

Return to Routine

SEPTEMBER 2021



THE ECHOES



**ENGLEWOOD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
Honor • Grow • Serve

- Programming Updates
- Mission Spotlight: Wes Stepp, BICM/Mission Journey
- ECC Workday

September! Even though school starts in August, it seems like everything doesn't get back to normal until this month. Normal. What an abnormal word in these abnormal times. As we all long to find any sense of normalcy in our lives, let's be reminded about the faithfulness of God and how normal it is for Him to show up in our lives. Enjoy this month's edition of *The Echoes*, and may it help you feel a little more normal.

DEADLINES



If you would like to submit articles, events or activities for consideration for the next issue of *The Echoes*, the deadline is **Monday, September 13.**

The deadline for submitting information for the weekly e-newsletter is each **Wednesday at 5:00 pm.**

Please email all submissions to angelah@eccjax.com with any coordinating artwork or graphics.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:30am - 5:00pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School
9:00am

Worship Service/Children's Programming
10:30am

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Prayer Gathering

7:00pm Programming for all ages

Connect with Us Online!

www.eccjax.com

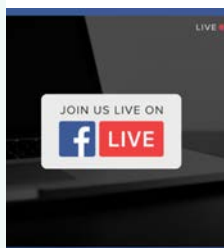


www.facebook.com/eccjax/



@ECCJAX

GET OUR APP!



WORSHIP
Every Sunday
@ 10:30am

PRAYER GATHERING
Wednesdays
@ 6:30pm

Scan the QR code to check in on Sunday mornings – get the bulletin, prayer list, online giving and connection card all in one place!



Contributions August 22, 2021

General Fund

Week 12 Budget..... \$125,988.00

Week 12 Totals \$ 95,758.99

Faith Promise

Week 25 Budget..... \$107,660.00

Week 25 Giving..... \$137,950.00

ECC Statistics

Morning Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday Night
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Sunday, August 1

140	75	29
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Sunday, August 8

131	71	n/a
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Sunday, August 15

153	70	n/a
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Sunday, August 22

146	80	n/a
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Totals include estimated
online attendance

ECC Church Staff

Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister

Josh Colvin, Student Minister

Karissa Mead, Worship
Ministry Director

Serena Maerkl, Children's Director

Angela Hastings, Office Manager

Kim Owens, Publications Director

Mary Worth, Bookkeeper

Sherrie Boger, TLC Director

Weekly Choir Schedule

Wee Praise – Begins 9/8
at 7:00pm in 314

JWK – Begins 9/8
at 6:00pm in 314

Vocal Explosion – Begins 9/8
at 5:45pm in 208

Adult Worship Choir – Begins 9/12
at 11:30am
location TBD

CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2021

Quilting/Sewing Group
Wednesdays at 1:00pm

Monday, September 6
Office Closed
Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7/
Saturday, September 11
CWF Circle Meetings

Wednesday, September 8
Wednesday night
programming resumes

Saturday, September 11
ESM – Escape Room
and Dinner

Sunday, September 12
e-City kids' volunteer
luncheon

Monday, September 13
GriefShare Loss of a
Spouse Seminar

Tuesday, September 14
CWF Board Meeting

Saturday, September 18
Men's Breakfast
ECC Workday

e-City kids – Saturday
of Service

Friday, September 24
Family Movie Night

Friday, September 24
Prime Timers
Dolphin Tour

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Abnormally Normal



by Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister

I recently saw a video on social media where a young person from Australia was experiencing “American fast food,” for the first time. Her friends took her through a drive thru and ordered a typical combo meal from the menu and went large size on the drink and fries. When she was presented with the “large” drink from the drive thru window, her look of shock and disbelief was downright hilarious. She commented by saying, “This is a large? It’s bigger than my head!” The rest of the video is a compilation of her shock, excitement and dismay at the American fast food experience, but the overall theme throughout the video was the surprise and lack of comprehension at the large sizes of the fries and drinks. Each time she continued to struggle with the concept of needing a drink that large or even trying to eat the entirety of a French fries of that size. It was obvious that the extremely large size of these items was abnormal!



