

THE VOICE

Yearbook Edition - 2018 at Falkner Swamp UCC

(A year in the life of our church through pictures and words)

January—Crockpot Cook-Off



February—Community Breakfast



March—peanut butter eggs



April—passing out HUGS bags



May—Youth Sunday



June—new members



July—our Men's Chorus



August—our choir



September—new members



October—Anniversary Sunday
Conference Minister. Rev. Bill Worley



November—Confirmation Sunday



December—Youth Drama



From Rev. Frances



Dear Falkner Swamp Community,

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

-Philippians 3:13-14

The above scripture was read for my service of Installation, November 18. What a joy that service was! In June I accepted the call to become Falkner Swamp's settled Pastor. What a journey we have been on together since I came on, half-time, in 2015.

During the Installation service, my close friend and ministry colleague Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, read the Philippians passage, then encouraged us. What is past, let us leave in the past. Instead, let us focus forward. Together, we press on for what God has in store for us, and it can be glorious.

As I reflect on 2018 I see where we live into God's forward-facing future:

- In Worship, as we gather in hope and with joy to give God thanks and praise;
- To nurture our children -- welcoming them in the sanctuary, opening them to service in the church and community, teaching them a living faith;
- To care for the lonely and hurting, and offering prayer, a visit, a card, a special treat;
- To be willing to try new things – in worship, with events, in music
- And of course, continuing in all the ways that help this church community thrive: greeting, sharing, praying, playing, feeding, giving, cleaning, repairing, listening, offering, teaching, learning and loving.

A 300th Anniversary Committee has begun forming to plan celebrations beginning in 2020. That is "celebrations" with an "s". If you've been around 300 years, that's worthy of more than one! The tagline is:
Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Embrace the Future.

I connect Paul's words to the Philippians to our time of celebration: Our "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" connects us to what came before, roots us in the current moment, and launches us into a future. Paul's words are a push toward growth and maturity.

My focus will be to remind us to "press on." Where there are willing spirits open to God's movement to renew minds and change hearts, there will be the church.

Blessings for 2019 and beyond,
Rev. Frances

2018 Report for Consistory

Ch-ch-ch changes...that's what Consistory is about as the year 2018 comes to an end. First, some of us are staying on, although in a different capacity. I, for one, will be stepping down as president of Consistory. Brenda Semach, Russ Miller, Lee Heffner, Vicki Fronheiser, Barb Geary and Robin Zerr are all staying on. We are being joined by Jane Harvey, Wayne Gruver, Rob Krause, and Lee Comer. My sincere thanks to all the members, new and old, for their service to our church.

One of the most outstanding items in our spring calendar this year was Brenda Semach's starting her "Reaching New People" campaign. This was underlined by making and distributing the "Hugs" bags which we all can see around the church, and which have been contributed to a number of local individuals and organizations. This is a hard job, one that has to be worked on continuously so that we can keep getting out the name of Falkner Swamp to our community. Thank you so much, Brenda! Along those lines, we had our first Community Breakfast on Feb. 3. As always, it was a huge success! Thanks again to Robin Zerr, who continues to share with us her talents in the kitchen, not only in preparing the food, but even more so in organizing her team of volunteers. That team does a tremendous job!

I also would like to once again thank Rev. Mary Etta Mest for all the visitations and outreach she does for Falkner Swamp. Even though she now has her own church calling, she continues to be our "Visiting Angel. Thank You, Mary Etta!"

Spring and summer saw the Property Committee continuing to upgrade and maintain the church both inside and out. The steps at the end of the Christian Ed building were re-covered. The other big thing as far as property is concerned was the installation of air-conditioning in the fellowship room, thanks to the constant attention of Robin Zerr, the head of the kitchen committee. Thank You Robin!

September saw us back in the swing of things, preparing for the budget committee meeting in late September. Once again, our treasurer, Vivian Wentzel, had everything prepared so that even those of us with little or no accounting experience could understand what was happening with "the books." She is another HUGE blessing for our church! Thanks to her and her ability to see potential problems well in advance, our budget stayed well within what we thought it should be. She is doing a tremendous job for us!

And now 2018 is over. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the angels in our midst. Vivian Wentzel. Thanks to Vivian's great treasury management, and the Congregation's generosity, we are in good shape financially this year. This is the third year in a row that we have not had to take any money out of our endowment; a WONDERFUL thing!

More angels:

Robin Zerr, who feeds us, serves on Consistory, and heads the property committee. Lee and Becky Comer, who do so much of the "behind the scenes" work. Bob and Mary Ann Erb. Jim Kooser. Ron and Brenda Becker. These are people who, when you call them and ask for help, help with ANYTHING, they respond with "Where and at what time can I help?" Ken and Fran Berkowitz. Arlene Umstead, a real musician and a true lover of our church. Brenda Semach, the "sounding board" for all of us. All the guys in the Men's Choir. All the folks in the regular choir. The acolytes. The bell

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ringers. The lay leaders. The Sunday school teachers. Everyone who has ever told a person outside our church family "You ought to think about visiting our church." You're all angels!

