

# THE VOICE

Yearbook Edition - 2019 at Falkner Swamp UCC

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

January—Epiphany Sunday drama



February—our choir



March—Fastnacht Social



April—Easter Sunrise service



May—Ladies' Night with Elvis



June—new members





July—Rev. Frances @ Mission Birdsboro



August—A Day in Malawi



September—introducing Sundays at the Swamp



October—Anniversary Sunday  
BAMS Show Choir



November—work day



December—Anniversary tree @ Multi-Service



## Reflection on 2019

By Rev. Frances



### Our Lot Overfloweth

On the first Saturday of January 2020, rainy and gray, I drove onto a full church parking lot. Yes, on a Saturday. I was coming to meet two others to rehearse a scripture reading, and at first I was puzzled. Then I remembered: Karen Miller organized another Red Cross Blood drive in Fellowship Hall. And Brenda Semach hosted the monthly Consistory Presidents' meeting for these lay leaders across the PSEC.

By the time you read this, we will have begun our 4th year of hosting Community Breakfasts, where about half of our worship-attending congregation turns out to set up, cook, serve, and clean up for some eighty to ninety people who feast on food and fellowship. Another Saturday of a full church parking lot.

2020 continues a trend that began in previous years, that our church members pursue their passion to serve in God's name. It shows in how we use our resources. Our building, for one, is filling up because of people's desire to serve one another through the love of Christ.

Howard Thurman, pastor, scholar, and spiritual mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

I am filled with gratitude to see you all come alive! Pain has shaped you, curiosity has led you, grief has nudged you, joy has bubbled over. Some of you are saying, with grace and simplicity: it's time, and I'm the one. Thank you. As your pastor, I am humbled by your service and buoyed by your spirit.

Our parking lot is not jealous of Saturday, however. I rejoice that 2019 brought to us the return of a long time member and 11 new members with 8 children, their own or grandkids. Their presence and gifts of spirit enrich the passion kindled in all of us by the power of God.

Inside these pages of the 2019 Yearbook are the passions for ministry enumerated, listed, recalled and photographed by committee chairs and others who contribute to our collective life together at Falkner Swamp. Thanks be to God for them, for you, and for all that is yet to come, particularly as the church enters its 300<sup>th</sup> year of being a worshipping community.



## 2019 Report for Consistory

*"If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."* –Martin Luther King Jr.

Happy New Year!  
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First I would like to thank Bob Schnaars, Lee Heffner, Jane Harvey and Russ Miller for their commitment as a Consistory member. I for one am grateful for their support and commitment to this committee. We as a congregation are truly blessed for angels like these who always step up when needed. Again thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Second I want to welcome our new members to Consistory: JoAnne Murray, Stacey Brennan Matt Brown and Kim Shaak. I'm grateful for new angels that have stepped up and are willing to take on this commitment. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*"Working better together than ever to offer the love of Jesus Christ to all."*

What an exciting year 2020 is for us here at Falkner Swamp. We will be celebrating our 300th anniversary. The anniversary committee has been hard at work with fundraising and upcoming events to commemorate this amazing historic moment. I encourage everyone to make sure you check out the upcoming events and share the information with anyone you come in contact with, so they too can share in our celebration.

The Consistory team continues to support the ministries of our church, working together with these committees: Property, Endowment, Kitchen, Visitation, Faith and Formation (formerly Christian Education), Music and Worship, Cemetery, Women's Ministry and the 300th Anniversary.

### **Psalm 105:2**

Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. **Tell everyone** about his wonderful deeds.

God's Grace and peace be with you,  
Brenda Semach  
Consistory President

After Baptism of Christ Sunday in 2019, Jim Kooser wrote a lovely one-line poem, which Rev. Frances shared on Baptism of Christ Sunday this year, Jan 12. Jim gave his permission for it be printed in the VOICE:

Let God's tears fall upon you as he cries tears of joy that he has created you.

## 2019 Yearbook Report of the Cemeteries of Falkner Swamp:

The Hollowbush Cemetery (adjacent to the church)  
The Falkner Swamp UCC Cemetery (adjacent to the New Hanover Fire Company)



There've been some personnel changes to our committee:

Thank you to departing committee member Ed Harvey for the many years of service he's given. Welcome to our two new committee members in 2019: Ed Thierolf and Kevin Brennan. With the additions of Ed and Kevin, the committee is back to its full strength of four Lot Managers and four Trustees.

Bob Erb, Sr. retired this year after 33 years of mowing at the Falkner Swamp UCC Cemetery. Rob Erb, Jr. has switched from mowing the Hollowbush Cemetery to mowing at the FSUCC Cemetery. Ted Reese has volunteered to mow the Hollowbush Cemetery. We've contracted with an outside company, Ivy League Landscaping in Fleetwood, to trim both the Hollowbush and the Falkner Swamp Cemeteries.

There's been some equipment changes:

The Grasshopper mower has seen better days, is a slower moving mower, and doesn't maneuver well around tombstones. For this reason, both cemeteries have been mowed with the eXmark for the past few years. We are looking to sell the Grasshopper privately (it's still a good mower, just not up to 'commercial' strength). We've purchased a new middle-grade eXmark zero turn mower from Passmore Service Center. This new mower will be kept in the red shed behind the church and used to mow the Hollowbush Cemetery. Our old eXmark zero turn commercial mower, purchased at the same time as the Grasshopper mower, is still in service at the FSUCC Cemetery. Passmore and Jim Kooser have been keeping that mower running.

On Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> we had a Cemetery Workday. This workday included work at both cemeteries. We had all our committee members, and many extra volunteers from the church come out and help us keep the grounds looking well. The block shed behind the church was emptied to the walls, with the dirt and unnecessary/unwanted items being placed in a dumpster generously donated by a church member. The block shed up at FSUCC Cemetery was cleaned out, in addition to the cleaning off of gravesites and filling in some settled graves. Soil, topsoil and grass seed were liberally dispensed.

