

# FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## FROM PASTOR BOB

*"I have plans for your future says the Lord. Plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."*  
Jeremiah 29:11

It is January 2018 and FMHPC is starting the new year with all kinds of opportunities for mission and ministry! 2017 has been a year of taking time to focus our ministry and look into the future. We began the process back in June when the Session was introduced to Hope Partnership. After some deliberation, Session decided to commit to the process of taking a good hard look at our current mission so we could clearly define what direction the future of FMHPC would take. In September we had an evening with the congregation and completed an appreciative enquiry process to discover our strengths and learn what type of ministry we do when we are most alive and healthy. In October we had a two-day event to learn about transformational leadership. We then took time in November to do community interviews and discover opportunities for ministry in the community. This was followed up in December with a group that shared ideas about a future story that tells what we believe FMHPC will look like in 2023. A lot of time and effort have been put in the last seven months by many people. All of these dedicated folks deserve a big THANK YOU. We can thank them best by working together to make these opportunities for ministry a reality.

With the leadership of the Session and the help of the congregation, we can use the assessment report, the Future Story, and the capacity report to make priorities and begin to reach the richness and abundance of the ministry and mission God is calling us to do.



The Future Story talks about (in narrative form) over 16 different continuing and new ministry opportunities, and the Capacity Report shares three opportunities that are a challenging starting point to begin with in 2018.

The Future Story travels through a day in the life of a neighbor living across Central Ave from FMHPC named Willy. Willy and his dog Max have seen a lot of activity going on at FMHPC, but they do not know what it is all about. Willy befriends a young man named David who wants to buy the church building and turn it into an upscale restaurant. Together they discover that FMHPC is an amazing community of faith. It is a wonderful and inspiring story put together by Katie Marlow and John Melind. (Copies will be presented to the congregation by the Session)

The story talks about:

- Having speakers amplify the sounds of the worship service so passersby can hear what is going on inside
- The good work of the garden and the food pantry
- Messy Church
- A sanctuary with a great welcome space and updating the sacred space for more flexibility
- Developing a Faith and Fun Center for the young folks.
- Including a quiet reflective time in worship
- A regular adult Bible study

(continued on page 3)

**REMINDER!**

Starting this month, the Communications Team will be updating the member and staff directory information that the church office has on file. Watch for communications on how to submit your current contact information to the office; there will be options to submit information on Sundays as well as electronically.



Additionally, Lifetouch will be at FMH in late spring to take professional photographs of our members, regularly attending non-members, and staff for a new church directory. We will be producing a smaller booklet (5.5" x 11") than in years past. While we know there are many fluid parts to our church family and pastoral staff at this time, Lifetouch will produce a professional pictorial directory free of charge to the church. Families and individuals have the option of purchasing a professional portrait if they so desire. There will be no obligations to purchase from Lifetouch.

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

--Session reviewed the proposed 2018 budget provided by the Finance Team. Suggestions and revisions will be made, and the budget will be voted on and approved no later than February 2018.

--The Elders joined the Deacons to donate \$1,000 total to our neighbors at School 70 for new playground equipment.

Hello Friends,

With a new year upon us, I'm requesting that our church members prayerfully consider taking on a leadership position with our food pantry at Northwood Christian Church. The loss of two outstanding pantry leaders last year, Judith Dunson and Oddie Matthews, has left a vacuum in guiding the future direction of the pantry. And while wonderful volunteers are helping to keep the pantry viable, we need vision from new leaders.

I've been long-involved with the food pantry, going from a volunteer to a coordinator to a member of the board. And while I wish I could do more, my day job doesn't make that possible. The food pantry is looking for someone who can manage volunteers, food ordering, deliveries, and program planning. This position is a non-profit job, but an ingenious soul could possibly apply for a grant that would help compensate for his or her time. This is not an official job description, but I can offer more details about requirements for those interested.

Please think and pray about it!

Muuka Muyumba (Elder)  
[badlands75@gmail.com](mailto:badlands75@gmail.com) / 317-610-1809



**NORTHWOOD FOOD PANTRY**

Current Needs: peanut butter (16 oz. jars) AND laundry soap (no giant containers)

*(For a list of all food pantry needs, visit [fmhpc.org/serve](http://fmhpc.org/serve).)*

January 1  
New Year's Day  
(office closed)

January 6  
Epiphany

January 15  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**FMHPC on Facebook**

Have you checked us out on Facebook lately ([facebook.com/fmhpc](https://facebook.com/fmhpc))? You'll find upcoming events, photos, thoughts from Pastor Bob, and more. The FMHPC Facebook page is a great way to keep up to date on the vibrant life of our church. If you'd like to post content to the page, please submit it to Muuka Muyumba at [badlands75@gmail.com](mailto:badlands75@gmail.com).



