

LOVE **GROW** SHARE PRAISE

AROUND THE CHURCH

MARCH 2022 - MAY 2022

ISSUE 9

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 02** *LETTER FROM PASTOR JASON*
- 03** *ELDER CORNER
SAVE THE DATES
MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT*
- 04** *FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION*
- 05** *FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE*
- 06** *CULTIVATING GROWTH*
- 07** *MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
MISSIONS UPDATE*
- 08** *SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES*



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GROW TO GIVE GARDEN



LETTER FROM PASTOR JASON



I grew up working for my grandfather's insulation company. Crawling around attics through fiberglass insulation during the summer heat gets a guy to plan out his future! Through those opportunities, I spent time with my dad and uncles, whom all had different business trades, and I watched and learned. Then, a few years ago, I went through education to get my building license and served as a general contractor for some beautiful house flips.

If you have ever been a part of a house flip or watched one of the million shows out there, the project never goes as you think it will. Before you can begin your renovations, you must first step back and figure out what is usable in the existing home. This step causes lots of stress and conflict. Builders and tradespeople always want to strip away more because it is easier to build new. In contrast, investors want to protect their investment and keep as much as they can. As a general contractor, I risk looking like a fool if I am wrong.

In Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul teaches wisdom and foolishness. He challenges the Christians to check their assumptions about truth. To do this, he tells them that they must take a step back and discern if the wisdom they have received is from the world instead of the knowledge Paul taught of the cross. Paul warns them of the danger of being wise in "this age" and encourages them to strip away the veneer. As Paul instructs them, true wisdom will look very foolish to the world. God's wisdom will give them a firm foundation to build on, but it will look vastly different from human wisdom based on our understanding.

What in your life do you know to be true? What serves as the foundation for all you are building on? My prayer is that as we grow, we are growing in wisdom based upon the truths of Scripture. That the renovation of our lives - the old being gone and the new coming - is firmly placed upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ. The world - they rejected that cornerstone. It did not make sense to them. But I pray that you will join me in being one of the fools who builds his house on the Rock.

*If anyone among you thinks that
he is wise in this age, let him
become a fool that he may become
wise. For the wisdom of this world
is folly with God.*
1 Corinthians 3:18-19a

SAVE THE DATES

EASTER SERMON
SERIES BEGINS
3/6

CHILDREN'S
EASTER
CELEBRATION
4/2

PALM SUNDAY
4/10

GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE
4/15

EASTER SUNDAY
SERVICE
4/17

GROW TO GIVE
GARDEN WORK
DAYS
3/19, 4/23, 5/21

SHARE THE TABLE
MARCH
2, 9, 16, 23, 30

APRIL
6, 13, 20, 27

2ND SATURDAY
BUILDING CLEAN-
UP DAY
5/14

ELDER CORNER | BRAD PYKE

Everyone wants to be part of something bigger. People volunteer to feed the hungry, chase political party ideas, save lost dogs, and coach youth sports, all to be a part of something bigger. However, the pandemic has taught me that these things lead to emptiness apart from our Father in heaven.

Redemption, hope, and revival have become critical in my relationship with Jesus now more than ever. The limbs of my tree are stretched in many different ways, but the past few years have forced me to invest in the roots and trunk of that tree. I have relied on the church to clear my mind, focus my heart, and rejuvenate my soul. Sunday mornings seem like a much-needed weekly revival. The music, the preaching, the Sermon on the Mount...this church, and a focus on Christ, have helped push me away from the news media, the virus, politics, and the hopelessness of a worldly view. I rely on Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and church prayer time more than ever before. In doing so, I have learned to push through all the distractions and nonsense to make time for drawing near to Christ who gives me everlasting life.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

As we focus on our core value of growth in this newsletter, we want to share the stories of members of our Faith Church family who are using their gifts and talents to grow the kingdom of God. Miriam Carballo is one of our members doing just that by leading an ESL program for expatriate moms. It began in 2017 when a Mexican friend asked Miriam for help with her English. Word spread as more and more mothers of young children joined, and soon the program needed more space and began meeting at Faith Church. Currently, the program has expanded into two different classes to accommodate different levels of learning. Several other Faith Church members are involved in helping with childcare, teaching, assisting with pronunciation, and more. Miriam hopes to continue to expand, offering classes for three or four different levels of learners in the future.

Because of this program, many of the women involved and their children have begun attending various Faith Church activities. As a result, they have the opportunity to learn the good news of the Gospel and learn the English language. Miriam's leadership and willingness to serve in this way is a great example of a believer who used her knowledge and skills to build up her community and honor God by following His lead. Please pray for Miriam and the ESL program to continue to flourish and grow!

