

A Celebration of Faith Ministries

2017 Annual Report

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Brent Kriesch

Are you living in survival mode by just trying to get through another day of your life however you can? Do you find yourself thinking that if you could just reach the end of something – like a project, an illness, or a payment plan – you can finally enjoy a break before the drudgery begins all over again?

If you're just surviving, you're not living the life that God created you to live. God intends for you to thrive. You're meant to grow to your fullest potential in life by knowing God and making Him known. Pursuing those purposes will make it possible for you to enjoy the best in life.

Last year I challenged us to live out our "musts". Jesus knew His "must" and that decided His "can't." Luke 4:43, 44. He must spread His message to other towns so He can't stay to meet all the needs around Him. We too have to understand what it is God has called us to. We don't want to be busy with the almost good things and miss the God things.

I believe this year God is calling us to THRIVE. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, *"But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

Dig deep into the roots of your relationship with Jesus. Just like a tree grows physically from digging its roots deep down into the ground, you can grow spiritually by digging deep into practices that will help you understand who God is and who you

are in Him. You can get to know God and his purposes for your life, no matter what, if you seek Him. God will orchestrate His dreams for you despite your lesser goals and mistakes. Keep in mind that God's dreams for you are bigger than your own. Start a habit of reading, studying, and thinking about God's Word, the Bible. The more you do, the more the Holy Spirit will use its truths to renew your mind so you can see God, and yourself, from an accurate perspective.

Reach out to other people. As a tree reaches out to its surroundings with branches, God calls you to reach out to others to make him known to them through relationships. Doing so helps you show the world that you belong to Jesus and that Jesus is God. Once you're thriving, you're meant to help others start to thrive, by sharing your faith, mentoring others through discipleship, and serving others with acts of love and compassion. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you notice the people around you and see how valuable each one of them really is from His perspective. Don't hide your scars; instead, use them, realizing that scars are a map of God's grace in your life. When you show others your scars and tell them how God helped you get through the struggles that caused them, your scars will point others toward God to help them in their own lives.

Rather than worrying about trying to do something big for God in the future, simply do whatever small things God calls you to do right now and your faithfulness will have a big impact for the better on the people around you. Yield your own will to God's will for you every day, and

the more you do, the more the Holy Spirit will grow love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in your soul.

As you keep learning more about God, yourself, and other people, expect God to lead you on adventures that will challenge you to take risks and trust Him in deeper ways. Keep following wherever God leads you – and as you do, you'll keep inspiring others to follow wherever God leads them.

Don't just survive life, Thrive in it.

A Year in Review:

- We were blessed by 2 awesome Christmas Programs the Children's Program: *Just a Little Christmas* and an amazing Christmas Program and Drama with the Choir: *It's Christmas Time*. Over 230 people were in attendance, with many being first time visitors.
- Blessed 8 families with Thanksgiving Baskets
- Honored our many volunteers in a celebration service.
- Donated several bags of clothing to Bethany Christian Mission.
- Held Awaken Services with David Gallimore, many expressed God's work in their lives.
- Hosted the kick-off for Michigan Region Bible Quizzing
- Youth Dessert Auction raised over \$3,000
- Car Cruise in June (53 cars, finally got a break in the weather) and September (76 cars)
- Welcomed Pastor Glenn & Amy Snapp, Pastor of Family Ministries



SENIOR PASTOR’S REPORT

Continued

- Brown City Camp (many decisions and commitments made)
 - Sports Camp (8 decisions for Christ)
 - Hosted our first Patriotic Celebration in worship 4th of July weekend.
 - Had a float in both the Swartz Creek and Flushing parades promoting Sports Camp.
 - Home Plate was awesome but freezing.
 - Hosted Finals for Michigan Region Bible Quizzing
 - Easter Services and Breakfast (had family and friends who visited for first time)
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Family Fun Nites: Board Game Nite, Sledding, Minute to Win it.
 - Faith 500 and our 2nd Soup & Chili Cook-off
 - Held Missions Services with Peter & Ursula Hubley (Bulgaria), Carlos & Ruth Medina (Spain).
- I cannot end this report without taking time to thank all who give of

their time, energy, and talents as leaders here at Faith, all of you help make me look real good. Special thanks go out to my wife Val, without whom I’m lost. She is a constant encourager.

Looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2018.

Your teammate in Christ,

Pastor Brent



CASTING THE VISION FOR 2018

Pastor Brent Kriesch

Faith’s purpose is to *love* people for Christ, *win* people to Christ, *build* people up in Christ, and *send* people out for Christ.

So who are we at FMC; Followers of Jesus who Multiply disciples while Caring for others.

Therefore as we cast the vision for 2018, let's look to incorporate the following from our purpose statement:

Love – involves our commitment to serve and support one another within the body of Christ.

Action Steps for 2018:

1. Family Fun Nites.
2. Launch Prayer Cell Groups.

Win – our commitment to make disciples.

Action Steps for 2018:

1. Listen intently to the Holy Spirit and pray for one person to disciple.
2. Teaching and preaching on prayer and disciple making.
3. Develop and launch small groups that learn how to bring God into our ordinary daily conversations.

Build- our commitment to exalt God personally and corporately.

Action Steps for 2018:

1. Weekly Worship Services for God’s family to gather in His name and offer worship to Him.
2. Weekly opportunities to gather for prayer and study as small groups and fellowship, bible study, Sunday school, etc.

Send –involves our commitment to share Christ personally, locally and globally.

Action Steps for 2018:

1. 4-5 Outreach events; such as Sports Camp, Christmas, Easter Services, and Harvest Party.
2. Community Service projects; such as Giving Baskets, youth service projects in park, connecting with ministries like Flushing Community Outreach Center, etc....
3. Launch at least one new ministry to connect with families in our community.
4. Send a couple of teams of people on mission’s trip overseas and in country.





FMC DISCIPLE MAKING STRATEGY

Pastor Brent Kriesch

The following is a visual diagram and outline of how God can use Faith Missionary to reach our neighbors for Jesus, and in so doing build God’s Kingdom.

Picture a stool with 3 legs and the necessity of each leg to keep the stool upright.

Think of the seat as the end goal of a disciple, and the legs as that which support the disciple making process. The legs of the stool are the means to our end of making a disciple.

Prayer Strategy

This strategy would be launched by people gathering in Prayer Cells with the purpose of praying for God to:

- Open our eyes to the people around us who might be discipleable
- Raise up laborers for the harvest

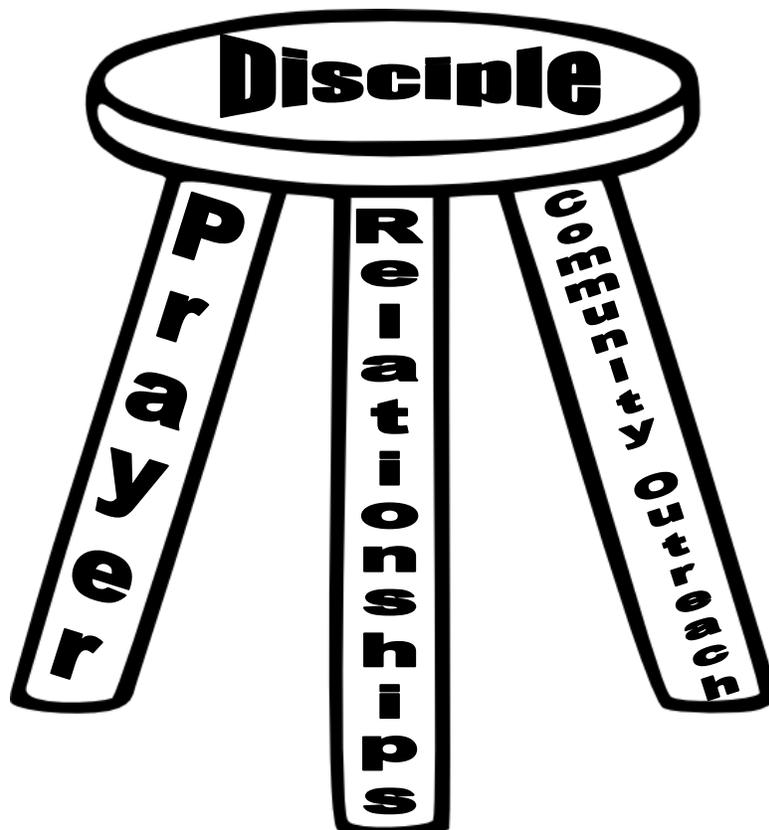
Relational Disciple-making Strategy

This strategy would be centered around Missional Communities where people gather in small group like settings with the purpose of developing a skill set and passion for having spiritual conversations with those whom God’s Spirit is working.

