

# FIRST WORD



**Faith United Methodist Church**

Pastor  
David Hackett  
pastor@gvfaithumc.org

**Living for Jesus  
FAITH at Work**

*Follow  
Answer His call  
Invite others to His Fellowship  
Teach the Word  
Honor Him*

## Faith Notes

Dear Faithful,

2011 went so quickly, didn't it? I hope it was a year filled with blessing for you. We said goodbye to a couple of saints; I know that my life was changed by knowing Billy Kratz and Olline Young. On the other hand, we have some newbies, some saints in the making in our midst. Little ones like Elizabeth Jeffrey and Sydney Hays and Rylan Robertson. God has blessed us with the wisdom of our elders and challenged us with the nourishing of these precious little ones. We are a blessed place.

2011 was a very good year for Faith. We continue to be blessed by new families. 47 folks became new parts of our family of Faith. Each of them brings new gifts, new skills, and new passions to the life of the church. I can hardly wait to see what new missions will grow out of their desire to serve the risen Christ.

It is hard to think about the year just past without thinking of all of the great things that you have done together. Which of them gave God the most glory? Was it the night that the Della Lamb Children's Choir came to church and performed and you sent a wonderful monetary gift home with them to help them in their ministry to children? Was it the Sunday in May when you gave your entire offering to serve those so damaged in the Joplin tornado, nearly \$4,000? Was it mission trip to Pike County Kentucky or the work that you did to feed the hungry right here at home through your donations to the local food pantry? Was it the 450

children in Zambia, Africa who received Christmas shoeboxes because of your great generosity? Maybe it was the Lady's Retreat on the first weekend of November that touched some hearts so sweetly that a new Lady's Sunday School class has begun.

I was so excited last year when so many of you began to read your bibles in a systematic way that would lead us all the way from Genesis through Revelation in a single year. Many of you have or nearly have completed that task. It was not easy, I know. Some parts of the Bible are difficult to read, but it is the word of God for the people of God. One of God's promises is that his word cannot go out and return without fruit. Perhaps the greatest blessing of 2011 will occur sometime in the future as the word of God reveals itself in the lives of those who have received it so faithfully in this past year.

There are a lot of highlights in our spiritual journey through the days of 2011—too many to count. But I must mention how exciting it is to have a teen Bible study meeting weekly on Wednesday nights. How much fruit can God harvest from the life of a teenager committed fully to his service? And then there were the baptisms. What a sacred time in the life of the church to watch how the Spirit of God moves on the life of any person. Which one will God use in a powerful way; the 18-year-old high school teacher, the young mother, the college student, the young man making a place for himself in the world. Each life bent toward God is another reason for

hope, another reason to believe that love will win even in a world as broken as ours. God has been very good to us. His signs and wonders are all around us for those with eyes to see and ears to hear. I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful work that God is doing in and through you. Sometimes it is so spectacular it makes my heart sing.

How could I make a list of the miracles of Faith without mentioning the beautiful music of the choir and the joyful harmonies of the Bells of Faith? It is said that music soothes the savage beast and it also raises our hearts toward heaven. I am so grateful for the beautiful harmonies that are a testimony to God's amazing grace.

Where will the Spirit of God take us in 2012? What will we accomplish together as a testimony of our Faith in the Omnipotent God who created us in his image and who has breathed his Spirit into our hearts? I can't imagine what he is brewing in your hearts and giving you courage to speak and do, but if history is any indicator of what lies ahead, we had better tie our hats on and hold on tight because it is going to be a ride that could take our breath away. And in our travels together, please remember that the will of God will never take us where the grace of God will not keep us.

Looking forward to being in the center of God's will and grace with you in this wonderful New Year.

God Bless You,  
Pastor Dave

**Inside this issue:**

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Faith Notes             | <b>1</b>   |
| Thank You               | <b>2</b>   |
| Missions                | <b>2-3</b> |
| Activities              | <b>4-5</b> |
| Birthdays/Anniversaries | <b>6</b>   |
| Calendar                | <b>7</b>   |

Patty and I have had another wonderful year with our family at Faith. Your kindness and generosity often overwhelms us. The many cards and well wishes at Christmas are filled with the most tender sentiments. We appreciate every one of you. The monetary gift and gift card that we received at Christmas were symbolic of the great and wonderful and generous people that you are. God has done much in and through you and we have no doubt that even greater things will be done in the name of Jesus because of your compassion and great love.



Christmas is a very busy season for us with extra church services and the open house that we delight in. Thanks to each of you who helped us make it a very festive season. Thanks for the cookie bakers, the decorators, the furniture movers, the Christmas Day lunch cooks and helpers, the Poinsettia gifters, the singers, the bell-ringers, the prayers and the encouragers. What a wonderful church you are.

