



2014

ANNUAL REPORT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
512 Seventh Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201
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MISSION STATEMENT

To be an active, growing, inclusive and caring church family that witnesses to God's love and shares the good news of Jesus Christ. Our mission leads us to invite all people to participate fully in our community and worship life as safe, loved, and accepted children of God, including:

- Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics
- Children and adults of all ages
- People of all sexual orientations, gender identities
- People of all races, & cultures
- People of all socioeconomic situations
- People of all mental and physical abilities
- Those who bring hope to the world and those who seek hope

STAFF

Interim Pastor	The Rev. Scott Hill
Music Director/Organist.....	Dianne Sprunger
Preschool Director.....	Barb Newton
Financial Secretary.....	Tammy Pace
Church Secretary.....	Tisha Terry
Sunday Facility Staff.....	John Frank

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Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA); the Synod of Lincoln Trails; the Presbytery of the Ohio Valley; the Ecumenical Assembly of Columbus, IN; MoreLight Presbyterians.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Membership

Information provided in this Annual Report covers January - December 2014

Active Members as of 12/31/14 413

New Members 11

Deceased Members 7

*(Carol Berkey, Rex Earl Breeden, Myra Davie, Betty Dietz,
Jill Ingersoll, Lala Isom, and Nancy Marble)*

Baptisms

Children/Adults 5

OUR STAFF

Interim Pastor, The Rev. Scott Hill

“God is spreading grace around in the world like a five-year-old spreads peanut butter; thickly, sloppily, eagerly, and if we are in the back shed trying to stay clean, we won’t even get a taste.”

— Donna Schaper in *Stripping Down*

I have to say that it has been a great joy and privilege to serve as your interim pastor in 2014. There were historic events which made it so, events in the life of FPC, as well as some personal events in my life and the lives of some of you. (I didn’t say it was an easy year!)

Planning occupied the beginning of the year. An officer’s retreat in February with thirty-six in attendance helped us to finalize and prioritize a strategic planning report, with four strategic goals, listed in priority order:

Everyday **Spirituality**; Reaching **Young Adults** and Families (including worship outside of Sunday morning and outside this building); Assessing and addressing **poverty**; Clarity about where we stand on **LGBTQ** issues. (For worship/ music style, see below)

The planning process was an exciting one, well-supported by the congregation. Thanks to over 125 members who took part, plus an excellent planning task force led by Sherry Stark. The value of the goals has been proven out as we have pursued all of them with surprising energy in the past year. Most notable were the Presbyterians UnPewed/ Free Range Worship services at various outdoor locations last summer – very creative, well-attended, and meaningful! – and the vote to become a More Light Presbyterian Church, which has had many positive ripple effects.

A year ago, we could never have imagined the shift in public opinion, state law and PC(USA) polity which took place in 2014. We were just a little ahead of that curve nationally, but much more locally. It has been one of the highlights in my years of ministry to see the number of people, many but not all of them gay, who have found their way to the church as a result. Even from beyond Bartholomew County, there are a lot of spiritually hungry people who literally thank God for a place where they are not judged or rejected! I thank you that I have had the joyful job of welcoming and praying with those people as they have come to us – and marrying one delightful couple. We need to continue the work of listening to a variety of perspectives and maintaining the church as a place where diverse opinions are respected.

We were very blessed as we dealt with the aftermath of Peggy Casteel’s departure. Monta Frazier and Sharon Williams-Hanrattie moved into temporary positions, along with Lisa Porter, who had been hired in late 2013, and all three of them were wonderful, capable and committed. I thanked God many times for leading us to each other.

We also were blessed to work with Chere Ko as Music Assistant, who left at the end of August when her one-year contract was up and the position was not continued.

In general, it was a year of reassessment and change in our music ministry. The planning process uncovered strong feelings – a lot of people love our music at FPC, but people also saw a lot of

OUR STAFF

Interim Pastor, The Rev. Scott Hill cont.

unrealized potential. After dialogue with the congregation, we developed the following statement for a new half-time position of choir director/organist: “FPC intends to continue a music program which is rooted in the rich heritage of church music while also connected to the broader culture in which our members take part. As we move forward, we would like the director to provide leadership, with the pastor and others, in enriching the mix. While still valuing the organ and traditional hymns, we want to further incorporate more informal music including a variety of instruments and styles.” Another big change was coming to a mutual parting of ways with music director Colin Andrews, and thanking him for his good work here. And we were delighted to have Dianne Sprunger join us in the new position. The Music at FPC series was very meaningful, with the Jussit Finnish Men’s choir a particular highlight.

The Laws Lecture events with Dr. Allan Boesak were exceptional not just for what he brought but also because of the ways it helped us to work with a remarkable group of local organizations. Keith Weedman did an excellent job.

