

**INTERIM PASTOR:** Rev. Roberta J. Kearney

**PASTOR EMERITUS:** Rev. J. Earl Naegele

**ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Eleanor Focht, SPC

**PASTOR EMERITUS:** Rev. Dr. Charles E. Colson

**SECRETARY:** Lynda Scheirer

**CUSTODIAN:** Sally Heimbach

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:** Ellen Bender, Chad Gorr, Mr. Grady Millick

**SOUND TECH:** Hank Rath

**DEACON GREETER:** Melanie Shimer

**FELLOWSHIP DEACON:** Sally Heimbach

**FLOWER DEACON:** Darlene Dourney

**CHILDCARE:** Kelly O'Leary

**STEWARDSHIP:** Sally Heimbach

**CLOSER:** Sam Wilber

**USHER/GREETER CAPTAIN:** Amy Waters

**USHERS:** The Waters Family

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**

Nancy & Pat O'Leary, in celebration of Jayden's birthday.

Darcy Trop, in celebration of Karen's birthday.

**ELDERS:**

Class of 2009—John Baittinger, Lisa Decker, Ann Lowell, Sam Wilber

Class of 2010—Lynn Ingram, Dorothy Nicholas, Alicia Shussett, Joe Smits

Class of 2011—Ron Gingrich, Sue Vitale, Tom Lawall, Jim Millick

**DEACONS:**

Class of 2009—Carolyn Baittinger, Sally Heimbach, John Stewart, Chuck Waters

Class of 2010—Peter Ferguson, Debbie Lillegard, Melanie Shimer

Class of 2011—Darlene Dourney, Zona Farmer, Don Piper, Hank Rath

**THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JOINT SERVICE WITH RIAMUKURWE PARISH**

**9 AM IN EMMAUS  
JUNE 14, 2009**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*Gentle God, thank you that we are created with the love that flows from your hands. Show us ways to continue that flow so your blessings are made available to all of your children. As Kenya continues the process of healing and rebuilding, may you bring deep healing both in and between people. We pray in the name of the One who died for us. Amen.*

(To continue preparation for worship, read about Kenya on pages 37 & 38 in the Mission Yearbook in the pew.)

EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS

*(First by Pastor Samuel Theuri then by Pastor Roberta Kearney)*

OPENING PRAYER *Led by Riamukurwe Parish*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*(Pastor Roberta will announce the presentation of the two anthems, first by Riamukurwe, followed by Faith.)*

Riamukurwe Parish

Faith Church Senior Choir: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

ARR. JAMES "RED MCLEOD"

\*OPENING HYMN: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER #343

*(Pastor Roberta will announce the hymn indicating that Faith Church will sing Verses 1 and 3, Riamukurwe Verses 2 and 4.)*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*(Pastor Roberta will announce the reading of the scripture lesson by Faith from Eugene Peterson's The Message.)*

Romans 12:9-13 - READ BY MR. CHAD GORR

<sup>9-10</sup>Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

<sup>11-13</sup>Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

PREACHING

*(Pastor Roberta will announce the order of the preachers.)*

Faith Speaker—MR. GRADY MILLICK

Riamukurwe Speaker—MR. ANDERSON WANYAGA

Faith Speaker—MRS. ELLEN BENDER

Riamukurwe Speaker—MRS. NANCY MUIRURI

\*CLOSING HYMN: *"In Christ There Is No East or West"*  
ST. PETER #439

LORD'S PRAYER

*(Pastor Roberta will invite Riamukurwe to pray first in Kikuyu, followed by Faith in English.)*  
*(Please use "debts & debtors")*  
PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL - PG. 16

CLOSING PRAYER *Led by Faith Church*

GROUP FAREWELL

### **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
JOYS AND CONCERNS  
INTERCESSIONS AND PETITIONS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

**WE BELIEVE IN CHRIST AND ARE MARKED, WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS CHRIST'S OWN FOREVER.**

Living together in trust and hope,  
**WE CONFESS THE FAITH OF OUR BAPTISM.**

**I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

**AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD;  
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY GHOST,  
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,  
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,  
WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD, AND BURIED;  
HE DESCENDED INTO HELL;  
THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD;  
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,  
AND SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;  
FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD.**

