



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

2015 Annual Report

Members of Session

Clerk of Session: Diana Gardner

* Young Adult Elder

Class of 2015

Lucie Audette
Ruth Barnard
Rick Boothman
David Butz
Dallas Colligan*
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

Nancy Crawford
Dallas Dort
Robert Larson
Hank McQueen
Jeannette Middleton
Lucie Audette
Peter Santinga
Tim Wendler

Class of 2018

Tom Brandt
Chris Dahl
Prue Heikkinen
Olivier Jolliet
Marita Servais
Kate Silbert
Carol Smith
Bill Wood

Board of Deacons

2015 Co Moderators: Karla Olson-Belfi and Jinx Cooke

2016 Co Moderators: Jinx Cooke and Jill Binkley

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

Martine Blogin
Jean Buck
Jinx Cooke
Sharon Dort
Diane Knibbs
Mark Lindley
Jim Lombard
Dan Mitas
Nancy Oliver
Mary Ann Pierce
Gale Redding
Dianne Santinga
Judy Stuart
Martin Swindle
David Willmer
Ralph Winter

Class of 2017

Chris Argersinger
Shelia Bilby
Barbara Brewster
Michele Derr
Heidi Dodson
Betty Halliday
Roy Mast
Tom McKarns
Cathy McKenny
Angie Miller
Lynn Milroy
Bonnie Palmquist
Polly Pan
Nancy Pflasterer
Missy Smith-Potter
Mary Lynn Thomson
Linda Upton

Class of 2018

Ross Anderson
Al Barber
Marolin Bellefleur
Jill Binkley
Paula Doering
Gail Einhaus
Ron Gulbranson
Doris Granum
George Hendrickson
Nicole Jolliet
Barb Ladewski
Jane Myers
Ann Nicklas
Margie Perrett
Brad Taylor

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 31, 2016
Agenda**

Rev. Dr. Fairfax. F. Fair, moderator

Distribution of Meeting Materials

Recognition of Acting Clerk, Kathy Hillig

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 2015 Finances

Carter Hodgson

Presentation of Preliminary 2016 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,

Reading through this book of reports gives a glimpse of the vital community that is First Presbyterian Church. Within these pages is a taste of the ministries we engage in as people who worship and serve God together. I hope they will whet your appetite to learn more, to try out a new way to respond to the tremendous blessings of God, and to pray with more specificity for our collective efforts to bear great fruit to the glory of God.

2015 was a year of solid growth for us as a congregation. We added wonderful new members, welcomed three new Resident Ministers, and fully staffed our administrative team. We are poised for another year of faithful service as we embark upon strengthening our hands-on mission and financial stewardship. We are a generous congregation that shows our love for God through the sharing of gifts God has given us.

This year I have held tiny babies who are among God's most precious gifts, cheered on our youth in their athletic and artistic pursuits, encouraged and counseled young adults considering a church vocation, performed weddings, celebrated the lives of saints in witness to the resurrection, met wonderful people who are considering church membership and others who are engaged in interesting pursuits, talked with many of you about deep theological matters, read some great books and some in need of a great editor, preached "up north" in Omena and for the meeting of one of our national church agencies, served on the Presbytery of Detroit's Committee on Ministry, the Board of Trustees of Union Presbyterian Seminary and the Board of Directors of the PCUSA Board of Pensions, spoken on our Residency program at a conference held at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and attended the North American International Auto Show and my granddaughter's first ballet recital!

I introduced several new ideas to spark our worship life. A summer experiment of tying a mini-series of sermons to theological themes in contemporary fiction proved to be very popular and encouraged us to see the theological in the world around us. Our new fall series, Wednesday@First, centered around the Old Testament scriptures that gave rise to familiar English idioms. By exploring the roots of phrases such as the apple of his eye, the handwriting on the wall, and a drop in the bucket, unfamiliar passages of scripture became better known. We hosted Dr. Rebecca Blank, an elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin – Madison, for University Sunday, and – for the Sunday closest to Veterans' Day -- we commissioned a special anthem saluting all our veterans and, particularly in this 70th year since they won peace in Europe and in the Pacific, the brave men and women who served during World War II.

The session had six serious conversations about humankind's mutually shared status as created and beloved children of

God. Numerous opportunities were provided for the congregation to study the Bible's teachings on sexuality and relationships and to consider current scholarship around historical and contextual criticism. After much respectful listening to one another and the Spirit's guiding, the Session reaffirmed that the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor is a place where all persons are loved and welcomed to live out their faith in communion with God and one another, a place where we pastors are free to welcome into membership, administer the sacraments, perform weddings, and extend pastoral care to all.



Our commitment to be Christ's church drives us to provide the strongest ministry possible for every age group. In depth studies of our youth and campus ministries are underway. What is working well? What needs to be strengthened? How can we most faithfully fulfill our call to pass on the faith – through word and action – to these two vitally important groups? The commitment to love one another also drives us to step beyond our comfortable church home and address bigger societal issues. Some of the ways we address hunger are by redirecting thousands of pounds of food that otherwise would be discarded from Michigan Stadium and Crisler Center, by our monthly food drives, and by growing fresh produce on our property that is donated to Food Gatherers. I have written to Governor Snyder to urge him to continue to promote Michigan as a place that welcomes immigrants and refugees. We are taking a strategic look at our mission outreach, both locally and in partnership with others around the world.

During 2015 we have shared laughter and tears. We have rolled up our sleeves to receive flu shots and to give blood. We have pulled on warm gloves to rake leaves and plastic gloves to serve both the hungry who live on the street and those who are privileged to study at the University of Michigan. Like many of you, I have visited beloved members at University Hospital, St. Joe's, and Arbor Hospice, retirement centers, and in their homes. 2015 gives us many reasons to be grateful to God and much reason to be people of hope in 2016. God is good. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair



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

As another year comes to a close, I remain ever grateful for the opportunity to support the pastoral and fellowship ministries of First Pres. Within this church family, each one of us has the privilege and responsibility to care for one another, and, as Paul wrote in Galatians, to 'bear one another's burdens.' That is how we do what Christ asks us to do.

In pastoral care, everything begins with and is supported by prayer. On Sunday mornings, people graciously appear to offer prayer after each service for any in need. Our email prayer chain is sustained by members who receive emergency requests and go to Christ in prayer. Tangible acts of help lift people up in difficult times, too. Members run errands, give rides, make meals, rake leaves, help pack and unpack, and more. For those who live alone, it is especially critical that our church family can lend a variety of helps when needed. I am indebted to the extraordinary dedication of our pastoral care staff, as well as our Deacons and their leaders, our Helping Hands volunteers, our program staff, our Stephen Ministers, and especially the cadre of retired ministers, those named "pastoral associates," who make hospital visits as often as needed. So many of you have shared with me of your meaningful visits with the Reverend's David Downton, Bill Findlay, Gary Oliver, Kent Palmquist, and Eldon Beery. I will always be grateful to Dale Briggs, who has faithfully visited hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and Glacier Hills every week, bringing a short homily and prayer to our members. Our church is stronger through the contributions of members like Lois Jelneck, Ben Helmke, Nicole Jolliet, and Linda Koopman, who continue to serve our entire staff and congregation as a valuable resource for issues around aging in place, transition to care facilities, and mental illness. The Presbyterian Women support our memorial services, giving comfort to grieving families. Our Greeters-in-the-Pew are unidentified individuals who come to church each Sunday and speak to people that they do not know, creating a warmer atmosphere and greater depth of connection within the congregation. So many others come to help in various ways. From birth to death, members and friends of First Pres are offered as much compassionate support as they are willing to receive.

Fellowship for all ages both in cohort groups and inter-generational opportunities thrives at First Pres. Our Mature Ministries program, geared for those 60 and up, welcomed incredible speakers this year. We took large groups to the Arab-American Museum in Detroit, to Stratford, Ontario, and the Edsel Ford House in Dearborn. Our Immature Ministries

program for those in their 40s and 50s meets quarterly for a variety of fun activities and always welcomes new friends, in addition to our regular participants who come each time. Our 20s and 30s, T2A2 in Ann Arbor, is an immediate source of friendship and spiritual stimulation for the younger adults in our community. We owe a debt of gratitude to member and UM Professor Brad Taylor, who has utilized his connections to help us have thoughtful speakers and learning experiences when our groups travel. This year's women's retreat focused on spiritual pilgrimage and was a beautiful weekend of deepening faith and connections. Men's groups met and studied the Bible. People brewed beer and knit prayer shawls together (in different gatherings!) There is something for everyone here.

I coordinate the care that comes to you, our members, and help facilitate a variety of programs, ministries, and opportunities for serving. My work is manageable and life-giving because of the substantial support that comes from my dear friend and colleague, Sandy Talbott, our Parish Nurse. Thanks to her leadership and the support of many people in pastoral care and fellowship, I was able to join the Nicaragua Mission Team last February, bringing along my son, Charlie. I find that such activities outside of my main area of responsibility rejuvenate my ministry and give me deeper insight into how our members can serve Christ in broader ways in the world.

