



From Pastor Rick

Preparing for the new year?

Are you ready to think of 2017 yet? Maybe it is a bit early to do so. Thanksgiving is barely over and most of our thoughts are on Christmas preparations right now! Maybe you can spare a few minutes to consider some important principles to prepare for the year ahead.

I get many blogs and newsletters in my computer and one entitled, *Achieve What Matters in 2017*, caught my attention recently. In it the author shared a number of helpful principles to prepare us for the year ahead.

One suggestion the author, Michael Hyatt, wrote about was that we ought to:

- **Be reflective.**
He quoted John Maxwell who stated that **evaluated reflection turns experience into insight!** Have you ever considered that some people have a year of experience repeated over and over and over? We are surely familiar with the adage that doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results is a good practical definition of insanity. We would do well to review the year just past and go over the various family, business, social, and church events much as we might collect receipts for income tax purposes. We can then decide what we can learn from the activities of the past. Perhaps we can now see that treating a particular issue in a different way might have resulted in a very different outcome. Similarly celebrating a success could solidify our commitment to handle matters in the same way again. Reflection can help us live more purposefully.

- **Be grateful.**
This is still another important principle to begin a new year. We have just celebrated Thanksgiving. The words of the old hymn come to mind, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done!" It can be argued that stress and gratitude cannot coexist. If we deliberately practice gratitude we can be confident that our stress levels will diminish.

One man wrote, *In my journal I write down every good thing I can remember from the past year. In that state of total gratitude I ask, "What do I most want to be thankful for one year from now?" I write the answer down, and it becomes a focus for the new year.*"

As a congregation we ought to be incredibly thankful. Our gracious God has led us beautifully this past year. Our staff, elected leaders as well as our many volunteers have served wonderfully. God has provided for our needs. God has supplied a new senior pastor. He has reported to us that his home in Sheridan has a buyer already. Gratitude should be a hallmark of the Christian. Over and over the Scriptures tell us to be thankful. Even our petitions ought to be immersed in thanksgiving according to Philippians 4:6.

- ◆ **I Thessalonians 5:18** *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
- ◆ **Hebrews 13:15** *- By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.*
- ◆ **Psalms 107:1** *- O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good: for his mercy endures for ever.*
- ◆ **Ephesians 5:20** *- Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- **Cut out the excess.**
This is a hard one but the truth is we can be our own worst enemies sometimes. We bring on a lot of our busyness. Over time things just pile up. In the same way we go through our closets and garages from time to time to unclutter and eliminate things, so we must look at our calendars and activities. When someone tells me how busy they are I sometimes wonder whether they are bragging or complaining. In ministry this is especially true because we tend to ascribe merit and spirituality to someone who works hard. Remember the old adage, "I would rather burn out than rust out."? Does it have to be an either/or question? This is not to diminish the powerful impact of missionaries like David Brainerd and others. But could we however at least broach the question that a possibly recklessly lived life which ended at age 29 might possibly have had more impact still by a better stewardship of body and mind? In his blog, Wyatt shares this approach of a man who said, *"I set myself up for a great year by ruthlessly eliminating the bottom 30 percent of activities, projects, and commitments from the previous year... By removing those from my calendar, I get space to focus on the activities with the biggest payoff."*

So, let's get back to where you and I live. Would your life and your marriage improve if you learned to say NO now and then? Are there activities we might wish to remove from our calendars in the year to come? Spring cleaning might be fine for our house but "activity cleaning" might be a great way to start the new year!! Are there excesses to remove from our lives?

Dave Ramsey put it this way, *"I have to intentionally stop and dream again. What can I work on next year that makes me smile? How can I organize my work and my life to do the things that cause that same smile?"*

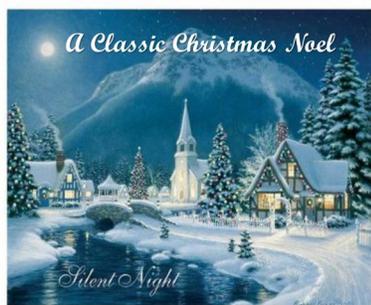
I am looking forward to 2017! I am "preaching" this article to myself as I write it and ponder it. These are my desires for myself. They are my desires for you and for our congregation too!

