

Report of the Pastor

2019 was a year of transition and transformation. On February 10th we came together to celebrate the **End of the Mortgage** on our 2009 Building Expansion. In addition to an inspiring worship service we enjoyed a delicious meal with special guests from the many mission partners Woodside supports.

Among these causes is Woodside's commitment to **Habitat for Humanity Bucks County**. \$25,000 from the Share the Story Building Campaign plus an additional \$2,000 from the **Vision Offering**, which installed two new projectors, were key donations for **Faith Build 2019**. On June 1 all ages came together to raise the walls of a home in our parking lot. It was exciting to assemble and sign the studs with prayers for the family. The house is currently being completed in Morrisville. For all your support, HFH Bucks honored Woodside with its **2019 Spirit of Habitat Award** in April.

The greatest transition came with our leadership team. Last December we welcomed **Bruce Jones** as Facilities Manager, **Karen Littley** as Financial Administrator, **Laurie Jacobson** as Bookkeeper and **Jane Read** as Director of Classic Worship. In January **Donna DeMaria** joined our team as Administrator.

In June we gave thanks for four faithful servants who completed many years of ministry leadership: **Carolyn Gaul** – Director of Mission and Evangelism, **Karen Houser** – Director of Fellowship, **Grace Lee** – Organist, and **Linda Marr** – Director of Discipleship.

The Lord provided gifted staff members to carry their work forward: **Karen Savage** took on the role of Director of Fellowship while **Tom Fowler** stepped into the new role of Director of Hospitality. **Susan Harris-Miller** answered the call to be Director of Mission and Evangelism. **Meg Smith** now oversees our Growth Groups as Director of Discipleship – a position we expanded to full time. **Scott Myers** inspires us to worship the Lord as Organist.

In the fall Director of Woodside Christian Preschool **Jenn Sawyer** moved to Chicago. We praise God for her leadership and for providing our new Director **Sherri Wolf** to lead the school into the future.

During the year our message series focused on helping everyone be a **New You in the New Year** and put into practice Jesus' Beatitudes with **The Experiments**. During Holy Week we were moved by a special **Maundy Thursday** service featuring drama, dance and communion. We kicked off a summer series on tough questions called **Wrestling with God** with a unity service led by Dr. Keith Plummer from Cairn University. At Christmas we celebrated Jesus' birth with six services including an **Old Fashioned Family Christmas**.

I was privileged to lead thirty-seven pilgrims to the Holy Land. At each site we filmed talks which became the basis of our fall series on the ministry of Jesus called **Follow** and our Advent series on the birth of Jesus called **Follow the Star**. I was especially grateful to spend a week at an archaeological dig on the Sea of Galilee which discovered Bethsaida, the home town of Peter, Andrew and Philip.

In December eight staff members attended the Exponential conference in NYC to learn how we can move toward becoming a multiplying church. The year ended with the congregation responding in a powerful way to the challenge to install a well for a village in Mozambique.

Woodside, you overwhelm me with joy. You are known in the community as followers of Jesus who love and give without measure. I look forward to how the Lord will transform us in 2020!

In His Love,
Doug.

Karen Clark Littley – Financial Administrator

- It's hard to believe that a year ago I began my role as Woodside's Financial Administrator, taking over certain responsibilities from Judy Jones. The year has flown so quickly (as they tend to do lately!). It has been a year full of learning the established processes that have made Woodside's office run so smoothly over the recent years. I feel blessed to have developed great working relationships with all of the office staff – both the former and current crews! It has also been wonderful getting to know many of the church members that help to make Woodside the inspirational place it is. With one year under my belt, I'm looking forward to 2020 as a year of continued financial soundness for Woodside. The generosity of our community is great.
- **Stewardship** Giving to the 2019 General Fund totaled \$967,859 from pledged and unpledged giving. Although there was no specific capital campaign in process during 2019, giving to the 2019 Building Fund totaled \$20,215.
- **Finance** – 2019 was a year free of mortgage payments for the first time in 12 years. Online giving represented about 33% of General Fund giving in 2019 and stock donations represented about 6% of General Fund giving. We hope to grow the percentage of online giving in 2020.

