



## **2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

JANUARY 25, 2026

### **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Our purpose is to be a worshipping community who makes disciples by gathering in the name of God, gifting by the Holy Spirit, and going into the world to share the love of Jesus Christ.

### **STAFF**

Ministers – All the people of Faith

Pastor – The Rev. Dr. David Bender

Directory of Programs – Edye Bender

Office Manager – Lila Johnson

Music Worship Leader – Carol Edmonds

Director of Choirs – Dr. Baha Lee

Financial Administrator – Beth Young

Email: [mainoffice@faithpresusa.com](mailto:mainoffice@faithpresusa.com)

7520 Charlotte Highway Indian Land, SC 29707

Phone: 803-548-8810

[www.faithpresusa.org](http://www.faithpresusa.org)

## **The Session**

Moderator ..... Rev. Dr. David M. Bender

Clerk of Session..... Jane Stein

Treasurer ..... Dick Reif

### **Class of 2025**

Glenda Bonner  
Rick Lambert  
Melissa Wellman

### **Class of 2026**

Glen Affonso  
Greg Hammill  
Osmond Simm  
Sally Smith \*Resigned 08/18/2024  
Mary Jane Carr

### **Class of 2027**

Lois Briggs  
Brenda Thomas  
Ted Tozer

### **Class of 2028**

J C Rouchon  
Greg Wellman  
Tim Wells



January 2026

Greetings Faith family!

The beginning of a new year provides the opportunity to reflect upon the ministries of the year that has passed. The information offered in all the attached documents will remind you of how Faith seeks to remain faithful to our mission. The Session and ministry teams are again humbled and delighted to present to you our annual church report.

Generations to come will remember 2025 as the year that the congregation completed our new building by adding our ministry center. Dick Bonner and Rick Lambert assumed different leadership roles that allowed us to open that building late in the summer of 2025. The center has already become integral to our ministry, and we have begun making memories there. Along with the building team, we enjoyed a successful fourth and hopefully final capital campaign, led by Jack Haubach and Osmond Simm, to retire the debt on the building.

I am always amazed by the work of God at Faith, particularly in the ways that God continues to lift up strong, dedicated, and faithful leaders. Today, we celebrate the ministries of our 3 elders whose terms ended in 2025: Melissa Wellman, Rick Lambert, and Glenda Bonner. Your wisdom and effort have made a difference. We are also blessed to welcome a new elder class: JC Rouchon, Tim Wells and Greg Wellman. May God continue to bless you and lead you.

Finally, we remember and celebrate the lives of dear friends that we have lost this year. We remember Pat Bowers, who had a heart for mission and moved to the beach. We remember Wally Drexler, who served as elder and left behind a legacy of two wooden crosses in our sanctuary. We remember Janice Wright, who shared her many creative gifts. We remember Sharon Deming, who always had a song in her heart. We remember Barbara Miller, who leaves behind a life of service to sick children and researching for a cure for cancer. We remember Dennis Senglaub who served his country and served his communities. We remember friend of the congregation Jack McLeod, who helped build the infrastructure many places in our country. We remember Judy Reisen, who always offered a warm welcome and a good word. We remember Ray Weiss, who served as elder, treasurer, conveyor of wisdom and all-around best friend.

As always, I'm blessed to work with the best staff in the business: Edye, Baha, Carol, Lila, and Beth.

Peace,

**David**

## Annual Congregational Meeting - January 26, 2025

### Faith Presbyterian Church

Following the worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2025, Rev. Dr. David Bender called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at 11:00 AM and opened with prayer. A quorum was present. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

Rev. Bender announced that Jane Stein, Clerk of Session, would serve as the secretary for the meeting.

Rev. Bender stated that the purpose of the meeting was:

To elect three members from the congregation to serve on the 2025 Elder Nominating Team

To receive the 2024 Annual Report

To hear a report on the 2024 Finances and receive the 2025 Operating Budget

#### **Election of the 2025 Elder Nominating Team**

After explaining the purpose of the role, Rev. Bender opened the floor for nominations. The following members were nominated from the floor:

1. Ann Marie Simm
2. Jim Northrup
3. Sally Smith

Rick Lambert made a motion to close the nominations and elect the members of the Team by acclamation. The motion was seconded from the floor and **APPROVED by acclamation.**

#### **2024 Annual Report**

The 2024 Annual Report was made available to the congregation in print and by email in a PDF format. The report summarizes the mission and financial activities of the church.

#### **Financial Review**

Ted Tozer, Finance Team Elder, presented the following Financial Highlights and thanked the congregation for their generosity.

#### **Balance Sheet – December 31, 2024**

	<b>Assets</b>
Operating Account	\$ 430,645
Building Fund	\$ 506,112
Endowment Fund	\$ 81,357
Land and Buildings	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
Total Assets	\$2,018,114

### Liabilities and Net Worth

Prepaid Offering	\$ 43,500
PILP Mortgage	\$ <u>0</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 43,500
Net Worth	\$1,974,614
Net Worth and Liabilities	\$2,018,114

Ted Tozer noted that while there is currently no PILP mortgage, there will be a \$890,000 mortgage on the new Ministry Center. He also noted that the church has a contingency fund of \$220,000 to cover unexpected expenses that may arise as the buildings age.

### Income Statement

	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
Offering	\$398,397	\$439,000
Rental	\$ 450	\$ 0
Vacation Bible School	\$ 2,119	\$ 2,167
Interest Income	<u>\$ 16,295</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
Total Income	\$417,261	\$456,167
Staff Compensation	\$188,436	\$242,727
Staff Professional Expense	\$ 3,885	\$ 8,300
Worship	\$ 2,993	\$ 4,450
Communications	\$ 0	\$ 1,100
Christian Education	\$ 8,996	\$ 9,250
Outreach	\$ 920	\$ 900
Congregational Care	\$ 192	\$ 500
Fellowship	\$ 3,481	\$ 11,350
Buildings and Grounds	\$157,460	\$118,390
Administration	\$ 25,551	\$ 34,100
Mission	\$ 1,985	\$ 2,400
Per Capita	<u>\$ 22,558</u>	<u>\$ 22,700</u>

Total Expense	\$416,457	\$456,167
Net Cash Flow	\$ 804	\$ 0

Ted Tozer again thanked the congregation for their generosity and noted that the 10% increase in their giving for 2025 has allowed us to provide staff increases and the addition of a new staff member. This will also enable us to cover mission activities and the increased costs of our facilities.

Dick Bonner provided an update on the construction of the new ministry center and indicated that we should begin to see construction in the next two weeks, weather permitting.

The meeting was turned over to Rick Lambert, Elder for the Personnel/Administration Team.

The Bender family was excused from the meeting for the discussion on the changes to the Pastor's Terms of Call.

Rick made a motion from the Personnel/Administration Team that the Pastor's salary be increased by 5%. Individual numbers, which included Salary, Housing Allowance, SECA, Benefits and Continuing Education were presented. Total Cost to the congregation is \$127,025.66. Rick explained that the Benefits package, which is secured from PCUSA, went up significantly this year. The increased cost will be spread over the next three years. In addition, Rev. Bender will receive 4 weeks of vacation and is also eligible for 12 weeks of FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act), if needed.

Since the motion comes from the committee no second is needed. Ray Weiss made a motion that the recommendations for the Pastor's Terms of Call be approved. Rick asked if there were any questions or discussion before we voted. There being none, the motion was **Approved by acclamation**.

Rev. Bender returned and asked if there was any other business.