Creativity in worship has been a particular joy, including the Season of Creation, Camel Sunday, grapevines for stewardship, and youth-led and child-led services. A lot of people contributed, but most notably Worship Arts Coordinator Lisa Porter, who brings such energy, enthusiasm and spark to her work and makes it so much fun for the rest of us! Thanks also to Mary Ann McCray and the worship committee for their support and ideas.

Confirmation was a great experience for me, and, I believe, for the twelve youth, mentors and other leaders. The group was very engaged, asked terrific questions, and took the process seriously. Bonnie Boatwright, Norie Erickson and Leah Jackman-Wheitner made huge contributions to the success of this learning experience, and we saw young people make significant growth in their faith. Time and again this year, I saw how strongly this church feels about **mission**, especially youth mission. Two fantastic trips to Detroit and South Dakota had a real impact on all of those who took part. Monta’s leadership was truly impressive. An international trip is ahead, and my desire would be to see more hands-on mission by all ages.

We celebrated throughout the year a big anniversary for our **Preschool**, enriching our community and its families for 60 years. As the first one in town, we set a standard of quality and caring for children. What a valuable and satisfying ministry!

Deaths were a big part of the year. We were saddened by some big losses, but I continue to be touched by the way this church cares for those who are grieving. It is one of the things you do best. And I add again my gratitude for all of the ways you cared for and supported Candace and me through the loss of my father in January. We have been deeply blessed.

I get to work with such great people here, paid and unpaid. I want to be sure to mention Tisha Terry and Tammy Pace in the office. They are a real pleasure to work with, and I see them time and again go above and beyond because they care about this church, its people and the work God has given us here. We are able to live God’s love and justice better because of what they do and how they do it!

SESSION REPORTS

Columbarium

Members and friends: **Roger Brinkman, Edith Ziegler, Eleanor Haltom, Gretchen Laemmer, Sharon Larson, Seth Keele, and Herschel O'Shaughnessey.**

Here are some thoughts that we hope people have when visiting the Columbarium:

“This place is well-cared for”, “This place gives a feeling of serenity and peacefulness”, “This is lovely and inviting”.

We try to achieve these goals by planting seasonal flowers, watering, fertilizing and dead heading, just as we do in our gardens at home. Care is given to polishing the bronze plaques, power washing the teak benches and the slate floor. Staining the teak furniture is also necessary from time to time. The ivy trimming and sweeping are on-going challenges to make things look good. We try to watch for any problems and attend to them as soon as possible. The hawthorn tree has attracted lots of roosting birds and the resulting mess has been a topic of concern all year long. We are considering the removal of the tree. Another problem is the accumulating lime deposits from the overflow of the irrigation through the hanging baskets. Several of the plaques have unacceptable amounts of white on them. Again, efforts are being made to improve this.

The committee did not have a meeting this year. We communicate through emails mainly, if a decision needs to be made.

During the 2014 calendar year, we had the following interments: **Carol Berkey, Myra Davie, and Nancy Marble.**

The committee will be thinking about when the correct time will be to build the next “bank” of niches. We currently have spaces existing for placement.

The Columbarium moderator's job is to be available to anyone who needs information and to handle collecting fees and doing the paperwork associated with the purchase of niches. I would like to thank all the committee and friends for their help. I would also like to thank our church secretary, Tisha Terry, for all of her help.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Larson, Moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Evangelism & Adult Nurture

2014 was an active, fruitful, spirit-filled year for the **Evangelism and Adult Nurture Committee** and our work in FPC. In our striving to put the words of the strategic goals our congregation identified into actions, we were active both inside and outside the church.

Joining with others, we became “Unpewed” this summer holding events at parks and public places in and around Columbus combining a devotional theme with fellowship time. We love to eat! From food trucks in the parking lot after the Sunday service, to Thanksgiving weekend fruit and pastries, to our “Fruitcake” exchange in December we gathered around tables to connect or re-connect with one another. We love music too. An initiative for scholarships for students in the Lincoln Central Neighborhood to participate in band was started and is growing.

We talked and listened. From preparing for mission trips, to hearing reports from our youth, and the Garbat-Welches preparing to work in Africa, we learned about the world around us and how we can make a difference outside Columbus. Within Columbus we brought Christmas in July to the children of the Lincoln Central Neighborhood and Diane Doup came to us and helped open our eyes to the choices the poor of Columbus face daily as did the members of the Sustained Dialogue group. We looked at LGBT and same-sex marriage issues as they relate to our congregation and our national church. We contemplated peacemaking, overarching themes in the Bible, keeping the Sabbath, and looked closer at some of our favorite Christmas hymns. We looked at the past by celebrating the 60th year of the FPC Preschool and looked to future by examining the strategic goals we identified. It was indeed, a full, spirit-filled year.

