

Faith United Methodist Church
The Faith Connection Newsletter
February 2017 Edition

From the Pastor's Desk



“What Can We Celebrate?”

As we prepare for our 30th Anniversary Day on Sunday, February 19th, I thought that what Nellie T. Long has to say in the following article may help us prepare for that special moment in our lives.

“I serve on a General Council on Ministries committee charged with coordinating the quadrennial theme. At first, not one of the six members wanted to work on the committee. Such reluctance is evident throughout the church. We are good at passing resolutions, but we do not always want to follow through. However, the missional theme is the responsibility of every United Methodist.

Each of us has a story to tell. In the committee, we shared stories of pain and happiness. Some moved us to laughter, some to tears. But from each story came something good.

During the GCOM meeting, we worshiped in a celebration of song with Rust College, one of United Methodism’s historically Black colleges. I was so moved. I celebrate the lives of those young people, and I am proud of the United Methodist Church because we have touched their lives.

I am also proud that I am a Choctaw Indian. When my children ask, “What’s so important about being an Indian?” I have an answer. When your children ask, “Why is it so important to be a Christian?” I urge you to share your story.

Recently I heard someone say that until a situation becomes a crisis, we don’t do anything about it. We are in a crisis now. We are forgetting to celebrate and witness to God’s Spirit in our lives!

We talk about racism and homelessness. We have United Methodist churches that are doing something about these critical issues. We have churches in ministry for prison reform, and we can celebrate that. Congregations, large and small sponsor soup kitchens to feed hungry bodies and mission tours to feed hungry souls, and we can celebrate that.

We need to celebrate everything good about what our church is doing to further God’s reign. We can celebrate and witness in our annual conferences, in our districts, in our local churches. We can celebrate and witness to what is happening throughout the whole church-the global church.

We can let “Celebrate and Witness” become our testimony to God’s role in the lives of our people, African American, Asian American, Hispanic, Native American and White. **It’s God’s People Whom We Are Celebrating.”**

I especially like the last sentence of Nellies’ article. It’s God and his people who we celebrate, and there is a lot to celebrate if we just pause long enough to think about it.

In God’s great grace with you,

Pastor Gary

Rev. Gary Eldred

(Pastor Gary email: gary.eldred@flumc.org)

Faith United Methodist Church

7215 1st Ave West; Bradenton, FL 34209

Phone: 941-794-8067; Email: faithchurch@verizon.net; Website: www.faithchurchum.org

Come Celebrate Our 30th Church Anniversary...



Come join in the celebration of our 30th Anniversary! Former Pastor Chris Akers will be preaching and there will be special music. We will have a catered buffet “Dinner on the Grounds” following the 10:15 service for \$16 a person or \$32 for families with children under 12 yrs old. The menu includes classic Caesar Salad, Chicken Marsala, wild rice Pilaf, garlic buttered green beans, dinner rolls, iced tea, lemonade, ice water with a 30th Anniversary cake for dessert. (Parents may request a chicken drum stick for smaller children) We are looking for any photos or stories you may have about our church. Please bring them to the church or email digital photos to Mariannebarnebey@gmail.com. You may make your meal reservation on the Let’s Connect cards or call the church office by February 17th. Please contact Marianne Barnebey at 749-0810 or Pastor Gary with any questions.

The Church Council has approved a special appeal as part of our anniversary observance. As a church we are facing the need of replacing our 17 year old church roof. We have already had problems with the roof over the office wing of the church, and we will probably have to replace part or all of our current roof in the next five years. The lowest bid we have been given for the entire roof is \$46,000.00, and the highest bid is \$90,000.00. One of the reasons that the low bid is so low is because a local business has agreed to donate \$10,000.00 for the cost of the roof if we choose that particular roofing company.

In light of the preceding need, we are having a “Thirty-Thousand for Thirty Years” financial campaign. The Church Council urges church members and participants to make a sacrificial gift towards the cost of a new church roof to allow the church to go on for another thirty years and beyond. Donations will be held in an investment account that may only be used for the cost of a new roof.