It wasn’t always this way. When McDonalds first opened up in 1955, the only size fry they had was a 2.4 ounce package. Today’s large order of French fries is 5.9 ounces – almost 2 ½ times as large. Even worse, the original size drink was served in a seven ounce cup. Today’s gargantuan large drinks comes in at thirty ounces!! That’s more than four times as large! Those are both completely abnormal sizes when it comes to fries and drinks. The ironic thing is what we think is normal, when it comes to the size of our fries and drinks, is really abnormal, but because it’s been abnormal for so long, we now think it’s normal.

Let me stop for a second and make a quick pivot from American fast food to American values. Now, I don’t intend to speak for every person who lives and breathes in the American culture, but I think we can all agree our culture has changed in the past fifty years. In fact, you don’t even have to go back fifty; how about ten years? Things which seemed abnormal as little as ten years ago, now are seen as completely normal. Terms like non-binary don’t relate to computer programming anymore. Alternative lifestyles seem not to be so alternative but rather the norm. And the term tolerance has a whole new meaning in regards to what is permissible and not permissible. The abnormal, in regards to

morality, integrity and truth, has certainly become the normal in our modern culture.

But are you really surprised? Is this something new that has never happened before? I’m sure terminology and specifics are unique, but at the end of the day, it may just sound somewhat familiar to you. The apostle Paul spoke of this abnormal normality in the first chapter of Romans.

“²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³² Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.” (Romans 1:24-32)

Sounds a lot like the “normal” society of today, doesn’t it? So, in regards to culture, maybe Christ followers should strive to be sure we are abnormally normal. Leonard Ravenhill, Christian evangelist and author, once said, “Christianity today is so subnormal that if any Christian began to act like a normal New Testament Christian, he would be considered abnormal.”

Continued on page 11.



Holy Interruptions

by Angela Hastings, Office Manager

The most important thing for you to remember is just keep breathing." That may seem like an odd bit of encouragement since breathing is something we don't typically think about or have to remember, but when you're learning to scuba dive, it's vital. It's completely unnatural for us to breathe underwater, so when I recently took a Try Dive class, I had to concentrate and think about nearly every breath I took.

A normally thoughtless task became something difficult and demanding of attention.

Routines. They can also be thoughtless tasks, peppered throughout our daily schedules, ingrained so deeply in us, we hardly have to think about them as we're completing them. Maybe they're not quite as automatic as breathing, but we've done them for so long, we could do them with our eyes closed.

But let's face it. Our routines have been shaken over the last eighteen months. Everything from physically going to the grocery store, to what we actually purchase at the grocery store has been changed. Even our normal spiritual routines like going to church and participating in communion have changed. We're not able to do the things we've always done without at least putting some thought and effort into it. And if you're anything like me, maybe you get stressed, annoyed, frazzled or frustrated when you think things are going to work out one way and they don't. When my expected routine unexpectedly varies, my reaction isn't always helpful or healthy. I tend to let my circumstances defeat me.

Thankfully, we have a great High Priest who understands us and has compassion on us, but was without sin. Jesus wasn't ever frazzled by changes in the plan or routine. In fact, whenever someone or something "interrupted" His agenda, He tended to go with the flow and follow where the need was. Not that He was at everyone's beck and call, but he was available and flexible. He was open to the invitation for God to use Him in a different situation than He initially planned. It's a good thing, too; most

of the miracles Jesus performed happened because someone interrupted Him.

Last month my morning devotions from the book *Jesus Always* really encouraged me in this area of changing and challenging circumstances. Two days in a row, I rediscovered the truth I needed to hear regarding difficult circumstances and life's interruptions. Here are a couple of the key points which I hope encourage you as well.



