Speak Life-Giving Words
By Pastor Edward Jones

Words can acutely kill a person physically, (Prov. 18:21). Words can create friendships and bring healing! When people face battles, words can become like heavy weights that pull them down. Or, the opposite can be true: “Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up” (Proverbs 12:25 NLT). This coming year, make it your goal to speak words that bring life and encouragement to others. We can positively impact our homes, church, communities and work places. We will be moving in the spirit, walking in wisdom and growing in maturity as we exercise self-control and use our tongue for good. We will be both a blessing and blessed, as wise speech rewards the speaker. Proverbs 12:24 says, “From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.” In this new year, let us pray with the psalmist, “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalms 19:14).

Words have the potency to energize or demoralize. Words also have life of their own, in that they can echo in the minds of hearers down through the years: Just ask any child whose parents spoke words decades earlier, words that still run through their minds with prophetic power.

These words can debase (“You are just like…”), distort (“You can’t do anything right…”), or empower (“You were born for a special purpose!”; “you are an answer to our prayers”); “I couldn’t have asked for a better child!”). Words also have life of their own, in that they can echo in a community, told from one person to another and another, either building unity or creating invisible barriers, either creating doubt or suspicion or good will. When we use our words to build unity, we become an answer to Jesus’ prayer. Our words can create friendships and bring healing!

Words have the potency to energize or demoralize. They can actually help people face problems, build relationships, and overcome the obstacles of life. Or, they can impart people’s ability to rise above the obstacles, and create hostilities.

The scripture states, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue…” (Prov. 18:21).

There can be “death” in our words! Our words can acutely kill a person physically, psychologically, socially and spiritually. Dr. Tim Keller tells of a funeral he conducted where a girl spoke caustic words to a boyfriend she was distancing herself from. The words so devastated him that he shot himself in her front yard. Our words can destroy a person emotionally, inflicting wounds that go deep into his or her psyche.

When you speak cutting remarks, these “reckless words pierce like a sword…” (Prov. 12:18). Think about it: If you took a sword, plunged it into someone, and then removed it, the wound still remains. Even if the wound healed in time, the scar would remain. The reckless words you say can be like that sword, leaving a lasting impact on people’s lives.

January Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 8</td>
<td>6-8:30pm: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9</td>
<td>7:00pm: Paul Matthais, Missionary to Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 12</td>
<td>6-8pm: IQB Meet, Deposit, NY</td>
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<td>Sun 13</td>
<td>11:15am: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<td>Tue 15</td>
<td>6-8:30pm: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 17</td>
<td>6:30pm: Eldership Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 19</td>
<td>9am-9pm: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<td>Mon 21</td>
<td>6:30pm: Eldership Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 22</td>
<td>6-8:30pm: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 23</td>
<td>7:00pm: Dr. David Arnett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 26</td>
<td>10:00am: WM Annual Kick-off Brunch*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 27</td>
<td>11:00am: Welcome New Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 28</td>
<td>6:30pm: Church Board Meeting</td>
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February Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 2</td>
<td>8am-7pm: Sectional Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 3</td>
<td>6:30pm: Informational Church Membership Meeting*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 5</td>
<td>6:30pm: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 9</td>
<td>9am-5pm: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 10</td>
<td>6:00pm: Water Baptism Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 17</td>
<td>9 &amp; 11:00am: Stephen Ministry Commissioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 18</td>
<td>5:00pm: Water Baptism Class</td>
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<td>Wed 20</td>
<td>Church Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 24</td>
<td>6:30pm: Eldership Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 26</td>
<td>7:30pm: School Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 27</td>
<td>6:00pm: Water Baptism Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 28</td>
<td>6:00pm: Stephen Ministry, Boardman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 29</td>
<td>6-6:30pm: Church Board Meeting</td>
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Preaching Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Testimonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Pastor Edward Jones</td>
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<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Pastor Edward Jones</td>
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Additional Event Info

*Women’s Ministries Annual Kick-off Brunch
Saturday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m. at Cappuccino’s by Coppola’s, Route 9, Poughkeepsie
Speaker: Dr. Denise Cooper

*Informational Church Membership Meeting
Are you interested in church membership? If so, an informational question & answer meeting will be held on Sunday, February 3 from 6-7:30p.m. in the Sanctuary. Classes will be held Sunday March 3, 10 and 17 from 6-8:10 p.m. Please call the church office if you plan to attend the informational meeting.

