



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1978 - 2018

Rayburn
Celebration

Rayburn Celebration

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

MAY 10, 2019

*An evening to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness
to us and to the kingdom of God through the 40-plus
years of exceptional pastoral ministry of the
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Rayburn.*

Prelude

Chorale Improvisation on Nun Danket

(Karg-Elert)

Evangeline Wykoff, organ

Sanctus

("Lakmé" by Léo Delibes, text ad. Nicole Lewin)

Courtney Dey, Melissa McMillan

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth,

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini.

Holy Lord, God of hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Laudate Dominum

(Mozart)

I Reflections

Welcome

Elder Steve O'Ban

Hymn

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Trinity #98

RSR Call 1978

Bonnie Payne

Choir Anthem

The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen

(18th Century/arr. Rutter)

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:*

*The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:*

*I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

Ministry Distinctives

Elder Steve O'Ban

Rev. Ian Hamilton

Prof. Jack Collins

Choir/Congregation Anthem

Peace to This House
(McCheyne/Wykoff)

Choir:

*Long may peace within this dwelling have its resting place;
Angel shields all harm repelling, God, our God of grace.
May the dove-like Spirit guide us to the upright land!
May the Saviour-Shepherd feed us from his gentle hand!*

Congregation:

"Unless the Lord the House Shall Build"
Trinity #365

Choir:

*May the dove-like Spirit guide us to the upright land!
May the Saviour-Shepherd feed us from his gentle hand!
Long may peace within this dwelling have its resting place;
Angel shields all harm repelling, God, our God of grace.*

Congregation:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Choir:

Amen

Thanksgivings

Hilary Kvale and Elsie Dye

Rev. Michael Kelly

Rev. Khen Tombing

Hymn

"My Song Forever Shall Record"

Trinity #99

Prayer

Rev. Steven Nicoletti

II Reception

Enjoy refreshments and the CHS Jazz Band in the Narthex as you proceed to DeSoto Hall for a photo loop and conversation before returning to the sanctuary for Revels and Gifts.



III Revels

“Chiaroscuro”

Elder Dick Hannula

Ballad

“The Rector Robert S. Rayburn”

Feign Glory

Letter to the Saints in Tacoma

The Rayburn Kids

Presentation of Gifts

Rev. Dr. Max Rogland

Elder Steve O’Ban

Dr. Andrew Milton

Elder Steve Jack

Elder Don Mellott

The Last Word

Rev. Rayburn

The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen (*18th Century*)

Courtney Dey, Soloist

Postlude

Widor’s Toccata

Evangeline Wykoff, organ



*Behold how good a thing it is
And how becoming well
Together such as brethren are
In unity to dwell.
Like precious ointment on the head
That down the beard did flow
Ev’n Aaron’s beard and to the skirts
Did of his garment go.
As Hermon’s dew, the dew that doth
On Zion’s hill descend
For there the blessing God commands
Life that shall never end.*

♫HYMN BASED ON PSALM 133,
SUNG AT FPC ANNUAL MEETINGS

TO THE CONGREGATION OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



I have no recollection of thinking when I began my ministry that I might remain the pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church for the next forty years. Novice minister that I was, I had few thoughtful convictions about the pastorate and, youngster that I was, I was thinking about the next few weeks or months, not the decades to follow.

I now have settled convictions about the importance of lengthy ministries—a practice that used to be the norm in Reformed Christianity but is now very much the exception—but I wonder if I would have them if my own experience among you had been otherwise.

In the early years I do remember that it remained a living possibility in my mind that I might someday leave the



pastorate for seminary teaching. During those early years I had the opportunity on several occasions to teach at our Covenant Theological Seminary. I enjoyed the work very much, but on

each occasion I came away certain that for me the classroom was a poor substitute for the pastorate. I never felt in front of a seminary class what I always feel in the pulpit: “Lord, it is good for me to be here!”

