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# FWB Church of Christ News and Notes

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2005

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## Spreading the Word

We hope to use this newsletter to keep you updated about news and events concerning our congregation. We plan to publish this newsletter once each month. Our goal is to let you know about things that affect our church family. It is also our intent to keep you informed of coming events and pending decisions.

We will provide information about various ministry opportunities and let you know how you can help in these efforts. This will help you to learn a little more about your brothers and sisters. We will try to include information on Care Group activities, Home Bible studies, and other events that are of interest to the congregation.

Look for the "Profiles of Faith" feature and try to identify the person described.

Our weekly bulletin will continue to have up to date information and important announcements that are more temporary in nature.

If you would like to submit an article for this newsletter, please provide a written copy to one of the elders by the third Sunday of each month. Ω

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## Minister Search Update

We have begun our search for a Minister to serve here in Fort Walton Beach. Our initial process is to contact preachers that are known by us or recommended to us by someone we know and trust to determine whether that person is willing to discuss relocating to our area and taking on the work of the pulpit minister here. If you know of someone you would like to recommend, please give us the information necessary to contact that person. Ω

## Tsunami Relief Effort

### *Excess Contributions in February to go to Tsunami assistance!*

It will take years for those affected by the Tsunami of 29 December '04 to fully recover. Many of our brothers and sisters living in Thailand, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and other countries bordering the Indian Ocean have been affected. Healing Hands International (<http://www.hhi-aid.org/>), a non-profit organization with a board of directors made up of members of Churches of Christ is putting together a relief effort to assist the congregations in that area to deal with the situation they now face. Relief supplies and money will go directly to the congregations of the church in those areas affected for distribution to those in need. We would like to encourage everyone to plan to give a little extra during the month of February. Contributions in February above our required operating expenses will be sent to Healing Hands International to assist in this effort. If you would like information about Healing Hands International so that you can learn more about them or contribute directly to them, please see one of the Elders. If you would like to contribute directly, the address is:

Gerald Hurst - Executive Director  
Healing Hands International  
Tsunami Relief  
455 McNally Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37211  
Ω

## TEACHERS NEEDED!

Our education program is always in need of teachers. We also need to train new teachers. If you have a desire to teach or to assist someone during a Bible class while they teach, please see Ken Cherry (Elementary Education), John Williams (Middle School and High School Education) or one of the Elders (Adult Education). There is also a continuing need for teachers in our pre-school program. If you can help out in this area please see Renee Parrish or Sandi Steck. Ω

## COMING EVENTS

- **“THE HEART OF THE FIGHTER”**

### *Sunday night series to begin in March*

Develop the courage to survive in a demanding world. This is the only way to never give up on yourself and the people you love. Where are you going to find the energy that can make you fully alive—that will enable you to go the distance through hardship, failure, old age, and death? How are you going to never give up? Join us beginning Sunday night, March 6<sup>th</sup>, for a series of lessons on “The Heart of the Fighter.” Ω

## New Spring Quarter Class for Moms!

### “Coping Skills for Moms”

If there is sufficient interest, a new Wednesday night class will be offered beginning in March. “Coping Skills for Moms” will help moms by providing Bible principles and sharing practical experiences for raising children and teens.

If you would like to participate in this class, as a student or by presenting a lesson, please talk to Janet Jeffcoat. Ω

## BUILDING REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY!

Interior repairs are almost complete in the fellowship area. The new roof is on and the new ceiling tiles and lights have been installed. In addition, a new sound system has been installed in the fellowship hall that will make it easier to hear. Tony Posey did a great deal of the manual labor required to prepare the fellowship hall for its facelift. Thank you Tony for a job well done!

Other work around the building continues. The roof over the main auditorium is in the process of being repaired. New metal roofing is also being installed on this part of the building. In addition, the lighting is being repaired around the exterior of the building to enhance the safety and security of our building and grounds. Ω

## Farewell Luncheon

The turn-out for this fellowship meal was outstanding. Thank you for participating and preparing such wonderful food.

We would especially like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the fellowship meal honoring the Mitchell family such a huge success.

The meal was well-attended and wonderfully orchestrated.

It was encouraging to see so many there to honor Ross, Tia, Clint, and Maggie. Ω

## Budget for 2005

Sam Lowe completed work on our budget for 2005 and copies of our “spend plan” are available for you to review. Please look for copies in our lobbies. Our weekly budget will be increased to \$8740 bringing our annual budget to \$454,496. Sam will discuss our budget and answer any questions you may have at our next quarterly congregational meeting in March.

If you have questions concerning any of the budget items, please see any of our Deacons or one of the Elders.

