



# FAITHFUL TIMES

## FPC September 2009 Newsletter



### Chris' Column

I ran across a small article that indicates that we might be entering a different era in churches. For many years, the typical measure of 'success' has been what people call the '3B's'—buildings, budgets, and bottoms in seats.

That's *one* way of looking at things.

There's another way, that I read more and more about. This other way seeks to measure success by the impact a church has. I suppose you could argue that the more of the 3B's a church has, the more impact that church may be having. The problem is that the 3B's do a fabulous job of keeping a church's eyes squarely on itself—it's internally focused.

This other way of looking at things places impact on people *outside* the church as the thing that should get the most attention. After all, Abraham was called to bless the world.

A lady named Margaret Feinberg started an online discussion to see how pastors are redefining the scorecard with regard to what 'success' is. Here are some of the responses she received...

- When a church moves from being a fortress *from the world* to being the *hope of the world*
- When servanthood organically emerges from your community
- When nobody leaves the church because a guest is on the patio smoking a cigarette
- When you have to expand your new believers ministry
- When the city government calls and asks for your help to solve a local problem
- When modern and postmodern Christian sub-culture lingo is completely absent from your service
- When an increasing percentage of your community engages in worship, incarnational outreach, and love for the less lovely
- When your ministry team can tell stories of God's undeniable work in the people they know on a weekly basis
- When your community is growing in both depth and width – growing deeper in knowledge and love of God and sharing what they learn with others so the church can't help but grow
- When in your corporate worship you faithfully preach the whole of God's Word including the law and the sweetness of the Gospel

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Chris' Column continued

- When lives are transformed
- When you celebrate the Sacraments in all their richness and meaning, following the institution of Jesus to his disciples
- When people are increasingly living their lives in joyful response to the Gospel, including loving and serving others, giving sacrificially, and being passionate about seeing others know Jesus

Do any of these seem unusual to you? Are you surprised to see some of them? What do YOU think should be on our scorecard? Talk about it with someone. Talk about it with someone outside the church. Share what you find with someone in leadership.

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## Memories

By Claire Bishop

The sounds and fragrance of a summer's night,  
What memories they recall;  
They take me back to a time, long ago...  
To a time, when I was small.

To a time when life was carefree,  
And problems were so few,  
When the hardest thing to figure out  
Was deciding what to do!



Playing tag on the lawn after supper,  
Catching fireflies in a jar,  
Seeing who would be the first  
To spot the evening star.

But childhood and youth were soon over,  
And yet, it seems to me  
That the Promise that I live by  
Proves the best is yet to be.

## Session Update

At a stated meeting, the Session of FPC met at church on August 11, 2009 at 7 P.M.

The Session met with Mark Siverd, Chairman of the Mission Committee. The committee will meet to decide where to allocate monies from the Mission Fund and report back by December 2009.

Received financial report form the Administration Committee and discussed possible budget cuts.

Approved Women's calendar for 2009-2010.

*The fulfillment of God's promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God's promise arrives as pure gift.*

Romans 4:16

## Scripture-Based Prayers To pray for Your Pastor

**Priorities.** Lord, give my pastor wisdom to prioritize the tasks of each day. Guard my pastor against the tyranny of the urgent, and help him discern what is most important (Ps. 90:12; 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Jn 4:1)

**Focus.** Father keep my pastor from pride and self-pity. Allow Chris to glory only in the cross, and let it be his reason for ministry (Gal. 6:14)

**Holiness.** Jesus, keep my pastor holy in every way. Protect Chris from seducing spirits, especially when he is tired and hard-pressed. Provide friends to help protect my pastor and to walk with him in personal holiness (1 Pet. 1:16)

## Women's Ministry



Late August/September begins the new session for everyone here at Faith Presbyterian Church. The women began with a Breakfast on August 23rd. At this time the women's 2009-2010 calendar was handed out. The **Wednesday** group of ladies began a new study on August 26th with a **12-week study on Job**. They meet every Wednesday at 10 A.M. and it is not too late to join in. All women of Faith Church and their friends are invited.

**Faith Circle** starts back on **September 8th** with their study "A Women's Call To Prayer" and will begin their new season with Lesson 12, *When You Must Make A Decision, Pray For Faith*. They meet once a month on the second Tuesday of each month in the library. Typical meetings involve study, time for sharing joys and concerns, mission work, refreshments and fellowship. All women are invited to join in.

