

# FAITH

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## Sundays at Faith

Sunday School & Bible  
Study begin at  
9:15 a.m.  
Worship begins at  
10:30 a.m.

# FAITH TIMES

*Our Vision – A Community where people are FINDING, GROWING, LIVING, AND EXTENDING the love, grace, and compassion of Jesus Christ.*

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February 2015



## How's Your Spirit?

Sounds like something you might hear at a pep rally or sporting event.

Our first inclination is maybe to answer this question as we answer others like it. Like the way we would answer the question, "How ya doing?" with a quick "Fine, thank you."

Or, maybe we are caught up in the excitement of sports

competition and find ourselves yelling with those around us—"Great!!!"

Most of us equate our spirit with our emotional state—happy/sad, up/down, excited/depressed—you get the idea. We usually prefer to let our emotions—our feelings—tell us how we're doing.

Actually, we believe there are really very few of us who have any idea how our spirits are doing.

We encourage you to think of your spirit as more of your inner self. It is easier than you think to disconnect from this inner self—disconnect from your spirit. That's a real problem because your spirit is where the truthful answer to the question "How are you doing?" resides.

Our feelings may start out connecting with our spirit, but if those feelings are bad it is not unusual to push them into our spirit and lock them away there and hope they never surface again from their spiritual dungeon.

As much as we try to keep them locked up those negative feelings and bad memories learn how to escape. We spend a lot of energy standing guard over our spiritual dungeons.

The saddest thing about turning your spirit into a spiritual dungeon is your spirit is also the place where God is most likely to speak to you. You've heard of the Holy Spirit—God's Spirit. Well your spirit was created to communicate with God's Spirit. That's the Holy Spirit's job.

Opening the doors to our spiritual dungeons can be a painful thing to do. But, it can lead to wonderful outcomes when you realize you have opened the doors to the Spirit of Perfect Love—God's Spirit—The Holy Spirit.

This is exactly what Jesus was speaking about in the opening words of His most famous sermon—the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7. We call these opening verses The Beatitudes because Jesus is blessing those who bear these traits.

So, when we think about answering the question "How's your spirit?," we need to remember the first Beatitude; Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

This first beatitude is Jesus' invitation to open up the spiritual dungeon deep inside of us—that place we've locked away all the negatives in our life. Jesus is ready to take away all of those dark, negative things so that we may be free to let our spirit speak with God, love God, and feel God's love.

This is what it means to be spiritual—it all begins by giving Jesus the key to your spiritual dungeon and letting Him do what only Jesus can do.

The Season of Lent, the 40 days before Easter, is a time to open your spiritual dungeon. We will be doing some things to help you do that beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18. We hope you will join us for this time of dungeon diving.

So, how's your spirit? Be honest now. Jesus is asking.

View this newsletter on our website. See more about us on Facebook.

## The Holy Spirit Zone



You can contact  
Pastor Jim Witherow  
by e-mail,  
pastor@faithaledo.com

I believe I've played enough football as well as long distance running and cycling to know what it means for an athlete to say they are in the 'zone'. Getting into the 'zone' is the key for most athletes to succeed.

Through long distance running and cycling (one hour was my usual limit) when I wasn't competing, I also found that being in the 'zone' freed my mind to explore thoughts, ideas, and even problems. This was the way I was able to put aside the distraction of fatigue and physical pain.

One particular pre-dawn run I remember more than any other. I was in that 'zone' processing a challenge in my life (details available on request). It wasn't unusual for some of these thoughts to take the form of prayer and I guess that happened.

What happened next is what made that morning's run different from any other before. On that morning a small voice spoke to me and said, "You know." At the same time, every hair on my body

stood out and I lost all strength in my legs and had to sit down on the curb.

I had moved from the athlete's zone into the Holy Spirit Zone. The message was clear, I already knew the answer to my problem. I was just looking and hoping for a different answer.

The experience of being in the Holy Spirit Zone actually made my problem seem quite small and insignificant. From that time on I committed to learn and train myself to enter that Holy Spirit Zone.

That first event happened about 10 years before I became a pastor. Like the athlete's 'zone', finding the Holy Spirit Zone takes practice and discipline. It was only through committing myself to that practice and discipline that I heard my call to ministry.

I encourage everyone to find their own path into the Holy Spirit Zone. My life has never been the same since and that's not just a good thing—it's a wonderful thing. I hope you will join me in the Holy Spirit Zone as I will be offering opportunities to get into spiritual shape in the weeks ahead during Lent. The Spirit be with you!