And, of course, our wonderful spiritual leader, Reverend Frances. There are no words to express our gratitude that she continues to lead our "flock." The calming knowledge that she will be in the pulpit on Sunday. That she can lend us an ear when we're "jammed up" with doubts or lack of direction. That she will always be there to pray with us individually. That she sets an example every day of someone who knows what we ask her to do, and then does A WHOLE LOT MORE! Without her, we're just a club. With her, we have a reason to come together, to show our love for God, and to be kind to each other.

The list of angels is endless! And growing! And as we continue to reach out into the community it will get longer and longer! Turns out the Man from Galilee was right all along when he said, "I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me." As we do more to make the lives of others better, we will make ours better also. And there will be more and more of us! Welcome to all the new people who are attending our church! You have a sanctuary here at Falkner Swamp.

Blessing to you all!

-Bob Schnaars, Consistory President pro tem

Members: Brenda Semach, Vice-President, Vicki Fronheiser, Secretary, Lee Heffner, Russ Miller, Barb Geary, Robin Zerr, Jane Harvey, Lee Comer, Rob Krause, and Wayne Gruver



The Reaching New People Taskforce continues to spread love in the community by passing out "HUGS" bags and participating in community events. We sponsored a table at the Coming Out of Hibernation event in April and at the Philadelphia Avenue Street Fair in June, we attended Freed's Trunk or Treat in October and caroled in December. If you have any ideas for events or activities we should be involved in, please share with a member of the committee.

Brenda Semach, Chair, Brenda Becker, Stacey Brennan, Becky Comer, Bob Schnaars, Sharon Schnaars

Cemetery Committee Report

2018 was a quiet year for the Cemetery Committee. We had one workday, Saturday, March 17th. Originally scheduled to begin at 8:30 am, we moved our 'day' back to 11 am to 1:30 pm due to the wet ground. Robin Zerr very graciously provided the work crew with lunch. "Thank you, Robin, delicious as always."

A second workday was scheduled simultaneously with a church workday for November 10th. Those plans did not come to fruition because the Men's Choir was asked to sing at the PSEC Fall meeting at Church of the Good Shepherd in Boyertown. Work that had been originally scheduled for that time was completed at a later date by Ed Thierolf and Bob Erb. Bob Erb purchased a front-end loader scoop of top soil from Hetricks Landscaping, and Ed and Bob filled in sunken grave sites and leveled the ground around the site of Dot Miller's plot. Because of all the rain throughout the summer and fall, when Dot's grave site was being prepared, very deep ruts were left in the surrounding soil by the heavy equipment. The ruts were fill in by Pottstown Burial Vault, but the depth of the fill was not very deep, and the ground sank again with the continued rain. After refilling the ground, Bob and Ed raked it smooth and planted grass seed. The cemetery's snow fence was also installed at that time in the event of a winter burial where snow would cover the ground and driveway.

There were two internments during 2018. Dorothy Miller died August 18th and Leon Borneman died October 9th.

Bob Erb would like to thank the many church members who helped with the mowing and trimming of the upper cemetery this season. Due to his shoulder condition, he found it impossible to do the trimming. Rob Erb, Jr. ably mowed and trimmed the lower cemetery and church property, a thank you to Rob for a job well done.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Erb, Secretary/Treasurer/Lot Manager

Cemetery Committee:

Bob Schnaars, President and Trustee

Sue Dickey, Trustee

Bob Erb, Sr., Lot Manager

Mary Ann Erb, Secretary/Treasurer, Lot Manager

Ed Harvey, Trustee

Rob Erb, Jr., Lot Manager

Sharon Schnaars, Trustee

Christian Education Report

Happy New Year!

As we enter into the new year and pause to reflect on the year past, I would like to take a moment to thank our entire congregation for being constant supporters of all of our youth programs. I cannot think of a more joyous purpose than that of sharing the comfort and wonder that I find in my faith, with those that will bring us into the future.

2018 was a year filled with new traditions, and new programs. We started Mission Church, which is Falkner Swamp's hands-on version of "Kids Church." The second and fourth Sundays of every month (during the school year) all youth are invited downstairs to the Mission Church room to work on an outreach project to send into the community. Mission Church is our chance to take Matthew 25:31-40 to heart, and to be a light to the world in a tangible way.

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Another new addition in 2018, was "The Points of Church," created and executed by Susan Mercer, which gives the kids (or adults if they choose) the opportunity to follow along during worship on a worship note-sheet, and earn points for participation. For the first 3 months, the kids earned 350 points! The goal is to surpass this number in the next 3 months.

In 2018 we joyously started new traditions. We hosted our first annual Taste of Falkner Swamp Crockpot Cook-off, Spring Movie Night, "Ice Cream for Lunch" at Suloman's, Harvest Night, and Karaoke Night. All these events were great opportunities to bring our youth and families, the entire congregation, and friends and neighbors together in fellowship. We also held a successful "lottery ticket" fundraiser, created and executed by Barbara McDonough, to help with the financial aspects associated with our program.

During the year the kids also become stronger in their faith in service, as active members through Worship. They earnestly participated in Youth Sunday, the third Sunday of every month, and continue to serve as acolytes, presenting skits and plays, and for the second year providing an entire worship service in May.