An addition was made to our Cemetery By-Laws on page 4, under the heading **Interment and Disinterment:** "All openings and closings for full-casket burial/cremains must be performed by a licensed and insured burial vault company. This ensures compliance with the state of Pennsylvania's laws regarding such and protects Falkner Swamp UCC and the Cemetery." Full copies of the By-Laws are available in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Erb, Secretary/Treasurer, Trustee

### Committee Members

Bob Schnaars, President and Trustee  
Kevin Brennan, Lot Manager  
Susan Dickey, Trustee  
Bob Erb, Sr., Lot Manager  
Rob Erb, Jr., Lot Manager  
Sharon Schnaars, Trustee  
Ed Thierolf, Lot Manager

## **Faith Formation 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 the churches' children, youth, and family 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.

2019 was a year filled with steady growth, starting with transitioning our committee name from Christian Education to Faith Formation, to keep aligned with UCC practices.

In January we held our 2nd Annual Crockpot Cookoff (congratulations to Barb McDonough, our champion!). During the winter and spring of 2019 (January-May) I lead the Post-Confirmation youth in a class based on the Nooma (Greek for spirit) Series. In April we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and in May we closed out the Sunday School year, excited about the new program that we would be kicking-off in September. During June we held our first "Day at the Park" outing at Green Lane Park, where we enjoyed the beauty of Nature, crafts, and lunch together.

Our big event of the year was our one day VBS, "A Day in Malawi" which was a one day cultural event to connect our children and youth to the children of Malawi, and specifically to the children of "The Mustard Seed School." During the event we had a guest, Glorie, who joined us from Malawi. She helped teach us many Malawian words, and other details, such as clothing and music. She also taught us about housing, transportation, and the climate and landscape of Malawi. The highlight of the day was a shared Malawian lunch, and the movie, "The Boy who Harvested the Wind" that closed out our day. In conjunction with "A Day in Malawi" we had collected items for The Mustard Seed preschool, which were sent to Malawi with Angela Quashigah after her visit in December. The items collected were-mini dolls (9), baby dolls (10), small stuffies(2), Matchbox cars (3 gallon-size Ziplock bags), coloring books (27), sticker packs (Ziplock bag full!), wall maps (3), a puzzle, children's books (19), packs of crayons (44), light sweatshirts (33), 2 heavy duty tote bags for carrying/storage, and \$200 to cover the cost of shipping. The Faith Formation Committee will continue to proudly support The Mustard Seed Malawi in future endeavors.

~ continued on page 7

~ continued from page 6

The highlight of our year was the kickoff of our new church school program on Sunday Mornings, "Sundays at the Swamp," which is an intergenerational, rotation-based program to replace traditional Sunday School. Every week participants move through different stations that work with the Bible story that we are learning about. There are craft projects, prayer stations, yoga and meditation, a room for open conversation and discussion with a teacher, and monthly with Rev. Frances. We also offer writing stations for creative writing, and more. The center of the rotations is the Bible story that we are learning that week, which is taught to the kids through storytelling, books, videos, and props. Sundays at the Swamp is an engaging hour that meets people where they are, through different learning styles, regardless of age or abilities. We're so excited to be able to offer this program weekly to our children and youth, as well as others that join us.

We ended our year by presenting our 2019 Christmas Program, "Animals at the Christmas Scene" which was enjoyed by both participants, and the rest of the congregation.

Throughout the 2019 year we continued with our bi-monthly Youth Mission Church during worship, working on Mission Projects for both the community and our fellow congregants. The children and youth became stronger in their faith through service, as active members through Worship. They eagerly participated in Youth Sunday, the third Sunday of every month, and continue to serve as acolytes, ushers, and greeters.

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 2020!

Laura Brown and the Faith Formation Committee- Matt Brown, Becky Comer, 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*

We had 3 breakfasts in 2019. The 4th one was cancelled due to snow. In the 3 months we held the breakfasts we served 41 new people who had never been here before, 292 people who returned, and 61 helpers. This is the 3rd year we have done this and the turnout continues to grow. If you are interested in helping, please let me know. You can help for an hour or more, whatever works for you. We have fun! However, you don't have to help, just come out and eat. You get a good healthy breakfast and enjoy some fellowship. Bring someone with you and tell your friends.

Thank you to all who come out and help. I truly appreciate it.

~Robin Zerr

### **2019 Kitchen Report**

Thank you to everyone who comes out and enjoys the PND meals. The committee enjoys cooking and it is a good time of fellowship and to get to know someone. The money we raise from these meals is used for kitchen needs. We purchased a new freezer in 2019 and we hope to get a dishwasher in 2020. Many thanks to everyone on the committee.

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





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

Friday, February 21st @ 7 PM

If you are interested in performing, please see

Mary Ann Erb. Talent optional.



**Snack Report**

Thank you to everyone who helps with the snack table after worship and to those of you that make the snacks too! It is nice to come down, sit, have coffee and a snack, and share fellowship with others. God wants us to check in with each other to see how we are doing.

If you want to make something for snack, please see me.

Thanks again,

Robin



**We are again collecting cans of soup for "Souper Sunday."** The boxes will be in the vestibule from Jan. 26—Feb. 9. 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. 2nd. The cans will be taken to Boyertown Area Multi-Service.

## **Music and Worship Report for 2019**

The Music & Worship Committee met 12 times - Jan 7, Feb 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 4 and Dec 2.

The highlights of 2019 are as follows: Lenten and Easter services included – Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, which kicked off the 24 hour prayer vigil into Good Friday (No Good Friday service in 2019), and an 8:00AM sunrise service and a traditional 10:00AM service. Food/snacks were provided between services.

