



Volume 15, Issue 12

Vineyard of Faith LC-MS  
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## December 2010

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## December Events

### **Advent Potlucks & Services**

Wednesdays, Dec. 1st, 8th, @ 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 15th, Potluck and Sing-A-Long, @ 6:30 PM

### **Church Decorating Night**

Friday, Dec. 3rd @ 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

- Come help decorate the Ministry Center for Christmas! Bring some finger food to share and a jolly spirit!

### **Drop-N-Shop**

Friday, Dec. 10th @ 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

### **Angel Tree Party**

Sunday, Dec. 12th @ 11:30 AM

### **Chamber of Commerce Community Dinner at VOF**

Sunday, Dec. 19th @ 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

- Help serve a holiday meal to the homeless and low income in Windsor.

### **Christmas Eve Potluck & Service**

Friday, Dec. 24th @ 6:30 PM

### NEED TO CONTACT THE STAFF?

Church Office: (707) 837-8712



**Lonnie Felcher**

*Pastor*

-ext. 201

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**Angel Frische**

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Sharie Lefor  
(Volunteer)

*Stephen Ministry  
Coordinator*

- [shariel@juno.com](mailto:shariel@juno.com)



## *Vision Statement*

Vineyard of Faith's soul purpose for being is to fulfill God's loving mission; *sharing* His saving message of Christ, *caring* as Jesus cares, we partner together *preparing* for changed lives, offering His comfort, His hope, and fulfilling God's promises for this life and life eternal.

## Ministry Support Team

Dave Anderson: Chairman, Fellowship

[davidanderson10@comcast.net](mailto:davidanderson10@comcast.net)

Delores Hampton: Vice-Chair, Evangelism

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Renee Ortiz: Youth Ministry

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**Open:** Stewardship Ministry



*"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit..."*

*- John 15:5*



### From Pastor Lonnie's Desk...

I always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ when I pray for you, because I am privileged to witness your faith in Jesus and the love you have for all the saints, and for all people in Windsor and the world, as the gospel bears fruit through you.



Last month I wrote about our new Wednesday evening children's group (Sondays) and how our mighty God takes time to sit and play with the little children as they play in His back yard and how he chuckles and smiles as he watches them play and draw Him and His great messages of hope and salvation with chalk on the sidewalk. Well God continues to bless this ministry as children and their parents learn about Jesus and what we believe about Him, and what we speak about Him in the Creed each week. Now that it's getting dark earlier the kids, the teachers, and I have discovered that crayons and a great big sheet of butcher paper on the gymnasium floor is just about as good as chalk and a sidewalk. And while the gym floor isn't as fun as playing in the grass, it has its own advantages as the lines on the floor have proven to be handy for playing huge games of line-tag. What a fun time we have each week. If you have children pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, come join the fun, or if you know of families with children this age please bring them, and check out our newly remodeled Sondays classrooms.



Thank you to all the folks who worked so hard on the Sondays rooms, they are beautiful, and have proven to be very comfortable for learning, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" What a blessing all of you are.

Please continue to pray for the children's ministry here at Vineyard of Faith, please pray for the children who are here, and the children God has yet to bring to us; may He use us mightily to share His Gospel, and may He continue to bless the Sondays ministry, children's church, and the children's worship service that takes place every fifth Sunday. And may God keep VOF a safe place for children.

Speaking of children, the J.O.Y. group met this past month for a wonderful turkey dinner, devotion, jokes, and a presentation on sharecropping. After these activities, some stuck around and played games, what a wonderful time this was! Oh, in case you haven't heard, the J.O.Y. group is our group of retired folks, or Just Older Youth - after all, we are all just kids at heart right?!

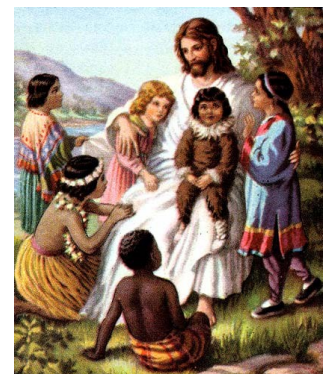
As God continues to grow the Vineyard of Faith family, I ask two things of you: one, that you keep your brothers and sisters in Christ, your VOF family, in your prayers; and two, that you come check out our many ministry opportunities, like the ones already mentioned, or our Stephen Ministry, our Sr. and Jr. High youth groups and confirmation class, our small group Bible studies for men, women, and twenty-somethings, our D.I.V.E. team, our community garden, and our car show.

