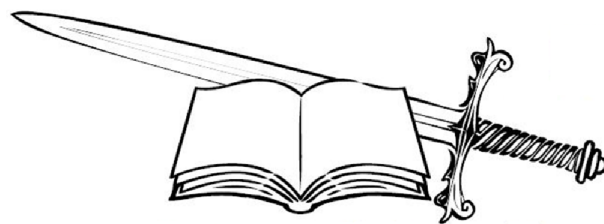




LAUREL RIDGE  
Community Church



# Men's Newsletter

Fall 2021

*One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon his beauty, and to seek him in his temple. – Psalms 27:4*



## Men's Community Groups

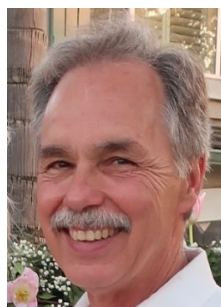
The groups below are open to all men looking for devotion, prayer, and fellowship. To register, visit [laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups](http://laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups), click the **Sign Up** button and fill in the form, or contact the group leaders directly.

### Tuesday Evenings

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Place:** Room 301 at church or online via Zoom

**Host:** Dennis Ouka  
(925) 584-6618  
[denouka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denouka@sbcglobal.net)



### Thursday Mornings

**Time:** 6:30 AM

**Place:** Room 301 at church or online via YouVersion app

**Host:** Dan Mathisen  
(209) 612-5028  
[mathisen.dan@gmail.com](mailto:mathisen.dan@gmail.com)



## Get Off the Fence

*by Keith Cook*

When I was a kid, I liked to climb. The closest climbable object at home was our back yard fence. Getting up there wasn't nearly tough as staying there. A shaky fence, I learned, is an uncomfortable place to rest. When I became a Christian, I discovered that sitting "on the fence" in my journey with God is just as uncomfortable.

God deserves our enthusiastic praise, worship, obedience, love and thanks for who he is and what he's done for us. He is rightly offended when we have an unserious, lukewarm attitude toward him. Jesus said to the apostle John in Revelation 3:15-16, regarding the church at Laodicea, "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!"



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# Taking on Tuesdays

by Dennis Ouka

My wife Tina and I have been attending Laurel Ridge Church for about 15 years, when we were on E. 18th Street in Antioch, formerly Emanuel Baptist. I started attending Jeff Alford's Tuesday night men's study after I retired, about three to four years ago. When the church closed because of the pandemic, we



started holding our meetings on Zoom. When the church started opening up we were doing a hybrid, Zoom and in-person Tuesday night study. I started helping with the in-person side at the church.

We have continued meeting online and in-person since then.

When I felt more comfortable facilitating the in-person meetings, Jeff asked me to take over the group and I agreed.

I appreciate the guidance and opportunity that Jeff gave me. So far it's been both challenging and fulfilling for me. We have a great group of guys and I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to make it on a Tuesday evening to try it. We start with some discussion about our day, week or what is going on in our life, then open with a word of prayer. Presently we are studying the book of Genesis. We'll read a few verses and discuss what we read. If questions come up that need follow up or that we're not sure of, we will research it through the week and discuss our findings the following week. At the end of the evening we close in prayer by lifting up praises and prayer requests of the group.

After we complete Genesis we plan to have a potluck dinner together or go for ice cream and decide whether to go on to another book of the Bible or do a video-based study. Both are a good way to get closer to Jesus.

The Tuesday men's study meets in room 301 at 6:30 P.M. If you can't be there in person you can still join us through Zoom. For more information, call me at (925) 584-6618 or email me at [denouka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denouka@sbcglobal.net). ✝



Our next men's breakfast is set for Saturday, October 2, 8-10 AM at Laurel Ridge Church. Kids and fathers are welcome—bring at least one of each if you can! Join us for fellowship, encouragement and a delicious breakfast.

Sign up for the men's breakfast on the Sunday service communication card or on the church website or mobile app.

We need a few good men to cook the meal and set-up tables. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Dan Mathisen at (209) 612-5028 or at [mathisen.dan@gmail.com](mailto:mathisen.dan@gmail.com). ✝

## Website Roundup

Never in history has so much information about God, Jesus, and the Bible been available to so many people. With all this good stuff, we should all know the Bible like J. Vernon McGee. Here's just a few of the most popular Christian websites:

[Biblia.com](http://Biblia.com) Scrollable online study Bible. Includes versions in numerous languages, including Arabic, Greek, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Latin, along with popular English-language versions like the NIV.



[BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com) Online study Bible.

[BlueLetterBible.org](http://BlueLetterBible.org) Online study Bible.

[Christian Broadcasting Network](http://ChristianBroadcastingNetwork.com) Online Christian magazine with sections on news, Christian living, spiritual life, devotions, ministries, healthy living, music, videos, and more.

[Got Questions?](http://GotQuestions.com) A "Q & A" website with answers to over 600,000 questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and theology.

[InTouch.org](http://InTouch.org) The online site of InTouch Ministries, founded and headed by Dr. Charles Stanley. The site provides access to videos of Dr. Stanley's sermons, a daily devotional, inspirational messages, and more.

[RightNowMedia.org](http://RightNowMedia.org) Library of video resources for individuals and small groups.

[Thru the Bible](http://ThruTheBible.com) The devotions, global outreach, and five-year radio program Bible studies of J. Vernon McGee. ✝

## Serve at the River



Sunday, September 26, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch. Also on October 24, November 28, and December 26 (the fourth Sunday of each month).

Join with other believers in providing a meal and sharing God's love with the homeless and other people in need.

Donations of food, soft drinks and other items, and volunteers to help set up, serve and share are welcome. Contact Bob Andrade at [randradeteam@gmail.com](mailto:randradeteam@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

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925-625-9500  
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# Get Off the Fence

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Some Christians don't appear to have read that passage or, worse, have read it and forgotten it. Maybe your life has been pretty good so far. You, like the average churchgoer, show up faithfully 1.2 times each month. You have money in the bank, a great job, a loving wife and kids, one or two vacations each year, and perfect health. Why mess with success, right? Jesus put it this way, in verse 17: "You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!'" But keep reading, because Jesus then lowers the hammer: "And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

You may rightly ask how that can be when your life is going so well. It's because Jesus is talking about your relationship with him, not your relationship with the world. If you truly have accepted his priceless gift of grace for the forgiveness of your sins, eternal life, and adoption into God's family, then how can you consider God of no greater importance than a painting on your wall or a vase on your table?

If you are indifferent toward God, Jesus will take action, as he said in verse 19: "I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference." Notice that he doesn't say to go to church more, tithe more, or to show the fruits of the Spirit more. Such things are important, but only when they result from a life lived for God instead of for yourself. He is to be the center of our world, the focus of our existence, the light in our darkness.

King David, whom God described as "a man after my own heart," wrote in Psalms 27:4: "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon his beauty, and to seek him in his temple." When you feel that way about God, you will find your life producing genuine fruits of the Spirit and enjoying life in a way you have never known. So jump off that fence and start living for and loving the God who loves you and died for you. ✝



Samson killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. Who killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad? Answer below.

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