



FAITH CHURCH

The Family Of Faith Newsletter

January 2012

Faith Church
2124 Old Philadelphia
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717.393.5345
www.findfaithhere.org
Contact @
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Church Office Hours
9am—2pm

OUR STAFF

- Becka Beard**
Worship Leader
- Patty Bell**
Children's Ministry
Leader
- Aaron Campbell**
Youth Ministry
Leader
- Sheri Garver**
Church Custodian
- Jim Gustafson**
Church Secretary
- Joel Kime**
Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR – New Year, New Life

As many of you are aware, the process of drafting and approving our church budget for 2012 has been tough this year. At our recent Ministry Council meeting (Dec. 5) we spent two hours creating a new proposed Budget which we will vote on at our January 15 congregational meeting. After that meeting I wrote a letter to our missionaries, explaining to them that we had to reduce support levels. I thought it might be helpful to you to read portions of what I wrote to them:

"I have always been very thankful that Faith Church is a missions supporting church. I think you would be hard-pressed to find a congregation that gives over 25% of its budget to missions. We have consistently done so, and in 2011 we will be closer to 30%. That sounds good. In fact it sounds amazing. But the reality is that while our percentage of giving to missions is growing, our entire budget is shrinking. Total dollars given to missions has also been shrinking, albeit slightly because in the last 4 years we have worked hard not to reduce missions giving. We have reduced just about every other line item on the rest of budget.

"But this past year we have experienced a new difficulty. Frankly, we have made promises to you that we are no longer able to keep. At the end of every quarter this year, when we were scheduled to make our missions support payment, not all the money was not there. We had to push into the next quarter to make it happen. Twice, we had to wait an entire month until the money was available, which obviously shrinks the time we have in the next quarter to save up. One time, we were already a few weeks late, and a \$2500 estate gift came in, or we would have had to wait longer. In this last quarter, we had a fundraiser which profited \$2500. I do not know how much we'll have at the end of the year, but we decided that we are not going to make a late payment again in 2011. We will send what we have. We need to start 2012 with a clean slate.

"I talked with Gene Wood, National Conference speaker a few years back, about this dilemma. He gave me the illustration of a table top. Imagine dumping sand on the table top. You get to a certain point and the table cannot hold any more sand. If you want to hold more sand, you need to expand the table top. He asked me, "Joel, do you want Faith Church to have a high percentage of giving to missions, or more money given to missions?" He argued for more money. You can actually have a growing percentage AND a decreasing total amount given, which is the case at Faith Church. For instance, what would be better for missions: a \$1 million dollar total church budget that gives 10% to missions or a \$200,000 budget (like Faith Church) that gives 25%? The math is pretty simple. \$100,000 versus \$50,000. We could argue all day long about why the million dollar budget church is not giving a higher percentage, but the fact is they are giving double to missions. His point is that we need to grow the budget (grow the table), and if that means cutting missions support in the short run to enhance our capability for more missions giving in the long run, that is what we need to do.

"In the last few years, we have been actually doing the opposite. We have been cutting our table top, making it smaller, cutting local ministry, hoping/praying in faith that God would provide. For 2012, we decided we could not cut local ministry any further.

"Our rationale is that we need to strengthen local ministry in the short run, so we can continue to give and enhance our giving to missions in the long run. I hope and pray that you can understand that.

(Continued on Page 2)



FROM THE PASTOR – New Year, New Life *(Continued)*

We also said, especially for stateside missionaries, that time is money. Many of our people have time and skills that they would love to give to you. Is there a project that we can help with that would offset your expenses? This new budget proposal still asks our people to step out in faith and give a bit more as well.

"Pray that God grows Faith Church. I praise the Lord that we are seeing new signs of life in that on an average Sunday 1/4 to 1/3 of our congregation are folks that are new within the last 3 years. Our Good News Club at the local elementary school had 50 kids, and we are starting a martial arts ministry outreach in the new year. Please pray with us that God will use these kinds of initiatives to grow his Kingdom. That said, I feel that event-based evangelism is not nearly as important as individuals who have a burden for the lostness of their neighbors, friends and family, and love them, pray for them, and share Christ with them. Please pray that the folks of Faith Church would grow in that regard as well. Our missions DNA is still there, and we strongly desire to be generous. Actually, even with all these cuts, we are still giving over 24% to missions."

I am excited about what God will do in 2012! Who is God burdening you to reach out to this year?

- Joel Kime

Our Mission is Loving God, Loving People We pursue this mission four ways:

Worship - We express our love for God by celebrating him in worship both as a community and in our personal lives.	Fellowship - We delight in being with one another, building authentic, accountable, health relationships.	Discipleship - We pursue Jesus by continually learning and being transformed into his image.	Outreach - We reach out to our neighbors, proclaiming the love of Jesus through word and deed beyond our four walls to our community and around the world.
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Core Values: These are the values God has given us that help us accomplish the actions of the mission.

