

Faith Presbyterian Church Annual Report 2016



Faith Presbyterian Church
5400 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21239
www.faithpcbalt.org



FAITH IN THE CITY:
Seeking. Standing. Serving.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Moderator: The Reverend Christa Fuller Burns, Pastor

Clerk of Session: William B. Curtis

Docket

Opening Prayer	Rev. Christa Burns
Approval of the Call of the Meeting	
Adoption of the Docket	
Election of New Elder	
Report of the Moderator	Rev. Christa Burns
Report of the Clerk of Session	William B. Curtis
Report of the Finance Committee	
• Power Point Presentation: Budget for 2017	Christopher Pope
• Annual Review of Pastor's Compensation	William B. Curtis
Adjournment with Prayer	Rev. Christa Burns

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Pastor's Report

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns

In September of 2016, I marked my tenth year as permanently installed pastor of Faith Church, having served as designated pastor prior to that date. Recognition of that occasion was made at our Thanksgiving luncheon in November, and I am grateful for the tribute and the gift.

After attempts at crafting a different kind of Annual Report, it occurred to me that it might be interesting to come up with a tally of Faith Church meeting and visits. Here is what I came up with:

- I attended over 100 meetings of Faith committees alone.
- I made over 70 visits.
- I officiated at 6 funerals.
- I baptized 3 children.
- I performed 1 wedding.

Some Highlights of 2016

January

- Annual Meeting (24 January)
- Bagged Groceries for Walter P. Carter School.

February

- Faith hosted the Presbytery Gathering; **J. Herbert Nelson**, *Stated Clerk* of our denomination, preached. The sewer backed up into the kitchen but our army of volunteers was undaunted. Well, maybe just a little...
- We started a Social Justice Committee (SEJ.)
- Our first concert of the year featured young African American Vocalists.

March

- I began a second stint on the Presbytery's Board of Trustees.
- Faith hosted Dinners for Eight.
- Faith members performed in St. Matthew's production of *Stations of the Cross* on Good Friday.

Audrey Trapp and I left for Cuba right after Easter to attend a Symposium at the Matanzas Seminary.

April

- I conducted worship at Glen Meadows – one of several services Faith does each year.
- Jay Chalfant** and I also attended the Board of Lady Managers meeting at GBMC.
- Audrey Trapp** and I represented Faith at the *Apostles of Reconciliation* gatherings of our Presbytery dealing with race in Baltimore.
- Members of Faith attended a vigil at the Madison Avenue Church for the welfare of our city
- Faith planted trees in our neighborhood on Earth Day

May

- My son **Cal** graduated from college. Hip Hip Hooray!
- Faith hosted a block party for 500 of our neighbors!

June

- Five of us Faith-ful went to visit our churches in Cuba, taking young people for the first time. We had a great week.
- Boost Camp commenced for a week of learning and fun. Our theme was *Flight*.
- Doris Cowan** and I attended the prayer vigil for the victims of the Orlando Pulse night club bombing.



July

- Samuel and I met to get the steel drum band up and running again

Faith Church marched in the Gay Pride Parade with the biggest turnout of Faith communities walking together. I was the guest preacher at the Mt. Toxaway Church in Sapphire, NC.

August

I had vacation. We mailed a post card to a zillion people announcing our plans for the new schedule in September. Our long-time Church Administrator, **Shelly Dorl**, announced her plans for retirement, which necessitated an end of summer and the formation of a search committee. Faith presented the movie *The Lego Movie* outside on the "Big Screen."



September

We got the year off to a brilliant start with an outdoor service (something I've wanted to do for a long time) complete with the *Mt. Ararat Blue Grass Band*. We presented our third concert of the year – all the way from India – the *Merasi* folk musicians from Rajasthan. Deacons **Natalie Wallace**, **Ken Archie** and Elder **Krista Wallace** attended a meeting of the *Uptown Metro Churches*.

October

I was asked to serve on an Administrative Commission for the *Christ Our King* church.

This has involved meetings too numerous to count. The *Northwood Apphold Church* finally moved back into their newly renovated sanctuary. We welcomed **Diane Borgatti** as our new Parish Administrator.

November

We welcomed new members on World Communion Sunday. A group from Faith attended an interfaith prayer service at a mosque to show our solidarity with our Muslim sisters and brothers. A group from Faith attended the *Morgan State* Thanksgiving Dinner for students and the academic community. The clergy from Faith, *St. Matthews* and *Delightful Blessings* led a brief worship service. An impressive crew served Thanksgiving dinner to the residents of *Harford House* with food contributed by our congregation.

December

The Advent Festival celebrated the season with the theme "A Light for Every Dark Space". Jackson Circle met for its annual Christmas luncheon as guests of **Mildred Miller** at Edenswald. I conducted the Homegoing service for Daniel Mbah in Cameroonian fashion. We had the most beautiful Christmas Eve service and then had a simple well-attended service of Morning Prayer on Christmas morning.

