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Sundays at Faith

Sunday School & Bible
Study begin at
9:15 a.m.
Worship begins at
10:30 a.m.
Childcare is provided

FAITH TIMES

*Our Vision – A Community where people are FINDING, GROWING, LIVING,
AND EXTENDING the love, grace, and compassion of Jesus Christ.*

Volume 5, Issue 67**November, 2008**

SESSION APPROVES 2009 MINISTRY PLAN *EXTENDING GRACE IN 2009*

In this season of economic uncertainty where most of the news seems pretty bad we want to bring to you a plan of Good News—our Ministry Plan for 2009. We believe that 2009 will be a year of Good News because that is the only thing our witness to the Grace of Jesus Christ can be—Good News. And, the Good News of Jesus Christ—the Gospel—is expressed best by the word *Grace*. No matter what is going on in the world, we at Faith Presbyterian are committed to extending this Good News of Christ's Grace into our community and beyond. God has given this young church a sacred calling and it is as important as ever that we—using the words of the Apostle Paul—"not accept this grace in vain". Our Ministry Plan for next year expresses our calling and commitment to extend the Grace of Jesus Christ with excitement and energy and recognizes the real needs of real people. Our message of hope and life is a message of abundance and security beyond measure no matter what is going on in the world around us. Here are some of the our Ministry Plan highlights for 2009.

Growing Christ's Church—

Our mission is first and foremost to gently and fundamentally transform lives through active engagement in a life of faith in Jesus Christ in a community of faith. Our ministry plan for 2009 includes active communication with and involvement in the community of East Parker County witnessing to the benefits of life from the grace of Jesus Christ. We will do this with more creative marketing, through our redesigned website to be enhanced with more interactive features, expanded support of community and outreach events in East Parker County, and continued emphasis on member-to-friend and neighbor outreach. The opening of our new church building will be a great opportunity to encourage people to join this journey of grace and this community of faith. These things and the rest of our ministry plan should enable us to exceed our goal of welcoming—30 new families and/or individuals into our church family in 2009.

Growing Disciples—

We will continue to expand opportunities for spiritual and intellectual growth for all ages, not only based upon age groupings, but intergenerational programs where the wisdom and experience that comes from maturity can be energized by the vitality and openness of the young. You will find many opportunities for personal and community growth in small groups, Bible studies, topical courses, prayer groups, and more provided by the church staff and our lay leaders in 2009.

Children's Ministry—

We have baptized 12 children so far in 2008. Our Sunday School and WOW worship continue to grow as we offer more age groupings so that our children can learn and have fun together in more developmentally appropriate settings. We will encourage and guide our children in their formative relationship with Jesus Christ in new and creative ways.

...2009 Ministry Plan Highlights Cont'd. on page 2



You can contact
The Rev. Jim Witherow
by e-mail,
pastor@faithaledo.com
or call 817-441-6262.)

Message from Your Pastor

Because of my previous life in the financial services business, I continue to be approached with questions about the current stress in our economy—especially as these circumstances seem so tied to housing finance, my specialty. Back in the mid and late 1980's we had very similar circumstances, except then Texas was at the center of the collapse. During that time I developed what I still believe is the right formula for not only persevering, but growing through economic adversity. First, do not let any other person, possessions, employer, creditor, or institution set your value as a person. You are a child of God—nothing is more precious. Second, as one of God's children you have received gifts of intellect, skills, personality and other abilities. These gifts may be apparent or yet undiscovered or underdeveloped, but they are there. Once you know these gifts, claim them, and nurture them and they become your value proposition. It is extremely important that

you define your own value in God's terms, not on the world's terms. This step may take some time when there does not seem to be any time. The most difficult thing to accept is often the need to go backwards before you can go forward. This difficulty is almost always caused by the world's final claim on your worth. Faith is the power to take this step—...*this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.* (1John 5:4) Finally, after you have successfully understood and claimed your value on God's terms, *never* enter another relationship, job, or take on an obligation, or even give yourself in service in any way that does not serve God's purpose for the precious value He has placed in you.

The Amazing Grace of Christ Be With You!

Jim Witherow

Ministry Plan Highlights Cont'd

Youth Ministry—

Our middle school and high school youth have many opportunities for growing their faith in 2009; being together in fellowship, hands-on mission, worship leadership, and fun throughout the year. The Youth will have at least one mission trip next summer as well as various service projects in our community.

