

F A I T H
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

2015 Annual Report

with 2016 Budget

For distribution and discussion at
The Annual Meeting

Northampton Township Senior Center
165 Township Drive, Richboro, PA

Sunday, January 31, 2016

Agenda for the Meeting

Prayer

Jules Grisham

Opening Remarks and Senior Pastor's Report

Jules Grisham

Assistant Pastor's Report

Jon Pickens

Music Ministry Report

Rachel MacKay

Women's Ministry Report

Lisa Reiser

Global Impact Report

Burroughs Perkins

Flower Ministry Update

Barbara Rea

Deacons' Report

Vince Cacciatore

Financial Report and 2016 Budget

Jeff Dearie

Closing Remarks and Prayer

Jules Grisham

Faith Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement

*And Jesus said to them,
“Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”
~Mark 1:17*

Faith Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of faith committed to seeing lives renewed and communities transformed by the power of the gospel.

Our Mission – To Follow Jesus

We exist to proclaim the good news we believe: that Jesus Christ the Son of God, lived and died in our stead, that through him we might die to sin, and live in him instead. He who knew no sin became sin, for us, in order that we might become, in him, the righteousness of God. And we believe that this good news – this “gospel” – is nothing less than the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

So we stand firm in this conviction: acknowledging ourselves sinners saved only by the grace of God, we nevertheless affirm that we have been called to be saints, and to live as servants of the Kingdom. May we be found faithful to Jesus our Redeemer! And may God work powerfully through the life and witness of this congregation, so that many who are now lost will hear the gospel sown forth in our words and shown forth in our deeds, and will come to find the blessings of new life and new hope through the saving power of God in Christ! Amen!

Our Mission – To Be Fishers of Men

Faith Presbyterian Church thus exists to worship God and to bear faithful witness to Jesus Christ. A good part of that faithful witness consists in inviting others to the new life and true hope that comes when sinners set their faith in Jesus – so that those who do not now know the love of God in Jesus Christ may yet be found and reconciled to him, and may yet join us in our worship, work, and witness.

And we believe that when God’s people walk in the paths he has set for them – trusting his promises, plans, and purposes for our lives as our best and truest hope of blessing – that witness can, through works of mercy and the example of gospel-powered holiness, lift and improve both the moral character and the well-being of the communities in which we live and work.

Our Mission, in Short – To Know Jesus, and Make Him Known!

Therefore, we, the fellowship and family of Faith Church, affirm that the gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to change lives, to bring hope where there was hopelessness, wholeness where there was brokenness, love where there was bitterness, and life and renewal where there was weariness and sorrow. We are witnesses to these things, and we exist as a congregation to follow the way of life Jesus showed us and to point others to him.

In short, we seek to know Jesus, and to make him known.

Faith Presbyterian Church

Core Emphases

*Jesus answered, "The most important [commandment] is,
'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"*
~Mark 12:29

<u>We are committed to...</u>	<u>Loving the Lord our God...</u>	<u>HOW?</u>
Holding high God's glory in worship	...with all our heart	= <u>WORSHIP</u>
Holding together in loving fellowship	...with all our soul	= <u>FELLOWSHIP</u>
Holding fast to the word of truth	...with all our mind	= <u>GROWTH</u>
Holding forth the word of life	...with all our strength	= <u>SERVICE</u>

If the **Mission** of this church is to "to know Jesus and make him known," we now need to answer the question of how we hope to accomplish this mission. How shall we "know Jesus and make him known" as faithfully and as effectively as we can?

What things or activities are we to be about as a community of faith? Are there any sort of biblically-grounded guidelines to measure how we're doing – beyond simply observing attendance numbers and financial statistics?

This is where the four categories of our mandate as outlined above become so useful. We fulfill our mission of "knowing Jesus and making him known" by emphasizing the following four basics:

- **WORSHIP**: Our goal, first and foremost, is to worship God in Spirit and truth: proclaiming the whole counsel of God's Word with faithfulness and zeal; being deeply grounded in the pattern set forth in Scripture; and enjoying access to the Father through the Son by the power of the Spirit.
- **FELLOWSHIP**: To show forth our love for God by loving one another, and our faith in him by our faithfulness to one another: living and serving as the Body of Christ, and enjoying the blessings of fellowship with brothers and sisters in faith.
- **GROWTH**: To live as disciples of Jesus: growing day by day in the knowledge of him, through a deep grounding in the truth of God's Word and a courageous commitment to walk in the way of righteousness.
- **SERVICE**: To bring the fruit of our discipleship to bear, laboring faithfully and fruitfully as servants of the Kingdom, to bring the blessings of Christ not just to one another, but to the communities in which we live and work – that is, bringing the good news of Jesus, and the call of God to salvation and discipleship, to friends and neighbors who need the same grace as we!

Senior Pastor's Report

2015 Annual Report

*Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
~Romans 12:2

*Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!*
~Philippians 4:4

As I look back at the previous year, I am once again grateful to God for his provision, not merely in sustaining us here, but in building us up and giving us hope for better things to come. To get the numbers right out of the way:

In terms of **membership**: Christian Martin Joseph and Matthew Brendan Joseph were presented before the congregation by Chris and Jaci Joseph for covenant baptism; the two boys were baptized in the presence of the congregation on Sunday, May 10, 2015. These two, along with their sister, Abby Joseph (who had already been baptized), were received as non-communing members of this church. On a sadder note, we acknowledge the loss of Eric Schaeffer, who went home to be with the Lord on January 13, 2016, at whose memorial service I had the great honor and privilege to officiate yesterday, January 30, at Calvary Chapel in Philadelphia. Eric was a wonderful man whose faith was anchored firmly in the promises of the Lord. While we grieve with his family and sorely miss his presence with us, we also rejoice in the assurance and conviction that he is indeed with the Lord. Well done, good and faithful servant!