We hold you in our prayers, asking God to bless you out of the abundance of his great love.

Thank you for loving us so lavishly.

David & Patty

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you for the beautiful shawl. I've used it every day since I've been home from the hospital. May God Bless each and everyone in his own way. Thanks again.

Doris and Harold Lunsford

\* \* \*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry,

What a wonderful gift to brighten my days during my treatments for cancer.

The shawl keeps me warm and my spirits up in cold Northern Illinois!

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Sister of Karla Parkhurst,

Donetta Striegal

Dear Church Family,

The family of Elizabeth Netz wishes to thank you so much for the prayers, cards, kind words and hugs during the illness and death of our wonderful mama Elizabeth Netz. We are so grateful that she is with Jesus now where she is working, running, and playing in his light. Our special thanks to Pastor Dave for his assistance and his beautiful voice.

The Family of Elizabeth Netz and Donna Sue

\* \* \* \* \*

"And the Angels Sang"

Yes, Pastor Dave, and the now beyond youth, came caroling on one night before Christmas. It was beautiful as always!

Thankful a heart full

Granny Kuester

p.s. Also thanks to the Circuit Riders for rendering Christmas Hymns to us at our Christmas Day service. Thanks to you Pastor Dave, we heard you. (goose bumps, tears and smiles, so very meaningful.)

p.p.s.s. For all who were at Faith providing a beautiful Christmas dinner.

LOL (Lots of Love)

\* \* \* \* \*



### Project Patricia

Project Patricia will be starting up for the 2012 season on Friday, **January 27th**. We will meet at the church beginning at 5:30pm. Bring any work that you have completed at home and we will put it all together and see what we have! If you would like to work on anything on your own before then, please let me know and I will

get you the supplies that you will need.

Bring a snack to share, your tools (scissors, sewing machine, etc.), and a renewed spirit to help our sisters in Africa.

See you on the 27th!

Kim Howard  
847-2753



*"Bring your supplies and a renewed spirit to help our sisters in Africa!"*



## Joplin Mission Work Opportunity

Faith UMC has the opportunity to serve along with members of Woods Chapel United Methodist in Lee's Summit in rebuilding Joplin after the tornado.

Work will be provided us to do and a place to stay, probably a church. We

would have to provide our own transportation, bedding and food.

We would like to schedule a date some weekend in February or March. If you would like to participate in this mission opportunity, please contact Karla Parkhurst.

We hope that this can be an ongoing project.

Blessings,

Karla Parkhurst

847-5341

*"Be a part of a team to help rebuild Joplin after the tornado."*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Men's Prayer Retreat

Calling all men to a weekend prayer retreat to be held **February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>** at Oak Grove 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church. The weekend retreat is entitled, "Man Up to Pray! Pray to Man Up!" A number of area churches will participate with an expectation of 150 or more men gathering to learn about and enter into the power of prayer.

The event will begin on Friday evening at 6 p.m. with supper and will end on Saturday morning at 11:30 a.m. Saturday breakfast will also be provided. Pastor Hackett will be one of the weekend presenters.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Women's Bible Study

Beginning **January 26<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm, the group will continue their study of "Faithful Abundant True" featuring Kay Arthur, Priscilla Shirer and Beth Moore. This will be a four-week study.

If you will be new to the study, please contact Karla Parkhurst (847-5341) so

she can get you a book.

We have finished Kay Arthur, but if you missed it, Karla can show it during Sunday School hour or during one of the services.

We invite all women to join us in this study.



There will be a combined meeting of both the day and night groups on Tuesday, **January 3**. This will be an organization meeting to discuss mission projects for the year.

All ladies are invited to attend.

## Women's Sunday Fellowship Class

This class meets Sundays 9:30-10:30am in the room at the northeast corner of the Sanctuary. The group is lead by Sarah Howard with the help of Shawna Meierarend.

All women ages 18 and up are welcome to join us for prayer, a devotion and encouragement in our walk with Christ and each other.

We hope during this time we can create some new relationships. And don't forget, your children can go to our wonderful Sunday school classes during this time.

## Logos



Themes and Menu for January are:

January 4 — Rock Star Night / PB&J, chips, bananas

January 11 — Noah's Ark / Chicken nuggets, Mac & cheese

January 18 — Olympics / Tacos

January 25 — Super Hero / Hamburgers



### THIRD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The Hospitality Team will host the January luncheon on **January 15th** following the second service.