There is always a need for you to step in and step up in our church's many ministries. New members and guests are welcome to join in. Long-time members can find something new to engage this year. Write an advent devotional, serve on a prayer team, volunteer in the church office, help with our children, youth, or campus students, attend a Deacon's Quad potluck or an all-church lunch or dinner. My encouragement to you is to find a way to serve Christ in this place. Start this year with prayer, and before this year comes to a close, listen for God's gentle stirring within you to find Christ and serve Him here.

*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

As Associate Pastor at First Pres, I resource the Adult Education, Local and International Mission Committees and serve as Coordinator of the Resident Minister Program. Additionally, I work with our three key church managers, Lynnette Conner, Finance Manager, Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager and Linda Robinson, Office Manager. It's a wonderful position, and I love what I do.

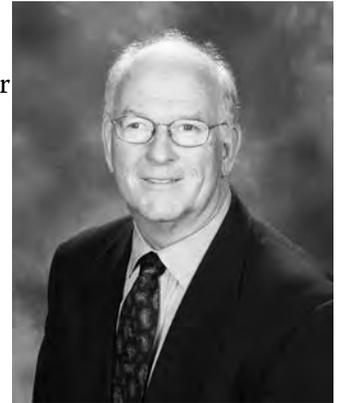
2015 was full of activity for our Resident Ministry Program. Rev. Lal Rodawla, Rev. Kristin Riegel and Rev. Lindsay Conrad, completed their two-year term with great distinction, and began their new ministries. Each Resident made a positive impact at First Pres and I am grateful to have been a part of their growth and development. Rev. Lindsay Conrad connected our missional hearts with the men and women in distress in our community, energized our Local Mission team, forged links with Cass Community Services in Detroit, and built bridges to our local homeless community and Mercy House/MISSION A2. Lindsay also expertly guided T2A2, our young adult group. Lindsay now serves as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Burlington, North Carolina.

Rev. Kristin Riegel is now in Kansas City, where she is Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church. There, Kristin continues her work in education, worship and congregational leadership. At First Pres, Kristin completed several amazing projects, in addition to her ministry in pastoral care and worship. Kristin created and led an intriguing series on "Food + Faith" in conjunction with the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice, led an effort to create a community garden with our neighbors at Hillel and guided the rich learning experience of the Mom's Bible Study Group. Kristin expertly nurtured our Philippines Mission Team and reconnected their ministry with Presbyterian partners in that Pacific nation.

Rev. Lal Rodawla was installed in November 2015 as Associate Pastor at Providence Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. I was thrilled to be a part of Lal's installation and to see the relationships he has quickly formed. Lal's time as a Resident prepared him well for the leadership role he plays in a fast-growing church, where he preaches regularly, leads the congregation's mission enterprises and serves as an educator. Before leaving Ann Arbor in August, Lal worked tirelessly as our pastor in the Glacier Hills community, visiting, leading study groups and offering compassion to the residents there. Lal gathered several groups of men for early morning Bible Study groups and devoted himself to the craft of preaching and worship leadership.

Recruiting for our 2015-2017 Resident Minister Cohort began in the fall of 2014 and continued in 2015. First Pres received 17 applications for our Resident Ministry program and in early March offered Resident Minister positions to Rev.

Emily Beghin, Daniel Ervin and Rev. Angela Ryo. Emily, Daniel and Angela arrived in Ann Arbor in mid-August and plunged into Resident Minister Orientation and were immersed in ministry and this experiential learning program. Our Residents continue to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to many places and touch lives with grace as they learn the craft of ministry. They will continue to grow and expand their leadership skills, preaching and worship leadership abilities and their pastoral care ministries in their first year.



Our Local Mission projects are varied, with the aim to make our community reflect the kingdom of God. Each Wednesday, we feed more than 100 hungry women and men at the Delonis Center. Twice a year, volunteers care for children and families at Alpha House. In the spring, a stream of First Pres volunteers with hammers in hand, rehabilitated a house in West Willow in Ypsilanti, and renewed their faith along the way. In December, our Family to Family ministry, so ably coordinated by Julie Morrison, touched more than 120 families with gifts and essentials at Christmas, and donated a number of gift cards for patients and families at Mott's Children's Hospital. Our liaison with the Michigan Department of Human Services was so moved by the generosity of our church that she remarked that First Pres "had helped her believe again in the goodness of people." We continued strong ministry with Peace Neighborhood Center, House by the Side of the Road, Big House Food Rescue and Recycling, Friends in Deed, Mercy House/MISSION A2, English as a Second Language, Hope Clinic, as well as Cass Community Center in Detroit. Our reach is broad and wide, and tilted to caring for people and families in acute distress. Our aim is to keep people in our local community safe, dry, warm and healthy.

Helena Prince skillfully directed our First Pres Mission Committee in organizing our ministry in the way of Jesus the Christ. International mission teams have traveled the world spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to Haiti and Nicaragua. A number of our mission partners visited First Presbyterian in 2015: Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers—Rachael and Michael Ludwig, currently serving in Niger in central Africa spoke in June and Father Elias Chacour, a distinguished Palestinian Malekite Bishop and educator, presented information to assembled friends in September. Father Klimzo Vladimir, a Russian Orthodox priest from Davydovo, Russia, offered stirring words of gratitude for First Pres in a September visit.

A highlight of 2015 for me was leading a pilgrimage to Iona, a Christian community located on a tiny island off the western coast of Scotland. There ten First Pres members were immersed in the ancient rhythms of work, Christian worship, meditation, walking, prayer and reflection. Each Sunday, our Adult Education classes influence the lives of adults with classes everything from Bible study to important issues of human sexuality, same gender marriage, and matters of life and death—and beyond. In 2015, Adult Ed topics have included a compelling series on “Being Mortal” led by Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, intriguing courses on “Elijah” and “Religion & Violence” directed by Dr. Wally Schmeichel and a very engaging series “The Fiction of Marilynne Robinson: Gilead & Lila,” led by Dr. John Whittier–Ferguson. The Rev. Ed Koster weekly

engages a passionate group of adults in Bible study. Our young adult group, T2A2, gathers weekly with Rev. Angela Ryo for T2A2 Does Bible. First Couples, a meditation group, and several study groups gather weekly for study and support. The Rev. Judy R. Fletcher, visited First Pres in November for a series of sermons and presentations.

Working with my energetic colleagues and our talented leaders, we have offered a strong witness to God’s presence in our world and our Ann Arbor community. It’s a privilege to be part of First Pres.

Peace,
Rev. Jay Sanderford

Reports of Session Committees



Christian Education

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 Tim Wendler 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. Another part of this ministry is to provide support to candidates for the ministry. We have one candidate, Anna Cooke, who is studying at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Jim Cameron maintains contact with Anna and provides periodic updates to Session on her status.

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 this past year:

- Eighth Graders explored their Christian faith through Confirmation; 12 of them joined the church as full members in April.
- In April the Children’s Education Ministry held the second: 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.

- 91 children followed the Apostle Paul in his journeys in June, at Vacation Bible School. They were led and assisted by 82 volunteers.
- High schoolers Lily Scheske, Chad Wilson and Jenna King were youth interns this year. They helped with outdoor worship, prepared for the youth mission trip, organized the high school Hiram road trip and the Genesis Action Camp. They also led the Art Fair parking project and painted the three resident minister offices and the Peer Minister’s office.
- 32 children and youth attended Camp Westminster this August; about one quarter of whom received scholarship assistance for camp.
- 28 of our high school students had a successful mission trip to Jalapa Guatemala in June. They did two large projects. Eighteen of the youth worked under Kelsey King and Marc Buchanan’s leadership to do a Vacation Bible School for 140 children in Spanish. They had built large puppets out PVC piping and cloth costumes which acted out dramas of Jonah. They also led big games, and did crafts with the children. The majority of the children were from the community and not from the small church plant where they did the VBS. The other 11 youth worked building 6-8 feet deep foundations for the walls of a kitchen for the church with Rev. Jim Monnett.
- 19 Third Graders received Bibles in October. This year we started giving a new version – the Common English Bible. This is a new translation with clear language and very good helps to make the Bible come alive for young (and not so young) readers.

- Rev. Judy Fletcher was our guest speaker for the Christian Life Academy in November. She preached at the Sunday 9:30 and 11:00 services, and spoke in three other sessions to approximately 100 participants about “A Living Theology for Today: Love, Justice and Sin”.
- 34 Sunday School teachers helped with child care or teaching in the children’s area from crib through 5th grade.
- 74 children and about 110 parents participated in 8 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 2015 we continued with two 8 week sessions of Wednesdays at First. 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. In the fall it concluded with a brief worship service in Monteith Hall.

The **Children’s Ministry** continues to prosper under Debbie MacVey’s wonderfully personal and constant leadership. 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 Ministry** continues to grow and evolve 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. We also, in anticipation of the Supreme Court’s ruling on same gender marriage, held a series of discussions on Sunday mornings early in the year on what the Bible says about the subject. In the fall (after the court’s decision) an evening panel discussion, which included small group breakout sessions, was held to provide more opportunity for members to discuss and learn about this important subject. Thanks to the many leaders who spend copious amounts of time and energy preparing and presenting.

