

Annual Report 2025



Faith Presbyterian Church

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Pastor & Head of Staff

Jeff Chapman

Friedrich Nietzsche was a 19th-century German philosopher. He was also an atheist who vehemently attacked Christianity and declared the “death of God.” In spite of all this, he said at least one thing which, ever since, has been often quoted in the church. It’s proof that truth, wherever we find it, is God’s truth.

In a work entitled *Beyond Good and Evil*, he stated,

The essential thing “in heaven and on earth” is that there should be a long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living.

I don’t know enough about Nietzsche, his philosophy or worldview, to know what that “same direction” was for him. I do know what it is for me, and for us.

Twenty years ago the leadership of our congregation, after much prayerful consideration and discussion, set the following as the Mission Statement of our congregation: *A community loving Christ, building disciples, serving all.* You might say that a Mission Statement sets that long direction for the journey of the organization or community who chooses it. I believe that has been the case here at Faith.

I’ve said many times before that this statement sets the vision of what we desire, by God’s grace, to become. So in our case, it is our desire to be a community of Christ followers who love Jesus above all else, and who orient everything in our lives around him and his ways. Similarly, it is our desire to cooperate with him and let him teach us how to live our lives as he would live our lives if he were in our shoes (my favorite definition of discipleship!). And, of course, it is also our desire to be so full of the love of Christ that we are willing to serve whoever Christ puts before us in this world.

Have we attained all this? No. Are we moving towards it? I believe we are, though the journey sometimes feels to me a lot longer than I imagined it would be. That’s one thing I have learned for certain along the way, that at least from our perspective the Kingdom of God always grows slowly among us. Every image Jesus gives us of the Kingdom emphasizes this. Seeds turn into trees slowly. Yeast makes dough rise slowly. But the eventual change, though seemingly and painstakingly slow, is always undeniable. More than that, when all is said and done, the change is more dramatic than we realized it would be. Had you never before seen an oak tree, could you ever imagine a tiny acorn would turn into that! Who could ever imagine that people like us might, in the end, actually glow with the character of Christ himself!

At the outset of this new year, a friend of mine reminded me that January 1st can never promise new beginnings, however popular the notion. But God does. And God doesn’t need a change in the calendar to do so. He just needs people, especially whole communities of people, who are willing to practice a long obedience in his direction. His grace, on any day of the year, will take care of the rest.

I’m grateful to have been called to serve among such a community of people. In the days to come, may the Lord continue to move us towards becoming more and more the people we believe he has called us to become. Take time to read in the pages that follow some of the ways that is happening among us even now.

Yours in Christ,

Jeff

Associate Pastor of Youth, Family & Mission

Brett Shoemaker

“This is my new best friend!”

This is my most recent favorite quote. It was actually overheard during our first event of 2026, and it says volumes about this past year of ministry. A young woman in high school was speaking about a woman in our church whom she had just met that evening. Fifteen adults joined fifteen youth on an Escape Room adventure together, followed by dinner out. This young woman and this adult woman shared stories, photos, and time over a fantastic meal once all participants (or at least most of them...) had escaped their rooms. The event was made possible by Dick McMillan, who left a generous donation behind after he passed to achieve his main goal during his time at Faith: *for adults and youth to get to know each other as friends*. Dick would have been proud.

LOOKING BACK ON 2025 A few highlights...

NEW YOUTH LEADERS: Ben Rodriguez, Paul Kinney, and Cindi Kinney have joined Chelle Ellis and Kim Char as weekly youth leaders. Our youth meetings now take place on Sunday evenings, and this has proved to be a positive change for attendance and attention to our time together.

YOUNG LIFE MOMENTUM: Our handful of regular Kennedy youth has become two or three handfuls of students that love being together with our team of six to seven adults on Monday evenings. Several have made really positive steps of faith exploration, with one of them attending Faith's worship services most Sundays this past season.

FAMILY MINISTRY RESHAPING: We are pleased to have Lindsay Stanford on board as Faith's Director of Family Ministry. She has brought collaboration, communication, and creativity to a greater number of new families and children than ever before. There seems to be a growing desire by younger families to find a church community, and many have found a new home at Faith.

