



FAITH
Presbyterian Church

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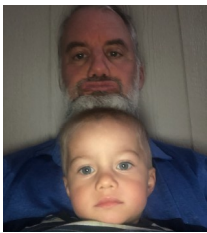
FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

A Note



Thank you to all who have made this newsletter reflect God’s Word. We are all a blessing to each other and truly show God’s love for one another. God is good! Winter is upon us and it is nice to reflect on the beauty of God’s creation and various seasons. We all have our favorite season, but God knows we are fickle creatures and gave us the diversity of every season. Enjoy every day and weather condition. lg

Pastor Perspective



What happens in baptism?

The Bible clearly displays God’s Faithfulness shown to us from generation to generation. In Genesis 17:8 God tells Abram that His covenant is for Abram and his descendants after him. Even in Acts 2:38 & 39 when the people are called to repent and be baptized they are reminded that the promise is for them and their children. First Corinthians 7:14 teaches that the children of even one believing parent are holy. In both the Old Testament and the New we see a God who works through His covenant with believers and their children.

See, Baptism is not an activity of man; it is God’s activity making us as His. When an infant is baptized, she is not coming to profess her faith in Jesus Christ. As far as we know, she does not have saving faith. The external sign that she is receiving does not change her spiritual condition. She is not professing faith or receiving any spiritual change.

Her parents are not the main actors either. They are not dedicating her to the Lord. They are recognizing that God has called their child to be part of the covenant community. They are recognizing that God owns this child. In the Old Testament it was not a choice; you were part of the covenant community, so you received the covenant sign. It was, and still is, God’s external display that this child is mine. Not “mine” in terms of being redeemed but in terms of being a member of the covenant community. She still must be born again to be saved. Yet God has claimed her as His own, and we can have a reasonable hope that one day she will be born again.
Pastor Thompson

Have you had a good experience with a local business and want to recommend them or give a review? Let us know, email: office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com

What does church mean to you?

Being a pastor's kid I find myself at every event, but this is far from a burden because the people I find myself with are fellow believers who struggle and persevere through familiar sins on a day to day basis.

There are many members in the church that have wonderful stories of God's grace and salvation, as well as knowledge of theology and how the church works as a whole. They are excellent examples of hard workers and witnesses in many fields. There are both young and old that are models of Christ-like humans.

As children, we have friends that share similar beliefs and experiences. We are faced with opportunities that our parents never had and our grandparents never even dreamed of having.

Kara Thompson



Joyful & Sad

Joyful wedding at Faith OPC. The union of Tyler and Angelica. Angelica's dad, Andy played the piano and also made the wedding arch that Angelica always wanted. After a honeymoon in California, they will make their home in Oklahoma. Angelica's siblings, Davey and Christina were part of the beautiful wedding. Simeon was the ring bearer, and Chloe was the flower girl. Angelica prayed for this moment and we were all happy to share in it with her. We will miss Angelica but know she is yoked to a God fearing man.

We also had to say goodbye to the DeJong's. Our intern has a church in Concho, AZ and he and his family



moved there in early November. We keep Elijah, Greta, and Beatrix in our prayers as they begin this new chapter in their lives. We had a church BBQ, Frode and Pastor Karl did the cooking, as we said our goodbyes.

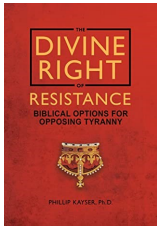


We are happy to announce the Baptism and new membership of Christian Garcia.

11/21/21



From the Library



Goodreads:

[Frode's review](#)

October 19, 2021

This book is not yet available in the church library.

Phillip Kayser has a book that Christians should read due to the recent intrusions on the first amendment. His book is short, a little less than 60 pages of text but with additional pages of follow-up sources. *The Divine Right of Resistance* deals with a Biblical response to government overreach. He begins with a good discussion of Romans 13:1-7 in light of two viewpoints, which in Latin are *rex lex* and *lex rex*. That roughly translates to the king is law or the law is king. His discussion is clear, organized, and thoughtful. He continues on in that section with some thoughts on how a Christian is to relate to his magistrate.

