



THE FAITHFUL NEWS

CHURCH PHONE 812-282-6993
PASTOR'S CELL 317-626-1694

*"Faithful Lutherans sent by Christ to
serve God's children"*

MAY, 2007



PJ'S JOTS

PASTOR JOHN HAWKINS

Hi y'all,

This month I want to share again some information I have received from Alban Institute just recently. This article will be centered on humility as a quality of leadership.

Shalom, PJ

Humble Leadership by N. Graham Standish

Traditionally, humility is understood as a virtue. And humility is a Christian virtue because, like all other virtues, the practice of humility opens us to Christ's presence; or more specifically, it enables us to pay attention to Christ's presence and guidance. Humility orients us more toward the spiritual so that we can live a life of Spirit. Another way to understand humility is to view it as a state of being in which we become radically open to God throughout our lives. Humility is a way of life in which we become consumed with seeking God's direction rather than living purely according to our instincts, conditioning, and insights. For the Christian, humility integrates our spiritual and human natures in a way that allows us to become united with Christ.

So what is the nature of humble leadership? It is leadership that is radically open to God--in which we lead from faith rather than fear, from a willingness to let God's will flow through us rather than willfully insisting that our own will be done, from hope rather than cynicism, from love rather than selfishness, and from God's power rather than our own power. When we lead with an openness to God, we allow God's power and grace to flow through us. We make prayer and discernment a foundation of our leadership, always seeking first what God wants and then leading others in that direction by inviting them to the same kind of humble prayer and discernment.

This is not an easy path, because it feels ambiguous and uncertain. There are no guarantees when we choose to lead with openness. Why? Because its leadership that arises from discerning God's path, and discernment is never easy. When we are open to God, we run the risk of traveling through deserts and valleys of shadows. The vision may not be clear, and not everyone will follow us. When we close ourselves off to God and follow tried-and-true paths, vision and programs seem much clearer and easier because we follow where others have already trod. Becoming open to God and leading with openness can be troubling. What if we follow in this direction and we don't get great results right away? What if we trust God and good things don't happen? What if we lead people in a direction we believe to be God-inspired, and they won't follow?

This kind of leadership is scary and anxiety-producing because it has a real potential for failure. Why? Because this way of leadership depends upon seeking God's path--a path that may not be completely clear to us--and not upon following the safe paths of human convention. For example, as pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church, I've been trying my best to lead us in God's direction by encouraging other lay leaders to make discernment of God's will a passion. In a practical sense, this approach sometimes means that I don't exactly know where we are going, but I try to keep people calm, faithful, and ready for opportunities that God presents to us. I've learned that becoming open to God means following wherever God leads even if the way is obscured, for as the Bible shows, God often calls leaders to lead people to promised lands that can't be seen until the very end.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MOLLY HEGENBARTH

How many of us have embraced the changes that have occurred in our lives from the onset? Think of your feelings when you considered marriage, or that first child being born? What about when the first child goes off to college? Not only is concern raised about the actual change, but also how will change affect our finances?

Our congregation is steeped with tradition. It has worked this way in the past, so why should we change now? If we change, what will happen to our finances?

We need to look take a different approach – what

will happen if we do not change? Can we grow our congregation if we are not open to new ideas? If we don't reach out to our community, can we spread God's word and show the love he has given us?

Stepping out of our comfort zone is not easy. That's why it is call the comfort zone. We need to look outside of what we are use to doing? What can I do to make a difference in my church? How can I use what God has given me to reach others less fortunate?

Maybe you feel that your

gift is too small to be noticed. There is an story about an old man on the beach at low tide returning stranded starfish to the sea. Someone asked him if it really made a difference. His response was it made a difference to those he was able to save. He made a difference and you can too.

If we all make a commitment to step out of our deep-set traditions and find new ways to support our church, reach out to those around us and expand our programs within the community, God will bless our congregation with continued growth and riches untold.