Ministerial Staff:

- Rick Penner**
Church Administration
- Ron Mapes**
Church Ministries
- Jerry Mapes**
Worship & Missions
- Jeff Lange**
Life Groups & Family Life
- Levi White & Kevin Rhoderick**
Middle School
- Caleb Little**
High School & IMPACT
- Mister Brown**
Preschool/Children's Ministry
- Tom Bryant**
Young Adults & IT Tech
- Sharon Greene**
Women's Ministry Director

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**A Classic
Christmas Noel**
December 7th - 10th

A Classic Christmas Noel will be a night of music that will stir up memories of the past and hopefully

create some new favorite songs for the future. This production has a broad spectrum of musical styles, from “White Christmas” to “In the Beginning”. It has been described as “wildly imaginative, yet enticingly familiar”.

- **December 7th, 8th and 9th @ 7 p.m.** dessert performances.
- Dessert performances are only \$10 each (wonderful desserts). You can get your tickets Sunday morning in between services or stop by the church office.
- **December 10th @ 2 p.m.** will be our matinée performance (no dessert), no tickets needed.

This is a great opportunity for you to invite friends and family to hear about the true story of Christmas.

On December 24th, two Christmas Eve Services to choose from, 4 and 6 p.m.

If you haven't included our **Christmas Eve** service in your Christmas festivities I would recommend you adjust your plans. Our services are early in the evening so you can go home and enjoy your family. We sing, share communion together, and are reminded of the love of our Heavenly Father. It's a great time for kids and adults alike. Make it a part of your Christmas this year.

*****Sunday December 25th Christmas we will be having one service only at 10 a.m.*****

January is a great month to join choir. We'll be starting new music, and looking ahead to the spring events. We will take the first week of January off but will start back up January 11th at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested feel free to give me a call for more details.



Our Partners Around the World

Traditionally we have referred to the people that we support, both domestically and around the world, who are seeking to reach the lost, as “our missionaries”. This has been changing over the last few years for a variety of reasons. We are now generally referring to them as “our partners”. This is reflective of changes here, as well as on the field.

Quite a few years ago we changed what we call our “missions committee” to the GMT, or Global Ministries Team. This fits with the fact that many of our partners don't fit the traditional “missionary” mold, though their underlying emphasis is to bring people into the kingdom of God. Some are organizations such as Gleanings for the Hungry or LifeLight, some are schools, some orphanages. There are many different ministries that we support. We are their partners who are supporting them financially, with prayers, with encouragement, and by accountability. They are our partners in the field, putting their hand to the plow, watering, feeding, and seeing a harvest. And, at times, we are able to be right there with them, laboring alongside them for a short period.

Out in the field there has been a shift as well, both because of a shifting understanding of what is generally the most productive form of evangelism, as well as an increasing persecution of Christians and resistance to the gospel being preached. There are a lot of countries (and the number is increasing) that are closed to missionaries. If you try to get a visa as a missionary, you will be turned down. These are what we call “Closed Countries”.

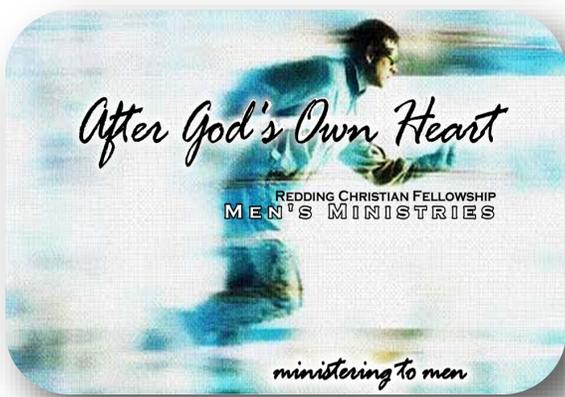
Many of our partners work in countries that are closed to

Christian missionaries. Some live in these countries, legally, having jobs there that are allowed, while others live in open countries and cross borders to minister in the closed countries. Many people that live in these parts of the world have a negative view of “missionaries”. To them, missionaries are people that are trying to get them to give up their culture and believe in something that isn't true. Proselytizing, the act of urging and convincing someone to change their faith, is punishable by imprisonment or death. The one who does convert to Christianity is “apostate”, and faces the same punishment if they do not give up their faith and return to their religion, usually Islam or Hinduism. Many people around the world are dying a martyr's death because they are not willing to renounce their faith in Christ.

Our partners live their lives in these communities and by letting Christ shine through them in their lives, attitudes, and words, others are impelled to ask them what it is that causes them to be different from the world around them. The questioner is thus more invested in wanting to know about Christ instead of being closed to hearing about someone he isn't interested in. This also gives our partner some legal footing if accused of proselytizing.