We can find joy in the midst of circumstances which previously would have defeated us. Life isn't going to get any easier. It stinks, I know. But we don't have to be defeated by what is going on around us. Jesus warned us, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you*

may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We will have trouble. But our hearts, emotions and reactions don't have to be troubled.

In the midst of challenging circumstances, it is crucial to keep trusting Him. Just like it was crucial to keep breathing during scuba diving, it's crucial to keep trusting God when we face difficulties. When Job and his family experienced multiple disasters in a very short time period, he didn't quit trusting. *"He fell to the ground in worship"* (Job 1:20). Job lost his livelihood and his children in a matter of moments, and yet his response was to worship God. May we all have a faith that strong.

What are the challenging and changing circumstances which have you perturbed? Perhaps it's the ever-changing-does-anyone-know-what-they-are-doing guidelines regarding COVID-19. Perhaps it's family plans, school plans, vacation plans or return to work plans. No matter what you're facing, and no matter how difficult or demanding your routines have become, be certain you can take heart and still worship God! It may feel as unnatural as breathing underwater, but it is your holy invitation.

Is the Routine Breaking You?

by Karissa Mead, Worship Ministry Director



I used to get super excited when school started because it meant a structured schedule, a set routine, and a predictable life. If my life is predictable, I can control it. If my life is predictable, I can take charge of it and make sure nothing goes wrong. As long as I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing, my routine will be flawless, and I will be OK.

Do any of you fall victim to this approach to your life? Because if you do, you may find yourself suffering from anxiety, and let me tell you why:

- When I am the one in control, it's my fault when things don't go right.
- When my life is predictable all the time, I don't get to practice handling myself when it isn't.
- When my routine is flawless, it means I need to be flawless.
- My success is determined by how hard I work...which means I need to work all the time.
- If my life isn't perfect, I am not OK and I have failed myself.

This kind of anxiety is common, and in my experience, it has come from telling myself the above lies. I suffered from severe anxiety in college – particularly while I was getting my Graduate degree – because I believed these same lies. They were told to me by the same people who were supposed to teach me and encourage me, and they were also told to me by my peers...the very same people who walked in my shoes!

It's my personal belief these lies are the reason college students suffer from so much anxiety and depression. They are being told their success is a direct result of how many hours they put in, and are encouraged to do extra credit, attend conferences, create impossible schedules (while working several jobs to avoid excessive debt), all for the sake of "professional development." And you know what? This works for some people. But let me remind you of something: you and I were not created to be "on" all the time. We were created finitely – physically and emotionally – and we need to treat ourselves as such.

God Himself – who is not finite – took a break to enjoy what He had done. He rested from all the creating He had been doing (Gen. 2:2-3) simply for the sake of enjoying it as good and setting apart a day as an example for you and me to do the same. You and I are creating *all the time*! Those in professional settings are



moving their companies forward, innovating and creating. Parents are in constant process of "creating" their children, who learn and grow in every waking moment of their lives. Teachers are doing the same for their students. I could go on and on!

But unlike God, we are finite. Our resources are finite. Which means we need rest, a break, a siesta, a mental moment... whatever you want to call it.

The question for us as believers is this: how do we incorporate good, spiritually-enriching rest from our routines? Much of this will depend on your personality and how you are enriched and encouraged by the Spirit of God. But one thing I think many of us need to stop doing is believing we don't deserve a break. You need a restful time with the Lord... A.K.A. "Spiritual Renewal" *on the regular*. This shouldn't be a last resort, but rather a first priority.

Those who have rested in the presence of God have His peace in their hearts! Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us this: *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* This truth Jeremiah is communicating to us is preceded by *reflection on how imperfect we are*. I'm not saying you need to be down on yourself all the time. I think the message of this verse has more to do with how we view ourselves in relation to God. Do we take the steering wheel out of God's hands and say, "I can make my life perfect, I don't need you, God," or are we spending time resting in God's love and mercy in our lives and allowing Him to make us perfect? If we have relationship with Him in this way, we are both humbled and relieved of the burden we have placed on ourselves, and I think in that way, we also find rest for our *very* tired souls.