Of course, what most folks really want to know is if and when it is ok to resist their governing authorities and how it plays out. Those questions are posed and answered in a general fashion in the second section of the book. He explains when compliance is not an option versus when it is. Thoughtful Christians have probably figured that out already, but he makes it clear. He speaks to the issue of various types of lawful resistance and breaks it down to individuals, churches, and magistrates themselves. It is a helpful section.

In the last portion of the book, Kayser takes a specific example and works through it. He gives guidelines on what to do and not to do if the local government comes to take your guns. He uses four criteria to evaluate possibilities. First is deontology, which looks at the laws God has established in Scripture. After all, a Christian's actions should be Biblically based. His second point is situationalism; he is careful to distance this from pragmatism, but it means to take into account the details of the situation. Next is personalism, which according to Kayser means how the decision affects the individual person and likely those under his authority. Obviously an unmarried male in his early twenties will have different options than a married man in his mid forties with children and home. His final point is teleology where he applies the Bible to the fallout of the decision, namely consequences, goals and opportunity cost.

The book is laced with Scriptural examples and references, so a careful reader will want to check out those in his or her own Bible. Mr. Kayser has obviously done his homework, and the book says he has been teaching on these ideas for decades. I believe this is a helpful book. Some folks might want more specific answers, but Kayser points out the options where the areas are gray instead of telling the reader exactly what to do. Nonetheless, the guidelines are there, and with Bible in hand the Christian needs to make his own decisions suitable for the occasion. I recommend the book. Frode Jensen



Coming up in January

January 1—New Year's Day

January 8—7:00am Men's Breakfast

January 24—6pm Men's Meeting

10am Tuesdays—Ladies Bible Study starts January 4

1:30pm Tuesdays—Stand for Life

6pm Thursdays—Bible Study

January 12 & 26—Youth Night

God is good

Stand for Life:



Would you like to get outdoors for two hours of wonderful fresh air? How about spending Tuesday afternoon at Washington Blvd & Franklin Ave in Grants Pass? Join us at Stand for Life (no enrollment or annual fees) and since you are already enlisted in our Lord's army, just show your colors these two hours each week.

Pastor Karl Thompson is dedicated to leading as we make a stand because all lives matter to God and the unborn need us as advocates. Along with that reason you can improve your health at the same time. It's a win-win situation. You will enjoy wonderful company and great fellowship. Plan to attend this dedicated, determined group. The church will provide signs and if you'd like to bring a chair, come sit with us.

You will be glad you joined us and that you can make a Stand for Life. Marge Robertson



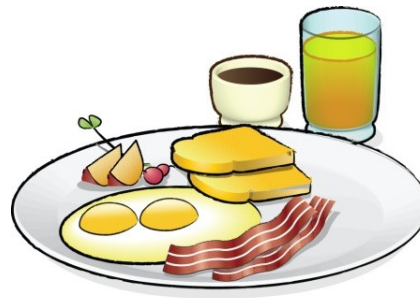
Faith Men's Breakfast

Faith men began meeting again this fall. There is no way to explain the extravagant breakfast served. Each man brings a dish and the menu goes from deluxe eggs, potatoes, fruit, all sorts of pork, French toast, plus the sweets like cinnamon rolls. You will never leave hungry.

Above and beyond the food and coffee is the opportunity to have uninterrupted conversation with other men, fellowship. Our time is directed by a focus on God's Word as it applies to our lives. The focus this fall has been John 13:34-35. Jesus' commandment "to love one another, even as I have loved you" has opened the door to the dozens of 'one another' verses in Scripture. Christ's sacrificial love as a model to love the brothers at Faith presents opportunity to serve. Do you think of, communicate, and pray regularly for your brothers?

