

## Journey - Pursue - Impact



### GIVE CLEAN WATER

According to the World Health Organization, 1.8 million, including infants and children, die every year from diarrheal diseases. Globally it is the leading cause of illness and death. The great news is that it is preventable!

Give Clean Water, Inc., a non-profit organization, provides and installs clean water filters in people's homes so no matter what type of water they have access to, these families will always have clean water to drink. Recently, a member of Faith Journey Church, Jim Randol, made the trek to Fiji to work on a project with Give Clean Water. Fiji has a tremendous need for water filtration; almost 50% of the Fijian population do not have access to clean water. The team Jim was with installed a water filtration system at the supply tank for a village so that it could affect all the homes versus just one home. They believe this is just the beginning of solving the entire country's water problems because Fiji is a relatively small demographic area and it is a tangible goal. We are happy to join with Give Clean Water this Christmas with a giving goal of \$6000.



\$25 per month for 1 year provides a sustainable clean drinking water solution for a family for the next 10 years. That is just \$300 for an entire family to be able to have clean drinking water and relief from the fear of disease and even death!

We want to give this precious gift to at least 20 families – and you can help us do that! Together we can easily reach our goal starting Sunday, November 24th and ending Sunday, December 22nd!

All donations are tax deductible and can be either cash or check written out to Faith Journey Church.



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## Thanksgiving Living | Sunday, November 24th

We would like to provide a Thanksgiving Meal Box for families from a local apartment community. How can you be a part of THANKSGIVING LIVING? It's easy! With a donation of \$20 we will shop for you to fill a box with Turkey, Potatoes, Stuffing, Chicken Stock, Cranberries, Rolls, Beans/Corn, Butter, and Pumpkin Pie. OR you can cut out the list below and shop for the items necessary to fill however many boxes you would like to provide and then simply bring the items to the front office before

November 21st!

- 10 pound bag of potatoes
- Chicken Broth (at least one can)
- Boxed Stuffing (i.e. Stove Top)
- Green Beans (Can, not frozen)
- Corn (Can, not frozen)
- Cranberries (can)
- Gravy Packets
- Turkey size cooking bags
- 1 pound package of butter

## THE "WHO" IN THE HOLIDAYS

***"The worst moment in the world for an atheist is when he is genuinely thankful, but has nobody to thank."***

~Dante Gabriel Rossetti

I just flat-out love the Thanksgiving holiday! And, it is probably not for the reason you "may" be thinking. No, it isn't the food, or the football, it is the heart of the season, the "WHO in the holiday!" Thanksgiving is a national holiday created for the purpose of "giving thanks for the previous year's blessings." It is a time to reflect and be grateful for "all" the "good" that has taken place in the past year. With Thanksgiving and Christmas, it is often easier to point out the "what" of a holiday than it is the "who" of the holiday.

While the "what" speaks to the event, such as Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day... we tend to think of the "who" in connection with the name that is attached to the holiday. This Veteran's Day I think of Devin Bentz, who has recently become part of our Faith Journey family. I am very grateful for the sacrifice he and his fellow Marines gave to their country while serving in Afghanistan. You see the "WHO" in the holiday is so very vital in understanding and celebrating with purpose. I guess that is why Christmas for those who know Christ is so important. That is why "Xmas" does NOT cut it for most that follow Christ Jesus. The day declares simply and succinctly for whom the holiday is named. But then there is this holiday we call "Thanksgiving." The thing about Thanksgiving that has always puzzled me is to "whom or what are people giving thanks?" Are we giving thanks to the earth for the sweet potatoes, cranberry and green beans, or perhaps the turkey for his supreme sacrifice? C. K. Chesterton in his 1908 classic Christian apologetic book entitled "Orthodoxy," tells of finding his own experience of gratitude:

***"The test of all happiness is gratitude; and I felt grateful, though I hardly knew to whom."*** ~G. K. Chesterton

Thomas Aquinas' once said; "every effect turns naturally to it's cause" (a benefactor) ... the natural order requires that he who has received a favor should, by repaying the favor, turn to his benefactor according to the mode of each." Dr. Alma Acevedo in "On The Square" rephrases Aquinas' comments on gratitude in more understandable terms:

***"the virtue of gratitude entails that the recipient ought to repay the giver with spontaneous "affection of the heart" in a manner commensurate with the gift received."*** ~Alma Acevedo

We need to show gratitude "commensurate" to the many blessings we have received and to acknowledge the ONE who brought about those blessings... God. The true purpose of offering thanks is to confess our dependence upon God and others. It is to humbly acknowledge that others have the power to benefit us! It is to admit that our life is better because of their efforts and investment in us. To offer thanks is to understand that radical gratitude is linked to the very nearness of God.

For to offer thanks is to **live at the beginning of a miracle** in wildly expressive gratitude before ever receiving the benefit of the Father's gracious gift.