The Routinely Challenged

by Serena Maerkl, Children's Director



I love the back to school season. I love the excitement, the fresh supplies, and all the possibilities that come with it. I especially love the photos. No matter how put together the kids look or how big they smile, those photos represent a starting line for a new stage of life.

However, no matter how much joy this time of year brings, there is one thing I do struggle with, and that's the guilt to follow a routine. Maybe you've experienced this pressure. The pressure to be perfect like those moms on the internet. The moms who make perfect lunches, who set everything out the night before, and the ones with the schedules to keep their families running like a well-oiled machine. You wouldn't have to search very far to find these kinds of posts on social media. Every time I see posts like this, I struggle with feelings of inadequacy. On one hand I desperately want to be that kind of mom, but on the other, I vehemently oppose the idea of conforming to that level of perfectionism.

If I'm being honest with myself, routines bore me! I like having a plan, of course; I'm not a complete rebel in my personal life, but I see routines more like a Jenga tower. You can pull a block out here and there to rearrange things, but still keep going. I like a little flexibility, and I'm okay with the holes. Others may see routine as more linear, like a chain. Removing a link would just break the chain (or give you two shorter and possibly useless chains). I will never be what people would call "put together," but I also have enough self-awareness to admit I can benefit from more structure in my life. The question then becomes, how can a person with the natural inclination to fight routines develop the ability to implement them? The Bible is filled with people who were great with routines, but one in particular can help answer this question.

There are a couple of things we can learn from Ruth when we're struggling with routines. The first is when making a plan, we have to check our motivations. When Ruth married Naomi's son, she left her own house and became a part of his. She would have adopted the ways of her husband's family. Her primary motivation was loyalty to, and the subsequent care of them. After all the males in the household had died, Ruth had every right to move back to the home of her birth, but she instead chose to stay with Naomi. In Ruth 1:16b she stated, "*your people will be my people and your God my God.*" Sometimes we adopt a routine for the health and wellbeing of our household, and sometimes it's because we know it is what God would want us to do. Knowing the "whys" and the "for whom" helps make a routine easier to follow. If Ruth's motivation had been to follow the customs of the time or her own selfish desires, she would have just gone back home to the life to which she was most accustomed.

The second thing is to evaluate the necessity of the routine. Do the benefits outweigh the effort, or is the routine negatively impacting your life with minimal gain? One of the things which stuck out the most to me when reading the story this time happens at the end of chapter 2. At this point Boaz has noticed Ruth after she had been collecting leftover grains in his field all day, and she's brought the food back to Naomi. Boaz had granted her his favor by allowing her to collect grains and protection from his workers while in the fields for as long as she wanted. Verse 23 almost seems like a throwaway line at the end of the chapter. "*So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished.*" I had to dig a little into historical farming to see how long this would have been. Sources say it would have been roughly 7-12 weeks, give or take. I don't even like eating the same thing for lunch two days in a row, yet Ruth followed the harvesters all day, every day collecting food for her and Naomi. Picking up the grain that was left behind or had fallen on the ground. Then she had to process it (called threshing) in order to take it home and use it. Yet they don't mention her complaining. If she didn't do it, they both would have starved. So, for Ruth, this routine was absolutely necessary. However, sometimes unpleasant routines are not required, and with an honest evaluation, we can easily let go of the routines which are both unpleasant AND unnecessary.

Continued on page 11.

A New Routine

by Josh Colvin, Student Minister



I am a huge fan of crime shows. I recently got into the new version of *Turner and Hooch* on Disney+. In one of the episodes, Turner and Hooch were tasked with the job of protecting a federal judge who was presiding over a case in which a crime boss was on trial. One day during the trial, the crime boss made a threat against the judge, so they were put on the judge's security detail. Every morning the judge followed the same routine. He would leave at a specific time, drive a specific route, stop off at a specific dry cleaner, and arrive to the courthouse at a specific time. During his time on the security detail, Turner decided to leave at a different time and take a different route to keep the judge safe. He started a new routine, even if it was just for a short time.