'One anothering' starts with a heart grateful

for Christ's love. Accept one another as Christ has welcomed you. What does receive/welcome look like? Approachable, listening and hearing, asking questions, remembering to pray with/for, and pursuing a brother makes Christ's welcome real.



Consider
abounding in love
for the brothers,
January 8th 7:00
to 8:30am. "And
may the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all, as we do for you."

Keith Hansen

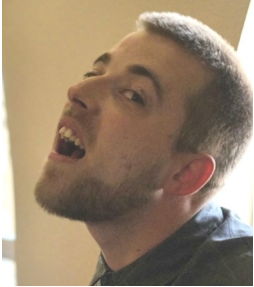


Keith Hansen will be leading the Sunday School class, I Peter starting this Sunday, January 2, 2022

The study of I Peter equips us to live Godly lives in a fallen world. Peter says not to be surprised when our lives include suffering. These difficult situations grow our spiritual muscles. God delights to use His people to draw enemies of Christ into love and faith with Him

Janine and Cameron

I met Cameron when he was ten years old in 2005. He was small for his age and very sweet. Authorities found him under a bridge in Cave Junction; he was starving, and they put him in a foster home that was not good. He was abused and neglected there, but eventually he was moved out of that home and taken to another home that didn't work out either.



Finally, Tim and I became his new foster parents. I loved Cam right away, and it took Tim two weeks to fall madly in love with him also. He felt like our own flesh and blood. As a family, we did many things together; jet boats, vacations, rafting and just had a great life.

Cam was given a medication that changed him completely and almost ruined his life. It took seven months of struggle and trouble; then Tim was diagnosed with cancer. We flew to the Midwest to see what would help. A month later Tim was gone, and Cam had to go to a group home.

For six years I visited and took Cam on outings and to church. Several care givers came and went, but Chris took really good care of him and so did his wife, Kacey. They became his foster parents, and their little 1 1/2 year old boy and Cam became like brothers, no matter the age.

God is so good and Cam is thriving at church; it is his favorite place to be. When Cam's new family comes to pick him up from my home, I say, "Your family is outside," and he runs outside and jumps in the car. We are all like family. Janine Johnson



Busy Bees—Sew in Love Sisters

Doris Vander Stoel and Linda Maloney are hand making lap quilts for those in need that are wheelchair bound.



They have made 16 lap quilts and by this printing will be in the hands or laps of some thankful recipients in the nursing homes.

Doris and Linda are inviting the ladies and men of OPC to help out. Are you looking for something to do that is worthwhile and will help those with a real need?

All you need is a working, straight stitch sewing machine. They will supply the fabric, batting, and backing material. They are offering free lessons to make these beautiful quilts. Doris said donations are always welcome to go towards the purchase of more materials. Stop by Doris' and see how the process is done and learn a new skill.



With every lap quilt includes this card: →

This quilt has been made for you.
With much love and many prayers in every
stitch.

Sew in Love Sisters—Faith O.P.C.

O Lord my God

I will give thanks
unto thee for ever.

Psalms 30:12

What an opportunity to learn and to serve

A Note From Our Missionary—Rachel

Dear Church Family,

Thank-you for your continued prayers and support as I prepare for my departure to India next week.

A couple of praise items that I wanted to share with you all. In November, I travelled to Kentucky to attend a medical missions conference. Of the roughly 2600 attendees, during one of the sessions I ended up “randomly” assigned to a group of three people, one of whom is the son of the director of the hospital where I am planning on serving in January. It was such a delight to make that connection.

The second praise item is that not only did I get the much-prayed-for visa, but the Lord also orchestrated the details in a way which opened my eyes to His perfect power and His perfect means. After an initial denial of the visa and a delay which would have necessitated canceling the whole trip, the Lord provided means through a contact with the United Nations and a friend of a friend of a friend, so that the visa was approved and arrived in a timely fashion. Nothing is too hard for Him!