Upon the recommendation of Pastor Gary to the Church Council, twenty percent, representing a tithe and an offering of what is given for this campaign, will be shared with our community to meet local mission needs. Pastor Gary reminded the Church Council that as individuals and as a church, we receive as we are willing to give to the needs of our community. This is a foundational teaching throughout Holy Scripture. Applying this teaching is the best thing we may do to ensure our own needs as a congregation being met.

Please pray that our Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration event is a blessing for everyone involved with it. What we celebrate the most is God’s faithfulness, his presence with us as a church, his grace empowering us to further his kingdom day-by-day.



Trustees Corner by Karl Hasbrouck

Our Playground Is Open!

Thanks to Larry Kramer and his helpers from our Men's Club for restoring our playground to a more attractive and welcoming condition. They removed the weeds, installed weed barrier, applied herbicide, added playground mulch, and applied pesticide for fire ants. Go see for yourself.

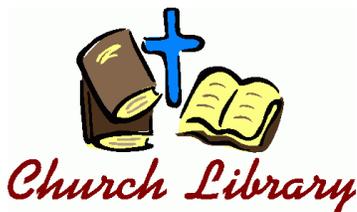
Thanks also to the ladies of Ruth Circle, members of the Men's Club and Larry for undecorating the church after Advent and returning the decorations to storage.



If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about our building and campus, please contact Karl Hasbrouck at karlh99@gmail.com or by phone at [941-718-9058](tel:941-718-9058)



Friday, February 10th
5:00pm to 7:00pm
Faith Church Sanctuary
\$7 Adults \$3 Children

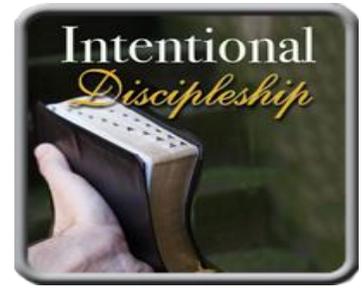


Volunteer librarian needed! Please contact Pastor Gary or Marlene Green (941-795-0581) if you are available for this position. Marlene will thoroughly train someone to 'carry on' with this position she has held for many years.

Intentional Discipleship by Sherry Eldred

Lent: A Change of Plans

Plans are in the works for a Lenten Luncheon (noon to 1pm) study on the Wednesdays of Lent. Because of the success of the recent Advent Study held by Faith UMC and First UMC at The Well, both churches will be offering another Max Lucado study for the Lenten season at The Well. The purpose of these studies is to help you connect more closely with the importance of the Lenten season, enable you to have a neutral location to invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers, and to become acquainted with another ministry located in our community. Pastor Gary urges you to take advantage of this. Invite your friends to come with you. Enjoy a light meal, the fellowship of believers, and an enlightening study by Max Lucado. You will be blessed. (The previously announced study on The Apostles' Creed will be held at another time so as not to compete with this focus on community outreach and involvement.)



Bible Studies and Sunday School for all ages:

Don't forget, Sunday School meets at 9am each Sunday Morning for all age groups and Fred Mack is presently leading an evening Bible Study on Comparative Religions. Pastor Gary encourages you to join a small group study. These studies are a valuable tool in your Christian growth.

Lay Servant Training:

Watch for news of a spring Lay Servant training. This training is great for anyone who wants to help Pastor Gary serve the congregation. Lay servants visit for Gary, can volunteer to speak at services for Gary, can facilitate Bible studies, and often help Pastor Gary with hospital calls. Lay servants can also serve in other capacities. The service opportunities are endless. Faith Church is privileged to have many already trained to help. Basic and Advanced trainings will be offered. If you have questions regarding this training, please see Sherry Eldred or Bill Dooley, our director of the event locally. At present, reserve the last two Saturdays of April for this event. Bill will get more details out as they become available.

Library news:

There are many great books available for checkout in our church library. Please feel free to browse, both the library and the library cart. There are many works of fiction, resources for Bible study, self-help Christian books, biographies, and humorous books.

Faith church is looking for a new librarian. Please see Marlene Green if you can do this vital work.