June 23 – Our annual church picnic entitled “BYOBB” Bring Your Own Brown Bag lunch. Picnic was held at our church in the front yard area. Mr. Peter Detterline was our Guest Preacher.

In July we discussed Becky Comer stepping down as head of the Worship Coordinator’s Committee – THANK YOU, Becky, for doing a great job for many years. And, Karen Miller graciously stepped up to fill the opening! Thank you Karen!

Sept 8 – Rally Day. Also - we tried a “new” thing in having the organ play itself. Arlene Umstead was unable to be there for Rally Day and without an organist, we asked Tim Keebler to program some well know hymns into the church organ. Thank you Tim! It worked...and we were able to have organ music for church service without hiring a person to play for us.

Oct 13 – Anniversary Sunday. This is the start of a year-long celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Falkner Swamp U.C.C. We were fortunate enough to have the Boyertown Area High School Show Choir perform for our morning service and our church choir was able to join them on a song or two. Amazing choir.

Nov. 3- All Saints Sunday. We honored many of the former members who have gone on to heaven.

December 14- Once again the church choir sang Christmas carols at Freed’s Market for the benefit of the community.

December 24- We celebrated Christmas Eve with 2 services. At 3:00 P.M. we had a Family Service which included a play, “The Refuge” and music by the choir, Bob Erb and Megan Becker. At 7:00 P.M. we had our candle-light service, featuring music from Bob Erb , Erin Ahart, and Abby Keebler.

We have had several guest preachers and musicians over the year: Samara Ryco, Caroline Dunleavy, and Tim Keebler.

This year we celebrated the baptisms of three infants and one adult. We received eleven new members and one long time member returned to active membership!

Thank you all for your continued support of this ministry. We look forward to a wonderful 2020!

Members: Arlene Umstead, Sharon Schnaars, Fran Berkowitz, Sally Fetterman, Brenda Becker, Jim Kooser and Karen Miller, Bob Schnaars, Chairperson, Rev. Frances, ex-officio.



Falkner Swamp Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ  
Yearly Report of the Endowment Fund Accounts 2019

Current Members:

Lee Heffner, Ken Berkowitz, Sharon Schnaars, Donna Hoffman, Russell Miller (Chairman)  
Brenda Semach – defacto Consistory President, Pastor Frances Chester  
Vivian Wentzel – defacto Treasurer of Falkner Swamp UCC

Category A

Account #1 - \$60,000.00 CD @ Bally Savings Bank rate 1.39% - matures Feb. 13, 2020  
Account #4 – Savings Account @ Bally Savings Bank, balance \$38,181.95 on 7/31/19  
(.25% interest rate) Interest added 12/31/18 thru 7/31/19 = \$55.40  
Deposit Account – Money Market Account @ Key Bank, balance \$3,294.52 7/31/19  
(.05% interest rate) Interest added 12/31/18 thru 7/31/19 = \$.96  
Total A - \$101,476.47 plus CD interest from Account #1

Category B

Account #1 - \$28,501.47 Bally Savings, rate 1.39% - matures 9/21/19  
Interest to go to general fund annually, principal to be reinvested

Category C

Account #1 \$2,400.00 – Bally Savings, rate 1/39% - matures 9/21/19  
Interest to go to designated use annually, principal to be reinvested  
Category A – Weibel - \$101,476.47 accounts 1, 4, and Deposit Account  
Total A - \$101,476.47 plus CD interest from Account #1  
Category B – Mildred - \$10,000.00 – Account #1  
Arthur Landis - \$2,500.00 – Account #1  
Robert Burns - \$3,656.47 – Account #1  
Herbert Wagner - \$1,000.00 – Account #1  
Ralph Geisler - \$2,000.00 – Account #1  
Sarah Jane Boyer - \$845.00 – Account #1  
Wallace Leidy - \$3,000.00 – Account #1  
Washington Leidy - \$600.00 – Account #1  
Living Memorial Fund - \$4,900.00 – Account #1  
Total B - \$28,501.47  
Category C – William Werner - \$1,000.00 – Account #1  
Herbert Wagner - \$1,000.00 – Account #1  
Washington Leidy - \$400.00 – Account #1  
Total C - \$2,400.00

Distributions made since 2/18/19 meeting:

From Category A – none

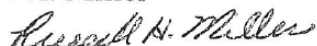
From Category B – none

From Category C – none

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

Respectfully Submitted

Russell H. Miller





## Property Committee Report for 2019

Once again it is time for the yearbook report! Property has gotten a lot done this year. Some you can see and some you don't, but we are at work. This year you can see that we purchased an AED unit that is hung in Fellowship Hall with the other emergency needs. It is easily accessible in case we need it (hope we don't). These are some of the other things accomplished:

- new door in Christian Ed wing
- new outside door near the office
- the tree closest to the church was taken down
- the far tree was trimmed
- new toilet in the men's restroom and painted
- AED unit was purchased and hung up

We had two work days, one in the spring and one in the fall. We cleaned inside and outside. Some of the jobs completed inside: pew fixed in the sanctuary, dry wall cleaned up in the closet, light bulbs changed, and much more. And the outside jobs: bushes trimmed, mulch putdown, holes filled, cemetery cleaned up. In the fall we rented a dumpster (thank you to the person who donated the money to cover this cost). We cleaned out the block shed and the upper and lower cemetery, and some miscellaneous items from inside the church. We ended up filling the dumpster to the brim. Many thanks to all the people who came out to help. We couldn't do it without you. You are a blessing!

Thank you to everyone on the committee for their hard work!

The 2019 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, collaborating with Rev. Frances.

