



2018 Annual Report

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

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Class of 2018

Julie Davis
Dick Lee
Chuck Morgan
Ned Steele

Class of 2019

Gary Anderson
Tom Harrison
Linda Kershner
Charles Layno

Class of 2020

Mimi Carter
Tracy Dobbins
Susan Harman
Jim Spain

Class of 2021

John Archambault
Julian Bullock
Betsy Craver
Carol Morgan

Interim Pastor's Annual Report

As is to be expected for an interim pastor, I spent a large part of my time this year working with the Transition Team. This small group has been very dedicated in working through their tasks. They welcomed me and helped me learn about the church and the surrounding area. Late spring and summer we gathered information for the required Mission Study through the survey, cottage meetings and large church gatherings. Then in the fall, we concentrated on *writing* the Mission Study, which was approved by Salem Presbytery on December 5, 2018. It is on the church website, and I encourage you to take a closer look at it. The church is now approved for electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC).

Besides working with the Transition Team, my weeks were filled with visits (both in the home and hospitals), meetings, planning and worship and sermon preparation. This Lent, I did a worship series based on *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Using scripture and Robert Schnase's book, we delved into the practices of Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service and Extravagant Generosity. Several study groups read the book together, as well. In the Summer months, we went to one service and did a series on Worship, lifting up various elements of worship, learning more about why they are there and how they draw us deeper in relationship with God. Fall worship services saw us using biblical images and stories that members of the church used to describe Fellowship in the survey and small group gatherings as part of the mission study. And of course, Advent brought us back to the lectionary and special traditions of the congregation, such as the decorations and Procession of Lessons and Carols.

A special addition to our staff this 2018-2019 school year was a seminary intern from Wake Forest University School of Divinity. That intern happened to be our Director of Music, Blake Tickle! He has preached once a month since September, and is also doing some visitation and learning about other ministerial aspects. He is a delight to work with and both Blake and Fellowship are blessed to be in partnership.

We have a great, efficient and talented staff: Martha, Blake, Cynthia, Claire, Melissa and Debbie are all dedicated to the mission and ministry of this church and keep us on track.

Throughout this year, I have officiated at 5 funerals/memorial services: Jerry McGrady, MaryLu Sanders, Jay Morman, plus non-members Joy Bonar and Carolyn Merritt. I have married 2 couples: Charles & Emily French DeBerry, and Lopez and Simone Johnson Atlan. We received two new members, Ben Wordsworth and Mary Howe.

I am active in Salem Presbytery, serving on the Commission of Ministry and attending the big assembly meetings. I meet monthly with the other Interim Ministers in the presbytery, sometimes via Zoom (video conferencing) and sometimes in person. This is a requirement of interims. I also attend

the monthly meetings of our Eastern area clergy of the presbytery. This has been helpful with making connections and learning this new neighborhood.

For Continuing Education, I attended the Festival of Homiletics in Washington DC in May. This was a gathering of a couple thousand clergy and national and internationally known preachers and theologians for a week of lectures and worship, music and fellowship. It was very inspiring and gave me some new ideas for preaching and worship leadership. The second week was spent at Zephyr Point, on Lake Tahoe, NV, for the second level of Transitional (Interim) Pastor Training. This week focused on specific issues that often come up with churches in transition. I found it beneficial and am grateful for the opportunity to attend ---plus the Session asked me to take this class! In the fall I took a six-week course from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church's Servant Leadership School called *Writing from the Heart*. This course has been helpful to my preaching and I look forward to the second session in Winter 2019.

It has been a joy to serve Fellowship Presbyterian Church during this transitional time. I find Fellowship to be welcoming, hopeful, and passionate about mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Dederer
Interim Pastor



Worship and Music Committee

In the past year, this committee assisted with every worship service at Fellowship. In doing so, we did the following:

- Prepared communion for 24 services and organized servers.
- Provided technical support for worship.
- Provided liturgists and worship participants for worship as planned by Pastor Nancy and/or guest ministers.
- Provided support for the music staff and volunteer church musicians.
- Maintained supplies for worship.
- Approved necessary expenditures for Godspell copyrighted material.
- Organized and prepared for the physical aspects of worship: paraments, banners, flowers, Advent decorations, draping of cross for Lent and Easter.
- Assisted Pastor and funeral home with several funerals.

