

Faith Presbyterian Church Annual Report 2018



Faith Presbyterian Church

**5400 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21239
www.faithpcbalt.org**



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Moderator: The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Interim Pastor

Clerk of Session: Mike Billings

Docket

Opening Prayer	Rev. Mary Speers
Approval of the Call of the Meeting	
Adoption of the Docket	
Report of the Moderator	Rev. Mary Speers
Report of the Clerk of Session	Mike Billings
Report of the Finance Committee	
• Power Point Presentation: Budget for 2018	Christopher Pope
• Annual Review of Pastor's Compensation	Mike Billings
Adjournment with Prayer	Rev. Mary Speers

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Pastor's Report

Rev. Mary Barrett Speers



We certainly fit a lot in during the one month together in 2018!

You all gave me such a warm welcome, and I thank you for that.

In addition to worship in Advent and Christmastide, we got to know one another through various musical and social events, as well as a lovely Session party. Plans for the new year includes our new involvement with BUILD, our upcoming summer programs and events in the neighborhood, and the reinstatement of Wednesday Bible study. The Volunteer Lunch appreciation luncheon coming soon.

Many thanks to the Thursday Crew for taking care of things in the pastor's study, especially moving the remaining books from Christa's giveaway—first to the corridor for everyone's final selection, and then to The Book Thing. (I was delighted to learn about The Book Thing and have taken quite a few books of my own over there as well, once I figured out I'd brought too much!)

Discussion and planning for Randy Woodfield's memorial in February 2019 has also been ongoing from my first day with you. I am grateful to have had the opportunity for a nice

long talk with him when I met the session over dinner last fall.

I thank God for you and look forward to our journey together in 2019!

Blessings, Mary

Clerk's Report

Mike Billings, Clerk of the Session

2018 at Faith Church proved to be a very meaningful year.

The retiring of our Pastor Christa Fuller Burns was a major turning point in our modern history. Pastor Burns was loved by many, both in our congregation and outside our four walls. The community helped us express our appreciation for Christa's work and involvement in Baltimore at a wonderful celebration of her service.

The task force to find an Interim pastor went right to work to find us the right person to lead us through the process to find a new permanent Pastor. We have welcomed that person, Rev. Mary Speers. Mary is already showing us the way to our new mission and calling for Faith Church. We all need to participate in this study and review process. We look forward to a busy year, figuring out the new course for our church and ministry on our little corner of Baltimore.

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.

Session		
Mike Billings, Clerk		
2019	2020	2021
Kay Ballard	Mike Billings	Ellsworth Jackson
Andy Fuller	Scott Bissett	Karen Meyers
Neil Nemser	Bobby Hall	Mike Shirey
	Carl Herber	Audrey Trapp

Moderator of Session:

During this past year the Session was moderated by **Rev. Christa Fuller Burns, Rev. David Harris** and **Rev. Mary Speers**. Thanks to Rev. Harris for his dedicated service to Faith Church over the years and during out transition.

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.

During 2018 the Session met for 8 Regular Session meetings, usually on the 3rd Monday of the month, 2 special meetings and 1 electronic vote.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on January 22, 2018. There was a Congregational Meeting to elect new church officers on May 21, 2018.

Communion was observed 16 times; always on the 1st Sunday of each month and on Maundy Thursday, Easter and at 2 Christmas Eve services.

Nominating Committee, 2018-2019

- Kay Ballard**
- Michael Billings**
- John Colmers**
- Phyllis Compton**
- Robert Gardner**

Officers of the Corporation, 2018

- Ron Sperling, *President***
- Marilyn Valentine, *Secretary***
- Jay Chalfant, *Treasurer***
- Neil Nemser, *Trust Officer***

Current Membership: 138

The Session recognizes and pays tribute to the memory of those members and friends who died in 2018

	Died	Joined
Christian Dunyoh	3/17/2018	3/25/1984
Leon Stirling	11/19/2018	7/7/1985
Dorothy Weller	5/9/2018	12/2/1976
Randal Woodfield	11/7/2018	9/15/2002

Memorial Funds Received: \$1125

Ordained Elders Not Serving on Session in 2018

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

If you are an inactive elder 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 Chancel 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.