("From Pastor Bob," continued from page 1)

- A monthly show-and-tell event to welcome visitors and help them connect to the life of the church
- Connecting with other churches in the neighborhood to offer ministry and service to the community
- Connecting with students from Butler and CTS
- Connecting with the students and families of Parkview and IA
- Offering yoga classes
- Having regular concerts with all types of music

All of these opportunities for ministry connect us to "WHY" we exist as a community of faith. We exist to know and feel God's unconditional love and to share that love with others. We exist to serve, love and grow in ever-widening circles of Christ's grace.

The Future Story describes FMHPC in 2023 as a place people will recognize as an interactive, Christ-centered, inclusive, multi-generational community where no experience is necessary. That is a great image to live into. I look forward with joy to joining with you to make 2018 a year when we can begin to make it a reality. God has plans for us. Let's join God on this journey!

*Bob*

### The Women's Retreat Is Less Than Two Months Away!

We invite all women of the church and their guests to join us at Geneva Center from Friday, February 16, through Sunday, February 18. We'll share the weekend with the women of Lafayette Central Presbyterian Church, led by Rev. Lucia Oerter. Dr. Robin Chaddock—insightful speaker, author, and seminar leader—will facilitate our discussions. Robin, also a life coach, helps others clarify values and passions, achieve a sense of balance, deepen their alliance with God, and grow through life transitions. Questions?

Contact Carol Foulke ([carol.foulke@gmail.com](mailto:carol.foulke@gmail.com)) or Katie Marlowe ([marlowekbd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marlowekbd@sbcglobal.net)).

### PWO PUPPY PILLOW CUTTING PARTY

Join the PWO on January 11 to cut puppy pillow pieces. Event is from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; no lunch that day. If the weather is inclement, the event will be cancelled. Please call the church for updates (317-283-1305).



## DID YOU REPLACE AN APPLIANCE OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Did you get rid of the old one? If the answer is no, then...

## ...LET ME RECYCLE IT FOR YOU ON JANUARY 20!

I'm Zach Zirnheld, a Boy Scout in Troop 56, and this is my Eagle Scout Project.

I can pick up your old appliance straight from your house. Email [recyclepickup2017@gmail.com](mailto:recyclepickup2017@gmail.com) with your name, what you want picked up, your address, and what time on January 20 you want us to arrive. Thank you!

## THANK YOU!

*To everyone who so graciously gifted us this Christmas or wished us a "Merry Christmas," the office staff thanks you for your generosity and your kindness. It is truly a blessing to be at First Meridian Heights.*

*Our best wishes to all for a wonderful new year!*

*Bob, Trish, Alexis, Ron, and  
Natasha*



Parkview Preschool is holding the following Open Houses in January and invites any families interested in touring and learning more about Parkview to attend one or more (and children are welcome!)

**Monday, January 8 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesday, January 10 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
**Monday, January 22 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

Also, new Parkview families will be able to register their child(ren) for the 2018-2019 school year during open enrollment on Friday, February 2, starting at 7 a.m. in the Parkview hallway. For additional information on the open enrollment period/registration, or if you have general questions about Parkview, please contact us at (317) 643-2460 or [info@parkviewcooperativepreschool.com](mailto:info@parkviewcooperativepreschool.com).

**Having just come off the most glorious of musical months, we asked Art Cantrell, Music Director at FMHPC, to share his process for serving God and the congregation through music each Sunday.**

**Q: Art, what's the foundation for a successful music program?**

*A: I believe that a music director must have a great relationship with the pastor, which I'm fortunate to have with Pastor Bob, and that communication is key. The pastor and music director work closely to construct the worship plan, and we correspond regularly through email to make sure the music matches the message for the week.*

**Q: How do you select the music?**

*A: Pastor Bob sends me the scripture that he'll be teaching from and his idea behind that week's sermon. I then pray for God's guidance to find songs that prepare the hearts and minds of the congregation for what the pastor wants to communicate and that reinforce the pastor's sermon points.*