In 2019 Rev. Mary Etta made 38 visits and Rev. Frances made 17 visits  
to members and friends of the church.

~ Barb Geary, Chairperson

### Boyertown Area Multi-Service (Food Pantry) – 2019



In 2019, Falkner Swamp donated 1,279 pounds of food and personal care items to the Multi-Service food pantry. They will again partner with us to distribute fliers 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.



Women's Ministries is in the planning stages for their annual Ladies' Night in May. If you have an entertainment idea for that evening, please share it with Arlene.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**COMING  
UP**

Peanut Butter Egg making:

March 23-26

March 30—April 2

## Women's Ministries



Women's Ministries is a service organization of our church founded by Arlene Butts Umstead. Arlene has dedicated her life to serving others and is a great inspiration and role model to all.

Here are some of the highlights of 2019:

- We began our year with taking Valentine Surprises to our homebound members who are no longer able to attend church. We had 14 members who we visited in 2019.
- Every morning our women helped with the mixing of the peanut butter eggs, a huge fundraiser for Falkner Swamp. This money is used in various ways for the betterment of our church.
- As we move to April and Easter, we enjoyed filling 10 Easter Baskets for children served through Multi- Service.
- In June we became aware of a need from Bethany Children's Home for the undocumented children they host while they are waiting to be reunited with their families. We purchased requested beach towels.
- We donated \$300 to the Property Committee to use as needed.
- In August we treated ourselves to a luncheon at Vincenzo's Restaurant in Douglassville.
- An updated change was made to our "Birthday Card Ministry" and our secretary, Sharon S. designed a new card that will have preprinted signatures that we will begin using in 2020. Sharon continues being a blessing to us for any of our needs! Proof of this is that Sharon graciously agreed to be our treasurer. Thank You!
- We met in October to do some additional cleaning in the church and sanctuary.
- We donated 10 Thanksgiving Baskets to Multi-Service.
- We ended the year with a breakfast at Sunflower Café in which all women of the church were invited for fellowship and food. We had 21 church members attend.
- A silk flower arrangement was donated to the church for when we have no sponsor for the fresh altar flowers.
- Lastly, more hymnal angels were sold which helps us in our ministry and a 2020 calendar was donated by a church attendee. Many thanks!

We could not accomplish all these goals without the HUGE support of our church members. THANK YOU!!

All women of the church are welcome, as are ideas as how to provide service to our church and community.

Arlene Umstead, Chairperson, Barbara Geary, Secretary, Sharon Sgriccia, Treasurer.  
Doris Moser, Olga Rees, Eleanor Specht, Carol Stevens, Ellen Whitfield, Linda Sell, Joanne Lewis, Beth Reese, Gail Miller



The Dogs had a very interesting year. Having said good-bye to Emily, and “Lady and the Tramps” mid-2018, the guys reverted back to their original name of “The Dogs.” For a few months, the Dogs performed as a duo, Bob and Bob. [Certainly easy to remember their names!] They welcomed Jim Kooser as the third dog, bringing the group back to its original strength as a trio. Jim, as most of you know, is a ‘self-taught’ gut-bucket player. And an A+, first-class gut-bucket player at that! It’s always fun to watch the audience stretching to see “what’s that thing up there on the floor?” Jim’s very generous about sharing his talent and has given some quick lessons where the group has performed, resulting in a “guest” appearance at the gutbucket for a number.

The Dogs (as duo or trio) had a very busy year, performing for a music concert at Parkside UCC in Phoenixville on April 7<sup>th</sup>; the Lunch Bunch at St. Paul’s Lutheran church in Red Hill on May 8<sup>th</sup>; a senior’s group at St. Columbkil’s R C Church in Boyertown on May 9<sup>th</sup>; a women & girl’s banquet at Cedarville U. M. Church in Pottstown on May 14<sup>th</sup>; the Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival at Zion’s Union Church in Maxatawny on June 7<sup>th</sup>; a meeting of Lutheran pastors at Spruce Lake, PA on June 10<sup>th</sup>; a worship service at Heidelberg UCC in Hatfield, PA on July 7<sup>th</sup>; the Senior Center at Boyertown Multi-Service on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>; a senior’s group (the 59ers) at St. Matthew’s U. M. Church in Wayne, PA on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>; a double engagement – a worship service and an “afternoon of music” at The Red Church in Orwigsburg on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>; a worship service at Schwarzwald UCC in Reading on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>; the Dogs performed at Falkner Swamp on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, playing some Christmas music and some great Oldies and, last but not least, The Dogs and Friends played at a private Christmas party at the apartment complex for Brenda Becker’s mom in Spring City on Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.



Respectfully submitted,  
The Dogs of Falkner Swamp



# FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Community Breakfast 8AM—11 AM
2 Communion Sunday Souper Bowl	3 7 PM Worship & Music	4 9 AM Women's Ministries	5 7 PM Choir	6	7	8
9 PND Meal	10	11 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Property	12 7 PM Choir	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 Gathering of Consistory Presidents 9—11 AM
16 Youth Sunday	17 7 PM Consistory	18	19 7 PM Choir	20	21 7 PM Fastnacht Social	22
23	24	25 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Ch. Ed. Mtg.	26 7 PM Choir	27	28	29 9:30 am—1 PM Adult Retreat

## Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

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

**February 2** — Communion, soup collection for Multi-Service

**February 9** — PND Meal

**February 17** — Youth Sunday, Joyful Noise Offering

**February 23** — Service of the Word

<b>Rev. Frances</b>	<b>Secretary Hours:</b>
<b>Hours:</b>	(generally)
(generally)	Tuesdays,
M & TH varies	Wednesdays,
T & W mornings & by appointment	Thursdays
Sabbath on Fridays	9AM-2PM

## February Birthdays

2nd ~ Justin App

3rd ~ Rob Krause

4th ~ Kevin Brennan

6th ~ George Moser, Jr.

