



Photo by Bill Stegath



2017 Annual Report

Members of Session

Clerk of Session: Diana Gardner

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

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

Class of 2019

Linda Dabrowski
Tim Dickinson
Kay Fuller
Henry Johnson
Lynne Lande
Karla Olson-Bellfi
Rick Platte
Pat Tamblyn

Class of 2020

Dick Carlisle
Diane Hockett
Linda Koopmann
Bill McPherson
Karen Mundus
Brian Schneidewind
Bill Upton
Sharon Watling

Board of Deacons

2017 Co-Moderators: Jill Binkley and Jane Myers

2018 Co-Moderators: Doug Gottliebsen, Ellen Johnson, Jane Myers

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

Class of 2019

Rob Bauman
Lisa Danielson
Jim Dickinson
Carol Downton
Mark Endicott
Lee Evans
Nancy Fox
Becky Gaffney
Gail Grady
Ellen Johnson
Michele Madden
Holly Majorprice
Chris Queen
Sue Rigterink
Nancy Rugani
Norm Samuelson
Judy Slade
Jean Song
Gayle Stevens

Class of 2020

Pam Ehrhart
Mary Engelhardt
Robin Fosheim-Hoag
Nancy Fox
Doug Gottliebsen
Alice Holderby
Susan Morville
Nancy Oliver
Julie Rupp
Dianne Santinga
Lisa Shultz
Mary Smith
Jeanette Swartz
Sara Vander Voort
Brian Williams
Heidi Williams
Pam Wood

Duane Locke's election as
Deacon will be voted on at the
Annual Meeting.

The cover photo was taken by Bill Stegath, beloved long-time member, who passed away in March 2017.

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 28, 2018
Agenda**

Rev. Dr. Fairfax. F. Fair, moderator

Distribution of Meeting Materials

Recognition of Clerk, Diana Gardner

Declaration of Quorum

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Recognition of the First Presbyterian Church Staff

State of the Church

Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair

Report from the Mission and Vision Task Force

Lucie Audette

Report from the Personnel Committee

Linda Dabrowski

Motion, Changes to Pastors' Terms of Call

Report from the Financial Stewardship Committee

Lucie Audette

Report on 2017 Finances

Presentation of 2018 Budget

Report from the Property Committee

Rick Platte

Safety Work Group

Paul Smith

Invitation to Lunch

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer and Luncheon Grace

**There will be a shelter-in-place drill after the Annual Meeting.
Following the drill, 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

*“For we are God’s servants, working together... No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ”
(I Corinthians 3: 9a, 11).*

Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to reflect each year as I write this report to you! We have shared so many special moments, times when God’s Spirit has been present and we have known a peace and a sense of communion not usually felt in other areas of our lives. God is present to us and with us always – but many of us seem more open to recognizing God when with other believers. May we be increasingly open in the year ahead that God’s grace may abound!

We are a strong community of faith, richly blessed with members who have a variety of gifts and talents, united by a commitment to serve our living Lord by loving one another and sharing the grace we know in Christ. Our lives together are centered in worship. We glorify God, learn from the biblical teachings that guide us, and sing praises for God’s unerring faithfulness. Both in worship and as we go out into the world, we seek to model for our children and for one another what it is to be Christ-like, drawing strength from each other and courage to live up to the identity Jesus gives us when he names us brothers and sisters. Together we embrace opportunities to make God’s unconditional love known. We care for one another and for people whose names and faces we may never know. We enjoy being together to learn, laugh, and puzzle through what God is calling us to do. We give generously of our time and money and are rewarded by the satisfaction of knowing we are part of something much bigger than ourselves or our times.

These are challenging days to be a Christian. The flurry of messages around us can be distracting, disheartening, and confusing. What does the Church stand for? (While we must never confuse the human institution – the Church – with God, the Church is called to live in ways that point to God’s coming kingdom, a realm where there is perfect peace.) Is biblical interpretation open to each individual’s whim? (In words of one syllable, no. Biblical interpretation is guided by the entirety of the canon, the insight of the ages, and the continuing illumination of the Holy Spirit.) What does the Church offer us? (Some answers include an anchor in the storm, a place to admit failings and know forgiveness, and a place to

join others in responding to God’s call.) Almost every day our hallways at church are full of people working together to know God, share inspired commitment, and answer cries for help.

How many times have we sung “The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord?” During 2017, we at First Pres have completed a number of building blocks on this foundation that are essential to our moving into God’s future in ways that are faithful, relevant, and exciting. Different groups in the church have worked diligently to complete stimulating and informative reports on youth ministry, campus ministry, the state of our physical plant, and our important mission outreach to the world outside our doors. The session devoted its Fall retreat to visioning and strategic planning. A small group is coming together to take all these pieces and assemble a succinct statement for who First Pres is and is called to be for the 21st Century. From this will flow a framework for evaluating all our ministries and setting faithful goals for 2020, 2022, and 2024. The session will be charged with measuring our progress toward implementing our priorities as we move forward.

Many of you already have been solicited for your wisdom and ideas. As the session, our governance entity, pursues and completes this important work, they will continue to listen and to provide updates on where God’s Spirit is leading us.

I am blessed to work with you and with the wonderful people who join me in serving you through First Pres. All our efforts build on the unshakeable foundation of Jesus Christ. For that we must say, “Thanks be to God!”

Grace and peace,

The Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair





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

“As I make my slow pilgrimage through the world, a certain sense of beautiful mystery seems to gather and grow.”
A. C. Benson

As I conclude my thirteenth year as one of your pastors, and celebrate, on August 1, a mere twenty years since I was invited by Rev. Michael Lindvall to join the staff, my time here with you remains a gift to me. It is a beautiful mystery that gathers and grows, that finds me humbled, my faith ever deepening. I believe that life is a spiritual pilgrimage. It is a fitting metaphor, as well, to describe our vocational journey, God’s call upon us. As one who has taken four actual spiritual pilgrimages through the years, (three times on the Camino de Santiago and one time to the Isle of Iona), and has two more yet ahead, I resonate deeply with the images of journey, and travel, of traversing terrain, and experiencing God in the surprising twists and turns of faith in motion. Through it all, as pilgrimage demands, we prepare ourselves to be present to each moment, not too caught up in anticipating what is around the next corner and always strategizing, seeking to control an outcome we deem desirable. Pilgrimage involves gratitude for what is right now, even if you are aware that new things shall be. These are the thoughts that guide me in my work as an Associate Pastor here at First Pres, as well. But even more, as a church, we are on pilgrimage, and we are entering a time of greater exploration of who God is calling us to become. As our 190th year has concluded, it is time to think about our hopes and goals, what it is that defines us and makes us unique, and to listen intently to what is gathering and growing among us here at First Pres. It is also a time to speak out about what is meaningful to you about your church home, and what you envision and dream about for years to come.

Special moments have stayed with me on my pilgrimage as a pastor here. Over the years, you have taught me, shaped my ministry, extended hospitality and warmth, prayed with and for me, and welcomed my care of you and yours. I hope for many more years of serving as a pastor to you and offering what I can to the community and world around us in need. I pray regularly that you will continue to allow our pastoral caregivers to walk alongside you in all kinds of needs, to celebrate with you in all moments of joy, and to be present and helpful in all manner of uncertainties and transitions. On your own pilgrimage of life and faith, these fellow companions reveal Christ’s presence to you along the journey.

My work of pastoral care is coordinated with Deacons, Stephen Ministers, Helping Hands, and my dear friend and colleague, our Parish Nurse and Wellness Coordinator Sandy Talbott. It is also to help mentor our gifted Resident Ministers, who so often seem to mentor me instead! I am the staff liaison to the Congregational Life Committee, ably led by amazing

elders and members, as well as the Mature Ministries program, a large group of inspiring members 60 and up, bearing energy, wisdom, and incredible curiosity. There are neat opportunities I have also been given to serve as support to the Nicaragua Mission Team, an extensive pilgrimage program in which deeply thoughtful and faithful men and women travel to sacred places together; our faithful ushers, the Safety Committee, and more. And of course, preaching! That is something I love to do and have been especially grateful to have been invited to do more of in 2017. That, along with the calling I have to be with you in hospital and rehab and hospice rooms, to visit you at home, (often bringing home communion), greeting you in my office to offer support and counsel, and lending my encouragement and collegiality with our incredible staff — well, it is more than a full-time job. There is never a dull moment with such a diverse set of tasks to be done and unique people to visit and care for here at First Pres. I know that my first calling after loving God, supporting my spouse, and raising my children is to be here, engaged in furthering the ministry, mission, and legacy of this truly wondrous community. I covet your prayers and I offer you all mine.



Highlights of 2017 included overseeing the massive summer email devotional, leading our 190th anniversary Planning Team which concluded with an all-church retreat at the Grand Hotel, a huge Stratford trip with our Mature Ministries group, writing prayers and materials for pilgrimages and worship services, and presiding at weddings for church members here, in California, and northern Michigan.

Two truths are to be understood about pilgrimages. First, resting places are critical. As I seek and find times to pause, to listen for God, and to breathe in the Spirit who guides us, I pray you will encourage all of our incredible staff members to do the same. Second, as pilgrimage remind us, it is the fellow travelers with us that make all the difference. You — members, deacons, elders, Stephen Ministers, fellow pastors, retired clergy — you are this church in service to our glorious God. As you journey together, you listen, pray, learn, grow, risk, fail, succeed, and in all things share your gratitude for this place. You make First Pres a family of faith. Let’s journey together into 2018!

The Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers



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

“... the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”
Ephesians 4:16

As I begin my fifth year as an Associate Pastor at First Pres, I resource the Adult Education, Local and International Mission Committees and serve as Coordinator of the Resident Minister Program. In 2017 my portfolio was expanded to include additional duties guiding the leaders of both our Campus Ministry and Youth Ministry. Additionally, I work with our three key church managers, Anna Miller, Finance Manager, Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager and Linda Robinson, Office Manager. It's a full and wonderful position, and I enjoy my work with such a broad array of gifted colleagues.

2017 was a transitional year for our Resident Ministry Program. Rev. Emily Béghin, Rev. Daniel Ervin and Rev. Angela Ryo completed their two-year term with distinction, and began new ministries. Each Resident made a positive impact at First Pres and I am thankful to have been a mentor in their growth and development process. And in August we on-boarded three new Residents, Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke and Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt. Guiding all six transitions effectively is a joyful challenge. Placing Residents in good, healthy positions that align with their interests and abilities is a pastoral strategic puzzle. And welcoming three new Residents to Ann Arbor and orienting them to First Pres and a new position is an exciting process that launches them.

Rev. Emily Béghin played a pivotal role in Youth Ministries in her time here, effectively relaunching “Mids” – a Middle School ministry, teaching Confirmation and establishing good relationships with young people and families. Emily's compassionate work at Glacier Hills was important, too, providing warmth and depth in pastoral care and leading a hearty study group during Advent and Lent. From Ann Arbor, Emily moved to First Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia where she is thriving as an Associate Pastor doing pastoral care, young adult ministry, worship, and congregational life.

Rev. Daniel Ervin is now in Wood River, Illinois where he is Designated Pastor at Lovejoy United Presbyterian Church. There, Daniel says he is “the pastor of a healthy progressive church east of St. Louis, Missouri that is the result of a merger of two congregations with strong sense of identity, worship and mission.” At First Pres, Daniel completed several projects in addition to a pastoral care ministry and developed a strong voice as a preacher and worship leader. Daniel created and led a notable all-generational educational experience on World

Communion Sunday in October 2016. With his colleague Angela Ryo, he developed an intriguing series on “Our Artists as Prophets” during Lent 2017 involving dialogues with practicing artists, a series of small groups and an interactive art exhibit. With Angela Ryo, Daniel guided our Young Adult

Ministry, T2A2. In late spring 2015, Daniel led a group in pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland. During his two-year Residency period, Daniel was an active member of the First Pres Chancel Choir, singing weekly, and serving as our “Choir Chaplain.”

Rev. Angela Ryo has taken a new position at the Kirk in the Hills in nearby Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as the Assistant Pastor for Christian Formation. There she will be directing the Children and Family Ministry program as well as shaping Adult Education. Angela left a mark on First Pres in many places, as do all our Residents. She played a key role in our Adult Education ministry, creating a “Race Still Matters” series in fall 2016. Along with Daniel Ervin, she was instrumental in launching our Small Group Ministry and providing opportunities for adults to learn, share and grow. In her time as a Resident, Angela served as staff to the Finance Committee, led study sessions for the Mom's Bible Study Group, guided the Local Mission Team and played a key role in the Mission ReImagined process.

Recruiting for our 2017-2019 Resident Minister Cohort began in the fall of 2016 and continued into early 2017. The Residency Work Group revised our communications materials and social media presence. As a result, First Pres received 20+ applications for our Resident Ministry program and in early March offered positions to Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke and Dorothy Parks-Piatt. Blair, Eric and Dorothy arrived in Ann Arbor in mid-August and plunged into an intensive Resident Minister orientation and were quickly immersed in ministry and our experiential learning program.

Midway through 2017, I stepped into additional responsibilities in youth ministry, organizing, recruiting and even traveling to Costa Rica with a terrific group of high school students on an engaging mission trip. Welcoming Essie Koenig-Reinke into her role as Coordinator of Youth Ministries has been a great joy as she builds relationships and strengthens our ministry with youth and families. I continue to support Essie and the Youth Ministry program as it grows and develops.



With the arrival of Campus Ministries Coordinator Rev. Evans McGowan, our ministry to students, faculty and staff at the University of Michigan took a leap forward. A former Resident Minister here, Evans returned to Ann Arbor with a knowledge of First Pres, the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor that he has translated into steady growth and positive engagement among students in our campus ministry. Together with Evans, the two of us coordinate the ministry of two Residents involved in Campus Ministries, Revs. Blair Buckley and Eric Koenig-Reinke.

Our Local Mission projects are diverse yet share the aim to make our community reflect the welcome and compassion of God. Three times a year, volunteers care for children and families at Alpha House. In the spring, a stream of First Pres volunteers, and our First Pres staff, with hammers in hand, rehabilitated a house in West Willow in Ypsilanti, and renewed their faith along the way. Each Wednesday, we feed more than 100 hungry women and men at the Delonis Center. We continued to develop a strong ministry with Big House Food Rescue, recycling and putting to good use more than 15,000 pounds of high-quality food captured after University of Michigan athletic events. We have supported Friends in Deed with the launch of the important Circles Ministry. Ministries with ESL- English as a Second Language, Hope Clinic, as well as Cass Community Center in Detroit flourish as well. Our Local Mission Grant Program, ably guided by Martha Kershaw, directed more than \$75,000 to local programs and ministries. 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.

Carol Smith skillfully directed our Mission Committee in directing our ministry. International mission teams have traveled to Nicaragua spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A number of our mission partners visited First Presbyterian in 2017: in October Ellen Smith - Russia Mission Co-Worker and then Jeff and Christi Boyd- Mission Co-Workers in Central Africa visited us in Ann Arbor. Justin Sundberg, PCUSA Mission Co-Worker in Nicaragua spent a fruitful weekend at First Pres in November. Each shared the essence of their ministry and witness. First Pres continues our global outreach through many partners.

First Pres is well-positioned to embrace the exciting future challenges of ministry in Ann Arbor. A keen sense of anticipation about our common future as the people of God in this place, set next to a major academic institution, flows through the congregation, I believe. A good bit of energy has been captured in some important reports and vision documents about campus and youth ministry, mission and facilities, and we now poised to discern the directions God would have us take and to listen to one another about our shared wisdom and vision.

First Pres has tremendous human resources distributed across our gifted staff and agile leaders. It's my delight and challenge to work among them all fostering a team of innovative, collaborative and hopeful leaders. A deep well of compassion for the people of our world, our community and our church fuels our work together as colleagues and friends. And there resides among our First Pres staff an irrepressible conviction of care, concern and mutual support that binds people together in a whole. As our own Jane Dutton, of the UM Ross School observes: "Compassion is an irreplaceable dimension of excellence for any organization that wants to make the most of its human capabilities."

*Peace,
The Reverend Jay Sanderford*

Reports of Session Committees



Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee (CEC) is responsible for implementing educational programs and events through three very active independently functioning work groups: Children and Family Ministry, Youth Ministry and Adult Education. These activities involved nearly everyone in the church community, whether in a planning, teaching or participating role. Both the Children and Family and the Adult Education Work Groups experienced growth in participation in 2017. In the first months of the year, our Youth Ministry Work Group experienced some disruption in activities as a result of staff changes. During a time of transition, Rev. Jay Sanderford offered leadership and presence during the summer months. Along with Peer Minister Lex Allum, he led group of high school students to Costa Rica and with our talented Youth Ministry Interns created fun gatherings for students in July

and August. In mid-August, Essie Koenig-Reinke began work as our Coordinator for Youth Ministries providing strong, healthy leadership to the youth programs. (See below for details.)

Earlier this year the CEC began planning activities in Christian formation to implement recommendations identified in the Youth report that was completed the previous year and to enliven our educational ministry. These activities were subsequently suspended until Session could complete planning on a church-wide basis. It is expected that these broader recommendations will provide guidance for our educational programs that foster an inclusive and coordinated effort at attracting newer members across all demographics.

The following is a summary of accomplishments of each work group during 2017:

Children's Education & Family Ministries:

Work Group Members - Karen Mundus, Chair; Debbie MacVey, Staff; Kate Silbert, Becky Gaffney, Paula Doering, Lori Richert, Kim Gernant, Jean Song, Anna Cooke, Kevin Pipe, Rev. Emily Béghin.

- 100 children journeyed into ancient Roman times during the 3-day, Vacation Bible School, experiencing the sights, sounds, and tasty smells of a Roman Marketplace as they crafted in the shops, heard stories in the storytellers tent, and met Apostle Paul as his ministry was re-enacted by our drama team. They were led and assisted by more than 90 volunteers.
- 21 children and youth attended Camp Westminster in August. Several students appreciated scholarship assistance for camp. This was our 18th summer there at Higgins Lake.
- 21 Third Graders received the Common English Bibles in October. This is a new translation with clear language to make the Bible come alive for readers.
- 38 Sunday School teachers helped with child care or teaching in the children's area from crib through fifth grade.
- Over 70 children and their parents participated in eight 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.

Youth Ministries

2017 Youth Leaders and volunteers included: Chris King, Josh King, Jen Wilson, Charlotte Anderson, Julia Pakela, Stacey Pakela, and Renee Mulcrone. Plus Staff: Lex Allum; Peer Minister, Rev. Jay Sanderford, Essie Koenig-Reinke, Rev. Emily Béghin, Resident Minister, and Rev. Evans McGowan

- In spring of we celebrated 2017's confirmation class.
- In June a group of high school students traveled to Costa Rica for a mission trip.
- Summer Youth Interns –Sean Tichenor, Claudia Morville, Abby Wilson and David Endicott—did a terrific job organizing summer youth events and managing Art Fair Parking, an important youth ministry fundraiser.
- In September we hosted Ann Arbor's first ever great American Mattress Relay with more than 15 participants.
- In October our middle school students had a Lock-In where there was bowling, night games and quality conversations about worship.
- In November six high school students spent their weekend serving and exploring the city of Chicago. We partnered with Fourth Presbyterian Church and Urban Youth Mission for a fantastic weekend service.
- In November we hosted our first Friendsgiving Dinner Church! We had about 30 people who came together for a night of jazz and breaking bread together.

