



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

2014 Annual Report



Members of Session

Class of 2014

Ann Andrews
Paul Brown
Tom Crawford
Jane Hayes
Prue Heikkinen
Henry Johnson
Jane Kinzinger
Paul Smith

Clerk of Session: Diana Gardner

* Young Adult Elder

Class of 2015

Lucie Audette
Ruth Barnard
Rick Boothman
David Butz
Kathy Hillig
Carter Hodgson
Bill McPherson
Dick Rigterink

Class of 2016

Gwen Alexander
Jim Cameron
Sue Jeffers
Dave Kershaw
Steve McKenny
Bob Pierce
Helena Prince
Kathy Sample

Class of 2017

Dallas Colligan*
Nancy Crawford
Dallas Dort
Robert Larson
Hank McQueen
Jeannette Middleton
Barbara Oettgen
Peter Santinga
Tim Wendler

Board of Deacons

Class of 2014

Catherine Baker
Sue Beutler
Mira Collins
Steve Ennis
Becky Gaffney
Karen Gardstrom
Nancy Heers
Peggy Hodgson
Diane Johnston
Holly Major Price
John Nicklas
Karla Olson-Belfi
Sue Rigterink
Nickalee Sorter
Bill Upton
Sara Vander Voort
John Yodhes

Class of 2015

Eleonora Charlson
Sheila Deskins
Margaret Fisher
Martha Froseth
Dean Gilchrist
Lynne Lande
Kristin Lin
Kari Michalowski
Donna Nussdorfer
James Peggs
Lori Pickard
Martin Reineman
Pamela Rinker
Susan Sweet Scott
Collyer Smith
Bryon Thelen-Perry
Jackson Turner

Class of 2016

Barbara Black
Martine Blogin
Jean Buck
Jinx Cooke
Sharon Dort
Diane Knibbs
Mark Lindley
Jim Lombard
Dan Mitas
Nancy Oliver
Gale Redding
Dianne Santinga
Judy Stuart
Martin Swindle,
Tamara Thoma
David Willmer
Ralph Winter

Class of 2017

Shelia Bilby
Barbara Brewster
Michele Derr
Heidi Dodson
Betty Halliday
Roy Mast
Cathy McKenny
Angie Miller
Lynn Milroy
Polly Pan
Nancy Pflasterer
Missy Smith-Potter
Mary Lynn Thomson
Linda Upton
Oscar Webb

2014 Co Moderators: Karla Olson-Belfi and Collyer Smith

2015 Co Moderators: Karla Olson-Belfi and Jinx Cooke

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 25, 2015
Agenda**

Rev. Dr. Fairfax. F. Fair, moderator

Distribution of Meeting Materials

Recognition of the Clerk of Session, Diana Gardner

Declaration of Quorum

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Recognition of the First Presbyterian Church Staff

State of the Church

Report from the Personnel Committee

Motion, Changes to Pastors' Terms of Call

Rick Boothman

Report on 2014 Finances

Carter Hodgson

Presentation of Preliminary 2015 Budget

Invitation to Lunch

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer and Luncheon Grace

Please join us for lunch in the Social Hall

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Report from The Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair Pastor/Head of Staff



Dear Friends,

What does “church” mean to you? The body of Christ. A port in a storm. A great group of people. A place to worship. A place to serve. A place to learn. A place to be comforted. A place to be challenged.

The First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor is all of these and more. We are a strong, mainline church, a major congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and an anomaly because we are growing and trending younger. We are an anchor congregation in the Lilly Endowment’s Pastoral Excellence Network – Transition in Ministry program, home to one of the few viable congregationally-based campus ministries, and an active part of the Presbytery of Detroit.

Consideration of what we – together – offer our members and the wider world in the name of Jesus Christ spans a broad spectrum. We excel in all the ways one might expect of a large American congregation. Our worship is faithful and inspiring, partially because of our outstanding music ministries. Church members give freely of their time to teach and to mentor our young disciples. Our extensive network of care-givers ensures that our members who are hospitalized – and their family members – are visited regularly for prayerful support. We give generously of our time and our resources toward local, national, and international mission. We have many opportunities for fellowship and fun, for getting to know one another and growing our connections and relationships.

But First Pres is more than all this. We are a congregation that welcomes a diversity of viewpoints. We dare to study and embrace the teachings of Jesus even when they push us beyond our comfort zones. We accept that following the example of Christ often puts us out of step with the world around us or requires that we embrace people who are unlike us. We are a congregation that values discussion and encour-

ages questions. We are a congregation that welcomes everyone because we recognize that our place at the table is not because of our deserving but because of God’s boundless grace.

It is a privilege to serve as your pastor. We are growing in many important ways, the most important of which is our desire to know God so that we can reflect God in how we live our lives.

2014 contained many celebratory moments: Easter, with shouts of “Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!” and the sounds of brass, and a beautiful flowering cross; a strong confirmation class and the reception of four other great groups of new members; Jay Sanderford’s installation; baptisms and weddings, high school and college graduations; completing a Habitat for Humanity house, extensive work on Mercy House, mission trips to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic; hosting General Assembly, the Russian Mission Network, a regional gathering for NEXTChurch and a pancake supper for over 300 hungry undergrads; four glorious Christmas Eve services, and the list could go on and on.

We are blessed to be a vibrant church and the promise for the year ahead is great. I plan for us to develop a new vision statement and mission statement in 2015 that will give focus to our efforts moving forward. We must continue to give of ourselves in gratitude to God, and rejoice that God has led us to this place where we can grow in faith while living out God’s call to serve. In the words of the Apostle Paul, let us rejoice in the Lord always!

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair





Report from The Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life

Pastoral Care at First Presbyterian is a team approach. As the coordinator of this area of our shared ministry, I work most closely with Parish Nurse Sandy Talbott to make sure the tangible needs of our members are met, as well as ensuring that the spiritual and emotional needs are addressed through various resources, including those available through our own church family. I am indebted to Sandy for her vast knowledge and ever-willing attitude, as well as her great competence at addressing needs as they are presented to us. We are fortunate to have a committed and compassionate Board of Deacons, a growing and faithful group of available lay caregivers - the Stephen Ministers, and a huge list of "helping hands" folks — those in our church who have made themselves available to make meals, assist those who are downsizing and moving, help with errands, and transport members to doctors' appointments. We are unusually blessed both in the size and giftedness of our pastoral and program staff. Our pastoral staff members meet with those who are struggling and provide one-on-one support. Each member of the staff is informed when a church member has a death in their family, and reach out in Christian care. Our resident ministers and a few of our retired clergy - Rev. Bill Findlay, Rev. Kent Palmquist, Rev. Gary Oliver, and Rev. Eldon Beery - make hospital and in-patient rehabilitation facility visits during the week. Member Dale Briggs visits hospitals on Sunday mornings. Even with this team in place, it is you — the members — who make our church a caring congregation. Reaching out to someone in the pew after worship service, taking the time to listen when someone mentions a death in their family, offering to help when a need is expressed, giving a warm hug to someone who has been struggling, calling a member that has been absent from worship for a few weeks - all of these small gestures are large ways to show others we care. Each time we reach out, people feel that they belong, and have a valued place in our church home.

Other than pastoral care, I continue to work with the Congregational Life Committee to build fellowship and membership at First Pres. In addition, I work on projects that increase spiritual closeness and deepen friendship within our church family. I continue to serve a team member for the Rotating Shelter. With Sandy and chairperson Lois Jelneck, I support the Mature Ministries Steering Committee and help plan the lineup of Hilltoppers speakers for the year. I spearheaded the renovation of the lounge outside of the pulpit door and am indebted to the team who helped design the space and colors - including Carol Smith and Debbie Swartz. With the

help of the Property Committee, and chairperson Bob Pierce, the accessibility and safety of our sanctuary was increased with the installation of removable chancel railings. A group of 14 First Pres women joined me for a 10-day trip to Spain to walk a 100-kilometer portion of the Camino de Santiago. The planning and preparation for that trip was a six-month process of meeting and walking together. New programs came to First Pres - including "Restore Hope," a support group for those with mentally ill family members. Stephen Ministers Linda Koopmann and Nicole Jolliet took a great idea forward and this group has provided support for many members of First Pres. With the encouragement of the former Saturday Suppers group members, a new program called, "The (S) Upper Room," a gourmet food group for those who love to cook and eat, began, and will meet quarterly. Other highlights of my year include leading a Mature Ministries overnight trip to Stratford, Ontario; preparing the Longest Night Service and All Saints Day services; joining in the coordination of the new member classes; helping plan gatherings for the new 40s/50s program, "Immature Ministries"; and organizing a new young mom's group. Within the Ann Arbor community, I am focused on working to increase green burial options, and hosted an interfaith conference for clergy last May. Now in my 10th year, I am blessed to officiate at a number of weddings and baptisms each year, as well as honored to preside at the funerals and memorial services of our members and friends. I am indebted to the Congregational Life Committee, the Usher Teams, the Greeters, the Deacons, the Stephen Ministers, and so many others who engage in meaningful, passionate ministry to make our large church feel small, and to help us as a congregation to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2) It is inspiring to work with talented colleagues who are extraordinarily gifted, but also bring humor, joy, energy, and creativity to all of these endeavors. I find myself grateful to serve a congregation full of people with love and energy to share. At First Pres, I am still learning from you how to better serve as Christ's disciple in this world, and in our church. For that, I am truly thankful.