11th ~ Ed Harvey

12th ~ Bob Bridegam

12th ~ Jane Scheck

12th ~ David Sell

13th ~ James Mercer

15th ~ Miriam Brown

15th ~ Beth Reese

16th ~ Shelby (Erb) Gey

17th ~ Skip Hildenbrand

17th ~ Elsie Rothenberger

17th ~ Ed Thierolf

23rd ~ Ron Beckley

23rd ~ JoAnne Murray

28th ~ Alan Bingham



### **2020 Altar Flowers**

The 2020 chart for Altar Flowers is on the right bulletin board in the church vestibule. The cost is \$25 for one arrangement. There are still many open spots. If you would like to sponsor flowers for an open Sunday, please put your name next to the appropriate date. Sharon Sgriccia, our church secretary, will contact you the week before to remind you and to get the information needed for the church bulletin. If you would like particular colors, please email, call or text Becky Comer ([beckyo49@comcast.net](mailto:beckyo49@comcast.net), 610.413.3729) at least one week prior to your Sunday. If you would like to supply your own flowers, please mark the appropriate box highlighted in yellow. If the date is crossed out, you may still be able to sponsor this Sunday, but you will need to email, call or text Becky at least a week in advance. Please contact Becky Comer, Flower Coordinator, if you have any questions.



## Mustard Seed Collection Cans and Supplies



We are happy to announce that when Angela and Ziona went back to Malawi she was able to take our filled container and we had collected enough money to pay for the shipping. We are now in the process of filling another container. Many of you have taken home Malawi covered coffee cans to fill with your loose change. Some of you have turned in your cans. Thank you so much. Please continue to fill your cans and return them by **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Angela's mother, Janice Lee, will be traveling to Malawi in early March and we will be sending our second container with her. The items needed have changed. Below is a list of these items:

Girls underwear, sizes 2x to 7

Boys shorts, sizes 2x to 7

Children's toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Please contact Laura Brown or Becky Comer if you have any questions.



### NEWS FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR, SALLY FETTERMAN

As you may know, Sally is a senior at BASH and active in instrumental and vocal music. She will take a hiatus as our Choir Director from Jan-mid-April, as she is once again performing in a central role for the high school musical. This year the show is Mamma Mia! Sally will play the part of the saucy Tanya Chresham-Leigh (portrayed by Christine Baranski in the 2008 and 2018 Hollywood movies). The show dates are April 2, 3, 4, and 5, so be sure to find a date on your calendar to cheer on Sally and the entire cast.

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
January through December 2019

	Jan - Dec 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Parsonage Rental Income	13,200.00		
Interest Income Savings	10.46		
General Offerings	115,098.06 <sup>1</sup>	128,289.00	-13,190.94
Interest (from Endowments)	96,052.27 <sup>2</sup>	4,000.00	92,052.27
Temporarily Restricted	29,986.07	8,050.00	21,936.07
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>254,346.86 <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>140,339.00</b>	<b>114,007.86</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>254,346.86</b>	<b>140,339.00</b>	<b>114,007.86</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
MINISTRY	17,469.52 <sup>4</sup>	8,550.00	8,919.52
PASTORAL	58,434.12 <sup>5</sup>	67,338.00	-8,903.88
PROPERTY	59,520.90 <sup>6</sup>	34,896.00	24,624.90
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION	30,676.54	29,555.00	1,121.54
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>166,101.08</b>	<b>140,339.00</b>	<b>25,762.08</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>88,245.78 <sup>7</sup></b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>88,245.78</b>

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
January through December 2019

- General offerings were lower than amount budgeted
- One time unexpected "catch up" interest payment received from Leidy Trust of \$90,504
- Total income higher than budget due to income from the parsonage rental, extra Leidy trust interest, and temporarily restricted income (offerings collected to be used for specific purposes)
- Ministry expense higher than budgeted due to Benevolence expense - amounts paid out for OCWM and special offerings such as BAMS, Mustard Seed, 5 for 5. Amount paid out for 2019 was \$10,120.80, we don't include this in the budget
- Pastoral expenses are lower than budget primarily from the budget for health insurance, we budgeted \$5,000 for health insurance and did not have any expense for health insurance. We removed this from the budget in 2020. Visitation, pulpit supply and pastoral ministry expenses also were below budget
- Property expenses were much higher than the amount budgeted due to large improvement expenses. Cemetery expenses were \$5,675 above budget, primarily from the purchase of a new mower for \$5,300. Building / Grounds Maintenance and Repairs were \$19,006 above budget - large expenses during 2019 were \$3,250 for tree removal; \$4,385 for new doors; \$4,450 for new Christian Ed doors; \$5,167 for the Air Conditioner
- Overall net income for the year is \$88,245.78  
The net income is broken down as follows:  
Net increase / gain in general funds \$86,675.04 --- However, included in this is the interest payment from Leidy trust of \$90,504, without that the general fund had a loss of \$3,828.96.  
Net decrease / loss in restricted funds is \$-7,041.77 - this reflects money that was spent from the restricted funds carried over from the prior year  
Net increase / gain in the parsonage rental funds \$10,577.30 (Note, this is for general use)  
Net decrease / loss in the future of Falkner Swamp funds \$-2,964.54  
Net increase / gain in the endowment repayment funds \$999.75 (This is 25% of the amount received from Benevolence offerings)

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ**  
**Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison**  
 January through December 2019

