



Faith United Methodist Church - March 2009

T G I F (Thank God It's Family!)

by Pastor Kun Sang Cho

The United Methodist Church formulated a slogan with which to introduce itself to others in its national evangelism and advertising campaign: "Open Minds, Open Hearts and Open Doors." How shall we introduce our church, Faith United Methodist Church, to others?

A few weeks ago John Gillenwater left a message on the church answering machine. He got good news from his daughter that his grandson returned safely from Iraq after successfully completing his assignment. His was overwhelmed with joy, and so he wanted to share his joy with his pastor and church family first. I was delighted when I got the message and returned his call to let him know how glad I was to get his news. The church family, like any family, is a place meant for sharing news of the best of things, as well as the worst of things in our lives

I would like to introduce our church to others as a church which is like a family. Family is not only a good place when we are joyful but also a needed place when we are distressed. To be in "distress" means to be in trouble. When we are in trouble, we want to go where it is safe where someone can help us. Most of the time that means going home to where our family is, and where we feel safe, welcome, and loved. Being with God is being as safe and as loved as we can ever be. God wants us to come to Him when we are in trouble because He loves us so much. God is always there for us. The church is the family of God.

There may be many people outside of the church who are experiencing unfortunate hardship because of the economic crisis: those who have lost homes, jobs, health and hope. Those who lost homes and jobs are consequently hopeless. In addition to the hopelessness, they may also be lonely people who don't have family and friends and who can share their joy and sadness. Loneliness is another symptom of today's unhealthy life.

Separation and brokenness are among the roots of loneliness. Separation from God, from others, from work and the community of one's belonging are all sources of loneliness. When we are separated from meaningful relationship, we feel loneliness. God, nature, other and self are all connected with each other in God's creation. When we are disconnected from these relationships, those separations bring us imperative changes in our lives, from love to hatred, which is a root of sin.

God wants to hold the broken heart and body and make a house of God out of them. A church is the agent of God that ought to create the house of God in the world. In that sense, I would like to propose a phrase to describe our self-image at Faith United Methodist Church: "T G I F," which we can remember by the slogan, "Thank God It's Family!"

In introducing our church family, particularly to others outside the church who may be seeking the security and reassurance of a family-like community at this difficult time in our county, we might capture the essence of Faith UMC in the letters "T G I F" this way:

T stands for "traditional in spirit." Our church keeps and holds traditional worship. We maintain the traditional worship which values Scripture, the sacraments, affirmation of faith both individually and communally, and adoration and thanksgiving to God through our commitment to God.

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TGIF (continued from page 1)

G stands for “global in mind.” We have a global-minded commission to the world, apart from local interest. A global mind opens our eyes to a broad horizon of mission. We live in Cheyenne, Wyoming, but our minds are open to the world. To see God’s mission in a broad perspective, we embrace a global-minded commission. The commission of Jesus gives us a broad horizon for ministry, the spectrum of which extended from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria and the end of the world.

I stands for “inclusive in heart.” We are an inclusive body of Christ. Jesus told us to have an inclusive heart “Those who do not object to me are all the people of God.” Without exclusion in race, class, age, sex, or any other classification of people, we are all called the children of God. We include those who are homeless, jobless, friendless and hopeless and churchless to hold and to be as the people of God.

F stands for “fellowship in the church.” As the body of Christ, Faith UMC extends our arms to others to be part of the church. *Koinonia*, which is a Greek word meaning fellowship, represents the function of the early Christian church. Fellowship is important to be a church. The fellowship of saints is different from the fellowship of the world. Church fellowship is the fellowship of saints, a way of being a part of body of Christ. This fellowship includes the breaking of bread and the cup, as well as sharing goods and caring for one another in the church as God’s family. The church is the place to hold, to care for, to heal, and to sanctify one another as the body of Christ. After all, the church is the family of God. “Thank God It’s Family!”