Faith continues to be a venue for musicians to perform. **Daniel Rich** (baritone), **Kendrick Lee** (tenor) and **Joy Ravizee** (soprano), sang recitals in the sanctuary. Kendrick and Joy also added their voices to our Easter and Christmas celebrations.



With Christa's retirement, Randy Woodfield's passing, and other challenges it has been a year of changes. Still we have managed keep things on track.

In December, the Chancel Choir sang a Christmas Cantata as part of the service. The Christmas prelude also consisted of members of the congregation sharing their considerable gifts. The Bell Choir continues to play an integral role in services. We hope to include the steel drums in 2019.

The choir has been singing a wide range of repertoire. It is not only a group of singers; it is 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 p.m.-9 p.m., and the bell choir rehearses 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The steel drums rehearse bi-weekly after the Sunday service. Come try us out 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

Susan Minor, *Moderator*

Anna Burns, *Secretary*

Natalie Wallace, *Treasurer*

Deacons

Susan Minor, Moderator

2019	2020	2021
Karen Burd	Chandra Jackson	Gail Poorbaugh
Lauren Hill	Susan Minor	Natalie Wallace
Mary Hodgson	Mozella Williams	Sharon Will
Robin Nemser		

The Board of Deacons is a group of members moved by the Spirit to be ministers of service, compassion, and witness to our congregation and friends, our neighborhood, our city, and beyond. The ministry of the Deacons is set forth in scripture and described by our Presbyterian Book of Order. According to the

Book of Order, persons chosen to be Deacons should be "of spiritual character...sincere compassion, and sound judgment." Our ministry is defined by scripture "as 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."

OUR CONGREGATION:

Throughout the past year, the Deacons have strived to carry out our ministry in many ways. Starting with our own congregation, the board prayed for members on the Care List and stayed in touch with them through notes, cards, calls, and, when possible, home visits. The Deacons sent monthly cards to those on the Care List to ensure that these members know that we love them and are thinking about them. This year we also sent daily devotional books to our friends on the Care List.

In addition to praying for these members who are no longer able to attend church regularly, Sharon Will continues to coordinate a prayer chain, where people whose names are placed in our Joys and Concerns book or are announced on Sunday mornings as needing prayer are also prayed for during the week.

The Board of Deacons continues to maintain the DEAR Fund, the Deacon Emergency Assistance Resource fund, which is a resource for Faith Church members who have a financial emergency need. This year the DEAR fund provided assistance for only one emergency situation. However, the Board maintains this fund in a responsible way, so it is available for future need.

Thanksgiving baskets

Four families in need were the recipients of lovely Thanksgiving bags of groceries for a full Thanksgiving dinner. Deacons did the shopping and bags of Thanksgiving were delivered by Charlene Witherspoon.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

Block Party



The Deacons provided financial support for the 5th annual Faith Block Party. The turnout was overwhelming with 124 families and 398 individuals attending. Enjoyed by all were the "balloon lady," haircuts for boys, nail painting, hot dogs, tattoos, and other activities for the children. Adults could take advantage of a team from Good Samaritan Hospital who came to take blood pressure readings; a team from the city, headed by councilman Bill Henry, sharing information about city services; and The League of Women Voters offering voter education and registration. Also attending were Gwen Brown of BUILD and State Senator Mary Washington of the 43rd District. Our Faith Church youth provided muscle for the before and after work of the Block Party, and many of our faithful volunteers worked throughout the party to make sure a good time was had by all. Our Block Party continues to provide a caring presence for our immediate community.

Uptown Metro Ministry Group

Faith Church Deacons continue to provide support, guidance, and volunteers in the Woodbourne/McCabe neighborhood which is located only 5 or 6 blocks from our church. Through our participation in the Presbytery's Uptown Metro Ministry Group, a group of 12 Presbyterian churches that have pledged to work together to provide services for the

Woodbourne/McCabe neighborhood based on a collaboration with neighborhood leaders.

Habitat for Humanity

We initially became involved with the Woodbourne/McCabe neighborhood through the Habitat for Humanity project begun about 5 years ago. The Board of Deacons continues to financially support this organization and supply volunteers to work on homes in the neighborhood on a regular basis.

Community Organizer

The Board of Deacons has continued to financially support the salary of a community organizer in the Woodbourne/McCabe neighborhood through Strong City Baltimore.