The Intentional Discipleship committee is in the process of putting together a survey on our library and its vitalness to our church. Please complete the survey when it becomes available. We need your input for making our library more useful to the congregation.

A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO BRING PEOPLE TO FAITH CHURCH

After our chancel choir sang at Brookdale Palma Sola before Christmas, some of the residents expressed an interest to Craig Ramberger, our music director, and their activity director, to come to our church on Sunday mornings. We'd love to welcome them to our service, but the problem is how do they get here? Their bus driver is not available on Sunday mornings. They need individuals to come pick them up at 9:45 and take them back after the service. Many of them are ambulatory or use a walker. Getting in and out of a regular car would require a minimum of help. Speaking of cars, Linda and I have a seven passenger mini-van that we will gladly lend to anyone who would like to use it to transport people from Brookdale to Faith, a distance of about two miles. Both of us are busy with our regular Sunday morning jobs, or we'd gladly do it. Please consider this as a new way to reach out in 2017 to bring people to church! If you are interested or have questions, please call Karl or Linda Hasbrouck at 718-9058.



HOT DOGS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

With our church's 30th anniversary coming up in February, the whole church, adults and kids alike, are stressing acts of kindness. On February 4th, we'd like to extend a hand of kindness to our neighbors at Cypress Winds apartments by serving hot dogs at noon to all who come to the pool area. We'd love to have help from our older children and high schoolers. They could pass out flyers, grill the hot dogs, and serve them with a friendly smile! Let me know if you are available to help.

TIME FOR CAMP!

No, we're not going to camp during the winter, but it is time to think about whether you'd like to go this summer. All children who have finished 3rd grade through 12th grade are welcome to spend a week at the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp about two hours north of here in Fruitland Park. Eight children went last year and loved it! You may pick almost any week of the summer, you may go every year if you wish, and financial aid is available. Let me know if you are interested and I'll give you more details.

VBS 2017

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 12 – 16 this year from 9:00 – 12:00. The theme is "Maker Fun Factory" and it looks like it will be a wild and crazy week! Mark your calendars now and watch for applications to come out in April. Adults, I need lots of volunteers, so let me know that you want to be part of the fun.

KINDNESS CAMPAIGN

Even our children are going to be looking for ways to show kindness to others this month as Miss Jill introduced the campaign for kids to do ten random acts of kindness in the next month. What a wonderful tie-in to our adult theme for the anniversary and Palma Sola School's year-long theme of Kindness Matters!

TREASURE CHEST

Who doesn't like to pick a prize out of a treasure chest?! Our younger Sunday School classes have such a chest and use it frequently to reward our wonderful children. Help us replenish that chest by picking up some little items at the dollar store the next time you are there. Deliver to Miss Jill in Faith Place. Thanks!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

I am still looking for someone who would like to teach our pre-teen 5th -7th grade class. I have been doing it for the last few weeks and what a great group of kids. This has really been a rewarding experience that I'd like to pass on to one of you so I'm free to do the other things associated with my job.

30TH ANNIVERSARY

Our children's choir has been asked to sing at the anniversary, so I need to work on a song or two during our children's choir time right after church. Remember to have your child stick around for these short rehearsals.

We had about 15 young skaters and about as many adults at yesterday's skating party at **Astro Skate**.





We Still Do!

Faith United Methodist Church invites you to renew your wedding vows at an elegant candle lit ceremony in the Sanctuary on

Valentine's Day ~ February 14, 2017 ~ 6:00 p.m.

\$25 per couple pre-registration fee includes ceremony, a beautiful renewal certificate, sparkling celebratory toast and accoutrements.

Another beautiful memory!

Please fill out the back of this card to register. Limited Number of Reservations Available!

Pastor Gary Eldred, Officiant ~ Hosted by The PrimeTimers

Open To The Public

Please **PRINT** Clearly

Include \$25 check made payable to Pat Black

Simply drop off at the church office during working hours or put in the collection plate with your check.