Intentional Community Outreach Strategy

This strategy would involve the church body in reaching out into our community through community outreach ministries and/or events like:

- CenterShot (an archery ministry)
- Grief Share
- Divorce Care
- Celebrate Recovery
- Breakfasts for our local police/fire fighters
- Adopt a school and bless the teachers Etc.





2018 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Audio/Video Coordinator

Kevin Welninski

Children’s Ministry

Director

Val Kriesch

Choir Committee

Marilyn Lord, Karen Moore,
& Steve Taylor

Head Usher

Greg Ringler

Keyboard/Pianist

Karen Moore & Steve Taylor

Kitchen Coordinator

Deb Mahoney

Library Ministry

Janie Dyer

Men’s Ministry

Deacons

Missions

Ramona Little, Milo Olson
& Pastor Brent Kriesch

Music Ministry Coordinator

Dana Welninski

Nursery Coordinator

LaRinda Reemtsen

Student Ministries

Pastor Glenn Snapp

Prayer Chain Coordinator

Janet Potes

Student Bible Quiz Directors

Jeff & Laura Burt

Technology Ministry

Rusty Jacko

Women’s Ministry

Kathy Sands

Young at Heart Ministry

Pastor Brent Kriesch



*“... love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
Deuteronomy 11:13*

2018 CHURCH BOARD ORGANIZATION

Jeff Burt

(Head Trustee)

Walt McLavy

(Deacon)

Kathy Sands

(Secretary/Deaconess)

Pastor Brent Kriesch

(Chairman)

Milo Olson

(Treasurer)

Tami Stevens

(Member at Large)

Ramona Little

(Deaconess)

Denny Reno

(Deacon)

Chris Taubitz

(Member at Large)

Don Mahoney

(Vice Chairman/Deacon)

Greg Ringler

(Assistant Trustee)



PASTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT

Pastor Glenn Snapp

“We may throw the dice, but the LORD determines how they fall.”
(Proverbs 16:33, NLT)

The first thing that Pastor Brent told me about this ministry was, “You are not the Youth Pastor!” The second thing was, “... *but* we would like you to be the Youth Ministries volunteer, as a part of Family Ministries.” So, even though Pastor of Family Ministries is a new position here at Faith, so far a lot of my job has involved the youth. That’s a strange thing to me, because I had already turned down other Youth Pastor positions before being called here. I really didn’t think that I was called to youth ministry. I envisioned myself as a preaching Pastor, maybe an educator or part of a church drama program. But the Lord, as we all know, has plans that we don’t know about. We can only follow where He leads and expect to be surprised.

Here’s the thing, though: the Lord’s surprises are always for the better! And that’s what I’ve experienced over the last four months.

This group of teens is outstanding (that was the *third* thing that Brent told me!), and I am increasingly excited to see what the Lord has planned for them. Here’s a list of some of the things that we have been doing together:

- **Movie Thing.** On Friday nights, the teens come out to my place to watch a movie. First we pray, then we break out the snacks (they are teens, after all!), and then we settle down to watch a movie. The idea is, though, that it’s usual-

ly not a Christian movie. Instead, we watch something that non-Christians are likely to watch a Disney cartoon, maybe, or a super-hero movie ... and then we discuss it from a Christian perspective. It’s always interesting and often thought-provoking! Sometimes we have a game night or a Halloween or Christmas party instead. Have you ever seen an umbrella and Christmas tree lights turned into a jellyfish costume? I have!

