



# Call of Faith

December 10, 2009

Faith United Methodist Church  
2708 33 Avenue N.E.  
St. Anthony Village, MN 55418

Telephone: 612-781-3167

Fax: 612-781-4538

Web: [www.faithumchurch.com](http://www.faithumchurch.com)

Email: [Faith@faithumchurch.com](mailto:Faith@faithumchurch.com)

## From the Pen of Pastor Leigh

*God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.* 1 Corinthians 1:28-29

Recently our 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class, along with Kyle Hayes (our youth ministry coordinator) and I, went to the Shabbat service at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul. Temple of Aaron is a conservative Jewish synagogue, and I like to take the confirmation class there when we are studying our church history. The Temple members are so welcoming to visitors, and we were greeted with the word *shalom*, a word we heard often repeated in the service.

*Shalom* is one of those words like the Hawaiian *aloha* – it is used for hello and goodbye and for other greetings. *Shalom* literally means “peace” in Hebrew. It is rooted in the word שלום (*shaleim*), which means completion. And so *shalom* is not a temporary peace, but an abiding and everlasting peace in God. When we greet another with *shalom*, we are wishing for that person God’s peace.

As Christians we believe that Jesus Christ is the source of all peace. As we celebrate his birth, we are reminded of the miracle of his entry into this world in the most vulnerable way – as the infant son of a couple who were poor and part of an oppressed people. What love must it take to make oneself so vulnerable? It would take something extreme, like a parent saving the life of his or her child, for most of us to put ourselves in such harm’s way. And so we can be sure that God’s love for us is profound, and that our need for God in our lives is a life-or-death matter.

Where can we find the peace of Christ? Just as the Son of God was born in the most unlikely of places, his peace can also be found in unlikely places. The theologian Henri Nouwen wrote this: “Where is his peace to be found? In weakness. Few people are telling us this truth, but there is peace to be found in our own weakness, in those places of our hearts where we feel most broken, most insecure, most in agony, most afraid. In our weakness we are forced to let go from doing much, thinking much, and relying on our self-sufficiency. Right where we are most vulnerable, the peace that is not of this world is mysteriously hidden.”

May we always rely on the Eternal One: God, Son and Holy Spirit, rather than on our own self-sufficiency. May we make ourselves vulnerable in love and relationship with others. And may we each find the peace of Christ in this most holy of seasons. Shalom.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

*Faith is Handicap Accessible*

9:00 Celebration Service

10:00 Christian Education

11:00 Traditional Service

9:30-11:30 Fellowship/Coffee

### In This Issue

#### Page

Birthday Bash	6
Children's Center	5
Christmas Greetings	6
Church News	2-3
Community Connections	5
From the Pen of Pastor Leigh	1
Senior Moments	4
Youth Arcade	3

### Church Contacts

Pastor:	Rev. Leigh Brown	<a href="mailto:Pastor@faithumchurch.com">Pastor@faithumchurch.com</a>
Music Director:	Jo Halvorsen	<a href="mailto:Joh@faithumchurch.com">Joh@faithumchurch.com</a>
Sr. Adult Coordinator:	Dave Schneider	<a href="mailto:Daves@faithumchurch.com">Daves@faithumchurch.com</a>
Youth Coordinator:	Kyle Hayes	<a href="mailto:Kyleh@faithumchurch.com">Kyleh@faithumchurch.com</a>
Administrative Assist:	LaFonda Shreve	<a href="mailto:Lshreve@faithumchurch.com">Lshreve@faithumchurch.com</a> (Hours: Tues. & Wed. 7:30-2:30, Thurs. 7:30 - 1:30)
Administrative Assist:	Janet Olson	<a href="mailto:Jolson@faithumchurch.com">Jolson@faithumchurch.com</a> (Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-3:30, Friday 8:30 - 2:30)
Organist:	Marie Kuglin	
Nursery Attendant:	Fran Cox	
Treasurer:	Rod Long	

# Church News

The **2010 offering envelopes** will be distributed later in December. Watch for them in your church mailbox (if you are on a committee) or in the Commons. Please pick up your box before January 1, and save us the expense of mailing them. If you are not currently receiving envelopes and would like to begin, please call the church office.



