

Our Desperate Need

Pastor Marty Berglund

Page 4

Alpha

Page 12-13

God@Work

Page 23-24

Connection

FELLOWSHIP ALLIANCE CHAPEL — MEDFORD, NJ — DECEMBER 2015

Luke 2:11-12

"For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FAC NEWSLETTER

MINISTRIES

GUEST RECEPTION

Held after each worship service in Room A-08 next to the Sanctuary, Guest Receptions are for visitors and anyone else who would like to learn more about FAC and how to get connected.

No registration is necessary. Just join us!

NEXT STEPS

A new Next Steps group begins Dec. 6 and runs for three consecutive Sundays in Room A-09.

Lunch will be served.

Next Steps is the place to get connected and learn more about FAC while exploring our values and beliefs based on faith in Jesus Christ.

You can register for Next Steps at www.myfac.org/register.



WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Nursery and Kids' Bible Study (KBS) are provided during every service for babies through fourth graders. Ask a greeter for directions to classes.

The Friendship Class for teens and adults with special needs meets during the 9:00 a.m. service in Room B-10.

Interpretation for the hearing impaired is available during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

7 News & Notes

10 Children's Ministries

11 High School Ministry
Grades 9-12

12 Alpha

14 Women's Ministries

18 Men's Ministries

19 miniChurches &
smallGroups

20 JOY

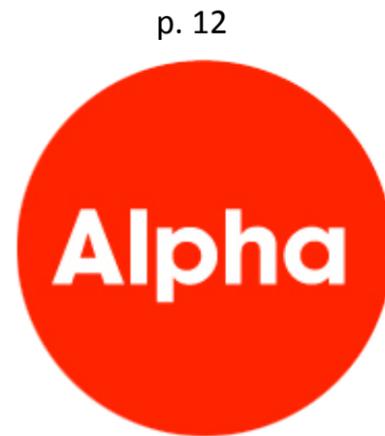
FAC Counseling Center

21 Missions:
Ben & Kristy Williams

22 Missions: FASA
Fellowship Alliance
Southern Africa

25 Facts & Figures

26 Directory



p. 12

p. 14



p. 19

FEATURES

4 "Our Desperate Need"
Pastor Marty Berglund

p. 18

5 Christmas Eve Services

6 "Encouragement for the Journey"
Laurie Berglund

8 Ministry Profile: Level 5

23 God@Work . . .
In the Life of Terri Merola



p.23



p. 8

OUR DESPERATE NEED

Dear Church Family,

If I needed help, would you help me? If I needed some food, would you feed me? If I needed a friend, would you be my friend?

Now you may wonder what I did to get myself into a position where I needed so much help. If you've helped people in your past, you know that often we bring the problems on ourselves by our own actions or inactions. But would that stop you from trying to help me?

Christmas is about God looking at us on earth and seeing our desperate need for help, but also seeing that we brought our needs upon ourselves in the form of many and oft-repeated sins in our lives. So God, in His kindness and love, told Joseph and eventually Mary, the mother of Jesus, "She will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

God graciously helped us in our need — not because we deserved it, but because He loved us. Christmas is a celebration of God's reaching out to help all who will turn to Him.

I urge you to turn to Jesus as your actual "Savior" from the sins that are in your life — things you know have caused you to need help and those you don't even recognize yet. Turn to your Savior and He will save you.

That's why He came. That's why we celebrate.

Love never fails,



Christmas Eve Services

Service Times: 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, and 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS

DO YOU GET IT?



Encouragement for the *Journey*



In preparation for Christmas, I always like to go back and read the accounts in the Gospels of Jesus' birth. I don't ever want the story to get old for me so I find different ways and places to read it. This year, I read it in a version that I haven't used for a while, The Message, and I really enjoyed it. The book of Matthew starts out with establishing Jesus' genealogy. God obviously thought it was important for us to know His Son's heritage. So there's a long list of the generations of men from Abraham to Joseph — Jesus' earthly Father. The list includes lots of men's names you would recognize from reading the Old Testament — many of them the names of kings, starting with David.

There was also a small collection of women who were included in the family tree of Jesus — four to be exact. And the women He chose to mention were quite remarkable when you consider the names He didn't mention — like Eve and Sarah and Rebekah and Rachel. Those are the "reputable" women I would have mentioned if I were telling about my child's family tree. But the names God mentioned — besides Mary — were these: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Tamar pretended to be a prostitute to deceive her father-in-law; Rahab was a prostitute, no pretending; Ruth was a foreigner; and Bathsheba was an adulteress. If you were trying to impress, which list of names would you bring up? When I tell about MY family heritage, I certainly don't mention

my Great Uncle Mike who died in the electric chair!

But that's just the thing — God is never trying to impress. That is always a surprise to us because that impulse is so natural to us! There was only one word that kept coming to mind as I read through that chapter in Matthew — the word "GRACE." Who but God would highlight the broken people that were part of Jesus' legacy?!

I wrote this in my journal after reading that: "Even Your genealogy reminds me of Your grace. If I were going to send my son to earth, I would choose a family line that was more perfect — without such big sinners! But You chose adulterers and harlots and foreigners and wicked kings as part of Your family tree. And You're GOD! The grace is staggering."

Paul Miller was talking about this very thing in his book, *The Loving Life* (which, by the way, has been my favorite book of the year). He said, "God loves to use despised and broken people as trophies of His grace. Jesus is honored to have these people in His legacy."

What a good reminder to us as we enter the holidays — because there's not a one of us that doesn't come to the celebration broken and in need of grace.

Laurie Berglund

Who but God would highlight the broken people that were part of Jesus' legacy?!

NEWS & NOTES

ANGEL TREE REMINDER

On Dec. 19, meet in the Sanctuary for additional items to deliver with your gifts.

On Dec. 19 through 25, deliver your gifts.

Angel Tree is an outreach to children who have a mother and/or father in prison. Not only are we able to give gifts to more than 350 children, but we are also able to spend some time with the children and their families when we deliver the gifts.

For more information, contact the Shoemakers (shoemaker23@comcast.net) or the Henrys (stcahenry@gmail.com).

A GIFT OF HOPE - For single moms

- Tags are available in the Welcome Center on Dec. 5/6.
- Gifts must be returned by Dec. 13.

A Gift of Hope is a Christmas ministry for our Fresh Hope single moms and their children. The moms have submitted gift requests, which have been placed on gift tags located in the Welcome Center. To participate, choose a tag and purchase that gift for one of our Fresh Hope children.