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



College Ministry

College ministry continued and strengthened its mission in 2015 during a period of transition. Rev. Renee Roederer resigned mid-way through this year and Reverend Jim Monnett assumed interim duties. We were invigorated by the energy and service of our Peer Ministers Alexis Allum and Andy Spaulding.

The First Presbyterian College Ministry has been rebranded as First Pres College and the Sunday night student dinners have continued with a renewed focus on the needs of the College community with an invited speaker series while the 7:07 p.m. service has been placed on hold during a period of study and reevaluation.

Our collaboration with Young Life College continues both on campus and with mission trips to “Kentuckiana” and Pico Escondido in the Dominican Republic in 2015. Each Thursday night we host the Campaigners Bible study for 30+ college students in the Youth Room.

In 2016 First Pres College will host a Jamaica mission trip

for about 29 people to the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Montego Bay.

We hosted a highly successful visit by Dr. Tony Campolo which included him preaching on Sunday morning; a highly attended talk on Sunday evening; and his speaking at the College Ministry Breakfast at the Ann Arbor City Club which raised funds for College Ministry.

The annual Pancake Supper hosted hundreds of students with the efforts of many volunteers.

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 College Ministry Work Group members: Ann Andrews, Alexis Allum, Rev. Jim Monnett, Meg Brown, Dan Cressman, Mitchell Dudley, Catie Holmes, Henry Johnson (chair), David Kershaw, Katie Parker, Andy Spaulding, and Carson Smith.

David Kershaw, Chair



Congregational Life Committee is the source for many of the church's activities related to fostering the welcoming of visitors and new members; all-church fellowship events; pastoral care for our members, regular attenders, and others in our community; communications with our congregation; and community outreach. Committee members work with our staff liaison, Rev. Rogers, to provide leadership for many church programs and ministries, and to coordinate the volunteers that are so critical to the success of our many church events.

Congregational Life supports many aspects of our life together including Coffee Hour, Stephen Ministry, the Parish Nurse ministry, Mature Ministries (60 and up), Immature Ministries (40s and 50s), the Board of Deacons. In addition, work teams lead specific on-going activities such as welcoming visitors and conducting new member classes.

Our highlights from 2015 include:

- The committee hosted, helped prepare, and served the luncheon in the Social Hall that follows the all-church Annual Meeting in January. Over 200 attended that event!
- A multi-layered process of Welcoming visitors, answering their questions, and following up with them is in place. Greeters work with our committee to welcome people to our beautiful building. Volunteers from our committee staff the church office and Welcome Center so all who come on Sunday morning have access to information there. Ushers greet people for worship. First-time visitors receive, where possible, a letter, a phone call, a hand-written note of welcome, and/or an email with a warm welcome and invitation to return. We also use Facebook messages to connect to approximately 10 visitors per week.
- Each year we hold four classes to introduce the church to New Members. Jim Cameron and Marita Servais oversee the classes as well as the breakfasts that celebrate and welcome them when they officially join. We welcomed a total of 64 new members into our church at New Member Breakfasts in the Social Hall in March, May, October and December, not including the Confirmation Class.
- The committee oversees regular Advertising by working with Mary Jones to create and place intriguing ads that represent us to the community. We continually evaluate results to ensure value and reach. Regular advertising in the Ann Arbor Observer, The Ann, Groundcover News, and the Ann Arbor Family Press and occasional ads in The Ann Arbor News are effective ways to reach many different segments of our Ann Arbor community.

Working with staff, the committee oversees and plans a number of congregational events including: the annual Women's Retreat held in the spring at Maumee Bay Lodge in

Ohio, with the theme, "Pilgrimage"; and the Summer Picnic, complete with barbecue, a rock and blues band, games, and children's inflatables. Our thanks to those who helped decorate, serve, and clean-up, and to Dallas Dort whose band provided entertainment during the picnic. In August, we celebrated the dog days of summer with an Ice Cream Social on the terrace. Washtenaw Dairy supplied ice cream and the children of our church (of many ages) helped make the Sunday event enjoyable. Small gatherings, such as a men's breakfast group, a gourmet food supper club called the (S)Upper Room, a twice-a-year potluck program, and a young mom's fellowship group occur regularly.

The transition to Fair Trade Coffee went smoothly. Due to the increased price for the fair trade items, we sell bags of coffee on the first Sunday of each month, with proceeds offsetting the additional costs.

The third annual Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by a full capacity gathering of 240 members. The Social Hall was transformed with Christmas décor, music provided by a quartet of jazz musicians from Community High School, a presentation by the band Nessa, games, and a Christmas feast. This could not happen without an extraordinary effort by our chef, Christine Miller, coordinator Sandy Talbott, and an array of committed volunteers.

These dedicated members of the Congregational Life Committee work creatively and tirelessly to enhance the fellowship of the church -- Gwen Alexander, Nancy Briggs, Jim Cameron, Rachel Dudley, Becky Gaffney, Gail Grady, Jennifer Hoy, Catherine Kendall, Diane Knibbs, Dale Leslie, Barbara Mueller, June Ounsted, Marita Servais, Marcey Terrien, Sara Vander Voort, Marti Wendler, Marion West, Dick Righeterink, and Pam Wood.

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.

It's been an enjoyable assignment to chair this committee and work with such joyful, creative, and tireless volunteers.

Bill McPherson, Chair

Parish Nurse

As I begin my fourth year as Parish Nurse, I am reminded of how grateful I am to be part of this congregation's life. Each year we experience transitions in our health and our families, that I have the privilege to part of, and hopefully of some help or comfort to you.

At this time we have over 80 different Helping Hands Volunteers who cook meals, drive members to appointments, help with some of our homebound members and share God's love through their service to our congregation. Our Restore

Hope support group offers compassion and a listening ear to others who have a family member with a severe mental illness. Many thanks to Linda Koopman and Nicole Joliet for their tireless devotion in leading this group. Our Caregivers Support group continues to meet monthly for those who need an outlet and safe place to talk about the challenges of caring for a loved one.

Our newest ad hoc committee is looking at how we can be as safe as possible here in our church building, both during the business day, and during our large weekly events. You will hear more from this committee as the year passes, as our goal is to provide both a welcoming and safe space for all our members,

staff and friends.

We continue to offer our annual fall flu shot clinic and several blood drives throughout the year. In addition to this, I try to keep my eye on all our staff and pastors, encouraging them to care for themselves as well as others.

As always, I'm available to you by phone, appointment, email or as I'm walking around on Sundays. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have a need. I look forward to getting to know more of you this coming year, and finding how I might be of service to you at some time.

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 and members of the 2016 Congregational Nominating Committee were elected at the Congregational Meeting on September 20, 2015.

Elders for the class of 2018 serving a three-year term:

Tom Brandt	Marita Servais
Chris Dahl	Kate Silbert
Prue Heikkinen	Carol Smith
Olivier Joliet	Bill Wood

Elder filling an unexpired term for the class of 2017:

Lucie Audette

Deacons on the Board of Deacons for the class of 2018 serving a three-year term:

Ross Anderson	Jill Binkley
Al Barber	Paula Doering
Marolin Bellefleur	Gail Einhaus

Ron Gulbranson	Jane Myers
Doris Granum	Ann Nicklas
George Hendrickson	Margie Perrett
Nicole Joliet	Brad Taylor
Barb Ladewski	

Deacons filling unexpired terms:

Class of 2016 - Mary Ann Pierce

Class of 2017 - Chris Argersinger

Members of the 2016 Congregational Nominating Committee:

Tom Brandt, Doug Gottlieb, Sean Hoskins, Tom McKarns, Susan Morville, Helena Prince, Peter Santinga, Brian Schneidewind, Cynthia VanRenterghem, and Kathy Wirstrom.

With appreciation and acknowledgement of their commitment to this important responsibility, the members of the Congregational Nominating Committee for 2015 were: Linda Dabrowski, Becky Gaffney, Doug Gottlieb, Larry Lohr, Jim Lombard, Bill Parker, Helena Prince, Dick Rigterink, Peter Santinga, Margie VanTuyl.

Helena Prince, Chair



Finance

The Congregation continues to support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. Much appreciation to the congregation and to Lucie Audette, Annual Giving Chair, for her leadership for the 2016 Stewardship campaign.

Early in 2015, the Financial Stewardship Committee completed the revision of the Financial Policy Manual, updating many of the procedures critical to sound fiscal management. This manual provides financial guidance to all committees and organizations of the church.

The committee approved the transfer of the management of the church's endowment and special gift funds to the Bank of Ann Arbor. The investment policies of the Bank of Ann Arbor are more consistent with the goals and objectives of First Presbyterian Church.

The Finance Manager, Lynnette Conner, completed the transition of our financial systems to the Shelby Arena Church Management Software Program.