**I BELIEVE IN THE HOY GHOST,  
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,  
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS,  
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY;  
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.**

OFFERTORY: *"Flute Voluntary"*  
WILLIAM HINE (1687-1730)  
Organ Anthem

DEDICATION HYMN: *"Freely, Freely"*

CAROL OWENS

Freely, freely, you have received.  
Freely, freely give.  
Go in my name and because you believe  
Others will know that I live.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN OF DISMISSAL: *"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN #229

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: *"May the Grace of Christ Our Savior"*

JOHN STAINER

\*POSTLUDE: *"Voluntary in D Minor"*

WILLIAM BOYCE (1710-1779)

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

***Brief History of Partnership with Riamukurwe Presbyterian Parish Nyeri, Kenya East Africa, and Faith Presbyterian Church, Emmaus, Pennsylvania***

**Gordon and Carolyn Brown served as personal interest missionaries in Kenya, reporting to the congregation through correspondence and conference calls during worship. (under Reverend Naegele) They served as personal interest missionaries from the mid-70's until Gordon's retirement in the 1990's.**

**October 1994**—Reverend Dr. Charles Colson attends Presbytery meeting in Reading and hears Reverend Bernard Muindi speak and invites him to preach at Faith Presbyterian Church.

**November 1994**—Very Right Reverend Bernard Muindi preaches at Faith Presbyterian Church.

**Dialog continues through phone calls and letters.**

**Reverend Colson broaches the topic of a partnership with Reverend Muindi.**

**Reverend Muindi invites a team from Faith to visit Riamukurwe Presbyterian Parish in Nyeri, Kenya East Africa.**

**February 1998**—Exploratory Team of Reverend Colson, Louise Schaefer, Harvey and Darcy Trop visit Riamukurwe Parish.

**June 1998**—Partnership Agreement signed by session

**Sunday School classes at Faith pledge their weekly offering to the Sunday School classes at Riamukurwe Parish.**

**Communications continue through phone calls, Joint worship service, phone seminars.**

**July 2000**—Nelly Gathuma (Riamukurwe congregation member) visited and joins in a round table discussion after worship.

**February 2002**—Second Faith team travels to Nyeri, Kenya. Team consists of Reverend Colson, Jack Decker, Patty Colson and Louise Schaefer. A new partnership agreement was brought back on their return, and subsequently signed.

**April 2002**—Boys Alliance Choir visits, performs and choir members stay in Faith congregation family homes.

**November 2002**—Visit to Faith Presbyterian Church by Riamukurwe Team. They tour local attractions, stay in congregation homes and build bonds with congregation members.

Local outreach - Kenyans from the Lehigh Valley come to Faith and prepare native Kenyan food for the visitors.

Attempts were made to have other Parish members visit but visas were denied.

**2005**—Louise Schaefer visited the Parish. Our Kenyan partners decided that since love never ends, our “trial period” was over, and no more paperwork was needed.

**November 2006**—Joint visit to the Parish, with nurses from Cedar Crest. Members of Faith team are Jack Decker, Laurie Murray-Payea and Patty Colson.

**January 2009**—Louise Schaefer visits parish. Investigates the possibility for an intergenerational Mission trip from Faith to Riamukurwe Parish in the summer of 2010. Receives invitation from Clerk of Session Daniel Wamuya.