- **Sunday School and Wednesday Night Study.** We have been using these times to pray for each other (school is a recurring subject), for friends and family, and for the world. Learning to pray out loud in a group is a valuable skill which I have encouraged by randomly selecting who will pray for each topic. Then we discuss Scripture and other topics, sometimes aided by a video series. As the new guy, I tried to start out gently, but these young people are eager to tackle more challenging topics! To that end, we have begun a 6-week study of the book of Job and its eternal question: Where is God in the midst of tragedy?
- **Winter Jam.** Pastor Brent bravely volunteered to help drive a van full of teens over treacherously icy roads safely to Grand Rapids, where, for only \$15, we took

in TEN outstanding Christian performers! It was well worth the journey. Also, it turns out that if you are a youth worker, occasionally you get to meet Kari Jobe and the lead singer of Skillet.

- In addition to teen ministries, my family and I have been led by the Holy Spirit into other areas. In no particular order, here are some of the things that He has opened up for us:
- **Game Ministry at Gamers Sanctuary.** Gabriel, Dillon Taubitz, and I have gathered a small group of gamers who play on Tuesday nights. The kind of game we play often includes moral questions, so we’ve had some interesting conversations about things like truth and the reality of evil, in a setting where most patrons don’t have any idea that reality is both physical and spiritual. We’re adding a second night aimed more at board games. Come and play on Thursdays at 6:00!
- I have twice been asked to lead chapel at Faithway Christian School in Burton and look forward to doing this semi-regularly. Teaching the Word to kindergarten through fourth grade kids is a blast!
- Preaching is one of my passions, so I have been delighted to have several chances to open God’s Word to the church on Sundays.

PASTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT

Continued

- Let's not forget the Christmas programs! Both the kids and the adults did a fantastic job and I was delighted to be a part of both. Even better, my whole family got involved! Thank you, Steve, Marilyn, Tami, Val, and everyone who contributed to these Lord-led events!

What's coming up? A lot of things that I never would have had a chance to experience if the Lord had let me have my own way! The three-day, two-night Discover Confer-

ence for the youth is next month; I'm told that Michigan's Adventure is a yearly favorite; the youth are praying for the Holy Spirit to lead us into the mission field (and so can you!); and of course we're all looking forward to Brown City Camp!

The Lord also seems to have in mind more opportunities outside the four walls of this building. Amy and I, for instance, are ready to start a coffee shop ministry, where we can invite people to talk and build relationships within the

community. I plan to volunteer at the Flint Crisis Pregnancy Center as a counsellor. Wherever we look, the Lord has opened doors for us to walk through.

As a final note, Amy, Gabriel, Rachel, and I would like to sincerely thank you, God's people at Faith Missionary Church, for trusting and welcoming us. The Lord has deeply blessed us in all of you.

In His Name,

Pastor Glenn Snapp

DEACON'S REPORT

Pastor Brent Kriesch

The Deacon's Board met monthly to pray and assist with the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation. Throughout the course of this past year several hospital and nursing home visits were made where we prayed with and provided comfort to those in need.

Each month we as the Deacons assisted in communion, providing opportunity for the Faith family to remember and honor the Lord for what He has done and will do.

This year we wish to extend our extreme appreciation and gratitude for a faithful Deaconess, Janet Potes, who has served faithfully in this position for many years. Thanks Janet for your years of service and ministry not only on this board but the church board. We are forever grateful.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Deacon's Fund. These funds help many families in our church and community during their time of need.

This year through your gracious support we helped the following families and ministries:

\$450 sent to Carriage Town Ministries to help feed families.

\$325 sent to Flushing Christian Outreach Center to help feed and clothe families.

\$250 sent to Flint Crisis Pregnancy Center to help with it ministries.

\$75 sent to Hospice House in Owosso in memory of Kyle Cass.

\$50 sent to Focus on Family help children needing adoption.

\$640 given to help 8 different families with various needs; gas cards, groceries, utilities, diapers.

Blessed 5 residents of Willowbrook Manor with Christmas gifts.

Thank you to those who served this year: Pastor Brent Kriesch, Ramona Little, Janet Potes, Don Mahoney, Walt McLavy, and Denny Reno.

In Service to the King,

Pastor Brent Kriesch

TRUSTEE REPORT

Jeff Burt, Head Trustee

This past year we were blessed with the ability to upgrade many things at our church, parsonage, grounds and van.