In many of those parts of the world emails (and regular mail) are not secure. Emails are routinely scanned for certain key words, such as “missionary”, “Christ” or “Christian”, “Jesus”, “church”, and many similar terms, and any email containing these words will subject the recipient or sender to further investigation and possible expulsion from the country or being imprisoned. Thus, any use of these terms in any correspondence or in any reference to their ministry is avoided. Instead, other terms are used in their place. Likewise, we don't give the location of those that are in closed countries and sometimes don't even give their names. This is a safety measure, both for our partners and for the people they are ministering to.

The world has changed greatly in the last few decades, but one thing has not changed. That is the need of people everywhere for the Savior. There is a time for boldness in speaking and a time to know when not to speak. Jesus spoke these words when He sent out the disciples, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” Matthew 10:16 NIV. Our partners are like sheep among wolves in many parts of the world. Please pray for them and encourage them. And if you communicate with them, which is a great encouragement to them, use wisdom in the words you use in your communication.



Men's Ministries



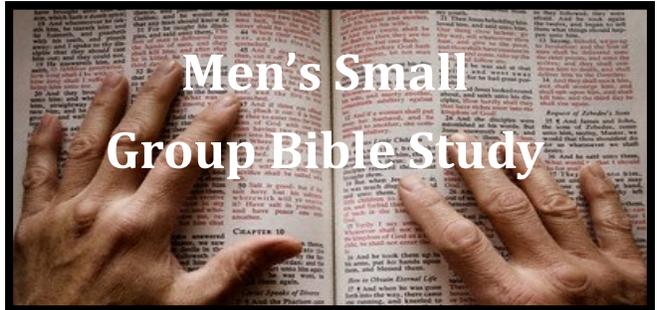
Friendship
Utmost Authenticity
Encouragement
Lasting Integrity

FUEL provides a great opportunity to meet the men of RCF. We

enjoy a great home cooked breakfast where there is always plenty to eat. We spend a little time in worship and share some time around the Word of God. Invest in a relationship with men who will encourage you, support you, pray for you and share some good times.

Bring a Friend!
Saturday, January 28th @ 8am
Advance Tickets—\$4.00
At the door—\$5.00

(NO FUEL IN DECEMBER)



You are invited to become a part of a life-changing experience. Men's Small Group Bible Studies is a great place to deepen your relationship with the Lord, get a firmer grasp on Biblical principles for relationships, home life, and business. If you are serious about developing a heart that is *AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART* then contact Ron Mapes @ ron@rcfellowship.org or call 222-3425 and he'll help you get connected.

P.E.P.

♦ People Enjoying People ♦

P.E.P - People Enjoying People



Christmas Luncheon & Carol Sing -
Thursday, December 15 - 12:30 to 2:30 P.M. \$10.00

Wonderful Christmas Luncheon, Favorite Christmas Carols, Beautiful Music, and Incredible Friends all gathered to celebrate Jesus the Messiah.

*Make your reservation and pay at the information desk or the church office by **Monday, December 12.***

The Great RCF P.E.P. Potato Bar
Thursday, January 12, 12:30 P.M.

Featuring the computer skills of Marsha Anderson
and the Comedy of Michael Jr.

*Make your reservation and pay at the information desk or the church office by **January 9.***



Sharon's Sharing...



God is our refuge and strength [mighty and impenetrable], A very present and well-proved help in trouble! Psalm 46:1

Greeting, ladies ! As I sat, early this new day, iPad in my hands, posed and ready to report updates for RCF Women in Ministry, the Lord impressed upon me this scripture!! I can ONLY add a resounding hallelujah to that which was penned so many centuries ago! Those words resound as powerfully TODAY as they did when first written . I believe we recognize that BOTH our church and nation have just come through a time of prayer and petition to our great God, crying out for His mercy to rain upon us, and once again He responded to His Faithful remnant. What an amazing God we serve! We've exercised our RIGHTS and now we must assume our RESPONSIBILITIES !

It's been a delight to participate and serve alongside SO many of you in the past two months, as many have labored as a Pastoral Search Committee, determined and purposed to seek out the right man for the role of our senior pastor . We've worked shoulder to shoulder in community outreach through so many Ministries : Impact, Healing from divorce, death and devastating life occurrences, Jail and Life Recovery Ministries, Community Closet, and even some "fun" events like our Craft Fair and Bake Sale. (Proceeds from our bake sale exceeded past year's, and a special thanks to Vicky Schlange, and Janet Telford her assistant, and EACH of you who baked, worked and donate (to this WIM yearly fundraising event) AND, through all these, your willingness to commit to personal AND corporate prayer for God to work in all these things, that He might be glorified . May we take a moment to reflect on the life changing impact that each of these ministries have. Many, far beyond our current understanding, knowing that it takes many members to do these works, whether physically, or through financial support , or your ongoing prayer to fuel the success of these efforts.