Members: Rev Scott Hill, B Watt Jorck, Janet Sharpe, Ben Fogt and Terri Glackin

SESSION REPORTS

Children's Nurture Committee

This year has been another wonderful year full of blessings in Children's Nurture. Here are just a few of the blessings:

- We continued to refine our Sunday morning schedule to keep our children engaged and active. Worship Arts continues after Sunday School and allows our children to share their talents in music, dance and art with the congregation. Lisa Porter, Worship Arts Coordinator, has increased participation in this program and we have been treated to a variety of singing and acting activities in worship, including a wonderful Christmas program. We have been blessed by a steady attendance in Sunday School this year.
- Sunday School is now every Sunday including holidays and breaks. On singing Sunday, the children stay in worship to sing and participate. All classes in the Elementary program are using the PCUSA curriculum, "We Believe".
- We said goodbye to our Music Assistant, Chere Ko in July. Dianne Sprunger has been helping coordinate and accompany the Worship Arts program this fall.
- Our upper elementary children attended an O.W.L. class for 9 weeks this fall, the first time we have put on a class for this age group. Thanks for Sunny Currier, Terri Glackin, Ann Jones, and B Watt-Jorck for putting this on for the children.
- We joined with Fairlawn Presbyterian and Camp Pyoca to put on a week-long day camp for area youth at Fairlawn. The children who attended loved the program and we will continue it in the summer of 2015.
- We joined with the rest of the congregation in celebrating 60 years of preschool education at our First Presbyterian Preschool. A special celebration was held during worship with a reception afterwards.
- Sharon Williams-Hanrattie continued as our staff person to support Children's Nurture in 2014. We look forward to the hiring of a new staff person in 2015 to work with both children and youth

Our team this year consisted of Colleen Herrick, elder chair; Barb Newton, elder; Janet Jackson, elder; Nicole Moore, Ben Fogt, Lisa Porter, and Sharon Williams-Hanrattie, staff. Our Elementary teachers in 2014 have been Nicole Moore, Leanne Loutner, Deborah Fogt, Janet Jackson, Sharon Williams-Hanrattie and Julia Stumpff. In the preschool area, Nancy Edwards, Edith Ziegler and Lizzie Frazier have volunteered to play and read stories.

Our hopes for the future include growing the children's nurture committee to include more parents and others interested in working for the nurture of our children, continuing to develop the nursery and preschool Sunday program as we see more young families joining the church, and find ways to meet the needs of our parents of younger children better as a community of faith and encourage more fellowship and support to them.

We are grateful to the elders, parents and volunteers engaged with our children. We anticipate with you what the year 2015 will bring!

Respectfully submitted, Colleen Herrick, Elder Chair, Barb Newton, Elder, Janet Jackson, Elder Sharon Williams-Hanrattie – Staff Support

SESSION REPORTS

Youth Nurture Committee

Youth Nurture continues to evolve as an important ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Your Youth Nurture Committee is committed to helping foster future leaders for the Church as the youth of this church continue to constantly display their leadership skills and abilities.

An important transition took place in 2012 as a result of the feedback from the Youth Ministry Architects in October, 2011. The program moved from being a pastor-led program to a team-led program which was an important transition to make. In September 2013 we said goodbye to Pastor Peggy and honored her for the amazing work she did growing our youth program during her 5 years with us. Because of the transition away from a pastor-led program, the youth programming was able to continue unimpeded after her departure.

First Presbyterian Church now has a strong leadership team for the youth as follows: Lisa Porter and David Porter, senior high youth group leaders; Sunny Currier and David Boatwright, junior high youth group leaders; Lisa Porter, Teen Impact at Worship leader; Cindy Frey and Monta Frazier, mission and service leaders; Dan Spurgeon, fundraising and fun; Leah Jackman-Wheitner, Sunday School Coordinator; Julie Daiker, College Connections; Abby Frazier, Maggie Frazier, Kati Jackman-Wheitner, and Evan Porter as youth representatives; Bonnie Boatwright, elder chair and communicator; These fine leaders help one another as they work together collaboratively.

Mission continues to be an important part of youth nurture. For their local service projects and mission trips, the youth raised just under \$8000 in 2014. The youth were involved in several local service projects. They are regular volunteers at Hot Meals. Many of the youth supported Abby Frazier and Maggie Frazier in their Senior Project "Taking it to the Streets". And many supported Alexandra Friend in her Senior Project of the Heart Tree, collecting items for Christmas for preschool families.

Both youth groups went on mission trips in 2014. The high school youth traveled to Pine Ridge, South Dakota where they built and installed bunkbeds, outhouses, decks and stairs on home on the reservation. They also added skirting and insulation to the bottom of trailers to help keep the heat in the homes during the winter. Additionally they shared meals and interacted with local children and families and purchased crafts from Lakota vendors. This trip was a great lead-up to our International Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic in June, 2015. The middle school youth took their mission trip to Michigan where they worshipped with and stayed at FPC of Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The youth and chaperones helped the church become a "tomato church" by planting a garden at the church. The youth served in some community kitchens, taught Sunday School, and led an after-school program for at-risk youth in the Detroit area. Of course, our chaperones and leaders all make this work possible.