The initial phase of replacement of windows was completed as all of the windows in the Lemon Wing were replaced. Following the merger of UMPC with ECIR, UMPC provided a substantial gift to the church. In late November, a check for \$300,000 was received. In addition, First Presbyterian was given a promissory note in the amount of \$960,000 with quarterly payments of \$13,750 to begin July 1, 2016, and continue until paid in full in 2047. Thanks to UMPC for their gift and to Ann Andrews and Jim Cameron for their oversight and perseverance.

Carter Hodgson, Chair

Annual Giving

Your response to God's goodness has been wonderful! This report celebrates how close we are to meeting our 2016 stewardship annual giving goal of \$1,650,000. Thank you to all who have returned their Commitment Forms! Every single commitment counts as we work towards this goal.

As of January 20:

- 555 member households have made a commitment,
- Together we have raised more than \$1,625,168 for the ministries and missions of our church in 2016! This represents 98% of our 2016 annual giving goal.

Commitments for 2016 came in faster than in the previous two years which is very helpful. Timely commitments enable the session, along with our ministers and program staff to plan our church's ministries for 2016 to further the work of Jesus Christ. We are grateful and truly blessed by your generosity of your time, talent, and financial resources to our church home. Your support will result in things we cannot even imagine today.

There is still work to be done. We are only at an 80% participation rate of active church members. Our hope is to surpass the 80% who made a financial commitment for 2015. Every commitment made to our church, no matter the size, is welcomed and needed. We are convinced that a higher participation rate will create a greater sense of partnership among the congregation and a more faithful witness in the community. If you have not yet turned in your annual commitment form you may go online to make your gifts to our church. <http://firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate>

Planning and Implementation of the 2016 Campaign

This year's stewardship annual giving theme focused on, "God's Mission Matters – Please Participate". Early in 2015, the Annual Giving Workgroup reached out to members of our church family who are in the development field to gather tips and suggestions on how we might approach the 2016 annual giving campaign. One critical learning was that in order to effectively communicate the need for annual giving and service it was essential to "touch" each member of our congregation at least 7 times during the public phase of our campaign.

The workgroup developed a range of outreach efforts and materials... from bulletin inserts, faith in action minutes, a brochure, short videos, newsletter articles, and weekly updates, and all-member phone canvass, to engage all First Pres members and friends in a meaningful and prayerful conversation about stewardship at our church. Our beautiful stewardship materials are a result of the gifts of time and talent of many members of First Pres. We are grateful for their generous contributions to the life of the church.

The Stewardship 2016 season kicked-off Sunday, September 20. Member households receive a Stewardship packet shortly thereafter. Commitment Sunday was October 18, 2012. On this day we held an all member phone canvass to reach out to all members. Each week we highlighted a specific aspect of why God's Mission Matters, including worship & music, mission, Christian education, fellowship and pastoral care, and maintaining our building and grounds through a

- Bulletin Insert,
- Faith in Action Minute at each service, and a
- Two minute video, shared through Fairfax's weekly e-mail, which highlighted the ministry area.

The following individuals graciously volunteered as members of our church's 2016 Annual Giving workgroup: Lucie Audette- Chair, Lynnette Conner – Church Financial Manager, Carol Downton, Rev. Fairfax Fair, Gail Grady, Bob Harris, Prue Heikkinen, John LeDuc, Zach Monsma, Chris Queen, Rev. Angela Ryo, Carson Smith

Lucie Audette, Chair

Endowment and Special Gifts

The Endowment & Special Gifts Work Group was headed by Keith Molin at the start of 2015. Due to family circumstances and Keith's brother's death, Keith moved out of state. The work group has begun anew under the enthusiastic leadership of Doug Gottlieb and with a new cast of very dedicated members of First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair and Resident Minister Daniel Ervin meet with the work group made up of Lucie Audette, John Eman, Doug Gottlieb, Martha Kershaw, and Bill Upton. More church members are needed to serve with us and will be appreciated.

Our purpose is to reach out to members of the church with information and guidance that helps them make long-lasting gifts to First Pres. These gifts may take the form of bequests or be other types of planned giving. One of our first meetings was to learn all we could from Diana Gardner, an attorney in our congregation who specializes in estate planning. In June, we will offer an estate planning seminar. We have just started to reach out to those that have indicated an interest in giving, and we will quietly campaign to increase the number of Legacy Partners. Our Legacy Partners now total 96.

A second program, called the Birthday Fund, will be promoted as the committee gains momentum. The Birthday Fund is a way that all members can build the church's endowment through small gifts in honor of a loved one's birthday, anniversary, confirmation, or other special occasion.

We appreciate the patience of First Presbyterian Legacy Partners as we begin a new year, and hope you will mark your calendars now for our next luncheon, set for June 5.

Doug Gottliebson, Chair

Technology

Technology Work Group is responsible for many of the systems at First Pres. We:

- Coordinate the volunteers for running the sound board and lights for all services and meetings in the Sanctuary (including memorial services and other uses during the week),
- Provide audio feed to WAAM and podcast of sermons for the website,
- Keep audio visual equipment in good working order,
- Insure staff have computers and LAN access,
- Decide on service providers for our website, telephone service, software.

The major activity this year was to choose a new telephone provider, after the previous contract expired. We are

receiving better service from the new provider. Staff has been working hard on the new Shelby Arena database, having cleaned up the old data before transferring it to the new system. Some remaining issues still have to be resolved.

Sound Planning was engaged to replace some old sound equipment and optimize the sound in the Sanctuary. We hope people have noticed the better sound quality.

We began using Dropbox for better transfer of audio files to WAAM so hopefully you have noticed some improvement in the radio sound. This file is also used to provide the Podcast of sermons for our website. During the summer, when outdoor services were held on Sundays, we recorded the special Thursday night service in Monteith Hall for radio broadcast on Sunday.

We continue to keep the computers used by the staff in working order and replace the oldest ones as they begin to fail. This includes providing the new Resident Ministers with appropriate laptops for their work.

We've begun to prepare a Disaster Recovery Plan for the church's technical equipment, which we hope to finalize next year.

I would like to thank the Work Group and many other volunteers for their dedicated service this year, in the many IT activities at First Pres.

Kathy Hillig, Chair



Mission

The Mission Committee of First Presbyterian Church seeks to work collaboratively to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. We work to promote human rights and social justice, provide emergency and/or basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, and medical care, and help people to become more self-sustaining through economic development, advocacy, employment and education. This work is done in partnership with others locally and around the world.

The Mission Committee oversees and encourages the work of several Mission teams. The Local Mission Team provides financial support to 20+ local organizations and coordinates volunteer efforts for members wishing to help with food, shelter, housing and health needs. Five global mission teams (Haiti Medical Mission, Philippines, Israel/Palestine, Russia and Nicaragua) work in partnership with people in those countries, building friendship and understanding as they work together to determine and meet needs. The Co-Worker Ministries Team promotes the work of our PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Michael and Rachel Ludwig who are working and living in Niger with their two young children. This past summer we hosted visits at our church with the Ludwigs, Father Chacour from

Israel, and Father Vladimir from Russia. It was inspirational to hear about their work and talk with them about their partnership with First Presbyterian.

There have been some new challenges this year for our Campus Ministry Team after the resignation of our former Campus Minister Rev. Renee' Roederer. Mission Committee called for the establishment of a Campus Ministry Study Group to perform a study of Campus Ministry and provide a vision and pathway for the future of this mission to students in our community. The Study group is working diligently to complete their study in 2016, while First Pres continues to support a Campus Ministry program under the able and faithful leadership of Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett.

Through Mission Committee efforts the congregation contributed to 6 special offerings: Blankets + (Church World Service); 4 PCUSA offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing (10% designated for Vanuatu disaster), Pentecost (40% to Cass Community Service for youth at risk), Peace & Global Witness (25% to Ludwigs), Christmas Joy; and the Christmas Eve Offering for Hope Medical Clinic for improving access to mental health services.

In partnership, the Committee again participated with the

Washtenaw Mission Cluster, a collaboration of six Presbyterian Congregations in Washtenaw County, working together to do Mission projects such as the Riverside Meal program at Ypsilanti First Presbyterian Church. We also partnered with Hillel Student Center, our Jewish neighbors, in a garden project on the Hill St. property. This was an opportunity to engage in community building while exploring food and environmental justice issues. All produce from the garden was given to local food programs. And we partnered with the Congregational Life Committee to sell Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee which supports a fair wage and sustainable livelihood for coffee farmers around the world.

The Mission Committee is working to answer the question of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the world. We are looking forward in 2016 to visioning the future of Mission at First Presbyterian Church. We are grateful and blessed for the generosity of our church family and the caring work of so many. We thank you and ask for your continued support and prayers.

Helena Prince, Chair

Local Mission Team

In 2015, the First Presbyterian community sought to respond to God's call to 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 two weeks in January, work days and other opportunities at the Cass Community Center, and rescuing and distributing several tons of food after U of M football and basketball games. We also contributed more than \$66,000 from the church budget to 21 local helping organizations, and several thousands more dollars in other ways.

