
❖ Faith Builder ❖

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"A Church with a Heart for People"

June 2018

Church Camp 101

Why church camp? What happened to VBF, or is it VBS, VBA...? Instead of doing a traditional VBS this year, we've decided to try something different. Summer Church Camp is meant to be a fun, meaningful, summer activity that engages kids' hearts, minds, and bodies. The biggest difference between church camp and VBF is that church camp runs all day long. One of the other main differences is that we will be spending most of our time in more traditional class settings. Rather than the quick 20 min. blocks of a VBF, we'll be rotating through four 45 min. classes, interspersed with chapel, recess, and lunch. But before you think this sounds an awful lot like school, keep in mind that these "classes" are highly interactive subjects like art and cooking and STEM. So don't worry, we're making sure there's plenty of fun too. In fact, the whole point of this new format is to be able to go deeper with kids, develop more meaningful relationships with them, and talk more profoundly about the Bible and the gospel and how the message of Christ impacts all areas of our life. Our hope is that this format will appeal more to working families who are looking to sign their kids up for traditional summer camps (sports camps, drama camp, horse camp, etc.), without the somewhat cheesy and superficial trappings that have come to typify VBS. So while we won't be having any "theme," and there won't be as much need for volunteers, please rest assured our church is doing its best to strategically engage our community. We are pioneering new programs with the intent of reaching a new generation of families in culturally relevant ways. Please stand with us in this new endeavor by praying for our program, spreading the word, and helping others understand the vision and mission of our church. Summer Church Camp runs July 9 through 13th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Registration is currently open. Thank you for your support!

Panama Mission Trip

As of this past week, our trip to Panama is fully funded! Thanks to everyone's pie purchases and generous donations, all our trip expenses for every student are covered. Praise the Lord and thanks to all of you! A special thanks to Paul Shaw for spearheading! Please pray for safety, travel mercies, good health, and aiding the pie making and sales. Now we need to cover the trip in prayer God's blessing on our team. Our hope is that He will help our students grow in leaps and bounds as they serve the people of Panama. Pray also for meaningful relationships to be formed with locals, and divine opportunities to share God's grace and love with others. As the apostle Paul puts it, may we be mutually encouraged in the faith. The trip dates are July 21 through August 5th. Thank you for your support!

Discipline for June

One of the hallmarks of the early church was sharing. Those who had resources shared with those who did not. This happened within communities and between communities. People were constantly being encouraged to invest in kingdom opportunities to encourage the spread of the gospel.

This month, you are invited to explore ways you might be generous with what you have. Do you have something useful, but you don't use it? Who might you bless by giving this item away? Think about clothing, a kitchen gadget, or a tool.

What about your time? Who could you bless with a generous dose of your time with a phone call or a visit? Could you offer a service to someone who needs a helping hand? Pull a weed, mow a lawn, wash a window? Volunteer your time at a place you care about. What about taking a meal to a friend's house and 'breaking bread' together?

You may sense God's generous invitation to you to give to an organization, but first, think about sharing with someone you know. Generosity is compounded when it occurs in the context of a relationship. Could it be a neighbor, a friend, someone at church?

Add a level of fun to your generous act by doing something anonymously. Send an unlabeled gift or card. Contribute to a utility bill.

Check out the church blog at heartforpeople.wordpress.com. for a fun story about how a stranger's generosity blessed the church. Feel free to share your own story of generosity.

General Synod

The Reformed Church in America will hold its annual meeting June 7-12 in Grand Rapids, MI. Of special note, we will be installing a new General Secretary, Eddy Aleman. Read more about Eddy at www.rca.org/eddy. We invite you to pray for Eddy in his new role and for the meeting of the Synod as several issues of deep passion are being considered. You can follow the activity of synod by visiting <https://www.rca.org/rca-basics/general-synod> and clicking on the appropriate link.

Klahaya Celebration

Each summer, we have the privilege of using Klahaya for a Sunday morning. This year's gathering will be August 26. Following our service at 9 AM, we will go over to the pool to celebrate the sacrament of baptism. If you are someone in your family is interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Phil.

From 10:45 to 11:45, the pool is open for anyone who is interested in swimming. We will conclude the fun with a potluck picnic at Klahaya. Guests are asked to bring salads, chips, or desserts. The church will provide meat and beverages. Friends, family, and guests are welcome.

Inquiring Minds

On July 1, we will begin a summer series on questions of interest to our church and community. If you have a question you would like considered for inclusion, please send a message to phil@faithedmonds.org. Questions should be submitted by June 15. All questions will be dealt with confidentially and anonymously.

Transition Update

In April, the congregation was notified that in June of 2019, Phil Assink will be leaving Faith Church. Over the course of the next year, much work will be done to determine the next steps that best serve Faith. A Search Team has been appointed by the Consistory to develop a church and a pastor profile, and to conduct a search for a new pastor. They will be commissioned on Sunday, July 1 at the 9 AM service. Our regional church bodies, the Classis and Regional Synod, will help our church and Search Team to identify candidates who could fill the pastoral role. We will have a column each month in the newsletter and make regular announcements at church to keep the congregation informed.

One key opportunity for you to share in the process is to join with the church in a 100 Days of Prayer. This is a special emphasis where we are inviting the whole church to meet in triads (small groups of three people). Each group will share the same material which will result in information our Search Team will use in writing our church profile. The triads will meet 10 times over the 100 days. They will meet on a day and at a time mutually agreed to. The goal is to unite our church in prayer as we prepare for this exciting and challenging chapter of transition. To be placed in a triad, you can send an email to clarice@faithedmonds.org. Assignments will be made by June 15. You may contact Pastor Phil for more information.

Busy vs. Hurried

Dallas Willard said, "Hurry is the enemy of the soul." Sunday, May 27, Pastor Phil used a slide that went by quickly and folks asked if it could be shared in a way they could hold on to it. The message was on being still before the Lord. John Ortberg provides a comparison chart between being BUSY and being HURRIED in his book, Soul Keeping. Even if you were not able to be with us on May 27, this chart is one way to take stock of what is happening in your life and how present you are to God's voice.

Busy

- A full schedule
- Many activities
- An outward condition
- Physically demanding
- Reminds me I need God

Hurried

- Preoccupied
- Unable to be fully present
- An inner condition of the soul
- Spiritually draining
- Causes me to be unavailable to God