Caring Conversations, Devotions, Rituals and Traditions, Service … herein lies the four-keyed facets of Vibrant Faith (formerly The Youth & Family Institute) ministries.

A Vibrant Faith would no doubt be appreciated any time, but it is especially welcomed at the Advent and Christmas season of the church year.

On Advent 1 a Vibrant Faith is revealed by St. Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians, in which he overflows thanks, joy and blessings for the people of this growing church.

On Advent 2 Vibrant Faith is made known by John the Baptist as he declares the “way of the Lord” through “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Admittance of sin is a wonderful first step to a living faith.

On Advent 3 Vibrant Faith is expressed by the prophet Zephaniah, who, after relating the message of judgment for sin, prophesies joy and salvation to all who heed God’s voice.

On Advent 4 Elizabeth (John’s mother) and Mary (Jesus’ mother) visit together in the hill country and are filled with the Holy Spirit and with Vibrant Faith. Through Elizabeth’s greeting and Mary’s song of praise we are rewarded with recollections of a saving God who remembers, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

On Christmas God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace. Vibrant Faith wells up in every hearer’s heart as this “story for the ages” is retold once again.

Vibrant Faith is what God instills in people through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Vibrant Faith is what God’s people reflect, both in the congregation and home.

Vibrant Faith is the tell-tale mark of homes alive in Christ.

Vibrant Faith is contagious.

Vibrant Faith is garnered as God’s people see themselves as mentors to all children and youth.

Vibrant Faith makes us real. It helps us become authentic as we profess our faith in Jesus Christ our Savior. It shows itself to others as we become available to their needs. And it is affirming to all, as it builds up relationships – shared with Christ and each other.

A Vibrant Faith congregation is what we seek to become, through the power of the Holy Spirit and faith alive in each of us. May God bless our endeavors.

As the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus fills our hearts this season, may we be bold in sharing them – in Vibrant Faith!

Pastor Dan
Council Highlights

• We continue to focus on the Four Keys of Vibrant Faith Ministries in our Meetings: Devotions, Caring Conversations, Rituals & Traditions and Service.

• The Council met and discussed plans and events for the remainder of the council term year (Feb-June). We will renew emphasis on Vibrant Faith and incorporating our mission into all activities and events.

• Budget Planning for 2010 is underway and as we look at the $$$ for operation, we are balancing our needs with a focus on mission for the future.

• The Worship Team is passionate about developing a Teen Youth Event Ministry. Spike, Slice & Service (Volleyball and Pizza) will kick off on Tuesday 12/8 at 6:30pm.

• Confirmation classes have begun for the 7th and 8th graders.

• Milestone Ministries are continuing for our youth and the 3rd graders have attended classes to help them learn to read and understand the Bible with their parents. Distribution of the Bibles will be during Sunday Services.

• We are still looking for interested volunteers for the Ride Connection that would allow us to provide transportation for homebound members of the congregation. Training for the driver(s) of the van will take approximately 3 hours.

• The quilts were delivered with overwhelming appreciation by the recipients, this was affirmation of our caring ministry to the community we live in.

• 300+ School students & family members attended the POP School Pancake Breakfast and the Family Traditions night was also very well attended with several members of the council and families from the congregation meeting and interacting with the school families.

• Adult Choir and Bell Choir have been invited to perform at the next POP School Movie Night (Dec 11) and share their beautiful music with our school families.

• Three key areas of focus have been identified with the STAR organization of the council members. All STAR Leaders are looking at Lay Ministry, Stewardship and Youth as areas of opportunity for our congregation, ministry and growth.

• A timeline has been developed to fill our vacant Family Life Minister position with a goal to have the opening filled by June 2010.

• Reviews are being conducted on space utilization throughout the building to ensure that we are maximizing opportunities for our growing ministries (i.e. school needs, Parish Nurse, education, youth, etc)
Childrens Program
The Christmas Story

Sunday, December 13, 10:00 AM (one service)
Join us to hear the children sing, perform a play and help celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Christmas Services

Children’s Christmas Service (Dec. 13) 10:00 AM (one service)
Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM services
Christmas Morning (Dec. 25) 10:00 AM (one service)
Sunday after Christmas (Dec. 27) 10:00 AM (one service)

Decorating for Christmas
Saturday, Dec. 5th
9:00 - 12:00

Adult Education Classes

December 6, 9:15 CLC125
Church Year Symbols
led by Jody Thurston

December 20, 9:15 CLC125
The Christmas Star
led by Andy Westlund

Note: No classes December 13 & 27 due to Children’s Program & Christmas Holiday

Andy Westlund

Amazing Grays:
This group of 55+ (we are avoiding the term seniors as many people no longer feel that applies to all of the group and could make people reluctant to participate) is meeting at the church at 11:00 AM on Thursday December 10th for a traditional COOKIE EXCHANGE and luncheon. Please bring between 4 and 5 dozen cookies. 4 dozen will be exchanged and the other dozen will be for sampling. Those participating always appreciate it if you are able to bring copies of your recipe. Also remember to bring something to carry your share of the exchange cookies home. This event is open to all and there are no age limits. So if you are interested in having a variety of cookies without the effort of baking for long periods of time this would be the event for you to come and meet us. Please call either Val Schmidt at 503-645-1274 or Anne Seim at 503-646-7700 or sign up in the lobby of the church so we can have an idea of how many to prepare for.