Upcoming events are many for WIM to connect, grow, serve and have an impact, within and outside our church. Please mark the following dates, as EACH is worthy of fulfilling these goals :

- Now, through December, tickets are still available at Early Bird pricing (\$34.00) for our Spring 2017, all city women's conference with LIVE speakers and worship. This will be an amazing opportunity to invite friends, neighbors and family members to hear what FRESH GROUNDED FAITH is all about! SIGN UP NOW !! ALSO..... We need more women to volunteer to be part of our Events

teams, with upcoming training class offered Jan 10, 6:30 pm at Little Country Church!

- The evening of Dec. 2nd , WIM will offer an activity designed to connect moms, grandmas, aunties, (also those who have " adopted") and mentors with daughters and young women as we partner together for a cookie decorating, packaging, and presentation within our community! Jessica Lange will lead this event, and it promises to be a FUN and fulfilling (no pun intended, as we will hopefully GIVE AWAY more of these than we eat) Please join us...and warm your ovens for those sugar cookies!
- Jan 27th will be our yearly kick off Game Night for all ladies at RCF (Tweens to Seniors) who love the casual atmosphere of this event. It's success each year has proven to be a reason to repeat, AND it's a wonderful outreach as well !

Watch for updates on these, and further information on the Web at rcfellowship.org, in Sunday bulletins, or live announcements .My prayer for each woman within our RCF family is that she might realize how precious and important she is to the body of Christ, and to me! I remain, as always, available to your ideas, comments and questions, and covet your prayers as I work wholeheartedly and come alongside you as a servant leader!! Blessed Christmas!

Sharon

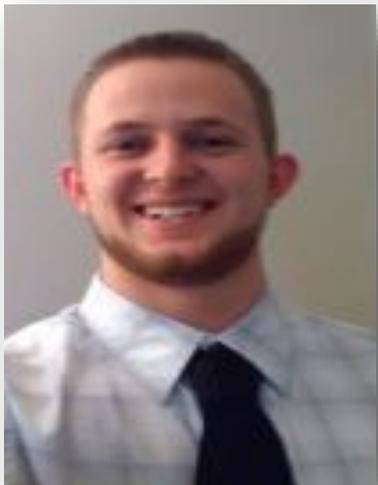


Hosting the Craft Fair at RCF involves major efforts from the church family; the Prayers & Squares ministry is grateful for every bit of help.

Community members, who rarely enter a church door, were welcomed into a loving environment; Prayers and Squares and Women's Ministry are able, thru this outreach, to provide for their needs for the year.

Thank You!

Changes & Additions to Our Staff



LEVI WHITE

Middle School Director



KEVIN RHODERICK

Middle School Co-Director



PASTOR CALEB LITTLE

High school & Impact Ministries



PASTOR JEFF LANGE

Young Families & Life Groups Ministries



MISTER BROWN

Interim Children's Ministry Director



CAROL EASTMAN

Executive Assistant & Bookkeeper



STAFF APPRECIATION

Please remember our amazing staff and pastors this Christmas. If you would like to give a monetary gift this year please make that designation on your check or use the PushPay app on your phone or our website. This is a wonderful time to bless those who bless us with their dedication and hard work all year long.



Two different studies for you to enjoy!

January 4, 12:30-2:30pm in Room 209-210

Luke

New Luke Inductive Bible study on Wednesdays starting Jan 4th, 12:30pm, at RCF (Rm 209-210). Books: \$25. Sign up today to reserve a book at the information desk or call the church office. Questions: Call Candy Neeley 378-1951.

January 10, 6:30-8:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Acts Part 1 and Part 2

This a 16 week Bible Study which will teach and help you to develop boldness and courage as you share the gospel with others. Additionally, you will learn how to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit as you witness for Christ in hostile circumstances.



GriefShare

January 15, 3-5pm in the Fellowship Hall

GriefShare is a support group, offering help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. This group will meet weekly for 13 weeks to walk with you on your journey through grief. Please register at the Information Desk or call Nancy Smith at 604-7043 or Pam Allen at 222-1445 to register.



To my church family,

Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for all of you. Thank you for the many cards, the wonderful meals (Bill adds his appreciation for them as well), the visits and prayers; specifically the prayer quilt. Thank you to all whom took time to tie a prayer into the knot. I love my church family and am happy to be back among you! May God richly bless you.

