

2017 Annual Report



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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www.fpccolumbus.org

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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

PastorThe Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez
Choir Director/Organist.....Dianne Sprunger
Director of Children and Youth Ministries.....Marietta Macy
Preschool Director.....Barb Newton
Church Secretary.....Brook Brown
Financial Secretary.....Christy Jerman
Sunday Custodian.....Wayne Huff
Childcare Providers.....Priyanka Goyal, Kirsten Ballard, Brook Brown

First Presbyterian Church
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Website: www.fpccolumbus.org

*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
2017*

Active Members as of 12/31/17	421
New Members	19
<i>(Cara Bywater, Elizabeth Damm, Joy King, Heather Holland, Benjamin Snodgress, Karlene Kurtz, Lindsay Anderson, Erik Anderson, Ruth Truelove, Maxwell Truelove)</i>	
Confirmation	
<i>(Emma Edwards, Madeline Malcomb, Alex Martin, Emily Martin, Michael Martinez, Rebecca Moore, Elaine Sanders, Vera Stablein, Ben Stenner)</i>	
Deceased Members	7
<i>(Robert Billany, Wilma Newton, Riley Shoultz, Jim Gorbett, Marty Newsom, Oakley Koons, Margaret Pearson)</i>	
Weddings	1
<i>(Jordan Newton and Bobby Doggett; Heather Holland and Mike Reeves)</i>	
Baptisms	
Children/Adults	3
<i>(Heather Holland, James Snodgress, Maxwell Truelove)</i>	

OUR STAFF

Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

I Corinthians 12:26

In 2017, we worked as a congregation to live up to Paul's words to the Corinthians. As of course we have room to improve, we are able to point to some areas where we made some progress and where we see a direction to follow.

Our church was one of 35 churches in Indiana selected to participate in the Center for Congregations' *Engaging Young Adults Initiative*. To write our proposal, a team of members reflected on our current outreach to young adults (broadly defined as people in their 20s and 30s) and ways in which we can learn with and from these young adults. Being approved as part of this initiative will offer the church learning opportunities, time with a consultant, as well as the ability to apply in 2018 for matching funding up to \$30,000 to create programming involving young adults. The initiative goes through 2019.

The ministry of our congregation had an impact in the community, as we helped highlight social justice issues. We had a leading role in several demonstrations calling the community to action. The rally to support young people who have protected status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) brought a diverse group of residents together and resulted in the writing of 608 letters to members of the U.S. Congress lobbying them to create legislation to replace DACA (following an Executive Action terminating the program). The letters were hand-delivered to the offices of these elected officials. We also offered leadership in community efforts opposing racism, including a rally and a well-attended public conversation. We joined Bread for the World in the annual Offering of Letters, writing letters to our representatives in Congress supporting programs addressing hunger in the US and globally.

I was honored to join members of the church and the Presbytery of Ohio Valley on a trip to Israel-Palestine led by Marietta Macy. The experience has led to opportunities to share what we learned with the church and the presbytery. It also rekindled our church's commitment to advocate for justice for Palestinians.

In pastoral care, I had one-on-one meetings with church members 86 occasions (14 members in the hospital, hospice or nursing home, some more than once). I met with 14 prospective new members, 64 community members seeking support, 14 couples getting married, 9 families preparing

OUR STAFF

Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez cont.

for a Service of Witness to the Resurrection. I performed 3 weddings, 1 infant baptism, and 2 adult baptisms.

I am currently a member of two boards locally: Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County and Turning Point Domestic Violence Services. May God continue to challenge, nurture and use us in our journey of faith as a congregation and community.

Shalom and Salaam,

Felipe

OUR STAFF

Dianne Sprunger, Choir Director/Organist

The bells are ringing! The most significant change to the music program this year was the addition of hand bells. Through many generous donations we purchased three octaves of Schulmerich Hand Bells in June. The bell choir started in August with a beginners' workshop, followed by regular rehearsals. The bell choir added beautiful music to worship services during the fall and Advent.

The music area groups (Worship Arts, Teen Impact, Adult Choir, Living By Faith, as well as soloists) have led us throughout the year in worship services. Some of the noteworthy Sundays include the Easter services, Youth Sunday, Gwyneth Walker's cantata *Love flows from God*, the church picnic at Donner Park, World Communion, *The Longest Night* cantata, neighborhood caroling and Christmas Eve services which involved many visual and musical artists, singers and instrumentalists from the congregation and community.

Many members extend our music involvement into the community. For Ash Wednesday, we joined with North Christian Church for a combined service. Several Adult Choir members sing with the Columbus Philharmonic Chorus. Several adult instrumentalists play in the City Band. I accompany many local musicians for solo recitals, ISSMA contests, and the Brown Competition. FPC hosted the opening Wednesday Lenten Organ Series concert. **Music at FPC** concerts included the Anderson University Chorale in the Spring, and Lessons and Carols (by our choir, soloists and readers) in December.

I attended the week-long Indiana University Jacobs School of Music Summer Music Intensive Workshop, and two new music reading sessions (Indianapolis, Indiana and Columbus, Ohio).

Lisa Porter, Marietta Macy, Felipe Martinez and I meet monthly to brainstorm worship ideas based on the lectionary. Lisa continues to grace the congregation with her many volunteer hours. Her faith, creativity, and her love of children, youth and music are beyond compare, and are the significant underpinning of the cradle-to-grave music program at FPC.

I am grateful for all who have found music, suggested music and participated in our music making all year. Our music in worship is varied and thought-filled.

Sincerely,

Dianne Sprunger

OUR STAFF

Marietta Macy, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

This year has seen even more growth in our children's and youth programming. I am VERY pleased to be able to say that we had over 30 volunteers at the end of 2017 that are Safe Church certified and active in supporting our children's and youth ministries. In addition, our Nursery and Preschool class has grown substantially enough that we found the need to split it into a separate Preschool class for ages 3-5 and Nursery for our infants and toddlers. As we planned to begin staffing the Nursery (room E6) with a childcare worker and volunteer each Sunday, we found that the room itself could use a little refreshing as well. The Youth Group has already devoted their time and talents to help strip the old wallpaper, patch damaged walls, repaint, and measure, cut, and install new trim (a skill they learned on the mission trip to West Virginia earlier in the year).

As I reflect on the many, many things we did and learned in 2017, one of the things I am particularly proud of was the culmination of the Confirmation class. I continue to be impressed by how much they grew together and how I have seen them live out their faith and those lessons since finishing Confirmation. I think they have been a great example to our congregation of just how deeply our youth think and how seriously they have wrestled with their faith; even giving some adults permission and encouragement to be honest and comfortable with their faith journeys too.

Over the summer we went on an intergenerational mission trip back to West Virginia and continued to help with flood relief work there. It was humbling and devastating to see how much work still needed to be done for folks to recover from the damage. It was also incredibly inspiring to see the work that had been done in some areas and to meet leaders in the community who have so fully dedicated themselves to helping their neighbors recover. If you haven't yet, I encourage you to read through the group blog that the youth and children wrote themselves each day to hear about the experience through their eyes: <https://fpcmissiontrip2017.wordpress.com/>

In the fall of 2017 we offered five different Sunday School classes for different age ranges in addition to our other programs including Worship Arts, Teen Impact, Tweens Fellowship, and Youth Group. Our Preschool class continued using the Sparkhouse curriculum, *Frolic*, which in addition to providing lesson plans for class, provides parents with personalized, informative updates on their child's faith and cognitive development unique to their age. A display can be seen in the gym currently of how children of different ages develop their faith. The Elementary class is using another Sparkhouse curriculum, *Holy Moly*, which children and teachers alike are really enjoying as they work through stories from both the Old and New Testament. The Tweens are working through the *Connect* curriculum which

OUR STAFF

Marietta Macy, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, cont.

seeks to develop the connections there are between the stories of the Bible children began learning early in life, our faith, and our church. The Middle and High School classes are hosting a series of guest speakers from inside our church and from the community who are sharing topics they are particularly passionate about and how that relates to their own faith journey and understanding of God.

