

FAITH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
USA



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**Celebrating the ministry of
the congregation in 2019**

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Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513
706-374-5912**

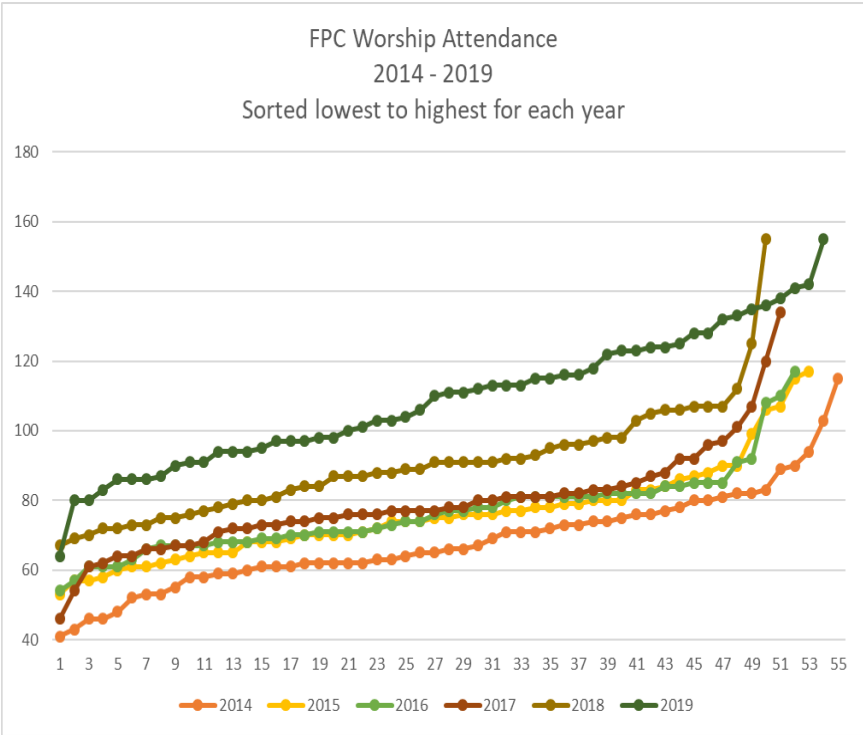
www.faithpresbyterianusa.org

2019: “Beyond the Wood And Stone”



Dear Friends:

I hope you will take time to read all the individual reports contained within this Annual Report, and therefore the Report as a whole. As you read, please mark, note, celebrate and give thanks for every expression of our vision and mission as a church. Take some time to offer your encouragement to elders, leaders, teachers, and volunteers, who made possible this amazing array of activities. Your interest in them and their efforts, your prayers and support, are what will keep all of us focused and energized to be about all the work God has for us to do, **“Beyond the Wood and Stone.”**



This chart shows our weekly worship attendance as recorded by our ushers for each Sunday 2014-2019. In each year the chart is sorted with the lowest attendance Sunday at the left-hand side through the highest attendance on the right-hand side. The chart shows very clearly the significant increase in worship attendance and participation, year over year, and especially throughout 2019. (Our average weekly worship attendance increased from 90 to 109!) Again throughout 2019, your Session was very aware of and thankful for this growth and worked proactively to continue to find ways to add chairs in the Sanctuary on a Sunday to accommodate all. Every week, every member had and continues to have an essential role as welcoming hosts.

The upcoming move to Bluebird Road will bring both change and challenge. The leadership of the congregation has been working hard to identify our best and most faithful responses to all the possibilities open to us in our new home. We are as always all about making room and creating space so that every person can gather as part of our congregation to worship God, to grow in faith, to serve our neighbors bearing faithful and fruitful witness to their and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As you read and reflect upon the reports from our Session Planning Teams and Committees please recognize the important role that every program, activity, outreach and service opportunity plays in the overall nurturing of the life of the church and giving expression to the gracious love that we know God has for all. While we all may have our favorite programs or activities it does take the whole to nurture all!

As we look forward to 2020 and our move into our new building there will be much for all of us to do. The Session remains focused upon building the entire life of the Body of the Church even as we make this physical shift. All four of our Planning Teams look to plan, enable and offer a wide variety of programs, activities and events that together can help connect us to one another, to God and to the needs of our neighbors. Along with your elders I encourage each and all of you in your active engagement and involvement.

