



The Spirit

of Deer Park United Methodist Church

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1 • JANUARY — FEBRUARY 2012



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Pastor's Hours: Monday 9AM—Noon; Tuesday & Thursday 9AM—3PM
Administrative aide in office Tuesday & Thursday 11AM—3PM
Office phone: 410-848-2313
Pastor's phones: Home 443-821-3455 Cell 443-841-2219
Email: Pastor Sims at mjsims@deerparkumc.net or Cindy Saylor at csaylor@deerparkumc.net
Web Page: www.deerparkumc.net

Hopes and Dreams for the New Year

God says, "I know what I am doing. I have plans to give you the future you hope for."

Jeremiah 29:11, abbreviated, from *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*



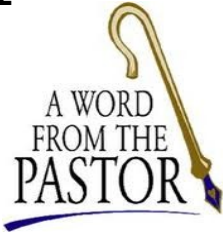
"Dreams are illustrations . . . from the book your soul is writing about you."

Marsha Norman, American playwright and dramatist (won Pulitzer Prize in 1983)

All of us have hopes and dreams for our lives. Did you know that God also has hopes and dreams for us? Beginning on Sunday, January 8th, 2012 we will spend the next seven Sundays looking at some of God's hopes and dreams for us.

Come and join us as we explore together how we might cooperate with God in making those hopes and dreams come true in our own lives. We have two services every Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00 AM:

January 8 th	True Identity
January 15 th	Fragrance of Forgiveness
January 22 nd	Hope from Healing
January 29 th	An Abundant Life
February 5 th	Life with Others
February 12 th	Mission: Possible
February 19 th	Transformed



Thanks

By the time you get this newsletter, the excitement and busyness of the Advent and Christmas seasons will be recent memories. The New Year will be upon us and we will be looking toward Epiphany, Lent and Easter. For most United Methodist pastors, New Years Day also marks the halfway mark of their appointment year, which usually runs from July 1st until the last day of June the following year. As I mark the first Jan. 1st here at Deer Park, I want to say thanks for the warm welcome you have afforded my husband John, our dog Blake, and me. It was such a pleasure to have so many of you join us at the parsonage on Dec. 11th for an open house. Your kindness and generosity to us have been overwhelming. We thank all of you for your graciousness and the many gifts we received during the recent holiday season.

I also want to thank particularly the eighteen choir members and the choir director for their gift of music during the singing of the cantata, "Celebrate His Name! Proclaim His Birth!" at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on December 18th. The program could not have been more perfect.

Your sister and servant, *Mary Jo Sims*



United
Methodist
Women

The United Methodist Women will meet on January 23, 2012 at 12 noon at Bullocks for lunch and continue our meeting at the Church at 1:00 PM for the years planning meeting. Snow date Jan. 30th at Bullocks at Noon etc. The February meeting will be held on the 4th Monday at the Church at 1:00 pm. All ladies of the Church are welcomed to attend.

Officers for the year are Lynn Spencer, President; Wilma Welling, Vice President; Annette Robertson, Secretary; Ruth Shipley, Treasurer; and Kate Gorsuch, Board of Child Care Representative.



BLOOD DRIVE - The American Red Cross will be holding a Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at Calvary United Methodist Church from 2:00PM to 7PM in the Church Hall, 3939 Gamber Road, Finksburg. Please call Judy Marsiglia at 410-751-8898 to schedule your life-saving donation, or call Gary Saylor at 443-465-1023. Thanks for saving a life!

WARM WISHES FOR A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM!



We have been working with Pastor Mary Jo in planning services for 2012. Candlemas will be celebrated on Sunday, February 5 at both services. Please bring your candles which you use at home for devotional or other purposes to be blessed. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012; there will be a service at 7:30 p.m.