We will be having a "potluck" and invite everyone to come and bring either a main item, side dish or dessert. If there are several members of your family attending, we encourage you to bring two sides. We want this to be an enjoyable experience in fellowship, but we also want everyone to have plenty to eat.

All visitors are invited to stay and join in the good food and fellowship.

We are listing the names of the individuals who have volunteered to help in January:

|                  |                |                 |                 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Joyce Adams      | Cathy Basinger | Judy Billups    | Marcy Broughton |
| Janice Allison   | Terri Basinger | Carolyn Bloss   | Susan Brown     |
| Joyce Austin     | Jennifer Bell  | Dolly Borgstadt | Eileen Brown    |
| Kathleen Barnett | Wendy Bigham   | Betty Broughton |                 |

If you would like your name removed from the list or you want to be added to the list, please let Jean Weiner in the office know. We don't want anyone to feel left out. Because of the success of this ministry, we need more people to help, especially for clean-up.

The planning committee has discussed having corned beef for our March luncheon on the 18th. However, we're not sure how we can feed a large number of people. If you have suggestions or can help with us, please



We are in need of volunteers to assist the Greeters in the Narthex area during services and the Sunday School hour. This will enable us to keep a watchful eye for anyone needing assistance and provide any information to our visitors.

We are also in need of more volunteers for the nursery.

Please contact the Church office, if you would like to help in either of these areas.

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
9:00am—1:00pm  
admin@gvfaithumc.org

I hope you enjoy the new format of the Newsletter. I welcome any suggestions or ideas of what you would like included each month.

Please help me keep everyone informed of upcoming

events throughout the year with an article about your Small Group or Mission project. I would like to include photos too, if they are available.

I also need everyone's help in keeping the Church calendar on the website up-to-date. I will always post the regular scheduled activities, but if there is a date that

meetings won't occur, I would appreciate you letting me know.

I will be making slides of upcoming events for the video screen that will be shown during the pre-service time. If you would like me to prepare a special slide, please let me know.



### Office News

**Jean Weiner**  
**Administrative Assistant**

\* \* \* \* \*



The Church Council will meet on Monday, **January 9** at 7:00pm. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

## New Audio Visual Equipment

We had a great response to our request for helpers to learn how to operate the new equipment. Because this equipment needs qualified operators, we must limit the access to the sound and equipment area to only those individuals who have been trained to operate the equipment.

If you have not had an opportunity to be trained and would like to help, please contact Pastor Dave.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Young @ Heart



The Senior adults will meet on Thursday, **January 19th** for their monthly luncheon.

The group will enjoy an afternoon of bingo after the luncheon.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Christmas Decoration Exchange

Do you have any Christmas decorations you're not using anymore, or you want to replace some? The Church is recycling some of their decorations and invite you to join in on a "Decoration Exchange". Bring your items to the church on Saturday, **January 28** at 2:00 pm and exchange for new ones. Any leftover items will be donated to the Disabled Veterans.

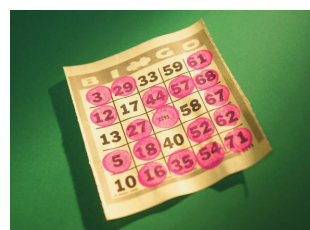
## FAITH Music



**Bells of Faith** will start practice in 2012 on **Wednesday, January 11th**.

This would be an ideal time if anyone new would like to join us.

Contact Janie Wilson for more information. 228-0828

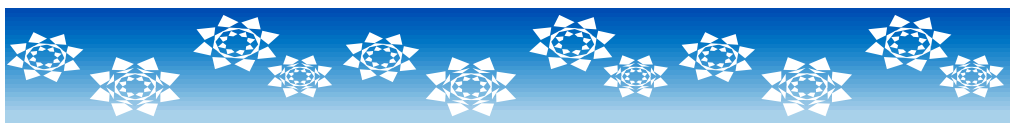




|      |   |      |  |      |   |
|------|---|------|--|------|---|
| 1/1  | Shirley Caslavka<br>Dan Herrman                 | 1/14 | Mindy Jacoby<br>Amy Caslavka<br>Shea McChristy | 1/23 | Kathy Chitwood<br>Ricky Macha<br>Chandler Meierarend<br>Kearston Thurman<br>Sylee Thurman |
| 1/3  | Austin Butler<br>Denna Coulson                  | 1/16 | Walter Meierarend                              | 1/24 | Jacob Kaldenberg  |
| 1/6  | Dirk Soulis                                     | 1/17 | Carol Wright                                   | 1/27 | Nolan Seyfert   |
| 1/9  | Susan Brown<br>Brian Luttrell<br>Penny Thurman  | 1/18 | Nicholas Clements<br>Juli Luttrell             | 1/28 | Matthew Farlin  |
| 1/11 | Lauren Gant<br>Emma McMullen<br>Rylan Robertson | 1/20 | Skye Clements<br>Alex Soulis                   | 1/29 | Kathy Butler<br>Joyce Adams   |
| 1/12 | Haven Zimmerman                                 | 1/21 | Valerie Gabriel                                | 1/31 | Joyce Austin  |
|      |   | 1/22 | Dennise Day                                    |      |   |



