

Inside Faith *Congregational*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FAITH CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2020

From the Pastor's Pen

The sermon this past Sunday received an overwhelmingly positive response!

Our Scripture lesson was taken from Luke 2, the story of Jesus as a 12-year-old boy getting left behind in Jerusalem, while his parents, not knowing their son wasn't with them, traveled the long road back home to Nazareth. They had just spent the week celebrating Passover, as was their custom.

Mary and Joseph, once they realized what they had done, frantically searched for their son and eventually found him three days later in the temple, his Father's house.

This is a story of Jesus' coming of age. A moment in which he came to understand in a deep way, that nothing was more important to him than being in the presence of God, his true **abba** (daddy).

We can see in passages before and after this one, that Jesus was growing.

In our sermon on Sunday we talked about becoming spiritually mature and that this can only be done when we also become emotionally mature. Enjoy the following page with descriptions of what it means to not just grow older, but to grow up!

Yours in Faith,
Pastor Rob Hunter



The following is taken from ***Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: It's Impossible to Be Spiritually Mature, While Remaining Emotionally Immature***, a book by Peter Scazzero,

I am an Emotional Infant.

- I look for other people to take care of me emotionally and spiritually.
- I often have difficulty in describing and experiencing my feelings in healthy ways and rarely enter the emotional world of others.
- I am consistently driven by a need for instant gratification, often using others as objects to meet my needs.
- People sometimes perceive me as inconsiderate and insensitive.
- I am uncomfortable with silence or being alone.
- When trials, hardships, or difficulties come, I want to quit God and the Christian life.
- I sometimes experience God at church and when I am with other Christians, but rarely when I am at work or home.

And I am an Emotional Child.

- When life is going my way, I am content.
- However, as soon as disappointment or stress enter the picture, I quickly unravel inside.
- I often take things personally, interpreting disagreements or criticism as a personal offense.
- When I don't get my way, I often complain, throw an emotional tantrum, withdraw, manipulate, drag my feet, become sarcastic, or take revenge.
- I often end up living off the spirituality of other people because I am so overloaded and distracted.
- My prayer life is primarily talking to God, telling him what to do and how to fix my problems.
- Prayer is a duty, not a delight.

I am an Emotional Adolescent.

- I don't like it when others question me.
- I often make quick judgments and interpretations of people's behavior.
- I withhold forgiveness to those who sin against me, avoiding or cutting them off when they do something to hurt me.
- I subconsciously keep records on the love I give out.
- I have trouble really listening to another person's pain, disappointments, or needs without becoming preoccupied with myself.
- I sometimes find myself too busy to spend adequate time nourishing my spiritual life.
- I attend church and serve others but enjoy few delights in Christ.
- My Christian life is still primarily about doing, not being with him.
- Prayer continues to be mostly me talking with little silence, solitude, or listening to God.

I am an Emotional Adult.

- I respect and love others without having to change them or becoming judgmental.
- I value people for who they are, not for what they can give me or how they behave.
- I take responsibility for my own thoughts, feelings, goals, and actions.
- I can state my own beliefs and values to those who disagree with me—without becoming adversarial.
- I am able to accurately self-assess my limits, strengths, and weaknesses.
- I am deeply convinced that I am absolutely loved by Christ and, as a result, do not look to others to tell me I am okay.
- I am able to integrate doing for God and being with him.
- My Christian life has moved beyond simply serving Christ to loving him and enjoying communion with him.

Jesus Speaks With the Religious Teachers Luke 2:41-52



At age 12, Jesus is at the Temple for a festival and gets lost. His parents look for him for three days and find him in the Temple, wowing the people there because Jesus is wise. After he returns home, he continues to grow in wisdom.



"Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people" (Luke 2:52).

Wise Answers

Jesus amazed the religious teachers with his understanding and answers. See how amazing your family is at answering tough questions!

1. Find a trivia board game or app where you can see just a list of questions.
2. Working as a family, see how many questions in a row you can answer correctly.
3. Missed one? Start over and try to break your record!
4. Discuss: **What's the difference between knowing facts and being wise?**
5. Say: **Just because Jesus wowed the teachers doesn't mean he was a trivia king. Jesus wowed the teachers because he was wise. You don't have to know a lot of facts to be wise. You just need Jesus to help you make good choices!**

Through the Week

Here's an activity you can do throughout the week.

1. Talk about choices each person made that day that required wisdom. For example, maybe one family member chose to help someone who was sad or chose to tell the truth even when lying was easier.
2. Discuss other options and how to tell if you've made a wise choice.
3. Pray for wisdom in making the next day's choices. Ask Jesus to give you some of his wisdom.
4. Talk about how your prayers have helped you know what Jesus would choose to do.

Family Discussion

- Tell about a time you showed wisdom.
- Tell about a time you *didn't* show wisdom.
- When do you need Jesus most this week for wisdom?

SAVE THE DATE!!