IT’S ALL ABOUT LOVE

Although Lent is traditionally a time of sacrifice and self-denial, we ask you to take a different view for this year’s Lenten season by finding ways to give of yourself to help others; much like Christ gave of His life for each of us. Perhaps you can run an errand for someone who is housebound or maybe send a card to someone who may be alone. Maybe you can take time to visit someone in the hospital or nursing home (it might even be someone you haven’t seen at church in awhile). The choir is planning to visit a nursing home during Lent to sing for the residents. It may be as simple as a surprise phone call or as much as making dinner for someone who is struggling financially to feed themselves or their family. Whatever it is, reach inside and give from within. Sacrifice from your heart, not just from your wallet, just as Christ did for each of us – It’s all about Love!

UMW NEWS

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 29 for a special “Mission Sunday Brunch” to be held immediately following the church service. The mission that will benefit from the free will offering is yet to be determined.

The March meeting will be held Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. in the church basement. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Also, plans are being made for our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet to be held Friday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. More information will be available as the time approaches.



Recycle, Reuse, Go Green

In an effort to “go green”, effective with the NEXT newsletter, we will no longer be mailing newsletters. Newsletters will be placed in the mailboxes in the church foyer and can be picked up there prior to the last Sunday of the month. If you do not receive one next month and still wish to receive a newsletter, please phone the church office at 307-638-3184 or email at info@faithcheyenne.org with your intentions. The newsletter is available on the web at www.faithcheyenne.org.

Do you recycle your aluminum cans? Did you know that if you bring them to the church, Cheryl & Virgil Brenneman will take them to the recycling place and donate the money to the church? Bring your cans and toss them over the fence in the back!

What do you do with old, worn out ink cartridges from your printer? Did you know that we can turn them into Office Max for a \$3.00 credit? Bring your old cartridges and leave them just inside the office door and Penny Franz will take them to Office Max for a credit on our office supplies!

CRITICAL CHURCH PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, March 1 there will be a potluck dinner and planning meeting immediately following church. Come prepared to discuss what you feel are the three critical issues facing our church and possible solutions. Everyone is encouraged to attend the potluck dinner and participate in the planning meeting. Please come prepared to stay as long as necessary as we make plans for the future of the Church.



There will be NO Faith Fun Fellowship in March.

Have you added the following sentence to your will?

After all my bills are paid, I want 10% of my estate (a tithe) to go to Faith United Methodist Church.

F. A. I. T. H. Youth Fellowship



Please pray for:

Bonnie Leake (broken arm)

Bonnie Carley (cancer)

Marv Bristow (TIA's)

Ilene Windom (broken leg)

Kenny Merklin (hip replacement surgery)

Sharon Cloyd (leukemia)

Holly Fisher (heart catheterization)

Scott Love

Art Stuart (friend of Spier's) - on life support

Sarah Miller (neighbor of Brennemans) - grandson killed in motorcycle accident

Bev Knight (aunt of Larry Spiers & Linda Talkington) - high blood pressure

Donna Cool (surgery)

YOUTH ROOM REMODEL

Work continues on the remodel of the Youth Room. We want to thank you for your patience with the mess and noise the work creates. We have a work day planned in March—so grab your tools and come on down.

Saturday 3/28 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Memories & Roses Update

An intimate group of about 30 people shared an evening of good food and fun. If you missed the 2009 Memories & Roses Banquet, mark your calendar for February of next year and join us for Memories and Roses 2010!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009

May 2 – Annual Garage Sale (The Youth Group will be having a garage sale again this spring—so while you are busy cleaning out closets, attics and basements, keep us in mind for your discarded items.



PLEASE KEEP OUR YOUTH IN YOUR PRAYERS

A Korean Breakfast Open to the Community on March 14 (Saturday) at 8:30 A.M

Pastor Cho and his wife, Sun, would like to invite all of the Faith family and their friends to a Korean Breakfast at Faith UMC on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. The aim of the breakfast is to have fellowship and introduce our church to friends in the community. We would like to extend the invitation as far as we can reach, to family and friends, and friend's friends! Food is always the primary focus in any fellowship event. The food is provided by the Cho's family kitchen.