There was a question from Lois Briggs regarding the plan for the stones that the congregation was holding for the Ministry Center. Ann Mary Northrup advised that the original plan was to put the stones in the foundation, but that was not going to be possible. Instead, the stones will be placed in the area between the walls. She is securing additional stones for new members and those who did not get a stone previously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:20 AM.

---

Rev. Dr. David Bender

---

Jane Stein, Clerk of Session/Secretary

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Presbyterian Church  
Congregational Meeting  
November 23, 2025

Following worship service on Sunday, November 23, 2025, Rev. Dr. David Bender called the congregational meeting to order at 11:00 AM. The meeting was opened with prayer. The meeting was also available on Zoom. A quorum was present.

Jane Stein, Clerk of Session, served as the secretary for the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect three elders to the Class of 2028. The meeting was turned over to Jim Northrup, chair of the Elder Nominating Team. Jim announced that the other members of the team who served this year were:

- Elders – MJ Carr and Glenda Bonner
- Members from the congregation were Sally Smith and Ann Marie Simm.

Jim placed the following names into nomination for Ruling Elder:

- JC Rouchon – Missions and Outreach Team Elder
- Tim Wells – People Growth Team Elder
- Greg Wellman – Personnel/Administration Team Elder

Jim provided a brief background for each nominee.

Rev. Bender opened the floor for additional nominations.

Jan Sellards made a motion that the nominations be closed and that we proceed to a vote by acclamation. The motion was seconded from the floor and **approved by acclamation.**

There being no further business, Rev. Bender closed the meeting with prayer at 11:07 AM.

---

Rev. Dr. David Bender

---

Jane Stein, Clerk of Session/Secretary

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## **Clerk of Session – Annual Report – 2025**

<b>Active Members on Church Roll as of January 1, 2025</b>	<b>211</b>
--	------------

### **Additions:**

<b>Certificates of Transfer</b>	<b>8</b>
---------------------------------	----------

<b>Reaffirmation of Faith</b>	<b>7</b>
-------------------------------	----------

<b>Total Additions</b>	<b>15</b>
------------------------	-----------

### **Losses:**

<b>Moved to Inactive/Transfers</b>	<b>8</b>
------------------------------------	----------

<b>Death of Member</b>	<b>8</b>
------------------------	----------

<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>16</b>
---------------------	-----------

<b>Active Members as of December 31, 2025</b>	<b>210</b>
---	------------

### **The following members died in 2025:**

**Patti Bower, Wally Drexler, Janice Wright, Sharon Deming, Barbara Miller,  
Dennis Senglaub, Judith Reisen, Ray Weiss**

### **Attendance Information**

<b>Average Weekly In-Person Sunday Attendance</b>	<b>135</b>
---	------------

<b>Average Weekly Virtual You Tube Views</b>	<b>51</b>
--	-----------

<b>Christmas Eve In-Person Attendance</b>	<b>190</b>
---	------------

<b>Christmas Eve Virtual You Tube Views (as of 1/14/2026)</b>	<b>56</b>
---	-----------

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jane Stein, Clerk of Session**



## 2025 Year-end Summary for Program Director

My responsibilities as Program Director (22 hrs./ week):

\* **Nursery** - Nursery staffing has been volunteer only, as we have no consistent attendance. The Christian Education team will cover the nursery with 2 adults who have been background checked / child protection trained, if children come to worship. There are several of us on the CE team that qualify and are willing. I have kept up with the volunteer screenings and have coordinated nurseries as needed.

\* **MMO Director** - Responsibilities include registration, filling spots that become vacant through the year, arranging subs, planning lessons, getting snacks, and collecting tuition. 2025 has held extra challenges, with the loss of Susan Moore as a teacher last January. We hired a long-term sub (Mildred Ruttenberg) and ran a search for and hired a new teacher at the end of 2025 - Judy Friello. (My position as MMO teacher is a separate job, 4 hrs. per week). I was also recertified in infant / child CPR in November.

\* **Children's Worship**—When we have children (K-4th grade) in worship who would like to participate in Children's Worship, I work with CE volunteers to offer a children's church lesson. We have prepared lessons in the craft closet that volunteers can use when needed. I am also working to maintain supplies in the worship bags, which children can use in the sanctuary, as well as a selection of books for them to choose from, if they would like.

\* **CE Kits** - We provide Christian Education kits quarterly, for families to learn about the Bible together at home. I adapt a unit of curriculum from the *Growing in God's Love* series (published by the PCUSA). Each family receives a Story Bible, and each unit covers 4-6 stories from the Story Bible, inviting families to read, discuss, and then engage in activities and crafts to teach more about that story or theme. We sent home a unit approximately every 3 months, until the fall. At that point, we decided to evaluate how they were being used, and I developed a "sample kit" which we distributed at the pumpkin patch. We did not receive much response and are looking for new ways to help families with faith formation.

\* **Adult Education** – This year, I have continued as some of the "tech help" with adult education, including our adult Sunday School classes, Lenten Bible study and small group studies. It is wonderful to have the tech to be able to include folks who cannot come to a class in person, and I would love to have a team of folks trained to use it. I have taught a session of the Lenten series, adult Sunday School sessions, and completed the "Be the Bridge" small group with Lasenia Jones in the spring.

\* **Small Groups** - I finished a second small group study of "Be the Bridge" and was able to be involved again this year with choosing Small Group studies, helping to advertise and coordinate sign ups and book orders.

\* **Youth Group** – I have continued to meet with our small youth group this year. We have done several mission-focused activities this year, including hosting activities at "Trunk or Tr'Easter" and the Pumpkin Patch, painting the room and then a mural for Safe Passage shelter, and shopping for Angel Tree and senior gift bags at Christmas. We celebrated Mia Francis' graduation last summer with a fun "murder mystery" party and have done other fun group activities. This fall, our group is down to 2 kids who have busy schedules, so we are meeting as we are able.

\* **VBS**—My responsibilities with VBS continue to include making arrangements with Bethelwoods, maintaining registrations, recruiting, and scheduling volunteers to help with food, ordering t-shirts, etc. In 2025, Faith folks continued a plan to "wrap around" the VBS counselors, to provide more adult assistance, as well as to teach the kids about some of our ministries. I worked with the CE team to plan these volunteers.

\* **Children's Ministry** - I was happy to be part of some outreach to children and families in our community, including "Trunk or Tr'Easter," the kids' day at the Pumpkin Patch, and the Advent worship.

\* **Retreat team** - The retreat team continued their 2024 planning and put together a fantastic church-wide retreat for our Faith community. I loved working with an enthusiastic group of planners to build the theme, identify storytellers, and figure out logistics for a retreat that drew folks together in wonderful ways. We met to evaluate that retreat and hope to put together another event for the spring of 2027.

\* **People Growth Team** – I met with the People Growth Committee and have helped to do some social media advertising for them.

\* **Christian Education Team** – I also met with the CE committee for most of the above work. They are great at generating ideas and creating programs, and I am blessed to work with them.

\* **Communications Team** - I met with the Communications team. I continue to post on social media 3x per week, help with the newsletter, and create quarterly ads for the Sun City Living magazine.

\* **Capital Campaign team** - I spent some time in the fall meeting with the Capital Campaign team and connecting the campaign with our children and youth.

\* **Montreat Women's Connection** - Ten women from Faith (plus 2 from other congregations) were able to participate in the Women's Connection in August. I helped coordinate registration, transportation, housing, and food. I have also been working with the William Black staff to make sure that we are registered for the 2026 conference.

