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The University of Dayton

News Release

FAITH IN ACTION PLANS CHURCH SERVICE FOR DISABLED

DAYTON, Ohio, Oct. 14, 1988--Faith in Action, a local community of people with physical disabilities, will celebrate a church service on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m. at South Park United Methodist Church in Dayton. Members of the group have helped plan the service with Pastor John Keeny, and they will take an active role in the access church service.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Ministry and Religious Education Services (MORES) Ministry with Handicapped People at the University of Dayton. The church is located at the corner of Brown St. and Stonemill Road.

The service is planned around the Bible readings for the day. Jesus' cure of the blind beggar Bartimaeus will be presented in a dramatic reading at the service. A blind woman will narrate, while the part of Bartimaeus will be portrayed by a blind man. A mime troupe of mentally retarded adults, led by Lynn Berlon of the MORES office, will perform "The Giving Tree," a story of unconditional love by Shel Silverstein. A married couple, disabled parishioners from South Park, will read "Beatitudes for Disabled People."

"An access church service is a way of letting a congregation know that people with disabilities are as much a part of the church community as anyone else, and that like everyone else they have gifts and limitations," said Ross Maguire, S.M., project coordinator of MORES Ministry with Handicapped People. "An access service makes the congregation aware of the limitations of handicapped people, and what can be done to get rid of some of the barriers to their church participation. It also makes the congregation aware of the gifts of people with disabilities, by giving them an opportunity to take an active role in the service as ushers, readers and servers."