This quarter, we have intentionally begun highlighting the arts in our newsletter. Informational articles are not the only way God speaks to hearts and minds. Sometimes other means like music, storytelling, and art can have a similar impact. We hope that by adding the creative work of our brothers and sisters in Christ to this newsletter, we magnify God by displaying the source of all creativity and beauty. If you are interested in sharing your creative gifts with our church in future newsletters, please contact Julie.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION RUSTY GAILEY

Recommendations from Rusty to help us GROW!



Live EP - "Passion Live from Rehearsals"

This is more of what you'd expect from this band... solid lyrics with an easy melody.

Find it on [Apple Music](#) or [Spotify](#)



Live Single - "Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

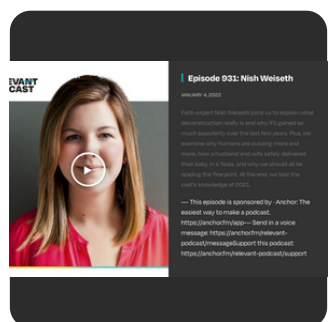
This genre is out of my wheelhouse, but wow is it great! Sometimes I wish I had this gear as an artist. I love both of these guys as artists, and together they are solid gold. If you have time for nine minutes of praise, it's absolutely worth the listen!

Find it on [Apple Music](#) or [Spotify](#)



Devotional Classics by Richard Foster

This book is a go-to for me when I'm stuck in my pursuit of GROWth. It consists of a collection of writings arranged by topic, from a wide range of respected Christian leaders throughout history. Each writing gets paired with a passage of scripture and some reflection questions to help you think through what you've read. I find it a great encouragement from those who have gone before us.



A Conversation on *Deconstruction of Faith* | Episode 931, Relevant Podcast

The segment I am referring to starts at the 18:17 mark of the podcast. I think it's interesting to note that deconstruction is not de-conversion. Deconstruction can be a helpful tool to realign ourselves with God's intention for us (2 Corinthians 13:5). Sadly, so many people deconstruct and never reconstruct. It starts with our God-given desires as we listen for the Spirit who is at work within us (1 Corinthians 2: 6-16). We can't let human betrayal, systemic social problems, or a religious system keep us from faith in God. He is holy and transcendent.



FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE FROM DARREN ANDEREGG

Part of our call as Christians is for sanctification, that gradual progress in holiness. In other words, growth. Christians should be changed and changing. The plethora of gardening metaphors in the Bible attest that growth in Christ is akin to the growing of plants. Just as a flower soaks in the sun's rays or a branch pulls life from the vine (John 15), we draw our energy from God's abundance and not our strength. Thus, a growing Christian is one whose leaves are stretched out to receive the light of Christ.

The Family Ministry is committed to helping a student's leaves unfurl, teaching them to drink in the living water and experience true life and growth. Bringing students into God's presence is what drives everything we do. In these moments, our Youth leaders, Children's Ministry volunteers, and teachers each have a role to play in reflecting the light of Christ onto the young lives around them. To this end, the Family Ministry employs three primary vehicles of engagement.

First, we create **regular opportunities** for Bible teaching and community building. For our students, this is our High School and Middle School Youth Group meetings on Sunday and Wednesday nights, respectively. For our Children, this is our Sunday morning class time while parents are in the worship service. Our objective is to create an atmosphere of fun and engagement that kids will want to return to while also providing clear Bible teaching.

Secondly, we semi-regularly provide **extended special events** or trips that allow for deeper connections, deeper relationships, and deeper discussions. For the Middle School students, this looks like our recent weekend trip to SpringHill, and for the High School students, our upcoming weekend trip to Boyne Mountain. For the Children, events like January's Pancake and Pajama party or our recent trip to Urban Air Trampoline Park.

...continued on page 6

...Family Ministries Update, continued from p.5

Finally, our third vehicle is **individualized interactions** curated for those involved. For the Students, this looks like showing up at a volleyball game, track meet, or performance to cheer them on, while for the Children, this looks like a special hang-out afternoon to do what they want to do.

Whether it's a trip across the state, Sunday morning lessons, or weekly Youth Group meetings, everything is designed to foster a community centered around Christ while teaching them the whole of God's revelation.

CULTIVATING GROWTH | AIMEE MONETTE

As the ice begins to melt and the biting chill of the wind gradually fades into a breeze, the days slowly lengthen and we all search for signs of spring. Warmer days are on the horizon. Birds begin singing praise, and buds escape from tree limbs in an effort to reach up towards the sun and worship our creator. Spring shows us that growth is beautiful!

Those who love to garden anxiously await the day they can begin planting in the spring. The soil must warm up enough to be pliable, and the gardener should be cautious to not plant too early to avoid a frost. To prepare for planting, the soil is tended so the plants have the best chance to take root and grow. The old is removed, the soil tilled and fertilized. Healthy soil is necessary to ensure a plant's success.

Likewise, to grow in our walk with God we must first remove the things that keep us from allowing Christ to take root in our hearts. Anything that is crowding him out needs to be trimmed away. Those that have ever tackled a weed-ridden garden know that the process is easier said than done, right?