On December 31st I will leave from Medford, fly to Seattle, then to Doha (a 14.5 hour flight), then to Kolkata, and finally to Dimapur. Along with those travel details comes a few prayer requests:

1. *Covid restrictions are always changing and vary based on the time, state, country and airline. Please pray that the Lord provides passage through every covid test and the myriad of confusing requirements and paperwork for every step, not only for the trip there but also for my return.*
2. *Please pray for safety and lack of complications (delays, missed flights, etc) for the trip.*

Once I arrive in Dimapur (on January 2nd), I will be picked up at the airport by a hospital-employed driver who will deliver me to the hospital, which is about 15 minutes from the airport. There, I will be housed in a guest house on campus where my meals will also be provided. Praise the Lord for His provision of transportation, food, and lodging!

Over the few weeks in December, I was busy continuing to put together teaching materials, organizing covid tests, and packing, in addition to wrapping up details with my work here. Please pray that I do not miss the MORE important celebration of Christmas and understanding of the glory and beauty of our almighty and awesome God coming down to earth to bear our suffering and sorrows. Our God is more glorious than we can imagine!

May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you!

Love,
Rachel

ADDED NOTE: If you should choose to email Rachel, because of safety concerns for all those involved please do not mention any of the specifics Rachel has mentioned in this letter to us. Her mail is subject to the country's eyes. This newsletter will not be emailed to Rachel at this time.



God On The Fire!



Last year we were assigned to work our water truck on the August Complex Fire in Northern California. This fire was started by a lightning strike on August 16, 2020, and ended up being California's largest wildfire ever at over a million acres.

Gary would be operating a bulldozer on one end of the fire while I would be operating our water truck on the other end. This would be the first and farthest job for our new (old) water truck. Gary went a couple days ahead of me so when I got the call that I was to be in Willows, California, at 7:00 AM in two days, the nerves began to set in! Not only was I taking the truck out without Gary, but it was going to be quite a long five hour drive to get there. At that time I had never driven our water truck that far on my own, so I was praying a lot!

Every year before fire season, I choose a Bible verse to memorize to help me on the fire. This particular year I had chosen Psalm 28:7.... "The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart trusts in Him and I am helped. Therefore, my heart greatly rejoices and with my song I shall praise him." I wrote it on a piece of paper and hung it on the dash area of my truck so that I could see it every day. There were numerous times I would need to look at it and remember God was there helping me in the scary and uncertain times.

As I rolled into the fire camp in Stonyford, I started looking around for churches that where I might be able to stay. Being a woman alone on the fires, I'm always cautious where I stay. I called the local Community Church and asked about staying in their fellowship hall, but unfortunately because of COVID they couldn't accommodate me. Next, I went to the local market and asked the clerk if there were any cabins or rooms available in the area to rent. She didn't know of any, but said she knew a lady that occasionally would host out-of-town missionaries or travelers, so she called her and sort of explained me....." Hi Mary, there's a lady here that's driving a water truck and was wondering about renting a room while she's here working on the fire. Yes, I think you'd like her, yes, she seems like it." (I'd learn later, Mary was asking her if I "seemed" like a Christian lady). Anyway, Mary agreed, so the store clerk gave me her name and address and pointed out the way. It was only about a quarter mile from the store and as I rolled into the driveway, there she was....5'4" 110 pound, 80-year-old Mary with a huge smile on her face and both thumbs up in the air. I climbed out of my truck and walked over to her. She said, "Hi, I'm Mary, do you do social distancing?" I said, "No;" she then proceeded to wrap me in a big bear hug and said, "good, I don't either!" She invited me into her house and told me that I was welcome to use it as my own. She showed me where my bedroom and bathroom were and told me to make myself at home. She gave me a key and said I could stay as long as I needed. I was amazed at her warm welcome and generosity toward me, a complete stranger! She told me to go get my stuff and settle in. As I was coming back in from gathering my gear, I had the feeling come over me that I should share my bible verse with her, so as I walked in, I said, "Mary, I always choose a bible verse to memorize when I go out on fires, and this year I chose Psalm 28:7, and I started reciting it. Not even half way through it, she started reciting it along with me! When we finished saying it, she said excitedly, "Oh my goodness, come here!" I followed her into her kitchen, and she stopped and pointed to a picture on her kitchen wall with the very same verse on it...Psalm 28:7! We were both stunned and amazed; out of all the thousands of bible verses to choose from, it was the exact same one she had on her wall!