LOOKING AHEAD AT 2026 A few things on the horizon...

ALASKA: We are making plans for a summer mission experience in Skagway, Alaska! The youth are the ones forming the plans for the week after the Fourth of July. We'll be sharing information about the trip and seeking commitments to participate in the next couple of months. So far, though, we've seen God's hand at work, including through the Mission Team's support in the process so far.

CONFIRMATION: Watch for information about an opportunity for youth to dive more deeply into what we believe and practice as followers of Jesus. We will be looking for adult mentors to pair with each willing youth who commits to this enriching process in the fall.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP: We will be bringing back more opportunities for teaching, fellowship, and support for parents of children and youth, gathering together around meals and God's Word. Watch for it!

God is opening some doors for some new best friends to share life and faith!

Peace in Christ to you!

Brett

Director of Music Ministry

Mark Tootle

Thinking back over the year, it's easy to rejoice over God's blessings on the Faith Presbyterian Music Ministry. One of the highlights has to be the special music. There were singers (Rachel Songer, Christmas Eve), keyboardists (Kristina McMillen, also Christmas Eve), instrumentalists (Mark MacRae and Chris Tootle, trumpet), and the Delta Strings, a string quartet made up of local musicians (First Sunday of Christmas).

Most of the special music, though, was provided by our very own musicians. Sometimes they would fill in (Simon Amanuel, piano), or play with the Worship Band (Jose Hermocillo, trumpet; Steve Rock, saxophone; Sarah Espinoza, violin), and sometimes in various combinations of instruments with Eunice Bancu on piano. One of my favorites was Sarah Espinoza (violin), Betsy Pehrson (flute), Steve Rock (clarinet) and Eunice, performing Gabriel Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*.

The biggest contributor, by far, of special music this past year (and every year, by the way) is the Faith Brass Ensemble. We may not see them as "special music," but they are! There are very few churches who have their own brass ensemble, and our church has one! They are a gift from God, comprised of Fred Noteware (tuba), Laura Schneider (baritone horn), Tom McDuffie (trombone), Steve Rock (clarinet and saxophone), Jose Hermocillo and Dan Pehrson (trumpet), Betsy Pehrson (flute), and Carolyn Tillman (director). They have provided dozens of preludes, postludes, hymn accompaniments, and special holiday music.

One dimension of our church's Congregational Rule of Life is prayer. In 2025 I renewed a commitment to pray during rehearsals. Sometimes I was so eager to work on music I would forget (unless, as was sometimes the case, someone reminded me). Concerning this, a highlight this year was to listen to the Chancel Choir pray before our rehearsals. The prayer is started by anyone and continued by anyone. Sometimes we'd pray for an absent singer, or for the nation, or for the congregation. There were any

number of subjects the Choir prayed for. This helped us focus on the ministry of what we do, and by focusing on the reason we sing, we were able to sing better — musically, emotionally, and communicatively.

Lastly, I'd like to mention Eunice Bancu, who stands out on her own as our staff accompanist. She is a gifted keyboardist (piano, organ, and synthesizer) with extraordinary improvisational chops. This is more than a job for her. She is invested, mindfully and worshipfully, to make the music better.

That's a lot of names, and I've probably neglected to include some (special shout out to the folks in the Media Center, an essential part of the Music Ministry). We know, though, that what the Music Ministry is about is to mention the Name above all names, Jesus. It is with deep thankfulness to Him that I acknowledge all the blessings Faith's Music Ministry has received or given in 2025.

Board of Deacons

Roy Chastain, Moderator

As in prior years, 2025 was a year filled with many opportunities for the deacon board. We served at six memorial services during the year, and on Communion Sundays we extended Communion to members of the Faith community who are unable to attend worship in person. We accompanied our pastors to meet with grieving families to plan memorial services and then minister to the families. We set up the narthex, sanctuary and Link Hall according to the family's desires, greeted the family and guests as they arrived for the memorial service, and served at each reception with the aim of meeting each family's needs. After every memorial service, we clean up and restore the church to its prior set-up. Memorial services provide us with wonderful opportunities for sharing the love of Christ, not only with people from our Faith community but also with friends and families from outside the church. Deacons gather a couple of hours before the start of each memorial to pray for each person who will be coming to the service, asking God's comfort for the grieving family members and his anointing over the service.