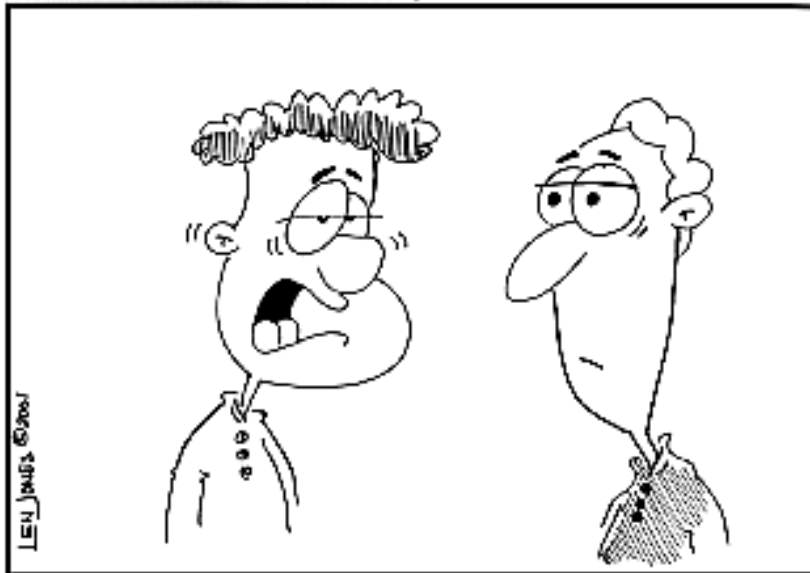
Looking forward to spring, the following worship services are scheduled for Holy Week:

Holy Thursday Service on April 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service on April 6, 2011 at 7:30 p.m..

Cindy Davis for the Worship Team

ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



▪ I was just fine with the concept of sharing my faith until Pastor said we actually had to talk to people.▪

The Administration of the Church in the New Year

4

As we begin the New Year, we will increase our efforts to meet the goals that we approved at church council and at our October charge conference. Those goals are posted on the bulletin board above the work counter in the church office. According to the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (§ 252.1) the purposes of the church council are to: provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church, provide for the administration of the church's organization and temporal life, envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church.

The council shall also be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference. The members of the church council are also posted on the same above mentioned bulletin board in the church office.

Newly elected officers for church council are Skip Boyles, who will co-chair the council; Kristen Saylor, vice-chair; and Gena Gruenzinger, recording secretary. Tom Keller is the new lay leader.

Also, within our structure are three administrative committees that have three rotating classes. The newly elected members for the class of 2014 of each committee are:

- SPRC (Staff Parish Relations): Robin Miller, Kara Pereira, and Nick Strong. Susan Doyle remains the chair of SPRC.
- Board of Trustees: Pam Hildenbrand, Gil Muse, and Gary Saylor. According to the Discipline, Trustees elects annually their chair.
- Committee on Lay Leadership (formerly known as the Nominations Committee): Anne Boyles, Steve Hildenbrand, and Kelley Strong. The lead pastor of the church serves as the chair of this committee.

This past fall, the Committee on Lay Leadership (CLL) affirmed the policy that members who serve three year terms on SPRC and CLL shall take at least a three year hiatus before once again being elected to the same committee. SPRC and CLL are the two committees within the church that are confidential in nature.

Anyone and everyone are welcome to attend any other committee or council meeting.

Our standing committees schedule is as follows:

Trustees	First Tuesday of every month
Finance Committee	Second Monday of every month
Worship Committee	First Monday of every month
United Methodist Women	Fourth Monday of every month
Deer Park Sisterhood	First Thursday of every month
Church Council	Third Mondays, at least quarterly within the year

Our first church council meeting of the New year will be Monday, Jan. 16th at 7:00 PM.

DEER PARK UMC LAY LEADERSHIP

5

Effective January 1, 2012 (Presented to and approved
at the Annual Charge Conference in October 11, 2011)

Church Council

Chairperson: Jay Beigel and Skip Boyles
Recording Secretary: Gena Gruenzinger
Lay Leader: Tom Keller
Lay Member to Annual Conference: N/A
Finance Chair: Kim Jordan
Treasurer: Madeline Jones
Financial Secretary: Ruth Myers
SPRC Chair: Susan Doyle
Trustee Chair: Bill Aldridge, Sr.
UMM President: Tom Keller
UMW President: Lynn Spencer
United Methodist Youth Representative: N/A

Committee on Pastor Parish Relations or Staff Parish Relations (PPRC/SPRC)

Pastor: Mary Jo Sims
Class of 2012 Nancy Baker, John Walker, Susan Doyle
Class of 2013 Charles Spencer, Kathie Browning, Mike Aldridge
Class of 2014 Kara Pereira, Nick Strong, Robin Miller

