

Faith Report

Relying: Prayer by Vernetta Abrahams

There is nothing like prayer! What an awesome provision, originated, conceived and established by God! Human invention and technology enable us to communicate with people in space, but without technology we can only speak to those nearby. Prayer, however, gives us contact with the Creator of the Universe!

The absence of prayer is like having no cell phone, land line, Skype, email, text, snail mail or face-to-face contact. There is a profound, total silence!

Adam and Eve communed with God in the Garden before they sinned. Their sin and subsequent expulsion from the garden ended face-to-face communion with God. Flaming swords prevented their re-entry, a sign of their fall and separation from God. Yet through Jesus, we can enter freely into God's presence. Jesus' call to "Come to Me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest" underscores our personal access to God.

God's great desire for fellowship and our great need of it is satisfied through prayer. Prayer is the most vital element of our relationship with God and our spiritual well being. Even salvation without prayer would be a shallow victory. Prayer enables us to live an obedient and fulfilling life in Christ.

Our relationship with God is compared to the marriage relationship in scripture. One of the biggest challenges in marriage and other relationships is a lack of communication. Instead of extended periods of total silence, short, curt comments or lukewarm responses, we yearn for a place of healthy, harmonious connection.

God has provided all those for us if we meet with Him, both personally and corporately. No king, president, or dignitary has said "Come now, let us reason together" or urged us to come into his presence boldly, repeatedly, expectantly, with the privilege of family access, or given us the authority to ask him to show himself, by an outpouring of gratuities beyond measure.

There are many opportunities to pray at FCF: the monthly Concert of Prayer, Prayer Wrestlers (you don't even have to leave home to take part), Pit Crews (supporting pastoral ministry), the annual Advance Prayer and Fasting Week, Upper Room Prayer (before 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship), and the regional Partners For Transformation (which prays and walks through Baltimore neighborhoods and asks God to bring down walls of sin that have beset that community).

Where are you plugged in to pray? One of our sisters in the faith recently said that she prays through the FCF Directory. What a great idea! Is the area of your

prayer passion addressed at FCF? If not, find someone like minded and begin something new. We are the Bride of Christ. Let us not be like the workaholic who is too busy or too tired for conversation after a hard day, and who leaves the Bridegroom longing.

God wants to hear from us, to assure us of His presence and provide love, peace, comfort, provision, protection, and a hunger and thirst for more knowledge of Him, His will, and His purpose for our lives, day by day. He longs to reassure us of the truth of His promises by answering our prayers.

God is the Lover who is absorbed and enamored with us. He listens to us as we pour out our hearts, talk incessantly about Him, ourselves, our loved ones, jobs, ups and downs, inner struggles, success, failures, the world, injustices, the economy, religion, and politics.

Esther needed a scepter to approach the king but we have unlimited, unrestricted access to the KING! He invites his children to come. Let us enter His courts with praise, adoration, and thanksgiving. We are the church, His Body, are and we have the joy of entering his courts together whenever we gather in the Sanctuary. ♦

*Vernetta Abrahams is the FCF
Prayer Coordinator.*



**FAITH
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

505 E. 42nd Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410.323.0202
Fax: 410.435.5075
E-mail: fcfoffice@
fcfchurch.org
www.fcfchurch.org

*United that the
world would
know*

*¹⁸...praying at all
times in the Spirit,
with all prayer
and supplication.
To that end keep
alert with all per-
severance, making
supplication for
all the saints.
Ephesians 6:18*

Faith Urban Works Passes the Torch to PLAN

By Kate McGrath

In 2007, Faith Urban Works (FUW) was established as the community development enterprises of Faith Christian Fellowship, seeking to address the economic, social, cultural and spiritual needs of the Pen Lucy Community. Pen Lucy Action Network (PLAN) and Baltimore Christian School (BCS) ministered side by side to this end for several years.

As many of you know, BCS recently finished its final school year. Even though BCS has completed its season of ministry in Pen Lucy, we believe that God still cares about this neighborhood. FCF and PLAN leadership are seeking God's leading into a new season of ministry.

Due to the closure of BCS, FCF will be more focused on working to fortify and support the community development initiatives of PLAN which, as its mission statement declares, "is a faith-based community outreach ministry of FCF in partnership with local organizations to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the promotion of educational, social, and economic development by empowering people, families, and communities for greater Pen Lucy and the surrounding neighborhoods."

If you have been supporting FUW, your support will now go directly to the PLAN sports programs, Learning Center and various community initiatives that come alongside residents and show God's love by providing basic needs.

We have seen God's hand in the last 30 years at FCF, and we are excited to see what God has in store for the next 30 years of our ministry! ♦

We thank Kate McGrath, Executive Director for Faith Urban Works, for her work among us especially on behalf of Baltimore Christian School. We wish Kate God's richest blessings as she seeks his leading in this new phase of her life.

Young Adults

Young adults meet for lunch on the first Sunday of each month after the second service. The lunch usually takes place in different people's homes.

If you are new to FCF or to Baltimore, this is a great way to connect with other young people. Look out for details in the bulletin. If you wish to receive occasional updates about upcoming lunches and informal activities, contact the church office and ask to be added to the young adults' listserv. ♦

Covenant Groups

We recently came to the end of a three-year covenant group cycle. The groups will be reorganized over the summer and ready for the fall. They are a great opportunity to grow in grace and connect with others in the church. Look for sign-up details at the welcome table. Please contact Will Brown if you are interested in leading or hosting a covenant group. ♦

Bits and Pieces

- Congratulations to new members Davin and Won-Jung Hong, Ben and Alison Lydecker, and Giles and Grayla Reneau who were presented to the church in June. Welcome everyone!
- Congratulations to Michael and Rosella Rading on the arrival of Esther Elizabeth who was born on June 2.

CALENDAR

- Jul. 1** Concert of Prayer, 7 p.m.
- Jul. 4** Office closed for Independence Day
- Jul. 13** Faith Leadership Night, 7 p.m.
- Jul. 24** Discovery Luncheon
Heads Up:
- Aug. 28** FCF Picnic at Meadowood Park, 12.30-6 p.m.