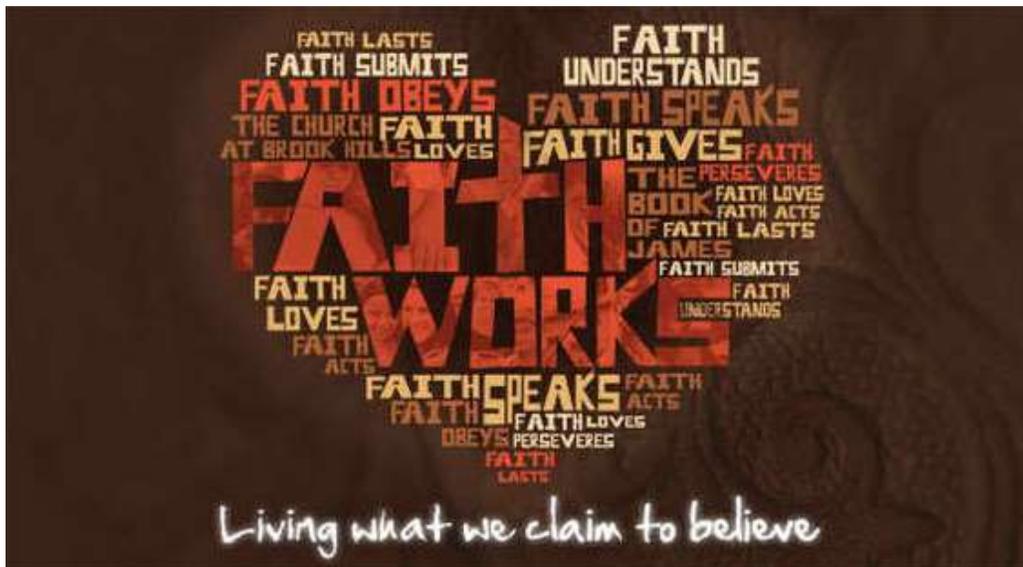


Living What We Claim to Believe



On Thursday, February 23, 2017, I will begin a Bible Study on the Book of James. We will meet in the Church Library at 7:00 p.m. This will be a seven-week study.

Tradition identifies James, the brother of Jesus, as the leader of the Jerusalem church. Besides the New Testament, James is also mentioned by the Jewish historian Josephus, who calls him “the brother of Jesus.” He reports that James was much respected even by the Pharisees for his piety and strict observance of the Law, but that his enemies took advantage of an interval between Roman governors in 62 AD to have him put to death. James wrote his letter to encourage Christians to live their faith. Our first lesson will be words of practical advice: that we can face impossible difficulties and keep on going ... we must never quit!

As we meet for our Adult Bible Fellowship, we will not only learn that overcoming trials produces maturity and character, we will enjoy Christian fellowship that will help in our spiritual growth. We can live what we claim to believe!

Hope to see you on February 23rd!

Pastor Bill

Messages from the Diaconate

Movie and Pizza Night – February 3

Don't miss out on this fun evening! Mark your calendars for Friday, February 3 for our Movie and Pizza Night in the Mayflower Room. The movie we have selected is Ground Hog Day. Pizza and pop will be at 6:30 pm; the movie will start at 7:00 pm with desserts and snacks during a brief intermission.

Sunday, February 12

Brian Sampson will be leading us in worship on February 12 while Rev. Kren and Sue are enjoying a visit their son and his family in California. They will be gone February 8 – 15.

Diaconate Meeting – February 15

The Diaconate Board is meeting Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm.

Bible Study Starts – February 23

Rev. Kren will once again lead a one-hour seven-week Bible study on Thursdays during Lent from February 23 through April 6 at 7:00 pm. No sign-up is required; just attend as often as you are able. We look forward to a time of fellowship and obtaining a better understanding of the Bible.

Ash Wednesday Supper and Service – March 1

The Lenten season is right around the corner. As we did last year, we will be providing a light supper of bread and home-made soups and chili. Supper will be at 6:00 pm followed by our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer to make a soup or chili, please let Nancy, Teresa, or Cheryl know.

Fish & Loaves Food Pantry

We are collecting non-perishable food items for donation to the Fish & Loaves Food Pantry located in Taylor. Your food items may be placed in the basket behind the last pew in the Sanctuary. This organization was first launched and led by Rev. Drutchas of St. Paul Church in 2008.

2016 Men's Club

Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Thanks to all who volunteered many hours to support the 2016 Annual Christmas Tree Sale. It was a real team effort! There were about 12 trees left (we also ordered 30 more trees this year). Final numbers indicate that we generated about \$5,123 in profit. This is about \$550 more than last year, considering last year's transportation costs were not included at the time of the report. With the reduced number of people we had to staff the lot, it was an absolute GREAT success! Thanks again to everyone for all their hard work and support. Thanks also to the members who helped make the breakfast back on Nov. 19th. If anyone has any other tree sale expenses or tree sale monies to turn in, please get the receipts or monies to me as soon as possible.

Many Thanks,

Jim Haling
Men's Club
Christmas Tree Chairman



Treasurer's Report for December 2016

Income- \$9,105.00

Expenses- \$9,262.80

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 13,314.66

Investments with UBS valued at \$172,072.09

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

Have you noticed the magazines in the checkout lines? "Find the NEW you" ... 2017 can make you "better than ever!" What is that all about? I like the old me, I even like the me I am now! The old me was pretty good. I kept a lot of those "good" qualities. Even improved some. I'm not going to lie, I'm not the same as I was when I was 30, but I'm not busy chasing my kids around. That's a plus. Life tends to even the score. I'm not capable of chasing after the kids like I once did. But I am always able to hug the dickens out of my grandkids. That's sweeter than Sanders hot fudge sundaes. Oh, my, I miss that, don't you?

A "better" you? How about, "you're holding your own, toots. Way to go!" I am a better cook. Over the years, I have steadily improved. Now I am asked for my recipes. So there, *Cosmopolitan*. Your makeup tips will not beat my meat loaf tips. Ever! (Unless you're 17 and living at home.)

I can hold my booze much better. (Don't drink it, just hold it as I offer a drink to guests.) I think that's a good thing. Much better to remember the party, don't you think? Okay...to be honest, there is no booze in my house. Not that I can't handle it, I just don't drink.

Even the "old" me learned my lesson quite early! Don't ask, just trust me. The "now" me has time to read a good book, go out to lunch with friends, volunteer for my church, and if I so choose, to sleep in. That, my friend, is good.

I ignore the magazines. I still get *Reader's Digest*, love it. But I think divorces, illegitimate babies, drug use, etc., should be kept private. I refuse to spend five or six dollars to read how much Kanye spent on Kim. One of her purses could've paved our entire parking lot. There's something wrong with that!

So, my friends, ignore those headlines! You ARE better. Day by day, strive for better still. There's a reason we are GRANDmothers, ladies. I recently made GREAT grandmother. Must be doing something right.

(For those of you not there yet, hang on. It's so worth the wait)

Grand. I like that! I'm just sayin.

WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IS A
TEN MINUTE TOTAL MAKEOVER
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE
ESSENTIAL ME!

