

Words of Faith

THE NEWSLETTER OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall 2016

Faith Presbyterian Church
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Inside This Issue:

This edition of Words of Faith is devoted to the various ministries—both intramural and extramural—that the church supports, undertakes, or is somehow involved in.

Sing Aloud, Sing Anew—Music Conference Report

by Ron Bechtel

Once a year, a conference on church music comes to Faith Presbyterian Church, thanks to the Alliance of Christian Musicians (ACM), which sponsors the event. Gregory Wilbur, nationally recognized composer, arranger and church musician, from Nashville, Tennessee, and Ross Hauck, world-class tenor and church musician from Issaquah, Washington, headlined the ninth annual church music symposium, September 30 through October 2.

Being much more than a talk-fest, the symposium provided a palette of excellent music at each session. On opening night, Florence Rayburn and Melissa McMillan led their respective FPC choirs in singing many hymns written by Greg Wilbur. Martha Alford, known widely throughout the Northeast as the leader of ACM's annual handbell festival in Philadelphia, filled the event with lovely music from her virtuosic flute. She also collaborated with her high school son, Michael, whose mellow French horn blending with her brilliant flute gave listeners special delight. ("It might be the first time ever that a French horn has graced our worship at FPC," Bechtel offered.) Combined with FPC's string players Abraham Sullivan, Benjamin Mellott, Nicholas Sheldon, and Nicolas and Noelle Roberts and trumpeter Abenego Sullivan, these musicians added beautiful textures to the hymn singing in FPC's Sunday worship services. Jim Price, classical guitarist, provided background music at lunchtime, hosted by Margaret Eby (the barbecue pork specialist) and Elissa Hastings, ACM's all-around-helpful executive assistant.

This year's topic, "Sing Aloud, Sing Anew," featured three lectures by Gregory Wilbur and one by Ross

Hauck. In his keynote address, Wilbur presented a lecture entitled, "Old Model, New Music: New Tunes for Timeless Worship." From podium and piano, he described the biblical foundation for a Christian worship service, and highlighted each of the elements of Christian liturgy in song, as FPC's choirs united with the congregation's voice in singing Wilbur's original compositions. An audio recording of this event is available; write info@acmusicians.org.

Wilbur also presented two other talks, "Good Music, Bad Music, and What about Bach" and "Excellent and Accessible: Composing Where You Are." Notes for these topics are being prepared for public distribution.

Ross Hauck presented "Singing in the Shire: Reflections on Our Liturgical Hobbits," in which he artfully invited his audience to consider music, especially worship music, not just for its verbal content but also for its aesthetic pleasure. "Christians, with their theological bent, sometimes overstress the "thought" content or ideas in music and art, rather than just discovering a sense of aesthetic delight in the goodness of God and His Love expressed through sound, image, movement, material, or medium." With creative use of words, he presented an oral rhapsody on the theme, "God as Composer of All Creativity," an alphabetic depiction of our Creator's remarkable and intriguing variety, both in His nature and in His works. One of his take-home ideas was this: Christian worship can follow the Creator's lead in employing new forms to ascribe worth to Him in fresh and meaningful ways.

During the symposium a remarkable musical presentation on the biblical story of Joseph (Genesis 39 – 50) captured the interest and the hearts of

adults and children alike. Written by Puget Sound-area composer Alicia A. Lewis, this stirring and dramatic retelling of the Joseph narrative featured Ross Hauck, professional tenor, Maddie Lee, piano accompanist, Noelle Roberts, cellist, Ron Bechtel, narrator, and a vocal ensemble. At the conclusion of the musical, the audience responded to its theme, the mercy of God, by singing “A Debtor to Mercy Alone,” Augustus Toplady’s richly suggestive hymn of personal testimony, set to a recently composed tune, “Valley Creek Farm (LMD)”, by Ron Bechtel.

At the conclusion of the symposium, two interactive hours allowed the guest speakers opportunity to talk openly and informally. An “Artists’ Roundtable on Creativity” featured Mr. Hauck and Mr. Wilbur as well as local author and hymn writer, Douglas Bond. Each responded to questions provided by moderator Bechtel as well as from the audience. Finally, Rev. Dr. Robert S. Rayburn interviewed Mr. Wilbur about his life and work as a Nashville-based Christian composer, arranger, and church musician. An audio recording of this interview is available upon request to info@acmusicians.org.