**Throughout the partnership there have been many phone calls and phone conferences, several joint worship services and attempts to host visitors from Riamukurwe Parish.**

### *Announcements*

#### ***Congregational Meeting***

A Congregational Meeting will be held following worship this morning. The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for filling the vacant position of Deacon.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ***Summer Schedule***

Next Sunday, we will begin worshipping on our summer schedule, which is 9:15 am. There is no Sunday School during the summer. This is the schedule we'll follow until fall.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ***G.L.U.E.***

During the summer months, beginning June 21st, G.L.U.E. will meet @ 10:45 AM following worship on Sunday mornings. G.L.U.E. is a Senior High youth group.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ***Going the Distance***

A fantastic article about our partnership with Riamukurwe was just posted online by Presbyterian News Service. The timing was absolutely perfect! You can read this article by picking up a copy from the table in the narthex, or by visiting the following link. <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09459>

### **Special Music for Summer**

The special music next Sunday will be provided by the Male Chorus, directed by Suzanne Seem.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Next Sunday is the flyer deadline!**

The upcoming issue is for July **and** August. Please remember to submit anything important for your committee or group. Early submissions are greatly appreciated!

\* \* \* \* \*

### **WANTED: Grass Eaters**

Want to be a Grass Eater? Reserve your spot on the list in Fellowship Hall. Grass Eaters is the fastest *growing* group in the United States of America! It's fun, It's fast, and It's necessary! **JOIN NOW!** No experience necessary. Free training available! Inquiries may be directed to Jim Millick. (610-366-1261)

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Become A Prayer Partner – Sponsor A Workcamper**

Seventeen years ago, Jim and Deanne Robinson's daughter attended a workcamp with another church. When she returned to Faith, she gave a minute for mission and inspired a congregational member. Harvey Trop was so excited that he thought our church should do one also. He went to the mission committee for approval and guidance and in 1992- 2 adults and 6 youth attended camp in Logan, WV. Since then over 90 different people have attended and many have attended multiple camps.

This mission trip gives us an opportunity to serve God by helping others. We work on homes for the elderly and impaired free of cost to them. From Faith Church alone more than 400 homes have been repaired which equates to over 13,000 "on site" hours of community service. We also receive God's blessing of spiritual growth. There are devotions held each day at our worksites and evening programs consisting of contemporary Christian music, bible readings, skits, and lessons and then evening devotions with our own youth groups. We make new friends. We are broken up into work groups with others from churches around the country and many have kept in touch for years. Faith Church bonded with a group from Brownsville NJ and we have attended each others' worship services for the past 2 years.

This year 4 adults and 17 youth will be attending workcamp. The location is still unknown because our number of youth was higher than anticipated and our main focus is trying to get everyone to go. We'll keep you posted on the place because we know the campers are dying to know which museum we will be visiting.

As part of our spiritual growth at camp and a small way the congregation can share our experience, is to become a *prayer partner* with a camper. For a pledge of \$75 (or whatever your heart compels you to give) you will both receive matching dog tags. We wear our tags all week and pray for our partners. You will also receive a devotional guide that is written by our group which we use for our evening devotions. We do receive a devotion guide from the camp and we use them as well but feel it is important to have a connection to our partners back home.

We will have a sign-up sheet in the welcome hall by the workcamp house. Camp would not be possible without your generous support- both financially and especially spiritually. If you have any questions or concerns,

**Are you interested in joining Faith Presbyterian Church?**

Please contact Ann Lowell at 610-398-8267 or [lowellga@ptd.net](mailto:lowellga@ptd.net) with any questions regarding the process of becoming a member of our church. The next Membership Conversation series will take place in late Summer or early Fall.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Adult VBS Workshop "God Sightings" June 21-25**

Following the children's theme, adults will look at the life of Moses and the Israelites as God leads them into a new way of life. In order to not get discouraged, they needed help in learning to see God at work. We too will get help in noticing "God Sightings" in the circumstances of our lives.

\* \* \* \* \*

**A.E.D. Update - Sponsored by Parish Nurses  
Monday, July 1—7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**

Join us to Learn, Refresh or Renew your knowledge of Faith Church's A.E.D. (Automatic External Defibrillator), and it's proper use. This device hangs in the church narthex, and everyone should know how to use it in case of an emergency.

