

Faith
Fellowship
Church

*Spring 2010
Newsletter*



seeking to

glorify God

through lives
transformed by

Jesus Christ

through the teaching of

God's Word

Hope, Heart and Home

The Heavens declare the glory of the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! Likewise, we His people, His church, must praise the wonder of His steadfast love and faithfulness, made known to us in the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ, imparted to us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We dare not be silent. As Christ's church, we must broadcast the **hope** of the great and precious promises through which we are granted God's divine grace (2 Peter 1:3-4). We must urge **hearts** to be empowered by His Spirit – to count suffering as joy, continue faithfully and become men and women of character who radiate hope (Romans 5:3-5). We must work to grow **homes** that are shelters of refuge where God is diligently feared and His glory shines (Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 5:22-33).

Every part of the body of Faith Fellowship Church is needed for the task of broadcasting **hope**, urging **hearts**, and growing **homes**. As Christ's body works together, FFC is able to offer the Heart Seminar (in January), Home Seminar (in March at the Family, Love and Life Conference), and the Hope Seminar (in October). Through these seminars, God works through us to bring pastors, ministry leaders, lay people, missionaries, staff of helping ministries, and searching individuals to God's Word for answers to the questions of life that psychology has been unsuccessfully attempting to answer.

Last month it took a team of at least a hundred people to be able to host the "Family, Love, and Life Conference" with guest speaker Dr. Kevin Carson, wherein for the first time we offered the Home Seminar. Everyone serving at this conference simply shone – from sparkling sinks to scrumptious snacks. It was a fantastic weekend. Of the 95 guests whom the Lord gave us the privilege of serving with joy and assisting with excellence, there were folks from Buffalo, other parts of Western New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Canada, Israel, and Nicaragua.

As we move forward, the Hope Seminar in October will offer not only the basic biblical counseling training, but also an advanced seminar track for returning attendees, affording the body more opportunities to serve. The hundreds of CD's that were requested from the Home Seminar indicate that the Resource Center is one ministry area that we need to prepare for growth!

The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the every Word of God proves true. Is your heart overflowing with praise to declare the wondrous works of our Mighty God?

-Pastor Bob Froese

Watch the Lamb

What do you think about when you hear the word Easter? Maybe you're an outdoors-type person and you picture flowers blooming, birds tweeting, and the fresh warmer air that comes in the springtime. Maybe you're a Mom and you start thinking about dresses, tights, bowties, and baskets. Maybe food seems to somehow take over your thoughts. A nice Polish gal like myself would think about the cake known as Placek with the yummy crumbs on top, or the bowtie cookies called Krosniki, or the butter lambs that my grandma spends hours making each year, and of course, you can't forget about the Wardynski Polish sausage! It's not until I take the time to view the Passion of the Christ film each year at this time, that I am reminded of what my thoughts should be consumed with when I hear the word Easter. I am overwhelmed with the humility exemplified as Jesus suffered. No whining, no complaining, no threats given, just complete obedience to His Father. "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness." - 1 Peter 2:24. Praise the Lord He is not still hanging on that cross, He defeated death and sits at the right hand of the Father making intercessions for us, sinners unworthy of His grace. What an awesome God we serve! I pray you will take the time to come and view the Passion of the Christ on Good Friday. Invite your friends and family to service this Easter where you will not only hear the resurrection message but also have the privilege of viewing a drama presentation to the song "Watch the Lamb."

- Tracy Burkard

It's Dinner Time!

One of FFC's 2010 goals is to intentionally build relationships within the body by spending time together. Conversation around the dinner table is just one way to get to know one another and we're doing just that on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:15pm. Every Wednesday night the FFC "SEASONS" Ministry, senior adults (aged 55 and above) prepare and serve a free pasta dinner before our Family Night Service begins at 6:30pm. We ask that folks sign up each week using the Sunday bulletin feedback slip or by calling the church office (759-6632) so that the "SEASONS" know just how much pasta to boil! The first dinner, on March 3rd, found 50 folks eating and laughing together in the Fellowship Hall; by Wednesday, March 17th the group had grown to 85! There's a spirit of camaraderie and "family" as we "pound down the pasta"! How blessed we have been to see how even the "little ones" join in to assist with the clean-up! Don't be late for dinner! Sign up today and join in the fun this Wednesday night! Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

- Beth Seibel

Faith Fellowship Church

Sports, Sports, Sports!!!!