In November we gleefully welcomed our four new Confirmands into our Congregation, as we wrapped up confirmation. We are all excited to see in what direction the faith of these four young people takes them.

Last, but definitely not least, 2018 brought with it a new structure to our Sunday School program, with an excellently written 3 year rotation, created by Susan Mercer. Without the dedication and persistence of our Sunday School teachers, Susan Mercer and Barbara McDonough, this program would not be possible.

As we move into the new year I am excited and hopeful for another year of fun, silliness, exciting programs, and events, that will inspire our young people to take the love of Christ with them out into the world!

Many Blessings in 2019!

Laura Brown and the Christian Education Committee- Matt Brown, Becky Comer, Kim Erb, Barb McDonough, Susan Mercer, and Luke Schwenk

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
-Matthew 19:14*



Community Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who came out to help serve our breakfasts in 2018. We had a great time and it is a wonderful way to serve others. Our numbers for 2018:

Feb ~ 32 helpers + 76 guests =	108 served
March ~ 23 helpers + 86 guests =	109 served
April ~ 25 helpers + 80 guests =	105 served
May ~ 23 helpers + 83 guests =	<u>106 served</u>
	428 total served

2018 Kitchen Report

PND Meals went really well this year. We made \$1751 in the 6 months we held meals. The committee donated \$300 to The Mustard Seed Malawi and we plan to team up with another organization so we can provide a meal for the homeless population in the community. With the help from the donations for the last couple of years, we were able to install an air conditioner and heating unit in Fellowship Hall without using any other finances from the church.

PND Meals from mid 2014—2018	\$7757.30
Peanut Butter Eggs	\$4007.00
Robin's birthday donations	\$1200.00
Breakfast donations	<u>\$1318.72</u>
	\$14,283.02
Air conditioner/heat cost	\$10,167.40



Kitchen Committee: Robin Zerr, Chair, Brenda Becker, Doris Moser, Joyce Rothenberger, Kim Shaak, Penny Zerr

Please join us for the **Fastnacht Social !**

Friday, March 1st at 7 ^{PM}

We're planning some old favorites (The Bickersons—played by Lee & Becky Comer) with a few surprises (a brother and sister-in-law). I wonder who that will be?

I'm sure we'll have the Men's Chorus for a few musical numbers. Remember the Ugly Ladies?



And possibly another play? Will this one be a musical? Or perhaps a Soap Opera? Maybe even a drama with lots of intrigue.

You'll never know if you don't show ...

Perhaps you'd enjoy being in on some of the fun. That can certainly be arranged! Please let Mary Ann Erb know of your acting, directing, and producing talents desires.



We are again collecting cans of soup for "Souper Sunday." The boxes will be in the vestibule from Jan. 27—Feb. 10. Please bring cans of soup and put in the box of your choice based on who you will be cheering for during the Super Bowl on Feb. 3rd. The cans will be taken to Boyertown Area Multi-Service.

Music and Worship Report for 2018

Music and Worship met ten times in 2018: January 8 (cancelled due to weather), February 5, March 5, April 9, May 7, June 11, August 6, September 10, October 1, November 5 and December 3.

Highlights of 2018 are as follows:

- Lenten and Easter Services included Ash Wednesday (with a light supper before worship), Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Prayer Vigil, Good Friday and a 7:00 Sunrise Service on Easter followed by a potluck breakfast, as well as the traditional 10:00 Easter Service.
- On June 24th we had our annual Church Picnic at Falkner Swamp. Mr. Peter Detterline was our Guest Preacher.
- On August 5th we said goodbye to Erin Ahart as our Choir Director as she headed off to college at Penn State. We welcomed our new Choir Director, Sally Fetterman, on August 22nd at her first choir practice.
- On August 26th we had the School Start Blessing.
- On September 16th we welcomed new members Deb and Wayne Gruver and Rev. Frances Chester. We also gave a Blessing to Patrick Brennan before he went off to Army Basic Training.
- On Anniversary Sunday, October 15th, Rev. William Worley was our guest preacher.
- On November 4th, All Saints Sunday, we remembered our Saints (members Leon Borneman and Ernest Reigner as well as many others) with the lighting of candles.
- On November 18th Rev. Frances Chester was installed as our Called Pastor. Many area pastors attended along with congregation members and friends. Welcome Rev. Frances.
- On November 21st we had a Thanksgiving Eve Service with a light meal before worship.
- On November 25th Isaiah Baez, Maggie Brennan, Grace Erb and Corrie Shaak were confirmed, followed by a luncheon hosted by our Sunday School students and teachers.
- Dec. 9th was the Hanging of Greens Service with children, youth and adult involvement.
- Christmas Eve Services included a 3:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service with a musical play "Refuge" and the traditional 7:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.
- We enjoyed several guest and lay preachers, including Peter Detterline (Licensed Minister), Beth Eustis (Seminary Student), Kim Adamson (Seminary Student), Rev. Darryl Cruz (pulpit swap), Rev. William Worley (Conference Minister). We also enjoyed several dramas as part of worship.
- Pastor Chester officiated two baptisms: Liam & Rhys Curran (parents Patrick & Heather Curran)
- Every third Sunday (except summer) was Youth Sunday with the youth as Worship Helpers and a Joyful Noise Offering. May 20th (Pentecost Sunday) was a special Youth Sunday when the youth lead worship.
- We also enjoyed guest organist Tim Keebler.
- We had wonderful music provided by our choir, the Men's Choir, individual members, our Sunday School children, our youth musicians and an inaugural Women's Choir. Thanks to all of you.
- Worship Coordinators Fran Berkowitz, Sharon Schnaars and Becky Comer met after the Music and Worship Committee meetings in April, August, and December to coordinate the Schedule of Worship Helpers.
- As I hand off the leadership of the Music and Worship Committee to Bob Schnaars, I would like to thank Rev. Frances for her wonderful leadership and also Bob Schnaars, Consistory President, for attending our meetings.