About ACM

The Alliance of Christian Musicians was founded by H. Vincent Treadway in 2001 in Philadelphia in order to “inspire musical excellence by the Word of God.” Since 2007, ACM has been collaborating with the FPC music ministry. ACM’s mission is to promote excellence in the discussion about church music, provide a platform for excellent musicians and their music, and foster fellowship among Christian musicians. For more information, click <http://www.acmusicians.org>.

Upcoming ACM Events (also listed at <http://www.faihtacoma.org/music-ministry>)

December 4, 2016	Christmas <i>Messiah</i>
February 3, 2017	byInstrument (hymn sing)
April 1, 2017	Young Church Musicians Scholarship Recitals
April 7, 2017	Spring Festival Choir event
June 9, 2017	byInstrument (hymn sing)
June 20, 2017	Samuel Rotman Piano Concert
July 11, 2017	Midsummer Classics Concert
July/August 2017 (TBD)	Summer Singing Camp
September 12, 2017	Fall Festival Choir Rehearsals resume
October 2017 (TBD)	Reformation 500 event with special music
November 16, 2017	byInstrument (hymn sing)
December 3, 2017	Christmas musical event

The Choir

Florence Rayburn

As soon as the Lord had established David as king over Israel he began preparing for the construction of the temple and the services of worship that would be conducted in it. He was determined to make sure that Israel’s worship of God was rightly ordered and done as well as was possible to do. Reading through the paragraph headings in **I Chronicles 23-25** we read, “David organized the Levites, . . . the Priests, . . . the Musicians.” **“David . . . also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who prophesied with lyres, with harps and with cymbals.” I Chronicles 25:1** As with the construction of the building, which he planned to give to those skilled in such matters, he entrusted the musical part of the worship of the temple to those **“who were trained in singing to the Lord”** and were **“skillful” (25:7)**. Earlier, in **I Chron. 15:16-24**, we read that David, a musician himself, organized the singing of choirs to the accompaniment of instruments under the leadership of directors. From material provided in Chronicles and the psalms themselves, we learn that Heman, Asaph, and Jeduthun were directors of separate temple choirs. The title, “For the Choirmaster” or “For the Director of Music,” attached to fifty-five psalms, indicates that psalms or anthems were collected and arranged for the use of the temple choirs.

We have sought to follow these principles at Faith; its choir is one of the voices of the congregation. The position of the choir in the balcony serves to enable the choir to sing for the congregation rather than to the congregation. The choir’s calling is to sing anthems and other choral numbers that would be beyond the capacity of the congregation, the kind of music that requires training and rehearsal, as was the case when choirs were appointed for the worship of the temple in David’s day. The choral tradition of Christian worship contains some of the most beautiful and moving music in the world. True enough, these choral texts from time to time address the congregation as the congregation sometimes addresses itself in its singing (e.g. “Come Let Us Sing Unto the Lord” or “How Firm a Foundation Ye Saints of the Lord”). When the choir addresses the congregation it does so in the spirit of **Ephesians 5:18-19: “address . . . one another in psalms and**

hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord....” Most of the time, however, the choir expresses *for* the congregation its praise to God, its penitence before him, or its prayer for his presence and blessing. The calling of the choir is to make the musical worship of the congregation as beautiful as possible, as moving as possible, and as memorable as possible, all three the special powers of music and, in bestowing such blessing on the congregation the musicians partake of it themselves.

Choristers

The Choristers is a group of boys and girls ages 7-15 who sing periodically in worship throughout the year. We meet every Wednesday from 7:00-8:15 under the direction of Melissa McMillan. During rehearsals, we prepare for singing in worship, learn how to better use our voices, and learn about music through games and movement.

The Choristers sang at the Thanksgiving service. They will sing next in the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

Care Net

Care Net of Puget Sound offers hope by providing compassionate practical care, biblical truth, life-affirming resources related to pregnancy, sexual integrity and abortion recovery. At its six locations, Care Net applies this mission by emphasizing the value of an unborn child – even one who is unplanned, the value of the mother and father, and the transformative gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Care Net offers pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, options counseling, pregnancy and parenting classes, one-on-one mentoring and more. All services are provided free of charge to anyone, regardless of age, race, socioeconomic status or religious conviction. Through Smart Programs, Care Net of Puget Sound also provides abstinence and sex trafficking avoidance education for young people and parents. Those who are struggling with the burden of past abortion can utilize Care Net’s Healing Tide Program.

