

40   
*Years of Faith*

*A History of  
Faith United Methodist Church  
(1964 – 2004)*

# Forty Years of Faith

A History of Faith United Methodist Church, Rockville, Maryland

(1964-2004)

By Mac McCullough, Church Historian

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## Preface

I wrote this history of Faith United Methodist Church as my contribution to the church's 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration. It consists of four chapters paralleling the pastorates of Faith's seven Senior Pastors; one chapter on the future, written by Charles Harrell; and five appendices.

I used as my resources: Official Board, Administrative Board and Church Council Minutes; Annual Charge Conference Reports; previously written historical material; past issues of the "Good News;" and the memories of current members and former Pastors.

I fully acknowledge that I am prejudiced. I am more interested in some aspects of Faith's history than in others. This certainly influenced what I chose to include and what I failed to mention. It also influenced the slant I put on various happenings. However, I have diligently attempted to record the facts as they occurred.

Some readers may question or disagree with what I have written, or have additional information regarding Faith's forty years. I welcome their input. To facilitate this, included as the last page of this document is a memorandum form for the reader to use to make any additions, corrections, or comments regarding this history. Once received, these will be published and made available.

While many were helpful in this effort, I particularly would like to thank Ken Jones for his contributions to the chapters on the early history of Faith Church, Ann Sadler for her editorial review and suggestions, and Minette McCullough for her support, critiques and patience.

Mac McCullough  
January 19, 2004

## The Early Years

(1963-1966)

In early 1963, the Board of Missions of the Baltimore Conference conceived the idea of opening a Methodist Church in the South Rockville area. Demographic studies predicted that there would be at least 1,000 families living here in a very few years, even though at the time there was no Route 270 and narrow Montrose Road ended at Route 355 where Gustin Garden Nursery was located.

Dr. E. Cranston Riggan, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions met with the owners of Kettler Brothers Construction Company and its Vice President, Jim Walker. The firm was in the process of developing the new community of Old Farm. As a result of this meeting, the Kettler Brothers offered a model home at 12101 Old Bridge Road to the church as a future parsonage. Interestingly, the house was the only one of several models that had never been furnished. The Kettlers also offered to sell the church four and one half acres of wooded property fronting on Montrose Road as a future church building site. The total cost for the parsonage and the church site was only \$79,000. Interestingly, both the Kettlers and Jim Walker were long time Methodists. The Board of Missions, through the Methodist Union, provided money for the purchase of the parsonage, building site and gave an additional \$2,500 for parsonage furnishings.

With a parsonage and church site in hand, the next order of business was to appoint a pastor. Bishop John Wesley Lord chose the Reverend James L. Matheson, Assistant Pastor of Bethesda Methodist Church, to be the spiritual leader of the new church. Again, the Board of Missions and Church Extension helped out by underwriting the pastor's first year's salary. Jim had already made a name for himself as a church organizer by starting the Corkran Memorial Church in Temple Hills, Maryland.

Jim and his family moved into the parsonage in early June. He circulated cards announcing the formation of the new Methodist Church throughout Old Farm, Walnut Woods, Montrose Park, Tilden Woods, and new developments springing up along Seven Locks Road. But Jim did not stop there. He visited hundreds of homes to give a personal invitation, going through the neighborhoods on his bicycle.

As a result, the first church service was held in the unfinished basement of the parsonage on June 30, 1963. Forty-two persons attended. Faith Church was on its way under the temporary name of Montrose Road Methodist Church. The first Sunday School classes were held on July 14 with Jo Herron as Church School Superintendent.

To get organized, Jim recruited six men to serve on a Finance Committee. George Cary is the only current member who served on that committee; however, the late Lesley Browne, husband of Lucile and father of Leslie Avery, was also a member. The committee had its first meeting on July 23, 1963 in the parsonage. The pastor asked them to expand the committee's role to include planning and building. By September the members complained that they could not handle all the work that needed to be done; so in October, in true Methodist tradition, three separate committees were formed .

On the first Sunday in August the forty-two individuals were officially enrolled as members of the yet unchartered church. Taken in alphabetical order, Hank Beisner holds the record for being number one. The first marriage ceremony was held on September 25 uniting Donald Sherman and Beverly Hadgdon. And, the first to be baptized were Carter and David, sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Wildermuth, on December 1. John was Chairman of the original Finance/Planning/Building Committee and later elected first head of the Official Board.

One of the first actions of the Official Board was to vote unanimously to pledge \$2,000 to the "Urgent Needs Campaign," a four year program of the Baltimore Conference established to meet the needs of urban ministries. This marked the beginning of Faith's commitment to support the outreach efforts of the Conference. In 40 years, Faith has never failed to pay 100% of its allotted Conference Apportionments.

In September the church began using the facilities of the newly opened Farmland Elementary School for church services and Sunday School at a rental cost of \$75 a month. The church continued using the school for classes even after the construction of the church building.

The issue of choosing a permanent name for the church arose. An original list included such names as: Asbury, Wesley, Aldersgate, Oxnam, and Creator Spirit. But on December 1 the congregation met to choose from one of the following: St. John, All Saints, Holy Comforter and Faith. Robert Melvin suggested the winning name because he previously had been a charter member of Faith Methodist Church in North Canton, Ohio and liked the name.

The official birth date for Faith Church is January 19, 1964. On that day the church was actually constituted and chartered. At the time there were ninety-nine charter members, of whom thirteen are still on the church's membership roles (Leslie Browne Avery, Hank and Judy Beisner, Lucile Browne, Marion Caldwell, George and Kay Cary, John Farrell, Karen Noonan Johnston, Bob and Mary Melvin, and Wilbur and Pearl Miller). Dr. E. Cranston Riggan gave the message that day. Following the service, District Superintendent Edgar W. Becket presided over the church's first Charge Conference, which elected a slate of officers to conduct the future business of the church.

An interesting sidelight, Ken Jones, Faith's current Pastor Emeritus, was the

Conference's Director of Methodist Information and the official photographer for the event.

Dr. Riffin, Executive Secretary of the Methodist Union and of the Board of Missions and Church Extension, deserves special recognition for helping find the parsonage and church site, arranging for their purchase, providing salary support for the pastor, and later, when the church was in a financial bind, using his influence to secure a low interest loan of \$20,000 from the Methodist Union.

With a rapidly expanding membership, the Official Board voted in March 1964 to hire architect Benjamin Elliot of Silver Spring to design a colonial style church, the choice the congregation had earlier selected. The following February a building contract was signed with the E.A. Baker Company and the official groundbreaking ceremony took place on March 5, 1965. The late Don Herron, former Church Historian, told an interesting story about financing the building of the church in a Laity Day service on October 8, 1989:

The next problem was to find the money to start building. Well, Jim Walker was a great past master at being able to promote things, and riding out to Equitable Savings and Loan one day, the Building Committee discussed what they were going to ask for. As they drove along, the figure chosen was \$250,000. When Jim got out of the car he said, 'I'm going to ask for \$275,000.' When he walked in and met the president of Equitable and the president asked, 'How much do you want?' Jim said, '\$300,000!'. That's what we got.

Later that summer Faith Church had an unexpected gift. The Marriott Hot Shoppes contacted Rev. Matheson and offered the church some of the restaurant's dishes, since they were switching to a different pattern. A total of 2,700 pieces of dinnerware was delivered in boxes. The dishes were separated into sets and stored in parishioners' basements until the new church's kitchen was completed. Later, surplus dishes were given to two other Methodist Churches.

On December 5, 1965, the cornerstone for the new church building was laid with the hope that work would be completed by Christmas. However, it was not until March 27, 1966 that the first service was held in the beautiful, new sanctuary, modeled after Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg. The following Sunday Faith Church held an open house to which the entire community was invited.

The new building was consecrated on Mother's Day, May 8, 1966 with Bishop John Wesley Lord, District Superintendent Edward G. Carroll (later Bishop Carroll) and long-time friend, E.Cranston Riffin in attendance. As with the groundbreaking, Ken Jones, Director of Methodist Information, reported on the event and recorded it in pictures.

In the Fall of 1966, the Official Board accepted the recommendation of the Education Committee that the church sponsor a Faith Church Pre-school for three and four year olds beginning in the Fall of the following year. The Pre-school remains today a vital, on-going, and expanding service to our community.

The first baptisms in the new sanctuary took place on April 3, 1966 when Billy Beisner, Sherrie Dunn, and Kevin Peeler were brought forward by their parents to the baptismal font. Jim Matheson, always the gentleman, insisted, "Ladies first." That is why Bonnie Dunn's daughter, Sherrie, has the honor of being the first child baptized in the new building.

The first marriage in the new sanctuary was celebrated on August 13, 1966 when Ann Herron, daughter of Don and Jo Herron married Richard Crane. In November, Faith set a record that has not been broken, when on the fourth Sunday of that month, 46 new members joined the church. That is more than many churches record in a year and more than a few have in total membership. In 1966, 184 new members joined Faith Church.

Until the opening of the new building, the congregation held services and Sunday School classes in the Farmland Elementary School. Often the school custodian failed to arrive in time to open the doors for arriving parishioners. On occasion, Sunday School teachers held classes on the playground with groups of children gathered around them. The problem was eventually solved when the school system entrusted a set of keys to the church for its use. During this time, the church office was located in the parsonage and MYF activities, Official Board Meetings, and choir practices were held in the basement.

