

Faith United Church of Christ  
575 Richmond Road  
Richmond Heights, Ohio



Year 2014

The Annual Report

Annual Congregational Meeting  
December 14, 2014

Faith United Church of Christ  
Richmond Heights, Ohio

The Annual Congregational Meeting  
December 14, 2014  
12:15 p.m.

### Agenda

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order                                | The President of the Congregation |
| 2. Prayer                                       | The Pastor                        |
| 3. Approval of Previous Minutes                 | The Secretary of the Congregation |
| 4. Discussion of Ministry Reports               | Ministry Chairs                   |
| 5. Treasurer's Report                           | The Treasurer                     |
| 6. Presentation and Approval of the 2015 Budget | Finance Ministry                  |
| 7. Election of Officers and MLC Members         | The President                     |
| 8. Other Business                               | The President                     |
| 9. Prayer                                       | The Pastor                        |
| 10. Adjournment                                 | The President                     |

## Vital Statistics

Membership as of December 15, 2013 140

### *Changes in membership: Additions*

#### New members:

Ed Jacquet  
Mary Kay Jennings  
Lynne Jones  
Susan Myers  
Kimberly Whitney

Total additions 5

### *Changes in membership: Losses*

#### Death:

Bill Ritchey  
Mary Ellen Ritchey

Total losses 2

Total Membership as of December 14, 2014 143

#### Baptism:

Kayden James Frank (June 8, 2014)  
Kylan Andrew Frank (June 8, 2014)  
Gwendolyn Catherine River Bacon (November 30, 2014)

## *Congregational Vitality Initiative Annual Report – 2014*

This year was very different for the Congregational Vitality Initiative team, (CVI), from the year of 2013. Although CVI was not involved in something as formidable as the planning and hosting of the author Henry G. Brinton weekend, the team was involved in the Readiness 360 weekend with Paul Nixon, author and church-growth consultant.

You may recall that early in the year, Faith Church participated in the Readiness 360 Survey, which was a web-based tool for our congregation to provide input, via email, about our church from each person's perspective. The CVI team spent Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> in a training session with Paul Nixon at the First Congregational Church of Akron. There, Mr. Nixon, along with our coach, helped our team interpret the collected data from the survey.

One of the simple outcomes from the workshop was to add a step to the liturgists' training so that the liturgist would always physically indicate someone whose name had been mentioned during the announcements on Sunday morning. We learned that names without faces aren't very useful for folks who are new to the church.

Two other goals that we have yet to accomplish are:

1. Inventory and create a coordinated list for purchase of directional signage for the church property. The goal is to help our visitors navigate unfamiliar territory, both outside and inside, more easily. This goal came out of the Brinton weekend.
2. Host a Ministry Fair. The goal of a Ministry Fair would be to acquaint each of us with what the role of each ministry is. Understanding the mission of each ministry makes us all more aware of ways to serve our church, and makes it easier to answer when we are asked to serve.

Hopefully these two completed goals will be part of the Annual Report of 2015.

Lastly, one of the traditions that the CVI team enjoys the most is hosting the New Members' Dinner. CVI had a fun evening on May 9<sup>th</sup>, getting to know Amy & Ben Schaum, Lynne Jones, John McClain, Sally Templar, and Elizabeth Leung a little bit better. Next year's New Members' Dinner is scheduled for May 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Congregational Vitality Initiative Team  
Marilyn Glover, Pastor McAfee, Ron Ober, Marilyn Wilson

2014

## FINAL REPORT- Building and Grounds Committee

In January a disputed over-due charge of \$800 with **Ballash Construction** was resolved through negotiation with the owner. The door repair work was abandoned by them and not completed to our satisfaction. The settlement was reduced to \$400 by mutual agreement between Ballash & MLC.

Work initiated in December, 2013 to restore condition of the church front entrance door push bar to allow for unrestricted locking/unlocking performance was completed in March with the installation of a long-obsolete internal part by **Bass Security(Lock & Key)**. The part (dogging screw) found to be commercially unavailable was ultimately replaced by one taken from another little used church door. The totalservice charges were \$240.00.

**Kenco Electric** of Mentor was contracted in April to diagnose and restore electrical feed to the front yard sign and lights mysteriously failing to illuminate. A few causative factors were checked and systematically eliminated (breakers, power lines, clock timer, etc.). Toning the buried wiring out to the junction box at the sign revealed a ground fault occurring in the current feed to the southern-most exit drive globe light. The offending wiring was disconnected, restoring operation to all else. A fix to the south globe light will require a slit trench be cut through the asphalt come spring. Itemized time, material, service call came to \$509.80.