But would I have continued to think so had I not been happy in my work as your pastor? You have so graciously and generously received my ministry that, when invitations came to consider opportunities elsewhere, it was always very easy for me to reply that the Lord had called me to my present charge and, happy and fruitful as it was, it would be ingratitude on my part, if not rebellion, to leave it to go elsewhere.

I cherish the hope that I have been a means of God’s blessing in your lives; I know very well how much you have been a



means of that blessing in mine! It has been the privilege of Florence’s and my life together to have spent our adulthood among you, to have basked in the warmth of your friendship, to have raised

our children as part of this extended family – so beloved of them as it is of us—and to have accomplished so many good things together.

I love God's Word. I love to study it and to preach it and so to be placed in a congregation that is eager to hear the Word is privilege indeed. I have often through the years boasted to others of your eagerness to hear the Word of God, proved in nothing so much as your return in numbers on a Sunday evening to hear it preached again.

To have pastored a congregation full of devout, winsome, eager, and willing Christians, whose love for the Lord has been demonstrated in so many happy and fruitful ways, is every pastor's dream. And such was my happy lot among you.



Care Net, Covenant High School, and Better English on Sixth, for example, were not my ideas; nor did they depend on my labors. They were the effulgence of the gifts and graces of the congregation the Lord

gathered here. In some ways—I know this very well—I came along for the ride! Thank you, brothers and sisters.

It has been a sacred honor to have been your pastor these forty years: to have accompanied your pilgrimage, to have been entrusted with your secrets, to have rejoiced with you and wept with you, to have prayed with you and for you, and to have offered the Lord Christ to you in and through the Word and Sacrament Sunday after Sunday.

The old writers used to say that reading, meditation, and prayer make a minister. They should have added, “and a congregation.” John Newton says in one of his letters that he often wondered what sort of Christian he might have been if the Lord had not made him a minister. I wonder myself what sort of Christian and Christian minister I might have been if the Lord had not made me *your* minister!

Thank you for forty wonderful years of the
communio sanctorum, the fellowship of the saints.



The Reverend Rob Rayburn



SPEAKERS

Ian Hamilton



The Reverend Ian Hamilton became the minister of Cambridge Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, England, in 1999 after 20 years as pastor of Loudoun Parish Church of Scotland in Newmilns, Ayrshire, where he and his parishioners hosted many Covenant

High School students on their Great Britain tours. Ian retired from his pastorate in Cambridge in 2016 and commenced a busy “retirement” in Scotland the same year. Seminary teaching as an adjunct professor, preaching, part-time pastoral work, and speaking at conferences both in Britain and the United States keep him as busy as ever.

Ian and Joan have four grown children (David, Jonathan, Rebecca, and Sarah). He has published a commentary on *The Letters of John*, two books entitled *The Faith-Shaped Life* and *The Gospel-Shaped Life*, and numerous articles for the *Banner of Truth*. He enjoys golf, reading, American politics, and seeing England lose at football.

Ian first met Rob and Florence in 1976 in Aberdeen where Rob was beginning his Ph. D studies in the Letter to the Hebrews. They met at Gilcomston Church of Scotland,

where William Still was the minister. Ian says “Since our first meeting we have kept in touch and our friendship has not diminished with the passing of the years, even though we only see each other occasionally. Rob has been something of a counselor for me, bringing different and always helpful biblical insights to matters I raise with him.”

C. John Collins



“Jack” Collins has been Professor of Old Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary since 1993. Jack earned two degrees from MIT, his MDiv from Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma, and his doctorate from the University of Liverpool. He has written

a highly regarded commentary on Genesis 1-4 and several influential books on the intersection of biblical faith and contemporary science.

Jack and his wife Diane are well known to this congregation. In 1984, as a seminary student, Jack served as a pastoral intern at Faith Presbyterian Church and filled the pulpit while Pastor Rayburn was on sabbatical in Holland. Before commencing his teaching career, Jack was ordained by the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest and planted a PCA congregation in Spokane.