Clerk's Report

Bill Curtis, Clerk of the Session

The session is responsible for the mission and governance of Faith Presbyterian Church, and it is charged with a broad range of responsibilities. These duties include providing for worship and study, supporting outreach and mission, nurturing the spiritual growth of the congregation, monitoring the financial and organizational health of the church, and maintaining the physical plant. The session,

moderated by the **Reverend Christa Fuller Burns**, relies largely on committees comprised of sitting elders and members of the congregation. These committees are a wellspring of creativity, energy and talent. Session discusses concerns and recommendations and takes action as appropriate, but much of the life of the church emerges from the creativity and hard work of the committees.

Session: In accordance with the revised by-laws of Faith Presbyterian Church, approved by the congregation at its meeting held on Sunday, September 16, 2012, session is comprised of twelve (12) ruling elders. Ruling elders are divided into three equal classes, with one class being elected each year by the congregation in June.

Moderator of Session: Christa Fuller Burns

Session		
Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Scott Bissett	*Stephen Harouff	Kay Ballard
Dave Brown	Pat Nesbitt	Andy Fuller
Deb Colmers	Judy Sperling	Neil Nemser
Scott McGill	Krista Wallace	Randy Woodfield
	*resigned	

Parish Associates: The **Reverend Doris Cowan** and the **Reverend William R. Millen** are members of the Presbytery of Baltimore, retired from active ministry. By agreement among them, Faith's session, and the presbytery, Doris and Bill serve without remuneration as parish associates for Faith. Responsible to the pastor, they serve on an "as needed, as available" basis. They may provide pastoral care to members when the pastor is absent, fill the pulpit on occasion, and generally provide support to the pastor and the congregation. They are not members of the session, but may moderate a meeting at the request of the pastor.

Session Meetings: 8 Regular; 2 Special

Congregational Meetings: Annual January 3; Elect Elder May 22

Communion was observed 15 times; the first Sunday of each month, on Maundy Thursday, Easter, and at the Christmas Eve service.

Nominating Committee, 2016-2017

Deb Colmers
Natalie Wallace
John Colmers
Robert Gardner
Mike Billings
Phyllis Compton, Deacon Representative

Officers of the Corporation, 2016

Ron Sperling, President
Marilyn Valentine, Secretary
Jay Chalfant, Treasurer
Susan Dockman, Trust Officer

New Members:

Bobby Lee Hall
Chandra D. Jackson
Ellsworth Jackson
Ileana B. Martinez-Castillo

All joined by Reaffirmation of Faith

Active Membership as of 12/31/15			155
	Gains	Losses	
New Members	4		
Adjustment		6	
Deaths		7	
Transfer of Letter			
Removed from Roll		1	
Active Membership as of 12/31/16			145

The session recognizes and pays tribute to the memory of those members and friends who died in 2016.

	Died	Joined
Janet Lundvall	January 9	January 25, 2004
Eddie Bilezikian	March 20	May 27, 2012
William Turner	June 7	October 25 1952
Betty Rush	July 21	December 2, 1970
Frank Robey	October 10	December 5, 1971
Ruth Dunlap	December 3	December 21, 1951
Edith Elliot	December 5	May 31, 1957

Memorial Funds Received: \$2978

Infant Baptism: 3

Ordained Elders Not Serving on Session in 2016

Milton Aldana	Catherine Billings
Jacqueline Billings	Michael Billings, Jr.
Carol Boardman	Paula Burger
Bryant Burns	Judy Colaianni
John Colmers	Phyllis Compton
Adelaide Cooke	Bill Curtis
Mary Ellen Curtis	Susan Dockman
Stephen Harouff	Susan Johnston
Margaret Leary	Jeffrey Lumianski
Scott McGill	Edward Meade
David Meyers	Karen Meyers
Mildred Miller	Susan Minor
Robin Nemser	John Nesbitt
Christopher Pope	JoAnn Robey
Ann Scheck	Michael Shirey
Vivian Slacum	Ronald Sperling
Harry Sutton	Maimah Stewart
Leon Stirling	Janet St. Pierre
Kathleen Thompson	Patricia Thomson
Audrey Trapp	Marilyn Valentine
Natalie Wallace	Janice Williams
Theodore Wallace	Sarah Ward
Sharon Will	

If you are an inactive elders in the congregation and not listed, whether ordained at Faith Church or elsewhere, please notify the Clerk of Session.

Music Ministry

Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music & Organist*

The Bell and Adult Choirs minister to the congregation through their participation in services as well as on other special liturgical occasions. Thanks to the support from the minister, staff, choir, and congregants, the music program continues to thrive.

