

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



Year 2015

The Annual Report

Annual Congregational Meeting
December 13, 2015

Faith United Church of Christ
Richmond Heights, Ohio

The Annual Congregational Meeting
December 13, 2015
11:30 a.m.

Agenda

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| 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 2016 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 14, 2014 143

Changes in membership: Additions

New members:

None

Total additions 0

Changes in membership: Losses

Death:

Frances Olhava

Total losses 1

Total Membership as of December 13, 2015 142

Baptism:

None

2015

FINAL REPORT- Building and Grounds Committee

In early March, bids were requested from three (3) separate heating and cooling contractors to provide financial estimates to replace the ageing (and aged) church boilers with new highly efficient heating units. Quotes were received **from Smylie Heating, Cooling & Plumbing; McPhillips Heating& Plumbing; and Deluxe H&C**. Each contractor visited our facility to assess current conditions before submitting proposals. Each representative conducted their evaluations in uniquely-different manners. Quotes were not available to this report. Needless to say each totaled several thousands of dollars. Action was deferred.

Chimney Evaluation – Technical Assurance inspection 5/11/15 and report dated 5/15/15 condensed here to a simple bottom line: **Condition:** “Overall condition of this chimney from approximately the roof line up *is failed*” (italics, mine). Repair/Restoration Options: A). rebuild chimney maintaining current height, style, and configuration = ~ \$42,000.00. B). selectively demolish chimney down to lowest required height = ~ \$22,500.00. Action deferred to further discussion.

Fulton’s Power House was commissioned to repair and overhaul the Sears Craftsmen tractor/mower on 6/12/15. In addition to regular maintenance parts and labor, both front tires were required new at a cost of \$88.00. Total expenditure, tax exempt = \$379.46. Tractor was last serviced in 2012, three (3) years ago.

Faith Church Music Committee entered into an agreement with **Muller Pipe Organ Company** of Croton, Ohio for long-needed repairs to the pipe organ in the sanctuary. The contractor provided all labor, materials and expenses necessary to complete the elimination of the various mechanical failures causing volume control problems. Total expenditure to this project was \$9950.00 covered by special fund-raising.

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.

McNulty Roofing also provided the expertise, equipment and manpower to replace the seven (7) burned out PAR-38 side-prong high-level spotlights in the A-beams in the sanctuary a move which restores illumination to near design levels. The company agrees to perform future service as needed. The cost of this two-hour effort was \$100—a deal.

Deluxe Heating and Cooling Inc. performed the annual boiler inspections (two boilers) and overhaul in early October. Work included cleaning pilots and burners, draining expansion tanks, checking all thermostats, zone valve operation. New filters were installed, drive belts tightened, motor and bearings greased in the air handler equipment. Regular maintenance service cost \$341.00.

Champion Fire Equipment Inc. annual service visit to tag the fourteen (14) church fire extinguishers deployed throughout the building for 2015-2016 was conducted in October. One (1) 10 lb. ABC extinguisher was replaced with a recharged unit. Cost of this mandatory inspection was \$168.75, tax exempt.

Annual church boiler licensing by **FMGlobal** conducted and approved without incident on October, 14. Cost was \$53.25 each. Both boilers are vintage. Inspector estimated each to be in 40 percent efficiency range, at best. Solution beyond present church capability- See 1st entry page one.

ROCscape Landscaping & Plowing of Mayfield Hts. was granted the 2015-2016 snowplowing contract at an annual price of \$3000. This represents an increase of \$800 over last year's cost with long-term **PJMConstruction** which declined to renew a service contract. Competitive bids were solicited from various snowplowing outfits under time-duress. Plowing begins at 2 inches of fresh covering, standard in conventional contracts. Some areas of parking lot striping (directional arrows and parking spaces were highlighted to assist the new plowman.

In November, an agreement was reached with **Joe Donia Plumbing** of South Euclid detailing the proposed replacement of several of the antiquated restroom toilets throughout the building, primarily those used extensively in the lower preschool level. The age of these precluded the advisability of sinking labor and expense into their repairs. Fill/flush valves, internal linkages, flappers and wax seals were failure prone and led to excessive water consumption. The upgrade project involves four (4) new closets (3 ADA height, 1 regular height) and rebuilds to two (2) existing closets. The cost totaling \$2156 will be borne by the special repairs account. Water saving by replacing four 5-gal tanks with modern 1.7gal/flush tanks will result in significant dollar savings over time.

