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Mid-January 2012



*Making  
Ministry  
Happen  
2012*

## Serving, Giving and Committing

Starting this weekend we will focus on “Making Ministry Happen 2012” through “Serving, Giving and Committing.” **Please get your packet from your mailbox** and consider how you might want to challenge yourself to make ministry happen in new ways in our midst and in our community.

In this packet you will find three important stewardship elements:

- A commitment to personal growth as a disciple;
- A commitment to use your time and talent to serve your Lord; and,
- A commitment to financially support the programs and ministry of Our Father.

As we asked last year, if you will consider making an increase in your financial giving and then keep it there in the following years, we will be able to support the ministry we share of making disciples of all people. Please return your green Time & Talent Form and your gold Giving Goal Form by **Sunday, January 29, 2012**. Your orange Personal Commitment Form is meant for you to keep for yourself.

Each one of us is important in helping to build God’s Kingdom. Your participation matters!



## Credit and Debit Card Options and Online Giving Available

Our church offers website giving and electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis at the frequency you desire. In addition contributions to OFLC can now be made using your credit or debit card. Getting started is easy—simply go to the website to donate online **or** request a *Simply Giving* authorization form from the church office.

## 2011 Tax Planning Tip

To ensure your church donations are tax-deductible, do not file your 2011 tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Your 2011 contribution statements are now available in your church mailbox for your review and use. Please call Tammy Youngren at the church office if you have not received your 2011 contribution statement by January 31, 2012.

## Spiritual Gifts Inventories

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Might you have an undiscovered gift? As new members you took an assessment of your spiritual gifts, but maybe they have changed. In just 15 minutes you could discover your present gifts and that might focus you in a new direction for your service to God in 2012. Indicate on the Yellow Sheet and we will put an assessment in your box. A member of the Member Integration Team would be delighted to meet with you to talk about your gifts and possible ways you could use these gifts.



## Student Ministries

### Saying Goodbye!

Next week will be Martina Link's last week as Student Ministry Assistant at Our Father. She will be moving to Sydney, Australia at the end of the month to work and travel abroad. We are very grateful for the gifts Martina has shared with us over the past two and a half years, and we wish her God's blessings on this new adventure. If you would like to stay in touch with Martina, her email is [martina.a.link@gmail.com](mailto:martina.a.link@gmail.com).

Please keep her in your prayers! *Micah*

### **Dear Members of OFLC:**

I want to say THANK YOU! for letting me be a part of such a wonderful staff and congregation here at Our Father. These past two and a half years being the Student Ministry Assistant has been such a blessing in my life. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to serve in ministry at Our Father. While I am going to miss everyone terribly, I am also excited for what this new year holds!

Thank you and God's Peace! *Martina Link*

## Adult Education

### **Sunday titles:**

- Great Beginnings – Led by Elaine Hamburger and Linda Olsen
- Bridging the Bible Gap – Led by Pr. Mroch and Redd Geurts
- Sabbath: A Little Vacation with God–Led by Ruth Koch
- God's Journey with Us – Led by Pr. Boos
- The Bible in 90 Days – Led by Jack Weaver
- Creation, Evolution or Intelligent Design? – Led by Mike Brondos

### **Wednesday titles:**

- Finding Peace in a Troubled World – Led by Linda Olsen
- Love and Logic – Instructor: Jack Lipski

### **Online class:**

- The Hole in Our Gospel

### **Tuesday Women's Bible Study - 9:30 am**

- 2 Peter led by Tom Hacker

### **Saturday Men's Bible Study - 7:00 am**

- "The Odyssey of Paul" led by Jim Rairdon

## Women's Ministry

### **M♥PS** (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Our next gathering will be on **Friday, January 20 at 9:15 am**. The topic will be meal planning and coupon use/websites.



### **Ladies of Our Father**

**Friday, January 27, 2012 at 6:30 pm** will be the annual Women's Banquet. Start talking to your friends and buy tickets now for only \$21.00 at the Reception Desk.