Throughout the year, Faith has been a venue for young musicians to perform. We have had solos in the summer by students of Morgan State University and others. In February, four former students of Morgan State University performed a concert of music of African-American composers. In March we hosted a fabulous saxophone and piano concert. The saxophonist was a former graduate student at Morgan and is now pursuing her doctorate in Boston. One of the most interesting concerts

was in September. The Merasi group from India introduced us to their wonderful culture. In 2017 we have a contemporary gospel group, concert choir and an organist from Cuba to look forward too.



The Bell choir continues to play an integral part of the service. In December, they played a larger piece of music as part of the Christmas prelude. The Christmas prelude also consisted of members of the congregation sharing their considerable gifts. The steel drums have also started again...Lenny Rogers, a Trinidadian steel drum master, has been helping us get it off the ground. He also played in the prelude on Christmas Eve. During the summer, those with musical talents were welcomed to sing or play in the service. The aim is not to perform a concert, but to always to find appropriate ways to convey the message of the day.

The choir has been singing a wide range of repertoire. It is not only a group of singers; it is also an ensemble of very fine people working together for a common goal. We have added new members to the choir and are always looking for more. We rehearse on Thursdays at 7:30-9 p.m., and the bell choir rehearses 6:30-7:30 p.m. The steel drums rehearse bi-weekly after the Sunday service. Come join us with no strings attached.

Thank you for a wonderful year to minister to you. It has been an enriching and humbling experience. I hope I will continue to enhance your worship life. If you have any questions or comments, my door is always open.

Deacons

Dawn Shirey, *Moderator*
Anna Burns, *Secretary*

"The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry." *Book of Order, The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II 2013/2015*. Louisville KY: The Office of the General Assembly.

CLASS OF 2016	CLASS OF 2017	CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019
Janet Thomson	Natalie Wallace	Anna Burns	Kenneth Archie
Kenneth Archie	Susan Minor	Gail Poorbaugh	Mary Hodgson
Katherine Bissett	Diane Hairston	Dawn Shirey	Karen Burd
Phyllis Compton			Robin Nemser

The Board of Deacons is an extraordinary group of people who take their role and responsibility as ministers of compassion, witness, and service very seriously, and work hard to move Faith Church forward with vision according to the description of what it means to serve as a Deacon.

Throughout the year, the board has made extensive and impressive contributions to the life of Faith Church.

The Board prayed collectively and individually for members on the "Care List," and stayed in touch with them through notes, cards, calls, and, when possible, home visits. Starting in September, the Deacons began having all members sign cards for the members of the "Care List" to ensure that these members knew that we were all thinking about them.

In addition, **Sharon Will** continued to coordinate an individual "prayer chain," where people whose names are placed in our Joys and Concerns book, or are announced on Sunday mornings as being in need of prayer, are also prayed for during the week.

The Deacons coordinated three special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Peacemaking. The Board of Deacons voted to donate the money retained at the church from the Peacemaking Offering to the *Immigration Outreach Center* and the Pentecost Offerings to the summer programming for *Faith Kids*.



As a Board, we continued to support our traditional outreach mission projects and organizations, and reviewed and considered how our resources may best serve those in need. The following is an inclusive list of mission projects and activities in which the Deacons have participated:

- **Bread for the World:** Provided financial support.
- **GEDCO:**
 1. Provided financial support.
 2. **Phyllis Compton** represented the Faith Deacons at GEDCO's Annual Meeting on March 18.
 3. The GEDCO golf tournament was held in September with a team of four Faith men attending to support this event.
 4. This year GEDCO decided not to hold their annual Thanksgiving Tribute in November due to the GEDCO 25th Anniversary Celebration to be held in mid-January

2017. Faith Deacons will support and attend the January 2017 event.

5. Ten Faith church members provided holiday gifts for the residents of the various GEDCO programs

- **C.A.R.E.S. Pantry:**

The generosity of Faith friends and members was once again demonstrated in 2016. Our church faithfully supported the CARES pantry this year by donating over 200 grocery bags of canned goods, personal items, cleaning products, and a sundry of other products.

Over 80 boxes of *Valentine's Day Cookies* were donated in February. The Deacons thank **David Meyers** for making sure we had all the cookie boxes we needed.

On *Souper Bowl Sunday* the youth of Faith Church collected \$480.20. This and other cash donations throughout the year, make it possible for the food pantry to purchase food from Maryland Food Bank.

At the beginning of this New Year, the food pantry is very well stocked, thanks to the kindness of our congregation and several other area congregations. The Deacons will concentrate on donations of personal care items and cleaning products the first few months of the year. These items are quickly consumed by the food pantry clients.



- **Habitat for Humanity:** Faith has continued to financially support this

organization, and supply volunteers, both adults and youth, to work at the *McCabe Woodbourne* community project work site. The Deacons voted to continue to give our yearly donation to the Joint Project which will involve building a group of houses in the immediate area. The Deacons also voted to designate funds to support a portion of the salary for a community worker to assist the McCabe community.