Personnel and Administration

During the past year, the Personnel and Administration Committee did the following:

- Reviewed facilities use requests forwarded by the Office Manager and made recommendations to Session about those requests.
- Completed annual reviews of church staff: minister of music, accompanist, bell choir director, office manager, and day school director.
- Reviewed and revised several job descriptions.
- Drafted a child and youth protection policy which was adopted by Session.

Music Department

2018 was another strong year for music in worship at Fellowship. The Chancel Choir, Praise Team, and Fellowship Ringers continued to provide a beautiful, varied, meaningful, and increasingly complex repertoire for worship. The members of each musical team have been a strong presence in worship, both as an ensemble and on their own as soloists. I am extremely grateful for the dedication and consistency of all who participate in worship at Fellowship.

Our community concert series continued this year with several wonderful local artists, including composer and musician Sally Ann Morris. This series began with a generous donation in 2017 which funded our efforts for the first year and has continued through donations which are collected during each concert. We look forward to continuing this series in 2019.

Our summer production of Godspell was an enormous success. Our wonderful cast and crew began work in late April and continued throughout the summer. We performed three shows in August to delighted audiences. I am grateful for those who took a risk, stepped out of their comfort zone, and worked diligently to make our production unforgettable. As an outreach opportunity on behalf of our church to the surrounding community, it was also a great reminder of the wonderful talent we have right here in our own congregation at Fellowship. We are now in conversation about a future production in the summer of 2019. Please consider joining us!

Throughout 2018, I have re-organized our music library, inventoried of all of our music (including pieces from our congregation's first year), and started to clear out space for new music. Both our Chancel Choir and our Praise Team rehearsed and offered several new and beautiful pieces in worship in 2018.

This year, our music department took part in the life and worship of our congregation in each liturgical season. Our Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols was a worship service that allowed each of our teams the opportunity to come together for one blended worship service.

Finally, thank you to Charles Layno and all the members of our Audio Visual Team, Praise Team, Chancel Choir, Fellowship Ringers, and all others who assisted the music department in returning our thanks to God in worship. I am forever grateful for the encouragement and support of Pastor Nancy, members of the music teams, and you, the congregation. Please continue to support the music department of Fellowship Presbyterian Church. Please speak to me at any time to become involved in any of these aspects of our music ministry as we look ahead to a bright future together in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Blake Tickle
Director of Music

Mission and Outreach Committee

Ongoing efforts: Macaroni and cheese contributions for Urban Ministry, Pennies for Hunger, and Creative Hearts and Hands pillows and hats, A Simple Gesture: Food donor/pick-up/delivery plan.

Fellowship's heart targets many efforts to the needs of homeless and less fortunate in our community and surrounding areas.

Women's Bible Study fed the families housed at Pathways, transitional housing for those moving from homelessness. These dinners occurred twice, in February and June.

Backpack Beginnings: A group from the congregation spent a Sunday afternoon packing backpacks for children who are entering foster care in our county.

Tornado Relief: In April a tornado ripped through a section of Greensboro, and Fellowship congregation and Day School partnered with Church of the Cross Presbyterian Church in the affected area of town. We collected supplies for the victims, focusing primarily on baby and elderly needs. Monetary donations were collected and given as well. Fellowship also donated \$450 to Presbyterian Disaster Relief to support families struck by Hurricanes in NC.

Mission Trip: Our congregation provided some funds for Tatiana Frontera as she traveled to Central America for a week long mission trip.

Tiny Houses: We led and hosted a fundraiser for the Tiny Houses in September. Congregation members cooked some of the food, served those in attendance, and provided musical entertainment as well. As a result of our efforts, we raised over \$2000.