Thank you all for being the people you are and for everything you are and do that strengthens God's work here at Faith. I look forward to

continuing work with each of you as we celebrate God's presence as we continue to do and be all it takes to become the Faith Presbyterian Church that God needs in our time and community.

By our prayers and living, **“Let Us Build A House”**

God bless you and God bless us all!

Jim Simpson, Pastor

Faith Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement:

By God's love and grace, we are Called, Committed and Led.

Vision Statement:

Called by God to be Faith Presbyterian Church of the North Georgia Mountains, we welcome all to join together to worship God.

Committed to following Jesus' example, we joyfully share God's love, grace and gifts with all in our church family and community.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to grow spiritually in this community of Faith.

Church Priorities for 2020

(as adopted by the Session at the Session Retreat, November 2019)

- Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community
- Continue as a spiritual community worshiping God by the sharing of our time, talent and treasure.
- Equip and encourage all to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to show God's love, grace and care.
- Develop effective church leaders
- Expand effective communication to include appropriate use of technology
- Transition to our new church facility
- Prepare and launch our mortgage reduction campaign, Growing in Faith Together (GIFT), in support of our ongoing life and witness
- Recruit an additional staff member to aid our pastor in pastoral care/program duties



January 9, 2019 Nathan's Construction arrived on site and construction of the new building began.



A major step forward as the slab for our new building is poured on March 22, 2019.



Steel began going up in June and by July the wood framing was rapidly making a huge difference in the appearance of our new building. Progress!

RE AL TI TY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S **REPORT 2019**

Prepared by Bob Goodyear, Financial Secretary

It is a pleasure to be your Financial Secretary and to report the following specifics of 2019:

2019 Stewardship

(supporting the general operation of the church and its ongoing ministries)

- 82 members families and friends made pledges totaling \$229,690 to the Stewardship drive
- By years end, \$223,410 had been received against those pledges – 97.3%.
- Non-pledging members and friends gave another \$26,847.
- Special Offerings (Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy) received \$2.249.
- \$6.027 worth of supplies and other items were donated.

2019 Building Fund

(to build our new church facility on Bluebird Road)

- 76 members/families and friends have made commitments totaling \$963,047 to be paid over the 2018-2020 period
- As of the date this report is being prepared (1/9/2020), \$877,323.52 (91% of the total amount pledged) has been received.
- In addition, we have received \$101,500 in unpledged gifts designated for the new building.

2020 Stewardship

- 87 members/families and friends have made pledges totaling \$262,086 as of this date
- Included in the 86 pledging units were 14 who did not pledge in 2019.

Thanks to all our members and friends for their ongoing support of the work of Faith Presbyterian Church. With increased support

comes the responsibility to increase our commitment to doing God's work!

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Goodyear



The Summer Learning Series (SLS) held every Wednesday in August are extremely popular and attendance increases every year. Pastor Jim leads activities that are diverse, entertaining and educational. Spiritual Development works very hard throughout the spring to make this program run smoothly.



July's summer meal program is always supplemented by the distribution of school supplies. Faith volunteers have volunteered to distribute food for the past 7 summers and were instrumental in the formation of this summer mission program in Fannin County.



Fire and Ice Festival proceeds went to support Faith Church garden. Harvest from the garden supported Feed Fannin.

Pictured front-to-back: Sharon Brewer, Bill Young, Chuck Huckleberry and Patty Morris.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF
INCOME AND EXPENSES

JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

Prepared by Nancy Goodson, Church Treasurer

INCOME (\$)

Pledged Offerings	223,065
Non-Pledged Offerings	30,074
Loose Offerings	7,377
Worship	10
Restricted Receipts (Including Building Fund)	322,559
Direct Public Support	3,348
Investments	875
Other Income	<u>1,990</u>

TOTAL INCOME **589,298**

DISBURSEMENTS (\$)

Personnel (Pastor, Dir. Of Music, Other)	115,666
Spiritual Development expenses	5,354
Mission/Outreach	23,472
Congregational Care	3,838
Facilities/Administrative/Other	58,658
Future for faith (F3) Fund	<u>66,111</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **273,099**

NET INCOME **316,199***

*These funds were contributed in 2019 to the new building and have been transferred to the New Building Fund.