Groom's Name: _____

Bride's Name: _____

Number of GUESTS expected to attend:

Adults: _____ Children (include approx. ages): _____

<i>For office use only</i>	
Registration #:	_____
Check #:	_____
Rec'd:	_____



Good News! We are almost ready to roll out our new youth program. I've completed the first few required steps to secure additional community resources and I'm in the final stage of completing grant applications to hopefully obtain more funding. I'm so excited that through this type of relational ministry we'll be able to connect with local middle schoolers and help them pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.

I've also recently completed the Child Abuse Prevention Training and background clearance needed for our partnership with **Youth For Christ**. We are well on our way to reach out and connect deeper within our community. Through our partnership, I'll be given the tools to assist FUMC in going into the schools and connecting with students on a much more personal level. My goal is to extend our ministry outside the walls of the church, connect, build a core team of Christian students that have a desire to grow in their relationship with Christ and essentially share His message with their friends.

Recently I read "Reinventing Youth Ministry" by Wayne Rice. In it he stated that as our society and culture norms have changed over the course of the past 20 or 30 years, many children and teens now come from single parent households. The majority of today's youth are growing up without the natural kind of support systems that generations of the past enjoyed. The extended family has virtually disappeared. The nuclear family has been replaced by what is now known as the "**Postmodern Permeable Family**;" a definition by which one no longer assumes traditional parent-child bonds. I am in agreement with the author. As a career sociologist and a statistical analyst I am always fascinated by societies and their ever-evolving trends.

Today's world is nothing like the world any of us grew up in. Divorce rates are at an all-time high and most kids today are plugged into electronic devices such as TVs, iPads, and smartphones, well before they can even ride a bike. It's been stated that the average American child will witness 200,000 violent acts on TV by age 18. Additionally, TV and video games are full of content that may depict risky behaviors as cool, fun and exciting. The majority of parents in a recent poll admitted they are concerned their children are growing up too quickly, and 77 percent blamed the internet. They attributed this accelerated maturity, in particular, to peer pressure, the vast amount of information they see on TV, online, and social networks.

All that being said, it's **REALLY** hard to be a kid in today's world. Successful youth pastors can't do this alone. Essentially, they utilize their entire congregation as a means to engage, impact, and inspire in their ministry. They seek to build relationships and teach their youth that they are valued, loved and welcome. Therefore, my challenge to you, the congregation of Faith Church, is to help me invest and empower our young people and show them that we can be their extended support system.

Let's establish an environment of love, acceptance, accountability, and encouragement. When children visit our church let's make them feel they are in a place that fully accepts them for who they are, regardless of where they are in their relationship with Jesus, or their life circumstances. Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 "so we cared for you, because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." This can only happen when a safe, secure, and healthy culture is in place.

In the coming months I will be sending out a request to those adults who may be interested, in mentoring some of our youth. Take time, pray, and look within your heart and let me know if you are willing to invest in this relational ministry opportunity. If mentorship doesn't interest you, you can ALWAYS come back to our Sunday school classes to pop in, say hello, and meet some of our dynamite kids. Miss Ruth, Ms. Linda and I always welcome visitors who wish to engage with the kids and spread the love of Jesus. I want to give a special thanks to our awesome high schoolers, **Tia Klein** and **Emily Ellrick**, for spending their time investing in our Children's Program.

Y'all Rock! Keep coming back, we need you!

Communications Update by Jillian Hollywood

CONNECT WITH US...  [facebook.com/faithumcbradenton](https://www.facebook.com/faithumcbradenton)  @fumcbradenton
“When used effectively, social media can help move the church from an interruption in someone’s life to an integration in their faith.” - Matt McKee, CEO of [ROAR](#)

Did you know that more and more churches are implementing social media into their ministry? Even though you may only attend a small group or church service one day a week, relationships and conversations continue **everyday** through Facebook. This opportunity allows us to deepen relationships, assist with more prayer requests, and even provide encouragement to others throughout the week. Christian articles are often shared among church members, as well as a variety of content pertaining to Christian life. Social media can help broaden our reach within our ministries and positively impact our community. While it may be overwhelming to begin utilizing social media, I encourage you to jump on in.