September will also see the annual **Fall Gathering** taking place on **September 24th** at 11:30 A.M. at the lovely home of Jeannie Schoen. Please make every effort to attend this official kickoff of the Women's season.

**October 1** will see a new study begin on **Thursday mornings** for 7 weeks. (you'll be done before Thanksgiving) *Stepping Up is by Beth Moore* and is on the Psalms. The study will be repeated on **Tuesday evenings** beginning **October 6th** at 7 P.M. Talk with Nikki, Amy, Pam or the office if you want to order a book and participate.

**Heart-to-Heart** luncheon will be held on **October 11th**, **Double Nickels** will debut again on **November 9th**, The women will be collecting monies this year for the needy for Thanksgiving Gift Cards beginning at the end of October, the Angel Tree will make its arrival on November 15 and the list goes on and on. Your council has a great year planned and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Please plan to take advantage of as many activities as you can. You won't be sorry!

## Children's Ministry

"Moving up to Youth Group" Sunday, August 23rd we celebrated in the 3rd-6th Grade Class. Carolina Dale, Tessa Curtis and Daniel Calvert are leaving "the land of juice boxes" and will move on to youth Sunday school beginning September 13th.

New Sunday School Session begins Sunday, September 13th. Tiffany Haynes, Renee Marsolan and Rebecca Marsolan have joined our teaching team. Our teachers met Sunday August 30th for a prayer lunch. We prayed for each family involved in Children's Ministry at FPC and for 100% Sunday school attendance for children and adults.

K.L.I.C.ers meet Sunday September 20th for pizza lunch and service project.

New Children's ministry pamphlets have been lovingly updated by Miss Susie. They are available in the Narthex and by the nursery.

SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!

## Thank You

The O'Keefe and Wilkins families would like to thank the entire church family for all the cards, prayers and support shown to us during my sister, Gail's, illness and passing. Your prayers have lifted us and comforted us throughout this difficult time. We have felt God's peace and love pour out through you. May you know you are a blessing to me and my family and I covet your love and compassion. May God continue to bless you and our church.

Love,  
Maria O'Keefe

## Men's Ministry



The men continue their Tuesday Bible study at 11:30 A.M. with Pastor Chris. The hungry ones head out when done for a Dutch-treat lunch. All men are invited to join in.

**Notice:** The men will have their monthly **breakfast on September 20th at 7:45 A.M.** *This is the third Sunday rather than the usual second.* Please make plans to attend!

# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:30a Men's Study 7p Knitting	2 10a Bible Study	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 11:30a Men's Study 1:30p Circle 7p Knitting 7p Session	9 10a Bible Study	10	11	12
13	14 6p Administration	15 11:30a Men's Study 7p Knitting	16 10a Bible Study	17	18 7p Movie Night	19
20 7:45a Men's Breakfast K.L.I.C.ers	21	22 11:30a Men's Study 7p Knitting 7p Gospel Jam	23 10a Bible Study	24 11:30a Fall Gathering at J. Schoen's	25	26
27 Communion	28	29 11:30a Men's Study 7p Knitting	30 10a Bible Study	October 1 7p New Women's Beth Moore study begins		



**September  
Happy Birthday!**

Micah Calvert	1
Stan Hoogerwerf	2
Ann Calvert	4
Graham Carrin	5
Maria O'Keefe	6
Keely Slaton	7
Ryan Fitzmorris	9
Amy Miller	15
Daisy Beck	17
Will Schumacher	23
Jane Hoogerwerf	26
Ivan Miestchovich	27

**Anniversaries!**

Karen & Larry Terrell	1
Jonathan & Amy Miller	8
Joy & Harvey Marsolan	23

**FPC Contact Info**  
**Telephone:** 985-875-1212  
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**Church/Office Street Address**  
 16330 Hwy 1085

**Church Office Hours:**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**9 am—4 pm**

E-Mail:  
 Chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org  
 Susie.lange@faithpreschurch.org  
 Pam.greenbaum@faithpreschurch.org

**Sunday Times:**  
**Sunday School: 9:00am**  
**Fellowship: 10:00am**  
**Worship: 10:30—11:45am**



**Deadlines**

Bulletin announcements need to be in the office by **noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday they are to appear.**

Newsletter items need to be in the office by the **third Thursday** of each month!

**Movie Night**  
**Sept. 18th**  
**7 pm**

**Fireproof**  
 Starring  
**Kirk Cameron**