Adult Education:

Members: Tim Wendler, Chair; Rev. Jay Sanderford, Staff; Charles Monsma, Diane Hockett, Alice Holderby, Joyce Hellenga Himebaugh, Oliver Jolliet, Tawfiq Amari and Revs. Angela Ryo, Daniel Ervin, Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke, and Dorothy Parks-Piatt.

- Life Worth Living Series: "The Flourishing Life" was led by Rev. Jay Sanderford. Personal experiences of members were presented and discussed.
- Human Flourishing and Relationships: Washtenaw County Community Reads book, "\$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America," by Kathryn Edin and Luke Shaefer.
- A poverty simulation, "Life in Presbyville," and attendance at a community reading led by the authors of "\$2.00 A Day." Guest presenters from community service organizations included Markell Lewis of Food Gatherers, Susan Krehbiel of Presbyterian Refugee Response, Derrick Jackson of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, and Amanda Carlyle of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance.
- Lenten Series and Art Exhibit: "Our Artists Are Our Prophets," showcased five artist members of First Pres, Carol Pawloski, Lois Bryant, Sean Hoskins, Angie Miller, and Deborah Campbell. They described the process through which they interpreted scriptural descriptions of Christ's passion artistically, reflecting the status of displaced people. The Art Show was on display in the Social Hall from Palm Sunday through Easter.
- The Light Shines Through—Stories of Mission Re-Imagined This was based on the report of the Mission Committee, "Mission Re-imagined Proposals." The presenters for this series included Rev. Chris Roseland of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and members of our congregational mission teams to the Philippines, Nicaragua, Russia, and Israel/Palestine.
- "Reformation: Then and Now" was a historical introduction to the Reformation, with presentations by Dr. Carrie Euler of Central Michigan University, Dr. Katherine French of The University of Michigan, and Rev. Ed Koster of our congregation. The final five sessions paralleled the sermon series of Rev. Fairfax Fair, focusing on each of the Five Solas of the Reformation, Faith, Scripture, Christ, Grace and the Glory of God. Companion Reading book was: "Reformation Questions, Reformation Answers," by Donald K. McKim.
- "Doing Well Together," presentation by Nicaragua Mission Team with guests, Mission Co-Workers Justin and Renee Sundberg
- Study of the works of Frederick Buechner were led by Revs. Melissa Anne Rogers, Eric Koenig-Reinke and Blair Buckley
- Advent Study with the theme of "Light Dawns on a Weary

World: Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited”, was led by Rev. Jay Sanderford and the Resident Ministers.

- First Forums were begun in Fall 2017 to explore challenging issues in the world and discern faithful responses with one of the goals, to establish links with local organizations to provide volunteer opportunities and other activities for members of the congregation.
- Small group discussions were held in members’ homes during Advent and Lent to discuss topics relevant to the specific season.

- Planning is currently underway for Christian Life Academy presenter Dr. Roger Nishioka in February 2018. Roger is a well-known educator, pastor, thinker and educational practices speaker, who advocates the inclusion of all demographics toward personal faith formation.

Tim Wendler, Chair



Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Committee seeks to support a community of God’s people that nurtures and sustains members of the congregation and provides a warm, welcoming atmosphere to all.

Committee members, with the support of our staff liaison the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, work to welcome visitors, seek new members, and host all-church events.

- Each Sunday a host of volunteers seeks to create a welcoming church.
- In addition to ushers, greeters at entrances to the building on Sunday mornings welcome people to the church.
- Volunteers answer questions and provide directions at the Welcome Center.
- Greeters-in-the-Pew welcome visitors and people they do not know and greet them before moving on to their regular Sunday routines.
- At Coffee Hour, cookie bakers provide home-baked treats. To support serving Fair Trade Coffee at all church events, on the first Sunday of month at Coffee Hour volunteers from the Congregational Life and Mission Committees sell Fair Trade Coffee, which, thanks to Linda Robinson, is also available for sale at the Church Office during the week.
- On Easter and New Year’s Sundays when there was no regular Coffee Hour, a special welcome was provided with coffee and some food in the area outside of the Sanctuary.
- An Ice Cream Social held in early September was enjoyed by people of all ages.
- A Christmas cookie exchange was held at Coffee Hour in December - a “bring some/take some” arrangement.

The committee extends an invitation to attend the church and to membership to regular visitors and those who express an interest in uniting with the church.

- The committee oversees publicity working with Mary Jones to create and place ads in several publications, The Observer, The Ann, Ground Cover, and the Ann Arbor News, to reach different segments of the Ann Arbor community.

- Names and contact information of first-time visitors is collected from the pew pads each week. A welcome letter or email is sent. Email addresses are added to the weekly Our Life Together. Those who leave a phone number are contacted by one of our dedicated team of visitor callers to let them know that we’re glad that they visited First Pres and attempt to get them connected in meaningful ways with the life of the church. This is an important way to make a large church feel smaller. Contact information from college students and twenties and thirties is passed on to the appropriate teams.
- A Sunday morning Q&A with Rev. Dr. Fair, “Tell Me More,” held in March and September provided information about the church to interested prospective new members.
- Four sets of New Member classes were held in February, May, October and December. Special invitations are extended to regular non-member attenders. The classes provide an introduction to the Presbyterian Church and the Ann Arbor church in particular. After an early morning breakfast and special Session meeting, the new members are recognized during the morning worship service and welcomed into membership. Fifty-seven people, excluding confirmands, joined the church in 2017; see the section “New Members” later in this report for a list of their names.
- Reunions for New Members of the 2016 Fall Classes were held at Rev. Dr. Fair’s home in April and of the 2017 Winter/Spring Classes in October at Rev. Rogers’ home to provide a chance for the new members to reconnect and to make new connections with each other and with the ministers.

The committee, to foster cross-generational community, sponsors a number of all-church events and as well as some smaller events.

- The church was at near capacity for the Annual Meeting held in January that was followed by a well-attended luncheon prepared by our chef, Christine Miller.

- Several series of Small Groups, meeting in members homes, at church and at Glacier Hills were held throughout the year focused on a selected book and Bible study. Leader training sessions were held. Lenten Small Groups meeting for six weeks in homes in Quads included 100 participants. Fall Small Groups met every other week from October to December. A couple of groups met during Advent.
- An all-church retreat was held at Mackinac Island early in May. The weather cooperated and was warm. Lots of fun activities were scheduled, including a series of meetings, an awesome scavenger hunt arranged by Mary Jones and her daughter Maggie with costumed clue givers, a Kentucky Derby party arranged by Rev. Dr. Fair, and time to explore the island. Over 100 people participated in this event.
- The All Church Picnic held in June included the appearance of the Thunderwüde Blue Grass Band, a repeat of the ever-popular barbeque catered by Satchel's and inflatables for children. The weather was great, the band was good and there was a good turnout by the congregation.
- A couple of intergenerational all-church outings to athletic events were held – a trip to a Tigers Game in June, Tigers v. Tampa Bay and a UM Women's Basketball game, UM vs. Notre Dame, in November.
- A new big event this year, a festival of Christmas hymns and carols, "Light Dawns on a Weary World," held in the sanctuary and a strolling reception following the music providing the opportunity to mingle with friends, old and new, enjoy some wonderful treats and view the church's beautiful and extensive collection of crèches from around the world was well attended and well received.
- Saturday Suppers held in the spring and the fall at members' homes provided an opportunity to share a meal with new friends and old. The numbers vary but these events are truly enjoyed by all who participate.
- In December an effort was made to identify people who had extra places at their tables and to pair them with those who had not already made plans for Christmas Day. This was successful and will be repeated for Easter.

Congregational Life also supports other aspects of our life together including Stephen Ministry, the Parish Nurse ministry, age-based fellowship groups - Mature Ministries (60 and up), Immature Ministries (40s and 50s), T2A2 (20s and 30s) - ushers and the Board of Deacons.

The work of the 2017 Congregational Life Committee was made possible by elders Lynne Lande and Karla Olson-Bellfi, co-opted members James Cameron, Kay Erdman, Gail Grady, Jennifer Hoy, Peggy Jensen, Diane Johnston, Olivier Jolliet, Catherine Kendall, Barb Mueller, Cassee Stem, Marcey Terrien, Jackson Turner, Sara VanderVoort, Marti Wendler, our new resident ministers, Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke, Dorothy Parks-Piatt and staff liaison Melissa Anne Rogers.

Marita Servais, Chair

Wellness Coordinator / Parish Nurse

This year saw a change in my title: I am still your Parish Nurse, but it was decided by Personnel that adding the title of Wellness Coordinator helped to describe my role here at First Pres. As Parish Nurse I work with Melissa Anne Rogers to offer care coordination for some of our more vulnerable members, trying to connect them to needed resources; meeting and answering questions for any in need, suggesting resources to others, and being available to listen and support those with health related issues. Our Helping Hands volunteers are responsive to our congregation's needs, whether that is by driving someone to an appointment, making a meal, helping to install grab bars or hand rails, or visiting some of our homebound members. They are visible evidence of God's love here at First Pres.

As Wellness Coordinator, I am pleased to offer two ongoing support groups at this time. Our Caregivers Support group meets monthly, and our Restore Hope meets twice a month. Restore Hope is for anyone who has a family with a severe mental illness, and I am indebted to Linda Koopman and Nicole Jolliet for their continued support of this program. This past year we again offered our walking program, this time in the summer, using different famous 'trails' as a source of inspiration and education, while walking in groups or families.