SESSION REPORTS

Youth Nurture Committee cont.

Lisa Porter continued her service as the Acting Director of Worship Arts for Children and Youth (ADWACY) in 2014 and then continued serving as a volunteer after her contract expired. The Youth's TeenImpact meets weekly between youth groups with Lisa Porter. Under Lisa's leadership the youth create and practice different pieces of the worship services, in which the youth share their gifts and perspective each month. They also continue their great annual tradition of Youth Sunday, actively involving 25+ youth in learning about and leading us all in worship.

Youth isn't all about work and service. They still enjoy lock-ins, ski trips, go-karting, white water rafting, spending a day at an amusement park, swimming, or hanging out together at meals or youth time. Our youth truly enjoy spending time together, during church-sponsored activities and on their own time.

In 2014 we were fortunate to have elder Abby Frazier serve on the Youth Nurture Committee. We are fortunate to have several youth in active leadership roles in the church and we continue to create more opportunities for the youth to serve, worship together, and have fun!

*Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Boatwright, Elder Chair 2014*

SESSION REPORTS

Personnel Committee

Mission: To oversee and administer personnel-related activities of the church in accordance with the Book of Order and the First Presbyterian Personnel Policies Manual in a manner that supports and furthers the mission of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Indiana.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mike Hacker, Scott Hill, Lynne Hyatt, Mary Orben, Rita Selheim, Janet Sharpe and Merry Carmichael – Moderator

The Personnel Committee met 11 times. Major events and responsibilities included the following:

- made ourselves aware of feelings and wishes of church staff,
- oversaw the personnel policies and procedures of the church,
- conducted and oversaw work review of our Interim Pastor, Director of Music, office staff and Sunday morning staff,
- recommended pastor and staff compensation, also adjusted some hours worked and pay for some office staff, in partnership with Stewardship Finance Committee.

With the goal of creating a staffing configuration that is clear, sustainable and well-grounded, we devoted much thought and discussion to how our staffing could best fit to develop our strategic plan. One of our members, Lynne Hyatt volunteered to serve on the Staffing Model Task Force purposed to recommend to Session positions that are needed in music and Christian Education.

Working on recommendations made at the retreat, (A church with 100-150 worship attendees...needs one full time pastoral position), Personnel recommended to the session that we eliminate the position of Associate Pastor, which saved the church the \$500 a month we had been sending to the Board of Pensions. This then had to meet the approval of Session, the Congregation, and the Presbytery.

Note: Staff had not been reduced since First Presbyterian had over 750 active members, where now First Presbyterian Church of Columbus has less than a third of that number, or less than 250 active members. So, in a move to put our staff further in line with our active membership count, several steps were undertaken.

Rather than continuing to have a full time Director of Music, Personnel created a new half-time job description for a 'Choir Director/Organist'. This new position included having some special music every Sunday. The American Guild of Organists and local churches were consulted.

As a part of this work, Personnel and Pastor Scott Hill received and responded to many letters of concern from congregation members. This resulted in a Nurture Hour presentation explaining our proposed staffing configuration and again responding to expressed concerns. Some committee members then met with the choir and Interim Pastor Scott Hill.

A sub Committee then held a review with our Director of Music, 2014 in which a mutual parting of the ways was agreed upon. Colin completed his tenure at First Presbyterian Church on December 24th. A coffee hour farewell celebration was planned for Colin.

SESSION REPORTS

Personnel Committee cont.

A coffee hour farewell celebration was earlier, planned for Chere Ko, (Colin's Assistant) as her position would end in August.

Personnel recommended to session that First Presbyterian hire a 'Director of Religious Education' Personnel discussed and extended the temporary positions of Lisa Porter (Children's Worship Arts); Monta Frazier (Youth and Mission Trips). These paid positions ended in July. Both are continuing in a volunteer role. Sharon Williams Hanrattie (Children's Nurture Facilitator) worked through the end of 2014.

Lisa Porter, and Monta Frazier (somewhat are continuing in) these roles as volunteers.

Personnel discussed the idea of hiring a thirty hour per week "Director of Religious Education." The Staffing Model Task- Force began working on the job description.