Care Net is thankful for the Faith Presbyterian Church members who serve in a variety of ways, including as Legal & Medical Advisory Council members, volunteers and financial supporters. Staff

from FPC include Kim Triller (Executive Director) and Dawn Darby (Director of Volunteer Training). Mr. Nathan Sukhia serves as a Board Member.

Upcoming CARENET Events

- **Light & Life Banquet**, Saturday, March 25 (Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center). No admission charge, but pre-registration required beginning in January (carenetpspartners.org/events)
- **Swing for Life Golf Tournament**, Friday, July 14 (Washington National Golf Club, Auburn). Information and registration available Spring 2017

Women in the Church (WIC)

Women in the Church, or WIC, is a ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church whose purpose is to help women glorify God by reflecting His grace to one another through building each other up.

WIC is involved in a variety of aspects in the life of the church using committees to oversee different activities or services. The committees include annual meeting dinner; Bible study; coffee time on Sunday mornings; receptions for funerals, anniversaries, farewells & after the Easter service; keeping the church kitchen clean and organized; meals on wheels; nursery; bridal & baby showers, and several others. As you can see, though WIC focuses on women’s ministry, it truly serves the whole body of Christ here at Faith.

This year the theme of WIC is “Sisters In Christ”. We want to encourage one another and build each other up through our monthly meetings or activities, as well as the committees mentioned above. Our upcoming scheduled meetings are as follows:

December 10, Saturday, 11am - 1pm Christmas Brunch with Mindy Belz
January 19, Thursday, 6-8:30pm Bunco Party
February 16, Thursday, 7-8:30pm WIC Meeting
March 16, Thursday, 7-8:30 pm WIC Meeting
April 22, Saturday, 11 am-1 pm Spring Tea & Fashion Show
May 20, Sat, 9am-4pm Field Trip to Bloedel Reserve

More information on all the meetings will be presented in the bulletin, Sunday announcements and in the email chain, This N That. We encourage all women who attend Faith to join us.

Mothers Encouragement Group

Florence Rayburn

The Mothers Encouragement Group—affectionately known as MEG—is a place for young (or not) moms with little (or big) children to meet together twice a month in the comfortable, pretty WIC room downstairs. Babysitting is provided for about three hours and a Keurig machine is kept busy providing favorite drinks. Snacks are brought and (adult) conversation takes place. Dawn Darby and I started the Mothers Encouragement Group in the Fall of 2012. It was the same year that I retired from teaching at Covenant High School and was wondering what a life without teaching there would look like. My daughters were in the throes of having babies as were many of the young women who themselves had been my students at CHS. I looked at them and listened and heard desperation in their voices. I remembered what it was like to have many little children myself: how tired I was all the time, how I questioned my parenting decisions, how lonely I felt when I wanted advice. Dawn & I wanted to minister to these young women, to give them a few hours of relaxation, of not worrying about their children, to be able to talk with one another, to share ideas and realize, “*you* feel that way too?!” It has been that and more; it has become a safe place for some: a place of sharing struggles, questions and heart issues; a place of learning from one another; a place to knit and drink a favorite drink; a place to love and feel loved.

Covenant High School

Dick Hannula

In 2016-17, the Lord has blessed Covenant High School with another year of increased enrollment (107 students) —the largest enrollment in seven years. 28% of the students attend Faith Presbyterian Church. CHS has 14 international students (5 from South Korea, 6 from China, 2 from Vietnam, 1 from Kazakhstan).

This year, CHS was blessed to add Melissa McMillan to the faculty. Mrs. McMillan took over as the choir director and music teacher when Mrs. Read retired last spring for medical reasons. Fourteen of the eighteen faculty members and staff attend FPC. They are: Lisa DeMass – speech; Rick DeMass – Bible and chapel; Richard Hannula – principal, history; Jane Lewellen – math; Laurel McCoy – secretary; Kyle Murphy—tutoring and geometry assistant; Jonathan Nichols – Latin, math and English to international students; Steven Nicoletti – Bible and chapel; Melissa McMillan – choir and music; Kim St. John – speech, drama and study skills; Nate Shelden – Freshman English; Wendy Tamminga – English; Becky Wilson – Kid Reach coordinator.

The Kid Reach ministry (CHS busses elementary students from Jefferson Elementary School after school each Tuesday where CHS students tutor, play games, enjoy snacks and share the love of Christ) is led by Becky Wilson who coordinates the CHS students as they tutor and witness to these needy children.

Sunday School

Hilary Kvale

The Sunday School Program meets during the hour between church services every Sunday morning, and is dispersed all over the building. It is one of the most important ministries that the church does, for these are children that the Lord has placed in our own homes for us to teach and train to love the Lord. Further, the entire congregation has taken vows to encourage and help train these children to love and serve the Lord.

The program serves about 120 children from the age of 2 through 8th grade. We rely on 34 volunteers who work year-round to keep this ministry going and about 30 more who serve during special events.

The Sunday school program is designed with age appropriate curriculum to teach our children

about Scripture and Christian living. We run a memory work program encouraging children to memorize passages of scripture and the Westminster Catechisms that they might always cherish these in their minds and hearts.

Our upcoming event is the Christmas Program the evening of Sunday December 18th at 6pm. It is a play written by Ian Jimmink titled, “Christians and Christmas”, directed by Abraham Sullivan, and performed by a number of the 5th-8th grade children, and featuring a number of songs performed by the 2-5 years olds, the 1st -4th graders, and the youth choir.

The Faith Presbyterian Diaconate Ministry

Jason Van Gilder

The Deacons of Faith Presbyterian have been selected to carry on a tradition originally described in the book of Acts within the New Testament portion of the Bible.

In that instance the early Church appointed men as “servants” of the church. The first century church spoke Greek and hence their word for servant was *diákonos* (διάκονος). As that word migrated into English it became the term “deacon”.

Those initial seven men named in Acts 6 were selected to care for the poor among the church and to generally assist the church in ways that allow the Ministers and Elders to attend to the Church’s worship, doctrine, and spiritual nurture. Here at Faith, our Deacons keep up the physical property of the church, assist with the preparations for worship services, and care for those in need.

Mercy Ministry

The care of others has always been one of the most deeply rewarding work entrusted to Deacons and at Faith Presbyterian our Diaconate has worked for years to make it a cornerstone of its ministry as well.

Taking our direction from the scriptures, our first

priority has been assisting those within our church and in particular the widows and orphans the Lord has placed among us. Even beyond our immediate church community, we have attempted to be generous with the funds entrusted to us in helping those who come to us for assistance.

In helping others, it is our desire to follow in Jesus Christ’s example of caring for others. It is also a privilege to share with those in the mist of hardships what following Jesus has meant to us.

Financial Assistance

Funding for the Diaconate’s ministry comes from gifts collected at an offering held on the first Sunday of each month in conjunction with our Church’s celebration of the Lord’s Supper and other donations specifically designated for the ministry.

If you would like to find out more about our work, contribute financially to the Diaconate’s ministry, suggest someone that we may be able to assist, or would like to be considered for assistance yourself; please feel free to contact us.

Christian Education

The Session and Diaconate of Faith Presbyterian would like to encourage our church families to consider Christian Education for the instruction of their children. Realizing that this is a significant expense, Faith Presbyterian has established a Christian Education Fund to provide Faith Pres families needing assistance with a portion of tuition fees for K-12 education at Christian Schools. Contact a Deacon, if you feel that cost is an impediment to you.

Adoption Ministry

The Diaconate oversees a fund established to support families in the process of adoption. For more information, see Mike Hanks.

Better English on Sixth—The World At Our Door

Jonathan Nichols

Diverse urban centers like Tacoma have a great need for English as a Second Language (ESL) services and Faith Presbyterian is meeting some of those needs on Monday nights with Better English on Sixth. We offer a unique free program with five adult levels, a kids' level, and nursery. Our typical Monday night begins at 6:50 in classrooms, followed by a snack break at 7:30, and then more class and individual assistance until 8:30.

Our philosophy of ministry is based on serving their need for English, building friendships, and pursuing spiritual conversations as we gain trust and show love. Our particular strength is a very high volunteer to student ratio, often nearly 1:1, so the fun of learning is enhanced by friendship and personal attention to individual needs.

Additional ministry related to Better English on Sixth is our ESL Sunday School, meeting each week in room 304 during the Sunday school hour. Also the Ladies Knitting on Thursday welcomes international ladies for further conversation practice, hosting "Tea and Talk." Furthermore we have been able to help many individuals work on a resume, hunt for jobs, and practice interview skills.