The Safety Group has been meeting regularly, and you may have noticed some changes around the building due to their recommendations: limiting access to two doors during the work week, improved signage, continued standardized usher training and responsibilities, training of our deacons for emergencies during a church service, and volunteers (medical professionals) who are available during a service should a medical urgency arise are some you might have noticed. Behind the scenes we have been surveying what other churches are doing in terms of security, both during the week and during services, and have invited a few church security specialists to walk through the building and make recommendations.

And our Shelter-in-Place drill will take place after the Annual Meeting. Safe areas have been identified throughout the church with the help of the Ann Arbor City Emergency Manager, in case of a weather emergency. Finally, the Safety Group will become 'housed' under the Property Committee, although we will seek input from others, especially Congregational Life. Our goal is to provide guidance and recommendations in the pursuit of a safe and secure place to gather, worship, and work.

Whether I'm a Parish nurse or a Wellness Coordinator, my passion is still to be of support to you in your health needs – be that body, mind or spirit. Please feel free to seek me out with questions or concerns. And as always, thank you for the gift of being able to serve First Pres and God's people in this way.

Sandy Talbott



Financial Stewardship

The Finance Committee has worked diligently throughout 2017 to be good stewards of the funds provided, which support your trust and faith in all the programs, services, and efforts of our church. We are happy to report that due to the diligence of all Session Committees, our 2017 annual budget has remained either at or under budget through December and we enter 2018 with no debt which gives us the maximum flexibility going forward. For example, as we discuss below, we were able to solve the sanctuary truss problem without borrowing and putting a future burden on the church. To the contrary we raised enough money that we have resources for future maintenance of the trusses just as we have for the organ.

Thank you to the congregation for your 2017 pledges which allowed us to end on such a strong note. As we enter 2018, we would again like to thank the congregation for your continued generosity and pledges for 2018. We also want to express our gratitude to Pat and Diane Tamblyn, Annual Giving Co-Chairs, for their leadership of the 2018 Stewardship Campaign, "Letting Love Show."

Throughout 2017 the Finance Committee worked to provide regular financial information to members in an effort to increase transparency. In June, we provided a mid-year status report, and also held an informational meeting, after each of the three services on June 4th to discuss the status of the church's finances and to answer questions that members might have concerning the financial status of our church. We also provided monthly financial updates in the First Press newsletter throughout the year, and also provided additional information with the quarterly financial statements.

In late January the Session updated the congregation of the need for some immediate repairs to our church's sanctuary trusses costing \$150,000. The trusses run the length of our sanctuary and act as a framework for the church's walls and roof. We kicked off a month long urgent appeal asking everyone in the congregation who was able, to make a one-time, above and beyond gift to fund this critical need for which we have no other funds. The response from you was fantastic and within five weeks we had raised just over \$185,000. The initial work costing \$150,000 was completed in late summer. The metal rods, which were inserted on both sides of the sanctuary trusses, are clearly visible. The multi-year straightening of the trusses is now underway with the additional \$34,000 which was raised set aside to pay for the yearly work that will be needed to continue straightening the impacted trusses.

In 2017 the Resident Ministers program was successfully launched as our own. While our original goal of getting to \$5 million to fund the program has not yet been reached, a creative solution to the endowment shortfall was approved by Session in January of 2017 and this new approach was begun in August 2017 and will continue as our three resident ministry cohort—

Reverends Blair Buckley, Eric Koenig-Reinke, and Dorothy Parks-Piatt undertake a collaborative campus ministry effort. To further support this effort, we have created a part-time Campus Coordinator position. At the end of October 2017 the Resident Minister Endowment fund stood at \$4,183,390 and the residual Lilly grant monies were \$245,419. The Financial Stewardship Committee is hopeful that we will begin replenishing the unrestricted endowment monies which were used to fund the match requirement of the Resident Ministry Program at the rate of \$120K a year over the past seven years.

Expanded electronic giving was successfully launched at our church this year. Beginning September 10, we launched two new electronic giving options that use your smart phone – Give+Mobile and Give+Text. We pilot tested these two options over the summer with the Deacons, Elders, and members of the T2A2 group to make sure we had a successful launch. The Financial Stewardship Committee and the Finance Office are excited about these two new easy, fast, and safe giving options that allow our congregation to give a one-time donation as well as to set-up recurring contributions.

Finally, an independent financial review of our church's 2016 financial statement was conducted by Myler Szczyпка during 2017. The audit review began with a series of meetings with the finance staff and the church treasurer. The Committee met with the firm to review the findings at our September meeting and a final report was received in late September.

Officers for the corporation (The First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor) for 2017 were President - Lucie Audette, Vice President - Peter Santinga, Treasurer, Bill Austin, and Co-Treasurer, Bill Wood. Members of the Finance Committee were Lucie Audette, Elder Class of 2017, Chair; Peter Santinga- Elder, Class of 2017; Bill Wood, Elder Class of 2018; Tim Dickinson, Elder, Class of 2019; Pat Tamblyn, Elder Class of 2019; and co-opted members Rudi Ansbacher, Doug Gottlieb, Zach Monsma, Len Rezmierski, Bruce Thomson, Susan Washabaugh, and Ken Westfall.

Thank you to all who have served during this past year, your dedication and commitment are greatly appreciated.

To our congregation, we are humbled by your generosity and support for our church and to those beyond the church, through the giving and partnering we do—letting our love show toward individuals in need, in our local community and beyond.

Lucie Audette, Chair

Annual Giving

Our 2018 stewardship work group was made up of Pat and Diane Tamblyn as co-chairs, Bruce Clyde, Fairfax Fair, John LeDuc, Anna Miller, and Chris Queen. We were supported by several church members who gave Sunday Faith In Action stories and assisted with follow up phone calls. Our highly capable church staff provided technical and administrative assistance, including production of the stewardship materials and ongoing communications with the congregation. We are thankful to have such talented people involved in this important effort to raise operating funds for the annual church budget.

The hard facts are that membership in our denomination is in decline nationwide. First Pres clearly has an aging congregation, but is blessed that our membership numbers are stable in contrast to PCUSA trends. We are all overwhelmed by appeals from worthy organizations for our financial support, and the needs are real. These are some of the headwinds we face as we attempt to raise our goal of \$1,700,000 to support FPC's 2018 budget. This goal represents a 5.6% increase over actual pledges received for 2017, so success will truly depend on every member's participation.

Letting Love Show was the guiding principle of the 2018 Annual Giving effort at First Pres, as well as a call to action in all aspects of our lives. We chose to highlight how FPC's ministries and congregation are sharing God's love in the church, our community, and around the world. Photo devotionals showing just that were shared on the firstpresa2 Instagram account. Sunday Faith In Action stories informed us about Resident Ministry, Campus Ministry, young adults who grew up at First Pres, mission activities, and much more. Your financial support and active engagement are making wonderful things happen in each of FPC's primary areas of ministry: Christian Education, Congregational Life, Mission, and Worship. The formal stewardship appeal occurred from September 22 to October 24. Members received stewardship packets by mail in September. New member classes received the same packet and heard from a member of our work group about the importance of annual giving and intentionally engaging in the activities of the church. Letting Love Show banners appeared in the social hall and on light poles outside the building. Follow up phone calls were made in November, and a final reminder mailing went out in early December to members who had not yet pledged.

Pledges continue to arrive in the Finance Office on a daily basis, and it's not too late to add yours. Pledges of all sizes are welcome to support the thriving ministries at First Pres, and your individual gift is strictly confidential. Only Finance Office staff has access to pledge amounts so they can report total pledges and provide you with a quarterly update on your giving.

As of January 18, 510 pledges totaling \$1,620,326 have been received, which represents 95% of our goal. The average pledge amount of \$3,177 reflects an increase of \$307 over 2017

levels. Thank you to all who have responded so generously to God's invitation to Let Love Show and to support His church in Ann Arbor!

Pat and Diane Tamblyn, Co-Chairs

Endowment and Special Gifts

The Endowment & Special Gifts (E&SG) Committee included Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Rev. Daniel Ervin, Lucie Audette, Martha Kershaw, Peggy Fisher, Bill Upton and Chair Doug Gottlieb. Keith Molin has remained an active advisor to the group.

We are ending 2017 with 109 Legacy Partners. Legacy Partners are active church members that have decided to include First Presbyterian Church in their estates. These church members intend to give as they did during their active years with the church.

On April 30, 2017 we hosted a Legacy Partner Sunday. All Legacy Partners received carnations to wear and were recognized in each church service.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Legacy Partner check with the church office to receive an updated Legacy brochure, talk with a minister and/or reach out to E&SG.

Looking ahead to 2018, we intend to schedule Ron and Diana Gardner to host an estate planning seminar, date to be announced. The estate planning seminar has helped many of the current Legacy Partners guide them on how to make long lasting gifts to First Presbyterian Church.

We could use a few more church members on the E&SG Committee and we are always looking for that next Legacy Partner.

Doug Gottlieb, Chair

Technology

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

- coordinating 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)
- providing an audio file to WAAM for the radio broadcast and a file for the sermon podcasts
- keeping audio visual equipment and video monitors in working order
- ensuring staff have computers, printers and LAN access,
- contracting with service providers for our website, telephone service, software

The major activity this year was to replace our server and make some other necessary upgrades to maintain a healthy network infrastructure. We made the following upgrades:

- replaced our old server with a new Dell PowerEdge T330

- replaced three network switches that provide internet and server access to the staff
- added two additional wireless access points for better Wi-Fi coverage – one was installed on the third level and one was installed in Monteith Hall

The Technology work group is working to provide a solution for hearing assistance in Monteith Hall. We obtained a quote from Sound Planning this December (2017) and are considering the various options.