2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Nancy Goodson

In 2019, we continued a strong financial footing. Our total income (including Building Fund proceeds) was \$589,298. Total expenses were \$273,098. We moved \$66,111 to the Future for Faith (F3) Fund. The difference of \$316,199 was moved to retained earnings. We have continued to support our local mission projects both financially and with volunteers.

Looking to the future, we will need the continued commitment from all members and friends, not only to help and fund our new building but also to support our current and future church operations and mission projects. With God's grace, as our membership grows, we will continue to see further dedication and generosity displayed by our congregation.



By the end of July, the roof trusses were installed. The interior height of our new sanctuary was evident, and all agreed, it will be a spectacular space.



Milestone for Fannin County as the first Habitat for Humanity home is dedicated in over 2 years. Faith members contributed many volunteer hours to help make this a reality for a young family.



Second Sunday Luncheons are always well attended and a favorite of members and guests. Great fellowship for all!

ANNUAL REPORT for 2019

Prepared by Frances Young, Clerk of Session

Membership	January 1, 2019	135
Additions		32
Losses		0
By Transfer to other churches	0	
By inactivity	0	
By Death	0	
Membership as of December 31, 2019		167

Rick Borden, Lynn Hayes, and Janice Glascock were installed as elders on January 13, 2019 for the class of 2021.

2019 Ministry Planning Teams, and Team Chairpersons

Ministry Planning Team	Chairperson	Elder Class
Administrative Team	Rick Borden	2021
Administrative Team	Bruce Burn	2020
Congregational Care	Doris Riggs	2019
Congregation Care	Lynn Hayes	2021
Mission and Outreach	Sylvia Goodyear	2019
Mission and Outreach	Candy Frank	2020
Spiritual Development	Janice Glascock	2021
Spiritual Development	Patty Morris	2019
Clerk of Session	Frances Young	2020

Administrative Ministry Team 2019

Prepared by Rick Borden and Bruce Burn, Co-Chairs

The Administrative Ministry Team is responsible for the care of the building, the personnel of the church, publicity, and the finances of the church.

- **Facilities:** We have been very fortunate to have dedicated volunteer crews (typically two person teams) to aid in the cleaning of our church facilities. We had seven Merry Maid crews during 2019. Thank you to all who contribute especially to Bud and Treva Wheatley who do a sizeable portion of the work. As we move into our new building in 2020, how we manage the new building and grounds will change significantly. Mike Roberts has volunteered to head up the volunteer team responsible for maintenance and care of the facility and Sally Crawford has volunteered to lead the team responsible for grounds maintenance.
- **Treasurer/Finance:** The church has a strong financial management team consisting Nancy Goodson as Treasurer, Bob Goodyear as Financial Secretary and Brenda Scruggs as check writer. This year the team was expanded with the addition of Al Gnann as support to Nancy and Teri Charron as support to Bob. Doris Riggs will be taking over as check writer in 2020. This system not only shares responsibilities among five people but also provides a balance and separation of accounts payable and accounts receivable. This financial team is commended for the job they have done in properly accounting for the church's income, paying bills expediently, and managing the resources our church receives. In addition, a team of counters is responsible for the collecting the weekly offering on a rotating basis and depositing it into the church's bank account with records provided to the treasurer and financial secretary.
- **Communications/Technology:** Doug Morris was instrumental in maintaining and updating our website and Facebook page. He has done an excellent job keeping the

website fresh with periodic upgrades as needed. Peggy Reich has done a superb job crafting and publishing our church newsletter each Monday communicating Faith Happenings, celebrations, and events. Both Doug and Peggy are stepping down as they pursue other areas in our church. Chris Chambers has taken over publishing the newsletter and Harold Wills will take over the website management.