*I usually search the songs we have in our repertoire, but when the right song is just not there, I leverage other resources. We have a schedule to keep (preparing/printing the bulletin and/or creating PowerPoint slides), but there are weeks when I must spend a certain amount of time waiting on the Lord to help me with the song choice.*

*The first song is usually meant to "prepare" the hearts of the congregation to receive God's Word. The first song is usually joyful, but even if it's not a fast,*

*happy, exuberant song, it's meant to lead our congregation from whatever their immediate cares are to the greatness of God.*

*I try to ensure that the content of the song chosen is square with what the Bible says. I always try to support the pastor's theme, but if the Holy Spirit is telling me that the congregation has a special need for something that week—be it hope, joy, healing, etc.—then I might include a song that doesn't seem to match the theme. I must be obedient unto the Spirit and go in the direction that God leads me.*

*Also, I strive for songs that are God-centered and relevant. I'm not afraid to teach a new song that really expresses what God is doing in the greater body of Christ or to dust off an old SpiritHeart favorite if it supports that week's sermon.*

**Q: Are there songs that you prefer to not play?**

*A: I typically avoid songs that don't call attention to His glory or that are simply "fun to play" (but don't have relevant meaning). We are here to worship God and to celebrate who He is, what He has done, and what he will do.*

**Q: Do you strive for congregant participation?**

*A: When I see opportunities, I try to go for songs that invite participation—partly because when I accepted the job of Music*

*Director, I was told that was what the church desired—but also because I believe that worship is not a spectator sport. I believe that it's critical to present songs that draw people in and attract congregational involvement—and that invite the willing to sing along and participate.*

*I'm not afraid to rewrite lyrics and modify the musical arrangements so that it's easier for the congregation to sing along to or to make it easier for the choirs that we invite up to sing along with the band.*

**Q: Do you select the weekly hymn?**

*A: I don't pick the hymn because I prefer that it be the pastor's choice, as God works through him, giving him the message that he has for us each week. For me, it only feels right that the hymn be the result of the pastor's inspiration.*

**Q: Does anyone else have input with music selections?**

*A: As time permits and as is feasible, I will occasionally seek input from others. While I'm the leader of our Music Ministry, I value the thoughts and opinions of the Worship Team. I believe that if our team feels some ownership in the process, they will take an even greater pride in their purpose there.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day (Office is closed)	2	3 Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	4	5	6
7 Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. // Communion Worship Service, 10am	8 Mission Outreach Team Mtg, 6:30pm, Brides Rm. // Buildings & Grounds Mtg., 6:30pm, Library // Finance Mtg., 7pm, Parlor	9	10	11 PWO Puppy Pillow Cutting Party, 9 to 11:30am (no lunch), Community Rm.	12	13 Food Pantry, 8:45am // Boy Scouts work Food Pantry & hold Troop Meeting, 9:30am to noon
14 Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. // Worship Service, 10am // Deacons Mtg, 11am, Parlor	15 Session Mtg, 7 to 9pm, Library	16	17 Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	18	19	20
21 Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. // Worship Service, 10am //	22	23	24 Feb. newsletter content due to church office	25	26 Boy Scouts Troop Lock-in at FMH begins at 7pm, Community Rm.	27 Food Pantry, 8:45am // Boy Scouts Troop Lock-in at FMH ends at noon
28 Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Comm. Rm. // Worship Service, 10am	29	30 Indianapolis Council of Women Board Mtg, 10am to noon, Parlor	31			

**First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church**

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Rev. Bob McAulay (317) 513-5148 \*

Custodian: Ron Elliott (765) 524-3516

Music Coordinator: Art Cantrell, [theartofmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:theartofmusic@hotmail.com)

Sound Technician: Jonathan Green, [buddha584@gmail.com](mailto:buddha584@gmail.com)

Business Administrator: Alexis Gonzales, [alexis@fmhpc.org](mailto:alexis@fmhpc.org)

Administrative Assistant: Trish Hawkins, [fmhpc@live.com](mailto:fmhpc@live.com)

**Our Mission Statement:**

*To serve, love and grow in the ever-widening circle of Christ's grace.*

**Submission deadline for February newsletter is Wednesday, January 24. Please submit content to the church office at [fmhpc@live.com](mailto:fmhpc@live.com).**