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Special Points of Interest

- December Birthdays and Anniversaries, Included with Calendar
- Monthly Inspirational Bible Verses, word Search Activity, Page 7



Faith Messenger

**JANUARY
2014**

Faith United Methodist Church
"Faith by the lake and beyond!"

**Volume 2014,
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The Simplicity of God's Gift in Jesus

I recently discovered this hidden gem *How Shall I Go To God?* by Horatius Bonar . Bonar a Scottish Presbyterian writing in the late 1800's does so with a sincere and heartfelt desire to help others see the simplicity and the openness of the gospel. The language is old and stilted at times, but the message is still fresh and new.

When we hear that something is free our antenna go up. "What's the catch?" "What is the gimmick?" "There is no free lunch." We steel ourselves against being taken or conned by memorizing such phrases. But suppose there really is something greater than all our sin, of infinite worth because it was purchased with the blood of Jesus, and eternally valuable because it is the means by which we obtain eternal life, and it is absolutely free.

We don't have to earn it, buy it, work for it, clean up our act, or be good enough to receive it. All we have to do is open our hands of faith and receive it.

That is the simplicity of the Gospel. That is the truth of what Jesus has done for us. Bonar writes this about the Gospel:

"The gospel is simple, faith is simple, the Word is simple, the way is simple, the cross is simple, but man's heart is wholly set against these. He resists and refuses. He prefers some way of his own, and he casts the blame of his own evil upon God. Hence the need for the Holy Spirit. By His hand the Almighty works upon the human soul in ways so unseen and simple, that when the man has at length believed, he wonders how he could have stood aloof for so long and resisted such a gospel. To disarm the enmity, to remove the hardness, to open the eye, and to renew the will, the Spirit operates."

Our resistance to the gospel is not that God has made the way too hard or the way to Him is hidden and hard to find. God has made reconciliation with Him simple. Just come to Him through Jesus with nothing to offer God but a broken heart in need of a savior.

(Continued on page 4.)

UMW Meeting

UMW will meet **February 17** at 6 p.m. in the **Fellowship Hall** for a Unit Meeting. Members of the Elizabeth circle will provide a light supper . Sherry Scholljegerdes will speak about her and Katelyn Madigan's November trip to Haiti. We will have Prayer & Self Denial and the Pledge Service. We will be discussing future events.

Quiet Time Cancelled

There will be no afternoon quiet/meditation time on **January 1, 2014**.

MONTHLY PRAYER REQUESTS

Remember our Church Members & Friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Koda Living Community, Owatonna: Elaine Flathers

Colony Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Rosalind Peterson, Gerri Peterson

Colony Court: Millie Groh, Ardella Draheim

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken, Don Lohse

Latham Place: Liz Corchran

Morrow Home, Sparta, WI: Marlene Rietfort

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller

Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who also need our prayers: Willie Mahler, Jerry Krause, Linda Wilson, Janette and Bob Larson, Dick Bartz

- Please pray for Mary Linda Goodson. She is recovering from gallbladder surgery.
- Please pray for Barbara Friedl's great niece, Samantha Trammell, for her injuries from a car accident. She is now in rehab and is doing great.
- Please pray for good health for Leona Quast, Adelina Bass, Dororthy Hursha
- Please pray for Bud Deno's eye surgery.
- Please pray for healing for Nina Youngberg.
- Please pray for Mary Linda Goodson. She is recovering from gallbladder surgery.



Men of Faith Meeting Minutes

The Men of Faith Meeting was held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 12, 2013 in the Fellowship Hall at Faith United Methodist Church. Those present were Roger Walker, Benjamin Matteson, Peter Fog, George Hagge, Paul Lohse, Clair Voshell, Mark Norby, and Victor Waters.

The meeting began with a prayer by Mark Norby (host) and a Christmas related devotion was read by Roger Walker (host). The group was asked to share some of their most memorable Christmas memories. A lively discussion of those memories followed.

Peter Fog reported on the start of the valet/greeter service which began the previous Sunday. The valet/greeter service will be serving every Sunday for the next four months. This service at the lower entry door helps those who may not be too sure-footed in the winter by parking their cars for them. The valet is also a helper and greeter at that door when parking service is not needed.

The next Fellowship servers from the Men of Faith will be Clair Voshell and Paul Lohse on December 22. The January servers will be Jarod True and George Hagge on January 26.

Roger Walker reported that the Outdoor Sanctuary Team will not meet until next spring. Members of the team are Roger Walker, Bruce Stauffer, Paul Lohse, Jim Barber, and Mark Norby.

A statement of purpose for the Men of Faith was discussed. A preliminary statement was read and suggestions for changes were given. The next draft will be discussed at our January meeting.

George Hagge suggested that we invite a speaker every quarter as a program. Others suggested showing films.

Peter Fog thought we should have some hands-on projects to help the needy. Paul Lohse suggested that we partner with other churches in projects that are already taking place.

Mark Norby stated that Food at Faith was in need of a fork-lift and driver for the December distribution. Paul Lohse gave him the name of someone who would probably do it, but he needed to be contacted early so he could schedule it.