- **Stewardship:** The 2019 Stewardship team was led by Randy Borden and Randy Griggs. “Beyond the Wood and Stone” was a 12 month program, to keep the congregation involved all year, not just during the regular Stewardship season. Our approach was to biweekly submit stories of Stewardship to the newsletter delivering a message of thoughtfulness and hope when speaking of Stewardship. We had great response from members of our Faith community which led to a very successful Stewardship Campaign. Our campaign concluded with the presentation of “Faith Presbyterian, This Is Your Life”. We so appreciated the congregation’s participation and enthusiasm. The committee was inspired, and we look forward to next year’s campaign. The symbolic gesture of our Faith members throwing their hats in the ring has allowed Faith to do what it does best: *Doing God’s work in the community.*
- **Church Office Support:** The Office Admin Team is hard at work and we have the luxury of several new members for 2020. The Monday through Friday group, including substitutes have been willing and able to adjust and fill-in at a moment's notice with illnesses, accidents and vacations happening throughout the month. We are all waiting to see how our new building will impact our workspace, storage, etc. I thank the whole team for their willingness to help, adapt and focus as we move forward.
- **Church Directory:** Doug and Patty Morris did an excellent job maintaining the church Directory. Bob Goodyear has developed a customized database program to keep our membership information, including contact information and photographs current so that all our membership records are

coordinated. The directory has been updated from our new membership database and is posted on the website with a hard copy available in the office upon request.

- **Publicity:** Faith newspaper ads are posted each week along with annual participation in the Chamber of Commerce publications. All ads must be approved by the Session, so if you have an outlet for publicity, let the Administrative Team know.
- **Personnel Procedures, and Insurance:** Chuck Huckleberry served as Chairperson of the Personnel Committee. He and the Personnel team completed an evaluation of the pastor and music director with salary recommendation made to the Session. The personnel committee has been expanded to include representatives from each of the four planning teams.
- **The Administrative Planning Team** participates in the following activities for the church: Rivers Alive, Trout Festival, Founders Day Celebration (float and parking lot party).
- **New Building Committee:** Progress was made this year toward the completion of the new church building. Grading completed, concrete slab poured, steel erected, framing completed, doors and windows installed, the curbing and paving installed, and parking lot lights installed. The plumbing, HVAC and electrical rough-in continued as the siding, roofing and stone were added. Our creative landscaping team leveraged donated professional design and installation help. Church volunteers logged many sweat equity hours clearing the adjoining DOT property, preparing the soil and planting our beautiful new trees, bushes and decorative grasses. The steeple was lifted into place in December allowing the start of installation of insulation and sheet rock. A Donation Policy was created to help manage and fulfill our Needs List, already garnering several donations. Many thanks to the support from our congregation, members of the New Building Committee and its several sub

committees for their continued contributions of time and resources.

We look forward to moving into our new facility in 1st of quarter of 2020 after the completion of the finished surfaces, lighting and building systems.



The harvest was great, and the good news was the laborers were not few! August, what a great month to harvest corn and potatoes. If you are the outdoor type this is a mission activity perfect for you. Great fun and fellowship.



Sometimes our volunteers get lost in the weeds. The good news is we find most of them during harvest.



Landscaping begins on the church property. Jim Reich and Dick Schmus handle the shovels while Al Gnann handles the heavy lifting on his tractor.



Congregational Care Report 2019

Core Tasks: Caring and Connecting

Elder Co-Chairs: Lynn Hayes and Doris Riggs

2019 Planning Team Members: Randy Borden, Judy Evans, Candy Frank, Hilda Giles, Diana Gnann, Jamielee Green, Connie Griggs, Beth Huckleberry, Kim King, Betty Lennox, Chris Martinez, Barbara Schmus, Diane Shillcutt, Treva Wheatley

The Congregational Care Team is responsible for caring for and serving the Faith community. We do this in various ways throughout the year as we strive to equip members to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to show God's love, grace and care.

Faith Shepherd Program – Caring Connections at Faith: The goal of Faith's Shepherd Program is to connect people to God in worship, fellowship, and service and to connect people to each other in the life



Faith Shepherds being commissioned in early February 2019 by Pastor Jim Simpson. (Pictured from l-r) Shepherds: Treva Wheatley, Diane McMillan, Chris Martinez, Beth Huckleberry, Hilda Giles, Diana Gnann, Sally Crawford, Sharon Brewer, Pat Barrentine, LouAnn Potito, Pastor Jim Simpson, Congregational Care Elders Lynn Hayes and Doris Riggs.