\* **Service to the Larger Church** – Part of the gift of the Presbyterian Church is that we are connectional, and lean on each other from time to time. I meet with the educators of Providence Presbytery throughout the school year, which gives me a great group of colleagues to bounce ideas off of and gain new ideas and insights on how to improve our program. I took 2025 off from the Community of Faith team of Providence Presbytery but will be returning this month.

\* **Continuing Education** - I was thankful to be able to attend the 2025 Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) meeting in Memphis. Especially in these days where ministry is changing rapidly, it is a blessing to be connected to other educators in the PCUSA and other partner denominations.

\* **Internship Supervisor** - From Sept to the present, I have had the opportunity to supervise Sandy Knight's internship for her Master's in Christian Ed studies.

\* **Church History / Scrapbooking** - While I have not had much time for this during 2025, the maintenance of Faith's scrapbook does fall under my job description. I have also been in communication with Jerry Marcus, tender of our Old Six Mile Cemetery, about his needs for help in doing some Ancestry research, as well as maintenance of the OSMC website and keeping their Facebook page and ours connected. I would LOVE to find some people who are interested in history, genealogical research, photo organizing, scrapbooking, etc. who could help me expand on these areas of ministry!

\* I cannot end this report without saying how much Lila's presence in the office has helped me this year! Her ability to take care of administrative work, newsletter, phone calls, copier needs, etc., has made my work SO much easier!

It is a joy to work for Faith Presbyterian Church, and I am thankful for this opportunity!

Respectfully submitted,  
Edye Williamson Bender

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TEAM

### 2025 YEAR-END REPORT

#### TEAM MEMBERS:

Glen Affonso, Ron Archer, Bob Bertolini, Tom Brown, Judy Boyes, Rod Boyes, Robert Douglas, Rodney Mandracchia, Lee Metzger, Dan Senatro, Rob Smith, Gail Smithwick, Jan Tacy, Mark Thomas, Tim Wells

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

##### January 2025

Storage/shelving construction was completed in the front left storage room of the Sanctuary. The Christmas trees were placed in their prepared space. Another successful Girl Scout Sales Training Session took place in the Sanctuary, requiring the set-up and take-down of tables and chairs, as well as vacuuming. A “set-up diagram” was created for future GS Training sessions. A Committee was created for planning a 2<sup>nd</sup> Columbarium campaign.

##### February 2025

Discussions began regarding the installation of a new playground. Cleanup and landscaping of the Butterfly Garden took place, including the planting of approximately one dozen daffodil plants.

##### March 2025

Safety cabinets in the Sanctuary and Office Buildings were inventoried and then supplied with the necessary sundry items. Plans were made for the B&G Playground Team to meet with Kurt Karricker of *Creative Playscape* so he can view the two areas under consideration for the playground, as well decide on the location of an additional sidewalk to allow for ADA requirements.

##### April 2025

Table and chair setups/takedowns occurred: 75+ chairs in the “still-under-construction” Ministry Center for a box lunch and placement of signed rocks; 24 tables in the Sanctuary for Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Worship Service; Easter Sunrise Service. A lot of hard work was put into the planning of a new playground, with Lee Metzger volunteering to lead the Committee, using his 28 years of experience at Parks and Playgrounds in St. Petersburg, Fl. The decision was made to move forward with the purchase & installation of Faith’s new playground. Fresh spring mulch was placed in most of Faith’s “beds” that would not be impacted by construction equipment and materials.

## **May 2025**

A piano recital by Cristy Calicdan took place in the sanctuary on May 4; Jack Haubach facilitated the setup of microphones. Under the leadership of Lee Metzger, *Creative Playscape* installed the “Shinin’ Bright” playground apparatus on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Jan Tacy oversaw the removal of approximately 8 trees adjacent to the playground site by *Davenport Tree Service*. A columbarium photo-poster was created, and an announcement was made soliciting new niche purchases, resulting in five commitments in one week’s time. A 50% deposit was made on the new Columbarium.

## **June 2025**

The concrete sidewalk to the playground was installed. Twenty new shrubs were planted, and new sod was placed along the new construction. New irrigation lines were installed in front of the new construction, around the new A/C and Playground and down the North property line behind the Sanctuary building. A new projector was installed and tested; Sanctuary lighting was converted to LED; expansion joints were installed in the Gathering Hall due to building settling over the past 8 years; Gathering Hall was repainted. The B&G Landscaping volunteers trimmed shrubs along the North mulch beds adjacent to the construction dumpster. Two picnic tables were assembled and placed in the mulch area adjacent to the parking lot. The Gaga Pit was reassembled and positioned behind the playground area.

## **July 2025**

A new postal mailbox with a lock was installed. Sanctuary setup was facilitated for the Women’s Bible Study Brunch on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The new Ministry Center floor was cleaned twice.

## **August 2025**

Lancaster Performing Arts’ Star Dust Big Swing Band Concert took place in the Sanctuary on August 24. B&G team set up musicians’ chairs and music stands; reset was done on August 26. A contract with a new A/C & Heating company was signed due to dissatisfaction with the performance of the current vendor.

## **September 2025**

The Ministry Center electric room was prepped for painting the walls. A white magnetic board was purchased and installed outside the women’s restroom. A utility cart was purchased and assembled for use by various Ministry Teams in transporting materials from the storage area to the conference rooms. Piano donated by the Ackers was placed in the Ministry Center.

## **October 2025**

The Ministry Center was set up with 13 tables to showcase Faith's ministries during the Stewardship & Capital Campaign season. The installation of eight Wi-Fi enabled thermostats was completed by Perrigo Heating & A/C, which will enable B&G to monitor usage more closely. Setup was done for the Pumpkin Patch "Kids' Activities Day": tables and chairs for pumpkin painting; bouncy house; necessary electrical considerations. Pumpkin Patch was dismantled on October 31.

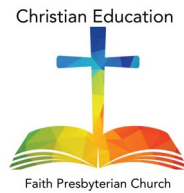
## **November 2025**

The setup of 18 round tables with 6 chairs each, plus 3 rectangle tables for serving was done for a Red Radish-catered luncheon on November 9. The Supply Room floor was painted. A CPR & AED course was held on November 7, with 11 people participating.

## **December 2025**

Three round tables and two rectangle tables were set up for Bette Acker's *Cookie Exchange* on December 11. All 20 tables were set up for the *Candlelight Christmas Tea* on December 11. Requested and received three estimates for asphalt repairs in the parking lot (crack sealer, asphalt sealer and repainting the parking spaces). Gutters on the sanctuary building were cleaned. A handrail was installed on the left side of the altar to enable better accessibility for speakers. Conversations regarding a garden around the 2<sup>nd</sup> Columbarium, as well as the possibility of an outdoor pavilion, were initiated.

GLEN AFFONSO – Building & Grounds Elder



## **Faith Presbyterian Church 2025 Christian Education Annual Report**

The **Christian Education (CE)** Team kept very busy this past year providing many opportunities in Christian Education for our members and friends of Faith Presbyterian Church. The work accomplished would not have been easy, or possibly even happen, without the hard-working and dedicated team. CE Team members in 2025 were Edye Bender, Pinky Bender, Lois Briggs, Marsha Fairbanks, Barbara Choate, Ann Marie Simm, Sandy Knight, Daune Teague, Gary and Trish Davis, and Stephanie Lambert.

### **Ongoing CE Opportunities at Faith in 2025:**

#### **Women's Bible Study**

WBS studied the Psalms under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Dr. Pinky Bender. The ladies also enjoyed brunch in July and December. Pinky has decided to step down from writing the WBS curriculum. The CE team has chosen:

*Horizon's Presbyterian Women's Bible Study: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Identity in Jesus Christ.*

Session approved this in November. WBS will rotate teachers. Thank you, Pinky, for your many years of leading WBS!