**Reid Carpentry Repair & Restoration** was contracted in April to replace failed hinges on sheet music cabinet door in choir room. Hinge failure nearly resulted in injury when solid hardware door came loose upon opening. Special hinges (unique to the cabinetry) had to be acquired from a supply house on the west coast. This cost, time & material = \$225.00.

Also, in April the church water heater in the boiler room sprung a leak and had to be shut down. Fast action in turning off the gas valve prevented a release of natural gas due to the extinguished pilot light. **McPhillips Plumbing** was commissioned to provide a replacement 50-gal unit immediately, to prevent a temporary closure of preschool classes due to the lack of hot water. Total cost of this emergency, time & material was \$1140.00.

Several lower level library suspended ceiling tiles were permanently destroyed underneath the leaking drain pipe coming from the small kitchen sink on west wall to the Y-junction across the room. Inspection revealed pipe corrosion all along 20-foot length. In June, **Joe Donia, Plumber** undertook the repair efforts to replace all cast & galvanized piping with modern PVC. Again, parts & labor totaled \$391.25 (against original estimate of \$510). Saved cost was due to his ability to thread 10-foot PVC sections with minimal disruption to undamaged ceiling tiles. Replacement tiles of a different pattern had to be custom-fit to restore ceiling cosmetics as much as possible. As evidenced by problems described above, the age of our church, its materials of construction and various hardware parts contribute to a high degree of difficulty in replacing or restoring in kind.

The capital improvement (Step One) agreement entered into with **Technical Assurance** and **Parkhill Roofing Co.** was successfully concluded with the completion of the reroofing of the sanctuary and the flat roof areas over the front porch, hallway and parlor on August 8. Unofficial bottom line figures were: sanctuary roof replacement \$32,000. Flat roof \$18,000. Soffits, fascia and gutters all around the east and west sides of the building were included in the project at no additional cost.

**Lane Galey**, ad hoc Faith Church electrician, successfully converted the aged ceiling light fixtures in downstairs classroom #11 from four (4) obsolete incandescent suspended fixtures to four (4) independent 4-tube T8 fluorescent types to improve illumination which will upgrade room for classroom teaching. Cost, parts (\$268) & labor (\$200) came to \$468.00.

**Deluxe Heating & Cooling** was contracted in September to rebuild the #5 main circulating pump in the boiler room exhibiting severe leakage while inactive. Repairs required a new bearing assembly (\$478), impeller (\$323) and coupling (\$81), + misc. = \$1035.00, billed to special repairs. The normal preseason annual boiler system overhaul/preparation/inspection cost of \$461.00 was charged to regular maintenance as normally done. The entire expenditure totaled \$1496.00. Repairs of this type are absolutely essential to the operation of the facility.

The arrangement with **McNulty Roofing**, Highland Hts. to provide for church gutter cleaning twice a year, spring and fall for a charge of \$200.00 each visit was renewed. The contract includes minor gutter repair as needed.

**Champion Fire Equipment Inc.** annual service visit to tag the fourteen (14) church fire extinguishers deployed throughout the building for 2014-2015 was conducted. Five (5) expired units were changed out with similar refilled units rather than new (lower cost). The invoice dated 10/24 charged an amount of \$289.70, tax exempt.

Annual church boiler inspection by **Hartford Boiler** conducted and approved without incident on October, 9. Both boilers are vintage. Inspector estimated each to be in 40 percent efficiency range, at best. Modern units, although conversion is expensive, operate in the 90 percent range. Payback timing is favorable considering the utility saving. Future MLC consideration should be afforded to this area.

**PJM Construction Inc.** of Mayfield Hts. snowplowing contract was renewed for 2014-2015 for the price of \$2200/ year, an increase of \$250 over last winter. Three (3) competitive bids were solicited from snowplowing outfits. PJM was significantly the lowest received. The contract is in effect from first snowfall to last. Plowing begins at 2 inches of fresh covering.

Extensive repair work to upgrade the sanctuary pipe organ is in the preliminary stages of discussion. Volume control problems have developed from various mechanical failures. Details to surface following professional evaluations.

Reminder. The three-year capital improvement campaign continues into 2015 with a dual focus on the deterioration conditions of both the church chimney and the parking lot.