Music Ministry—

We continue to be blessed with a music ministry growing in variety and participation for all age groups. We expect 2009 to continue to give us lots of new experiences for expressing our faith and inspiring our spirits through music and performing arts.

Mission—

We continue to grow our commitment to local, national, and worldwide mission by giving to the Unified Mission of the larger Presbyterian Church and locally through outreach ministries such as the Center of Hope. We hope to increase our financial commitment to missions by about 20% in 2009 in addition to the mission work done through our other ministry activities.

Ministry Staff—

We have been blessed by the excellence of the professional staff who guide and support our young church in ministry and mission. As the church grows, our needs require more staff hours and our ministry plan recognizes the demands being placed on our staff, the great job they are doing, as well as the need for some additions.

New Church Building—

Along with the benefits and excitement of a new church home come additional expenses. Most of the mortgage payments on our new building for 2009 will be paid by our building fund, however our new home will increase our utilities, insurance, custodian and other expenses.

Funding the Ministry Plan

A successful ministry plan requires the support and commitment of all who are involved in the life of the church. We are in the last couple of years of our support grants from the Presbyterian Church. Although significantly reduced from our formative years, we still receive some support in 2009 and 2010. Our Day School is almost self-supporting from fees and tuition. The new building mortgage payments will be largely funded by our Building Fund donations. Everything else is to be funded through member pledges, tithes, weekly offerings and other gifts. A summary of our proposed budget is found later in this newsletter. Please prayerfully consider making a meaningful and faithful commitment to this Ministry Plan through a financial pledge and a pledge of service in time and talent so that we may together *Extend the Grace of Jesus Christ in 2009!*

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8a.m. Men's Breakfast R&K (Daylight Savings Time Ends)
2 Communion Sunday 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship First Sunday Fellowship Lunch 12:30 p.m. Worship Team	3 Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30a.m.	4 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS	5 No Staff Meeting Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Mexican Choir—7:15 p. m	6 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS	7	8
9 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	10 Women's Evening Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	11 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS	12 9a.m. Staff Mtg Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Salads Choir—7:15 p. m	13 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS 6:30 Deacons	14 2-9 p.m. Grace Presbytery Austin College	15 9a.m.-12:30p.m. Grace Presbytery Austin College
16 Youth Sunday Communion 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	17 Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30a.m.	18 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS 6:30 p.m. Session	19 9a.m. Staff Mtg Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Italian Choir—7:15 p. m	20 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS	21	22
23 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	24 Women's Evening Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	25 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS	26 9a.m. Staff Mtg Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Pot Luck Choir—7:15 p. m	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 Advent Begins Harvest Sunday 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 5:30 Evening Communion Service						



Our New Home
301 Bailey Ranch Rd.
Estimated Completion
January 2009

A CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

The Building Team and our contractor have been very focused on the delays in the delivery of our main steel structural framing. We believe that an understanding has been reached with the supplier and delivery will occur the week of November 3rd. The main building should start taking shape rapidly after that. In the meantime we've gotten a lot of the utility work done and the parking lots have been poured. Things should be taking shape very soon.

FAITH SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS—We're always looking for new smiling faces to welcome our Sunday morning guests. Please let Natalie Peak know if you are able to serve as a greeter on Sunday mornings.
- ⇒ CENTER OF HOPE SFS DRIVE—We are making regular deliveries to the Center of Hope. You will need to be able to lift tubs that weigh 50 lbs. or so. See Deacons Janette Hahn or Jeff Shook if you are able give a hand with this.
- ⇒ SUPPORT THE TROOPS MINISTRY—Please see p. 7 for an important message.
- ⇒ LANDSCAPE MINISTRY—We can always use help with our weekly landscape upkeep. Pastor Jim and/or Don Kissner can always be found at work on Friday mornings beginning at 9 a.m.

Music at Faith Presbyterian...Messiah ~ i know there are many of you who would love to sing Messiah ... well now is your chance, Musicians of Faith will be presenting Messiah on Dec. 14 at 7 pm ... we practice Messiah on Wednesdays from 7:30- 8 pm ... i have music ready and also a cd from last year for you to listen to , so please come join us ~ the mohr the merrier !



Does your child have a musical talent ~ we would love for them to play for our Children's Recital on Dec 14 from 6:30 - 7 pm whether it is the piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, drums, saxophone, trumpet ... please contact johna beth , we would love for all children of faith to have this opportunity to glorify our worship experience.

johna beth

Growing Our Family of Faith

Welcome to the Hall Family! Dan, Paula, and Austin Hall have recently joined our family of faith. Dan is in the automotive business and Paula currently works at home, but is an experienced accountant for non-profit organizations. Austin attends Aledo HS, is a percussionist and is on the golf team. We will also see some Hall grandchildren from time to time. Please give the Hall's a big faith welcome!