#### **Adult Sunday School**

Adult SS meets every Sunday at 9 a.m. The group always has lively discussions from Pastor David's questions provided on the back of the bulletin based on the previous week's sermon. During Advent, the class explored the Advent words: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love through The Bible Project's video series on Advent.

#### **Youth Group**

Edye Bender leads our small, but dedicated, group of high schoolers. They have been involved in several service projects, including senior gift bags, Angel tree, Second Harvest, volunteering at Thornwell Children's Home, and collecting food items for Safe Passage. They take time to have fun social activities too.

#### **Children's Ministry**

At Faith, we always have the nursery and Children's Church lessons available if little ones come on Sunday, including Easter and Christmas Eve services. The CE team prepared *Growing in God's Love* kits for children and families. We usually assembled 8-11 kits. They consisted of crafts and family activities based on a Bible story.

CE struggles to find new ways to attract young families to our church. We currently have team members researching this. It is an opportunity we are eager to accept.

### **Mother's Morning Out**

Led by Edye Bender, MMO meets in the nursery on Wednesday mornings from 9-12 during the school year. We have eight delightful 2–3-year-olds attending. Our co-teacher, Susan Moore, had to resign this year. The CE team hired Mildred Ruttenberg as a long-term sub; and after a thorough search, our new co-teacher, Judy Friello was hired. Judy started January 7th.

## **Short Term CE Opportunities at Faith:**

### **Lenten Bible Study**

In 2025, we offered a Lenten class using the book The Final Days by Matt Rawle. The class met on Tuesday evenings during Lent.

### **Trunk or Tr'Easter**

The CE Team along with the People Growth Team held another fun and successful Trunk or Tr'Easter on Sunday, April 13th. It was well attended and we had several Faith members decorate their trunks. We plan to do this again in March 2026.

### **MMO Party**

On May 28th, some of the CE team members helped with the graduation/year end pizza party for our Mother Morning Out children.

### **Vacation Bible School**

VBS was held from June 25—27th and served 30 kids. We used the team from Bethelwoods again to run the educational curriculum and activities. Faith volunteers helped in the groups, snacks, lunch, and mission talks. This year, the missions were card making, sewing, and making Chrismons with larger beads.

### **Women's Connection at Montreat**

Twelve women from Faith attended the Women's Connection at the Montreat Conference Center, in Western NC. As always, the ladies returned with renewed faith and energy. This year, several bears were sighted—one even tried to enter the assembly. Five hundred ladies making noise scared it off!

### **Small Groups**

The CE Team worked hard all summer selecting books for Small Groups. We invited others to help preview books. This year we have four books, five groups, and 58 people participating.

### **Pumpkin Patch Activities**

Members of the CE Team attended the Pumpkin Patch Activity Day and had fun with crafts and a short Bible story. A sample from a *Growing in God's Love Kit* was given out along with information on educational opportunities for children at Faith.

### **Advent Devotions**

Daily Advent devotions were available online and printed for those who preferred. They seemed popular and were used.

Adult SS also had an Advent study. (See Adult Sunday School)

### **Other areas here CE was involved or contributed :**

### **Sweet Little Symphonies**

Members of CE volunteered a few Saturdays when Sweet Little Symphonies was getting started.

### **Ministry Fair**

Christian Education had a table and chart display at Faith's Ministry Fair. It was fun to have people stop by and see all we have done for our congregation and the community.

### **Sandra Knight's Internship**

Sandra Knight is currently interning at Faith. She is a student at Union Seminary in Charlotte pursuing a degree in Christian Education. Sandy began her internship in September and will complete it in March. Sandy's supervisor is Edye Bender. The seminary requires a Mentoring Team; and her mentors are Pinky Bender, Lasenia Jones, Lois Briggs, Greg Hammill, and Sharon Archer. Sandy has been a welcome addition to the CE team and was an integral part of the church retreat's success. She is also teaching, leading, and working on outreach opportunities. Faith is lucky to have her expertise and caring personality with us.

---

2025 has been a very busy year for Christian Education and I could not be prouder of our hard working and dedicated team. A big thank you to Edye Bender for all she contributes to CE along with her other Program Director duties.

Respectfully submitted, Lois Briggs, Christian Education Elder.





## Communications Ministry 2025 Annual Report

**Team Members:** Osmond Simm, Rev. Dr. David Bender, Rick Lambert, Thomas C Wells, Pete Scheckermann, Jane Stein, Edye Bender, Jack Haubach, Rev. Dr. Pinky Bender, and Greg Wellman.

The Communications Ministry Team has completed its second year and has evolved into the role of providing effective communication within the church, the congregation, and the community at large. This year our primary focus was to conduct combined Stewardship and Capital Campaigns.

### Communications Within the Church:

- **Faith This Week:** This newsletter features motivational articles and is sent out weekly to members of the congregation via email. It keeps the congregants up to date with links pointing to "where to find it", weekly calendar, upcoming events, and highlights of past events. Pastor David prepares the newsletter with help from Edye Bender and staff contributors.
- **Digital Communications Enhancements:** Jack Haubach will stream Sunday services in the Ministry Center on one of our televisions. In addition, we are looking into implementing a scrolling calendar of events on that TV.
- **Crisis Communication:** We have established a structured communication plan specifically designed for our church, ensuring prompt messaging in the event of a crisis. A phone tree with a main group consisting of members from Session and from the Communications Ministry teams is in place. Pastor David is the owner of this main group with Osmond Simm as his backup. Subgroups have been assigned to the Session and the Communications Ministry team with detailed instructions if Pastor David initiates a crisis.
- **Gathering Hall Information Board:** We have implemented a display board displaying a pictorial history of Faith Presbyterian Church to enhance awareness and appreciation for Faith Presbyterian story.

## Community and Public at Large:

- **Livestream:** A team led by Jack Haubach continues to live stream our Sunday Worship which is reaching a worldwide audience.
- **Digital Sign/Electronic Sign:** We explored the replacement of the existing sign at the entrance from Highway 521 to the church with the intent to have a sign facing both directions along Highway 521. The postponement resulted from uncertainties about funding and zoning. Jack Haubach has found a local manufacturer that may meet our needs.
- **Advertisements:** We began the year by placing small monthly ads in the Sun City magazine. Going forward we will be placing half-page ads that will appear every quarter to give our church better visibility.
- **Social media:** Edye Bender continues to enhance our presence on social media by maintaining Faith's Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Stewardship and Capital Campaign:

- **Stewardship and Capital Campaigns:** This year, the annual Stewardship campaign merged with the Capital campaign. We launched a significant fundraising campaign aimed at paying off our mortgage within three years while also meeting our annual stewardship goals. We created executive and leadership teams led by Jack Haubach to achieve our goals. The leadership teams had responsibilities for the following areas:
  - Communications: Jack Haubach and Osmond Simm
  - Finance: Ted Tozer
  - Prayer: Pinky Bender
  - Connections: Greg Hammil
  - Advance Commitment: Ann Mary Northrup and Ann Marie Simm
  - Gratitude Ministry: Jan Tacy
  - Youth and Children: Edye Bender
  - Celebration: Brenda Thomas
- The executive team met several times and established a Campaign Theme, Catch Phrase and Bible Verse as follows:
  - Theme: Investing in Ministry, Growing God's Kingdom
  - Catch Phrase: God's Plan for Faith's Ministry
  - Bible Verse: All the believers devoted themselves to teaching, to fellowship, in sharing in meals and to prayer. Acts 2:42
- We created a high-level timeline showing all the tasks for the combined campaign and met regularly to review our progress. The timeline began with the introduction of the leadership teams to the congregation, followed by a Ministry Sunday where the leadership teams held a Ministry Fair that highlighted the work of the various ministries here at Faith Presbyterian Church.