The Local Mission Team (LMT) continued to benefit from the guidance and support of Jay Sanderford. We said farewell to Lindsay Conrad and her heart and passion for local mission and especially our neighbors without homes, and welcomed Angela Ryo who has brought fresh perspective and enthusiasm to our local mission efforts.

The shape of our fourth Thursday (at 6:00 p.m.) monthly meetings changed to include an educational piece. This year, we conversed with representatives of several of our local mission partners, including Alpha House/IHN, Friends in Deed, Hope Clinic, and Peace Neighborhood Center, and heard interesting points of view and information on homelessness from people like U-M emeritus (and former Jesuit priest) Bill Birdsall, whose talk was entitled "Really Understanding Homelessness," and First Pres member Amanda Carlisle, the executive director of

the Washtenaw Housing Alliance. If you haven't attended a LMT meeting, please join us on a fourth Thursday.

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

Jim Schaafsma, Chair

Jeane Seeley Mission Team

The Jeane Seeley Mission Committee continues to accept and prayerfully consider grant requests. While we received several grant requests this year, only one new was approved.

Hygiene Kits - \$6000 was awarded to Presbyterian Women for the purchase of items included in 300 hygiene kits that were handed out at the Synod Mobile Health Fair.

College Ministry Mission Trip Scholarships - \$2,090 from this on-going grant was used for several college students, allowing them to go on the winter break mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Financial awards for 2015 totaled \$8090.

Approximately \$81,000 remains in the Seeley Fund. We encourage any member of the congregation with an idea that addresses the needs of our community (local, regional or global), especially food and housing insecurity, to contact the Jeane Seeley Committee with questions or go to the First Presbyterian Church website to complete an application.

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 nursing education at Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti (FSIL), clinics at Hôpital Ste. Croix (HSC) and pharmaceutical support for Pazapa, a center for children with special needs in Jacmel.

Two medical mission trips were made to FSIL in 2015 – each different in its focus and mission. Four members of the Haiti Medical Mission Team traveled to Port Au Prince, Leogane and Cap Haitien, Haiti in January, 2015 for the prime purpose of advocacy and witness to the FSIL School of Nursing and other health care facilities in Haiti. The School of Nursing graduated its seventh class and celebrated the tenth anniversary of its opening. The second trip was made to FSIL in May at the request of the Dean for the purpose of performing physical exams and providing immunizations for the student nurses. The trip was lead by a general physician internist from the church. His team consisted of two pediatricians, an adult nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist and OR tech. The team cared for more than 100 of the students and felt that this was a very successful mission trip.

Another member of FPC, an engineer, made numerous trips to Haiti in 2015 for the purpose of conducting a survey of the physical facility at FSIL and overseeing improvements

related to the septic field and solar power for the school's water pumps. There was no trip to HSC for medical outreach clinics this year.

School for children with special needs is now in session in the new Pazapa building in Jacmel. Pazapa classes are now held in a modern facility built to the latest earthquake safety standards. The Haiti Medical Mission Team provided pharmaceutical support to buy much needed medicine for the kids.

The apple pies and rum cakes sold out at our annual sale. Members and friends of the Haiti Medical Mission Team make these baked goods each October to raise funds for our work in Haiti.

The Haiti Medical Mission Team and the Haiti Nursing Foundation co-sponsored a Haiti Reunion Celebration in June. How amazing to come together to celebrate 15 years of dedicated work in Haiti! Representatives from First Presbyterian Church, Medical Benevolence Foundation, and FSIL Nursing School were present including Rev. Dr. Michael Lindvall and Dean Hilda Alcindor. It was a colorful tropical evening with music, good food, and wonderful speakers. We are happy to report that 137 people attended. There were 10 sponsors and over \$10,000 was raised. Proceeds after expenses were shared by the Haiti Medical Mission Team and the Haiti Nursing Foundation, enabling us to further our missions in Haiti.

All are invited to join the Haiti Medical Mission Team. New members are being actively sought. Non-medical persons who have a heart for Haiti are welcome to join us. 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. Thank you for making this ministry possible.

Vision and Goals 2015

The Haiti Medical Mission Team was established at First Presbyterian Church in 1999 in cooperation with the Medical Benevolence Foundation, the largest and oldest of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly-validated mission support groups, to provide opportunities for members to carry out Jesus Christ's commission to heal the sick. The Mission Team chose Haiti as its focus because Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and its proximity to the U.S. makes travel relatively quick and inexpensive.

The Haiti Medical Mission's vision is not simply to deliver health care and related services, but also to empower and support Haitians to meet their own health care needs. Members have developed long-range, sustainable mission partnerships with the following organizations in Haiti:

- Hopital Ste. Croix (Holy Cross Hospital), Leogane, Haiti
- Faculte de Sciences Infirmieres de l'Universite Episcopale d'Haiti (School of Nursing, Episcopal University of Haiti), Leogane, Haiti www.haitinursing.org
- Pazapa Center for Handicapped Children (www.pazapa.org), Jacmel, Haiti

All Goals were accomplished in 2015:

- Made at least two medical mission trips to Leogane, Haiti
- Continued to support the School of Nursing
- Provided pharmaceuticals to handicapped children at Pazapa
- Fund raise \$3000 (apple pie/rum cake sale, hosta sale, Big House, Reunion Dinner)
- Sponsor a Haiti Reunion on Saturday, June 27, 2015

Rosemarie Rowney, Chair

Israel/Palestine Mission Team

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

The Israel Palestine Mission Team was active this year, raising funds to support MEEI and providing educational opportunities for our congregation. Notable activities in 2015 include the following.

- IPMT co-sponsored a program on the "Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education," with Temple Beth Emeth and several other local congregations on March 21. One of the founders, Lee Gordon, provided background and a status report on these schools which seek to enhance peace in Israel by providing bilingual education in both Hebrew and Arabic for their Jewish and Arabic students.
- A presentation on "The Living Stones of Israel and Palestine" was presented at the Adult Education program on May 3; the Thomsons and the McClamroch shared their experiences and observations on traveling to Israel and the West Bank as part of a Pilgrims of Ibillin group in October of 2014.
- The annual IPMT study retreat had the title: "Hope Amidst Adversity: The Plight and Perseverance of Children in Israel/Palestine." It was held on June 6 in Monteith Hall and was attended by thirty two persons, including persons from the Quaker meeting, the Unitarian Church, and First Congregational Church. Presentations were given by members of the IPMT.
- IPMT hosted fifteen Palestinian students (both Christians and Muslims) from the Mar Elias High School on July 6-7. The students were accompanied by Rev. Joan Deming, Executive Director of Pilgrims of Ibillin, and one of their high school teachers Emil Haloun. After a brief tour of the University of Michigan campus, a dinner was held, with total attendance of forty persons. This was a part of a U.S. tour for these students, organized and supported by the Pilgrims of Ibillin. IPMT members provided overnight accommodations. Many of us saw the positive impact of

the Mar Elias schools in the lives of these outstanding high school students.

- IPMT hosted a thank you reception and dinner for Rev. Kristin Riegel on June 12 at the home of Silvia Pedraza to celebrate Kristin's participation in our mission team during the past two years; it was attended by twenty five persons.
- Some IPMT members participated in the Rehoboth Interfaith Garden with Hillel and several of our members attended a Shabat dinner held at Hillel on October 1; several hundred pounds of food were provided to Food Gatherers through this joint gardening project.
- IPMT welcomed Abuna Elias Chacour, founder of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions, to Ann Arbor on September 15. Forty persons attended the dinner in his honor. More than eighty persons attended the presentations by Rev. Joan Deming and Abuna Chacour. This was a special opportunity for our congregation and members of the Ann Arbor community to learn about the Mar Elias schools and the challenges that they face in "building peace on the desktops" of their students.
- The annual cinnamon roll fund raiser was held on November 1; this was augmented by a sale of products remaining from the 2014 Christmas Bazaar sale. This was a very successful fund-raiser to support our mission objectives.
- Seven of our members attended a fund-raising dinner on November 5, sponsored by Zeitouna, a group of eleven Jewish and Arab women in Ann Arbor. The fund raiser was to support children in Gaza, orphaned in the 2014 Gaza War, through the Center for Arab American Philanthropy. This was a great networking opportunity for our group as well as a chance to contribute to a worthy cause.
- The annual IPMT "Christmas in Bethlehem" dinner party was held on December 7 at the home of Marcey Terrien. Twenty five persons attended this celebration of activities of the Israel Palestine Mission Team during 2015.

We give thanks that Rev. Kristin Riegel was our staff liaison during the first half of this year and that Daniel Ervin was our staff liaison during the second half of the year. Please contact us to learn more about the Mission Team activities or if you would like to be added to our email distribution list.

