



The Falcon

Friday, December 18, 2009

CHRIST – FOCUSED LEARNING FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE



FOX'S FINDINGS

The Fox family is gathering for Christmas vacations. After living for months as empty-nesters, our children and grandchildren are coming home to Fremont. We had our first one come home at 3:00 AM this morning, and the last ones will arrive on Christmas Eve. We are also growing! Our third grandchild is on the way! If the fact that I am a grandparent is shocking to you, believe me, it astonishes me too. Just because I have gray hair, it doesn't mean that I feel old enough to be a grandpa.

Let me tell you about the gift that I bought for our oldest granddaughter, and her parents, a couple of years ago. It is a book by Nik Ranieri entitled **The Great Elephant**. The story is about Quinn, a young mouse, who goes in search of the Great Elephant that he has heard about since he was a little squeaker. He gets lost, meets lots of other animals who lead him down the wrong paths, and eventually Quinn finds himself in a place where he is about to become dinner for a snake. Then the Great Elephant comes to the rescue. Paraphrasing, Quinn exuberantly says to the Great Elephant, "I finally found you!" The Great Elephant says back to Quinn, "No, I found you."

This story is an allegory about us and our relationship to The Great Father in heaven. It may seem from our perspective that we found Him, when in reality He was there all along watching over us and waiting to save us at just the right time. This in many ways is what Christmas is all about. Galatians 4:4 says,

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.

Jesus was in the Father's plan from the beginning (John 1). He came at just the right time in history—there was a common empire (Roman), a common language (Koinaic Greek was the trade language), a common culture (Hellenistic/Greek), and there were Jews scattered throughout the world with the common religion (Judaism) that became a launching pad for Christianity.

We anticipate a great time together as the Fox Family gathers this Christmas; another new baby on the way changes things once again. But these changes pale in comparison to the great change that took place with the coming of Jesus. His coming signaled the coming of the rightful King to lay claim to this portion of His Kingdom that we call Earth. His coming is the death knell for Satan, Sin, and death. HE FOUND US! The search ends in Him and life begins with Him. Thank the Lord for coming and finding us. Thank Him for becoming like us, so that we can become like Him. May you and your family "find" the Lord in your midst as you gather together during this Christmas season.



CANNED GOODS TO LOVE INC



We, students, parents, and teachers, collected canned goods for the LOVE INC Food Pantry during November and early December. Earlier this week the LOVE INC truck picked up the hundreds of canned goods that we collected. The fourth grades students won the prize of an ice cream treat for the most canned goods collected.

Here is what Tracy Conley, Food Pantry Coordinator at LOVE INC, wrote to us in a thank-you note:

Thank you so much for your food donation given to the Love in the Name of Christ food pantry. We feel so blessed to have community members ... willing to give... Generosity such as yours helps Love INC Newwaygo County serve more than 1,000 households each month.



FCS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The FCS Christmas Program has been re-scheduled!! You are invited to "Meet Me at the Manger" - Tuesday evening, December 22, 7:00 PM at the First Christian Reformed Church. This will be only the Elementary portion of the program, grades K – 4. The 5th – 8th grade band / choir program will change to a Winter Concert and will be held sometime late January / early February...we will keep you posted. The preschool will have their Christmas program on January 8th, in the All Purpose Room at 10:45 AM. See more information on details in the letter that was emailed and / or sent home with your child. So, plan an evening to pause during the last minute rush of the season and take some time to "Meet Me at the Manger!" You won't be sorry!

FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

6th Grade: Tim Brandt, Dustin Brown, Jamie Kuiper, Laynie Miller, Chloe Nelson, Andrew Pittman, Devin Richards, Chris Visser

7th Grade: Yvonne Boeskool, Jacob Burt, Alexis DeKuiper, Lauren DeLong, Angela Deur, Anna Grasley, Jenna Hale, Lindsey Johnson, Kyle Knuver, Emilee Pell, Christianna Saxton, Mahlon Volz, Ben Wolford, Alyssa Wright, Adam Wyn, Lauren Zeerip

8th Grade: Allison Arthur, Brianna DeKryger, Mackenzie Folkema, Nick Kuiper, Elizabeth Pell, Corey Sokolowski, Luke VanBoxel, Destiny VanDerWeide, Becca Wolffis, Jonathan Yonker

Great Job, Students!!



He Was Born In a Barn

Mary and her husband Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, the home of their relatives Ruth and David. Since there was no room at any of the inns, Mary and Joseph had to stay in a barn or a manger. There were probably animals in this barn, cows and donkeys and maybe even mice! While in the barn Mary gave birth to God's Son, Jesus.

Nearby, some shepherds were taking care of their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood before them and soon the sky was filled with singing angels. "God's Son has just been born," said the angel. "Go and meet Him!"

