



Faith's Charter Members attending the January 18th Worship Service

Sitting L-R: Judy Beisner, Lucille Browne, Mary Melvin, Kay Cary

Standing L-R: Hank Beisner, Lesley Browne-Avery, Bob Melvin, Karen Noonan Johnston, Marion Caldwell



Rev. Ken Jones Gives Birthday Celebration Sermon Jan. 18th

Thank you, Ken, for giving us a memorable sermon. You have such great stories of Faith Church.

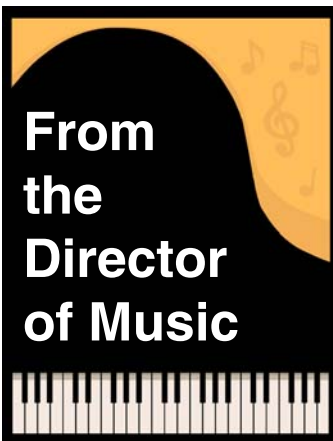
Pastor Ken has been associated with Faith Church from the beginning. At the official charter service on January 19, 1964, Ken was the Baltimore-Washington Conference Director of Methodist Information and was the official photographer for the event.

He was also our second Pastor beginning February 5, 1967 until 1977. He now serves as our Pastor Emeritus. If you get a chance, listen to Ken's stories of his times here, in Russia, and all over the world. They are enjoyable. Thank you, Ken, for all your years of service in Christ.

Thank you for the warm welcome you have offered to my wife and me during our first few weeks at Faith. We look forward to getting to know each of you over the coming months and years, and I am excited by the opportunity to lead your music ministries.

There are a number of small-world connections among us already. Linda and Bob Bowles are friends I have known nearly 30 years now. Their daughters and I went to the same junior high school and high school. Jerry, Kitty, and Sarah Jones, along with Melinda and Claire McWhite are friends who know me through my work with the Children's Chorus of Washington. Nancy, David, and Billy Kuhn have a CCW perspective in addition to a Landon School connection with me. Ned and Rev. Marge Taylor had supper with me in December; Ned's college roommate is also an esteemed colleague of mine at Landon. When I shook hands with Rev. Ken Jones, mentioning the many years I worked with Rev. Dr. William Louis Piel at Grace UMC, Gaithersburg, Pastor Ken stressed to me that he helped influence Pastor Piel's ministry years ago in a church near Baltimore.

Having friends at Faith already makes the transition to a new position much more encouraging. That said, I was touched by Pastor Ken's sermon to commemorate Faith's 45th birthday, specifically his challenge for us to witness to our friends, our neighbors, and people we encounter in our lives in and around Rockville. I have always believed that church music can bring people an understanding of God that other media cannot; it can offer glimpses of God's beauty and grace. I committed to enriching Faith's musical and spiritual life for participants and community alike. I hope that



music at Faith transforms into a vital and vibrant tool by which to bring more people to Christ in this place.

I met with the Music Committee on January 25 after worship to have lunch and acquaint myself with your faithful music leaders. I met with the Worship Committee February 3 to learn who helps shape your corporate worship and how. You are welcome and encouraged to tell me your thoughts and concerns about what Faith UMC means to you and how music fits into that vision. You may drop notes to me, signed or unsigned, in my Director of Music mailbox in front of the Church Office. You may also email me at singingwu67@gmail.com.

As we work together to build a new music ministry where Faith Singers leaves off, and to support the myriad ensembles making music to lead worship already, know that I appreciate the welcome and support I have already received.

Lastly, YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR LEADING HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP ON APRIL 9 AT 7:30pm. This Holy Week service focuses on remembering the Lord's Last Supper (communion), and this year, I would like to include the "Missa di Joan de Deo" of Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), as well as the "Funeral Music for Queen Mary" of Henry Purcell (1659-1695) during the stripping of the altar. We begin rehearsals for that in earnest at 8:00pm, Thursday, March 5.

Yours in Christ,
Michael Wu

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You Are Invited to Participate in an Inspiring and Thought-Provoking Worship & Study Series

Radical Hospitality • Passionate Worship • Intentional Faith Development • Risk-Taking Mission and Service • Extravagant Generosity

Join us beginning March 1st as we begin a six-week congregational focus on Five Practices of vital, growing, fruitful congregations.