At the invitation of our Parish Nurses, Dan Lawall, a paramedic and Director of Operations in Topton, will be generously sharing his expertise as he instructs in the use of our equipment. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this device is welcome to attend. Please mark this as a "**Must Attend**" on your calendar.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sign up for Nursery Duty**

There will be no paid staff in the nursery this summer. Therefore it is necessary for congregation members to sign up for nursery duty. Consider helping with this ministry. One adult and one youth would be the perfect mix to oversee the children who need nursery care during our worship services this summer. A sign up sheet is on the door of the nursery. Please sign up for one or more Sundays.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Birthday Wishes to:**

June 14—Jayden Green

June 15—Alicia Shussett

June 16—Karen Trop, Adam Masenheimer, Jay Kreider, Dorothy Kehs

June 17—Nikolaus Kreider, Joseph Smits, Tracey Gill, Elizabeth Mick, Thomas Pelzer

June 18—John Amendt, Kris Melnick

June 19—Daria Greb

\* \* \* \* \*

**Vacation Bible School at Faith  
June 21-25, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

**See out our bulletin board display by the Fellowship Hall!**

This year, at Crocodile Dock, we will engage children in "God Sightings". Through Bible study, music, crafts, and games we will help children discover how God is active in our everyday lives. Grades pre-k to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children and teenagers are welcome too, as helpers.

Contact persons:

Pam Mongi 610-791-1894, [pgm0@lehigh.edu](mailto:pgm0@lehigh.edu); or Sue Vitale 610-967-4689, [vitale725@yahoo.com](mailto:vitale725@yahoo.com).

See our website: [www.faithchurchemmaus.org/](http://www.faithchurchemmaus.org/)

\* \* \* \* \*

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR VBS YET?**

Join us for a week of GOD SIGHTINGS at Crocodile Dock! Fill out a registration form (hanging on bulletin board by Fellowship Hall) and return it to Sue Vitale's mailbox.

\* \* \* \* \*

**GRAB A CROC and DONATE TO VBS!**

Each year, the success of VBS depends largely on the generosity of our congregation. Many people donate their time by volunteering as leaders, organizers, cooks, and helpers. Now everyone can help out by donating an item or two that the program needs. On your way to Fellowship Hall, stop by and check out the VBS bulletin board. There are lots of crocs that list a wide variety of choices, including nonperishable food items, paper goods, and cash donations. Please consider taking a crocodile and returning the requested item to the large box located under the bulletin board. Cash donations should be put in an envelope and returned directly to Sally Heimbach.

**\*\*All donations are due today.\*\***

Thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to make VBS a memorable event for everyone again this year!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Spring Food & Clothing Drive  
May 3 to June 30, 2009**

We are currently holding our annual Spring Food & Clothing Drive.

The **FOOD DRIVE** will benefit the Emmaus Food Bank— As before, we are encouraging everyone to donate as much food as possible. It is more important now than ever. You can donate a bag of food or bring **one or two non-perishable food items to church each Sunday**. There will be boxes set up at each of the church's entrances for these items.

Please see Barbara Newman for further information. (610 967-3682)

**Thank you in advance for your generosity!!**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Joys & Concerns

Keep these people in your prayers!

**Joe Smits**, on his recent illness and hospitalization.

The grandfather of **Chad Gorr**, as he continues his ongoing battle with ALS.

**Larry Murray**, brother of **Laurie Murray Payea**, on his recent illness.

**Mitchell & Loretta Connor**, on a fire in their home.

**Emma Takacs**, in her daily walk with cerebral palsy.

**Blanche Ring**, mother of **Debbie Lillegard**, undergoing treatment for cancer.

All **church members** & their families who are experiencing job loss and economic uncertainty.

We respect your privacy. If you have a joy or a concern you would like printed in the bulletin, please contact your deacon, or call the church office (610) 967-5600.

\* \* \* \* \*

## In MILITARY SERVICE

Keep these people in your prayers!