I am extremely thankful for the dedicated volunteers, particularly the Children's and Youth Nurture committees for their tireless work, and Dianne Springer and Lisa Porter for their continued leadership in our wonderfully creative and meaningful worship with the children and youth. They have all continued to take on our ministry with faith, humor, and creativity, for which I am very grateful. On both committees, our conversations about our work have been able to move beyond simply fulfilling immediate needs and think more about long term planning and goals. But even more importantly, in our committee work we have taken seriously the role our faith plays, how we live it out, and how we can best fulfill the baptismal vows we make for all our children. I am confident that our ministry programming is helping our young folks and their families to build a strong biblical and theological foundation that can be built upon as they continue their own faith journeys.

In addition to work here, I have also been busy with service to the larger church as well. In March I was honored to lead a group from our presbytery, which included several members of our congregation, on a trip to Palestine and Israel. We were able to visit many of the holy sites, learn about the current situation, and visit with our church's partners in the region including the Dar al-Kalima school and college and the International Center of Bethlehem. I also continue in my role as Vice Moderator of the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA), leading the planning of our annual conference in October and representing the Network in various meetings with denominational leadership as we seek to discern the future of the Peacemaking Program in the PC(USA). I am looking forward to attending the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators annual conference again this year and am sure it will be as inspiring and educational as it was last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Marietta Macy

OUR STAFF

Barb Newton, Director of First Presbyterian 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: Kimberly Burgess, Chairperson; Colleen Herrick, Assistant Chairperson; Maggie Kim, Secretary Chair; Kelsey DeClue, Scholarship Chairperson; Jake Fedor, Finance; Colleen Herrick, Scholarship Co-chair; April Pepmeier, Volunteer coordinator; Jenny Walters, Fundraising; Jake Fitzsimmons, Marketing; Bobby Crider, Events Co-chair

This year we had 150 children enrolled in 11 classes. We had 11 scholarship students receiving \$18,280 in funds. Our staff of 30 worked hard to nurture children and adults in our program. We started the year with registration. We see many of our Pre K students start at the public preschools and then come back to our program when they see the difference in the curriculum. We applied to be part of the pilot grant for On My Way Pre-K program that offers scholarships to low income students. We were approved and will offer scholarships to students next year. Our enrollment in our childcare program, enrichment classes and preschool remained solid. We are greatly affected by the movement of our international families. We have many move in and move out throughout the year and it is tough on the staff and a lot more paperwork but often we get new students along the way. Staffing has been solid and the preschool and childcare are running like a well oiled machine! We have filled every inch of our space and with our long range strategic plan have utilized our space to the fullest.

It has been a wonderful year to get children the special help that they need. With lots of work with parents, we have been successful in getting children speech, OT and PT. We strive to give every child the best possible experience and we even have an Occupational Therapist volunteer their time to help our children.

It was a big emotional year as Rich and I lost a parent but gained a son in law, saw Jordie through her thyroid cancer, and helped my parents with their memory care. I am truly blessed by the support of the staff and congregation at church as well as preschool. The tenderness showed to me this year was amazing and I am forever grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Newton, Director of Preschool

SESSION REPORTS

Adult Fellowship and Education

Committee: Dale Nowlin (chair), Katie Booth, Janet Sharpe, Cara Bywater, Terri Glackin, Leah Jackman-Wheitner

As the Adult Fellowship and Education Committee, we focus our efforts on bringing adults in the congregation together to build relationships with each other, deepen our individual relationships with God, and learn about topics and issues around living out our faith in our everyday life and in the society in which we live. Our monthly agenda always begins with FPC's four strategic goals, (1) everyday spirituality, (2) focus on young adults and young families, (3) assessing and addressing poverty, and (4) ministering to LGBT people and their allies. We keep those goals in focus as we make plans for adult fellowship and education.

By the numbers, AFE sponsored 38 Sunday morning adult education hour sessions, 9 summer patio party events, 5 fellowship pitch-in meals, and 6 meetings or events around the Engaging Young Adults Grant. When we aligned these activities to the congregation's strategic goals we identified 33 activities or events aligned to strategic goal #1, everyday spirituality, 13 around strategic goal #2, focusing on young adults and young families, and 12 on social justice, including five on strategic goal #3, assessing and addressing poverty, and two on strategic goal #4, ministering to LGBT people and their allies.

In the adult education hour sessions, we tried to provide opportunities to connect our faith to social justice while maintaining a focus on spiritual growth through studying the Bible. We had many sessions led by people from within the congregation, including Dianne Sprunger's session on music and worship, Hannah Frey's session on homelessness, Amelia Herrick's session on her cultural study trip to Africa, Katie Booth's series on Rob Bell's book, *What Is the Bible?*, a presentation by the folks who went on the Palestine trip, Ann Jones and B Watt Jorck's series on the Pope's Ecyclical on Climate Change, and Amy Hale's session on the opioid crisis. We also had guest speakers join us to inform us on topics such as Su Casa, Brighter Days Homeless Shelter, Amnesty International, Transgender Issues, and the Hanover College participation in the 2017 Women's March on Washington. The thirty-eight Sunday morning adult education sessions were attended by a total of 670 people with an average attendance of 18 people per session. One of our goals for the adult education hour is to offer multiple options on a regular basis. That means we need to know what kind of sessions you would be interested in. You can inform us of your ideas by completing the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZC7B728>. You can link to this survey in the eBlast or digital copy of the February newsletter.

SESSION REPORTS

Adult Fellowship and Education cont.

Adult Fellowship and Education sponsored five pitch-in community meals because we believe that time spent in fellowship as we eat helps us build a community as we build and strengthen relationships. We have found these meals to be best attended when held immediately after worship rather than after the education hour, but scheduling them for 11:00 is a challenge because it must be coordinated with schedules for young children, as well as middle school and high school programs.

For the second year, the Adult Fellowship and Education Committee organized "Summer Patio Parties." There were eight different opportunities to participate in informal gatherings at a variety of locations including people's homes and a local restaurant. They did not all involve patios, but they did all involve food and conversation around questions that related to the sermon for that week. They were well received by the congregation. Feedback through a survey indicated that people liked the informal atmosphere and the discussion. They liked getting to know new people and getting to know people in a new way. The culmination of the patio parties was planned as an "Extreme Patio Party" at the Tipton Lakes Marina. It turned out to be an "extreme hospitality event" as the Brinkman's opened their home to over sixty people to turn what might have been a rained-out event, into a memorable time.

Adult Fellowship and Education, along with other individuals and support from the Session, worked on writing and beginning to implement a grant to engage young adults. This included planning sessions and information gathering sessions before writing the grant. It included time and energy from Katie Booth, Felipe Martinez, and Leah Jackman-Wheitner to write the grant. It is a multi-year grant and we are at the very beginning of the implementation stage, which includes identifying a specific project around the goal of engaging young adults. While this grant doesn't fall completely within the Adult Fellowship and Education Committee, we will continue to help monitor and support the work of those committed to this new endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Nowlin, moderator

Session Reports

Nominating Committee Annual Report January 28, 2018

Your Nominating Committee has worked hard during 2017 to select Deacons and Elders for the Class of 2020. We have a class of officers that are a blend of youth and experienced leaders in our church. We certainly encourage all church members to complete the "Time and Talent" sheets in 2018 so the Nominating Committee can recruit members who have the desire to become leaders within First Presbyterian Church. We appreciate our new officers and look forward to adding to their numbers when we begin asking for nominations later in 2018.