But most importantly, come worship your loving God and Savior this and every Sunday at 10:00 am followed by fellowship, snacks, and adult Bible class.

Oh, and don't forget to join us on Wednesday evenings during Advent for our potluck dinners and services December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, and on Christmas Eve. Dinner is served at 6:30 pm, followed by worship around the tables at 7:00 pm.

And please continue to pray for our Hispanic brothers and sisters in Christ. May God richly bless and protect them, may He equip us to share His Gospel message in their own language, and may He raise-up men and women to teach English.

Finally, devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray that God open many doors for us to proclaim the message of Jesus. And pray for me, that I may proclaim Jesus clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, and seasoned with God's word, so you may know how to answer everyone who asks about the hope you have in Christ Jesus. God's blessings to you and your loved ones.



Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Lonnie





## “How Long Does Grief Last?”

*“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed,  
Yet my Unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace  
Be removed.” Says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”*

- Isaiah 54:10

As I write this, Thanksgiving is days away and Christmas is rapidly approaching. I've been praying for dear friends and relatives who have lost a loved one. The holidays are extremely difficult to face. It is up to us to be as kind, caring, and as loving as possible towards those experiencing loss and to be accepting and respectful to whatever they choose to do for the holidays.

In Dr. Kenneth Haugk's book three, *Journeying through Grief*, he says, *“when people ask me, “How long does grief last?” I often answer, “As long as it takes.” In one sense your grief will always be with you. When C.S. Lewis lost his wife, he wrote that losing a loved one is like having your leg amputated. You don't get over an amputated leg. The wound may heal, but the leg will never grow back. You'll always have that absence in your life, and you'll always walk with a limp.*

*In another sense, grief does end. Eventually the intense pain subsides, memories bring more smiles than tears, and the future appears more hopeful than foreboding. How long does it take to get there? Most people will take two to three years to do the grieving they need to do - some may take less, some may take more. There's no one-size-fits-all time frame for grief. There's only your unique and personal time frame. That's the only one that really matters for you.*

*Many people describe grief as waves from a storm crashing onto the shore. At first the waves are very large, coming at you one right after another. Each wave knocks you flat. Often you don't even have time to get back on your feet after one wave before the next one knocks you down. But gradually the waves get smaller and come farther apart. In time an occasional wave may still batter you, but more often you're able to keep your balance and stay on your feet.*

*Right now the most important thing you can do is not let anyone - including yourself - to pressure you to stop grieving. You can't stop the waves of grief from hitting you any more than you could stop storm waves from rolling onto the shore. The waves need to come and go until they gradually subside. Grief simply takes time. It can't be rushed or hurried. Take all the time you need and let the waves come.*

Please join me and pray for those who who've lost a loved one. And now may our Lord bless you and keep you safe in His tender care, now and forever.

Serving Him,  
Sharie



## Don't Grieve For Me

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has laid, you see.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy:  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much:  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all to brief.  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and peace to thee.  
God wanted me now; He set me free.

- by Nilda Adell



***Good and Faithful Servants***

**December 2010 Volunteer Schedule**

Date	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
<b>Greeters</b>	Denise Sanders Joyce Wycoff	Dorothy Adkins Jane Martin-Leach	Linda Bracey Val Holbrook	Jayna Missner
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Anderson Jane Anderson Pat Heagerty	Alan Westergard Bob Lefor Gerald Schallon	John Young Dana Finger Denny Ripple	Dave Anderson Jane Anderson Pat Heagerty
<b>Acolytes</b>	Annie Frische Rachel Hall	Jackson Barnard	Simone Barnard	Madeline Ortiz
<b>Prayer Partners</b>	Jeanice Holtzer Sharie Lefor Larry Lefor Steve Missner	Monica Missner Steve Missner Rick Rogan	Jeanice Holtzer Angel Frische Steve Missner Larry Lefor	Jeanice Holtzer Sharie Lefor Larry Lefor Steve Missner
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Bill Gillette Denny Ripple John Young	No Communion	Bob Lefor Larry Lefor Gerald Schallon	No Communion
<b>Children's Church</b>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>
<b>Sound Board</b>	Megan Wycoff	Dan Frische	Austin Missner	Megan Wycoff
<b>Janitorial Cleaning</b>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer's Needed</i>