Finance Recap Year to Date March, 2007

Receipts (less designated)	\$ 41,202.84
Income required to meet budget	<u>44,736.00</u>
Total year to date income to budget	(3,533.16)

YOUTH NEWS

SARAH RIFE

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Easter breakfast, and also a BIG thank you to everyone who ate at the breakfast. We made a total of \$497!! This money helps pay for the youth that are going on the Lutheran Hills retreat. The youth have agreed to continue working at the Concerts in the Park this summer. So far we have seven families who have signed up to help and they are, Emily,

Peter, Fox, Landis, Rife, McCoy, Searcy, and Rayborns. The concerts are every Friday night, May 11 through September 21st. We still need more youth families to sign up and help with the concerts. Contact Mrs. Taylor. We also need youth to sign up to acolyte this summer, also contact Mrs. Taylor to sign up. May 20th the youth will be having a Hot Dog Luncheon after church for a free will offering. Please sign up beforehand so we have an

estimate on how many people will attend. Carrie McCoy, Roger Emily, Chuck Landis, and Scott Rife are in charge of helping get everything ready, and we will need to borrow some grills to cook on. July 7th, the youth will be traveling to West Virginia to go white water rafting. We will be going through a Christian tour, and will be staying in dorms, instead of a church. The price for breakfast, lunch, dorm, and white water rafting is \$80. We will have

more information on this next month. August 5th is our Pool Party and this year instead of having it at the Taylors we will be holding it at the McCoy's.

Please pay attention to the Acolyte and Crucifer list on the back of this newsletter. If you are unable to serve as you have committed (remember, you signed up), you are responsible for finding your replacement.

OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERAN SOCIETY) NANCY FALKENSTEIN

After a lovely winter in Florida, Jim and I are happy to be back with our Faith family, especially our Owl buddies! Virginia has done an excellent job of writing newsletter articles and I thought the position had been successfully transferred to her shoulders, but, alas, she is out of town. So here goes!

A series of unfortunate and fortunate events, some small miracles, and much dedicated effort - here lies the story of Faith's "new" stained glass window hangings.

This story began about twenty years ago, when Dena and Robert Leslie, members of Incarnation Lutheran Church, dedicated themselves to the creation of these beautiful window hangings as a gift to their church. The congregation loved the windows! They hung in the church for a number of years. Sadly, Incarnation Lutheran Church closed its doors about ten years ago.

Last spring our OWLS took a field trip to St. Meinrad Archabbey. There we enjoyed a tour of the magnificent church and its grounds, were inspired by a Vespers service, and ate our dinner in the residence hall. We talked there about the beauty of the church. Fred Steaban was particularly moved by the stained glass windows, and others of us agreed that they were, indeed, inspiring.

Jim and I went to the Chataqua at the Howard Steamboat Museum shortly afterward, saw some lovely stained-glass window hangings and thought the OWLS might be interested in purchasing some hangings for our church. The OWLS agreed to become involved with this project, and several members formed a committee.

Time went by, we looked, but nothing had come of our efforts.

Then our dear Betty Condra called Karen Vescelus and asked Karen if she knew of stained glass dealers or where we might find stained glass hangings. Karen, a former member of Incarnation, told Betty about Incarnation's windows, but she did not know what had happened to them. Betty contacted the Synod and learned that the windows were in the possession of the Synod and were stored at First Lutheran Church in Louisville. So Betty wrote to the Bishop requesting that, as several of our members had come from Incarnation, Faith Lutheran might have access to the windows.

Several of us OWLS went to First Lutheran last fall, viewed the window hangings, and were allowed to bring them back to the church with us.

Now the beginning of OUR story. Elaine Thoms, who is a quite-gifted "amateur" stained glass artist, agreed to refurbish the windows for us. Some of them had minor problems, and others more significant flaws. All fall Elaine worked on the windows. Mike Baugh and Mike Vescelus made new frames.

Early in April several of the OWLS had a putty party and reputted all the windows. The following Saturday the windows were cleaned, polished, and hung in our church.

On Easter Sunday Pastor John dedicated the windows!

And that is the end of the story and the beginning of the story. We hope these beautiful window-hangings will inspire us in Faith for many years! Thanks to everyone for all their help in this project! And thanks to God for making all of this possible.

Later this spring the OWLS are going, once more, to entertain the people of the Ken Ellis Center with a party. More details later!

Don't forget about our phone/card/visitation project on the first Sunday, May 6. See one of us OWLS for one or more names of shut-ins to contact! PLEASE!

Hopefully, sometime early this month, the OWLS will have a get-together, perhaps

at the church with a catered meal, to hear about Karen Vescelus's recent trip to the Holy Land. Check at church, or call Virginia, Nancy, or Arlys.

