# \*Faith Builder\*

Volume 28 Issue 1

"A Church with a Heart for People"

December 2018

#### La Fiesta de Arepas

The Arapa Festival - Arepas are a Colombian pastry that are widely enjoyed across the country. Each region has a unique version of the delicious treats. On Sunday, December 30, our Colombian friends are going to make fresh arepas with their unique recipe for our fellowship time following church. Not only that, they are also going to provide the traditional hot chocolate served in Colombia.

Everyone is invited to come and plan to relax for a few more minutes to enjoy the morning. The only thing you need to do is practice saying, "Muchas gracias!"

#### **Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve is a special night each year. People have been immersed in the theme for weeks and this night allows us to pause and remember the most precious Christmas gift of all. Family and friends are more open on this night to an invitation to church than any other event in the year. We all long to experience not just the fun of presents and the celebration at parties, but also the deep joy and peace of the Savior.

The 5 PM service is open to all, but geared to children and families. We will sing carols, share stories of Christmas, and close with the moving scene made by a candlelit Sanctuary.

The 11 PM service is a traditional presentation of carols and the Christmas lessons from the Bible. It concludes with a solemn, joy-filled celebration of Communion.

At both services, we will receive an offering designated for Vision House. The Shoreline location is in an exciting expansion project that will give them 10 additional apartments for homeless families.

As homelessness becomes a more prominent concern in the Puget Sound region, Vision House stands as an example of how the body of Christ can be a powerful solution. Vision House provides a safe, long-term residence for families. They also offer valuable life skills training for residents to help them stay in stable living conditions after leaving Vision House.

## Children's Program

Plan on joining us Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 AM as the children of Faith Community Church star in our adaptation of Charles Schulz' classic Peanuts movie. Our regular worship time starts at 9 AM and the play will follow shortly after.

#### **Caroling**

Sunday, December 23, we will go caroling following our coffee time, about 10:30AM. Everyone is welcome to come along for the fellowship and to spread the Christmas cheer. If you know of someone who would enjoy a musical visit, please contact the office before December 17 with the name, address, and any other relevant information.

Carolers are invited to bring some 'sleigh bells' to brighten our songs. We will car pool for transportation.



#### **Dear God**

Sunday, December 30, we will observe our annual tradition of writing a letter to God at the 9 AM service. We reflect on the year past, offering thanks and acknowledging hardships. We look forward to the year ahead, asking God for guidance and cultivating our trust in God's care. If you participated in 2017, you will receive your previous letter for reflection. If you did not, start your tradition this year! Always a fun day, filled with gracious insights from the Spirit.

#### **Poinsettias**

Our sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for Christmas. We would like to collect \$15 for poinsettias that you may take home after Christmas Eve. These may be in honor or memory of someone. Please notify the office if you wish to make a donation.

### Year End Giving

Many people bless Faith Church with a special year end gift. To help us finish 2017 in a strong financial position, we encourage our community to take this opportunity to make a gift before the end of December.

One of the options we have developed this year is an account with an Edwards Jones office. This account allows people to donate appreciated stocks and mutual funds directly to the church. This may offer a tax advantage over cashing the asset and donating the proceeds. If you would like more information about this option, please contact the office.

## Thanks and Welcome

A special thanks go Clarice Duffy who came out of retirement for eight months to work in the church office.

On November 1, Julie Jensen assumed the responsibilities as the administrator for the church. Julie is responsible for coordinating the church calendar, printing the weekly bookkeeping, bulletin, church scheduling ushers, and the monthly newsletter, in addition to many other tasks associated with a church operation. She will primarily be in the office Tuesday - Thursday about 12 hours a week. You can contact her by phone, 206.542.8883 or by email, julie@faithedmonds.org



### Ladies Christmas Tea & Brunch

Faith Community Church • 10220 238th St. SW Edmonds, WA 98020 • 206-542.8883 December 8th 2018 • 12pm

Bring one exquisite treat for a sweet exchange.

Doilies & cupcake liners provided.

Plans include a light lunch, ice-breaker conversation, a ministry moment, craft, & will end with the exchange.

Please invite friends to come!

RSVP or direct questions to: Carole@FaithCommunity.org