Biblical - We look to the Bible, which is alive and relevant in our daily lives, to guide us.	Intentionally Simple - We are committed to doing a few important things well.	Missional - As individuals and as a community of faith, together with all Christ-followers, we participate in the work of God's Kingdom in this world.	Culturally Sensitive - As a part of Culture, we express the Kingdom of God in ways that reach people where they are.	Passionately Spiritual - We strive to pursue a deep, rich, vibrant prayerful walk with God.
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January Preaching Schedule

January 1st

2nd SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS - New Year's Day

Why is it that the gym is full just after New Year's Day? And why is it so empty in December? How can the transition from one day to the next make such a difference? You know why: New Year's Resolutions. Do you have any for 2012? Have you ever thought what resolutions what God might have for you?

January 8th

1st SUNDAY of EPIPHANY - Cambodia Trip Report

At Faith Church we've had a number of people serve God on mission trips all over the world and talk about their trips on Wednesday nights at Family Night, but rarely on Sunday morning. So this Sunday we're looking forward to hearing from David Mennig about his trip to Cambodia!

January 15th

2nd SUNDAY of EPIPHANY—Mission of the Church #1 - Worship

Without looking, can you say the mission statement of Faith Church? It is "Loving God, Loving People." What I love about that is not only its simplicity, but that it summarizes well what Jesus said our mission should be: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself." For four weeks, we're going to study this further, and we start with Loving God through Worship. It's a couple hours on Sunday morning, but so much more!

January 22nd

3rd SUNDAY of EPIPHANY - Mission of the Church #2 - Fellowship

There is a flow to our mission statement. Often we make our first connection with people through worship services. But is that all it means to be a part of a church? Sitting in rows staring at the person's neck in front of you? As we'll see, our mission is to Love People and we do that through Fellowship. But what is biblical fellowship? How do we move people from passive worship to active fellowship?

January Preaching Schedule—Continued

January 29th

4th SUNDAY of Epiphany - Mission of the Church #3 – Discipleship

After people join us for worship, then get more connected through fellowship, our mission is to help them Love God more deeply through Discipleship. The root of this word is the picture of the 12 Disciples learning from Jesus how to live in his Kingdom. But how do we do that in 2012? This is a vital piece of the mission because as Jesus says, unless you are a disciple, you are not a true follower.

MINISTRY COUNCIL UPDATE

Our next meeting is February 6th, 7:00pm. You are always welcome to attend any meeting. Or if you prefer, you may request minutes of Council and Commission meetings. Just contact Jim Gustafson (393-5345, jim.gustafson@findfaithhere.org) to be added to the distribution list. Here are some updates since last month's newsletter.

OUTREACH UPDATE

The **Martial Arts outreach** begins this month! Do you have a neighbor or friend that might be interested? How about inviting them? Keep praying that, as the ministry starts up, people will come not only to learn martial arts, but meet Christ.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

After we decided not to approve the proposed Budget for 2012 at our congregational meeting, we had two town meetings and our Ministry Council met to make a new proposal. We will now have a very brief congregational meeting right after worship on January 15th, 10:45am, to vote on the new proposed Budget 2012. Some brief highlights of the new proposal are that we reduced support to stateside missionaries (Graffs, Dicks, Toys) by an additional 75% beyond the original proposal. We also reduced support to international missionaries (Andersons, Roofs, Stoltzfuses and Whitakers) by 12.5%. This freed up approximately \$12,500, while still maintaining a missions giving level of 24% of the Budget. Additionally, our 2012 Budget will then be almost identical to income from 2011. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact one of the 2011 Ministry Council members.



**Sensei Chotoku Makabe
and Kirk Wolfe**

We are starting a new ministry at the church. We are going to host a martial arts academy. We would like to invite you to be a part. We are going to have a demonstration and a light lunch to kick off this ministry. We would like you to come and see the demonstration. The teacher of our academy has competed and demonstrated Karate and Taekwondo in several countries as well as being a State and National Silver medalist. If you are the least bit interested or just want to come and enjoy lunch and watch the demo we invite you to come. We just ask that you let us know if you are going to attend the demonstration and eat with us. You can register by calling the church office or by letting us know by telling us when we give you this handout.

You can also tell your family or friends and invite them to come along. The classes are all free if you decide to enroll in the martial arts program.

Children's Class: 6:30 to 7:00 PM, Monday, Jan. 9th & Jan. 23rd. (Ages 4 - 10)

Family Class: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM every Monday night.

Advanced class: 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM every Wednesday following prayer meeting. (*Blue Belts, Brown Belts, Red Belts and Black Belts*).

