

FAITH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
USA



November 2018 Ground Breaking...It Begins

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating the ministry of
the congregation in 2018.

56 Mountain Street
Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513
706-374-5912

www.faithpresbyterianusa.org

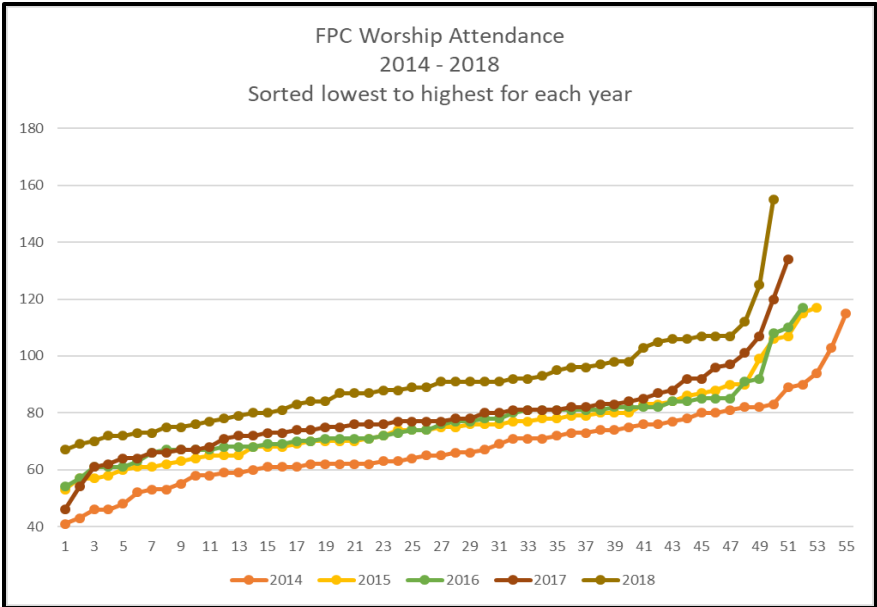
2018: “Let Us Build A House”



Dear Friends:

As you read all the individual reports contained within this Annual Report, as you celebrate the encouragements we have seen in the life of our church, and as you devote yourself to the continuing mission and outreach of Faith Presbyterian Church, I would invite you to reflect upon 2018 as a year in which we continued to listen for and respond to the call of God and respond to that call by moving faithfully forward towards the goal and vision expressed by the phrase, **“Let Us Build A House.”**

This chart shows our weekly worship attendance as recorded by our ushers for each Sunday 2014-2018. 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 increase in worship attendance and participation, year over year. It also confirms the significant increase in such participation that we observed in 2018. Thankfully your Session was alert to this

growth and purchased additional Sanctuary chairs which have been in much use since March 2018.

It is our joy and privilege as a congregation to continue to welcome new people into active participation in the life of Faith Presbyterian Church. The move to build our own, specially designed and larger, church building at Bluebird Road, is but a continuation of what we have already been doing week by week, and year by year. It is our passion to do all we can to invite, welcome, include and involve everyone we can in the shared life of this church. We are all about making room and creating space so that every person can worship God, grow in faith, serve others and thus bear 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.

As we look forward to 2019 and the excitement of seeing our new building arise before our eyes there will be much for all of us to do. The Session remains focused upon building the entire life of the Body even as we anticipate our new facility. 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 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 2019

(as adopted by the Session at the Session Retreat, November 2018):

- Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community.
- Continue as a spiritual community worshipping 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.
- Develop effective communication to include appropriate use of technology.
- Construct our new church facility.
- Prepare for the transition to our new church facility.
- Recognize the challenge of the expense of the new building, while maintaining and developing our ongoing life and witness.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

Prepared by Bob Goodyear, Financial Secretary

In preparation for writing this year's Financial Secretary's Report, I returned to last year's report for a review. Apart from the specific numbers, I would just say "ditto" to my comments last year. Faith continues to be a community that supports the missions of the church with its' financial support as well as its' investment of prayers and personal time. It is a pleasure to be your Financial Secretary and to report the following specifics of 2018:

2018 Stewardship

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

- 62 members/families and friends made pledges totaling \$188,920 to the Stewardship drive.
- By years end, \$186,556 had been received against those pledges – 98.7%.
- Non-pledging members and friends gave another \$25,213
- Special Offerings (Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy) received \$1,378.
- \$2,816.53 worth of supplies and other items were donated.