Below is the listing of our new officers for the class of 2020, and your Nominating Committee for 2018.

<u>Session (Class of 2020)</u>
Sarah Sanders
Dale Nowlin
Leah Jackman-Wheitner
Cara Bywater
Marilyn Richardson
Annie Frazier (Youth)
Sydney Geckler (Youth)
<u>Deacons (Class of 2020)</u>
Emily Sharpe
Gretchen Laemmer
Alan Kilbarger
Judy Bonnell
Elizabeth (Lizzy) Frazier (Youth)
Sierra Roberts (Youth)
<u>Nominating Committee 2018</u>
Zack Ellison (Chair)
Sarah Sanders (Elder)
Sharon Norris (Deacon)
Janet Ward
Lynne Hyatt
Ted Sharpe

Respectfully Submitted,
Zack Ellison, Nominating Committee Chair

SESSION REPORTS

Children's Nurture Committee

Committee: Gwen Kresovsky (moderator), Marietta Macy (staff), Colleen Herrick, Terri Glackin, Lisa Porter, Sunny Currier, Nicole Moore, Izzy Nowlin.

This was a wonderful year of growth in numbers and in spirit of our children's programming! Our goals and focus this year were to engage our congregation with the children and families of our church and to spotlight the importance of everyone in the church being involved in the faith development of our children.

This year we continued to offer Sunday School for three age ranges: Pre-K and younger, K-3, and 4-6 grades. Our "Tweens" (4th-6th graders) continued to have class after church, while the younger grades held class during church, with the exception of Children's Sundays, when our K-3rd graders stay in church and are able to share Communion with the rest of the congregation. Marietta Macy led the committee in choosing a new curriculum by Sparkhouse, Holy Moly for our K-3 kids and Connect for 4-6. This curriculum includes a multimedia aspect and the committee purchased 3 new flat screen tv's to implement it. The addition of media in our curriculum has been well received as an entertaining and effective way for our children to nurture their growing understanding of God and their faith. Our Pre-K and nursery class continued to use the curriculum from 2016, Frolic.

We implemented some personnel changes with our childcare workers and were happy to welcome Priyanka Goyal, Brook Brown, and Kirsten Ballard to our current childcare staff. We were also very thankful Erin Booth, Sarah Kilbarger-Stumph, and Amelia Herrick for working with our children when they were on break from school. Due to our growing population of young families and children, we chose to increase our weekly childcare workers from two to three each week. This increase helps to allow needed coverage during vacations and absences of our workers. This will also allow us to start staffing our nursery on Sundays for children 2 and under as our Pre-K and younger population is the fastest growing currently. We have also started some improvements on our nursery which include ceiling and lighting repairs and an updated look to its décor. Thank you to the Property Committee and our youth and youth leaders with your assistance in these repairs.

Thanks to all our wonderful teachers and volunteers, we have been able to maintain our 2-Adult rule with the Safe Church policy throughout the year. This rule, and the Safe Church Policy in general, has allowed for a safe and controlled environment each Sunday for our teachers, volunteers, and staff. Special thanks to Sunny Currier who serves on this committee amongst her many other roles for helping us to stay compliant! This would not be possible without our volunteers, and we are so grateful to all of our

SESSION REPORTS

Children's Nurture Committee cont.

church family who has volunteered in any capacity throughout the year. Our volunteer base is growing, but we continually need more volunteers and teachers and ask all to consider helping nurture our children. We held a few extra events with a "youth group" feel for our Tweens this year and both were a lot of fun, and we look forward to more in the year to come. For our young children, we were happy to join FPC Preschool in a fall festival in our gym, with several activities, a bounce house, and chili cookoff provided by the preschool staff. It was a fun social gathering that allowed our preschool and church families to mingle and we are thankful to our preschool for including us, and look forward to the next one! We also hosted an intergenerational Sunday School in August with a Bible school feel which was attended by church goers of all ages that included curriculum on the Parable of the Sower.

Thanks to the fabulous leadership and time given to us by Lisa Porter and Dianne Sprunger, our music program for our children continues to be one of the best parts of our programming we offer to our children. Pre-K and younger children continue to participate in Joyful Noise Music time on Sundays, while K-6 continue with Worship Arts, and participate on Children's Sundays and other special Sundays throughout the year in showing us the joys of their faith through music and the arts, this year ending with the fabulous Epiphany play on January 7th. The children's weekly time with Dianne and Lisa is not only used preparing for these Sundays, but also learning about God and our world through the arts. Words cannot describe how much we appreciate all Lisa and Dianne do for our children!

Our goals for 2018 include continuing to expand and improve our programming for our children and their families. This will include special focus on families of young children and new babies as well as families of elementary age children. We hope to do this not just by offering a Sunday Curriculum to our kids, but also to do this by reaching out to parents and caregivers to help them with growing their children's faith and understanding of God alongside them in the pews and at home as well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gwen Kresovsky (moderator)

SESSION REPORTS

Youth Nurture Committee

Committee: Sarah Sanders (moderator), Sunny Currier, Julie Daiker, Evan Porter, Lisa Porter, Luke Harpring, Dave Kresovsky, and Marietta Macy (staff)

Youth Nurture committee oversees the work of youth Sunday School, Youth Group, youth mission trips, and also organizes events where the youth can support local mission work and connect with other community groups. Thanks to Julie Daiker's leadership, we also support and stay in touch with the college students of our church. This year Evan Porter and Luke Harpring represented the youth on this committee. YN committee members are actively involved in the youth programming and enjoy their commitment to the education, faith, and fellowship of kids grades seven through college.

In 2017, high school Sunday School classes were held in the dungeon while middle school students began meeting in the Lindeman Room. Thank you to Sunny who schedules the teachers and the curriculum for both classes; the lessons revolve around guest speakers from the congregation sharing their experiences and insight on topics like the conflict in Palestine and Israel, race relations in Columbus, the work of community service agencies locally, and a variety of Biblical topics designed to engage kids in deeper reflection about their faith and their service. In 2017 confirmation class was led by Marietta and those youth were confirmed in April.

In 2017, many of the youth returned to West Virginia on a mission trip to continue the mission work they did there in 2016. After the trip, they prepared a presentation to share their experiences with the congregation in an adult education class. In addition, each year, youth and adults from FPC travel to Montreat Conference Center for the Youth Conference offered over the summer. The youth do a variety of fundraising events to help fund their trips, and we are also grateful to the church for its financial contribution to our mission trip expenses. Note: As a committee we normally have a volunteer mission coordinator who helps with local and travel opportunities, and in 2017 we functioned without a designated person, so that the job fell to a greater extent on Marietta and the other volunteers on the committee who had other responsibilities. Fortunately, Evan Porter volunteered to coordinate the 2018 spring break trip to New Orleans as his senior project, which has been a huge help to the committee. Future mission trips may depend on the willingness of a volunteer from the congregation to help manage and plan the event.

The youth continue to lead one hot meal per month; on the third Friday of every month the kids help cook, serve, and clean-up a meal for 80+ people in need. Another local mission project the youth continued in 2017 has been the Heart Tree; this year in addition to a few elderly recipients,

SESSION REPORTS

Youth Nurture Committee cont.

the youth and the church generously supported two young families within walking distance of the church who were in need of very basic items. This year we hope to continue to support those families over the course of the year. Youth carried out their responsibility to select the recipient of the local portion of the Pentecost offering. They chose the Best Buddies program, and prepared information about the organization to present to the congregation. We appreciate the support of the congregation, making it possible to donate \$515.00 to the organization. The youth also made breakfast items for the homeless shelter, went caroling at the Armory, and reached out to the Islamic Society and initiated a relationship between our youth group and theirs to gain a better understanding of each other's faith. In addition, the high school OWL class was held in March.