*Prayerfully,
The Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers*





Report from The Reverend Jay Sanderford Associate Pastor for Adult Education, Mission and Director of the Resident Minister Program



Something Mother Theresa said stuck in my head; it plays again and again like the refrain of a great song:

“What I do you cannot do; but what you do I cannot do. The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.”

I put this together with an article I read and I get really excited about all that is happening at First Pres. It is estimated that the average person meets 10,000 people in a lifetime. Through our First Pres church family—1700 strong—God has the power to touch the lives of more than 17,000,000 people ... and that’s about 2% of the population of the United States. The impact of the ministries of our congregation are enormous, when taken together. I resource the Adult Education, Local and International Mission Committees and serve as Coordinator of the Resident Minister Program at First Presbyterian. It’s a wonderful position, and I love what I do.

Each week, our varied Adult Education classes and sessions touch the lives of more than 300 adults with everything from Bible study to important issues of peace and justice. In the past year, Adult Ed topics have included an intriguing series on “Food + Faith” led by Rev. Kristin Riegel, a compelling course on “Revelation: Our Cosmic Future” by Dr. Wally Schmeichel and a very engaging series “Sport as a Road to God” facilitated by Keith Molin and Chuck Monsma. Every Sunday morning, the Rev. Ed Koster engages a devoted group of adults in deep bible study. Our young adult group, T2A2, dives into serious study and relationship making under the leadership of Rev. Lindsay Conrad. Add to this mix a Kerygma study, First Couples, a meditation group, and several early morning men’s bible study groups led by Rev. Lal Rodawla and God touches many lives through First Pres. The Rev. Allan Boesak, a South African pastor and theologian, visited First Pres in November for a series of stunning presentations on reconciliation, a daring hope and the Belhar Confession. Dick Righeterink led a fine Adult Education Committee for 2014 and as a result of his work, hundreds of adults have followed Jesus into new places.

Our impact in mission has been broad and deep. Jane Hayes capably led our First Pres Mission Committee in stretching our ministry for maximum influence. International mission teams have traveled the world spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in Israel/Palestine, Haiti, Nicaragua and Russia. Trip leaders have deepened and enriched their lead-

ership skills to enable our First Pres Mission trips to travel safely, meet the demands of working in a different culture and centering the mission groups in prayer and reflection. 2014 saw First Pres select a pair of Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers—Rachael and Michael Ludwig, currently serving in Niger in central Africa. In August, First Pres hosted the Presbyterian Russia Mission Network Conference, bringing more than 30 people together from across the US for learning and networking. Adding our collective financial support for Special Offerings, monthly food collections, contributions to the ongoing mission enterprises of the Presbyterian Church USA, and First Pres does indeed make a great impact in our community and world.

Locally, we strive to make our community look more and more like the kingdom of God. We feed hungry people weekly at Delonis Center, care for children and families at Alpha House and Peace Neighborhood Center, and renovated a home in Ypsilanti for Habitat for Humanity. We sheltered 25 men overnight for 2 weeks in the cold of last January, and touched them with First Pres hospitality and grace. We contributed financially greatly to make local community groups do their work, and in doing so, touched many lives with God’s mercy and grace.

Our three Resident Ministers, Rev. Lal Rodawal, Rev. Kristin Riegel and Rev. Lindsay Conrad, have stretched the Good News of Jesus Christ to many and varied places, touching lives with grace and mercy in hospitals, life care facilities and nursing homes. Beyond that, they have preached at First Pres and at many area congregations, and led worship in almost every imaginable setting, and have done so with distinction. Lal, Kristin and Lindsay have grown and matured as pastors and church leaders, and carry God’s grace into classrooms, meeting spaces and out into our Ann Arbor community. Through their resourcefulness First Pres members have enjoyed retreats, bible study sessions, Advent devotions, innovative learning opportunities and chances to meet and work alongside distressed and homeless women and men. Jointly and collectively, we have made a made a significant and wonderful impact on our Ann Arbor community, and it is a marvelous thing. And it’s a joy to be part of it all.

Peace,
Rev. Jay Sanderford

Reports of Session Committees



Christian Education

In our new committee structure the Christian Education Committee is responsible for Christian Education for all ages. Three work groups, corresponding to the prior committees, are part of the overall Christian Education Committee: Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, and Adult Education. The three work groups were ably led this year by Karen Mundus, Cindy King, and Dick Rigterink respectively. Many thanks to them, the staff members Debbie MacVey, Jim Monnett, and Jay Sanderford, and to the more than 200 volunteers who teach and help with Sunday school, lead our youth ministry, and lead adult education experiences.

An important part of our job as the church, in Jay Sanderford's succinct phrase, is to 'make disciples.' First Pres Ann Arbor provides the space – the teachers, the leaders, the curriculum, the chairs, the whiteboards, the markers, Bibles, the projectors, the TV screens – so that Christian wisdom can be experienced by children, youth, and adults. We give everyone an opportunity to claim their identity as believers in Jesus Christ so that we can be witnesses and servants of God to our church, our local community, and our world.

Here's a snapshot of the breadth and depth of vibrant learning at First Presbyterian Ann Arbor:

- 24 Eighth Graders explored their Christian faith through Confirmation; 23 of them joined the church as full members in April.
- In April the Children's Education Ministry tried a new activity: The Peeps Fair. Families gathered on a Saturday morning and, using Easter Candy Peeps, created shoebox dioramas, illustrating favorite Bible Stories. The families wonderful creations were on display the following Sunday during coffee hour.
- 140 adults, families, and staff gathered at Camp Faholo near Grass Lake in May for our All Church Retreat – "God's Great Family".
- Several informative sessions were held in June prior to the General Assembly (GA) to educate members of the issues that would be discussed during the GA.
- 155 children and volunteers followed the Apostle Paul in his journeys in June, at Vacation Bible School.
- High schoolers Josh King, Lily Scheske and Erin Tichenor worked as summer interns leading Art Fair parking, planning events, doing bulletin boards, prepping for outdoor worship, and more.
- 45 children and youth attended Camp Westminster this August; 25% of whom received scholarship assistance for camp.
- 56 high schoolers and adults participated in summer and fall youth trips.
- 18 Third Graders received Good News Bibles in October.
- Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak was our guest speaker for the Christian Life Academy in November. He preached at the Sunday 9:30 and 11:00 services, met with Resident Ministers who gathered at our Church from across the country, and spoke to approximately 150 participants about the evolution of the Belhar Confession during apartheid, the days of the Soweto Uprisings and his service as the President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. He stressed that God wants a different world away from fear and discrimination. He pleaded for reconciliation and justice for all.
- 48 Sunday School teachers helped with child care or teaching in the children's area from crib through 5th grade.
- 237 children and their families participated in Milestone events, highlighting the tie between church and home (milestone events are related to learning about baptism, communion, worship, the Bible, mission, Sunday School, and the "Amazing Stuff" classes to learn about our bodies being made in the image of God).
- 50% increase in the number of adult education classes offered this fall (the variety of Adult Education programs include: Bible studies, theological interpretation, mission and social justice, environmental opportunities, interaction of faith and science, current challenges of the church, what it means to be a Christian, parenting, and aging).
- In the spring and fall of 2014 we continued with two 8 week sessions of Wednesday 242 (based on the account in Acts 2:42 of the early church meeting for teaching, fellowship, food, and prayer). This intergenerational all-church activity included the children's choir rehearsals, then dinner at 6:00 and concluded each week with adult education and a Bible Study for our youth.

The Children's Ministry continues to prosper under Debbie MacVey's wonderfully personal and constant lead-

ership. Staffing the many programs with volunteers and equipping them with materials is an enormous task that Debbie and the Children's Ministry Work Group faithfully and cheerfully execute.

The Youth Ministry continues to grow both in numbers and activity level under the Rev. Jim Monnett's very capable leadership. Middle and high school youth have many opportunities for spiritual and personal growth through Bible study, mission experiences, social events, and, particularly at the high school level, leadership development.