2018 Building Fund

(to build our new church facility on Bluebird Road)

- 66 members/families and friends have made commitments totaling \$937,237 to be paid over the 2018-2020 period.
- To date, \$576,472 (61.5%) has been received. "Advanced" payments by many supporters will mean a reduced need for borrowing by the church in the early stages of the project and a greatly reduced interest cost.

2019 Stewardship

- 72 members/families and friends have made pledges totaling \$218,960 as of this date.

- We always receive additional pledges during the pledge year as we receive new members. The current pledges are over 20% greater than where we were this time last year.
- Included in the 72 pledging units were 14 who did not pledge in 2018.

Thanks to all our members and friends for their ongoing vote of confidence in and support for the work of Faith Presbyterian Church . . . and the greater potential we have for service to God's people in the future!

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Goodyear



Faith this year is actively engaged with Habitat for Humanity. There is a three bedroom home for a single mom with 2 children currently under construction. We need you!

A new mission project was completed in 2018 when FPC participated in the Halloween Safe Zone in McCayesville. The slightly older kids are Elaine Whitley and Catherine Branch. Fun, Fun, Fun!



FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Prepared by Nancy Goodson, Church Treasurer

INCOME (\$)

Pledged Offerings	185,256
Non-Pledged Offerings	20,335
Memorial – General Fund	85
Loose Offerings	5,948
Worship	745
Restricted Receipts (Including Building Fund)	512,917
Direct Public Support	2,986
Investments	1,301
Other Income	<u>1,034</u>

TOTAL INCOME **730,607**

DISBURSEMENTS (\$)

Personnel (Pastor, Dir. Of Music, Other)	114,424
Spiritual Development expenses	4,643
Mission/Outreach	25,372
Congregational Care	3,820
Facilities/Administrative/Other	49,417
Future for faith (F3) Fund	<u>26,722</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **224,398**

NET INCOME **506,209***

* These funds were contributed in 2018 to the new building and have been transferred to the New Building Fund.

2018 TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Nancy Goodson

In 2018, we continued on a strong financial footing. Our total income (including Building Fund proceeds) was \$730,607, an increase of \$349,516 over 2017. Total expenses were \$224,397. We moved \$26,721 to the Future for Faith (F3) Fund. The difference of \$506,209 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.



Our outreach ministry extends outward to include the Blue Ridge Assisted Living facility four times a year and is always well attended and a rewarding event.

The church garden is always an exciting time in the spring. Picture from l-r are Jim Whitley, Marilyn Westley, John Thompson, Dan Charron and Hervey Jones.



ANNUAL REPORT for 2018

Prepared by Debbie Peterson, Clerk of Session

Membership	January 1, 2018	118
Additions		22
Losses		5
By Transfer to other churches	2	
By inactivity	0	
By Death	3	
Membership as of December 31, 2018		135

Bruce Burn, Candy Frank and Frances Young were installed as elders on January 7, 2018 for the class of 2020.

2018 Ministry Planning Teams and Team Chairpersons

Ministry Planning Team	Chairperson	Elder Class
Administrative Team	Jim Reich	2018
Administrative Team	Bruce Burn	2020
Congregational Care	Doris Riggs	2019
Congregation Care	Ann Rand	2018
Mission and Outreach	Sylvia Goodyear	2019
Mission and Outreach	Candy Frank	2020
Spiritual Development	Frances Young	2020
Spiritual Development	Patty Morris	2019
Clerk of Session	Debbie Peterson	2018

Administrative Ministry Team 2018

Prepared by Jim Reich 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 nine Merry Maid crews during 2018. Thank you to all who contributed especially to Bud and Treva Wheatley who do a sizeable portion of the work.
- **Treasurer/Finance:** The church has a strong financial management team consisting of Nancy Goodson as Treasurer, Bob Goodyear as Financial Secretary, and Brenda Scruggs as check writer to pay the bills. This system not only shares responsibilities among three 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 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.