We continue to keep the computers, printers, monitors, and other equipment used by the staff in working order.



Mission

For the Mission Committee 2017 was a year of transition, challenge and promise as we endorsed, and the Session approved Mission ReImagined, the culmination of a year's work to articulate our vision, mission and core values. This document not only defines the biblical basis for our core values from which all mission activities at First Pres should be structured, it also provides valuable resources for organization and best practices to guide our important mission work. Mission ReImagined is a living document that will be revised when needed but the essence of the core values will not change:

- Partnership/Relationship
- Reconciliation
- Empowerment/Advocacy/Justice
- Service/Servanthood
- Sustainability/Self-Reliance

In the spring our global mission teams presented during an Exploring the Faith class series highlighting how our core values are reflected in our mission work.

Again, the Mission Committee promoted and discerned the use of four PC(USA) special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost (40% shared locally with Dispute Resolution Center's Sugarbush Summer Camp), Peace and Global Witness (25% shared with Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice for the Racial and Economic Justice Program) and The Christmas Joy Offering. Additionally, this year's Christmas Eve Offering was designated for SAFE House for programs aimed at breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

In 2017 First Pres began the process to revitalize and expand our campus ministry by connecting with the UKirk Ministry of PC(USA) and becoming UKirk@UM. In the summer Rev. Evans McGowan was brought on board as part-time coordinator of the program. The three Resident Ministers each devote one-third of their time to Campus Ministry, either with undergraduate and graduate students or young professionals in T2A2. In the fall, we began assembling interested individuals to serve on the Campus Ministry Work Group where they will provide support, guidance and vision.

Our country faced many challenges in 2017 not the least of which were three hurricanes that made landfall in Texas, Loui-

siana, Florida and Puerto Rico. First Pres members responded most generously by donating more than \$30,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Agency for hurricane relief. Additionally, we responded in a more tangible way by assembling 65 clean-up buckets that were sent to Houston by a truck provided by the Detroit Presbytery.

Machines are upgraded or replaced as they begin to fail or become obsolete or ineffective.

Our work group is looking for more members! If you have a special interest or a background in a technology area (sound, computers, software, video, etc.), please consider lending your time and talent to our group. We need you!

A special thank you to Rol Kibler for his continued effort to keep our sound system and microphones in good working order, and for continuing to try to perfect our sound and recording quality!

Kerry Colligan, Chair

Several of our global missions support and partner with PC(USA) mission co-workers in Nicaragua, Russia, Israel/Palestine and Niger. We were fortunate to be able not only to host but visit with two this year, Justin Sundberg and Ellen Smith. These relationships are an important way for First Presbyterian Church to be connected to and with the mission of our denomination. They also provide valuable insight to help guide our mission projects around the globe.

In December fourteen groups participated in the second annual Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar. Not only did we raise funds by selling wares and shares of our projects, we continued to raise awareness of our four global mission teams, our local mission activities, Presbyterian Women's mission work as well as Youth and Campus Ministries. It was a high energy event that was well attended and supported by the congregation.

Following the recommendations found in the recent Youth Ministry report, the Mission committee has been making steps to increase involvement of young families, teens and young adults in mission projects and activities. This multigeneration approach to mission work is critical for a thriving church. The Nicaragua Mission team trip has included teens in their last four trips. Two families participated in the CASS fall festival. Several teens and young families participated in the hurricane Harvey clean-up bucket brigade. Families regularly assist in the Feeding Our Neighbors stadium food rescue and volunteer at Alpha House.

We are grateful for the guidance, vision and leadership of our staff liaison, Rev. Jay Sanderford. We ask for your continued support as we bear witness to Jesus Christ in love, justice and reconciliation.

Carol Smith, Chair

Campus Ministries

There are lots of exciting things going on with Campus Ministry! Over Spring Break in February, nine students went on a mission trip to work at Holy Cross Anglican Church and School in Belize. Each Sunday during the semester, an average of eight students go out to lunch with college leaders after the 11 am worship service. Every Wednesday during the semester, we have a small group gathering on campus at the Michigan League filled with fun, fellowship and faithful discussion.

This year saw a transition in leadership as Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett and Peer Minister Lex Allum left and a new leadership model, approved by session following a campus task force report, was put into place to coordinate Campus Ministries. Rev. Evans McGowan, a former Resident Minister (2011-13), was hired to a new, part-time position as the Campus Ministries Coordinator. He coordinates the Campus Ministry team with the new resident ministers, Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Rev. Blair Buckley and Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke, as well as our new Youth Ministries Coordinator, Essie Koenig-Reinke.

Rev. McGowan hit the ground running in late August to establish a meeting location on campus for the ministry's weekly gathering of undergraduate students. In September, he formed a Student Leadership Team with seven returning students in order to provide direction and input on shaping the look and feel of the ministry. The team includes: Josh King, Claire Butz, Maddie Mervis, Christian Fosheim-Hoag, Emma Cozier, Katherine Hoekstra and Sheridan Cole.

One of the first actions of the team was to rebrand from First Pres College to UKirk at UMich. UKirk stands for "University Church" and is the organizing umbrella of PC(USA) campus ministries. The new look reflects a new approach to campus ministry as well as directly ties our church to the PC(USA) national network.

Our focus with college students this semester has been on meeting with students one-on-one and in small groups on campus to build trust and deepen the relationships. Rev. Buckley has coordinated several one-on-ones with new female students to the groups and led several Wednesday night gatherings. She also directed our annual Pancake Supper in December, where nearly 50 volunteers welcomed over 150 students for a late-night breakfast before finals.

Essie Koenig-Reinke has organized several coffee gatherings and offered various creative insights for outreach opportunities. Rev. Koenig-Reinke has been instrumental in doing background logistics and being present at various weekly events, leading our Wednesday gathering occasion.

Rev. Parks-Piatt works with various young adults in coordinating T2A2, a group where graduate students overlap with young professionals. Each week, members gather for an intentional small group and Bible study on Sundays, as well as visit various Ann Arbor locales for a social hang out on Wednesdays. Rev. Parks-Piatt is collaborating with Carol Smith and the Nicaragua Task Force to take several graduate students to Nicaragua in February of 2018 as part of our ongoing partnership there with CEPAD.

Under the guidance and support of Rev. Jay Sanderford and Rev. McGowan, a new Campus Ministry Work Group has formed to support the work of the leadership team. We are looking forward to seeing how these church members can support the growth of the ministry and the deepening of relationships between the church and the campus.

The Reverend Evans McGowan

Co-Worker Ministry Team

First Presbyterian stands strong in its commitment to PC(USA) Co-Workers Rev. Michael and Rachel Ludwig serving in Niger, Africa. Our financial and prayer support began in 2014 and much has been accomplished during the Ludwig's service to one of the world's poorest countries that has a literacy rate of roughly 29%.

Michael works alongside the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN). One major focus is the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) program that is instrumental in training village evangelists, developing literacy programs, improving health and employment issues.

New CHE rickshaws have been purchased in the last two years and operate in the more untapped market of Niger's second largest city, Zinder, and another up-and-coming city of Dosso. The previous six rickshaws that were purchased with funds are still operating and there were a few disbursements from the fund to evangelist families who were in need over Christmas. Our congregation has supported this program with just under \$300.00 raised in both 2016 and 2017 at the November Forward In Mission Bazaar.

The first round of CHE training saw around 30 pastors and evangelists learning and praying together for the betterment of their villages. Michael and lead pastors continue to support the evangelists through literacy programming, farming issue discussions and leadership training.

The newest community project underway is the construction of youth hosting centers. The first three hosting centers are set to be constructed in the next 3-6 months with funds from PC(USA) supporters. The hosting center will have lodging along with latrines especially designed for young women to learn about and promote better menstrual health.

The Ludwigs continue to be thankful even through their daily struggles of parenting in another culture, homeschooling, getting basic services like phones to work properly, developing their Hausa language proficiency, maintaining daily living when Michael is away, and health related issues like heat rash, stomach aches and emergency dental care.

Please keep the Ludwigs in your prayers. They give so much and ask so little!

Virginia Bell, Chair

Jeane Seeley Mission Team

The Jeane Seeley Mission Fund Committee is pleased to announce that in 2017 we awarded funds for two projects that reflect the mission values of First Presbyterian Church.

- Tiny Homes, Cass Community Social Services, Detroit-\$20,000 was awarded to assist in the construction of tiny homes which addresses the issue of affordable housing.
- Carson Smith, Young Adult Volunteer Scholarship-\$2,000 was awarded to support Carson's year as a YAV in Colombia.

In doing so, the fund has spent all but a small portion of the generous bequest made by Jeane Seeley in 2009. After being charged to develop an application process and to award the funds within 10 years of their receipt, \$325,000 has been distributed and used in ways that not only reflect our core values but honor the memory of one of First Presbyterian's faithful saints, Jeane Seeley. Her legacy is far-reaching: touching lives around the globe, Detroit and Washtenaw County while providing hope where there is little and transforming the world through God's compassion and love.

It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of this important project and to work with many faithful members as the grant process was developed and funds were awarded. Virginia Koster spearheaded the planning and execution of the process.

The committee members also include at various times Dick Riggerink, Ruth Barnard, John Kinzinger, Sue Jeffers and Tim Wendler.

A small celebration is planned in 2018 where we hope to tell the stories of those whose lives were touched by grants from the Jeane Seeley Mission Fund.

Carol Smith, Chair

Local Mission Team

In 2017, First Pres. continued to serve our neighbors in Washtenaw County and Detroit. We partnered with community businesses and agencies, providing volunteers, financial support, or both.