A bit later she was giving me her contact info and she said, "I'll spell my last name because it's sort of different." She started slowly spelling, "Q-u-i-" I stopped her and said, "Wait, that is the beginning spelling of my

(Continued on page 8)



last name, "Q-u-i-n-o-n-e-s." Her's was Quiberg, but we both thought that was funny that we had similar last names.

That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship. I learned that she had owned and lived on her ranch for many years, and that her folks had lived in Stonyford many years also, and had raised cattle. She had a small herd that she was raising, so every evening we would go out and feed the cows, and then we would eat dinner together and share about our day. Gary was able to come over on his days off and she fell in love with him and welcomed him into her home as well. He helped around her ranch with some of the projects she had needed to be done. He really enjoyed getting to know her too. Every morning when I got up to leave for work, she would have coffee ready and a cheerful note and bible verse on the counter for me. She was such a sweet and lovely lady, and is a dear friend to this day!

One of the assignments I had was high up in the Mendocino mountains. It was about an hour up from the fire camp, so one of the other water tender drivers, (a young 21-year-old guy named Frank) and I would leave our water tenders up on the mountain and commute back and forth together in his pickup truck. This one particular morning, Frank and I had just arrived at our water trucks and were checking our oil and preparing the trucks for the day, when all of a sudden, there was a loud explosion and a huge wall of black dust was billowing towards us. We both ran over to see what had happened, and there was one of the other water trucks crashed against a tree with the tank torn off and laying on its side. The driver had been thrown and was lying face down on the ground with his head less than an inch from being smashed under the driver front tire. He was not moving, and we were afraid he was dead. Frank was flipping out and yelling, "What are we going to do, what are we going to do?" Slowly Steve, (the driver) started to come to, and started trying to get up. We got him away from the wreck and laid him down on the bank, then I got on the radio and started calling for help. As men began arriving, we all tried to keep Steve still and calm in case he had internal injuries, but he was in shock and having anxiety and did not want to lie still. Finally, with about six guys circling him and holding him down, I took his hand, looked into his eyes and said, "Steve, you've got to calm down, you could have internal injuries and moving around may make it worse," and then I felt led to pray out loud for him, so with all the men circled around him, I bowed my head and started praying to God, asking for His help and healing for Steve. At the end of the prayer, many of the men said "amen" along with me. Shortly after the helicopter arrived and we loaded Steve up and away he went to the Ukiah hospital. Miraculously, we were to learn later, all Steve had was a concussion and lots of bumps and bruises. God had definitely been there and spared his life. He was in his mid 30's and a father of four, I was so thankful he had survived!

Meanwhile, Frank and I had to wait for the California Highway Patrol to arrive to give our statements. As we waited the hour for the officer to arrive, we sat in Frank's pickup. We were still quite shook, so I said, "we need to pray". I prayed out loud again for God to calm us down and to help Steve be ok. We slowly began to relax and our nerves quieted down. After the reports were done, our boss told us to take the rest of the day off and go back down the hill to camp. That was a blessing, because neither one of us wanted to get in and drive our water trucks after what we'd just experienced. So, we headed down the hill in Frank's pickup. I felt the Lord prompting me to share the Gospel with Frank. After I was done, we talked back and forth about what it means to trust and obey the Lord, and to let Him be Lord of all. He seemed very attentive and interested. We were both spent and worn out from the morning's happenings, so I said, "Frank, why don't you turn on some music and let's just ride and listen for awhile." Frank reached over, turned on the radio, and the song that immediately came on was, "Jesus, Take The Wheel." We both looked at each other in amazement! God had been working in every detail of the morning, even down the minutest little thing! Tami

