

## Thank you by Steve Ratliff

One of our core values at Faith is “every-member ministry.” Just as the human body has many members that work together, so too the body of Christ is composed of many members who each do their part (1 Corinthians 12).

Ministry isn’t reserved for a select few people in the church. Our conviction is that every single believer has been gifted for significant ministry within the body of Christ (and beyond). I was a junior in college when I came to the realization that “God can use even me” in the lives of others. Over the years God has impressed up me that being used in the lives of others is a great privilege.

Many, many of you have these same convictions. I know this because you serve faithfully week-in and week-out. You serve with great energy and great faith. And God uses you in the lives of others. This past year numerous ones of you have communicated – sometimes with tears in your eyes – how thankful and amazed you are that God is using you to extend His kingdom.

Any given Sunday morning at Faith, approximately 75 to 100 people serve in some capacity: serving in the nursery, teaching a class, greeting, participating on the worship team, preparing communion, counting offerings, making coffee, etc. Dozens of others serve throughout the week in Alpha, leading Life Groups, praying for the ministries of Faith, maintaining our facilities, serving in the meal ministry, etc. Each part of the body of Christ is vital; together we represent Him to each other and to our community.

Each year our Staff and elders express our appreciation for your service through an Appreciation Dessert. This year’s Appreciation Dessert will take place on Friday night, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The night begins with a 30 to 45 minute skit by the church staff. We haven’t completely nailed down this year’s theme, but past years’ skits have included such classics as *The Day the Dam Broke*, *Survivor: Barnes Road*, and *Extreme Church Makeover*. The evening will also include a celebration of what God is doing through your service. We’ll conclude with refreshments served by our elders.

You are invited to this event if you have served in **any** way here at Faith this past year. Sometimes people are reluctant to attend because they think, “I haven’t done anything significant enough to be appreciated. . .” Please believe me when I say that we’d love for you to join us if you have served in **any** way, large or small. We’d be honored if you would attend this event. Spouses and children are welcome to attend also.

If you are newer to Faith and haven’t yet had the chance to serve, we’d still love for you to join us. It should be a good time.

Please help us plan for the dessert portion of this evening by letting us know you’re coming. Check the Appreciation Dessert box on the back of your Connections Card on Sunday morning or email Robynn ([robynn@faithmanhattan.org](mailto:robynn@faithmanhattan.org)).

**Good Friday Service.** Our Good Friday Service will focus on the crucifixion of Christ and will include music, the reading of extended portions of Scripture, and the Lord’s Table. Please join us on Friday night, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. for this time of worship. Dwelling on the crucifixion on Good Friday always heightens anticipation for our celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning!

**Pictorial Directory.** Please stop by the library (just off the foyer) on a Sunday morning in March to have your picture taken for our online pictorial directory. If you consider Faith to be your church home, we would like for



you to be included in the pictorial directory so that others can “put your name with your face.” Thanks to Ryan Edick and Darren Allman for being our photographers.

**Lectio Divina.** During our services on April 11<sup>th</sup> we are planning a worship experience that includes the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*. *Lectio* is simply a way to listen for the voice of God in a corporate setting. You may remember that we used Psalm 139 in our *Lectio* service in October; many of you expressed that you found that experience to be meaningful.

### Inside this issue:

Worship Notes	2
Good Sense Course	2
Summer Opportunities in Children’s Ministry	3
Welcoming New Members	3
A Note about Baby Showers	3
Youth Updates	4

## Worship Notes by Micah Peacock



Well, it's March. Finally! Warm weather is on the horizon. Do y'all ever get tired of comments about the weather? If so, I'm sorry. But, how many things in this world does *everybody* have in common, right?

Hope this finds you all well. It seems to be that time of year when everybody has a million things going on – family, work, school – it's all moving full speed ahead. I know I've felt that way recently. I received some encouragement from the other staff guys that I'd love to pass along to anyone of you that feel any similar weight.