**Bethany Kauffman**, niece of **Jim & Penny Pantano**, serving in the Middle East.

**Kyle Zimmerman**, friend of the **Lillegard** family, serving a second tour in Iraq.

**Charles Van Heest**, grandson of **Kay & Dave Weber**.

**Doug Durn**, son of **Bob & Brynn Durn**.

**Doland J. Miller**, son-in-law of **George J. Smits**

**Amanda** and **Jeremy Miller**, grandchildren of **George J. Smits**.

**Lucas Whittington**, grandnephew of **Cliff & Donna Lucas**.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lehigh Presbytery Churches

Please remember to pray for your brothers and sisters of the Lehigh Presbytery.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Hazleton

**First Presbyterian Church**, Hokendauqua

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***We're on the Web!***

Our Faith Presbyterian Church website (<http://www.faithchurchemmaus.org>) is an incredible resource for access to our church news and information—available 24 hours a day. You can check out the bulletins days ahead of Sunday Worship. You can review past issues of The Faith Flyer. You can learn about our many committees...and so much more! Please direct questions and/or comments pertaining to our website to Mark Heimbach at [mheimbach@yahoo.com](mailto:mheimbach@yahoo.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Melanie Shimer**

Deacon of the Month—Care Group #11

Jack Decker	Elizabeth Greb	Rachael Ingram	Phil Martin
Jacqueline Decker	Kathryn Greb	Anna Katrina LeFevre	Philip Martin
Lisa Decker	Natalie Greb	Emily LeFevre	Robin Mathias
Marissa Decker	Todd Greb	Joy LeFevre	Patricia Rinehart
Kris Galius	Marie Heffner	Clifford Lucas	Robert Rinehart
Rebecca Galius	Andy Ingram	Donna Lucas	Jean Scott
Susan Galius	Jayne Ingram	Jenny Lucas	Samuel Scott
Bobbi Greb	Lynn Ingram	Andrew Martin	
Brandon Greb	Mark Ingram	Pam Martin	

\* \* \* \* \*

*Two Weeks of Faith*

Room Numbers, indicating where meetings will be held (when known), are shown in parenthesis following the listing.

**This Week**

**Sunday, June 14**     **SCRIP ORDERS DUE**

- 9:00 am—Joint Worship Service with Kenya  
Congregational Meeting immediately following worship (S)
- 10:30 am—PNC\* (P)
- 10:30 am—Male Chorus Rehearsal (S)
- 5:00 pm—Middle School Youth Group (FH)
- 7:00 pm—Youth Choir (S)

**Monday, June 15**

- 7:30 pm—Mission

**Tuesday, June 16**

- 7:15 pm—Deacons (P)

**Wednesday, June 17**     **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

- 9:00 am—Emmaus Garden Club (FH)
- Noon—Bible Exploration (7)

**Thursday, June 18**

- 6:30 am—Pepper (P)
- 7-10 pm—Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

**Friday, June 19**

- VBS Set-up

**Saturday, June 20**

- VBS Set-up

\*Pastoral Nominating Committee

\*\*God Leads Us Everywhere

**Next Week**

**Sunday, June 21**     **SCRIP ORDERS DUE**

9:15 am—Worship Service

Reception of New Members

5:00 pm—Vacation Bible School

**Monday, June 22**

5:00 pm—Vacation Bible School

**Tuesday, June 23**

5:00 pm—Vacation Bible School

**Wednesday, June 24**     **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Noon—Bible Exploration (7)

**Thursday, June 25**

6:30 am—Pepper (P)

5:00 pm—Vacation Bible School

**Friday, June 26**

5:00 pm—Vacation Bible School

**Saturday, June 27**

## Going the Distance

### Pennsylvania church has special connection to Kenyan Presbyterians

by Toni Montgomery  
Special to the Presbyterian News Service

*Editor's note: This is one in a series of stories about congregations engaged in significant outreach and evangelism ministries, reflecting the General Assembly's commitment to ["Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide."](#) - Jerry L. Van Marter*

**STATESVILLE, NC** - Many churches have programs in place to assist fellow Presbyterians in Africa. Some congregations raise and send money, while others send people to help build churches or schools. But [Faith Presbyterian Church](#) in Emmaus, PA, envisioned quite a different relationship when it formed a church-to-church partnership with the Riamukurwe Presbyterian Parish in Nyeri, Kenya. Of course, the church wanted to send what resources it could to help address the many needs of the Kenyan churches. But it also wanted to build a bond with Riamukurwe that went beyond simply sending money and exchanging letters.