The Adult Education activity had its first full year under the leadership of the Rev. Jay Sanderford. Jay shared new perspectives, utilized his significant adult education experience and impressive knowledge of current Christian authors and publications to identify new formats and topics. This work group focused this year on expanding the program variety to reach more of our members and visitors. Another

important milestone in 2014 was the upgrading of the French Room / Church Library. The new oak paneling and shelving makes an attractive, pleasant and needed meeting space. Thanks to Church Librarian Marion West for updating the layout and storage areas in the Church Library. Recognition also is due to the many leaders who spend copious amounts of time and energy preparing and presenting – including the Rev. Ed Koster, Keith Molin, Professor Silvia Pedraza, Dr. Waldemar Schmeichel, Dr. John Whittier-Ferguson, and Ralph Williams.

When we baptize we promise to guide and nurture each new believer with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of Christ's church. The many people involved with these ministries, only a few of whom can be named in a brief report, are part of fulfilling that promise. Thanks to all of them.

Steve McKenny, Chair



Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Committee coordinates wide ranging activities that foster welcoming, fellowship, pastoral care, communications, and community outreach. Committee members provide leadership to many of our activities and are assisted by a small army of volunteers who provide the workers for our many all church events. Congregational Life also oversees the Stephen Ministry, Mature Ministries, the Parish Nurse ministry, and works closely with the Board of Deacons. Work teams serve specific areas, such as Welcoming and New Members.

2014 Highlights

- **Annual Meeting:** The committee hosted a luncheon in the Social Hall for the all-church annual meeting in January. Over 200 attended!
- **Welcoming:** A multi-layered process of welcoming visitors, answering their questions, and following up with them is in place. Staff takes the lead in contacting our visitors. Phone calls, letters, emails, and Facebook messages are the primary ways we connect to approximately 10 visitors per week. A visitor email database is maintained and visitors get a weekly informational email.
- **New Member Classes:** This year we held four sets of New Member classes, coordinated by committee member Jim Cameron and member Marita Servais. We welcomed a total of 68 new members into our church at New Member Breakfasts in the Social Hall in March, May, October and December. (The church also welcomed 33 confirmands.)
- **Advertising:** The committee oversaw the advertising venues throughout the year, continually evaluating results to ensure value and reach. We advertise regularly in the Ann Arbor Observer, The Ann, Groundcover News, and the Ann Arbor Family Press. Occasional ads are placed in The Ann Arbor News.
- **Retreats:** An all-church retreat was held at Faholo Camp and Conference Center in the spring, and we had over 150 members who came and participated. With a great theme, speaker, games, and more, "God's Great Family" proved to be a perfect theme! The annual Women's Retreat was also held in the spring at Maumee Bay Lodge in Ohio, with 53 women attending. The theme focused on modern-day prophets.
- **All Church Picnic:** The committee helped with planning and volunteer support of the summer picnic, complete with BBQ, a rock and blues band, games, animals from the Leslie Science center, and children's inflatables. Because of rain, the event was held inside. Our thanks to those who helped decorate, serve, and clean-up, as well as Dallas Dort and his band for providing entertainment during the picnic.
- **Small Group Events:** Small gatherings, such as two new men's breakfast groups, a gourmet food supper club called "The (S)Upper Room," and the new "Immature Ministries" (40's and 50's), offered additional fellowship in 2014.
- **Tigers' Game:** The Tigers' tickets sold out as 70 members enjoyed a game together in May.

- **Activities Fair:** 2014 saw a reduced event in the Social Hall that allowed members of the congregation to gain insight into various programs and opportunities available for involvement throughout our church.
- **Fair Trade Coffee and Tea:** Led by the Rev. Kristin Riegel and Office Manager Linda Robinson, we transitioned the church to fair trade coffee and tea. Due to the increased price for the fair trade items, we are selling bags of coffee, tea, and chocolate on the first Sunday of each month, with proceeds offsetting the additional costs. Coffee was sold throughout Advent and the sales are booming! First Pres travel mugs are also available when the coffee is sold, and are given as gifts to visitors.
- **“Gift of the Magi”:** Congregational Life coordinated the Advent “Gift of the Magi” program (a kind of secret santa program within the church family) for spreading Christmas joy and fun within the membership. Over 40 family units participated!
- **All-church Christmas Dinner:** The second annual Christmas dinner was enjoyed by a full capacity gathering of 240 members. The Social Hall was transformed with Christmas décor, music, games, and a Christmas feast. Members Jim Cameron and Dick Carlyle emceed the event with a little standup comedy and entertainment that showcased First Pres talent.

2014 Committee Members

Gratitude goes to these dedicated members of the 2014 Congregational Life Committee, who worked tirelessly to add joy, comfort and fellowship to the life of the church – Gwen Alexander, Nancy Briggs, Jim Cameron, Nancy Crawford, Becky Gaffney, Prue Heikkinen, Jennifer Hoy, Catherine Kendall, Jane Kinzinger, Diane Knibbs, Dale Leslie, Barbara Mueller, June Ounsted, Marita Servais, Sara Vander Voort, Marti Wendler, and Pam Wood

We owe appreciation as well to our First Pres chef, Christine Miller, who is critically important to our ministries of food and fellowship, and creates magnificent feasts. We are truly thankful. We also want to thank the many other volunteers

who jump in where needed and help keep First Presbyterian a lively, embracing and stimulating church for all its members. And we especially want to thank our staff liaison, Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, whose leadership, vision and hard work add inspiration and joy to our work, as well as resident minister Rev. Kristin Riegel for her creativity and unflagging support.

Bill McPherson, Chair

Parish Nurse

2014 was a year of deepening relationships for me in my role as parish nurse: relationships with our pastoral, program and support staff, and relationships with individuals in our great congregation. I continue to look for ways to support our great staff, both personally and in their professional roles. They do so much for our members, so anything I can do to help them, helps us all.

I continue to look for opportunities to support different ministry groups within our church. Our caregivers support group continues to meet monthly, and we were able to add a new support group for family members of severe mental illness, called Restore Hope. I have met with our new usher corps and have more training planned in 2015 around emergency preparedness. I continue to work alongside Melissa Anne Rogers with both Mature Ministries and the Deacons. Through these groups, I’m able to keep tabs on many of our ‘at risk’ members.

Phone calls, home visits, office visits, and emails help me stay in touch with many of you experiencing needs. And so much support is given to this congregation through our Helping Hands volunteers; they carry the church’s love and care to so many, and we are ever grateful for each of them. I appreciate the support I receive from so many of you, through your acts of service, kind words and prayer, and look forward to what 2015 holds for us all.

Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse





Congregational Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee worked with dedication, commitment and prayerful discernment to identify a slate of officers that reflect the diversity of the congregation with the skills and experience to lead the congregation. The following church officers were elected at the Congregational Meeting on September 21, 2014.

Elders for the class of 2017 serving a three-year term:

Nancy Crawford	Jeannette Middleton
Dallas Dort	Barbara Oettgen
Robert Larson	Peter Santinga
Hank McQueen	Tim Wendler

To serve a one year term: Dallas Colligan

Deacons on the Board of Deacons for the class of 2017 serving a three-year term:

Shelia Bilby	Betty Halliday
Barbara Brewster	Roy Mast
Michele Derr	Cathy McKenny
Heidi Dodson	Angie Miller

Lynn Milroy
Polly Pan
Nancy Pflasterer
Missy Smith-Potter

Mary Lynn Thomson
Linda Upton
Oscar Webb

With appreciation and acknowledgement of their commitment to this important responsibility, the members of the Congregational Nominating Committee for 2014 were Linda Dabrowski, Sue Dempsey, Mark Endicott, Prue Heikkinen, Larry Lohr, , Renee Mulcrone, Karen Mundus, Donna Nussdorfer, and Helena Prince.

David Butz, Chair



Finance

The Finance Committee continued to work with Lynnette Conner, Finance Manager, to manage church funds to preserve First Presbyterian Church's Endowment Funds and Special Gifts and to provide the necessary funds for church operations. Beginning in November of 2014 our financial systems were being transitioned to the Shelby Arena Church Management Software. Shelby Arena will provide us the ability to streamline financial reporting and maintain up to date and accurate member records.

A number of all congregation letters were sent to members in 2014 to inform the congregation of the finances of the church and short and long term issues that the church is facing. Our building and properties are a priority. Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee the Session approved the first phase of window replacement in November. Installation of this initial window installation should be complete late in the First Quarter of 2015. The Committee plans to maintain these communications throughout 2015.

Pledge receipts and contributions for 2014 were \$1,630,00. Total income for 2014 was \$1,735,000 (exclusive of transfers).

Carter Hodgson, Chair

Annual Giving

This has been a challenging year for the Annual Giving Workgroup (AGWG). As a practical matter, our workgroup is charged with two specific tasks: 1) running the annual giving campaign that stretches formally for five Sundays each fall (and informally for 2-3 months thereafter); and 2) vetting all First Pres fundraising activity.