of the congregation and its mission in the world. Shepherds in each Flock strive to foster connections for all so that every person belongs, matters, and is cared for, and discovers how they can make their contributions. Throughout the year, we have shared in joys and sorrows, offered help, assistance, and comfort in the good days and in the difficult days by providing meals, transportation, cards, calls, visits, and support. If at any time, you have a concern or a need, please know you may and should contact your Shepherd. Your Shepherd wants to encourage you in your Christian life and in your life as part of our Faith family. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to our faithful shepherds: Pat Barrentine, Sharon Brewer, Sally Crawford,

Hilda Giles, Diana Gnann, Beth Huckleberry, Diane MacMillan, Chris Martinez, LouAnn Potito, Treva Wheatley and Ann Rand (Shepherd to the Shepherds).

Prayers are an important component of Congregational Care. Through use of email and our weekly *Faith Happenings* newsletter, our church family is made aware of each other's needs and wishes for prayers for specific cares and concerns. There is peace in knowing that others are praying with and for you in your time of need and showing God's love to one another. And Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares are a quiet but important ministry of caring offered to those in need. Each shawl and prayer square is started with prayer and prayers are continuous as the items are completed. They are made with love and God is love, so the Lord Himself lives in every thread of every item. The hope is that each recipient will feel the love of God as they wrap or cover themselves with a shawl or carry a prayer square in their pocket. Recipients can be those who need strength through a medical procedure, those in need of comfort after a loss, those in need of peace/patience during an illness/recovery, those celebrating a graduation, a marriage, or the birth of a child. Our prayer squares are included in Visitor bags given to first-time visitors and have also been taken on various mission and other outreach trips, including the Appalachian Trail. We keep a basket of Prayer Squares in the Gathering Room; please take a few to give to those in need of prayer. Our prayer shawls are also available at the church.

We gathered in fellowship and friendship throughout 2019 in many ways:

- Monthly Second Sunday lunches following our worship services and Easter lunch at Harvest on Main
- Twice monthly Men's Breakfasts
- Graduates Recognition Sunday
- Remembrances on Father and Mother's Day
- Shepherds' Recognition/Commissioning
- Crafting tartan angel ornaments for our Scotland travelers, new Chrismon tree ornaments, Faith rocks, gifts for participants of Little Pink Houses of Hope cancer retreat in Blue Ridge, and other craft projects
- Hosting a Burns Night Celebration

- Assisting in our Halfway Home Celebration
- Coffee and Conversation each Sunday before Church
- Participating in the Fannin Cancer Crusaders Relay for Life team organized by a church member
- Watercolor painting classes

We offered an important health-related training class this year:

- CPR/AED Training/Refresher



Faith, Hope, and Hammers replacing sections of fencing for one of our Faith members who received assistance with projects during 2019.

Our Faith, Hope, and Hammers program continues to be an important service for our church family. Volunteers cheerfully undertake small projects that might otherwise go undone--projects intended to improve quality of life--where we can lend a helping hand. This includes such things as minor electrical work/troubleshooting, minor plumbing repairs, computer technology services, church maintenance and painting, landscaping, etc., minor home and deck repairs, small painting jobs, moving the occasional (and relatively small) piece of furniture, hanging pictures. This year we have

transported boxes, small furniture and miscellaneous home furnishings to storage units, assembled various desks/bookcases, trimmed bushes, repaired a split rail fence, removed small trees, cut/delivered and stacked firewood, picked up home improvement supplies from local suppliers, trimmed and cleared brush/shrubs, helped with packing for moves, repaired furniture, provided assistance with computers and printers, helped with a local apartment complex renovation, mowed and maintained our Bluebird Road church property. and provided transportation to various appointments.

It was truly a joy and a blessing to serve our Faith family and community throughout the year.

Mission and Outreach Report 2019

Prepared by Sylvia Goodyear and Candy Frank, Co-Chairs

The Mission and Outreach team focused on the first three of the church priorities for 2019. We increased membership and participation by connecting with and serving those who reside in our community. We participated in the spring and fall Arts in the Park and in Trout Fest with activities for children. We had a float celebrating Christmas in the Light Up Blue Ridge and the McCaysville parades. We gave out pinwheels for the Old Timers parade in Blue Ridge.