Are you a creature of routine or do you change it up every so often? Routines are different for everyone. For me, I have not really ever followed a strict routine. I would wake up anywhere between 4:30-4:45am to go workout, come back home between 6:30-7:00am, get ready and leave for work between 8:00-8:15am in hopes of getting to work by 8:30am. Sometimes it would happen, and sometimes it wouldn't, but my routine wasn't necessarily followed to a T. That was until this year. With the twins starting school for the first time ever outside of the home, we have to get out the door by 7:15am, so they can be ready for the start of school by 8:00am. Then I have to leave the office by 3:00pm to get in the dreaded car line by 3:10pm so they can be picked up by 3:30pm. Because of the change in my life, I have started a new routine and need to stick to it in order for everyone to be happy and not stressed. The twins also had to have a new routine with not being homeschooled anymore. I am happy to announce, they are troopers and are killing it.

Routines change. Everyone has had their routine change at least once in their lives. It's very possible, whether you wanted it to or not, your routine has changed in the last two years. In your routine, whether new or old, are you making time for Jesus? And if so, how long and how often? David indicated morning was the right time for him to praise God and ask for His direction. *"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly"* (Ps. 5:3). Additionally,

Daniel prayed three times a day, and not even the threat of death made him change his routine. *"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before"* (Dan. 6:10). These two very influential people in Scripture and Christianity added God to their routine no matter the circumstances.

Our routines should start and end with Jesus. This can be done through prayer, bible study, fellowship with other Christians, being Jesus to everyone you come into contact with, etc. Jesus wants to be the center of our lives, and the easiest way to do that is to make Him the center of our routine. Whether it be an old routine we have followed for years or a new one we are just starting out, find the time to spend with Him.

CHALLENGE FOR THE MONTH: Write down your daily routine and add Jesus to it at least at the beginning of your day and the end.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES

In the ever-changing pandemic culture we live in today, there is a constant necessity to be flexible and ready to make wise and proper decisions which keep everyone in mind. As it has been said here at ECC many times over and over again, "wisdom over emotion." Through much prayer and conversation, the leadership of ECC has decided on the following in regards to programming, keeping in mind current events, while also staying true to the biblical calling and desire of believers to gather together in fellowship and community.

1. Sunday programming will remain the same – Sunday school classes meet at 9:00am and our worship service is at 10:30am. Children's programming will be offered both hours.

2. Midweek programming will resume on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – This will include:

a. Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – served each Wednesday night beginning at 6:00pm. Due to the constant flux of potential changes, PAID pre-registration is not required, but strongly suggested during this time. You can sign up by Monday each week and pay when you arrive for the meal on Wednesday (with cash, check or card).

b. Prayer Gathering – Will resume in person meeting in the Prayer Room (203) at 6:30pm

c. Children's Worship Choirs – Wee Praise (7:00pm), Jesus' Worship Kids (6:00pm) and Vocal Explosion (5:45pm) kick off their year. Please register your children (for JWK and Vocal Explosion) through the ECC app or website so appropriate plans can be made.

d. Adult Bible Study – Our adult bible study will resume, and we will begin a study on the prophet Jeremiah. We will meet in room 209.

e. Birth – 5th grade – All of our nursery, preschool and elementary programming will resume at 7:00pm, as well. (NOTE: MS/HS ministry resumed September 1)

3. Events & Activities will proceed as normal, but ECC Leadership would like to place a heavy emphasis on considering carefully all aspects of events and activities. All our ECC ministries will take every step possible to create safe and healthy environments for these events, but everyone must choose what is best for themselves and their family in regards to this.