Board of Trustees

Class of 2012 Wilma Welling, Bill Aldridge, Sr., Neil Upton
Class of 2013 Terry Caudill, Kate Gorsuch, Herb Shipley
Class of 2014 Gary Saylor, Gil Muse, Pam Hildenbrand

Committee on Lay Leadership

Chair: Mary Jo Sims Vice-chair: Jay Beigel
Class of 2012 Jay Beigel, Dotty Doyle, Laura Bledsoe
Class of 2013 Gary Saylor, John Moxley, Richard Baker
Class of 2014 Steve Hildenbrand, Anne Boyles, Kelley Strong

Age-Level, Family, and Specialized Ministries Coordinators

Coordinator of Children's Ministries: N/A
Coordinator of Youth Ministries: N/A
Coordinator of Adult Ministries: N/A
Coordinator of Family Ministries: N/A

Church School Superintendent and Small Group Coordinator

Superintendent of Church School/Sunday School: N/A
Coordinator, Health & Welfare Ministries: N/A
Coordinator, Communications: George Grimm

Money Matters



ENOUGH

ENOUGH is the title of a book that a small study group recently finished, here at Deer Park UMC. The theme of the book was to make the reader more aware of the excesses we are all guilty of, to some degree. The subtitle, "Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity", is aimed at making us realize that we don't necessarily derive joy and satisfaction from getting more "stuff". Perhaps, this is the wrong time of year to be bringing this up. Christmas is when we generally give and get things that we don't necessarily want or need (Gee, thanks for the great polka-dot tie). But the author, a Methodist minister, makes a great case for living more simply and giving more to the Church and the needy. While you may think that this is self-serving, he makes some excellent points. As much as I tried to say "That's not me!", I must admit I am guilty of acquiring too much stuff. The cash equivalent of this stuff could much better be used by the less fortunate and needy.

A recent trip to New York City, found my wife and I in Saks Fifth Avenue, where my wife admired a purse on display. A salesperson approached and offered to show her the purse in detail. When we saw the price tag of \$895.00, we quickly thanked her and moved on. I'm sure the salesperson pegged us as schleps, just off the bus. That's fine, but it makes one wonder how many of these bags get sold. Instead of someone buying the purse, imagine how far \$895.00 would go for Carroll Food Sunday or our Missionaries? Heck, we could also use it for our General Fund. I'm not trying to say that we should not enjoy the nice things that we work so hard to attain. But, if we buy things that don't give us joy or pleasure, perhaps we should think twice about making a similar purchase in the future. Any one of the benevolent causes we support would surely appreciate the gift.

So, the next time I'm in Saks Fifth Avenue, and the salesperson shows me an \$895.00 purse, I'll say "It's nice, but I'd rather give the money to my Church".

Kim Jordan, Finance Chair
 Telephone 410-876-9830,
 E-mail: jodankm1229@comcast.net

Lenten Study: Unbinding Your Heart

During Lent, Deer Park UMC will share in a study entitled *Unbinding Your Heart*. This six week study will help us (1) focus on **what is** and on **what can be** for us as individuals and as a church community, and (2) see our own church more clearly and start to move us toward new possibilities. Nearly a dozen folks within our congregation have already participated in a lengthier version of this study, *Unbinding the Gospel*. Many of them have shared that they found the study transforming. They will serve as the leaders/facilitators for our Lenten study.

This study is designed for small groups so that all who participate can have opportunities for active sharing. Thus, this study will be offered at numerous and various times throughout each week during Lent. However, we still want to have occasions for larger fellowship gatherings during Lent. We will find calendar times during Lent for such events.

As Ash Wednesday draws closer, all within the church will be asked to select the day and time that best suits them.