Church Building/Grounds:

- New water tanks in the boiler room as the old ones had burst
- Threshold plate in the kitchen and east door of the fellowship hall were repaired
- The final large air conditioning unit was installed in the sanctuary
- A new light and sound system were installed as the current one went out and parts were not available
- Two light poles on the south drive were damaged by different vehicles and have been repaired at no expense to us as the drivers' insurances paid for the damage
- Parking lot was sealed, cracks filled, and lined. We added a few more handicap spaces

Parsonage: Anticipating the arrival of a new Family Pastor, we gave the parsonage a facelift.

- Painted the rooms
- New carpet in the living room, hallway, and 2 bedrooms
- Refinished the hardwood floors in the dining and family rooms
- New trim
- Updated light fixtures

A special thank you to many volunteers.

Church Van: We had to do some extensive maintenance this year.

- New tires
- Front end and suspension parts
- Front end alignment
- New brakes
- Transmission work

The van is in good shape and has low miles for a vehicle of its year. It has many more safe dependable miles left.

We didn't have any large repairs or purchases on any of our lawn equipment. We are very blessed to have the volunteers that give their time to keep the lawn looking nice, it's a big job.

It has been my pleasure and honor serving the Lord and you as Assistant Trustee for the past two years and I look forward to serving as Head Trustee for 2018.

In Christ,

Jeff Burt

LIBRARY MINISTRY

Janie Dyer, Librarian

In 2017, use of our library has remained low. I know the public libraries are adding CD's and DVD's to their items available for checkout. If you have seen an excellent & morally (and spiritually) uplifting movie or have some you'd like to share, feel free. I don't do video games, but even those would be an option as long as it isn't violent.

I'm reading your book donations as fast as I can. Soon many more will be on the shelves. I just need to enter them into our computer.

I personally use the old-fashioned card system very happily. And YOU may take the card from the back of any book you choose, enter the date and your name, place the card on the desk if I'm not there, and take the book home. When you are done with it, place it on the cart at the library door, and I will re-shelve it. Good reading!

Janie Dyer

USHER MINISTRY

Greg Ringler, Head Usher

Thank you to all the men who helped usher this past year. Great job everyone!

We could use a few more men to join our team. If you are willing to usher, please contact me. Your service would be greatly appreciated.

Greg Ringler



CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Val Kriesch, Children’s Ministry Director

It always amazes me how quickly the year goes by! We had many activities and many ministries over this last year – Valentine’s Breakfast, Faith 500, Easter, Sports Camp, Outdoor Worship, Brown City Camp Fun Fair, Lake Callis Park, Fall Kick-Off, Harvest Festival, and Christmas. The kids always enjoy sharing and serving the congregation in these various ministries! It is such a joy and a privilege to work with those to whom the Kingdom of God belongs (Mark 10:14), to watch them grow in their love and understanding of the Lord.

All of this would not be possible without the help of others who have a heart to serve and see the children of our church and community grow in the Lord. So a **BIG THANK YOU** goes out to our Sunday School Teachers – Amy Skrzela, Sue Jacko, and Al and Mickey Hobson

- We are continuing to use the online comprehensive Bible Study curriculum that utilizes memorization, games, and crafts

to help engage the children and encourage their understanding of Scripture.

- Our Children’s Church Leaders -- Laura and Jeff Burt, Mickey and Al Hobson, Leann Harden, and Kathy Sands
- We have used the Deep Blue curriculum as well as the One Room Sunday School by Group to engage the children during Children’s Church using the Bible lesson as well as games and crafts to help reinforce the Bible point.
- Our Wednesday Night Teachers – Tami Stevens, Kris Taubitz, and Sue Jacko
- On Wednesday nights the children have been following the Israelites through the Exile and looking closely at Daniel’s life (see Tami’s report for more) =)

Thank you for volunteering, loving our kids, showing them who Jesus is, blessing them, and helping them to grow in their love and understanding of God!

At Sports Camp we looked at epic moments in the lives of various sports figures as well as Peter and how they can show us that we are valued, God is always with us, and we overcome! Along with learning soccer and cheer skills, the kids also enjoyed learning some new songs and sharing everything they learned, and some ice cream sundaes, with their family and friends on Thursday night. The kids were challenged to bring in cereal boxes for the Flushing Christian Outreach Center over the 4 days. They met this challenge and ended up donating 48 boxes of cereal! We also had 8 children express a desire to have Jesus be a part of their lives! Praise the Lord for working in the hearts and lives of all who participated! **THANK YOU** to all who prayed, purchased snack items, gave their time and talents, shared a smile, hug, or a listening ear – you all are EPIC!

