



DECEMBER 2022

FAITH *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Piano

By Christy Hixon

Last year about time, the upright piano appeared in the foyer. You may be wondering, where did it come from? Picture it, Warfordsburg 1982. My parents found that piano at the Hagerstown Mission Thrift Store. They brought it home for me to learn how to play the piano. I took lessons for several years but was not the success story my piano teacher would have liked. I can play “The Rose” and a few hymns, but nothing with more than one sharp or flat! Sometime in the process of lessons, the piano was upgraded to a newer model and the upright was moved to our basement. We didn’t have the heart to get rid of it but didn’t know what to do with it. It was added to the collection of “we might need it someday” items.

Fast forward to 2020. Lizzie, one of our three daughters, and Richie were planning their wedding. Richie plays the piano beautifully (and never took lessons, mind you!). As the wedding planning was taking place and Pinterest was being consulted for inspiration, a post came up where they used an old upright piano, took out the hammers and used it for the wedding cake and cupcakes. Lightbulb moment! The piano in my parent’s basement! Another lightbulb moment came when I realized I would be helping to decorate the church for Christmas the next week and could use the piano as part of the decorations! My parents were elated to get it out of their basement!

The wedding was in May and the piano is still in the foyer. After seeing it, I couldn’t bear to gut it as planned. It was still used in the wedding, but stayed intact. And after the wedding it was pushed back out to the foyer. It just seems to fit out there. It’s out of tune. The F key doesn’t play very well (it never did), and some other keys like to stick. But in the foyer, the acoustics are beautiful and when it’s played, it sounds like a piano in an old 1800’s church.

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Sounds like us as Christians sometimes. We want to share the gospel, but we don't always present it to our friends, family, and even strangers as eloquently as we'd like; we don't always say the right things, we might even sound a little out of tune. But God can take our feeble attempts and turn it into just what that person needs to hear—the message of Hope and Salvation through Faith in Christ Jesus!

Sometimes when I'm alone at the church, I will sneak out into the foyer when no one is around to play. Pianos are meant to be played! When the staff team gathered together early in September to begin brainstorming ideas for Christmas, one idea that was mentioned was to have different people play the piano before services in December and encourage everyone to gather around and sing Christmas carols. We'd like to try this! There is more information is shared on page 3. We hope to see you around the old upright this Christmas season!



JOY
**CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP GATHERINGS**

DEC 4-JAN 1

**WILL BE HELD AT
10:15AM**

9:15 & 10:45 Services will be combined into one service
for these 5 Sundays.
Faith Kids for Nursery - 5th grade will be available.



Some have asked "Is there a gathering on Christmas Day and New Year's Day?" Yes! We will be gathering together at 10:15am each of these Sundays.

Faith Kids Classes will be offered for nursery through 5th grade!

*PS Donuts and hot chocolate will be serve on Christmas Day.
(Faith Café will be closed on Christmas Day)*



HELP US FILL THE FOYER WITH MUSIC

As you read in the opening article, we are hoping to fill the foyer with music during the month of December. Picture the final scene in “It’s a Wonderful Life.” Family and friends gathered around the piano, singing Christmas Carols.

We’ll have music playing from 9:45-10:10am on Sunday mornings and invite you to join us to sing Christmas carols around the old piano. We’ll have extra seating in the foyer and Faith Café will be open to get your favorite iced coffee, hot chocolate, or coffee (and support FCF Ministries through your donations). Bonus—there will be free hot chocolate on Dec. 4!

If you play the piano and would be willing to help out playing one or more Sunday morning, please contact the church office (301-223-4803 or admin@explorefcf.com). We’d love to have you!



Our annual FCF Business Meeting will be on Sunday, December 18 following the 10:15am Gathering. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be reviewing 2022 and looking forward to 2023. We will also be taking a vote of confidence on three elder candidates. (Please note, all are welcome to attend; however, our constitution states that only members can take part in voting.)

Last month, we welcomed the Fritz and Johnsons families as members of FCF. They joined the church on November 6. If you are not a member, but would like to be or would like to know more about what it means to be a member of FCF, please contact the FCF Office (301-223-4803 or admin@explorefcf.com).



The FCF Offices will be closed Dec 24– Jan 2. If you have an emergency and need to get in contact with one of the staff members, please call the church office at 301-223-4803 and leave a message or email admin@explorefcf.com. We will get with you as quickly as possible.



DEC 4 10:15AM
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM

Join us for a time of
preparation for the Joyous
Christmas Season

Our December 4 Worship Gathering will include a time of preparation for the Christmas season. Our gathering will include participation from all generations. The auditorium will be set up for our 4pm Banquet with seating set up throughout.

The doors to the auditorium will open at 10am. If you arrive a little early, we invite you to fellowship with others in the foyer and enjoy the music and a cup of free hot chocolate.