In summary, Faith church building & grounds suffered no great calamity requiring substantial expenditure. This results in a positive to help counter our prolonged state of deficit spending. Further, it has allowed us to use budgeted funds for actual improvement projects.

The B&G committee acknowledges all contributions of "Faith-ful" members during the year, particularly those of the "garden committee" members who tend the flower garden, sign mound and butterfly station, and those who volunteer their time and talents in improving our physical facility.

Respectfully submitted this Saturday, November 21, 2015.

Dave Vesey, Maintenance Director

Building & Grounds MLC Chairman: Dave Holtz

Congregational Vitality Initiative Annual Report – 2015

What does it take to have things happen in any group, organization, or community of people? What does it take for things to happen here at Faith Church? What did it take to have the Lucretia R. Garfield program or the trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art to view the exhibit “Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse” recently offered to the congregation by the Faith Friends?

It takes a person or a group of persons with an idea, a vision, or a passion for something. Then it takes time, planning, and energy to make it happen. It might even require asking for “a little help from your friends!” The mission of the Congregational Vitality Initiative team, (CVI) is to help promote vitality in the life and ministries of our congregation and to help whenever and wherever it is needed to make ideas become a reality. Faith Church is very blessed to have a congregation filled with vital individuals, as witnessed by the recent Ministry Fair held during the month of October.

You may recall from last year’s annual report that one of the goals yet to be accomplished by CVI was to host a Ministry Fair. The goal of the Ministry Fair was to acquaint each of us with what the role of each ministry is in the life of Faith Church. 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. Each of the four Sundays in October, there was on average six to eight ministries represented at coffee hour. That demonstrates in real numbers the vitality of Faith Church.

One of the other goals that CVI has yet to accomplish is to 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. The CVI team took a step toward that goal by taking a field trip to other local churches and examined their directional signage. This gave us an idea of where we are doing well and where we need to improve.

Also, CVI welcomed Faith’s newest members at the annual New Member’s Dinner held on May 15th. Lastly, an ad for Faith Church’s summer worship schedule was placed in the Plain Dealer’s Saturday Worship Directory for a month.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Faith Formation Ministry 2015

“Sometimes I need only to stand wherever I am to be blessed.”

Even though Mary Oliver wrote this in “It was Early,” an ode to nature, I think that line is also accurate for our ministry in faith formation. I hope all of you know that everything we do in God’s name is an act of worship and a faith formation activity. Your creative and dedicated Faith Formation Ministry team is Jill Dugovics, Leslie Huston, Nancy Jacquet, Sharon Jakse, and Kristen McLaughlin. This past year we had the expected programs and activities: church school, Advent activities, the Family Christmas Eve service, youth gatherings, adult education programs, Vacation Bible School, a well-attended Lenten series focusing on forgiveness, General Synod in Cleveland, potlucks, prayer, high school musicals, many sports events, spaghetti dinners, and many caring moments. It’s a rhythm that allows us to follow an ancient pattern while gaining new understandings, to stretch our wings as we learn to be more disciplined, to ask questions while waiting for answers, and to ponder how God is calling us when we are fearful of change. And, at Faith, we do this together, generations supporting generations.

This fall has also brought change. We have returned to the Sunday AM schedule with church school running concurrently with worship. For the first Sunday of each month, everyone is in worship for communion. This model was requested by our Faith families with children at home. In May 2015, we had 100% of the families participating or submitting comments for a listening session. Their suggestion was approved by the Faith Formation Ministry and by the Ministry Leadership Council. This change requires more teachers and we are struggling to meet those needs. As I write this, we have finished our first three months. There are still some rough edges, but we’re settling into this new pattern. Please consider helping and sharing our marvelous faith story.

This fall also brought the end to my position at Faith Church. I am profoundly grateful for the six years I have been with you. I came to Faith after two negative church experiences. Margaret Mills convinced me that Faith was not only worth the risk of serving Christ in a faith formation ministry, but that I would fall in love in with you and experience healing. And, she was absolutely correct. Thank you for allowing me to serve Christ with you, for trusting me with your joys and concerns, for trying new ways of being community, and for being a blessing to me and to my family. When we meet again, whenever and wherever, I will continue to ask you one of my favorite questions, also written by Mary Oliver, “*Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?*”

Shalom,

Karen Wagner

Pastor's Report
2015

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:22-23

We've all heard the saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same," and 2015, from my perspective, was a year of things changing and staying the same at Faith.