## Playground Proposal

Several of our young parents are interested in creating a playground for our younger children. This playground would give the young children someplace to run and play outside of the building.

Alex and Sunnie Bexley are leading an effort to research what city, county, and state requirements must be met in order to build a playground on our property. In addition, they will be trying to determine the best location on our property for the playground and how traffic flow through our parking lots and drive through might be improved to enhance safety for everyone.

If you have any suggestions that might help in this effort please see Alex or Sunnie. Ω

## Security in the Building

Ladies, please keep your eyes on your purses. Unfortunately, someone has been stealing money from purses left unattended. Until we can resolve this problem, please do not leave your purses unattended.

We all need to be aware of what is happening in our building. Please do not be afraid to ask about someone's behavior or presence that does not seem appropriate or is out of place. If you are uncomfortable doing this, please ask one of the men to do this for you or to accompany you.

We are asking all of our men to help monitor activity around our building.

Parents, please keep track of your children and ask them to help us out in watching out for bad behavior. Ω

## Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes

Our Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes are making preparations now to attend the convention in Orlando in March. The young men and women have been studying Mark in preparation for Bible Bowl testing.

This program is designed to give our young people opportunities to grow through study and service. We encourage everyone to get involved in this program and offer encouragement and the benefit of your experience to assist our young people as they mature in their Christian walk. Ω

## Youth Minister Search Update

Two Youth Minister candidates have been invited to visit with us to discuss the possibility of taking on this ministry. During each visit the candidates will participate in and lead a devotional and teach a combined Middle School and High School Bible class. All teens and their parents are encouraged to meet each of the candidates and their families. The teens are especially encouraged to attend the devotional and Bible classes.

Doug and Peggy Edmonds visited on 23 January. Doug and Peggy currently live in Vancouver Washington where Doug serves as the Youth Minister at the Hazel Dell Church of Christ. They have four children, Jessica (19), Jeff (17), Abby (15), and Aileen (13).

Stephen Warden visited on 30 January. Stephen and his wife live in Woodville Alabama.

The Youth Minister Search Committee consists of Ken Cherry, Steve Riggs, Jim Bushey, and John Williams. You may contact any of these men if you have any questions or comments to share with them concerning the Search Committee's task. Ω

## Vacation Bible School '05

### *VBS set for July 18-22*

VBS is right around the corner! Plan now to participate and to bring a friend.

It is hard to believe, but summer will be here soon. Ken Cherry has agreed to serve as the Deacon to coordinate this year's VBS. Sunnie Bexley, Tara Murphree, and others have also already started some preliminary planning.

We need you to commit to helping out with our VBS to build on the success of last year. Contact Ken Cherry if you would like to avoid the rush and sign up early as a teacher, assistant teacher, puppeteer, guide, host/hostess, snack server, or any thing else you would like to do to help. Ω

# MISSION ECUADOR 2005

In July 2005 we will again send a team to Ecuador to conduct a summer bible camp and to assist the local churches in that country.

Eighteen of our members participated last year. They were all excited about what they had been a part of in Ecuador. A successful mission takes a lot of planning. Ricardo Morales serves as our "point man" in planning this mission. He works with other churches in this area as well as other parts of the U.S. to coordinate this two week effort.

Our budget for 2005 includes money to support of this mission. Therefore, we will not be asking for independent contributions of money to support the Ecuador mission. The generosity of this congregation has been humbling and enabled us to commit more than \$25,000 to the mission last year. Additionally, some of those who made the trip paid their full travel expenses. We want to encourage you to support this and all other programs of work that have been identified in our church budget for 2005.

We will provide more information about this mission as planning progresses. As in the past, we would like to identify those who would like to go to Ecuador early so that travel and housing arrangements can be made. Please let Ricardo Morales know now if you think you would like to participate in this year's campaign.

Fort Walton Beach Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 1720  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# Mission Ecuador (continued)

The campaign is held in the mountains of Ecuador at high elevations. Since the Youth Camp location is in excess of 10,000 feet above sea level, you should ask your doctor whether you should expose yourself to the stresses of high-altitude living.

You will have opportunities to participate even if you can't go. More information concerning what will be needed and how you can help will be provided at a later date.

Regardless of your ability to participate directly by going to Ecuador, or indirectly through giving of your money or clothing, you can pray for this mission. Begin praying now for well-prepared workers, for receptive people, and for a safe trip. Most of all, pray that God's word will be taught and the church in Ecuador can be strengthened through our efforts. Ω

## Bible Reading Challenge

Don't forget the Bible reading challenge. Read through the Bible this year.

**"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."**

**2 Tim 2:15 (NAS)**

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