Also, OWLS need to be thinking of a destination for our next outing! We will share our thoughts and come up with an exciting excursion. I have Faith in the OWLS



Council Members

Tom Hayes, President
Bill Holman,
Vice President
Scott Rife, Secretary
Molly Hegenbarth,
Financial Secretary
Rick Barr
Tami Czerwonka
Chuck Landis
Patti Smith
Don Walker

PRAYER REQUESTS, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

We ask God's special healing for:

- Dot Clerici**
- Betty Condra**
- Hallie Kusch**
- Don Smith**
- Dean Nerdig**
- Mike Woehrle**
- Linda Woehrle**
- Kay Winn**
- Roger Rice**
- Rick Barr**
- Walter Clive**
- Ron and Marilyn Thoreson**
- Betty McLaughlin**

- Ron Barr**
- Bob Dietrich**
- Natalie Lane Clark**
- Mikayla Mengen**
- Buddy Hustedt**

We welcome Lauren Rayborn, who was baptized Easter morning and Julie Rayborn, who joined our mission by affirmation of faith. Welcome!

Our prayers for support and guidance continue for the call process as we continue the search for

our new pastor.

If you are in need of the comfort of prayer please contact Pastor Hawkins at 812-282-6993 or one of the prayer chain leaders: Betty Condra (282-2102), Vivian Smith (288-8531) or Nancy Vogt (282-2014).



Please Note: The June and July issues of Faith's newsletter will be combined. Please submit information or articles by May 15 to be included.

"Faithful News" is a monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church in Jeffersonville, Indiana. To contribute information please contact Marsha Woods, editor, at marshamw@msn.com or 502-645-4725

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

God's blessings to these May birthdays:

- Chris Holman 5/1
- Kirsten McCoy 5/4
- Dennis Johnson 5/5
- Richard Klemens 5/10
- Cindy Warren 5/13
- Terri Barr 5/14
- Elaine Rogers 5/15
- Amber Vogt 5/15
- Greta Gilberts 5/17
- Amanda Winn 5/20
- Linda Wyatt 5/20
- Rick Barr 5/21
- Reagan Zimmerman 5/22
- Katie Rife 5/24
- Amy Durham 5/29

We celebrate with these couples having May anniversaries:

- Carrie & Matt McCoy 5/1
- Kathy & Tom Hayes 5/15
- Terri & Rick Barr 5/29
- Arlys & Dennis Johnson 5/31

If information is missing or incorrect on this list, please let Patti Smith know.

Special thanks to Arlys Johnson for shampooing the carpet in the secretary's office and the sacristy. Thank you, Arlys!

Thanks to my Faith family for the many cards, calls, and prayers during my recent surgery. Your expressions of concern during my recovery are greatly appreciated.

Rick Barr

Thrivent Join Hands Project will be May 12. We will be working at Noah's Ark and are looking for youth and adults to help us with this project. More information will be announced as soon as it becomes available. See Mike Baugh for details.

HELP WANTED!

THE EVANGELISM TEAM NEEDS A FEW HELPERS TO BAKE BREAD FOR VISITOR BAGS AND ALSO HELPERS TO PUT TOGETHER AND DELIVER THE BAGS TO THEIR HOMES. IF INTERESTED CALL TAMI CZERWONKA AT 284-5121.

WELCA NOTES

Bible Study Series Continue

The morning circle continues a Bible study from "They Knew How to Pray" led by Dorothy McCall. The next study is "Don't Be Quick to Ask God for Signs." The prayer life of Gideon.

The evening circle is continuing a study from The Women of Faith Series. The first study, "Celebrating Friendship," continues.

May Meeting Schedule:

- ◆ **Sunshine Circle** will meet **Monday, May 14**, at 10:00 am, at church
- ◆ **Wheadon Friendship Circle** meets at 7 pm **Tuesday, May 15**, at church.
- ◆ The next joint quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, June 2**, at **10 am** at church.



WELCA's next quarterly joint meeting will be held Saturday, June 2, at 10 am. Among the items to be discussed are what to do with the proceeds from the Lenten Suppers.

The monthly Bible studies have been gaining in attendance. Fourteen ladies attended the evening circle meeting in March, and nine were in attendance at the morning circle meeting in April. This affords a greater opportunity to share information. If you haven't attended before, come join us! All are welcome!