This fall's campaign goal was ambitious – to increase pledges by 8% over 2014 to \$1.6 million, with much of the increase going toward deficit reduction in 2015. Many thanks go to the heroic efforts of John LeDuc and JP DiMaggio who provided the graphic arts and copy writing required for our fall brochure. Their gifts of time saved First Pres significant external expense, and the brochure – very different this fall than in years past – was exceedingly well done and (based on much feedback) extremely well received by many of our members. We are also greatly indebted to Communications Coordinator Mary Jones for her assistance, and to Finance Manager Lynnette Conner for her ongoing and tireless work, not only toward the annual giving campaign, but also for all of the finances surrounding First Pres. As a church, we are truly blessed to have her.

As of December 29, 2014, the annual giving campaign had received 518 pledges totaling \$1.5 million in financial commit-

ments for 2015. This sum equals 93% of the campaign's goal. Of those who had pledged in both 2014 and 2015, the average pledge increased by 4.6%. We have also had 38 entirely new pledges adding to \$58,170 (an amount equal to 3.6% of our overall goal). The average pledge through 12/22 was \$2,895.

There are an estimated 75-100 pledges yet to come in, more than in recent years, suggesting that we may ultimately come close to the goal some time in the first quarter of 2015. This year's AGWG will continue its work through much of January.

Our church members have been especially generous and supportive for 2015, and for this the members of our work-group are profoundly moved and grateful. Thank you!

David Butz, Chair

Endowment and Special Gifts

The Endowment and Special Gifts Committee of the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor exists to educate the congregation about the importance of endowment and special gifts to support a wide variety of church programs, projects and mission. In 2014 we received numerous gifts from our members in support of our general endowment fund. These gifts may be designated to a specific purpose or be undesignated. All undesignated gifts are placed in the E&SG fund and invested in order to provide a continuing resource to meet the unexpected needs of the church and for targeted ministries. The church also received numerous gifts, or commitments to gift, in support of the Resident Ministers Endowment Campaign. Currently, the church has received more than 90% commitments toward the goal of \$5,000,000 for the campaign. We have already received approximately \$2,600,000 of the \$4,600,000 committed. E&SG committee members who continue to serve on the Steering Committee for the Capital Campaign include John Eman and Fairfax Fair.

The E&SG committee and your session are grateful for the opportunity to act as stewards of this increasingly important resource for the Church. There has been steady growth in the number of Legacy Partners at First Presbyterian this year. The Legacy Partners are benefactors of the church who have included First Presbyterian in their Will and Estate Planning. This commitment is an essential element of our charge as a committee dedicated to creating an endowment that will support all of our church mission programs. Aided by the extraordinary gifts from our commitment to the Resident Ministers Cap Campaign the endowment grew to a total of approximately \$4,777,000.

At the all church picnic on June 8, 2014 we launched a new initiative called the "Birthday Fund". This is an opportunity for church members to make a gift to the church on behalf of a friend or family member in the amount of that individual's age on their birthday. The committee continues to work with the

church administration to develop a plan that will insure that all members of the church have a special opportunity to make a gift to the endowment fund. Beginning in 2015 an ad hoc committee will be working with the Finance Department to create a program in support of this initiative. The committee wishes to thank those members who agreed to participate in the launch with a June 8th "birthday gift" to the church.

Members who participated on the committee in 2014 included Tom Crawford, John Eman, Peggy Fisher, Jim Clark, Lucie Audette, and Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair. Some of our goals for 2015 include an emphasis on growing the number of Legacy Partners committed to remembering the church with an end of life gift, continued promotion of the Resident Ministers Endowment Campaign, implementation of the "Birthday Fund" program and other new initiatives to help our members make informed decisions about giving to the church.

If you would like to know more about giving or leaving a gift to the Church, please visit the Endowment and Special Gifts section of the First Presbyterian website (www.firstpresbyterian.org and click on Stewardship and Giving). You may also contact Dr. Fairfax Fair (ffair@firstpresbyterian.org; 734 662-4466).

Jim Clark, Chair

Technology

Technology Work Group is responsible for many of the systems at First Pres, including

- coordinates the volunteers for running the sound board and lights for all services in the Sanctuary (including memorial services and other uses during the week),
- provide audio feed to WAAM and podcast of sermons for the website,
- keeps audio visual equipment is in good working order,
- insures staff have computers and LAN access,
- decides on service providers for our website, telephone service, and software.

The major activity this year was to choose a new church database to replace the outdated Shelby system with the Shelby-Arena system. Work to transfer all existing data to the new system is underway and will continue next year.

We also replaced some outdated laptops and computers for staff and purchased some new video projectors for the expanded Adult Education program. We evaluated options for better telephone service and replaced a bad channel on the soundboard. We continue to look for better audio transmission options to WAAM, especially during the summer services from Monteith Hall. Several consultants were used to determine how to optimize the sound in the Sanctuary and those efforts will continue next year.

Kathy Hillig, Chair



Mission

How do we respond to the love of God? One way the congregation of First Pres responds is by meeting and supporting people locally and around the world. We see the need for housing, food, clothing, education and language skills. We see the need for peace and reconciliation. We see the need for mutual recognition that no matter how differently we live our lives, we are all children of God. We look for opportunities for engagement; we pray; and we celebrate!

The Mission Committee is an umbrella that gathers the Local Mission Team, the five foreign mission teams (Haiti Medical Mission, Philippines, Israel/Palestine, Russia, and Nicaragua) and Campus Ministry under its unifying goals and policies. This year we also added a team to select and organize support for a Presbyterian (PCUSA) Mission Co-Worker. We will contribute support to Rev. Michael and Rachel Ludwig working in Niger with their two children to equip pastors and others in increasing literacy.

Our discussions in the Mission Committee have led to understanding that our service should support, strengthen, and empower others in self-sufficiency. We desire to work in partnership with others according to what they themselves determine is needed and not what we feel is needed. Cultures are different and our service must begin with respect. With the exception of meeting emergency needs, new and long-standing mission projects are examined in this light.

The Mission Committee is pleased to partner with Congregational Life in the purchase and serving of Equal Exchange Coffee at First Pres activities. The cost of the coffee is higher than what we previously served, but the price does much to enable small farmers and their communities to be economically viable. It also encourages better farming practices that protect the forests, soil, and water in these developing countries.

Generous contributions from the congregation allowed us to respond to five important offerings: Blankets + (Church World Service), One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, and the Christmas Joy Offering (PCUSA). The separate Christmas Eve offering in 2014 was designated to go to "Compassion, Peace and Justice" for PCUSA. Funds will support humanitarian needs in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria where old Christian communities are suffering the effects of war.

We have been blessed by energetic, compassionate workers. If you have not yet joined this fellowship, please know you are invited. And thank you for all your unfailing encouragement, prayers, and commitment.

Jane Hayes, Chair

Campus Ministry

The year 2014 was, by any measure, a substantive and fulfilling series of initiatives. Under the capable stewardship of Rev. Renee Roederer, projects were planned and executed with the end result always being, a strengthening of First Presbyterian's relationship and engagement with the broader University community, but more specifically with its students. Renee provides a vision and an air of excitable expectation that identifies and establishes relationships conducive to church/student partnerships that result in mutual respect and commitment.

With the able assistance of the Campus Ministry Work Group, Rev. Roederer was able to expand our working alliance with Young Life College, a group that has as its purpose, the relational development of college students and expansion of their spiritual horizons through sharing of experiences among each other as well as with the "worlds they live in---the University and the community around it.

Our relationship with the AA Campus Ministry Foundation, AACMF, was clarified further. Two of that Foundation's Board members, Ms. Ann Andrews and Mr. William Slade, were valued colleagues on several accounts: first, by helping to clarify Campus Ministry's relationship structurally and financially with AACMF; second, providing some financial resources and also by being members of our work group. Bill was extremely helpful in the planning, advertising and solicitation of funds raised, specifically for the Campus Ministry Breakfast, which provided an opportunity for students and church members to meet each other and break bread together.

Outreach to students, primarily at the University of Michigan given its proximity, was increased as our relationship with Young Life College expanded and grew spiritually and programmatically. Our 7:07 services, Sunday Student Dinners, and Mission trips which included YLC members were some of the ways that our program has grown during the past year. In addition to Rev. Renee's on campus engagement with YLC, she also has them participate in the church's life through participation in the 7:07 service and through face to face encounters with members of our church at coffee hours, etc.

New initiatives which were started in 2014 were the following:

1. A Fundraising Breakfast to assist in the support of FPCM.
2. The receipt of a grant from the Synod of the Covenant that will help to fund the Campus Dinners in 2015.
3. Increased funding from churches in the Presbytery of Detroit.

4. Creation of a Campus Ministry Facebook Page which increases our visibility
5. Recruitment of additional volunteers, including new members, to serve the Campus Dinner in our church and assist with the Annual Pancake Dinner.
6. Expanded the format and manner in which students will participate in the 7:07 service.
7. Developed and implemented a plan to hire three part time student staff interns to assist in the vision and work of campus ministry.
8. Planned and implemented the increase of Spring Break trips from one to three in 2015.