If you have questions, contact Debbie Schneck, debbie@myfac.org.

SNOW DEN

SNOW Den provides a place for adults with special needs to connect to God and to friends. SNOW Den meets in the Sanctuary on select Friday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to participate in events such as bingo, karaoke, bowling, pizza, and so much more!

*For December, SNOW Den meets on Dec. 11.
For more information, send an e-mail to snowden.fac@gmail.com.*

WHAT'S YOUR NEWS?

Do you have an announcement that you would like to share with your church family? Engaged? Getting married? New baby? Graduating? Please let us know!

We are planning a new page for this newsletter. It will be called "Family News," and we want to include your information. Please send up to 50 words to lynn@myfac.org. Deadlines are the 5th of every month so if you want something in the January issue, please send it by Dec. 5. We would love to have a photo (JPG format) to accompany your announcement.

CAN YOU HELP IN OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES?

We have openings in our Elementary Ministry for children in Grades 1-4. Open positions are for teachers, teachers' assistants, and greeters. All materials are provided.

No experience is necessary; serve every week or once a month to suit your schedule.

If you would like to know more about how you can help, contact Julie Durdin, julie@myfac.org.

FAC WHEELS

Team members are currently providing transportation on a limited basis for those who don't have the means or ability to drive to FAC. We need more volunteers to offer additional service to many more who are in need.

You can drive for just one service each month. There is a church vehicle or you can use your own.

If you are interested in becoming part of the FAC Wheels team or if you need transportation to FAC for services/events, contact Jim Hogan at, facwheels@myfac.org, or 609-953-7333, x306. Leave a message.

THE BEN CENTER

Do you have a heart for those in need? Are you a good listener? Do you have gifts of compassion, mercy, or hospitality? If so, consider volunteering at the FAC Benevolence Center as an Intake Representative.

Intake reps talk to people who are applying for assistance; they hear their stories; they pray with them and direct them to ministries at FAC when needed.

For more information, contact Tracy Cossabone, bencenter@myfac.org. Training is provided.

MINISTRY PROFILE: Level 5

FOR FIFTH GRADERS

"This ministry has shown me how awesome God truly is!" said Russ Batten, leader of FAC's Level 5 ministry. "Realizing that God gave me the responsibility to oversee the fifth graders is a great experience, but I've realized that I truly cannot do it without Him. I have learned to rely on His strength in all situations of my life. I surely don't have all the answers in life."

Russ became involved as a leader in the Level 5 ministry in 2009 when he was a senior in high school. Eventually, his role developed, and he gained more responsibility. Today he oversees numerous fifth graders who come to church on Sunday mornings and who meet for Level 5 on Sunday nights.

Russ loves how Level 5 has been bringing fifth graders closer to God and one another. Each Sunday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Haines Sixth Grade Center, many fifth graders come together for fun games, worship, a message, and small-group time. "During these times is when the children really have the opportunity to grow closer with God," Russ explained. "This is especially true in the groups when children have the opportunity to ask questions about their lives. Then the leaders can encourage the children to continue to follow Christ and teach them about prayer."

At Level 5, there is a large group of volunteer leaders who range from high school age to adults. "They are all a key part of this ministry and are the ones who are in the trenches leading these children," said Russ. "Some leaders come early to Level 5 and help set up all of our sound equipment. Having leaders do that is such

a huge part of our ministry and a huge blessing because there is no way I would be able to do all of that by myself."

Russ is genuinely thankful to be working with a great team who encourages the children with their walk with Jesus Christ. Jeanette Greeley is one Level 5 leader who felt called to help children grow spiritually and develop meaningful relationships with others. Knowing how much youth leaders had impacted her made her want to volunteer in the Level 5 ministry.

"I knew God was telling me it was time to give back some of what I had learned as a child to these fifth graders," Jeanette said.

For three years, Jeanette has enjoyed making sure kids have an opportunity to learn about God in a safe, fun environment. She added, "I love how after working all week long I can let loose with the kids and just have fun! We try to make learning God's Word meaningful and fun at the same time. When children let their guards down and talk about the Bible, they are also letting their guards down to develop friendships with one another. I continue to pray that God gives me the wisdom to help these children at Level 5."

Royce Adams is another leader who volunteers in the Level 5 ministry. For about four years, he's enjoyed coming each Sunday night to see all the children. "The kids are awesome," said Royce. "I love seeing how involved they get when they dress up for the themes, and I love getting to interact with them throughout the night. Russ does a fantastic job making the messages easy for the fifth graders to understand and gives the kids time to talk about what they learned."

Every Sunday night after the children hear a message, they break off into groups, and Royce gets the wonderful opportunity to talk with the kids and hear their feedback. "I am a small-group leader for a group of 8 to 10 boys, and I make sure that all the kids are having fun," he added. "Small groups give kids the opportunity to make a deeper connection with their friends. It is a great time for me to show the kids that

I care about them and want them to have fun, but I also want them to grow in their relationship with God."

Many children look forward to coming to Level 5 each Sunday during the school year. They enjoy creating special memories at

thankful for Level 5!"

Russ would greatly appreciate prayer for this important ministry. "Please pray that we as leaders are able to reach the hearts of these children," he said. "Pray that their hearts are open to what God has called

"I CARE ABOUT THEM AND WANT THEM TO HAVE FUN, BUT I ALSO WANT THEM TO GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD."

the meetings, and they have fun learning more about what it means to embrace and accept God's love.

Fifth grader, Adam Connor, shared, "I love Level 5 because I get to come out and meet with my friends and talk about God. I like the visuals they show us during the message. It makes it fun. The leaders are nice to us. If we have a problem, they help us and encourage us."

Avery Street, another fifth grader, shared, "Level 5 is awesome. They give us fun games to play, and we get to talk about our feelings in the small groups. Mr. Russ puts on great lessons that inspire us to go out and tell others about God. I'm very

them to do. We only see them for a few hours every week to be able to teach them the truth about the Bible. The rest of the week they are learning and hearing so many other things. I pray God shows them who He truly is as they begin to develop into teenagers."

If you have any questions and/or would like to learn more about Level 5, go to www.myfac.org; Get Connected; then to For Youth.

Russ Batten can be contacted at 609-953-7333, x134, or russ@myfac.org.