Anne Seim
**Amazing Grays**

Cookie Exchange  
Dec. 10th, 11:30  
CLC  
See Details in the newsletter or on the bulletin board. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the board room.

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**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Come Knit or Crochet with Quilters on  
Monday Dec. 7th & Jan. 4th  
10:30 - 7:00  
(come and go as your time allows)  
Please call Mary Raetz  
If you are interested.  
Mary 503-629-2025  
mary@raetzfamily.com

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**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Flour, sugar, crackers, mayonnaise, popcorn

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**Women’s Study Group**

Studying the Book of Mark  
Meets on Tuesdays  
11:45 am – 1:00 PM  
Boardroom  
Come as you are and bring your lunch!

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**New Year’s Eve Service**

New Year's Eve Service (Dec. 31)  
5:00 PM (one service)

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**Quilting News**

**Quilting for Kids**  
December 7, 10:30 - 7:00  
January 4, 10:30 - 7:00  
Contact Mary Raetz  
503-629-2025

**Knot Tiers**  
November 9, 1:00  
December 14, 1:00  
Contact Anne Seim  
503-646-7700

All are welcome, no experience necessary. Please call to let someone know that you are coming.
A big thank you to the folks who helped with our fall clean-up on Saturday, November 21st. The rain held off and we even had a sun-break or two for the outside crew of Bert Cathcart, Paul Goudy, Jennifer and Ray Legault, Bill Mayer, Dick Nicoll, Dick Sellke, George Thurston and Dick Zschoche. The gutters and drains were cleaned and several loads of leaves were raked and taken to the leaf collection center at Sunset H.S. The inside cleaning crew of Kim Goudy, Marjanna Hosler, Patti Nicoll, Jody Thurston, and Brian and Darlene Thauland focused on the sanctuary, lounge, entry area, and the boardroom. Steve Bailey was the window "wizard" cleaning the glasswork inside and out. Thanks to all involved.  

George Thurston

Fall Clean-up Thanks!!

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George Thurston

Are you a SERVANT?

This is the month that we traditionally find ourselves pulled in many directions. We are both giving and receiving. We try to help and find that we are too often doing so out of obligation. The hassle of feeling we have to do this or that can take the joy out of the opportunity to serve. Serving should be a joy but it can become a chore. We look forward to the events of the season - just after coming out of the events of Thanksgiving - and know that we are going to be busy just because that is our life in this day and age. Some of us may try to crowd in so much that we lose the joy. After all, isn't servant a BAD term? Doesn't it mean you HAVE to do it? Where is the joy in that? What would Jesus say? Would he have a new parable? One like the Gift of Gifting or the Gift of Serving written in today's setting. Our pastors often exhort us to see the positive, and while it is difficult and perfectly human to take time and center on ourselves, we are reluctant to accept that that is normal and fair - that it is even healthy. Giving of yourself is a joy and it is healthy. If you are happy it spreads and if you are feeling downtrodden that also can spread and even be a positive. When you are truly down and you share, you could be giving someone else the chance to give you a hand and bringing them to the joy of sharing by helping you. So don't forget to include yourself in your gift list. Give yourself joy and time to reflect on all that you give and receive. Don't avoid sharing even your troubles because you don't want to burden others. Someone out there may be just waiting for the chance to help and know you. You can give at any time in ways that you would never consider as an opportunity of giving. Sharing joys is Glorious and sharing problems and cares are an opportunity for others to share with you. A true servant is not someone who is ordered to do something, but one who does it out of love and caring. A true servant receives joy in abundance. We are all servants of God.  

Anne Seim, Director of Ministry
It is a busy time. It is a time when we are on the go non-stop. Yet, it is a time when we need to be nurtured with the blessings that the birth of our Savior Jesus brings us, both in spirit, body and mind. In his book *Sabbath*, Wayne Muller reminds us that “Remember the Sabbath - means remembering that everything that you have received is a blessing. Remember to delight in your life, in the fruits of your labor,...to stop and offer thanks for the wonder of it.” Muller defines Sabbath as that of physical and mental rest so that we may “become nourished and refreshed.” Remember also, that Jesus needed to rest. He once slept so deeply during a storm at sea (Mark 4:33) that the disciples had to wake Him. So during this blessed season, take time to give thanks, take in the beauty and wonders of our glorious celebration in Christ, and remember to rest, (preferably, before December 26th!).