None of this, in the final analysis would be able without the oversight supervision provided by Rev. Jay Sanderford and Rev. Fairfax Fair and the Campus Ministry Work Group members Meg Brown, David Kershaw, Mitchell Dudley, Boyd Falconer, Kay Erdman, Ann Andrews. Going forward, we ask your continuing prayers for Rev. Renee, the committee and the students we are honored to serve.

Henry Johnson, Chair

Local Mission Team

In 2014, the First Presbyterian community sought to do God's work with our neighbors in Washtenaw County and Detroit through more than 20 church sponsored local mission activities.

We sustained longstanding programs like Alpha House family shelter volunteer staffing and meal preparation, Wednesday night meals and gift card hospitality at the Delonis Center shelter, and the Family to Family Christmas program.

Other continuing programs included another completed Habitat for Humanity House of Faith in the West Willow neighborhood, English as a Second Language for adults, hosting the Rotating Shelter for 2 weeks in January, reaching out to veterans at the VA hospital and beyond, work days and other opportunities at the Cass Community Center, service through the Mini-Missions programs (at places like Friends in Deed and Peace Neighborhood Center), and rescuing and distributing several tons of food after U of M football and basketball games. We also contributed more than \$71,000 from the church budget to 20 local helping organizations, and many thousands more in other ways.

The presence and enthusiastic and creative support of Revs. Jay Sanderford and Lindsay Conrad greatly enhanced local mission efforts and brought fresh practical and theological perspective to them. They have been instrumental in the sharpened focus given to issues such as homelessness and the lack of affordable housing in Washtenaw County. Addressing these issues immediately, directly, collaboratively, and compassionately, as well as systemically and structurally, is a goal in 2015.

Thank you for supporting local mission at First Presbyterian. If you aren't already participating in a local mission activity, please give one a try in 2015.

Jim Schaafsma, Chair

Jeane Seeley Mission Team

The Jeane Seeley Mission Team continues to accept and prayerfully consider grant requests. In the past year we have granted requests that have significant impact on those who are homeless or housing insecure in Washtenaw County. One grant in particular involved the Presbyterian churches of Washtenaw County Mission Cluster.

We approved three applications in 2014.

- "Who is My Neighbor?" \$20,000 was awarded for the renovation of Mercy House, a house of hospitality for the homeless in Washtenaw County. Much of the work was completed during the Washtenaw County Mission Cluster week of service.
- A Meal at Mercy House \$250.00 was awarded to two members of First Presbyterian Church to pay for a meal at Mercy House.
- *Groundcover* Equipment Purchase \$10,000.00 was awarded to *Groundcover* Newspaper to purchase new software, photographic equipment, advertising and educational workshops.

Financial awards for 2014 totaled \$30,250.00.

In 2015, we look forward to receiving applications that are in the spirit of Jeane Seeley and will have a lasting impact for those whom we serve.

As of December 31, 2014, in excess of \$90,000 remains in the Jeane Seeley Mission Fund.

Carol Smith, Chair

Haiti Medical Mission Team

The Haiti Medical Mission Team (HMMT) continues to conduct and support medical mission projects in Haiti, primarily in the Léogâne and Jacmel areas of Haiti, involving medical clinics and surgeries at Hôpital Ste. Croix (HSC), nursing education at Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haiti (FSIL) and pharmaceutical support for Pazapa, a center for handicapped children in Jacmel.

One medical mission trip was made this year. A team of three members worked with our Haitian partners and performed surgery at the hospital from May 4-10. Haitian doctors, nurses and surgical personnel joined our team of medical professionals at HSC. Team leader, Lisa Kerr Johnson met with the HSC administrator, physicians and others to discern their critical needs. She developed partnership goals and objectives to guide HMMT donation of \$7000 for painting, medical equipment and supplies at HSC. The HMMT supported the

costs of medical clinics, surgery costs and housing trip members and other expenses, such as translators. About half of the funds went towards medication purchases which were taken to Haiti.

The FSIL students and graduates work collaboratively with FPC medical teams during team visits. The nursing school campus continues to be built out with the assistance of the Medical Benevolence Foundation and USAID. Major construction projects including an auditorium, a computer lab, administrative wing and guest house were completed in 2014. The anticipated graduation of the seventh group (class of 2014) of nurses from FSIL will coincide with the 10th anniversary celebration of the founding of the school on January 10, 2015. A total of 100 nurses with a baccalaureate degree have graduated since the school opened in 2005. Hunter College continues to teach a masters program to develop Nurse Practitioners at the school of nursing. The HMMT sent \$10,000 for student support. HMMT members are active on both of the Boards of FSIL and on the Haiti Nursing Foundation.

Pazapa has made giant steps in constructing their new facility. The first and second phases of construction, built to first world, hurricane and earthquake standards, are complete. The school still needs a substantial amount of money in order to construct Phase 3 of their building project. Schooling and the rehabilitation clinic continue to help the disabled children and their families. The HMMT facilitated purchase of yearly seizure medications for the center. HMMT members are active on the Pazapa Foundation Board.

Haiti MMT conducted the annual Apple Pie Sale and participated in the Mission Marketplace, Hosta Sale, and UM sporting events as fund raisers for HMMT work. Our church welcomed our Haitian partner, Hilda Alcindor, Dean of FSIL, to give Minute for Mission at worship service. Dean Alcindor is one of our longstanding Haitian mission partners. These mission projects continue to offer rich experiences for First Pres members looking for a foreign mission experience along their faith journey and spiritual development, while serving as Christ's disciples to our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Rosemarie Rowney, Chair

Israel/Palestine Mission Team

The Israel/Palestine Mission Task Force supports the Mar Elias Educational Institutions (MEEI) and their partner organizations. MEEI was founded and developed by Abouna Elias Chacour, in the Palestinian village of Ibillin, Israel. We also seek to be the missional connection of the congregation with important issues of peace and justice in the Middle East.

The Task Force was active this year, raising funds to support MEEI and providing educational opportunities for our congregation. Notable activities in 2014 include:

- The IPMT hosted the Executive Director of the Pilgrims

of Ibillin, Rev. Joan Deming, for a visit to Ann Arbor on June 6-8. The weekend consisted of a Friday night dinner in her honor at the home of Silvia Pedraza, and a Saturday study retreat, lunch and discussion in Monteith Hall; the latter was organized by Kristin Riegel and attended by more than thirty persons. Attendees learned about the history of the Pilgrims of Ibillin and the MEEI and the future of the schools as they undergo important leadership transitions. Rev. Deming gave a brief Faith in Action report during worship on Sunday morning.

- Several of the IPMT attended the PCUSA General Assembly June 14-21, working to support both the Committee on Local Arrangements as well as supporting the work of the Israel/Palestine Mission Network. Middle East topics were an important part of the General Assembly deliberations, and members of the IPMT contributed to the extensive discussions and deliberations.
- Several active members of the IPMT visited Israel and Palestine in 2014. These trips were not part of a single mission trip organized by our congregation, but they involved partnering with other groups with compatible mission objectives. Jean White was a part of the "Presbyterian Peace Fellowship" in January; Sue and Bill Chandler attended the "Mosaic for Peace" program in May. Oliver Jolliet visited the Mar Elias Schools in Ibillin in June. Mary Lynn and Jim Thomson and Margaret and Harris McClamroch were part of a Pilgrims of Ibillin "Living Stones" tour of the West Bank and Ibillin in October; this tour was organized and led by Rev. Joan Deming. These various trips provided concrete support to Jews, Palestinian Moslems, and Palestinian Christians working for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine.
- Kristin Riegel organized presentations from Jean White and Sue and Bill Chandler to the Adult Education program on May 18 and to Presbyterian Women on November 19.
- The IMPT provided desserts to the Ann Arbor Muslim Center for their Ramadan meal on July 25.
- The IMPT participated in the Activities Fair on September 21.
- The annual cinnamon roll sale was held as the primary IPMT fund raising event on November 2; twenty-five persons produced and sold more than 150 cinnamon roll pans.
- The IPMT participated with other mission teams in selling Palestinian products at the Christmas Bazaar: olive wood carvings from Bethlehem, olive oil, olive oil soap and local crafts from Zababdeh in the West Bank.
- Several of our group, Jean White, Sue and Bill Chandler, and Kristin Riegel attended the annual meeting of the

Israel/Palestine Mission Network in Chicago on October 23-25. We congratulate Kristin Riegel for her election to the Steering Committee of the IPMN.

- Marcy Terrien hosted a Christmas in Bethlehem potluck dinner for our group on December 8.

We give thanks that Rev. Kristin Riegel has been our staff liaison during this year.

Please contact us to learn more about the Mission Task Force activities or if you would like to be added to our email distribution list.

