

31

Branching Out - 31 ways in 31 days

January can be a long, cold month. This year we encourage you to warm someone else's heart by branching out. Pick one idea each day during the month of January. (There are a few extra ideas in case not all of them work for you.)

Write and mail a note of appreciation.

Pray for a neighbor that needs Christ.

Bring your spare change to the Radical Change jars at church.

Clear the snow from around a fire hydrant.

Look up kiva.org.

Drop off box tops and milk lids at your closest school.

Scrape someone else's car windshield.

Return a wayward shopping cart to the proper store.

Donate a bag of quality used items to the Salvation Army or Sheriff's Youth Ranch store.

Drink only tap water for one day and donate the money to clean water for Haiti jar at church.

Buy and deliver a package of size 5 diapers to Rachel's Hope.

Fill out a store's comment card with extra positive comments about a specific employee, or ask to see the manager to give a compliment.

Offer to watch someone's children or work in the nursery.

Leave a tip twice as large as you normally do.

Take nonperishable food to the Salvation Army.

Take a walk and pick up a bag full of litter.

Check a parking lot if the snow is too deep.

Buy coffee for the next person in line.

Go to a store in a different part of town than you usually shop.

Find out the name of a neighbor you don't know.

Eat a meal of rice and beans and donate the savings to Feed My Starving Children. It only costs 17 cents to feed a child one meal.

Offer to drive the carpool an extra time.

Take a treat to a neighbor you don't know well.

Go to your local thrift store and hang up 3 items that have fallen.

Snow blow or shovel someone else's sidewalk.

Wipe off the counters in a public restroom.

Contact someone you haven't talked to in a while.

Take school supplies or kleenex to an elementary school.

Turn your pop tabs in at McDonalds.

Feed the birds in your yard.

Send a gift card to someone anonymously.

"Buy" an Aldi's cart for the next person in line.

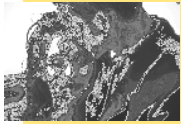
Find 4 items in the library that are in the wrong place and put them back.

Leave a treat for your newspaper/shopper delivery person.

Thank a crossing guard, fire fighter, policeman, etc.



Focus On Marriage Live Simulcast February 27, 2010



Join thousands of couples all across the country as we celebrate God's design for commitment. At this marriage strengthening simulcast we will tackle Christianity's biggest challenges—empowering you and your spouse to stay faithful, committed and encouraged in your marriage.

With Focus on Marriage, you will receive wisdom, encouragement and knowledge from leading marriage teachers such as Gary Thomas, Kirk Cameron, Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott, Francis Chan and Dr. Gary Chapman, all of whom have a passion for seeing marriages thrive – specifically yours!

Faith Church is a host site for Focus On Marriage 2010. Tickets are \$20 each now through January 10 if purchased through the church.

Contact Judi Needham
fefcjudi@smig.net to purchase tickets.

Women's Night Out

Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 will be our next women's night out. We will spend an evening of fun playing games and getting to know one another. Snacks and drinks will be provided. So that we can get an approximate number to prepare for would you please sign up at the information center if you are considering coming.

Women's Bible Study



Have you wanted to get involved in a Bible study but don't know where to begin? Join us for Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed (A Study of David.) This six week study features

Priscilla Shirer, Beth Moore and Kay Arthur. A workbook will be ordered for you if you sign up by January 3. The cost will be \$20. Sign up for the specific time you will attend.

- Mondays at noon beginning January 18
 - Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm
 - Tuesday evenings at 7 pm beginning January 19
- If you have questions, please contact Heidi Anderson (507-440-5001.) A sign up sheet is at the Information Center.

2009 Statistics

Births

Liberty Andersen 4/11/2009
Daven Benitez 10/11/2009
Peter Burck 10/16/2009
Amelia McCabe 10/29/2009
Eloise Parks 11/17/2009
Grace Covert 11/18/2009

Child Dedications

Luke Hansen 1/4/2009
Jacob Carlson 3/29/2009
Elijah Carlson 3/29/2009
Kya McManus 3/29/2009
Noah Anderson 5/10/2009

Marriages

Shannon Harms and Ben Owens
2/7/2009
Terri Owens and Jay Magnuson
9/12/2009
Andie Lewis and Phil Nordstrom
11/25/2009

Baptisms

Gordy Palominos 1/25/2009
Ken Louis 3/22/2009
Lydia Morey 5/17/2009
Tony Passe 7/6/2009
Trisha Nichols 9/6/2009
Greg Estes 9/27/2009

