

Faith's Happenings...

January, 2020

Happy Birthday

Linda Hughs	2nd
Noma Hickok	6th
Niki LeVasseur	6th
Barbra Davis	14th
Ron Mines	16th
John Kohler	17th
Jim Taylor	19th
Linda Jackling	20th
Allison Ward	22nd
Steve Hoops	23rd
Toni Dufrene	26th
Jack Sturrock	26th
John Matz	28th
Laura Kohler	28th
Hannah Armen	30th

Happy Anniversary

Bruce & Margarete Rieck 14th

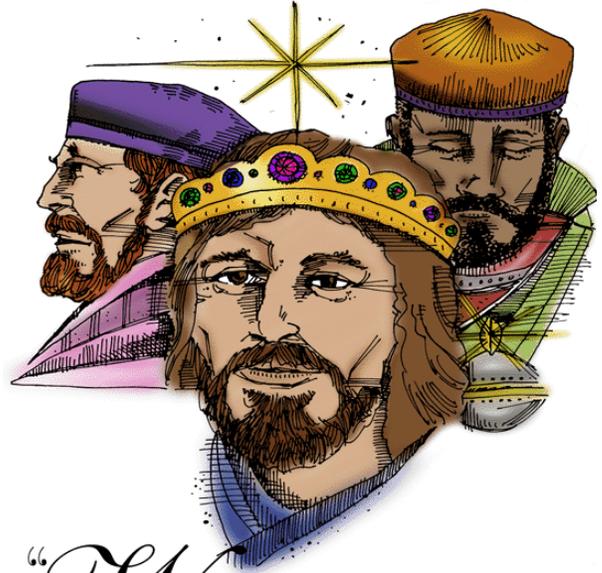
**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.
Please notify Barbra in the church office
to have your special dates added.**

January at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: Jan. 7
Ladies Event: Jan. 18

Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.



*“Where is the one who has
been born king of the Jews? We
saw his star in the east and have
come to worship him.”*

M a t t h e w 2 : 2

Looking Ahead

The Financial Review in preparation for the budget will be held on January 12, between worship times.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19, between worship times.

Please plan to attend these important annual meetings.

Long Term Prayer

In order to save the Sunday prayer list for current issues, we have created this special prayer list in our newsletter for long-term issues that need daily prayer. If you need to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313). Please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis: Neal Schattauer, Steven Flagg, Joyce Hickman, Elizabeth Hickman, Carol Schleede, Roger DeMeritt, Michael Romanelli, Jim Buroker, Ethel Hunn, Jacky Magee, Ray Eifert, Danny DeGroot, Brittany Schneck, Monica Friend, Larry Hladun, Jim Kelly, Jack & Kathie Zura, Tom & Sandy McKitterick, Jim & Paul Rodvik, John Collins, Larry Bennett, Pastor Mike Jones



Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. Luke 2.14

Nothing about this Christmas season seems normal. 4 weeks in the hospital. Not eating since the day before Thanksgiving. Advent has come and gone, and soon Christmas Eve will be here. The hardest part of these weeks was not being able to gather with you, God's people, for worship.

I give thanks to God for Pastor Autumn, Candace, the choirs and weekly volunteers who have provided continuity in worship and leadership.

I give thanks to the congregation council, eucharistic ministers, Stephen Ministers, and all those who have supported the daily work of the church and caring for one another.

While I have been able to keep up with some things from the hospital bed, you, the people of Faith, have continued to do God's good work.

Perhaps this is why the message of the angels that first Christmas sticks with me today. As we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, we do give God in the highest heaven glory, praise, honor and worship, because God was not content to remain distant. God has entered into our world, our lives, our joys as well as our challenges, so that we are not alone.

Ways to Give

(from your Stewardship Committee)

Stocks and bonds can be given directly to the church as part of your regular support, or for a special cause or fund. In making the direct gift of an investment, you base your deduction on the investment's appreciated value at the time of the gift.

Another Option

Electronic Giving is an option at Faith. Use this code to contribute and support God's work, or click on the code on our church website.



And God's presence brings us peace. At least that is true for me as I have waited out these past 4 weeks. I could not have made it through, were it not for your prayers, cards, calls and visits. Thank you.

I could not have made it through the long days and waiting were it not for God's abiding presence with me.

As we celebrate Jesus' birth, God's gift for the world: 1) give thanks to God, and 2) experience the peace which only God can give through Jesus.

I look forward to being back at worship with you soon and continuing the work God is doing through us.

God's blessing to you, your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

+Pastor Brian



RETIREMENT - FROM A CHILD'S VIEW

Submitted by Joe Grifone

After a Winter break a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday. One small child wrote the following:

We always used to spend holidays with Grandpa and Grandma. They used to live here in a big home, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people. They all live in tin boxes. They ride on big 3-wheeled tricycles and they all have name tags because they don't know who they are. They go to a big building called a wrecked hall, but they must have got it fixed up, because it's all right now. They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very good. There's a swimming pool there, but they stand in it with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim. As you go into their park, there is a doll house with a little man sitting in it. He watches all day so they can't get out without him seeing them. When they can sneak out, they go to the beach and pick up shells.

My Grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody cooks, they just eat out. They eat the same thing every night: Early Birds. Some of the people don't know how to cook at all, so my Grandma and Grandpa bring food into the wrecked hall and they call it "pot luck."

My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life and earned his retardment. I wish they would move back up here, but I guess the little man in the doll house won't let them out!

Ladies of Faith and Friends

Just an update so you can mark your calendars. We have matinee tickets for *Menopause, The Musical* on January 18th at the Venice Theater. There will be 40 of us attending, with seating on the main level in the center section.

Due to the large number we have determined that we will **not** all be able to enjoy lunch together, but will suggest that each carpool agree on their own restaurant, then we will all meet at the theater before showtime (2 pm).

At this point in time I am holding on to all the tickets and we will be forming carpools soon. If you find you are unable to attend after all, I have a list of ladies interested in taking your place posted in the narthex.