The middle school Sunday night programs are not meeting in December. Join Level 5 and Planet 678 for all the fun in 2016, beginning on Sun., Jan. 24.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Nursery & Preschool Ministry

During all worship services

- Infants (birth through 14 months)
- Toddlers (15 – 24 months)
- Preschool (25 months to Kindergarten)

Elementary Ministry for Grades 1 through 4

- Kids' Bible Study (KBS)
Held during all worship services
- Kingdom Kids' Clubhouse for ages 4 through kindergartners
Sunday evenings during the school year, 6:00 to 8:00, in the Chapel
No meetings during December
- Kingdom Kids' Club for Grades 1- 4
Sunday evenings during the school year, 6:00 to 8:00, in the Sanctuary
No meetings during December

SNOW Kids

For Children with Special Needs

- Babies through fifth graders
- Provides one-on-one "SNOW buddies"
- 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. weekly in Room B-12

Ask an usher or greeter for directions to children's classes held during worship services.

LOTS OF FUN! LOTS OF LEARNING ABOUT JESUS!

Our desire is for every child at the earliest age possible to know that Jesus loves him/her.

In the nurseries, in Kids' Bible Study and SNOW Kids classes during worship services, in Sunday night Kingdom Kids, and in all special events and activities, our teachers want to demonstrate the love of Jesus. Teachers and assistants are screened; background checks are conducted. Strict precautions are taken to ensure the safety of each child.

And — we believe in fun! FAC children look forward to going to church — a pattern we want to establish early in life! Age-appropriate songs, lessons, and activities are creatively prepared each week to emphasize an understanding of who Jesus is and to give a strong foundation in the teaching of the Bible.

For 2016, in addition to weekend activities, special events are being planned that we know the children will love and remember. Look for information on our website, www.myfac.org, and in this monthly newsletter as it becomes available.

Last month, we welcomed our new director of children's ministries, Warnesia Travasso, to FAC! One of her goals is to reinforce the understanding that in addition to attending classes, children have a vital part to play in the life of our church. Warnesia says, "In Mark 10, Jesus instructed that we are to welcome children because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. This is our mandate as a church as we think about children and those with special needs being valuable and contributing members of our church family. Whether it be as prayer warriors, Scripture readers or ushers, we are praying through ideas and developing strategy. Continue praying for our next generation of worshipers and world changers and for us to have wisdom as we seek the Lord's face."

We welcome your children to Children's Ministry at FAC! They will have fun; they will learn about Jesus! They will learn the stories in the Bible, and they will learn how those stories apply to their lives!

Leadership for Children's & Youth Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

GRADES 5 THROUGH 12

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH -- FOR GRADES 5-8

PLANET & LEVEL 5 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: Dec. 6 | **Location:** Medford Memorial Middle School | **Cost:** \$2.00
Registration: www.myfac.org/register

LEVEL 5 & PLANET FOR 2016

The middle school Sunday night programs are not meeting in December. Join Level 5 and Planet 678 for all the fun in 2016, beginning on Sun., Jan. 24.

YOUTH IMPACT -- FOR GRADES 9-12

SMALL-GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Monday evening, Dec. 7

Small groups will be getting together to celebrate Christmas. Locations and times will be determined by the small group leaders.



INSIGHT FOR 2016

Begins Jan. 18 | Monday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Don't miss this chance to connect with other high school students from all around the area and to connect to God through hang-out time, student-led music, a relevant message from God's Word, and discussions with friends and leaders about life.

Insight is free; no registration is necessary.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or would like to volunteer in the high school ministries, contact Pastor Mike Williams, mike@myfac.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

(Babies-Grade 4)



Warnesia Travasso, Director

Preschool Team Elementary Team Snow Team

YOUTH MINISTRIES

(Grade 5-12)



Pastor Erik Jarvis, Director

Grade 5 Team Middle School Team High School Team



YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, ALPHA HAS ANSWERS

BEGINS JAN. 13 AND RUNS FOR 10 CONSECUTIVE WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M.

If God's so good, why is there so much suffering in the world? Where was God when our son got hit by that car? How can I really know God even exists, anyway? Christians say the Bible is the Word of God, and that Jesus rose from the dead, but how do I know it's not all just a bunch of myths and legends handed down through the ages?

Do you wrestle with questions like these? Do you know someone who does? If so, then you're invited to sign up for the 2016 winter session of the free ALPHA Course, which gets under way in January and offers adults of all ages and beliefs a place to discuss their honest questions about God, faith, and Christianity.

Unlike a traditional class, ALPHA unfolds in a small-group discussion format over 10 Wednesday evenings and one "Super Saturday." Each session starts in the Sanctuary with a free catered dinner and time of fellowship, followed by an engaging video presentation by British vicar Nicky Gumbel on a specific aspect of God, faith and Christianity. Each group of 10 to 15 people then heads off to its own room to discuss what they've learned.

More than 1,000 men, women and young adults—young, old, believers and non-believers alike—have taken the ALPHA course at Fellowship Alliance Chapel. Among the benefits participants come away with are a greater understanding of Christianity, a closer relationship with God and Jesus Christ, and even lasting new friendships.

ALPHA has been "a wonderful resource for me to learn more about the Bible, God and Jesus Christ," said Scott Hoover. New to FAC, Scott sought to get connected to others and renew his relationship with Jesus Christ through the recent fall course. "Sometimes we all need to 'get back to basics' to grow ourselves and our faith. Alpha has given me unique perspectives about others' faith and the teachings of the Bible, which, in turn, have allowed me to grow my knowledge and relationship with God and Jesus Christ," Scott said.

"I had a lot of fundamental questions about God and Christianity that I had never had the courage to address in the past even though I had grown up in a Christian family," said Rachel Yee, a student at Princeton University. "I feel that God has been so intentional about drawing me closer to Him and has provided the time for me to go to ALPHA and learn more about Him. I also met some wonderful people of all ages that have been speaking so much truth into my life."

Rachel met Brittany Evans, a fellow college student, at the fall session. The two struck up a friendship and are now exploring their mutual interest in the historical roots of their faith.

"We began meeting at the Burlington County Library to go through books to help us answer our questions about Christianity and even got some other friends of ours to join us," Brittany said.

GOD IS AT WORK THROUGH ALPHA

ALPHA truly has the power to change lives. Just ask Donna Mengel, who heard about ALPHA through her friend, Barbara Zieger.