## A Note of Praise

The old Christmas songs say, "It's the most wonderful time of the year..." I would have to agree with that. It is a time when we joyfully give to others, whether it's a present under a tree or a gift of our time or talents. Of course, the greatest gift of all is that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior stepped down from His throne for you and me, that we might have life, and life more abundantly. Praise God!

Be assured that God loves you! Not for who you are, but because of who He is!! It is a good time to share the gospel with others. Maybe during this time of the year, we embrace the words of the apostle John, "*Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*" I John 4:11-12

Let me share the following story:

### Clay Balls

A man was exploring caves by the seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake. They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him. As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could.

He thought little about it, until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone!

Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so he had left. Then it struck him. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the clay balls with their hidden treasure into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it. We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure hidden inside them.

There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, and if we ask God to show us that person the way He sees them, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay.

I am so blessed by the gems of friendship I have with you. Thank you for looking beyond my clay vessel.

Christmas blessings to you!

-Ken



## Bible Scramble

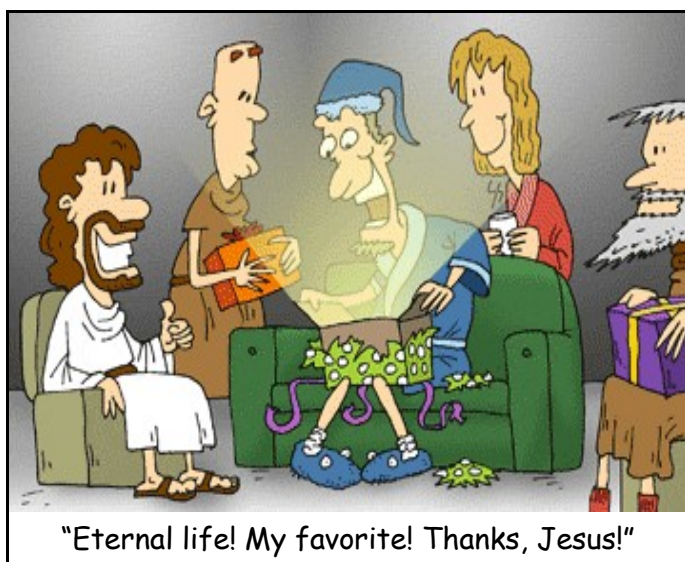
Rearrange the letters to complete the passage.



Btu teh nagle iads to meth,  
 "Do ton eb farida.  
 I grinb oyu ogod swen fo trage oiy  
 tath liwl eb orf lal het loppee.  
 Toady ni teh wont of Didav  
 a Sivroa sha eben norb ot uoy;  
 he si Chistr teh Lrod.

Hint: Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

Solution on page 6.



"Eternal life! My favorite! Thanks, Jesus!"



# MST Minutes for November 14th, 2010 Meeting



*MST Meeting minutes are always available on the bulletin board or in the church office.*

- Treasurer’s report shows \$1,694.30 in Savings, \$1,493.39 in Checking, \$ 578.94 in Youth and \$88,089.12 in Flex Note.
- Pastor Lonnie has extended the New Members Bible Class to all our VOF members as an Adult Bible Class.
- Pastor Lonnie is planning to open a traditional Lutheran service one Saturday night per quarter. This is not to replace our current service, but to allow some to worship in a traditional setting: Those who attend are asked to come to both Saturday night and Sunday morning service to keep in fellowship with the whole congregation.
- Christmas decorating for the sanctuary and church will be Friday, December 3rd. Bring finger food to share and lots of HO HO HO spirit!
- Faith Aflame 360 Degrees, a wonderful, day long event, will be held at our church on January 15th. All are invited to attend as well as other congregations.
- MST will meet for a retreat in January to discuss future growth and vision. Some suggestions were a broader Spanish Ministry, community Easter Egg hunt, participation in the Windsor Day Parade, more involvement in D.I.V.E. and leadership training.