Birthday Blessings To:
Theresa Kutch celebrated her 95th birthday on December 24. Cards may be sent to: PO Box 552, Pleasant Valley NY 12569

Gethsemani Baptist Church
Pastor Edward Jones
ADULT MINISTRIES
Faith Singles
A fellowship for Christian singles age 35 and older
Karen Grant, Coordinator  
| p. 845.559.8073 | email: kgrant531@verizon.net

Honor Bound Motorcycle Ministry
Motorcycle outreach ministry
Stephen Adams, President  | email: stephenadams@frontiernet.net

Men’s Ministries
Men’s breakfasts, times of fellowship for men.
Contact church office for more information.

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)
Kanaira Ostrander, Coordinator | email: mops@faithag1.org

Mothers Pray For Their Daughters
First Sunday of the month, following the 11am service.

Single & Single Again Sisters
Fellowship for single women over age 35.
Charisa Smart, Coordinator  | p. 845.326.6998

Solace
A ministry to widows and widowers
Bertie Damiani, Coordinator | p. 845.462.5681

Women’s Ministries
Reaching, discipling and training women.
Contact church office for more information.

Women of Noble Character
Ministry for single moms
Terry Padillo, Coordinator | email: wonc@faithag1.org

FAIThKIDS CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES (Page 5)
Pastor Ray Martin  | email: rmartin@faithag1.org

COLLEGE & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
The Crossing
Fellowship for young adults ages 18 to 30
Thursdays at 7:30pm @ Boardman Road
Rev. Jeff Behnke, Coordinator | p. 845.674.3177

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
Stephen Ministry (Page 4)
Pastor Linda Schreck  | email: tschreck@faithag1.org

Loving Hands
A ministry to those in our church family fighting cancer.
Members cook meals and/or provide transportation.
Lori Heverly, Coordinator | p. 845.485.3059

Visitation of Our Shut-In
Emily Foster, Coordinator | p. 845.454.0816
Every Tuesday | September to May

Grief Counseling Classes
Grief & loss support group
Rev. Jeff Behnke | p. 845.674.3177

EDUCATION
Faith Christian Academy & School’s Out (Page 3)
Christian school  | Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade
faithchristianacademy.org | p. 845.462.0266

Home Bible Study Groups (Page 7)
Groups meet day and evening, 7 days a week
Greta Davey, Coordinator | email: gretadavey@aol.com

Sunday School Classes
Sundays, 9:45-10:30am
Children, teen & adult classes for men and women
Joe Lukaitis, Coordinator  
| p. 845-214-6680 | email: lukaitis@earthlink.net

Transform Discipleship Classes (Page 4)
Pastor John Ogden | email: jogden@faithag1.org

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM
We support more than 100 missionaries & missions projects.
Contact Dave MarcoJohn for information about short term missions trips.

RADIO BROADCAST | “THE VOICE OF FAITH”
Monday-Friday at 3pm, The Bridge 98.9 FM
Sundays 6pm, Sound of Life 89.7 FM

SAMUEL PRAYER MINISTRY
Receives prayer requests from congregants and prays during the Sunday morning service to intercede for the congregation.
George & Kerri Andrews, Coordinators  
| email: prayer@faithag1.org

YOUTH | HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL
ONE Student Ministries (Page 6)
High School and Middle School Students Youth Group
Pastor John Ogden | email: jogden@faithag1.org
Maltee Mohamed | email: mmohamed@faithag1.org
website: faithag1.org/OONE | p. 845.462.0662