Our VOLUNTEERS and STAFF WELCOME into our church:

- Rotating Shelter for homeless men with Delonis Center for two weeks in January
- weekly English as a Second Language classes
- Pancake supper for college students during final exams in December.

Our volunteers GO OUT and meet vulnerable people where they are by:

- Partnering with low-income families to build the skills and resources needed to rise out of poverty through the Circles program/ Friends-in Deed.
- Cooking and Serving Dinner, and providing Greeting Cards at the Delonis Center through Food Gatherer's Community Kitchen program.

- Providing supplies, meals and childcare at IHN at Alpha House Family Shelter.
- Assisting shoppers at the Hope Clinic Food Pantry
- Providing transportation, job training and other support to refugees through Washtenaw Refugee Welcome
- Delivering presents and gift cards through our Family-to-Family Christmas program in partnership with DHS and Mott Children's Hospital.
- Tutoring high risk children after school at the Family Learning Institute.
- Remodeling a house with first time home owners through Habitat for Humanity
- Gardening, painting and other projects at Cass Community Social Services in Detroit.
- Distributing food from UM athletic department to meal programs in Ypsilanti and Detroit through our own Feeding Our Neighbors Food Rescue program.

Finally, we distributed over \$75,000 to 23 community agencies through our LOCAL MISSION GRANT process. We prioritized programs that address Homelessness, Hunger and Mental Health, with additional focus on Emergency Assistance, Advocacy and Social Justice, Employment and Education Skill Building, and School-Age-Youth,

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, expertise and money to support Local Mission at First. Pres. - we are living God's call to love our neighbors!

Martha Kershaw, Chair

Haiti Medical Mission Team

After many conversations and prayerful discernment, the Haiti Mission Team has decided to conclude its work and cease to function as a mission team. An appreciative history of the Haiti Medical Mission Team for their impact in Haiti and in First Pres is planned for 2018. Because the Haiti Nursing School's vision and history is deeply rooted in First Pres, the Mission Committee has committed to providing two scholarships to FSIL in 2018. We are thankful to all those people who have faithfully supported our life-changing ministry in Haiti.

Carol Smith, Chair & Rev. Jay Sanderford

Israel/Palestine Mission Team

The Israel/Palestine Mission Team is an advocacy and social justice group that is committed to peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. A summary of some of the notable events and activities in 2017 follows.

We held regular meetings of the mission team in the French Room on the following dates: Jan 23, Feb 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 23, and Nov 27. In addition to handling business of the mission team, a part of each meeting was devoted to learning more about our several peace partners in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Our mission team hosted the newly appointed Executive Director of the Mar Elias Schools, Abuna Aghabios Yamin Arif, and the high school principal, Mr. Elias Abu Ghanima, for a presentation to our congregation at noon on April 2. After a light lunch provided by our mission team, more than 50 members of our congregation learned about the transition and new initiatives that are occurring at the Mar Elias Schools, as a consequence of the retirement of Father Elias Chacour. Our visitors were introduced and accompanied by Joan Deming, Executive Director of the Pilgrims of Ibillin. In addition to the public presentation, our mission team had informal discussions with Abuna Arif and Elias AG at a dinner on the preceding evening hosted by Nicole and Olivier Jolliet and at a breakfast on April 2 honoring our guests, before moving to the 11:00 am worship service together.

Our mission team hosted Chris Roseland, the Mission Engagement Adviser of the Presbyterian Mission Agency on May 6 for a discussion about the future of the PCUSA mission co-worker in Israel/Palestine. (Doug Dicks was subsequently appointed to the position). Chris gave a presentation to the Adult Education class on May 7.

Pat Liljestrand and Silvia Pedraza went on a mission trip to Israel and Palestine on May 15-27; and Jerry Gray went on a mission trip to Israel and Palestine on October 16-29. They were part of the "Living Stones" tours, arranged by the Pilgrims of Ibillin and led by Rev. Joan Deming. We are grateful that they had first hand experiences with our peace partners in the West Bank and in Israel.

The IPMT gave a presentation on our mission team to the Adult Education program on June 4. The presentation emphasized our partnerships with educational and peace-making groups in Israel and Palestine.

A social event was held at the home of Silvia Pedraza on June 8 to honor the contributions that Rev. Daniel Ervin made to our mission team during his two year appointment as a Resident Minister.

Don and Gale Redding led an initiative to expand support for the Hand in Hand Schools, by establishing a community-wide organization, to include representatives from local Christian and Jewish faith organizations. This organization, identified as the Michigan Friends of the Hand in Hand Schools, had several meetings throughout the year. They developed a mission statement. Preliminary plans are to host a visit of members of the Hand in Hand Schools community in April of 2018, thereby increasing the visibility of the Hand in Hand Schools in our local community.

Our mission team helped to support a refugee family, through the Washtenaw Refugees Welcome organization. We contributed household items and guidance about local services to help in the family's transition into our community.

Jim Thomson continued his service on the Board of Directors of the Pilgrims of Ibillin. At the September Board meeting, Jim became the treasurer of the Board and Mary Lynn Thomson joined the Board. They have been invaluable in interpreting the peace, justice, and reconciliation missions

of the Pilgrims of Ibillin to our congregation. Joan Deming left her position as Executive Director of the Pilgrims of Ibillin at the end of the year. The new Executive Director is Laurie Lyter Bright; we look forward to meeting her and working with her.

Sue Chandler and Jean White attended the meeting of the Israel Palestine Mission Network in Chicago on October 26-28. They made important contacts and represented our mission team in this PCUSA advocacy organization. They shared their experiences with the mission team.

The annual cinnamon roll fund raiser was again held. On Saturday, November 4, twenty of us, under the leadership of Barb McKinley, produced, baked, and packaged 140 pans of cinnamon rolls. These were distributed on Sunday, November 5. Proceeds go to support our mission work.

Several of our members attended a fund-raising dinner on November 8, sponsored by Zeitouna, a group of Jewish and Arab women in Ann Arbor. The fund raiser was to support the Ann Arbor Women's Center.

Our mission team participated in the "Forward in Mission" event that was held on December 3. We engaged many members of our congregation in conversation about our mission. We sold olive oil soap from the West Bank community of Zababdeh, olive wood products carved by Palestinians, other craft items, and donation certificates to support the Pilgrims of Ibillin and the Hand in Hand Schools.

Our mission team has begun to establish a close connection with the University of Michigan Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS). This is a UM academic unit with a new director, Professor Samer Ali, who is supportive of developing community relationships. Many of us attended lectures and movies that CMENAS sponsored during the Fall term. In addition, we held a meeting with their leadership team on November 29 to discuss ways in which CMENAS and our mission team might cooperate in the future. We are excited about this new initiative.

The annual IPMT "Christmas in Bethlehem" potluck dinner was held on December 11 at the home of Marcey Terrien. We celebrated the activities of the Israel Palestine Mission Team during 2017.

At our August meeting, Lois Kamoi described the arrest of her immigrant son-in-law, Kam Taymour, who grew up in Iraq. In spite of his legal immigration status, he was held in prison in Ohio until his immigration court date on November 27. Lois gave our mission team regular updates on Kam's status. We are delighted that the Court's decision was to drop the charges, so that Kam was released and returned to his family in Ann Arbor.

IPMT made donations to our several peace partners in June and in December. \$11,000 was sent to the Pilgrims of Ibillin for the following purposes: to provide scholarships and to fund science lab equipment and computers for the elementary and secondary schools at the Mar Elias Schools; to fund students at the Beit Jala secondary school; for program support for the Wi'am Center for Conflict Resolution in Bethlehem; for support for a girls soccer program at the Diyar Consortium in Bethlehem; for clean water programs for schools in Gaza; for

scholarships for the Friends School in Ramallah; for support for the Open House Pre-School for Arab Children in Ramle; for support for books and computers for the Seraj Libraries in the West Bank; and for job creation and scholarships in the West Bank village of Zababdeh. In addition, \$1450 was sent to the Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel for student scholarships. \$750 was sent to support the advocacy of the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the PCUSA, and \$800 was sent to support the PCUSA mission co-worker, Doug Dicks, in Israel Palestine. In summary, \$14,000 was sent to our peace partners; our 2017 budget (not including designated donations to IPMT) was \$10,000.

During the summer of 2017, a proposal requesting one-time support of \$3000 was submitted to the Mission Committee. This request was made to demonstrate our commitment to the Michigan Friends of Hand in Hand Schools initiative. The proposal was funded, so that we were able to send \$3000 to provide scholarships for a Jewish student and for a Palestinian student at the Hand in Hand Schools

We give thanks for the guidance and support of Rev. Jay Sanderford, and we are delighted that Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt was able to meet with us in the Fall. 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 keeping with the notion that all things are better when many generations are included, the Nicaragua Mission Team made its fourth intergenerational trip in April of 2017. Fourteen participants including 5 teens from First Pres were joined by Justin Sundberg (PCUSA mission co-worker) and three of his children as we returned to the tiny community of Quebrada Honda. We were greeted by old friends and introduced to new ones. We were delighted to see the completed classroom that we started last year and working side-by-side with the community we painted the building, constructed much needed book cases, learned how to make compost and terracing to assist soil retention and spent time touring small farmsteads. We learned how to make cheese and tortillas. We laughed, sang and danced together. We talked and listened. We were delighted to have Angela Ryo and Melissa Anne Rogers accompany us and to lead us in daily devotions and reflections, an important part of any trip.

