

January  
2012

Faith Baptist Fellowship

# Focus on Faith

## God's Grace: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Has God been mighty and gracious to us in 2011 as a church? Let me count (just a few of) the ways:

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1. One year ago this week we paid off our mortgage completely. It was a wonderful, thrilling moment! Thank you for giving, and thank God for providing. That paved the way for:
2. A tremendous year financially at Faith. Though we need a few weeks for final accounting, we will pay every bill, have a spending cushion reestablished, and reach our Challenge Goal of \$60,000 "above and beyond" for repaving the parking and giving a special gift to Steiger International for their refurbishing project at their new training center in Germany.
3. But more than that, 2011 was a year of evident grace as God blessed our ministry with life impact. We took in many new members, with more to join us on January 8th. Bold Prayer Requests for 300 people serving "on mission" and 3,000 gifts to our community were smashed by a wide margin. Many of you have reported sharing your faith in Christ with others. Children and youth are growing in their faith, with some trusting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Mission teams served both in the U.S. and Mexico, and a large number of youth group members have applied to go to Belize next summer. We "gave" Greg and Laurie Dirnberger to church planting with SGM and they moved to Gaithersburg, MD. Erik Schaefer, raised in our church and recently graduated from Southern Baptist Seminary, is slated to join a church planting team in Boston, MA this coming summer. New Faith Groups formed this fall, with well over 200 in small group life in our church.

Wow, I haven't even begun to list all the blessings. We are having a kingdom impact! God is moving among us. *The Holy Spirit is stirring!*

In light of Ephesians 3:20, would you earnestly pray for our Faith elders during January? We will retreat on the weekend of January 20-21. Pray for clarity regarding our shepherding of the flock. Are we to have new Bold Prayer Requests for 2012? What should those look like? Are their clarifications needed to further strengthen our new ministry focus and structure? Also, as you pray for the elders, please pray for the Search Committee, revving up to seek God's will for a new staff person to replace Pastor Greg. They have met for an organizational meeting, and meet again on January 9th.

Ephesians 3:21 says "to him be glory in the church" - that's our great hope for 2012, to bring great glory and honor to God as a church. That's why we will begin the year with a special series of messages entitled "Your Best Love Now: Loving God by Loving His Church." These messages, beginning January 8th, will correspond with our 5 Commitments (which themselves correspond to our 5 Loves).

Do you have spiritual goals for the new year? How about starting with this: to read the Bible daily and pray back to God the truths you find in his word. That is the focus of our daily Bible readings, and Pastor Vilhauer is writing Think About It questions and prayer points to help us take a good look at Galatians in January.

***This is going to be a great year, because God is powerfully working in us!***

All for the glory of God,

*Pastor Dana*



# Student Ministries

## "180"

In observance of Sanctity of Human Life month, high school students will view the movie "180" on Sunday, January 8th. This short movie, which compares the holocaust to the abortion epidemic, shows several people changing their views from pro-choice to pro-life within seconds! Find out what changed their minds at [www.180movie.com](http://www.180movie.com).

## Guess Who!

High school students will have their annual "Guess Who's Coming to Lunch" on Sunday, January 15th at 12:15 PM. Students will eat lunch together at a "mystery" home with "mystery" guests. This event is a great way for students to get to know one another better!

## Connecting the Generations

Middle and high school students will spend an evening with the PrimeTime group on Tuesday, January 17th at 6 PM. This will be a wonderful time of food, singing, special music and sharing!

## Famine to Hit Sioux Falls!

That's right! The weekend of January 20<sup>th</sup>, a famine will hit our area! The greatest impact, however, will be on our youth. Several students will be fasting during the annual "30 Hour Famine" for World Vision. From 6 AM on Friday to noon on Saturday, students will have only juice and water. Friday evening they will meet together to discuss the realities of poverty in many third world countries. After staying overnight at church they will spend time Saturday morning serving at Kids Against Hunger. Students will be collecting funds over the next few weeks. If you are asked to sponsor a student, please be generous in your giving and be in prayer as they serve the Lord in this unique way.

## Belize Update:

- 19 students have applied and are currently being interviewed
- Over \$1500 has been raised through fund-raising efforts. THANK YOU!
- Pastor Moe will be traveling to Belize this month (Jan 22-27) with other church leaders for a ministry site inspection (housing, meals, ministry sites, transportation, etc.) prep for our July trip.
- There are two ways you can support the team currently. 1.) Purchase HyVee and Bracco/Spesia cards between January and July from the Promotions Center or office. 2.) Save your used, but useful items to donate for the rummage sale in April.



## January 1 Happy New Year!

## January 4

- All-Church Family Prayer & Praise Night, 7 PM (Sioux Falls Ministry Center, 225 E 11th St)

## January 10

- S.M.D.T., 6:30 PM

## January 11, 18, 25

- MS "Close Encounters", 6:30-8 PM (in the Loft)
- HS Faith Groups, 7-8:30 PM (various homes)

## January 15

- Guess Who's Coming to Lunch, 12:15 PM

## January 17

- PrimeTime Ministry Night, 6 PM

## January 20-21

- MS/HS 30-Hour Famine

## January 29

- All-Church Potluck and Annual Celebration

## Planning ahead:

- Feb 1st:  
The Connect Service
- Feb 10-12th:  
MS Retreat at Swan Lake
- Feb 24-26th:  
HS Dare 2 Share Conference

## Summer Camp Dates:

- Middle School Camp at Swan Lake  
June 3-8
- High School Camp Judson  
June 17-23



# Coming Events

## All-Church Family Prayer & Praise!

The entire Faith congregation is invited to attend this special gathering at the Sioux Falls Ministry Center (225 E 11th Street) on Wednesday, January 4th at 7 PM. Come one, come all for free food, fellowship, praise, worship and corporate prayer. (There will be a drawing for an iPod Nano. You can enter this drawing by emailing your name with "DRAWING" in the subject line to [dkmfbf@aol.com](mailto:dkmfbf@aol.com) by noon on January 4th. Must be present to win.) This will be a great time to celebrate the past year and prepare for the one ahead. See you there!