Margaret McClamroch, Silvia Pedraza, Co-chairs

Nicaragua Mission Team

We were blessed by your prayers and support in 2014. Our mission team had an active year with plans in place to lead another delegation to Nicaragua in February 2015. Those team members will include: MelissaAnne and Charlie Rogers, Gaiden Heatley, Carol and Paul Smith, the Webbs (Lenore, Oscar, Tavo), Downs Herold, Janie Schaafsma (4th Presbyterian Church, Chicago), Lydia Schaafsma and Nancy Vander Kuyl. Here are some general highlights to recap the activities of the past year:

- At the end of 2013, said goodbye to Doug Orbacker, PC USA mission co-worker to CEPAD since 1994 who inspired us all through his leadership and quest for peace and understanding in this region.
- Enthusiastically welcomed Jay Sanderford to our team meetings and e-discussions.
- Sent our first work team, an intergenerational one, to Nicaragua in February.
- Communicated our post-trip feedback to the congregation at two events, April 6 and October 8 after a 242 dinner.
- In June, met with Julie Frick, a representative of the Lake Michigan Presbytery who has considerable experience as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) working with CEPAD, leading trips and developing relationships in Nicaragua. We discussed best practice for moving forward with partnership building efforts in an international mission context.
- In summer, welcomed by email the Rev. Renee and Justin Sundberg, CEPAD's new partnership and delegation coordinators in Nicaragua. We have since learned that for now, Justin is serving in Doug's former role while Renee adjusts to Managua with their four young children. Justin plans to accompany our First Pres 2015 team for the duration of its time with the Boacan communities.
- At the November 1st Pres Christmas bazaar sold jewelry made by our Nicaraguan friend Roberto Corrales who lives in Granada. Roberto supports his daughter's enrollment in medical school with his jewelry sales.

As many of you may recall from our previous reports, CEPAD is our PC-USA mission partner that was established in 1972 in response to the earthquake in Managua. It is an alliance of Nicaraguan Christian denominations, institutions, and local pastoral communities, working to provide emergency relief, rural development and peace building and assisting the more vulnerable poor communities of the country. The eight communities with which First Pres is establishing a partnership have all participated in CEPAD's ongoing programs for community development.

CEPAD offers several types of projects for visiting churches—from a one-time mission work project to a more formalized partnership. Currently about 12 such partnerships exist, including one by the Lake Michigan Presbytery. CEPAD acts as the third party to help with translation, facilitation and mutual accountability.

The February 2014 trip followed two exploratory visits made by First Pres Nicaraguan Mission Team members in August 2012 and April 2013. As a result of the information gained during those trips and an initial meeting with leaders of our partner eight communities in the Boaco region, our team made the decision to send its first work team to the area in February 2014. It was also decided that an attempt would be made to incorporate youth on the team. Accordingly, the trip was planned for the Ann Arbor area winter school break.

The trip date caught the attention of the Webb family. Lenore, Oscar (then 15) and Tavo (14), visited our table at the September 2013 activities fair. The Webbs are long-time church members and, Lenore is an Ann Arbor Public School Spanish teacher. They were warmly embraced by other team members Carol and Paul Smith, Marti Wendler, Karen Walter, Sue Jeffers, Richard Lord, and Lal Rodawla. The group spent eight days working together to provide a foundation for future First Pres mission teams as our church establishes a relationship with the partner communities in Boaco. Through visits, conversations, and the building of eight bookshelves for schools, they managed to touch base with a large number of residents of those communities. The trip empowered all to continue efforts to form intergenerational teams.

Through Jay Sanderford's leadership, the group provided a post-trip reflection event on April 6. Jay asked that the group divide the presentation into five topic areas: the intergenerational aspect of the trip, significance of pastoral presence, what mission meant to us as a result of the trip, significant experiences, recap of responses to Lal's daily challenge to see God each day, and finally, discussion of the team's next steps.

Thank you, First Pres congregation, for your prayers and financial support that provide opportunities to continuously engage the world, both locally and internationally.

Nancy Vander Kuyl, Chair

Philippines Mission Team

2014 was not a travel year for the team. Traditionally, the non travel year is spent developing and providing support to the projects in Dumaguete and nearby communities. One team member, Elsie Weils, did travel to the Philippines. While there she observed several of our projects and made a report to the Philippines Mission Team (PMT) of her observations and meetings.

The PMT is tentatively planning its next trip to be in May, 2015. As the PMT plan for this trip, it is considering expanding its work to another city, as well as continuing some of the projects and partnerships in Dumaguete. The PMT is exploring other cities with high needs that have experienced catastrophes and typhoons such as Tacloban. The team looks forward to working with its Filipino Habitat residents upon our return.

As we seek to develop strong partnerships in the Philippines, we have met with Paul Matheny and Mary Nebelsick of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. They have spent several years teaching in the Philippines at the Union Theological Seminary. This is a very promising partnership that can provide the team with much needed information about other partners and needed locations. The team appreciates the guidance of Rev. Jay Sanderford and Rev. Kristen Riegel throughout the year that will lead to strengthening Christian relationships and partnerships with our Philippines partners. The team also looks forward to potential work with the PC (USA) mission workers.

The PMT has been very active at fundraising that included building team work, enjoying fellowship, and reaching out to new and younger members to join our team. The funds raised are included in the funds that are sent to the Philippines to support our many projects. Our fundraisers included the following:

February	Soup and Salad Supper
April	Rummage Sale
June	Hosta Sale
July	School Book Collection and Shipping
September	Activities Fair
October	Filipino Pig Roast dinner
November	Church Bazaar
Ongoing	Fabric Collection
Ongoing	Dental and Hygiene Collection

The team would like to express our many thanks and appreciations to those who volunteered and supported the work of the mission team. We want to send a special Thank You to two families for their donations. First, the team received a

donation of collectable dolls. Through an online sale, the sale of the dolls was very successful. Another team member donated household goods that were successfully sold.

2014 Activities

- **Annual Book Collection** - Sorted and shipped to schools, community centers, and prison.
- **Rummage Sale** - Collected and stored goods to sell at the Rummage Sale.
- **Annual Philippines Dinner** - Offered an experience of foods and culture of the Philippine people.
- **Soup and Salad Night** - Offered a combination of American and Philippine dishes.
- **UM Concession Stand** - Volunteers worked the concession stands raising money to support the activities of the mission team
- **Sewing Machine & Fabric Collection** - Gathered supplies and equipment for the entrepreneurial program.
- **Prison Ministry** - Collected and shipped personal hygiene supplies and books to the prison. Purchased dental supplies for inmates in the Dumaguete prison.
- **Mental Health Center** - Provided food, one meal per day, to the residents of the center
- **The Scholarship Program** - Awarded college scholarships to needed students
- **The Dental Project** - Supported dental work at the dental clinic
- **Termite Control** - Provided resources for termite control for home built by the PMT

The PMT greatly appreciates the support of those who have donated books, school supplies, dolls, money, other supplies, and time at our many functions. Your support makes it possible for this group to continue, to sustain and to increase our efforts to meet the many needs of our partners in the Philippines.

Invitation to Join - Everyone is invited to attend the monthly meetings and to join in the planning of local work and on site mission work when we travel to the Philippines.

As we close our team work for the year, we give thanks to the team members who passed away over the year and extend our thanks, love, and prayers to their families.

Henry L. McQueen, Chair

Russia Mission Team

The purpose of the Russia Mission Team is to build relationships with Christians in Russia, for mutual growth, service, and spiritual support. So far we have focused on the Orthodox Church community in Davydovo, a small village in the Yaroslavl region. Locally, we enjoy getting to know members of St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church in Dexter. In fact, they have helped us with several of our activities in the past few years. In February, their cooks and ours prepared a Russian dinner. At the dinner, one of their members spoke about her family's visit to Davydovo. Another member sang Russian folk songs for those gathered. Proceeds from the dinner were divided between our two churches. In July, a team from First Pres served at the parish in Davydovo, helping with their summer camp for children with disabilities, and their parents.

In August we hosted the PC(USA)'s annual Russian Mission Network conference. Folks from St. Vladimir were again involved, as their Rector, Fr. Gregory Joyce, was one of the speakers, and members of the parish helped with the food and entertainment for a large dinner during the conference. The helpers from St. Vladimir donated their proceeds to First Pres's ministry in Davydovo.

Anyone interested in Christian ministry in Russia is welcome to join us. While some of us visit Russia, it is not necessary to do so in order to participate. It is particularly helpful for people to engage with local Russians, especially the congregation at St. Vladimir.

Linda Speck, Chair



Personnel

Personnel costs represent the largest component of operating expense at First Pres. Driven by two core principles – the duty to use finite resources wisely and the obligation to provide an employment environment in which our staff can find joy and meaning in their work – the Personnel Committee continued the work it started three years ago to assess the Church's needs, ensure that our needs are being met in the most cost-effective way, to review compensation individually and laterally for fairness and appropriateness, and to create an organizational structure and processes that provide for the orderly, consistent management of our precious human talent. The committee completed nearly all these goals, the staff is strong and stable, and First Pres has a clear, consistent organizational structure.