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to fully participate in everything we do at Faith—membership is not required—but if you are looking for a church home, we encourage you to consider our Faith family. We set aside the last Sunday of each month to bring in New Members. Information about becoming a member, Journey to Faith, is available at the Hospitality Table. Please contact Pastor Jim if you are interested in joining our Faith family!

Next joining Sunday is **November 30**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We continue to pray for Mike and Jill Birdwell's granddaughter, Amber. We pray for the family and friends of Nancy Hilliard who passed away last month. We pray for the economic health of our country, wisdom for those working on solutions for bringing back stability to the marketplace, and new hope for those who have lost employment and homes. *If you have joys, concerns, or prayer requests please let us know. Call 817-441-6262 and leave messages on Pastor Jim's voice mail or send an email to Pastor Jim at: pastor@fpcepc.org.*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Anna Lee Swan	10/6	Sharon Jones	10/12
Byron Larson	10/9	Polly McCall	10/26
Susan Demers	10/11	Kristina Lopez	10/30

*We have manually converted our member data to a new system this year. If there is an error or omission in birthdays or any other member info please let us know by email: faithtimes@faithaledo.com

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Sunday Mornings -Please join us at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday morning for "A Contemplative Walk Through the Synoptic Gospels." During this time, we will explore the unique witness of the Gospel writers to Jesus Christ. We will step back in time to learn about the 1st century Mediterranean world of the early Christians. Just as important, we will explore how these unique Gospels have shaped our understanding of the Risen Lord. Our study leaders will be Dr. Bob Peak and Don Kissner.

Women's Morning Bible Study - This group meets the first and third Monday mornings of each month at 9:30 a.m. and is open to any interested women in our community. We hope you will join us. Childcare is provided.

Women's Evening Bible Study - This group meets at the church on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month at 7:15 p.m. Please consider joining us. We find that each person brings unique thoughts and blessings. We hope to see you then.

Men's Breakfast - **Saturday, November 1**, we will meet at R&K at 7:55 a.m. All of our Men of Faith are encouraged to join us for a great morning of fellowship and sharing events of our lives, our faith, and a great meal. We meet the first Saturday of each month. It's a great way to get to know each other a little better.

COFFEE AND THE BIBLE

TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 6:30

Meet with Pastor Jim and other Faith early risers every Tuesday morning for a guided Bible Study and devotion. We will be studying books of the Bible, what the Bible says about topics on your minds and issues of the day, and how the Bible can feed our souls with the grace of Jesus Christ. Join us for a refreshing pause in your week for that much needed time in the Word of God. Previous experience in Bible study or knowledge of the Bible is not necessary to participate. We will end each session promptly at 7:30 a.m. We hope you will come and enjoy Coffee and the Bible with Pastor Jim.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Who Am I?

Face it. We're all searching to find out who we are and where we fit. It doesn't matter if you're an adult, a teen or child; we are all trying to find our place. For many it becomes a life-long quest. Some think they have the answers only to discover, at the end of life, that they were wrong. Some find the answer, but, like water, they can't hold onto it. Children get it almost immediately. That's why our kids of Faith have taken on a new identity (something they wanted and decided for themselves). Kids in grades kindergarten through 5th now have their own name: Club 3:16!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ~ John 3:16

We belong to God – not because of who we are, but because of what He's done. We have the chance to be with him forever! One of my favorite songs is "Who Am I" by Casting Crowns, and it speaks to this very issue. Check out this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT7x3VnrqbA>. It's a beautiful reminder of who we are. *We are His.*

Grace and peace,

Judith



For more information about any of our Children or Youth Ministries, contact Judith Alexander Priest at 817-441-6262 or email children@faithaledo.com

Kids of Faith (pre-K)

Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 – ChristmasTyme in Aledo, 5-9:00 p.m.
 Dec. 14 – Messiah
 Dec. 17 - Here Comes Santa Claus, 6:30 p.m.
 Dec. 21 – Caroling, 6:00 p.m.

Club 3:16 (grades K-5)

Upcoming Events

Nov. 23 – Skating Party, time TBA
 Dec. 6 – ChristmasTyme in Aledo, 5-9:00 p.m.
 Dec/ 7 – Christmas Party, time TBA
 Dec. 14 – Messiah
 Dec. 17 - Here Comes Santa Claus, 6:30 p.m.
 Dec. 21 – Caroling, 6:00 p.m.