On Communion Sundays Faith sends four to six deacons to serve Communion to shut-ins and other members of our Congregation who are unable to attend worship in person. The deacons spend extra time visiting with congregants to see if their needs are being met, which keeps them in touch with our Faith community. Members of the Faith congregation are placed into 15 parishes, and the assigned deacons check in with Faith members who need spiritual support.

Clerk of Session

Renee Larsen, Clerk (June 2023 through May 2026)
Claire Pisor, Assistant Clerk (June 2025 through May 2026)

The *Book of Order*, part of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), declares that “[the session] shall elect a clerk who shall record the transactions of the council, keep its rolls of membership and attendance, maintain any required registers, preserve its records, and furnish extracts from them when required by another council of the church.”

On January 1, 2025, Faith’s membership stood at 305; as of December 31, 2025, the membership count is 298. The following members and friends of Faith passed away last year:

Benjamin Bagby
Bob Becker
Ruth Collier
Norma McKay
Glenn Reiner
Shari Reyes
Art Thurston

We remember these brothers and sisters in Christ with love and give thanks to the Lord for the ongoing impact of their faith in our midst.

During 2025, God blessed our community with five new members:

Kate Eisel
Billie Haynes
Barbara Johnson
Tanis Toland
Michele Yarbrough

There are many who attend Faith who have not yet made the decision to join, and we warmly welcome their participation as we continue to learn together what it means to seek and follow Christ more deeply.

Adult Christian Formation Ministry

Kathy Stern, Elder

In 2025, the Adult Christian Formation Ministry joyfully offered many ways for adults to be informed, formed, and transformed in Christian faith and identity. Through retreats, classes, and small groups, we sought to grow in Christ-likeness in our homes, our community, and our world. Along the way, we were blessed by gifted teachers, thoughtful facilitators, and—most importantly—the deepening relationships that grew within our Faith family.

We began the year with our Reflective Retreat, slowing down together with the invitation to “*Encounter Jesus on the Road... to Emmaus, Damascus, and Beyond.*” It was a sacred evening of stillness, listening, and prayer—just the right way to set the tone for the year ahead. As the months unfolded, we gathered again for the Men & Boys’ Retreat in April, the Women’s Retreat in June, and the All-Church Fall Retreat in September. Each offered time to reconnect with God and with one another. We are especially grateful to the many volunteers who quietly made these retreats possible—packet preparers, nimble registrars, ice-cream transporters, room-key wranglers, and even hula dancers—whose joyful service created such a welcoming and caring environment.

Three Zoom class series were offered throughout the year, providing meaningful opportunities to listen for God’s voice, discern God’s will, and learn how to live more fully in the way of Jesus. On Sunday mornings between the two worship services, participants in our Adult Sunday School classes explored both Old and New Testament scripture, Christian doctrine, and church history. While that may sound academic, the spirit of these gatherings was anything but—lively discussion, thoughtful questions, and warm fellowship often spilled over into lunch at Marie Callender’s.

Life Groups continued to be a cornerstone of our ministry. In 2025, 17 groups involving nearly 150 people met regularly to reflect on Sunday’s scripture and sermon and to grow in grace together. These small communities fostered deep friendships and spiritual support. One group was so dedicated that they even met on Thanksgiving morning because, as they said, “We always meet on Thursday.” (They did take Christmas and New Year’s Day off—being a men’s group, even their devotion has its limits!)

We are grateful for the faithful and gifted teachers who guided us throughout the year: Rev. Lorie Sprinkle, Alice Parente, Rev. Dennis Montzingo, Rev. Jack McNary, Rick Stern, Rev. Rick Hull, Pastor Brett Shoemaker and Pastor Jeff Chapman.