The morning circle will continue the Bible Study entitled "They Knew How to Pray: 15 Secrets from the Prayer Lives of Bible Heroes." Dorothy McCall is leading this study. The May 14 study will focus on "Don't Be quick to Ask God for Signs," and subsequent studies will include "Let God Turn Your Bitterness into Blessings," "Practice the Ministry of Prayer," and "Surrender Unconditionally to God."

The evening circle is continuing a study entitled, "Celebrating Friendship," part of *The Women of Faith* Bible Study Series. Study guides are available for \$6. To obtain a copy please

contact Marsha Woods. This study invites us to experience greater connectedness to our sisters in faith and to the friend who "sticks close like a brother." The lessons remaining within this study include: "Hugs and a Good, Swift Kick;" "Putting Your Feet to the Fire;" "Friendship Flops and Fizzles;" and "Come on, Get Happy!"

The Lenten dinners were delicious and well attended. \$385 was raised from this year's meals. No decision has yet been made on how the proceeds will be used. That decision on how to use the proceeds is on the agenda for the June 2 quarterly meeting.

There has been some question about the offerings taken at the WELCA meetings. A free will offering is collected at each circle meeting and the quarterly meeting. In addition, a "thank" offering is collected at the quarterly meetings. Boxes are available to help you collect your thank offering daily as a reminder of your many blessings. The thank offerings are sent directly to Synod for use in their projects to benefit ministries.

Several ladies attended the Spring Cluster meeting at First Lutheran on April 14.

MARSHA WOODS

Patti Smith, Arlys Johnson, Vivian Smith and Linda Romine represented Faith. Pastor Betsy Dardt led a discussion on Bible studies, and information was shared about the upcoming South Central Conference Convention to be held July 20-21 in Indianapolis. If you are interested in more details about the conference and the possibility of attending, please contact Patti Smith.

They also learned that the South Central conference publication, *The Kinswoman*, is available to any WELCA member. Again, see Patti Smith for details.

The next Loaves and Fishes commitment is Saturday, May 19 at St. Luke's. Please mark your calendars to be available and sign up to assist with this important community outreach program.

For more information on WELCA events and activities, feel free to contact Patti Smith or Vivian Smith.

WEEKDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

CAROL TAYLOR



May is the last month of school year 2006/07. Thursday, May 17th will be the last day of school. This day will be our annual bus trip to the Conner dairy farm in Shelbyville, Ky. Children, siblings, parents, and grandparents from all three classes will travel by Miller Co. school buses to the farm to see the Conners milk their cows, go for a hay ride, help make homemade ice cream, and have it for dessert at their picnic lunch. The buses will leave the church parking lot at 9:25 am and return to the church by 2:00 pm. Everyone should come to school by 9:15 on this morning. The Conners own a private dairy farm and have opened their home to Faith Weekday for the past 25 years. They have been doing this in the interest of letting the children witness what life on a farm is like and to let them see first hand that the milk that they buy in a store comes from the cows on their farm. We want to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for this great way to end our school year. This trip got started many years ago when Mrs. Conner's mother was a part of the Weekday staff before her death. Thanks Linda and Vince for continuing this tradition.

All of the classes are full for next year. The seven people on the pre-K waiting list will have to wait until at least mid July to know

if they will have a spot in that class next year. This wait is because I know several parents have applied for their child to go to the Head Start program that meets 4 days a week and is sponsored by the government and Clark County Schools. They do not finalize their class lists until just a couple of weeks before school begins for the new year in August. This means we could lose several children who are now enrolled in our program, but who would transfer to head start if they are accepted by that program. If any transfer, then the waiting list will be called and taken into the class by the order they were put on the list. All I can say is "patience please," because it is out of our hands at this time.

The first year students will be finishing their unit on families, then talk about God's plan for spring. The last week they will be discussing what they will see at the dairy farm. The Pre -K class will be talking about spring and God's plan for seeds, and baby animals. They will dissect a lima bean to find the baby plant God hid inside. They will learn that seeds need soil, water, and sunshine to grow. They will also learn that God gives the seeds everything they need to grow, make food for us to eat, and make more seeds for next year. What a wonderful God we have!!!