Paul the Apostle writing to the church in Galatia wrote in Galatians 2:10:

***"They (the disciples) asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do!"***

This holiday season I will begin a brand new sermon series entitled: "God's Storyboard." As part of this sermon series we will be looking at God's wonderful story of sending His son into the world in storyboard fashion. We will also learn about our own stories, crucial junctions on life's journey and those that lie ahead. We will also look at how we can enter someone else's storyboard and help change their lives forever! The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian church:

*"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, IF we do not give up! So then, as we have OPPORTUNITY, let us do good to EVERYONE, and especially to the household of faith."*

~Galatians 6:9-10

**FIVE3FIVE**  
5 Years, 3 Injustices, 5k Lives Impacted

- ➔ FIVE YEAR GOAL
- ➔ THREE INJUSTICES
  1. CLEAN WATER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
  2. FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY AND STARVING
  3. HUMAN TRAFFICKING: PREVENTION AND RELEASE
- ➔ FIVE THOUSAND LIVES IMPACTED IN JESUS NAME

This holiday season we can enter someone's storyboard at the "beginning of a miracle," especially for those who are less fortunate.

- 1) 1) **Give Clean Water (givecleanwater.com): Our Goal This Christmas is \$6,000 = Supplies 20 families in Fiji with clean water for TEN YEARS! \*A "FIVE3FIVE" Project**
- 2) 2) **"Thanksgiving Living Baskets" Our Goal: 50 Thanksgiving Baskets (Turkey, Dressing, Sweet Potatoes and the WORKS! (approximately \$20 per basket) \*A "Love-Inc.-G.O." project**

NOTICE: Jim Randol from Faith Journey will be heading-up a team that will join Give Clean Water in March 22-30, 2014 to travel to Fiji for the delivery and training of the water filtration systems. Adults from Faith Journey or GCS that are interested, contact Brooke Maher at the office for additional information.

\*ALL proceeds will go to fund the water project NOT the team travel.

Journeying Together,

Pastor Tom

"Walking with people, following God"



# November - December 2013 Calendars

## NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Women's Night at Al's	8 The Wave	9 Pastor Tom's Birthday
10	11	12	13	14	15 Winter Jam for Ablaze Youth	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Thanksgiving Living Service	25 Christmas Pinterest Party for Ladies	26	27 No Services	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

## DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Decorate for Christmas @ 5pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13  The Wave	14
15	16	17	18 Dept. Christmas Parties	19 GCS Musical @ 7pm	20	21
22 Family Service @ 10am - No Sunday School Faith Family Christmas @ 6pm	23	24	25 Christmas  No Services	26	27	28
29 Family Service @ 10am No Sunday School or Evening Services	30	31				

# Service Schedule

## Sundays

8:45 - 9:45 am **Sunday School** - All Ages  
**Nursery** ( Birth - 2 Yrs )

10:00 - 11:30 pm **Worship Service**  
**Children's Church** ( 3 Yrs - 5th Grade )  
**Nursery** ( Birth - 2 Yrs )

6:00 pm **Adult Home Group** - Location Varies

## Tuesdays

5:30 am **Men's Bible Study** - Davidson's

## Wednesdays

7:00 pm **ABLAZE Youth**  
**Accelerate Clubs**  
**Missionettes** (Girls Kinder - 5th Gr.)  
**Rainbows** (Girls and Boys 3 - 4 Years)

## Fridays

7:00 pm **The Wave Prayer and Praise**  
*Second Friday of each month*

## Office Hours

8:00am - 4:00pm Monday through Friday

**WEST  
OF  
55**

## West of 55

**“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious.”**

**(1 Peter 2:4)**

Throughout my life, I've accumulated a lot of stuff. I have boxes of things that at one time were important, but over time have lost their intrigue. And as an unrepentant collector, I've realized that the thrill is in searching for and acquiring a new piece to add to the collection. Then my attention turns toward the hunt for the next item.

While we pile up many things that are important to us, very little of it is really precious. In fact, over time I have learned that the most precious things in life are not material items at all. Rather, it's the people who have loved me and built into my life who are precious. When I find my heart saying, "I don't know what I'd do without them," I know that they are indeed precious to me.

So when Peter refers to Jesus as "A chief

cornerstone, elect, precious," (1 Peter 2:6), it should resonate in our hearts that He is truly precious—our prized possession above everything and everyone else. Where would we be today without the constant, unfailing companionship of His faithful presence, wise and perfect guidance, merciful patience, comfort and transforming reproof? What would we do without Him? I can't even imagine!

Of all that is precious, Jesus tops the list.

In His Service,

*Pastor John Granholm*

## A New Season

The time is here – we are getting ready to begin itineration and fundraising for a new season of our lives as missionaries to Thailand this January. The last 6 years at Faith Journey has prepared us for this very moment ... we step out in faith, excited to see what God has for our future.