WORSHIP ARTS
Congregational Worship, Special Music, Sanctuary Choir, Men’s Chorus, Worship & Drama Teams & Orchestra
Pastor Kreg Godfrey, Minister of Music
email: kgodfrey@faithag1.org

Devotional prayer guide is available in English or Spanish.
Godly Stewardship

This month, our feature classroom is fourth grade, led by Mrs. Marianne Behr. Mrs. Behr has been at FCA for 31 years! FCA is so proud of our fourth grade class. Here is a report from Mrs. Behr:

“It has been another busy two months in the 4th grade classroom. Our hearts were touched for families in our area that suffered damages from Hurricane Sandy. As we talked about the devastation people were going through during our Bible time each morning, we were reminded that our actions as Christians must speak louder than just our words. We felt an urgency to do something. As the fourth graders began to make a list of what we could do to raise money to help even just one family, a goal of raising $500 came to our minds. It was a goal that we felt was beyond our reach, yet with the Lord’s help we could do it. We began to spread the word, placing donation jars in classrooms and local stores. We spread the word among family, friends and churches. The fourth graders began to do extra chores at home, empty piggy banks, and pray. With much effort, we reached our goal of $500; however, we felt that we needed to do even more. God’s Holy Spirit spoke to hearts, and we raised a total of $6,000. We were able to bless three families with the money: Each family was presented with a check for $2,000 and a Bible engraved with their name. One family was even our guest during chapel. The mission field is ripe for planting seeds right here in our own back yards: We sharing the word among family, friends, and churches. FCA thanks God for teachers and students who answer God’s call to missions, whether home or abroad.”

Building Up the Body of Christ

By John Morabito

My Bible tells me that the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians focuses on two aspects of unity: first, the basis for unity, which is God’s eternal purpose, “to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ” (1:10); and, two, maintaining unity, calling believers to live in a manner consistent with their salvation in Christ (4:1). Ephesians 4:11-13 are pivotal verses in the book: “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

As I ponder the next steps of transformation at Casperkill, it will take a good deal of coordination on my part and on the part of our builder to maintain unity in scheduling all of the various contractors in the order in which they will need to do their part, so that timing and efficiency can be part of the process. The metal studs need to go up first, then the electrical wiring and components, then the HVAC and all the ductwork and equipment, then the sheetrock, then the spackling and taping, then the doors and trim, then the painting, and then the floors and all the detailed finish work (maybe not in exactly that order, but you get my meaning).

To lightheartedly paraphrase a portion of Ephesians 4:11, “It was he who gave some to be carpenters, some to be electricians, some to be sheet rockers, and some to be finishers and floor coverers.” As these God-given talents are exercised, the new plans will take shape, thereby bringing together all of the pieces to make a new building inside.

But how does Ephesians 4:11-13 apply to us as Christians? Are we thanking God for and listening to the input of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers God has given us? Are we purposefully being prepared to conduct our own works of service for those God will put in front of our eyes and who very well may perish if we do not become mature and shepherd them as we have been shepherded? It is not enough to attend services. We must take what is being given and use it to bless and rescue others. We are being built into the Body of Christ, which means we must take not for granted the teachings of those whom God has given us and who are accountable to God. As Casperkill is being built up as a new “body,” let us recognize that we are being prepared for works of service too. Let us strive to attain the full measure of Christ and thus fulfill our God-given promise.
Making Mentoring Work For You
By Pastor John Ogden

Spiritual mentoring is one person investing in and coming alongside another as a companion on the journey of faith. Mentors help answer questions like “Who is God?” “Who is I in Christ?” and “What is God’s Will for my life?” The mentoring relationship between Paul and Timothy is documented in the Bible for our benefit regarding spiritual mentoring.

In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul instructed Timothy to entrust the things that he had taught him to some faithful men, who would then in turn teach others to do the same.

What exactly did Timothy gain from Paul during their mentoring relationship? Well, in 2 Timothy 3:10-11 Paul wrote, “you know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings…” Timothy witnessed a life of faith integrated into all aspects of Paul’s life.