McCabe Camp



Faith Church, through the Board of Deacons, maintained a strong presence in the sponsoring of, planning for, and leading a 3 week-long day camp for the children of the Woodbourne/McCabe neighborhood. Faith paired with Maryland Presbyterian to lead the first week of camp. Camp was held in Alhambra Park, a pocket-park in the middle of the neighborhood. With outstanding help from the community organizer from Strong City Baltimore, mission volunteers from Grace Presbyterian outside Philadelphia, and volunteers from our 2 churches, the children enjoyed lunch and snacks, singing, art, prayer, fun games, and more.

OUR CITY

GEDCO: (Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation)

The Deacon Board continues to provide financial support to the many programs of GEDCO, which operates in Northeast Baltimore.

CARES Pantry

Through the Deacons, our church provides financial support for the CARES pantry through the Bread Fund and through your donations each Sunday of food, personal items, baking needs, etc. This past year you donated more than 200 bags of groceries. Your monetary donations helped to supply food from the Maryland Food Bank. In February, at least 100 boxes of Valentine's Day cookies were delivered to the pantry with a message of caring from Faith Church.

Harford House/Micah House

The Deacons provide regular financial support for these two transition homes. We also celebrated Thanksgiving early with the residents of Harford and Micah Houses. Faith Church provided turkeys (which were catered this year), mashed and sweet potatoes, green beans, kale, collard greens, and many other items necessary for serving about 70 people. We were joined by volunteers from Second Presbyterian Church and Friends School.

On Friday, March 16, 2018, the Deacons hosted our annual lasagna BINGO night in the large recreation room at Harford House. Several fun rounds of Bingo occurred both before and after a delicious lasagna dinner. The men from Harford House won special gift bags filled with personal hygiene items.

At Christmas, long-time Deacon alumna **Pat Thomson** created holiday gift bags of personal items for each of the residents of Harford House.

GEDCO's annual Thanksgiving tribute dinner was held on November 15th at the American Visionary Arts Museum. Several Faith folks purchased tickets for the dinner, which is a fund-raiser, but were unable to attend due to very bad weather that evening. Those who attended, had a wonderful time. **Ellen** and **Ed Bernard** were honored for their continuing generous support for GEDCO.



IOSC (Immigration Outreach Service Center)

Faith Church, through the Board of Deacons, continues to provide support for the IOSC, at St. Matthews Church. Several members and friends of Faith attended the IOSC's annual major fund-raising event, Savor the World, held at Gertrude's Restaurant.

Deacons voted to contribute to the DACA renewal fund and to sponsor a fund-raising opportunity for our congregation. A total of \$2495 was donated and sent to the IOSC to be distributed to immigrants who were eligible for but could not afford to renew their DACA status, allowing them to stay in this country legally.

THE WORLD

Cuba Partnership

In 2009 and again in 2014, Faith Church entered a five-year covenant to form a partnership with the churches in Meneses and Iguara, El Cuentro Presbytery, Cuba. Our relationship with the Cuban churches has been a "mission of accompaniment." We do give

money for specific mission projects, OTC meds and other items that are requested and sometimes money for repairs to the church. However, the main purpose of our partnership is to visit, pray for, walk together and love one another. The Deacons also financially support a laundry and feeding program for the elderly in the communities of the churches. Over the years, 11 members of Faith Church have visited the churches in Cuba and have continued to respond to the stated needs of each of our two sister-churches.

The congregation of Faith Church makes it possible for the Board of Deacons to support the wide range of programs enumerated above. We are only able to do this through your generous donations to: Peacemaking and Pentecost offering; offering and purchase of handmade items from the Hands of Faith table at Advent Fest; donations to Bread and DEAR Funds; and your willingness to support new programs and needs as they arise throughout the year.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Deacons and for our prayers.

Nominating Committee

Kay Ballard, Chair

The nominating committee plays an extraordinarily important role in the function of the church. Its primary responsibility is to find church members who exhibit exemplary leadership qualities and personal attributes that reflect God's light and loving kindness and compassion in their daily lives in order to present an appropriate slate of church officers to the congregation for vote.