Serving together with you,

Val Kriesch



FAITHWEAVER FRIENDS

Tami Stevens, Wednesday Night Children’s Director

This year has been an exciting year for our Children’s program here at Faith.

We started out our year before September with our annual Sports Camp where kids can participate in soccer or cheerleading. Once again, we walked in the Swartz Creek Parade to promote our Sports Camp.

In September, we started teaching stories the kids don’t normally cover, detailed stories about the time frame when the Jews were captives in Babylon and their return to Jerusalem. I’m excited to teach lessons on individuals we don’t get a chance to cover a lot like Daniel, Ezekiel, Haggia, Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah.

In November and December, we rehearsed for our Christmas Program, “Just a Little Christmas.” Val Kriesch and Amy Snapp were both a huge help this year getting the kids ready for a super cute program. Marilyn Lord led our new Children’s Bell Choir in performing three songs as well. Thanks to all our parents who practiced with their children and got them to our rehearsals. The program was so funny and really touch people’s hearts.

In December, we headed out to our first official fun night event for the

year. We went caroling with our kids. We will be hosting our family fun night events every 6 weeks thru the year. Come out, join the fun, and get to know our kids and youth. Consider inviting a friend, it is a great way to introduce our church to others and these events promote our vision to reach the lost in our community.

In February, last year, we held our third annual Faith 500 Pinewood Derby and our Chili/Soup cook-off. A big thanks to Deb Mahoney for helping with our cook-off event and Chris Taubitz for helping our kids/adults/youth make some awesome cars. This year will mark our 4th year for the Faith 500. We are planning to make cars the first two weeks in February. Come out and make a car to race. This event is so much fun!

In April, we hosted our Easter Egg Hunt a big thanks to Laura Burt for coordinating the event. Thanks to everyone who stuffed eggs, hid eggs, and brought their families and friends to the event.

We are continuing our practice of monthly Bible memorization. Our kids store remains a favorite with our Faith kids and we have continued to update our Faith Children’s website with pictures and the most current information about our weekly program.

This program is only successful because of the dedicated leaders that volunteer. A special thanks to Kris Taubitz who co-teaches with me, Sue Jacko who teaches the toddlers, Val Kriesch who is always lending a hand in whatever we need.

In addition, thank you to our parents who allow us to love your kids and that help us in so many ways... helping kids memorize verses/songs/lines/reminding kids to bring bibles etc.

We are encouraged by how many children are learning God’s Word! We are thankful for the children who have been attending, and we look forward to seeing where God leads in their lives. We anticipate another great year of spending time with these precious kids and teaching them more about their Heavenly Father.

In Christ,
Tami Stevens





A/V AND PRAISE & WORSHIP MINISTRY

Kevin & Dana Welninski

2017 was a year filled with blessings as well as challenges. Blessed to have lights in the sanctuary again.

We had a busy year with several programs: Outdoor Service, Dessert Auction, Faith 500, Awaken Services with David Gallimore, and ending with the Christmas Musical, which was a great success. THANK YOU to ALL who helped with these events.

Be a part of the A/V team! The equipment is not as hard as it looks! If you are interested in joining, let me know so you can get involved right away. All equipment is in good condition.

In Psalm we are told to make a Joyful noise, sing praises, and have Thankful hearts. I am blessed with an awesome team that I serve along

with. It is a privilege and an honor to be a part of this ministry. Thank you to everyone who makes this ministry possible. All glory and praise be to the Lord for He has given us gifts and we are honored to use them.

Sign up for special music/offertory in the foyer. Perhaps you play an instrument or have a word of testimony you would care to share instead of special music for offertory, that would be awesome.

Serving Him,
Kevin & Dana Welninski



PRAYER CHAIN

Janet Potes, Coordinator

The FMC Prayer Chain is available to you 24/7. You can use the prayer chain for illness, decision making, family matters, spiritual matters, and loneliness. For requests that are personal we will put it out as an urgent unspoken. We count it a blessing to pray for you.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be for yours."