Our annual Christmas Banquet will be held on December 4 at 4pm. Dinner will be provided. There is suggested donation of \$5 per person to help cover the cost (with a cap of \$20 per family.) Please RSVP by Dec 1 in the foyer at FCF, at explorefcf.com, or on the FCF App.

We're looking forward to a wonderful evening of fun, food, and fellowship.



Christmas Banquet

Sunday, December 4
4:00PM at FCF



JOY
Christmas Caroling & Cookies

December 14 6pm

Everyone is invited to join in the fun!!

More info will be coming!

RSVP in the foyer or through the FCF App.

Something new this year—everyone is invited to join in the singing and fun. We'll meet in the church foyer at 6pm and then make our way to spread Christmas cheer. We'll join back at the church for cookies and hot chocolate. We will not have Switchback or Kidzlife that evening to allow all families to join for the night.

To help us plan for the night, please RSVP on the FCF App, in the foyer at FCF or explorefcf.com

One of our favorite FCF traditions is our Christmas Candlelight Service at 6:00pm. This service is family friendly—children are welcome (no nursery is provided) and lasts about an hour.



CHRISTMAS
EVE

Candlelight

SERVICE
6:00PM



Save Your Spot! To allow us to plan for the SB events, please RSVP on the FCF App. If you don't have the App, contact Lewis.



Hop in the van and enjoy an extended dinner party! We will be meeting at FCF to load up and stop at various locations to enjoy an evening of food, games, and friends! Please bring a white elephant gift valued at \$5 or less. Better yet, get rid of something old at your house you don't want anymore! Students will be back at FCF ready for pickup at 9:00pm.



Switchback is excited to join in this family event with the rest of the FCF family. Although students may come without their family, parents

are strongly encouraged to join! If a student plans to attend without their parents, please contact Lewis so he can arrange transportation.

Important Dates!

No Sunday Education Hour
November 27th - January 1st

No Switchback
December 21st - January 4th



Just a reminder—9:30am Education Groups, which include Faith Kids, Switchback and Adults, will not meet through December. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8.

DECEMBER 4—

Christmas Program Important Info!

Dress Rehearsal: Dec 3 at 9:30am

Final Rehearsal: Dec 4 at 9:30am

Nursery—Preschool will check in as usual. They will go to their class after they are finished singing.

K-5th will report directly to the sanctuary. They will be dismissed to sit with parents after they are finished singing.

(Parents are asked to wait in the foyer until the doors open at 10am.)

Family Advent Guides



Pick one up from the resource shelf!

Christmas Morning Gathering

We will gather on Christmas morning at 10:15am.

Classes will be available for nursery—5th Grades.



FAITH KIDS MINISTRY

Annual Investor Training

Save the date!

February 11, 9:00- 11:00 AM



Kidzlife will not meet Dec 14-Jan 4. We will resume meeting on January 11.

We are encouraging families to join us on December 14 at 6pm to go Christmas Caroling. See page 4 for more details.



FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER TIME, AND BIBLE STUDY FOR THE 55+

Leading Others to the Truth

*Dear children, let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18*

Like most people on Thanksgiving, Cathy wanted to get an early start on her cooking. She had invited 25 friends and family members over for Thanksgiving dinner and was so excited to host this year. By noon, she had already put together her casseroles and her pies, and the bird was going in the oven!

She began to worry, however, when 5 o'clock rolled around and no one had shown. She called her niece to ask what time she was coming. It was then that her niece broke the news. "Cathy, what are you talking about? Today is November 21st. Thanksgiving is next Thursday."

Her early start had come a week early. But it wasn't her fault. The free calendar she had been given by a local hospital, along with the other 40,000 that had been distributed, said Thanksgiving was on the 21st instead of the 28th!

Most people who don't believe the gospel aren't doing it out of anger or malice. Most have simply been misinformed of the facts. Perhaps they haven't been told about the grace and love of God. Or, maybe they just don't know what the Bible is all about.

Our job as believers is to come alongside people like that and gently guide them to the truth. Now that doesn't always mean they'll accept it. But at least they won't be misinformed. Lead the lost to the truth of Christ and let God take them from there!

Prayer Challenge

Pray and make yourself available to God to lead a lost person to the truth about Jesus Christ.

Questions for Thought

Why do you think many lost people today might be hesitant to ask questions about the gospel?

Who are some lost people you know whom you can come alongside and lead toward the truth of Christ?

Thank you to everyone for making our November Thanksgiving potluck and Russ and Marty's wedding a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and celebration. The food was delicious and the fellowship was sweet! Our next potluck is going to be a soup and sandwich theme on December 21. Our New Year's potluck will be January 4. To make sure you get your correct dishes and crock pot pieces back, we recommend you label your items. We discovered last potluck that different crock pots have very similar crocks and lids. It also helps us find the owner of a dish if it is accidentally left behind.