- Jack Haubach designed a campaign logo, created a campaign banner, and a campaign brochure.
- Pastor Bender, Pinky Bender, Osmond Simm, Jack Haubach and Lila Johnson prepared the Stewardship and Capital Campaign Letter, Reminder Letter, Thank You letter, Commitment Cards, Communications Brochure, Communications Banner, and the Time Talent Sheet

**Pledges as of Commitment Sunday:**

<b>E-Pledges</b>	<b>Stewardship \$ amount</b>	<b>Capital \$ Amount</b>	<b>Cards</b>	<b>Stewardship \$ Amount</b>	<b>Capital \$ Amount</b>	<b>Total Pledges</b>
45	170,340	238,918	59	200,326	340,021	104

	<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>Capital</b>
<b>Goal</b>	<b>395,743</b>	<b>730,000 (over 3yrs)</b>
<b>Grand Total (Nov 14)</b>	<b>370,666</b>	<b>578,939</b>

**Future Activity:**

- As we reflect on our journey at Faith Presbyterian Church, it is clear that our story is rich with faith, community, and transformation. Every member, every event, and every achievement contributes to the vibrant tapestry of our church. By consolidating our history and sharing it with the entire congregation, we can deepen our collective understanding and appreciation of where we have come from.

Osmond Simm

Elder, Communications Ministry Team

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT-2025

Faith Presbyterian Church's Congregational Care Team serves our church family, community, and friends by reaching out in times of need to provide temporary help and assistance. The Congregational Care Ministries include **Card Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Prayer Chain, Supportive Ministry, Singles Ministry, Chrismon Ministry, Sewing Ministry and Visitation.**

Team Coordinators are:

Card Ministry – Judy Terwilliger

Prayer Chain – Jill Bikowski, Pinky Bender

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Gail Smithwick, Pinky Bender

Supportive Ministry – Gail Smithwick

Singles Ministry – Sandy Horton, Jo-Ann Hitzmann

Chrismons – Sandy Horton, Jo-Ann Hitzmann

Visitation – Ann Marie Simm

Meal Train – Christine Affonso

Sewing Ministry – Ann Marie Simm

Anyone who has an interest in joining any of our Ministries is welcome.

### **The Card Ministry**

The card ministry sent out approximately 107 greeting cards to bring a touch of kindness and well wishes to so many of our congregation and homebound members. We also send expressions of sympathy and on special occasions as well. Additionally, 15 cards were sent out for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The card making workshop also provides us with several cards each month.

### **Prayer Chain Ministry**

Under the leadership of Jill Bikowski, members can request urgent and immediate prayers that cannot wait until the Sunday prayers.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Our faithful crafters (knitters and crocheters) have made sure that we always have a good supply of shawls, ready to be presented when needed.

- 61 prayer shawls and 2 fleece blankets for children were presented in 2025 to Faith members and others who were experiencing loss of close family members or friends, life altering illness, surgery, or difficult circumstances. All shawls and blankets were blessed by Pastor David at various times throughout the year.
- Knitted or crocheted pocket prayer shawls are always available at the Church.

These were also included in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, Senior gift Bags and church sponsored events such as Easter Eggstavanza and Vacation Bible School,

- The 5th Annual Faith Knitting Challenge was enormously successful. An overwhelming 466 beautiful knitted and crocheted hats of all sizes were blessed by Pastor David and presented to the United Way in Lancaster for distribution by them to needy individuals in Lancaster County. We are so incredibly grateful to all who participated in this generous and loving ministry.
- Because of generous financial donations, we have been able to keep our crafters well supplied with yarn. In addition, several large donations of yarn were made to the Ministry this year. We are truly grateful!
- Besides being presented locally, shawls (large and small) have made their way all over the United States and to at least 7 foreign countries. A large map showing where the shawls have been sent was created this year.
- The Prayer Shawl Team welcomed several new crafters this year. As this important ministry continues to grow and flourish, additional crafters are welcome and needed.
- To request a shawl or blanket, or to volunteer, please contact Gail Smithwick or Pinky Bender.

### **Supportive Ministry**

- Meals-Meal Train support (25 meals) was provided to two households for several weeks, as well as miscellaneous meals for several others.
- Transportation-Several rides to medical appointments were provided as needed.
- Home Visits-Multiple visits were made to homebound individuals, as well as “thinking of you” and miscellaneous visits to numerous others. Thinking of you goodie bags and chemo bags were given out to help those going through difficult times.
- Phone calls-Innumerable phone calls were made to members.
- Visits were made to members who had lost spouses in late 2024 and 2025. Stephen’s Ministry “*Journeying through Grief*” booklets were offered at designated intervals following the loss.
- An excel spreadsheet was created and updated to keep track of visits, phone calls, and other types of contacts.
- Christmas cookies and cards were delivered to six church members who are unable to attend services.
- Church members who were not in attendance for four consecutive weeks (or more) were contacted to see if all was well.

**Singles Ministry**

The Singles Social Group (now known as the FAITHful Singles), held social activities monthly. The group enjoyed a movie and meals out, a play at Matthews Playhouse, lunch, and monthly board games at Crossridge. They have been enjoying a casual lunch and gathering following church service on most Sundays. FAITHful Singles ended the year with a Christmas pizza party and a Name that Tune game led by Terri and Gene Foerster. Anyone who is single (without a partner) is welcome to join this fun group for any or all activities.

**Chrismon Ministry**

Informal Chrismon making workshops are held monthly to create these beautiful gold and white beaded ornaments. These meaningful Christian symbols are presented to new members, for landmark anniversaries, new babies, weddings, serious illness.

**Sewing Ministry**

Our newest ministry had a successful year, completing 100 surgical caps, 55 outfits for premature babies and 44 pillowcase dresses. Levine Children's Hospital conveyed their thanks for the preemie outfits and caps and Samaritans Purse was grateful for the pillowcase dresses. The next Sewing Ministry workshop is Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested is welcome to attend or take fabric home to work on at their leisure.

The Congregational Care Team hosted a table at the Ministry Fair and created a new brochure to share the many ways the congregation can share their gifts of time and talents (cooking, driving, knitting or crocheting, crafting, sewing, and visiting) with this Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Jane Carr  
Congregational Care Team Elder

## **Fellowship Annual Report - 2025**

### **Team Members:**

Ann Mary Northrup, Christine Affonso, Lois Briggs, Melissa Wellman, Bobbi Kirk, Peb Gardner, Janet Bershers, Elly Weiss, Barb Stevens, Jan Sellards, Krysia McCurdy, JoAnn Hitzmann, Jan Harkey, Joyce Gallaway, Jan Cullen, Gloria Clement, Bev Brazzel, Glenda Bonner, Kathy Bjorklund, Dottie McLeod, Pinky Bender, Sharon Archer, Rita Arundell, Carol Gunlick, Sandy Spaugh, Brenda Thomas.

The Fellowship Team met on the second Tuesday of every month. We provided coffee and treats before and after the Sunday Services. Fellowship works as a team to provide fellowship events, dinners, and special celebrations for the Faith Congregation.