"Jesus Calling"
Sarah Young

When you bring me prayer requests lay out your concerns before me. Speak candidly, pour out your heart. Then thank me for the answers that I have set into motion long before you can discern results. Thankful prayers keep your focus on My presence and My promises.

Serving Him,
Janet Potes



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Kathy Sands, Coordinator

Our ministry is committed to women who have a desire to see themselves and others grow in their relationships with Christ.

As we read and study the daily Bible verses we then ask the Holy Spirit, what do You have to say to me through these Bible verses today? How do they relate to my life and how can I apply them? Then we journal what has been revealed.

We PRAY with each other and have a heart for women in order to discover where God is already at work.

In 2017 we met weekly at Tim Horton's on Wednesday nights. We used the Life Journal reading schedule and SOAP outline (scripture, observation, application, and prayer) daily then when we met we shared with each other what God revealed to us in our personal study.

In 2018 we are looking forward to some changes. We are changing the day, time and location for our Women's Bible Study. We are looking at using curriculum with videos along with discussion and prayer in 6-8 week series. More information will be provided as decisions are made on new avenues of study.

Respectfully,
Kathy Sands



CHOIR

Steve Taylor, Choir Director

Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.

Colossians 3:16

“Ministry” is from the Greek word diakoneo, meaning “to serve”. The choir ministry is here to serve the congregation by encouraging spiritual growth through the presentation of our musical arts. We are able to do that by first having a personal relationship with God and a desire to be part of the music ministry. We then enhance our effectiveness by enhancing our musical skills through preparation and ministering to each other through encouragement, caring and forgiveness.

This year has challenged us to own and affirm our own ministry and to practice our faith. We took our ministry on the road and performed at American House North Senior Center and Open Door Missionary Church. It was evident that God's presence was with us.

We also had the privilege to conduct a patriot service titled “Celebrating America”. *Celebrate America* was a patriotic work that gave tribute to our heritage, a salute to our armed forces and remembrance to those who sacrificed for our country. As we remembered our past, we also looked to our future seeking God's guidance and blessing for America. The service was well received, many people mentioned that they enjoyed it and that it's been a long time that we as congregation participated in such a service.

We must continue to remember that it is God who gave us our freedom. We look forward to this year's patriotic celebration in Christ.

The Christmas program, “It's Christmas Time”, was our first musical performance incorporating acting and dancing. The inception of this musical drama started from one choir member's own experience growing up. The committee members discussed how to incorporate this experience with music. Shortly thereafter, the script was created by the director and his daughter, Lydia Taylor. This performance demonstrated the ability of the choir to expedite fun and accessible music while delivering emotional content. We were truly blessed to minister this in song, dance and drama to the congregation. We were all blessed to be a part of this experience. Requests have been made to present this program again next December.

After the hard work from the Christmas program and a short break; rehearsals have started back up. We meet every Wednesday from 6:15-7:15 PM. We also have practice the third and fourth Sunday of the month in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM. We are excited to be working on the Easter worship service. Please pray that this will be a blessing for not only our church family, but an effective outreach to those partaking in our service. There is still time to join if you are interested.

I look forward to continuing our work on music and fellowship. Many thanks to the choir, actors, youth, sound and technical members. You all are a blessing and answer to my prayers. A special

thanks goes to Ron Lord for his weekly help behind the scenes and dedication. As usual, Kevin Welninski has my gratitude for his commitment to the choir whether it is a Thursday through Saturday practice or a Sunday morning performance. We appreciate his efforts making sure the congregation can hear us well.

The choir members would like to thank our pastor and his continued support of this ministry as well as the congregation for your receptiveness to our music and musical arts presentations. We pray that we will continue to meet the needs of those in the ministry and those affected by the ministry. Second Corinthians tells us that God has prepared us and He has given us His Spirit to guarantee all that he has in store for us. With our continued faithfulness and willingness to serve Him we know that we will continue our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

In all of the challenges and possibilities that confront us, the church is not staff, buildings or budgets; it is people – you and me – called and gifted by God. Paul reminds us: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ ... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it”

(1 Corinthians 12:12, 27). The prophet Isaiah reminded us that God “gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless” (Isaiah 40:29). We trust God, to guide and help us and complete his calling.

Steven Taylor