4. Social Distancing and Masks – ECC has never mandated all in attendance wear a mask while on campus, but we have and continue to STRONGLY ENCOURAGE wearing masks while you move about on campus regardless of your vaccination status. Once you move to a stationary position (in your seat), please use your discretion regarding the decision to keep your mask on or remove it at that time. Classes and large group gatherings are encouraged to provide enough space to properly social distance as well. Again, there is no "policing" or mandating of this spacing, but it is strongly encouraged as we all take the necessary steps to help create the safest environment possible for fellowship, study and worship.

5. These plans have been carefully thought out, considered and prayed over, and our hope is to move forward into a time when plans like this are no longer necessary, but until that time, the key phrase is FLEXIBLE. Adjustments and alterations to these plans could take place weekly. Please pay close attention to our weekly e-newsletter, social media platforms, texting and verbal announcements for the latest update regarding our scheduling and programming.

Thanks for your continued patience, prayers, encouragement and support of our leadership during this time. If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please feel free to contact the ECC Leadership team.

ECC Christian
Women's Fellowship



Our Christian Women's Fellowship 2021-22 Installation Meeting was on Tuesday, August 17th. For a complete listing of 2021-2022 CWF Circle Members, please find a link in the e-newsletters or on our Englewood Christian Church Friends Facebook Group Page.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**HIGH SCHOOL
Weekend at NFCC
January 14-16, 2022**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
CIY Believe
February 25-26, 2022**

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Wesley Stepp
BICM/Mission Journey



Wesley Stepp has not only been a Kingdom partner of Englewood Christian Church, but along with his wife, Deanna, has been a member here at ECC for many, many years. Wesley has served in the Kingdom for almost 50 years and is nearing the end of his time of

“active” duty. He has established, expanded and maintained BICM (Bible Institute of Christian Missions) in eleven different countries, planting more than 250 churches. He has focused on training local leaders to help move these planted churches towards future growth and development, as well as financial independence from American church support. Currently, Wesley is still recording online teaching sessions to distribute to the various works associated with BICM. He hopes to do this as long as he can, but freely admits that “85 arrives quickly,” and he knows it is time to slow down.

A few years back, in planning for this transition, Wes partnered up with Mission Journey and long time friend Wayne King. Wayne works with Mission Journey and leads a similar ministry to what Wesley has developed with BICM. The plan is to transition the oversight and continued support and partnerships from BICM to Mission Journey, so the work and training around the world can continue even after Wesley “slows down.”

On a personal note, please continue to pray for Wes and Deanna and their health, as they both have had a difficult year in regards to health concerns. They are currently living in Gainesville with plans to transition back to Jacksonville. Pray for them to be able to find a place to live that can provide the assistance needed and still fit within their financial budget. Pray also for a smooth transition over the next year as Wesley transitions out of “active” duty and can rest assured the work he started so many years ago will continue on.

We support Wesley and BICM/Mission Journey through our Faith Promise commitments and look forward to continuing to do so in the years to come.

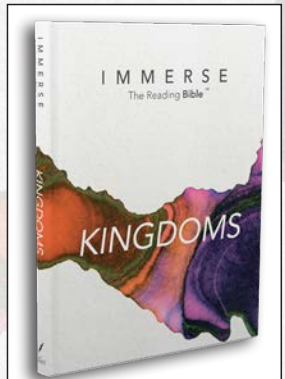
I M M E R S E

The **Bible** Reading Experience™

During the month of September, our *Immerse: Kingdoms* readings will take us through the books of Judges all the way through the first half of 1 Kings. We'll read of the cyclical unfaithfulness, punishment, repentance and rescue of Israel through the book of Judges, the beautiful story of deliverance in Ruth, the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel in 1-2 Samuel and the beginnings of the downfall of the Kingdom in 1 Kings. Through it all, we will see God move among His people as He continuously desires to guide, protect and lead them in love all while they constantly rebel against Him and turn away from Him. As we read through these books together, may we be challenged to remain faithful in all things, but all be reminded that God's love for us never changes.