Deaths

Arnie Wolff 6/8/2009

Members Added

Bruce Bergstrom 1/11/2009
Lori Bergstrom 1/11/2009
Gina Carlson 9/27/2009
Dustin DeBoer 9/27/2009
Greg Estes 9/27/2009
Gordy Harder 9/27/2009
Nancy Harder 9/27/2009
Glen Kurth 9/27/2009
Lavene Kurth 9/27/2009
Dan Ravenhorst 9/27/2009
Holly Ravenhorst 9/27/2009
Mel Yunker 1/11/2009
Sharon Yunker 1/11/2009

Members Removed

Nick Adams 12/6/2009
Karla Boe 10/25/2008
Mark Canny 11/30/2009
Tammy Canny 11/30/2009
Lisa Darling 2/5/2009
Allison Fischer 11/30/2009
Jerry Fischer 11/30/2009
Ruth Fischer 11/30/2009
Cindy Stevens 11/30/2009
Arnie Wolff 6/8/2009 Deceased

Conversions – 16

Calling all accompanists!

Do you play piano or keyboard? Would you like to help out with playing in our worship services? If this is of any interest to you please contact Heidi Anderson at the church office, 437-1000.



Library Reminder

Please return overdue books and other materials to the library. We want to be able to lend them to others. Please put them in the basket by the shelves.
Thank you!

Staying on Target

As we begin 2010, let's remember what it is we're doing here. The purpose of Faith Church, like every other created thing, is to bring glory to the Creator. We, as a church body (and as believers individually) glorify God when we do what He has created us to do. *(See Jesus' words in John 17:4)*

That means we are to be *making disciples* (Matt. 28:19-20). God has put us here to be a part of His plan and process to see lives transformed through the gospel of Jesus Christ. I long for the day that we see many loving relationships with Jesus Christ lived out in lives that bear much fruit and bring glory to God. Simply put, we desire to develop people who have *a passion for God and a compassion for people*.

A disciple is one who has a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ demonstrating:

- a love for and connect with God (Rooted in Christ),
- a love for and connect with the church (Growing in Faith), and
- a love for and connect with those outside the church (Branching Out).

A healthy follower of Christ abides in Him through prayer, the Word, and obedience. He/she recognizes and takes ownership in the mission of the church, living with eternity in mind. That means we understand that we have been bought with a price. We are no longer our own, but we belong to Jesus Christ and therefore live our lives for Him.

As a church we are coming into some key transitions this year. This is especially true in the area of staffing. We are going to be adding a Children's Ministry Director to our staff as soon as possible. It would be great if this person were "homegrown" so to speak. So if you, or someone you think of from our ministry, would be interested in giving leadership in our Children's ministries, please let us know.

As the Brogans transition into missions ministry, we'll also be looking for a pastor to lead in the area of our youth

ministry. We would like to have someone in place by summer's end. Again, if there is someone that comes to your mind that you think would be well suited for that role, please contact our office.

This coming year we also want to focus attention on building up our small group ministry (e.g., Care Groups) and affinity groups (Mom Time, Wired, Plugged In, etc.). It is imperative that we are a church *of* small groups rather than just a church *with* small groups. (In other words, that people are vitally connected with others in our ministry and are *Growing in Faith*.)

It has been very encouraging to see the emphasis on *Branching Out* these last months and the way people have grown in that area. We will continue to offer and encourage ministry opportunities locally and cross-culturally. A neat potential that God has seemed to "drop in our lap" is teaming up with the *Jesus in Haiti* ministry. I am praying that each one of us can take an opportunity to expand our effort to share Jesus' love and truth with those who need to hear about and receive Him.



Please pray with me as we continue to develop means and ways to carry out what God has called us to. Our leadership teams will be working diligently *to prepare God's people for works of service* (Eph. 4:12).

As we stay the course for what God has called us to as a church family, then by His grace we will indeed see lives transformed and the abundant fruit that will bring Him glory!

Serving Him with you,

Pastor Mike

Finance Committee

The finance committee has the honor of counting the weekly offerings, performing audits, reconciling deposit statements and processing giving statements. We do these tasks under dual control with high integrity.

We are always trying to improve procedures and work with the church staff to insure our finances moves smoothly through our system. Michelle Williams (Director of Operations) works closely with our committee with mutual suggestions given to improve procedures.