Our largest contribution to the community was our leadership in the summer meal program. Twice a week delivery during June and July provided food for at least 4 meals each week for each child served for a total of 12,098 meals! This year it became a collaboration of Faith, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Snack in a Backpack, and Fannin County Family Connections. Temple Baptist joined us for the first time and is becoming part of the steering committee going forward. We continued to receive additional food each week from the Chattanooga food bank. School supplies were also given out to each child. Many new volunteers participated this year, and some have joined Faith since.

We continued as a spiritual community worshipping God by the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure. As part of the mission's budget we gave financial support to Family Connection, Open Arms, Habitat for Humanity, Good Samaritans of Fannin County, Fannin Christian Learning Center, North Georgia Mountain Crisis Center, Honduras Fund, Snack in a Backpack, Sunny D, Toys for Tots, and the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, we had volunteers for Relay for Life, Special Olympics, the food pantry, building a Habitat House, calling Bingo at the assisted living facility, delivering meals for Snack in a Backpack, the Labor Day barbecue, donating pies to the community Thanksgiving dinner, and collecting gifts for Pruitt rehabilitation center and the Crisis Center at Christmas. Our Faith gardeners harvested 162.4 pounds of corn and 341.1 pounds of potatoes which were then given to the food pantry for distribution. New this year was doing gift bags for guests of "Little Pink Houses", a program giving cancer patients a week's vacation. Also, our knitters

made hundreds of warm hats that were given to the children who receive Snack in a Backpack meals each week.

The third priority, equip and encourage all to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to show God's love, grace and care was evidenced by our increased support to our Zambian missionary couple, Melissa and Charles Johnson. We were blessed to have a visit from them, giving us the opportunity to learn more about their work. We also reached out through special offerings which included One Great Hour of Sharing, the Christmas Fund, and the Pentecost offering.

During the year we collected box tops for education with a total value of \$1860 and coke rewards totaling \$146.91 for East Fannin Elementary school, and Ronald McDonald house was given 6.1 pounds of tab/flip tops. Eyeglasses and dental products were collected for the Honduras mission trip, and toiletries and personal care items were donated to the Crisis Center and Family Connection. Faith also hosted 2 Red Cross Blood drives.

The mission and outreach team continue to look for new ways to serve the community and involve our members. It is through serving, Sharing, and caring that we thrive.



Pastor Jim Simpson admires the work of the potter's hand. Christina Hermetz pictured, is one of our very talented members who created the work of art.



Spiritual Development Report 2019

Prepared by Co-chairs: Patty Morris and Janice Glascock

Planning Team Members: Elaine Whitley, Janice Simpson, Tom Barrentine, Patty Morris, Janice Glascock, Kim King, Grace Thomas, Bill Young, Frances Thompson, Chuck Huckleberry, Beth Huckleberry, Jim Simpson, Jamielee Green. New members for 2020: Carl Riggs, Martha Heffner, Bruce Graham, Doris Riggs, Jane Graves

The Spiritual Development Planning Team has worked hard in 2019 to promote and support the priorities of Faith Presbyterian Church set out by our Session.

Priority 1 Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community.

- Again, this year we participated in the Blue Ridge Fire and Ice Festival held in February. A team of volunteers served fried tortillas, plain, spicy, or cinnamon, to compliment the competition chili. We also handed out bookmarks containing our Lenten Calendar, as well as Seamless Summer information. All donations were approved by Session for the garden.
- During the 2019 year, the pastor, our choir director, and Faith members provided four worship services for the residents of Blue Ridge Assisted Living. All that attended enjoyed singing hymns and a lesson from the pastor.

Priority 2 Continue as a spiritual community worshipping God by the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure.

Again, this year *Our Daily Bread*, a daily devotional was provided for members and Friends of Faith.

- The Lenten Season began with an Ash Wednesday service, including the imposition of ashes. Our Lenten theme this year was from ***A Sanctified Art***, members and friends were provided Lenten Devotionals that contained weekly activities around the theme, *Cultivating and Letting Go*. Bill Young added a platform/shelf to our new wooden Celtic cross for displaying our candles and weekly items relating to our theme. For our Palm Sunday service, we ushered in the King of Kings using eco-palms. During Holy Week we held a poignant Maundy Thursday Service

with all women readers posing as “The Other Eleven Disciples” with lighting to capture the solemn mood. The Ecumenical Good Friday Service was held at The Blue Ridge United Methodist Church along with The Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. A joint choir provided glorious music, and liturgists and ministers from the four churches helped to provide the message. This was followed on Easter Sunday with a joyous worship service attended by members, Friends of Faith, and visitors.

