

FAITH

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Inside this issue:

Message from Pastor Jim	2
Joys and Concerns	2
Birthdays	2
Music Ministry	3
Calendar	4
Fellowship	5
Fellowship	6
Children's Ministry	7
Upcoming Events	8

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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January 2015



A FAITH New Year Resolution

We hope you won't mind if we join in on the New Year resolution frenzy—as cliché as this may be. But, the Christian faith has always been about the 'new': new life,

new creation, new song, new thing, new growth, new heart, new spirit, re-newed mind, new commandment, new covenant, new self, and even 'new' wine. You can find all of these and even more new stuff in the Bible.

Wait a minute—the Bible is also known as Good News—Gospel literally means 'good news'. The whole thing is about the new!

Unfortunately, many people of faith lose their new-ness quickly—and, sadly, some have never really experienced a real new-ness of FAITH. Even some who read the Bible, don't experience the 'new' that is always there.

So, whether you are 'new' to the FAITH or consider yourself a FAITH veteran, the New Year is a great time to start a FAITH New Year, too.

Every year millions of people resolve to live their lives differently, like stop doing things that are bad for your health or doing more good things for your health (losing weight and exercise are still the most popular).

Yes, most resolutions are about stop doing this, or start doing that. Some people even include FAITH habits they want to start doing in the New Year like reading the Bible or praying.

That's getting close, but remember a FAITH resolution is not just about the religious things you do.

Here's the thing that makes a FAITH New Year resolution different from all the rest. A FAITH resolution is not one more thing you are going to do or don't do. A FAITH resolution says "I will do *everything* with FAITH!"—including all those other resolutions.

Going back to all those 'news' in the Bible. Several that stand out are new spirit, new heart, renewed mind, and new life. Spirit and heart aren't things we do. Spirit and heart are really about *how* we do things and *why* we do things—including our New Year resolutions.

You see, GOD wants to be glorified by us. GOD wants to be glorified by us because GOD created us. And, no one knows better what we're capable of, bad or good, than GOD.

GOD knows everything we need to change in this New Year. GOD also wants to be the reason for our resolutions.

The Christmas of 2014 that we just left in our rearview mirrors reminds us of what GOD did to make sure that we can change everything we need to change in the New Year. That's what a FAITH resolution does, takes Christmas with us wherever we go, whatever we do.

We hope no one has already forgotten that Christmas celebrates the birth of GOD's Son, Jesus Christ, Immanuel—GOD with Us.

Want the best year ever? Resolve to take Jesus Christ with you wherever you go, whatever you do. Paul said it very simply in 1Corinthians 10:31:

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

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

THANKFULNESS



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

I have always found it fascinating the way we tie the rhythms of life to the earth’s journey around the sun.

As the earth begins another trip around the sun beginning a year we call ‘2015’ I am reflecting on what change or newness may be ahead in this ‘new’ year.

The author of Ecclesiastes in the Bible, as he mused over the meaning of life, invites us to consider whether there is or will be anything new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Another Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, wrote during that same era, *“The sun is new each day.”* and *“No one steps into the same river twice, for it is not the same river and not the same person.”* Too bad Heraclitus’ pursuit of understanding life never led him to

GOD. Although, some suggest that his use of the concept of ‘Logos’ (Word) may be close to the way the Gospel of John introduces Jesus as the *Logos* (Word) that became flesh.

Every new year does seem to bring new challenges and opportunities. And, although the Book of Ecclesiastes seems to leave the author’s question unanswered, the rest of the Bible seems to be answering with a resounding *“Yes!”* GOD is always doing something new, wonderful, and exciting.

I believe that GOD is doing something new with every one of us every day—and, certainly every year. And, that something new is always a good thing.

Each day, each year is meant to bring us closer to GOD. Jesus Christ gave His life to make that possible and Jesus is with us every step of this journey. And, I know that Jesus will bring out the new in me in 2015.

I hope all of you will join me in the year ahead with the resolution to discover what new things GOD wants to do with us. I pray that Jesus will bring out the new in you, too!

Growing Our 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 Lauren Reed who continues to respond well to ongoing cancer treatments. We celebrate the marriage of Sue Cox and Sam Clugston. We continue to pray for Jorge Lott’s health. 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.*

January Birthdays

Dorothy Minnerly	1/3	Virginia Henckell	1/9	Jeff Mohr	1/19
Bill Shelton	1/3	Paula Hall	1/11	Emily Lee	1/22
Trayce Allen	1/6	Nita Ferrell	1/14	Grace Demers	1/30
Carrol Prokell	1/7	Rebecca Lee	1/15	Kelle Tillman	1/30
Marti Woods	1/8	Taylor Sohr	1/17		

Music Ministry & Events

Thanks for the beautiful music!