The current social media platforms we use are Facebook and Instagram. Please join us in our quest to extend our ministry online. Be sure to like our **Facebook** page and follow us on **Instagram**. There you’ll be able to see pictures, updates, fun activities and events we are always doing! In the coming weeks I’ll be sending out the dates of the Facebook training classes. There will be a morning and an early evening class. Don’t forget social media is an amazing tool in which we will be able to connect with others and **Make Faith Felt!**

Lastly, if we aren’t connected online yet, you can find me here: www.JillianHollywood.com

RUTH CIRCLE by Lynda Bellows



Our Ruth Circle met at the church on January 4, 2017. Hostesses Joan Henshaw and Pat Black welcomed 16 of us with a lovely brunch. Linda Poutre led us in prayer. Lynda Bellows thanked the hostesses and reminded us to remember people too ill to attend. Our minutes were offered by Jeanne Stocklin, the treasurer’s

report by Marilyn Woodruff. Pat Black reminded us to continue to save stocking stuffers all year. Marlene Green shared an interesting story about a young girl who was so frail and partially paralyzed who through faith and determination overcame it all to become an Olympic Champion! Her name? Thelma Rudolph. Marlene also lead us in celebration of God's Son and his connection with God's presence; we are called to celebrate past events and for abundance received. God's presence is current and ongoing. Val Carlson offered the Devotions. Lynda Bellows reminded us of several members who were too ill or injured to attend.

Our next meeting will be at FUMC February 1st at 10:00 a.m. All women are welcomed to attend.



Flower Calendar is available outside the church office. Please sign-up to provide Sunday worship flowers in our sanctuary to honor or remember loved ones and/or celebrate special events. You may create your own arrangement and deliver to church on Friday mornings or have your local florist create and deliver the arrangement during office hours (Monday-Friday 9am to 1pm).

Mission Market Thrift Shop will be open **Saturday, February 25th** from 9am to Noon in Room #10. Donations of small household items are welcome and can be placed in the Mission Market Barrels in Banner Hall hallway. Please NO books, electronics or furniture.



Bear Ministry—Know someone needing a comforting gesture or a special hug? The bears in the sanctuary are for that purpose. Take one with you today to give to that special someone. Please record your gift in the book so no one is overwhelmed with a “den of bears.”



Why Get Screened?

Taking preventive steps such as making lifestyle changes and getting health screening may help you avoid a stroke or other serious health events in the future. Early intervention is important.

If you are over fifty, if you have diabetes, high cholesterol or high blood pressure, or if you have a family history of stroke or heart disease, you may be at risk, even if you feel great. Actually four out of five people who suffer a stroke have no apparent symptoms and nearly 30% of strokes occur under the age of 65. The good news is that according to the National Stroke Association, 80% of strokes can be prevented.

Life Line Screening will help you find out if you are at risk, so you and your doctor can take the next steps and be proactive about your health.

Where: Faith United Methodist Church

When: Saturday, February 4, 2017

Pre-registration is required. The Wellness Package includes 4 vascular tests for \$139 (\$129 with our member discount). The screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call **1-888-653-6450** or visit

www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers



Anchor House Banquet on Friday March 31st. Captain Phillips, played by Tom Hanks in the movie will share his experience of being pirated in the Indian Ocean.

Call for tickets, 722-0764, after February 10th. (Call early as tables will probably fill quickly.)

Go to www.anchorhousemission.com for more information.

February Celebrations



Lisa Bellows 2/02
Gary Metcalf 2/02
Jeanne Stocklin 2/11
Joseph Henshaw 2/16
Katherine Crick 2/18
Sarah Jackson 2/18
Pat Black 2/19
Nicola Laney 2/24
Jim Brand 2/25
Bill Campbell 2/25
Pam Hunt 2/25
Jan Dart 2/26
Jil Davidson 2/27

ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Ruth Dooley 2/11
Karl & Linda Hasbrouck 2/14



**February Calendar can be found in the church
office hallway and on our website:
faithchurchum.org**

By **George Kenneth Huber** (June 2, 1935 – December 7, 2016)

“Going on a trip, don’t have to pack.
Going on a trip, not coming back.
Going on a trip, I’ll be in Jesus care.
Going on a trip, someday we’ll all meet there.”