In 2 Timothy 2:1-7, Paul focused on the “potential” that he saw in Timothy, and encouraged him along the way to develop those qualities that would be most helpful in his life and ministry, and as a leader of others.

In 2 Timothy 2:21, Paul’s advice to Timothy also included warnings not to make unwise choices and to “pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” As a mentor, Paul felt the responsibility to point out pitfalls that had the potential to derail a promising life.

Persistence in life was also part of Paul’s advice to Timothy. With a life of experience in following Jesus, Paul knew that there would be times when Timothy would feel like giving up. By advising persistence, Paul sought to prepare Timothy in advance for trials that he might face personally.

Finally, Paul served as a good example for Timothy to follow. By modeling Christ-like behavior and wise choices in his own life, Paul set an example for how Timothy should live his life as a follower of Jesus.

Perhaps, like Paul, you could serve as a mentor in our Discipleship Ministry. Or perhaps, like Timothy, you could benefit from being mentored. For more information about TRANSFORM DISCIPLESHIP visit us on the web at...

transform@faithag1.org

Free Every Day in 2013
By Pastor Linda Schreck

New Year’s Day 350 years ago, January 1, 1613, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln, proclaiming all slaves in Confederate territory to be forever free. The Civil War was still ongoing, but the proclamation ordered the Army to treat as free men the slaves that were still in the rebellious states. The ex-slaves were called “freedmen.” Think of it! What a tremendous, freeing feeling and reality that must have been!

Today, as the start of 2013, by the proclamation of Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago that “It is finished”, we have been set free from sin! Still struggling with sin or remorse over past year’s mistakes and sins? Spiritual Mentoring is here to walk with you and to agree in faith with you for victories and healing in your life. Contact Pastor Linda today. There is freedom in Christ all through 2013!
**Why Should You Be Involved in Serving Others?**

1. **This is God’s church and you are God’s child.** Remind yourself that Jesus is asking you to talk to people about Him. Sharing our faith is fundamental.

2. **God has given you specific abilities and gifts.** They haven’t been given for just your benefit, but to help others.

3. **It brings joy.** As you help others understand the character of God and their relationship with Him, you’ll find yourself overflowing with joy.

4. **The Holy Spirit provides the energy.** Where He guides, He provides. He will give you the strength to do His work.

5. **Sharing the Gospel is essential to your own spiritual growth.** He has equipped you to grow in unity and strength. Part of maturing is to understand and do the work of the ministry of God for one another.

6. **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” - Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)**

7. **“For just as each one of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” - Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)**

8. **“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God by loving God and carrying out his commands.” - 1 John 5:1-2 (NIV)**

**A Faithful Life**

By Valerie Andrews, ONE HS Volunteer Leader

“Only the truth that in life we have spoken, Only the seed that on earth we have sown. These shall pass onward when we are forgotten, Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.” - Horatius Bonar

It’s been said that a fruitful harvest requires a faithful life. It’s amazing and uplifting to see so many saints of God remain faithful in their walk with Christ for so many years. One thing is true of these special people: They remained faithful!

ONE Student Youth Ministries is just one of the ministries of our church that has “faithful” servants who are attending to the future needs of this generation! What a privilege it is to serve our youth in the area of youth ministry. We can never move forward without remembering where we have come from. My youth experience didn’t start until I was 24 years old. I was way beyond youth years, but in spiritual years I was a baby teen. My past did not dictate my future, but it sure did create in me character strengths like determination, loyalty and steadfastness.

I had many examples of godly leadership since those 25 years ago when I was a “youth.” Those godly men and women spoke into my life and now create in me a deep yearning to love and speak into the many varied individuals that enter our youth ministry week after week. What a joy it is to pay it forward! Lord, find me faithful in the small things so that souls may be won for YOU!

