

January 25, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of Faith UMC,

*Your 2016 Giving Statement Enclosed.
2017 Budget on back of this letter.*



**Libby's Faith Story &
Your 2016 Giving Statement**

Getting to hear people's faith story is one of my greatest joys in ministry. Recently, Libby Blake shared with me her faith story and how coming to Faith UMC provided the next step on her journey. I smiled and thanked God again for the opportunity to serve as one of the pastors of this amazing church where everyone is invited and equipped to take the next step on their journey into faith. Below is a portion of Libby's story beginning with "Chapter 2". I invite you to read chapter 1 of Libby's story and other faith stories, by going to our church website: www.faithumchurch.org, in the menu options across the top of the page,

go to "About Us" and click on "Faith Stories" in the drop down menu. May Libby's story inspire you to take the next step in your own faith journey.

In ministry together, Pastor Steve

Libby's Faith Story

...It wasn't until Jim began encouraging me to attend that I was slowly reintegrated into formal church services. That was the beginning of what feels like Chapter Two in my faith journey. For me, joining a church meant not only a renewal of a very personal relationship with God, but that I was willing to give of my time, talent, and assets. So Jim transferred his membership and I became a Methodist for the first time. I had no idea how the Lord would use me and prayed that I would be open to any invitations. It wasn't long until Pastor Steve approached and asked if I would be willing to be a co-leader of the Nominations and Leadership Development Team. I said, "Yes," with absolutely no idea what that team did! I had been ambushed. I had a direct answer to prayer! And luckily, I had Kim Reynolds as a co-leader.

Kim and Bonnie Reynolds plus the other seven members of that team (including a rotation by each of the Lay Leaders) gave me a glimpse into what "serving" in this church could mean. We were behind the scenes, trying to match members to many openings, always asking for guidance, and praising God for the many who said "yes". It could also be frustrating and involved many phone calls. We had deadlines. I felt inadequate. Because I didn't know many members, I felt like I couldn't contribute. The team always seemed forgiving. Kim and I found we were very much in sync and brought different "talents" to the leadership position. Our team thanked God for the many wonderful people who agreed to serve.

I received a very personal gift through serving on Nominations/Lay Leadership. Being surrounded by God-Grounded people who were interested in meeting me was the true beginning of my integration into this great, big, diverse congregation. I am so grateful for this blessing.

Having just recently completed my three-year rotation, I am looking forward to finding new ways to serve. This church is blessed to have multitudes of modern-day followers of Jesus giving of their time and energy, supporting through faithful contributions, caring for each other and for those in need near and far.

And so, I feel my personal Chapter Three is just beginning and that God (through my husband) brought me to the right place at the right time. I give thanks to Him.

2017 Mission and Ministry Budget

As approved at 12/6/16 Board Meeting

FUMC

Income

Pledged	\$556,954
Unpledged	\$179,000
Mission Giving (C & E)	\$23,000
Loose Plate	\$9,000
Interest	\$1,500
Misc. Oper. Funds	\$265
Inter-Church Gift	\$0
Worship Arts in SPRC (20/20)	\$42,530
Pay It Forward Fund	\$40,000
Total FUMC Income	\$852,249

Expense

SPRC	\$588,730
Spiritual Formation	\$18,950
Youth	\$13,405
Finance (ex. Apportionments)	\$46,277
Membership Care	\$2,430
Outreach	\$4,000
Communications	\$0
Missions	
- Apportionments	\$125,685
- Christmas & Easter Giving	\$23,000
- Missions (ex. Apports.+ C & E)	\$200
Trustees	\$168,310
Worship	\$11,025
Stewardship	\$900
Leadership Dev.	\$650
Total FUMC Expense	\$1,003,562
Net FUMC Income/(Expense)	-\$151,313

FFLC

(Faith Friends Learning Center)

Income	\$565,000
Expense	\$413,687
Net FFLC Income/(Expense)	\$151,313

FUMC + FFLC Income/(Exp) \$0

Faith UMC has embraced a bold vision for 2017.

Thanks to all who made a pledge to the 2017 Mission and Ministry Budget. Pledges, exceptional performance from the Faith Friends Learning Center (a ministry of the church), estimates of unpledged giving and other income has enabled us to achieve our goal of supporting 25% of the 20/20 funds for the Worship Arts Coordinator and the Programmatic Goals. This means that we are on track in 2017 to achieve sustainability by 2020.

Please visit the church website: www.faithumchurch.org to see the 20/20 Vision Report, the 2017 Narrative Budget and other related documents.

You can help the church be a better steward by setting up automatic electronic fund transfers. Electronic giving is now available on our website. You may also complete a 2017 or 20/20 pledge card online.

Please contact Sharyl Syler, Director of Administration and Finance, 330 499-6040 Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00 if you have any questions about the budget or your 2016 Giving Statement. Other financial documents and reports are available upon request. Questions may also be directed to:

Joe Richards, Finance Team Leader
Tom Fiala, Finance Team Associate Leader
Pastor Steve, Pastoral Liaison to Finance

Thank you for your gifts and for continuing on your journey of faith as a growing disciple.

Pastor Steve