	Jan - Dec 19	Jan - Dec 18	\$ Change
<b>Income</b>			
Parsonage Rental Income	13,200.00	13,200.00	0.00
Interest Income Savings	10.46	32.53	-22.07
General Offerings	115,098.06	105,067.47	10,030.59
Interest (from Endowments)	96,052.27	3,035.75	93,016.52
Temporarily Restricted	29,986.07	23,518.55	6,467.52
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>254,346.86</b>	<b>144,854.30</b>	<b>109,492.56</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>254,346.86</b>	<b>144,854.30</b>	<b>109,492.56</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
MINISTRY	17,469.52	13,723.62	3,745.90
PASTORAL	58,434.12	49,087.66	9,346.46
PROPERTY	59,520.90	50,858.01	8,662.89
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATI...	30,676.54	28,010.69	2,665.85
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>166,101.08</b>	<b>141,679.98</b>	<b>24,421.10</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>88,245.78</b>	<b>3,174.32</b>	<b>85,071.46</b>



*My dear Falkner Swamp friends,*

*I want to express my gratitude for the cards, notes, and gift cards I received for my birthday. Over my time here, I am often amazed at how generous this congregation can be and being the recipient of this generosity is humbling and overwhelming. You made me feel so appreciated and loved and I hope you all know that the feeling is mutual. I am so blessed to be a part of this amazing group. I wish you all a wonderful 2020!*

*With gratitude,*  
*Sharon Sgriccia*

# Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ Year Book Report - Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2019

	Dec 31, 19
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BB&T Checking	14,819.85
BB&T Savings	34,586.00
BB&T CD	150,000.00
Endowment	132,345.50
Total Checking/Savings	331,751.35
Total Current Assets	331,751.35
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>331,751.35</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	167.35
Other Current Liabilities	
Parsonage Rent Deposit	1,100.00
Payroll Liabilities	1,173.94
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,273.94
Total Current Liabilities	2,441.29
Total Liabilities	2,441.29
Equity	
Not Restricted Funds	
Endowment Repay Funds	7,680.02
Future of FS Funds	6,747.43
Income from Parsonage Rental	48,372.59
Total Not Restricted Funds	62,800.04
Restricted Funds	
300th Anniversary Funds	3,433.51
Sponsor a Family (BAMS)	276.32
Youth Room	1,791.34
Kitchen Funds	4,895.57
Cemetery (Univest)	910.75
Upper Cemetery Funds	745.00
Cemetery Capital	275.00
Christian Ed/ VBS/ Joyful Noise	100.02
Emergency/Pastors Discretion...	298.94
Heater Funds	9,243.22
Parsonage Deposit	1,100.00
Snow Removal	60.00
Total Restricted Funds	23,129.67
Unrestricted Net Assets	155,134.57
Net Income	88,245.78
Total Equity	329,310.06
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>331,751.35</b>



# Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ

## Year Book Report - Income and Expense

January through December 2019

---

	Jan - Dec 19
<b>Income</b>	
Parsonage Rental Income	13,200.00
Interest Income Savings	10.46
<b>General Offerings</b>	
Future of FS	1,593.00
Redner's Tape	171.44
Plate	2,557.43
Envelopes	109,567.50
<b>Activities</b>	
Amazon Smile	27.47
Community Breakfast	0.00
PND	0.00
Dogs CDs & Gigs	65.00
Miscellaneous	211.62
<b>Total Activities</b>	304.09
<b>Building Rental</b>	626.00
<b>Sunday School &amp; VBS</b>	23.00
<b>Knouse Trust Income</b>	255.60
<b>Total General Offerings</b>	115,098.06
<b>Interest (from Endowments)</b>	
Leidy Trust Income	95,276.78
Interest (from Endowments) - Other	775.49
<b>Total Interest (from Endowments)</b>	96,052.27
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	
300th Anniversary	2,519.40
Heater Repairs	150.00
AED	800.00
New Doors	2,140.50
Tree Removal	300.00
<b>Kitchen</b>	
PB Eggs	4,273.00
Kitchen - Other	4,818.75
<b>Total Kitchen</b>	9,091.75
<b>Renovations</b>	107.50
<b>Benevolence Offerings</b>	
Sponsor a Family (BAMS)	760.00
CWS Emergency Buckets	956.83
Mustard Seed	832.00
OGHS	399.00
All Saints	239.00
Bethany Children's Home	367.50
Boyertown Multi Service	427.00
<b>Church World Service</b>	303.00
<b>Neighbors In Need</b>	469.50
<b>Our Church's Wider Mission</b>	
25% Endowment Repayment	999.75
75% Our Church's Wider Mission	3,000.25
<b>Total Our Church's Wider Mission</b>	4,000.00
<b>Strengthen the Church</b>	287.00
<b>Veterans of the Cross</b>	373.50
<b>Total Benevolence Offerings</b>	9,414.33
<b>Building Fund</b>	491.23

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ**  
**Year Book Report - Income and Expense**  
January through December 2019

---

	Jan - Dec 19
Cemetery	
Capital	275.00
Cemetery - Other	2,445.38
<b>Total Cemetery</b>	<b>2,720.38</b>
Christian Education	424.00
Emergency	336.00
Flowers	
Christmas Flowers	159.00
Flowers - Other	1,221.98
<b>Total Flowers</b>	<b>1,380.98</b>
Property Fund	50.00
Snow Removal	60.00
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>29,986.07</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>254,346.86</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>254,346.86</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>MINISTRY</b>	
300th Anniversary	1,585.89
Printing Env and Wkly books	118.20
Community Breakfast	482.49
Music & Worship	
Worship and Sermon Materials	214.45
Music Supplies	
Copy Right License	133.00
<b>Total Music Supplies</b>	<b>133.00</b>
Music & Worship - Other	152.98
<b>Total Music &amp; Worship</b>	<b>500.43</b>
Christian Education Expense	
Books	266.38
Christian Education Expense - Ot...	1,105.96
<b>Total Christian Education Expense</b>	<b>1,372.34</b>
<b>Benevolence</b>	
The Christmas Fund / Vets of th	373.50
Bethany Children's Home	367.50
All Saints	239.00
Neighbors in Need	469.50
Covenant Association	108.00
Mustard Seed	832.00
Sponser a Family	483.68
Strengthen the Church	287.00
OGHS	399.00
CWS Emergency Buckets	956.83
CWS	303.00
Pension Board Campaign	273.00
BAMS	427.00
OCWM	3,000.25
Benevolence - Other	1,601.54
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>10,120.80</b>
Conferences/Seminars	585.00
Emer. Fund (Pastor Discretion)	157.06