Several human resources issues that arose over the year were addressed, new positions were filled, performance was evaluated and rewarded, and despite increases in benefits and insurance costs, it was all done without exceeding last year's personnel budget. Dick Cooke has worked as interim property manager for several months and the Personnel Committee is extremely grateful for his service. A search process is underway to fill that position and to hire an assistant for Lynnette Conner, First Pres's finance manager.

Looking forward to 2015, the committee will design a review structure for our installed pastors intended to ensure that the demands of a growing Church are being met and our pastors are well-supported so they remain productive, happy and healthy. Attorney and First Pres member, Sarah Stitt has graciously agreed to produce a draft personnel manual and the committee will finalize that project this year.

First Pres's Residency program flourished under Paul

Smith's leadership of the Residency work group. Paul developed a methodical selection process that brought three outstanding residents to First Pres two years ago – each has contributed enormously to First Pres's mission while realizing significant personal growth in their time here. A program structure was created to ensure that resident ministers would proceed through their residency in an orderly way obtaining proficiency in the core competencies of parish ministry. Our current residents will graduate and move on to their next call this year, but plans for selecting the next class are well-along under the new leadership of Kate Silbert, succeeding Paul as work group lead. New applicants will be vetted in a selection process culminating with in-person interviews late February and final decisions scheduled for early March.

We will bid farewell to Lindsay Conrad, Kristin Riegel and Lal Rodawla, confident that they are very well-prepared to meet whatever challenge God has in mind for their respective ministries. The 2014 Personnel Committee was served by Prue Heikkinen, Nancy Vanderkuyl, Carol German, Jim Cameron, Mike Lisull, Paul Smith and Rick Boothman. The Committee gratefully thanks Paul Smith and Nancy Vanderkuyl for their service as they transition off for 2015.

Resident Ministry Work Group

The primary responsibility of the residency work group remains overseeing the support and growth of our three resident ministers. Reverends Lindsay Conrad, Kristin Riegel, and Lal Rodawla continue to infuse the life of First Presbyterian with passionate and creative ministry. One major milestone we celebrated with the residents and congregation was Lal's ordination at his home church in Gaithersburg,

Maryland, in March.

With the arrival of Rev. Jay Sanderford in December 2013, the program received a new director and a recommitment to active mentorship. All three resident ministers played important roles in Jay's installation service in March. Under Jay's direction, and in keeping with the structure of the program approved by Session in November 2013, the residency at First Pres continues to focus on pastoral development and resiliency. The work group has supported these efforts through regular check-ins with the resident ministers and Jay, providing a liaison for each resident, video-recording and giving feedback on sermons, and seeking input on how the program structure can be strengthened.

In the fall, the work group began the process of recruiting a new cohort of resident ministers. In light of the tightened program design, as well as input from the residents and Jay, we have strategically reworked components of our publicity materials and recruiting process to align more concretely to the program's overall structure and goals. This preparation leaves us well-poised to undertake our work to call a new

cohort of resident ministers in 2015.

Members of the residency work group at First Pres continue to be in conversation with church leaders across the country about the program, its goals, and its ongoing development. In May, staff from the Pastoral Excellence Network visited First Pres to discuss the success of the endowment campaign, insights from other residency programs, and the role of teaching congregations. In November, we hosted a gathering of resident ministers and program directors in conjunction with the Rev. Allan Boesak's visit and the annual Christian Life Academy.

The finances of the residency program remain in good standing for the completion of the Lilly Foundation grant in 2017. We continue to be grateful for the work of the Residency Endowment Committee to secure the funds necessary to maintain the program in perpetuity, and are encouraged by the campaign nearing its 5 million dollar goal.

Kate Silbert, Chair



Property

For the First Presbyterian Church Property Committee, 2014 was a good year despite year-long budget limitations due primarily to the costs of heating our House of God during the record harsh 2013-14 Winter. Following the heating season, we had to replace the seals on our 8 boilers and the large header pipe connecting all of them. This project may have become necessary over time, but the extent of damage to the system was certainly exacerbated by the unpredicted intense Winter conditions.

Two other important, completed projects were likewise unexpected. Underground storm drain lines outside Monteith Chapel and the French Room were found to be plugged and broken, then were dug up, cleaned out and repaired. Stone pavement in the Monteith courtyard had settled from the erosion of escaping stormwater, then repaired as was the line under the parking lot from the drain outside the French Room. This latter problem was arguably the root cause of French Room flooding in mid-2013. Then, in the Fall, moisture was found on a wall in the Main Office area. Investigation led to wall removal, discovery of extensive mold hidden behind the wall, the hiring of an abatement contractor, and sudden relocation of the office staff to the Founders Room for the several weeks it took to complete the work.

Three projects on the Church's long range "to-do list" were addressed by the Committee this year. In mid-year two removable wood and steel handrails were provided in the Nave at the three steps separating the Sanctuary and the

Chancel. Many users are grateful for this safety improvement. In the Fall the Founders Room Kitchenette was completely remodeled -- salvaged (like new) cabinets, new floor, appliances, fixtures and counters.

The third project involves replacement of the 70 steel-with-single pane glass original windows in the Lemon Wing. The work was bid in October, Session approved a construction contract in November and asbestos was found in the mid-1930's caulking after testing in December. Abatement is now being bid with the ultimate goal of new windows by the Spring, 2015. This is a long overdue capital improvement that will be attractive, increase room users' comfort, reduce the Church's consumption of natural gas for heating and help to minimize that cost.

Other 2014 Highlights:

- Replaced boiler and condensate pump control boxes in the boiler room.
- Relighted the Sanctuary with LED lamps.
- Repainted the Main Office, Rev. Sanderford's and Richard Cooke's Offices and many other smaller projects.
- Repaired misc. leaks in the slate roof.
- Completed a successful Leaf Raking Day on November 22. Special thanks to Property Committee member Paul Smith who organized the event.

- Purchased a new walk-behind snow sweeper and snow blade for the tractor.

The Property Committee wishes to thank the Session for approving use of \$55,000 from Property Designated Funds to help defray some of our costs this year. Thanks also to Facilities Manager Jennifer Sansbury who resigned September 30 after several years of successful Church employment; to former Property Committee member Don Redding who did

most of the Founders Room Kitchenette work and who continues to do many church projects; to the Church Office staff for tolerating their too-long relocation; and to Maintenance/Repair Manager Michael Wright whose daily good work in the Church is probably under-appreciated. We welcome the appointment of Richard Cooke who became Interim Facilities Coordinator on October 1.

Robert Pierce, Chair



Worship

The purpose statement for the Worship Committee was re-drafted during 2014 to reflect more inclusively the purpose and responsibilities of the committee.

The Worship Committee provides for the worship and praise of God and encourages congregational participation.

The specific areas of responsibility for the Worship Committee are setting the times and worship spaces for the services, securing pulpit supply, assisting the Music Ministry, and overseeing the following: usher training and teams, liturgist selection and training, development of guidelines for weddings and funerals, preparation and service of communion, participation in baptismal services, and arrangements for special services including outdoor worship. The Worship Committee is also responsible for ensuring that the church's worship spaces reflect the celebration of liturgical holidays.

During 2014, the committee consisted of elders Ann Andrews, Paul Brown, Henry Johnson and Sue Jeffers and co-opted members Grace Chung, Pam Ehrhart, Ann Ringia, and Tom Brandt. Karen Gardstrom served in the newly-created position as deacon representative to the committee. Tom Granum also served on the committee as director of Music Ministry. Resident Ministers Kristin Riegel and Lindsay Conrad alternately attended committee meetings throughout the year and provided help with respect to questions raised by members of the committee including whether the church should substitute bread for wafers during communion.

The committee re-organized responsibilities for the service of communion in order to spread the duties among several people. Grace Chung and Pam Ehrhart have assisted greatly in instituting the new procedures. Melissa Anne Rogers continued to assist the committee by helping to solicit servers at the 9:30 and 11:00 services on the first Sunday of each month. The on-line sign-up procedure continues to be effective in securing servers for communion.

The music ministry continued to offer exceptional pro-

grams. We had over 200 active participants in our congregation's music ministry this year: Chancel Choir (85), Youth Choir (15), Children's Choir (25), Recorder Ensemble (6), Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir (16), Orchestra (40), youth instrumentalists (20), and liturgical dancers (6). The mission of our ministry through music is "to glorify God and enjoy God forever." Our primary focus is to provide musical leadership for worship.

In addition to our regular worship services and special worship services throughout the year (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, memorial services and weddings), our music ministry reaches beyond our congregation.