Stewardship: Our Stewardship team for 2018 was led by Mark McLain. The *"Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Legacy"* theme was presented with good results based on increased membership and giving. It was again a great success thanks to the generosity of our congregations and friends of Faith. As we begin to build a new church building in 2019, it was important that funding continue for our ongoing missions of the church

in the community and our regular operating cost. We were blessed in that our members and friends continue to accept the challenge to provide for both our ongoing operating cost and providing more than anticipated funds for our new church building. What was accomplished and the commitment from our faithful and generous members has allowed Faith to do what it does best: ***Doing God's work in the community.***

- **Church Office Support:** Our church office staffing was coordinated by Janice Cary. We had an excellent and regular group of volunteers who worked in the office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **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 have to 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 recommendations made to the Session.
- **Activities:** Rivers Alive, Trout Festival, Founders Day Celebration(float and parking lot party)
- **New Building:** 2018 was a milestone for the New Building Committee. The design drawings for the church building were completed. The congregation approved the church obtaining a mortgage for the building cost not covered by the pledged giving. A mortgage from the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program (PILP) was approved by Cherokee Presbytery and closed in December. A new

contractor was selected who can build the facility within our budget. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in November, and construction is now underway.

To all who served on the Administrative Planning Team and for all the time and talents on this team, we thank you. Let's continue to do God's work and see where God leads our church in Fannin County.



FPC member Doug Morris is deeply committed to preserving the pristine environment we call home. Doug is pictured in a local stream pulling trash out for collection.

The Admin. Planning Team annually recruits and supervises our volunteers in the fall for a river and stream clean-up. Tons of trash are collected during the one day event. Just one of the projects you can be involved in.

Administration is in charge of all church maintenance, repairs or addition of technology to our physical plant. Installer is shown adding a higher speed internet service to the pastor's office. It will also service the wi-fi for the entire church. Progress is a wonderful thing.



Congregational Care Report 2018

Core Tasks: Caring and Connecting

Prepared by Doris Riggs and Ann Rand, Co-Chairs

*2018 Team Members: Judy Evans, Candy Frank, Lynn Hayes, Hilda Giles,
Diana Gnann, Jamielee Green, Connie Griggs, Beth Huckleberry, Kim King,
Barbara Schmus and 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 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: Sally Crawford, Candy Frank, Hilda Giles, Lynn Hayes, Beth Huckleberry, Maggie March, Chris Martinez, LouAnn Potito, and Ann Rand (Shepherd to the Shepherds).

Prayers are an important component of Congregational Care. Through the 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/Prayer Squares is 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 2018 in many ways:

- Monthly Second Sunday lunches following our worship services and Easter lunch at Harvest on Main
- Numerous special receptions including a dinner to discuss our 2019 trip to Scotland, a cookout for a visiting youth Agape choir from South Carolina, hosting Fannin High School's Future Farmers of America dinner meeting, dinner for mission volunteers from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
- Group outings to the Blue Ridge Community Theater
- Twice monthly Men's Breakfasts
- Graduates Recognition Sunday
- Re-creation Outdoor Ministry on the Appalachian Trail
- Remembrances on Father and Mother's Day
- Groundbreaking ceremony at Bluebird Dr. property followed by lunch at the church
- Shepherds' Recognition/Commissioning
- Crafting tartan angel ornaments for Advent

We enjoyed offering important health-related and other seminars this year:

- Our first annual Summer Learning Series each Wednesday in August, "Getting My Ducks in a Row Before I Go ..."
- CPR/AED Training/Refresher

Our Faith, Hope and Hammers program continues to be a very worthwhile service for our church family, based on ability and skill sets available. 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 and stacked firewood, picked up home improvement supplies from local suppliers, coordinated driveway grading/repair with a local contractor, trimmed and cleared brush/shrubs, helped with packing for moves, and provided transportation to various places.

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



Commissioning of Faith Shepherds in February for 2018.

l-r: Treva Wheatley, Chris Martinez, Sally Crawford, Hilda Giles, Lynn Hayes, Maggie March, Beth Huckleberry, LouAnn Potito, and Ann Rand.



Summer Learning Series – August 2018.

The series titled “Getting My Ducks in a Row Before I Go . . .” experienced a fantastic attendance by the Blue Ridge community as well as the Faith congregation.

Mission And Outreach 2018

Sylvia Goodyear and Candy Frank, Co-Chairs

As we reflect on the year, it is indeed a blessing to see the continued growth of our congregation. Faith has welcomed 22 new members and 6 affiliate members in 2018. The 2018 goal that applies directly to Mission and Outreach is “increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community”. All of us are part of this outreach for Faith. Members and guests have invited friends and neighbors. We have been visible and welcoming as volunteers through our many community missions. The warm welcome extended by our congregation to new faces is often mentioned by new members in the discovery class.

In 2018 we included a member of the Capital Campaign Committee to sit in the Discovery classes. This gives new members and the CCC initial contact if they have any questions regarding our new building and the financial obligation we have committed. This is part of the preparing for transition to our new facility.