We are always looking into the future with our committee. Our committee is trying to find a way to serve our church in personal financial stewardship. We are also looking into different ways of giving electronically.

I would like to thank the committee members for taking time out of their busy Sunday schedules to serve in our church. This year has run very smoothly in the scheduling and commitment of our committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Nielsen

Committee Members:

Dan Nielsen – Chair
Tom Wuertz – Board Representative
Mark Bjorlie
Ed Emerick
Jeff Grev
Deb Joel
Mark Morey
Ray Ondov
Will Pazurek
Alan Rasell
Dan Ravenhorst
Ruth Ulland
Vicki Wilhelm

A Year of Joy

I like the words of Paul in Philippians 1:3-6 which say, "I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

God has been good to each one of us this past year! Yes, I know for some of you it has been hard, but God is in control and He loves each of us every day. It is such a thrill to see God working in your life. And it is such a blessing to see and sometimes even hold a newborn baby, just a few days old. It is such a miracle to see their little hands and feet. God is so good. It is always such a time of joy to meet new people and find out about their jobs and family background.

Of course, the greatest joy for me is to hear about someone finding Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I have been told of 16 people who have prayed to receive Christ as Savior through the ministry of many different people in our church this past year. PRAISE THE LORD!

It is hard to believe that I have been on staff close to six years now! God has been so good to me and I want to thank you for your help in ministry at Faith Church.

Pastor Hilmore Williams

What is the Peacemaking Team?



We are a team of people, trained in conflict coaching and mediation according to Biblical principles, who stand ready to assist in any way. We are not going to "fix", but assist in restoring relationships and resolving issues biblically. We are not counselors, but we are brothers and sisters in Christ trained to help in a confidential setting. The training we have received was sponsored and presented by Peacemakers Ministries. If your Care Group participated in the Peacemakers material, or if you were present for Pastor Mike's Peacemakers sermon series from the fall of 2008. You may already be familiar with Peacemaker's Ministries. This material is based on Ken Sande's book entitled The Peacemaker.

Give us a call and set up an appointment. The only thing it is going to cost is your time and willingness to come to the table.

For more information/appointments, call any one of the following who are members of FEFC's Peacemaking Team.

Team Members
Larry Cox 396-0147
Kevin Jones 433-4126
Kristin Hackel 433-1307
Vern Lewis 437-3740
Dave Needham 437-8120
Holly Sager 396-0254
Sharon Yunker 437-3532



S.O.S. – Servants on Standby

It was such a blessing to see the more than 25 people show up and help us with our recent move! A number of people pitched in, in many different ways, and made the whole event a great experience. As I shared the following Sunday at one of our services, it might be a little easier for me as “the pastor” to get help when needed.

But what if that kind of thing was possible on a church-wide basis? What if we had a way of communicating a person’s needs, and people who could meet those needs had a way to find out and respond? What you would find is the body “bearing one another’s burdens” and carrying out God’s desire for us to be meeting each others’ needs, serving one another, and demonstrating we are Christ’s disciples by loving one another.

That’s what S.O.S. (*Servants on Standby*) is all about. S.O.S. is a way of helping the church family meet one another’s needs. It basically is a method of using e-mail to find out about, communicate, and respond to needs in the church body in a timely way. It’s one way that folks in different churches around our nation have used technology to better serve each other.



Soon we will be implementing S.O.S. in our ministry. It will allow us to be able to use our gifts, abilities and opportunities to serve each other. Over time, you’ll more than likely meet someone in our church family you haven’t yet had the opportunity to get to know (whether you’re on the serving or receiving end of the experience). There will be some basic ground rules both for those of us being served (what kinds of help can be sought) and those of us serving (a commitment to meet at least a few needs over the course of a year). It is one more way we as a church can really step up our love for one another in a practical way.

Be looking and listening for the opportunity to be a part of our church-wide S.O.S. ministry. I know I am looking forward to seeing how God will use it. Pray with me that it would become a significant instrument in the life of our church family! We need a few people to help get this ministry off the ground. If you are interested, please let us know.

Serving Him with you,

Pastor Mike

DIG Sunday School restarts!