Possible meeting times:

Tuesday mornings at 10:00

Wednesday mornings at 10:00

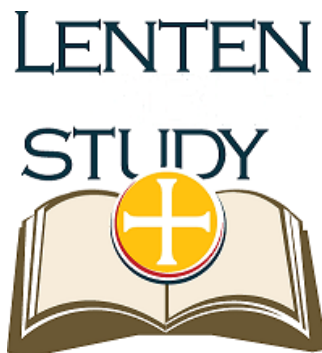
Thursday mornings at 10:00

Tuesday evenings at 7:00

Wednesday evenings at 7:00

Thursday evenings at 7:00

Sunday evenings at 5:00



The Thursday dates would be: 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22 and 3/29

The Tuesday dates would be: 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, and 4/3

The Wednesday dates would be 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, and 4/4

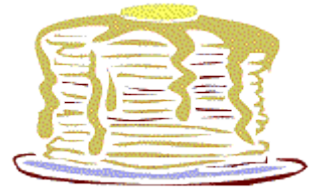
The Sunday dates would be 2/26, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, and 4/1.

Everyone within the church will benefit from participating in this study. We are all called to serve as witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want to tell people within our community about our church and what a wonderful and caring kinship we have here at Deer Park UMC. We want to reach out to others and share the good news of Jesus — but often we don't know how to do that in ways that are both comfortable and effective. Imagine what it will be like when we have all shared in this study! What a wonderful opportunity for our church!

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. "Shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive," which means to hear a confession. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of *shriving*, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a supply of these foods they would certainly spoil by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do? Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... pancakes. Shrove Tuesday is also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras (which is simply French for Fat Tuesday).

We can't give you absolution, but we can promise you pancakes. So come on out for a little fun and a lot of pancakes. You won't get short shrifted.



PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday February 21st from 4pm to 7pm

At Deer Park United Methodist Church

ADULTS \$6.00, CHILDREN 4-12 \$3.00

CHILDREN UNDER 4 ARE FREE!

SPONSORED BY:

Deer Park Lions Club
and the
Deer Park Men's Group



Received from the Carroll County Interfaith Council

Dear CCIFC Friends,

Coming up on **January 3**, the **“Faith Club” book discussion** at the Finksburg Library, 7 p.m., will be on His Holiness The Dalai Lama’s book:

**Toward a True Kinship of Faith:
How the World’s Religions Can Come Together**

In this book The Dalai Lama notes some of the most valued teachings of many religions on the importance of living and working with compassion and peace and being of service to others. He has important thoughts to share about the dangers of religious exclusivism and the importance of working intentionally for interreligious understanding and respect for diverse beliefs and spiritual practices.

Carroll County Interfaith Council will be meeting at 6 p.m. in the same room, prior to the 7 p.m. book discussion. Please join us as we discuss upcoming topics and titles for future “Faith Club” book discussions and other opportunities and resources to promote interfaith understanding.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Interfaith Events:

We have a great opportunity to share in an interfaith event that I hope you may be interested in attending. Mike Davis, one of our regular “Faith Club” book discussion participants, told us about an **annual event that is hosted by Temple Oheb Shalom and Bethel AME Church on Martin Luther King weekend. On January 13, Temple Oheb Shalom will host singers and friends from Bethel AME as part of their Erev Shabat service, Friday, January 13, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Then on Sunday morning, congregants of Oheb Shalom participate in Bethel AME services, Jan. 15 at 9:30 a.m.**

We have been in touch with Oheb Shalom Rabbi, Steven Fink, about having some interfaith friends from Carroll County attend, and he encourages us to do so. If you would be interested in attending the Sabbath service Jan. 13, please respond either to the CCIFC group or directly to gfuss827@comcast.net

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

An interfaith MLK service is a great affirmation of the ability of people of diverse faiths to hold high shared values of civil rights, justice, peace, and goodwill toward all! Please come!

Temple Oheb Shalom is located at 7310 Park Heights, Ave., Baltimore.

We can share more details as the time approaches. Please mark your calendar for Jan. 13.



is Sunday, February 19th
For March -- April issue

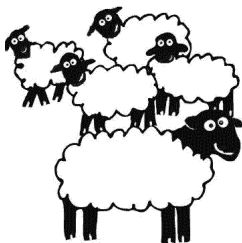
Well, it's a New Year and a time when we all try to make promises to ourselves to do things better or different. I don't know about you but I tend to forget these promises not long after making them as "busyness" creeps up and seems to take all my time.

And for those things we pledge to ourselves that we will do, it probably does not make a big difference in the long run, but for those promises we make to our Lord, *they do!* Let us all decide that we will do better in keeping those promises to Him and not only will we be better but we will make things better for others!

