

Being Faithful

Not too many years ago Waverly Presbyterian Church located on the corner of Forbes and Braddock Avenues in Pittsburgh's East End had about 25 people attending Sunday worship on a regular basis. The session, as it struggled to prepare a budget for the upcoming year, realized there was simply not enough money to keep the doors open through the end of the following December. What was the church going to do?

The answer was truly a leap of faith, good stewardship and realizing what was really at the heart of this particular community of faith. The session, in its great wisdom, decided to designate five percent of the budget for mission outreach beyond the walls of Waverly and to make sure that those dollars were the first dollars spent. Of course the session realized there was not enough money to do this and keep the doors open but determined that Waverly was being called to think in terms of abundance and not scarcity. The church was in "business" of serving not simply surviving.

The church turned its attention outward and looked into ways of helping others, believing that by doing this Waverly would be helping itself no matter what the final financial results. Through the generosity of people and a belief in this new emphasis Waverly did not close its doors at the end of that following December. Today Waverly is a vibrant community which continues to look at what it can do to serve the broader community. Waverly presently has approximately 100 attendees on any given Sunday and is contributing more than 12 percent of its annual budget to mission outreach.

If Waverly had closed its doors, those years ago, it would have done so not because it had died but because it had lived in the way Jesus would have us all live, by sharing what we have received from God with others. God's plan for Waverly continues and for that the congregation is grateful. Grateful that the church remains in a position to spread the good news of the gospel which at its core is to love and trust in God and to treat our neighbors as we ourselves would want to be treated. Thanks be to God.