**Upcoming Events**

Fine Arts Practice Starts January 5th. thru 26th. From 9am – 4pm

ONE Parent Luncheon

Jan 20th @ 10:00pm, Spackenkill Gym

Stockman Fine Arts: February 2nd / Stewie Dec 18th

For more info go to faithag1.org/one or phone 845.462.0662

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**Why We Do What We Do**

By Pastor Ray Martin

Our son, Vance, recently sent us a picture of our 2-year-old granddaughter Lilly that would make any Sunday school teacher proud. She was holding a Bible and announcing that she wanted to preach “God will fix it.” He said it was a pretty good message about God being with us. As Lilly continues to proclaim God’s word, she will be part of a chain of preachers in our family that now stretches over four generations.

Seeing this picture reminded me why we do what we do every Sunday morning and Wednesday night here at Faith Assembly. An army of volunteers takes time out of their busy lives to teach, train, and disciple the next generation. They serve in our nurseries, in the preschoolers’ Little People’s Church, in God Chasers elementary worship services, and in our Royal Ranger and Girls Ministries clubs that meet on Wednesday nights. They’re not on the streets of downtown Poughkeepsie every Saturday morning, reaching kids and youth in the inner city as part of our Centrally Force Ministry. They are changing lives.

One middle-aged dad was reluctant to serve at first, but his testimony after diving in is not that uncommon to hear: “I never dreamed what an impact this would make.”

This year, why not consider finding your place to serve in the body of Christ? To join the faithkids Children’s Ministries team; just talk to any of our teachers, leaders or coordinators. Or, you can contact Pastor Ray Martin, our faithkids pastor, and explore the many ways you can get involved and make a difference in the next generation.

Changing lives: It’s why we do what we do.

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**Photos from ONE Student Christmas Party...**

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**Focused Forward**

By Bobby Mohamed, ONE Jr. High

It’s a new year, and we are all looking forward to new beginnings and new adventures, but in order for everyone to move forward, sometimes we need to look back and reflect on our past. For me, looking back at the last six months, I have witnessed the hand of the Lord orchestrating the hearts of our inner high youth group. I have watched kids give their hearts to the Lord; I have witnessed their spiritual growth and how they minister to each other. Their enthusiasm to learn more about God and their desire to grow in their faith encourages me so much. As I look to the days and months ahead, I know it will be a great joy for me to serve during this season.

As we begin the year 2013, the doors of opportunity are open to encourage our youth in the area and ministry of Fine Arts, as we set our sights on the big event in March, the New York District Convention. The incredible talents that God has given them will not only serve in competition, but also in ministry, as we plan on using their gifts in our local church ministries.

For starters, we will be ministering at God Chasers on Sunday morning with Pastor Ray, and we plan on participating in the pre-convention rally at Faith Assembly in Port Jervis. We believe that God will move mightily, and that we will see great things take place at our Junior and Senior high youth groups. Please continue to pray for our young people. They have new adventures ahead of them, and they need your prayers and support.
Why Should You Be Involved in Serving Others?

1) This is God’s church and you are God’s child. Remind yourself that Jesus is asking you to talk to people about Him. Sharing our faith is fundamental.

2) God has given you specific abilities and gifts. They haven’t been given for just your benefit, but to help others.

3) It provides you with an opportunity to show God that you love Him. Find a place and opportunity and it’s like serving Him.

4) “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

5) It brings joy. As you help others understand the character of God and their relationship with Him, you’ll find yourself overflowing with joy.

6) “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed...Then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3-4 (NIV)

7) The Holy Spirit provides the energy. Where He guides, He provides. He will give you the strength to do His work.

8) Sharing the Gospel is essential to your own spiritual growth. He has equipped His body to grow in unity and strength. Part of maturing is serving others and doing the work of the ministry of God one for another.