Margaret McClamroch, Silvia Pedraza, Co-chairs

Nicaragua Mission Team

In 2015 the Nicaragua Mission Team made its second intergenerational trip to San José de los Remates. Twelve participants including 5 teenagers spent the week of February 14-22 building barrel ovens, teaching classes, doing craft projects and interacting with the children and adult residents of several small communities. As in previous years, our trip was arranged by CEPAD (Nicaragua Council of Protestant Churches) and our leader was Justin Sundberg, a PCUSA mission co-worker assigned to CEPAD.

On Sunday, August 30, the Nicaragua Mission Team lead worship in all three services. The Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers preached a moving sermon bringing the Nicaragua trip to life as she spoke of first impressions of the second poorest country in the western hemisphere. She spoke of relationships, community and the value of traveling together with folks of all ages, ranging from 13 to 70+. She spoke of the importance of exposing the youth of our church to new and diverse cultures. We have developed a friendship with an artist from Granada, Nicaragua who makes beautiful silver and semi-precious stone jewelry. We sold his jewelry on two occasions in 2015: June 7 at the church picnic and at coffee hour on August 30. We plan to sell jewelry again in 2016 at the church picnic and at the Christmas Bazaar.

The team is planning its third intergenerational mission trip for April, 2016. Justin Sundberg will again lead the trip. Justin and his family will visit the US in 2016 and 2017. We anticipate a short visit on June 12, 2016 and a longer visit in 2017.

Carol Smith and Nancy Vander Kuyf, Co-Chairs

Philippines Mission Team

The Philippines Mission Team (PMT) currently supports seven continuing projects in the Philippines:

1. Academic Tuition Scholarships for about seventy Dumaguete high school and college students
2. Dumaguete Mental Hospital meals and water, providing protein (i.e. eggs) and clean water daily for otherwise malnourished patients
3. School supplies and children's books, providing about forty large shipping boxes sent to a few locations in the Philippines
4. Dumaguete Summer Camp, a leadership training camp for sixty or more teenagers
5. Dumaguete Sewing Project providing two large shipping boxes of fabrics sent for this livelihood project
6. Dumaguete Prison Ministry, providing two large shipping boxes of dental care and other hygiene supplies for jail inmates, and
7. Termite control, providing resources for termite control for a building constructed by our Philippines Mission Team. This project is scheduled to terminate in 2017.

To help support our mission projects, which have an annual total operating cost of nearly \$17,000, the PMT held its annual Rummage and Bake Sale, a great success, in late April. In May and June the annual collection of school books and supplies continued to grow almost beyond our capacity to handle everything.

Early in 2015 a relationship was established in the Philippines with the Rev. Dr. Paul Matheny and Rev. Mary Nebelsick, PCUSA mission Co-workers in the northern Philippines. The plan was to establish a new location for our mission work in the Philippines near where they were. By mid-

year we learned that PC(USA) was withdrawing all its mission co-workers from the Philippines. Paul and Mary ended their teaching and other duties in the Philippines in December. We, meanwhile, have been connected by them with local Protestant ministerial leadership, and will explore in a 2016 trip the potential for establishing a mission relationship in that area. On that same trip we will seek to renew and strengthen our relationships in Dumaguete.

The Philippines Mission Team wants to express our great appreciation to Rev. Kristin Riegel (January - June) and Rev. Jay Sanderford (July - December) for their valuable assistance in 2015. We also thank all of our supporters, volunteers, and donors without whose support we could not maintain our mission. All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, and to consider joining our team as a member, activity volunteer or supporter.

Bob Wallin, Chair

Russia Mission Team

The Russia Mission Team decided to take 2015 as a year to educate the congregation regarding opportunities for ministry in Russia, particularly with special-needs children at the summer camp in Davydovo.

In May we held two events, the first being an evening of desserts and musical entertainment on May 8, thanks to help from our friends from St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church and a special guest violinist from Central Baptist Church in Moscow. We donated proceeds from the evening to ministry in Davydovo.

Secondly, we hosted Don Marsden, of the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, at a luncheon on May 10. While he has served in Russia and let us know some things about the political situation there, he also gave us a picture of world mission beyond Russia.

In September, Fr. Vladimir Klimzo visited our congregation. In a small gathering, he explained the workings of the camp he and his parish have established in Davydovo. Also we heard from Zhanna Skalitzky and her daughter Dasha, both of St. Vladimir, and both of whom served at the camp this past summer. Al and Ellen Smith, Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers in Russia, were with us as well.

On the following evening, Fr. Vladimir, Al, Ellen, and Fr. Vladimir's daughter Anastasia, made presentations. At "Wednesdays at First," Anastasia sang one of the songs she has learned in her study of Russian folk culture. Fr. Vladimir spoke to those gathered for dinner, wishing to express thanks for the Christmas Eve offering donated in 2012, now having been used to rehabilitate a badly sagging building in Davydovo and fit it for use by families preparing to find permanent housing for their adult children, unable to live on their own.

After the time of worship following dinner, Fr. Vladimir, with help in translation by Ellen, showed "before" and "after" photos of the building, and he explained further the history of the parish and the establishment of the camp.

As we look toward 2016, we plan to send a team to serve at the camp in July. We look forward to continued fellowship and mutual spiritual support as we build our relationship with St. Vladimir and with the parish in Davydovo.

Linda Speck, Chair

Co-Worker Ministry Team

The Co-Worker Ministry Team completed all four recommendations it made to the Mission Committee in November of 2014. These four recommendations were:

1. First Presbyterian, Ann Arbor, financially support PC(USA)Co-Worker Rev. Michael and Rachel Ludwig beginning in 2014 and beyond (until circumstances might change). The church began financial support for \$2,000 in 2014 and \$2,500 in 2015. Monthly updates on the Ludwig's work in Niger are reported in The First Press and the Ludwig's were able to visit First Presbyterian in June, 2015 during their home visit. Mission committee hosted a pot luck dinner and Michael gave a excellent presentation of their Niger goals and experiences.
2. The development of Co-Worker prayer partner groups. Individual groups (PW; youth, children's ministries, choir, Hilltoppers, etc) would be asked to sponsor a Co-worker through prayer, cards, etc. Marcey Terrien volunteered to lead this program and help groups select an appropriate Co-Worker. Currently four church groups pray for five Mission Co-workers or Co-Worker couples throughout the world.
3. Formation of a Co-Worker Ministries Team with a liaison from the Mission Committee. This team (similar to the five international ministries team and local ministry) would be responsible for helping to establish and coordinate relationships with the Co-worker(s) – both the financially supported Co-worker(s) and Co-Worker prayer partner groups. The team would help facilitate relationship building between First Presbyterian and the Co-worker(s) and keep First Presbyterian informed and updated on the needs of the Co-worker(s). The team would work with all areas of the church to promote and provide for the Co-Worker(s). Three task force members, Marcey Terrien, Ginny Bell, and Linda Speck have been leading this ministry.
4. Increase the current funding of the Co-Worker by \$500.00 for 2015. The Mission Committee increased the Ludwig's financial support to \$2,500 for 2015. In addition, a portion of the 2015 Peacemaking special offering (\$695.) went to help support the Ludwigs.

Thank you to the Mission Committee and Congregation for this outpouring of support for PC(USA) Mission Co-workers throughout the world.

Virginia Bell, Chair



Personnel

Four years ago, based on two simple commitments, 1) we will use First Presbyterian Church's funds wisely and, 2) we will offer a place where our staff could find joy and meaning in their work, the Personnel Committee set about to study and structure how our Church's administrative work would be done. Methodically, the committee first studied the status quo, assessed the Church's demands both filled and unfilled, created an organizational structure designed to provide a logical division of labor that was both effective and efficient and worked last year to operationalize that structure. This past year, the committee completed its organizational work by putting in place at every level processes intended to establish clarity around work expectations and supervisory depth intended to offer ongoing assessment and staff support to each member of our staff.

Our Church's leadership completed its first full year under this structure and the committee is confident that First Pres is well on its way to honoring those original commitments. Our Finance office continues to be expertly (and accurately) led by Finance Manager, Lynnette Conner. First Pres' executive office work is entrusted to Office Manager, Linda Robinson, always responsive and responsible. Our building and grounds are in the capable hands of newly-recruited Property Manager, Adrian Prundeanu. The committee is deeply grateful for the dedication and caring, hard work of wonderful staff at every position.

Other transitions continued through 2015. The Residency Work Group, an integral part of the Personnel Committee under the superb leadership of Kate Silbert and staffed by Rev. Jay Sanderford, bid farewell to our former residents and, via an intense, but joyful recruiting and interviewing process, welcomed three new resident ministers in August, Angela Ryo, Emily Béghin and Daniel Ervin. Our residents will progress through a thoughtful residency program design shepherded by Rev. Sanderford, while stepping-up to our church's various ministries.

With encouragement and gratitude of the Personnel Committee, Rev. Jim Monnett agreed to take responsibility for overseeing both Youth and Campus Ministries following an unexpected resignation in Campus Ministry. His transitional leadership provided an opportunity for Mission and Christian Education to form two work groups empaneled to study optimal program designs for both Campus and Youth ministries; both work groups are underway. Peer ministers Alexis Allum and Andy Spaulding were recruited to augment Rev. Monnett's and our resident ministers' work in both Youth and Campus ministries in the interim.