God is at work all around us, all the time. Be-

cause of what Jesus has accomplished, we're invited to play a part in that work. If you're like me, your awareness of it is always in a state of flux – sometimes it's clearly seen, and other times it seems to be lost in the current of all that we have going on.

It's hard to take time to pause, to reflect on who Christ is and what He did, to be willing to be interrupted by Him – when everything tells us to keep on the move, to progress, to accomplish. I'm not sure where the line between 'expectantly waiting on God' and 'fulfilling the responsibilities He's given each of us' falls. In fact, sometimes I think that it's in the routine, daily things that we'll find Him most at work.

But I do know that the God we worship has proven Himself strong, steadfast, trustworthy, capable. He literally holds the entire universe together! So, we can trust that He'll be the source for strength when we're weak, rest when we're tired, and wisdom and truth for each passing day.

God initiates. God supplies. Living a lifestyle of worship means following and responding. But it's more than a cause-and-effect relationship; it's an invitation to be an active, vital participant in the Kingdom of God.

Lord Jesus,  
You are my righteousness,  
I am your sin.

You took on you  
what was mine;  
yet set on me what  
was yours.

You became what  
you were not,  
that I might become  
what I was not.

- Martin Luther

## Save the date! April 25th: Meet the Petes!

On April 25th, immediately following the 11:00 service, Steve & Ellen will be serving up a delicious Indian

lunch and then sharing what God has been doing in their corner of the world. Mark the date on your cal-

endars now! You'll be able to RSVP on your Connection Card soon. You won't want to miss this one!

## GoodSense

Would you like to discover the peace and contentment that come from managing your financial resources according to God's purposes and principles? The *GoodSense* course is designed to help you do just that. In this hands-on course you'll learn how to honor God in your finances by becoming a diligent earner, a generous giver, a prudent consumer, a cautious debtor, and a wise saver. During the course, you will develop a Spending Plan as well as learn about and choose between three different record-keeping sys-

tems to help you stick to your plan. Most importantly, you will discover how being financially faithful can help you to become financially free! You will leave the course with a Spending Plan in your hand, the knowledge in your head to implement it, and the motivation in your heart to follow through with it. **Cost:**

\$12 per individual. Couples are encouraged to each purchase a participant's guide. **Dates:** April 15, 22, & 29 from 6:30-8:30 @ Faith EFC. Scott Grubbs facilitates this course. If you have question please contact Scott ([sgrubbs@jcksha.org](mailto:sgrubbs@jcksha.org)). You can register on the back of the Connection Card.



### Financial Update

	<b>February</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
General Giving (non-designated)	\$47,820.75	\$108,740.92
Other (missionary support, etc.)	10,010.88	16,215.88
Total Receipts	\$57,831.63	\$124,956.80



## Summer Opportunities Abound by Chris Barker

With the warming of the weather my attention is quickly turning towards the summer months. I am excited about what lies ahead for the children and for our adult volunteers. I wanted to highlight a couple of opportunities to serve.

This month will mark the beginning of our Summer Sunday School teacher recruitment. We will need 23 new teachers who are willing to teach from June through August. It is a blessing to have two teacher rotations

as it allows us, as a church, to give all volunteers a season of rest and refreshment. Teachers instruct their class from 9:15 until 10:30 each Sunday and are provided with a full set of curriculum to aide in teaching. If you are interested in teaching please send me an email or give me a call.

Vacation Bible School is also coming up quickly. Right now I am looking for 3 volunteers who are willing to come along side of me and help champion this event. Our

VBS will be held June 7-11 in the evenings.

We currently have more children participating in the children's programs at Faith than we have ever had before. Although we are finding new challenges on a weekly basis, God is doing some amazing things in the lives of these children and their parents.

Please keep praying for everything that is going on!

**Next  
Membership  
Class:  
April 18th  
2:00—5:00 pm**

## Welcoming New Members

On February 16th at the Congregational meeting the following were accepted as new members here at Faith EFC: David & Cyndi Chase, George Paul & Amy George, Darren & Shawn Allman, Jesse Huffman and Nicki Krause. Please join us in welcoming them and praying for them as they journey with us in the vision God has called us to.