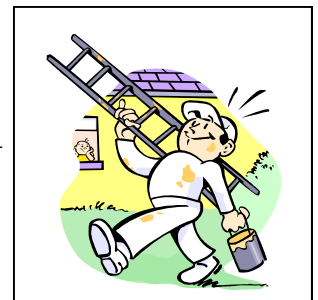
THE LAST DAY OF W.C.S. IS MAY 17th

PROPERTY

BILL HOLMAN

The spring-cleaning of the church building and grounds was a huge success this year. On Saturday, March 31, 26 pairs of helping hands, scrubbed, polished, washed, pulled, swept, vacuumed, shoveled, repaired, joked and had a great time getting aching sweaty and dirty. Thank you for your hard work and making Faith a much brighter and cleaner place to worship: Kathy, Tom and Jack Hayes, Lyle and Peg Gernand, Patti Smith, Bill Holman, Chuck, Beth

and Tyler Landis, Virginia Klemens, Barb Brewster, Don and Edie Maas, Becky Hall, Tami and Will Czerwonka, Franzi Nych, Mai Otsuka, Scott, Veronica, Sara and Katie Rife, Arlys and Dennis Johnson and Barb Fitzpatrick.



LIBRARY NEWS

NANCY THOMPSON

Here is a listing of new additions to our collection. Kathy Hayes, Barbara Morris-Nix, Nancy Vogt, Patti Smith, Joyce Gerwing, Scott Wykoff, Dick & Virginia Klemens and Colleen Bates are all contributors. Special thanks also go to the Baughs – Donna, for writing the special poem that's now displayed on the library bulletin board, and Mike, for building two additional shelves to relieve the crowding. We will eventually need a couple more bookcases, so if anyone should happen to see Sauder bookcases go on sale, please let me know.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

Day by Day: The One Year Devotional For Young Children, by Betty Free.

The Very Special Baby : A Christmas Story for the Very Young, by Carol Woodard.

The Littlest Angel, by Charles Tazewell.

The Children's Bible in 365 Stories, by Mary Batchelor.

The Illustrated International Children's Bible.

Life on the Edge : A Young Adult's Guide to a Meaningful Future, by James Dobson.

The Young Traveler's Gift, by Andy Andrews.

ADULT FICTION

Family, by Karen Kingsbury.

In Sheep's Clothing, by Susan May Warren.

A Time to Mend, by Angela Hunt.

A Clearing in the Wild, by Jane Kirkpatrick.

Sarah, by Marek Halter.

Joshua : A Parable for Today, by Joseph Girzone.

Fair Warning, by Hannah Alexander.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Martin Luther : The Christian Between God and Death, by Richard Marius.

The Beloved Works of C. S. Lewis, by C. S. Lewis.

90 Minutes in Heaven : A True Story of Death and Life, by Don Piper.

It's Not About Me, by Max Lucado.

The Book of Virtues : A Treasury of Great Moral Stories, by William Bennett.

Mad Mary : A Bad Girl From Magdala, by Liz Curtis Higgs.

One Holy Fire : Let the Spirit Ignite Your Soul, by Nicky Cruz.

Through Gates of Splendor, by Elisabeth Elliot.

Cats in the Parsonage, by Clair Shaffer.

Every Time I Go Home I Break Out in Relatives, by Sylvia Harney.

The Five Love Languages for Singles, by Gary Chapman.

Lightposts for Living : The Art of Choosing a Joyful Life, by Thomas Kinkade.

Principles for Worship, by ELCA.



Meijers and Kroger Rewards Programs

Just a reminder that Faith participates in rewards programs at both Meijers and Kroger. Those members who purchase from these stores can help raise funds for Faith by signing up for the programs.

The programs work differently, so please take time to inquire about them the next time you visit these stores. Council voted at their February meeting to designate these proceeds toward a new heating system.

If you have questions, especially with Kroger, see Bill Holman.



CLM

BETH LANDIS AND SUE NEATHAMER

SPRING FOOD DRIVE

Donation items needed for May:

The Goal for Faith is 1000 pounds

Donation items needed:

Mac & Cheese

Peanut Butter

Green Beans

Corn

Canned Meats

Peaches

Cereal

Money \$1.00 = 1 pound

CLM is having a Spring Food Drive (known in past years as The 50/50 Campaign) The name was changed this year so that we could include schools and businesses. This drive started Easter Sunday and will end

on May 27th. This food drive will help to get the food pantry supplied for the summer months when the need for food increases because school is out and children are eating more meals at home.

