

OCTOBER 2009

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What's Happening at Faith this Fall? By: Steve Ratliff Senior Pastor

We are in the midst of our Season of Service outreach in which we encourage everyone in the church to serve outside the walls of Faith sometime during the months of October, November, and December. We are encouraged that some of you already serve our community through service organizations or other avenues. This is the type of ongoing service that we ultimately hope will be the norm among those who call Faith their church home. We are also making available opportunities in which others of you can participate. These projects have been suggested by various people at Faith.

The projects that have surfaced so far include: participating in a Young Life tailgate party, cleaning the yard of a daycare center, clean-up at the local emergency shelter, baking items for deploying and returning troops, demolition of a shed, working on a Habitat house, and writing grants and soliciting donated goods for an outreach to Iraqi and Afghani children. On Sundays you will have the opportunity to sign up to participate in these projects via the connection card. These opportunities are also listed in the eBlast announcements sent out on Monday afternoons.

One of the projects we publicized on October 11th involved cutting down a tree for the neighbor of someone here at Faith. This neighbor didn't have the ability to do the work himself. We requested 3 to 5 people; 15 signed up. (What is it with guys and chainsaws anyway?) I mention this for a couple of reasons. First, I thought it was pretty funny. Second, this response suggests that we might pursue other similar opportunities to serve. If you know of such projects, contact us and we'll add it to our list of projects that we publicize to the congregation. We do anticipate

that there will be several other opportunities to serve that we'll let you know about. Thanks for your eager response!

Lectio Divina. On Sunday morning, October 25th, we have planned a worship experience that incorporates the ancient the practice of *lectio divina*, a way of listening for the voice of God through Scripture. See Micah's article later in the newsletter for a brief explanation of this practice. Please pray for this service and come prepared to listen and share.

Sunday Night Live. I really hope you are able to join us for Sunday Night Live on Sunday night, October 25th. At this gathering we'll enjoy a broader spectrum of music than we have on Sunday mornings. This event is designed for you to bring friends who don't necessarily attend church. There will be some worship music as well as a faith story of someone in the church. Afterwards we'll enjoy Call Hall ice cream. The music portion of the evening will last from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Compassion Fund. We have a compassion fund that is used to help meet financial needs within the church and within the community. Typically we help people with power bills, rent, gas money, etc. Many have been helped through this fund. We wanted to let you know that this fund is currently depleted. If you would like to contribute to this fund, designate an amount for the "compassion fund" on the memo line of your check.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

October 25,
6:30-8:00
here at Faith.
Great Music.
Great Tunes.
Great Times!



Operation Christmas Child by: Chris Barker, Children's Pastor

Every year the Children at Faith participate in the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) project. OCC is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse where families from all over the world fill shoeboxes with toys and basic necessities and send them out to children who live in desperate situations. Often these shoeboxes find their way into the hands of children who have never received a gift before. As well as receiving a gift they have opportunity to hear the story of God's love for them.

This year we hope to go beyond merely filling shoeboxes. This is a great opportunity for all of us to learn more about God's heart for those in tough situations. Throughout the next couple of weeks

we will be sending out various materials and resources via email that will help us get the most out of this experience. If you are a parent you should automatically receive emails that will link you to the Children's Ministry Report on the church website (www.faithmanhattan.org/cmreport) every-time something new is posted. If you aren't already receiving my emails simply send me an email (chris@faithmanhattan.org) and I will make sure you have access to the devotional information as well. May our hearts be drawn closer to God's as we see His love for children around the world.

All filled shoeboxes need to be at the church by Nov 15th.

Stewardship Principle for October

God continues to supply our needs so that we might continue to be generous.

When we consider our personal finances, we might be tempted to think, "If I give to others, I won't have enough for myself." Such logic doesn't take into account the reality of "God's economy" as described in



Scripture. Numerous passages of Scripture suggest that God supplies the needs of those who are generous to others. As a matter of fact, just as God's generosity toward us in no way depletes His supply of grace, our generosity toward others in no way depletes us. Proverbs 11:25 tells us:

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (NIV)

The Library — Come check us out! by: Kathy Pauls

We have been updating and expanding our marriage and parenting resources. We have something for all phases of families including: Sacred Marriage; Too Small to Ignore; Age of Opportunity and Passport 2 Purity (an interactive weekend retreat guide). Come see our display or find something on our shelves.