**Parish Nurse Role - Health Counselor**

“Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you” (Psalm 5:11).

It is in that verse that Parish Nurses are inspired and comforted to offer themselves up in the role of Health Counselor.

As Health Counselors, PNs discuss health concerns with individuals assessing the person’s level of wellness. We are all works in progress, and each of us have different levels of wellness. As PNs, we will work with the individual to determine what goals are realistic and achievable for that person. We wish to empower you to manage and influence your own health by emphasizing health promotion, prevention and preservation. Health counseling can take place at coffee time after service or with blood pressure screening, or in more formal setting when arrangements have been made to discuss them. Both Pam and Karina are available for Health Counseling.

**Health Ministry Congregational Survey** is coming soon to evaluate the wellness levels (body, mind, and spirit) of our congregational members. Your participation will benefit all of us in helping plan for future needs of our members. Look for more in January.

**Volunteers Needed**

We are still looking for a few drivers to assist with bringing seniors to church on Sundays. A 3 hour training session would be required. For more info please contact Karina.

**December**


Fact- An estimated 33 million people were living with HIV in 2007, most of these were in Sub-Saharan Africa. There were 2.7 million new HIV infections and 2 million AIDS-related deaths last year. (UNAIDS)

**National Handwashing Awareness Week December 6-12**  [www.henrythehand.com](http://www.henrythehand.com)

God’s peace be yours this blessed season,

Your Parish Nurses

Karina Wehrspann 503-645-0436 and Pam Krautscheid 503-645-2474
Spike, Slice and Serve
Teen Volleyball
Dec. 8 from 6:00-7:30 PM
volleyball (spike) from 6:00-7:00
followed by pizza (slice) and
discussion (serve God and community)

We welcome teens from POP to join us and bring a friend or two.
Those interested in participating are asked to contact the POP office and let them know so we can plan accordingly for pizza and soda.

PoP Library
A suggestion has been made to convert our library space into an alternate use. Many of the children's books and items have already been moved to an alternate location in the CLC and some of the educational resources might also be helpful or better utilized in alternate locations in the building. The council welcomes any and all feedback regarding the library, its contents and/or alternative space use suggestions.

Forest Hills Lutheran School
Website Offers Online Donating
Please visit our school website at www.fhls.org. The site will give you an overview of the ministry of the school. A new feature on the website is a link for making online donations. If you have a heart for Lutheran education, please consider making a tax deductible contribution to the school before the end of the year. Forest Hills has been blessed by consistent enrollment despite the economy, which has put many of our families in financial hardship. Donations allow the school to strive toward the mission of “Building the Kingdom of God through Christian education.” If you would like to know more about the benefits of making a donation to Forest Hills Lutheran School, please contact: Sharlayne Buuck at buucks@fhls.org or 503.359.4853.

Nominations Requested for the Position of Principal
The Search Committee for Forest Hills Lutheran School, Cornelius, Oregon, requests nominations for the position of Principal. Nominees must be a rostered worker with the LCMS. Please direct your suggestions to: fhls.search@gmail.com or Karen Van Scoten in our school office, 503-359-4853.

Include the persons name, city and state, and any contact information you have for the individual you nominate. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, December 11, 2009. Thank you for your ongoing prayers as we begin and continue this process.

Save the Date
Friday, December 11th please join us as the students at Forest Hills Lutheran School share the story of Christmas in “Greetings From the Heart”. The Christmas program will be held in the Dobbin Center on the Forest Hills campus beginning at 7:00 p.m.
**School News**

We are joyously celebrating the Christmas season at Prince of Peace School. We are filled with joy because Jesus was born - to live, to die and to rise again so that we might find forgiveness for our sins, life and salvation in Him.

We celebrate Jesus, our Best Friend’s birthday with lots of singing, special projects and telling the wonderful Christmas story over and over and over.

Each family has their own Christmas traditions that enrich the celebration of the Christmas holiday. These traditions can point us to Jesus, the reason for our celebration.

“When watching the lights and candles sparkle think of THE Light, Jesus, who came into our world to bring light out of darkness. “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness...” John 1:4-5

“Look at the direction that the Christmas tree points - to heaven where we will join our Savior one day. [Jesus said] “...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:2

“Observe the ornaments and tinsel and think of how God decorates us with His blessings. “Blessed be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3

“When the bills are due in 30-60-90 days, remember and rejoice that Jesus paid the debt of our sins in full by His death and resurrection. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated,'God with us'.” Matthew 1:23

May you be reaffirmed in your commitment to serve our mighty God who loves us with an everlasting love and who is always with us.