In terms of **finances**: there is a Treasurer's Report at the end of this document, and I do not wish to duplicate information included there. However, it is important to point out the following facts concerning last year's income and expenditures: that (a) while giving this year was below budget, yet (b) expenses were below budget. Moreover, and most importantly, when you realize that (c) an additional \$26,800 was raised for three separate missions trips involving persons and teams *from within our own congregation*, and that therefore, (d) total giving in 2015 was \$263,300, all this adds up to solid grounds for praise and gratitude – gratitude to God for igniting such an incredible year of missions-mindedness from among our people, and gratitude to this congregation for giving sacrificially toward these ends. Far from being discouraged about the budgetary shortfall this year, I have frankly never been more optimistic or excited about the strength and commitment of our fellowship of Faith and of the direction of our church in pursuit of its core mission.

So this is good news! But I am also encouraged by a number of developments in areas that mere numbers and statistics do not reveal. We have continued to worship God and serve him faithfully during the past year, manifesting the love of Christ in countless acts of faithfulness and service, to one another and to the wider communities around us. This love for God and for one another, and the manifest spiritual unity in our fellowship, is truly a mark of the Kingdom, and I rejoice in the witnessing of it.

I look forward to the coming year with a sense of eager anticipation: excited to see what God will do in our midst, in us and through us and to his glory! May he use this congregation to magnify and proclaim the good news of Jesus in the communities we serve this year – that we may know Jesus, and make him known!

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us.
Yes, establish the work of our hands!*
~Psalm 90:17

Looking Back at 2015:

WORSHIP: This is the epicenter of what we do at Faith Church. It is our special privilege and sacred duty to assemble each Lord's Day morning, to come into the presence of our Lord with praises, confessing our sins and lifting up our petitions, being fed by his Word, and in all reaffirming our faith in him and our commitment to walking faithfully as his disciples. We will examine, first, the music dimension of our worship, and second, the setup dimension.

MUSIC: We have continued to be blessed by the musical gifts and ministry of **Rachel MacKay**, who oversees the Music Ministry of this church. As I said last year and the year before, so it seems most appropriate to say *again*: I'm quite certain that I speak for every member of Faith Church when I say that Rachel's service to this congregation has been nothing short of extraordinary. I am most grateful to Rachel for the clarity of her vision concerning her role (and the Worship Team's role), as being to lead God's people into joyful and reverent worship of our Lord and Savior, and for then working to draw out the best in people. In addition to overseeing the musical dimension of the Worship Team, with its complex schedule of weekly practices, she also directs Relentless Faith (the youth jazz ensemble), with its weekly practices.

I don't want to duplicate here what is included in the Music Ministry report, but I really must say a word of thanks to the many people who have blessed us by sharing their musical gifts in the context of our worship. Thanks to the several **Worship Team** members; to our ensembles, **Relentless Faith**, the **Easter Choir** (and in particular to **Becca Samsøe**, for her wonderful direction of it), and **Summer Strings**. Thanks also to those who blessed us with their musical gifts for God's glory: **Amanda Yorg**, **Kacey Thurston**, and others!

Thanks as well to Chris Samsøe and Michael Knight, who have served faithfully and well through the course of the year as our **soundboard** operators; to Tom Real, our former soundboard operator, who has continued faithfully to step in and assist whenever needed; and to Bobby Reiser, who has assisted with sound.

WORSHIP SETUP: One of the stresses of a church like ours, meeting in a rental facility, is that each week the space has to be setup and then broken down – transformed, as it were, from whatever secular purposes it serves during the rest of the week, to a place of worship during these few hours on the Lord's Day. And this can only happen because we join together and share in that weekly burden as a community of faith.

Accordingly, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and say a word of thanks to the many **volunteer setup teams** who come in early and leave late every Sunday, to make sure that the physical setup for our worship actually happens. Praise God for the faithfulness of his people!

Thanks to all those who provided **hospitality** during the course of the year, something which adds so much to our life and fellowship together; to the **greeters**, who have faithfully served as our friendly first contacts each Sunday morning; and to the Deacons for overseeing the entire process. Thanks especially to **Chris Samsøe** and **Rick Niemann**, who have continued to serve as **Sound Setup Overseers**. Chris and Rick have been coming in early on their respective Sundays to do the mission-critical work of connecting all the bewildering array of wires and cables.

Thanks also to John and Barbara Rea, for their service to this church in launching and maintaining the **Flower Ministry**, which has beautified our weekly worship.

GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP: The best way to connect with other members of this fellowship and to grow as a disciple of Jesus is to do so in the context of the friendship, support, and accountability structures provided by small groups. Please consider participating in one or more of the fellowship groups mentioned below, and please also mark time in your calendar to join us for various events and activities through the course of the year. It is by means of this ongoing fellowship that the focus of Sunday (loving God) finds concrete expression (loving one another) during the course of the week.

GROUPS, EVENTS, and ACTIVITIES: During 2015 we continued to have two active **area fellowships**: the **Newtown Fellowship** (which meets on Thursday evenings at the Littles' home in Newtown, and at which I have been leading a long-term study on The Life and Letters of Paul) and the **Yardley Fellowship** (which meets on Tuesday evenings at the Cacciatores' home in Yardley, and at which Pastor Jon has been leading the Bible study and discussion). Starting this February, we will be adding two more fellowships to the mix: the **Palmer Farm Fellowship** (to meet on alternate Friday evenings at the Reas' home, near the Floral Vale Industrial Park) and **Families of Faith** (a monthly fellowship for young families; to meet at the Dearies' home).