The B&G committee acknowledges the contributions of several Faith members during the year, particularly those of the "garden committee" members who tend the flower garden, sign mound and butterfly station.

Respectfully submitted this Tuesday, November 11, 2014.

Dave Vesey, Maintenance Director  
Building & Grounds Chairman: Dave Holtz

## Faith Formation Ministry 2014

As I reflect on the past year I notice, with gratitude, the many changes in the Faith Formation program. An aspect of Faith that I admire is that we change with relative ease. Once an idea gets out of committee, we implement it, then review it, and make a decision on whether to keep it.

We had a new format for our intergenerational Vacation Bible School. With the theme, “Like Living Stones,” we met on five Wednesdays throughout the summer. We met at Faith, Euclid Creek Park, and South Chagrin Reservation. The schedule made VBS more manageable and it allowed us to rotate leadership. If you were on vacation you missed one session, not all of VBS. One of the unexpected benefits, I think, is that our young families stayed engaged over the summer. During summer 2013 we had seven Sundays with no children in the nursery. During summer 2014 we had one Sunday without children. The new format helped us stay connected and learning intergenerationally. This seems to be an option as we help each other build our spiritual houses.

The Sunday morning classes are also changing. The preschool through seventh grade classes are using “Shine,” a new story-based curriculum. The excitement and energy on Sundays is palatable. Their teachers are Barb and Dave Holtz, Nancy and Ed Jacquet, Sharon Jakse, and Andrew Vogt. Leslie Huston, Phyllis Huston, and Lou and Ray Hein are substitutes. One of our challenges is that the 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade class is good-sized, but attendance is inconsistent. Beginning in Advent, we’re combining preschool – 7<sup>th</sup> grades and separating into two classes if three children in the 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade are present. This means the teachers are learning two options each Sunday, so they can be flexible. This seems a better use of volunteers’ time and it reduces the awkwardness of a one student, two teacher classroom. We’re trying something new.

Jill Dugovics and Amy Schaum have revamped the senior high class, with a lot of student input. They are discussing Christian references and meanings in current events and culture, while working on service projects, and having fun – inside and outside of Sunday AM. They are also helping us weave the senior highs into Faith’s worship and congregational life. All of our senior highs attend different schools, so they help build community. Stay tuned because there is a lot of wonderful energy with this group.

Pat Bacon continues to lead weekday Bible Study and contemplative living groups. She, Rick Lorentz, and Jim Christensen led the Sunday morning class, as well. Pat’s weekday classes continue, but we are taking a rest in the Sunday class. We are in a discernment period as we try to listen to each other and consider what topics and formats work best with the dynamics of that time period. Please share any ideas! I am hopeful that we can resume some form of Sunday adult education during Lent.

None of this would be possible without the Faith Formation Ministry Team. We do not meet often, but we get a lot done. The team is open to new members. Currently serving are Leslie Huston, Nancy Jacquet (Chair), Sharon Jakse, Kristen McLaughlin, and Jill Dugovics. During the beginning of the year Barb Holtz was also on FFM. She continues to teach the preschoolers, helped lead VBS, and remains a constant support.

In gratitude,  
Karen Wagner

## MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dec. 2014

This year has seen notable change in Faith's music program.

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, **Joan Workman** retired from the organ bench, with warm gratitude from all! She is fortunately remaining with us as the accompanist to the Choir, where her keyboard talents are much appreciated. In anticipation of Joan's retirement, an **Organ Scholar** position was developed and established in conjunction with the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Institute's renowned organist, Todd Wilson. The Organ Scholar position was officially established "to assist the Director of Music of Faith United Church of Christ in maintaining a music program that will support and help to define the worship of the members of Faith... to provide professional, creative, and worshipful music at Faith's services," providing an organ student at CIM with the opportunity for hands-on learning in providing service music for regular worship.

This scholarship's funds came, first and foremost, from specially marked gifts from **Bill and Mary Hartel**, longtime Faith members and music program participants. Other sources of funding were a portion of Faith's budget for the music staff (relative to Joan's change in duties), and from CIM. On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed our first CIM Organ Scholar, **Daniel Parks**, to Faith Church; thus far, his professional contributions to Faith's worship have been outstanding. As an organist in training at a top music institute and under the tutelage of one of the best organists in the country, Dan brings to Faith a wealth of knowledge of the instrument, and a commanding grasp of the repertoire—from Bach to Mendelssohn and Viernis. At the same time, there is considerable learning involved in providing music for worship (hymn performance traditions of tempo and style, a specific congregation's musical needs and desires); as Dan's direct supervisor, I can attest that he has proven himself a cheerful and responsive student of church worship, at every turn. We welcome him, and look forward to continuing growth together through the end of his term of service, in mid-May, 2015. Please feel free to approach me—as a number of you already have—with any comments or concerns. (Elsewhere in this Annual Report, please see the introductory bio of Dan, as it was included in the September 7<sup>th</sup> bulletin.)