The nominating committee generally convenes in March and is comprised of one active elder, (committee chair), one deacon representative, and three or more persons elected to represent the congregation at large. The pastor serves as a member without vote. Each person on the nominating committee can serve for three consecutive years but must be elected by the congregation each year at the June congregational meeting. The 2018 nominating

committee, comprised of **Kay Ballard, Mike Billings, John Colmers, Phyllis Compton,** and **Robert Gardner,** worked diligently and confidentially to fill the open positions on the Board of Deacons and Session.

The following people were installed as deacons in 2018: **Lauren Hill, Gail Poorbaugh, Natalie Wallace, Sharon Will,** and **Mozella Williams.** The following people were installed as elders in 2018: **Karen Meyers, Ellsworth Jackson, Mike Shirey,** and **Audrey Trapp.** We thank these people for their willingness to serve God and our church in such an outstanding capacity.

Sadly, Randy Woodfield, who was serving on Session in the class of 2019, passed away in the fall of 2018. Our dear Randy was a vital and integral part of Faith Church in so many ways and leaves a huge void in our choir, the Worship and Arts committee, Session, and the heart of the Faith Church family. As difficult as it will be, this is one of the positions we must fill for next year.

Life at Faith Church took on a somewhat brighter outlook when Session nominated **Karen Burd, John Colmers, David Meyers,** and **Krista Wallace** to serve on a special task force to find an interim pastor, and they all accepted. This group did an OUTSTANDING job of conducting its business with David Meyers at the helm and brought to us the wonderful **Reverend Mary Barrett Speers.** Thank you for the tireless and steadfast energy that you gave to this endeavor. Surely Mary has already appreciated your help and support and will look forward to it as weeks unfold into our many ministries and community involvement in which Faith Church participates.

We ask that church members consider serving God by serving the church in leadership roles. We hope that you will accept if you are asked to serve in this rewarding and enriching experience.

Adult Forum Committee

Members: **Paula Burger, Jay Chalfant, Yvonne Davis, Robert Gardner, Diane Hairston,** and **Bill Millen**

The Adult Forum had a busy and productive year with some excellent and substantive programs, including several months organized around themes.

We began the year by considering "Baltimore: Post Freddie Gray." January presenters discussing their organization's community outreach included **Jeannie Howe,** Executive Director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance; **Heather Harvison,** Executive Director of Sister's Circle; **Kerry Yerico,** Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Programs for the Mayor's Office; and **Rev. Michael Hunt** from the Open Church of Maryland. **Gwenn Brown,** the Community Organizer with BUILD, completed our series.

Professor Arthur Sutherland of Loyola University returned to the Woodmont Room as our very own Faith adjunct faculty member for a wonderful three-week series on *Minority Women's Approach to Theology* during Black History Month.

In March, we heard from several members of our congregation about their professional activities. **Jaia Lent** addressed the important topic of *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.* **Kristin Herber,** Managing Counsel, Litigation for Under Armour shared with us her service work as a grateful lawyer, and **Lauren Hill** gave us a window on her engagement with international students at Maryland Institute College of Art in a presentation on "International Education in Turbulent Times."

In April, **Rev. Bill Millen** offered three programs exploring *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* by **John O'Donohue.** Together, we also began watching the very compelling film on the journeys of migrants. "The Human Flow," to which we devoted two additional sessions.

In May, **Susan Johnston** led a discussion of **Anne Lamott's** book on *Rediscovering Mercy, Hallelujah Anyway.* Faith has had an active role in various projects with the Woodbourne McCabe community, and it was thus a welcome opportunity to hear from **Christian Hall,** the

Community Organizer who works to coordinate that organization's efforts. At the end of the "spring term," Adult Forum regulars came together to plan the programs for the coming church year.

We kicked off Adult Forum in September with **Anna Burns** and **Lauren Hill** providing slides and commentary on their Cuba trip the previous June. Congregation member and family physician, **Dr. Mozella Williams** offered us an important presentation on "Five Things You Can Do to Live Longer." The irony of the next program being **Rev. Bill Millen** discussing "Planning Your Memorial Service" was not lost on some of us.

Three sessions in October were devoted to midterm elections concerns. City Councilwoman **Mary Pat Clarke** and **Charles Minor** addressed election issues on subsequent Sundays and then **Deb Colmers** and **Rev. Bill Millen** provided some thoughtful observations about "Desolation in this Divisive Season," or more precisely, tips for coping with the stress of contemporary politics.