Members: Rev. Frances Chester, Arlene Butts, Sharon Schnaars, Fran Berkowitz, Erin Ahart, Sally Fetterman, Brenda Becker, Jim Kooser and Becky Comer, Bob Schnaars, Consistory President

We look forward to a wonderful 2019.

Becky O. Comer, Chairperson

Parish Relations Committee

Colossians 3:12

Paul tells them the key to remain unified is to show compassion and forgiveness toward one another.

12 Since you are all set apart by God, made holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a holy way of life: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

The committee is designed to be a safe and confidential place to share any frustrations and struggles, also your joys and ideas. Please talk to anyone on the committee. They can listen and help with a direction for you. We are all here to do God's work in this world together.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Semach, Chair

2018 Members: Rev. Frances, Bob Erb, Jane Harvey, Lee Comer and Bob Schnaars

2018 Choir Notes



2018 was a terrific year of growth for the choir. A men's choir was started and now features 7 members. Known affectionately as "The Smoke Detectors" (That annoying noise that may save your life! We can clear a room faster than any other sound known to man!), it has been a lot of fun. and we have sung several moving anthems for the congregation.

The women have also been busy, now supporting 3 sopranos and 3 altos. The choir overall has never been so big.

Starting this February and continuing through the end of March we will be without our choir director, Sally Fetterman. She has numerous commitments at her school, and is in the midst of the all-important junior year. She is playing in the orchestra, the jazz band and singing in the choir, AND starring in "Guys and Dolls," the spring play at BASH. AND trying to get her best possible grades!! We wish her all the luck in the world, and look forward to her return in April.

In the meantime, the choir will continue on. The plan is for us to offer an anthem every 2 weeks starting Feb 10, plus a Benediction and / or an Introit, depending on the needs of the service. We will do our best.

-Bob Schnaars

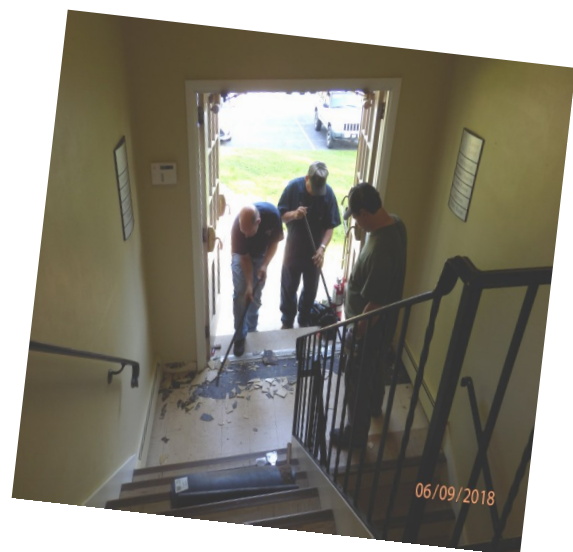
Temporary Choir Director

Property Committee Report for 2018

Our committee works very hard to keep up with the needs of the church and parsonage. We appreciate the help the congregation gives us. Many hands do make light work. Here are some of our accomplishments from 2018.

- ♦ The piano in Fellowship Hall was given to a good home and we put a newer one in its place
- ♦ Cut down a couple trees by the Christian Ed wing
- ♦ Hallways and steps on both levels were stripped and waxed
- ♦ Bell tower rope was repaired
- ♦ Refrigerator in the kitchen was fixed
- ♦ Big tree branch at the parsonage broke and was removed
- ♦ Cemetery by the firehouse was mowed by Bobby Marriott
- ♦ Dehumidifier in the lower level was repaired
- ♦ Installed new blinds in the Pastor's office
- ♦ Toilets in the ladies' room were replaced
- ♦ Hung fire extinguishers and first aid kits
- ♦ Numerous repairs at the parsonage
- ♦ Steps in the Christian Ed hallway were resurfaced with new tread
- ♦ Air conditioner/heating unit installed in Fellowship Hall
- ♦ New carpet in hallway by office

The 2018 Property Committee members: Ron Becker, Bob Erb, Rob Krause, Lee Heffner, Sharon Schnaars, and Robin Zerr, chairperson



Visitation

Rev. Mary Etta Mest provides visits with communion to
Falkner Swamp homebound and hospitalized persons.