The church suspected from the start that if it took the time to really develop a relationship, its new friends in Africa had just as much to offer as they had to receive.

The relationship began when the Rev. Bernard Muindi, moderator of the [Presbyterian Church of East Africa](#) and later a minister in Riamukurwe Parish, visited the United States in 1995.

The Rev. Charles Colson, pastor of Faith at the time, heard Muindi speak at a presbytery meeting and invited him to visit and address his congregation. The church already supported missionary work in Africa, and Colson thought members might find Muindi's speech interesting.

Communication continued via occasional calls and letters. In response to some of the needs Muindi mentioned on his visit, the Sunday school children sent books. But the correspondence between Africa and Emmaus seemed slow and difficult, so Faith opted for a more direct approach: the church sent several members, including Colson, on a trip to visit Riamukurwe.

That first 10-day trip to Kenya was exploratory and was meant to assess the needs of the people in the parish. It resulted in Faith's decision to form a direct church-to-church partnership.

That initial group also took telecommunications equipment along to make future communications easier. The equipment can be used to make conference calls during which the two churches conduct business, keep in touch on a personal level and - in its most ambitious use - hold shared worship services.

Members of Faith have made two subsequent trips to visit Riamukurwe and have hosted their Kenyan friends on a visit to the United States once.

"We'd love to have them come here more," said Lisa Decker, mission chair for Faith. "But the government has tightened security because of all the terrorist activity in recent years and we just can't get the visas to go through. They keep getting refused."

The communication equipment will be useful in keeping the rest of the members of Faith excited and involved in the partnership. Because the Kenyans have not been able to visit Emmaus as often as they would like, it can be challenging to keep church members who haven't had the chance to visit Africa actively engaged.

The joint worship services are one way to make that happen. The next one is coming up this month, and Jack Decker, Lisa Decker's husband, is looking forward to it.

"We initiate a conference call with the church in Kenya and then we share the service," he said. "We conduct half of it and they conduct half of it. It's really powerful to have the joint worship and hear those voices coming from Africa."

Conducting a joint worship across continents is impressive, said Steve Shussett, teaching presbyter of [Lehigh Presbytery](#), where Faith is based.

"I think it's amazing that they are able to do that," he said. "To be able to share that service and to worship together is just amazing."

Jack Decker did not go on the first exploratory trip, but has gone on the two subsequent trips. He came away from the experience with much more than he expected.

"They had a lot of work to do in Nyeri. One of Rev. Muindi's projects was to provide a place for the many orphaned children who were living on the street," he said. "But they didn't have much in the way of resources, so we asked how they planned to do it. The answer was always the same: We're building this by faith.

"And that's what struck me most about these people. Their faith and their willingness to share it and their openness about it and the love they showed us," Jack Decker said. "We thought we were going over there to give them teaching and guidance, but they were the ones who opened our eyes and taught us."

The people of Riamukurwe have since built a four-story dormitory to house the orphans and a medical clinic to accompany it. This was done not just with the help of Faith but also with the assistance of other U.S. churches. What the members of Faith gained is just as precious in their eyes.

"It was daunting to go over there the first time, especially when we split up and we were left with our host families," said Jack Decker, adding that visitors stay not in a hotel, but with church members in their homes. "It was me, alone, in a sea of Africans. I had nothing but myself as a person to rely on to build a friendship and a relationship.

"Partnership is going and giving yourself to somebody. Not how you look or dress or what your job is, but yourself," he said. "We weren't going to build things or take them lots of money. We were going to build friendships and establish partnership."

While it's still in the very basic exploratory stages, Faith would love to send some of the church's youth on a trip in the near future and make a multigenerational step forward. While Jack Decker said that pastors and sessions and personnel change, involving the youth would be a great way to generate some new excitement so the relationship and cultural awareness Faith has built continues to thrive and grow.

*Toni Montgomery is a free-lance writer in Statesville, NC. She is church secretary for First Presbyterian Church there.*

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09459>