9) “He is the one we proclaim, astounding and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present each person fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy of Christ so powerfully works in me...” Colossians 1:28-29 (NIV)

10) “...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)

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Photos from ONE Student Christmas Party...
The reason is that we haven’t had someone to take them. Finally, I took some and here they are. Actually our group should be featured because it began meeting in Sept. 2001 and has continued ever since. We are no longer a small group, because it’s hard to turn people away. We are a large group of 21. Every time we have added “just one more woman,” we have been blessed. About two years ago, the group became too big to meet in someone’s home, so we meet at Boardman Road. Mirna Lavezzoli, one of God’s most humble servants, is our permanent hostess, and the rest of us share hosting responsibilities. Not only are we the longest continuing group, we have the longest meetings because we eat lunch. Somehow over the years—no one remembers how it happened—snack time turned into a lunch buffet equal to one served at the finest Dutchess county restaurants. We don’t keep all the goodies to ourselves. Our leftovers are taken immediately after we end to a men’s rehab center, and they are very grateful.

My life has been so enriched by being a part of this group. We have been friends for more than 11 years, and I have participated in a number of events that have helped us grow as women and in our faith. One of the most memorable events was the time we hosted a group of women who had recently come to faith. It was a joy to see them grow in their faith and to be a part of their spiritual journey.

The group has also been a source of encouragement to me. I have been able to share my struggles and triumphs with others who understand what I am going through. I have also been able to offer support and encouragement to others in their own journeys.

The group has also been a source of community. We have shared meals, laughed, cried, and prayed together. I have made lifelong friends through this group, and I am grateful for the community we have created.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend joining a group like the one I am a part of to anyone who is looking for a source of community, encouragement, and spiritual growth. The benefits of being a part of a group like this are immeasurable, and I am grateful to be a part of this community.
Godly Stewardship

This month, our feature classroom is fourth grade, led by Mrs. Marianne Behr. Mrs. Behr has been at FCA for 31 years! FCA is so proud of our fourth grade class. Here is a report from Mrs. Behr:

“It has been another busy two months in the 4th grade classroom. Our hearts were touched for families in our area that suffered damages from Hurricane Sandy. As we talked about the devastation people were going through during our Bible time each morning, we were reminded that our actions as Christians must speak louder than just our words. We felt an urgency to do something. As the fourth graders began to make a list of what we could do to raise money to help even just one family, a goal of raising $500 came to our minds. It was a goal that we felt was beyond our reach, yet with the Lord’s help we could do it. We began to spread the word, placing donation jars in classrooms and local stores. We spread the word among family, friends and churches. The fourth graders began to do extra chores at home, empty piggy banks, and pray. With much effort, we reached our goal of $500; however, we felt that we needed to do even more. God’s Holy Spirit spoke to hearts, and we raised a total of $6,000. We were able to bless three families with the money. Each family was presented with a check for $2,000 and a Bible engraved with their name. One family was even our guest during chapel. The mission field is ripe for planting seeds right here in our own back yards: We嘉宾 during chapel. The mission field is ripe for planting seeds right here in our own back yards: We need to heed to the small window of opportunity before us to make a difference.”

FCA thanks God for teachers and students who answer God’s call to missions, whether home or abroad.

Building Up the Body of Christ

By John Morabito

My Bible tells me that the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians focuses on two aspects of unity: first, the basis for unity, which is God’s eternal purpose, “to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ” (1:10); and two, maintaining unity, calling believers to live in a manner consistent with their salvation in Christ (4:1). Ephesians 4:11-13 are pivotal verses in the book: “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

As I ponder the next steps of transformation at Casperkill, it will take a good deal of coordination on my part and on the part of our builder to maintain unity in scheduling all of the various contractors in the order in which they will need to do their part, so that timing and efficiency can be part of the process. The metal studs need to go up first, then the electrical wiring and components, then the HVAC and all the ductwork and equipment, then the sheetrock, then the spackling and taping, then the doors and trim, then the painting, and then the floors and all the detailed finish work (maybe not in exactly that order, but you get my meaning).

To lightheartedly paraphrase a portion of Ephesians 4:11, “It was he who gave some to be carpenters, some to be electricians, some to be sheet rockers, and some to be finishers and floor coverers.” As those God-given talents are exercised, the new plans will take shape, thereby bringing together all of the pieces to make a new building inside.