Bruce Jones – Facilities Manager

- **Security:** A campus wide (school and church) facility security upgrade was investigated and installed over the summer months. An interior secure area was created to control access to the school and church office wings during normal operating hours. Two motion activated video cameras were installed at the welcome center and double door access to the school wing. Panic alarms were installed. New operating procedures were developed and school staff, church staff and welcome team members were trained. Additional first aid equipment was purchased and positioned in the building.
- **Computer System:** A project started in 2018 to upgrade the church server and a couple of office computers was expanded to include upgrading all desktop computers in both the church and school. With savings realized through volunteer assistance with the program, 3 additional laptops were acquired and configured for primarily director's use. The church laptop was upgraded in December to complete this extensive project.
- **Utilities:** Utility costs had become a significant burden for the church. The phone system was changed from Verizon (hard wired system) to Comcast providing an opportunity to bundle phone (VOIP) and internet realizing a cost reduction in phone service. Gas and electric service tracked almost \$9,000 over the prior years' service. New vendors were investigated and contracted in November to provide service with a target to return to a 2018 cost level assuming a relatively constant consumption.
- **Audio Video:** All three projectors (sanctuary and 2 in vineyard) were replaced with LED projectors. Although the front end cost was greater than an incandescent system, this cost will be more than offset with LED bulb replacement. Additionally, the projected image quality was improved considerably. One of the video recorders failed and was replaced (a \$6,000 project). With the cabling requirements for the projectors and new recorder, a new video equipment rack and network switch were installed.

Stephanie Hermesmeyer and Chantell Socha - Children's Discipleship

- **Discovery Kingdom** has seen a lot of growth, averaging between 40 and 50 children on Sundays at 9 am. The children now participate in Communion every other month (Scott Burgess has volunteered to serve Communion to the children in the Youth Room) and are using the Youth Room stage to act out the Bible lesson once a month. We are now offering 4 small group classrooms and we are so thankful to our wonderful volunteers who serve our children so faithfully and with so much love.
- **The School of the Rock** children performed "Everlasting God" at the 9 am celebration service in June and at the 3 pm Children's Christmas Eve service with "Oh What a Glorious Night". This program has averaged 15-20 kids at 10:30 am on Sundays and we have welcomed several new families over the course of the year. Our volunteer base is still in need of more instrument teachers, but the volunteers we are blessed with have been committed and engaged with the program's Bible lessons, songwriting lesson, and Wee Rock (Pre-K and Kindergarten offering).
- **Adventure Club** celebrated Hilary Walp and Kathleen McFadden for their years of faithful and dedicated service to our Adventure Club children in May. In the Fall we welcomed our new directors Erin Baker and Wendy Metzger. Several changes that were implemented over the course of the year (smaller classrooms, good behavior incentives, three rotations, mission work incorporated into the children's crafts rotation, large group in the Sanctuary, among others), have been bearing good fruit. We are open to new ideas to continue to improve this program and support the needs of our Adventure Club families in 2020. We have welcomed new families over the year and the children who graduated out of the program in May have found a new place in the 5th and 6th Grade Club. As of the end of 2019, we have 55 children enrolled in the program.
- **K-WAM (Kids with a Mission)** enjoyed its second summer as our Summer Sunday School program (offered at both 9 am and 10:30 am)! The kids were extremely engaged in the weekly mission projects, crafting hard for our troops, the elderly, and Dinner Ministry, among others groups. It is a joy to see them put all that they learned in Sunday School over the school year into practice over the summer.
- Our **Summer Camps** were a hit! The children enjoyed several summer camp options over July and August:
 - **VBS** (July 8 – July 12) theme this summer was "Power Up", Orange's video game themed VBS. The kids had a great time learning about God and His plans for us.
 - **Push the Rock** (July 15 – July 19) was held during two sessions: morning and afternoon. As in years past, this camp filled up! It is definitely a favorite with not only Woodside families but the community as well.
 - **Savior Drama** (August 5 – August 8), led by Rachael Tresch, coached the children in developing their acting skills while playing out skits and stories from the Bible.