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ**  
**Year Book Report - Income and Expense**  
 January through December 2019

---

	Jan - Dec 19
Evangelism	
Reaching New People	223.54
Evangelism - Other	183.52
Total Evangelism	407.06
Flowers	1,671.90
Fundraising Expenses	
PB Eggs	421.27
Total Fundraising Expenses	421.27
Vacation Bible School	47.08
Total MINISTRY	17,469.52
PASTORAL	
Pastoral Expenses	
Continuing Edu / Conf / Seminar	944.00
Ministry Expenses	1,022.62
Total Pastoral Expenses	1,966.62
Pastor Pension	6,329.58
Pastor Salary	
Social Security Allowance	3,450.00
Pastor Salary - Other	45,097.92
Total Pastor Salary	48,547.92
Visitations	
Visitations	840.00
Total Visitations	840.00
Pulpit Supply	750.00
Total PASTORAL	58,434.12
PROPERTY	
Bldg. Maintenance/Repairs	
Tree Removal	3,250.00
Doors	4,385.00
Freezer	623.14
Boiler and Pipes Repair	959.44
Choir/Christian Ed Door	4,450.00
Air Conditioner	5,167.00
Bldg. Maintenance/Repairs - Other	3,670.92
Total Bldg. Maintenance/Repairs	22,505.50
Cemetery	
New Mower	5,299.99
Gas	499.60
Mowing	5,731.25
Mower Repair	133.20
Cemetery - Other	11.00
Total Cemetery	11,675.04
Comprehensive Insurance	7,376.00
Electricity	3,689.61
Oil - Church	7,008.77
Organ/Piano Maintenance	1,071.00
Parsonage Maintenance	2,022.70

**Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ**  
**Year Book Report - Income and Expense**  
 January through December 2019

---

	Jan - Dec 19
Security Monitoring	490.28
Sewer Service	600.00
Parsonage Sewer Service	600.00
Snow Removal	2,110.00
Waste Hauling	372.00
<b>Total PROPERTY</b>	<b>59,520.90</b>
<b>STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION</b>	
AED	1,275.00
Online Communication	154.25
Advertising	25.00
Bank Fees	133.28
Office Equipment - Copier	1,464.00
Copy Charges	
Color	319.24
Black & White	670.47
<b>Total Copy Charges</b>	<b>989.71</b>
Office Supplies	650.94
Substitute Organist	250.00
Payroll Fees	471.00
Phone/Internet	2,171.45
Postage	270.70
Staff Salaries	
SS, Medicare	1,056.61
Staff Salaries - Other	12,972.00
<b>Total Staff Salaries</b>	<b>14,028.61</b>
Treasurer	7,200.00
Website	220.60
Workers Comp Insurance	1,372.00
<b>Total STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>30,676.54</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>166,101.08</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>88,245.78</b>



### **LIVING MEMORIAL FUND – 2019**

Beginning Memorial Savings Balance 1/1/2019 = \$1182.10

Interest Earned 2019 + .12

Balance as of 12/31/2019 = \$1,182.22

Respectfully Submitted: Sharon K Schnaars

From the Church Office: Falkner Swamp membership statistics for 2019 [2018 in brackets]

Total Additions: 12 (1 adult baptism, 3 transfers, 7 professions of faith, 1 return to active), [9]

Total Losses: 2 (1 death, 1 other) [6]

Total Membership as of 12/31/19: 171 [161]

Total Baptisms: 4 (3 infant, 1 adult) [2]

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 63 [59]

### Historical What Ifs??

What if the word “schwamm” in German, which means “bottom land” or “meadow,” had actually been translated “meadow”? Our church would sit up on the road called Meadow Pike. And our church would be called.....Falkner Meadow. In the 1720s this area in which German immigrants settled was named “Falckner’s schwamm.” The first name derives from Daniel Falckner who was appointed to sell the land owned by the Frankfort Company of London. (It’s thought he became the first pastor of New Hanover Lutheran Church.) The second name schwamm was anglicized into “swamp.”

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



*HONOR THE PAST, CELEBRATE THE PRESENT, EMBRACE THE FUTURE*

The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has had a great year preparing for our big celebration in October 2020.

2019 found our committee kicking into high gear with event planning, fundraising, and historical components. We usually meet once a month as a large group and occasionally meet in smaller groups for more detailed planning. Here's a review of what's been going on so far:

The service to celebrate the 299th Anniversary of our congregation's first meeting was held in October 2019. Members of our congregation dressed in period costumes, Susan Mercer shared some interesting facts about 300, and we had special music from the Boyertown Senior High Show Choir. Additionally, the service served as the kick-off to our 300th Anniversary celebration, including weekly historical moments with Wayne Gruver and the beginning of our 300 A.R.K. (Acts of Random Kindness) program.

The 300 A.R.K. is a fun program that gets everyone involved—when you perform an act of random kindness, move a pompom from one container to the other. When all 300 pompoms are in the second container, one of our children gets to dump the container on Rev. Frances during worship and add an animal to the ark on the bulletin board in the fellowship room. We want to see how many animals we can add over the course of the year, and so far, we're doing great! Lots of kindness in this congregation!