Through the gracious, generous and expert legal work of Sarah Stitt, and with valuable input from all our Church's staff, the Committee completely overhauled First Pres' person-

nel policy manual and the Session approved it in November. The new policy manual continues our Church's longstanding sabbatical policy; at its December, 2015 meeting, the Session approved an 11-week sabbatical for Rev. Dr. Fair. This year, Rev. Dr. Fair completed her first five years as our Pastor/Head of Staff. She will leave for an ambitious course of study and reflection from June 26, returning on September 10 to resume her leadership refreshed and renewed. Rev. Rogers, in partnership with Rev. Jay Sanderford, has agreed to serve in her absence. There is an unmistakable energy in the air as our Church, under Rev. Fair's leadership, is growing with new members of all ages. We have every reason to expect that progress to accelerate in 2016.

Transitions continue within the committee, too. Co-opted committee members Mike Lisull and Carol German both step down after several years of valuable service. Committee Chair Rick Boothman concludes his Session and committee service and chair responsibilities pass to elder Prue Heikkinen. For 2016, Prue will be joined by elder Jim Cameron, elder Dallas Dort, new member and new elder, Chris Dahl, and co-opted member, Linda Dabrowski.

Resident Ministry Work Group

The end of 2015 marks the conclusion of an active year for the Residency Work Group (RWG), as we bid farewell to the Class of 2013 – Reverends Lindsay Conrad, Kristin Riegel, and Lal Rodawla – and recruited and welcomed a new cohort of resident ministers – Emily Béghin, Daniel Ervin, and Angela Ryo. With Rev. Jay Sanderford now well-established in his role as program director, our goal moving forward is to enhance our structures of recruitment, pastoral development, assessment, and placement. Our primary commitment remains overseeing the support and growth of the resident ministers.

Between January and March, we engaged in an intensive recruitment and selection process for a new cohort. We received applications from all of the PC(USA) seminaries, as well as Harvard and Yale Divinity schools. From an initial pool of nearly 20 applicants, the RWG invited 7 candidates to an interview weekend held the first weekend of March. Candidates engaged in extensive conversations with RWG members and the senior pastoral staff, met with the larger pastoral and program staff, and experienced worship with the larger congregation on Sunday morning. After much deliberation and discernment, the RWG was pleased to call Emily Béghin, Daniel Ervin, and Angela Ryo to start as resident ministers in August, 2015. Angela and Emily were ordained in July and October, respectively, and Daniel's ordination is on track to take place in the first half of 2016.

Over the late spring and summer, we oversaw the departure of our outgoing resident ministers, each of whom

pursued new calls in parish ministry: Rev. Lindsay Conrad is serving as Associate Pastor for Young Adults, Mission and Congregational Care at the First Presbyterian Church of Burlington, North Carolina; Rev. Kristin Riegel joined the staff of Second Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, Missouri as Associate Pastor; and Rev. Lal Rodawla has become Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Congregational Care at Providence Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, North Carolina. As each resident departed, the RWG conducted exit interviews in conjunction with the Personnel Committee and hosted a farewell reception.

Since arriving in mid August, Emily, Daniel, and Angela have brought a new wave of energy, creativity, and gifts to the residency program and the life of the congregation. In partnership with Jay and the broader First Pres staff, the RWG

continues to pursue structures and resources to enhance each resident's pastoral development. One highlight from the fall was the visit of Geri McKenzie, program coordinator for the residency program at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, with whom both the RMs and RWG were able to learn about strengths-based leadership and assessment.

The finances of the residency program remain in good standing for the completion of the Lilly Foundation grant in 2017. We are grateful to those in the congregation who have devoted time and talents towards building the endowment to fund the program in future years and are hopeful that 2016 will bring us further toward our five million-dollar goal.

Kate Silbert, Chair



Property

2015 was a successful year for the Property Committee, thanks in part to the good work of Church Member Richard Cooke, who served as Interim Facilities Coordinator from October, 2014, through April, 2015. Dick very capably managed the Facilities Office with its work involving all trades, interior and exterior. The permanent Facilities Manager position was then filled in May by Adrian Prundeanu.

At the Church Officers' Retreat in November, 2014, Session approved a contract not to exceed \$200,000 for replacement of the Lemon Wing's original steel-with-single-pane-glass windows. This action was an early step in the Church's largest reconstruction project in over 15 years. A contract was signed in December, new windows were delivered in May, and the old windows were removed and the new units installed that same month. Fortunately, we had an excellent installation contractor, Advanced Glass & Metal, LLC from Livonia. The work involved asbestos abatement, plaster patching and painting, replacement of faulty glass dividers on the new windows, many weeks of forcing a recalcitrant window supplier to perform as specified, and much patience from the church staff. Final payment was made in November with a total cost of all project elements approximating \$180,000. To date, sixteen members have contributed nearly \$30,000 for these window replacements.

In April we received bids to replace the broken wood accordion door between the Founders and Curtis Rooms. A new partition with two pairs of hinged doors was completed in May by Phoenix Construction Co., owned by member Bill Kinley. His project superintendent, Kirk Moll, did a fine job on this project and helping us as well with other facility problems. Total costs approximated \$8,000.

In 2015 we addressed a number of site appearance and safety issues. A large, but dying oak tree in the Memorial Garden was removed and replaced by a red maple — other

landscaping improvements were made in the Garden at the same time. Another large oak that was dangerously overhanging the roof above the southeast corner of the Lemon Wing was also removed. A core group of members worked enthusiastically throughout the year on landscaping cleanup, beautification and drainage issues. This work will continue indefinitely thanks to the core group and funding provided by member Susan Cares in memory of her parents, Charles and Marian Cares. Other site work included the following:

- Regrading to eliminate flooding and other improvements in the planting area next to the north Sanctuary wall.
- Pavement patching — asphalt drives and parking lots and concrete walkways.
- A successful vegetable garden that was started on the Hill Street property in cooperation with an interested group from the Hillel Foundation next door. Special thanks to member Paul Smith, Rev. Kristin Riegel and several staff members for their co-leadership on this project.
- Both First Pres and Hillel made good use of the home grown produce with donations to Food Gatherers.
- High pressure cleaning and television inspection of storm drains in the driveways and all roof drains. This work and information will help the Property Committee formulate a plan to alleviate the flooding experienced this year.

Other 2015 Highlights:

- Provided new heating, ventilating and air conditioning units in the Office area.
- Purchased and installed a new range for the Kitchen.
- Gratefully accepted an anonymous gift to replace the wheelchair lift. Bids are now being solicited, and some have been received.

- Fluorescent lighting ballasts have been replaced in the Social Hall, reactivating several inoperative light fixtures.
- The ceiling and lighting have been replaced in the Finance Office, and it has been repainted.
- Many spaces in the Church have been repainted, thanks in most part to member Don Redding.

The Property Committee wishes to thank members of the

congregation for their support of our projects and to the Session for its financial support. Thanks also to Facilities Manager Adrian Prundeanu and Maintenance/Repair Manager Michael Wright, both of whom assure us daily that our aging Church facilities are well maintained, clean and usable.

Robert Pierce, Chair



Worship

In 2015, the Worship Committee coordinated the efforts of many of you in the congregation who assisted with many aspects of worship. Did you know...

- 47 congregational members served as an usher
- 24 helped set up communion
- 140 served communion
- 48 helped clean-up from communion
- 115 volunteered to read scripture for one of the services

Because of the willingness of the people behind these numbers, the whole congregation and pastoral staff benefit and thank you for the many worshipful experiences we all enjoy at First Pres.

The Worship Committee consists of Grace Chung, Kate Drinkwater, Pam Ehrhart, Sheryl Powell, Dallas Colligan (outgoing Elder), Tom Brandt (incoming Elder), Sue Jeffers Elder), Tom Granum (staff liaison, Director of Music Ministries), Lindsay Conrad (Resident Minister), Daniel Ervin (Resident Minister), Nancy Crawford (Elder, chair)

The Worship Committee meets the first Monday of each month and we would love for anyone who is interested to join us. Please contact Nancy Crawford at nancyetal@yahoo.com.

Nancy Crawford, Chair

Ministry Through Music 2015

We had about 250 active participants in our congregation's music ministry this year: Chancel Choir and other adult singers (110), Youth Choir (15), Children's Choir (30), Recorder Ensemble (6), Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir (20), 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.

Special worship services throughout the year, in addition to Sunday-morning and evening worship, included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, memorial services, and weddings. New this year was the

Chancel Choir's participation in the 30-minute prelude for the Services of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve.