Rising Disciples (Grades 6-8) Upcoming Events

Nov. 2 – Practice for Youth Sunday service, 9:15 a.m. (during Sunday School)
 Nov. 5 – Serve meal @ Center of Hope, 5p.m.
 Nov. 16 – Youth Sunday @ 10:30 service (practice during Sunday School @ 9:15)
 Dec. 6 – ChristmasTyme in Aledo, 5-9:00 p.m.
 Dec. 14 – Messiah
 Dec. 21 – Caroling, 6:00 p.m.

Youth (Grades 9-12) Upcoming Events

Nov. 2 – Practice for Youth Sunday service, 9:15 a.m. (during Sunday School)
 Nov. 5 – Serve meal @ Center of Hope, 5p.m.
 Nov. 16 – Youth Sunday @ 10:30 service (practice during Sunday School @ 9:15)
 Dec. 6 – ChristmasTyme in Aledo, 5-9:00 p.m.
 Dec. 14 – Messiah
 Dec. 21 – Caroling, 6:00 p.m.

November Volunteer of Faith

A lot of things go on in the life of the church and are taken for granted only because faithful people are willing to take on jobs that need to be done, but aren't very visible to everyone else. **Roberta Shelton**, our November Volunteer of Faith, is one of those faith-full people who has taken on the responsibility of making sure our weekly attendance, by person, is accurately logged into our membership and visitor management system for both worship and Sunday School. A computer system is only as good as the input that goes into it and Roberta makes sure this important task is done right. Beyond that, Roberta is one of those volunteers who can be found at many of our outreach, fellowship, hospitality, and caring ministry events helping with food, the children, or any other task she is asked to do. Roberta and Bill along with their daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren—Susan and Chris Demers, Grace, and Claire—have been part of our family of faith almost from the very beginning. We are blessed by Roberta's willing spirit in so many ways. Thank you Roberta for all that you do for our church family!

EXTENDING THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST IN 2009

Your Session has approved and is presenting the following budget for our Ministry Plan for 2009. We believe that we are in just the beginning of a period of dynamic growth in our witness for Jesus Christ in East Parker County. We hope to add many new families to our membership next year as we move into our new building on Bailey Ranch Rd. We have a full range of activities and programs for all ages and a growing Day School. Our style of worship and particular emphasis on the grace of Jesus Christ in all that we do provide a place for people to begin or continue a faith journey that they may not otherwise find in our community. Our mission emphasis in 2009 is *Extending the Grace of Jesus Christ* wherever there is someone in need and/or without Christ or His church in their lives. This ministry plan enables us to do that and we need your support to make it happen. Over the next couple of weeks we ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge to this ministry plan and help us *Extend the Grace of Jesus Christ in 2009!*

2009 Ministry Plan

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Pledges and Tithes	229,750	Programs	19,643
Other Offerings/Directed Giving	10,000	Evangelism	13,000
Program Fees	3,333	Fellowship	2,000
Day School Fees and Tuition	47,220	Administration	19,533
Transfer from Building Fund	90,000	Mission/Benevolence	19,000
Grace Presbytery	3,750	Care Team	1,010
Synod	5,000	Church Staff/Personnel	209,878
General Assembly	15,917	Property	120,267
Total Income	404,970	Total Expenses	404,331

Supporting the Troops

Thank you for your response to support LCDR James Scarcelli's mission to bring some joy to children and adults living in orphanages and refugee camps in Afghanistan. Through your generosity, we have shipped 67 tubes of toothpaste, 105 toothbrushes, 80 pair of socks, 20 bottles of hand sanitizer, nineteen backpacks, stuffed animals and numerous toys that will bring some good cheer to those so much less fortunate than us! Also, thank you to those who donated financially to help defray the shipping costs! It is a wonderful testament to the generosity of people at our church who always step up to the plate and make a difference.

God bless - *Mary Frances Wood*

**Faith Presbyterian Church
E-mail Directory**

Pastor Jim Witherow: pastor@faithaledo.com

Children's Ministry: children@faithaledo.com

Youth Ministry: youth@faithaledo.com

Music Ministry: music@faithaledo.com

Faith Times Newsletter: faithtimes@faithaledo.com

Care Team: careteam@faithaledo.com

General Information: info@faithaledo.com