

2016 Fall Preaching

During this time of transition for our church, Rhythm's Guidance Team (GT) has spent a significant amount of time in prayer, dialogue, and coaching from The Ecclesia Network about the fall preaching vision and schedule. In early July, the GT reached a unanimous decision regarding Sunday worship teaching responsibilities for the remainder of 2016.

The GT is very encouraged by the spirit of unity and enthusiasm within the leadership as a result of this decision process. In Christian tradition, unity is a fundamental marker that God's direction has been discerned. Please pray that we continue "being one in spirit and of one mind" (Philippians 2:2) as we seek God's direction for our community.

Who is preaching in the fall?

The Guidance Team has decided for the fall preaching responsibilities to be divided into "thirds."

So there are three primary preachers this fall: Matt Alexander, Paul Olver, and Rhythm's Preachers' Roundtable. Check out their pictures and bios on the back!

We feel this arrangement maximizes leadership continuity at Rhythm while allowing space for those gifted in our community to teach and shape us in more significant ways by participating in our preaching series.

What is the timeframe for this preaching plan?

The current preaching plan extends through the end of December 2016.

The GT is in a season of research, planning, and discernment. We will seek counsel from the Ecclesia Network as we outline Rhythm's next steps. The GT will keep the congregation updated as this develops.

What are the sermon series this fall?

There will be four primary sermon series during the fall. Brief descriptions of each sermon series can be read below.

"Plan A: Why Does the Church Exist?" [August]

If you asked ten people what they think the purpose of the church is, you'd probably get ten different responses! Each of us has our own set of experiences, hopes, desires, expectations, and plans when it comes to the local church. In this four-part sermon series, we will study the New Testament description of the church and give practical vision for what it means for Rhythm to accomplish our mission in this season.

"Hope" [September]

There's a lot of talk about hope these days. We hope that we pass the test. We hope that our children behave. We hope for financial security. We are encouraged to hope for a better future. But what does it actually mean to hope? And what does the Bible say about where we should find hope? In this three-part sermon series, we will study different Scriptures that speak of the hope that followers of Jesus have in Christ.

"David: Gritty Spirituality" [October & November]

Other than Jesus, no single person has more written about them in the Bible than David. His life has served to encourage and inspire people over the centuries. Many of the Psalms were written by David as a gritty, raw expression of his pursuit of God in the midst of the normal joys and sorrows of life. In this six-part sermon series, we will study various aspects of David's life in 1 & 2 Samuel.

"Advent" [December]

Every year, Christmas just seems to sneak up on us and take us by surprise. The season of Advent helps us to slow down and pay attention to God as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. It is a season of preparation, waiting, hope, love, and joy. In this five-part sermon series, we will reflect on the themes of Advent as we eagerly anticipate the birth of Jesus.

2016 Fall Preaching Team



Matt Alexander is one of Rhythm's co-founders and has served as the Shepherding Pastor for the past 5.5 years. He and his wife Evette have been married for 4 years and love being parents to Emery! The Alexanders live in Coconut Grove and can often be found hanging out in one of the parks in The Grove. Matt loves reading, hanging at the beach, traveling, smoking cigars, and watching baseball.

In addition to pastoring Rhythm, Matt coaches church planters and pastors in the V3 Church Planting Movement.

Matt earned a degree in Religious Studies from Baylor University and a Masters in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis on Servant-Leadership from Gonzaga University.



Paul Olver and his wife, Delia Nüesch-Olver, became part of Rhythm in 2014. Earlier this year he joined Rhythm's Guidance Team and Preachers' Roundtable. Paul and Delia live in Miami Beach and have been partners in marriage and ministry for 37 years. Paul loves coffee, bicycling, eating international cuisine, and Delia (not necessarily in that order).

In his day job, Paul serves as Pastoral Formation Coordinator for the Free Methodist Church in Latin America. (Delia is the Area Director, overseeing the Free Methodist Church in 13 countries.) They travel more than half the year ministering in Latin America or raising funds and representing the church in the U.S.

Before moving to Miami, Paul was lead pastor at a multi-ethnic, urban, mission-focused church in Seattle. He has many years of experience in urban and cross-cultural ministry in the U.S. and internationally. His formal education includes Masters degrees in missions from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Fuller School of World Mission and a Doctor of Ministry from Eastern University - Palmer Theological Seminary.

Several years ago, Rhythm's pastors developed a "**Preachers' Roundtable**" to train and equip those gifted in preaching/teaching in our church. The Preachers' Roundtable has become a vibrant part of Rhythm's ministry as the congregation is challenged and encouraged by men and women gifted in proclaiming God's word. The Roundtable gathers throughout the year for planning, coaching, resourcing, and dreaming up ways to encourage the congregation through the Scriptures. Rhythm pastor and co-founder Liz Sastre, Guidance Team member Jason Bean, and Roxy Meyer are currently participating in the Preachers' Roundtable and will be preaching this fall.

Rhythm also plans to bring in two outside speakers to preach during the fall, including one leader from the Ecclesia Network.