"I felt lost, fearful, anxious and broken. I needed comfort and wanted to know more about God," recalled Donna, who came out this past fall to her first ALPHA meeting, where she was greeted with a hug by Noelle Rosse, a group host.

"I told Donna to call me if she needed to talk," Noelle said. "I told her I go to the 11 o'clock service at FAC and I'm in the front afterward praying with anyone who needs prayer." The two women met after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 4, and talked for more than an hour. Donna said she knew about God but did not know much about Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Noelle spoke to her about the meaning of John 3:16. Then Donna accepted Noelle's invitation to pray and ask Jesus to come into her life as Lord and Savior.

"I gave her a Bible and a copy of the Book of John to read," Noelle said. "Now Donna is changed from that fearful and anxious person, and she is happy and a completely new person. She is in prayer all the time and listening to Christian radio when she goes to work. Her attitude and demeanor are calm and she feels a peace in her heart, and now she is praying for her children. Praise the Lord!" •

"ALPHA transformed my relationship with God from one of distance and feeling lost to one of closeness and understanding," said Amy Yeatman who took the course in the spring and returned as a co-host in the fall session. "Everyone I encountered through Alpha made me feel so welcome and at home," Amy added.

"Out of these meetings I've learned not only that God is always with me, but there are so many others with similar situations. I have never been more motivated to have a true relationship with God," said Anna Kiriluk.

Asked what she would say to someone who expressed curiosity or doubts about spiritual matters, Rachel said she'd strongly recommend attending the ALPHA course.

"If you have any inclination to learn more about God or just to talk about God in an open setting, I urge you to go," she said. "Even if you are a skeptic and don't even believe that God exists, just go and try it out. You might be pleasantly surprised. I honestly wish I hadn't waited this long to do it. It's never too late to ask the questions you've always wondered about."

The upcoming session of ALPHA runs for 10 consecutive Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., starting Jan. 13, plus the "Super Saturday" morning session, which includes breakfast and lunch, on Feb. 20. Sign up online at www.myfac.org/register. •



MORE THAN A FEW GOOD REASONS TO ATTEND ALPHA

We asked recent attendees to give their best reasons to take the ALPHA course:

Scott Hoover

1. You are never too old, too young, or too smart to learn something new, especially something about the Bible, God and Jesus Christ.

2. With the stress that sometimes comes from daily work and life, it is a great way to "refresh" your spirit during the week.

3. You will meet some incredible people who have incredible stories to tell about their relationship with God.

Charlie Young

The fellowship is awesome. You will learn more about Jesus and yourself the more you attend.

Brittany Evans

1. The possibility of new friends who you can freely ask questions with

2. The chance to discuss religion and faith with others in a wide range of ages and stages of life; and

3. For the winter session of Alpha, the social atmosphere is a great mood booster!

Rachel Yee

1. You will meet amazing people who are truly searching for answers. I promise you will have a safe space to ask ANY question.

2. Talking through your questions really does help. It definitely helped to relieve a lot of guilt I had about not understanding things that I should have, since I grew up in the church.

3. The food — especially the dessert — is really good!

Ashelee Silpath

It is an amazing experience of a lifetime. You will not only learn, but also bond and build relationships with the Lord and new friends.

Joy (last name not provided)

Alpha is non-judgmental and effortless. All questions are answered with kindness, caring and consideration.

Lauren Berman

You learn so much! It almost gives you a guide to go to when you are faced with confusing or hard-to-answer questions like "Who is the Holy Spirit?"; "Why is it important to pray?"; and "Why do some people speak in tongues?"

Nancy Scelso

1. You get to ask questions you always wanted to ask but were afraid you might be judged by others.

2. You learn things from other people's questions you may never have thought about before.

3. It is impossible not to learn something new about God, Jesus and your faith when you get into a room full of God's children who are on many different levels but seeking to know Him more.

WOMEN
Walking in
grace

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

REVIVING YOUR GOD-GIVEN DREAM

MAR. 11 & 12

Would you like to understand who God created you to be and who He created the people in your life to be? Would you like to embrace your God-given dream and not quit in the process of pursuing it, even if it feels like it has drifted out of reach?

Join us for the Walking in Grace two-day Women's Conference on Fri. and Sat., Mar. 11 and 12. Two gifted, fun-loving speakers from the Proverbs 31 Ministry, Lisa Allen and Nicki Koziarz, will share their three messages that are both humorous and full of truth.

The conference will be held at The Westin Mount Laurel Hotel, 555 Fellowship Road in Mt. Laurel. Times are Fri., Mar. 11, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 12, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost of the conference is \$129. Gift certificates to the conference are

available and would make a great Christmas gift! Scholarships will be available for FAC women on a first-come, first-serve basis, based on donations to the scholarship fund.

A block of rooms has been reserved for Fri. evening, Mar. 11. The special rate for women attending the conference is \$127 per room with up to four women per room to share the cost. Contact the Westin Hotel to arrange a room reservation. Mention FAC for the discounted price.

Invite your friends! Register through Feb. 28 at www.myfac.org/women. If you have questions, contact Lisa Russell, 609-519-7057, or Debbie Schneck, 609-953-7333, x125.



FRESH HOPE- For single moms

NEXT MEETING: SUN., JAN. 24

The women of Fresh Hope would like to invite all single moms to join them at their next meeting on Jan. 24 for dinner, teaching, encouragement, and fun.

Fresh Hope meets one Sunday evening each month from 5:00 to 8:00. Dinner is provided for the moms and their children. Children's and youth programs are available at 6:00, including Kingdom Kids' Clubs, Level 5, and Planet 678. Childcare is provided for children who are too young to participate in the FAC programs. Note: Please register your children prior to the meetings.

There is no cost to attend Fresh Hope. To register, go to www.myfac.org/women, or call Debbie Schneck, 609-953-7333, x125.

For more information, contact Debbie Schneck, 609-953-7333, x125.

Walk-ins are always welcome!

FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHES CLOSET

In conjunction with Fresh Hope and the FAC Benevolence Center, the Food Pantry and the Clothes Closet will be open to all Fresh Hope moms on Sun., Dec. 6, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

MY ONE WORD

Tuesday mornings from 9:15 to 11:15; Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26
Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00; Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28
Childcare available for all sessions; cost is \$25

The concept of My One Word is simple. Choose just one word that represents what you most hope God will do in you, and focus on that word for an entire year. This single act will force clarity and concentrate your efforts.

