



Director of Music Michael Wu Begins at Faith January 1st

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Michael Wu as our new Director of Music beginning January 1st.

Michael holds degrees in Organ Performance and Church Music from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, Maryland, and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Before coming to Faith, Michael served as Director of Music and Organist at Grace UMC, Gaithersburg, where he directed multiple choirs of adults, youth, children, and bells. He has composed original music for vocal choirs, bell choirs, and solo voices, and has arranged hymns for brass, organ, choir and congregation.

Michael's primary work has been at Landon School since 1994. He teaches choral music to grades 6-8; he teaches choral and general music to grades 3-5. He has completed three of the four levels of OAKE Kodaly Music Education Certification at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey. Two of the six school choirs under his instruction have been invited by audition to participate in the National Youth Choir Festival at Carnegie Hall in 2002, 2005 and 2008. The choirs have hosted other choral ensembles and worked with notable musicians, including Maestro Leonard Slatkin of the National Symphony Orchestra; the American BoyChoir, and the Land of Lakes Choirboys.

Beyond Landon, Michael serves as Conductor of the Bel Canto Chorus of the Children's Chorus of Washington (CCW), founded and led by Artistic Director Joan Gregoryk. The ensemble, in its third year, represents the middle level of CCW (more information at <http://www.childrenschorus.com>), and it includes over 40 students ranging from grades 5 to 10. Bel Canto Chorus completed a tour of New York City in March 2007 and it was the featured children's choir in John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*, conducted by the composer as part of the Rock Creek Music Festival in June 2007. The group has collaborated with the Thomas Circle Singers, the Columbia Union College Orchestra, and presented a concert with the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus in Chicago.

This native Washingtonian has toured with American choirs and given organ recitals throughout the United States and the United Kingdom, including Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland; Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, Kentucky; St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

Please join us in welcoming Michael to Faith Church. We are truly blessed that he has joined us.

Faith Celebrates 45 years!



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 I-270 and narrow Montrose Road ended at Route 355 where Gustin Gardin Nursery was located.

The Kettler Brothers Construction Company was in the process of developing the new community of Old Farm. They offered a model home at 12101 Old Bridge Road as a future parsonage (which we now rent out) and sold us 4 1/2 acres of wooded property fronting Montrose Road for the church at a cost of \$79,000.

With the parsonage and church property in hand, the next task was to appoint a pastor. Bishop John Wesley Lord chose the Reverend James L. Matheson to be the spiritual leader of the new church. He and his family moved into the parsonage in early June 1963. He circulated cards announcing the formation of a 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. **This part of our history was woven into one of the kneelers surrounding the altar. Look for a small black bicycle.**

The first church service was held in the unfinished basement of the parsonage on June 30, 1963. Forty-persons attended. The first Sunday School classes were held on July 14th. On the first Sunday in August, forty-two individuals were officially enrolled as members of the yet unchartered church. Taken in alphabetical order, Hank Beisner holds the distinction of being number one.

Several names were considered for the church, including Asbury, Wesley, Aldersgate, Oxnam, and Creator Spirit. The final four were St. John, All Saints, Holy Comforter, and Faith.

The official birth date of Faith Church is January 19, 1964...45 years ago. On that day the church was actually constituted and chartered. There were ninety-nine charter members, including twelve still on our rolls—Lesley Browne Avery, Hank & Judy Beisner, Lucille Browne, Marion Caldwell, Kay Cary, John Farrell, Karen Noonan Johnston, Bob & Mary Melvin, and Wilbur & Pearl Miller.

Excerpt from 40th Anniversary History book by Mac McCullough.

This is a new format for The Good News. Please let us know if we can make improvements at glnad@faithworkshere.com.

Volunteers in Mission Trip to Managua, Nicaragua

August 2—12, 2009

For over two decades, we have enjoyed a covenant relationship with Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena, missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries. This summer, we are sending a delegation to see them. This trip is part educational and part work. We will learn about the history, culture, and economy of Nicaragua, as well as the projects we support through covenant giving. We will also paint at a primary school in Managua and teach some English classes. The approximate cost is \$1,500, depending upon airfare.



For more information, contact Rev. Corey Sharpe at csharpe@faithworkshere.com or 301-881-1881, ext. 2201.