### **The following were coordinators of special events:**

Coffee Schedule - Christine Affonso and JoAnn Hitzemann  
Supplies - Janet Bershers  
Guest Registration - Jan Sellards  
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner - Elly Weiss  
Faith Retreat - Brenda Thomas  
Candlelight Christmas - Sharon Archer  
Memorial and Funeral Committee - Ann Mary Northrup and Elly Weiss  
Decorations - Krysia McCurdy

**January** - Started planning for the events of 2025.

### **February -**

The kitchen was cleaned and reorganized by members of the committee. Started working on a new Manual of Operations for the Team. We had a special Valentine's Day coffee fellowship.

### **March -**

15th - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. Nine Hosts/Hostesses with 40 guests.

### **April -**

5th - Provided refreshments for the Celebration of Life of Wally Drexler.

6th - Box lunch luncheon celebration the Ministry Center Progress. Approximately 107 attended.

12th - Served refreshments for Baha Lee's Indian Land Orchestra Recital.

17th - Soup and Bread dinner before the Tenebrae Service.

20th - Brunch was served following the Easter Sunrise Service.

**May** - Planning for upcoming events

**June -**

1st - Celebrated Caroline and James' graduation.  
Approval for the new kitchen island.

**July -**

14th - Women's Bible Study Luncheon, with approximately 30 in attendance.

**August -**

4th - New Kitchen Island Installed.  
24th Provided refreshment following the Swing Band Concert.  
Reorganized the kitchen utilizing the new island

**September -**

12th - Provided lasagna dinner for the Church Wide Retreat, approximately 80 in attendance.

**October -**

3rd - Served refreshments for the Celebration of Life for Barbara Miller.  
5th - Church Potluck celebrating/dedicating the new Ministry Center, approximately 125 in attendance.  
11th - Served refreshments for the Celebration of Life of Ralph Ricketson.  
12th - Provided a table and information for the Ministry Fair.  
20th - Pastor appreciation recognition.

**November -**

9th - Capital Campaign Luncheon, provided by Red Radish. Approximately 84 in attendance.  
Served refreshments for Baha Lee's concert. Approximately 75 in attendance for the performance.  
15th - Served refreshments for the Celebration of Life of Dennis Senglaub.

**December -**

9th - Candlelight Christmas Tea, approximately 130 in attendance.  
15th - Women's Bible Study Luncheon approximately 30 in attendance.

The Fellowship Team enjoyed a very busy 2025. We had outstanding participation in every event held. It was an exciting year being able to hold so many of our events in the new Ministry Center. It was an extremely blessed year, and we pray that we can be a blessing for many in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Thomas, Fellowship Elder



## **Finance Committee Year-end Report - 2025**

### **Committee members:**

Rick Lambert, Ray Weiss, Rev. Dr. David Bender, Beth Young, Dick Reif, Jim Northrup, Don MacArthur, Glen Affonso, Mike Carr, Jan Tacy, Gary McCurdy, JC Rouchon, Terry Keth, Mary Ann Bass, Gary Davis, Trish Davis, and Ted Tozer

2025 was a very good year for the finances of Faith. The generosity of the congregation allowed the Finance Committee to transfer \$36,700 to the Contingency Fund. For the last few years, the Finance Committee has transferred the current year revenues that were not required to pay the current year's obligations. Five years ago, the Finance Committee established a Contingency Fund to pay for any unexpected expenses to replace worn equipment or repairs to the church's building. After making the transfer to the Contingency Fund, the Contingency Fund balance is \$252,000.

Faith was able to earn just under \$16,000 in interest from our Operating Funds. Hopefully, short-term interest rates will not go down materially. In 2024 and 2025 interest on our Operating Funds was substantial.

The Stewardship Campaign was successful. The pledges for 2026 allowed the various ministry groups to have their budget requests met.

The Capital Campaign was so successful that the mortgage should be paid off by the end of the campaign in 2028. The First Fruits Offering brought in \$107,000. This generosity of the congregation to front load the payment of their pledges will save about \$18,000 in interest over the life of the mortgage. Every month the Finance Committee will use all contributions deposited into the Building Fund to pay down the balance on the mortgage. This will allow for the minimum amount of interest to be paid over the life of the mortgage.

The Endowment Fund did not have any donations in 2025, but the fund grew by \$15,000. The increase came from the gains of the mutual fund that the fund is invested in.

You will see from the attached Faith Year-end Income Statement and Balance Sheet the very strong financial position of Faith. The financial strength of Faith is a reflection of your commitment to God's ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Tozer

Finance Elder

**Faith Presbyterian Church (USA)**  
**Income Statement**

	2025 ACTUAL	2026 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>		
Offerings	352,583	364,000
Unpledged Offerings	86,258	87,000
Rental Income	100	
Vacation Bible School	1,595	
Interest Money Market	15,713	15,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>456,249</u>	<u>466,000</u>
 <b>Expenses</b>		
Payroll	234,649	226,403
Staff Professional	3,472	5,565
Worship	3,287	5,400
Christian Education	7,330	9,500
Outreach	753	2,360
Communications		1,200
Congregational Care	266	500
Fellowship	5,499	11,000
Finance		25,000
Building and Grounds	114,183	119,272
Contingency Fund	36,757	0
Administration	25,456	29,400
Mission	1,569	2,400
GA and Presbytery	23,028	28,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>456,249</u>	<u>466,000</u>

**Faith Presbyterian Church (USA)**

**Balance Sheet**

**December 2025**

**Assets**

**Checking**

**Cash**

1-100110 - BB&T Checking	\$38,467
1-100150 - BB&T Checking - Restricted Funds	\$0
1-100400 - Money Market - BB&T	\$0
1-100450 - PILP Investment	\$48,450
1-100510 - Charles Schwab	\$320,926
1-100600 - Charles Schwab - Columbarium	\$27,430

<b>Total Operating Cash</b>	<b>\$435,273</b>
-----------------------------	------------------

**Building**

2-100500 - Charles Schwab - Building	\$28,439
1-100451 - PILP Investment - Bldg	\$0
2-100110 - Building Fund - BB&T	\$10,450

<b>Total Building Cash</b>	<b>\$38,889</b>
----------------------------	-----------------

**Endowment Fund**

1-100160 - Endowment - Charles Schwab	\$96,345
---------------------------------------	----------

**Prepays**

1-200200 - Prepaid Expenses	\$0
-----------------------------	-----

**Fixed Assets**

1-200300 - Land & Building	\$2,248,394
----------------------------	-------------

**Total Assets**

**\$2,818,901**

**Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds**

**Liabilities**

1-500200 - Deferred Revenue	\$37,300
1-500219 - Program Director Retirement Plan	\$0
1-500250 - Accrued Expenses	\$0
1-500300 - Taxes Payable	\$399
1-500350 - Accounts Payable	\$0
1-500400 - PILP Loan Payable	\$577,766

**Total Liabilities**

**\$615,465**

**Fund Principal**

1-299999 - Fund Principal Church	\$1,570,055
Excess Cash Received	\$198,251

**Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received**

**\$1,768,305**

**Restricted Funds**

Total Temporarily Restricted	\$338,785
Endowment Fund	\$96,346

**Total Restricted Funds**

**\$435,131**

**Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds**

**\$2,818,901**

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

- **Missions & Outreach Team Members**

- Christine Affonso
- David Bender (Minister)
- Daune Teague
- Glen Affonso
- JC Rouchon
- Jim Northrup
- Kathy McGovern
- Lynda Berry
- Linda Stewart
- Mary Ann Bass
- Sally Herr
- Sue Lambert
- Melissa Wellman (Elder)