Our retreats were enriched by inspiring speakers, including Rev. David Burke, Rev. Amanda Nevin (*Lament and Hope*), and Wayne Weissman (*Are You the One We Have Been Looking For?*).

Looking back, 2025 was a year of deepening faith, meaningful learning, and growing friendships. We look ahead with gratitude for what God has done and hopeful anticipation for what is still to come.

Family Ministry

Vicky Chastain, Elder

What's **YOUR** latest inspirational moment? Our Family Ministry Team has a practice of taking turns sharing something which has inspired us recently. Barbara Tracy began this a few years ago and it continues. Some of our "moments" have centered around devotional stories, real-life events, Bible passages, and various blessings from God. They remind us to watch for the gifts and surprises He has wrapped up for us to open.

One of the many moments that our team experienced this past year was just how many people turned out to volunteer when we put out the call for people to help with the preparation of Vacation Bible School decorations last spring. Many of these people were not able to help during the actual week of VBS, but they came to transform the front of our sanctuary and narthex into an amazing display of nature based on the theme "Magnify the Lord – Experiencing the Bigness of God in the Smallest of Things." What a joy to see these **inspired** volunteers, under the guidance of Madelyn Chand and Lindsay Stanford, become immersed in their various projects and getting to know one another at the same time!

A huge **inspirational moment** occurred after our former Director of Family Ministry, Jacob Zvolanek, took a position at a different church shortly before Faith's VBS was scheduled to begin. Lindsay was eventually hired to fill this role on a permanent basis, but in the immediate gap created by Jacob's departure, Lindsay and Madelyn both stepped up to serve as Interim Co-Directors of Family Ministry, and several other people, including Pastor Brett, joined in to make sure that our children would still be able to attend and participate in our Magnify the Lord VBS program. What a turnout we had! There were close to 100 child participants and more than 40 volunteer helpers of ALL ages. God is good...all the time!

From the tiniest ladybug (a real one actually landed on a giant mushroom built by some of our volunteers!), to the spontaneous gathering of singing children on the steps in the front of the sanctuary (some of whom had been reluctant to perform in front of people before), to the enthusiasm of our Jr/Sr High youth, there were many instances when the staff and children were **inspired** by the power and goodness of God. Thanks to some quick calls between churches, our fabulous decorations were able to be picked up and used by other congregations later in the summer!

Many of our families have been **inspired** recently to encourage their children to participate in Faith's worship services as acolytes. Our Sunday morning teachers/assistants do a faithful job of appreciating and thanking them on the days these acolytes "leave early" to perform their duties. "Helping" Pastors Jeff and Brett with the benediction is a favorite job!

We value the encouragement of the congregation in passing on their faith to our children.

Members of the 2025 Family Ministry Team included Pastor Brett Shoemaker, Director of Family Ministry Lindsay Stanford, Madelyn Chand, Cathy Healow, Lillian Thurston, Barbara Tracy, Chelle Ellis, and Family Ministry Elder Vicky Chastain.

Fellowship Ministry

Rich Hendricks, Elder

The Fellowship Committee seeks to provide a welcoming environment by providing food and drinks for our congregation and guests.

This last year we prepared and served meals for the Annual Congregational Meeting, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Pocket Area Churches Together BBQ, and one Advent Dinner.

Fellowship also hosts the after-church-service Coffee Hour with beverages and snacks. The Coffee Hosts have gone above and beyond, giving us an opportunity to linger and fellowship together.

Every fall, the Fellowship Team organizes the Harvest Dinner, a fundraiser for the Pat Tatro Memorial Campership Fund. The Committee seeks donations for the silent auction and raffle from local businesses, Life Groups, and the congregation. This is the most involved and challenging event of the year, yet for many it is the most fun.

First Sunday Sabbath is organized by Fellowship by involving Life Groups and other church groups to take turns hosting the Coffee Hour between services on the first Sunday of the month.

The Supper Club is one Sunday in March, April, May and June where four households take turns hosting dinner for eight. Each guest brings either a main dish, salad or side, and dessert. This has been a fun way to get to know our congregation.

Many thanks to all of the Fellowship Committee and those in the congregation who have committed their time and effort in all the events this last year.