On Sunday, December 4, 1966, Jim Matheson stunned the congregation with the announcement that he was resigning as pastor for personal reasons and was withdrawing from the active ministry. He expressed his love and appreciation to the members of Faith Church and said he would continue to serve until a replacement was appointed by the Bishop.

Remarkably, in little over three and a half years from the decision to establish a church in the area, a parsonage and church site were acquired, a Pastor appointed, an organization of laity established, a name chosen, a church building constructed, and a 42 member congregation grew to 318.

Thus ended the Early Years of what we know today as Faith United Methodist Church.



## The Growing Years (1967-1982)

Bishop Lord did not wait long to fill the pulpit vacancy. In early January he appointed the Rev. Kenneth S. Jones to be Pastor of Faith Methodist Church effective February 1, 1967.

As noted before, Ken was no stranger to Faith having come several times in his capacity as Director of Methodist Information for the Conference. Prior to assuming that position, he served for six years as a Methodist Missionary in the Belgium Congo and as Pastor of Woodlawn Methodist Church in Baltimore.

Because Jim Matheson felt it would be extremely difficult for him to give a farewell sermon to the congregation he loved so much, he asked Ken to present the message on January 29. This pre-appointment appearance hardly prepared Ken for what occurred the following Sunday. Two paragraphs from a pamphlet written for Faith's Fifth Anniversary tell the story:

The first Sunday of this new pastorate, February 5, 1967, could never be forgotten by the new pastor. While the congregation might have escaped notice of the near disaster, the behind the scenes activity was frantic. Due to circumstances impossible of explanation, several things went wrong. The florist failed to deliver any flowers. No acolyte appeared for duty. There were no greeters at the door. Discovering the lack of an acolyte, a hastily recruited volunteer was unable to find a match anywhere in the building and finally stood at the door greeting worshipers with the inspiring greeting, 'Got a match?'

But that was not all. It was to be Communion Sunday and no elements had been prepared. Mrs. William Raiford rushed home for bread, while someone else took off to the Seven-Eleven to get grape-juice. A friend of the new pastor, visiting from Virginia, was pressed into service cutting bread and filling cups while an unsuspecting congregation gathered. About five minutes after the usual 9:30 starting time, the choir processed majestically and no one would have known of the drama.

And Ken's problems didn't stop there. The church was without a custodian. Fortunately, a former one returned and agreed to assume those duties. Then Betty Hurd, Faith's organist and choir director since October 1963, announced she was leaving the area because her husband had been transferred. This latter problem actually turned out to be fortuitous for Faith Church.

In Ken's previous job, he helped publicize a new form of contemporary worship service introduced at Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. by its Assistant Organist, Floyd Werle. Master Sergeant Werle a full-time member of the United States Air Force Band, served as its Chief Composer and Arranger. Floyd accepted Faith's vacant organist's position, which later became Director of Music.

During the next 35 years, Floyd served under six different senior pastors. He brought with him a style that was quite different from what many parishioners were used to. Soon after he came to Faith, he began a Sunday night contemporary service originally called "Church-O-Theque" and later "Now Faith." These services attracted youth from all around the area and went on the road to perform in other churches. Its popularity slowly diminished and the last "Now Faith" was held in June 1979. Floyd wrote an amazing number of original anthems and hymns and charmed many in the congregation with his rousing processions (e.g., Sousa marches, circus tunes, and "The Teddy Bears' Charge Conference.")

Space, particularly for classrooms, became a problem. An educational wing in the original construction plan was dropped to save \$11,000 and meet budget restraints. In the Spring of 1967, the congregation voted to build the needed wing at a cost of \$28,500.

Today you can visualize the three construction phases of the church building by walking down the hall from the sanctuary to the educational building. Just past the library and audio visual storage room (which were originally the church office and pastor's study) there is a metal plate in the floor. This represents the end of the original building. Continue down the hall past Rooms 211 and 210 and another metal plate marks the end of the educational wing built in 1967. The remaining educational wing and church offices were constructed in 1972.

Throughout the construction of the educational wing, Faith used classrooms at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church for Sunday School and two adult classes met in the convent on Tildenwood Lane. This ecumenicalism was also evident in the joint confirmation class of 59 held with St. James Episcopal and Geneva Presbyterian Churches. The January 15, 1968 Minutes of the Education Committee proudly reported that the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes had moved back to the new education wing and adult classes were no longer meeting in the convent.

By the end of 1967, Faith Methodist Church was noted as the second fastest growing congregation in the Baltimore Conference.

In September 1968, Faith got its first Assistant Pastor, the Rev. William S. Koppert, a second year student at Wesley Theological Seminary, in September 1968. Bill primarily worked with the youth. He served for two years, followed by Lawrence Sander, for a very short time in 1970, and Robert Sherburne in 1971. All part time seminarians from Wesley were hired to work with Faith's youth.

In 1968 the church also got a new name: Faith United Methodist Church. This was a result of the combining of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The name change was easy, but the accompanying organizational changes caused much confusion. An Administrative Board (responsible for administering the organization of the church) and a Council

on Ministries (responsible for the programs relating to the church's primary mission.) replaced the Official Board. Making this organization work took real effort over a number of years. In 2001 the responsibilities of these two groups were consolidated under the Church Council. To add to the confusion, in 1968 the denomination changed from a fiscal to a calendar year for administrative and financial reporting.

On Sunday, January 26, 1969, a "Service of Worship and Thanksgiving Celebrating the Fifth Anniversary of the Faith United Methodist Church" was held. Dr. Riggan attended to provide the greetings and Bishop Lord delivered the sermon. A highlight of the service was the presentation of a hymn written especially for the occasion by Floyd Werle. Its lyrics reflected the situation thirty-five years ago at Faith and still have meaning for us today:

"And Yet Another Congregation"

Verse 1: And yet another congregation joins its hands  
 To raise another church upon the transient sands.  
 Finding community,  
 Doing Christian things,  
 Laden with growing pains,  
 Trying out its wings,  
 Trying out its wings.

Refrain: Well, here we are,  
 For what its worth Lord;  
 O how we need you,  
 Hear us now,  
 Cheer us now,  
 Steer us now,  
 O blessed Jesus,  
 Where do we go from here?  
 Amen.

Verse 2: Our hands have built this house to praise your holy name.  
 Yet in our bursting pride we feel a sense of shame.  
 What is our purpose here?  
 Have we one at all?  
 Are we irrelevant?  
 Doomed at last to fall?  
 Doomed at last to fall?

REFRAIN

Verse 3: Our sheer potential makes us toss our hats and crow,  
 Though in our witness we've a million miles to go.  
 Give us maturity;  
 Show us our mistakes,  
 We have your work to do .  
 Have we what it takes?  
 Have we what it takes?

REFRAIN

Verse 4: As in this changing life we seek to find a role,  
 To somehow gain the world and not to lose the soul.  
 Though we be stumbling,  
 Egg upon our face,  
 Jesus, watch over us,  
 In your love and grace,  
 In your love and grace.

Refrain: For here we are,  
 For what it's worth Lord;  
 O how we need you,  
 Here us now,  
 Cheer us now,  
 Steer us now,  
 O blessed Jesus.  
 Where do we go from here? Amen. Amen. Amen.

The 1969 Charge Conference Report announced a membership of 884 and a 45% church attendance. However, it also noted a critical shortage of space and the need for an additional 13 rooms for classes and administrative offices.

A Building Committee began meeting with architect Benjamin Elliott to study further needs and make proposals. A Congregational Meeting on October 4, 1970 approved plans for an educational building and authorized a "Building Crusade" to raise the necessary funds. The congregation was asked to pledge \$225,000 to be paid over a three year period. This was in addition to the 1970 operating budget of \$171,000. Current members who served on the fund raising committee are Judy Beisner, Pete Lebling, and Martin Moon.

The headline in the January edition of the "Good News" declared "Success W/O Victory in Bldg. Crusade." Although the building fund had not achieved 100% of its goal, enough money was pledged to move the project along and to break ground for the new Educational Building at 10:15 A.M. on July 18, 1971. Eleven months later, on June 18, 1972, the building was consecrated and

the Faith United Methodist Church edifice we know today was complete.

Membership continued to grow. Faith welcomed the 1000<sup>th</sup> person into membership on May 16, 1971. Weekly attendance averaged 464 for the previous four months. Not because of overcrowding, but because the Junior High MYF wanted to do something nice for the church, a Chapel-in-the-Woods was built that summer under the direction of their counselors Dick and Helen Alsmeyer and Don and Liz Eiler. Dick remembers the project as "mostly a bunch of cinder blocks and boards donated by local builders."

In November 1971 the Administrative Board adopted a congregational goal of contributing one half of all funds received to benevolent causes outside of Faith Church. This 10 year plan envisioned increasing the monies sent out gradually until it reached a 50/50 split in 1980. The outreach budget for 1971 was 17.7% and the proposed 1972 outreach budget was to be raised to 19.7%.

On June 15, 1973, Faith passed another important milestone with the appointment of the Rev. Glenn A. Young, Jr. as its first full-time, fully ordained Associate Pastor. Like the previous Assistant Pastors, who had been part-time seminarians, Glenn's charge was primarily to address the needs of the church's youth.