Michael Kelly



Reverend Michael Kelly serves as the Executive Director for the Seattle-based Northwest Church Planting Network, which he helped found in 2001. After 19 years as senior pastor of Green Lake Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Mike made the transition to full time Network leadership with his

wife Sandy, who became the Ministry Operations Manager and Family Care Leader. At that time Mike was installed as Associate Pastor to Rev. David Richmon, who had become senior pastor at Green Lake. Mike also serves as Redeemer City-to-City Northwest representative. Mike and Sandy's work with church planters and regional leaders includes planter assessment, coaching, project oversight, and fundraising, as well as strategic planning and crisis care.

Before arriving in Seattle, the Kellys planted New Life Presbyterian Church in Yorktown, IN after finishing ministry preparation at Covenant Seminary in 1991. The Kellys have been married 30 years and have three children and two grandchildren.

Khen Tombing



A minister of the Presbyterian Church of India (Reformed) in Manipur, Khen has two degrees from Covenant Theological Seminary. For some years the Coordinator of the ministries of the PC(R), Khen has overseen an active church planting ministry (nearly 100 congregations have been planted), the

establishment of a number of Christian schools in both the city (the largest having 3,000 students) and rural villages, a Christian college with 1,500 students (of which Khen is the President), Reformed Bible Institute (now Reformed School of Theology), and various other ministries to the people of Manipur.

For much of the time since this work began in 1986, Khen has faced significant persecution, complicated further by political unrest in the region. Khen is married to Rith. Both have visited Faith Presbyterian Church, Khen a number of times through the years, and several Faith couples have also been to Manipur to observe, experience, and contribute to the multifaceted kingdom work going on there.

THROUGH THE YEARS AT FAITH WITH THE RAYBURNS

1978 – The Rayburns begin their ministry at Faith. A church split the year before has left morning attendance at some 40 persons, and a handful of families still members of the church. Ken Anderson, Joe Gronewold, and Harry DeSoto are elders.

Robert S. Rayburn of St. Louis will be ordained into the ministry and installed as pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church here tomorrow. Ministers from Poulsbo, Seattle, Alderwood Manor and Issaquah will conduct the ceremonies under the auspices of the Northwest Presbytery of the Reformed Evangelical Church, Evangelical Synod. The Rev. Robert G. Rayburn, the new pastor's father and a retired president of Covenant Seminary of St. Louis, also will participate. Mr. Rayburn, 28, is a graduate of the seminary. He and his wife Florence recently returned from Scotland where he has been studying toward a doctorate, specializing in New Testament. Faith Church has been without a pastor officially for a year, said spokesman Ken Anderson. The Rev. James E. Hanson of Tacoma has been acting pastor, Anderson said. A reception will follow the ceremonies.

FROM THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE, JUNE 3, 1978



The Rayburn Home 1979

1979 – Deacon's Fund established. Bryonie Rayburn born, the first of a five-arrow quiver that will come to also include Evangeline, Courtney, Robert, and James.

1981 – Pastor Rayburn performs his first wedding, marrying Robert Arial and Mary Jane Haviland. Many more are to follow. Deacon's Fund expenditures are \$361.

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. ⚔PSALM 127:1

1982 – Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, merges with The Presbyterian Church in America, retaining a biblical theology but becoming part of a larger fellowship, while shortening both its name and acronym.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

♫PSALM 118:22-24

1983 – Morning service average attendance is 66; evening 53, Sunday school 59. After two years of preparation, members of Faith open the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Pierce County.

1985 – Women's Fellowship renamed "Women In The Church." WIC includes all women 18 years of age or older who are members or adherents, and 77 members are listed. While focused on the interests and needs of Faith women, its programs and outreaches benefit the entire congregation.

Sanctuary piano is also overhauled, and the technician reports that the instrument was built in 1881 and "is an exceedingly fine instrument." (It currently occupies a corner of the Fellowship Hall.)