In 2018 she made 101 visits, 12 long phone calls and
mailed 20 "Our Daily Bread" devotionals to members and friends of the church.

~ Barb Geary, Chairperson
&
Rev. Mary Etta Mest, Visitation Pastor

Pastor of Visitation with Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ

It continues to be a privilege to serve in this capacity with Falkner. Bringing a listening ear and holy communion to persons who cannot be present in church is a delight. Because now I have been called to Zion UCC in Womelsdorf and as Pastor Frances assumes more of the visiting, I may not have the honor of seeing you as much as once I did. Know that I am eternally grateful for Falkner being my "home church" even though my membership moves around like a grasshopper on a spring day. May God continue to bless each of you and the congregation!



Women's Ministries



This year the women tried some new ideas for their meetings. In February, Valentine bags of goodies were distributed to our members who are not able to attend church. In March, 10 Easter baskets were filled with candy, books and school supplies for children at Multi-Service. Becky Schlegel, a former member, came to a meeting and showed us how to use pages from our old hymnals to make crafts. We then used those ideas at Ladies' Night in May. In August, a group went to see the show "Jesus" at Sight & Sound. Instead of having a picnic, we decided to have lunch at Vincenzo's in Amityville in September. It was brought to our attention that the cleaning crews needed help getting some extra jobs done around the church. In October, our group wiped the windowsills and polished the woodwork in the sanctuary. We also decided to contribute \$300 to help purchase a new toilet for the women's restroom. We collected ten boxes of canned goods to give to Multi-Service at Thanksgiving.

December was a busy month for our group. We treated ourselves to a breakfast at Sunflower Café. A good meal and fellowship was had by all. One of our church friends purchased calendars for our members and others. Trays of cookies were also given to those members unable to get to church. Rev. Mest also helped hand out the calendars and cookies.

If anyone is interested in getting a hymnbook angel, please let us know. We can complete more if necessary.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped support our projects.

Arlene Umstead, Chair & Treasurer, Barb Geary, Secretary, Doris Moser, Planning Director, Susan Mercer, Olga Rees, Shirley Royer, Eleanor Specht, Carol Stevens, Ellen Whitfield



LIVING MEMORIAL FUND - 2018

Beginning Memorial Savings Balance 1/1/2018 = \$847.02

Interest Earned 2018 + .08

Memorial Fund Income 2018 + \$335.00

Withdrawals (Donations given to church) - \$0.00

Balance as of 12/31/2018 = \$1182.10

****Respectfully Submitted: Sharon K Schnaars**



Boyertown Area Multi-Service (Food Pantry) – 2018

In 2018, the food pantry at Boyertown Area Multi-Service distributed 80 Easter dinners, 126 Thanksgiving dinners, and 106 Christmas meals to families in the community. They served an average of 238 individuals in approximately 98 households per month. The total weight of food donations was 96,882.40 pounds! An average of 8,074 pounds per month! Falkner Swamp contributed 1,060 pounds to that total in 2018! This includes holiday donations and the can collection at Freed's. The community food pantry was blessed with over 900 volunteer hours. In 2018, Olivia Merry, the Food Pantry Coordinator, held special monthly collections and distributed supplies for cleaning, baking and BBQs.

Multi-Service will again distribute flyers with information about our Community Breakfasts with their clients' food orders.

Multi-Service is very appreciative of the ongoing support of this congregation.

Thank you to Ed & Jane Harvey for delivering our donations monthly and to all that contribute to this important ministry.



The Dogs of Falkner Swamp are more than just two of our church members who enjoy performing. Bob Erb and Bob Schnaars have performed together for almost 15 years, while various others have performed with them as part of the group (as with Glenn Moser and Emily Joy [Lady and the Tramps]) or for church entertainment (Ron Becker, Shelby Erb, Ed Thierolf, and Ingrid Weil (as guests on their CDs), as well as everyone in our church choirs). Bob and Bob are delighted to sing whenever and wherever the occasion arises be it a Fastnacht Social, a Community Breakfast, a Worship Service, a private get-together, weddings or funerals.

The Dogs of Falkner Swamp now have a Facebook Page devoted to spreading the word. The Page has gathered 64 Likes, 6 page views, and 37 Post Engagements. Dozens more have checked out our photos of events, past and present. We are all about telling people that "God is Good," "God answers prayer," and "Spread the Good News." If you'd like to help us present "The Dogs" to the general public, please like our Page on Facebook and invite your friends to like it too, so we can grow our audience.

When "The Dogs" perform at other churches' worship services and other church venues the proceeds are given to Falkner Swamp for use in the general fund. This is also true for the sales of their CDs: "The Masters' Crumbs," "Lay Down Your Nets," "The Dogs Unleashed," and "Christmas with the Dogs."