Why is it that we yearn to see the results of growth, but protest the process? We forget that in order to grow, we must plant ourselves firmly in our faith and continuously cultivate our relationship with our Creator. We cannot plant the seeds and forget about them. If we don't seek to work out our salvation, the world will do its best to crowd out God's love. It becomes harder to see what God has planted, as from the outside the weeds seem to have won. It's not until we reach down and rip those pesky plants out from the roots that we begin to see the beauty of God's love again.

God tells the birds of the sky where to nest and find nourishment. The flowers of the field bloom and look towards the sky knowing the sun will rise and the rain will fall. We do not continuously dig up a freshly planted seed to check for growth, rather we tend to it to ensure a beautiful result. Growth requires faithfulness. The fruit comes after the seed and as we harvest the fruit, God provides more seed to plant and reap abundantly.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MATT HEINZ

It is no secret that spiritual growth happens when we follow God's lead and step outside of our comfort zone, using our education and skills in a new way that advances God's kingdom. One of our own at Faith Church, Matt Heinz, is currently doing just that and his story can be an inspiration to all of us! Matt has a master's degree in Computer Science and has worked in the software field for over 10 years. Recently, he quit his job to be a stay-at-home dad to he and his wife's two young daughters, Naomi (19 months) and Scarlett (4 months). In addition to filling that challenging role, Matt is also volunteering 20 hours weekly for a non-profit organization called JAARS (Jungle Aviation and Radio Service).

According to their website, JAARS is "a multidisciplinary team of problem-solvers committed to the belief—and the vision—that people's lives and communities are transformed as they experience God's Word in their own language." They provide everything from pilot training and mission aviation services to remote technology and communications support to help make Bible translation possible in remote areas. Specifically, Matt is currently working to maintain and upgrade an app used by the pilots called FlightSpan. This app assists the pilots who fly into remote areas bringing supplies and providing Medivac services when necessary.

Through this work, Matt is using his unique knowledge and skillset to play a part in bringing the Word of God in their own language to people living in remote regions of the world. What a wonderful thing! May we all be prayerfully seeking ways that God can use us to minister to others, whether near or far.



SCAN TO WATCH FAITH CHURCH ATTENDER, CIARA SOSNOWSKI'S, ORIGINAL SONG AND MUSIC VIDEO

Ciara told us, "I wrote "Stranger" about seasons of growth as a follower of Jesus. In the song, I explore characteristics that Jesus has that I want to embody — I want to be a good listener, I want to be strong, I want to be peaceful. It delves into the feeling of vulnerability that comes when we open ourselves up to knowing the Lord in the way He calls us to. This song has represented a season of growth in my life, and I hope it blesses you!"

MISSIONS UPDATE

After a short hiatus at the end of last year, the Mission Team is meeting again and looking forward to the Lord's plans for 2022. Along with welcoming the new year, the Mission Team also welcomes several new members who have already displayed a willingness to serve and engage.

This year the team will be focusing on three areas:

- Awareness – building awareness within our Faith Church family regarding our missionaries: where they serve, their focus areas, their family and prayer needs, etc.
- Affirmation – a consistent approach to letting our missionaries know we stand with them in their call and commitment to serve the Lord in missions
- Accountability – confirming alignment between the Faith Church essentials and those of the missionaries we support, their parent organization, and the work they do.

In keeping with the focus areas above, I want to advise you of a change in status for one of our missionaries, Joel Sewell. ...continued on page 8

...Missions Update, continued from p. 7

Through much prayer and many discussions with trusted advisors, Joel has decided to resign from his position with Interact Ministries. Joel and his family have been serving the Stoney people in Eden Valley, Canada, for more than 14 years. The Lord has been faithful to Joel, his ministry, and his family during this time. Joel and his family send their heartfelt, humble gratitude for the support and encouragement Faith Church and others have given to them during their work at Eden Valley. Please keep Joel and his family in your prayers as they move through this transition.

Finally, as we move forward, please feel free to reach out to any of us on the team should you have any suggestions or questions regarding missions. Please take this opportunity to actively engage in building your awareness of each of our missionaries, considering how you can actively be praying and affirming them as we endeavor to bring the Gospel into all the world.

STAYING CONNECTED

Miss an email? Didn't hear the verbal announcements? Download [The Faith Church app](#). This hub of Faith Church has all the information you need on demand.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Please prayerfully consider how you have been called to serve Faith Church. Current opportunities are listed below:

- Grow to Give Garden volunteers
- Sunday morning children's Sunday school helpers
- Sunday morning children's check-in volunteer
- Purchase and pick up donuts for Sunday morning.
- Maintenance of Hamlin Road garden beds
- Maintenance of front island and entry garden beds
- Maintenance of prayer garden
- Lawn care trimming

Contact Julie for information on any of these opportunities.

NEVER MISS A MOMENT



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Thank you to Julie Shahly for helping to write and edit this newsletter.