- **On-going Monthly Missions & Outreach Programs & Facilitators**

- Card Making for Lancaster Health & Rehabilitation – Daune Teague
- Plastic Recycling – Glen Affonso, Christine Affonso, & Melissa Wellman
  - One TREX bench ordered for 2024.
  - Collected sufficient soft plastic to order a 2<sup>nd</sup> TREX bench for 2025.
- HOPE in Lancaster – Melissa Wellman
- Lions Club Eyeglasses Collection
- Missions & Outreach Informational Flyers – Christine Affonso
- Little Food Pantry – ***closed due to community abuse***
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offerings – Missions Team
- Western North Carolina Disaster Relief (Hurricane Helene) – Missions Team

- **Monthly Missions & Outreach Meetings**

- **January – March**

- Faith Donations
- Faith Mobile Food Pantry (February) – Jim Northrup - 172 families served
- Faith Food Drives
  - Hope in Lancaster Food Drive (February) - 354 lbs. of food (\$679 value)
  - USC Lancaster Student Food Pantry (March)
- Faith 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering (March)
  - PC(USA) Disaster Assistance (CA Wildfires) – **\$1,000**

- **April – June**

- Hurricane Helene (Black Mountain, NC) Volunteer Workdays (May)
  - Mary Jane Carr, Peb Gardner, Daune Teague, Carol Edmonds, Melissa Wellman
- Faith Food Drives
  - Hope in Lancaster (May) – “Stamp out Hunger”
- Faith Mobile Food Pantry (May) - Jim Northrup - 150 families served
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering (June)
  - Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Ctr – \$500 (\$235 collected + \$265 donation)

- **July – September**

- Lancaster County Council on Aging (July) - \$500 Donation
- Faith Mobile Food Pantry (August) - Jim Northrup - 149 families served

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering (August)
  - American Legion Post 250 (Indian Land) – \$200 (\$160 collected + \$40 donation)
- Faith Food Drives
  - Hope in Lancaster Food Drive (September) – 262 lbs. of food (\$497 value)
- **October – December**
  - Faith Food Donations
    - Isadore Farm (October) – food donated to Faith Presbyterian
  - Faith Mobile Food Pantry (October) - Jim Northrup
    - 194 families served
    - 154 Food Lion Gift Cards (\$25) distributed
  - Dimes 4 Hunger (November) – Providence Presbytery - \$1,417.00 collected
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering (November) – FOSCOE Home Team Disaster Relief
    - \$758 (\$ collected + \$ donation)
  - Holiday Gift Programs
    - Operation Christmas Child (December)– 50 OCC boxes to Samaritan’s Purse
    - Angel Tree (December) – 51 Gifts for 42 Children from 7 families
    - Senior Gift Bags (December) – 115 Gift bags to Lancaster County Council of Aging
    - Lancaster County Health & Rehabilitation (December) – Gifts to 41 shut-ins

Missions & Outreach could not have performed the work of the church during 2025 without the dedicated efforts of the entire Missions & Outreach team and Faith’s generous congregation.

Respectfully submitted.

Melissa B. Wellman  
Elder, Missions & Outreach

## People Growth Annual Report for 2025

**The People Growth Team consistently joined with other ministries to share the ministries and missions of Faith Presbyterian Church.**

**Team Members:** Glenda Bonner, Ann Mary Northrup, Janet Bershers, Jan Sellards, Linda Gibson, Velta Rouchon, Marvin Gallaway, Krysia McCurdy, Elly Weiss, Christine Affonso, Peb Gardner, Gloria Clement, Pinky Bender, Edye Bender, David Bender, and new member in 2025 Sandy Spaugh.

**Trunk or Tr'Easter:** Our team participated in the planning and carrying out of a very successful Trunk or Tr'Easter event.

**Marvin Gallaway's Lifelong Recovery Group:** This group was started in 2023 and continues with good participation.

Marvin started an Enneagram course, and it ran for 6 weeks.

He also started Al-Anon and Alateen meetings in September. These groups continue meeting on Tuesday evening in the Ministry Center.

**Sweet Little Symphonies** continues to meet on Saturday mornings in the Church Office.

**Big Band Concert:** Our team furnished and served cookies and punch in the Ministry Center after the August 24th concert held in the Church Sanctuary.

**New Members Ice Cream Social:** This event was held on September 19 in the Ministry Center with new members, shepherds, and Elders attending. A fun time was had by all.

**Pumpkin Patch:** Preparation for the Pumpkin Patch began in January. Christine Affonso leads this endeavor and her excellent organizational skills and attention to details keep the yearlong plans on track. This year we had a group of students from the local high school and a Boy Scout troop help with unloading the pumpkins. This was a Godsend for our volunteers. Sales totaled \$7384.00 and with \$939.00 in donations we were able to give \$3000 to the Mobile Food Pantry.

**Christmas Singalong:** The People Growth Team served cookies and hot chocolate after the Christmas Singalong which was held on December 7 in the church sanctuary.

**The People Growth Team experienced a very productive year with outstanding participation from our team members. I have been fortunate to have had such a wonderful team to work with for the past three years and I have truly been blessed. I thank God for these good people!**

**Blessings,**

**Glenda Bonner**

**Outgoing Elder for People Growth**

# 2025 Annual Report

## Administration-Personnel Team

---

### Introduction

In 2025, the Administration-Personnel Team experienced a busy and productive year, highlighted by the addition of the Ministry Center. The team—Rick Lambert (Elder), Rev. Dr. David Bender (Pastor), Brenda Johnson, Lila Johnson (Office Manager), Pete Scheckermann, Ann Marie Simm, Osmond Simm, Jane Stein, and Greg Wellman—worked diligently to support the church’s mission. The passing of Ray Weiss, who had been an instrumental member of the team for many years, was deeply felt by all.

### Personnel

- **Salary Review:** The team conducted a comprehensive review of employee salaries, referencing cost-of-living data, compensation at similar churches, and Presbytery recommendations to ensure fair and competitive pay.
- **New Office Manager:** Lila Johnson was hired in January and began work in February, bringing greater organization and a positive impact to administrative functions.
- **Personnel Manual Update:** The Personnel manual was updated in 2024 to clarify policies on vacation, paid time off, and family emergencies, ensuring compliance with state law. In 2025, these guidelines were implemented, including a new timesheet process to track hours and benefits.
- **Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy:** The child protection policy was expanded to include vulnerable adults, updating language to meet both children’s and adults’ needs.
- **Notary Public Certification:** Lila Johnson became a certified Notary Public in August, meeting all requirements.
- **Staffing Changes:** The team assisted in hiring a new Mothers’ Morning Out teacher after the previous teacher’s departure.



## Administration

- **Printer Contract Renewal:** The team evaluated vendors and selected Modern Impressions for printing needs, reducing costs, and improving service.
- **Attendance Tracking:** Attendance pads were reintroduced, allowing better attendance tracking and identification of other church members. Attendance is now recorded in the Realm system.
- **Campaigns:** The church conducted both a capital campaign for the Ministry Center and the annual stewardship campaign, utilizing software developed by Rick Lambert for electronic and paper-based participation.

## Insurance

- **Ministry Center Coverage:** Insurance was updated to cover the new Ministry Center, playground equipment, and classrooms. Jane Stein coordinated with the insurer to ensure adequate protection, with costs remaining within industry norms.
- **Workers' Compensation Audit:** Our insurance provider audited our payroll records and reviewed Workers' Compensation insurance that our contractors provided, resulting in a small refund of premiums.