Finance Ministry

Karen Chan, Elder

The Finance Committee is trusted with your financial gifts to be used in our ministry and mission here at Faith Presbyterian Church. As the Finance Elder, it is a privilege to see firsthand how we support our community and beyond because of the generosity of this congregation. I am honored to work with a dedicated group of elders and staff, who thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how we use these gifts. The Finance Committee continues to look for ways to improve and utilize technology in our processes. The Tellers deserve a big “Thank You” for showing up every week to make sure all funds are properly recorded and accounted for.

Operating Budget Highlights:

Members of the Faith congregation may contact the church office for the budget.

Faith’s Holding Accounts:

Members of the Faith congregation may contact the church office for the budget.

2025 Finance Team:

- Jennifer Anders
- Roy Chastain
- Jeff May
- John Rodriguez
- Rick Stern
- Kitty Tatro
- Karen Chan, Finance Elder
- Staff Advisory—Jeff Chapman, Marlys Emery
- Tellers/Escorts—Jennifer Anders, Jarvis Arellano, Erwina Bush, Roy Chastain, Bob DeYoung, Bill Edgar, Paul Heaton, Kitty Tatro and Jim Tracy

Lay Ministry

Linda Olsen-Edgar, Elder

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

—1 Peter 4:10

This year Lay Ministry has a special story to share. This story best exemplifies the work and purpose of Lay Ministry. I continue to sing the praises of Faith's Heart to Heart Ministry, which falls under the umbrella of Lay Ministry.

Heart to Heart was launched in 2016 with a handful of volunteers, as I remember, and I was one of them. Today Heart to Heart continues to serve the congregation of Faith, but now with a group of 120 volunteers and still counting. I wish to thank all the volunteers who give their time to this important ministry.

In 2025, Heart to Heart volunteers:

- Provided 21 rides to appointments, banks, and stores;
- Provided meals for eight individuals recuperating from health issues; and
- Offered countless prayers for those needing assistance.

In 2025, Heart to Heart also became a "bulletin board" for goods and services, including housekeeping referrals, Valentine card drives for our seniors, moving help, and re-purposing items, such as medical goods, for those in need.

Kathy Ellis, who tirelessly serves and leads Heart to Heart, exemplifies the gifts you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace.

This past year, Marianne Jenkins was able to get many to share their calling with "Bless the Ways We Serve." Our congregation is blessed with so many heartwarming stories among our brothers and sisters.

Another addition in 2025: Helen Frisch, Lay Ministry's membership chairman, and I initiated a reception in the Fireside room for new members, following their presentation in worship to the congregation. At the reception, new members have the opportunity to connect with their deacon and receive a welcome package. So far the reception has been very well received.

I am blessed with a hard-working team! The members of Lay Ministry in 2025 were Kathy Ellis, Sherry Beams, Kerrilee Blunt, Marianne Jenkins, Helen Frisch and Renee Larsen.

Mission Ministry

Paul Philleo, Elder

Live as children of the light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.
—Ephesians 5:8, 9

The Mission Ministry strives to follow this exhortation from Ephesians. Partnering with ministries near and far, we work for that rich harvest of goodness, righteousness, and truth.

One great example is the Reaching Out ministry. Reaching Out started in August 2023 and takes place on the Bethany Presbyterian Church campus in south Sacramento. On the fourth Saturday of each month, a team from Faith gathers with our brothers and sisters from the community around Bethany. At the event we offer material items like clothing, toiletries, household items and pet food, which are offered as encouragements for our guests to show up. And when our guests arrive, they experience so much more. They are offered a hot meal, the opportunity to pray, and a chance to linger for an hour or so basking in the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Many of our guests are immigrants, who may otherwise not be experiencing the “light.” But at Reaching Out, people experience peace, comfort, and a chance to relax for a moment and to feel seen and loved.

Here are some of the things our guests have told us:

“Bless you all for this.”
“We are so grateful.”
“I feel seen today for the first time in a long time.”
“I feel I’m part of a community now.”
“You support families.”
“My granddaughter now loves to read because of you.”