We will fill the blessing bags following Bible Study on December 7.

Please remember that we will have one service at 10:15am for the month of December and January. December 4 is the Christmas Program at 10:15am and Banquet at 4pm. RSVP for the banquet in the foyer at FCF. Christmas Eve service will be at 6pm. There are a lot of other events going on in December—we encourage you to join in the events that you can!

GM2023

Global Ministry 2023



FCF has supported missions for many years. Our travel efforts have been hindered in the past few years, but in 2023, we are hoping to offer opportunities for you to serve on a Global Impact Team. There will be a Global Impact Ministry Event on Saturday, January 21. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend to find out more about what it means to serve on a Global Impact Team and how you can support those who are going on a team. More information will be coming soon, but we wanted to have you “save the date” for this upcoming event.

FCF supports several ministries, local and abroad. Here is a list of the ministries we support financially. We highlight one ministry a month throughout the year. Information about the ministry and FCF’s involvement are in this newsletter as well as a poster on the bulletin board across from the Faith Kids Check In. We encourage you to take a few minutes each month to find out more about these ministries and pray for them.

Luc St Felix, Haiti

Child Evangelism Fellowship

The Hope Center

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Ted Simon (Tikkuniter)

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry

Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Center

Jadder, Nicaragua

Nicaragua Feeding Program

Guillermo, Costa Rica

Eric and Jaylin Ickes (Word of Life)

Fathers in the Field

ACIBEN, Pastor’s Training

Horizon International



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH US AT FCF

- Dec 2 Switchback Jr High Progressive Dinner*
- Dec 3 Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal at 9:30am
- Dec 4 FCF Christmas Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 4 FCF Christmas Banquet at 4pm*
- Dec 10 Switchback Sr High Progressive Dinner*
- Dec 11 Worship Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 14 Christmas Caroling & Cookies at 6pm*
- Dec 18 Worship Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 18 FCF Annual Meeting
- Dec 21 No Switchback or Kidzlife
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Gathering at 6pm
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas! Worship Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 26-30 FCF Office Closed
- Dec 27 No Prayer Gathering
- Dec 28 No Young at Heart, SB or Kidzlife
- Jan 1 10:15am Worship Gathering
- Jan 4 Young at Heart New Year's Potluck
- Jan 4 No Switchback or Kidzlife
- Jan 8 Winter Education Session Begins

*RSVP's are requested



CELEBRATION OF TREES!

At the Springfield Barn

FESTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- 150 Trees decorated by local businesses, organizations, and families
- Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus!!
- A moving Christmas light display: tune your radio to the station on the sign and watch the lights move to the beat of the music
- Sleigh Rides
- Fun face cut outs
- Unique Photo Op's
- Walk or Drive through Byron Memorial Park to view the Christmas lights

EVENT DATES & TIMES

December 3rd, 10th & 17th	3pm – 9pm
December 9th & 16th	4pm – 9pm
December 4th, 11th & 18th	2pm – 7pm
December 6th	11am – 4pm
December 13th	11am – 4pm

(301) 573-0459
 springfieldbarnweddings@gmail.com
 12 Springfield Lane, Williamsport MD

FCF has a tree at the Celebration of Trees again this year. Stop by the Springfield Barn in Williamsport as one of your Christmas stops this year. Take your picture by our tree and send it to admin@explorefcf.com or text it to 301-331-9345. Make sure to include your name. We'll put the pictures on our Facebook page and those who submit a picture will have their name added to a drawing for a gift certificate to Faith Café. Deadline to submit pictures is December 14th at 3pm. Thanks for joining in the fun!

THANK YOU!

We took **102 shoeboxes** to the shipping facility! Thank you to everyone who filled a box this year!



Faith Kids Switchback Adult

9:15AM

WINTER EDUCATION CLASSES

BEGIN JAN 8

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 5-9pm SB Junior High Progressive Dinner	3 9:30am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
4 10:15am Christmas Gathering 4pm Christmas Banquet	5	6 6:30pm Griefshare 7pm Prayer Gathering 7pm Meal & Service at the Mission	7 10am Young at Heart 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	8	9	10 5-9pm SB Senior High Progressive Dinner
11 10:15am Gathering	12	13 6:30pm Griefshare 7pm Prayer Gathering	14 10am Young at Heart 6pm Caroling and Cookies (No SB or Kidzlife)	15	16	17
18 10:15am Gathering FCF Annual Meeting after the gathering	19	20 6:30pm Griefshare 7pm Prayer Gathering	21 10am Young at Heart No Switchback or Kidzlife	22	23	24 6pm Christmas Eve Gathering
25 10:15am Christmas Gathering	26	27 6:30pm Griefshare No Prayer Gathering	28 No Young at Heart, Switchback or Kidzlife	29	30	31