Financial Update

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Giving (non-designated)	\$54,255.50	\$511,847.57
Other (missionary support, etc.)	7,402.06	40,269.91
Total Receipts	\$61,657.56	\$552,117.50



The 2009 Operating Budget monthly need for non-designated giving is \$61,237.68. Thank you for your generous giving to Faith!

Worship Notes by: Micah Peacock, Worship Pastor

I hope this finds you well, and that the transition into the fall has been one of growth. I have truly enjoyed meeting and getting to know more people in our community. If you haven't already, please introduce yourself sometime! You might have to be gracious, though, as I try to remember names...

As you know, we're in the middle of a sermon series on Discipleship, learning what it means to be apprenticed to Jesus. As a part of this, on October 25th, we'll be engaging in a practice called *Lectio Divina*, which means 'holy reading.' It's a practice that has been used throughout the centuries, and focuses on hearing from God through the Scriptures. We'll be spending time listening to and meditating upon a passage of Scripture in the hope that the Spirit of God will speak to our hearts. You will have the opportunity to share with those gathered what God is speaking to you. I have found this age-old practice to be refreshing and meaningful, and I truly believe you'll find the same. Experiencing the Scriptures in this way is another expression of worship to our God.

For those involved in the worship ministry: if you missed the first charting session, I'll be holding another one on October 17th (Saturday) at 1:00 p.m. These sessions are probably more beneficial to instrumentalists, but vocalists (and anyone else who would like to learn) are totally welcome! We'll be looking at a charting method that I believe will facilitate greater efficiency and allow for a greater sense of musicality.

Also, be looking ahead for an electric guitar workshop on Oct. 23rd (Friday) at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday Night Live 3, which is taking place on the evening of the 25th.

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

Haiti Outreach by: Brian Anderson

During the week of September 20-26th a team consisting of eleven folks from Faith joined with several others from the Manhattan area to serve in the country of Haiti. The team consisted of a medical team of doctors and nurses, a handy-man team, as well as a cooking team. Diane Cable, who is a member of Faith and who has led medical mission teams to Haiti for a number of years, led the team.

The team ministered at a place called, Double Harvest, which is a Christian ministry in Haiti that seeks to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of people in Haiti. Double Harvest seeks to model Christ's compassion by offering economic, educational and medical programs in difficult and impoverished situations, which is certainly true of Haiti - the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

Because the medical team was not a surgical team they were able to extend the work of the medical clinic out into two different villages. For two days in each village the medical team treated over six hundred men, women and children. In one of the villages, tents were used to hold clinic because there were no suitable buildings to use. Needless to say, at the end of each day, the medical team was exhausted as they saw dozens of patients in the hot (most days it was in the 90's) and humid outdoors. The medical team's work helped Double Harvest express the love of Christ in a tangible way in these villages where they seek to minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of the people.

The handy-man team spent our days working at the clinic and school at Double Harvest. We were
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involved in a number of projects from painting an office and the recovery room of the clinic to working on projects at the school. The projects at the school included plumbing projects (unstopping plugged drains, fixing showers and leaky pipes, putting in new hardware in toilets and installing new wax rings), assembling one and repairing another basketball goal, installing new locks on doors and other maintenance around the facilities.

The school enrolls about 400 children from age three through high school. Attending school for a Haitian child is a privilege as Haiti is one of the most illiterate countries in the western hemisphere. These children are not only blessed to gain an education, but also a foundation in Christ. Most of them come to faith in Christ dur-

ing their years at the school. It was fulfilling for our handy-man team to help the school.

Both the handy-man team and the medical team were blessed by the cooking team who kept us amply supplied with great meals, refreshing snacks and clean clothes. Each of the ladies who served on the cooking team also had opportunities to help either with the medical teams or with projects at the school.

The physical and spiritual needs in Haiti are so overwhelming. We were all reminded of this every day as we took it all in. In some ways the little bit of help that we were able to offer seems so small in light of the great needs. We are thankful to remember that God doesn't ask us to meet all of the needs. Rather, we are simply to be faithful to do what He has called us to do.