The 1973 Charge Conference Report gives an idea of Faith's vitality and activity:

- 30 couples were attending small group sessions in homes and at church; 20 more were enrolled in Bible studies.
- the United Methodist Women were divided into seven circles; had just put out the second edition of their cook book, "Flour Power;" initiated a Mother's Day Out Program; provided child care, meals, transportation, and sewing lessons in 16 sessions for low income women.
- 23 members of the Evangelism Commission made personal visits to 156 prospective members, 10 shut-ins, and 20 inactive members.
- the MYF held a fund raising "Roaring 20's Nite" and served 250 dinners; and their Parent's Night attracted 175 mothers, fathers and youth.
- the membership had reached 1,335.

It was also a period of great generosity by members of the congregation. As an example, Ken Jones tells the story of how Faith Church got its first bus. Seeing a need for moving groups, particularly youth, to various events, Ken approached the Administrative Board which authorized him to appeal to the congregation for funds. During a 9:30 Service he announced the need and

solicited contributions. At coffee hour, Ted Lingo, a member, said he would like to donate the entire amount for the bus and provide a yearly maintenance fund. He remembered his mother not being able to attend church because she lived some distance away and there was no transportation for her. He hoped this bus might help someone else's mother get to church. All Ken could do at the 11:00 Service was to tell the congregation the good news that Faith was going to get a new bus.

In February 1977, Bishop Wirtz selected Ken to become Pastor of the Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church in downtown Baltimore. For the next four months Glenn Young served as acting Senior Pastor, assisted by the Rev. Robert Robey, a regular attendee at Faith and a chaplain at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C.

In July 1977, Glenn received his appointment as Senior Pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church in Shady Side, Maryland. Faith now had a new ministerial team: Senior Pastor, Edgar W. Hammersla, formerly Superintendent of the Annapolis District; and Associate Pastor, David F. Kolda, previously Pastor of Union Bridge-Johnsville Methodist Church. They joined Paul Russell, Wesley seminarian, who had been on the church's staff for a year as a half-time youth worker.

Upon their arrival, Ed and Dave found not only a growing church with lots of activities, but a congregation that really appreciated good music and was eagerly looking forward to hearing the beautiful new organ that was being installed. An electronic organ had provided all the accompaniment for the choir, but when St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis announced it was replacing its pipe organ, Faith bought it.

Unfortunately, two years passed before the dedication of the organ. It was a magnificent musical instrument described as: "Played from three manuals and pedal, the organ consists of 21 fully independent registers in 27 ranks of pipes of which the total number is 1,635. There are 71 rocking tablets, including 52 stop controls, tremulant and 8 blanks for future expansion." (Whatever that means.) Music Director Floyd Werle called it a "masterpiece" and a "landmark installation." The lengthy installation period strained the congregation's patience.

A "Service of Dedication of the Pipe Organ" took place on February 18, 1979, a year and a half after the arrival of the new Pastors. In its nearly 25 years of service, the organ has provided beautiful music for the congregation and for the glory of God; but it is now beginning to show definite signs of wear and tear and is in the need of major repair or replacement.

During the previous year, on June 11, 1978, the congregation gathered for a simple, yet moving ceremony at 10:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall courtyard to dedicate the "Mary Carter Barrow Memorial Garden." Lorraine Stewart presented the garden on behalf of the congregation and Mickey Barrett, Chair of the Board of Trustees, accepted it.

That same month, part-time Youth Worker Paul Russell completed his two year tour with

Faith. Wesley seminarian, John L. Salzman, replaced him.

The Annual Report for 1979 indicated that Faith Church had a membership of 1,527. This represents the largest number of members ever reported and marked the end of the steady growth that had been occurring since the first members met in the basement of the parsonage sixteen years earlier. The peak figure for attendance at Sunday worship was reached four years earlier with an annual average attendance of 521.

On February 20, 1980, following the Ash Wednesday Service, a Special Congregational Meeting considered the need for a second parsonage. The congregation agreed to purchase the house at 11711 Smoketree Road in Regency Estates. However, the church had trouble getting a loan at a reasonable rate. At a subsequent meeting, members were asked to make loans up to \$1,000 for three years at 12% interest to finance the purchase. The response was positive and the house purchased. At the time, the Administrative Board went on record expressing the hope that this transaction could be done without adversely affecting our goal of reaching a 50% allocation of the budget for outreach.

Faith UMC in Rockville, Maryland and Felpham Westergate and Barnham Churches of the Chichester and Bognor Circuit in England exchanged Pastors in July and August 1981 when Ed went there and the Rev. Cledwyn Wood came here. It was an interesting experience for both congregations and the clergy couples. However, Mrs. Wood couldn't understand why members were not getting up at 3:00 A.M. to watch the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

In 1981, members of Faith Church took responsibility for its second refugee family: the Habties, father, mother and six children. The family had escaped from Eritrea (Ethiopia) during a revolution and overthrow of the government. The escape involved eluding troops, hiding during the day and traveling at night for 15 days, and crossing the desert to Khartoum, Sudan, where the father got a job as a driver with the American Embassy.

Through the auspices of Catholic Charities the Habties came to the United States and to Faith Church, which provided them with lodging, food, clothing, training and general support. The father found employment as a maintenance man at a local motel and the wife sold goods from a push cart on the mall in downtown Washington. Today, all six children have graduated from college and most are employed in the computer field. The parents have a food distribution business and live in a lovely home in Olney.

The first refugee family helped by Faith Church provides another success story. In 1975, the Lam family escaped from Saigon the day before the city fell to the Communists and became refugees in our area. Chau had been one of his country's top ranking professional soccer goalies. Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Schrier of our congregation took in the family of five for 10 weeks until the church could provide them with appropriate housing, furniture, clothing and other essentials. Today, Duc, the oldest son, graduated from George Washington University and works for the

FAA. His sister, Mimi, graduated from American University. She is married to a PhD and is mother of the Lam's first grandchild. His other sister, Ngoc, attended Penn State, earned her law degree from American University and is now a lawyer in the area. The parents, Chau and Hong, own and operate the Nail and Hair Salon on Main Street in Kentlands.

Virginia Law Shell, Chair of the Missions Commission was instrumental in helping the refugee families get established. Along with her second husband, Don, Virginia made quite an impact on Faith. She was the widow of Burleigh Law, a Methodist Missionary killed by Simba rebels when they marched through the Congo in 1964. She was left with three children (all of whom as adults have returned to Africa to serve as missionaries). Returning to the United States, she served as Director of Family Worship at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship in Nashville where she developed the "Marriage Enrichment Program." When she and Don came to Faith in 1974, she brought the program with her. Over the years, many Faith couples attended the weekend and follow up sessions. After Don's retirement in 1984, the Shells moved to Lake Junaluska, NC and became very active in the Good News Movement. Several church families left Faith following the Shell's move from the area.

In June 1981, Dave Kolda left Faith to become Pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Howard County. The Rev. E. Dwight Byrne, who had been ordained that month, replaced him.

In March 1982, Don Shell, Chair of the Staff Parish Committee, announced to the congregation that Ed Hammersla would be leaving on June 30 to become Senior Pastor of Woodside UMC in Silver Spring and that Dr. Errol G. Smith, Senior Pastor of Zion UMC in Highland, Maryland would replace him. In April, a change of Associate Pastors was announced. Dwight was going to Otterbein UMC in Hagerstown and Gerald E. Stone from Kempton Charge in Frederick was coming to take his place at Faith.



## The Middle Years

(1982 - 1991)

This next period covers the ministry of Dr. Errol G. Smith. Since there were three pastors before Errol and three pastors after, that makes his pastorate the one in the middle, thus the title "The Middle Years."

This interesting period in Faith's history can be illustrated by two quotations. The first comes from the 1983 Charge Conference Report in which Dr. Smith writes:

The Pastor's Report to the Charge Conference is in essence a state of the church assessment. In mid-1982 when my colleague Gerald Stone and I arrived with our families we found a very demoralized congregation. This was endeered by distinct competing factions in the church, an exodus of supportive families, fiscal instability and generally low morale. Now, some sixteen months later it can be said that the ship which was floundering is now back on course. Faith Church has regained her equilibrium by God's good grace.

The second quote comes seven years later in the 1990 Charge Conference Report by Al Burfeind, Chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee:

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is an important committee of the church with considerable responsibility for the health of the congregation, and the health of the staff. This year the congregation experienced some considerable discomfort with regards to ourselves and our staff. At the present time the state of the church is both quieter and calmer.

While the Senior Pastor position remained constant during this period, there was considerable change in other staff positions. For the first four years, Gerry Stone served as Associate Pastor and often handled all the pastoral responsibilities when Errol was having some serious medical problems. Gerry left Faith on June 30, 1986 when he was appointed Pastor at St. Johns UMC in Hampstead, Maryland. The Rev. Ann Laprade, who had been pastor of St. Andrews UMC in Hagerstown, replaced Gerry.

In November 1989 the church hired Dan Breznau to the newly established position of Program Director and on December 6, 1989, the Staff Parish Relations Committee recommended and the Administrative Board approved Faith Church becoming a one pastor church. The following July 1 Ann accepted as appointment as Pastor of the West Baltimore UMC.

Other staff changes during this period included: hiring retired minister Ed Reter to serve as Minister of Visitation (he was on staff for two and a half years); the retirement of Betty Dillon, who had been the church secretary for seven years; a succession of individuals served children and youth ministries (Mary Nieter, Debbie Long, Jannette Clavez, Jackie Chorley, Debbie Tomlin); the death of Mr. David, the church's custodian; and the hiring of his replacement, Keith Subani, who is today the longest remaining paid staff member. Other than Errol, only Music Director Floyd Werle and financial secretary Bonnie Steele remained in their same positions throughout the Middle Years.