Back in February, I shared with you how I had met a woman in Bangkok, who lost her 3 year old daughter in a terrible accident. I had the opportunity to share with her of our loss and an instant unspoken connection took place. Before I left, I gave her my name and e-mail in hope that she would contact me.

Over the last 9 months though, I heard nothing. Then at the end of September, I received a Facebook friend request from a Thai person I didn't recognize ... however, the little boy on the profile picture looked familiar, so I accepted the request and prayed that God would just let me know it was truly the woman I had met in Bangkok.

The following morning, I received a message from this person, asking if I

remembered her ... how we cried together about her daughter and how much it meant to her. I could hardly believe this woman sought me out after have only a 30-minute conversation 9 months ago. Through our conversations, she has said that she believes Allah has brought us together as 'good friends already,' but we know that Jesus has orchestrated this friendship from the beginning because He wants to bring hope and peace to this broken woman. Please keep her in your prayers, that Jesus will reveal Himself to her and pray for me, that God would give me wisdom in my words and our conversations. Don't know what God has planned with this new friendship, but I am excited to find out!

Contact us at:  
[kielandniina@gmail.com](mailto:kielandniina@gmail.com) and receive e-mail updates.

You can also visit my new blog:  
[www.lifebeyondthepicketfence.com](http://www.lifebeyondthepicketfence.com)

Looking forward to taking you with us on this new missionary adventure!

*Niina Downey*

- **Russ and Beth Chambers**  
**Jamie and Alisha Deweese**  
Missionaries to OSU (Chi Alpha)
- **Rick & Laurel Ellis**  
Missionary to Chile
- **Carl and Terri Gibbs**  
Missionaries to Africa
- **Tamara Henkes**  
Missionary to Romania
- **Dennis & Diane Holcomb**  
Missionaries to Poland
- **Ken Huff**  
Missionary to Cambodia
- **Eric & Jacquelin Jenkins**  
Missionaries to Algeria
- **Steve and Julie Kramer**  
Missionaries to the Netherlands
- **Bill & Carol Paris**  
Missionaries to Tokyo, Japan
- **Josh & Renee Ransom**  
Missionary to China
- **Matt & Heather Reigel**  
Missionaries to Germany
- **John & Beccy Rodli**  
Missionaries to Azores/Portugal
- **Rob & Jeanel Shipley**  
Missionaries to East Africa
- **David & Dorothy Yunuba**  
Missionaries to Africa
- **John & Carolyn Stewart**  
Missionaries to Africa

**Remember to pray for our missionaries**

## Adult Ministries

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." at least that is how the song goes and that is the expectation of many as we move into the holiday season, but for some its not what happens at all. The holidays can be filled with past experiences that fill their memories with less than wonderful feelings and leave them longing to 'just get through', while the rest of us are on our merry way 'jingle belling and telling folks to be of good cheer'. I believe there are several reasons that we are less mindful of those around us who are struggling to find the joy in the season...first, being too busy, second, being too busy and third, well you get the point. At a time when the world has a conscious awareness of the HOPE that this season brings through remembering the birth of Jesus Christ, I believe the challenge for us is to SLOW down. We need

to decrease our hectic pace and consider who in our circles of influence we can come alongside and encourage. The greatest gift we can give someone is to demonstrate to them that there truly is a *Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace* who can remedy the hurts in their hearts, bring joy to their lives, and fulfill their desire to experience the season in all of it's wonder!

*Pastor Kelly GrosJacques*

We're coming closer and closer to some of the major holidays. We've already started the process of thinking about gifts and what to cook for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and sometimes in the process of doing all the preparing, we've lost the main focus of what those holidays are about. Thanksgiving is not a time to celebrate turkey and pilgrims, but the reason we celebrate thanksgiving because it is a time for us to give thanks for what Jesus has done, and also for His sacrifice; and Christmas is a time for us to celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. This season lets not get lost in the gifts, turkeys and the process of getting things off our check list. Let us use our time wisely this season and treat the main thing like the main thing. This season let us enjoy our friends and family, and take some time out to celebrate and give thanksgiving to our savior. Here are some of my top 10 holiday songs that I listen to, and I hope these songs will also help you to be in the spirit for this season.