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Community Breakfast 8AM—11 AM
3 Communion Sunday Souper Bowl	4 7 PM Worship & Music	5 9 AM Women's Ministries	6	7	8	9
10 PND Meal Men's Chorus	11	12 10 AM Luke Bible Study 6:30 PM Property	13	14	15	16 Fellowship Hall Rental 11 AM—5 PM
17 Apostolic Sunday Peter Detterline preaching	18	19	20 7 PM 300th Anniversary Mtg.	21	22	23 Fellowship Hall Rental 7 AM—2 PM
24	25 7 PM Consistory	26 10 AM Luke Bible Study 7 PM Ch. Ed. Mtg.	27	28		

Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

◇ 9 AM Sunday School ◇ 10 AM Worship ◇ 11:30 Fellowship Time ◇ 7 PM AA Meeting

February 3 — Communion, soup collection for Multi-Service

February 10 — PND Meal

February 17 — Youth Sunday, Joyful Noise Offering, Apostolic Sunday w/ Peter Detterline

February 24— Service of the Word

Rev. Frances Hours: (generally) Mondays, varies Tues & Wed mornings & by appt.	Secretary Hours: (generally) Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9AM-2PM
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February Birthdays

3rd ~ Rob Krause	15th ~ Miriam Brown
4th ~ Kevin Brennan	16th ~ Shelby (Erb) Gey
6th ~ George Moser, Jr.	17th ~ Skip Hildenbrand
11th ~ Ed Harvey	17th ~ Elsie Rothenberger
12th ~ Bob Bridegam	17th ~ Ed Thierolf
12th ~ Jane Scheck	23rd ~ Ron Beckley
12th ~ David Sell	28th ~ Alan Bingham
13th ~ James Mercer	

Falkner Swamp Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ Yearly Report of the Endowment Fund Accounts 2018

Current Members:

Lee Heffner, Ken Berkowitz, Sharon Schnaars, Donna Hoffman
Russell Miller, Chairman
Robert Schnaars – de facto Consistory President
Pastor Frances Chester – Pastor
Vivian Wentzel de facto Treasurer of Falkner Swamp UCC

Category A

Account #1 - \$60,000.00 CD @ Bally Savings Bank
Rate 1.39% - matures February 13, 2020
Total 9/23/2017 - \$60,000.00 plus interest

Account #4 – Savings Account at Bally Savings Bank
Balance \$38,086.12 on 7/31/18 (.25% interest rate)

Deposit Account – Money Market Account at Key Bank
Balance \$3,293.01 on 8/31/2018 (.05% interest rate)

Total A - \$101,379.13 plus CD interest from Account #1

Category B

Account #1 - \$28,501.47 Bally Savings CD
Rate 1.39% - matures September 21, 2019
Interest to go to general fund annually
Principal to be reinvested

Category C

Account #1 - \$2,400.00 – Bally Saving Bank CD
Rate 1.39% - matures September 21, 2019
Interest to go to designated use annually
Principal to be reinvested

We thank the members of the committee. If you have any questions, contact Russell Miller, Endowment Fund Committee Chairman.

Respectfully Submitted
Russell H. Miller

Russell H. Miller

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2018**

	Jan - Dec 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Parsonage Rental Income	13,200.00		
Interest Income Savings	32.53		
General Offerings	105,067.47 1	111,792.00	-6,724.53
Interest (from Endowments)	3,500.75	4,000.00	-499.25
Temporarily Restricted	23,053.55	4,400.00	18,653.55
Total Income	144,854.30 2	120,192.00	24,662.30
Expense			
MINISTRY	13,723.62 3	8,630.00	5,093.62
PASTORAL	49,087.66 4	46,961.00	2,126.66
PROPERTY	50,858.01 5	32,716.00	18,142.01
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION	28,010.69 6	31,685.00	-3,674.31
Total Expense	141,679.98	119,992.00	21,687.98
Net Income	3,174.32 7	200.00	2,974.32

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2018**

1. General offerings were lower than amount budgeted

2. Actual income higher than budget due to income from the parsonage rental and temporarily restricted income (offerings collected to be used for specific purposes)

3. Actual expense higher than budget due to Benevolence expense - amounts paid out for OCWM offerings and special offerings, amounts paid out for 2018 is \$6,396.20, we don't normally include this in the budget

4. Actual expense overall is higher than budget, expenses incurred for Pastor's health insurance, Pastor expenses (ministry, mileage, continuing education), and pulpit supply were under budget. Pastor salary was higher than budget.

5. Actual expenses were higher than amounts budgeted. Oil expense was \$10,123 and budget was \$6,000. Cemetery expense and building maintenance were both higher than budgeted. Additionally, one time expenses that are not budgeted were incurred, those expenses are \$5,000 for the air conditioner (paid with restricted funds for the kitchen fund), \$2,500 for tree removal services, \$1,089 for tile flooring and \$1,317 for air conditioner repair service

6. Staff salaries were less than the budgeted amount

7. Overall net income for the year is \$3,174.32
The net income is broken down as follows:
Net loss / decrease in general funds \$-14,792.37
Net income / increase in restricted funds \$4,692.22
Net income / increase in other funds \$13,274.47 - other funds are endowment repay fund (collected as part of the weekly benevolence offering), future of Falkner Swamp funds, and the income from the parsonage rental