Errol had an abiding interest in Methodist history. He led a series of one day tours around Maryland and Delaware visiting sites of early Methodism in America. Later he conducted several weekend seminars in Williamsburg and Ocean City on John Wesley and Methodist beliefs. In July 1985, he assisted in leading a 16 day "Pilgrimage to Wesley's British Isles." It is possible that his deep interest in Methodist history may have influenced his later appointment to Lovely Lane UMC, the "mother church of American Methodism."

A little of British Methodism was brought to Faith in 1989 when Faith had its second pulpit exchange. Errol and family went to the Isle of Guernsey off the coast of England where he served three churches (Les Camps, St. Martin's Mission, and St. Andrews.) Coming to Faith in July and August were the Rev. Maurice Weatherup and his wife, Mary. The Weatherups made quite a hit with the congregation. They became fully engaged in the life of the church: attending the prayer breakfasts, committee meetings, and chapel in the woods; conducting all the regular Sunday services; and making many friends. Many will remember Mary's children's services in which she introduced them to a really well worn teddy bear named Isaiah (which she pronounce I's eye ah because one I [eye] was higher than the other). A number of Faith members have subsequently visited the Weatherups in England and Maurice and Mary have stopped by Faith during other pulpit exchanges they participated in.

Music continued to play an important role in the life of Faith Church. It was during this period that the Administrative Board approved on October 4, 1985 the purchase of two octaves to begin a bell choir. The author makes no pretense of knowing anything about music, but in reviewing church newspapers for these nine years it appears that, under the direction of Floyd Werle, the choir performed a minimum of two major works each year. Here is a sampling of the music they presented:

- "The St. Luke's Christmas Story" by Cecil Effinger (1982)
- "The Whittier Service" by Cecil la Montaine (1983)
- "Second Mass in G Major" by Franz Schubert (1983)
- "Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall Come" by Louie L. White (1983)
- "Misa del Norte" by Floyd Werle (1984)
- "Wacht auf, ruft and die Stinsme" by Johann Sebastian Bach (1985)
- "Requiem, Opus 48" by Gabriel Faure (1996)

**"Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo" by Joseph Hayden (1986)**

**"Magnificat in G Major" by Antonio Vivaldi (1987)**

**"Oratorio de Noel" by Charles Camille Saint Saens (1987)**

**"Missa Solennella a Sainte Cecile" by Charles Gounod (1989)**

Music inadvertently caused one of the few public controversies occurring at Faith Church. All organizations, including churches, have differences of opinion and disagreements among their members; however, most churches, including Faith, keep them under the surface. However, in 1986 one caused quite a stir for a short period of time. Jannette Clavez, Director of Youth Ministry, sang the offertory one Sunday in January. The following month she wrote a "Letter to the Editor" of the Good News expressing her opinion that she felt it had been inappropriate for parishioners to applaud her singing since she was not giving a performance for them, but was expressing her praise and love to God.

What followed in subsequent issues of the paper were letters opposing and supporting her position written by the newspaper editor, the Director of Music, and various members of the choir. This exchange of views continued for the next two months. It was also the topic of much discussion around the church. Eventually things settled down with no decision reached as to the appropriateness of applause during services. The congregation seemed to take the position that it was up to each individual to decide whether to clap or not.

Less controversial and a great deal more important in the history of Faith Church was the production of the kneelers surrounding the altar at Faith. Led by Lib Hammersla, the project was begun in March 1982 as a memorial to Milmo Hambleton. Other members contributed financial support and the United Methodist Women underwrote the remainder of the cost. When Lib left with Ed in June, Peggy Barrow, Katie Bealle, and Marge Fleck, members of the Design and Coordination Committee, took over leadership of the project.

It was a major undertaking. They hired a needlepoint designer. Volunteers went to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. to see its kneelers. Faith needlepointers attended classes taught by the Needlepoint Guild of the National Cathedral. After much study and discussion of what the kneelers should look like, an artist was hired to paint the canvases. In June 1983 the canvases were distributed to the sixteen needlepointers who worked for the next fifteen months to complete work on the seventeen kneelers. The completed needlepoint canvases then had to be professionally blocked and made into cushions. The final products were first used at a Dedication Communion Service on Sunday, December 2, 1984, two and a half years after the project was started. It is estimated that kneelers such as these can last up to 200 years.

The kneelers have been described by some as Faith's "stained glass windows." They are a work of art and highly meaningful. The garland of oak leaves that tie the kneelers to one another is one of the symbols of Faith Church, as is the descending dove on the kneeler used during communion services. The fleur de lis on the front of all the kneelers stand for the trinity and echo

the pattern on the screen behind the altar.

Five of the kneelers represent the most popular hymns of the congregation at that time (*This is My Song; The Old Rugged Cross; Holy, Holy, Holy; Onward Christian Soldiers; How Great Thou Art*). Flora and fauna of the Rockville area appear in many of the kneelers (butterflies, bees, dragonflies, goldfinches, chickadees, dogwood, clover, thistle). And, on one of the kneelers can be found a bicycle representing the efforts of Faith's first pastor, who used one while recruiting new members.

Ben Fleck's interesting booklet describes in detail all of the kneelers. Eleven of the original sixteen needlepointers are still active members of Faith Church (Suzanne Ayres, Peggy Barrow, Judy Beisner, Marilyn Holman, Clayron Inman, Susan Knowles, Betty Lebling, Kay McCarty, Minette McCullough, Barbara Schmid, and Betty Thomas.) A little known fact is that Dr. Frederick Caldwell, late husband of Marion Caldwell, was an anonymous needlepointer on the project.

The Administrative Board took an important action on June 24, 1983. An article in the Good News describes it:

Another highlight of the Board Meeting was the approval given by the Board to a recommendation by the Board of Trustees that the Mary Carter Barrow Memorial Garden be made available as a final resting place for the cremated remains of members of Faith Church, members of their immediate families, and former members at the discretion of the pastor. According to the approved plan, the ashes will be interred without use of permanent containers and individual burial sites will not be marked but a central plaque on the wall of the church will bear the names of all those interred in the garden. Under this plan, there is no foreseeable limitation on the number of interments that could take place in the garden.

The first individual's ashes interred in the garden were those of Edgar Sutton (1891-1983). As of this writing, a total of 41 interments have taken place there. A gazebo was built in the Memorial Garden and was dedicated July 12, 1995 to provide a place for special activities or individual meditation.

In 2001, a member suggested the church build a columbarium in the Memorial Garden and cease the practice of interring uncontained ashes. This was thoroughly discussed for several months and the congregation was polled by letter on February 7, 2002 concerning this matter. The result of the poll was announced by letter dated May 24, 2002: "More than 60% of the respondents expressed a strong preference for retaining the present system of interring uncontained ashes in the Garden . . . Given the response of the congregation, the Church Council voted in April to continue the existing system...."

A number of "firsts" occurred during these "middle years." A tape ministry for shut-ins began (1987), the first shelter meals were prepared (1987), the first two Disciple Classes were taught, and the Rockin Sages had their first get-togethers. At the same time all the on-going activities were continued, such as: Men's Prayer Breakfast; UMW Bazaars; MYF events; and the annual summer work trips to places like Young's Island, SC, Portsmouth, VA., Lumberton, NC, John's Island, SC (twice), Philippi, WV (twice), Burlington, WV, and Wadmalaw, SC. Even with all this effort, membership by 1990 had declined to 1,182 and church attendance to 283. This followed the trend of most mainline Protestant Churches and continues to this day.

On January 4, 1991, Errol Smith sent a letter to all members stating he would not be staying at Faith Church after the end of June. On March 13, he advised the congregation he had accepted an appointment as Senior Pastor at Lovely Lane UMC in Baltimore. The following month the SPRC announced that the Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Rettenmayer would be coming to Faith from Mt. Zion UMC in Howard County on July 1. At its May 10, 1991 meeting, the Administrative Board approved the hiring of Linda Rettenmayer, the new pastor's wife, as. part time Minister of Pastoral Care responsible for looking after shut-ins and other members requiring special attention.

June 31, 1991 marked the end of the nine year pastorate of Errol Smith and July 1 the beginning of a period of many changes for Faith Church.

## **The Changing Years**

**(1991 - 2004)**

In its first 28 years, Faith Church had only three pastoral changes at the senior level. In the next 10 years, it was to have four. In many ways, this period was one of constant changes.

The first pastoral change came on July 1, 1991 when Steve Rettenmayer became Faith's Senior Pastor. Another change was that Faith was experiencing its first pastoral couple, with Linda Rettenmayer beginning her service as part time Minister of Pastoral Care. Steve and Linda look back on this as being a great opportunity for them to work as a ministry couple.

The congregation was hardly prepared for the changes brought about by Steve's personality and talent. In the middle of a sermon, on his second Sunday at Faith, he broke into song and augmented his message with a rendition of "The Stranger of Galilee," accompanied by Floyd Werle on the organ. Steve not only had a fine singing voice, but was a talented musician, having played clarinet and saxophone in the United States Marine Band for four years prior to getting the call to enter the ministry. On many occasions Steve used his musical talents during church services.