Get ready for...

- A six-week sermon series on the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* on March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and April 19th
- Six weeks of study groups at various locations. Sign-ups begin February 1st in the Fellowship Hall. Books go on sale February 1st.
- Five weeks of every household reading and praying for the mission and ministries of our Church, utilizing the book, *Cultivating Fruitfulness*. Books go on sale February 1st in the Fellowship Hall.
- Celebration Sunday Lunch on April 19th. More details to follow.
- Six weeks of learning, conversation, and personal commitment to clarify and strengthen our mission as a church.

Even if you aren't participating in a study group, you are welcome to purchase the books. Contact Gina Dawson at 301-881-1881, x2250 or ginad@faithworkshere.com to make other arrangements for group signups and book sales.

Church Council Chooses Focus Areas for 2009

In December, the Council chose three areas that we believed God was leading us to focus on beginning in 2009. Over the last couple of years, the Council has been involved in a visioning process to discern where God is leading Faith Church and these focus areas were chosen as a result of that process.

Focus on Hospitality

...or should we say Radical Hospitality? This is a transition from greeting to a culture of inviting, welcoming, receiving, and caring for all as Christ would.

Focus on Discipleship

This is a transition from study/prayer/group discussion as an option to a culture where we see ourselves at regularly being at the feet of Jesus through study/prayer/group discussion in order to become more like Christ.

Focus on Being Sent

This is a transition from being enrolled to a culture where we see ourselves in mission to the world through acts of mercy and justice.

Stay tuned for more information on how we, as a church body, will proceed in these focus areas. Please be in prayer for the mission of the Church and for your involvement in that mission.

The Time Has Come to Starve For Food

Assuming it takes you two minutes to read this article, 36 children under the age of five will have died by the time you have finished. And those deaths are from hunger, poverty, and hunger-related diseases—all completely preventable. The good news is that our youth group has decided to do something about it: World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on February 14th & 15th.

The problem is huge, but the solution is not. Just \$30 a month—roughly \$1 a day—can help feed and care for a child in most developing countries.

As students go 30 hours without food, they'll get a taste of what it's like to be hungry, all the while reaching out to others in need. And as they do that, their compassion will grow: for people around the world, and right here at home.

We've set a group goal of over \$7,000 and ask for your help. Please make donations directly to one of the youth when they ask or send in your check, made payable to World Vision, to Rev. Corey Sharpe. Thank you and God Bless!



- Feb 1—Flo Lockman, Melanie Zobel
- Feb 2—Bob Bowles
- Feb 3—Jeb Llewellyn, Janet Rall
- Feb 4—Dick Alsmeyer, Dee Frisby, Nathan Springer
- Feb 5—Debra Holder, Gheran King, Elizabeth Singleton
- Feb 6—Marcey Guramatunhu, Peter Stolz
- Feb 7—Libby Renas
- Feb 8—Brian Benson, Laurence Chow, Clark Readler, Thomas Wyderko
- Feb 9—Teresa Llewellyn, Kathryn Powell
- Feb 11—Steve Gaske
- Feb 12—Valerie Liu
- Feb 13—Kelsey Benjamin, Bridget Buel, Helen Dana, Jacqueline Kelly
- Feb 14—Lily Oldach
- Feb 15—Laurie Brooks, Devon Coldren, Mary French
- Feb 16—Natalie Larkin
- Feb 17—Jim Mehring, Curt Ollayos, Gerrie Sims
- Feb 18—Peg Wright
- Feb 19—Brian Brooks
- Feb 20—Jan Maltbie, Kristina Savell, Betty Tomlinson
- Feb 21—Hal Aber, Kip Aber
- Feb 23—Ryan Holden, Lynn Logan
- Feb 24—Jim Angel
- Feb 25—Ben Hatten, Kelly Sullivan
- Feb 26—Michael Gaske
- Feb 27—Edward Haller, Bill Jones
- Feb 28—Reid Jones, Christopher McGuin, Fred Phillips-Patrick



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