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Pastor's Page:

In January, the president gives a State of the Union address to bring folks up to date as to how things are going in the country as a whole. With the reintroduction of our newsletter this month, the timing seemed right for me to offer something similar - call it a State of the Congregation message.

I know a fair number of our folks work in the health care industry. Any attempt I make to use health care terms to describe our situation is sure to be viewed with raised eyebrows. But, I will plunge ahead and ask those of you who really do know about such things to give me some latitude and grace.

When we first met about eighteen months ago, Mountain of Faith seemed to me to be a congregation on "life-support." There were some Sundays when I'd show up to preach where it would be just Bonnie, Betty and I and perhaps one or two others with only five minutes to go before worship started.

The weeks and months went by, and slowly, our condition improved. By fall, when folks were home from vacations and Sunday School started back up, we were out of ICU, but our condition was still critical. We were still trying to get used to our new home at Tooele United Methodist. We worked to re-establish the ranks our Church Council and congregational officers which had become sorely depleted. We put together a Vision Team whose job it was to dream about the future of the church. They worked hard, attending all-day workshops studying what it takes to be a healthy church.

By fall of 2009, our condition was upgraded to "stable." Our vital signs of attendance and giving were much stronger than just a year before. By the end of the year, we saw clear signs of strength and new life in the baptisms of Brianne Mahoney, and Hannah and Cameron Barrett. We received twelve new members into the congregation.

Finally, the congregation approved a budget increase of twenty percent - a huge increase given the state of the economy. I was very pleased that the budget featured a significant increase in benevolence. We showed we are at a point where we can begin to live for others, and not just worry about our own survival. That is good news, indeed.

Our prognosis for 2010 is good. We're no longer in the hospital but we're still under the care of the Great Physician. Our goal this year is to get our strength back - especially the strength that comes from our spiritual growth as a congregation. I am very pleased to offer an adult education opportunity starting January 28th.

We will begin a fifteen-week study of the Gospel of Mark. We will read it as a "story," from beginning to end, not in bits and pieces. We'll read it from a manuscript without the distractions that come from chapter headings and verse numbers. It will be a unique way to get to know Jesus and the whole Gospel story better. This kind of small group opportunity is a way for us to live into our congregational value of Spiritual Growth and I hope you will join us for it. I am looking forward to the next twelve months and can say with confidence that God intends to use Mountain of Faith for good in the year ahead. May he give us strength and grace for the journey!

Pastor Rick

Your new council members:

President: Mark Merseth (882-3592)

Vice President: Esther Raymond (882-1410)

Secretary: Cheryl Sheppard (843-1277)

Treasurer: Lisa Mahoney (884-3408)

Council Member: Trent LaFrentz (882-2310)

Council Member: Mark Struthwolf (882-8609)

Council Member: Scott Swanson (884-0911)

Council Member: Brianna Dawes (801-599-2313)

A great big THANK YOU to Mickey Falkner for her dedicated service the past few years. Welcome new council members, Scott Swanson and Lisa Mahoney.



Ladies' Bible Study

Our ladies' Bible study meets twice monthly. Currently we are studying the book of I Corinthians. The next study is scheduled on Monday, January 25th from 6:30-8 p.m. at Rachel Yearby's house. (538 Wheatridge Road, Stansbury Park, 882-7540) Contact Laura Essmeier for more information (882-2040, laura@essmeier.net)

February Fun Night

Join us Saturday, February 6th beginning at 6pm for a spaghetti dinner and game night activity. There will be games for all ages and Valentine cookie decorating for the kids (and those who like to act like kids). Bring a game and a side dish or dessert to share. Spaghetti dinner, drinks, cookies and frosting provided. Entrance fee: a can of food to be donated to the Tooele Food Bank. RSVP to Cheryl Sheppard (843-1277) or Esther Raymond (882-1410) for a "spaghetti head count".



Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday service will be February 17th at 7pm with a light meal starting at 6:30. Lenten services will be Sunday evenings at 6:30pm with dinner beginning at 6pm. We will be doing Prayer Around the Cross Services like we have done the past couple of years. Dates for Sunday evening services are 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 & 3/28.



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time collecting food for the food bank. A volunteer is needed to take over the organization of the monthly Macey's food drive that benefits the Tooele Food Bank. Interested? See Esther Raymond for details. (882-1410)

Worship Service
Sundays 9am

Sunday School
Sundays 8:30 am

Mountain of Faith continues to be blessed and is currently rejoicing under the leadership of our shepherd and pastor, Rick Ehrheart. If you haven't attended a worship service with us in the last 18 months you have been missing the message of God through the inspired word spoken by pastor Rick. Rick's sermons are filled with compassion, love and understanding that touch each and everyone's heart and mind. Yes, we are bragging about pastor Rick, our shepherd, because we want to share this blessing from God to Mountain of Faith with all of our friends and neighbors.

In light of this, we are pursuing our mission as God's children to reach out to our fellow Christians and friends to rejoice in God's gifts and love. We understand the difficult times and hardships that this congregation has gone through, but God's guiding light has been our source of hope and perseverance. We look forward to reestablishing and strengthening our friendship and fellowship with each and everyone of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please prayerfully consider seeking a renewed relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and come join Mountain of Faith as we grow in love and reach out in service to the community.

If you would like a phone call or visit by Pastor Rick and/or a council member please contact Mountain of Faith.

Summer Camping!!

Our annual Lava Hot Springs camping trip will be August 6-8, 2010 in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho. It will be another fun weekend of river rafting, swimming and food. Golf, biking and fishing are also available. There are tent and RV spots available or you can make your own reservation at one of the local hotels. Watch for more information. Contact Carissa LaFrentz (882-2310) or Cheryl Sheppard (843-1277) to reserve your tent or RV spot!



Articles for the spring 2010 edition of Mountain News are due by March 14th. Email articles to Cheryl Sheppard at csmomrn@q.com

Service to the Community



Thank you to the 20 or so people that helped with the Settlement Canyon Reservoir cleanup last September. We collected 25 big bags of litter in just 2 to 3 hours of work.



Sunday School News

A big THANK YOU to Liz Struthwolf, Collette Yeck, Johanna Leonelli, Amy Christen, Mark Merseth and Madison Ford for all their dedication and hard work for our Sunday School kids. The kids performed a beautiful program for Christmas and had a great time making

gingerbread houses in early December in addition to all the Bible stories and songs they are learning throughout the year. Every week the younger kids enjoy a re-enactment of one of the Bible stories performed by the older kids and teenagers. Watch for information about the

annual Sunday School Easter egg hunt.



“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life”
John 3:16

Financial Peace University

Congratulations to the 6 families who completed Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University in November. Watch for information about another series to be starting soon.



Congregational Meeting

January 24th

Immediately following worship service

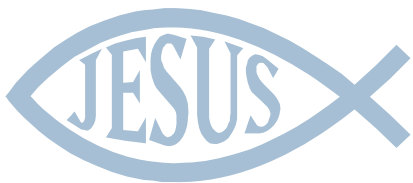
Mountain of Faith Lutheran Church

78 E. Utah Ave.

Tooele, UT 84074

Phone: 435-882-7291

Email: pastor_rick_ehrheart@comcast.net



God

Outreach

Family

Integrity

Spiritual Growth

Hospitality