As always, a big thank you to Lisa Porter, Sunny Currier, and Julie Daiker for their leadership of the FPC Youth Group and to everyone who prepared a Sunday evening meal for the youth group. Sunny plans and recruits volunteers for several big youth group special events each year, and Lisa also leads our TeenImpact program; our youth are regularly involved in the music and worship at FPC. They also continue their annual tradition of Youth Sunday by leading the entire service that week.

Youth Nurture always welcomes more involvement from parents and congregation members; please see any member of our committee if you have an interest in helping with Sunday night youth group events, local mission work, teaching or helping with Sunday school, or attending committee meetings and helping us reach **our goals:**

- To foster healthy, genuine, relationships with God and with others within and beyond our church,
- to provide an environment that values everyone's gifts and where we can mentor and support each other in the ways that God calls us,
- to create a faith community that nurtures each individual on their faith journey,
- to provide multiple opportunities for faith development by having fun, playing games, being creative, and thinking outside the box,
- to fulfill our commitment to mission, reaching out in partnership with neighbors near and far.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Sanders, moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Personnel Committee

Committee: Janet Sharpe (moderator), Pastor Felipe Martinez (staff), Lynne Hyatt, Mary Orben, Rita Selheim, Warren Ward.

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.

Support and feedback teams for staff members Marietta Macy and Dianne Sprunger have continued as needed and have proved to be of value.

Cost of Living Adjustment for all employees was supported at 2% and effective January 1, 2018. The congregation voted to approve the same adjustment for Felipe Martinez at the annual meeting which affects both housing and salary.

Bonuses were given at the end of the year to all employees to show support and appreciation and gift cards were given to child care workers.

The personnel committee agreed upon the following 403b retirement savings policy that will be included in the personnel manual:

403b Retirement Savings (nonprofit version of 401K)

- 1 Intention: The intention of this policy, which has been in practice in FPC since 2006, is to support the retirement savings of employees who do not receive a pension as part of their FPC salary package.
- 2 Eligible employees: This policy is for full time and part time permanent FPC employees, with the exception of clergy whose salary package includes a pension, who have worked at FPC at least 12 months.
- 3 Matching: After 12 months of employment, the employee will be eligible to participate in the 403b program and the church will match contributions up to 5% of their gross salary.
- 4 End of Matching: The FPC contribution matching will end when the individual's employment at FPC is terminated.

SESSION REPORTS

Personnel Committee cont.

With the increase in attendance in the preschool on Sunday mornings, it was felt that another childcare provider was needed to join the current provider. Advertising for the position was not productive; however, Brook Brown expressed interest in the additional role as childcare worker (3 hours on Sunday). Since Brook is currently working 40 hours a week in the church office, it was determined that if she worked 3 hours on Sunday and 50 minutes less during the week in the church office, we would be in compliance with overtime pay rules. Therefore, she is paid out of the regular account and from the childcare account. If at some time in the future, Brook is no longer needed in the childcare role, she would revert back to the full 40 hours a week as church secretary. Church members need to be respectful of job boundaries and not ask Brook to do church office-related work while she is doing childcare.

Annual job performance reviews were conducted for all staff members and employees stated goals for 2018. Those goals will be discussed at next year's reviews.

We have had a very good year with a lot of positive interactions and experiences. We have continued to encourage and show appreciation for our entire staff and wish to express our gratitude to all who have served us with faith and devotion. We are especially appreciative of the innovative and supportive work of Felipe Martinez as he continues to guide and encourage us all.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Sharpe, Moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Property Committee

Committee: David Tiede (moderator), Zack Ellison, Ben Bush, Jeff Crump, Jim Farrar, Terry Molewyk, Danny Sanders, and Bob Smitherman.

Mission: The purpose of the Property Committee is to be sure the church building and grounds are maintained and updated when needed. 2017 was a busy but very good year with the Property Committee overseeing the projects listed below.

Projects for 2017:

1. Flat Roof Replacement. Southern Roofing replaced the flat roof over the Reeves Room, Library, and Crump Room. The roof was last replaced around 1970 and has been repaired numerous times. The Property Committee voted unanimously to replace rather than repair the roof because the overall state of the roof was quite poor. The replacement cost of \$33,900 exceeded the ability of the Property budget to fund this project. Session approved a Grant Request to the Foundation which approved the request in time to install the new roof before the temperature became too cold for proper installation. The new roof has a higher insulation value than the old roof.
2. Marshall Mechanical provided numerous HVAC repair and replacement jobs this year. The Property Committee requested and approved a new Maintenance Contract with Marshall Mechanical which combined some normal recurring costs and new maintenance prevention services to help reduce overall costs in the future. One pending replacement of an air conditioning unit above the Crump room has been postponed until 2018 (to avoid using up some of the warranty since the unit won't even turn on in the winter).
3. Security Camera System. LAFORCE (door security systems) was given approval to repair the church security camera system which has been broken for several months.
4. Kitchen Refrigerator. A new refrigerator (without freezer) was purchased to replace a refrigerator/freezer combination in the kitchen whose freezer was broken and unrepairable. The new unit is used for Hot Meals.
5. Carpet Gallery. At least three of the new safety stair treads were repaired because the adhesive bonds had failed.
6. Church Van. The Property Committee approved selling the church van. The van is a 1998-year model with 97,000 total miles which sees so little use the battery (although new) keeps needing to be recharged. It has been serviced by Norris Automotive and is otherwise in good shape.

SESSION REPORTS

Property Committee cont.

It has only been driven 1800 miles since the last service in May 2016. Any proceeds from the sale will be put aside to help pay for van rentals when needed.

7. David Tiede installed a new flag on the flagpole, dry erase board in the Crump Room, and numerous locks, hinges, clothes hooks, and door stoppers in the Pre-School. He also took advantage of a Cummins Recycling Day to empty out a storage room in the basement (120 fluorescent bulbs, lots of old furniture, and many car loads of miscellaneous trash).
8. Laws Room Renovation. Installation of the new stair treads and carpeting of the Laws Room were completed in 2017.
9. Danny Sanders installed an "industrial strength" can opener in the kitchen.
10. Danny Sanders repaired many emergency exit lights (both bulbs and batteries) to meet the requirements of a fire inspection.
11. The door leading to the alley (which was very difficult to open and presented a safety hazard) was replaced with a new high-quality door which opens easily.
12. Superior Drywall performed several drywall repairs including painting.

Respectfully submitted,
David Tiede, moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Safe Church Committee

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14

Committee Members: Mary Ann McCray, Nicole Moore, Ted Sharpe, Julia Stumpff, Sunny Currier, Moderator
Staff: Marietta Macy, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

Mission: The mission of the Safe Church Committee is to support and enable First Presbyterian Church to provide a safe environment for children and teens to learn, grow, and experience God's love. Effective ministry for children and teens requires relationships with caring, loving, and mature adults who can demonstrate God's love to them. By setting and supporting appropriate guidelines and boundaries, we can create an environment that is safe for children, teens, and the adults that interact with them.

The Safe Church Policy was approved by Session in November 2015, and the committee worked on implementation in 2016, until full implementation was achieved.

This policy has challenged us to change habits and procedures. After working within this policy for a year, we had better insight into what works well, and what could be revised to help things run as smoothly as possible. Our goal for 2017 was to review the policy, keeping in mind what we have learned as we worked with it, and to note areas that could be improved.