Goals for 2015

- ◆ Work with the new pastor to facilitate a good start.
- ◆ Have in place a full staff ready to guide the congregation in working to fulfill our strategic goals.
- ◆ This includes a Senior Pastor, a 30 hour a week Director of Religious Education, and a 20 hour a week Choir/Director/Organist.
- ◆ Encourage fair pay for employees while working within the church budget.
- ◆ Have joint goals with employees. This includes keeping abreast of each staff member to see that our job descriptions are being followed and that each staff member is comfortable with those expectations.
- ◆ Continue to improve job descriptions all around.
- ◆ Continue annual performance reviews.
- ◆ *Develop a clear discipline system and avenue for appeal. (Continued from 2014's goals)*
- ◆ *Review and revise the handbook. (Continued from 2014's goals.)*

We express our deep gratitude to our Pastor and to all of the staff at First Church who serve with such faith and devotion. In particular we appreciate the invaluable support of Interim Pastor Scott Hill.

SESSION REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2014 Annual Report updated 1/25/15

Mission: To Serve the Religious, Educational and Charitable Needs
of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Indiana

2014 Unrestricted Grant Funds Available **\$83,986.71**

2014 Grants Awarded from Unrestricted Funds:

Mission Support	\$ 27,000.00
Books for Children's Library (5 year project)	\$ 1,000.00
Rebuild Conrad Rehbein Music Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Bright Stars of Bethlehem - Dar El Calima College	\$ 10,000.00
Pre-school - Childcare management software	\$ 3,105.00
Attendance at Montreat Worship & Music Conference	\$10,000.00
Children's Worship arts instruments & storage space	\$ 5,760.00
Projector compatible with newer computers	\$ 1,000.00

Total Granted from Unrestricted Funds **\$ 62,865.00**

2014 Reeves Fund Grant (administered by Heritage Fund)

Organ pipe repairs	\$ 6,000.00
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Foundation Balances -- Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Vanguard Investment Account	\$ 2,437,909.12
Columbarium - New Covenant Investments	\$ 18,348.51
Columbarium - First Financial Bank checking	\$ 15,033.38
Organ Maintenance - New Covenant Investments	\$ 95,633.37
Harrison Youth Fund - New Covenant Investments	\$ 23,291.67
Reeves Fund (administered by Heritage Fund)	\$ 691,915.38 (as of 9/30/14)
Foundation Checking Account	\$ 47,196.31
Craig Fund (for expenses related to new minister)	\$ 6,347.31

Highlights during 2014

- * Clean audit for 2013 conducted by Kemper CPA Group
- * Investment Committee transferred funds from PNC to Vanguard and T Rowe Price during 2014
- * Spending Policy was revised and Foundation Policies organized
- * 7.5% return on investments during 2014
- * "Legacy Circle" event recognized those with the foundation and/or church in their estate plans
- * A generous bequest from the estate of Pauline Crump was received

2014 Foundation Board of Directors and Officers

Doug Bonnell	Planned Giving, Mission Support Committee
Jayne Farber	Vice President
Jacque Franz	Secretary
Eric Frey	Planned Giving Chair
Scott Hill	Advisor
Seth Keele	Treasurer
Dan Spurgeon	Investments Chair
Sherry Stark	President
Warren Ward	Investments

We are grateful to Jacque Franz for her five years' service on the Foundation Board. She will be missed!

SESSION REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2014 Annual Report Cont.

During 2014 \$825 has been given to the foundation in Memory or in Honor of: Myra Davies, Virginia Collins, Clinton Frank, Margie Harris, Dennis Hill, Lala Ison, Armin Jorck, Nancy Marble and Martha Summerville

Those interested in applying for a grant are encouraged to contact any foundation board member or the Rev. Scott Hill for guidance. Please remember that grant requests are to be submitted to the Session for review prior to being considered by the foundation.

Those interested in more information regarding planned giving opportunities and/or our Legacy Circle are encouraged to contact any foundation board member.

2015 Meeting Dates: February 4, April 1, June 3, August 5, October 7, December 2

SESSION REPORTS

Property Committee

Members are: Ben Bush, Jeff Crump, Zack Ellison, Jim Farrar, Scott Hill, Terry Molewyk, Luther Pierson, Danny Sanders, Bob Smitherman, and Janet Ward.

The Property Committee is charged with maintaining our very large and relatively old facility: cleaning it, repairing it, improving it as dictated by Session and making sure the supplies necessary to do so are available. Below is a summary of the projects completed in 2014 along with cost figures for the major ones.