On the third week of each month, both these fellowships suspend their meetings, and in their place are held "**BUFFET**" (Brothers Under Faith and Fellowship, Eating Together!),¹ a men's food, fellowship, prayer, and Bible study group that meets at the Cacciatores' home on third Tuesdays, at which I have been leading discussion on "The Feasts and Festivals of the Bible"; and "**SOUFFLÉ**" (Sisters One, Under Faith and Fellowship, Learning, Eating!), a women's food, fellowship, prayer, and Bible study group that for a long time had met monthly at the Samsoes' home, but has now been meeting at the Reisers' home, and at which Virginia Grisham and Patty Knight have been leading discussion on the same theme, "The Feasts and Festivals of the Bible."

In terms of morning fellowship groups: **Calvin & Bobs**, the Saturday morning men's fellowship group with discussion led by me, had seemed to reach the end of its initial purpose (to meet weekly and discuss the Calvin's *Institutes* as we read through its entirety); we are considering starting it up again, depending on feedback and expressed interest, this time perhaps as a *monthly* theological reading and discussion group. There is also the **Women's Saturday Prayer Breakfast**, the women's monthly Saturday morning prayer and devotions group hosted and led by Tricia Wittekind, that meets on the second Saturday of every month.

Finally, there is the **Women's Afternoon Fellowship Group** that meets on Thursday afternoons, hosted at by Judy Samsoe and led by Patty Knight (see the **Women's Ministry Report**).

Thanks to the Cacciatores, Dearies, Littles, Knights, Reas, Reisers, Samsoes, and Wittekinds for hosting these fellowships, and to Jeff and Debbie Dearie, Virginia Grisham, Patty Knight, Walt Samsoe, and Tricia Wittekind for leading them!

As for **church-wide events and activities**: 2015 saw an awesome **Youth Winter Retreat**, January 16-18, in the Poconos, with snow-tubing (led and taught by Pastor Jon); the **Women's White Elephant and Fellowship Night**, January 23 (at which secret prayer partners were selected for one another); the **Women's Conference** with Nancy Guthrie speaking on the topic "When God Says No," in Elverson, Pennsylvania, March 13; the **Missions Conference** of March 21-22 (at which Lois Ooms spoke at the Missions Dinner on Saturday night, at which time the Campbells also "met" with us via Skype from Paris, France; and Bob Emberger of the Whosoever Gospel Mission preached on Sunday); the **Adopt-a-Highway** clean-ups in April, June, August, and October; the **Women's Spring Retreat** with Lydia Brownback teaching on "An Attitude of Gratitude," at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Willow Grove, April 25; the church camping trip ("**Church in the Woods**") to Promised Land State Park, May 29-31, which was awesome until the rains came pouring through Saturday night, resulting in a much greater-than anticipated attendance at the regular worship service here at home, and a much diminished attendance of damp and hardy survivors at the campsite (!); a series of **fun youth and family events** and outings through the course of the summer and fall, including **summer ice skating, hiking, biking, tubing** down the Delaware with a cookout, a **Snapple Open Mini-Golf Tournament, an end-of-summer party** at the Clydesdales' home; and the **Youth Summer Retreat**, July 27-31, at Covenant Village, Pennsylvania; the **Women's Pool Party** at the Grishams' home, July 31, at which the secret prayer partners were revealed; the **Movie Night Under the Stars** event at the Wittekinds' home, September 11; followed two days later by the annual outdoor service and church picnic at Core Creek Park ("**Koinonia @ Core Creek!**"); and the annual **Light the Night Walk**, October 10, at which a good number

¹ Also referred to as MANCAVE (Men's Awesome Night of Community At Vince's Establishment!).

of us have volunteered for the last several years running; a youth “**Rake n’ Bake**,” November 21; the **Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals (ACE) Women’s Conference** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, October 30-31; **Christmas Caroling** at Statesman Health in Levittown, December 6; the **Princeton Regional Conference on Reformed Theology** (PRCRT, hosted by ACE), with Philip Ryken speaking on “From Dust to Glory,” November 6-7; the Keith and Kristin **Getty Irish Christmas** music event at the Kimmel Center, December 7; and a year-end **Prayer and Praise “Last Sunday” Luncheon** at the Grishams’ home, December 27.

Wow! And whew! Add to this a number of awesome musical ensembles; special worship services (**Good Friday** and **Christmas Eve**); and **two additional worship services with Tom Cummings** at Deer Meadows Retirement Community , an afternoon service on Good Friday and a special afternoon communion service on November 29; and you get a picture of the life of our congregation together.

Finally, I’ll add it here, since I’m not sure where else to note it: I was privileged to serve this year as the speaker at the **Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) Summer Retreat** in Gibson, Pennsylvania, Thursday-Wednesday, May 14-20.