A new community in Christ is forming, and as much as this ministry is a blessing to our guests, it is equally a blessing to our volunteers. It has become a very rich and very practical way for the people of Faith Presbyterian to “live as children of the light.”

Reaching Out is but one example of the many projects and sponsorships in the Mission Ministry portfolio. That portfolio is always changing and evolving as Christ leads us. If you would like to know more, we invite you to engage with the Mission Team. We typically meet once a month on the fourth Monday.

The amazing members of the Mission Team are: Jarvis Arellano, Paul Keller, Jane Owen, Nancy Henrikson, Lilian Wanjau, Erin Gilbert, Ann Johnson, Sally Ravas, Cydne Valenzano, Chong Choe-Smith, Juliet Antwi and Pastor Brett Shoemaker.

Outreach Ministry

Janeil Hogue, Elder

How, then, shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?

—Romans 10:14

“Look at Faith” is an informal gathering held each month to welcome people who are interested in finding out more about Faith Church. Members of the Outreach and Lay Ministry teams, along with one or both of our pastors, meet with interested guests over coffee and tea. We talk about how we came to Faith and ways to connect with the congregation, and we answer any questions they may have. Guests are invited to fill out a questionnaire on areas of interest or ways they would like to connect through Life Groups and various mission or service opportunities.

The Marriage Course is offered by the Outreach Ministry once a year. This eight-week course hosts up to twenty couples for a date night dinner and private conversation. Couples gain skills in communicating, resolving conflict, learning to forgive, and expressing love in different ways. This is a team effort with more than forty volunteers required to help create this special time and space for the couples. Past attendees have returned as volunteers to assist in cooking, serving, setting up, folding napkins, doing laundry, washing dishes, serving as host, and running audio-visual equipment. This sustained commitment would not be possible without volunteers’ belief in the value of this program.

The Outreach Ministry has experienced a time of prayerful discernment for this ministry and the direction it should take. Instead of answers, more questions have come to light. What is outreach? Are we at Faith comfortable sharing our faith with non-believers? How do we approach the subject? How do we answer common questions such as, “Isn’t the Bible a Myth?” and “Why Does God allow suffering and evil?” If we cannot answer these questions with confidence, how can we go out boldly and share the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ?

The Outreach Ministry is constantly looking for ways to grow the congregation’s confidence in sharing the Word with non-believers through courses and activities designed to strengthen our evangelism skills. In the past we have offered classes from Alpha and Questioning Christianity. Outreach continues to look at classes designed for both large and small groups to strengthen our skills in communicating the gospel effectively.

In November the new Welcome Center, part of the narthex refurbishment, was unveiled to the congregation and well received. The Welcome Center team has joyfully embraced our visitors and been available to answer their questions. We are still looking for a few members to serve in the Welcome Center for approximately 15-20 minutes after each service. If offering a warm welcome and information to visitors sounds like something that would interest you, please reach out to me.

Personnel Ministry

Stan Keasling, Elder

One of the key responsibilities of the Personnel Committee members is to sit in on all the annual staff reviews. We spend time at the end of each review session talking with staff about their work and the support they receive from their supervisor and from the church in general. It is particularly satisfying to hear how happy staff is working at Faith, and how supported they feel both from the pastors and from the volunteer groups with whom they interact. These one-on-one sessions often identify changes needed in job descriptions or in work relationships. One of the key takeaways this past year was a recognition that we were still paying some staff the state minimum wage, which as one staff member put it was less than MacDonaldis. We have corrected this practice for the 2026 budget year.

In spite of the positive work environment, we saw two longtime staff members depart in the past year, Jacob Zvolanek and Ron Beams. Jacob has been replaced by Lindsay Stanford, who is working full-time, 40 hours, but we have eliminated, at least for now, the Family Ministry Assistant's position. Kimberly MacArthur filled Ron's position on an interim basis, but she has now found full-time work, so we will be starting a search for a permanent replacement for the Director of Congregational Care.