At the request of some of our families with young children, and after a listening session for the entire congregation on May 27th, our Faith Formation Ministry recommended to our Ministry Leadership Council that our education program and worship service occur at the same time on Sunday mornings, and that both of those programs start at 10:00 a.m. all year round. The rationale for this change was to relieve from our families a bit of the burden of Sunday mornings that sometimes stretched for three or more hours. We implemented that change in September and will evaluate it at mid-year.

This arrangement of programs is not new to Faith. In years past, Church School and Worship were offered at the same time; that was the arrangement as recently as 2003, when I arrived as pastor. Our current iteration, however, does not require teachers to sign up for an entire year of teaching, but operates on a rotating basis, so that teachers have the opportunity to worship most of the year. This was a major reason we changed our schedule to separate the programs around 2005. And I still feel quite strongly that those entrusted with educating our children be part of the worshipping community more often than not.

Another innovation in our current plan is for everyone to be in worship on the first Sunday of each month, when we celebrate Communion, and on special occasions during the church year, such as Easter and Pentecost. Communion, we have learned through conversation, is important to both our children and our adults, and it is entirely fitting that the community that constitutes Faith be together on Communion Sundays. This "blended" approach to education and worship may allow us to respond to multiple needs simultaneously. That, at least, is our hope.

We also saw staff changes with the modification of the Director of Music position into a new Coordinator of Music Life. This change was in response to the need to relieve our two principal choirs – Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir – of some of the burden of providing music for all our worship services. Faith, as a congregation, is richly blessed with musical talent and people willing to put those talents to work in service of our church. But today's schedules do not allow for that talent to find its expression only through the Chancel or Handbell choirs. Cultivating this talent in its many forms will enlarge our worship life.

Again, while there is an element of change in this new staff position, there is also a strong element of continuity with previous years at Faith, when singers and instrumentalists in various configurations were a regular feature of worship. We are grateful for all the years of music ministry provided by Dr. Mary Ober as our Director of Music, and we look forward to the gifts of Jordan Mathews, our new Coordinator of Music Life.

In the area of Faith Formation, we will be attempting to discern our future after the six-year ministry of Karen Wagner, for which we are all grateful. Soon after Karen's arrival, our MLC voted to increase the weekly hours and pay of her position in the hope that we would see significant growth in our under-18 education program with her leadership. Despite her best

efforts and ours, our program for children and youth remains small, and in order to live within our budget, we will have to experiment with possibilities for providing leadership, and especially coordination, for our education program. I will be working closely with our Faith Formation Ministry to help craft a structure that will meet our present and future educational needs.

Again, we as a congregation have, from time to time, been volunteer-led in this area in the past, so we're prepared to consider this option as a long-term format for the future.

Finally, let me point to one more change-and-the-same feature of our life together.

For some years, members of the Pastoral Review Committee, the Ministry Leadership Council, and others supportive of my ministry have urged me to find a way to take a sabbatical – a period of leave from pastoral duties to rest and rejuvenate while pursuing a project of particular and restorative interest to me. Funding such a sabbatical is often the difficulty for churches of our size, but I was fortunate to receive news earlier this week that I have received a Pastoral Study Project grant from the Louisville Institute that will allow me to take a three-month sabbatical, at full compensation, while providing Faith with the funds for pastoral coverage during my absence. The proposal that the Institute approved was for me to begin interviewing people for a biography of Peter Gomes, preacher in Harvard University.

While this project is new to Faith, a sabbatical leave for the pastor is not. Several years prior to my arrival, the Rev. Robert Bruce was also granted a sabbatical leave which was covered by our associate pastor at the time. With the assistance of the Western Reserve Association, we will secure pastoral coverage for the months that I'm away – August through mid-November (including vacation) – and our life of worship, education, fellowship, and service will proceed smoothly. I am grateful for the support to pursue this project I've received from many quarters in the church. Again, continuity and change.

One of the characteristics of a healthy congregation is its ability to adapt while preserving the best of its identity. Although we continue to face many of the same challenges confronting churches like us, we manage to handle them, month after month, year after year, challenge after challenge. And we remain Faith. For that faithful nimbleness, I give thanks to God and to all of you.



Gene McAfee
Pastor and Teacher

18 November 2015

The Feast of St. Anselm (d. 750), abbot of Lerins, France, and Doctor of the Church

Prayer Group Ministry Report 2015

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2

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.