We re-evaluated how the policy had worked with the children & youth programs, parents, and the church as a whole. After listening to feedback from teachers, child care staff, and parents, we found some areas to revise in order for our programs to run more smoothly, and to meet the needs of those who provided suggestions and feedback. Revisions to the policy were approved by the session in March 2017.

Our other big challenge has been to recruit twice as many volunteers, in order to have two adults supervising every class/group. With considerable growth in the children's program, we also had extra classes to cover. In addition, we had to actively pursue getting all of the adults through the volunteer screening process.

In August, we did a refresher training with Sunday School teachers. All felt on more solid ground with the policy, as it becomes more familiar to us with use.

Parents continue to express appreciation for the care taken to ensure their children's safety, and the ways in which their personal preferences are included in their child's care plan. As the church continues to work to

SESSION REPORTS

Safe Church Committee cont.

attract more young adults, we need to be aware that young parents will be looking carefully at the care and services provided for their children, and we intend to live up to their highest expectations.

We feel that the policy and implementation are now running smoothly. For 2018, we will continue to educate the congregation by writing a Safe Church Policy spotlight of the month, to appear in the newsletter, e-blast, & bulletin each month. This will help to educate members who don't work with children or youth on a regular basis, serve as refresher for those who do, and help parents and newer members be aware of the precautions we are taking with their children's care. Our goals will include updating all of the outdated emergency policies, and adding any new ones that are needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sunny Currier, Moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice

Committee: Moderator Jo Lucas (January through July) Vern Jorck (August through December); Ann Jones; Sarah Sanders; Cara Bywater; Gretchen Laemmer; Sherm Franz; Heather Reeves; with staff support Felipe Martinez

2017 and 2018 Social Justice Committee (SJC) Priorities:

1. Partner with local ethnically diverse groups to promote diversity and speak out against racism.
2. Support those affected by HIV and AIDS and advocate for awareness and prevention locally and globally.
3. Act to support homeless people and promote affordable housing locally.
4. Speak out for those affected by political injustice in Palestine and throughout the Middle East.

We also worked collaboratively and supportively with our Open and Affirming Subcommittee (O&A -- see attached separate report) and the Green and Hot Meal Teams. We kept in contact with the Session through representation as well as monthly committee reports. We provided numerous Minutes for Mission to the congregation and wrote a variety of articles for the newsletter in order to keep the congregation abreast of our work. At times we expanded our priorities based on local or cultural issues or educational requests from Adult Fellowship and Education (AF&E). Our goal is to provide one Social Justice adult education offering per month (details in AF&E report).

Our committee allocated the \$23,500 in the Local Mission budget to the following local organizations: Children, Inc.; Love Chapel: Family Self Sufficiency; Horizon House; Hot Meals; Just Friends; Presbyterian Preschool; Sustained Dialogue; and Turning Point. The largest allocation went to the many programs of Love Chapel (details in the attached exhibit).

Our committee continues to support two mission co-workers – Luta (and Jeremy) Garbat Welch (Malawi) as well as Kate Tabor (Palestine). Kate Tabor completed her mission commitment last year and has been replaced by Doug Dicks (Israel/Palestine). We provide \$2,000 in financial aid to each mission co-worker.

We continued our adventure this year with the 7-member Syrian refugee Alhamwi family. We provide personal and financial assistance for the family. The family has recently moved to a larger home in Fishers near their mosque. The 4 younger members of the family are all in school. The 3 in their 20's should receive their GED's this May and are currently looking

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice cont.

to go into nursing. Not all eligible workers are employed as yet. Mr. Alhamwi is a leather worker and supplied hand-made purses for sale at our alternative Christmas event and for a special event held for the family last May.

Another very exciting project in which we continue to be involved is the new transitional housing, Brighter Days. This is in conjunction with the township trustee, Love Chapel, and many other donors and volunteers from our church as well as from Ecumenical Assembly. Sarah Sanders was very instrumental in starting this project and keeps us updated each meeting.

The Laws Lecture was well attended with positive feedback about speaker Richard Lugar. We are exploring other speakers now for 2018. If you have suggestions or connections, please let the committee know so that we may continue declaring the importance of peacemaking within our community and preserve the legacy of William R Laws.

We intend to explore becoming an AIDS Competent Congregation. One way we give direct service to HIV and AIDS globally is through supporting the work of the Granny Connection and their ties to The Power of Love Foundation (POL). We provided a \$8,112 Mission Support Grant for POL. POL's mission is to turn the tide of AIDS in a very poor community in Lusaka, Zambia. The program was the first comprehensive pediatric AIDS program in that country. This year's grant went to provide micro loans to the women caring for their orphaned grandchildren. We have provided some support to this well managed program since 2008. In addition, our church portion of the Peace and Global Witness offering (\$362) went to POL. Our total Peace and Global Witness contribution was \$1447 with \$1,085 going to the Ohio Valley Presbytery. We also held an adult education session on AIDS and other related problems in our community led by Dr. Amy Hale in December.

Other offerings supported by our committee included the January 2017 call for the Love Chapel food assistance fund (\$4,014) and the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (\$4,070) which enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing: relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and help to empower the poor and oppressed.

Our committee has the opportunity to oversee numerous grant

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice cont.

requests which then moved on to Mission Support for funding. This past year the amount available for grant distribution was \$43,960. Our committee reviewed 6 grant requests totaling \$28,312. Our two largest requests were for the POL Micro Loan Program in Lusaka, Zambia (\$8,112) and student scholarships for Dar al Kalima University in Bethlehem (\$7,200). SJC also approved grants for the Open & Affirming Committee (\$1,000) for car decals that promote God's love for all; Ramps to Freedom program of Thrive Alliance (\$4,000), that builds accessibility ramps for needy Bartholomew County residents; A matching grant to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Relief in Puerto Rico (\$4,000) which was more than matched by our generous congregation; Keeping Hope Alive (\$4,000) a program to provide olive trees in Palestine which also had a very generous congregational match. Details of all Mission Support grants are in the attached Exhibit.

Mother's Day was highlighted again this year with its focus on Julia Ward Howe's Proclamation and the sales of cards to assist PCUSA with mother/baby programs. Torture Awareness Month was acknowledged in June with an outside banner and a special article in the newsletter.

SJC sponsored 2 letter writing campaigns last year. The Bread for the World campaign resulted in 93 letters sent to our Senators and Representatives advocating for global food justice and the letter writing campaign in the fall to stop Anti-BDS legislation in Congress. BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) is part of a global movement upholding the simple principal that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity.

In our hopes for more neighborhood involvement and hospitality, SJC continued monthly birthday celebrations with residents at the Armory across the street. A number of Members of FPC who had birthdays within the month also participated. Please consider participating in your birthday month.

