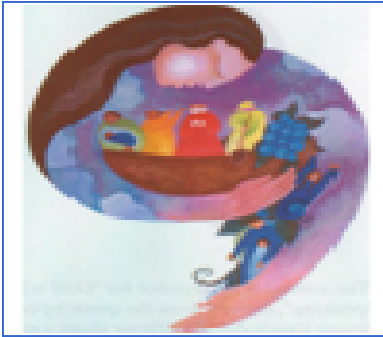


THE OPEN DOOR

A Publication of
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
“Our mission is to delight God”



Never put a period
where God has
placed a comma.



Our doors are
open to all
regardless of
race, creed,
gender identity,
sexual orientation,
cultural back-
ground or
socio-economic
status.

**FEBRUARY
2012**

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**We need sponsors for the
Open Door—Please sign
up in the Narthex!**

FAITH SAYS GOODBYE TO GINGER—GOD SPEED



Mark your calendar—Nehemiah Action—March 19, 2012

Pastor's Jottings for February 2012

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." So spoke Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1861 in his first inaugural address, before this nation's bitter rivalries and woes drifted into the violent hostilities that marked the beginning of the Civil War (April 12, 1861). Unaccustomed as we are to talk about angels in this materialistic age of skepticism, Christians just came through the Christmas/Epiphany seasons when angels spoke to people and changed their lives. And ours. We haven't abandoned what angels represent to us.

In Walter Wink's thorough study of the Powers as spoken of in sacred Scripture, we learn that angels are heavenly messengers in the Book of Revelation. Rev. 2 speaks of seven angels addressing seven churches. I think his words are especially helpful to us at Faith Church at this time, so forgive the extensive quotation:

It would appear that the angel is not something separate from the congregation, but must somehow represent it as a totality. Through the angel, the community seems to step forth as a single collective entity or Gestalt. But the fact that the angel is actually addressed suggests that it is more than a mere personification of the church, but the actual spirituality of the congregation as a single entity. The angel would then exist in, with, and under the material expressions of the church's life as its interiority. As the corporate personality or felt sense of the whole, the angel of the church would have no separate existence apart from the people. But the converse would be equally true: the people would have no unity apart from the angel. ***Angels and people are the inner and outer aspects of one and the same reality.*** The people incarnate or embody the angelic spirit; the angel distills the invisible essence of their totality as a group. The angel and the congregation come into being together and, if such is their destiny, pass out of existence together. The one cannot exist without the other.... It is the *angel* who is held accountable for the behavior of each of the congregations, and yet the congregation is virtually indistinguishable from the angel. They are the visible and invisible aspects of a single corporate reality. Is the angel of the church then *real*? ... What the ancients called the angel of a collective entity [each of the churches in the Book of Rev.] answers to an aspect of all corporate realities: they do have an inner spirit, ***though our culture has been trained to ignore it.*** To that degree their angels are real, whether they possess personal metaphysical reality apart from their function or not. That function is manifested by their personality and their vocation. Walter Wink, *Unmasking the Powers: The Invisible Forces That Determine Human Existence*, Fortress Press, Philadelphia: 1986, pp. 70f. [Emphases mine, rp]

In Wink's understanding of Christianity, the Powers are good; the Powers are fallen; the Powers will be redeemed. Angels are included in the Powers here. I think Faith Church has an identifiable personality and also a vocation that looks out at the whole wide world. Our gathering together (as church) matters. And our looking outwards and reaching out to others (as mission) matters.

The matter of importance to us in all this is discerning the Angel of Faith Church on 1650 Pinehurst Road in Dunedin, Florida. I do not believe that we are simply a collection of individuals coming together for different reasons. To be sure, we are all different and our motivations are complex (like the above quotation). However, we recognize in our gathering something cohesive, something true that touches us, addresses our wounds, and stimulates our hopes and sense of purpose in this topsy-turvy world.

As we get closer to my marching forth to a different destiny and the arrival of a new minister (Latin for *servant*), it seems to me important to ask you to consider identifying the Angel of Faith Church. That is to say, what is the essence of Faith Church, the "More" that draws the dozens of bright, interesting, devoted men and women and children who come on a Sunday? The bylaws have it that our mission is to "delight God". That's so youthful and simple, you'd think. But how does one delight God? Perhaps by following (forgive the pun) "de light of da world". That would please the better angels of our nature as you prepare to march forth to a new day in this church's ministry. Be a beacon, Church. God loves you.