By Johna Beth Mohr

Messiah ~ one word ~ stunning !
I am so proud of the Musicians of Faith for presenting Messiah on the first Sunday of Advent. It was beautiful ~ the best you have ever done ... Thank you for sharing your gift of singing with Faith !



We have so much to be thankful at Faith ! First I want to thank all the everyone who participated in Faith's Christmas Recital : Molly Bolf, Josh Childs, Bethany Coughlin, Preston Coughlin, Claire Demers, Grace Demers, Sean Edwards, Austin Ferrell, Parker Ferrell, Mia King, Celeste Larson, Jeff Mohr, Tatiana Mohr, Ayden Smith, and Charlene Sutton - WOW – can you believe all the music talent we have ! (See more photos on page 6.)

FAITH TIMES

See the calendar at www.faihtaledo.com for the most up-to-date information.

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:00am A/V Praise Band 9:00am Choir 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship Potluck Lunch following worship	5	6 6:30am Coffee and the Bible	7 6:15pm Wed Together / Wed 4 Kids 6:50pm Youth	8 7pm Aledo Venturing Crew 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	9	10
11 8:00am Audio/Praise Band 9:00am Music Advisory Team 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship / Communion	12 6:30pm Women of FAITH Study	13 6:30am Coffee and the Bible 6:30pm Session Meeting Troop 2001 Evening Court of Honor	14 6:15pm Wed Together / Wed 4 Kids 6:50pm Youth	15	16 6:30—9 pm Officer and staff Retreat	17 8:30—11 am Officer and staff Retreat
18 8:00am A/V Praise Band 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship Ordination and Installation of Officers-Class of 2017	19	20 6:30am Coffee and the Bible	21 6:15pm Wed Together / Wed 4 Kids 6:50pm Youth	22 7pm Aledo Venturing Crew	23	24
25 8:00am A/V Praise Band 9:15am Church School 10:30am Worship / Communion Noon-2pm Praise Team Jam Session	26 6:30pm Women of FAITH Study	27 6:30am Coffee and the Bible	28 6:15pm Wed Together / Wed 4 Kids 6:50pm Youth	29	30	31 7pm All Musicians' Party at the Smith's

Fellowship

If You Like to Sing Please Come Sunday January 5th or January 18th and visit Musicians of Faith:

POSITIONS OPEN : soprano, alto, tenor and bass. No others need apply.

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS: Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the sanctuary. Must have sufficient vision to see the director.

EXPERIENCE: No applications will be accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the bathtub or shower at some time.

BEGINNING WAGE: Increased satisfaction and joy in the service of God.

FRINGE BENEFITS: Social Security. We promise you the security of social fellowship with other choir members.

HOURS: First and Third Sunday of each month from 9:00 – 10:15 am. There is occasional opportunity for overtime.

RETIREMENT: Generally determined by the printed notes getting too small, the music too heavy, notes too high, the sanctuary too hot or too cold, or the pianist unable to play the notes you sing.



Women of FAITH

Join us Monday's at 6:30 pm for a new Women's Study.

"PRACTICES"

An engaging introduction to the central practices of the Christian faith, why they are important, and how we can take part in them today.

We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday evening each month.

All ages. Bring a friend!

Childcare provided. Please let us know how many children in advance by

Christmas Recital

Members and children shared their musical and poetry gifts for the congregation at the annual Christmas recital. Pictured here are some of the many talented performers.



Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry Team is hard at work planning for 2015. We strive to provide families and children with the tools they need to grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. We will be putting together a short survey for our parents and volunteers to offer feedback and suggestions for programs offered during the next year. Be on the lookout for an email coming in January with details and directions on how to participate in the survey. Members of the CMT and myself are always available to listen to parents' comments, suggestions, and feedback.

Elizabeth Boulware Landes, Director of Children's Ministries

Church School and Wednesdays will resume in January!

- ✓ Faithlets will learn stories about Jesus.
- ✓ Club 3:16 and Crossing Zone will look at the story of Babel on Sunday Mornings.
- ✓ On Wednesdays these groups will experience Jesus' parables.



Children's Ministry Snapshots



Potluck lunch after worship

January 4

Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to share.



WWW.FAITHALEDO.COM
WE'RE ON THE WEB



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