Building Maintenance

Sanctuary painting from leaks- \$1,752

Staining Franklin Street Sanctuary doors- \$5,840 (had not been done in several years, western exposure very harsh on the wood, not doing so would eventually require replacing the doors)

Roof & gutter patching-\$3,742

Roof inspection- \$1,338

Door buzzer system-\$5,346 (by vote of Session)

Elevator repairs-\$919

Repairs to dishwasher/hot water heater-\$2,782

Fire valve/sprinkler leak repair- \$2,385

Drywall repairs to ceiling- \$2,110

Repairs/routine maintenance on boilers & A/C system- \$7,118 (new boiler should last several decades, however, it is one of two in the FPC system so we may be facing another similarly expensive repair at any time)

Changing to LED lights/lighting repairs- \$6,594 (long-term savings to be realized by longer life bulbs and less labor cost to replace them)

North parking lot asphalt repair

Tree removal and trimming

Repairs/replacement of some items in the Preschool (i.e. light fixtures, bathroom tiles) to pass state inspection

Seasonal snow removal and grass mowing

Building Cleaning

Year-round cleaning of church and preschool by contract janitorial firm

Audio Visual

New projector for the Sanctuary \$882 (existing equipment no longer accommodated current video technology)

Special Note:

After many years of Property Committee service, Janet Ward will be rotating off. We deeply appreciate her service to First Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted, Zack Ellison, Property Committee Chair

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice

As Presbyterians we not only expect change, we seek engagements with those changes that make the world a more peaceful place with compassion, love, and justice. Our 2014 Social Justice Committee (SJC) activities were focused among five priorities: AIDS, Empowerment, Immigration, Middle East issues, and Poverty. These priorities will be re-evaluated as our work goes forward into 2015. Our Open and Affirming sub-committee report follows the SJC report. The committee facilitator for O&A is Leah Jackman-Wheitner.

Rev. Scott Hill is our assigned staff for both committees. SJC members include: Gretchen Laemmer, Vern Jorck, Lexi Jackman-Wheitner, Sherm Franz, Keith Weedman, Sunny Currier, Jo Lucas, and new member, Marilyn Richardson. Ann Jones facilitates. Our total annual budgets are \$1,000.

One ministry very important to our work is community mission allocation. Our total allocation for 2014 was \$23,500. The largest contribution went to Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County. Nine other local programs benefitted from our community mission fund. We invited all recipients to update our committee by sending a representative to each meeting. We welcomed representatives from the following organizations – Turning Point, Family Self Sufficiency, Just Friends, and Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center.

The Love Chapel fund drive for January 2014 netted an impressive \$3,995. We are gearing up for 2015 and hope to do as well.

Many grant requests came through our committee en route to Mission Support Committee. Social Justice members developed evaluative questions to help in the discernment process. Eleven requests were allocated totaling \$41,494 covering a wide variety of projects both local and global.

The SJC promoted the Peace and Global Witness offering (formerly Peacemaking) which raised \$2,300. We allocated our 25% portion to the work of the Power of Love Foundation – pediatric AIDS program in Zambia. The peace making origins of Mother's Day were emphasized in a drama of the Julia Ward Howe Proclamation, and Presbyterian mission focused Mother's Day cards were sold several Sundays prior to the event. On the first Sunday of Advent, World AIDS Day was acknowledged with an AIDS banner and within the worship service.

Adult nurture activities included an Anti-Torture banner outside the building for a few weeks and a class on Detainee treatment of the Constitution Project. The well attended Laws Lecture was presented by Rev. Alan Boesak followed by light refreshments. The SJC supported a community wide film entitled *Harvest of the Empire* regarding immigration and U.S. history in Latin America and the Caribbean. We also hosted an evening in support of Dr. Fran Quigley's book tour – *Justice and Democracy in Haiti*. Keith Weedman presented 6 sessions on Constructivist Thinking as it relates to personal empowerment as well as church involvement. Sustained Community Dialogue meetings were also encouraged and attended by SJC members. We kept the congregational community informed of our ongoing work through the BLAST, church newsletter, and minutes for mission. We have membership involvement in a local group working on environmental repair and improvement in conjunction with Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light.

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice cont.

The SJC responded to a positive investment matching request for the Middle East of \$10,000 from Rev. Rob and Sharon Craig. After much exploration, a \$10,000 grant was made by our Foundation and matched by the Craigs) to Bright Stars of Bethlehem for Dar al-Kalima College.

Support for two Presbyterian mission co-worker families was encouraged through alternative Christmas suggestions and Mission support matching grants – Kari Nicewander and Joel DeJong and Jeremy and Luta Garbat-Welch, both involved with Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, in Zambia and Malawi respectively. They shared the \$2,390 raised (\$1,195 from the congregation and \$1,195 from Mission Support.) Another \$2,390 was added by an anonymous national grant so each family received \$4780.

During the Christmas season the SJC provided gifting that makes a difference throughout the world via sales at coffee hour for Palestinian oil, Granny Connection items for a pediatric AIDS program, our two mission co-worker families previously cited, and provision of the new Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

Thanks to First Presbyterian's congregational commitments we are able to share God's love and justice globally and locally. We stand at the doorway of 2015 "living the questions" and carrying into the New Year an enthusiasm for the challenges and opportunities ahead for a better world.