In June 2014 our congregation provided the core musical leadership for Opening Worship of our denomination's General Assembly, which met in Detroit. We hosted rehearsals and provided many dozens of youth and adults who sang for the service.

In 2014 over 2000 people enjoyed special music and worship events in our sanctuary as we hosted two events for the UM Conference on Organ Music (Organ Improvisation Competition and Harpsichord Recital), the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants, combined choirs of Alma College, the unaccompanied choir *Audivi Vocem*, a recital of Baroque music for trumpet by Dr. Patrick Hoffman (Delaware State Univ.), the Boychoir of Ann Arbor, and the chamber choir *sounding light*. One of the highlights of the year was the All Saints' Sunday presentation of the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré with our Chancel Choir, soloists and Michigan Sinfonietta.

As the most important music in a Presbyterian church is that of the congregation's singing its praise to God, we continue to emphasize and expand our congregational singing through example, classes and additional learning opportunities, and we are planning special events in 2015 to continue this emphasis and growth.

Sue Jeffers, Chair

Tom Granum, Music Ministries Director

Other Reports



Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons had a productive and busy year. Under the leadership of Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, the 56 members of the Board of Deacons helped with congregational care and many other tasks at First Presbyterian. Deacons are elected officers who are extensively trained and called to serve for three years. The role of the Deacons is an important one and their responsibilities are many and varied.

The Deacon's main role is to assist in pastoral care and to help make the large First Presbyterian family feel a little smaller. Deacons delivered Easter Lilies, daffodils, geraniums, mums, chancel flowers and poinsettias to the members of their chapels and to the greater church family. These visits provided opportunities to connect people in need with our church family and to extend our care to them. Deacons helped serve communion at worship services and to those who were homebound. They act as liaisons to the Pastoral staff to help identify parishioner needs and issues. They assisted with special services at Glacier Hills, welcomed new members, celebrated milestones with chapel members, coordinated quad brunches, and worked tirelessly to make First Presbyterian a warm, welcoming and more intimate Church community. At their regular meetings they strengthened their caregiving skills with learning modules on how to

conduct hospital visits, how to pray, and how to support those grieving.

The Board of Deacons did some self-analysis and decided to downsize the number of Deacons and chapels to make things more equal and efficient. Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers worked with our administrative staff to combine some smaller chapels and reassign Deacon responsibilities going forward. These changes will go into effect in 2015.

We had some changes on the Exec. Board mid-year, Jinx Cooke stepped up to be co-moderator with Karla and will continue in that role for the next two years. Thanks also go to the Executive Board that manages many components of our broad ministry. Members of the Exec. Board include the Quad Leaders, who enable the Deacons to lend insight and support to church committees, help to empower individual deacons in their many endeavors and act as mentors to the Deacons assigned to them.

The Board of Deacons looks forward to 2015 and to continuing our efforts to help make First Presbyterian a caring and close Church community.

Karla Olson-Bellfi and Jinx Cooke, Co-Moderators



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women experienced a memorable year in 2014, accomplishing much. We meet the third Wednesday of each month. The first hour is the Horizon's Bible Study which in 2013/2014 was *Reconciling Paul: II Corinthians*. This is followed by an informative Program and then lunch. Everyone is Welcome.

Local and Overseas Mission is a main focus of PW. The following are mission projects PW participated in in 2014:

- Mission Pledge to the Presbyterian Women of Detroit; \$4250
- In Gathering items totaled \$9753. The total from all of the 39 churches who participated came to \$45,300. (The Presbyterian Women of Detroit (PWPD) give approximately \$195,000 to various local missions in any one year.)
- Sold Roma baskets from the Ukraine at the Mission Bazaar and contributed all funds.
- Made 30 Baby Kits sent to Haiti; \$650
- Made 100 Hygiene Kits; sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Border Children; \$1200
- Provided 17 School Supply kits to Second Mile Center in Detroit; \$465
- PW Food Collection to Westminster Presbyterian during March, April, August and October, 2014 totaled approximately \$3628 in food and cash donations
- To the Haiti Nursing School, we gave a \$1200 nursing scholarship
- To one of our seminary students; we gave a monetary gift of \$1200

Several programs focus on justice and peace. For instance, on the 25th of each month, we wear orange to call attention to Violence Against Women and to Gun Violence.

The Common Chords Group entertained in the Social Hall for the PW Christmas Program, led by Marge and Paul Wright. It was an inspiring, heartfelt time for all who attended. Several of the members belong to our Promises Group.

Recognition must be made to the PW members who contribute and participate greatly to provide continued

enlightenment. From the Coordination Team leaders to the Vice Moderators and Coordinators, to the Bible Study and Program leaders, our Publicity person, the Bulletin Board artist, the women in charge of the Memorial Services and all the cookie bakers - a huge thank you.

Jill Binkley

Moderator, Presbyterian Women 2013/2014



New Members

We give thanks to God for those members who joined First Presbyterian Church in 2014.

** Denotes Confirmands*

Tawfiq Ammari
Kathy Anderson
Alfred Barber
Katie Benedict*
Ellen Brengle
Heather Brower*
Carol Carter
Chase Colligan*
Joseph Cox
Karen Cox
Christopher Dahl
Sarah Dean
Carol Downton
Mark Einhaus*
David Endicott*
Jackson Fairman*
Clayton Farmer*
Patricia Fuerstenau
Bob Gardstrom
Ruth Gardstrom
Denali Gere*
Jessica Gott*
Gail Grady
Kenneth Gray
Abigail Grenke*

Yvonne Greull
Joyce Ham
Betsy Hammond
John Hammond
Brian Hanley
Elizabeth Hanley
Daniel Heidorn*
Dale Heikkinen
Brynn Hindle*
Jeremy Hoy*
Bob Kerry
Gloria Kerry
Juhying Kim
Andy Kong
Grace Krapohl*
Benjamin Kunec*
Pilhwa Lee
Deborah Lewis
Doug Lewis
Kris Losey
David Luxford
Andrew Martin
Stephanie Martin
Camilla McComb
Lynn Millward

Philip Millward
Genevieve Monsma
Jotham Monsma
Robert Peterson
Sue Peterson
Chris Queen
Robin Randall-Lewis
Ruth Rowse
Sarah Sewell-Conley*
Savannah Sewell-Conley*
Sharon Sheldon
Austin Shepherd*
Adrian Shin
Carson Smith
Stephanie Sorter*
Grant Sprague*
Gayle Stevens
Elaina Stevenson*
Cynthia Van Renterghem
Rob Van Renterghem
Jonathan Vlasak
Lindsay Vlasak
Gustavo Webb*
Cassandra Webster
Abigail Wilson*



In Memoriam

We remember those in our congregation who died in 2014. May they rest in peace.

January 4, 2014	Richard L. Miller	July 4, 2014	Mildred Irene Kniffen
January 25, 2014	Esther Woods Holmes	August 8, 2014	Loree Maple
February 5, 2014	Donald C. Smith	September 13, 2014	Daniel Burlingame
February 20, 2014	Sue Gingles	September 19, 2014	Robert Doerr
March 4, 2014	Leslie R. Thurston	September 27, 2014	Robert Stevenson
March 20, 2014	Beverly Jeanne Giltrow	September 27, 2014	Dorothy J. Barrow
April 1, 2014	Janet Reese	September 29, 2014	Edwin Taylor
April 2, 2014	Connie Amick	October 6, 2014	Jay L. Robinson
April 2, 2014	Eleanor Petty	October 8, 2014	Glenn Hoff
April 7, 2014	Andrew G. Beirwaltes	October 17, 2014	Eugene Ingram
April 10, 2014	Donald Bryant	November 26, 2014	Carolyn Van Boven
April 17, 2014	Cereita Little	November 27, 2014	David Miller
April 18, 2014	Alma Chand	December 14, 2014	Keith J. Horngren
May 5, 2014	Kevin Collins		
May 6, 2014	Karl Bartscht		
May 16, 2014	Eva Kelley		
June 2, 2014	Lorrayne Mulder		
June 4, 2014	George Meda		
June 5, 2014	Faye Elslager		
June 15, 2014	Connie Jo Craft		
June 16, 2014	Marian Peebles		

First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor

Pastoral and Program Staff:

Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Reverend Dr. James Monnett, Director of Youth Ministry
Reverend Renée Roederer, Director of Campus Ministry
Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries
Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries
Carol Muehlig, Associate Music Director and Organist
Resident Ministers:
 Reverend Lindsay Conrad
 Reverend Kristin E. Riegel
 Reverend Lal Rodawla
Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse
Campus Ministry Interns:
 Jennifer LaBarre
 Matthew Vallade
 Nicole Van Loon

Administrative Staff:

Lynnette Conner, Finance Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Richard Cooke, Interim Facilities Manager
Michael Wright, Maintenance/Repair Manager
Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator
Mary Jones, Communications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant
Cindy King, Church Office Associate/ Children's Education Assistant



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