Blessings and love,
Pastor Robert Palin



CROP WALK



The annual Crop walk to raise money to fight hunger both here and around the world will be held this year in St Petersburg on Sunday March 4th at 2:00 PM. You can help in one of 3 ways.

- 1) Pick up a pledge sheet from Priscilla in Feb. Get friends and neighbors, co-workers whoever to give you a pledge then on March 5th carpool to starting place and walk 1 to 5 miles whichever you think you can do.
- 2) Sign as sponsors to our walkers in February.
- 3) Bring peanut butter, beans or rice to church during February.

In the past we have had about 10 walkers and have raised over \$7000 to defeat Hunger. Hope all will join this worthy project.

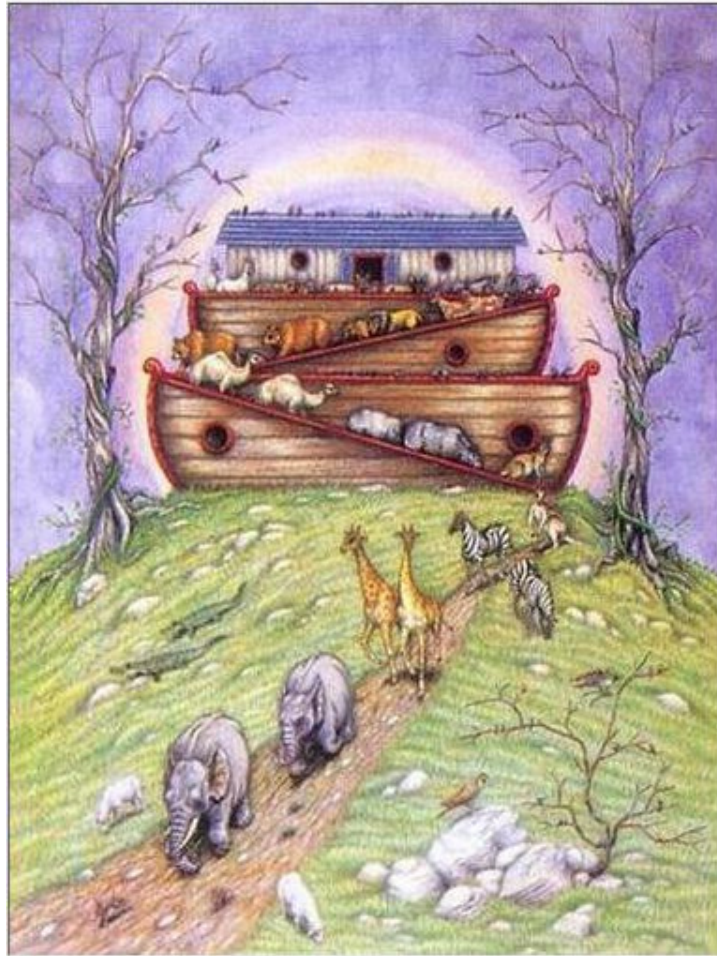
Priscilla

A church in Atlanta honored one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson I ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials..The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me... The only thing that would comfort was this verse..... "Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, We are weak but He is strong.... Yes, Jesus loves me.... The Bible tells me so." The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best." "Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me": JESUS LOVES ME Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow Though my sight is growing dim, Still He bids me trust in Him. (CHORUS) YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO. Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way. (CHORUS) When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song.. Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near." (CHORUS) When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won. He will take me home above, Then I'll understand His love. (CHORUS) I love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Him so? Jesus loves to hear me say, That I love Him every day. (CHORUS) God Bless Us All!!!



I AM NOT AFRAID OF TOMORROW FOR I HAVE SEEN YESTERDAY AND I LOVE TODAY.



Noah's Ark : Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark .

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

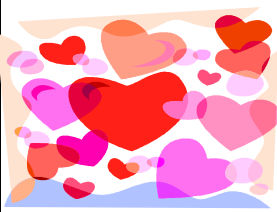
NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

	FEB 5	FEB 12	FEB 19	FEB 25
WORSHIP READER	George Campbell	Tatiana & Hortensia Simmons	Ginni Pressgrove	Pam Stiers
USHERS/ GREETERS		Bev Greaf Ginny Van Scoyoc Don Salisbury	Marie Grein Donna Lund Dan McKnight	Sarah Hagemann Bev Greaf Dan McKnight
HOSPITALITY	Trevesta Edwards	Donna Lund Marie Grein	Kathy & Frank Glenn	Bea Powell Ben Infuso

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

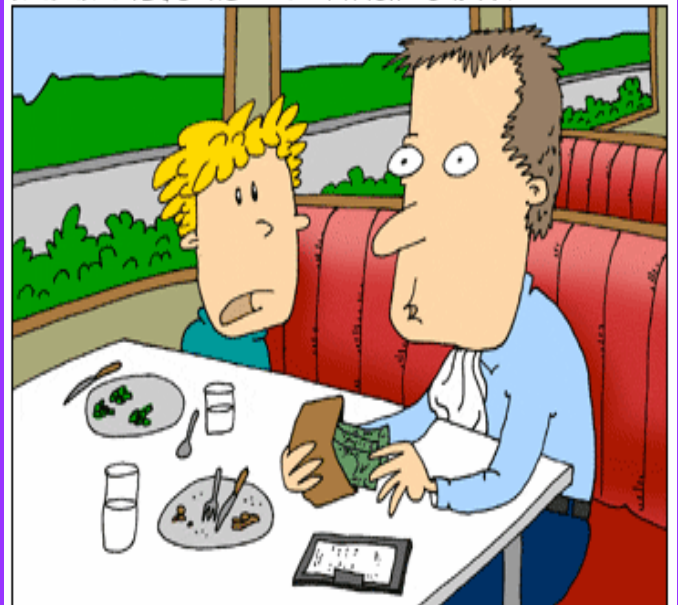
Alexa Rodriguez	7th
Garth Smith	7th
Bud Moyer	8th
Lois Cottrell	9th
Ruth Moyer	11th
Kathy Glenn	15th
Grace Larson	23rd
Mardi Colby	26th
Gary Kaleskas	29th

ANNIVERSARIES

Cindy & Lew Donald	14th
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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



INFORMATION FROM OUR NEWEST F.A.S.T TEAM MEMBER

For the FAST Board Training

I'm a snowbird. And I hadn't even joined my church yet when I attended the Action last April. Our minister and FAST leaders encouraged us over and over to attend. With an average weekly attendance of only 75, I was amazed that 62 people from tiny Faith United Church of Christ attended the Nehemiah Action last April.

My husband and I were both impressed by how well the Action was run and how many people attended. Likewise, we were pretty appalled by the lack of response from community leaders. But I resolved that night that when we returned to Pinellas County in the fall I would become more involved in FAST.

And then came the call last June from Pastor Robert (Palin) asking me if I would attend the five day DART training in Cincinnati. "But I'm a snowbird," I said. "And I'm not even a member of the church. And I don't have any extra money for the room and board fee." "Not to worry" Pastor Robert said. "We need your energy and enthusiasm and commitment to justice working for us. We will find the resources to send you." And they did.

Sometime later I asked Pastor Robert why he called me. He barely knew me but he said he sensed in me a need to make a difference in our community and a strong bent toward social justice. He was right on both counts.

The week in Cincinnati challenged me to examine my faith, what I should be doing with it, and my view of how individuals can band together to make a difference in their communities. I have to say that I was pretty lost much of the time as, outside the Action, I had no clue about the FAST/DART process having not yet been through a full year with FAST. The new lingo was mind-boggling and the pace of the week frenetic. But it was wonderful to be surrounded by people of many denominations and faiths working toward a common goal. As the week went on, we were taken step by step through each process of the year (listening, research to action, and investment) practicing each step along the way. The week culminated with a mock Action which was almost exciting as the real thing.

The glue that held us together was the one-on-ones, which we practiced throughout the week getting to know people from a variety of DART (FAST's parent organization) organizations. We also got to know the DART staff members and the interns who were in Cincinnati going through training themselves. It has been fun to get to know them better and support them as the year has gone on, just as they support us.

I'm still new at this. I'm now a team leader at Faith UCC and I recently joined the Education Committee. And through some magical process I also seem to have become a board member (although one who is on vacation as this meeting is taking place).