We thank all of you for sharing of your time as volunteers for our Mission and Outreach events:

- Food Bank Helpers on Thursdays
- Souper Bowl Sunday in February for food bank
- Snack-in-a-backpack deliveries during the school year
- Two Art Festivals: one with donations going to Snack-In-A-Backpack, the other, Habitat for Humanity
- Fire and Ice Festival booth organized by the Spiritual Development Team
- Bowls of Hope
- TroutFest for support of Rivers Alive
- July 4th Founders' Day Parade organized by the Admin Team
- Faith Garden for the food bank
- Bright from the Start Summer Meal Program
- Knit-Wits Children's caps and prayer squares
- Habitat Home Building
- Kiwanis Community Fairs
- Special Olympic Volunteers

- Good Samaritan's Labor Day BBQ and Community Thanksgiving Volunteers
- Two Red Cross Blood Drives
- Rivers Alive river clean-up
- Halloween festivities in two locations
- Thanksgiving Meal Baskets for two East Fannin Elementary families
- Light Up Blue Ridge Christmas Parade
- Jackets and Christmas stockings for the children living in the trailer parks.

In 2018 we added the McCaysville/Copperhill Trick-or-Treat where we “treated” approximately 500 children. We also planned to participate in the parade which was eventually cancelled due to weather. We also participated in a Kids Fun Day hosted by a local high school student and Family Connection. As we grow as a congregation, so must our outreach.

We encourage all to spend time participating in events. Any place we can “share our time” is an opportunity for outreach: to share Jesus’ love to the unchurched or to invite someone looking for a church home.

We thank all of you for sharing of your treasures:

- Souper Bowl Sunday Canned goods or money for the Food Bank
- Mother’s Day and Christmas gifts for the children at the Crisis Center to give to their mothers
- Yarn for knitters
- Clothing for East Fannin students
- Halloween treats
- Christmas gifts for Pruitt Nursing home for less fortunate patients
- Toys for Tots
- Ongoing collections of Box Tops for Education, aluminum pull tabs, Coke rewards caps, eye glasses and sunglasses, travel size toiletries. In 2018, 13.46 pounds of flip tops were collected. Coke rewards yielded \$198.15, and box tops for education totaled \$470. These were donated to East Fannin Elementary school.

Financially, as a congregation, we gave support to:

Charles and Melissa Johnson who serve as missionaries in Zambia, Fannin Family Connection, Snack-In-A-Backpack, Open Arms, N GA Mountain Crisis Center, Sunny D Children's Theatre, Habitat for Humanity, Fannin Christian Learning Center, Toys for Tots, Thornwell Home for Children, Honduras Missionaries, Mineral Springs Center, and Presbytery Unified Budget. Our special offerings through the year include: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering.

All of the Mission and Outreach events and collections are announced through the newsletter, bulletin and sign-up sheets located in the Gathering area.



Children enjoying a hot meal served by Faith PC volunteers at Mineral Springs Apartments during the Summer Meal Program. Serving hot meals to the children of Fannin County has been a summer mission project for FPC for the past 6 years and is planned again in 2019 for a seventh year.



Super Bowl of Caring is an annual mission project for FPC. Non-perishable food and even better funds are collected to support the Family Connection Food Bank of Fannin County.

Spiritual Development Report 2018

Prepared by Frances Young and Patty Morris, Co-Chairs

Planning Team Members: Elaine Whitley, Janice Simpson, Tom Barrentine, Patty Morris, Bill Young, Jamielee Green, Beth Huckleberry, Chuck Huckleberry, Grace Thomas, Jim Simpson, Frances Young

The Spiritual Development Planning Team has worked throughout 2018 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 information about our Summer Meals Program. All donations were given to the Bright from the Start Summer Meal Program.
- During the 2018 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.
- In April the Jewish Congregation hosted members of our congregation for their Seder. We were honored to join our Jewish friends in this traditional meal/celebration. They invited us to join in the discussions/readings/singing and we all enjoyed looking back to the Jewish history we have in common.
- In November, following the tragic shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our congregation gathered with the Jewish Congregation in a Memorial and Remembrance Service. Words of sorrow and encouragement, prayers, and liturgy were shared.

Priority 2 Be a viable, spiritual place of worship 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.