In November, we planned a month long series on various *Disparities in Our City*. We began with an overview of the *Racial Wealth Divide*, facilitated by **Paula Burger**. The Interim Director of Research for the Regional Economic Studies program at Towson University, **Dr. Michael Siers** gave a very informative presentation on *Human Development Disparities*. The Executive Director of Uncuffed Ministries, **John Ruznak** introduced us to issues relating to the Criminal Justice System and to the ways that his program, housed right here at Faith Church, is trying to respond. The final session in this series featured **Amelia Cox**, a core member of the Black Church Food Security Network, speaking about the historical development of racial inequalities in Baltimore, in particular, the efforts of her organization to address the problem of food insecurity.

Immigration was the timely topic of our three December programs, with **Rev. Bill Millen** beginning the exploration by reflecting on what the Bible says about the matter. The following

week, we heard from **Yaneldis Boullon Delgado** and **Giuliana Valencia-Banks** on their work with the *Esperanza Center*, an important program providing outreach, services, and hope to the immigrant community in Baltimore. **Elaine Crawford**, an honorary member of Faith who worships across the street at St. Matthew Catholic Church, and her colleague **Cynthia Keenan** closed out the calendar year by sharing their experiences as volunteers working with refugee families through the *Immigration Outreach Service Center*.

The Committee always welcomes ideas for future Adult Forums.

Children's Christian Education

Robin Nemser, *chair*

During 2018, Faith Church has been blessed with many wonderful members who have shared their love for children by teaching each Sunday. We especially want to thank **Dawn Shirey** and **Susan Minor** who willingly taught for an entire semester during the past year, providing continuity to two of our classes. We are also grateful for the work of **Rosemary Miller**, our Nursery Attendant, who lovingly watches over members and visitors from birth to two years of age.

We continue to utilize the Whole People of God curriculum for the preschool through high school classes. The curriculum provides online teacher-friendly lessons which coincide with our lectionary. The lessons can be easily modified for the children's needs.

The number of children in our church school has unfortunately decreased since the end of 2017 due to the loss of two families, as well as the fact that several high school students have aged out of the classes. The following numbers represent enrollment as of Dec. 2018:

Nursery: 1
Preschool-First Grade: 3
2nd-4th: 6
5th-high school: 11

The Christian Education Committee sponsored a *Winter Movie Night/Pizza Party*, and a *Halloween Party*. The purpose of these events was to provide fellowship activities for the youth and families of Faith. The committee also sponsored the second Krislund Traveling Day Camp in June 2018. Krislund Camp and Conference Center provided the staff and programming for the five days of camp. Sixteen to 18 children attended each day, five of them from Faith Church. Faith members generously donated scholarship money which provided the camp opportunity to many. Members also hosted the Krislund staff for dinner and showers each evening.



The annual Christmas Pageant was once again written and directed by **Susan Johnston**. The theme of "Star Light, Star Bright" was simply to love one another. We were blessed with beautiful music during the pageant, including an anthem by an angelically robed Adult Choir, and two unforgettable solos by **Gabrielle Anthony** and **Peyton Lemon**. The costumes get better every year thanks to Susan's generosity! Nearly 20 children and youth participated in the event.

A youth retreat was held in December at Woodberry Crossing in Parkton, MD for the middle and high school students. Five girls participated and had a great time learning about the Beatitudes, feeding the farm animals, making s'mores, hiking, card-making, and game playing. This retreat will be the first of many events for the newly formed Youth Group in 2019. Thank you, **Bill Millen** and

Hannah Pope, for providing leadership for this event.

Thank you to all of the Sunday School Teachers and committee members who supported our beautiful Faith Children this year!

Worship and Arts

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns, Pastor until July 1, 2018, **Dr. Samuel Springer**, Minister of Music, **Phyllis Compton**, **Doris Cowan**, **Robert Gardner**, **Sandra McWhirter**, **Robin Nemser**, **Pat Nesbitt**, **Dawn Shirey**, **Mike Shirey**, **Judy Sperling**, **Marilyn Valentine**, **Charlene Witherspoon**

Currently the Committee is functioning without a chairperson due to Chair **Randal Woodfield's** sudden death in November of 2018. Randy, as he was known to his friends, is deeply missed and will always be remembered with love and endless memories. We remember him for his gifts as a Ruling Elder, a longtime member of the Worship Committee and Chairperson at the time of his death. He was a member and soloist of the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, the Music Concert Committee, and a frequent leader of the Adult Forum where he shared his knowledge of the spirituality of music. We are grateful to God that we have had the opportunity to share time with such a talented, warm, and loving person.