There were other changes affecting the congregation:

- \* Name tags were introduced to help the Rettenmayers more quickly match names and faces. Permanent tags were ordered the following year and have been used ever since.
- \* Children were invited to attend worship services for the first 10 to 15 minutes and share a "children's moment" with Pastor Steve.
- \* The new pastoral couple preferred facing the congregation while conducting communion services, so the elements were moved to the back of the altar.
- \* A church-wide prayer chain was started.
- \* The pastors began a series of "Getting To Know You" sessions, meeting with groups of 10 to 15 parishioners over coffee and dessert in members' homes. More than 30 of these sessions were held and led to the beginning of the Shepherding Program the following year. The entire membership was divided into 10 geographical areas and 52 neighborhood groups which met periodically, supported one another and provided closer communication among members. On reflection, Steve feels this was one of his

best accomplishments while at Faith.

- \* in the summer of 1991, the early church service was moved from 9:30 to 9:15 so that the parking lot could be freed up for the 11:00 service. A "non-binding, non-scientific poll" taken by the Administrative Board in December showed that 192 members approved of the change and 124 objected., demonstrating you can't please everyone.

Average attendance at Sunday Services increased by 25% by the end of 1991; but money was still a problem. To meet an anticipated shortfall of \$60,000, the congregation was asked to participate in a "13<sup>th</sup> month of giving". By the Administrative Board meeting in February there was a \$47,000 overage from the previous year, resulting from the congregation's increased giving. At a subsequent meeting, the Board voted to tithe \$4,700 of the overage to the church's outreach efforts.

During this time, the youth program was active in growth and activity level. In April 1992, Debbie Tomlin, Faith's part time Youth Worker, was promoted to full time Director of Youth Ministry.

The Inquirers' Class for potential new members was lengthened from two to five sessions and often had groups of 30 and 40 joining Faith on a Sunday morning. However, total church membership remained around 1,000 due to a thorough updating of Faith's rolls and removing those no longer members.

Another change occurred on September 23, 1992 when the Administrative Board voted to provide the Rettenmayers a housing allowance in lieu of the use of the parsonage. The Rettenmayers moved into the first home they actually owned in November. Since the Associate Pastor's parsonage had been rented when Faith became a one pastor church in July 1990, the church now had two rental properties.

Speaking of housing, twice in 1993 Faith Church's Fellowship Hall housed a week long homeless shelter. The church provided food, lodging and general supervision. This continued until 1997 when the sponsoring agency, Community Ministry of Montgomery County, opened a permanent shelter with 25 beds on Wilkins Avenue in Rockville. Ever since, for one week each year, Faith members provide food for the homeless in this new facility. To support this activity and other outreach efforts, the first Mission Auction was held on April 30, 1993. It has become a popular annual event.

Another change occurred in the summer of 1993 when Monday evening worship services were inaugurated to meet the needs of members who might have been away over the weekend and were not able to attend Sunday Services.

Even though Faith Church was chartered on January 19, 1964, it could not be dedicated

until its mortgage was paid off in full. This happy occurrence took place on Sunday, February 26, 1995 when Bishop Joseph Yeakel conducted a dedication service and performed a symbolic "mortgage burning." Following the services, a progressive, room to room hors d'oeuvres luncheon was held. Various work areas of the church had displays illustrating their activities..

The following day 49 members of Faith embarked on a two week tour of the Holy Land led by Steve and Linda. The returning travelers and the rest of the congregation were shocked when Steve announced on March 19 that he and Linda would be leaving Faith at the end of June. He had accepted the position of Senior Pastor at Towson UMC, the third largest church in the Baltimore Washington Conference with a membership of over 2,000 and average Sunday attendance of more than 600.

A number of disappointed members wrote letters to Bishop Yeakel objecting to Steve's leaving Faith so soon. The essence of the Bishop response was, "Dr. Rettenmayer did not have to accept the appointment." This didn't lessen the members' feelings of great loss.

On July 1, 1995, the Rev. Mark A. Derby became the Senior Pastor of Faith, the second pulpit change in this period. Mark was Senior Pastor at Montgomery UMC in Damascus, MD for the previous 14 years. He and his wife, Joyce, followed the example of the Rettenmayers and met with 32 Shepherding Groups for coffee and dessert. Like Steve, Mark also was an accomplished musician and played his trumpet at many church services and programs.

In October 1995, the Rev. Margaret E. Clemons joined the staff as part time Pastor of Congregational Care, a position similar to the one held by Linda Rettenmayer. Margaret had been chaplain at Asbury Home, the assisted living facility of Asbury Village in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The Administrative Board made Margaret's position full time in February 1996. The Rev. Ken Jones was added to the staff the previous December when the Administrative Board voted unanimously to name him Pastor Emeritus of Faith Church. On May 26, 1996 the Board approved a new staff position, Director of Christian Education to the staff. After a nationwide search, the Rev. Kathryn T. Wadsley became Faith's DCE in late December. Kathy was a Diaconal Minister, which required a formal transfer from the South Carolina Conference to the Baltimore Washington Conference. Staff additions meant converting classrooms to offices.

In February 1996, the Administrative Board approved the expansion of the church's parking lot by 59 spaces. It was hoped that the work would be completed by summer, but like the installation of the organ and the making of the kneelers, it took much longer than expected.

Neighborhood meetings were held to explain the project to the community; plans for the parking lot were approved by the Montgomery County Government; and permits were applied for. Then in June torrential rains came down; and, even though all the work had been done to meet county requirements, water flowed from the church property into our neighbor's backyard



and home. The church immediately hired a firm to clean up his area and negotiations were begun between the neighbor and the church's insurance company.

Work on the parking lot continued. By August 1996 the cost estimate had doubled from the budgeted figure of \$100,000. To overcome this, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Clyde Haven, took responsibility to serve as the project's General Contractor. In January 1977 the Administrative Board approved \$16,526 to cover a shortage of budgeted money, due to unforeseen problems in construction. The parking lot was finally completed that Spring, but that is not the end of the story. That can best be told by quoting a short article in the Good News of December 12, 1997 written by Bill Ayers, Administrative Board Chair:

For more than a year now, Faith Church leadership has been concerned about an ongoing dispute with our next door neighbor. Shortly after we commenced work on the parking lot expansion, there was an unusually heavy rainfall and muddy water was washed into our neighbor's backyard, basement and office space. We responded by sending in a cleanup contractor. Over the next several months there were more situations where the neighbor considered we were the cause of problems he experienced with water run-off. Since Faith had insurance to cover any liability which we might have in this matter, we did not enter into negotiations and, in fact, resisted the neighbor's offer to negotiate and referred him to our insurer. At one point the insurer offered to settle for \$1,500 and we added \$3,000 as a gesture of neighborliness. That offer was refused. Finally, a couple of weeks ago and just a day or two before a scheduled trial date, our insurer and the neighbor reached a settlement. Publicity on this matter had been limited while it was in dispute because of the possibility of litigation and the involvement of our insurer. However, we are pleased it is settled.

During this period there were more staff changes. In April 1996, Dan Breznau, Faith's Program Director for six and one half years, resigned to return to Michigan to join his family's furniture building business. Subsequently, Dan returned to college, earned his degree in theology, and is currently a United Methodist Pastor in Chelan, Washington. The Program Director' position was eliminated. In August 1997, Faith's Director of Youth Ministries, Debbie Tomlin, resigned to follow her life long dream of devoting full time to her painting. This has led to art classes at Arizona State University, a Fellowship at Wayne State University where she will receive a Master's in Fine Arts in Painting, and many exhibits and shows of her art work, the biggest of which will be held on January 30, 2004 in Detroit, Michigan. Carrie Creps (later Lagas) became Debbie's replacement in mid 1998.

A structural change was made in the lay organization in January 1997, when the Administrative Board and the Council on Ministries were combined to form the Church Council. The Council assumed the functions and responsibilities of the two previous organizational units.

In 1997, as a result of a "Planning Retreat on the Future of Faith Church," the Church Council decided to participate in "ReVision," a process made available to churches by the Baltimore Washington Conference. Mark Derby and Jan Spencer, chosen to lead this effort, received specialized training. A very comprehensive survey was made of the local area by an outside research firm to gather demographic data. The entire congregation completed a detailed questionnaire. The results of both these efforts were turned over for study and discussion by 12 small groups with a total of 100 members who met for 8 weekly meetings. Reports from these groups were submitted to a ReVision Task Force that produced the final report. It was the most comprehensive study ever made of Faith.

In the Pastor's Report of the 1998 Charge Conference, Mark Derby spoke to the results of the ReVision effort:

The ReVision process enabled us to take a deeper look at the composition of Faith Church and our surrounding community. It brought us together in small groups which provided vital input as we prayed for and discussed who God has called us to be and what God is calling us to do as a church. Through our prayer, study and discussion, God's vision for us was manifested. By the grace of God, we resolved to be a Christ centered, community oriented fellowship in which people are disciplined to maturity through Christian Education and the community is invited to explore and experience the possibilities of the Christian life. We committed ourselves to the development of a variety of worship service styles and times to reach the unchurched in our community. We agreed to challenge every member to keep their commitment to support our ministries through their prayers, presence, gifts and service. We committed to train leaders and to decentralize our governmental structure by empowering leaders and committees to take action. Lastly, we committed ourselves to better communications both internally and externally.

The reality is that Faith Church has plateaued in its growth and actually begun to decline. Rather than acceding to this natural downward spiral, we boldly committed ourselves to address the present and future with faith and hope. God has used the ReVision process to spark a renewal within Faith Church. The flame is spreading, but we could easily extinguish it, if we fail to implement the recommendations or fail to keep our commitments. It is possible for us to quench the Spirit of God among us, if we resist the Spirit by obstinately refusing to make the changes which are necessary for us to serve our community continues to change and grow.