SERVICE: At last year’s Annual Meeting we made this a priority area for focus in 2015, and I’m very happy to report that our congregation had an extraordinary year of service. On November 15, we had a special missions-focused worship service, following which Team Kenya gave its report to the congregation of its time in Nairobi. But at one point during the service, all those who had participated in short-term missions trips during the year were asked to come forward (that is, Team Guatemala with its three members, Team Kenya with its six members, and Jonah Clydesdale, who left last year to spend several months working with the MTW Team in Cusco, Peru); in addition to these, we asked all those who regularly teach English as a Second Language (ESL), down at Northeast Community Church (PCA) in Philadelphia, to come forward as well. Then we asked the Global Impact Team to stand up; and what we beheld was some forty percent of our congregation involved actively in missions and mercy ministry! This was extremely encouraging for me – so much so that it stands for me as one of the highlights of my ten years’ serving as pastor here. We had been praying that God might show us how to turn our focus outward, and surely this was a picture of his answer to that prayer. It is my prayer for the year ahead that we will continue to build on this sense of purpose and commitment as we seek to bring the good news of Jesus to our surrounding communities and even to the ends of the earth.

Once again, I’m very proud to report that several of your fellow congregants have been participating in the **English as a Second Language (ESL)** program run by our sister PCA church, Northeast Community Church, in the Mayfair section of Northeast Philadelphia. The program has a waiting list of some 250 immigrants from thirty different countries (mostly from Brazil, Iraq, Albania, and China). The need for volunteer teachers and teacher assistants (as well as for administrative assistants and child care workers) is pressing. The addition of our team has greatly enhanced their program this last year. This is real missions work – at home! The context is such that the world is coming to our shores and to our cities. And it is a unique privilege of this program to exemplify Christian love, showing up each week and teaching English; reading verses of Scripture and discussing them; and in all, seeking to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed to these people who may well have never – never! – heard the real thing. Now that’s exciting!

Special thanks indeed to Chuck Augustine, Virginia Grisham, Patty Knight, Emily Reiser, Lisa Reiser, Walt and Judy Samsoe, and well... Pastor Jon and myself, for weekly service; and to those others who have participated as they were able through **Conversation Cafes**. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact me.

STAFF, OFFICERS, AND MINISTRY TEAMS:

It has been a joy for me to work with **Pastor Jon** during the past year; he provides prayer, support, and encouragement for me personally, and brings a wise and gentle shepherd's heart to the service of this congregation. I am grateful that the Lord has brought such a godly man to serve this congregation alongside me.

I'm also very grateful for **Debbie Dearie**, our administrative assistant /office manager: for her dedication to excellence and timeliness, for her willingness to go over and above in the service of this congregation; for her patience; and by no means least, for the beauty of her piano-playing that has enriched many of our worship services and offertories. And **Rachel MacKay**, well, I've already spoken about her, but let it be known that we're grateful for her as well! Praise God, who has assembled such a gifted team to serve for such a time as this.

Finally, then, a special note of thanks is in order for the officers and other faithful servants who have labored so diligently in the past year.

The **Session** meets once every month to pray for the congregation and to provide oversight and guidance for the vision and governance of the church. It has been a great privilege to serve during the last year with Tim Clydesdale, Jeff Dearie, Warren Parry, Bob Spicer, and Steve Wittekind. This past year, Steve Wittekind stepped down after several years of active service. This congregation owes a debt of great gratitude to this gentle, loving servant of the church. He is a courageous and godly man who has served the Lord with great devotion. These aspects of his character have been a continual inspiration for me personally. Well done, good and faithful servant!

As for the other members of the Session: I have been continually impressed by the grace, patience, forbearance, humility, and mutual respect that have characterized our relationships and interactions, and I'm grateful indeed to be serving with such capable, dedicated servants of Christ.

The **Deacons** have had another productive year (concerning which, again, I won't duplicate here information that you can read in their report). But I must say that it has been my privilege to attend Deacon meetings as I've been able to do so, and to see firsthand their passion for this church and for the diaconal calling to mercy and service. Thanks to Vince Cacciatore, for his excellent work as chairman of the Board; and to Chuck Jimerson, Robert Knight, Jeff MacKay, Mike McCormick, and Bob Reiser; and to Mary Cacciatore, Deaconess.² Thanks also to Lisa McCormick, who has overseen our card ministry.

It has been my great privilege to work with the **Women's Ministry Team** (Ellen Dougherty, Virginia Grisham, Lisa Reiser, and Tricia Wittekind) and the **Global Impact Team** (Burroughs Perkins, chairman; Chuck Augustine, Joe and Ann Little, Rachel MacKay, Marilyn Perkins, and John and Barbara Rea). Thanks to each of you for your faithful service to this church.

Last but not least, there are at least two other people to whom we must say a hearty thanks: to **Burroughs Perkins**, who volunteered to serve as Treasurer last year; and to **Paul Andrews**, who has continued to serve as our Assistant Treasurer. We are grateful to both these men for their faithfulness in service to this congregation.

² The office of Deaconess is not an elected and ordained one, but an appointed and commissioned one.

Looking Ahead to 2016:

Our vision for the coming year is quite simple. Let us emphasize all four of the core categories by which we hope to fulfill the mission of this church – **Worship, Fellowship, Growth, and Service** – seeing to it, first, that all we do as a congregation tends toward the faithful performance of these fundamental mandates; second, that we seek to do these things more and more effectively, with more and more excellence and impact; and third, that we do this intentionally and systematically, building upon these fundamental categories of church life in doable, sustainable, and effective ways.

Our heartfelt hope and prayer is that this “back to basics” orientation will result in greater clarity concerning what the mission of this church is, and therefore in a broader sense of ownership of and excitement about how to improve, enhance, and advance the doing of our mission – which is, after all, nothing less than the Great Commission. By emphasizing and building upon these four fundamental areas of congregational life, we hope to deepen our discipleship, intensify our fellowship, and intentionalize our outreach, resulting in, Lord willing, more and more people worshipping with us. Amen! May the Lord so will it!