If you are curious about church membership and won-

der why it matters or what it means we invite you to join us for the **Faith EFC Membership Class**, on Sunday, April 18th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Together we explore the privileges and responsibilities of membership as well as take an in depth look at the statement of faith. Attending the class doesn't commit you to becoming a member. We hope you will join us. Look for an opportunity to sign up on the back of the Connections Card in a couple of weeks or call the

church office. Childcare is available if you need it.



## Baby Showers by Karlene Floersch

As many of you may have noticed, we have lots of new little ones at our church. The question of who gets a baby shower and who doesn't has been asked a time or two of the Women's Ministry Team. Traditionally, a baby shower is given for the first baby born while attending Faith. This has become an overwhelming

task and we have admittedly missed some people. Thankfully, the people with whom these families are connected prevented them from falling through the cracks. We do not want to do away with baby showers, however, Women's Ministry will no longer organize them. If you would like to host a baby shower for a friend,

please feel free to call or e-mail Robynn with an announcement for the e-blast. We are so thankful for every baby at Faith and find them all to be a wonderful blessing.



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Experiencing God in all of  
life...helping others do the  
same.

## Youth Board by Russell Soppe



### 2010 Spring Break Servant Event to New Orleans

The spring break team of youth and adults from FEFC are going to New Orleans March 13-21st to join the efforts of EFCA Touch Global Crisis Response. We will be helping to clear lots, debris and broken homes as well as serving children through Urban Impact Ministry. It is our mission to serve God through serving others (Matthew 22:37-40).

Hear what we are up to at our blog  
[www.faimno2010.wordpress.com](http://www.faimno2010.wordpress.com)!

#### Prayer Requests:

- Unity of the team
- Experience God in fresh ways
- Endurance as we serve God through serving others

The Team: Connor Bliss, Lowell Bliss, Tim Cochran, John Frank, Tyler Friesen, Carol Lemmons, Allison Olsen, Kara Ray, Josie Rozell, Sam Rozell, Alec Schlotzhauer, Russell Soppe, Ross Westervelt, Sidney Westervelt & Sam Wilcox.



### Parents as Youth Ministry Leaders

Summer is just around the corner and along with it comes camping trips, great weather, senior high Challenge Conference and more. To learn more about some of those plans, head over to the youth website: [www.faithefreeyouth.com](http://www.faithefreeyouth.com) and check things out. Also this summer, out of a desire to partner with parents in a more intentional manner as they lead their youth in faith I am extending an invitation to parents to help plan, organize and lead a Summer Connection Night. If you are interested in this opportunity or just want to learn more contact me at [russ@faithmanhattan.org](mailto:russ@faithmanhattan.org) or give me a call. You can also read a little more about it on the youth website. God continues to guide us with a vision for our Youth Ministry at Faith E-Free to be parent and family oriented. I look forward to this step of integration and partnering in ministry.

### Welcome New Youth

Hey all soon-to-be-new-7<sup>th</sup> graders, starting in June you are invited to join the Youth Ministry. On June 6<sup>th</sup> at the start of Sunday School we will send some of our current middle school youth to come invite you to the Middle School Class where you can enjoy a small party to get to know the other middle school youth a bit. Also on the night of June 6<sup>th</sup> you and your family are invited to what we call our Kawai Party. Kawai comes from an Australian dialect and means 'welcome', or *come in*. The Kawai Party kicks off the summer and celebrates the welcoming in of new friends! Be on the look-out for more information regarding the Kawai Party soon and also check out the Camping Trip for all new and remaining middle school youth at the youth website [www.faithefreeyouth.com](http://www.faithefreeyouth.com). One more thing, if you are entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and haven't received an email from me please contact me (Russell Soppe – Youth Pastor) and let me know that you are on your way up!