- **Harford House/Micah House:**

1. Provided financial support.
2. *Thanksgiving Dinner:* On Wednesday, November 23, Faith Church, along with several other churches in our community, celebrated Thanksgiving Dinner early with the residents of *Harford* and *Micah House*. Faith Church provided several baked turkeys and hams warm from the oven, and all the trimmings of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Our church was represented by a delegation of approximately 20 members on this Thanksgiving Eve. Over 120 people broke bread together at this event. It was a wonderful opportunity to serve God by serving others!



3. *Lasagna Bingo Night:* On Friday, March 18, the large recreation room at Harford House hosted our annual Lasagna BINGO night! Several fun rounds of Bingo occurred both before and after a delicious lasagna dinner. The men and women from *Harford* and *Micah House* won special gift bags filled with personal

hygiene items, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.

- **Hands of Faith Table at the Advent Festival:** The “Hands of Faith” table was beautifully decorated with the many handmade and homemade things that were so generously donated to this traditional part of our Advent celebration! The hustle and bustle around this table was in keeping with Christmas shopping and the joy of the holiday! The Deacons were happy to announce that over \$1,600 was raised toward mission projects. Thank you to everyone who helped or contributed in any way.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets:** Six families in need were the recipients of a lovely Thanksgiving bag (4 reusable grocery bags per family) . . . each filled with a turkey and all the trimmings, including pumpkin pie and apple cider.
- **Christmas Gift Cards:** One family with children was given a holiday gift card.
- **Grocery Store Gift Cards:** Twenty (20) - \$25 grocery store gift cards were purchased by the office administrator and given to our “walk-ins” requesting assistance.



- **Cuba Partnership:** **Audrey Trapp** and **Rev. Burns** went to Cuba in April to attend a conference at the Protestant seminary in Matanzas. People from all over the world

attended the three day series of lectures and workshops on women in religion.

In June, **Phyllis Compton, Milton Aldana, Ryan Means, Isabel Aldana** and **Rev. Burns** visited our sister churches in Meneses and Igaura. The group visited members in their homes, worshipped together, met with their Sessions, and enjoyed being with our sisters and brothers. Before they left, this group helped to purchase fans for the Meneses church. As in previous trips, they took supplies that were requested by our churches. This was the first time young people from our church traveled to Cuba and it was a very positive experience!

The Deacons elected to send the budgeted \$1,000 to Cuba with **Audrey Trapp** when she attends the Encuentro meeting in February 2017. The money is to be distributed equally to the Igaura Church and the Meneses Church for the mission projects. In addition, the Deacons contributed \$200 for the Presbytery's collection of medicines for Cuba.

Fidel Castro died in 2016 which, along with the election of a new US president could mean significant changes for our country's relationships. The Deacons will continue to pray for our sister churches and support them in various ways.

- **Immigration Outreach Service Center:** The Deacons purchased five (5) tickets for the *Savor the World* event that benefits the Immigration Outreach Service Center (IOSC) which is located at *St. Matthew's Catholic Church*. Five Faith Church members attended this wonderful event on behalf of the Deacons.
- **DEAR Fund:** The Deacon Emergency Assistance Resource (DEAR) Fund has continued to be a much needed resource for Faith Church members who have a financial emergency need. This year, the DEAR fund provided assistance for four emergency situations.

Adult Forum Committee

Yvonne Davis, chair

Members: Jay Chalfant, Diane Hairston, Pat Thomson, Rev. Bill Millen



In January, 2016 we had a series of classes on the work of the Baltimore Presbytery. **Mary Gaut**, *Interim General Presbyter*, **Debbie Schmidt**, *Associate for Spiritual Leader Development* and **Susan Krehbiel**, *Director of Congregational Advocacy* described the work they do for the Presbytery. *Deb Milcarek's* presentation as Associate for Reconciliation was cancelled due to weather.

Rev. Bill Millen and **Rev. Christa Burns** led the classes in February on "difficult theological issues". The classes included the topics of atonement, heaven, predestination, and God's will.

On March 6, **Bill Curtis** from the U.S. National Park Service presented a class on the history of our National Parks. There were no classes on March 20 and March 27 because of Palm Sunday and Easter.

Randal Woodfield led four classes in April on Beethoven's Symphony No. 9

Classes in May were led by: **The Rev. Michael A. Hunt**, pastor of *Congregational Care at the Open Church of Maryland* led the class on the acceptance of Gay and Lesbian persons in the Black Church: "We can all use a little more sugar!" **Anna Burns** reported on her trip to Jordan for Catholic Relief Services and the work with refugees in that country. **Rev. Burns** led a class on the concept of the Trinity. On the last Sunday in May, members of the Adult Forum planned for the next program year.