Again, the idea is to begin with the basics, and to implement one thing at a time (simply and sustainably), in such manner as not only to provide for current needs and enhancements, but to serve as seed for later growth and development. Thus:

- **WORSHIP:** We will continue searching for a **new facility** and/or new worship place.
- **FELLOWSHIP:** **Two new fellowship groups** are being launched (a third area fellowship and one for young families); and this new Families of Faith fellowship accords with a special emphasis moving forward, i.e., the strengthening and encouraging of **young families**.
- **GROWTH:** An **Adult Education Sunday School** class was recently launched (“Heroes and Heretics”). With regard to the educational component of our congregational mission, we plan (a) to emphasize a commitment to **cultivating teaching gifts** in our congregation, and (b) to provide excellent **biblical instruction** and fellowship opportunities **for the children** in our congregation.
- **SERVICE:** We will continue to emphasizing **outreach** in the three areas of **Mercy, Music, and Missions**

With regard to this last area, Service, which is where we bring the good news to bear beyond the confines of our own congregation:

- *First*, we are working on a **total overhaul and redesign of our web page**, as well as an upgrade to our web presence and use of social media.
- *Second*, we are planning on **participating in upcoming community events**, emphasizing both the local impact (ESL, mercy ministry) and global impact (music, missions) of our church.
- *Third*, we are intentionally **cultivating connections with other churches** in the PCA, working together in music and mercy ministries, toward the end of bringing a global awareness to work at the local level.
- *Fourth*, we will continue **emphasizing the importance of global missions**, with a view toward building connections that can bring mutual benefit to the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom.

In Summary: As we look ahead to the coming year, we, the Session, stand together in our commitment to this church. We are blessed by a wonderful combination of unity and purpose, by a boldness which is prepared to proceed, and by a desire above all to seek, discern, and wait upon God's will. We earnestly implore you to share your wisdom and insights with us, to pray fervently, and to set your minds and hearts to this important work. We are at a critical threshold in the life of our congregation. Let us stand together, unashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm.

Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

~1 Corinthians 15:58

Soli Deo gloria!

Jules Grisham, for the Session = Jules Grisham, Senior Pastor
Jon Pickens, Assistant Pastor
Tim Clydesdale, Clerk
Jeff Dearie
Warren Parry
Bob Spicer

Assistant Pastor's Report

2015 Annual Report

*As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men,
but chosen by God and precious to him –
you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house,
to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

~1 Peter 2:4-5

Faith Youth Group (“Living Stones):

As a church one of our greatest prayers for our youth is that they would make the transition from youth to adulthood and remain firmly committed to faith in Jesus Christ. More than that, a prayer that they wouldn't know a time in that transition period when they wandered from the faith or from the church. The purpose of Living Stones is to be a resource and blessing to the parents of Faith, coming alongside of them and supporting them, as they seek to faithfully fulfill their God given responsibility of raising their children. The intent is to go deep and to establish a firm foundation for the youth that will hold fast throughout these transition years. Over the summer the youth have two challenges: to memorize a chapter of the Bible and to own a book of the Bible to study. These are foundation setting practices. When we memorize something, it can't help but become a part of us and shape our thinking.

Throughout the year there were a number of different events including: ice-skating, laser-tag, hikes, six flags, tubing on the Delaware, a talent show, a bike trip, miniature golfing, Sky Zone, our annual Rake 'N' Bake, and a Christmas party. We went to Covenant Village for our summer retreat and to the Poconos just recently for our winter retreat.

There are many thanks to go out to those who have been involved with this ministry. Thanks to those individuals who chaperoned our winter retreat: Chris and Becca Samsøe, Bobby Reiser, Amy Hudson, and our cook – Brian Smith. On our summer retreat Jeff and Debbie Dearie once again came along to do the cooking, and they deserve a special thanks. Erin Brown, one of the interns at Covenant Village who is also a personal friend, served as the girls' chaperone on the retreat.

Cheryl Parry and Karen Spicer deserve special thanks for leading the high school girls' study. A number of families have hosted youth group, Bible studies, and special events this past year: the Parrys, Dearies, Spicers, Reisers, Wittekinds, Clydesdales, Yorgs, Knights, and Grishams. The families of the youth provide the meals for our retreats; every meal has been provided, and it'd be hard to identify a family that hasn't taken ownership and partnership in the ministry as their children have joined us on the retreat. Last, and certainly not least, a special thanks needs to go out to Bob Spicer, who has continued to serve faithfully during the weekly meetings and the special events. Bob Spicer, Warren Parry, Jules Grisham, and Chris and Becca Samsøe have all filled in during regular Sunday afternoon meetings throughout the year.

*He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed.
For you were like sheep going astray,
but now you have returned
to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

~1 Peter 2:24-25

Children's Ministry:

*"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.
"Yes" replied Jesus, "have you never read,
'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"*
~Matthew 21:16

Scripture holds children in high regard. They are never viewed as a secondary thought. Here at Faith we want to follow that same approach. The children are not to be an afterthought; rather we want to take our children's ministry seriously. God has promised to be the God of believers and their children. For this reason it is our goal to enfold the children into the rest of the body and to raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. As with every aspect of this church's ministry, we endeavor to have a gospel-centered children's ministry. The hope, prayer, and even expectation, is that these children will be raised regularly hearing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ and will come to a saving faith in him.