Who is qualified? Those who use English on a regular basis. Additionally, we periodically offer training to equip you with some additional tools for succeeding as a language tutor. Please consider coming to be a part of the fun, and the strategic outreach, with [Better English on Sixth](#). Check out our website at www.betterenglishonsixth.org/partner If you would like additional information about volunteering as a partner please contact Jonathan Nichols (jonathan@betterenglishonsixth.org)

Better English on Sixth Regular Activities
Better English on Sixth, **Mondays, 6:50 to 8:30, Sep-May**
Weekly **Tea & Talk/Knitting Friendships** at the

church, 1-3 pm on Thursdays in Room 117
ESL Sunday School, 9:45 am. Practice English and learn about what Christians historically believe.

Naomi, Ruth and Boaz

The Homes of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz is a Christian Transitional Home lead and founded by Executive Director Yvette Kungkagam, of Hilltop Christian Center, for single women & their children, families, men & women who are transitioning out of jail, homelessness and for those individuals who want to radically transform their lives.

God is doing some amazing and life transforming events in the lives of individuals that once were broken, drug addicted, in broken families and now are restored to their destiny in Christ! Connie Pfefferle, kickboxer2@gmail.com, has worked closely with this ministry for several years. If you'd like to know more about how you may serve, contact Connie.

Safe Families

Safe Families for Children (Safe Families) is a volunteer movement that gives hope and support to families in distress or crisis. The organization is motivated by compassion to keep children safe and out of foster care. Safe Families hosts vulnerable children, creating extended-family-like supports for desperate families through a community of devoted volunteers who are motivated by faith to keep children safe and to reunite families.

Under current economic conditions, many families experience financial crisis, unemployment, and homelessness. Often these situations result in, or are made worse by, other hardships such as parental violence, drug or alcohol use, physical or mental illness, or incarceration. In these situations, parents or guardians may be incapable of providing a safe and caring environment for their children, putting them at risk of abuse and neglect. In the past, extended family or neighbors stepped in to help families in crisis by caring for their children for short periods of time. Today, however, many families are socially isolated, and their extended

family is nonexistent, or unavailable or unable to help. Adding to the problem is the fact that most state child welfare agencies are required under law to rescue only those children who suffer blatant abuse or neglect, leaving thousands of children at risk.

Safe Families gives hope to these distressed families. If you'd like to know more about becoming a host family, see Andrew or Sandy Milton (fpc. safefamilies@gmail.com). You can also support the ministry without having to host children—you can support hosts as a 'family friend' or a 'resource friend.'



Numerous unidentified Oktoberfesters.



An unidentified All Hallows' Eve reveler.



An unidentified July in Christmas celebrant.

Calendar

December 2016

Men of Faith Seminar

December 3 @ 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

“The Fight of Your Life” with Dr. Greg Miller of Faithful & True.

Second Sunday of Advent – Handel’s Messiah: ACM Festival Choir

December 4 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sanctuary

Covenant High School Open House, Christmas Concert and Art Show

December 8 - December 9

Faith Presbyterian Church

Women In the Church Christmas Brunch

December 10 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

DeSoto Hall

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Sunday School

Christmas Program

December 18, 6 PM

Sunday school Christmas program in the evening service.

Candlelight Services

December 24

4:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Christmas Day

December 25

We will have our morning services, 8:15 am and 11:00 am but no Sunday school or evening service. We take our annual Ministerial Relief offering. As their regular place of worship is not available on Christmas Day, Pilgrim Bible Church will worship in DeSoto Hall at 11:00 am.

January 2017

Annual Meeting

January 25, 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

DeSoto Hall & Sanctuary

For more details about these events, please visit <http://www.faithtacoma.org/events>

Member Changes

Additions

Philip Darby, voting member, July 24

Aspen Kelly, voting member, July 31

Jacob Miller, voting member, August 7

Hope Proctor, voting member, August 14

Lydia Pullman, child profession, August 21

Luke Morse, voting member, September 4

Hannah Lawty, voting member, September 11

Olina Kvale, child profession, October 23

Caleb Bentson, child profession, October 30

Baptisms

Matthias Frick, August 7

Samuel Bruce, August 14

Tait Van Gilder, August 21

Cillion Comis, August 28

Heidi Schlaudraff, October 23

Marcia Ngoy, November 15