*Pastor Jim*

## Growing Our Family of Faith

We want to welcome the Tiptons—Chase and Christen, Carter, Hudson, and Ella who recently joined the Family of FAITH. If you are visiting FAITH we hope that you experienced the Faith Hospitality that we want to extend to all whom God brings our way. If you are looking for a church home, we encourage you to consider our Faith family. Information about becoming a member, Journey to Faith, is available at the Hospitality Desk. Please contact Pastor Jim if you are interested in or would like more information about joining our Faith family!

## Joys and Concerns

We are praying for Paula Hall who recently had a procedure for hearing implants. We pray for continued recovery for Carmen Lopez's mother. We are praying for Lauren Reed and her ongoing cancer treatments. We pray for all those struggling with the challenges of aging. *If you have joys, concerns, or prayer requests please let us know. Call 817-441-6262 and leave messages on Pastor Jim's voice mail or send an email to Pastor Jim at: pastor@faithaledo.com.*

## February Birthdays

2/2 Angela Henard

2/3 Heather McLaughlin

2/7 William Smith

2/10 Ellen Denney

2/13 Megan Peak

2/14 Lauren Reed

2/14 Craig Shook

2/21 Gregg Tillman

2/22 Bayley Bollin

2/23 Austin Denney

2/24 Justin Bolf

2/25 Cameron Allen

*Music Ministry & Events*

By johna beth Mohr



## February is the month of love. What do I love at Faith?

First and foremost **I love God**. I thank God each week for giving me this opportunity to be at Faith .

**I love leading worship**, I love hearing the congregation sing and to give praise thru music.

**I love the congregation**, you continue to give , and to love others, your passion for Christ is overwhelming.

**I love the choir**, Musicians of Faith, they always amaze me being a small group of people what they are able to produce and to give to the church thru singing.

**I love the praise team**. By Grace Alone: Jeff Ferrell and Janette Hahn leading worship, Dan Hall on drums , Sean Edwards, Jeff Mohr and Stuart Pickell on guitar and Josh Childs on bass ~ thru their sound , our music is energized.

**I love the audio/power point guys upstairs**, they are one of the hidden blessings of Faith. Each week two of them volunteer their Sunday to assist us in our worship experience. Thank you Derek Armstrong, Jon Coon, Keith Coughlin, Chris Demers, and Donald Larsen.

**I love our pianist**. Charlene each week makes such beautiful music on the piano.

**I love teaching at the preschool**, the Ladybug Class. I love each day seeing the sparkle in their eyes, and witnessing their willingness to continue to learn.

### I LOVE FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ! Sincerely, johna beth

#### "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

Sunday, February 22 the Worship Team will begin the service with the congregation singing a new praise song to Faith, "How Can I Keep From Singing."



"How Can I Keep From Singing?" is a Christian hymn written by American Baptist minister Robert Wadsworth Lowry. The song is frequently cited as a traditional Quaker or Shaker hymn. Contemporary Christian artist Chris Tomlin clearly was inspired by the song when he wrote his song, "How Can I Keep from Singing" in 2006.

A Texas native, Chris' music of choice while growing up was country. But when Chris' father gave him his first guitar when he was sick with mono, it soon wasn't just honky-tonk he was playing. By age 14, Chris had written his first worship song. But pursuing music for a living wasn't exactly Chris's go-to life plan once he graduated from high school. Confident that God had a plan in mind for his life, but still not really sure what that was specifically, Chris enrolled in college thinking he'd ultimately pursue a career in physical therapy. Of course, God had other plans for Chris.

Mark your calendars and come Sunday, February 22 as we sing "How Can I Keep From Singing."

# FAITH TIMES

See the calendar at [www.faihtaledo.com](http://www.faihtaledo.com) for the most up-to-date information.