In September, the Adult Forum re-convened and heard presentations from **Catherine Wooley**, a criminal defense attorney; she discussed the Freddie Gray trials. **Charles Minor** looked at the upcoming election from an historical point of view, and **Christa Burns**, **Phyllis Compton**, **Ryan Means**, **Isabel Aldana**, **Milton Aldana** and **Audrey Trapp** shared stories about their trip to Cuba this year.



In October, **Zeke Cohen**, from the *Intersection Program* and candidate for City Council, spoke about the Dream Act and programs to work with at risk students. **Dawn Shirey** and **Moir McGill** led a class on the Holistic Life Foundation. **Alice Wetzel** addressed the issue of integrating environmental ideals in pre-school education, **Rev. Burns** led a class on the Reformation, and **Rev. Doris Cowan** reported on the General Assembly's meeting last summer.

In November, the class heard from **Edgar Wiggins**, *Executive Director of Baltimore Crisis Response*; **Rev. Doris Cowan** reported on the 2016 meeting of the General Assembly; the **Rev. Pat Jones** reported on the work with refugees of the *Immigration Outreach Center*.

During Advent, **Randal Woodfield** led a four-part series of classes on the Christmas portion of *Messiah* and other Christmas music.

Children's Christian Education

Robin Nemser, *chair*

This has been an exciting year for our Christian Education Class, as we have seen growth in the number of children and youth that attend church on a regular basis. Our enrollment includes one child in the nursery, five in the Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten class, nine children in the elementary class, five youth in the middle school class, and up to 8-10 young men and women in the high school class. The high school students meet at 9:30 prior to worship. The other children participate in worship one Sunday a month, but have Sunday School the other Sundays. After the "Moment with Faith Kids" in worship, the children leave church and spend approximately 10-15 minutes practicing future choir anthems, then go on to their class which lasts until about noon. The *Whole People of God* Curriculum continues to be utilized.



We are grateful to the people who have volunteered to serve on the Christian Education Committee's Children's Nurture subcommittee. These members include **Robin Nemser**, **Lynda Aldana**, **Jaia Lent**, **Eileen Hayes**, **Krista Wallace** and **Karen Burd**.

In order to lead these precious young people in their Christian Education, we have a cadre of talented people including **Kathrine & Scott Bissett**, **Robin Nemser**, **Krista Wallace**, **Doug & Jaia Lent**, **Judy Sperling**, **Bill Millen**, **Eileen Hayes**, **Dawn Shirey**, **Chandra Jackson**, **Lynda Aldana**, **Karen**

Burd, **Susan Minor**, **Kristen Herber**, and **Karen Myers**. I have a feeling we will be adding to our list over the next year. There is always room for more.



During 2016, the youth have participated in many mission projects in and around Faith Church, including assisting with CARE days, the Block Party, Harford House Thanksgiving, collecting the offering, etc. We had two youths, **Isabel Aldana** and **Ryan Mead**, take part in the mission trip to Cuba. They then shared their experiences during an adult forum presentation. We are especially grateful to the Faith Church members who have taken our youth on college visits and assisted them in SAT preparation.



The Faith **Children's Choir** has continued to grow, and enjoy participating in worship approximately one Sunday a month. The middle school girls have even presented solos and small group anthems which the

congregation thoroughly enjoyed. We are grateful for **Samuel Springer's** input in music suggestions and accompaniment during the service.

Thank you to all Faith members who have participated in any way to expand our youth program. Our children are such a precious resource and we must continue to love and nurture them in every way possible.

Boost Camp

Bill Millen, chair

Soar Like an Eagle – Learning Camp



For four days we soar with the brains of 15 elementary students. Along with a steady diet of math, reading, science, music and recreation, the camp explored art, birds and the Gunpowder State Park.

Once again the block party provided registration of 19 elementary children for our learning Camp. For some this would be their only brain exercise away from TV for the summer.

We are grateful for the dedicated staff of teachers and kitchen help.

- K through 1st grade – **Chandra Jackson** and **Robin Nemser**
- 2nd through 3rd grade – **Cathy** and **Elaine Crawford**
- 4th through 5th grade – **Karen Myers**
- Kitchen staff – **Charleen Witherspoon**, **Adelaide Cooke**, and **Ikeya Hersey**

Art with a Heart provided an hour of art expression two days. On Wednesday, *Scales & Tails* brought in live birds – hawks, owls, turkey vultures. **Frannie Marinacci** assured us that, "if the birds made a mess his grandmother would be really upset."



Thursday was a road trip and picnic at the Hammerman Area of the Gunpowder State Park. We hiked, played games, picnicked and swam. More than one child did not want the week to end.