Stay tuned in September when we take orders for the next book in the series, *Immerse: Chronicles*.



Immerse: Kingdoms

WEEK 2 (8/30)

Judges, Ruth

Day 6 pp. 41-52

Day 7 pp. 52-61

Day 8 pp. 61-72

Day 9 pp. 72-80

Day 10 pp. 81-88

WEEK 3 (9/6)

Samuel-Kings

Day 11 pp. 89-95

Day 12 pp. 96-100

Day 13 pp. 100-106

Day 14 pp. 106-114

Day 15 pp. 114-122

WEEK 4 (9/13)

Samuel-Kings

Day 16 pp. 122-129

Day 17 pp. 129-135

Day 18 pp. 135-142

Day 19 pp. 143-147

Day 20 pp. 147-153

WEEK 5 (9/20)

Samuel-Kings

Day 21 pp. 153-159

Day 22 pp. 159-166

Day 23 pp. 166-176

Day 24 pp. 176-180

Day 25 pp. 180-183

WEEK 6 (9/27)

Samuel-Kings

Day 26 pp. 184-189

Day 27 pp. 189-195

Day 28 pp. 195-200

Day 29 pp. 200-205

Day 30 pp. 205-210

IMMERSE PODCAST

In addition to the weekly reading, be sure to listen to the weekly ECC podcast that will tackle a tough issue from the reading each week. Many times while reading through these books, we uncover some pretty sticky situations and struggle with finding a way to make sense of it all (Rahab's lie, Jephthah's vow, the ghost of Samuel, etc.) This podcast will tackle these bigger questions in a longer discussion format. Listen each week to Sr. Pastor Pete Ramsey share some insight from the Word along with some special guests and contributors. Watch for more details in the weekly e-newsletter and our social media platforms to find out how to listen.

ECC WORKDAY • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 9:00AM

The Men's ministry is sponsoring a church workday on **Saturday, September 18**. It will begin immediately following the men's breakfast (8:00am) at **9:00am**. All members are welcome to come help as we clean up our campus together.



Join us this month in the **Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 18 at 8:00am** for our monthly men's breakfast. Instead of a devo time, there will be a time of service as the church workday will start immediately after the breakfast at 9:00am. Sign up online!



Mark your calendars for the **Annual Men's Retreat** on **November 5-6** at **North Florida Christian Camp**. The cost will be **ONLY \$65**. Dinner is at 6:30pm on Friday night and the retreat will be **over at 3:00pm Saturday afternoon**. Please plan to get yourself to NFCC. Everything is included with this price. Don't miss it!

Serve & Chick-fil-A Lunch \$5 each!!!

On **Saturday, September 18**, our e-City kids in K-5th grade will be participating during our ECC Workday.



We plan many fun events throughout the year, and this is a chance for elementary students to give back to the church and learn about the importance of serving. They will be doing a few child-appropriate projects around campus, and then when we're finished we'll meet in 301 to have lunch together from Chick-fil-A. The cost for lunch is \$5.00 per person. Pre-registration for this event is required, and all children must have an adult present, to help guide them through the projects. (Adults are welcome to have lunch as well, but it's not required).

Thank You

No words could ever express our appreciation for your loving support during the difficult time of Gary's chemo and hospital stays and after his passing. Brian, Shaara, Chad, Emily, Jones and Sawyer were encouraged and comforted by your cards, flowers, food, gifts to ECC in Gary's memory, notes and other gifts and encouragement. We have been blessed that you were there when we needed you, and we will be forever grateful.

Thank you, God, for this church family, Jo

Due to your faithfulness and generosity, we were able to collect six boxes of school supplies for Englewood Elementary and Englewood High School. What may seem like simple things to us are a blessing to the children and classrooms that receive them. None of it is possible without your help! Thank you!