In Christmas Joy,

Darlene Thauland

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**Music and a Movie**

Who: The Whole Family
When: December 11 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: CLC Gym
What: Prince of Peace Choir and Handbells
Family Friendly Movie
Singing Christmas Carols
Yummy snacks

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**Chapel**

December Chapel Days are:
Dec 1, Dec 2 and Dec 15

Our Chapel offerings for Dec, Jan and Feb will be going to Jamii Moja which is a non-profit organization focused on helping impoverished African communities to improve their quality of life. Maji Moto is an area comprised of several villages of Maasai located in southwestern Kenya. Our offering will help to build wells for water for the Maasai people and their livestock. Teaching our children about the opportunity and joy of giving is an important life lesson.

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**Art Grant**

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for a grant of $135.00. The grant will be used to buy supplies for our art program. Twice each month the kindergarten and 1st graders enjoy art/art history with Jody Thurston.

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**Enrollment for 2010-11**

Information for enrollment for the 2010-11 school year will be available after Christmas Break.

January 11, 2010: The first day of re-enrollment for current school families and congregation members

January 15, 2010, 3:30-4:15pm: Kindergarten/Elementary Preview Day
Those who would like to meet the teachers and receive more information about our kindergarten and elementary programs can stop by the kindergarten and 1st grade rooms in the CLC.
Devotional Guide for December
Scripture helps to prepare yourself for Sunday Worship

December 7  Second Sunday in Advent
Is 40: 1-11
Psalm 85
2 Peter 3: 8-14
Mark 1: 1-8

December 14  Third Sunday in Advent
Is 61: 1-4 & 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thess 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8 & 19-28

December 21  Fourth Sunday in Advent
2 Sam 7: 1-11 & 16
Psalm 89: 1-5
Rom 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

December 25  The Nativity of Our Lord
Is 52: 7-10
Psalm 2
Heb 1: 1-6
John 1: 1-14

December 28  First Sunday after Christmas
Is 61: 10 – 62: 3
Psalm 111
Gal 4: 4-7
Luke 2: 22-42

Happy Birthday
December

1  Sue Marquette
3  Erik Haugan
6  Todd Cook
7  Sarah Pike
10  Pamela Haugan
11  Shirley Silzars
15  Larry Arnold Jr.
17  Valorie Westlund
18  George Thurston
22  Marlene Walker
26  Caleb Cook

Happy Anniversary
December

13, 1962  Ron & Carol Reule
17, 1960  Ray & Dinah Granning
18, 1999  Andy & Linda Van Dorn
23, 1982  Sara & Al Cardwell
31, 1988  Gregg & Rebecca Zeutzius
Kid’s Page

Tuba Christmas Concert

LOCATION:
Pioneer Courthouse Square
701 SW 6th St
Portland, OR 97205

EVENT DAY:
12/12/09

HOURS:
1:30pm – 3:00pm

PHONE:
(503) 223-1613

ADMISSION:
Admission is free

Presented by:
Pioneer Courthouse Square

Tuba enthusiasts, music lovers, and all of those last minute shoppers will rejoice in the sound of nearly 200 tubas playing the festive music of the season. The audience not only listens to the sounds of the powerful tubas, but is encouraged to participate in the sing-a-long carols.

Cornflake Christmas Wreaths

Ingredients
1 bag (10.5 ounces) mini marshmallows
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
Green food coloring
4-1/2 cups cornflake cereal
Jumbo red nonpareils
Light corn syrup
Red sour belts

Directions
1. Line 2 baking sheets with nonstick foil or parchment paper. Lightly coat a 1/3-cup measure with nonstick spray.
2. Stir marshmallows and butter in a large saucepan over low heat until melted and smooth. Remove from heat and tint with 5 or 6 drops of food coloring. Gently stir in cornflakes.
3. Scoop 1/3 cupfuls of the mixture and drop into 6 piles on each baking sheet. Let cool 5 minutes. Spray fingers with nonstick cooking spray and shape each pile into a wreath, gently compressing the flakes together. Refrigerate until firm.
4. Decorate wreaths with nonpareils or candy balls, attaching them with a dab of corn syrup.

Home for the Holidays

Refashion cards into charming tree decorations. Cut side, roof, and base shapes from Christmas cards. Cut, fold, and use craft glue to secure the seams and pieces. Embellish the houses with additional motifs from the cards, or add a bit of snowy shimmer by coating the bases or rooftops with crafts glue and a dusting of glitter.