Worship and Arts

Judy Sperling, chair

Members: Phyllis Compton, Robert Gardner, Sandra McWhirter, Robin Nemser, Pat Nesbitt, Dawn Shirey, Mike Shirey, Kathleen Thompson, Marilyn Valentine, Charleen Witherspoon

Each Year a joint meeting of the Session and the Board of Deacons meets to look forward and develop a church calendar that encompasses Worship, Mission, Adult and Children's education and special events. This calendar provides an outline the Worship and Arts Committee uses when we meet monthly with Pastor Christa Fuller Burns and Minister of Music Samuel Springer to plan worship services. We strive to create worship that is compliant with the Book of Order and relevant to the members of the congregation. We include a wide variety of music styles and recruit lay participation that represents the inclusiveness of our congregation. We provide opportunities for our children and youth to take an active role in worship. We attempt to meet this challenge in a multitude of ways: in the presentation of readings and music delivery,

banners, candles, flowers, Chancel enhancements, and Communion Table arrangements. Committee members meet frequently between meetings and can often be found during the week working together in the Sanctuary preparing a meaningful environment for Worship. This is unique to Faith Church...one of the many reasons Faith Church is thriving.

A Look Back at the Year of 2016



Ash Wednesday: In preparation for Lent, a gathering of about thirty people met in the Woodmont Room to share a simple meal of homemade soups and fresh bread. A service which included readings, prayers, imposition of ashes and the creation of a banner depicting a diverse variety of crosses painted by those present followed the meal.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday: Although we at Faith are fortunate to have year round women's participation in every aspect of our church life, we support this special Sunday to honor those who are working within our church and to bring attention to the many women elsewhere who do not have this same opportunity. An all-girls choir sang during the

Time for Children, and an all- women's choir sang the anthem.

Palm Sunday: Weather reports threatened snow, but Palm Sunday dawned cold and clear. Folks gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a shared breakfast before gathering armloads of palms and following the bell choir and chancel choir to parade up Woodbourne Avenue and Loch Raven Boulevard on the way to worship. Entry into the Sanctuary was greeted with loud "Hosannas"!

Easter: Easter was a beautiful day. The Sanctuary was adorned with a garden of spring flowers. The banners exclaimed, "Alleluia". The children opened the box where they had hidden the word Alleluia and were surprised to find a Alleluia Banner that stretched across the front of the church. Joyous music filled the Sanctuary. The Children's Choir Sang. The Chancel Choir was joined by a Brass Ensemble of young adults from *Morgan State University*. Following the service the annual Easter Egg Hunt was overseen by the Easter Bunny while children filled buckets with plastic eggs filled with goodies.



Mother's Day/Youth Sunday: Readings that recognized the great care and love of God, thanksgiving for all mothers, all families around the world and the family of our church were done by the children and youth of the congregation.

Pentecost Sunday: A choral reading that retold the story of the original Pentecost replaced the sermon. During the service two children were baptized, graduates were recognized and new members were received.



Men of the Church Sunday: During this special service, men of our congregation served as ushers, spoke to the children during *Moment with Faith Kids*, and formed a pick-up choir that rehearsed prior to the service.



Home Coming Sunday: Chairs on the south lawn provided an open-air worship space. **Mike Shirey** and his talented friends provided the blue grass band. As if this wasn't enough, everyone stayed for picnic on the lawn featuring grilled hot dogs and a picnic buffet.

All Saints Day: Together we remembered **Paul Allen, Betty Rush, Eddie Bilezikian, Janet Lundvale, Frank Robey, Rob Seaton, Bill Turner** and **Carolyn Witzke**. Those present were invited to light a candle silently in remembrance of those names and to others held dear in people's hearts.

Advent and Christmas: Our journey to Christmas began with the lighting of the first Advent Candle on the first Sunday of Advent. A brand new Moravian Star hung from the

balcony at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Instead of the usual single electric candle, a large paper star lantern was hung from each window. They glowed each night during Advent to send out a welcoming light to the travelers on Loch Raven Boulevard. The following week, the Advent Festival welcomed a large crowd to enjoy a lunch of homemade soups and desserts followed by an opportunity to shop from a large variety of hand-made holiday items while visiting with friends and watching the children enjoy the party.

On a pleasant Saturday morning, a hardy group gathered for the annual Greening of the Church. A spectacular tree was raised and adorned with lights. Poinsettias were placed in the windows and on the chancel.



The Sunday prior to Christmas, worshipers were treated to a Children's Pageant during worship. "The Gift" was written by **Susan Johnston** and performed by the children in our Church School. Worshipers filled the sanctuary on Christmas Eve for our annual Candlelight Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. The service, which was designed for a multigenerational congregation, included twenty minutes of special music prior to the service. On Christmas Day, A Service of Morning Prayers was designed to be brief and held at 9:30 a.m. to accommodate traditional family meal celebrations.