**Our worship theme for the 2019 Advent Season, again from *A Sanctified Art, What Can’t Wait*. We began the season as the women of the church continued a tradition of decorating the Chrismon Tree with handmade decorations. Congregational members, friends, and visitors were provided Advent devotionals, *What Can’t Wait*. Our expanding choir, with Guest Conductor Bruce Graham and Music Director Kathy Cardwell, performed the cantata, *And Then There Was Light*, in two performances on December 15 with 224 members, friends, and guests in attendance to enjoy these inspiring performances. On Christmas Eve we joined for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, which was well attended by members, as well as visitors. The Chrismon Tree, carols, poinsettias and candlelight created the atmosphere for worship of our Savior.

- During the 2019 year, the choir has continued to grow in membership. New members who have brought wonderful musical talents have made an amazing transformation to the choir and the opportunity to take on more music. Guest musicians and guest soloists have graced our worship services throughout the year.
- During 2019, we conducted two Wholeness and Healing services to allow the membership to heal from losses and pray for a clear vision of the direction they should travel.
- In 2019 with our pastor spent an extra 10 days in Scotland leading 40 members and friends on a tour. Thus, we were pleased to welcome Michael Gable, recent graduate from Columbia Theological Seminary and well known to Faith PC, to assist in filling pulpit supply. Michael participated in many aspects of our church life, including preaching, pastoral care, and community outreach while he interviewed for his first pastoral

position. Our Session and Congregation also experienced supporting Michael, Shelley and Ellen Kay in the absence of Pastor Jim when their daughter was stillborn. Charles and Melissa Johnson, the missionaries supported by Faith PC, and Joel Alvis, Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk of Cherokee Presbytery, were available to fill in Sundays prior to our Pastor's return.

Priority 3 Equip and encourage all to follow in Jesus's footsteps and to show God's love, grace, and care.

- We continued to have record attendance in our Faith Groups that meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Studies were varied with a duration of four to nine weeks per study.
- This year Spiritual Development continued to offer the popular Evening Study Group led by Janice Simpson. All participants enjoyed the study on Philippians in the Spring and "Excellence – Run with the Horses" a study of Jeremiah in the fall.
- During the Lenten season, we enjoyed six Lunch and Learns starting with the movie *The Theory of Everything* the week before Ash Wednesday. Each Lenten session was well attended and led by Rev. Simpson. He shared clips from the movie around a theme *The Mystery of Everything*. Handouts included guidelines for "A Safe Environment"; questions attendees addressed individually or as table discussions; scripture; and prayers read together or for individual use at home. Each handout was robust in content with plenty of information for further consideration on one's own time. Attendees were asked to sign up to allow accurate purchase of lunches. A donation jar was available to defray costs.
- Children's Church, under the leadership of Patty Morris increased the number of volunteers involved. These volunteers led the children in the Gathering Room using a source of sermons for children that coincide with the biblical passage that Pastor Jim used for the adult sermon of the day.
- Our SLS, Summer Learning Series, was a well-attended successful program led by Rev Simpson, "New Testament Connections" with 4 videos shown from the series "An Introduction to the New Testament with Dr. Margaret Aymer". Each Wednesday lively discussions were held guided by the handout. Bill Young

and Randy Griggs designed 27 wooden books, one for each book of the New Testament. Each book was labeled with its name and current order in the Bible, when it was canonized and when it was estimated to have been written. Lively discussions ensued as members participated in lining the books in order of each of these. Also included in this educational series was a live dialog session with Dr Aymer on the fourth and last Wednesday.