Thankfully, after the wreck, Gary finished with the dozer job and was able to take over driving the water truck for me. I was so grateful as it had shaken me up pretty bad. After Gary's 14 days were up, I knew I had to get back in the truck. The first morning I was so nervous. I had to leave camp while it was still dark, and drive up a very sketchy mountain road to get to the jobsite. All the way up I recited my bible verse out loud and prayed! After about 45 minutes as I neared the top of the mountain, the sun started rising and I felt such a sense of God's presence! He had been with me all along. I realized by going through all the trials and scary times, He was helping me lean more on Him and trust in Him, and Psalm 28:7 was exactly true.....The Lord is my strength and my shield!

Written by Tami Quinones December 2021



Missionary Work Thailand—Keith Heck



With fearless hubris I, along with Carol and our two children, Cary, 7 and Renee' 4, departed in January 1974 for the beginning of an anticipated lifetime mission service with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF), starting in Thailand. Our goal was to serve as Instructors to Established Church Leaders in NE Thailand.

Having read many mission biographies and event-based books, I thought I was well-prepared to learn a language, adjust to an alien culture, make friends and establish acquaintances in order to rise and ride the crest of the wave called "Missionaries". Of course, in the back of my mind, I knew I would accomplish all that was necessary to bring personal and professional success. It took less than 18 months for me to face the reality that I was not in charge of such titles, much less any, events.

Enroute to phonics training in Singapore the OMF Headquarters, we had to leave Cary, at that time 8, at his new school, Chefoo, located in the Cameron Highlands, Malaysia. He accepted this needed reality of school relocation without even a modicum of complaint. He would return home to us at term break, about 4 months hence. We could be family again for about 6 weeks! Meanwhile, while we were in Singapore, Renee' turned 5. A more adaptive 8-year old there certainly was not known and a cuter 5-yr old there was not! Off to slay the dragons!

All we had to do was learn how to speak, read and write a language that was, well, difficult! Phonetics was helpful in getting the gist of what we were supposed to learn; we just needed a little help in the learning! Thai is not English! Well, I'll learn it and move on. Each weekday morning we took a 20 minute walk to Language School rehearsing language patterns to deeply print them on our minds.

The Thai language instructor would greet us in Thai, "Hello. Good morning. Please come in and have a seat". Greeting each other, we would finally figure out the meaning of the instructor's hand gestures! Class would begin. The school was three months of learning to speak; one month rest, three months of learning to read and write, one month rest and three months of using and deepening all three disciplines. At the end we should have had a 4th grade equivalency of all three disciplines. Our problem came upon graduation – we had to leave Thailand for visa issues necessitating a six week pause in language learning. Carol never truly recovered her hard fought language abilities while I had a set-back although did seem to recover. But we did graduate! Thai does not use Anglicized text, instead, use their own text, including markings indicating their five different tones. Now, we were on to being real missionaries, moving to the Northeast area. Right after I was released from the hospital due renal issues. Promising!

But first ... we had to temporarily relocate to Singburi, Central Thailand. It served us well as a holding point while our goal was Nakhon Phanom, in NE Thailand! That was a military center; the Americans had just deactivated a huge airbase used heavily in the Viet Nam war. The Christian and Missionary Alliance had established some churches in that area. But they needed teaching. We were going there right after our six week's break with our two precious children to provide that teaching. Alright! At last!