WORKDAY!!

February 15th 8 a.m.

The old saying "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK" is never more true than on a church workday. There are a lot of ways to share your time and energy outside and inside the church. Also, it's a good way to get to know some of your fellow members, plus there's always the DONUTS.



DID YOU KNOW? Faith Church has an amazing, dedicated team that volunteer a couple hours ONCE a month to do the general cleaning of the church. Some of these people have been on this team since the building opened in 2000. If you have been thinking of another way to serve in our church, please consider joining the cleaning team. If you have any questions speak to one of us. —Donna & Rich Pecho

Our 5-Year VISION

*Inviting New People to Faith
Growing in our Relationship with Christ*

FAITH CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Rob Hunter

**Pianist & Choir
Director**
Hazel Graham

**Administrative
Assistant**
Frank Grieco

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING PROGRAM

2019 REPORT

During the year 2019 the Salvation Army consolidated its operations in three counties; Martin, St Lucie, and Okeechobee. The central command is now centered in Stuart, with Family Stores in Stuart and Fort Pierce. They also have Compassion House in Stuart for homeless women and women with children. They just opened Adams Place in Fort Pierce for homeless men, including veterans.

Let me remind everyone that the Salvation Army is primarily a Church. Their mission statement, like most area churches, is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition, their mission goes further and states they will meet human needs in the name of Christ without discrimination. A simple mission, preach the gospel of Christ and meet human needs. It sounds simple, but has been a chore over the years due to an increasing number of people with unmet needs of food, clothing and shelter.

The Salvation Army is also known as America's favorite charity. The reason is that they are by far, the most effective organization in the world by size and caliber. No one even comes close in respect to clarity of mission, ability to innovate with measurable results, pure dedication, and putting money to maximum use. Their staff is professionally trained to work with the poorest of the poor to provide both physical and spiritual needs.

In 2019 two area churches have shown outstanding ability to help people who need, not a hand out, but a hand up. This year during the five week bell ringing season from November 29th through Christmas Eve, 103 individual members and friends of Stuart Congregational Church and Faith Congregational Church in Port St Lucie put together a concentrated effort, working 114 hours and raising \$7,700 so that 103 families could have Christmas when they likely would have had none.

The Stuart Church is larger than their sister in Port St Lucie and covered two locations for ten days and raised \$4,560 or \$50 for each hour worked. The Port St Lucie Church covered one location for six days and raised \$3,142 or \$65 per hour worked.

These can be considered excellent and productive operations which show what motivated volunteers can accomplish when everyone one works toward the same goal of meeting human needs in the name of Christ. I thank each and every one of you for a great job. May God bless every one of you.

Charlie Stracuzzi.

2020 STEERING COMMITTEE & MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

President
Marcia Steiner

Vice President
Ron Knepshield

Treasurer
Diane Hirling

Secretary
Paula Akucewich

Community Outreach Ministry
Karen Overly

Discipleship Ministry
Pat Leader

Property Ministry
Donna Pecho

Shepherds Ministry
Wilma Osterhoudt

Worship Ministry
Carol McDonnold



Ladies Brunch

Wednesday, February 12th @11:30 am
Judy Luttrell's Patio Home (317) 840-2900
The Lakes @ St Lucie West
1206 C NW Sun Terrace Circle

Come Join Us for food and great conversation.

Please RSVP
Lee Hicks , Phone: 772-879-1205

Growing Through Grief



Have you recently experienced a significant loss?
Would you like the support of others who have been there too?

Tuesday, February 18th @7:00pm
at the Church

See Gladys Dolan for more info.



4-Linda Bailey
4-Bob Day
8-Karen Chirichello
9-Viviene Sewell
10-Krissi Geraci
10-Gary Lauer
10-Debbie Trussel
20-Millie Donor
23-Rilyn Zech
25-Diane Richards
26-Linda Gaudette
28-Jean Adkins
28-Wilma Osterhoudt
28-Donna Pecho



9-Diane & Richard Volkart
15-Carol & Bob McDonnold
21-Denise & Robert Andrade

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Sisters in Faith 10 am
2 Choir 8 am Worship 9 am	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4	5 Bible Study 10 am Choir 7 pm	6 Community Meal 5-6:30 pm	7	8 Steering Committee Goal-Setting Retreat 9 am
9 Choir 8 am Worship 9 am	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11	12 Bible Study 10 am Faith Ladies Valentines Brunch 11:30 am Choir 7 pm	13 Community Meal 5-6:30 pm	14 	15 Church Work Day 8 am
16 Choir 8 am Worship 9 am Shepherds 10:15 am	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 Growing Through Grief 7 pm	19 Bible Study 10 am Choir 7 pm	20 Community Meal 5-6:30 pm	21 Steering Committee 10 am	22
23 Choir 8 am Worship 9 am	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25	26 Bible Study 10 am Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	27 Community Meal 5-6:30 pm	28	29