Easter Sunday over \$319 was collected in the special offering for CLM. Thanks to all Faith members for their faithful support of CLM and its ministry to our community.

THRIVENT

KATHY HAYES

Care in Congregations — upcoming event! Saturday, June 9 YARD SALE! Thrivent Care in Congregations will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, June 9 from 8 am to 1 pm. Please bring any items you'd like to donate to the church on Friday, June 8, from 6-8 pm. Thank you for any items you can donate and for any time you can volunteer!

Also, something new this year! If you would like to "rent" a table under the canopy for \$10, you may set up your own things to sell (even baked goods if you like). If you're so inclined, you could donate 10% of your profit to the yard sale as well.

If you can donate any volun-

teer time, we need help to set up, receive items and price items on June 8 from 6-8 pm and to work the yard sale, take down and clean up on June 9 from 8 am to close (hopefully done by 2 pm). Many thanks for donations and volunteers. Any questions, please call Kathy Hayes at 968-5959.

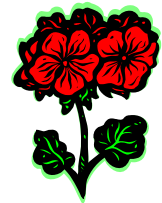
PENTECOST GERANIUMS

Red geraniums (5" pots) will adorn the altar for Pentecost this year on May 27. Please indicate below your choice of how many and in whose memory or honor they are donated. Geraniums are \$5.50 each. Please include your payment with your order. Orders must be placed by May 20.

Number of geraniums _____ @ \$5.50 each = Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Your Name _____

In honor of or in memory of _____



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education team met on Monday, April 9th and discussed the following items. We proposed that the last day of Sunday school will be May 20th.

Augsburg Fortress has created a new Sunday school material that we can use to replace Life Together, the material we now use for children's church, and that will no longer be published by Augsburg. It will follow the church readings and will be good to use as a curricula for children's church. The children seem to be getting a better handle on the Old Testament history since we have been using Witness 2 as the curriculum in Sunday School each week. We discussed at length what we should do about children's Church during Church service? Should we continue as it has been involving children 3yr. to kindergarten, or should we offer two age level classes? (one for ages 3-k and one for 1st grade -4th grade), or drop the whole children's church program. Shelly Mitchell does not want to continue teaching this class because for two years she has not been able to attend the full church service. We accepted her resignation with much thanks for her service. We decided to try to get two people to take the children in the two different classes. The thinking was that while the perfect situation is that all the children are in church with their parents after they have at-

tended Sunday school at 9:15, this is not what is happening at Faith. So it is better that they leave after the children's sermon to learn at their individual age level, than to never get any instruction or social interaction at their age level. Donna Baugh has also resigned from the 3yr-kindergarten class for next fall. We also wish to thank her for preparing each and every Sunday. She also wants to return to the adult study class. So WE ARE LOOKING FOR 3 TEACHERS TO TEACH THE LITTLE ONES. Two of these during the sermon and one during the Sunday school hour .

We discussed having the church give German and Japanese Bibles for exchange students (4) from American Bible Society.

2 German reformed Bibles for Eric and Franzie

1 Japanese Bible for Mai O.

1 German Catholic Bible for Karol

This will be brought before council on Sunday, April 15.

V.B.S. will be held July 16-20 from 9:00 to 12 noon. The littlest ones (3 Yr Olds) will dismiss at 11:00 am because the three hour time is just too long for them to be in class. All classes are staffed and teachers met to make final plans on Wednesday, April 18th. There will be several children for a first communion class this summer.

Confirmation for 5 students will be held on May 27.

This is Memorial Day weekend.

Will Czerwonka, Jordan Searcy, Matthew Craven, Sammi McCoy, Kristina Peter will be confirmed this year.

Next year's class will be Tyler Landis, Stephen Fox, Tara Miller, Eric Miller, Caitlynne Fox, and Jack Hayes.

We need to find ideas to help parents feel the need to get their children into Sunday school. The confirmands are not in Sunday school on a regular basis and the Senior high students wander in late for class. The younger children have more children in Children's church than there are in Sunday school. How can we stress the need for Sunday School without angering or turning the parents off totally? We talked about the possibility of starting a Junior Youth group. Chuck Landis has said he will try to talk to parents and get this

CAROL TAYLOR

idea up and running this fall. This would give our children exposure to each other in fun situations, and then we hope that they will be more interested in being together on a Sunday morning class.