In August, the Sundberg family completed their time in Nicaragua and returned to the US. In early October, Justin came to Michigan to visit several churches who are involved with CEPAD in Nicaragua. Justin spent a few days visiting with our team and taught an adult ed class entitled "Doing Good, Together." It was thought provoking and challenged us to think about mission relationships versus 'sending money and letting the professionals take it from there.'

In October we began planning for our next trip. Due to the timing of spring break for Washtenaw County schools, we

opted to plan our trip during the UM spring break, February 24 to March 4, 2018. We are excited to have four grad and undergrad students accompany us back to Quebrada Honda where we plan to do electrical wiring of the school. The community has been asking us for two years to help them with this project and we have accepted the challenge!

We participated in the Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar, selling Nicaraguan jewelry and shares of our wiring project. We shared the story of our history in Nicaragua. PCUSA continues to support the work done by CEPAD in Nicaragua and will name a new mission co-worker in the next few months.

Carol Smith, Chair

Philippines Mission Team

In 2017 the Philippines Mission Team (PMT) continued working with our partners, primarily in Dumaguete, on three areas of focus in our mission activity: Education, Health and Wellness, and Livelihood projects. In our focus on education, we continued to provide scholarships to students, to ship books to schools, and to provide a summer leadership camp for teens. In our focus on health and wellness, we continued to support the operation of a dental clinic we built several years ago, to provide daily protein enriched breakfasts to residents of the Talay Psychiatric Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, and to provide hygiene products, athletic supplies, and reading materials for inmates at the Provincial Jail. In our Livelihood focus we have continued to ship materials to those involved in our two sewing projects, helped provide livelihood to a dozen women and their families who prepare and serve the daily breakfasts at Talay, and have helped with various job skills training projects at the Provincial Jail. Our newest project is the development of a bakery adjacent to the jail where inmates will be able to develop all the various skills necessary for baking bread and operating a business.

To help support our mission projects, which have an annual operating cost of nearly \$17,000, the PMT held a very successful Philippines Pig Roast Dinner in November, and participated in the Moving Mission Forward Bazaar in December.

2017 was a non-travel year for the PMT, but we anticipate traveling with a mission group again in the fall of 2018 or winter of 2019. We also anticipate being able to host in Ann Arbor, in the not too distant future, a representative from one of our mission partners in Dumaguete.

The PMT wants to express its great gratitude to Rev. Jay Sanderford for his valuable assistance in 2017. We also thank all of our supports, volunteers, and donors without whose support we could not maintain our mission. All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, and to join our team as a member, activity volunteer, or supporter.

Bob Wallin, Chair

Russia Mission Team

The Russia Mission Team continues its connection with the Russian Orthodox parish in Davydovo, Russia, and its summer camp. Due to last-minute difficulties in scheduling, there was no team visit to Davydovo in 2017, but there were personal visits that helped to nurture our relationships there. Fr. Vladimir Klimzo visited First Pres briefly when he came in February to visit his daughter, Anastasia, and his granddaughter, Maria, both in Ann Arbor for the year.

In May, at First Pres, Anastasia made presentations at an informal evening of desserts and for Adult Ed. Linda Speck visited Davydovo in early September and was privileged to witness the first day of school in the building that First Pres's Christmas Eve offering in 2012 had helped to rehabilitate.

We are able to send funds this year for two particular areas in which we have learned of needs: the lower elementary school (grades 1-4) and the residency program, in which families seeking permanent housing and care for their young adults with disabilities can live in the parish community for a year to see whether it is a good fit.

Locally, we continue our friendship with St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. First Pres's Sanctus Ringers were invited to play at their Nativity Ball last January, and we shared an evening of Russian desserts, a presentation about Davydovo, and musical entertainment in May. The entertainment ranged from a classical string ensemble and American barbershop quartet music to Russian songs and folk dances led by Anastasia Klimzo.

Mission Co-Worker Ellen Smith visited First Pres for a weekend in October. At a Friday evening dinner, we heard presentations on Russian history, faith, and culture from Ellen and from Dr. Laura Kline of the Slavic Program at Wayne State University. At a Sunday Mission Forum, we shared lunch and heard Ellen speak about bridges as an image for our connections in Russia. She reminded us that Jesus Christ is the bridge. We hope to be conscious of that reminder as we continue to relate to our partners in Davydovo and plan for a team to visit there in the near future.

Linda Speck, Chair



Personnel

The Personnel Committee has continued to monitor how well we are implementing our pastoral and staff resources in order to best serve the congregation's diverse needs and the overall mission of First Pres during 2017. We also strive to look forward in our deployment of personnel resources.

The following current or former elders made up the Personnel Committee for the year: Jim Cameron, Dallas Dort, Chris Dahl, Linda Dabrowski and Chair, Prue Heikkinen. The Reverend Dr. Fair provides executive guidance.

Overview:

Our pastoral, program and administrative staffs have all proven themselves to be hard-working and creative throughout the year.

Personnel Committee Highlights of 2017:

We are taking forward steps with regard to staffing in order to implement the recommendations of both the Youth & Family Ministry Study Group and also those of the Campus Ministry Study Group. Our youth ministries have been identified by FPC's Session as critical to our future. Consequently, we have already focused on revitalization in that area.

With constructive hiring and placement of youth and campus ministry personnel in 2017, we have already seen the following increases in youth participation and programming under the leadership of Essie Koenig-Reinke, Rev. Evans McGowan, and pastoral leadership by Rev. Jay Sanderford:

- Attendance at Mids and Keys events is growing and spirits are high

- Our spring Confirmation class has 19 members
- Campus Ministry now has a leadership team of seven, with weekly participation of approximately 30 university level students via regular Sunday attendance, and Wednesday evening gatherings
- 150 students enjoyed the December 2017 pancake supper. Under the leadership of Tom Granum and Doris Granum:
 - The Youth Choir has more than doubled to 20 singers
 - The Children's Choir has grown to over 35 participating singers on a typical Sunday

We have conducted methodical performance appraisals of pastoral, administrative and program staff.

Through the Resident Ministry Workgroup, we have sought out, interviewed, selected and welcomed our current cohort of three Resident Ministers who joined in August of 2017.

We launched our class of 2017 cohort of three Resident Ministers into their new careers as fully-fledged ministers.

We have created and documented comprehensive position descriptions for staff positions at First Pres.

We've provided the opportunity and experience for First Pres youth to work over the summer as Youth Interns.

Monitored upgrades and improvements to our church membership and accounting software to a more mature and stable level.

We experienced transitions in the administrative and program areas. Departures included a Finance Assistant, Director

of Youth Ministries, plus the Associate Director of Music and Organist. Additions were the expansion of hours in order to provide a Sunday morning Office Assistant, the addition of an Interim Campus Ministries Coordinator and Interim Youth Ministries Coordinator.

Prue Heikkinen, Chair

Resident Ministry Work Group

In 2017, the Residency Work Group (RWG) continued to support our residents and worked to strengthen our Resident Ministry Program. Over the summer, we bade farewell to our 2015-17 residents. All three have accepted exciting and varied calls: Emily Béghin, as Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA; Angela Ryo, as Assistant Pastor for Christian Formation at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, MI; and Daniel Ervin, as Pastor of the Lovejoy Presbyterian Church, Wood River, IL, a “new” but strong church that is the result of the merger of two historic congregations near St. Louis, MO. Their departure is a reminder of the many ways they served our congregation and an indicator of the importance of our unique educational ministry in raising up skilled and talented pastors for the church as a whole.

On August 15, we welcomed our ninth cohort. The search for the current class drew applicants from ten theological seminaries across the country. Our new residents, Blair Buckley (Louisville Seminary), Eric Koenig-Reinke (Union Presbyterian Seminary), and Dorothy Parks-Piatt (Vanderbilt Divinity School) bring multiple gifts to their ministries in our church. All were successfully ordained in the summer and fall; and they are off to a fast start, learning the intricacies in an enhanced orientation program and already making a significant

impact in adult education and pastoral care, as well as regular preaching and worship leadership.

The residency is different this time around because it includes responsibility for an innovative collaborative ministry for college students and young adults—a major priority for our church as we look to the future. Each resident spends about one-third of her or his time on campus ministry. Blair and Eric are focused primarily on our newly configured undergraduate program (UKirk@UMich), and Dorothy works more directly with graduate students and the T2A2 group. One of our former residents, the Rev. Evans McGowan serves as coordinator for these ministries—a pleasant “return” on our previous investment in the residency. Thanks to these initiatives, First Pres now devotes more of its resources to ministry to the university community than we have for many years, and the fruits of our labors are beginning to appear.

The residency is a unique teaching ministry of our congregation. In the past year, with the advice and leadership of Rev. Jay Sanderford, the RWG has worked to enhance the effectiveness of the program through careful adjustments to the search and recruitment process, refinements in the regular assessments of residents, a new module on teaching as vocation (featuring First Pres educators at all levels, from graduate level to elementary), a new unit on hospice and palliative care, and additional mentoring and support for outgoing residents as they seek second calls. We are grateful for the congregation’s support for this ministry and pleased to note the many and varied ways that both the eighth and ninth groups of residents have enriched our lives and the life of this church.

Chris Dahl, Chair



Property

As a congregation we are blessed to have the use of a beautiful building and grounds. We are also challenged to meeting the ongoing needs of an 80 year old building. With strong support from both the congregation and session, we were able to continue meeting that challenge in 2017.

The big project of 2017 was addressing the problem of our misaligned trusses in the nave. The need was recognized in 2016 and the engineering and design work was done in that year. In late January of 2017 an urgent appeal was made to the congregation for the approximately \$150,000 needed to complete that project. As a Congregation we responded in the best manner possible and raised a sum somewhat above that amount. Actual work commenced in June and was completed on schedule and within budget with a minimum of disruption. We have begun the process of gradually pulling the trusses

back to as close to their original positions as possible. That process of gradual movement will continue over the next couple of years. While the work done was structural in nature, it does little to detract from the attractiveness of our worship space. This was an important accomplishment.