SESSION REPORTS

Open & Affirming Sub-Committee of Social Justice

Open and Affirming Subcommittee worked to increase support and understanding of LGBTQ issues within the church. In part due to priorities set by our strategic planning committee, we shared information with the congregation about becoming a More Light church, and the Session voted to do that. We have added that information as well as a rainbow symbol to our church sign, and have hung a rainbow banner in June and November (to coincide with Pride Month and our Transgender Day of Remembrance Event.) We also had displays in the gym during June for Pride Month. In recognition of national LGBT History Month, a downtown banner was purchased for community use.

We discussed the anti-gay marriage legislation before the state legislature, which ended up being postponed, then ruled against by the Supreme Court. In part due to that, and in part due to overtures to this year's General Assembly, we held an Adult Nurture class in June to discuss marriage equality, Presbyterian views on marriage, and the amendment before the General Assembly. The book, *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage* by Presbyterian minister Mark Achtemeier was purchased for our church library.

General Assembly made two decisions regarding marriage this summer. First, through an Authoritative Interpretation, ministers are allowed to perform same-sex marriages in states where it is legal. Second, they voted to have an amendment to clarify the definition of marriage in the Book of Order. This amendment is currently being voted on by presbyteries across the country. We discussed how we might support this effort in our Presbytery's vote in March. We maintain membership status currently in Presbyterian Covenant Network and More Light organizations.

Transgender Day of Remembrance in November was well-attended with a very meaningful service and discussion afterward. Rev. Lanny Lawler was the speaker. The gallery of posters has been used in Hanover and Indy's TDOR events as well as at Indy Pride Thanksgiving.

Looking ahead to 2015, we will continue to discuss options for supporting Seymour's PFLAG chapter as there is momentum building to have meetings in Columbus as well. We are updating our church's pamphlet on LGBTQ issues to reflect the legal changes and PC(USA) changes in marriage.

SESSION REPORTS

Stewardship & Finance Committee

The purpose of the Stewardship and Finance committee is both practical and spiritual. The committee strives to communicate and facilitate the Christian ideal of sharing God's gifts to support our Church's programs as well as supporting the work of the Presbyterian governing bodies.

The mission of this committee is to provide sound financial management of the Church's financial resources and to make financial stewardship meaningful to the congregation.

Committee members: Tammy Pace (Finance Secretary), Dan Spurgeon (Treasurer), Scott Hill (Interim Pastor), Alan Kilbarger (Moderator), Keith Weedman, Vern Jorck

2014 Highlights

- Analyzed and discussed the financial review performed by Jim Pellet. Took action on 7 out of 10 recommendations.
 - Mr. J. Pellet's report gave 10 recommendations:
 - 5 have been implemented, 2 decided not to implement, 3 would like to implement but have not yet been able to get resource or time to complete
- Provided oversight for First Presbyterian Pre-School Finances.
- Reviewed past 3 years of actual data – pledges and income and expense to better understand and make proposals for 2015 budget. Staffing changes are taking place to decrease expenses but the facilities expenses are more than budgeted; that causes expenses to surpass pledges and income.
- Reviewed Balance Sheet Funds at a more detailed level.
- Utilized a new Stewardship process with the use of a Grape theme. This gave a visual impact in the sanctuary for several weeks and allowed the congregation to think about the Church and what they are thankful for and appreciate.
- Stewardship process for 2014 update: as of Jan. 9th, 94 pledge cards turned in for \$371K.

2015 Goals

- Improve Special Offerings coordination: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering, in conjunction with other Committees.
- Continue to provide financial oversight to Session and all committees.
 - Work closely with Personnel committee and Session during staff transitions.
 - This year will have various staffing changes and alternatives.
- Transition moderator duties of the committee from Alan K. to Keith W.
- Implement Quick books software and replace Power Church as the software that manages First Presbyterian financial data.
- Continue to implement the last 3 recommendations from Jim Pellet's review of the 2012 financial data.

SESSION REPORTS

Worship Committee

Mission Statement: *To create and nurture a climate that will enable members, friends and visitors of our congregation, both individually and cooperatively, during worship to respond to God's love for us. We strive to do this in a manner that everyone, regardless of age, social, economic or family situation will be personally affirmed in that love.*

Committee Members: Mary Ann Clark, Glinda Ellison, Eric Erickson, Susan Kell, Kathy Molewyk, Mary Ann Patterson, Laura Pierson, Luther Pierson, Lisa Porter, Marilyn Richardson, Mary Ann McCray (moderator), Scott Hill (staff), Colin Andrews (staff).

Committee Responsibilities Provided: Prepare and set up communion. In consultation with the pastor or others leading worship, select appropriate sanctuary banners for Sunday worship; provide decorations for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and Ordinary Time. Coordinate the ordering of poinsettias at Christmas and lilies at Easter and delivery of them to senior members unable to join us for worship. Respond to requests from the Celebration of Life committee with preparation of the sanctuary for funeral and memorial services. Recruit adult lay liturgists for worship services. Recruit lay liturgists several times a year for Grammer Presbyterian Church.