Blessings to all, and think "electronically" in the New Year that we might expand our outreach to those who need to hear the Good News!



Your editor



Feed My Sheep:

Folks from Deer Park Church will be serving our Eldersburg neighbors a lunch meal at Wesley Freedom United Methodist on Thursday, January 26. Our commitment is to serve on the fourth Thursday of every other month. January begins our year for 2012.

Volunteers are needed; please consider coming to help and serve. Approximately 9-10 people are wanted, and transportation is available for the asking.

If you care to help, please speak with Ruth Myers or call her at 410-386-0888. Come, help, serve, and feel the Spirit of the Lord touch your hearts in a special way!

Thoughts to ponder



This is taken from the novel, “The Homeless Bishop” by Joseph E. Girzone, in which a [Catholic] bishop decides to live as a homeless beggar, and then becomes a bishop again...and then moves even higher in the church:

“...He was insistent that the church, and the teachings of the church, not be the subject of evangelization but that Jesus be the sole focus of evangelization. Jesus is the Message that should be taught, and not the church, which is the vehicle for the message. The church's teachings could be easily woven into the document as expressions of who and what Jesus is and how he thinks and reacts to people and events. The Christian people have to get to know Jesus, and they are not going to do that by studying theology alone. They have to meet the real Jesus, as close to the real flesh-and-blood Jesus as possible, and realize that *Jesus is all about relationships.*”



FOOD SUNDAY

Carroll County Food Sunday is a local non-profit charitable organization that helps to feed many men, women and children in our area throughout the year. Without the help of people like you and me, Food Sunday would be unable to continue to help these families who, through no fault of their own, are enduring hardship.

Please help these folks by adding “Food Sunday” to your grocery-shopping list and bringing one or two non-perishable food items (each Sunday) to the shopping cart in our church narthex / lobby. That’s all it takes to “make a difference” in the life of someone in need.

Thanks for caring and sharing!

Charles Spencer

*Since God gave us two ears and only one mouth,
he must have wanted us to do twice as much listening as talking.*

Since

Final 2011 Trustees report



2011 has been a very eventful year here at Deer Park. The Trustees completed many projects, biggest of which was the refurbishing of our church parsonage. Rev. Mary Jo and John seem very happy with their new living quarters. I would also like to thank the membership of Deer Park for their continued support as we continue to care for and upgrade our wonderful church facilities. I would like to thank our outgoing Trustees, Don Rhine and John Walker, for their three years of service. Both were a big asset to the committee. I would like to welcome our new Trustees Pam Hildenbrand and Gil Muse and look forward to working with them in the coming years. We are looking forward to a prosperous and productive 2012.

Anonymous items donated in 2011 are listed below. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

- A high speed floor buffer has been donated and will arrive soon.
- Additional coffee brewing equipment was donated and is now in use.
- Two new rocking chairs were donated and are in use in the observation room.
- Six new cafe tables were donated and are now in use in the Grace Cafe area of the observation room.
- A six and eight foot step ladder were donated for use around the church.
- A new wireless microphone was donated and is now in use.

Items also added in 2011.

Donations were received from the Lion's and United Methodist Women's Group to purchase a new commercial stove for our kitchen to replace a stove that was manufactured in 1961 and in use by us since 1974.

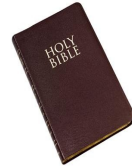
We will be considering the following items in 2012.

- Refurbishing of the Social Hall.
- Addition of an overhead projector in the Social Hall to allow for more multipurpose use of the area.
- Painting of the upstairs.

Needless to say these things will require funding and volunteer help to complete. We ask for your support as we continue to maintain and upgrade our Church and Parsonage. Please contact us if you can help in anyway.

We look forward to your continued support.

Blessings to All! Wilma Welling, Kate Gorsuch, Pam Hilderbrand, Gary Saylor, Gil Muse, Herb Shipley, Neil Upton, Terry Caudill and Bill Aldridge Sr. —Your Trustees!



Deer Park Sisterhood
Debbie Muse, President

New NRSV Bibles for Sanctuary:

The Bibles are being ordered and will be dedicated during worship when the order arrives. Date to be determined.

Sisterhood Project “*The Dove House-Hospice Care*”:

Donations are still being accepted; please place items in the designated box in the narthex.