The menu will include Korean-style pancakes (looks like pancakes but tastes quite different), special soup of the day (beef broth, sliced rice cakes, mandu—beef and vegetable dumplings), rice and kimchi (Korean spicy pickled cabbage salad). The food is free for all, but to assist in the preparation of the food, RSVP to the church office by March 10th is recommended. If anyone feels like donating a contribution, these contributions will be reserved for the next fellowship event. Come and meet with one another, share food, and have fellowship as an extended family gathering!

This month's topic has to do with who we are and who we are important to.

Previous clergy knew all of us and then some. Present clergy does not. So the first thing I would ask is that you all help us in gathering information for Pastor Cho to help him know you better. A few months ago we asked for information about the congregation so we could compile a list of everyone so Christmas cards could be distributed to all. We did receive some names and information, but not from everyone. We have determined that it might be a benefit to Pastor Cho if we compile more comprehensive information so he can get to know us.

In trying to work on good management of the church, some of the committee members have discovered that even WE don't know all of you. For instance, if one of you should become ill at church or a church function, we have no idea how to contact your family or significant other to notify them that we have either taken you to the emergency room or called 911 for an ambulance. The responder at 911 asks for certain important information: allergies, medications, medical conditions, etc. Sometimes even a spouse or sibling does not know these particulars - only you do.

Another instance to think about is if something happens while you are out shopping or in an accident. Did you know that most cell phones have a feature in which you can enter the name of persons to call in an emergency? It's called I.C.E. - In Case of Emergency. On my phone it is highlighted in red at the top of my contact list. If your phone does not have this feature you can also just enter "I.C.E." in the contact list and different names in the various phone number sections (office, home, cell). By putting periods between the letters, it will automatically come up at the top of your contact list. Then, of course, the people you have listed to call need to also know your information. Another method of having it available is also known as ICE, but is a Medallion you wear, which contains a little pocket into which you can insert the printed information. This is a little pricey - anywhere from \$12 - \$45, but isn't your life worth that?

Another good idea is to keep a list of all of your medical conditions, medications and contacts in your purse or wallet. If you would like us to have that information, please contact me, 286-2306 or the church office, 638-3184, and we will provide the forms to fill out. We would be glad to make a copy for your purse/wallet. This information will be available for Pastor Cho and church office information only. This will not be public record.

"The Lord shall keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life." Psalm 121:7

Jan, Parish Nurse



ADOPT A SOLDIER—by Bonnie Carley

The outreach committee voted to adopt a soldier and since the Wyoming National Guard will be deploying over 1000 soldiers in the very near future. We decided to adopt two, three, or thirty, all of whom belong to the Wyoming Army National Guard. The most requested item is letters. So get started. Address them: Dear Soldier, say whatever you please and they will be sent. Please put your home address or if you prefer your e-mail address (or both) on the letter itself not just the envelope. Please say that you are a member of Faith United Methodist Church. I will set up boxes in back of church and side entryway for letters and donations for care packages to soldiers. Suggested items: snacks, beef jerky, trail mix, cookies, crackers (consider nothing too heavy) and something a young person far away from home might enjoy. DVD's and Mother's Day cards to be sent to mother's or wives were also suggested.



Terry & Ron Vore are grandparents of a baby boy born on Thursday, February 5.

John Gillenwater's grandson has returned home safely from Iraq.

Thank you to Barb & Larry and the youth crew for a great meal and fellowship at the Memories & Roses Banquet.

WE HAVE A COMMUNICATION GAP!!!



Our little world is so homogeneous! We are mostly Caucasian, we all speak almost perfect English with no dialects or accents and our habits/customs follow suit. Most of us have never even been around folks who speak a different language, and so our ears are not trained to hear our words spoken differently. We don't have the experience of living in a foreign country where our brains are exhausted at the end of a day after translating everything we hear. Therefore, trying to understand Pastor Cho and Sun creates a **COMMUNICATION GAP!**

The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee would like you to know that we hear you. We understand and encourage you to be patient. Sun often spends her entire day at LCCC working on her English, and Pastor Cho has found an instructor at LCCC who is willing to help him with what he needs at his advanced level (pronunciation, enunciation, articulation). They both sing in the choir with us, practicing English in musical form. Pastor Cho and Sun will continue to learn and grow, if we can do the same.