A special thanks needs to go out to those volunteers who serve in the Sunday School and Nursery programs. You individuals are very much unseen during the weeks while you are serving, yet in all truth our service and worship could not continue as it has without your faithful service rendered to the rest of the body here at faith. Thank you to the Sunday School volunteers: Tricia Wittekind, Dawn Clydesdale, Patty Knight, Cheryl Parry, Leanne Augustine, and Stacy Hill. Thank you also to the nursery volunteers: Karen Pardee, Ellen Dougherty, Kenda Thurston, Lynn Schaeffer, Debbie Dearie, Meg Brock, and all of the youth assistants.

One blessing that we've seen recently as a church is that the families with younger children are forming relationships with each other. It's nothing that the pastors and the officers of the church can take credit for; it happened without our working toward it. We're in a position of giving thanks for it. The hope is to meet with these families with children soon, in order to learn from you how we can better serve you.

*Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.*
~Proverbs 22:6

Young Adults:

For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.
~1 Thessalonians 3:8

Over the past two years we've had ten students graduate from high school. As we look ahead, there will be more to follow. At this point in the life of our church we want to acknowledge and minister to this growing group of individuals as they're around. We want to care for them in such a way that it is clear that they're recognized as an important part of our body. We want to encourage the congregation to be regularly praying for these young adults. In particular we want to be praying that we would minister to them well and have wisdom as we think through establishing this ministry. If you have a desire to minister to these students or thoughts about ministry to young adults, let me know.

*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father,
who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,
comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*
~2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

In His Service,
Jon Pickens, Assistant Pastor of Youth and Discipleship

Board of Deacons

2015 Annual Report

*See, my servant will act wisely.
He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.
~Isaiah 52:13*

“If you see something, say something.” This has become a familiar phrase considering the danger we face in this country and around the world. As Deacons, we ask you our congregation the very same plea, “If you see or hear something, say something” regarding care.

The Board of Deacons is appointed to help those in need through our care ministry, first in our congregation, then outside our congregation. Over the past year we aimed to strengthen and broaden our potential pool of resources for community outreach. We reached out to other sister churches, including Covenant Church of Doylestown. Such efforts as these bring us in contact with church bodies such as New Life in Glenside and Tenth Presbyterian in Philadelphia. Connecting with these local resources teaches us that we do not have to “reinvent the wheel” to serve our church and our community at large. We can share common opportunities: whether men’s retreats or Deacons training events and seminars.

“Prayer and Care” are our most important duties. Prayer prepares us for care, and with care we often fall to our knees in prayer. The Deacons’ Care Ministry most often is not one involving long term care, but one that is immediate, that bridges the gap until a stable resolution becomes present or until alternative methods of care are arranged. The Deacons Care Ministry would not be possible without the financial support of our congregation to buy groceries, pay bills, provide transportation, or buy heating oil. The Deacons perform service projects or coordinate service efforts, such as a “Fix Up Day” at Beverly Rounsavill’s home. Our key verse, fundamental to our Care and Service Ministry, is “my servant will act wisely.”

The Deacons carry an array of administrative duties:

Property (including Facilities and Audio-Visual):

- Mike McCormick functions as facilities liaison with the Senior Center.
- Deacons are responsible to supervise the setup and breakdown of the church service on Sunday.
- Deacons coordinate and schedule events with the management staff at the Senior Center.
- The Senior Center was reserved for special services and other events in 2015.

Finance:

Vince Cacciatore coordinates and manages the Deacons financial responsibilities for the church. The Deacons receive and record the gifts given for the Lord’s work and then distribute the gifts to the ministries for which they are designated.

The Deacons count and record the offerings and prepare them for deposit. The Treasurer makes the deposits, allocates the offerings to the proper fund, provides financial reports for each fund to the Board and to the Session, provides the annual financial report to the congregation, and maintains the financial records. Vince Cacciatore serves as the Recording Treasurer, maintaining a database of offerings and providing a year-end statement of giving to everyone who gives to the church.

The Deacon Board members in 2015 were Vince Cacciatore, Mike McCormick, Chuck Jimerson Jr., Robert Knight, Jeff Mackay, Bob Reiser, and Mary Cacciatore, Deaconess.

Please keep in mind that we live in a world of great need and Care Fund offerings are encouraged and greatly appreciated at any time throughout the year.

In His Service,
Vince Cacciatore, for the Deacons Board

Vince Cacciatore, Chairman
Mary Brandt Cacciatore
Robert Knight
Chuck Jimerson
Jeff MacKay
Mike McCormick
Robert Reiser

Flower Ministry Update

*Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers,
who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king,
to beautify the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem!*
~Ezra 7:27

The Flower Ministry started in April 2015. During the year we had sixteen families from Faith Presbyterian Church support this ministry. In addition to the weekly flowers, nineteen poinsettias were ordered that decorated our Christmas Eve service.

We would like to continue the Flower Ministry through 2016, but we will need your help. Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays at the table in the back of the Sanctuary. This is a nice way to honor or remember a special person or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary. If you have provided flowers but do not wish to take them home, arrangements can be made to have them delivered to residents at Chandler Hall, Attleboro, or to someone from the congregation who is recovering from surgery, an illness, or just as a reminder that they are being thought of.

Please consider signing up today.

In His Service,
Barb Rea, Flower Ministry Coordinator

Global Impact Team 2015 Annual Report

*That thy way may be known on the earth,
Thy salvation among the nations.
~Psalm 67:2*

The Scriptures teach that it is the purpose of the church to make disciples of all nations by evangelizing, teaching, and baptizing and planting churches. The Global Impact Team seeks to lead Faith Presbyterian Church towards these ends through intercessory prayer, dissemination of knowledge, personal involvement, and financial provision concerning missionaries laboring in the field.