Our music ministries reach beyond our congregation. In 2015 over 2000 people enjoyed special music and worship events in our sanctuary as we hosted the Schoenstein Competition in the Art of Organ Accompaniment with the organ students from the University of Michigan; the chamber choir sounding light; guest conductor and organist Tom Trenney; two events for the UM Conference on Organ Music, including the Organ Improvisation Competition; a Christmas concert with the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; and A Boychoir Christmas with the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Perhaps the highlight of the year was our hosting Alice Parker, who worked with our youth and adult choirs, gave several workshops for the community, and led our worshipers in unaccompanied congregational singing. The Chancel Choir, soloists and Michigan Sinfonietta presented a new work, Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living, on the afternoon of All Saints' Sunday. The following week the Men's Chorus presented *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, arranged by Dan Forrest for their presentation on Veterans' Day Sunday.

Outdoor summer worship included special music ranging from global to blue-grass to jazz. Behind-the-scenes improvements were made with our Schoenstein pipe organ and new shelving for the music library. 2015 ended with our looking forward to the January 2016 delivery of 150 new choir robes for our children's, youth and adult singers.

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. The Chancel Choir participated in a Hymn Festival led by Michael Burkhardt in September, and our final service of the year on December 27 was "Joy to the World" – A Festival of Hymns and Carols for Christmas.

Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy God forever!

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

Other Reports



Board of Deacons

Under the guidance and supervision of Associate Pastor, Melissa Anne Rogers, the Deacons served as liaisons to the pastoral staff, providing care and serving the needs of those in our large and active congregation. They faithfully made many visits to the hospitals and at homes, holding the hands of people recovering from surgery, grieving or who were ill. For many Deacons, this privilege has meant growing in their faith and understanding of the burdens people face. It has helped many Deacons learn how our church works to support each other.

Following early morning trainings, the Deacons served communion at worship services at 8am, 9:30am, 11am and to those who were homebound. They supported each other by helping with special services, including those at Glacier Hills.

The Deacons said “farewell” to Resident Ministers who completed their work with us and moved on to new opportunities. The generosity of the Deacons was seen once again when the welcome baskets for the new Resident Ministers became welcome tubs!

Each Deacon served a Chapel in a particular neighborhood or region of Ann Arbor or surrounding area. They made a total of approximately 500 deliveries of flowers to members of their chapels and the greater church family. The Deacons organized and sponsored brunches, celebrated milestones and welcomed new members. By making meaningful connections with their chapel members, the Deacons made First Presbyterian a warm and close church community.

The Executive Board of Deacons supported individual Deacons with their many responsibilities, often acting as

mentors. During regular meetings, members of the Board of Deacons were trained to serve communion at church, make hospital visits, participate in prayer ministry, serve at the Welcome Center and be of support to the congregation in other ways as well.

After careful consideration and analysis, the Board of Deacons was reduced by 3 members and planned to decrease the number by another 3 every year for 3 years. However, after one year, a decision was made to go back to the original number, as even that small decrease increased the responsibilities for other deacons. The number of chapels was reduced, and renumbered making it easier for people to find their neighborhoods and for the chapel numbers to match. We combined smaller chapels and put two deacons on larger chapels including Glacier Hills.

Karla Olson-Bellfi completed her service as co-Moderator of the Deacons. We thanked her for knowledge, organizational skills and her dedication in keeping all of the Deacon activities running smoothly. Karla’s devotion to the church was clearly seen and appreciated. In addition to the usual two years as co-Moderator, Karla served an additional year.

The Board of Deacons welcomed 13 new members, including Jill Binkley who will work as co-Moderator with Jinx Cooke. The 2016 Board of Deacons looks forward to working together on the continued journey of making First Presbyterian Church a close, caring and faithful community.

Karla Olson-Bellfi and Jinx Cooke, Co-Moderators



Presbyterian Women

All women of the church are considered Presbyterian Women and all are welcome to attend programs sponsored by PW. PW also invite any men in the congregation to attend our monthly programs and luncheon.

PW meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The first hour is Bible study using the Horizon’s 2015/2016 Bible Study “Come To The Water”. In November, the author of the study, Rev. Judy Fletcher, was the church’s Christian Life Academy speaker and so we were able to meet and greet her. Rev. Fletcher led several remarkable workshops. The second hour of PW consists of programs of interest to the women of the church. The 2015/2016 program topics covered America’s racial crisis and what we as Christians can do to impact a change on racism, Central America refugees, jail ministry, local ministries and pilgrimaging.

Mission remains the main focus of PW. PW participated in the following projects in 2015:

Ingathering	\$ 2,129.30
(Items requested by Presbytery of Detroit and used locally and throughout the world)	
Food to Presbytery (March, April, October)	\$ 2,140.00
Food to Second Mile Center (SMC)	\$ 710.00
SMC dinner cost	\$ 319.74
SMC hygiene kits (funds provided by the Jeanne Seeley fund)	\$ 6,000.00
SMC school supplies	\$ 335.00
Other SMC gifts	\$ 1,235.00
Seminary Scholarship	\$ 1,200.00
PWPD pledge	\$ 4,250.00

Birthday Offering	\$ 355.00
Thank Offering	\$ 306.00
Least Coin	\$ 64.09
Total PW giving for Oct.2014-Oct. 2015	\$19,044.13

It was our pleasure to give three lifetime honorary membership this year. The recipients were: Jill Binkley, Harriet Brouwer, and Lois Jelneck.

Presbyterian Women hosted numerous funeral receptions in 2015, under the direction Jeannette Middleton and Judy Landau and their many faithful cookie bakers.

During the year PW selected two PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers to pray for and maintain an email relationship with. Jeff and Christi Boyd are serving in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer serve the people of Guatemala.

The year ended with a December special brunch and musical program hosted by our own choir director Tom Granum.

PW encourages all women to make a financial pledge to PW in February of each year. These pledges plus the funeral receptions giving are the only income that PW has to do their work. The funds of our three special offering (Thank, Birthday, Least Coin) do not stay within the local PW group and are sent directly to the Presbytery of Detroit.

PW could not exist without the leadership of the women who give so much each year to make PW strong and vital. Thank you to the Coordinating Team of Vice Moderators, Coordinators, Standing Committee and Special Assignment leaders, Bible Study leaders, Publicity and Memorial reception leaders and bakers and to all who have participated and prayed with us.

*Virginia Bell, Moderator,
Presbyterian Women 2015/2016*



New Members

We give thanks to God for those members who joined First Presbyterian Church in 2015.

** Denotes Confirmands*

Charlotte Anderson	Rachel Dudley	Jody Klein	Carol Senneff
Jill Baumhover	Elizabeth Engel*	Emily Lancaster*	Kate Silbert
Brian Baumhover	Mary Evans	Shawneene Logan-Bones	Carson Smith
Ethan Bilby*	Ken Faulk	Kristen Long-Cheng	Andrew Spaulding
Elizabeth Bizer-Cox	Stephanie Faulk	Sara McAdory	Josh Swenson
Daniel Bizer-Cox	Alexa Fedrigan	Nancy Melzer	Carolyn Swenson
Joseph Bones	Nicole France*	Benjamin Meyers*	Nancy Tena
Jeanette Brock	Patricia Gilbreath	Sacha Montas	Armando Tena
Ken Brock	Marjo Grabowski	Jane Montas	Herbert Upton
Deborah Campbell	Matt Grabowski	Claudia Morville*	Anne Upton
James Campbell	Alice Holderby	Lynn Mottram	Tarra Voigtman
Cheong-Hee Chang	Ellen Johnson	Aedan Mulcrone*	Christopher Voigtman
Stephen Cheng	James Judson	Angela Noble	Carolyn Warheit
Allison Dabrowski*	Leina Kaehr*	Ellen Pogue-Greiner	Alizia Westfall
Marjorie Dahlstrom	Ralph Kauffman	Susan Reynolds	Ken Westfall
Rebecca Donally	Laurel Kauffman	Charles Rogers*	Angela Yang
Becky Donally	Jaymin Kim	John Santinga*	
Sarah Dudgeon	Mark Klein	Lydia Schaafsma*	



In Memoriam

We grieve the loss of those who died in 2015.

January 28	Dorothy Platte	June 6	Jerome Jelinek
February 1	Dorothy Steiner	June 24	Katherine Ackenhusen
February 14	Margaret Ressler	July 17	Stephanie Kroll
March 9	Betty Reinhart	August 2	Wendel Heers
March 18	Bob Snyder	October 5	Betty Edman
March 26	Barbara Black	October 9	Nancy Johnson
March 29	Eric Burkhalter	November 22	Virginia Townsend
April 30	James Wiese	December 15	Dee Valvanis
May 7	John Laird	December 21	Rachel Arrak
June 2	Elizabeth Southwick		



Staff

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/ Transitional Campus Minister
 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 Emily Béghin
 Daniel Ervin
 Reverend Angela Ryo
 Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse
 Peer Ministers:
 Alexis Allum
 Andy Spaulding

Administrative Staff:

Lynnette Conner, Finance Manager
 Linda Robinson, Office Manager
 Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
 Michael Wright, Maintenance/Repair Manager
 Lisa Hadrill, Technology Coordinator
 Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant
 Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/ Children's Education Assistant
 Anna Miller, Finance Assistant
 Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant



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