Singburi was pleasant, comfortable house and neighborhood. While there we were informed that Mission leadership had changed our placement from NE Thailand to Central doing Church Planting! Oh my! Oh well. Other children were there for Renee' to play with; until she fell out of a tree, hurting her wrist. On a Friday, she had come into the house to tell me she fell and that her wrist "hurt". I performed my medical exam, did not find protruding bones, she did not say word; she went back outside to play. Another 30 minutes she reappears with a noticeably bruised sore wrist. Now what? We went to the local hospital and waited three hours for a doctor, only to be told that the doctor was not in on Friday. Something about this Thai culture that I didn't appreciate. Don't they know who we are? We only want to help them! Off we go to the Christian hospital, Manorom was about 1 ½ hours away by motorcycle; Renee' dutifully rode behind me holding her wrist. Seeing

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

a highly respected international surgeon, she tells me to hold firmly Renee' on my lap while she takes hold of Renee's arm and wrist simply pulling it and snapping it back into place – I heard the snap! I look at Renee', she has one tear overflowing from her eye. She received a cast and we headed back home to Singburi. She is one tough girl!

I am thinking during the drive, "What in the world have I gotten all of us into?" Stranded alone in the middle of Thailand, trying to pretend that both our children will not soon be gone to school in another country, our work completely changed to something I felt truly inadequate doing, my theology changing I had to process anew. Enough!

My pride was being subsumed with self-doubt. It was no wonder why the dark cloud of depression began to take shape and descend like an ominous cloud. This was a matter that, in hindsight, I had wrestled with for years but only now was having to face this ogre. My theology at that time did not allow for a minister to wrestle unsuccessfully with "a sin", and was not depression a sin of not trusting in His work and will?

I came to a place where I better realized God's providence, better understanding my wrestling with sin, better understanding sound theology. I can better understand Luther's instruction, "*Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong [or sin boldly], but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world*". (For the rest of the story on Luther's quote [click here.](#))

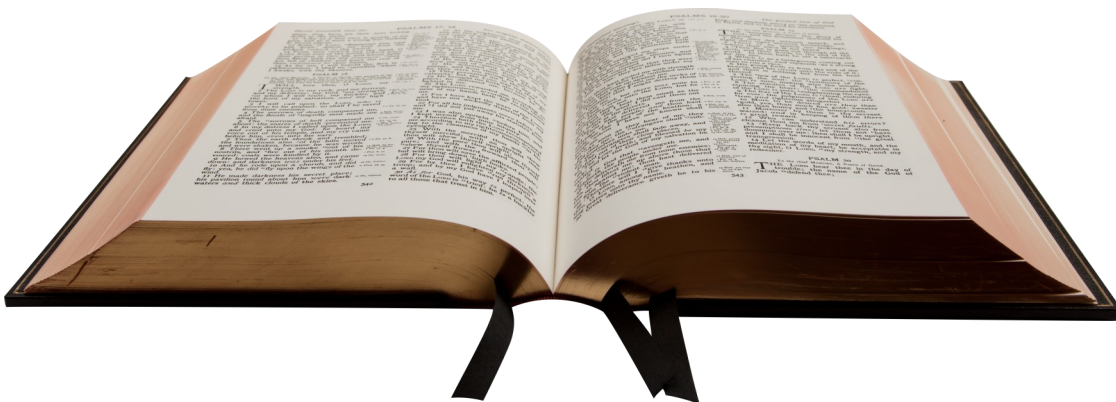
I came to better understand that God is utterly faithful to me, His child, not because I have, or ever would, be deserving of such kindness and mercy. Peter wrote "*You were ransomed...with the precious blood of Christ.*" (1 Pet 1:18-19). My hard lesson was being taught by a compassionate Instructor. Keith



You are invited to join us in the Faith OPC Bible Reading 2022! There will be two plans: Through the New Testament in a Year (one NT chapter per day) and Through the Bible in a Year (the NT plan plus three OT chapters per day). Imagine the value of many of us reading the same portions of scripture together.

You can see on the page NT (for New Testament reading) and OT (for Old Testament reading) and they are listed by date. Catch up is a day that a reading is not necessary and you can use it to "catch up" or study. Reading the Bible is an enrichment to your life and to your relationship with God.

[Click here to see the Bible Reading 2022.](#)



A lot of care, time and effort went into the publishing of this newsletter and we would love to hear your comments, recommendations, and thoughts. Drop us a line at: office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and Frode Jensen.