Special Projects in 2014: At the request of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, designed grape arbors in the sanctuary for the stewardship campaign. Authored five grant requests made to the Presbyterian Foundation (Matching Grant for the Rehbein Fund, Organ Pipe Repair, Storage Cabinets and Instruments for the Teen/Impact and Worship Arts programs, a new projector, and Montreat Music and Worship Conference scholarships for staff/church members.)

The Worship committee also commissioned design and construction of a new wedding banner that is being given in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Donna and Cal Brand by their children.

Special thanks to: Barbara Tuttle and Tisha Terry for coordinating the Sunday worship flower calendar and to everyone who donated the flowers. We thank everyone who donated poinsettias and lilies. We are grateful for all the liturgists who helped lead worship at both FPC and Grammer. Our special thanks go to the children, youth, their leaders and parents for leadership each month during worship. We appreciate the staff support given by Tisha Terry and Tammy Pace.

OTHER REPORTS

Deacons

2014 Deacons: Sarah Sanders (Moderator) Deborah Fogt (Vice Moderator), Gretchen Laemmer, Lynne Hyatt, Natalie Roll, Melissa Hacker, Dana Harrison, Kelly Geckler, Rita Selheim, Tom Carmichael, Janet Putney, Tom Davies, Marquita Tuck, Glinda Ellison, Kathja Anderson, Dana Harrison, Brian Pierson (through May).

Deacon Responsibilities

“It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session.”

--Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church

FPC Deacons lead hospitality events, care for church members in need, make themselves available as a resource to members on their Deacon lists, serve as Head Ushers and recruit door ushers, and represent Deacons by serving on other church committees.

2014 Fellowship Events

February: Deacon Breakfast

April: Easter Breakfast

June: Summer Picnic at Donner Park

November: Consecration Brunch

Additional Work in 2014:

Working with the Accessibility Taskforce to increase usher familiarity and resources regarding church accessibility

Working on safety/health/evacuation needs and planning

Working with the Kitchen Committee to provide dishes for church events and receptions

Several memorial services

Thank you to everyone for their hard work and dedication!

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Sanders

OTHER REPORTS

Preschool

Mission: The mission of First Presbyterian Preschool is to provide a safe and nurturing, innovative and inclusive education to all.

Preschool Director: Barbara Newton

Board Members: Pam Donohoe Duncan, Chairperson; Deborah Fogt, Assistant Chairperson; Kim Burgess, Finance; Lauren Millwood, Scholarship; Rajesh Thyagarajan, Fundraising; Emily McKeon, Volunteer Co-ordinator; Jennifer Bailey, Fundraising; Hua Jing, Musical/Events Chairperson

2014 Highlights and Accomplishments

- 165 students enrolled in 11 classes
- 10 students receiving scholarships at a total cost of approximately. \$18,150.
- 28 staff members
- 3 administrative staff
- Diverse student population: 58% Caucasian (-8%); 24% Asian Indian (+6%); 1 % Japanese (-3%); 5% Hispanic (+1); 1% African American (+1%); 3% Chinese (+1%); 0% American Indian (- 1%); 0% Native Hawaiian (-1%); 4% Multi Racial(+4%); 1% Vietnamese; 2% Other (+1 %).
- Fourteen different languages spoken in the homes of our preschoolers.
- 2 special needs students joining our childcare program in the afternoon
- Received Heritage Fund Community Scholarships of \$14,300
- Achieved Level 3 of Paths to QUALITY.
- All staff completed 15 hours of continuing education and ½ of staff completed 20 hours
- Held a successful fundraising event “Celebrating 60” that provided \$19,722 to the general fund and scholarships.
- Offered Parenting classes to Transition to Preschool parents while their children attended class
- Submitted Early Education Matching Grant to the state for additional Pre K student funding
- Full capacity in Enrichment Classes - “Marvelous Math” and “Roots to Reading”.
- Transitioned to an Assistant Director instead of a Director of the Wee Care only.
- Director served on the Registered Ministry Advisory Group at the State
- Columbus Area Private Preschools Group (CAPP) continues to facilitate communication with the Early Childhood Education Advisory Board.
- Participated in the Hoosier Child Care Quality Expansion Project.
- Continuing to tweak the assessment program
- Served on the Indiana Professional Development Network Team

OTHER REPORTS

Use of Facility

Organizations that regularly use the church building:

- Fogerty Music Therapy Sessions
- Granny Connection
- Lincoln Neighborhood Watch
- Peace Fellowship - once a month or more
- Sustained Dialogue Meetings
- Tai Chi
- Violin Lessons/Recitals

Other that have used the church in 2014:

- Outside Support Groups
- Piano & Vocal Recitals
- Spiritual Direction