The history subcommittee has already created a flyer with some information and important dates on it. They are also hard at work to update our history booklet.

We have held several successful fundraisers: a bake sale at Freed's, a spaghetti supper, and the sale of Wawa hoagie coupons. Additionally, we have sold t-shirts and tote bags, and we now have free pens and car magnets. We are having a Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's in Pottstown on March 21; tickets will be available for purchase in mid-February.

Looking ahead, we are planning a picnic on June 13 (rain date is June 14). Our big 300th Anniversary celebration will be held the weekend of October 17 and 18. Please save those dates and plan to join us for what is sure to be a great time!

It's never too late to join us! Please talk to any member of the Committee to get our next meeting date—we'd love to see you there!

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; Kim Shaak; Arlene Umstead.

## Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Embrace the Future

### *A look into our history to inform our future*

#### The Beginning of Formation

There is an image brought to my mind recently of facing the future as if you are sitting in a rowboat. Imagine sitting in a rowboat, your bowed arms gripping the oars that slice through water. Your back is facing where you are going. To move forward successfully, you have to keep in view what you are leaving behind. I think of approaching our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a gathered community in this way, rowing into a future while taking with us the instructive moments from the church's past.\*

In brief our beginnings as a church were officially recognized on October 15, 1725, when founding pastor John Philip Boehm presided over communion to 40 people. It is in our church story, also, that the beginning of the church as a gathered body of faith began in 1720, when German immigrants, mostly farmers and craftsmen, fled the war-torn Palatinate region and settled in this area. Among the few belongings they brought with them were bibles and Heidelberg catechisms, their rule of faith. Their desire to sing hymns, pray, and hear scriptures read by those with skill to do so, for many were illiterate, featured strongly as they built a life in a new land. \*\*

It is to that humble beginning we turn this fall to celebrate 300 years of being church together. Sitting in our imaginary rowboat, what is instructive to bring forward with us?

In the formative years of 1720-1765, under the first two pastors John Philip Boehm and John Philip Leydich (the "J.P.s"), dogged persistence and collaboration of both lay people and pastors is evident.

Boehm was a skilled reader and teacher (his father was a Reformed pastor in Germany), but he was not ordained. Without ordination, he was not officially recognized to administer the two sacraments of Communion and Baptism. The people of Boehm's 3 first churches – Falkner Swamp, Whitmarsh, and Skippack -- were eager to do whatever they could to form church, being rich in hope, faith and love. They were having children who they wanted to have baptized; they were hungry in faith for the feast of Jesus Christ.

You could say their persistence broke him down. Reflecting on this time Boehm wrote in a 1744 letter, that though he had put them off "full five years ... This was so touchingly represented to me by two of their numbers thereunto commissioned that our hearts melted together in tears, and in the name of all the people it was pressed upon my conscience whether I had the courage to answer for it at the last judgment. ... I allowed myself therefore to be persuaded to this work."

~ continued on page 29

~ continued from page 28

In a 1728 letter asking for Boehm to be ordained, to the governing body of the Dutch church in Amsterdam, several church leaders admitted as much: “Thus, Reverend Classis, we confess that we at last prevailed upon Johan Philips Boehm to take upon himself the ministry among us in this widely extended region ...”

Curious why the Reformed Church in Holland received their appeal? I was too when first learning this history. In 1727 an ordained Reformed pastor immigrated from Germany to Philadelphia and caught wind of Boehm's work administering sacraments without ordination. Among other actions, he wrote a letter expressing alarm to the Reformed governing body in Germany. That body then referred to the Dutch church organized in New York for help. The collaboration of the Dutch Reformed Church with the German Reformed lay people and other ordained pastors resulted in Boehm's ordination. Thereafter the Dutch Church saw the German Reformed Church in America as a mission field. Among other assistance they provided financial aid to help the German Reformed churches in America, which were generally poor and without any start-up funds.

The road to ordination was arduous but even more so were the actual paths Boehm trod. Organizing nine total congregations in a far-flung area, and over his 23-year pastorate, Boehm rode 28,704 miles by horseback! In addition, both J.P.s worked in hard manual labor on their farmland. Salaries cobbled together from the Dutch Reformed Church in Holland and the various congregations were not enough to support them and their families.

In the 1740s, J.P. Leydich, along with Boehm, collaborated with the newly arrived pastor Michael Schlatter, who is seen as the organizer of the German Reformed churches in PA. Schlatter created the Coetus, or Convention of the area churches, and Leydich was elected President in 1760.

Leydich also served 3 churches at the same time: Falkner Swamp, Trappe and East Vincent. Still on horseback, but fewer miles, for sure. Through Schlatter's appeals to Europe for funds, Bibles, and ministers, the German Reformed Church steadily grew. By the end of Leydich's pastorate (1765), Falkner Swamp had 54 families.

Our church's beginning highlights ongoing perseverance and collaboration that allowed for possibility and growth. In days ahead, we can adopt the same as our forebears, in hope and faith and love.

Rowing forward,

Rev. Frances

\*The rowboat image came from “Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation” for January 1, 2020.

\*\* I am drawing from the histories written by Pastor Gary Hauze in 1975 and the recent paper by Pastor Judith Meier in 2019.



Falkner Swamp U. C. C.  
2077 Swamp Pike  
Gilbertsville,  
Pennsylvania 1952519525

Phone: 610-323-4053

E-mail: falknerswamp@comcast.net



- **February 1st: Community Breakfast ~ sign up to help on the bulletin board**
- **February 21st: Fastnacht Social ~ look for more info soon**
- **February 29th: Take a Leap of Faith! ~ adult retreat with Rev. Frances and Rev. Darryl Cruz, pastor Trinity UCC Telford**

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