### **Saturday Worship Fellowship**

The next Saturday Worship Fellowship will be **January 21 at 6:00 pm**. For more information, contact Judy Crooks, 303-741-2642 or Linda Schiekolk, 303-683-4498. Come join us!

## Children's Education

**Bible Discovery:** for children 3 years and older - 9:30-10:30 am

**SPARK!** During the 10:45 am service, children 3 years old through Fifth Grade, leave worship for an educational experience after the children's talk and return by 11:45 am.

### **Special Children's Program**

#### **Sunday, February 5, 9:30 am**

Steve Johnson, Director of Lutheran Valley Retreat, will present music, singing, games and other camp-type experiences in the Youth Room while the teachers have their training. Don't miss!

### **Sunday School Staff Training**

All 9:30 Bible Discovery and SPARK! staff are encouraged to attend a special training session, **February 5, at 9:30, on "Faith Milestones at OFLC."** Linda Olsen will tell about all that Our Father does at each stage of a child's life to draw them closer to God. Come to hear how Confirmation and our many programs reach our children.

# Ministry Matters



## Will Our Children Have Faith?

Did you know that only 1 out of 10 people come to have a faith in Christ after the age of 30? Two out of 10 enter God's Kingdom between the ages of 15-30. The other 7 will become a Christian before age 15.

One of the ways God works faith in children is through their families' active involvement in the life of the church. 85% of children whose families are active in church remain active into their adult life. In turn, 85% of those young people whose families who are not active in church will cease their involvement altogether after reaching adulthood.

Modeling faith in Christ through worship and Bible study is crucial to a child's faith development. Another way the Holy Spirit works faith in our children is by having "faith talks" in the home. However, a recent study has shown that ONLY 9% of *churched* families discussed faith with any degree of regularity. In almost half of the homes, faith was NEVER discussed.

Perhaps this idea scares you because it was never modeled to you, or you are new to the Christian faith. That is one reason we are presently offering a class called "**Bridging the Bible Gap**" on Sunday mornings. This class will discuss the majority of the Bible stories being taught this year in our children's education program. It is normal to feel uncomfortable doing something that has not had modeled in our lives before. However, by talking about faith with a few other parents, then we might have the courage and the incentive to do it at home with our children.

Another opportunity will come up in the spring when Micah Steiner leads a series on "**Passing on the Faith.**" Find out ways in that series that you can help the children in your life develop a deeply rooted relationship with Christ.

Having some good resources also make it easier. That is why we are offering some good devotional resources on a **display in the church lobby** during the month of January so that you can **order** materials that are age-appropriate for your child. Check out the display and find something for your child, godchild, grandchild, or other significant child in your life. To encourage faith development, Bibles will be given to our 3-year olds and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on **Bible Sunday, February 5 in the 10:45 service.**

**Remember - faith is caught more than taught!** Our children learn more about God through our actions and words to each other in the home than any sermon or Sunday School class. Think about what your children are seeing modeled and make some positive changes for this new year! Here are a few things that have been effective for families in this area:

- ◆ Meal time together where sharing and caring happens
- ◆ Serving people in need together as a family
- ◆ Words expressing love and forgiveness and words affirming strengths
- ◆ Modeling devotional time where they see you reading God's Word
- ◆ Worshipping together with your children
- ◆ Praying at mealtimes and bedtimes

Our prayer for you is that you will choose to make a faith difference in your child!



**Linda Olsen - Minister of  
Parish Education**

# Featured Ministry

## Behind the Scenes

*"So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us....." Romans 12:6*

How does the women's retreat happen? Who arranges for the snow to be removed? Who see that meals are brought to members in need? Who makes sure the Scriptures are read every Sunday? The answer is... (drum roll, please)...our Ministry Coordinators!

Who are these super people? Ministry Coordinators are servant-leaders who have expressed an interest in a specific ministry. They are appointed annually by our Senior Pastor in consultation with our staff, and then are ratified by Parish Council. Each coordinator brings special skills and passion that enable us to have a variety of successful ministries, programs and activities impacting our members and the community.