We ended the year with another successful alternative giving fair with the sale of nuts and handmade items from Africa sold by Granny Connection, Olive Oil from Palestine, Olive Trees for Palestine, and leather goods by the Alhamwi Family.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMUNITY MISSION ALLOCATION 2013 to 2017					
Organization	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Children Inc	2,100	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Ecumenical Assembly					
- EAF Fund (Love Chapel)	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,600
- Food Pantry Computers & Tech.			3,000		
Family Self Sufficiency	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Horizon House	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
- Year End Emergency Supplies					500
Hot Meals	1,500	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,300
Just Friends	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Presbyterian Preschool Scholarships	1,100	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Turning Point	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Ministers Discretionary Fund	300				
Su Casa	3,000	3,000	0	0	500
Sustained Dialogues -- food & supplies				2,000	1,500
Sustained Dialogues -- honorarium				1,000	
Total Allocated	23,500	23,500	23,500	23,500	23,500
1/18/2018					

Mission Support Task Force 2017 Allocations

Total Available to Allocate in 2017	\$43,960.24		
Allocated 2017			
- Power of Love -- Micro Loans Program	-\$8,112.00	Requested by Ann Jones/SJ	
- Youth Nurture for Multigeneration Mission	-\$12,000.00	Requested by Sarah Sanders/YN	
- Open and Affirming for Stickers	-\$1,000.00	Requested by Cara Bywater/O&A	
- Bright Stars of Bethlehem -- Dar al Kalima University -- Scholarships	-\$7,200.00	Requested by Jo Lucas/SJ	
- Ramps to Freedom -- Thrive Alliance	-\$5,000.00	Reqstd by Tracy Heaton de Martinez/SJ	
- Christmas Stockings	-\$1,000.00	Reqstd by Janet Sharpe/Celeb. of Life	
- PDA for Hurricane Relief in Puerto Rico	-\$3,000.00	Requested by Vern Jorck/SJ	
- Keeping Hope Alive -- Olive Trees for Palestine	-\$4,000.00	Requested by Cara ByWater/SJ	
Total Allocated in 2017	-\$41,312.00		
Remaining to Allocate in 2017	\$2,648.24		
Individual	Group Represented		
Sarah Sanders, Moderator	Social Justice		
Gretchen Laemmer	Social Justice		
Lisa Porter	Youth Mission		
Janet Sharpe	Adult Fellowship & Education		
Vern Jorck	Stewardship & Finance		
Keith Weedman	Deacons		
Doug Bonnell	Foundation		
Felipe Martinez	Voting Staff		

SESSION REPORTS

Open & Affirming Sub-Committee of Social Justice

Committee: Julia Stumpff (chair) , Cal Brand, Sunny Currier, Ann Jones, B Watt Jorck, Cara Bywater, Abby Smith, and Bill Jones.

Frame: 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 "that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

Mission: The mission of the Open and Affirming Subcommittee is to nurture a welcoming ministry for all of God's children inside and outside our congregation, including persons of all sexual orientations or gender identities and their families.

Vision: To practice the intention of Christ to draw all people unto himself, we are a welcoming congregation where people are open and vulnerable, committed to learning and candid, challenging dialogue and sensitive to the needs of people who agree and disagree. We are a church who invites all members to full participation in church life, and invites the wider community to that life. All people are safe, loved, and accepted as sacred children of God.

Summary of 2017: Along with continuing annual activities we have pursued in the past (participating in the June Pride Parade in Indy, hosting the Transgender Day Of Remembrance service in November, planning a More Light church service, and sponsoring adult education classes), we also had lots of discussion about how we might increase community outreach and church visibility. We began writing one letter to the editor/month on relevant activities, events, and issues and flying the rainbow and Transgender flags outside and inside more often during the year. Committee member Abby Smith designed, and the committee purchased and distributed "Love like God" bumper stickers for church members to put on their cars. Lastly, we participated in the SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) march "Celebrating Diversity", 5/21.

Despite some leadership fluctuation, we met monthly at 12pm on a Sunday of each month (skipping June, July, August and December, 2017). In November, we changed our meeting date/time to the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm.

January:

- Jill Takser, President of Pride Alliance Columbus, was invited to our January meeting, and she spoke to us about the state of Pride Alliance.
- We began working to recruit men as active members of the O&A committee.
- Formulated the following plan for 2017:

SESSION REPORTS

Open & Affirming Sub-Committee of Social Justice cont.

February

- * **19** – focus on Community Outreach/Church Visibility
- * **26** – Two-hour adult Education with Becky Waletich on February 26 including a pitch-in lunch

March – focus on Community Outreach/Church Visibility strategy.

April

- * Representation at Pride Alliance Columbus annual meeting
- * Work on an internal education/conversations strategy

May

June – LGBT Pride month

- * hang rainbow flag outside,
- * Indy Pride Parade
- * Columbus Pride Parade?

July

August - More Light Worship Sunday

September

October – Adult Education - “How to be an ally to transgender people” w/ Meghan Buell from TREES

November – TDOR

February:

- February 26 2-hour Adult Ed. Session with therapist, Becky Waletich who focused on learning more about Transgender people and Transgender issues.
- Had a focused discussion on two strategies for our committee: community outreach and church visibility
 - * Our vision for community outreach/church visibility: “That our community knows that we are a safe, welcoming and advocating Christian church for LGBTQI people”

SESSION REPORTS

Open & Affirming Sub-Committee of Social Justice cont.

March:

- Fleshed out our plan for increasing community outreach and church visibility in the future (below)

Idea	Difficulty
Fly the Pride flag outside more often	Hard
Fly something inside the Church	Medium
Put our Church mission statement in the Religion section of The Republic each week	Hard
Ensure that our mission statement is in the bulletin each Sunday	Easy
Reclaim the Church mission statement with a public proclamation of some sort (Letter to the Editor could make this an easier option)	Hard
Utilize the once-yearly large advertisement of the Church in The Republic to indicate we are LGBTQ-friendly - use the mission statement	Easy
Choose one Neighborfest, work with other welcoming churches and set up tables with information - possible inclusion of TREES	Hard
Participate in SURJ March to 'Celebrate Diversity' on May 21st, 4-6pm	Easy
The Republic should say 'LGBTQ-friendly' every time we are listed in the paper (weekly, Easter services, Christmas listings, etc).	Medium
T-shirts for the Pride Parade should be explicit about our stand, so we can wear them in the community at other times e.g. 'God loves LGBTQ people', 'All are made in the image of God'.	Medium
Magnets for cars and stickers saying one of the above phrases (inc FPC in wording)	Easy
Tri-fold - only needed if we plan to show on a table - put on hold for now	

April:

- Decided to proceed with a car bumper sticker – to be designed by Abby Smith
Cara Bywater became Interim Chair of committee.

May:

- Committee participated in the SURJ march “Celebrating Diversity”, May 21
- Decided to begin writing regular letters to the editor to get the word out in the community about our stand on relevant issues. Part of community outreach and church visibility plan.

June:

- Joined with UU church and participated in the June 10 Pride Parade in Indianapolis.

September:

- Began planning TDOR Service & set the date for Saturday November 4 at 7pm.
- Re-scheduled More Light Sunday for February 4, 2018 with Director of More Light Presbyterians, Alex Patchin McNeill, attending.
- Bumper stickers complete & committee decided to give away for free to all: given to all Deacons and asked that Deacons put them in welcome mugs for newcomers to church.
- Liturgical banner planning began.

SESSION REPORTS

Open & Affirming Sub-Committee of Social Justice cont.

- Julia Stumpff wrote a letter to the editor in opposition to the Nashville Statement.

October:

- Julia Stumpff resumed Chair status.
- Cara Bywater wrote a letter to the editor about the upcoming YES! Film festival and the screening of *Freedom to Marry*.
- Cal Brand led a youth Sunday School class on LGBTQ and the Bible.