It's that time to secure your preferred Sunday and sponsor the **Chancel flowers** for that week. The cost is \$28.50 and you may take your flowers home after the second service. Flowers may be in honor or memory of a special occasion, or for no occasion at all. The sign-up chart is now available in the Commons. Payment is required at the time of sign-up.

In order to have vital churches we must have spiritually vital Christians. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the short term study titled **Eight Characteristics of Life and Faith**. This study guide was developed and encouraged to be used in all congregations by our Bishop, Sally Dyck. It will be the topic of learning and discussion for Wednesday Evening Dinner and Discussion, January 13 through February 3. A brief general survey will help us see what we are already doing and where we can grow. We will reflect on our personal growth and set goals in our journey to Christlikeness. Each week we will address two of the characteristics.

1. A personal, passionate faith
2. Holy, healthy habits
3. Gifts, a calling, and generosity
4. Church as a community of disciples
5. An evangelistic heart
6. Healthy personal relationships
7. Lifelong learner
8. Love for all God's people

The study guide is available on the Conference web site ([www.minnesotaumc.org](http://www.minnesotaumc.org)) in the Quick Links box or by contacting Pam Pettit at (612) 789-5430 or (612) 230-6146.

## Christmas Eve Services

- **5:00 PM** - Festive Christmas Candlelight Celebration centered around children and families
- **9:00 PM** - Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion featuring the Sanctuary Choir
- **11:00 PM** - Contemplative Midnight Candlelight Service with Holy Communion



As a part of your Christmas gift-giving, please remember to bring canned goods to

### Other Upcoming Events You Won't Want to Miss!

- December 20: 5:00 PM - Church Potluck & Figgie Pudding  
6:30 PM - Final Advent Circle
- December 27: 9:30 AM - One service, William Cox will be preaching
- January 31: UMW Sunday and Birthday Bash

### Untrim the Christmas Tree

Four missions have been chosen for the tree this year:

- Simpson Shelter Meals
- Bread for the World
- Ralph Reeder Food Shelf
- Second Harvest Heartland

Please donate generously by using the envelopes from the tree to make your donation(s). Please make checks payable to Faith UMC.

Whose Birthday is it? **Give a gift to Jesus.** Remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with a cash gift for His church. Please make a significant gift to Faith Church this Christmas to help offset the deficit in our operating budget so we may start 2010 with a clean slate of funding support for all our vital ministries. Have a truly blessed Christmas!

## Church News (continued)

Do you like to learn about and discuss contemporary issues and your faith? Then **Contemporary Christian Issues** is the perfect adult education class for you! This class meets Sundays at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Regardless of your views, you will be informed and challenged as we learn together. Upcoming events:

- December 20 Learn about the Kids Count Report of the Children's Defense Fund from Kara Kramer Arzamendia (daughter of Dan and Kay Kramer). Visit <http://www.cdf-mn.org/kidscount.htm>.
- December 27 No class
- January 3 View the film "For the Bible Tells Me So" as it looks at the experiences of five normal Christian families with homosexual children.
- January 10 Dr. Roger Feldman, Professor of Health Insurance and Economics at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health will talk about health care, insurance and their role in the current health care debate. Dr. Feldman is a national expert on these topics. For information on Dr. Feldman, see: <http://www.hpm.umn.edu/people/regular/feldman/Feldman.htm>
- January 17 Joani Essenburg from the Banyan Community, a Christian Community Development Corporation (CCDC) that builds relationships and improves the lives of both youth and adults living in the East Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis. Banyan Community is supported by the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church. For more information about Banyan, see <http://www.banyancommunity.org/index.html>
- January 24 Dr. Robert Kane, MD, holds an endowed chair in long-term care and aging at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health. He will speak to us about the challenge of taking care of our aging parents. He is a national expert in this area. For more information about Dr. Kane, see: [http://www.hpm.umn.edu/people/regular/kane\\_Robert/Kane\\_Robert.htm](http://www.hpm.umn.edu/people/regular/kane_Robert/Kane_Robert.htm)
- January 31 A representative from the United Methodist Camping Office will speak about camping opportunities.