Holiday Meals: We provided an entire Easter meal for four families, and included surprise Easter baskets for the eleven children in those families. Along with this, we provided a \$60 gift card for each family. At Thanksgiving we provided 10 less fortunate families an entire Thanksgiving meal and \$60 gift card. One of our Advent devotionals was included for each family.

Angel Tree: We gave Christmas presents for 15 children who have a parent currently in prison. A message from the incarcerated parent was included in each gift.

Habitat for Humanity Lunch Ministry

One Great Hour of Sharing and Peace and Global Witness Special Offerings

Trunk or Treat: Decorated cars and selves for about 50 children in the parking lot

Woodridge Craft Show: Volunteered at Holiday Café

Red Cross Blood Drives

Christian Education Committee

Christian Education provided multiple meaningful spiritual opportunities during 2018. In Sunday School adult learners studied the prophets, Advent lessons, various books of the Bible, and held seminars after the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. In the first part of 2018 the opportunities were offered at two different times, but with the church worship schedule change, one session was offered. This provided for more participation from congregants.

Women's Bible Study: Women met on Tuesday evenings and extensively studied The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For by Lisa Harper and Twelve More Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today.

Men's Bible Study: The men met at Panera on Wednesday mornings to discuss general Bible concepts and how these verses related to the world today and the Christian's role. The Joshua Code was one of the texts used.

Church-wide book study: In May we undertook a church-wide book study of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase. Multiple opportunities were available to any congregant interested. Through Sunday School, Women's Bible study, Men's Bible study, and parent groups the book's relevance for our church was discussed.

Youth: Pastor Nancy led four sessions with the youth regarding their faith and the church since our Christian Education Associate had moved. As an outgrowth of that, the youth had an opportunity to volunteer at Backpack Beginnings one Sunday afternoon.

Vacation Bible School: In July adult volunteers led by Jeanie Harrison and Blake Tickle led about 40 Day School summer campers in a week-long study called Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.

Seasonal Offerings: At the beginning of summer and at Christmas, Christian Education provided a spiritual token of the season to each Day School preschool student with a note inviting home Biblical discussion and an invitation to worship with Fellowship.

Advent Devotionals: A devotional for Advent, God Lifts the Lowly, was offered to each family in our congregation.

Congregational Care Committee

- Made personal visits, phone calls to those in need in homebound, hospital, rehabilitation and nursing care facilities.
- Provided meals, resources, support in care, and transportation for those in need.
- Provided meals to homebound and shut-ins at times of church events or programs.
- Implemented Communion Service for homebound.
- Implemented Congregational Greeting Card for those on Prayer List.
- Provide Assistive Listening Devices for Worship Services and maintain AED device and First Aid kit for Emergency Response.
- Obtained wheel chair and walker, placing in strategic areas of church for emergency access.
- Coordinated Email Prayer Request Program, and published in weekly worship bulletin
- Hosted Funeral Receptions for bereaved families, supported and coordinated funeral services.
- Researched Grief Booklet program to support widows or family members in loss of spouse or loved one.
- Recognition with gifts and cards: 2 graduates, 5 college students and 1 service member in our congregation. Provided opportunity for congregation, family, and friends to acknowledge in celebration our support and encouragement of their goals and achievements.
- Conduct monthly committee meetings to ensure communication, coordination and planning of resources.

Congregational Care Mission Statement: "To provide Christlike care, assistance, and support with sensitivity and compassion to the congregation in time of need."

A Year in the Life of Fellowship Presbyterian's Transition Team

January 16, 2018

After the Transition Team interviewed and recommended Nancy Jo Dederer as Interim Pastor, the congregation voted to accept her, and she began her interim pastorate at FPC.

March-April 2018

Continuing their work on the Mission Study, the Transition Team developed a survey to be distributed to the congregation to gain their input.

May 2018

The Transition Team gave members and visitors the survey to gain their opinion regarding issues facing Fellowship, hopes and aspirations for our Church, and characteristics desired in a new, called pastor.

June and July, 2018

The data from the survey was collected and analyzed.