Next Meeting: January 5:

Election of Officers for 2012 will be on the agenda for this meeting. All sisters are encouraged to attend to begin planning for the new year.

Sisterly Kudos:

Thank you to everyone who attended the “Women of the Bible” program in November. The afternoon began with a bountiful and delicious soup & sandwich buffet and ended with an exciting, informative and entertaining presentation of the Biblical women chosen. Many thanks to the women from other churches who attended and the women who helped to present the story of Esther in a very unique way. Good job to King Megan and the fanatical Haman, Joy. This joint venture with the United Methodist Women provided a successful autumn event enjoyed by all.

Thank you for filling Christmas Stockings for “The Shepherd’s Staff” which were dedicated during worship on December 18.

Thank you to all who prepared Christmas cards for veterans which were delivered to the Veterans Hospital in Baltimore.



How will you share Christ with others in this new year?

SPIRITUAL / EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Please pick a caring act, and select as many people you feel are manageable to:

Send Card **Telephone Call** **Take Food** **Visit** **Pray**

Congregational Concerns:

- **John Walker** - John's Sister Joyce Marie Adkins passed away Tuesday, 12/6/11, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury. Please pray for the Walker family at this difficult time. Cards can be sent to P.O. Box 850, Finksburg, MD 21048
- **Bud Lindsay** - Buddy is in the hospital. Please pray for Bud and Sarah as they are going through a difficult time. Cards can be sent to 1905 Galaxy Dr., Finksburg, MD 21048
- **Pearl Peller** - Brenda Selby's Sister-in-law Pearl is not doing well. Prayers are needed at this difficult time. Cards can be sent to 1923 Deer Park Rd., Finksburg, MD 21048
- **Karen Miserandino** - Karen is staying with her daughter. Please continue praying for her. Cards of encouragement can be sent to 2426 Lizbec Court, Crofton, MD 21114.
- **Arlene Ridgely** - Arlene is home. Please continue praying for her. Cards of encouragement can be sent to 1265 Campus Ct., Westminster, MD 21157.

Remember our Elders at Home or in Nursing Care Facilities:

At Home

- **Irma Kuhn**
- **John Hall**
- **Charlene Hill**

Nursing Care Facilities

- **Arlene Beard**, Cozy Care Assisted Living, 12803 Boxwood Ct., Union Bridge, MD 21791
- **Margaret Mathias**, Country Acres Assisted Living, 2470 Collision Drive, Room A1, Westminster, MD 21157
- **Madeline Hiatt**, Lorien of Taneytown, 100 Antrim Blvd, Room 18A, Taneytown, MD 21787
- **Edna Bollinger**, The Woods of Sun Valley Assisted Living, 3830 Baker Rd., Westminster, MD 21157

SUPPORT FOR THE

TROOPS - Remember them in your prayers.

We are pleased to report that Bryan Rausch (Louise & Bill Stonesifer's grandson) and Jason Ferguson (friend of the Saylor & Muse families) are home for the Holidays

(Information from the bulletin of 12/18/2011)

*Don't let your worries get the best of you.
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.*

Hour of Prayer
Wednesday Evenings
6:00 to 7:00 PM

Prayer Circle gathers at 6:30pm



"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

Everyday faith practices

GOD CALLS US INTO THE SACRED. If you're not sure how to begin, below are some faith practices you might consider and incorporate one or two into your daily routine.

- Make an altar or prayer space in your house that reflects the things that are holy to you.
- When you are reading the newspaper, pray over the headlines.
- Close your eyes; sit absolutely silent for 30 minutes.
- Write a letter that shares your faith to someone in the periphery of your life.
- Create a short and personal ritual for confession and pardon.
- Remember King David; dance with abandon.
- Give to a stranger.
- LISTEN.
- Offer grace.
- Find something beautiful and truly appreciate it.

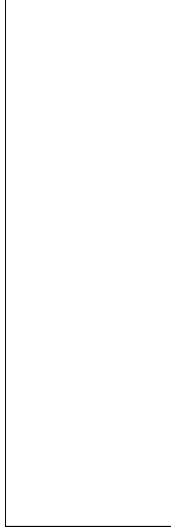
WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.



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