1986 – After three church break-ins, John Schrupp installs an alarm. The intruder discovers this feature while trying to enter for a fourth visit by way of a sanctuary window, and abruptly decides to call it a night.

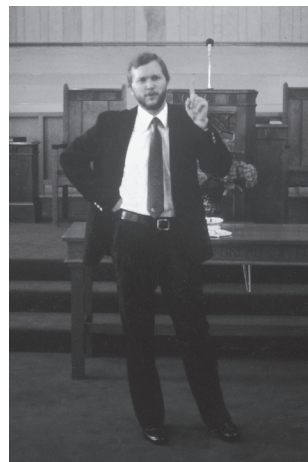
1987 – Kneeling benches are installed, providing congregation with a third worship position.

No man ever became or long remained an infidel who did full justice to his Bible. And no believer but grew in grace and in strength and in holiness who constantly read his Bible, and who believed what he read in his Bible, and who honestly practiced what he believed.

♫ALEXANDER WHYTE



July 1987: Florence & Rob, Bryonie (8), Vangie (6), Jamie (1), Courtney (4), Robbie Gibbie (3)



1984

1988 – Morning service average attendance is 248, evening 154, Sunday school 160.

1990 – Kevin and Dana Skogen return to Faith from seminary studies, and Kevin begins work as a pastoral intern. And, in an attempt to harness perpetual motion, the church issues guidelines for the behavior of covenant children before, during, and after services.

1991 – Sanctuary remodeled, providing seating for 80 additional persons and increasing total capacity to nearly 500. Ceiling resurfaced to improve acoustics, and new chandeliers are installed. Congregation worships in church basement during remodel. Kevin Skogen ordained as associate pastor.

On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Ⓔ MATTHEW 16:18

1992 – Covenant High School opens with 37 students, two full-time faculty members (Bob Rogland and Dick Hannula, who also serves as principal), and seven part-time teachers. First choir concert, under the direction of Mrs. Florence Rayburn, performed. Kevin Skogen receives call to pastor a church in Lookout Mountain, Georgia.

1993 – Morning service average attendance is 352, evening 236, Sunday school 221. Covenant High school has 68 students. John Birkett begins work as pastoral intern. Later that year he and Debbie receive a call to pastor a church in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Andrew Bonar often recollected that at the beginning of his ministry an old friend and minister had said to him, “Remember, it is a remark of old and experienced men, that very few men, and very few ministers, keep up to the end the edge that was on their spirit at the first.” And, we might add, very few congregations. Covenant with us that it shall not be so at Faith Presbyterian Church. Ⓔ FROM THE JANUARY 28, 1994, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR AND ELDERS



The old office with bookshelves built by Ken Anderson

1994 – Rick and Lisa DeMass arrive and Rick begins work as associate pastor.

1995 – Second morning service, starting at 8:15, added to accommodate growing Sunday morning attendance.

1997 – Mike Simpson, former deacon at Faith and retired Army officer, hired as church administrator. Annual report notes that “We remind the congregation that Mr. Simpson’s coming is not intended to result in anyone’s working less, but in some of us working more, and all of us together working more efficiently.” Mr. Simpson’s credentials are further burnished by having been married by Rob to Barbara Robinson in 1985.

1998 – Morning service average attendance is 418, evening 264, Sunday school 290. Covenant High School has 97 students. Church organ installed in balcony. Ron Bechtel installed at church organ.

1999 – Mrs. LaVerne Rayburn moves to Tacoma and takes her place at the Rayburn Sunday table.



August 31, 2002

2003 – Morning service average attendance is 509, evening 334, Sunday school 319. Covenant High School has 116 students. Church celebrates 50th anniversary at Landmark Convention Center in downtown Tacoma, where the first worship service of Faith Presbyterian Church was held on May 20, 1953. Main address is delivered by Martin Payne, a son of Faith and pastor of a PCA church in Mississippi; he sprinkles southern sugar on his challenge to the congregation. John Wykoff, courting Vangie Rayburn, composes for the occasion an anthem based on a poem by Robert M. M’Cheyne, “Peace to This House.”