Adult DIG - Session 2, meeting January 10 – March 28 (12 weeks)

9:00 am

Room 103 – Women’s Prayer and Share facilitated by Holly Sager

YMB – Parenting is Heart Work taught by Amy Riley and Colleen Nichols

Room 101 – The Truth Project taught by Royce Helmbrecht

10:30 am

Room 101- Ecclesiastes/Genesis taught by Dave Forman

Children DIG

This fall we made a change with our DIG classes. We had a traditional style DIG at 9:00 am and a family style DIG at 10:30 am. This winter we will make an adjustment with our 10:30 am DIG. Instead of the family DIG we will have a combined age DIG in a large group/small group format. This is similar to a children’s church with the addition of a time of small group interaction on the day’s topic. It will be offered for children 4 years old through 6th grade, meeting in rooms 105/106 at 10:30 am. Parents are welcome to come and help but are not required to stay.

Since it is our desire that families worship together, we ask that your children only attend one of the DIG time slots, not both. If you have any questions please talk or email Pastor Pat.



January Youth Calendar



- 6 Middle School Zone: 6:00-7:30 pm
Sr. High Synergy: 7:30-9:00 pm
- 10 Annual Lunch Fundraiser, 11:45 am
- 13 Middle School Eye2eyE Groups: 6:00-7:30 pm
Sr. High Synergy: 7:30-9:00 pm
- 20 Middle School Zone: 6:00-7:30 pm
Sr. High Pulse Groups: 7:30-9:00 pm
- 22-24 Sr. High Winter Wipeout: leave 1:30 pm
Middle School Snowdays: leave 6:00 pm
- 27 Middle School Eye2eyE Groups: 6:00-7:30 pm

Annual Meeting Lunch Fundraiser:

Sunday, January 10, 11:45 am

Students can earn money by helping out at this lunch. Profits are divided according to the hours worked. Earnings are deposited into their individual RAT (Rent-A-Teen) accounts to pay for church events.

We're seeking parents to help purchase and/or prepare food, and coordinate this lunch. See Pastor David for details.



Moving to Missions – by Pastor David



On Tuesday, November 17, we announced that our family has applied to Reach Global, the EFCA's mission agency. We anticipate serving for one year in England. We hope that we can make this transition in the summer of 2010. I will continue to serve as Pastor of Student Ministries through May of 2010.

Since answering your call to serve as Pastor of Student Ministries in June 2004, I've had the incredible privilege of serving you. I treasure the experiences of seeing our students grow in their faith to own it for themselves and share it with others. Of these experiences, God has impacted me most through the various mission trips you have supported – New Orleans, Poland, BUMP, and China. If it is God's will, I want to help others grow in their faith through missionary service.

We are grateful for you, our church family, for serving us and supporting us. Our hope is to continue to call Faith Church home as we make this transition.

Please pray with us:

- For the next person God is preparing as Pastor of Student Ministries.
- That we may continue to walk in faithfulness to our Father whom we trust is leading us.

Youth Winter Camps: January 22-24

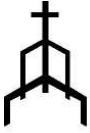


Winter camps are designed for our students to introduce their friends to Christ. Cost is discounted for both the host student and guest. Register by Wednesday, January 13, to guarantee your spot. Forms and information are available at church.

Middle School Xtreme Snowdays @ Ironwood Springs. Cost is \$100.

Senior High Winter Wipeout @ Camp Shamineau. Cost is \$75 each for host student and guest, or \$100 for student without a guest.





Faith Evangelical Free Church
1800 12th St SW
Austin, MN 55912

Non-Profit
Organization
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Austin MN 55912

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Have you ever wondered what your spiritual gifts are or how they could be used in ministry at Faith Church?

Do you want to get involved but don't know how? We would like to help you discover the answers to these questions. We now have access to Serving Central which is a web-based software program that assesses your spiritual gifts, heart/passions, abilities, personality and experiences. After completing the online assessment you will have the opportunity to meet with a coach to see how your gifts fit with the ministries of Faith Church. This assessment is free to you and can be done from your home. It takes about an hour to complete. If you don't have web access at home we can provide that here at the church. Please contact Judi Needham for more information or go check it out yourself:

- Pull up www.servingsweetspot.com
- Toward the end of the letter click on the hyperlink that says the survey
- Under the church option choose Faith Church - Austin
- The church code is faithchurch

- **The Songmasters in Concert**
Saturday, January 9 at 2:00 pm
Tickets: \$5
Jerry and Ginger Dallin and trumpeter Grace Hall will perform traditional and Southern Gospel music.



- **Need more information?**
Go to our website at
www.faithchurchaustin.org