November:

- TDOR Service held November 4
- Meghan Buell from TREES (Transgender Resource, Education and Enrichment Services) participated, and a collection was taken for that organization totaling \$290.
- Ann Jones wrote a letter to the editor after the service – discussing the TDOR service.
- Julia Stumpff provided a Moment for Mission on November 19 introducing the bumper stickers designed by Abby Smith, and stickers were passed out during the service.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Stumpff, moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Stewardship & Finance Committee

2017 Highlights:

- A simple definition of “generosity” might be “the quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish, the quality of being generous, and especially, willingness to give money and other valuable things to others.” The Stewardship and Finance Committee is consistently impressed, year after year, with the generosity of the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. You are all people who live out your kindness, your understanding, and your unselfishness. First and foremost, we want to thank you for your generosity.
- The members who served on the Stewardship and Finance Committee for some or all of 2017 included: Treasurer Vern Jorck, Eli Edwards, Mary Ann McCray, Julie Orben, Marilyn Richardson, Rich Stenner, and Keith Weedman. Felipe provided staff support to the Committee.
- Our Stewardship and Finance Committee is a committee of the Session, and exists to –
 - * monitor church finances and accounts throughout the year (with the Treasurer),
 - * provide for monthly and annual financial reports of the church’s finances, with year-end audits/reviews/compilations (using staff and volunteers), and
 - * conduct the annual stewardship campaign securing pledges of support for the next calendar year.
- The Committee began the annual Stewardship Campaign in August this year, with members sharing Moments for Stewardship about their passion, how and why they share their time and talents inside and outside of our walls, and why they are generous with their financial support for our FPC family. Luther Pierson, Evan Porter, Katie Booth, Bonnie Boatwright, Cindy Frey, Emma Edwards, and Sherry Stark all provided inspiring “Moments for Stewardship” for the congregation. The campaign theme this year revolved around the Grail Prayer, committing ourselves to Jesus and the work of the Church here on earth, loving God and humankind. There were two direct mailings to the congregation and numerous reminders and requests in bulletins, emails, and the newsletters. Visual representations of the theme were made and displayed in the Sanctuary and around the Church during the campaign.
- With support from Deacons and Adult Education and Fellowship we held a Celebration Sunday on November 12 that included food for both the stomach and the mind (through structured table conversations). This was the date by which we hoped to have most of the pledge responses in from the Congregation. This celebration was well attended, and gave us valuable input and feedback on how we use the Time and Talents surveys.
- While the stewardship campaign is not yet complete as of this writing, FPC members have been very responsive to our requests and have been very generous with their pledges so far. (See more details below.)
- The Treasurer drafted the Church’s budget for 2018, based on input from all the working groups within the Church, which the Session approved in December of ‘17 – based upon the preliminary good news from the fall

SESSION REPORTS

Stewardship & Finance Committee cont.

campaign.

2018 Stewardship Campaign Results (preliminary results, final report forthcoming)

- We have not yet completed our Campaign for 2018. Our next step will be to send a follow up letter to FPC family members who pledged in 2017 or 2016 and who have not yet pledged for 2018.
- As of Tuesday, January 16th, we have a total of 99 pledges from our FPC family totaling \$453,628 towards our goal of \$485,626. This is about \$17,000 greater than last year at the same time, with eight fewer pledges.
- We have received 6 new pledges for 2018.
- We anticipate that with additional pledges this year, continued membership growth and continued giving from our members that are faithful givers but choose not to pledge, we will be able to successfully fund our 2018 programs.

2017 Budget and Financial Results (preliminary results, final report forthcoming) compared with approved 2018 Budget:

<i>FPC BUDGET COMPARISON 2017 to 2018</i>					
	Preliminary	Budget	Budget	Budget	
	2017	2017	2018	Change	
INCOME					
Pledge and Gift Income	\$484,979	\$476,900	\$485,626	\$8,726	
Other Income	\$39,262	\$41,525	\$41,791	\$266	
Total Income	\$524,241	\$518,425	\$527,417	\$8,992	
EXPENSES					
Church Program					
Nurture					
- Children's Nurture	\$6,154	\$6,347	\$6,347	\$0	
- Youth Nurture	\$5,803	\$5,650	\$5,650	\$0	
- Adult Fellowship & Ed	\$969	\$2,450	\$2,450	\$0	
Total Nurture	\$12,925	\$14,447	\$14,447	\$0	
General Program Exp.	\$40	\$750	\$750	\$0	
Music	\$3,263	\$4,000	\$4,295	\$295	
Social Justice	\$756	\$900	\$1,900	\$1,000	
Worship	\$2,156	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$0	
Stewardship	\$175	\$1,200	\$950	(\$250)	
Deacon Expense	\$1,162	\$1,000	\$1,240	\$240	
Celebration of Life	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	
Subtotal Church Program	\$20,477	\$26,497	\$27,782	\$1,285	
Mission Giving	\$61,245	\$61,245	\$61,245	\$0	
Professional Staff					
Pastor	\$107,257	\$106,947	\$109,331	\$2,384	
Director of CYM	\$44,298	\$46,839	\$47,976	\$1,137	
Director of Music	\$47,222	\$46,361	\$49,350	\$2,989	
Subtotal Professional Staff	\$198,777	\$200,148	\$206,658	\$6,510	

Office Expenses	\$75,035	\$78,441	\$78,083	(\$359)
Facility Expenses	\$137,598	\$138,895	\$138,745	(\$150)
Other Expenses	\$13,010	\$13,199	\$14,904	\$1,706
Total Expenses	\$506,141	\$518,425	\$527,417	\$8,992
Net Income	\$18,100	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cash Balances				
	12/31/16	12/31/17	Change	
Operating Fund	\$110,630	\$154,436 *	\$43,806	
All Other Funds	\$91,517	\$222,511 **	\$130,994	
Cumulative	\$202,147	\$376,947	\$174,800	
* Includes \$83,897 in 2018 prepaid pledges				
** Includes \$126,109 in Collumbarium Campaign Funds				

*See notes

Notes on 2017 financial results.

- 2017 Income from pledges and gifts totaled \$484,979, \$8,079 more than budgeted.
- 2017 expenses totaled \$506,141, \$12,284 less than budgeted.
- Net Income for 2017 was \$18,100, This net income was added to our operating reserve and brings us closer to our goal of having three months of cash reserves.
- As of 12/31/17 there was nearly \$377,000 in the bank which includes \$83,000 in Prepaid Pledges and \$126,000 in the Columbarium Capital Campaign Fund.

Notes on 2018 budget. 2018 budget of \$527,417 is an increase of \$8,992 or 1.7% over 2017 and:

- Provides for a 2% salary increase for all employees.
- Provides a 5% salary match on the 403(b) retirement plan for all non clergy that was approved by Session in May.
- Includes an increase in Pension and Health benefits for the Head Pastor from 36.5% to 37% of salary and housing.
- Includes increases of \$1,285 in programming mostly due to additional spending on Social Justice committee (\$500 for Next Church and \$500 for Opening & Affirming).
- Includes a \$359 reduction in office expenses which include a 2% salary increase and 5% 403(b) retirement plan match for the Church Secretary and Financial Secretary.
- Includes an increase of \$1,706 in other expenses which represents an increase in per capita assessment to \$36/member in 2018 from \$31.50 in 2017.

Special Offerings report for calendar 2017

Our Church regularly conducts five Special Offerings each year. Below are results for these offerings in 2017, compared to previous years.

	<i>Special Offerings</i>	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	Love Chapel Food Pantry (Jan)	\$3,995	\$4,911	\$4,221	\$4,014
2	One Great Hour of Sharing (Mar)	\$2,465	\$2,212	\$2,422	\$4,070
3	Pentecost (May)	\$1,578	\$1,109	\$1,725	\$1,289
4	Peace and Global Witness (Oct)	\$2,303	\$1,290	\$2,217	\$1,447
5	Christmas Joy (Dec)	\$2,235	\$1,812	\$2,130	\$1,580
	Total	\$12,576	\$11,334	\$12,715	\$12,400

Respectfully submitted,

Vern Jorck, treasurer, Keith Weedman, and Rich Stenner, Committee Moderators

SESSION REPORTS

Worship Committee

Committee Members: Glinda Ellison, Eric Erickson, Cindy Frey, Susan Kell, Kathy Molewyk, Luther Pierson (Moderator), Felipe Martinez (staff), Dianne Sprunger (staff).