As you focus on your word, you position yourself for God to form your character at a deep, sustainable level, and growth and change will result. Anyone who previously took the class but would like to attend again is welcome.

My one word for 2015 is Magnify. Through this word, God has led me to emphasize His presence in my life by initiating conversations

with others in order to magnify His glory. (Karen)

My word "rest" came to me as I thought how I don't get enough physical rest. I knew God was telling me I was staying up too late and not taking care of myself. As I went through the year, the meaning of my word changed. I feel God was telling me that the dishes, laundry, cleaning, shopping, etc. can wait, but the opportunities to "rest" in the Lord with my daughter and teaching her about Jesus will be lost if I don't take them. (Karen)

When I'm journaling, every time I write my word, I write it in caps and underline it. That brings it to my mind and I stop for a second and pray or just ponder what the word has come to mean to me during this year. I love my word! (Janet)

My word for 2015 is freedom; my verse for the year is 2 Corinthians 3:17: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (Steph)

MOMS' TIME OUT (MTO)

BEGINS: THURS., JAN. 28

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: TUES., JAN. 12

COST: \$55.00

The leaders of Moms' Time Out have planned another great semester to encourage moms in their very important role as mothers. All women with children, babies through eighth graders, are invited to attend.

Childcare, Kids' Time In, is provided for babies through kindergartners and for home-schooled children in Grades 1-3. Kids' Time In is a Children's Ministry program.

For more information and to register, go to www.myfac.org/women. Cost is \$55. If you have questions, contact Debbie Schneck, 609-953-7333, x125, or debbie@myfac.org.

MENTOR MOMS

FEB. 16 – MAY 10

Mentor Moms is a ministry pairing older moms with younger moms. Mentor Moms encourage, guide, and empower the younger ones in their role as a Christian wife and mother.

While there is minimal homework, reading a chapter in a book and being prepared to discuss

it, Mentor Moms is more about processing together what is going on in our lives.

Mentor Moms meets weekly on Tuesday mornings from 9:15 to 11:15; childcare is provided for babies through kindergartners. Space is limited; this is a commitment that you should be prepared to honor. Cost is \$20, which includes the book and childcare.

If you have questions, contact Karen Cariss, kjcariss@aol.com.

DEEPENING GROUPS

A Deepening Group offers an accepting, long-term, safe community that allows its members the freedom for open and honest sharing.

Are you looking for a small group that will encourage and challenge you to become the person God created you to be? Do you desire to support and serve others to help them become all that God intended them to be? Are you driven to pursue your place and purpose in the Kingdom of God? If so, a Deepening Group is designed to offer that and more.

JOINING A DEEPENING GROUP

Go to www.myfac.org; click "Get Connected" – For Women – Deepening Groups; and complete the Deepening Group Participant Interest Form.

If you have questions after reading the information provided on the website, contact Carol Batten at carol@myfac.org.





aWAKEN BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The leadership team of Heart to Heart Bible Studies has changed the name of Heart to Heart to aWAKEN Bible Studies for Women to better reflect the purpose of this ministry. aWAKEN invites all women to the spring semester of classes — classes that are designed to equip and empower women as they aWAKEN to the gifts God has given them for service in His kingdom. All the studies include teaching, interaction, and small group discussions. Service opportunities are also available throughout the semester.

There are four primary areas of study where women can aWAKEN to all that God has for them: Learning, Healing, Living, Serving.

Classes are held on Tuesdays, 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., beginning Feb. 23. The registration deadline is Tues., Feb. 9.

Prices listed are “early bird pricing” for registrations received by the end of January. For registrations received in February, there is an additional fee of \$10. To register, go to www.myfac.org/women.

Childcare for the morning classes is available through True Treasures, a Children’s Ministry program, for babies through kindergartners; there is no cost. Childcare is available during the evening classes for babies through eighth graders. PM Childcare cost: free for infants through kindergartners; \$30 per child in first grade through eighth grade; or \$50 per family.

Scholarships are available. Please contact Debbie Schneck, 609-953-7333, x125 with questions or to request a scholarship.

LEARNING **LEARNING HIS WORD SO WE CAN AWAKEN TO WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT GOD, HIS PEOPLE, AND HIS WORK.**



HERE AND NOW, THERE AND THEN, BY BETH MOORE

AM & PM

Homework: 10 minutes per day
Cost: \$20

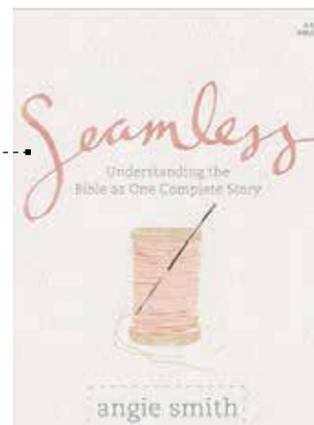
This 11-week study is an overview of the book of Revelation. Beth Moore presents many points of view, allowing women to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars. She teaches that God is as specific about what He does reveal as He is about what He does not reveal. She states, “Everything about Revelation is the consummation of what began in Genesis”.

SEAMLESS: UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE AS ONE COMPLETE STORY, BY ANGIE SMITH

AM & PM

Homework: 5 days/week, 20 minutes per day
Cost: \$25

This seven-week study covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible. Participants will gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of God’s Word. Each week of study features key information that ties all of Scripture together into the seamless truth of the Gospel message and is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies.



HEALING **Healing our physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds as we aWAKEN the power of Christ in us by applying His Word.**

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

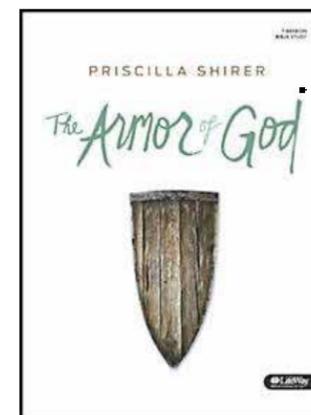
PM only

In the sex-saturated culture in which we live, pornography is just a click of the computer keys away, but the fruit it offers is poison, and it leaves its users spiritually and relationally weakened. Both men and women are ensnared by pornography, but users are overwhelmingly male. If your husband is or has been addicted to pornography, aWAKEN is offering a group for you. Wives are too often suffering in the shadows and they feel the need to, or have been told to keep the secret and not talk about what is going on. With topics like Hope, Surrender, Trust and Forgiveness, you will find a safe place to heal and be with other women who understand your situation.