The results of the ReVision are still evident today and are used by the clergy and lay leadership to give direction to Faith's efforts.

In the summer of 1998, a major staff change occurred. On June 30, Margaret Clemons left

Faith to become Pastor of Poplar Springs UMC in Mt. Airy, Maryland. She was succeeded by Rev. Bruce A. Jones, who had been Pastor of Francis Asbury UMC in Rockville for the previous four years. Bruce was not a stranger. As Ken and Edlea Jones' middle son, he spent ten of his formative years at Faith. The Smoketree Parsonage was made available to the Jones family.

In early 1999, Faith Church attempted a major innovation by replacing the 11:00 AM traditional service with a Contemporary or Praise Service and added a Sunday evening service. Bruce took the lead in the running the Contemporary Service, designing the programs, giving the sermons each week, hiring the musicians, and arranging for necessary audio visual equipment support. By November, however, the Pastors decided the innovation was not working and recommended Faith return to the traditional two Sunday morning services, which it did in December.

In May 1999, Bruce introduced Faith Church to the Alpha Program, a 10 week non-denominational course for the unchurched and churched alike. It is a worldwide program which more than 2 million individuals have attended. By August 2000, 87 members and friends of Faith had taken the course. Alpha is still a vital part of the church's program.

In the same month, the congregation was shaken again with the announcement that Bishop Edwin Felton May had chosen Mark to fill the position of Superintendent of the Baltimore Harford District. Once more members expressed their views to the Bishop. His response was not to respond.

A major building improvement was completed in December 1999 with the installation of an elevator. This was particularly useful to those who found it difficult to get from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall without having to go outside.

On July 1, 2000, Faith Church had its third senior pastoral change, one that produced an unusual situation. Bruce Jones became responsible for providing pastoral leadership for the congregation. He led the staff; preached on Sunday mornings; conducted weddings, funerals, and baptisms; made home and hospital visits; participated in all church meetings; and in essence did everything a Senior Pastor was supposed to do. However, because of the Bishop's philosophy that Associate Pastors should not succeed to the senior position in their current church, Bruce remained officially Faith's Associate Pastor.

The Administrative Board recognized the situation and increased Bruce's salary to that of the Senior Pastor and called on Ken Jones, Pastor Emeritus, to provide ongoing support to Bruce. In addition, Marge Taylor began her service as Parish Nurse in an intern capacity in July 2000.

In August, Faith lost a valuable staff member when Bonnie Steele retired. Bonnie served the church for over 22 years, first as Financial Secretary and later as Business Manager. She was seen as the "strong right arm" of the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees" and was

sorely missed. Member Erna Benjamin filled in until April 2001, when Mal Vasanth was hired as Church Administrator.

Difficulties faced by Bruce as can be seen in his 2000 Charge Conference Report of the Pastor:

It has been a privilege to serve my home church and the people I love, but it has also been a hardship to carry on as pastor but not permanent leader of the church. I have had to balance between leading too clearly, and not leading enough; and I am not sure I have found the perfect balance yet. My genuine fear was that by not leading enough, Faith Church might sink into a wait-and-see posture, which I felt would let the air out of the progress it has been making over the past five years.

But he ends his report on a more positive note:

To summarize, I want this body to hear that I believe Faith Church is one of the strongest and best positioned churches in the conference. It is ripe with potential and a future as bright as its past. It is a matter of perspective. If we think the church's glory years are behind us, we will by default continue to decline. If however, we can get a glimpse of the future to which God is calling us, then we will see clearly that our best days are ahead. I believe in Faith Church. I believe in the people of Faith Church. Let us work towards fulfilling the expectations of God that we be building and furthering his kingdom, rather than work only to preserve the Faith Church we once knew and longingly remember.

The fourth and last pastoral change came the following year. On June 30, 2001, Bruce became Senior Pastor of Concord-St. Andrews UMC in Bethesda. On July 1, Faith Church had a new ministerial team: the Rev. Dr. Charles L. Harrell, Senior Pastor and the Rev. Patricia Dols, Associate Pastor. Charles had been Senior Pastor of St. Paul UMC in Lusby, Maryland and Pat had been Pastor of Deer Creek Charge (Deer Creek and Mt. Tabor UMCs) in Forest Hill, Maryland.

By this time, change had become a way of life at Faith Church. There were more staff additions and deletions to come. On August 18, 2001, Marge Taylor accepted the permanent position of Parish Nurse. With the congregation starting to show its age, her services in visiting members in hospitals, nursing homes and in their residences; developing a corps of Stephen Ministers; providing flu shots; and generally watching over the health of the congregation made her an important staff addition.

During the summer, Director of Youth Ministry, Carrie Lagas, left Faith to pursue other professional goals. Her replacement, Charlie Smith, was hired the following June. This did not

prove to be a fruitful match between his skills and the program needs of Faith Church. He left in October 2002. Pat Dols assumed primary responsibility for overseeing the youth program until a new staff member could be hired.

A most notable staff loss came on June 2, 2002 when Organist and Choir Director Floyd Werle ended his 35 plus years of devoted service to Faith Church and moved to California. He served under six senior pastors, directed the choirs in more than 3,000 regular church services and many special musical performances, and wrote numerous hymns and anthems, some of which appear in a booklet, "Worship With Faith," used during church services in the 1990's.

Floyd served 32 years in the United States Air Force, many as Chief of the Air Force Band's Composing and Arranging Section. He wrote scores for several movies. Arranged four trumpet concerti for Doc Severinsen. Wrote fifty musical works, including two symphonies. The University of Michigan awarded him a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982. The Korean War had interrupted his studies there. In 2001 he received an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Rocky Mountain College located in Billings, Montana, his home town.

Floyd, and the choirs he directed, had a significant impact on Faith Church. At one new members' party, held during Ed Hammersla's pastorate, attendees were asked what most attracted them to Faith Church. Person after person replied it was the wonderful music they found here. Ed finally asked, "Didn't anyone like the sermons?"

Lynn Block was hired as Music Director in September 2002 and Bob Holder as Organist the following February. Mary Nieter had filled in as Choir Director and Nancy Kuhn as Organist on an interim basis.

Kathy Wadsley left her position as Director of Christian Education in late January 2003 and accepted a similar one in the East Ohio Conference. To date, a nation-wide search has failed to find an appropriate replacement.

Staff changes were not the only ones taking place. In an attempt to find the right combination of worship opportunities to meet members' needs, various scheduling changes were tried. In 2002, the Saturday evening service was suspended and early Sunday communion services were started. In 2003, a dedicated Sunday School hour was initiated as well as an 8:15 AM abbreviated traditional service. While the dedicated Sunday School hour had a positive effect on the number of adults attending classes, it also had some negative results. At the December 17, 2003 Church Council Meeting, the Worship Committee was authorized to come up with a plan for conducting a worship service that could be offered at the same time as Sunday School.

Another worship service planned for 2004 previewed on Sunday, October 26, 2003. It is a praise service offering an alternative style of worship. Called "SHOUT," it will target a younger audience with emphasis on praise music with instrumental accompaniment, increased member

involvement, and sermons with more life application themes. An Alternative Worship Team has been working on this for over a year and expects to launch this new, exciting Sunday evening service by mid-2004.

A property change is now in the wind. The Board of Trustees became aware our neighbor's house was going on the market. This is the same house that suffered water damage when the church's parking lot was being expanded in 1996. The Board recommended to the Church Council that Faith purchase the property. The Council agreed to convene a Church Conference to decide the issue. On Wednesday, January 7, 2004, the Conference approved, by a vote of 57 to 10, to purchase the property at 6800 Tildenwood Lane for a price not to exceed \$650,000; and if successful, to sell the Old Bridge Parsonage to help defray the cost.

With all this change, many traditional activities continue. Faith's long time commitment to outreach was expanded through the Russia Initiative. As part of this, a close partnership was established with the Vladimir Community. Members have made seven trips there under the leadership of Ken Jones to work on various projects. In 2003 the initiative was expanded when Faith entered into a Supporting Congregation Relationship with God's Inspiration Russia United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg. Closer to home, the Annual Youth Work Trip went north to Maine in 2003 and will go there again in 2004.

Small group activity continued to play an important role in the life of Faith Members, such as: the United Methodist Women, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Pace Setters, Merry-go-Rounders, Women's Thursday AM Bible Study; and newer groups like Experiencing God, Purpose Driven Life, Sacred Romance, Fresh Brewed Life and Wild of Heart. For the younger crowd, in 2002 Sandy Larkin began a Puppet Ministry that has grown to involve many adults as well as children.

Change is difficult and can cause discomfort. Faith's Lay Leader, Bruce Matter, helped put this into perspective and in his 2003 Conference Report:

In the midst of all this change, we tend to display very human instincts. Some believe they can handle all these changes, decipher all the issues, make appropriate plans, adjustments and moves to adapt and achieve great things for themselves and even for God. After all, it is our accomplishments that provide meaning in our lives — right? In our busy lives some of us reflect on our 'goals' and 'accomplishments.' We compare the way we look and what we've done with how others look and what they've done. We tend to take on a competitive attitude rather than a cooperative one. We tend to think you're wrong and I'm right. Or, your idea is good but mine is better. We tend to stop listening to each other and begin pushing our own agendas. And, for some of us, God seems to become someone who is there to referee or to help 'me' to accomplish my goal. After all, *I'm doing it for God, right?*

Others of us instinctively refuse to acknowledge that things really are different, and that a new approach may be essential to our very existence. We are comfortable with our way of doing things. It's familiar. We don't have to learn anything new. It has worked fine for us all these years, so why change now?