## GUEST LUNCHEON

### Sunday, January 8th

All new attendees are cordially invited to be our guests following the second service (about 12:15 PM) in the Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, January 8th. R.S.V.P. to the church office, 331-3800, for the lunch. We look forward to getting to know you better! Can't make it this time? The next Guest Luncheon will be February 12th.



## PrimeTime

PrimeTime (ages 55 and up) will meet Tuesday, January 17th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will feature Pastor David Moe and the youth. This is our annual potluck — bring large portions please.

## All-Church Potluck and Annual Celebration Sunday, January 29th

Join us following the second service on Sunday, January 29th, for an all-church potluck followed by the Annual Celebration.

Please bring a main dish and a salad and/or dessert to share at the potluck.

Agenda items for the Annual Meeting include reports for our Pastors, the Elders, various committees and the annual "Year in Review" video.

## Faith University J-Term Classes Beginning January 8, 2012

### "Jesus, Joseph Smith and the J.W's"

Teacher: Pastor David Moe

Fellowship Hall

This class will be a brief introduction of the Christology (teachings of Jesus) and soteriology (beliefs on salvation) of today's two most prominent cults - the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

### Study of Jonah

Teacher: Todd Holthaus

Room #209

Jonah contains one of the most memorable stories in the Bible. While unique and at times perplexing, the primary purpose is to engage us in reflection on the compassionate character of God and how we reflect this compassion to the world that God has made and so deeply cares about.

### The Bible Overview

Teacher: TBA

Room #225

Have you ever tried putting together a jigsaw puzzle without a picture of what it is meant to look like when it is all assembled? This short course is designed to give you an understanding of the Bible as a whole. Like the jigsaw, it is much harder to understand any one part of the Bible if you don't have some grasp of the whole book.

### The NEXT (Young Adults)

Led by: Caleb Dirnberger

Room #223

The NEXT has begun a new in-depth study on very practical steps about reading the world of God, based on a book by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays entitled "Grasping God's Word". Join us for this hands-on approach to reading, interpreting and applying the Bible.

### Faith Steps Class

Led by: Mark Hecht / Leigh Tange

Room #224

(NOTE: This class is extending in to January from Nov/Dec term)

Faith Steps is designed for those who are new attendees at Faith Baptist Fellowship and/or for those who have been worshipping with us for some time but have yet to be joined to our congregation in church membership. The aim of the Faith Steps class is to get well-acquainted with one another so that 1) those who are exploring whether or not to get attached to this congregation can make an informed decision, and 2) the leaders of Faith Baptist Fellowship can know how best to serve those who wish to get attached to this church.

## **KINGDOM OPPORTUNITIES**

In January, many stores are getting ready for spring clothing and mark down their winter gloves, hat, scarves etc. This would be a great way to supply items for the **Center of Hope Mitten Tree** which will be located by the Promotion Center through the month of January. Bring new or gently used gloves and mittens of all sizes to hang or lay on and around the tree. There will also be containers for new or gently used coats, snow-pants etc. A list of suggested items is available at the Promotion Center.

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Remember the **Blood Drive** being held Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Sanford Medical Center and the Community Blood Bank. If you're 17 years of age or older and in good health, it's very probably that you could give blood. Just 25 minutes of your time and a pint of blood can make a life-saving difference. A sign up sheet and information will be available at the Promotion Center.

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We again are happy to announce the opportunity to come along side The Furniture Mission as they work to make houses into homes. This non-profit, non-denominational community organization of volunteers, strives to share the love of Christ through the distribution of "gently used" furniture to those in need. They also collect and distribute other household items.

There are many families in our community who have specific and extreme physical needs. The Furniture Mission ministers to those physical needs through used furniture, household items and bedding ...bringing a ray of hope by expressing the love of Christ in a physical way. A Bible, along with information about local study groups and an invitation to attend is given to each family who receives furniture.

A collection container will be near the Promotion Center through the month of February for gently used, tear and stain-free bedding. Although we're collecting only bedding at the church, if you have larger items to donate, a sign up sheet will be at the Promotion Center where you can list your name, phone number and items available. The Furniture Mission will then contact you about a convenient time for pick-up or you can drop these items off at the Furniture Mission. January is a good month to shop for new bedding since a lot of annual white sales are held in area stores. Join us as we reach out to families in need with something as basic as bedding.

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Applications are still being accepted for the construction missions trip to **Yuma AZ / Mexico** in early February 2012. Applications for interested individuals, skilled in construction & concrete work, are available at the Promotion Center. If you are unable to go, but interested in helping in other ways with the trip, through giving or prayer, we'd be thrilled to have you come on board. If you have specific questions regarding this trip, please contact Bob and Janelle Sneller or JoAnne Tolliver.

### **Kingdom Opportunities to remember:**

January 1-29: Mitten Tree / Winter Clothing Drive

January 29: Blood Drive

February: Yuma, AZ / Mexico Missions Trip

Feb 5-26: Furniture Mission / Bedding Collection

If you have questions on any of these opportunities, stop by the Promotion Center or contact one of the KO Team.

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