Homework: Reading and journaling
Cost: \$30

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information and to register, send an e-mail to WalkingintheLightFAC@gmail.com by Feb. 9. Confidentiality will be protected.

LIVING **Living as we aWAKEN to how God would have us walk through the various stages of life as Christian women.**

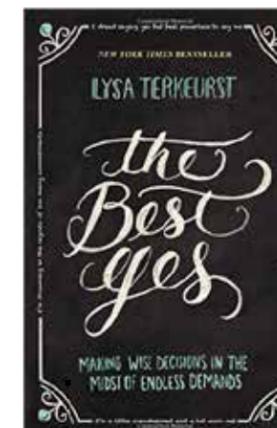


“THE ARMOR OF GOD,” BY PRISCILLA SHIRER

PM only

The Armor of God is a seven-session class that aims to equip women to get serious, specific, and strategic in their discipline of prayer. If you want to expand your understanding of prayer and develop and implement practical, purposeful prayer strategies, this class is for you. This class is appropriate for inexperienced Bible study students as well as those well-versed in Scriptures.

Homework: 5 days /week, 20 minutes per day
Cost: \$25



“THE BEST YES-MAKING WISE DECISIONS IN THE MIDST OF ENDLESS DEMANDS,” BY LYSA TERKEURST

AM and PM

Homework: 5 days/week; 20 minutes per day
Cost: \$20

In this six-session, video-based Bible study, Lysa TerKeurst shares how to make better use of the two most powerful words, yes and no. Using Biblical teaching and practical insights, this study will help you be more equipped to discern the best yes answers for your life.

“FAITHFULLY FIT”

AM and PM



People without boundaries can quickly lose direction. In Faithfully Fit, we will learn how to create intentional boundaries to leap the hurdles of temptation and not compromise your commitment to wellness. Using the book, *Healthy Boundaries*, this 12-week class will help you discover how God can empower you to assess, define, and rebuild physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual boundaries.

Please note: This is not an exercise class. However, there are wellness topic discussions highlighted at each meeting and some group members meet before or after class to walk and share together.

Cost: \$30

Registration is open continuously as we want this class to be available to you as you need it.

MEN, GET 2016 OFF TO AN "Intensive" START MONDAYS AND SATURDAYS IN JANUARY

Guys, chances are you haven't even thought about Christmas shopping yet, much less what resolutions to set for 2016. Yet, now's the time to resolve to get your New Year off to a strong start by taking an FAC "Men's Intensive" in January.

Offered for the first time last January, the Men's Intensives are a series of deep-dive studies taking place one night a week over four weeks. You can choose one Intensive from a list of options. The 2016 slate of Intensives has not yet been finalized; however, they are all scheduled to take place at FAC from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays, Jan. 11, 18, 25, and Feb. 1. In addition, an Intensive Bible study of the Book of Philippians will take place at FAC from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2016.

"I have always loved how the Old Testament refers to 'Men of Renown' – simply, great men," says Erik Rebstock, Pastor of Men's Ministries. "Our goal with the Men's Intensives is for them to be led by great men of FAC who are experts in their fields – elders and doctors, pastors and professors, Godly fathers and amazing leaders --- passionate men bent on building men who build men for the glory of God."

Whether you're old or young, Pastor Erik said, the Intensives are built for men who understand the value of their time and are willing to dig in and work hard for four weeks.

"There are 168 hours in every week, 672 every four weeks," he said. "As busy men in a busy world, we cannot afford to waste time. The eight hours you spend in a Men's Intensive may be the only eight that carry a striking impact that affects your family for generations."

Men who took last year's first round of Intensives agree:

"It is a great opportunity to focus on one area of your life and develop intentional actions and activities to improve," said Paul Fetterolf. "For me, being intentional about the relationship with my boys has had significant impact. The activities forced me to have conversations I wouldn't have had with them. They have a much clearer understanding of my faith and personal commitment to God in raising them to know Him and His ways."

"We men live in a hectic world where our busy-ness is worn as a badge of honor," said Brian Potter. "The men's Intensives allow men the opportunity to slow down and dig deeper into Biblical areas of interest. Men can discuss challenging topics and get pointed in the right direction while sharing our joys and challenges with other God-focused men." The Intensive class he took, Brian added, "helped me to remain focused on God's principles throughout the week and develop a practical daily application of those principles."

"Men should participate in the Men's Intensives to gain practical, Christian-based knowledge from fellow brothers in Christ," said Tim Barrett. "I would think that the goal of all the Intensive classes is to equip men to be better disciples for Jesus. What I liked most about last year's Intensives were the lively discussions we had around the topic at hand."



The costs of each Men's Intensive range from free to \$15, depending on required course materials. Register online through Jan. 3 at www.myfac.org/register. Contact Pastor Erik Rebstock, erikr@myfac.org, for additional details.



FAC MEN'S CONFERENCE 2016

FEB. 26 & 27 IN THE SANCTUARY

Save the Date!

Find out more about the four essentials to a man moving forward in life: courage, faith, action, and memory. Reserve the dates for the FAC Men's Conference 2016.

For all men and "future men," ages 13 and up

SOMETHING MISSING?



JOIN A MINICHURCH OR SMALL GROUP!



Go to www.myfac.org/joinmc. If you have questions, contact Pastor Dave Krilov, 609-953-7333, x105, or davek@myfac.org.





Transforming Life Center

Counseling, Coaching, and Education

The FAC Transforming Life Center (TLC) is a counseling, coaching, and educational center created with the "whole you" in mind. If you desire emotional, spiritual, and/or physical healing and change, our team of licensed counselors and coaches are ready to assist you with issues related to the following:

We offer Individual counseling for teens and adults, couples counseling, group counseling, one-on-one coaching, and workshops.

Call 609-367-0124, x751, for a free, initial phone consultation.

Marriage and/or parenting Relationships
Anxiety
Depression

Feeling stuck
Past traumatic experiences
Goal setting
Weight management

Addictions
Career questions



Literally weeks after we left Medford and returned to Ukraine in January 2014, full revolution broke out. By March 2014, Russia had annexed Crimea and has been working with separatists to divide Ukraine, one region at a time.

MISSIONS: UKRAINE

A MESSAGE FROM BEN & KRISTY WILLIAMS

Greetings to FAC! We've missed you! It will be two years since we've last been in the States. We are looking forward to being back in New Jersey so that we can be mutually encouraged, hearing stories about what God has been doing in Ukraine, as well as in South Jersey.