## Technology

- **Network Upgrades:** Led by Greg Wellman, the technology sub-committee worked with the Audio-Visual team and external contractors to upgrade wiring and network equipment, ensuring reliable wi-fi throughout the new facility.
- **Classroom Enhancements:** 65" TVs were installed in classrooms for improved audio-visual support, connected to church wi-fi for versatile use. An Owl system camera was moved to Classroom A for Zoom support.
- **Sanctuary Improvements:** A new laser projector was installed in the sanctuary, enhancing visual quality for services.
- **Router Replacement:** The main router was replaced to resolve network failures and restore streaming capabilities for church services.
- **Office Computer Updates:** All office computers were upgraded to Windows 11, enabling use of Microsoft's cloud storage and eliminating the need for previous backup software.

- Security Enhancements: Avast Technologies was implemented for network security and Keeper for password management, replacing outdated paper-based systems.
- Website Development: Using the Refresh Websites product, Lila Johnson and Rick Lambert began developing a new church website, scheduled to launch in February as part of the strategy to streamline church management with the Realm system.

Rick Lambert  
Elder for Administration/Personnel Team

Worship Ministry  
2025 Annual Report

Worship Team Members:

The Rev. Dr. David M. Bender, the Rev. Dr. Pinky Bender, Bette and Charlie Acker, Janet Bershers, Bob Bertolini, Judy and Rod Boyes, Jan Cullen, Trish and Gary Davis, John Delfausse, Carol Edmonds, Linda Gibson, Greg Hammill, Jack Haubach, Jo-Ann Hitzemann, Sandy Horton, Dr. Baha Lee, Krysia McCurdy, Ann Mary Northrup, and Jan Sellards.

The Worship Ministry Team is a group of dedicated members who work to enhance the worship of God. The Worship Team is always open to new members and their ideas.

Sunday Worship Service Attendance figures for 2025 are below:

2025	In-person	Broadcast Views	Total		Fellowship Pad Number	% of in-person
Jan	138	51	189		135	98
Feb	132	40	172		124	94
Mar	117	84	201		110	94
Apr	155	56	211		135	87
May	133	44	177		122	92
Jun	138	53	191		120	87
Jul	131	54	185		110	84
Aug	121	44	165		108	89
Sep	132	46	178		113	86
Oct	146	46	192		130	89
Nov	143	47	190		128	90
Dec	136	51	187		122	90
Average	135	51	186		123	90
Christmas Eve	190	20	210		NA	NA

The following activities for Sunday and Special Worship Services were done by members of the Worship Team throughout 2025.

- Three elders serve communion every month, and on special occasions, with Pastor David.
- Members of the Worship Team (Pinky Bender, Judy and Rod Boyes, and Ann Mary Northrup, Jan Cullen, and Linda Gibson) prepared the elements and cleaned following communion.
- The paraments were changed by the team according to the liturgical calendar.
- Jack Haubach continued to coordinate all AV work including the creation of the weekly PowerPoint for our worship services. The worship service is broadcast every Sunday. It should be noted that close to half of the broadcast views originate outside the US. Bob Bertolini, Ken Edmonds, Rich Briggs, and Bonnie Harris assisted Jack in the booth.
- Each week Office Manager Lila Johnson prepares the Sunday bulletin. Members of the Worship Team including Jan Sellards, Christine Affonso, Kathy Bjorklund and Lila spend considerable time proofing, correcting, printing, and folding the bulletin.
- On Saturdays, Bob Bertolini, Jan Cullen, Christine Affonso, and Linda Gibson review PowerPoint slides to be used at the Sunday Service.
- A schedule of Ushers and Greeters was published monthly.
- Except for the first Sunday of the month when Pastor David and Carol Edmonds present the scripture passages, volunteers read Scripture Lessons for the Sunday worship services Sanctuary
- Krysia McCurdy continues to chair the Decorations committee, responsible for decorations for the gathering hall, sanctuary, and Ministry Center for each season.
- Janet Bershers and Krysia continued to be responsible for the Flower Chart sign-ups.
- Faith is fortunate to have gifted musicians. Carol Edmonds is our pianist and music worship leader, and Dr. Baha Lee is the director of the choir and handbell ringers. Ken Edmonds often performs at Sunday Services. Ken and Carol provided special music performances, with invited guests, at various times during the year. Judy Brown provided piano music in Carol's absence, and Bette Acker played flute accompaniments as requested by Carol or Baha.
- Jan Sellards continued to staff the Welcome Table. First time visitors are asked to fill out a Guest card that is used for follow-up. Visitors were also presented with a loaf of homemade bread.
- The Chrismon Ministry, under the leadership of Sandy Horton and Jo-Ann Hitzemann, worked steadily all year to create beautiful Chrismons given to honor new members and joyous events in the lives of members of our Faith family. Their work also falls under the Congregational Care Ministry Team.
- Communion Service was held the first Sunday of every month except Oct. Communion in Oct was held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, in deference to dedication of the new Ministry Center on the first Sunday.
- Communion was also served on Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.
- Members of the Worship Team also provided greeting and ushering for several funerals and memorial services throughout the year.

## Specific activities:

### January –

- Fellowship Pads were introduced to track physical attendance along with weekly count. Monthly reports are then produced and used by Congregational Care to look for potential problems with individuals that have missed multiple services.
- Plans were made to introduce an Ash Wednesday Service with the imposition on ashes to begin Lent. Service would be on March 5.

### March –

- The practice of Lenten Readers and the Lenten Candle tradition during Lent continued in 2025.
- Ash Wednesday Service was held on March 5, at 5 pm. Approx 50 individuals attended. Imposition of Ashes was performed by Rev. Dr. David Bender and Elder Greg Hammill.

### April –

- On April 17, Maundy Thursday, a Communion Service, a soup and bread meal and a Tenebrae Service were held. Approximately 65 individuals attended. Ann Mary Northrup coordinated the Tenebrae Service.
- Easter Sunrise Service was held on Sunday April 20. Approx 50 individuals attended.

### May –

- In preparation for the new Ministry Center, the Worship Team
  - Made Facilities Usage Recommendations for all Faith Church Facilities
  - And updated the Facility Use Request Form to reflect the Ministry Center
- A new LED Projector, and special lighting were purchased and installed in the Sanctuary

### August –

- 2026 Budget Request of \$5,400 was submitted. Amount included money for new equipment, piano and bell tuning, and supplies for music and worship.

### September –

- Blessing of the Animals was held on Sunday, September 28.
- A piano, graciously donated by the Ackers, was moved into the New Ministry Center.

### October –

- A Worship Ministry Table was prepared and put up for the Ministry Fair that was part of the Capital Campaign.

### December -

- New Christmas decorations were purchased to replace outdated decorations in the Sanctuary and provide decorations for the new Ministry Center
- Worship coordinated a Piano Recital in the Ministry Center on Dec. 20. This was the first paid use of the Ministry Center by an organization outside the Faith community

- Practice of Advent Readings was continued.
- Christmas Eve Service with Communion was held. There were 190 individuals in attendance plus 20 on-line views.
- Guidelines for announcements made during the Sunday Worship Services were developed and approved. In connection with the Announcement Guidelines, a change in the order of the Worship Service was also recommended and approved. Guidelines for Ushers and Communion Servers were developed.
- Arrangements were made to stream the entire Sunday Worship Service to the Ministry Center. This was done to accommodate individuals unable to be in Sanctuary during the Service.

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Hammill

Elder – Worship Ministry

January 4, 2026