**Planning to make a contribution** to Faith Church before the end of the year and include it in the charitable giving total you report on your tax return? Remember that the IRS considers contributions to be effective on the date received by the church (not when your check is dated or mailed). The church office closes for the year at 2:30 PM on Wednesday, December 30, 2009.

## Youth Arcade

**Looking Back:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Keep Awake **Lock-In** was a great success! For the 14 youth who attended, there was plenty of fun to be had, great discussions to be part of, exciting games, and lots of great junk food! A great big thank you to the adult leaders who helped us out! We couldn't have done it without you!

**Ongoing: Wednesday night** activities continue for all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth. As always, dinner is at 6:00. Then group for discussion, fellowship, and fun from 6:30-7:30. Come and join us!

**Looking Ahead:** UMYs (like JUMYs, only for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) is coming up the weekend of February 12-19, 2010. Registration forms and more information will be coming soon, but it is never too soon to let Kyle know of your intent.

**As always**, there is need for **MORE ADULTS!** The Wednesday dinner sign-up sheet in the Commons still has plenty of openings. Plus, we could use more occasional volunteers to help lead some events, groups, retreats, etc. If you have any inclination at all to help out with the youth, let me know - we'll find a place for you!

Kyle Hayes, Your Friendly Youth Ministries Coordinator  
1-770-861-6715, [kyleh@faithumchurch.com](mailto:kyleh@faithumchurch.com)

## Senior Moments



We received an early Christmas gift on December 4, all 50 plus of us who attended the special concert in our Worship Center! It was a jewel, set in music by a talented group of high schoolers: the St. Anthony High Music Department, led by two capable teachers/conductors Mike Schafer (chorale) and Andy Erickson (jazz band).

Faith Church, just down the street from the school, can have a sense of real pride in our local high school. We smiled, tapped our feet, and also listened reverently to a variety of music presented by over 50 talented young women and men demonstrating their love for music. We were honored, too, by the presence of both the Principal Wayne Terry and Superintendent Rod Thompson. How grateful we are for such a fine high school!

All of this "gift" was topped off by a happy potluck feast of good food, provided by our Faith Church Senior Adults, with students and adults seated together in enjoyable conversation, getting to know each other a bit in the process. They all expressed deep appreciation for the meal (a bit different from their usual school cafeteria lunches!)

My sincere thanks to the Senior Adult Council for organizing this event; and especially to Carol Vick and all of her co-workers!

Dave Schneider, Sr. Adult Coordinator

### Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Senior Adult Council

**January 28, 7:00 PM:** Dr. Mark Seeley, noted professor from the University of Minnesota, will speak regarding the issues of climate change that are related to each of us.

Watch for more information on these and other senior events. Questions can be directed to Dave Schneider at 763-780-2363 or [daves@faithumchurch.com](mailto:daves@faithumchurch.com).

#### *17th Century Nun's Prayer*



*Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.*

*I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.*

*Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. AMEN*

Taken from the Walker Auxiliary News  
November 2009 edition

## Children's Center

**Thanks** to all the children that participated in the Christmas pageant and the service on December 6. They are: Samuel Busacker, Emily Moreland, Kathryn Grutkoski, Lauren Parrill, Leah Damerow, Henry Scamehorn, Felicia Antell, Karissa Loeken, Trina Hayden, Nicola McNall, Kyra Gross, Austin Porath, Marissa Porath, Peter Elholm, Nathan Runyan, Alex Wells, Connor Gross, Kayli Oja, Maggie Carlson, Camille Runyan, and Stuart Scamehorn. You did a fantastic job. Also, great work to Gracie Miller, David Busacker, Kyle Burr, Callie McIntosh, Chris Parrill, Adam Jerry, and Lindsay Baker who directed the children this year. They worked hard over the last six weeks getting the kids ready, learning lines and practicing creative flair. It was a huge success!

**Do you have a spare hour or two to share with the kids?** The education team is seeking someone to work with the children in grades 2-5 for two hours a month as the Faith Saints coordinator. This role is for someone who enjoys children and would be willing to plan a monthly activity, advertise it, and identify chaperones. This could be one person, or several people that work together to ensure the Faith Saints have a great experience. The purpose of Faith Saints is to bring this age group together in a positive social situation and let them play, teach them about service to others through service projects, and network with other adults or aspects of the church (besides Sunday school). If you are willing to help out, please call Carolie Carlson at 651-628-0498. The next Faith Saints event is in January.