We'll be with you from Jan. 2-14. During that time we plan to do an "open house" on Sun., Jan. 10, in the Chapel. It will last from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., allowing people to stop by and reconnect with us. At 1:00 and 6:00 p.m., we will give a short presentation about what God has been doing through us in Ukraine. Please come! All are invited!

Here is just a taste of what has been happening recently and what we'll be sharing:

In the span of the nine years that we've been serving God in Ukraine, the past two years have by far been the most difficult. Literally weeks after we left Medford and returned to Ukraine in January 2014, full revolution broke out. By March 2014, Russia had annexed Crimea and has been working with separatists to divide Ukraine, one region at a time. This is happening in far eastern Ukraine, which is at least 20 hours by car from where we live in Lviv. Nonetheless, the country that has become home to us has experienced deep tragedy, and we've been living in the midst of it.

And, as we've stood side-by-side with Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ through hard times, we can testify that these two years have also been the most fruitful for God's Kingdom. Right now, we are seeing multiplication of leaders and disciple-makers. Church leadership teams are eager to study the life and strategy of Christ and His ministry and apply it to their groups. Young people are accepting Christ and finding their home in the local churches. Through music, sports, camps, and English, we have found strong inroads to connect people with the Gospel. These are exciting times in the history of our ministry, and we're looking forward to sharing more in January.

If you would like to contact us directly, please send an e-mail to bwilliams@josiahventure.com.

In Him,

Ben, Kristy, Marissa,
and Dylan Williams

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

JOY - FOR RETIREMENT-AGED ADULTS

The JOY ministry is under construction. Don't miss the January issue of this newsletter to find out about our new direction. We invite you to come out and experience it for yourself!

2015

YOU'VE PRAYED, YOU'VE GIVEN, NOW GO!

MISSIONS REPORT

WILLIAMS FAMILY

FASA (FELLOWSHIP ALLIANCE SOUTHERN AFRICA)

A REVIEW FROM INTERN JENN DALLOW

Before I jump into my six months in Lephalale, let me rewind and explain how I got there. In 2014, I went on two short-term trips with FASA. Once home, I couldn't stop thinking about the opportunity we had to share the Gospel freely in the public schools. And not only was our sharing allowed, they were asking us to come back as often as we could. God made it clear through His Word, prayer, and circumstances that I was to step out in faith and trust Him with the results. So I left for SA with the primary goal of establishing a public school ministry with local volunteers who I prayed would keep the ministry going once I was gone.

My six months in SA included everything from learning to drive on the other side of the road, eating termites, petting a tiger cub, getting a kiss from an elephant, loving lots of kids, learning some Afrikaans, finding out I have little rhythm, and daily being challenged by God. Since I can't share all these stories I thought I would share three special highlights.



A SPECIAL PRINCIPAL

March and April were spent trying to develop relationships with principals and teachers. I needed to get them on board with my proposed program, which was that each week I'd visit classrooms to talk with the students about character traits and values always through the lens of Scripture. I'd share a Bible story, teach a verse, and play a game.

It wasn't always easy getting the principals to commit. One principal, Mr. Radipabe of Tielelo High School, jumped on board with no hesitation. In fact, he also invited me to share during the morning assembly just so I'd have another opportunity to speak to his students. He cares not only about their education, he cares about their eternity!

Although he is vocal with his students about his beliefs, he wouldn't attend church. When our men's team came in August to host a men's conference, I was able to invite him to church. Because of the relationship one of my male volunteers had built with him he was willing to go, and he came to each session.



A SPECIAL DAY

It was a Tuesday, my day to visit Shongoane High School. It's in a rural area — think donkeys in the road! I had two volunteers with me, Lorenzo and Charlotte. Something I learned while overseas is to hold on to your plans loosely because they often change! This was one of those occasions where I had to be flexible because my plan went out the window. Once we arrived, my contact at that school explained that the kids had requested we pray for them. The rest of that morning was spent in small groups praying with the students. I sat back and watched Charlotte read the Bible with her girls while Lorenzo had his guys in prayer — all in a public school! What a privilege!

That day was special not just because we got to pray with students, but I also got to watch the volunteers step up and take charge. I saw how God had orchestrated Charlotte's presence so we'd have someone for translation.



SPECIAL STUDENTS

The principal of the school with my favorite students did not buy into my proposed program. You may wonder then how did they become my favorite students? God was already clearly at work in Mabalane Seleka High School. I didn't have to start something; I just had to join him in the work he was already doing!

There is a group of about 20 to 35 students who meet each day during their lunch break to sing praises, share testimonies, and read the Word. I was invited to join them so I went almost every Wednesday. I had the pleasure of speaking at one of their events, spending one-on-one time with many of them, and encouraging them in their faith. I have story upon story about these kids. Some of my fondest moments of my time in SA are with them.



If you'd like to hear more stories, I'd love to share them! Send me an email Jennifer.dallow@gmail.com.

God@Work in the Life of ...

Terri Merola



Terri, third from left, is seen here with members of her Friendship Bible Class.

By most accounts, Terri Merola should not be alive today.

As an infant in the hospital, as a young girl experiencing countless seizures, and as a mother of two who endured drilled holes in her skull for two weeks, Terri has survived severe physical hardships that few of us, if any, will ever undergo. But today, Terri can confidently proclaim that God heals. He reveals His purposes, and His plans are for good.

In the early 60's, when she was born, doctors did not know that taking baby aspirin during a bout with chicken pox could lead to encephalitis or even death. At ten months of age, a young Terri lay in a hospital crib at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, suffering with severe convulsions. Doctors told her parents not to expect survival, but after flat lining three times, she came through, amazing her physicians. However, the seizures continued, even with medication.

Coming from a Catholic family, religion was always a core part of Terri's life. Terri remembers that at the age of four she saw

Jesus looking out at her, smiling, wrapped in the arms of the Blessed Mother. Family members chuckled at her, dismissing the vision as a child's passing fantasy, but years later, Terri remembers the moment vividly because after seeing Jesus, she was no longer afraid to die. The neurologist told her parents there was nothing physically wrong with her, suggesting that perhaps the young girl was making up symptoms to gain attention since she was one of six children. Her parents viewed the seizures, especially grand mal seizures, as authentic and provided appropriate care, but believing no medical remedy was available, they disciplined Terri to tolerate her condition.