But, we must always remember that we do not have to achieve anything for God. An 'achieve it for God' attitude can readily lead us to a rather large ego. And, on the other hand, closing our minds to change and merely doing only that which brings 'us' comfort can readily lead to a rather self-satisfying mindset. These attitudes and behaviors simply demonstrate the essence of our prideful, self-centered, sinfulness — our human condition. The truth is that God will achieve his purposes — with us or without us.

There is the old story of the woman who said to her pastor, "When I die, I would like you to put a fork in my right hand before I am buried." When asked why this strange request, she replied, "At every pot luck supper we are told to keep our forks because the best is yet to come." That should be the message for all Faith United Methodist Church members as we get ready for the next 40 Years of Faith — believe and act, for the best is yet to come.

## THE FUTURE YEARS

Charles L. Harrell

Anniversaries make an ideal occasion, not only for taking stock of what's been, but to look ahead at what opportunities and challenges lie ahead. We assess what's been accomplished. We share the stories, regaling one another with the tales – often known to all, but no less precious for that – of great things past, of people and problems, situations and solutions, both sublime and humorous, happy and hard, mundane and miraculous. Thus fortified with the experience of the past and the wisdom it brings, we lay our plans for tomorrow. But planning by itself is just an extension of the status quo, without the guiding star of vision. Unless we dare to dream and look ahead, something in us begins to die. But with a vision – especially a God-sized one, we begin to see the impossible happen. Mac McCullough has done a wonderful job of showing us where we've been as a church. It's my joy to try to lead you in peeking around time's curtain just a bit, lifting up our eyes to see what, as the Spirit leads, *can* be.

The Church of Jesus Christ – and every local church as part of the greater Church – exists to fulfill the five Biblical purposes of worship, fellowship, nurture, caring ministry, and witnessing the Gospel. But each individual congregation also has a special mission; Faith has a reason for God placing us here and now. Some of it is articulated in our mission statement and developed in our vision statement; it is encapsulated in the catchy, *Faith works!* But *how* will it work?

Faith's longstanding commitment to witnessing through worship will develop and grow – it is "Job 1" in the Church. As Mac points out, music has been a core part of worship at Faith, and we are on the verge of making a significant investment of love and treasure in the refurbishing and enhancing our organ so that it will continue to bless inspiring melody for generations to come. *Shout!* – which recaptures the vision of contemporary worship that was once expressed by *The Now Faith*, is but the first of what I believe will be several vital, new initiatives to reach different and diverse segments of the community around us – and among us. In the years ahead, I see our core offering of "traditional" United Methodist worship being augmented by cutting-edge praise, the quiet reflective spirit of "sung prayer" on the Taizé model, "café church", blended liturgy, and new, as yet unguessed-at formats. I foresee a day when people who are new to our community, looking for a church home, will hear, "You should visit Faith. If anyone has what you're looking for, they will. And what great people! You'll love it there."

Loving and being loved: it happens in our Sunday celebrations, but is more often about what goes on in smaller gatherings for ministry, study, and service. We're slowly, without fanfare building a network of small group ministry which one day will be one of the cornerstones of each member's belonging. We're working to build an atmosphere where everyone who comes in the door will know that they are welcomed, and cared for, and where everyone knows that they're safe and their burdens can not only be shared, but ministered unto, in the name of Christ. I look forward to a time when anyone can say, whether on their 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday or their 1001<sup>st</sup>, "I've never



experienced church that warm and loving before. ... I'm proud to say these folks are my family in the Lord."

Our youth ministry is definitely in a rebuilding mode just now. But I foresee a day when we offer a multifaceted ministry for teenagers, "tweenagers", and college-age persons that will offer exciting fellowship, solid ministries for going deeper in the word of God, interest-based speciality programming, and missional opportunities that will put them on the leading edge of work and service not only at home, but even in cross-cultural settings. Faith will be a place not only where our teens know they're loved and cared for, and where they're put in the way of the Gospel message, but where there are opportunities for hands-on service that are second to none anywhere else.

We are blessed with an amazing array of people at Faith: seniors, singles, marrieds, kids of all ages, empty-nesters, "third agers", a variety of ethnic heritages – the list goes on. I see Faith growing into a community where the heart of people of each age will be touched, and the imaginations of everyone fired for going "further in and further up" in the walk with God. To that end, I see a comprehensive and sequenced educational curriculum, which identifies and encourages spiritual and natural gifts in everyone, and which builds little communities of caring, growth, and service. I see a children's ministry that will capture the interest of kids from the youngest ages, and introduce them to a God who cares for them radically, a church family which loves them unreservedly, and a wide world of possibilities for putting feet to faith. I see God raising up new leaders from among us, and our sending them forth with joy into fields of service.

Faith started as the mission church on Montrose Road; and one of our symbols is a bicycle, representing an intentional, door-to-door ministry. We recaptured something of that spirit as we canvassed the community with invitations to come "Home for Christmas" in 2003. The results were very encouraging, and remind us that the fields are still "white unto the harvest", if we care to be among the reapers. I see us being such a presence church in this neighborhood, that we aim to touch every single household, member or nonmember, Christian or of other traditions, in some positive way through one of our ministries. That we will be such a vital outreach church that every person, every family around us can say, "I may not share their theology, or ever enter their building. But I'm glad that church is there, and I know it makes a real difference for the good in my community – I know they're there for me, too."

We have a rich tradition as a missional church, with a reach that has touched nearly every continent over the years. I see Faith as not only a supporting community, but increasingly a sending community, helping others to discern God's call to serve in places far and near – whether for a short time, or as a life's vocation. I see us setting the bar high for our sister congregations in terms of activity locally, nationally, and around the world. I see the lives of multitudes of young

people being transformed as they have hands-on experience with what God is doing in the lives of people in many places. I see us linking every project for growth and expansion to a missional outreach edge, so that nothing happens here without someone being blessed by it, even in the far corners of the earth.

So many of our members and attenders are involved in education, and this is a rich field for Faith in the future. Our Preschool enjoys a terrific reputation, built over the years – and it can grow and expand, with the addition of new sessions, before- and after-care, daycare opportunities (perhaps both for children and seniors), and – who knows? – even umbrella school or conventional school possibilities. I see us offering an array of summer daycamp programs in sports, hobbies, ESOL, music, the heritage of our country, even specialized areas such as aviation – having the opportunity to touch the lives of young people who we otherwise might never see, and offering ministries as well which will aid their parents and reinforce their families.

The Prayer of Jabez includes a petition for God to “enlarge my territory” – and I see a growing facility, on an expanding campus. I have noticed over the years that the communities which experience sustained and substantial growth – including our neighbors to the east at St. Elizabeth’s and the Jewish Community Center – support not only specifically religious life, but offer a full-service, seven-day-a-week presence that touches the perceived and real needs of the persons and families around them. It is absolutely clear to me that Faith’s future lies in that direction, as well. I see us humming with activity, all the time, supported by a carefully-built, well-supported staff team that is committed to excellence in all things. I see even the Montrose Parkway project being turned to advantage as we increase our visibility in the neighborhood, and look for ways of connecting with those who drive by us daily.

I see Faith as a model church, and a teaching church. Actually, we have been over the years – sometimes painfully so, as young clergy and staff have moved on quickly just as they were “getting good” or more senior leadership has been spirited away to other places of service in the connection. Rather than shying away from this role, I see us embracing it as a way of helping to shape the life of the wider church with terrific people for decades to come. I see special programs, born out of Faith Church, that will recognize and affirm the best leadership and the best new potential, in our district, our conference, and even wider in the Church – a church that is a humming, throbbing catalyst for what is best in the Wesleyan heritage.

To personalize it, my goal is that, long before that distant and unlooked-for time when my tenure at Faith is completed, this church will have become – for its members, for its staff, and within the wider connection – The Place to Be, where the best, the most creative, and the most thrilling ministry is happening.

To put it another way: I believe that the Holy Spirit has plans for this congregation. I believe that the first forty years will be celebrated, and remembered with joy – as we step out into the next forty, the next eighty, the next hundred of ministry that will not only validate all that has come before, but build on it in ways that we cannot yet see.

Faith *does* work. Not so much because we have faith – but because our faith is in the God who lives and acts and is faithful. And as long as we are obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit, Faith *will* work. For its members, for its neighbors. For Rockville, and our wider Montgomery County community. To the eternal salvation of many, and the everlasting praise of God.