My job as Personnel Elder is made immeasurably easier by Laura Anderson. She takes on most of the details of day-to-day personnel matters, from processing payroll to renewing our workers' compensation insurance and staying up to date with changes to state employment law. The long tenure of Personnel Committee members Rob Stutzman, Rebecca Westmore and Jeff Chapman also makes the responsibilities more manageable. I appreciate all their work.

Property Maintenance Ministry

John Brophy, Elder

Each year the Property Maintenance Committee works to ensure that the Faith campus is safe, secure and in good working order. Our house of worship normally maintains a busy schedule as it provides a base of operations for the Lord's work in our congregation, community and beyond.

The Property Team completed a number projects in 2025, both inside the buildings and on the grounds. There are always a number of small repair tasks that are handled by members of the committee.

Inside we assisted with the narthex remodel, improvements and maintenance tasks. We replaced the sanctuary roof, repaired and repaved the parking lot, had our annual springtime grounds clean-up (Thank you to the many volunteers who came and lent a hand!), and thinned and pruned trees on the perimeter of the property.

We always appreciate the input that we receive from the congregation for suggested improvements. Feel free to contact one of our committee members with any concerns or ideas you have for the campus.

In 2026 there will be some repainting around the campus, and a portion of the roof on the south side of the courtyard will be repaired. In addition, Link Hall's sound-deadening panels will be cleaned.

We are blessed with a dedicated group of people on our committee, and I am grateful for each one of them: Bob Bagby, Lee Bush, Doc DaCastello, Dave Williamson, Sylvia Warner, Jay Gilbert, Randy Valenzano, Sue Kim and, last but certainly not least, Wally Smith, who is the man with all this incredible knowledge that guides us forward.

Stewardship Ministry

Lucy DaCastello, Elder

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

—I Peter 4:10

Last fall, Pastor Jeff's messages taught us that we are stewards, trustees of all we have. It's all God's. It's all good. It's all going back.

Many of us completed a pledge card committing our financial tithes and offerings to Faith Church for 2026. Additionally, we had the opportunity to complete a pledge card committing our time and talents to God's service here at Faith and beyond.

As 2026 begins, we celebrate all God has planned for us in service to His work here at Faith Church. You will be encouraged as you attend our annual meeting to hear what God has done and the vision for the years ahead.

If you are interested in information about opportunities for bequests, tax-deferred transfers or stock transfers, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our Stewardship Team is well equipped to assist.

My deepest appreciation to Stewardship Team members Jon Coupal, Julia King, and John Rodriguez, supported by Pledge Secretary Jennifer Anders and Pastor Jeff Chapman.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy DaCastello

Worship Ministry

Paul Kinney, Elder

³ *Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,*
⁴ *praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,*
⁵ *praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.*
—*Psalm 150:3-5*

On behalf of the Worship Ministry Team, we look forward to worshipping with you in 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Kinney
Worship Ministry Elder

We all come to Faith and worship in different ways, and as we begin 2026, the Worship Ministry Team of acolytes, Communion preparers, Communion servers, floral arrangers, greeters, sanctuary decorators, tenders of the sanctuary (aka “The Pew Crew”), ushers, and worship assistants will continue to guide our congregation into wholehearted worship of our Lord.

Most recently, Georgianne Becker has come on board to be our Greeter Coordinator (yea!). I am also deeply grateful to Margie Montzingo (Communion), Julia King (Ushers), and Karena Van Duyn (Acolytes), who have agreed to continue in their roles. They all take their responsibilities seriously and administer them with such professionalism. And special thanks to Barbara Beattie and her team of decorators for once again beautifying our church for Advent and Christmas.

We were pleased to welcome guest soloist Rachel Songer on Christmas Eve and the Delta Strings string quartet on the first Sunday of Christmas. Mark Tootle and I will continue to look for new opportunities to bring in musical elements that enhance our worship experience. And as always, to grow our “mighty choir.” Mark is a great director, and his choice of choir music and his personal arrangements are always wonderful.

As a final note, I encourage everyone to “get familiar” with our new AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in the narthex and Link Hall foyer by viewing either one of the short YouTube training videos that are accessible via the QR codes posted on their wall cabinets. We hope we never need them, but we want to be prepared in case we do.