Who doesn't love a good escape room? If you are in middle school or high school, put your skills to the test and escape from a room at **One Way Out** on **Saturday, September 11th**. We will leave the church at **3:45pm** to get to our reservation by 4:30pm. Once we escape, we will head to **dinner at Tijuana Flats on Baymeadows**. The cost is **\$20 to escape plus money for dinner**. Sign up online TODAY!



On **Monday, September 13 at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall, GriefShare will be offering a seminar for those who have lost a spouse. The night will include a video message, as well as an opportunity to share. The cost is \$5 and includes a participant guide. Sign up on the GriefShare website, which can be reached through the ECC event on the app and website. Contact Beth Oyler for more details.

SMALL GROUPS

Due to current cultural conditions and the hesitancy of some to meet together, along with some confusion regarding our groups and their specific purposes, we are making some changes to the structure of our groups. We have merged the purposes and formats of our various groups and consolidated them all under the name LIFE groups. These LIFE groups can vary in purpose, structure and meeting method. Some may focus on fellowship and community, while others may focus on Bible study and prayer. Some will make use of our Immerse Bible Reading program for their topics of discussion, while others may go a different direction in relation to study material.

No matter the structure, format, or purpose, all of our small groups are beneficial to the body of Christ, and we encourage all our members to make every effort to engage in our faith community through these small groups. If you are interested in hosting and/or leading a group, please contact Josh Colvin (joshc@eccjax.com). If you are interested in signing up for a group (in person or virtual, fellowship focused or discussion based), please do so through the app or website.



Continued from page 3.

"Abnormally Normal" by Pete Ramsey

Let's be abnormal. Let's not let culture conform us to its sinful abnormalities. Instead, let's strive to be abnormally normal. Let's make a concerted effort to genuinely live by the Word of God – living a normal life that honors God and gives Him the glory. By doing so, you just might be a little abnormal

in the eyes of the world. Remember Paul's words from that same letter to the Romans, *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (Romans 12:2). Let's be abnormally normal by not conforming but by being transformed in Christ!

Continued from page 6.

"The Routinely Challenged" by Serena Maerkl

Imagining Ruth in that field, day in and day out, helped me to see the beauty in routines. In some ways, routines can be the scaffolds which support us while we rid ourselves of the shortcomings which get in the way of becoming the person God desires us to be. Colossians 3:23-24 says, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an*

inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." For some people a strict routine is what works best for them. For others like me, we'll always need to have wiggle room. So if you find yourself struggling like me with the monotony of routines, stop and evaluate them. Pray on it, and ask God for the wisdom to decide if it's something you do to please the world, or if you do it to serve the Lord.

ENGLEWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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POSTAL INFORMATION

"The Echoes" (USPS 118270)
Published Monthly by:
Englewood Christian Church
4316 Barnes Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT:
Jacksonville, Florida 32203-9998
POSTMASTER send address changes to:
THE ECHOES, 4316 Barnes Road,
Jacksonville, FL 32207-7099
September 1, 2021 Vol. LXII, No. 4

Dated Material

(See panel to left)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2021



Smartphones. Desktops. Laptops. Televisions. Radios. Streaming services. Podcasts. Social Media. We live in a culture that bombards us with information, entertainment and more. Screens are a daily part of our lives, and they influence how we see the world – both positively and negatively. We'll spend the month of September looking at the biblical precepts that teach us about community, loving our neighbor and communicating the gospel and discover how we can let our faith intersect with our technology.

- 9/5 Face Time Hebrews 10:19-39
- 9/12 Screen Protectors 1 John 4:7-21
- 9/19 Power Down Ephesians 5:8-21
- 9/26 The World Wide Web Ezekiel 12:1-20

ECC VISION



Looking for something to do on a Friday Night? Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, etc. to ECC on Friday, September 24th at 8:00pm for a FREE Family Movie Night.



We will have popcorn and snacks and the movie *Space Jam* (1996 version) will be shown in the back field, weather permitting. If it does end up raining, the movie night will be moved inside. Sign up online if you plan to attend. Contact Josh Colvin for more details and the movie title.