## Appendix 1

## CHARTER MEMBERS OF FAITH METHODIST CHURCH

Henry\* and Judy\* Beisner  
 Charles and Betty Bosmajian  
     Charles Bosmajian, Jr.  
 Thomas and Eleanor Bowery  
 Leslie and Lucille\* Brown  
     Lesley Brown Avery\*  
 Marion Caldwell\*  
 George\* and Kay\* Cary  
     Bradford Cary  
 Howard and Carolyn Cook  
 Todd and Patricia Debinder  
 Russel and Bernadine Donohue  
 Woodrow and Kathryn Dunlop  
     Darla Dunlop  
 Dorothy and Martha Dworin  
 John Farrell\*  
 Willard and Annette Gould  
 Jay and Lillian Hall  
 Marjorie Hamilton  
 Kenneth and Millicent Heinze  
 Don and Josephene Herron  
     Thomas Herron  
     Ann Herron Crane Harlan  
 Rebecca and Stephen Hodges  
 Hattie Jackson  
 Eugene and Ruth Keeney  
 Walter and Ruby Kemetick  
     Janet Kemetick  
 Owen and Betty Laug  
 Marvin and Doris Lawson  
     Robert Lawson  
     Linda Lawson  
 William and Jacqueline Lucas  
 Brunhilde Matheson  
 James and Mildred McCullough

Don and Lorraine McFall  
     Don McFall, Jr.  
 Robert\* and Mary\* Melvin  
 Wilbur\* and Pearl\* Miller  
     Mark Miller  
     Stephen Miller  
 Floyd and Jean Munson  
 Robert and Winnifred Nelson  
     Robert Nelson, Jr.  
 Louis and Jean Nolan  
 Vincent and Janice Noonan  
     Karen Noonan Johnston\*  
 James and Joan Norris  
 James and Peggy Peeler  
 Lanita Phillips  
 William and Elizabeth Reed  
 Harry and Betty Shelton  
 John and Marilyn Thayer  
 Frank and Gloria Thompson  
 John and Doris Van Hoesen  
 James and Grace Walker  
 John and Elizabeth Wildermuth  
     Ronald Wildermuth  
 Roger and Janet Williamson  
 Norman and Nicola Wolcott

\* Indicates Charter Members on  
 Faith United Methodist Church's  
 membership rolls as of 1/1/04.

## Appendix 2

## PASTORS SERVING FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1963-2004)

**Senior Pastors**

James L. Matheson, 1963-1967  
 Kenneth S. Jones, 1967-1977  
 Edgar W. Hammersla, 1977-1982  
 Errol G. Smith, 1982-1991  
 Stephen C. Rettenmayer, 1991-1995  
 Mark A. Derby, 1995-2000  
 Charles L. Harrell, 2001-

**Assistant/Associate Pastors**

William S. Koppert, 1968-1970

Lawrence Sanders, 1970  
 Robert Sherburne, 1971-1973

Glenn Young, 1973-1977  
 David F. Kolda, 1977-1981  
 E. Dwight Byrne, 1981-1982  
 Gerald E. Stone, 1982-1986  
 Ann R. Laprade, 1986-1990  
 Linda Rettenmayer, 1991-1995

Margaret E. Clemons, 1995-1998  
 Bruce A. Jones, 1998-2001  
 Patricia C. Dols, 2001-

**Other**

Edwin G. Reter 1986-1988  
 Minister of Visitation  
 Kathryn T. Wadsley 1996-2003  
 Director of Christian Education  
 Marjorie Taylor, 2000-

**Currently**

Retired to Camp Rim Rock, West Virginia  
 Pastor Emeritus, Faith UMC  
 Retired to Annapolis, Maryland  
 Retired to Towson, Maryland  
 Pastor, The American Church, London, England  
 Superintendent, Baltimore-Harford District  
 Senior Pastor, Faith UMC

Pastor, First UMC, Kenton, Ohio, Western Ohio  
 Conference  
 Unknown  
 Pastor, Horseheads UMC, North Central New York  
 Conference  
 Left the ministry, lives in Williamsport, Maryland  
 Retired to Granger, Indiana  
 Pastor, Silver Spring, UMC  
 Pastor, Gambler: Calvary UMC  
 Pastor, Linden Heights, UMC  
 Associate Pastor, Methodist Central Hall,  
 Westminster, England  
 Pastor, Severn UMC  
 Pastor, Concord-St. Andrews, UMC  
 Associate Pastor, Faith UMC

Deceased

Director of Christian Education, East Ohio  
 Conference  
 Parish Nurse, Faith UMC

\* Bruce Jones served as Acting Senior Pastor, 2000-2001

Except as otherwise noted, all the churches listed are in the Baltimore-Washington Conference

## Appendix 3

## MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE DATA FOR FAITH UMC (1964-2003)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1964	187	160	1984	1416	350
1965	318	200	1985	1386	342
1966	525	325	1986	1271	354
1967	710	360	1987	1262	316
1968	780	375	1988	1189	303
1969	884	420	1989	1182	312
1970	955	405	1990	1123	283
1971	1053	438	1991	1032	333
1972	1200	480	1992	1077	384
1973	1335	504	1993	996	383
1974	1403	505	1994	1062	403
1975	1338	521*	1995	1078	381
1976	1412	486	1996	1051	366
1977	1415	469	1997	1025	373
1978	1456	457	1998	986	357
1979	1527*	453	1999	925	356
1980	1470	430	2000	904	297
1981	1441	449	2001	862	300
1982	1408	375	2002	812	325
1983	1419	378	2003	912	325

**\* Peak Years**

Data compiled by Dr. Stanley Harrell from the Statistical Tables in the Official Journals of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, 1965 -2003.

## FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHRONOLOGY 1963-2004

1963

- Spring. Baltimore Conference purchases parsonage and church site from Kettler Brothers.
- Jun 1. Jim Matheson and family move into parsonage.
- Jun 30. First service held in parsonage basement.
- Aug. 42 members enrolled; Hank Beisner #1.
- Sep. First services held in Farmland Elementary School.
- Sep 25. First wedding celebrated.
- Dec 1. "Faith" chosen as name for church.

1964

- Jan 19. Faith Methodist Church chartered with 99 members.
- Mar Decision made to build a colonial style church building.

1965

- Dec. Cornerstone laid for new building.

1966

- Mar 27. First service held in new sanctuary.
- Dec 4 Jim Matheson announces he is leaving the ministry.

1967

- Feb 5. Ken Jones begins his ministry; Floyd Werle hired as organist.
- Spring Decision made to build educational wing.

1968

- Jan. Wing completed and occupied.

1971

- Jul 18. Ground broken for educational building.

1972

- Jun 18. Educational Building consecrated.

1973

- Jun 15. Glenn Young, first Associate Pastor arrives.

1977

- Feb. Bishop appoints Ken Jones to Mt. Vernon Place UMC in Baltimore.
- Jun/Jul. Glenn Young leaves; Ed Hammersla and Dave Kolda arrive.

1978

- Jun 11. Mary Carter Barrow Memorial Garden dedicated

1979

- Feb 18. New organ dedicated.

1980

- Feb 20. Decision made to purchase second parsonage.

1981

- Jun/Jul. Dave Kolda leaves; Dwight Byrne arrives as Associate Pastor.

## Appendix 4, Chronology, Continued

- 1982  
Jun/Jul. Hammersla and Byrne leave; Errol Jones and Gerry Stone arrive.
- 1983  
Jun 24. Approval given to use of Memorial Garden for interment of ashes.
- 1984  
Dec 2. Altar kneelers dedicated.
- 1986  
Jun/Jul. Gerry Stone leaves; Ann Laprade arrives as Associate Pastor.
- 1989  
Nov. Program Director Dan Breznau hired.  
Dec 6. Administrative Board votes to make Faith a one pastor church.
- 1990  
Jul 1. Ann Laprade leaves.
- 1991  
Jun/Jul. Errol Smith leaves; Steve and Linda Rettenmayer arrive.
- 1995  
Feb 26. Bishop Yeakel presides over "mortgage burning."  
Jun/Jul. Steve and Linda Rettenmayer leave; Mark Derby arrives.  
Oct 11. Margaret Clemons joins staff as Pastor of Congregational Care.  
Dec. Kathy Wadsley hired as Director of Christian Education.
- 1996  
Feb 7. Margaret Clemons made full time Associate Pastor.  
Parking lot expansion begun.
- 1997  
Jan/Dec. ReVision Project
- 1998  
Jun/Jul. Margaret Clemons leaves; Bruce Jones arrives as Associate Pastor.
- 1999  
May. Alpha Program introduced.  
Mark Derby leaves to become District Superintendent Baltimore-Harford.
- 2001  
Jul/Jul. Bruce Jones leaves; Charles Harrell and Pat Dols arrive.
- 2002  
Jun 2. Music Director Floyd Werle retires.
- 2003  
Jan. Director of Christian Education Kathy Wadsley leaves.
- 2004  
Jan 19. Faith United Methodist Church celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



## Appendix 5

## Faith United Methodist Church At A Glance — January 1, 2004

Membership - 912

Average Attendance - 325

2004 Budget - \$835,500

## Assets:

Land, Building, Equipment	\$4,000,000
Parsonages	600,000
Other assets	251,257

Indebtedness 0

Note: All data, except the 2004 Budget figure, came from the "2003 Official Journal, Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church."

## Staffing:

*Senior Pastor	Dr. Charles L. Harrell
*Associate Pastor	Rev. Patricia C. Dols
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Kenneth S. Jones
Parish Nurse	Rev. Marge Taylor
*Director of Education, Discipleship & Nurture	Vacant
Youth Worker	Vacant
Administrative Assistant	Vacant
Director of Music	Lynne J. Block
Organist	Bob Kimball
Director of Bell Choir	Nancy Kuhn
Director of Children's Choir	Mary Nieter
Soloist	Bob Kimball
Nursery	Maty Link
Preschool Director	Lora Clarkson
*Church Administrator	Mal Vasanth
*Secretary	Mai Hill-Diggs
Bookkeeper	Milton Brown
*Sexton	Keith Subani

\* Full time