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 Responsibilities Provided: Prepare and set up communion. In consultation with the pastor or others leading worship, select appropriate sanctuary banners for Sunday worship; decorate for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving, 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.

Of special note in 2017: This year's highlight was the formation of a new intergenerational Handbell Choir. With the help of the Foundation, the Worship Committee led a successful fundraising campaign for a new three octave handbell set in the early summer. The choir first rehearsed in mid August and played for the first time in September. It's been a remarkable success with over twenty people participating, most not involved in any other FPC choir. The Handbell Choir has recently been into two groups to allow for more ringers. Special thanks goes to Dianne Sprunger for her energy and love for this project. The Adult Choir had a strong year with Black History Music Month (in February), Music Sunday (in May), Lessons and Carols, and a "Blue Christmas" cantata; "The Longest Night". The dynamic music community at FPC is, along with Felipe's thought provoking preaching and liturgy, at the heart of our engaging worship. We are blessed with a creative worship team. Felipe, Dianne, Marietta, and Lisa each bring special skills to worship planning. Other committee highlights this year included the production of an Email Lenten devotional, and the "Way of the Cross" walk through the neighborhood.

SESSION REPORTS

Worship Committee cont.

Special thanks to: Glinda Ellison and MaryAnn McCray for weekly leadership in decorating the sanctuary; Brook Brown for coordinating the Sunday worship flower calendar. Thank you to those who donated flowers, poinsettias and lilies in 2017. Thanks to the lay 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Luther Pierson, moderator

OTHER REPORTS

Deacons

2015 Deacons: Donna Brand, Lee Hamlin, Annie Frazier, Marquita Tuck, Katie Booth, Sharon Norris, Keith Weedman, Izzie Nowlan, Kathja Anderson, Lynne Hyatt, Barb Smitherman (moderator)

Calling & Caring: All deacons were committed and responsive to our mission of caring for the families of First Presbyterian Church. Each of us had approximately 20 families. We developed deacon partners mid-year who shared our families and believe our partners were engaged as well. Deacons reported at monthly meetings news of their families and information their partners had shared. We held a team (3 members each) discussion session on, "Are we Aging-Friendly?". We determined that all needs were not being addressed as well as we hoped. Information and ideas were shared on methods to do better. It was uncovered that those who need rides to shopping, appointments, etc. were not being served as needed. It was determined that deacons would not leave it up to the family to find their own ride if the deacon was not able to provide the service. The deacon would find a resource and if needed call another deacon to help. It was also determined a new "Time & Talent" survey was needed as well as a needs assessment as part of the survey. Stewardship took over that responsibility. The recent survey I received did not include a needs assessment. I hope this will be addressed. We believe there must be needs 'out there' that we have yet to uncover. We have truly grown in our caring for our families in the last year.

Events: We have good cooks and we were kept busy with events, receptions and other needs as they arose. We began the year in February with the deacon breakfast, then our Easter brunch, pitch-in picnic the end of June, and stewardship lunch in November. Working with Adult Fellowship I believe we covered every month with a meal, fellowship and fun. We partnered with stewardship on set up and clean up for the lunch and it worked out well. I am hoping for more partnerships between church committees. It's a productive way to learn more about each other, what we do and how we can improve.

Ushering: We work in teams of two head ushers with each responsible to recruit ushers for their given Sundays. Some other services also called on us to usher. Members of the congregation are very supportive and it never seems difficult to recruit ushers. The previous 'time and talent' survey results assisted us greatly in finding those who like to meet and greet. We made a concerted effort to greet newcomers and glean information which was passed on to Felipe. New deacons are trained early in the year by

experienced head ushers. They performed very well. We have initiated greater methods for conversing with attendees even in the brief time we have to get to know new and current members.

I enjoyed my year as moderator and will miss my deacon family and so many in the church as I begin a new chapter in my life. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this spirited, spiritual, God-loving, and inclusive church family.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Smitherman, moderator

OTHER REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2016 Annual Report

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

2017 Unrestricted Grant Funds Available **\$94,872.49**

2017 Grants Awarded from Unrestricted Funds:

Laws Room Updates	\$5,366.00
Mission Support	\$31,624.16
Hand bells & Related Supplies	\$7,500.00
Department Discretionary Funds	\$10,000.00
Flat Roof Replacement	\$33,900.00
Laws Room Updates	\$6,482.33

Total Granted from Unrestricted Funds **\$94,872.49**

Foundation Balances – Restricted and Unrestricted Funds (as of 12/31/2017)

Vanguard Investment Account	\$2,771,230.08
Columbarium – New Covenant Investments	\$21,059.61
Columbarium – First Financial Bank checking	\$22,831.50
Organ Maintenance – New Covenant Investments	\$106,362.15
Harrison Youth Fund – New Covenant Investments	\$27,763.54
Reeves Fund (administered by Heritage Fund)	\$812,299.77
Foundation Checking Account	\$37,350.82
<i>Designated Funds within General Account</i>	
Youth Mission Fund	\$5,000.00

Highlights during 2017

- Clean Audit for 2016-2017 conducted by Agresta, Storms & O’Leary
- 18% return on investments for 2017 (as of December 31, 2017)
- “Legacy Circle” event recognized those with the foundation and/or church in their estate plans
- Increased “Legacy Circle” membership from 18 to 29 individuals/families.
- Approved a \$175,000 matching grant for the FPC Property Improvement Capital Campaign. This is an additional amount beyond the Grant Funds Available for 2017.

OTHER REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2016 Annual Report cont.

2017 Foundation Board of Directors and Officers

Jayne Farber	Web Master and Public Relations (Retiring end of 2017)
Seth Keele	Treasurer (Retiring end of 2017)
Doug Bonnell	Planned Giving, Mission Support Committee
Kelly Geckler	Secretary
Clare Moore	Planned Giving Chair
Dan Spurgeon	President/Investments
Sherry Stark	Vice President
Warren Ward	Investments
Felipe Martinez	Ex officio Advisor

Note: Colleen Herrick and David Selheim will be presented for election at the Congregational Annual Meeting

During 2017 the foundation received the following gifts remembering our loved ones and honoring the wonderful contributions others have made;

Memorial Gifts

Carol Lankton
Esty Foster
Kay Dietrich
Adrienne Savage
Joan Ellison
Marty Newsom
Jim Gorbett
Ann Forsthoff

Honoring

Mary Orben
Dolores Heaton
Sherm & Jacquie Franz
Janet Sharpe
Youth Mission Trips

Gifts totaled \$6050.

Legacy Circle

Those interested in more information regarding planned giving opportunities and/or our Legacy Circle are encouraged to contact any foundation board members. We now have 29 Legacy Circle individuals/families that have made the Foundation a benefactor in their long term planning. We would like to encourage others able and willing to participate in the long term growth and sustainability of the foundation.

OTHER REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2016 Annual Report cont.

Grants

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

To learn more about submitting a grant, please visit our website at <http://fpccolumbus.org/foundation/grant-program>.

2018 Meeting Dates: February 6, April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, December 4 (Annual Meeting)

OTHER REPORTS

Use of Facility

Organizations that regularly use the church building:

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

Other that have used the church in 2017:

- Outside Support Groups
- Piano & Vocal Recitals
- Spiritual Direction
- Sports Groups
- American Red Cross blood drives
- Individual Families
- Bike and Build



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