We need to request that council authorize money to run another ad for a nursery babysitter. We have had two persons show an interest in the job. The first found a full time job and was no longer interested in Sunday morning employment. We decided against the second person we interviewed because she did not fit the job qualifications.

HELP WANTED

If you know a person to recommend to staff the nursery from 9-12 Sunday mornings, please give their name to or have them contact Pastor, Carol Taylor, or Chuck Landis.

This paid position will require a background check. The Christian Education committee will interview and screen the individual and recommend them to council.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

TOM HAYES

Now that May is here it's time to go out in the woods and hunt for mushrooms. Or, maybe you prefer to look for the fish. Some may even root around for a golf ball that's in the tall grass or find a nice place to plant something. If you golf like me, you can do all four things at the same time! But if you want to find them, you have to know what to look for and where to look!

One of the nice things about being a truck driver is that I get to drive all around the country, see the sights and be my own boss. Now all of that isn't true. I do get to travel around the Eastern part of the country and drive by the cool cities and see the sights fly by at 65 mph. Sometimes, when I'm in one of these cities and looking for my street signs, I will start looking at a site and not notice that I've passed my street. Then I have to search for a place to turn around to get to my destination. Now, after 19 years of driving a semi, I figured I could have broken myself of this. Yet there are some days when all I do is miss a sign and turn around. I'm always looking for my sign. Reminds me of when I was younger.

When I was a young boy in my teens, all I wanted to do was get away from home. Well, I joined the Army and got plenty of away from home, and then all I wanted to do was turn around and go back home! There were times when I felt completely lost! I had plenty of friends and things to do. It just wasn't what I wanted. Seemed like something was always missing. Some of my

friends went to church, so I'd tag along with them. They went to different ones and, let me tell you, some of them were really different, especially the ones that spoke in tongues. I couldn't understand what they were saying! I never could find my place or my way. All I wanted was a sign from God telling me this is the place. Never happened. So eventually, I stopped looking for a church and God. I figured if God wasn't going to talk to me or try to find me, then I wouldn't look for him any more.

After I left the Army, came home and settled down a little bit, I realized this wasn't what I wanted either. It seemed like not only could I not get what I wanted, I wasn't getting what I needed either. The Rolling Stones lied!

A few more years went by and I started going to church again. I had learned to shut my trap and open my ears and eyes. I just knew that even though I couldn't hear God or see Him that eventually I would catch a glimpse or hear Him whisper. I could tell by the way the people welcomed me in that He was there. It was as if the prodigal son had come home. No one killed a fatted calf or threw me a big party. I did feel like I had come home to loving, caring family. After a while, it occurred to me that God never had to go looking for me because He knew where I was and where I was going. He is with me in all my travels across the country, in the cities and across time.

In the movie, "Bruce Almighty," Bruce is driving along the road rubbing his prayer beads that his girlfriend had given him. He's praying to God for a sign; any little miracle will do. While he's doing this, the road signs are flashing: "Caution!" "Slow Down!" "Dead End!" He wrecks his car, gets out, curses God and throws the prayer beads into the bay. He was trying to bring God to himself instead of taking himself to God. Bruce wasn't paying attention to what God was saying to him and he wasn't seeing what was right in front of him! God doesn't tell us what we want to hear or show us what we want to see. He shows us and tells us what we need to see and hear.

So if you're looking for mushrooms, golf balls or fish, good luck! But if you're searching for a sign from God, maybe you missed it driving by a 65 mph or you just didn't see it while being distracted by the sights. So here's your sign. You are here ☒ and God knows where you are and where you are going.

Peace to you.



NEWSLETTER

MAY

2007



SERVING AT FAITH WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

USHERS: JIM AND NANCY FALKENSTEIN, JOHN TAYLOR & SCOTT RIFE

ALTAR GUILD: PATTI SMITH & VERONICA RIFE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: BILL HOLMAN

WEEKLY ASSISTANTS:

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>ASSISTANT</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>CRUCIFER</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
6	Bev Haire	T. Landis	J. Emily	Anne Steaban	?	Holman
13	Kate Scott	J. Searcy	B. Searcy	?	Gernands	D Smith
20	Tom Hayes	S. Fox	L. Rayborn	?	Holman	Nix & Steward
27	Carol Taylor	S. Rife	K. Rife	?	Peter	?