*Phil Tu*

FJC Worship Leader

1. "We Are the Reason" by Avalon in the album "Joy: A Christmas collection"
2. "Jesus Born on This Day" by Avalon in the album "Joy: A Christmas collection"
3. "Welcome to Our World" by Michael W Smith in the album "Christmastime"
4. "Christmas Waltz" by Michael W Smith in the album "Christmastime"
5. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" by Shane and Shane in the album "Glory in the highest"
6. "Holiday" by Shane and Shane in the album "Glory in the Highest"
7. "Beautiful Savior" by The Concordia Choir "Endless of Your Grace"
8. "Mary, Did You Know" by Michael English in the album "Michael English"
9. "Ave Maria" by Josh Groban in the album "Noel"
10. "Panis Angelicus" by Josh Groban in the album "Noel"

## Youth Ministries



Last month we had a great turn out for our Ablaze Youth corn maze. It was a blast!!! We had some pizza and fun getting lost in the corn maze. Want to give a shout out to the leaders and all the volunteers that made this event possible. We are going to have even more fun events coming up, from Winter Jam (Christian concert) in November, Serve and Turf Banquet where we will be helping serve the homeless and also we will have a little surprise for our youth; and that will be in December. We will also have our first karaoke sing off in January to start the new year. That's just some of the fun things we will be doing with our youth. Our regular youth meeting is on

Wednesday at 7:00pm where we will have worship, games, and relevant teaching from the bible. If this sounds like something your teen might be interested in, please come check out our youth night on Wednesday or attend one of this fun event. On Wednesday night we will have service for both these junior high and high school students. It is a great time to get connected. I am looking forward to meeting your teens on Wednesday nights or at one of the fun events we are having.



*Phil Tu*

Youth Pastor

**1 Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. -Psalm 106:1**

This season Journey Kids will be focusing on giving thanks for the many blessings we have received! It is important for us to feel grateful for the possessions we have and the people that influence our daily lives! Not only do we want to think about these blessings, but "make known among the nations what he has done." 1 Chronicles 16:8. Children can share their blessings with other children and spread the love of Christ through the holiday season.

In Journey Kids we have also been focusing on obedience to God and giving our worries to The Lord. We have been learning these valuable lessons through the stories of Samuel, Saul, and David in 1 Samuel of the Bible. We will continue to study in 1 Samuel for the next few months!

*Shelby Gill*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

### FREEDOM KIDS

Services for 3 yrs - Kindergarten

On Sunday mornings, our little ones (three years old through kindergarten age) meet together to learn, sing and play.

### JOURNEY KIDS

Services for 1st - 5th graders

Kids, bring along your energy on Sunday mornings for Journey Kids! This is no time to sit back and watch... every child is an integral part of the service. Together, we're learning to worship, serve, reach out and translate what we're learning into *action* in our own lives.



## M'Pact clubs for girls

first through fifth grade - and - Rainbows club for preschool aged girls and boys



Our Stars club has had a little transformation since starting back up in the fall. It is now called Accelerate and they meet together with the boys club to start out their club. Kelly GrosJacques has some high energy games and focus points they work on and then dismiss to individual classes. Donna Randol is still faithfully serving as their teacher and doing an excellent job. Last month, the girls were so excited about the felt and stick pumpkins they had created.

We have begun practicing our Christmas performance for Faith Family Christmas on December 22 at 6 pm. Yes, believe it or

not, Christmas is just around the corner. The students are excited about the song we will be doing, so I hope you will be able to attend. Faith Family Christmas is an evening where we enjoy many Christmas performances and the LARGEST dessert buffet around. Our annual Christmas party will be on Wednesday, December 18th. Be watching for the upcoming schedule for times of these special events.

In His Service,  
*Connie Frisinger*  
M Pact Coordinator



# Gaarde Christian School

Our school year is well under way and we are having a great time! We have had a wonderful Walk-A-Thon, with a record amount raised of over \$12,400. I want to thank our students and families for your awesome participation. As I write this, I am with GCS teachers and staff at our annual training retreat. This time we are focusing on classroom management techniques, as well as the idea of Biblical Integration - enhancing our instructional program with the important component of conveying the trustworthiness of Scripture and the truth of Christianity. Tools that will benefit our students as life long learners. We are looking forward to the end of this first academic quarter and another training piece during our Thanksgiving time Work Days. What a privilege to serve our school families and minister to "Your Children, Our Calling".

*Frank Canepa, Administrator*

"YOUR CHILDREN, OUR CALLING"

## Important Dates

- Nov 1st - End of First Quarter
- Nov. 7th - Teacher Workday (No school/daycare open)
- Nov. 8th - Conferences (No school/daycare open)
- Nov. 11th - Veteran's Day (No school/daycare closed)
- Nov. 20th - Thanksgiving Chapel 9:35am
- Nov. 25th & 26th - Teacher Training  
(No school/daycare open)
- Nov. 21st - 23rd - Thanksgiving Holidays  
(No school/daycare closed)
- Dec. 19th - Christmas Program @ 7:00pm
- Dec. 20th - Teacher Work Day (No school/daycare open)
- Dec. 23rd - Jan. 3rd - Christmas Holidays  
(No school/daycare closed)

*FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
VISIT THE GCS WEBSITE!*



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