Church Growth

JoAnn Robey, *chair*

Members: Kay Ballard, Paula Burger, Adelaide Cooke, Bill Millen, Charleen Witherspoon, Sharon Will, and Christa Burns (*ex officio*)

The Church Growth Committee continued its consideration of both programs and outreach that might grow Faith's congregation and also ways to increase the engagement of current members and visitors so that the church might grow in vitality, thereby attracting more members. Several initiatives were launched toward those ends. In the interest of making



the neighborhoods around Faith more aware of the church and its programs, a data base was created by entering the names and addresses of folks who attended the annual block party. These individuals were mailed an invitation to worship at Faith and provided information also about some Faith programs, including the summer camp and Art with a Heart program. A card was sent to these same neighbors inviting them to rally day and the September outdoor worship service.

At the suggestion of **Bill Millen**, three community outreach evenings were planned at a local restaurant and lounge using a format that has been successful with some other churches. The evenings were advertised as "God and Beer," informal conversations about theology and community issues. Notwithstanding efforts to publicize these sessions, they did not attract any audience.

The Committee also urged that Faith sponsor a summer outdoor movie for the community since there were again questions about the movie series and interest expressed at the block party. **Bill Millen** and **Mike Billings** did yeoman service in organizing a movie, which was well attended on an August night.

Another initiative of the Committee was the creation of a *Men's Group* that has met several times, again under the leadership of **Bill Millen**. One other program idea is still under consideration, and that is to sponsor a *Community Worship Service* some Sunday that would make a determined effort to involve local organizations and constituencies. The Committee hopes to pursue this in the spring.

The other area of active and perennial concern is Faith's social media presence, and the Committee hopes to address these critical matters more aggressively in the next few months. Ideas for improvement in the church website and other social media are welcome, as are volunteers who have technical expertise that can be shared with the Committee as it seeks to make Faith's good works and Christian community more widely known. While trying to become more sophisticated in modern media, the Committee is also looking at the introduction of several low-tech initiatives, including the re-institution of the "friendship pads" at worship and the production of Faith "business" cards that would be made available to all members so that they could distribute one to any folk they encounter who might be interested in attending Faith. These would contain the church's physical and web addresses as well as the times of services and would have a place for current members to personalize these by writing in their names.

Under the leadership of **Robin Nemser**, the popular and annual "Dinners for Eight" program was held in April and featured some "Dinners for Five." Robin recruited hosts and organized the parties that provided good food, fun, and fellowship for the congregation.

While Committee efforts yielded but four new members in 2016 (who were received into

membership on two occasions,) these additions to our congregation are wonderful, talented, and committed individuals: **Bobby Hall, Chandra & Ellsworth Jackson, and Ileana Martinez-Castillo.** We are also very pleased that we continue to have a number of consistent visitors to Faith, some of whom are very active in church programs. We welcome the vitality of both our new members and our regular visitors.

Plant and Property Committee

Pat Nesbitt, chair

Dave Brown, Scott McGill, Jack Nesbitt, JoAnn Robey, Mike Shirey, Ron Sperling, and Janet Thomson



Charged with maintaining the grounds and building, the committee's main thrust is on Thursday mornings with the "Thursday Crew" (**Ron & Judy Sperling, Dave Brown, John Trapp, Marilyn Valentine, Charles Richardson, Paula Burger and Pat Nesbitt**) working on the regular maintenance inside and out outside the church. This work includes the upkeep of lawn mowers, trimmers, leaf shredder and snow blowers, snow removal, lawn mowing, landscaping, many trips to the dump and general repairs inside and out. Care (Clean and Repair Everything) days have been a great help as members of the congregation at large pitch in to clean and organize inside, trim and clean up outside. Our goal has been to keep down the cost associated with the maintenance of our property. We now have a contract for snow removal in the two parking lots so that we can concentrate on shoveling and salting the extensive walkways and steps on and around the property. This is an increasing challenge for our committee and we need and appreciate your support.

In 2016 extra expenses included tree trimming and removal, one time leaf clean up and removal, plumbing issues, and boiler & AC.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Nesbitt

Finance Report

Christopher Pope, *chair*

Members: Bryant Burns, Susan Dockman, Jay Chalfant, Ron Sperling, Scott Bissett, Christa Burns

Welcome to Diane Borgatti. In just a matter of weeks, Diane has come up to speed on Faith's financial position and been extremely supportive during the budget process. During the coming year, she will help usher in a new era of financial reporting as we consider certain changes to our reporting software and accounting methodologies. I look forward to working closely with Diane in 2017.

Faith Presbyterian Church ended 2016 with an operating surplus of \$30 thousand. This is the eight consecutive year that we have posted a surplus. Strong General Giving and a meaningful Rental Income combined with ongoing expense control supported the good results.