## February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:00am A/V Praise Band 9:00am Choir 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship  Super Bowl Sunday Lunch Following Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30am Coffee and the Bible	<b>4</b> 6:15pm Wed Together / Wed 4 Kids 6:50pm Youth	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:00am Audio/Praise Band 9:00am Music Advisory Team 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship / Communion	<b>9</b>  6:30pm Women of FAITH Study	<b>10</b> 6:30am Coffee and the Bible	<b>11</b> 6:15pm Wed Together / Wed 4 Kids 6:50pm Youth	<b>12</b>  7pm Aledo Venturing Crew  6:30pm Deacon Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:00am A/V Praise Band 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship  6:30pm Chili/Chocolate Cookoff	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30am Coffee and the Bible  6:30pm Session Meeting	<b>18</b>  6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Wild at Heart Dinner at Boo Ray's /Kids Night at the church	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00am A/V Praise Band 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship / Communion  Noon-2pm Praise Team Jam Session	<b>23</b>  6:30pm Women of FAITH Study	<b>24</b> 6:30am Coffee and the Bible	<b>25</b>  6:15pm Wed Together / Wed 4 Kids 6:50pm Youth	<b>26</b>  7pm Aledo Venturing Crew	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## Fellowship

# SUPER BOWL FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH!



Sunday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> After Worship

Plan to stay after worship on **Feb. 1** for

First Sunday Lunch. Kick off your Super Bowl feasting with Sloppy Joes!

## 7<sup>TH</sup> Annual Chili/Chocolate Cook-off

Sunday, Feb. 15<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30 pm

It is time for us to gather together to taste the greatest chili and chocolate recipes! Prizes will be awarded in both categories.



You can bring chili, you can bring a chocolate dessert, or you can bring both. OR just come and be a taste tester!

Questions? Contact the church office at 817-441-6262.

*If bringing a contest entry, please arrive at 6:15 for registration.*

## Wild at Heart

### Wild at Heart Dinner and Kid's Night Out

**Location:** Dinner for adults at Boo Ray's in Hudson Oaks; fun for the kids at church

**Date:** Friday, Feb. 20

**Time:** Meet at the church at 6:15 pm to caravan or meet at the restaurant at 6:30 pm.

For those with children, you have the option of dropping them off at the church for a Kid's Night Out (with pizza) from 6:15pm- 9:00 pm.

RSVP to Jeanie - [jbird1015@hotmail.com](mailto:jbird1015@hotmail.com). Please let her know how many to count on for the adult dinner as well as how many children will stay at church.



*Service*

Summer will be upon us before we know it. Mark your calendars and make plans to participate in VBS 2015. July 20-23



## Derek Armstrong

By johna beth Mohr

What a blessing to have the guys upstairs weekly monitoring our sound and slides. Let's meet one of them, **Derek Armstrong.**

Derek was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and went to Brewer High School. Interesting fact - all through high school and college Derek played baseball – he was a 3<sup>rd</sup> base baseball player. He attended Texas Wesleyan and graduated with a major in Business.

Derek is married to Claire, whom he met on a business trip for Lockheed that they both attended in Georgia. He is celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> year with Lockheed. They have been married for 6 years. Derek and Claire moved to Aledo to have easy access to her two horses. Claire rides at least 3 times a week and competes 'reining' at least 6 times a year.



## Children's Ministry

Elizabeth Boulware Landes, Director of Children's Ministries

# welcome!

Please join me in welcoming our newest Staff Member: **Elise Melhado** joins us serving in the nursery.

**Elizabeth:** Tell us a little bit about where you are from. Where did you go to high school?

**Elise:** I graduated from high school a year early in Colorado.

**Elizabeth:** What do you want to be when you grow up?

**Elise:** When I grow up, I'd like to be able to pursue my interests and hobbies without restriction. I don't really know into what career that will take me or what I will study in school, but I think those things aren't very important in the pursuit of everlasting joy.

**Elizabeth:** What are you most excited about with working with the children? Why did you want to apply for this position?

**Elise:** I love working with children because they are so full of ideas. They think in colors, yet everything is very distinct in their minds; their minds aren't clouded with gray areas. I think adults can learn a lot from children.

**Elizabeth:** When you have free time, what do you fill it with?

**Elise:** I fill my free time with anything I have the opportunity to do: theater, skiing, mountain biking, poetry, volunteering, etc.



## Children Mission Opportunity February 1st following lunch

Mark your calendars to join us for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday lunch on February 1. Details are still being worked out. Children, after you eat join Elizabeth in the WOW room for fun and a hands – on mission project. Parents we will finish up about 1:00.



# ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb. 18 - 6:30 pm

A Service that begins the 40-days of preparation for our  
Easter Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord.  
Our Service will include an opportunity for Confession,  
Holy Communion, and the Imposition of Ashes.

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.FAITHALEDO.COM



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