For the first half of this calendar year the committee worked closely with our former pastor, **Christa Fuller Burns** who retired in July. During that time, we followed our prescribed procedure working as a team to plan worship that is compliant with the Book of Order and relevant to our congregation. The Worship Committee's goal is always to plan in such a way that there are multiple opportunities for lay participation of adults, children, and youth. In addition, we seek opportunities to enhance the worship space during special worship and seasons of the church using banners, candles, flowers and communion table arrangements. These "creative touches" personalize worship shared

by our unique Family of Faith. Why not join us. You'll love it!

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

Ash Wednesday's Soup and Bread Supper was held in the "Woodmont Room Café". Following dinner, the group moved to the Chapel where chairs were arranged in a circle in preparation for a meditative Taizé service of readings, spoken and sung prayers, and receiving ashes.

Palm Sunday started with a continental breakfast and fellowship, followed by an intergenerational parade of bell ringers and palm wavers who traveled up Woodbourne Ave. and down Loch Raven Blvd. to the entrance of the church. Drivers and neighbors greeted us with honks and waves. We returned smiles and welcome waves. It was a modern-day reenactment of Jesus's welcome arrival in Jerusalem.

On **Holy Thursday**, we gathered in the Sanctuary to quietly remember the events of Jesus's last hours with his disciples and to share the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At the end of the service, the Chancel Choir sang *In His Dying Breath*. The congregation left in silence as **Mike Shirey** quietly sang *Go in Peace*.

Easter Morning dawned bright. The sunny Sanctuary was transformed into a fragrant spring garden. The pews were filled with members, families and friends. The Chancel Choir joined by brass musicians from Morgan State University and **Janet St Pierre** on timpani, filled every space with joyous sound. During the time with children, Rev. Burns played an April Fools Trick on the children. When they opened the box that contained the "Alleluias" that they had hidden at the beginning of Lent, they were greeted with a sudden burst sight and sound. It caused much laughter but did not deter the arrival of the "ALLELUIA BANNER!" Following the service, children flooded the courtyard in quest of Easter Eggs.

Women of the Church were celebrated during a Sunday Worship in March. Women of all ages led worship and a pick-up Women's Choir sang the anthem.

Youth Sunday and **Mother's Day** combined in one service. We took time to remember how our lives have been influenced by our relationships with the women in our lives who provided "mothering." We felt pride while we watched the young people from our Faith Family lead worship. Bibles were given to children in the third grade and above, and the children gave out carnation stems at the end of the service.

Pentecost featured a series of readings and songs led mostly by members of the Wednesday Bible Study Class, fifteen people were recognized for their time spent teaching Church School during the past year.



Men of the Church were celebrated during a Worship Service in June. Men of all ages led worship and a pick-up men's choir sang the anthem.

Pastor Christa Burns retired on July 1, 2019 following bittersweet goodbyes and a Grand Retirement Party. In her absence, the Worship and Arts Committee continued to work as a team. The committee recruited people to preach each Sunday, delivered announcements at the beginning of the service, and worked with the office to be sure all details were addressed.

During the summer months Church School and Adult Forum do not meet and the Coffee Fellowship is replaced by a Lemonade Fellowship on the Church Portico.

In early September our annual **Homecoming Service** featuring **Mike Shirey** and the **Ararat Mountain Boys** was planned to be held on the South lawn followed by an old fashioned "church picnic" on the lawn. Alas, the weather was not cooperative, and both the service and the picnic were moved to the Fellowship Hall. Although initially disappointing, it was a great success!

During an October **Remembrance Service** the congregation was invited to light candles as a way to remember loved ones known only to themselves and in memory of members of the Faith Family who died during the past year.