### November Faith Saints

Five children joined Felicia Antell and Amy Neuswanger in making placemats for the Simpson Shelter. Look for future announcement on upcoming Faith Saints activities.

*A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"  
One child answered, "Mary."  
The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"  
A little child said, "Verge,"  
Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"  
The child said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."*

## Community Connections

### Children's Program of Northern Ireland Needs Host Families

Open your heart and home for five weeks this summer to a 10- or 11-year-old child from Northern Ireland. Over 4,000 boys and girls from near Belfast have experienced the hospitality of families like yours throughout the Program's 37 years of operation. Children selected to participate in the program this summer will arrive in the Twin Cities June 29, 2010, and depart with a lifetime of memories and friendships on August 3, 2010. Call 651-405-1108 or visit [www.cpmi.org](http://www.cpmi.org) to find out how your family can participate in this remarkable program.

### Chandler Place Christmas Party December 21, 7:00 PM

Come and celebrate with songs and refreshments. The Chandler Christmas Choir has members of Faith Church singing.

### Coats for Kids

The Twin Cities Postal Customer Council and the United States Postal Service proudly sponsor Coats for Kids. Please help those less fortunate by donating a new, like-new or gently used coat for kids. (They collect adult coats, too)

Call for drop off information:

Minneapolis: Michael LePree, 612-349-4700

St. Paul: Roxanne Kiely, 651-293-3100

### Are You Having a Blue Christmas?

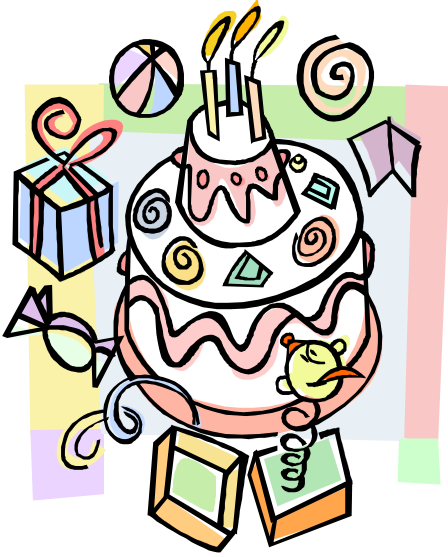
This is an invitation to those:

- Dealing with the death of a loved one
- Facing life after divorce or separation
- Coping with the loss of a job
- Living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future

Come to Grace UMC, 2510 Cleveland St., on Wednesday, December 23 at 6:15 PM. Enjoy a simple meal and worship, creating sacred space for those living through dark times. Call 612-789-7462 for more information.

Faith Church's final Advent Circle on December 20 at 6:30 PM, will also have a "Blue Christmas" worship time.

Birthday Bash & Non Talent Show  
Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 PM



Everyone is welcome to join us for the 5th annual Birthday Party and Non-Talent Show. Come sit at the table of your birth month and enjoy your specially decorated birthday cake. In addition, we will have beverages, great fellowship, and a delightful Non-Talent show. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss the fun.

For the Non-Talent Show, you may volunteer to sing, dance, play an instrument, tell a joke, or anything else you want.

If you would like to volunteer for baking a cake or participating in the non-talent show, please contact Barb Greicius at 651-340-9855.

UMW Sunday will also be that day. Our theme is: "Together at the Table."



*May the gift of Christ's peace be yours this Christmas  
and throughout the coming year.*

**Your Faith Church Staff:**

*Pastor Leigh Brown,  
Fran Cox, Jo Halvorsen,  
Kyle Hayes, Marie Kuglin,  
Rod Long, Janet Olson,  
Dave Schneider, and LaFonda Shreve*

As always, Faith Church is looking for ways to be wise stewards of our church finances. **Every month Faith UMC mails approx 260 copies of the Call of Faith** to homes and congregations in the Twin Cities and beyond. If you are not receiving your copy electronically and would be willing to do so, please email LaFonda Shreve at [lsreve@faithumchurch.com](mailto:lsreve@faithumchurch.com).