We conducted our annual **Missions Conference on March 21-22**, with the theme “The Whole Gospel for the Whole Person,” featuring Lois Ooms, who has been working in Africa since 1969, as main speaker on Saturday night. We also skyped the Campbells, who are ministering in Paris France. Bob Emberger filled the pulpit on Sunday and talked about the work of Whosoever Gospel Mission in Philadelphia.

In April, Chuck Augustine stepped down as Chairman of the Global Impact Team (GIT) after several years of outstanding leadership. Burroughs Perkins volunteered to serve as chairman. We are in the process of writing a Policy Guidelines document outlining the purpose of the GIT, its organization, and guidelines for selecting missionary units to support. Marilyn Perkins volunteered to serve as Secretary, and Barbara Rea to serve as Treasurer. The Team is open to anyone with an interest in missions, and we invite your input and membership.

On July 4, **Team Guatemala**, including Karen Spicer, Elliot Spicer, and Erin Perry, spent seven days in Guatemala. This was Karen’s second visit in two years. Team Guatemala raised the money required for the trip, mainly from the FPC congregation. They spent the time doing construction and meeting medical needs.

During our 2014 Missions Conference with the Carrs, Rachel MacKay had a burden for Kenya and asked Robert Carr how she could get involved. The result was **Team Kenya**, including Chris and Becca Samsøe, Tricia and Adam Wittekind, Rachel MacKay and Pastor Jules, which left for a short-term missions trip on October 16 for 8 days. The main purpose of the trip was to assist the Kenyan church in developing and enhancing worship music related to their culture and language. Tricia also helped administer physical therapy to children and adults with such needs.

In May, we terminated our support of **Linnea (Barnhart) Keyton**, as she left her two-year term with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF). In August we started supporting **Jonah Clydesdale** for his one-year mission trip to serve with an MTW Team in Cusco, Peru.

The Carrs changed their mission, and Robert is now working part-time in Kenya and part-time planting churches in the Philadelphia area, working with Bruce Finn.

Support continues for **the Campbells** (Greater Europe Mission) in Paris, France; **the Chapins** (MTW) in Nagoya, Japan; **the Gutierrezes** (MTW) in Arequipa, Peru; **Fred Klett** (Rock of Israel Church) in Philadelphia; and **the Sindlers** (MTW) somewhere in the Muslim world.

Again this Christmas, the church supported the work of **Whosoever Gospel Mission** in Philadelphia, by providing 55 gift bags full of toiletries for the men and gifts that they could choose to give to their children. The Congregation gave generously in both gifts and \$820 towards the gift bags.

On behalf of our missionaries and their families, the Global Impact Team would like to thank you, the FPC congregation, for your prayers and financial support throughout the year.

In His Service,

Burroughs Perkins, for the Global Impact Team:

Burroughs Perkins, Chairman

Marilyn Perkins, Secretary

Barbara Rea, Treasurer

John Rea

Chuck Augustine

Ann Little

Joe Little

Rachael MacKay

Music Ministry 2015 Annual Report

*I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.*
~Psalm 104:33

At the end of last year, as I looked forward to 2015, I thought about the importance of setting ministry goals while allowing room for the Lord to do “something bigger than I could imagine.” I can’t tell you how often I have laughed at that thought since that’s exactly what happened when five of the six of us who were called to Kenya helped to lead a worship symposium with about 50-60 worship leaders from all over Kenya. We have already done a complete report on that trip so I will just take this opportunity to again thank you, the congregation, for your faithfulness in prayer and financial generosity that allowed us to go and have a trip that was successful in every way possible. I want to specifically thank Jules, Chris, Becca, Tricia and Adam for joining the team with enthusiasm and for putting everything they had into it. I’d also like to thank Virginia, Guy, Steve and my husband Jeff for being willing to let us go, entrusting our care and safety to the Lord.

Other stuff we did in 2015:

- WORSHIP the living God! This is the most important thing we can do together as a music team and as a congregation. Thank you to each and every one who has either played an instrument, sung, set up, run sound, hosted practice, or any combination of the above. That’s almost everyone in our church!
- Becca beautifully led a choir for Easter and lends her vocal talents week after week. Many thanks to her!
- Four Youth Sundays!
- Relentless Faith had a “last hurrah” at the end of the summer with the largest ensemble ever. Josh, Adam, Kyle and I have soldiered on after the departure of Brandon and Jonah. (Thank you Chris for contributing your velvety tones this year!) Thanks also to the Wittekind family for *always* keeping the garage open.
- Thanks to the string players (Matthew, Julianna, Kaelyn and Guy), who have always amazed me with their enthusiasm and willingness to rehearse (and dress formally!) This is especially true of Matthew and Kaelyn who have used time during their college breaks to be a part of the group.
- Thanks to Josh Parry for accompanying the hymn singing at least twice a month for the last year.
- Thanks to Amanda Yorg and Kacie Thurston for joyful music this past Christmas.

Stuff I’ve done behind the scenes:

- Connected with Melissa Taggart (the Music Director of Calvary PCA, in Willow Grove) to bring several Getty Music events to our area.
- Participated on a charity recording project with Melissa along with our own Jules, Virginia, Guy and Adam.
- Became the Advancing Assistant for Matthew Smith and Indelible Grace.

Stuff we'd like to do in 2016:

- WORSHIP the living God!
- Continue ensembles. (Relentless Faith will have a new face this year...)
- Nurture the next generation of musicians (i.e. Kacie and Audrey Thurston!)
- Youth Sundays.
- Allow room for the Lord to do something bigger than we can imagine!