The Season of **Advent** and **Christmas** were a challenge. Our Interim Minister, Reverend Mary Barrett Speers was not expected to arrive until the December first - the first Sunday of Advent. Many thanks to the members of the Worship Committee who, despite their grieving the sudden loss of Randy Woodfield, devised a plan to complete the many tasks necessary for worship during Advent and Christmas. A special thanks to **Marilyn Valentine** who assumed the role of Interim Chairperson during this emergency. Nothing was missed. Lighted stars appeared in the windows to welcome

travelers on Loch Raven Blvd. Special banners and the Moravian Star were hung, and the Advent Wreath was prepared. Over time, fresh greens and a multitude of poinsettias enhanced the Sanctuary. On Christmas Eve families and friends gathered to share in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The service of music and lessons included a story shared with the children by **Rev. Mary Barrett Speers** and candle lighting during the singing of *Silent Night*.

Church Growth

Rev. Bill Millen, chair

Members: **Kay Ballard, Mike Billings, Paula Burger, Adelaide Cooke, Andy Fuller, Bobby Hall, Curtis Moore, Charles Richardson, Mike Shirey, and Charleen Whitherspoon**

A church might embody a fixed mindset, conveying that members either "have it" or they don't. We call this church where talents and abilities are "fixed." Or a church might embody more of a growth mindset, conveying that people can grow and improve - with effort, good strategies, and good mentoring. We call this a "growth mindset."

from Mindset by Carol Dweck



The children in Faith Church in 2005 were Brinley, Isabel, and Rashaun. We celebrate the mindset that has grown our children and youth to 25.

Church Growth is working on a growth effort, a good strategies, and good mentoring. We ask for your willingness to join our effort in 2019.

Plant and Property Committee

Mike Shirey, *chair*

Members: Dave Brown, Scott McGill, Jack Nesbitt, JoAnn Robey, Ron Sperling, and Janet Thomson

There are always lots of things that require regular attention and maintenance with a building and property as large as Faith Church. Some of these tasks require professionals. Many things don't, and that is why we all owe an enormous, collective "Thank You" to the Thursday Crew who assemble every Thursday morning without fail and pitch in to do those hundreds of things that need to be done. If not for them a significantly larger portion of the church's general budget would be spent on the care and maintenance of the property. A hearty "Thank You" also goes out to our parish administrator who keeps a watchful eye and an open ear for problems in various parts of the building.



It is wonderful to have the space to lease to various organizations, however it is also a big job being a "landlord". This past year sanctuary lights were replaced (and need to be reexamined); the sound reinforcement system was updated; lots of painting was done; many plumbing issues were resolved; the church was cleaned weekly by a professional cleaning crew; leaves from our oaks and sycamores and maples were collected; doors were replaced on our outside boiler room door and shed; and dozens of other things that would take too long to list.

On the horizon: the inside door to the boiler room needs to be replaced; ceiling tiles in the sanctuary and narthex need to be replaced; trees need to be trimmed; carpets need to be cleaned; outside light fixtures need to be replaced (with LED fixtures); siding on the tower that blew off in heavy winds will be replaced; and all those things yet to happen in the coming year will need to be addressed.

There is always much to do and we are blessed to have literal boots on the ground throughout the week and every Thursday to make sure problems that need to be addressed will be addressed.

If anyone sees something that needs to be done, please write it down and put the note in the mail slot for Plant and Property.

Finance Report

Christopher Pope, chair

Members: Neil Nemser, Jay Chalfant, Ron Sperling, Scott Bissett

Faith Presbyterian Church ended 2018 with an operating surplus of \$51.8 thousand. This performance is misleading in a year where we operated without a Pastor for six months. The combination of non-recurring giving and expenses associated with Christa Burn's retirement, along with the savings from operating with this significant position open from July through year end, resulted in net positive variance of \$34.9 thousand and would imply an actual operating surplus of \$16.9 thousand which would have been in line with 2017, and ahead of 2018 budget.