Our Total Income of \$367 thousand was \$3 thousand ahead of budget. General Giving of \$257 thousand was \$7 thousand ahead of budget, and \$8 thousand better than 2015. Our Operating Revenue was supported by strong rental income. Investment income trailed budget though the actual value of our investments increased almost \$20 thousand.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Income			
Total 4000 · General Giving	\$ 241,494	\$ 249,042	257,224
Total 4100 · General Assembly Offerings			
Total 4250 · Other Designated Gifts	\$ 13,540	\$ -	
Total 4300 · Designated - Social Missions	\$ 50	\$ -	
Total 4400 · Building Rental Income	\$ 92,556	\$ 100,677	106,483
<u>Total 4500 · Investment Income</u>	<u>\$ 8,263</u>	<u>\$ 10,653</u>	<u>3,274</u>
Total Income	\$ 355,903	\$ 360,372	366,980
Expense			
Total 5000 · General Mission	\$ 7,499	\$ 7,150	7,867
Total 5100 · Denominational Expenses	\$ 5,368	\$ 5,107	5,224
Total 5300 · Designated Social Missions	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	10,812
Total 5400 · Christian Education	\$ 4,076	\$ 4,537	3,630
Total 5500 · Worship Expenses	\$ 6,182	\$ 2,926	4,710
Total 5600 · Congregation & Fellowship	\$ 1,981	\$ 1,820	2,068
Total 5700 · Personnel	\$ 186,218	\$ 204,012	205,214
Total 5800 · Administrative & Office	\$ 12,643	\$ 13,925	11,603
Total 5900 · Property & Plant	\$ 78,744	\$ 99,274	85,826
<u>6000 · Other Miscellaneous Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 32</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$ 313,743</u>	<u>\$ 349,753</u>	<u>336,952</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 42,160	\$ 10,619	30,027

Expenses were well controlled throughout the year. Total expenses of \$337 thousand finished \$26 thousand lower than budget. Major contributors included \$10 thousand in lower than expected property and plant expense, and \$6 thousand lower HR costs caused by the early departure of Shelly Dorl, and a continued focus on expense control. As you can see from the chart, Property & Plant expense can vary dramatically from one year to the next. We were fortunate during 2016 to

avoid drawing on our Memorial Major Maintenance Account with which holds a balance of \$27.2 thousand to help us manage future unexpected major repairs.

As mentioned, 2016 represents our eighth consecutive year of posting an Operating Surplus. This track record of tremendous support from the members of our Congregation combined with responsible financial stewardship by Session has substantially improved the financial position of Faith Presbyterian Church. Continuing to manage to an operating surplus is critical to our ability to retire our existing long term debt on schedule and to continue to build reserves for inevitable unbudgeted repairs to our property.

Our cash and investment position is up to \$390 thousand at the end of the year, compared to \$363 thousand one year ago. Our debt balance is now down to \$123 thousand. We continue to make modest monthly prepayments on our loan.

	<u>Dec-12</u>	<u>Dec-13</u>	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>
Cash & Equivilant	\$ 119,057	\$ 110,357	\$ 150,481	\$ 125,318	\$ 132,763
<u>Investments</u>	<u>\$ 175,031</u>	<u>\$ 218,263</u>	<u>\$ 219,281</u>	<u>\$ 236,871</u>	<u>\$ 257,685</u>
Total Liquid Assets	\$ 294,088	\$ 328,620	\$ 369,762	\$ 362,188	\$ 390,448
Loan Balances	\$ 216,805	\$ 200,036	\$ 160,950	\$ 142,177	\$ 123,252
Liquid Assets to Obligations	95.2%	116.6%	149.9%	156.0%	178.3%

Our 2017 budget is created with input from each of the committee chairs. General Giving is forecast to be flat compared to 2016. Real Estate Income is budgeted to increase by 1.6% or \$2 thousand as a built in lease escalators.

We are budgeting for most expenses to remain steady through 2016 with a standard budget for repairs based on our average annual experience, a full year with full staff, including a 2% cost of living increase for our Pastor and Minister of Music, and the roll-over of some unused dollars from our 2016 Deacon's budget. The net impact is a budgeted expense figure \$35 thousand higher than actually incurred in 2016.

Our net result is an Operating Budget forecasting a net surplus of \$1760 in 2017.

As always, a complete report on 2016 and the 2017 budget is available upon request. Our goal continues to be to provide timely, accurate, transparent information regarding our financial position.

The Finance Committee wants to take this opportunity to thank **Susan Dockman** for her tireless service as Trust Officer for Faith for more than 15 years. Susan has meticulously tracked the financial position of our investments, our cell tower lease, our loans and our Capital Campaign collections and disbursements. Her remarkable attention to detail has been invaluable to our committee and our Church. Her participation as a member of the Finance Committee has helped to guide us into a period of prolonged financial stability and transparency from which our entire community benefits. A heart felt Thank You to Susan.

Pastor Change of Call

To be voted on by the Congregation

Pastor's Compensation 2017 (2% Salary Increase)

Salary	\$48,128
Housing	\$33,700

Benefits not included in salary:

Professional Development \$2,000

Minister Travel and Mileage \$2,060

One-Month Vacation & Two Weeks Study Leave

Medical, Dental, Supplementary Life Insurance
and Pension Benefits through the Board of Pensions

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