"Complaining was not acceptable in the family." Throughout elementary school and into high school, Terri learned to hide her epilepsy as much as she could. Friendships were limited as she did not visit classmates' houses for fear of embarrassment if a seizure would take hold. During this time, Terri prayed to God daily. As a good Catholic, she knew how to say Mass backwards and forwards and how to genuflect. She believed in Jesus but did not really understand Christianity. She just pressed on, never

Continued on page 24

feeling sorry for herself, and received her first nursing degree at age twenty-two. Still the seizures continued.

After the birth of her first daughter, the effects of several seizures led to a broken back and broken leg, as well as unemployment for several years. With the support of her husband, Terri persevered, saying her prayers, making Italian dinners, and planning to return to work. However, after the birth of her second daughter at the age of 29, the seizures became intolerable. She was experiencing 30-40 seizures a day and taking triple the adult dosage of three different anticonvulsant drugs, affecting her liver and eyesight. Sometimes she had to hold onto the walls to maneuver through the house. Finally, at a reluctant visit to another neurologist, she and her parents were told that, in fact, her symptoms formed a classic example of complex partial and simple partial seizures. In other words, her ongoing problems had been physically based. At the comprehensive epilepsy center at Thomas Jefferson University, Terri underwent grueling tests to see if she was a candidate for brain surgery. In one test, holes were drilled in her skull so doctors could test memory from both sides of the brain. After thirty-seven years of daily strain, with a gifted surgeon working on her temporal lobe, Terri went from 40 seizures in a day to none.

"I have had colleagues say to me, 'Wow, you must feel like you have your life back'—and I reply—"No, it is better than that, I have a life that I never had before." God healed her of physical pain, and she believed God now wanted her to be a different person.

Yet in the next several years, she was still struggling, but this time the problem wasn't physical. It was spiritual. Even though she was taking courses for advanced nursing degrees, working with cancer patients in the ICU, and raising her daughters, she felt her life lacked purpose. Her marriage suffered. Then her friend Valerie Chapman invited her to FAC, telling her something needed to change.



Terri (left) is pictured here with one of her patients (second from left).

"For the first eight weeks, I sat in the back and listened. I felt Marty and the other pastors were speaking directly to me. Tears ran down my face. Where do I fit in, I wondered." With the help of Pastors Marty, Glenn, and others, Terri began to understand the gift of salvation from Jesus which she did not fully grasp growing up. God gave me the wisdom to understand that my purpose on this earth is to help others."

After six months at FAC, Terri knew she needed to get involved in service. She heard God saying, "Terri, I saved you for others." For the past ten years she has served with the SNOW ministry. She says, "The SNOW ministry is the most rewarding thing I have ever participated in my life, including all of the critical care cases I've been involved in over the past 30 years.

Today, Terri works as a pediatric critical care nurse and as a full time faculty member at Our Lady of Lourdes School of

Nursing. In addition, she is halfway through her PhD coursework in Nursing Administration. When she considers her decades of epilepsy and physical struggles, she knows that God has saved her for His purposes. He has healed her both physically and spiritually. "When I see a sick child who is fighting cancer and that child turns around with a smile, asking for a cheeseburger and fries (a sign of recovery), no paycheck in the world can give such satisfaction." Terri is thankful for the life Jesus has given her and boldly states her favorite verse:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) •



That's Middle School Pastor, Eddie Jurimas!



Joining Eddie are Staff Members Mari Lynne Snyder, Chris Rose, Pastor Erik Jarvis, and Joanne Horner.

FACTS & FIGURES

	DATE	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
General Fund				
	10.4	\$ 64,706	\$ 65,108	\$ 402
	10.11	\$ 64,706	\$ 51,204	\$ (13,502)
	10.18	\$ 64,706	\$ 54,694	\$ (10,012)
	10.25	\$ 64,706	\$ 57,593	\$ (7,113)
Total		\$ 258,824	\$ 228,599	\$ (30,225)
Year-to-Date		\$ 2,777,376	\$2,560,639	\$ (216,737)
Missions Fund				
	10.4	\$ 4,804	\$ 5,757	\$ 953
	10.11	\$ 4,804	\$ 3,364	\$ (1,440)
	10.18	\$ 4,804	\$ 4,801	\$ (3)
	10.25	\$ 4,804	\$ 3,621	\$ (1,183)
Total		\$ 19,216	\$ 17,543	\$ (1,672)
Year-to-Date		\$ 206,199	\$ 207,173	\$ 974
Benevolence Fund				
	10.4		\$ 10,305	
	10.11		\$ 3,178	
	10.18		\$ 1,620	
	10.25		\$ 2,394	
Total			\$ 17,497	
Year-to-Date			\$ 133,151	
Building Fund				
	10.4		\$ 22,520	
	10.11		\$ 15,397	
	10.18		\$ 15,027	
	10.25		\$ 15,636	
Total			\$ 68,580	
Year-to-Date			\$ 847,841	

DATE	ADULTS	WORKERS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
10.4	1945	80	377	2402
10.11	1670	89	336	2095
10.18	1793	161	361	2315
10.25	1679	88	364	2131

This report is based on a 12-month, evenly distributed budget. Actual expenses fluctuate throughout the budget year. We conduct regular financial reviews to determine whether ministry expenses need to be trimmed.

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JOY for Retirement Ages

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miniChurches

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Men of Iron

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• Cathy Watson, x117
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• Russ Batten, x134
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mike@myfac.org
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SNOW Den

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Ken Walker
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Living through Suicide

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Men's Recovery Group

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Path to Purity

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Pre-marriage Support

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Relationship Recovery

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Serenity Support Group

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Women's Purity Group

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Women's Recovery Group

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Benevolence Center

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**For more information
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to www.myfac.org.**

fellowship alliance
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Please submit family announcements
to lynn@myfac.org by the 5th of the
month prior to publication.



Our Vision

We want people to hear God's call and follow it.

Our Mission

We want to help people connect to God, to His people, and to His work.

Our Core Values

Lost people matter to God.
He wants them found.

~Luke 19:10

Prayer is the primary work of the
people of God.

~Philippians 4:6,7

Everything we have belongs to God.
We are only stewards.

~1 Chronicles 29:14

Knowing and obeying God's Word is
fundamental to all true success.

~Joshua 1:8

Without the empowering of the Holy
Spirit, we can accomplish nothing.

~1 Corinthians 2:4,5