What got me started was my pastor and the Action. What keeps me going is what I experienced and learned at the DART training. I've since attended another DART training here in Florida that was shorter, but just as compelling. DART does a great job and it will continue to with Leah as the new national training coordinator!

Next year's Five Day training is in Florida. I urge anyone who can take the time off to attend. It changed my life and my priorities and it can do the same for you.

Fran Mitchell - January 6, 2012





MODERATOR MOMENTS

Before I get into important things, let me apologize for the lateness of the Open Door. Things are bit hectic both at the church and in our household. So please forgive us.

First date that you should put on your calendar is congregational meeting to be held February 12th 2012. At that meeting we will vote on the new budget for the year 2012.

The second item of importance is the resignation of Sandy Edwards as steward of outreach. The Council has appointed Dan McKnight to take Sandy's place, please give him your support.

We are sorry to report that Ginger our church musician has resigned for personal reasons. We have reached out to Arthur Goetze and others to help us find a replacement. Pastor Robert has graciously offered to play temporarily, until we can get a new music director.

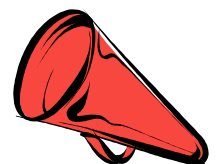
There are many other new and exciting things that are coming up, and we'll let you know as they develop.

Now, the most important date for you to place on your calendar: The Council has decided to hold a retreat on March 2nd and 3rd. On March 2nd we will have an open house at the Bucy's home from 6 to 8pm. All attendees will be asked to bring "heavy hors d'oeuvres". The Council will meet Saturday morning at the Tulenko's home. On Saturday afternoon the Council and the congregation will meet for lunch and a meeting from noon until five at the 3 Oaks Café at

1575 S Harrison Ave., Clearwater.

Further details will follow.

Thanks again for all your support.
Bob



**F.E.A.S.T.
(FRIENDS EATING & SOCIALIZING TOGETHER)**

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2012

**6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Room**

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

**Join us as we gather together to share good food,
Fun and fellowship with others.**

**Your are asked to bring a covered dish such as
A meat, vegetable, casserole, salad or dessert.**

**For those planning to attend, please SIGN UP on
The sheet provided on the lobby table on Sunday
Morning in order that we know how many places to set.**

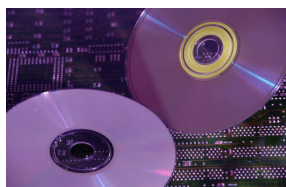
**Questions can be directed to
Carol Kriebel**



Bible Basics

*The Bible Basics class will continue to meet on
Thursdays from
10:30 am—Noon
In the Fellowship Room
All are welcome—Please join us!*

If you would like a CD of a particular Sunday morning service, please let the sound booth operator know and a copy will be made for you.



A LITTLE BIT CAN MEAN SO MUCH!

Now that we're into the new year, I'm sending along this little reminder that it would be so very helpful if all of us could pay our own Per Capita. What is the Per Capita you might ask? Well, the United Church of Christ charges Faith \$14.50 for every member we have on the rolls. This can add up to a tidy chunk for us! So! I'm hoping that each member will pay their own fee to defray this expense. It's not a great deal of money, and you can pay it incrementally as long as you are sure to make note of its purpose when you do. (Helen Tulenko will be very upset if you fail to do this!) I have already paid the \$29.00 for Theron and me so I'm trying to lead by example! Thanks for your help!

Mollie



FAITH FRIENDS ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, February 1st and 15th - Breakfast at Farmer Boy Restaurant at 2129 Drew St at 9:00 am.

Saturday, February 18th 8:00-10:00 am Pancakes Plus Eggs Breakfast at the church

DATE TO SAVE

Saturday, March 31st at 7:00 pm—A circus done by young people right here in Dunedin
(check out the website at www.Fairiesinc.org)

Potato Chips

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

His smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime! Embrace all equally!



When you are going
through something
hard
and wonder where
GOD is,
remember the teacher
is
always quiet during a
test.



THE OPEN DOOR

*We are an open and affirming - peace with
justice people who believe that
God is Still Speaking*

FEBRUARY 2012

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Music Director	
Vice Moderator	Mollie Bucy
Treasurer	Ginni Pressgrove
Financial Secretary	Helen Tulenko
Clerk	Jaci Salisbury
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