Just how many athletic activities could we *possibly* have crammed into this short year? Take a look down through some of these little “teasers” to wet your appetite for great ways to build relationships, get some exercise, and enjoy doing what you love doing!

Dodgeball Tournament: We are going to be reaching out to the high schools and churches in our area through the great game of dodgeball (or some people like to call it murder ball, which might fit a little better). Our first tournament, we had close to 60 students and the Gospel was presented. This tournament coming up in April is going to be a great opportunity to present the Gospel to the students in our community and to have a lot of fun. If you would like more information please contact Frank Snyder.

Golf: The *FFC Tour* is quickly approaching. The first day of the golf tour will be starting on April 1st. Our golf tour will be at The Links at Ivy Ridge and we will have three tee times (4:30pm; 4:40pm; 4:50pm). We will also be having two major tournaments this year, the *FFC Open* and the *FFC Master's*. The *FFC Open* is on May 8 at Bright Meadows starting with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. After the golf match we will be having a cookout dinner here at the church. The *FFC Master's* will also be held at Bright Meadows on September 11. For more information on the *FFC Open* and *Master's* check out the church website.

Kids Sports Skills Camp: On Saturdays from 11:00am-12:15pm, kids ages 8-12 are coming to the Youth Center for a time of coaching & instruction in three popular sports that we play here at FFC. March Madness is in the air! The month of March is devoted to basketball, where things like dribbling, passing, shooting, and floor spacing are being taught, along with scrimmages which provide a great opportunity to put these fundamentals into use. April is all about floor hockey, and how to use a hockey stick, pass, shoot, handle the ball, and develop the ability to see teammates spread out on the floor. Keep your stick on the ice! Flag Football will be taught for four weeks in May: although there won't be any bone-crushing hits, fundamentals like proper passing, defense, speed and agility will be the foundation of the classes. These weeks are intended to help kids become familiar with basic elements of each sport with the hope that they will be able to build on these basics and grow in the ability to play them well. The centerpiece of these weeks is Jesus Christ, Who was and is the number one Coach and Teammate!

Rafting: On April 24th from 10am-2pm, the steep canyon walls at Letchworth State Park will reverberate with the echoes of yelling and laughing as FFC hits the Genesee River for a day of whitewater rafting. These Class I/II rapids are great for young and old alike (ages 13 and up), and provide great opportunities for building relationships and strengthening friendships for the glory of God.

Our river guides will be provided by Adventure Calls Outfitters, which does a great job of equipping & instructing those who are going out for the trip. The group leaves FFC at 7:45am on Saturday and drives the 1.5 hour route to Letchworth SP and convenes again the parking lot at the rafting office in the park's South Pool-house. After a brief safety talk, busses will take the rafters to the river, and meet them after the rafting trip to take them back to the office. Following the trip, our group will bring their picnic lunches and going to the pre-reserved St. Helena shelter for food & fellowship. Don't let this opportunity float on by- register today!

Summer Soccer League: This league for youngsters Kindergarten through 8th grade will be hosted on Saturdays from 10 – 11:15am, starting July 10th and ending August 21st. Kids will be taught teamwork, fair gameplay, and Biblical principles for athletics by their coaches as they play two 20 minute halves with a brief devotional time in between. The morning is complete with delicious snacks provided for all, and parents are encouraged to come watch their children compete and play hard. Teams are organized according to grade, K-2nd, 3rd-5th and 6th-8th grade. Whether experienced or new to the game, all kids are invited to come and bring their friends. The season concludes with a fun and refreshing Family Fun Water Day, complete with a giant waterslide, water games, a puppet show, and gutter sundaes. This event is open to the whole community, so come on over and play!