The Heart of the Matter

A live church has parking problems; a dead church does not.

A live church has lots of noisy children, even in worship; a dead church is fairly quiet.

A live church often changes the way it does things; a dead church doesn't change anything.

A live church dreams great dreams for God's kingdom; a dead church has nightmares to solve.

A live church forgives and seeks forgiveness; a dead church never makes any mistakes.

A live church supports its budget; a dead church supports someone else's projects.

A live church sees challenges and opportunities; a dead church sees obstacles and problems.

A live church worships with vigor; a dead church worries with vigor.

From the newsletter of Yuma United Methodist Church, Yuma, Colorado

CELEBRATE LENT AND EASTER AT FAITH CHURCH!

The church seasons pass quickly and although it seems as though we just finished Advent and Christmas, we find Lent and Easter quickly approaching. As Christians, are we spiritually ready for our Lenten journey to arrive at the glory and promise of Easter?

Pastor Cho and the Worship Committee have been busy making plans to help all of us find a fresher, deeper meaning in our journey with Christ to the cross.

Each Wednesday during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 25th), Faith Church will have a Lenten service beginning at 7:30 p.m. Pastor Cho has planned a theme to carry through each Wednesday, focusing on practicing holy habits, such as prayer, meditation, Bible reading, showing mercy, fasting, and forgiving, during the forty days of Lent.

Sundays during Lent will also have some special touches. Just as during Advent we light a candle each week in preparation of our Lord's birth, during Lent we will extinguish a candle in anticipation of our Lord's impending death. Holy Week will highlight this Easter season beginning with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. There will be a Wednesday service during Holy Week and Pastor Cho, along with his daughter Esther, have planned a special Maundy Thursday Seder supper. Plans are in the works for a joint Good Friday service with Grace Church. Culminating Holy Week will be the Easter morning service with a performance of an Easter Cantata by the choir as well as a special Communion service.

Let's all plan to attend these special Lenten events and to help one another to a more meaningful season in which we remember the loving sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Easter Lily Garden

For more information, please visit with Mary Love, Connie Fournier, or contact the church office.

Prayer Offering

When we make an offering, we put forward something before God for His consideration. We also do it as an act of worship. In keeping with that idea, we should offer our prayers of concern and joy to God for His consideration and as an act of worship. To make this offering easier for everyone, you will find prayer cards in each pew and at the back table in the church. If you have any prayers to offer, please fill one of these cards out and place it in the prayer offering basket on the back table. Your prayer offerings will be brought forth at the appropriate time during the service and offered to God silently or aloud (depending on your instructions).

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Please join us at Lenten Services
 Wednesdays, 7:30, February 25-*

MARCH 2009

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 *Tom Smith Noon—potluck and planning meeting	2 *Wayne Lawrence	3	4 *Debbie Lawrence *Mary Zwonitzer Noon—prayer lunch 5:30—worship 6:15—choir 7:30—lent service	5 *Brandon Arioso *Jack Talkington	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10	11 5:30—worship 6:15—choir 7:30—lent service	12 * Donna Newland 7:00—Board meet- ing	13	14 8:30 a.m.—Breakfast
15 Noon—outreach committee Noon—youth	16	17	18 Noon—prayer lunch 5:30—worship 6:15—choir 7:30—lent service	19 *Pastor Cho	20	21 Subdistrict Conference in Casper
22	23	24	25 Noon—prayer lunch 5:30—worship 6:15—choir 7:30—lent service	26 *Thelma Harrell 7:00 UMW	27	28 *Melody Gewecke 9:00 a.m.—youth work day
29 Noon—UMW Mission Brunch	30 6:00 PPR	31			*birthday	