This was the first year for our Blue Christmas Service, Dec. 6 at 2:00pm. this was a service for those who have recently suffered loss: loss of a loved one, a pet, a job, a home, or a way of life that is no longer theirs because of illness or injury or painful anniversaries for folks whose lives don't fit the "script" of how we're expected to celebrate holidays. This was a way to help and honor such feelings as anxiety, separation, loss, or just being different . A good will offering was collected for Laura's House, a crisis shelter for women and children on Cleveland's west side.-- you're welcome to join us.

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 25 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 Jacquet. 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 Brookdale 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 Faith Church. If you would like to be a part of the Brookdale services please join us next on Tuesday, Dec.15 at 11:30 am in cottage #2.

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

Submitted by: Donna Nedrow

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, a great big Thank You. Without each and every one of you, Faith United Church of Christ would not be possible.

Once again we had a successful Stewardship Campaign. Our total pledges so far for 2016 are \$121,824.00. This is down slightly over last year.

We had 52 pledges this year and that includes 1 new pledge.

25 members have increased their giving over last year.

I thank you. MLC thanks you. And of course Gene thanks you.

I say this every year, but I really mean it. You the members of Faith Church continue to amaze me giving the aging population of our congregation. It shows me how much you care for and love the church. I know that I do.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Ken Vogt, Chair Stewardship Committee

Marilyn Wilson
Gail Yusko
Rose McIntyre

President's Report 2015

At MLC's annual retreat last January, we discussed our lack of membership growth and budget. We decided that we needed to understand what direction the congregation wanted to go, and so a series of listening sessions were held with interested members to get their input. The majority were in favor of finding a way to go forward. Following is a summary of that input, and the answers and/or actions that have been taken which are highlighted in italics.

AGREED-UPON POINTS/OBSERVATIONS

- Everything should be on the table.
- Whatever is decided will not make everybody happy.
- Lots of older established groups are in decline - Jazzercise, Girl Scouts, etc.
- Younger generation is not following us into church.
- Almost nobody was in favor of just folding and giving our money away.
- Don't hang decision based what would happen to current staff.
- We would have to be flexible about merging with another congregation.

ARE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS ACCURATE?

- **What do evangelical churches offer that society doesn't?** *Different churches have different beliefs and cultures, and we can't assume that what works for others would work for us.*
- **What are growing churches doing that we are not?** *Chagrin Falls UCC, Mayfield Methodist, Parkview. We don't know that all are growing, and at least one of these churches has had to reduce staff.*
- **Note that the property is currently zoned as multi-residential.** *We are zoned R-2, which means single-family residential on a 12,000 square foot lot which complicates the prospect of selling the property. It would probably be a difficult and time-consuming process to get zoning changed.*

ANSWERED QUESTIONS

- **Why did the UCC headquarters allow another UCC to open in South Euclid so close to us?** *UCC headquarters does not have the power to veto church start-up locations or relocations.*
- **How is Embody church doing?** *They are a congregation with no building and have been in existence for about 3 years. We met with Embody's pastor, Christina Kukuk, and some of their membership, and the answer was that Embody was struggling both financially and membership-wise at that time. Embody has since folded, and the pastor has accepted a call in Oregon.*
- **How did Mayfield Methodist grow to the point of needing a larger building?** *A number of the practices at Mayfield Methodist, according to information shared by their pastor, Scott Wilson, in a conversation with Gene on 8/12/15, are also happening at Faith: small groups, outreach to the community, strong worship, active lay leadership. They also moved to an area that is growing, while the population of Richmond Heights dropped 4% between 2000 and 2013.*
- **Merger ideas:** *1) Create a UCC "mega church with other east side UCC churches." 2) Look for another location with possibly another church through consolidation (avoid the word "merger"). The negative is that our congregation may disperse. Not all denominations have polity to merge/move. Gene contacted two east side UCC churches about possible merger. Chesterland Community Church is not interested in discussing merging at this time, although they would be interested in sharing resources, such as Christian Ed. Note that their pastor is part-time. Fellowship Church in Wickliffe was already in the process of closing their doors and was not interested. Their last service was 9/20/15.*

- **Would UCC headquarters be able to help in finding another UCC interested in merging?** *This could be difficult due to the variety of UCC churches and various missions and beliefs. Matching our mission and culture could be a challenge.*
- **Don't want to put more money into this building and be building poor.** *Agree, but until such time that decide to sell the property, safety issues with the building must be addressed.*
- **Rummage sale fundraiser was suggested.** *While we don't want to discourage fundraising ideas, rummage sales in the past required a great deal of volunteer labor and raised from \$1000 to \$2000, which is not enough to resolve our deficit.*