- **A Special Way VBS** (August 12 – August 16), led by Sue Rushing, is always a special week when our special needs children come to learn about Jesus.
- We hosted **Family Fun Nights** along with Woodside Preschool. In the spring our church families and Preschool families enjoyed a riveting evening of Family Bingo. In the fall everyone got together to sing their hearts out during Family Karaoke and on another evening, they cuddled up for a pajama and picnic Family Movie Night in the Vineyard! We will be hosting more Family Fun Nights in 2020.
- In the Fall we started a **Teen Buddies** program for children with special needs to attend Sunday School (thank you to Sue Rushing for coming up with the idea and organizing and administering it!). Teen volunteers are paired with special needs children to assist them while they attend Discovery Kingdom and/or The School of the Rock. Woodside is definitely blessed with some amazing youth!
- The **Youth Room** has seen many changes over the year to make it a more inviting space for our children and youth. We greatly appreciate the work of Adam Einwechter who led his Boy Scout group in installing sound panels to reduce the noise that penetrates into the Vineyard from the Youth Room (a special thank you to Bruce Jones who identified the sound “weak spots” of the room). Several pieces of furniture were donated to Good Stuff and new bean bags, photograph twinkle lights, posters, clock, rug, stage curtains, and Bible verse wall decal were added to the room. The closet was cleaned out at the beginning of the fall, making it a convenient and suitable storage for all of The School of the Rock’s instruments and paraphernalia as well as Sandy Stewart’s supplies for her youth group. We have more plans to continue to improve the room in 2020 but so far the kids are loving the changes to their space!

Dawn Wills, Darla Outcalt, Megan Smith – Youth Discipleship

- Junior High continues to run with 2 age groups, Club 56 (5th/6th) and Fusion (7th/8th). We’ve added Ben Vouk, Hilary Walp, Jamie Stevens, Katherine Simons, and Susan Sciarratta to our leadership team this year they have been great editions. We participated in the Refreshing Mountain Retreat weekend (6-8 grade) and had many special events over the year. Over the summer many of our youth attended the mission trips to Maryland and South Carolina as well as a monthly activity. Fusion participated in this year’s “Advent Night” by organizing the canned goods that were brought in.
- Our Senior High continued to be a close group with strong bonds between leaders and youth this year! We had 14 youth participate in Confirmation. The group participated in a Lake Champion Retreat weekend, a 30 Hour Famine lock-in/service day, and a girls/guys retreat weekend. We celebrated our seniors on Senior Sunday and added summer small groups to our curriculum. This summer many of our leaders and youth participated in Creation, and these various mission trips to the Bahamas, ASP, South Carolina, Maryland, and to the DR. With the success of summer small groups, we added

extra studies some nights after Higher Ground for youth who wanted to dive deeper in their faith! We welcomed a new leader in the fall, Dave Richards to our team!

- The Young Adult Group here at Woodside has turned into a Young Adult Women's Growth Group led by Lindsay Blum. There are about 8 ladies who participate every Monday night at one of the girl's apartments in Yardley. They study various topics from Christian books to actual books of the Bible and have really become a tight-knit group.

Martha Stringer – Director of Communications

- In February of 2019 we welcomed Donna DeMaria as Receptionist and Support Staff for communications. Donna works Monday, Wednesday, Friday and I work Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Together we work to:
 - Produce weekly bulletins, Connection Cards and sort through Connection Cards post Sunday to field sign ups.
 - Promote every message series by designing graphics, sermon bumper videos, banners, posters and postcards – generally all promotion around each series.
 - Create programs to run on the Woodside TV system in the lobby throughout the week and on Sunday mornings.
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 - Maintain the church calendar and schedule use of space.
 - New this year: We've engaged with a new web design/hosting company and hope to launch early February.
- **Follow:** I had the privilege of traveling to the Holy Land last summer where we filmed video footage for the Follow series. Special thanks to Paul Stringer (fellow videographer) Dave Richards (help with editing footage), Pastor Doug (delivering his teaching moments flawlessly and often on the fly) and our fellow travelers who encouraged and accommodated the filming.