What do they do? Ministry Coordinators work under the supervision of the Senior Pastor or his designate. Their primary responsibility is the oversight and implementation of the annual ministry plan goals for their particular area. Administrative responsibilities include the preparation of the annual budget to support their ministry objectives.

How does it get done? The Council of Ministry Coordinators, together with the staff, meets at least bimonthly to communicate and coordinate all church activities. Topical discussions about ministry are also held to learn new ways to improve and focus our desired outcomes. Currently, the Council consists of eleven ministry areas: Congregational Care, CrossRoads, Education, Fellowship, Member Integration, Outreach, Property, Special Ministries, Stewardship, Student Ministries and Worship. The Ministry Coordinators also meet regularly with their individual boards and committees that are comprised of other volunteer members, just like you.

Our talented Ministry Coordinators are committed to serving their Lord and are dedicated to building God's Kingdom. So much is being accomplished through their efforts.



*Front Row: Elaine Hamburger (Member Integration), Diane Oppenheim (Education), Sandy Wetzstein (Special Ministries)*  
*Middle Row: Marty Henry (Care Ministry), Rima Hea (Youth and their Families), Tami Backstrom (Stewardship), Karen Callahan (Fellowship)*  
*Back Row: Derek Woodward (CrossRoads), Bruce Backstrom (Property), John Schiff (Worship and Arts)*  
*Not Pictured: Martha Parsons (Stewardship), Christene Woodward (CrossRoads), Karen Kennedy (Care Ministry), Julia Strain (Member Integration), Allison Patella (Outreach), Marlene Wise (Fellowship)*

## Alternative Gift Market Generosity

What a special year 2011 has been. In our 17th year of holding an Alternative Gift Market the generosity of Our Father members and guests has exceeded all expectations. A record total of over **\$25,000** in Alternative Gifts to sustain health and life and create jobs for those around the world were purchased. We had ten wonderful Our Father groups of families, small groups and youth come together to make the market festive with their creative booths and knowledgeable representations of their charities.

We had adult volunteers who took our money, helped us select cards and inserts, and inscribe the perfect gift for everyone on our 2011 Christmas lists.

We thank our God for all of those who gave tirelessly this year to create a wonderful shopping atmosphere.

*God bless the givers, the doers and the recipients of these gifts for the world.*



# Announcements & Important Dates

## Caregivers Support Group

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm**. Jean Osbourne, Occupational Therapist, will be giving a presentation: "How to be safer at home". She will discuss fall prevention, available adaptive equipment, etc.



## Bible Sunday Coming

**Third Graders and Three Year Olds** will be presented their Bible in the 10:45 am service on **Sunday, February 5**. Parents of third graders, please turn your Bibles in to the office, so we can ensure that all are ready for presentation. These are significant rites of passage in the spiritual lives of our children.

## Books Available for Your Personal or Family Spiritual Enrichment

Check out the display of books in the Narthex. Sign up and **order** any of the books that might be good resources for you or your family. Take this opportunity to draw closer to God and to grow in your faith, so you can pass it on to others around you.

## Benevolence Meeting

Those interested in helping to designate our first quarter 2012 benevolence offerings, please join the meeting on **Thursday, February 9, 3:00 pm**. Help us make these outreach decisions for OFLC. All members can also ask for a group or organization with a need for financial assistance to be considered. Fill out an application from Jeff Bridges' benevolence mailbox in the Office Area and return it by **Sunday, February 5**.

**Book Club** – The Book Club meets **January 16, 7:00 pm**, to discuss **First They Killed My Father** by Loung Ung in the Conference Room.

## Newsletter Changes

Beginning in 2012, only two newsletters will be printed per month. The *Monthly Connection* is published at the beginning of each month. The *Mid-Month Connection* will be published the Sunday closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. We will continue to send our weekly emails keeping you updated on the most recent ministry programs and activities. Also, stay current with the online calendar at [www.oflc.net](http://www.oflc.net).