The increased use of various settings on the organ this fall has, however, also brought to the fore the aging condition of our Moeller pipe organ. In late October, it was discovered that most of the mechanical shutters controlling volume of the organ pipes were stuck in the open (loud) position. Bids for repair work have come in from Mueller, Schantz, and Holtkamp; as of this writing, it appears that accumulated monies in the designated Organ Fund may be adequate to cover immediate needs.

The **Adult Voice Choir** (aka "Chancel Choir") and the **Handbell Choir** continue to be the mainstay of special music for our worship, supplemented by occasional solos and ensembles. Many, many thanks for the hours of volunteer time in rehearsal. You are a blessing! **Children's Music** continues as part of the Sunday School schedule; the recent multigenerational anthem, "Our God Gives a Future with Hope," speaks to our hope for future years together, musically and in worship.

God bless us, every one.

Mary E. Ober, PhD  
Music Director



## Prayer Group Ministry Report 2014

Prayer Group meets on a quarterly basis to pray for those who were brought up during worship on Sunday mornings, our friends and neighbors, ourselves, our community, our country and our world. We have been starting our meeting with a devotion from the UCC Website Peak, Ponder and Pray. (<http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/peek/>)

We assist the prayer square ministry which is an interfaith outreach organization that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. A prayer square is appropriate for someone who is experiencing physical, emotional, spiritual, or some other life crisis, and who feels they could benefit from being “covered in prayer”, with the quilt being that tangible sign of God’s ever present Grace. To date we have dedicated and prayed over approximately 32 prayer squares. If you have someone who you think may benefit from a prayer square you need to ask this person if they would like a prayer square with the explanation above and then please fill out a request form and get the information to Sue Jaquet. It can take up to 2-3 weeks for a prayer square to be made and dedicated at Faith UCC.

The prayer group also assists with the Monthly Homewood Services on the third Tuesday of the month. This service is lead by Rev. Gene, Don Post, Donna Nedrow and many of the members of the Worship and Prayer teams. If you would like to be a part of the Homewood services please join us next on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 11:30 am in building #2.

Thank you to our prayer group members: **Sharon Jakse, Sue Jaquet, Marilyn Glover, Jean Sinzinger, Donna Nedrow, Roberta McGrath and Gene McAfee.**

Submitted by: Donna Nedrow

## President's Report – 2014

This is the first year I have had the honor of serving as president of our congregation. As with past presidents, I am impressed by the amount of effort and time that various members put into the church.

This year we launched a capital improvement campaign to address some big issues with our building. While there were a number of projects identified by Building and Grounds, the most dire problem was the roof which was leaking in the sanctuary, parlor, and hallway. Thanks to the congregation's support, all of those sections of the roof were torn off and totally replaced. The sections over the offices and social hall which were not leaking and several other projects have been put off. In 2015, we will need to address additional maintenance needs for our building and the funds required to complete those projects. Please see the Building and Grounds report for full details.

After 8 plus years of worshiping at Faith United Church of Christ, the Emmaus Bible Fellowship found a more permanent home. Their final worship service in our building was conducted in June. We wish them the very best in their new home at Euclid Square Mall.

It has been a very challenging year financially for our congregation. After a couple of years with a manageable deficit, we are ending the year with a significantly higher deficit than forecasted. The loss of rental income with the departure of Emmaus and a decrease in giving units are the primary reasons for this much larger deficit. While pledged giving has increased, a large budget deficit is forecasted for 2015 as well. The MLC will be looking for some creative solutions this coming year.

While still active in our music program, Joan Workman decided to reduce her workload as our lead organist. Joan was a steady performer at each Sunday worship service as well as making herself available to play at weddings and funerals. We appreciate all her contributions to our music program!

While we face some serious challenges, there are also many positives:

- We participated again in the Gay Pride Festival.
- Our adult education program, movie and book groups continue to be well attended.
- We continue to participate in Loaves and Fishes on the months with a fifth Friday, providing a free community meal to the hungry.
- Our new Organ Scholar, Dan Parks, is delighting us with his music.
- A successful Italian dinner fundraiser was held to reduce the budget deficit. A donation was also made to the Cleveland Hunger Center.
- Our mission fund continues to support local charitable organizations.