Serving the King of Kings,
Rachel MacKay, Director of Music Ministry

Women's Ministry 2015 Annual Report

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
But a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her the reward she has earned,
And let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*
~Proverbs 31:30-31

The Women's Ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church strives to provide opportunities for woman to grow in their personal relationship with the Lord and to cultivate relationships with other women in the church, while extending God's love to women outside the church. Our core team in 2015 was comprised of Ellen Dougherty, Virginia Grisham, Lisa Reiser, and Tricia Wittekind, who co-led this important ministry – with the Lord's guidance at the forefront. The Team met monthly to plan and to pray for the women of our congregation.

Along with the various small groups available to the ladies, one of the highlights of the year was our Kick-off Fellowship Event at the home of Robin Yorg in January, when we picked prayer partners and committed to praying for specific needs over the months following. The "Big Reveal" occurred in July, when prayer partners revealed their identities to one another.

The following fellowship groups were available to our women during 2015:

Women's Monthly Evening SOUFFLÉ:

("Sisters One, Under Faith and Fellowship, Learning, Eating!")

A time of devotion, prayer, light fare, and fellowship held every 3rd Thursday at the home of Virginia Grisham with Patty Knight leading a discussion on "Women in God's Plan of Salvation, Part 2: Women in the Life of Jesus" (Spring). Special thanks to Judy Samsøe for her culinary expertise. Patty Knight and Virginia Grisham led a discussion on "Feasts of the Bible," by Sam Nadler (Fall).

Women's Saturday Prayer Breakfast:

A time of devotion, prayer, continental breakfast, and fellowship held every 2nd Saturday at the home of Tricia Wittekind, with Tricia sharing a devotional.

Women's Thursday Afternoon Fellowship Group:

A women's time of biblical discussion, prayer, light fare, and fellowship held every Thursday (except 3rd Thursday) at the home of Patty Knight, with Patty teaching on "Women in God's Plan of Salvation, Part 2: Women in the Life of Jesus" (Spring), and readings in the Gospel of Mark (Fall), and with Judy Samsøe hosting.

Several women also attended conferences and retreats offered by other churches in our region, which our team promoted and helped to facilitate, including:

- March 13: Evening Retreat with Nancy Guthrie on "When God Says No," Elverson, PA
- April 25: One Day Spring Retreat with Lydia Brownback on "Sing a New Song: An Attitude of Gratitude," Calvary PCA, Willow Grove PA
- Oct. 30-31 Women's Conference, Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals, Lancaster, PA

We want thank all of those women who taught and/or hosted our women's groups this past year:

- Patty Knight, who taught/hosted the Thursday afternoon fellowships and taught/facilitated the Thursday Evening SOUFFLÉS.
- Tricia Wittekind, who facilitated/hosted the Saturday Prayer Breakfast Fellowships.
- Virginia Grisham, who facilitated the Thursday evening fellowships in early 2015 and hosted the SOUFFLÉS.
- Lisa Reiser, who hosted some of the Thursday evening fellowships.

And a special thank you goes to Ellen Dougherty, for excellent ongoing communication regarding our events and activities.

Looking ahead to 2016, our excitement will build as God continues to equip us in how we love, mentor, and pray more earnestly for our ladies!

Respectfully submitted,

The Women's Ministry Committee
Ellen Dougherty
Virginia Grisham
Lisa Reiser
Tricia Wittekind

Treasurer 2015 Annual Report

*But who am I, and what is my people,
that we should be able thus to offer willingly?
For all things come from you,
and of your own have we given you.*

~1 Chronicles 29:14

Praise the Lord that all bills are paid, Pastors and Staff have been paid for their service to the Lord, all missionaries have been supported to date and there is money left in the bank. Not many churches can say that today. We started the year with a little over \$5,000 in the General Fund and ended the year with almost \$4,600 left over. Although giving for the year was below budget, so were expenses. However, when you realize that in addition to offerings totaling nearly \$236,500, an additional \$26,800 was raised for three short-term missions trips (see the Global Impact Report), it is encouraging to see that giving to the church in 2016 was a record \$263,300.

After some two years without a Treasurer, in April, Burroughs Perkins volunteered to step into that role. This year has been a learning experience as considerable time was spent setting up authorities at the bank and trying to master the church software. We started direct deposit with the bank so that Pastors are paid on a weekly basis, with funds deposited automatically and directly into their bank accounts. Rachel MacKay and Debbie Dearie are likewise paid monthly directly into their bank accounts. This actually saves the church money since we are writing fewer checks, and it saves time for Paul Andrews.

A reminder, especially for those new to the church: requests for reimbursement of funds expended for church activities should be made on the Reimbursement Request Form available on the church website (or see a Deacon). The form, along with copies of all receipts, should be given to Burroughs Perkins for approval. This applies to all items EXCEPT Care Fund reimbursements and Global Impact funds. Care Fund reimbursements forms and paperwork should go to Vince Cacciatore, and Global Impact reimbursements forms and paperwork should go to Barbara Rea or Burroughs Perkins. Once approved, the paperwork will be given to Debbie Dearie for recording, and Paul Andrews will be e-mailed with a request for a check with name and amount. Paul will endeavor to distribute the check the following Sunday, or will mail it if necessary.

We will strive in 2016 to make additional clarifications and changes in an effort to streamline, modernize, and more efficiently be good stewards of the Lord's funds.

Respectfully submitted: Burroughs Perkins, Treasurer
Paul Andrews, Assistant Treasurer