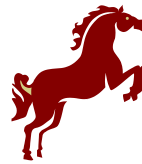
## Please Check the Lost and Found!



If you have misplaced anything at Our Father, check the Lost and Found on the shelf above the coat rack by the Reception Desk. Items left after **February 5** will be donated.

## Elderberries

Our next gathering will be **January 18, 1:00 pm** with guest speaker, Mason Finks, Director of Consumer Protection. He will be speaking on identity theft and senior fraud. We will also be going to see "The War Horse" on **January 31**. More information will be available at the January 18 gathering. Please join us!



## Think S N O W!!!

Join us for a morning of snowshoeing, followed by lunch, on **Saturday, January 28**. In case of inclement weather, the alternate date is February 4.



## Upcoming Meetings

- ◆ Tuesday, January 17
  - 5:00 pm - Preschool Board
  - 5:30 pm - Personnel Committee
  - 7:00 pm - Parish Council
- ◆ Sunday, January 22
  - 10:45 am - Small Group Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, January 26
  - 7:00 pm - Property Meeting

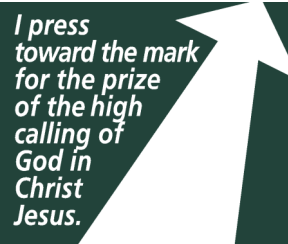
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**Flowers Given by...**  
 \* Bruce and Tami Backstrom in memory of Carl \*  
 \* Backstrom on December 18 \*  
 \* David Vandapool in memory of Mary K. \*  
 \* Vandapool on January 8 \*  
 \* Jaci Dite in memory of David & Eddie Dite on \*  
 \* January 15 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Altar Flowers**

Do you have a special event or remembrance to celebrate? We have many openings for flower sign-up. Cost is \$40 and flowers need to be picked up before the following Tuesday morning or they will be donated.

**Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee opened up the nominating process in December, accepting new names through January 2 of the new year. In total, 19 names were submitted by congregational members and staff, and background information has been requested from the Rocky Mountain District. The Committee will be reviewing the new names as soon as they are received along



Philippians 3:14

with revisiting some of the recommendations submitted last summer. Please keep this process in your prayers as we look for God's choice to lead Our Father.

**Members Remembered In Our Prayers**

*Please Remember* that other prayer requests not listed here are included in our Faith-Filled Prayer Chain.

- Olsen families at the death of Lawrence Olsen
- Lori Vogel hospitalized
- Doug and LuAnn Rowlett's grandson, Liam, preparing for surgery
- Rohrig family at the death of Ev's sister-in-law, Lavon
- Mike & Cheryl Porter's granddaughter, Gracie



• The Pond and Dietz families would like to thank the members of Our Father for all the prayers, cards and hugs given to us at the death

of Barb's mom. We are grateful for the time we had with mom, grandma, great-grandma and thank you all for your loving concern for us all.

- Thank You for all your prayers and concerns. I truly believe it helped in my recovery. This has been a blessing. I am feeling better each day.

Thank You and God Bless, *Marchell Forbes*

- Thank you to all who gave to "anything but orange." Thank you so much for the clothing donations. Your dedication to helping ensure fair trials and equal treatment to those awaiting trial in custody in Arapahoe County is very much appreciated.

*Jennifer Longtin, Public Defender's Office*

**Community News**

**FACES Night Out!**

Please join us for the one year anniversary party to celebrate our ministry for those with physical and intellectual disabilities. We meet on **Wednesday, January 18 from 5-6:30 pm** at Shepherd of the Hills, 7691 South University Boulevard. For more information please email Becky or Charley at [Faces@sothfamily.org](mailto:Faces@sothfamily.org).



**Parenting Safe Children**

Please join us for an inspiring workshop on "Preventing Child Sexual Abuse...One Community at a Time" on **Saturday, March 17 from 10 am - 1:30 pm** at OFLC. The cost is \$55 per person which includes lunch. To register contact Amy Fisher at 303-587-5313 or [amy@truthnaturals.com](mailto:amy@truthnaturals.com).