MORE DISCERNMENT/ACTION NEEDED

- **Fix a firm date to make a decision.** *This could be one year off, but the problem should not continue to fester. As for the decision to close or remain open, we have made that decision and plan to continue. In two conversations with our Association staff – the Rev. Dr. Rita Root, Associations General Minister, and the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Associations Associate for Congregational Vitality and Development – our church leadership learned that we are in a much healthier place, relative to a number of our neighboring UCC congregations, than we realize. Gene met with Rita and Bonnie on 6/23/15, and Bonnie met with MLC on 10/20/15, and in both of those meetings, we were told focus on (a) our strengths and (b) the populations demographic that is most likely to respond to our message, i.e., 55+. Young families are a shrinking percentage of the population, at least in our geographic location.*
- **Attract new members - how?** *Need to understand attributes of younger millennial generation. Service is important to them. But attending church may not be.*
- *Is our mission attractive to newer generations? We may be wasting valuable energy and time trying to tailor ourselves to an unresponsive segment of the population. Consider concentrating our programming on the interests of the older demographics, while not abandoning our younger folk.*
- **We need to define a coherent internal message about who we are/who we want to be.** *Examine the statement of faith and what it means to us. Revise our mission statement. As a first step, Jim Christensen offered an evening adult study on mission that provided an opportunity for us to examine ourselves and our understanding of mission, but it was not well attended. We were also encouraged by Dr. Bonnie Bates to develop a tagline or short description for our church that might fit on a T-shirt, and that effort is under way.*

If you have questions or are interested in further discussion about the listening sessions and subsequent activities, or the direction of our church, I or any other members of MLC would love to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Robertson Yusko

The Worship, Arts and Spiritual Formation Ministry

Annual Report 2015

As I always begin with when I write this report I put the mandate that was established in 2002 in here to remind us of what this ministry is 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."*

Thank you to our members of this ministry who meet on a quarterly basis to plan worship and work to fulfill this mandate for all at Faith UCC each year. We have 2 new members in the Worship Ministry this year which is a wonderful addition! Our members of Worship Ministry are: **Marilyn Glover, Sue Jacquet, Cynthia Mahoney, Roberta McGrath, Donna Nedrow, Sally Templar, Kay Gardiner 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.

This report begins with the liturgical calendar. The church year begins with Advent 2014. We presented the Advent banners the beginning of each Sunday of Advent again as we will do this Advent season. This past year we had the family Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00 pm, Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00 pm and then celebrated our Christmas Eve Service of Rail Communion and Candle lighting at 8:00 pm. We had a nice time at our potluck which brought together many of of members and families between the 2 services. We plan for this again this Christmas Eve.

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, Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Easter Sunday Morning Service after our potluck breakfast. We celebrated Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday where we remembered those who have died the past year and finally ending the church year with the Reign of Christ. Many of you may notice the change in the Altar Paraments which symbolize the change of seasons in the liturgical year.

We continue to strive to promote spiritual formation and education by working with our liturgists. We provided liturgist training this year with lots of input from our liturgists and Amy Schaum who helped put together a liturgist script to help the Sunday morning duties go smoothly. This year our liturgist education will be offered throughout the year. **Liturgist Workshops 2016 -- Making a Good Thing Better!**

They will be held on January 12th, 6:30 pm., Wednesday, April 13th, 6:30 pm.; Saturday, June 11th, 10:30 am., Saturday, August 13th, 1:30 pm., Thursday, October 27th, 6:30 pm. Current liturgists are expected to keep their skills sharp by attending at least one workshop each year, and prospective liturgists need to attend a workshop to acquire basic knowledge of the leadership of worship. Please reserve at least one of these dates now on your calendar and help keep worship at Faith a blessing to us all.

We also have worked 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 again to **Amy Schaum** for helping prepare our youth for such an important part of worship along with helping to develop the liturgist script for the liturgists.

We said goodbye to our organ scholar Dan Parks and hello to our new organ scholar Yu-Hsuan Lu. We also said goodbye to our music director, Mary Ober after 12 years of service to Faith UCC and with the help from Frank Yusko, Donna Nedrow and Gene McAfee we rewrote the new coordinator of music life's job description and hired Mr. Jordan Mathews as our new Coordinator of Music Life. **Welcome Yu-Hsuan and Jordan.**

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. 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)