September 1996



September 2003

2004 – Ground-breaking for new church and school addition. Old wing of church, including basement room, bathrooms, nursery, and pastors' offices, is torn down. Excavation results in a miniature Grand Canyon complete with a viewing platform, from which onlookers can observe the progress on the new foundation and subsequent construction. Portable classroom building, which has served well for years for Sunday school and high school, now also functions as an indoor outhouse for the congregation, and is then decommissioned



Three old guys: Rutherford, Rayburn and Halyburton. St. Andrews, Summer 2006

*When one rules over men in righteousness
When he rules in the fear of God
He is like the light of morning
A sunrise on a cloudless morning,
Like the brightness after rain
That brings the grass from the earth.
Is not my house right with God?
Has He not made with me an everlasting covenant,
Arranged and secured in every part?
Will he not bring to fruition my salvation,
And grant me my every desire?*

♫ KING DAVID, RECORDED IN II SAMUEL 23



2004

2005 – Church addition finished, with three levels and 28,000 square feet of space. Sunday school, on hiatus for nearly a year, resumes. Sunday school superintendent Carol Pribyl, who prior to the expansion was feeling like the old woman who lived in a shoe, tries on the new brick-and-glass slipper, and finds that it fits very nicely.

2008 – Jerid and Aria Krulish start ministering at Faith. Jerid teaches at Covenant High School, serves as an assistant to Rob, and also works with Faith youth. Adult SS is reorganized along a faith theme: Foundations of the Faith, The Word of Faith, Women of the Faith, Contending for the Faith. Hilary Kvale begins work as the new Children’s Sunday School Coordinator, assuming the mantle from Carol Pribyl. New church plant, Resurrection Presbyterian, begins in Puyallup with 100+ seedlings transplanted from Tacoma; Rev. David Scott serves as Chief Gardener. FPC artist Dale Woodard unveils the first of seven wood carvings depicting biblical scenes of great faith. The first is titled “Samson.”



Clan Rayburn in Colorado for Rob’s 60th birthday in 2010.
Back row (left to right): James and Arrika Rayburn, Charles and Courtney Dey and baby Charlie, Rob and Jordan Rayburn.
Front row (left to right): John and Vangie Wykoff and baby Bryonie, Ma, Pa, Bryonie and Josh Moon.



The Rayburn Family 2008
James Rayburn, Courtney and Charles Dey, Jordan and Rob Rayburn, Bryonie and Josh Moon, Vangie and John Wykoff, Rob & Florence

2009 – Jerid Krulish ordained and installed as Assistant Minister. Rob and Florence travel to Manipur to speak at the Silver Jubilee of the Presbyterian Church in India. Elder Doug Bond leads a European tour marking the 500th anniversary of John Calvin’s birth.

2011 – Author Eric Metaxas speaks to Men of Faith, and is interviewed by Rob during adult Sunday School. Rob and Florence visit Uganda under the auspices of Palmer Robertson and African Bible University. While on the other side of the world, the Rayburns also visit Australia.

2012 – Covenant High School graduates its 20th class. Florence retires as director of music at the high school, having served since its founding.

2013 – Springfield Classical Christian school celebrates its 20th year. While not an official part of FPC, the school has used the church facilities during the week since 2006. Jerid Krulish and family moves to Vancouver, WA where he is installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Faith observes its 60th anniversary. New baptismal font is installed and gets double duty with its first use with the Whaley twins. Rev. Steven Nicoletti joins ministerial staff at Faith. Like Rob, he is a graduate of Covenant Seminary. Unlike Rob, he projects a swarthier look, and has never taken shaving lessons.

2014 – DeSoto Hall dedicated. Pastor Rick DeMass marks 20 years at Faith. Handel's *Messiah* is performed at Easter and Christmas services. The Rayburns travel to Israel in May and bring back some water from the River Jordan, which proves to be useful in baptizing grandchildren.