But how does Ephesians 4:11-13 apply to us as Christians? Are we thanking God for and listening to the input of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers God has given us? Are we purposefully being prepared to conduct our own works of service for those God will put in front of our eyes and who very well may perish if we do not become mature and shepherd them as we have been shepherded? It is not enough to attend services. We must take what is being given and use it to bless and rescue others. We are being built into the Body of Christ, which means we must not take for granted the teachings of those whom God has given us and who are accountable to God. As Casperkill is being built up as a new “body,” let us recognize that we are being prepared for works of service too. Let us strive to attain the full measure of Christ and thus fulfill our God-given promise.
faith assembly ministries

ADULT MINISTRIES

Faith Singles
A fellowship for Christian singles age 35 and older
Karen Grant, Coordinator
p. 845.559.8073 | email: kgrant531@verizon.net

Honor Bound Motorcycle Ministry
Motorcycle outreach ministry
Stephen Adams, President | email: stephenadams@frontiernet.net

Men’s Ministries
Men’s breakfasts, times of fellowship for men.
Contact church office for more information.

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)
Janaira Ostrander, Coordinator | email: mops@faithag1.org

Mothers Pray for Their Daughters
First Sunday of the month, following the 11am service.

Single & Single Again Sisters
Fellowship for single women over age 35.
Cheri Smart, Coordinator | p. 845.236.6958

Solace
A ministry to widows and widowers
Bertie Damiani, Coordinator | p. 845.462.5681

Women’s Ministries
Ministry to women and daughters
Contact church office for more information.

Women of Noble Character
Ministry for single moms
Terry Padillo, Coordinator | email: wonc@faithag1.org

FAITHKIDS CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES (page 5)
Pastor Ray Martin | email: rmartin@faithag1.org

COLLEGE & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
The Crossing
Fellowship for young adults ages 18 to 30
Thursdays at 7:30pm @ Boardman Road
Rev. Jeff Behnke, Coordinator | p. 845.674.3177

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
Stephen Ministry (Page 4)
Pastor Linda Schreck | email: lschreck@faithag1.org

Loving Hands
A ministry to those in our church family fighting cancer.
Members cook meals and/or provide transportation.
Lisa Andrews, Coordinator | p. 845.462.0662

Visitaton of Our Shut-Ins
Emily Foster, Coordinator | p. 845.454.9816
Every Tuesday in September & October

Grief Counseling Classes
Grief & loss support group
Rev. Jeff Behnke | p. 845.674.3177

EDUCATION

Faith Christian Academy & School’s Out (page 3)
Christian school | Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade
faithchristianacademy.org | p. 845.462.0266

Home Bible Study Groups (page 7)
Groups meet daily and evening, 7 days a week
Greta Davey, Coordinator | email: gretadavey@iwl.com

Sunday School Classes
Sundays, 9:45-10:30am
Children, teen & adult classes for men and women
Joe Lukaitis, Coordinator | p. 845.214-4680 | email: lukaitis@earthlink.net

Transform Discipleship Classes (page 4)
Pastor John Ogden | email: jogden@faithag1.org

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

We support more than 100 missionaries & missions projects.
Contact Pastor John Ogden for information about short term missions trips.

RADIO BROADCAST | “THE VOICE OF FAITH”
Monday-Friday at 3pm, The Bridge 98.9 FM
Sundays 6pm, Sound of Life 89.7 FM

SAMUEL PRAYER MINISTRY
Receives prayer requests from congregants and prays during the Sunday morning service to intercede for the congregation.
George & Kerri Andrews, Coordinators, email: prayer@faithag1.org

YOUTH | HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL
ONE Student Ministries (page 6)
High School and Middle School Students Youth Group
Pastor John Ogden | email: jogden@faithag1.org
Maltee Mohamed | email: mmohamed@faithag1.org
website: faithag1.org/one | p. 845.462.0662

WORSHIP ARTS

Congregational Worship, Special Music, Sanctuary Choir, Men’s Chorus, Worship & Drama Teams & Orchestra
Pastor Kreg Godfrey, Minister of Music
email: kgodfrey@faithag1.org

Devotional prayer guide is available in English or Spanish.