Dawn Wills –Director of Celebration Worship

- Both Celebration and Higher Ground teams are thriving and growing! It is a joy to welcome new members and to see existing members grow in skill, leadership and dedication to excellence in worship. I have been deliberately encouraging members to take on leadership roles in crafting the services and leading rehearsals.
- Young adult participation in both bands has grown this year. This is a demographic which has been difficult to reach in the past, but the Woodside young adult community is growing and engaging in the life of the church, bringing a fresh perspective and energy to the worship and technology teams.
- Many special services were held at Woodside including the quarterly Recovery Services, Confirmation Sunday, Senior Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter and Christmas Eve.

Woodside also hosted several guest bands for concerts and/or Sunday worship. I continue to look for new ways to create opportunities for people to gather in worship outside of Sunday mornings.

- Children's music ministry continues to thrive with opportunities for all ages to be involved in leading worship—from School of the Rock and Adventure Club through the Junior High band. It is a joy to see musical skill and a heart of worship being cultivated in our youth. Worship is also a weekly part of our Senior High gatherings which directly follow Higher Ground band rehearsal each Thursday.

Jane Read – Director of Classic Worship

- This has been a year of change for the Classic Service. We lost several team members to moves and personal obligations. We are in the process of building our ministry teams back up.
- At the end of July Grace Lee and Andy Park moved to California. We wish them continued blessings as Andy started his teaching career there. We then welcomed Scott Myers to the organ bench where he has blessed us with his musical talents.
- The Maundy Thursday service this year was a joint effort of the Celebration and Classic teams featuring a joint choir, communion around tables and a worshipful liturgical dance. Good Friday worship included a joint choir with singers from all services in addition to the traditional Tenebrae service and renewal of baptism.
- We celebrated Christmas Eve with two Classic Services which included lessons and carols and all our Classic Service musicians: choir, bells and trumpet. In addition, we introduced an Old Fashioned Family Christmas at the 6 p.m. service. We had a song from the Adventure Club singers and readings from several families which included both children and parents.

Megan Smith – Director of Discipleship

- I stepped in as Director of Discipleship in June and joined the sermon writing team. I helped brainstorm and formulate Study Guides for the Growth Groups to use.
- There are currently 46 Growth Group that are active with a few new Growth Groups that will be forming in the next few months.
- A new system of having Growth Group Coaches has been put in place. There are 9 people serving as coaches to 16 Growth Group Leaders. Any new Growth Group Leader automatically receives a coach. The Coaches are my Inner Circle to constantly assess what is going well, what needs to be improved, and brainstorming/planning for the future within Growth Groups.

- I am making a bridge between the Preschool and Church by advertising RightNow Media and inviting every family enrolled to use it. There are two shows each month that are being promoted to the Preschool families to encourage time spent together.

Karen Savage, Tom Fowler – Directors of Fellowship and Hospitality

- We held a successful luncheon in June to wish staff members leaving farewell.
- Our Advent dinner on December 4th was a great success. We had a great turnout and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all.
- We continue to grow our Welcome Team by adding new volunteers.
- We are now successfully monitoring the Welcome Desk during all Sunday services.

Michelle Thompkins – Director of Ministry

- I led the **Welcome Team** from January – May 2019. The team did a wonderful job covering 7 services across Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday welcoming over 1,100 people to worship God. I transitioned responsibilities to Karen Savage in June 2019.
- I served as the Coordinator for **The Caring Ministries** at Woodside, which are Griefshare, Helping Hands, Hope for All Cancer Care Ministry, and R.E.A.C.H. These ministries bring Christian care, support, and prayer to those who are grieving, homebound, sick, in the hospital, in treatment for cancer, or caregivers. They also provide transportation, meals, and light housekeeping as needed.
- **2019 New Members** – 4 sessions were held in 2019 and 44 people completed the Roots class. Of this group, 33 people (75%) were already active in a Growth Group, Ministry, or Mission at Woodside showing that people are engaged and helping their community.
- I completed a **Spiritual Gift Report** showing that 350 people (45%) of our 768 active Woodside members have spiritual gifts information in the Vine. Our top three spiritual gifts as a church are Helps/Mentoring, Mercy, and Service. This information was shared with staff members to help them identify people to serve in their ministries.
- **Deacons** continue to serve faithfully handling 9 funeral arrangements, 2 blood drives, election day coverage, home communion, gift certificates to graduating high school seniors, and baby bibles for new parents.