Love ,

Betty Rogers

Those listed below are or have been ill or in the hospital, recuperating at home, have lost a loved one or welcomed a new little one into their family. Let's lift them up in prayer.



Illnesses

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Nancy Best | Judy Gama-Strausser | Mary Olsen |
| Bob Birch | Louis & Donleita Gerdes | Debbie Osterkamp |
| Margaret Brady | Darlene Idehara | Kathy Roberts |
| Doris Butler | Denny Kaufman | Ed Robertson |
| Jody Charbonneau | Susan Lay | Kati Rosten |
| Shirley Coker | June Lee | Amos Southard |
| Mary Doboayne | Laurie Lemon | Barb Spellman |
| Ed Fishburn | Greg Negrete | Debbie Walters |
| | | Barbara Wiedenhoeff |

Deaths

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Jim Fish | Cathy Hess | Linda Palencia |
| Tracy McCune | E.L. Gentry | |
| Stacy Hochderffer | Doris Carroll | |

ATTENDANCE AND GENERAL FUND GIVING

Celebration

	<u>1st / 2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Giving</u>
10/2/16.....	485/378.....	863.....	\$20,199.22
10/9/16.....	376/282.....	658.....	\$17,848.00
10/16/16.....	374/329.....	703.....	\$11,034.00
10/23/16.....	381/382.....	763.....	\$12,611.20
10/30/16.....	429/347.....	776.....	\$14,434.00
11/6/16.....	539/477.....	1016.....	\$22,258.81
11/13/16.....	411/336.....	747.....	\$12,629.00
11/20/16.....	330/260.....	590.....	\$13,171.59
11/27/16.....	387/334.....	721.....	\$8,764.66



Cornerstone Kids Ministry

Building a foundation for a life-long relationship with Jesus.



HIT Team Bake Sale

The HIT Team is planning their annual bake sale for Sunday, Dec 4th. We hope to conduct this bake sale to raise funds for the Good News Rescue Mission's children's Christmas party. In the past, \$378 was raised in 2014 and \$326 was raised in 2015. The GNRM uses the funds to purchase any gifts that may still be needed – usually items for the older kids that often get overlooked through donations. Please come support this fundraiser before and after both services on Dec 4th and help us raise even more than we have before. Goodies will be served out of the main auditorium kitchen window.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Below you will see the fiscal year to date (October) financial status of RCF. The Elder Board would like to keep the congregation better informed on the financial status of the church and the various projects that are ongoing at RCF. This will be published once a month and you are welcome to address any questions or concerns by contacting the church office.

As of October 31

Fund:	
General fund giving	\$96,155
Operating expenses:	\$77,689
Missions giving	\$22,826
Missionary funds disbursed:	\$14,905



D.A. CARSON

CONFERENCE

A REDDING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP EVENT

JANUARY 13 & 14, 2017 | REDDING, CA

6pm - 9pm

Music by William Jessup University



**REDDING CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

2157 Victor Avenue
Redding, CA 96002

OUR ELDERS

Ken Abbott
Duane Helle (chairman)
John Kelley
John Chelonis
Troy Foster
Ken McDonald
Bruce Schlange
Rick Penner

OUR DEACONS

Dan Conklin
Dave Donarico
Bill Hawes (chairman)
Dan Londen
Gary Kalsbeek
George Rhoderick
Don Dunham
Don Greene
Robert Andrade

CONTACT US:

Phone: 530-222-3425
Fax: 530-222-3490
www.rcfellowship.org
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebration Services - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Main Auditorium

VISION STATEMENT

We are all pilgrims engaged in a journey of evangelism and discipleship, where worship is complete and teaching is a guided discovery of the Truth. We will devote ourselves to our families and to each other across generational and traditional lines. We will commit ourselves to our community with integrity of character as ministers of mercy.

MISSION STATEMENT

Redding Christian Fellowship is a loving family of believers dedicated to Worship, Instruction, Fellowship, and Evangelism with the purpose of developing devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

God is the true and living God who revealed Himself through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We accept the Bible as God's infallible Word and our only rule of faith and practice.

We accept Jesus Christ as God's divine Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, virgin born, who died on the cross as the substitutional sacrifice for our sin. He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He is now our interceding Priest. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Man was created in the image of God but fell into sin. We have all sinned in our own right and need a Savior to save us from the penalty of our sins.

Salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Human Sexuality: Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Marriage is a profound spiritual institution established by God. This church recognizes marriage as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment.

The church is a body of believers, who, by the influence of the Holy Spirit, were baptized into one body.