- In 2019, the Women of Faith continued their study on "Women of the Bible", which ended in May. Because of the generous offerings from the Women of Faith, we were able to donate both monetary assistance and volunteer efforts to our local Habitat for Humanity.
- In July, the Women of Faith, our Jewish community friends, and friends from the community enjoyed a delicious luncheon to kick off our 2019/ 2020 Women of Faith study, the book of Esther. What a delightful day!
- These ladies have continued to meet monthly to study the book of Esther and have taken generous offerings to support two missions: Charles and Melissa Johnson, our missionaries in Zambia, and a PC(USA) mission that works to eliminate human trafficking.
- Our Advent Lunch and Learns were held on the three Wednesdays during Advent, with members and friends providing delicious soups, breads, and desserts. Rev. Simpson, using the theme, *What Can't Wait*, again provided handouts full of information to lead the discussion and as follow up on one's own time. Movie Clips from *The Crown* augmented the lively and interesting sessions.

Priority 4 Develop effective church leaders

- This year we expanded the number of head ushers to organize, schedule, and inform weekly ushers in their duties. New members are especially encouraged to become ushers as a way of involving themselves in the church while meeting other members and friends. A training was held early in the year to assist these Head Ushers in their responsibilities.

- This year the list of liturgists increased as Elaine Whitley recruits and organizes the group. Training and reviews were provided early in the year by Rev Simpson.
- Several meetings were held with our Music Director to assist in her understanding of her role as a church leader.

Priority 5 Develop effective communication to include the appropriate use of technology.

- This year Harold Wills was assigned to provide training and oversight of the sound system including the proper use of mics. Liturgists receive training at the mic. Feedback to liturgists is one of the areas Patty and Janice began to provide and wish to expand.

Priority 6 Construct our new church facility

Priority 7 Prepare for the transition to our new church facility

Priority 8 Recognize the challenge of the expense of the new building, while maintaining and developing our ongoing life and witness.

This year Spiritual Development was assigned the following topics to address:

Topic	Status
Wedding Policy	Completed & posted
Funeral Policy	In process
Plans for Memorial Garden (NBC, CC)	TBD
What will ushering look like?	Training scheduled 2/23/202 in the new building
Sunday schedule-what will it look like?	Tabled
More Sunday classes, year round or seasonal? How will this interact with our other SD classes offered?	Tabled
Where choir will rehearse, Wed, Sunday?	Wednesday-classroom Sunday-Sanctuary
Where will discovery class meet? (M&O)	TBD
Where will liturgists sit on Sundays?	Chuck Huckleberry

How will Communion be served?	Chuck Huckleberry
Choir robe storage fixtures? (NBC)	Under discussion w Admin.
What style & size banners will make sense in the new sanctuary?	Tabled Jamelee Green
What size instruments or additional instruments will be needed?	Assigned to Committee: Pastor Jim Simpson, Kathy Cardwell, Carl Riggs, Bruce Burn
Where will ushers sit?	Chuck Huckleberry
How will we recruit & train people to run the sound system?	Carl Riggs, Bill Young
How will instructions for hearing assist system be made available?	Usher Training
At what point will we need to consider an additional Worship Service?	Tabled
What additional entry points into congregational life will we need to provide (e.g. Faith Groups; classes, etc.)?	Faith Group expansion
Will choir process every Sunday or some Sundays?	Every Sunday
What space will be used for nursery or children's church on Sundays?	TBD
How will we staff the parking lot and Porte-cochere on a Sunday? (Admin)	Chuck Huckleberry
Purchase more chairs	On order
Purchase additional Hymnals/Bible	On order



*There are always opportunities to display your **talent**. It just takes a little **time**. Your efforts are always **treasured**.*



What better place for 4 Bluebird houses than on Bluebird Road. Pictured is Joe Silva and his lovely wife Helga. Joe has created many beautiful wooden pieces including over 1000 small wood crosses for members and visitors. Joe and Helga are two of our greatest treasures.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services are held weekly at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor

Dr. Jim Simpson

jim.simpson@tds.net

Musical Director

Kathy Cardwell

kathycmac@gmail.com

Congregational Treasurer

Nancy Goodson

nancygoodson@tds.net

Financial Secretary

Bob Goodyear

rrgoodyear@mindspring.com

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2019 SESSION

Class of 2019: Patty Morris, Sylvia Goodyear,
Doris Riggs

Class of 2020: Bruce Burn, Candy Frank, Frances
Young – Clerk of Session

Class of 2021: Rick Borden, Lynn Hayes, Chris
Martinez

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** has been called by the Session for Sunday, February 2, 2020 following the 10:30 a.m. Service of Worship.

