

December 11 – December 17

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday Family meeting today! Phillips' anniversary	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday No Bible class.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

0 birthdays and 1 anniversary this week.

December 04, 2022
Contributions: \$2,015.00
Attendance: 29

Campus minister: **Caleb Hughes**
Minister: **Curtis Wubbena**

WiFi name: ALPINECHURCH402
Password: b14Smiley
Join us on the internet:
<http://www.alpinechurchtx.org/>

Welcome to the Alpine church of Christ

December 11, 2022



Ordinary people serving an extraordinary God.



POTLUCK DINNER

Come to today's family meeting and help plan 2023. There will be plenty of food, fellowship, and brainstorming.

The Gift of Church

In a day when the local church is met with skepticism and is often misunderstood, many Christians and non-Christians alike conclude that the local church is an accessory to genuine faith, not really necessary for a genuine connection with God. But Jim Samra believes that God provides a different vision for the church, a vision that reveals God's purpose in creating the church for his people. The Gift of Church explains and defends the unappreciated genius of the church as God's creation. The truth is that the local church is where God is uniquely present in worship and where believers experience and receive unique benefits that only God can bestow. Samra first tackles the question of what really is a "true" local church (as well as an explanation of what is not a local church). He then explores six ways in which the church is beneficial for Christians—and the world. If people want to see God and receive spiritual nurture, there is a God-designed way for them to experience God's blessings. The church is God's gift—showing us how God is redeeming our diversity and our differences, enabling us to experience true community, and furthering the mission of sharing the message and ministry of Jesus with the world.

(The above is a summary/advertisement for the book *The Gift of Church: How God Designed the Local Church to Meet our Needs as Christians* by Jim Samra).

I am about to read this book, but I wanted to share this summary. With the Alpine church considering the plan and budget for 2023, a clear picture of the purpose of the local church seems appropriate.

CAW

Why bother planning for 2023?

Developing a budget requires the church to develop a plan and to plan for at least 12 months in advance. This is perhaps the most important aspect of developing a budget since all too often churches function only in the immediate rather than recognizing the longer term.

Even households that do not write down a household budget often find themselves signing up for an equal monthly payment plan with the local utility. In essence, they develop a utility budget.

By simply looking back over the previous 12 months of expenses church leaders can project many of the basic needs for the upcoming 12 months. By prayerfully considering "What does the Lord want us to do in ministry?" additional programs and line items can be developed and placed in the budget plan. In many cases exploring this kind of question will result in the need to plan for more than 12 months to be able to accomplish the goal.

(Adapted from *5 Reasons to Develop a Church Budget* by Franklin Dumont)