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through December 2018**

	Jan - Dec 18	Jan - Dec 17	\$ Change
Income			
Parsonage Rental Income	13,200.00	13,200.00	0.00
Interest Income Savings	32.53	38.37	-5.84
General Offerings	105,067.47	105,324.30	-256.83
Interest (from Endowments)	3,500.75	3,748.20	-247.45
Temporarily Restricted	23,053.55	26,561.28	-3,507.73
Total Income	144,854.30	148,872.15	-4,017.85
Expense			
MINISTRY	13,723.62	12,239.58	1,484.04
PASTORAL	49,087.66 ¹	39,203.19	9,884.47
PROPERTY	50,858.01 ²	48,236.52	2,621.49
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION	28,010.69 ³	25,885.84	2,124.85
Total Expense	141,679.98	125,565.13	16,114.85
Net Income	3,174.32	23,307.02	-20,132.70

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through December 2018**

1. Increase over last year due to increase in Pastor's salary
2. Increase over last year due to increase in church heating oil expense and increase in parsonage maintenance / repairs expense
3. Increase over last year due to increase in staff salaries, new office computer, increase in office supplies and internet expense

Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Year Book Report - Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2018

	Dec 31, 18
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BB&T Checking	17,591.33
BB&T Savings	94,071.54
Endowment	132,597.40
Total Checking/Savings	244,260.27
Total Current Assets	244,260.27
TOTAL ASSETS	244,260.27
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	603.26
Other Current Liabilities	
Parsonage Rent Deposit	1,100.00
Payroll Liabilities	1,214.62
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,314.62
Total Current Liabilities	2,917.88
Total Liabilities	2,917.88
Equity	
Not Restricted Funds	
Endowment Repay Funds	6,680.27
Future of FS Funds	9,711.97
Income from Parsonage Rental	37,795.29
Total Not Restricted Funds	54,187.53
Restricted Funds	
New Doors	75.00
Toilets	300.00
Youth Room	1,791.34
Kitchen Funds	8,349.45
Cemetery (Univest)	6,210.74
Upper Cemetery Funds	745.00
Christian Ed/ VBS/ Joyful Noise	1,025.00
Emergency/Pastors Discretionary	120.00
Heater Funds	10,454.91
Parsonage Deposit	1,100.00
Total Restricted Funds	30,171.44
Unrestricted Net Assets	153,809.10
Net Income	3,174.32
Total Equity	241,342.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	244,260.27

Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Year Book Report - Income and Expense
 January through December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18
Income	
Parsonage Rental Income	13,200.00
Interest Income Savings	32.53
General Offerings	
Jr Class	5.00
Installation	539.60
Future of FS	1,555.00
Redner's Tape	106.61
Plate	1,709.03
Envelopes	99,496.00
Activities	
Community Breakfast	25.00
Dogs CDs & Gigs	323.15
Miscellaneous	831.92
Total Activities	1,180.07
Building Rental	376.00
Sunday School & VBS	
VBS	42.16
Sunday School & VBS - Other	58.00
Total Sunday School & VBS	100.16
Total General Offerings	105,067.47
Interest (from Endowments)	
Leidy Trust Income	2,818.85
Interest (from Endowments) - Other	681.90
Total Interest (from Endowments)	3,500.75
Temporarily Restricted	
New Doors	75.00
Toilets	300.00
Youth Room	836.00
Kitchen	
PB Eggs	4,007.00
Kitchen - Other	4,667.00
Total Kitchen	8,674.00
Air Conditioner	1,388.00
Renovations	28.50
Benevolence Offerings	
Mustard Seed	519.25
OGHS	191.00
All Saints	258.00
Bethany Children's Home	309.00
Boyertown Multi Service	410.00
Church World Service	651.80
Neighbors In Need	219.00
Our Church's Wider Mission	
25% Endowment Repayment	1,063.85
75% Our Church's Wider Mission	3,147.15
Total Our Church's Wider Mission	4,211.00
Strengthen the Church	112.00
Veterans of the Cross	279.00
Total Benevolence Offerings	7,160.05
Building Fund	395.00
Cemetery	600.00
Christian Education	1,647.00
Emergency	120.00

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Year Book Report - Income and Expense
January through December 2018**

	Jan - Dec 18
Flowers	
Christmas Flowers	168.00
Flowers - Other	1,392.00
Total Flowers	1,560.00
Heater Fund	40.00
Snow Removal	230.00
Total Temporarily Restricted	23,053.55
Total Income	144,854.30
Expense	
MINISTRY	
Printing Env and Wkly books	113.24
Community Breakfast	100.00
Music & Worship	
Worship and Sermon Materials	77.60
Music Supplies	
Copy Right License	129.00
Total Music Supplies	129.00
Music & Worship - Other	129.67
Total Music & Worship	336.27
Supplies	135.76
Christian Education Expense	
Youth Room	
TV	506.99
Youth Room - Other	341.00
Total Youth Room	847.99
Books	96.12
Confirmation Curriculum	1,099.06
Christian Education Expense - Other	1,243.65
Total Christian Education Expense	3,286.82
Benevolence	6,596.20
Conferences/Seminars	135.00
Emer. Fund (Pastor Discretion)	125.00
Evangelism	
Sidewalk Expo	60.00
Evangelism - Other	1,265.75
Total Evangelism	1,325.75
Flowers	1,034.80
Fundraising Expenses	
PB Eggs	434.78
Fundraising Expenses - Other	100.00
Total Fundraising Expenses	534.78
Total MINISTRY	13,723.62
PASTORAL	
Pastoral Expenses	
Continuing Edu / Conf / Seminar	637.17
Ministry Expenses	181.00
Total Pastoral Expenses	818.17
Pastor Pension	3,730.75

Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Year Book Report - Income and Expense
 January through December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18
Pastor Salary	
Mileage Reimbursement	900.00
Social Security Allowance	2,860.98
Pastor Salary - Other	37,399.76
Total Pastor Salary	41,160.74
Visitations	
Visitations	2,178.00
Total Visitations	2,178.00
Pulpit Supply	1,200.00
Total PASTORAL	49,087.66
PROPERTY	
Bldg. Maintenance/Repairs	
Air Conditioner	5,000.00
Grounds Maintenance	2,500.00
Tile Flooring	1,088.71
Bldg. Maintenance/Repairs - Other	6,459.97
Total Bldg. Maintenance/Repairs	15,048.68
Cemetery	
Gas	593.15
Mowing	5,987.50
Mower Repair	781.87
Cemetery - Other	11.00
Total Cemetery	7,373.52
Comprehensive Insurance	6,938.75
Electricity	3,475.42
Oil - Church	10,122.79
Organ/Piano Maintenance	1,551.13
Parsonage Maintenance	1,791.38
Parsonage Utilities	123.00
Security Monitoring	428.28
Sewer Service	600.00
Parsonage Sewer Service	600.00
Snow Removal	2,475.00
Waste Hauling	330.06
Total PROPERTY	50,858.01
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION	
Online Communication	64.00
Bank Fees	172.42
Computer Expenses	813.44
Office Equipment	1,534.00
Copy Charges	
Color	305.87
Black & White	639.06
Total Copy Charges	944.93
Office Supplies	610.18
Payroll Fees	452.00
Phone/Internet	2,076.98
Postage	396.00
Staff Salaries	
SS, Medicare	1,165.86
Staff Salaries - Other	13,177.00
Total Staff Salaries	14,342.86

Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ
Year Book Report - Income and Expense
January through December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18
Treasurer	6,000.00
Website	119.88
Workers Comp Insurance	484.00
Total STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION	28,010.69
Total Expense	141,679.98
Net Income	3,174.32

From the Church Office: Falkner Swamp membership statistics for 2018 [2017 in brackets]

Total Additions: 9 (4 Confirmations, 4 transfers, 1 reaffirmation of faith) [4]

Total Losses: 6 (3 deaths, 3 transfers) [7]

Total Membership as of 12/31/18: 161 [158]

Total Baptisms: 2 [3]

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 59 [54]

**FALKNER SWAMP UCC'S 300TH
ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**



HONOR THE PAST, CELEBRATE THE PRESENT, EMBRACE THE FUTURE

Wow!! Falkner Swamp will be celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the first meeting of our congregation in 2020!! We have formed a committee and begun the planning stage of our celebration. We would love your help to “Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Embrace the Future.”

The Committee has two boxes in the Fellowship Room (labeled “Share Your Memories” and “Share Your Ideas”). **Share Your Memories:** We would like to compile members’ and friends’ meaningful memories—tell us what special recollections you have that make you smile, laugh, or cry, or simply fill you with joy. Please share this request with any former members you know as we would love to include their memories as well. **Share Your Ideas:** Please share with us any and all ideas that you think might be fun and/or meaningful to help Falkner Swamp “Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Embrace the Future.” There are index cards and pens near the boxes.

We are also looking for Committee Members At Large! We welcome anyone who would like to help with the planning and/or running of an event or fundraiser, or would like to assist with the history aspect of the celebration. Many hands make light work!

Watch for future updates in The Voice as well as announcements before worship services.

The Committee would like to include everyone in this wonderful celebration of 300 years of worshipping the Father. Please speak with any Committee Member. And remember to share your memories and ideas!

God is good!

Committee Members: Robin Zerr, Chair; Laura Brown; Rev. Frances Chester; Sue Dickey; Barb Geary; Debbie Gruver; Wayne Gruver; Donna Hoffman; Susan Mercer; Karen Miller; Sharon Schnaars; Kim Shaak; Arlene Umstead.

Falkner Swamp U. C. C.
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Gilbertsville,
Pennsylvania 1952519525

Phone: 610-323-4053

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- **February 2nd: Community Breakfast ~ sign up to help on the bulletin board**
- **March 1st: Fastnacht Social ~ look for more info soon**
- **March 2nd: Community Breakfast**
- **March 9th: Blood Drive @ Falkner Swamp (look for more details soon)**

Falkner Swamp's mission is to be a place of Welcome to All of God's children. To be a place of spiritual retreat for all who seek to know the loving Still Speaking God using the scriptures found in the Holy Bible, the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and utilizing modern interpretations and resources to make the word alive and well in the age we are in.

~From "Constitution & Bylaws," September 29, 2013