She and her husband, Mr. Ron, have been members of First Baptist Calhoun for 24 years. During that time, she has been involved in the children's ministry by teaching, volunteer directing, leading, and loving God and His children.



Mark Your Calendars!

Fall Festival.....Thursday,October 31
6:00-8:00pm

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: nhuey@firstcal.org
Phone: Office: (318) 644-5101
Cell: (318) 614-0944





Dear Church Family,
 The month of August was great. We witnessed two of our students publically profess their faith in baptism. God is continuing to move in our students' lives and we are excited to see them grow in Christ and walk alongside one another. In August, we hosted a back to school lock in where we had 110 students on our church campus. Throughout the night, they worshipped together and fellowshiped together. I truly appreciate all the chaperones that showed up and made the night possible. Thanks again to you guys. I ask that you guys continue to pray for our students as they face many challenges each day at their schools.

In Christ,

A.J. Toms

EVENT DATES

Mark your calendar for these important dates.

Labor day Party—September 2nd
 Impact 2019—September 25th @ First West

Weekly Schedule

Monday Night
 Basketball—6:30—
 9:00pm

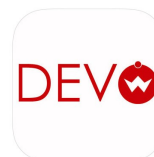
Wednesday Worship—
 6:00—7:15pm

Sunday School—
 9:00—10:15am

Sunday AM Worship
 Service— 10:25am

Devotional Apps

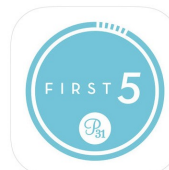
Daily Devo
 Shane and Shane



Solid Joys
 John Piper



First 5
 Proverbs 31



Student Ministry Con- tact

Email:
ajtoms@firstcal.org
 Cell: 318-475-1707

Check us out on face-
 book:
 (www.facebook.com/first
 calstudentministry)

Twitter at:
 @fbCalStudents

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**

Lottie Moon.....	\$5,894.00
Annie Armstrong.....	\$3,536.40
Georgia Barnette.....	\$1,768.20
David Terry.....	\$589.40
Total for World Mission.....	\$11,788.00

FIRST CAL



WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING



September

- 1 Adam Bricker
Yvonne Richardson
- 2 Chad Deal
- 3 Connie Sims
- 6 Jean Vines
- 7 Dakota Pepper
- 8 Jonathan Everett
- 10 Michelle Phillips
- 11 Betty Halley
- 11 Gary Richardson
- 14 Sherry Canady
Lytle Jackson
- 15 Karsyn Rae Bass
- 17 Zane Magana
- 18 Sara Kilpatrick
Doyle Smith
A.J. Toms
- 19 Douglas Hogan
Loyce Trichell
- 20 Joan Walters
- 22 Katie Bingham
Colin Hicks
- 23 Cheryl Kuhn
- 24 Mary Troutt
- 25 Alice Lehr
Pam Robinson
- 26 Kenslee Turnbow
- 27 Butch Smith
Del Vines
- 28 Colby Brown
Cristine Cosby
- 29 Phillip Tatum
Valerie Watt
- 30 Megan Reeder
Glenda Wilbanks