United Church of Christ's General Synod 30 will be held here in Cleveland in June, 2015 at the downtown Convention Center. Some of the "Unexpected Places" where we hear God's voice, encounter the Spirit, and find the United Church of Christ lifting up its witness in the world will be explored. If you have not experienced General Synod before, please take advantage of this opportunity either as a volunteer or attendee, or both!

Last but not least, thanks to our staff – Pastor Gene, Bob Goss, Karen Wagner, Mary Ober, Joan Workman, Dave Vesey, and now Dan Parks – as well all our volunteers and ministry chairs for all their efforts to keep Faith UCC vibrant place and vital part of the community.

Gail Robertson Yusko

## The Worship, Arts and Spiritual Formation Ministries

### Annual Report 2014

"The Bible tells me that every life is holy; the Bible tells me that every life is loved; the Bible tells me that every life is called to be all that it can be". [John Shelby Spong](#)

The Worship Ministry's mandate that was established in 2002 reminds us of what this ministry tries to accomplish each year. The mandate states: "*The Worship, Arts and Spiritual Formation Ministries mandate shall be to enhance and support the worship experience and biblical and theological education of the congregation of Faith UCC, by creating an environment that promotes spiritual formation for all generations through the celebration of praise, the liturgical arts, music and education.*"

I first need to thank the members of this ministry who meet on a quarterly basis to plan worship and work on fulfilling this mandate for all at Faith UCC. Our members of Worship Ministry are: **Marilyn Glover, Sue Jacquet, Cynthia Mahoney, Roberta McGrath, Donna Nedrow, Gail Neville, Mary Ober, Sally Templar and Rev. Gene McAfee.** If you are interested in being a member of the Worship Ministry we would love for you to join us next year.

As Rev. Gene preached the last Sunday in November this report begins with the Church's liturgical calendar. The church year began with Advent 2013. We presented the Advent banners the beginning of each Sunday of Advent again as we will do again this Advent season. This past year we enjoyed the multi-generational 5:00 Christmas Eve Family Service lead by our Faith Formation Director, **Karen Wagner**, members of FFM with many of our youth and their families followed by the Christmas Eve Service of Rail Communion and Candle lighting at a new time of 8:00 pm. In between services this year we had a potluck Christmas Eve dinner which was very well attended, with good food and lots of fun. Many from both services attended the potluck. We Skyped and sang to one of our members, **Alyssa Nedrow** who was spending Christmas in Ghana, Africa. This year we will have our Christmas Eve Family service again at 5:00 pm followed by the Potluck dinner and then the traditional Christmas Eve Rail Communion and Candlelight Service again at 8:00pm. We hope to Skype with members of our Faith family, **Chad & Kate, Dylan and Elayna Fortun in Burbank California.**

Other special services we had during the liturgical year: Ash Wednesday Service which began the season in Lent and Holy week services which began with Palm Sunday. We continue to pass out Eco friendly Palms for Palm Sunday each year. Eco-palms are sustainably harvested and fairly trade. We also celebrated services this past year with a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with communion, Easter Saturday evening service which was celebrated with Embody Church for their drum circle service, Good Friday afternoon service and

evening Vespers at Faith UCC and Easter Sunday Morning Service. We celebrated Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday where we remembered Mary Ellen and Bill Ritchey and finally ending the church year with the Reign of Christ.

We continue to strive to promote spiritual formation and education by working alongside FFM throughout the church year by including our youth in the leadership of Worship as readers, bringing in Advent Banners, singing, greeting and serving communion. It is always a joy to hear our youth read the scripture during the Sunday morning service. Thank you to **Amy Schaum** for helping prepare our youth for such an important part of worship.

It is a joy to hear our organ scholar Dan Parks who has brought life into the organ during worship. We thank all the volunteers who work so hard to help make worship fulfilling each Sunday. A thank you goes out to all of those members who help to cover services when Rev. Gene is on vacation. We are a very fortunate to have a number of ordained and lay leaders in our church who do a great job leading worship. Thank you to the music program led by **Mary Ober and Joan Workman**. A special thank you to **Rev. Gene McAfee** for your leadership, teaching, inspiration and dedication to Faith UCC.

God's Blessing and Shalom,  
Donna Nedrow (Chair of Worship)