Susan Harris-Miller – Director of Mission and Evangelism

- Woodside hosted Code Blue during the month of January. The shelter was open 24 nights with an average of 25 guests per night. A total of 600 guests were able to receive a hot meal and a warm/safe place to spend the night during this time.
- In partnership with Help Build Hope, the amazing people of Woodside framed an entire house in the church parking lot on June 1st!

- Woodside hosted Family Promise for 5 weeks in 2019. This wonderful program assists homeless families with children by providing shelter, meals and comprehensive services while helping them to lasting self-sufficiency.
- Advent Night Mission and Dinner event returned this year. It was well attended and a huge success! A delicious meal was prepared and enjoyed. And because of all who graciously volunteered their time, 4000 hygiene kits were assembled, 2000 utensils were wrapped & delivered to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), 100 Blessing Bags were assembled & taken to Frankford Recovery Café, and hundreds of pounds of canned goods were collected and delivered to Pennel Food Pantry and Interfaith Food Alliance in Morrisville.
- Food donations are continuously dropped off and delivered to local food pantries to feed the hungry, meals are prepared and served monthly by the Dinner Ministry, meals are prepared and delivered to the homebound by Aid for Friends, mission trips are taken throughout the year to help the less fortunate in the US & around the world, luncheons are held quarterly to help those struggling with addiction, growth groups are completing service projects to support others in need, work days are scheduled throughout the year to support Habitat for Humanity, the Angel Tree gift collection resulted in 217 gifts and gift cards returned and distributed to children whose parents are in recovery and to the TEACH program in Trenton, and Cast Your Cares in Kensington and the Recovery Café in Frankford continue to provide hope to many.

Sherri Wolf – Woodside Christian Preschool

- Woodside Christian Preschool is proudly in our 31st year of serving families and children. Currently, we have 139 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. We continue to have a few new families join us for the second half of the year as well.
- Our Woodside Christian Preschool staff is a group of twenty-four dedicated individuals who continue to serve our families and children well. We have a few new staff members that have been added in 2019—including a new Director, new Together with Two's teacher, and several substitute teachers added to our list.
- At the beginning of this school year we had an occupational therapist attend our all staff meeting and provide additional training related to reading through and understanding IEP (individual educational plan) reports that some of our students with educational, emotional, or physical needs have. Some other training we have done has been **Mandated Reporter training** for all staff and additionally, we have learned about some new ways to manage unwanted classroom behaviors through a program called **FLIP IT!**
- As a staff we are reading 40 Days to a Joy-Filled Life in our monthly staff meetings. We are also practicing the habit of daily prayer and begin each day starting with prayer before we open our doors for those kiddos to join us.
- Mission Projects for this year so far have been collecting breakfast items for Code Blue, as well as collecting mittens, hats, gloves, and socks to donate to area homeless shelters. There are plans for a few other mission projects throughout the remainder of this school

year as well (Aid for Friends, Kelly Ann Dolan walk-a-thon, and an ongoing connection to Attleboro Nursing Home).

Elder Kami Schaal – Nominating Team

- The 2019 Nominating Team was chaired by Elder Kami Schaal and Elder in Training Michele Cayemitte representing the Session, Carol Clift representing the Deacons, and the Rev. Dr. Douglas Hogle (ex officio). Members representing the congregation at large were Mandy Bozarth, Brigitte Crosson, Patty Gilbert, and Katie Heaton.
- Members recruited and elected for positions in the Class of 2022 are Elders Susan Broeze, Carla Carter, and Wade Jacobson. Deacons in the Class of 2022 are Maureen Harbison, Richard Harbison, Thomas Spacek, and Lori Stevens.
- The 2020 Nominating Team will be chaired by Elder Michele Cayemitte and an Elder in training to be named by the Session. The Deacon representative will be Anthony Mannarino.
- Members representing the congregation at large to be placed in nomination before the Congregation are Erin Baker, Richard Law, and 2 additional members to be named at the Congregational Meeting.