|      |                           |      |                           |
|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1/9  | Steve & Teresa McBride    | 1/23 | Richard & Cathy Sanderson |
| 1/16 | Don & Joyce Austin        | 1/26 | Gary & Judy Reid          |
| 1/20 | Wally & Shawna Meierarend |      |                           |

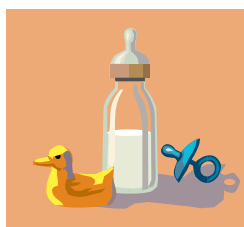


**JANUARY OFFERING STEWARDS**

- 1/1 Ken Howard
- 1/8 Harvey Kolster
- 1/15 Bill Robb
- 1/22 Mary Harper
- 1/29 Don Caslavka

**JANUARY USHERS & GREETERS**

- 8:15 Service
- Carl & Mary Strack
  - Sara Mumaw
- 10:45 Service
- Jim & Fran Jacobs
  - Charles Jacobs



## Baby Shower

**Join us as we celebrate....The miracle of birth!**

**January 22, 2:00 pm**

**Parents: Kim & Jason Compton**

**Hosted by: Erika Compton**

*[They are registered at Target and Buy, Buy Baby]*

# January 2012

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat                              |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 1<br>10:45 New Year's Day Service   | 2<br>7:00pm Webelos   | 3<br>7:00pm Combined UMW<br>7:00pm Wolf Den  | 4<br>Noon GV Community Senior Luncheon<br>6:00pm LOGOS<br>6:00pm Teen Bible Study | 5   | 6  | 7                                |
| 8<br>4:30pm Confirmation Class<br>5:30pm Youth                                    | 9<br>1:30pm Ladies Bible Study<br>7:00pm Church Council<br>7:00pm Webelos | 10<br>7:00pm Leading Christ's Way<br>7:00pm Wolf Den<br>7:00pm Scout Committee Meeting | 11<br>6:00pm LOGOS<br>6:00pm Teen Bible Study<br>6:00pm Bells of Faith            | 12  | 13   | 14                               |
| 15<br>Noon—Fellowship Luncheon<br>4:30pm Confirmation Class<br>5:30pm Youth       | 16<br>1:30pm Ladies Bible Study<br>6:00pm Trustees<br>7:00pm Webelos      | 17<br>8:30am Men's Breakfast<br>7:00pm Wolf Den  | 18<br>6:00pm LOGOS<br>6:00pm Teen Bible Study<br>6:00pm Bells of Faith            | 19<br>11:30am Young@Heart<br>Noon—Senior Luncheon | 20   | 21                               |
| 22<br>2:00pm Kim Compton Baby Shower<br>4:30pm Confirmation Class<br>5:30pm Youth | 23<br>1:30pm Ladies Bible Study<br>7:00pm Webelos                         | 24<br>7:00pm Wolf Den  | 25<br>6:00pm LOGOS<br>6:00pm Teen Bible Study<br>6:00pm Bells of Faith            | 26<br>6:00pm Women's Bible Study                  | 27<br>5:30pm Project Patricia<br>6:00pm Faith Serves - KC Rescue Mission | 28<br>2:00pm Decoration Exchange |
| 29<br>4:30pm Confirmation Class<br>5:30pm Youth                                   | 30<br>1:30pm Ladies Bible Study<br>7:00pm Webelos                         | 31<br>7:00pm Wolf Den  |   |   |  |                                  |

**Sunday Worship**

8:15 am

10:45 am

**Sunday School**

9:30 am

**Women's Group**

9:30 am

**Sunday Evening**

5:30 pm

7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group

**Monday**

1:30 pm

Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesday**

6:00 pm-7:30 pm

**Logos Children's Program**

K-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sept- April

***Digging Deeper*** - Teen Bible Study

6<sup>th</sup> grade up



Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto man His Son hath given;  
While angels sing with tender mirth,  
A glad new year to all the earth.  
~Martin Luther

**NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?**

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[admin@gvfaithumc.org](mailto:admin@gvfaithumc.org) Thanks! Jean Weiner

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