- Our Lenten theme this year was *God Is in the Midst*. The worship season began with an Ash Wednesday service, including the imposition of ashes, where we were reminded that “You are dust and to dust you shall return, but the Word of the Lord stands forever.” Lenten devotionals were provided for all members, Friends of Faith, and visitors. For our Palm Sunday service, we ushered in the King of Kings using Eco-palms. During Holy Week we held a meaningful Maundy Thursday Service, as we remembered our Lord’s last supper. Then on Good Friday we hosted an Ecumenical Good Friday Service that included the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Blue Ridge United Methodist Church, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, and Faith Presbyterian 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 celebrating the resurrection of our Savior, attended by members, Friends of Faith, and visitors.
- Our worship theme for the 2018 Advent Season was *DRAW NEAR*. We began the season as the women of the church continued a tradition of decorating the Chrismon Tree with handmade Chrismon ornaments. We were encouraged to draw near to God using a daily Advent devotional, *Draw Near*. Our growing choir, under the leadership of Kathy Cardwell, performed the cantata, *The Glory of Christmas*, in two performances on December 16 with over 200 members, friends, and guests in attendance enjoying these inspiring performances. On Christmas Eve we joined together in song, praise, and message for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service to celebrate the joyous birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was well attended by members, as well as visitors. The Chrismon Tree and candlelight created the real meaning of Christmas, the Light of Jesus Christ in our world.
- During the 2018 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. Choir soloists, as well as the men’s ensemble and the women’s ensemble, have brought the message of Christ to us in song. Guest musicians and guest soloists have graced our worship services throughout the year.

- During 2018, 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.

Priority 3 Equip members 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 met on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, as well as our Thursday Evening Study Group. Studies were varied with a duration of four to nine weeks per study.
- During the 2018 Lenten season, we enjoyed six Lunch and Learns, where the attendees enjoyed a catered lunch and a lesson with conversation led by Rev. Simpson. We began this study, *God Is in the Midst*, with a British lunch followed by the movie, *The King's Speech*. Then each Wednesday of Lent, Reverend Simpson showed a short portion from the movie that was followed by scripture and conversation about finding our voices as Christians. Each lesson was well attended.
- Children's Church continued under the leadership of Frances Young, who recruited volunteers for each week. 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.
- In August we hosted the Summer Learning Series, *Getting Your Ducks In a Row Before You Go*, with delicious snacks and desserts.
- In 2018 the Women of Faith continued their study, *What She Said, Quotable Women in Scripture*, which ended in May. Because of the generous offerings from the Women of Faith, they were able to donate \$2,382 to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to go toward our Zambian missionaries, Charles and Melissa Johnson. The money will be used to provide hot running water in their birthing hospital, as well as various other needed items. In July the Women of Faith, our Jewish Congregation friends, and friends from the community enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon to kick off our 2018/2019 Women of Faith study, *Twelve Women of the Bible*. The ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch, good fellowship, and a short skit performed to encourage everyone to attend our next study. What a delightful day! These ladies have continued to meet monthly to study women from the Old and New

Testament. It was decided that this year, our offering will go to Habitat for Humanity Fannin/Gilmer Counties to help with the house that they are building in McCaysville.

- In December the Women of Faith provided a hamburger cook-out for the workers at the Habitat House in McCaysville. During the work day, the workers enjoyed fruit, donuts, snacks, drinks, and a lunch that included hamburgers, cheese burgers, chips, and homemade desserts. Everyone enjoyed being a part of building a beautiful, safe home for a deserving mother and her children.
- Our 2018 Advent Lunch and Learns were held on each Wednesday during Advent, with members and friends providing delicious soups, breads, and desserts. We continued our Advent theme of DRAW NEAR with lessons that included art from Sanctified Art, scripture, and lively conversations and discussions led by Pastor Simpson.

Priority 4 Ensure the development of effective leadership skills.

- This year we again secured 6 Head Ushers to organize, schedule, and inform weekly ushers in their duties. Training was held in January to assist these Head Ushers in their responsibilities.



2018 Cantata Choir, Musicians and Readers directed by Faith Music Director Cathy Cardwell performed *“The Glory of Christmas”* to record attendance worshipers.

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

2018 SESSION

Class of 2018: Debbie Peterson – Clerk of Session,
Jim Reich, Ann Rand

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

Class of 2020: Bruce Burn, Candy Frank, Frances
Young

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** has been called by the Session for Sunday, February 3, 2019 following the 10:30 a.m. Service of Worship.