Pastor Victor presented a short film on Why People Don't Go to Church.

The next Men of Faith meeting will be January 9, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of Faith United Methodist Church. Hosts will be Peter Fog and George Hagge.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Roger Walker

The Simplicity of God's Gift in Jesus

(Continued from page 1.)

Come to Him through Jesus with nothing to offer God but a broken heart in need of a savior.

But there is the obstacle - we want to save ourselves or at least have a part in our salvation. We want to bring something to the table, we want to do something to prove our worth and to earn the love of God we desperately crave.

God says no, you can't add anything to the work of my Son, Jesus. You have nothing you can bring to the table that would make you any more worthy of me than what Jesus has done.

We are broken and cannot fix ourselves.

We are needy and cannot meet our needs.

We are sinful and cannot make ourselves holy.

So God has made it simple. He puts within us the desire to know Him, and he enables us to receive Him through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice in His love.

Embrace His grace.

And receive His son so that the joy of Christmas may always dwell in your heart. Having been reconciled to God, may you become one who brings peace on earth through the ministry of reconciliation, that God has given you in Christ.

Let the joy of Christ, the Hope of the Holy Spirit and the Love of the Father be in you and live out of you in 2014.

Pastor Victor

Lifeline Screening

This event takes place **January 3rd**. You can receive \$10 off any package of \$129 or more. The Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm Package includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. To schedule your appointment, please sign up by either calling our members-only phone number, which is **1-888-653-6441** or by visiting www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners. Join in the fight against vascular disease!

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH

Thank you for all of the wonderful birthday cards I received from my church family, friends and family. I got more than 40 cards, and it touched my heart so much when Connie read each one of them to me. All of the special notes written were so wonderful as well. Thank you all again. It truly made my 99th birthday an extra special day. I wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Willie Mahler

Photos from Haiti



Hope for Haiti, 7th Day Adventist Church School



C-Section Baby about 3 minutes old.



Medical Team with our Haitian partners.



Women carrying their goods to market.



Parish Nurse Notes

“HAITI REVISITED”

Katelyn and I arrived in Haiti on November 16th. For her it was the first time to see a 3rd World Country. Haiti is actually the poorest in the Western



Hemisphere. I encourage you to ask Katelyn about her experience, it would be viewed a little differently through her eyes than mine.

There has been some improvements since last year. The road from the airport to Limbé was in good shape. Some of the streets in the city have been paved along with the market square. The heaps of garbage seemed fewer and not so high. But in general things were much the same as last year.

The orphanage at Good Samaritan Hospital has increased with the addition of some toddlers. One little girl arrived about eight months ago. She was very weak and thin with orange hair. Her mother had died. The father stated he could not care of her, he had been feeding her “Cheetos” nonstop. No, her hair didn’t turn orange from “Cheetos,” it was malnutrition. He was to pick her up after six months and had not returned. She now is a chubby, black haired, smiley toddler.

Our work, along with 79 other medical missionaries this year, provided “essential” health care. Some of the patients would have been treated at such an earlier stage of their problems here in the US. We all did our best to relieve the suffering of those we saw. At times, it is so overwhelming, but it feels good to help one on one.

Roger’s Jesus Seeds were a hit with everyone. Sandy’s pillowcase dresses were so special to a little girl. The quilts and toothbrushes were received with smiles and thanks.

Thank you to all of you who supported our trip. You are who made it possible.

On Sunday, January 19th, during fellowship time, we will be presenting a photo preview of our trip.

Faith Crafters and Stitchers

Faith Crafters and Stitchers will meet **Friday, January 10** from **9:30-11:30 a.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. You are welcome to bring any project you wish to work on. There will also be bazaar crafts you may work on for Bazaar 2014 if you wish. Come join us for the work time, fellowship, coffee and snack!

Sandy Voshell

Inspirational Bible Verses:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” ~Deuteronomy 31:6

“The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”~Nahum 1:7

The Twelve Spies Word Search

By BiblePuzzles.org.uk



AARON
 AMMIEL
 ANAK
 BAD
 CALEB
 CANAAN
 CITIES
 COMMANDMENT
 FIGS
 FORTY DAYS
 FRUIT
 GADDI
 GADDIEL
 GEUEL
 GIANTS

GOOD
 GRAPES
 GRASSHOPPERS
 HONEY
 IGAL
 ISRAEL
 JOSHUA
 LAND
 LARGE
 MAN
 MILK
 MOSES
 MOUNTAIN
 NAHBI
 OSHEA

PALTI
 PEOPLE
 POMEGRANATES
 POOR
 RICH
 SETHUR
 SHAMMUA
 SHAPHAT
 SPIES
 STRONG
 TRIBES
 WILDERNESS
 ZIN



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Change Service Requested

MONTHLY MEET-UPS

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, January 15th at 3:00 p.m.** in the **Lakeview Room.**

Mary Circle

Mary Circle **will not** meet in January. We will meet in February at 1:00 p.m., place to be determined.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 15th, at 9:30 a.m.** The location is yet to be determined.

Men of Faith

Men's club will meet on **Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall.** Peter Fog and George Hagge will be hosting.