Father/Son Canoe Trip: Fathers, are you looking for a great way to spend time with your sons and do something that you love to do? If so, you should register for FFC's Father/Son Canoe Trip held on Memorial Day weekend, May 30th-31st. After the morning service at FFC, the group will depart at 1:30pm for the Bath region of south-central New York and meet at the main cabin of Christian Camping Services for dinner, a snack, a bonfire and a little shut-eye before the busy next day of river navigating. The first 39 people that register will be guaranteed a spot in one of the 13 canoes that are provided from CCS. This is also a great event for inviting your next-door neighbor and his son to get to know guys from FFC.

5-on-5 Basketball Tournament: We're getting things lined up for a 5-on-5 basketball tournament at Akron High School's gymnasium on Friday, June 11th from 6-12pm. Registration will be made available online for the teams who are in high school & up. Pizza & drinks will be provided, and a Gospel presentation will be given to all those in attendance. Lace up your hightops and grab your waterbottles, only true ballers need apply! :)

For registration & information on all of these events, check out www.faithfellowship.us

-Frank Snyder and Tyler Weymouth

Faith Fellowship Church

Real Relationships

On Wednesday nights from February 17th through to April 21st, the Real Relationships: Love vs. Lust class has been running at 8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Following Bible study, this one hour weekly session for high school and college and career aged young people focuses on what the Bible has to say about dating relationships. Topics covered include good and bad reasons for entering a serious relationship, truths and lies about sex, understanding gender differences, and much more.

The Real Relationships class will conclude with a banquet on Friday April 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30pm which will provide attendees with the opportunity to apply what they have learned throughout the course. For all those planning to attend, reserve your dates, shine your shoes, and prepare yourselves for what promises to be the social event of the season!

- Laura Heinrichs

Taste of FFC

Psalm 34:8 - *"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good."*

Ladies 6th grade and up - Please join us for a delightfully sweet evening of tasty treats and warm fellowship on Thursday, July 20th at 7:00pm. We will gather together in the FFC Fellowship Hall for a sampling from the many talented chefs here at FFC, as well as learn how to prepare an appetizer, main dish, and dessert (secret recipes included). Bring a friend (or two), and your appetite to sample delicious homemade morsels and feast on the Word of God.

- Val Bartholomew

Super Safari Saturday

What is "Super Safari Saturday"? Welllll... it's a fun-packed morning for parents to bring their children of ALL ages to play games, make crafts, eat fun food, and enjoy fellowship with one another. It is also a wonderful opportunity to invite neighboring families, classmates, and relatives as we share the love of Christ. You can pick up postcards at the Kiosk to mail or share with those you will be inviting.

"Super Safari Saturday" is also a great way to serve the Lord. We are looking for CBS'ers to oversee games, face painting, food preparation, decorating, and much more. Please contact us (Valerie Bartholomew or Tina Shannon) and let us know how you would like to serve.

VBS Soccer Camp

June 28 - July 2, 2010

VBS Soccer Camp preparations are already underway. It is hard to believe summer is just around the corner and the kids will be out of school ready to gear up for Soccer Camp. Are you ready to gear up as well? If you have not signed up to serve for the most exciting and active week of the summer call the church office and ask for Valerie or Tina (ext. 20) and we will add you to our growing list of enthusiastic servants.

Our theme for Soccer Camp is "Dare to be a Daniel". Just like Daniel from the Old Testament who determined to be obedient to the Lord His God no matter what the cost, we will be training to walk in obedience to the Lord as well. We will also hone our soccer skills and train to work together as a team.

This years VBS will look a little different, K-5th grade will have soccer camp as usual, and the 6-8th graders will participate in a fast-paced Sports Camp of their own, overseen by Frank Snyder-Director of Student Ministries.

We will top the week off with a July 4th community picnic with good food, bounce house, and wonderful fellowship.. Mark your calendar today and pray about who you will invite to be a part of this Christ-centered week of VBS.

- Tina Shannon and Val Bartholomew



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