It is getting close to Christmas time. Jesus is the reason for the season, but sometimes we forget that as we get all caught up in the presents, shopping, eating, decorating and other small things. Yes, it is fun to do all these things, but we have to focus on what really matters, and that's giving. God gave Jesus to die so our sins would vanish. Our goal should be giving to others and pleasing God.

So when you see an Angel tree or any association that gives to kids who aren't privileged like we are, use your own money to help them. When more people give, more people will live and flourish. And then, on Christmas Day, sit down and take time to thank God for all he has done for you. And have an awesome Christmas!

(This was written by Yvonne Boeskool, 7th grader, for a classroom devotion)

CUSTODIAN NEEDED

We are again seeking a custodian at Fremont Christian School. This position requires a commitment of 20 – 25 hours per week after school hours. Potential employees must have three primary qualities: a committed Christian faith, an eye for cleanliness, and an ability to do manual labor for sustained periods. Pay will be based upon experience. Please submit a resume and/or pick up an application at FCS. You can contact the principal, Joseph Fox, at jfox@fremontchristian.org or by calling 924-2740.

RESPONSIBILITY, TARDINESS, COMMUNICATION

It's hard to know how to title this bit of information. Long story short, we have had many students tardy during recent weeks. Some of these tardies are caused by weather-related issues, some are caused by siblings, some are caused by not hearing alarms, and we are sure that there are other reasons. The reality is that we all have a responsibility to use the time that the Lord has given us wisely. Teachers feel very responsible to begin their classes on time and every late student robs time from the teachers and other students. So this note is a clear reminder of our starting times: Preschool begins at 8:10 and Elementary and Middle School (Kindergarten – 8th) begins at 8:00. The K – 8th students should be here at least 5 minutes early to avoid the stress of arriving late at school.

Now about communication: Teachers and the FCS office work hard on communicating with parents. We are not always perfect, but we try our best to communicate with you in a timely manner. Oftentimes information is sent in at least two different ways, i.e., hard copy with students and via email. Again, we all have a responsibility to communicate clearly. PLEASE check your email and your students' backpacks or information folders regularly. The Falcon is emailed on Fridays and contains lots of valuable information.

Thank you for taking responsibility in these important areas.



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- ★ **FCS CALENDAR** ★
- ★ December 18 ~ FCS Ski Trip ~ after school
- ★ December 19 ~ Christmas Break Begins
- ★ January 4 ~ School resumes
- ★ January 16 ~ FCS Ski Trip
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PRAYER PARTNERS MEET TUESDAYS AT 8:10 AM IN THE CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Come and join us. Prayer requests can also be dropped off in the box outside of the FCS office.



- FCS SPORTS CALENDAR**
- Jan. 5 ~ FCS Boys Basketball vs. Borculo Chr. AWAY at 4:30 PM
- Jan. 7 ~ FCS Boys Basketball vs. Grand Haven Chr. AWAY at 4:15 PM
- Jan. 12 ~ FCS Boys Basketball vs. Muskegon Chr. HOME at 4:15 PM
- Jan. 14 ~ FCS Boys Basketball vs. Allendale Chr. HOME at 4:30 PM

NEEDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL MOSAIC CLASS ~ (as soon as possible)

- Colored Ceramic tiles
- Buttons
- Foreign coins
- Small game pieces
- Small wood frames
- Stained glass scraps
- Ice Cream buckets

HOT LUNCH CALENDAR

- Jan. 4 ~ Pizza, Salad, Fruit, Cookie
- Jan. 5 ~ Meatballs w/ Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit
- Jan. 6 ~ Corn Dogs, Chips, Pickle, Pudding
- Jan. 7 ~ Walking Taco, Churro, Refried Beans, Fruit
- Jan. 8 ~ Cheeseburger, Cole Slaw, Cookie, Fruit

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

I Give Blood! Will You?
Providence Christian High School will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, January 06, 2010 from 9:30 AM - 3:15 PM at Providence. Individuals who are at least 17 years old and meet height and weight requirements (at least 110 pounds based on height) and are in general good health may be eligible to donate blood. Red Cross donor card or positive ID required.

Fremont to Ukraine School Collection ~ Please help give Ukrainian orphans school necessities that they simply do not have. Eva Berndt, a Providence student is doing a project to collect donations for Ukrainian orphans. See flyer that is coming home with more details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Alyssa Wright ~ December 18
- Olivia Hansen ~ December 20
- Allen Hooker ~ December 25
- Faith Touzel ~ December 25
- Lucas Johnson ~ December 27
- Grace Krick ~ December 28
- Anna Grasley ~ December 29
- Tyler Yonker ~ December 29
- Myah Wiersema ~ January 2
- Rachel Kuiper ~ January 4
- Caleb Pell ~ January 5
- Gary Springstead ~ January 5



HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS!