

# Faith Report

## Renewing: A New Season, An Old Commission

by Pastor Stan Long

The days are getting longer. The flowers are blooming. Things are being renewed all around us. There is new, fresh life in the air!

At Faith we are in the midst of a very, very busy season. Recently Pastor Craig and several leaders went to a theology conference, and I attended a summit on creating multiracial worship services hosted by regional leaders of the Mosaix Global Network. We hosted a “Jesus Driven Life” seminar led by Sri Lankan Youth for Christ leader, Adijah Fernando, who reminded us to maintain our joy as we live and serve. The women “retreated” last month and the men will retreat (or should I say “advance”...) this month. The middle and high school youth took turns camping the last two weekends, and we are even planning to participate in a revival with other congregations in June.

We have hired Joan Nelson as part time co-director for Children’s ministry. Meanwhile, we are still searching for a permanent full time Youth Director.

Isn’t church just showing up on Sundays for a few hours? All this extra activity - men, women, youth leadership, children’s leadership, theology, seminars, workshops, summits, retreats, revivals, and on and on. Are we just trying to fill up

your schedules with one activity after another? What is this all about? Well, to me, the thing that brings cohesion to all this busyness is a simple commitment that each one of us should embrace in his or her own way: we should all be committed to fulfilling the **Great Commission of Jesus Christ**. In the books of Matthew, Luke and Acts, God gives us three important insights into this calling to reach out to others:

<sup>18</sup>*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Matt 28:18-20

Matthew focuses upon **the task**—making disciples by going, baptizing, and teaching.

<sup>46</sup>*He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."* Luke 24:46-47

Luke focuses on **the message**—repentance and forgiveness:

<sup>8</sup>*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses*

*in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8

Acts focuses on **the strategy**—a geographical, cross-cultural strategy.

We articulate this here at Faith through our calling to *celebrate and apply the reconciliation of Christ by making grace-filled followers of Jesus in Pen Lucy, Baltimore, and the world.*

When I sit in worship services and hear the announcements, then read the bulletin, I often think that there is so much going on. I remind myself, and want to remind everyone, that all these things are pointing towards something. All this activity is so that we as a congregation might become more and more mature individually and corporately as the people of God (Colossians 1:28). God wants the body of Christ to grow into one new mature being (Ephesians 4:12-16). God wants to present His bride without spot or blemish to the Father (Ephesians 5:27).

The great commission shows that God wants to use us to bring some who are still on the outside into the place of fellowship and blessing. So he gives us a message, a strategy that we might fulfill the task before us. The ministry of FCF is not about running programs. It is about God equipping us to be his hands and feet and lips in our world. ♦



**FAITH  
CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP**

505 E. 42nd Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410.323.0202

Fax: 410.435.5075

E-mail: fcf.church@  
verizon.net

www.fcfchurch.org

*United that the  
world would  
know*

*<sup>18</sup> Where there is no  
revelation, the peo-  
ple cast off re-  
straint;  
but blessed is  
he who keeps the  
law.  
Prov 29:18*

## Introducing Joan Nelson

By Helen Brown



Joan needs no introduction to most of us, having served as Lead Office Administrator here at FCF for a number of years. Joan recently accepted the position of Co-Director of Children's Ministry which is a 15 hour a week position working with Administration and Curriculum.

Joan joined the FCF staff in March 1990 after working for ten years with World Impact, an inner city mission organization. Her focus at FCF has been with administration and children's ministries. She has been Director of Children's Ministries, Director of Summer Youth Ministries, and has also run a before and after school care program for the children of Baltimore Christian School. Joan will continue to work as Lead Office Administrator, with Elise Pohl as Administrative Assistant. We thank God for providing for us in this way and look forward to his work through Joan.

We continue to seek a Co-Director to work with Joan to provide training, equipping and support for teachers in children's ministries and for parents of children in the church. This is a 15 hour a week paid position. Please contact Pastor Stan Long at 410-323-0202 if you, or anyone you know, is interested.

## Welcome Lunch—May 16

If you would like to review membership information or to learn more about the mission, vision and values of FCF, then the Discovery Welcome Luncheon might be for you .

This will be a personal tour through the membership manual and membership matters hosted by Pastors Craig and Stan. Sign up in advance at the Welcome Table or by contacting the church office.

## Yoke-Sisters of Faith Unite!

About 50 women traveled to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, for our annual retreat in April. Our very own Arlette Lindsay and her sister Charvel McGraw spoke on the theme "Jesus says, 'Come' - Heeding the Call to be a Yoke-sister" based on Matthew 11:28-30. They encouraged us to be yoked with Jesus in worship, prayer, meditation, Bible study and ministry, that we might be yoked more deeply in relationship with one another.

We also enjoyed down time to hike, walk, play volleyball, go on a hayride, play board games, shop, nap, chat, etc. Thanks to the Women's Retreat Committee and all the volunteers who made this happen!

## Bits and Pieces

Congratulations to:

- Pete and Trish Carlsen on the arrival of Bowman David, who was born on April 16.
- George and Stefanie Hopkins on the birth of their daughter, Shiloh Ariel, who was born on April 17. Shiloh is a baby sister for Sofia.
- Josh Porter and Lauren Perskie who recently got engaged and are planning an August wedding.

## CALENDAR

**May 12 Faith Leadership Night**

**May 14-15 Men's Advance at Skycroft  
Conference Center**

**May 14 BCS Benefit Concert 7 p.m.  
Central Presbyterian Church**

**May 16 Discovery Welcome Luncheon  
12:30-2:30 p.m.**

**May 22 Choir Concert**

**May 31 Office closed for Memorial Day**