About the Work of Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena

Nan has been serving the people of Nicaragua since 1985. Her husband, Miguel, a native of Nicaragua, has been serving since 1997. They work with the Women and Community Association (W&C) of San Francisco Libre, a county in northwestern Nicaragua.



The W&C facilitates community-based development and the empowerment of women in this impoverished region, which was particularly hard-hit by hurricane Mitch. W&C offers integral health and education programs focusing on women's rights, education, the prevention of domestic violence, reproductive health, natural medicine and alternative nutrition, and sustainable development. The clinic focuses on the prevention and treatment of cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases, while their legal aid office assists abused women and youth. W&C also provides study scholarships for impoverished village youth and teachers.

Five Practices of FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

WHAT DOES A VIBRANT, FRUITFUL CONGREGATION LOOK LIKE?

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

Join us as we Focus on the Five Practices together!

A Lenten Series of Worship & Study
Beginning March 1, 2009

Practicing Radical Hospitality

means we present the absolute utmost of ourselves, our creativity, and our abilities to offer the gracious invitation and welcome of Christ to others.

Practicing Passionate Worship

means people seek to connect with God, allow God's Word to shape them, and offer their response of faith. God's Spirit changes us through worship.

These are the Five Practices of *vital, fruitful congregations*. These ideas aren't secret or new, but they are the practices that can lead to excellence and growth in the life of our church. And they are the practices we will be focusing on during Lent.

You are invited to participate in this exciting emphasis in a variety of ways:

- Sunday morning worship
- At-home devotional readings
- Study and discussion groups in homes and at church. You'll have a chance to sign up for a group in February.

Just imagine what can happen if everyone in our congregation spent six weeks reading, praying, discussing, and focusing on these Five Practices. God can change individuals, entire families, and our whole church—thus changing the difference we can make in and beyond our surrounding community.

Practicing Intentional Faith Development

means deliberate effort, purposeful action, and high priority. Growing in grace does not come without purposeful commitment to learning the faith with others and cultivating our love for God.

Practicing Extravagant Generosity

means sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ.

Practicing Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Means alleviating suffering and injustice to improve the conditions of others in the name of Christ by pushing us out of our comfort zone, stretching us beyond service to people we already know, and exposing us to people, situations, and needs that we would never ordinarily encounter apart from our deliberate intention to serve Christ.



- Jan 1—Gregory Lee
- Jan 2—Brendon Columber, Bob Lockman
- Jan 3—Avery Breen, Joan Haller, Glenn Simpson
- Jan 4—Heather Luckey, Keith Stakes
- Jan 5—Eleanor Anderson, Gordon Henley, Jack Sanford, Mary Sierra
- Jan 6—Robert Eaton
- Jan 7—Joan Kelly, Bryan Woodgate
- Jan 8—Bill Werber
- Jan 9—Spencer Ollayos, Suzy Rushbrook, Roderick Wood
- Jan 10—Dart Alsmeyer
- Jan 11—Dale Lowry, Corey Sharpe, Stephen Varney
- Jan 13—Grace Sierra
- Jan 14—Ellen Keyes
- Jan 15—Caren Stefan
- Jan 16—Jerry Jones, Linda Peterson
- Jan 17—Heidi Parks, Christian Sevier
- Jan 18—James Hance
- Jan 19—Nick Williamson
- Jan 20—Arthur Armstrong
- Jan 21—Frank Augustino, Kara Williamson, Sandra Woodgate
- Jan 22—Claire McWhite, Eduardo Patino
- Jan 23—Billy Ball, Carol Henley, Brenton Manning, Minette McCullough, Elizabeth Wright
- Jan 24—Steve Clark, Robert Logan, Nancy Schaffner
- Jan 25—Diane Monnier, Fred Whisenhunt
- Jan 26—Kyle DiPeppe, Laura Kent, Derek McKinney Sr., Jere Medlin, Jonathan Sevier, Libby Spriggs, Barbara Woodward
- Jan 27—Tracy Clark, Ada Wilson
- Jan 28—Derek McKinney Jr.
- Jan 29—Greg Heath, Dorothy Oldach, Sharon Virts, Adam Wise
- Jan 31—Mike Newton

Happy Anniversary to ...

Jan 1—Larry & Sandy Larkin

Jan 2—Hunter Prillaman & Eva Szabo

Jan 3—John & Helene Farrell; Jim & Karen Johnston

Jan 24—Bob & Ginger Gill