This is the tenth consecutive year that we have posted a surplus. Strong general giving and a meaningful rental Income combined with ongoing expense control continue to support our good financial results.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018</u> <u>Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>				
Total 4000 · General Giving	257,224	260,999	283,331	260,081
Total 4400 · Building Rental Income	106,483	106,648	112,068	107,742
<u>Total 4500 · Investment Income</u>	<u>3,274</u>	<u>7,049</u>	<u>10,368</u>	<u>6,992</u>
Total Income	366,980	374,695	405,768	374,815
<u>Expense</u>				
Total 5000 · General Mission	7,867	9,224	12,145	8,250
Total 5100 · Denominational Expenses	5,224	5,293	4,985	4,985
Total 5200 - MMA Expense		410	22,963	
Total 5300 · Designated Social Missions	10,812	12,697	13,648	12,500
Total 5350 - Social Missions MMA		6,421	6,743	
Total 5400 · Christian Education	3,630	3,433	3,113	4,000
Total 5500 · Worship Expenses	4,710	4,247	9,343	6,300
Total 5600 · Congregation & Fellowship	2,068	3,531	2,152	2,900
Total 5700 · Personnel	205,214	219,931	175,913	218,906
Total 5800 · Administrative & Office	11,603	13,341	13,044	12,950
Total 5900 · Property & Plant	85,826	79,212	89,267	94,853
<u>6000 · Other Miscellaneous Expenses</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>675</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expense	336,952	357,740	353,990	365,644
Net Ordinary Income	30,027	16,955	51,778	9,171

Our Total Income of \$405.8 thousand was \$33.7 thousand ahead of budget. General Giving of \$283.3 thousand was \$23.2 thousand ahead of budget, and \$22.3 thousand better than 2017. However, this year, general giving included dedicated gifts for the CFB Celebration, DACA and assorted other mission activities. Our operating revenue was supported by strong rental income.

Expenses were influenced by the open pastor position, but even accounting for this unexpected savings, expenses were well controlled throughout the year. Total expenses of \$354 thousand finished \$11.6 thousand lower than budget. Total Personnel expenses were \$43 thousand lower than budget. This positive variance was partially offset by increased expenses relating to Pulpit

Supply, Board of Pension Vacancy Dues, and expenses related to the search for the interim Minister. In addition, expenses included \$11 thousand for the upgrading of the new sound system. While this expense was covered by designated Session Discretion funds, the expense is still reflected on the operating statement.

It should be noted that 100% of the cost of the Celebration of the Ministry of Christa Burns was covered by non-operating contributions from our congregation.

Property & Plant expense once again came in below at \$89.3 thousand but was at its highest level in three years as some deferred maintenance was addressed. We were fortunate to limit our drawing on our Memorial Major Maintenance Account with which holds a balance of \$19.2 thousand to help us manage future unexpected major repairs.

Faith spent more than \$32.5 thousand on Mission activities and contributions in 2018.

2018 represents our tenth 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 continues to improve 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 \$458 thousand at the end of the year, compared to \$431 thousand one year ago. Our debt balance is now down to \$78.6 thousand. We continue to make modest monthly prepayments on our loan.

	<u>Dec-14</u>	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>
Total Liquid Assets	\$ 369,762	\$ 362,188	\$ 390,448	\$ 431,141	\$ 458,182
Designated/Escrow ed Funds	\$ 85,761	\$ 89,955	\$ 95,713	\$ 73,926	\$ 67,512
Loan Balance	\$ 160,950	\$ 142,177	\$ 123,252	\$ 103,579	\$ 78,631

Our 2019 budget is created with input from each of the committee chairs. General Giving is budgeted to be down 5.8% or \$15 thousand compared to 2018. Real Estate Income is budgeted to be up \$8 thousand compared to 2018.

We are budgeting for total expenses to increase over 2018, but to be flat to the 2018 budget, reflecting expected expenses in a normalized year. The budget includes a 2.8% salary adjustment for full time staff. As is our practice, we use a standard budget for repairs based on our average annual experience.

Our net result is an Operating Budget forecasting a net surplus of \$141 in 2019. This is the skinniest budgeted surplus in several years.

As always, a detailed report on 2018 and the 2019 budget is available upon request. Our goal continues to be to provide timely, accurate, transparent information regarding our financial position.

Pastor Change of Call

To be voted on by the Congregation

Pastor's Compensation 2019
(2.8% Salary Increase)

Salary	\$50,466
Housing	\$35,336

Benefits not included in salary:

Professional Development \$2,000

Minister Travel and Mileage \$2,060

One-Month Vacation & Two Weeks Study Leave

Medical, Dental, and Pension

Benefits through the Board of Pensions

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