The Rayburns at the Silver Jubilee of the Presbyterian Church in India in 2009.



Down Under: Rob and Florence (aka "Foster" and "Grant") on Manly Beach in Sydney, Australia in 2011. Rob preached at a conference in a local Baptist Church.

2015 – Rob and Florence visit Israel for the second time, with a number of members from Faith. Building debt retired. At the annual meeting the stated clerk is elected, and it turns out that for the past 30 years all the occupants of that office have had the same name: Steve Jack. Better English on Sixth, an outreach that provides weekly assistance in learning English to international people in the community, begins with 17 students on Monday, September 14. Hundreds of students, from more than 45 countries, have since participated, assisted by scores of church members who serve as language partners and teachers. The program now includes some 40 students, and increasing on occasion to 55. Jonathan Nichols heads up the effort.

2017 – David Miller becomes principal of Covenant High School, succeeding Richard Hannula, who has been at the helm since its founding. Hannula, a Phi



Rob preaching at African Bible University in Kampala, Uganda, 2011

Beta Kappa (which translates very loosely as “if you learn to swim in the pool of life, you are much less likely to sink”) graduate of the University of Southern California, remains on faculty. On August 18 a church commode spontaneously explodes. No one is injured.

2018 – Mike Simpson retires after 20 years as church administrator to begin a third career: retirement at home with wife Barbara. He is succeeded by Derek Whaley. Covenant High School graduates now number 561. CHS UK/France Historical Tour #12 takes place; more than 600 students and chaperones have participated over the years.



The next generation: Rob at the baptism of grandsons Peter Wykoff and Jacob Dey in December 2011.

2019 – Rev. Steven Nicoletti installed as senior pastor. After 40-plus years Rob becomes pastor emeritus, but certainly not retired, as he and Florence continue their association with Faith, but now with additional time for writing and travel. Resurrection Church in Puyallup, now averaging 125 on Sunday mornings, receives (in April) a conditional use permit from the county for a building up to 31,450 square feet and a 15-year time frame to complete it. In March Dale Woodard unveils his seventh wood carving, entitled “Abraham and Isaac;” the entire series, rendered in Honduran mahogany, is mounted on a wall in the church narthex.



Rayburns and friends in Israel, January 2015. The photo was taken from Tell Azeka, overlooking the Valley of Elah.



THE RAYBURN ERA AT FAITH, BY THE NUMBERS



SERMONS PREACHED: somewhere around 5,000

WEDDINGS (*as of mid-April 2019*): 133

BAPTISMS: 550

ATTENDANCE (*2018 averages*):

Sunday morning 435; Sunday evenings 220

Sunday School 245; Prayer meeting 53

ANNUAL GIVING (*2018*): \$234,491

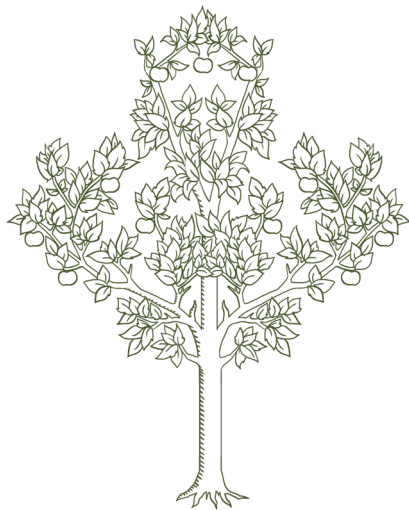
ELDERS (*2018*): 11

DEACONS (*2018*): 20

RAYBURN GRANDCHILDREN (*as of Spring 2019*): 13



*There are two ways to read Scripture – the way a lawyer reads a will,
and the way an heir reads a will.* ✠ALEXANDER WHYTE



The fruit of the righteous is a Tree of Life

PROVERBS 11:30