## VOF Ministries: Wish List

*Due to the budget, the MST has put together a “wish list” of things that are needed and/or need to be done to continue the ministries here at Vineyard of Faith. You can fully or partially fund any of these items.*

- Copies of Luther’s Catechism, with Explanation
- Advertisement of fliers with Windsor Chamber
- Repair Cross light on front of Church
- Repair chairs
- Adopt a room: paint, lights, etc.
- Remove/move Cabana and tree
- 3-4 yards of gravel for youth shed area
- Repair/replace broken windows
- Yard lights for back lawn area
- Repair pavement cracks
- Remove diseased oak tree by garage
- Permits & repairs for portable
- Replacement of exit signs

## Financial Report

	<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>Checking Account</u>		<u>Budget Needs &amp; Deposits</u>
		<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenses Paid</u>	<u>Difference &lt;Shortfall&gt;</u>
October 2010: (5 Sundays )	\$ 16,768.85	\$ 17,006.20	\$ 14,764.76	\$ 237.35
Year To Date: (7/1/10-10/31/10)	\$ 60,367.86	\$ 56,606.75	\$ 57,177.62	< \$ -3,761.11 >

## Solution to Bible Scramble (on page 5):

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

- Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)



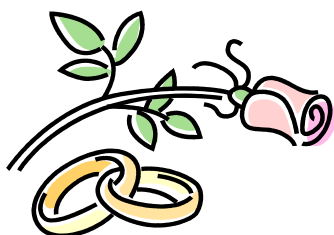
# Happy Birthday!



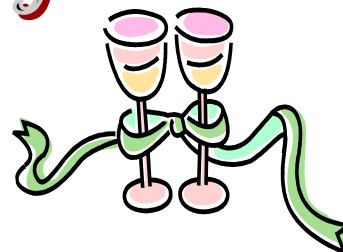
Cindy Humphrey	- December 1	Barbara Kirvan	- December 20
Rhonda Hall	- December 6	Jeff Holtzer	- December 24
Rachel Wycoff	- December 8	Jeff Sanders	- December 24
Sarah Hall	- December 10	Kristine Holtzer	- December 25
Jose Ramirez	- December 12	Dan Frische	- December 28
Jayna Missner	- December 16	Pat Heagerty	- December 30
Jeanne Carvalho	- December 19	Nidua Brown	- December 31
Linda Bracey	- December 20		




# Happy Anniversary!



Gerald & Shirley Schallon	- December 19
Mike & Kate Hoesly	- December 22
Miles & Donna Strom	- December 31






**Drop-n-Shop**  
**Friday, December 10th, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
 Drop off your kids for some Christmas fun so that you can have time to shop.  
 No charge...Free...Gratis  
 The kids will have a good time with a movie, snacks, crafts, and fun & games.



**Angel Tree Party**  
**December 12th, after fellowship.**  
 Give a child whose parent is in prison the gift of Christmas! Volunteers needed.  
 Please contact Lynette Davis or Robyn Lefor for more information.



**Community Dinner**  
*Hosted by the Windsor Chamber of Commerce - here at VOF*  
**Sunday, December 19th, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
 Volunteers needed to help serve the homeless and low income in Windsor.



**New Year's Eve Family Fun Night**  
**Friday, December 31st, 7:00 pm - Midnight**  
 Bring some munchies and a fun game to play! Everyone welcome!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2010</h1>						
5 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Communion	6 7:00 PM Souffire Sr.High	7 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry	8 6:30 PM Advent Potluck & Service	9 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	10 6-9 PM Drop-N-Shop 7:00 PM 20-Somethings Bible Study	11 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
12 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service 11:30 AM Angel Tree Party	13 7:00 PM Souffire Sr.High	14 12:00 PM JOY Club 7:00 PM God's Iron Men Bible Study	15 6:30 PM Advent Potluck & Sing-A-Long	16 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	17 7:00 PM 20-Somethings Bible Study	18 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
19 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Communion 1:00 PM Community Dinner	20 7:00 PM Souffire Sr.High	21	22	23 7:30 PM Praise Practice	24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Potluck & Service	25 
26 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service	27	28	29	30 3:00 PM-12:00 AM Facility Use (Private Party)	31 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Family Fun Night	