For more information or to sign up for this exciting new ministry contact:

Mr. Kirk Wolfe

Phone 717-333-1302 or Church Office 717-393-5345

Email: kbwolfe@ptd.net

Ministry
Of
The
Month
LORD

The Commission consists of seven (7) people, and is responsible for the service-oriented work of the church. We hold fellowship events; provide child care as needed, conduct kitchen-related fund raising events, support the work and projects of other commissions when requested. The Commission supervises the operation of the kitchen. We also are in charge of special programs like the Faith Harvest Bazaar, and setting up for the dinners for Family Night. We also prepare and serve meals at funerals here at Faith Church. The 2012 committee is Sheri Patton, Thelma Pickel, Marcus & Melessa Rudy and Janice Sands, plus two open slots.



Fellowship
& SERVICE
COMMISSION



BOOKSHELF

What are you reading? Want to write a review? Just let me know, and we would love to include your thoughts (393-5345, joel.kime@findfaithhere.org)!

THE BOOKSHELF – TAKING A BREAK FOR JANUARY’S NEWSLETTER



FAITH QUILTERS

Faith Quilters will meet on December 6th. For more information, contact Martha Buckwalter 354-5692.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



One winter storm two believers... which one are you? I would be the guy with the blue shovel... actually I would be inside drinking cocoa.

All great change in America begins at the dinner table. *Ronald Reagan*

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH



B.J. & Rachel Whitaker

B.J. was born on May 17, 1980 and grew up in the tiny town of Buffalo, Illinois. At the age of 12, B.J. was invited by a friend to his church and youth group, and within three weeks B.J. had given his life to Christ. Almost immediately he sensed a call to serve in fulltime ministry, but over the next few years, this call was neglected. When he was 16, though, B.J. once again sensed God calling him to preach, and this time he fully committed himself to God and His call on his life. He enrolled at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky in 1998 in order to prepare for this life of ministry, and while there met a young lady by the name of Rachel Anderson, and his view of the God, the world, and God’s plans for him began to grow. Rachel was born to E.C. missionaries Ron and Brenda Anderson on June 24, 1980 in Córdoba, Spain. At the young age of five, Rachel gave her heart to Jesus and reconfirmed this in the years to come. They married on June 15, 2002, and moved to New Jersey to served in a youth ministry position for two years, before moving to Myerstown, PA for B.J. to study at seminary and to serve as the youth pastor of Trinity E.C. Church in Mt. Joy, PA. Rachel began work as a social worker. Throughout these first couple years of marriage they sensed stirrings of God calling them to serve Him in Spain, and while on vacation there in August 2005 they felt confirmation of this calling. After completed seminary in May 2008, they were commissioned as official E.C. and ECMI missionaries November 2, 2008. They are currently in Alcora, Spain. Their focus will be church planting. They are currently in the process of putting together a prayer campaign for Alcora, leading a Bible Study group, encouraging local families of believers in their faith and help them be involved in the ministry in Alcora. They continue to look for opportunities to share Christ with others.

BJ & Rachel are the proud parents of a daughter, Miriam. You can follow BJ & Rachel’s ministry on their blog at www.whitakerblogspot.com.

Their address and e-mails: B.J. & Rachel Whitaker, c/Poeta Ernesto Nebot 5, 3°-10, 12110 Alcora, (Castellon), Spain

BJ: bj.whitaker@ecmi.org, Rachel: rachel.whitaker@ecmi.org

JANUARY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM 	2 The Rock: Family Class 7:00pm	3 Faith Quiliter 9:00am Ladies Prayer & Share 11:00am	4 Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team 7:30pm The Rock: Advanced Class 8:00pm	5 AM Bible Study 9:30am	6 Ladies Reading Group 8:00am	6 Ladies Reading Group 8:00am
8 Ming Worship 9:30am Jr. Church/MMK 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am X Factor 6:00pm	9 Commission Mitgs 7:00pm The Rock: Children's Class 6:30pm The Rock: Family Class 7:00pm	10 Ladies Prayer & Share 11:00am	11 Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team 7:30pm The Rock: Advanced Class 8:00pm	12 AM Bible Study 9:30am	13 Ladies Reading Group 8:00am	14 Ladies Reading Group 8:00am
15 Ming Worship 9:30am Jr. Church/MMK 10:00am CONG. MTG. 10:45AM Sunday School 11:00am X Factor 6:00pm	16 The Rock: Family Class 7:00pm	17 Ladies Prayer & Share 11:00am	18 Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team 7:30pm The Rock: Advanced Class 8:00pm	19 AM Bible Study 9:30am	20 X Factor Twin Pines 	21 Ladies Reading Group 8:00am X Factor Twin Pines
22 Ming Worship 9:30am Jr. Church/MMK 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am X Factor Twin Pines 	23 The Rock: Children's Class 6:30pm The Rock: Family Class 7:00pm	24 Ladies Prayer & Share 11:00am	25 Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Worship Team 7:30pm The Rock: Advanced Class 8:00pm	26 AM Bible Study 9:30am	27 Ladies Reading Group 8:00am	28 Ladies Reading Group 8:00am
29 Communion Ming Worship 9:30am Jr. Church/MMK 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am X Factor 6:00pm	30 The Rock: Family Class 7:00pm	31 Ladies Prayer & Share 11:00am				