July 29, 2018

The Transition Team hosted a potluck lunch to discuss the survey results.

August 2018

The Transition Team facilitated cottage meetings to flesh out the areas identified in the congregational survey.

August and September, 2018

Cottage meeting data was collected, analyzed, and discussed.

September 30, 2018

The Transition Team hosted a potluck lunch to discuss the cottage meeting results.

October 2018

The Transition Team continued fine-tuning the Mission Study and finalized a mission statement.

November 2018

Mission Study was completed and submitted to Salem Presbytery.

December 2018

Salem Presbytery approved Fellowship's Mission Study

Fellowship Day School

The Day School at Fellowship has enjoyed another successful year! We were especially excited to celebrate our twentieth year of this vibrant and important ministry to our church. The three branches of the Day School: the half-day Preschool & Kindergarten, the Elementary After School Care, and the Summer Camps Program have all reached record enrollments in 2018. As our school population grows, our student body continues to become more ethnically and culturally diverse. We have also been blessed by welcoming children with special needs into our community. In a world that is changing every day, at Fellowship Day School we celebrate our similarities and our collective identity as children of God.

In 2018, Fellowship Day School served 142 preschoolers and Kindergarteners (2 – 5 years olds); 40 elementary aged children in After School Care; and 124 children (2 – elementary-age) in our Summer Camps programs. In 2018, the Preschool and Kindergarten employed 12 classroom teachers and assistants; and 4 specialists (Music, Spanish, Science and Yoga). The After School Care program employed 9 counselors. Our Summer Camp programs employed 22 counselors. The School ministry has 2 administrators who oversee all branches of the Day School - Melissa Mitchell, Director and Debbie Clark, Assistant Director.

We continued adding the final construction details to Alicia's Place, our school playground, throughout 2018. This beautiful play space is a memorial to a former Fellowship Day School teacher and parent, Alicia Riddle, who passed away in 2012. Funding for this project came solely from donations, with the majority of the funds donated by Alicia's family. In addition to making capital improvements to the church property, the school has also been able to purchase 2 (relatively) new vans for the use of our After School Care and Summer Camp programs. These vans are also used by our church for group transportation.

Fellowship Day School has always emphasized outreach and the care of others, both as a teaching tool for the children in our care and for the benefit of our community. In 2018, the families of Fellowship Day School made cash donations as follows: \$500 to Nora Burleson's ministry, Creative Hearts and Hands; \$400 to the NC Lung Cancer Initiative, in memory of Alicia Riddle; and \$600 to Tornado Relief Projects through Presbyterian Church of the Cross. Over the year, the School community has also made in kind donations to Greensboro Urban Ministries, Backpack Beginnings, the Greensboro Fire Department, Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs), Fellowship Presbyterian's Mission Committee efforts for local Tornado Relief, and community collections for NC Hurricane Relief.

The families of Fellowship Day School have generously supported our school through several fundraising activities, which included in 2018: Consignment Sales (spring and fall); a Fall Festival;

Box Tops collection; Harris Teeter's VIC program; School Pictures; and the sale of Attractions Books. Through these campaigns, the school received \$7,200.

The Day School and the Church are unified on important goals, toward which we have made deliberate and important strides in 2018. We have worked together to establish Safe Policy guidelines for the protection of the children in our care, as well as our staff. We are also working in unison to improve our building security. In addition to working in committee on policy issues, the Church and School are always looking for ways to integrate our ministries and communities. Over the course of 2018, the church hosted an Easter Egg Hunt, a Day School Teacher Appreciation Sunday with Brunch, a Pancake Breakfast, and Trunk or Treat, all of which were well attended by our School families and staff. The Church and School also united, with great success, fundraising efforts for local disaster relief.

On behalf of our School staff and the families that we serve, let me conclude by saying thank you to everyone who supports the Fellowship Day School ministry at Fellowship Presbyterian Church. I am equally honored to have the opportunity to help provide this special experience to our children and challenged to continue to rise to meet the needs of this community.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Mitchell
Fellowship Schools Director

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