Pray God’s Highest Hopes For Our City’s Deepest Needs
Praying toward God’s promise:
• To renew Christ’s life among His people
• To bring the light of the gospel to many
• To reveal Christ’s glory to all peoples
• To establish righteousness in our cities
• To bring His peace in relationships

Sign up in the foyer on Sunday January 20 & 27 and February 3 and 10 for the 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting.

40 Days of Prayer & Fasting

Feb 13 - March 24

Speak Life-Giving Words
By Pastor Edward Jones

Joni Eareckson Tada asks these questions: “Words: Do you fully understand their power? Can any of us really grasp the mighty force behind the things we say? Do we stop and think before we speak, considering the potency of the phrases we utter?”

Most of the time, we seem to run on autopilot, just saying what comes to our minds and not giving thought to the impact of our words. Words have a life of their own, and once they are spoken, we can’t take them back. They can echo in the minds of hearers down through the years: Just ask any child whose parents spoke words decades earlier, words that still run through their minds with prophetic power.

These words can devastate (“You are just like…”; “you can’t do anything right…”); or empower (“You were born for a special purpose”; “you are an answer to our prayers”; “I couldn’t have asked for a better child”). Words also have life of their own, in that they can echo in a community, told from one person to another and another, either building unity or creating invisible barriers, either building up or dragging down.

Words have the potency to energize or demoralize. They can actually help people face problems, build unity, and overcome the obstacles of life. When people face battles, words can become like heavy weights that pull them down. Or, the opposite can be true: “Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up” (Proverbs 12:25 NLT). This coming year, make it your goal to speak words that bring life and encouragement to others. We can positively impact our homes, church communities, and workplaces. We can lift up the wounded, offer comfort to the broken, and support the weak.

When you speak cutting remarks, these “reckless words pierce like a sword…” (Prov. 12:18). Think about it: if you took a sword, plunged it into someone, and then removed it, the wound still remains. Even if the wound healed in time, the scar would remain. The reckless words you say can be like that sword, leaving a lasting impact on people’s lives.

When you say kind words, you can bring life to a lifeless situation. Dr. Tim Keller tells of a funeral he conducted where a girl spoke caustic words to a boyfriend she was distancing herself from. The words so devastated him that he shot himself in her front yard. Our words can destroy a person emotionally, inflicting wounds that go deep into his or her psyche.

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Words also have life of their own, in that they can echo in a community, told from one person to another and another, either building unity or creating invisible barriers, either creating doubt or good will. When we use our words to create friendships and bring healing, we become an answer to Jesus’ prayer. Our words have the potency to energize or demoralize. They can actually help people face problems, build unity, and overcome the obstacles of life. When people face battles, words can become like heavy weights that pull them down. Or, the opposite can be true: “Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up” (Proverbs 12:25 NLT). This coming year, make it your goal to speak words that bring life and encouragement to others. We can positively impact our homes, church communities, and workplaces. We will be moving in the spirit, walking in wisdom and growing in maturity as we exercise self-control and use our tongue for good. We will be both a blessing and blessed, as wise speech rewards the speaker. Proverbs 12:14 says, “From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.” In this new year, let us pray with the psalmist, “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalms 19:14).

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Welcome to faith assembly!

God is the author of creativity. Here at Faith Assembly, we celebrate this. Our congregation represents the nations of the world and its many ethnicities. We welcome this individuality and hope all who enter our doors will feel comfortable to worship here.

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We are therefore committed to teaching and preaching the Scriptures. We believe that the Bible teaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that it is the power of God unto salvation, and that there is no other name by which we must be saved but Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16, Acts 4:12).

We believe in the person and work of the Holy Spirit. As a charismatic and Pentecostal congregation, we believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the 21st century (Acts 2:38-39).

Our worship crosses generations, combining sound theology and the desire to involve many backgrounds into the worship of God in spirit and in truth.

So, welcome, and make yourself “at home” at Faith Assembly.

Edward A. Jones
Lead Pastor