While the trusses project was the most significant project completed during the year, it was by no means the only one. We replaced 49 smoke detectors and connected the fire suppression system in the kitchen hood to both the building alarm system and the Ann Arbor Fire Department. A number of gutters and downspouts were either repaired or replaced. We also began a long-term project of improving the drainage around our building. In many places around the building, water drains toward the building instead of away. This will, in time, erode the limestone facing on the building. In the fall we

regraded and installed a new drain system on the northwest side of the sanctuary installing new drain pipes and three catch basins. This should address problems of periodic flooding in both the Social Hall and boiler room.

We also replaced the parking lot light pole near the sidewalk at the Washtenaw exit. In many places both inside the building and in the parking lot we've replaced CFL, HID or halogen bulbs with LED bulbs. This will save considerable energy and reduce our electrical bill as well. We also had to replace 60 feet of hot water pipes in the lower level heating tunnels as well as the main hot water heater. In addition to these projects there were many smaller accomplishments as well. It was a busy year, and all of this was accomplished within our established budget.

While buildings the age of ours have a nasty habit of throwing unexpected surprises, we are developing a list of

projects we hope to accomplish in 2018. Those include: continuing to work on our drainage issue, regrading and installing a new drain for the southeast side of the nave, replacing or straightening light posts in the parking lot, repairing sidewalks and repainting parking lot lines. We will also be working on a number of projects to improve the safety and security of the staff and congregation.

It takes a lot of people to care for and run a building the size of ours. Special thanks go to our Facilities Manager Adrian Prundeanu and Maintenance Specialist Almer Harris as well as the many volunteers who help with our special needs.

Richard L. Platte, Jr., Chair



Worship

In 2017, the following people served on the Worship Committee – Kate Drinkwater, Sheryl Powell, Tom Brandt, Nancy Crawford, Jeanette Swartz and Tom Granum (staff liaison, Director of Music Ministries)

The committee continued to focus their efforts on coordinating the set up and serving of communion each month, organized volunteers with setting up for summer outdoor worship, brought many people of various ages together to help decorate the church for Advent and assisted with any other special worship needs that arose throughout the year.

The Worship Committee meets the third Monday of each month and we would love for anyone who is interested to join us to please contact Tom Brandt at twbrandt@gmail.com with any questions.

Nancy Crawford, Chair

Ministry Through Music 2017

We had over 250 active participants in our congregation's music ministry this year: Chancel Choir and other adult singers (120), Youth Choir (25), Children's Choir (35), Recorder Ensemble (6), Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir (20), Orchestra (40), and youth instrumentalists (25). Chancel Choir has over 90 members singing at least several times in a given month. Not only is this a net gain in participation, many of these musicians have been more active this year than in past years. 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.

This participation represents a huge commitment and investment of time from our volunteers. November, a somewhat average-participation month, yielded over 1700 hours of volunteer service from our music ministries.

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.

Some of the highlights of 2017 for worship and music included:

- presentation of composer Dale Woods' *A Service of Darkness* on Good Friday with guest conductor Dr. Jerry Blackstone.
- special choral and instrumental music presented by the youth and children on Palm Sunday and World Communion Sunday;
- outstanding choral and instrumental music for Easter;
- outside summer worship;
- our hosting the Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary from Korea;
- presentation of the *Requiem* by John Rutter for All Saints' Sunday by the Chancel Choir, Treble Ensemble (youth), and chamber orchestra;
- a hymn festival played and led by Michael Burkhardt for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation;
- "Light Dawns on a Weary World," a festival of carols and hymns for Christmas presented by the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and orchestra.

We experienced a major transition in the fall with the retirement of long-time Organist and Handbell Director Carol Muehlig. The congregation and the participants in our music ministries wish her the very best and thank her for her years of service.

Our congregation continues to be recognized as a wonderful asset to the community, including our hosting several

concerts and events: the Aeolian Chorale; the organ improvisation competition held in conjunction with the UM Conference on Organ Music; the Schoenstein competition for organ accompaniment; Vocal Arts Ensemble; Viva Voce (community youth choir); Christmas concert with the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; Ann Arbor Women's Chamber Chorus; and A Boychoir Christmas with the Boy-

choir of Ann Arbor.

We look forward to the continued growth and enrichment of our music ministries in 2018.

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

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

Other Reports



Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons for 2017 included 54 members of the congregation dedicated to serving their fellow members with prayerful, loving support by means of a variety of individual and group efforts, mindfully guided by the leadership of the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers and Sandy Talbott.

Eighteen new deacons were welcomed to the Board of Deacons in 2017.

The deacon co-moderators for the year were Jill Binkley, Doug Gottlieb, and Jane Myers.

The 54 deacons, every day, reached out to their chapel members in a variety of compassionate ways, extending, with their pastoral care and prayerful presence, the spiritual life of First Presbyterian Church and the powerful sense of community created by their shared Christian faith. Deacons reached out every day by paying visits and making phone calls to elderly members, to those infirm or unable to leave their houses, those of all ages recovering from illness or surgery, and those grieving the loss of a family member or friend.

Deacons delivered the sanctuary flowers after the services every Sunday to those members identified as most likely to benefit from a visit and to be reminded of the congregation's concern for them. At other times of year the deacons delivered Easter lilies, spring daffodils, fall chrysanthemums, and Christmas poinsettias. Each Sunday's flowers were delivered to four different individuals or families, for a yearly total of about 200 visits; each of the other four flower-distribution occasions involved 100-150 visits each.

The deacons continued to enrich the spiritual lives of the many members of First Pres who live at the Glacier Hills Senior Living Community in Ann Arbor. Four deacons and a resident minister stayed in touch with the more than 40 Presbyterians living at Glacier Hills. Flower deliveries and cookie deliveries were frequent and much appreciated. In the fall the deacons hosted a reception to allow members there to meet the new resident ministers. The deacons also hosted Lenten and Advent services at Glacier Hills, with the entire staff of First Presbyterian and many volunteers helping to make the events big successes. More than 90 individuals attended the

Advent service, many of them residents who were not members of First Pres, but who greatly appreciated the opportunity to take part in the pre-Christmas event.

Three all-church blood drives on Thursdays in March, July and October, spearheaded by Barb Brewster and Susan Sweet Scott, resulted in the drawing of 97 units of blood this year, with about half the donations coming from members of the church. Church staff offered important assistance in making everything go smoothly for the volunteers and Red Cross workers. Betty Halliday, Paula Doering, and John Yodhes continued their longtime, invaluable volunteer efforts. The much-loved homemade cookies were, as usual, a treat much loved by the blood donors, and were baked by Betty and Paula, Val Yodhes, Barb Ladewski, Carol Downton and Lisa Shultz. Next year's blood draws, in coordination with the Red Cross, will be held at the church on March 22, July 12 and October 18, with Paula Doering and Lisa Shultz coordinating. Deacons participated in four new-member breakfasts held at 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings throughout the year, bringing food to share and welcoming the newest members of the church family.

Each quad (A, B, C, D) hosted an annual Sunday brunch in the Social Hall, each of the mid-day family events well attended by their respective chapel members with a variety of potluck entrees, salads and desserts provided by those participating.

The deacons' annual picnic in August was an opportunity to be grateful for the warm summer days of the great state of Michigan, for the generous spirits of Peggy and Carter Hodgson as hosts at their home on Ciderberry Drive in Brighton, and for the camaraderie of deacons and their families who greatly enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate together.

At year-end, the deacons planned to welcomed the elders to a gathering with treats and singing to thank them for their leadership and service over the year, but a heavy snowstorm led to the postponement of the event.

The deacons wish to acknowledge the dedication and hard work contributed by Jennifer Hoy in her planning and hosting

of four early-morning breakfasts throughout the year held to honor outgoing deacons and thank them for their three years of ministry and service.

For all of their service, the deacons relied on the skilled and conscientious assistance of the administrative staff, including Robin Agnew, Lisa Haddrill, Cindy King, Mary Jones and Linda Robinson. Each of these members of the staff played an essential and much appreciated role in forwarding, in an organized and informed way, the daily, ongoing work of the deacons.

The deacons also wish to gratefully acknowledge the professional work of Dick and Sue Rigterink, whose photographic and display expertise continue to ensure that each new deacon has his or her service documented with a photographic portrait that is displayed in the Welcome Center during the three years of each deacon's tenure.

Jill Binkley and Jane Meyers, Co-Moderators



Congregational Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee worked with dedication, commitment and prayerful discernment to identify a slate of officers that reflects the diversity of the congregation with the skills and experience to lead the congregation. The following Church Officers and members of the 2017 Congregational Nominating Committee were elected at the Congregational Meeting on September 17, 2017.

Elders for the class of 2020 serving a three-year term are Dick Carlisle, Diane Hockett, Linda Koopmann, Bill McPherson, Karen Mundus, Brian Schneidewind, Bill Upton, and Sharon Watling.

Deacons on the Board of Deacons for the class of 2020 serving a three-year term are Pam Ehrhart, Mary Engelhardt, Robin Fosheim-Hoag, Nancy Fox, Doug Gottlieb, Alice

Holderby, Susan Morville, Nancy Oliver, Julie Rupp, Lisa Shultz, Mary Smith, Jeanette Swartz, Sara Vander Voort, Brian Williams, Heidi Williams, and Pam Wood.

The 2018 Congregational Nominating Committee members are Meg Brown, Barb DeLancey, Jim Schaafsma, Sue Scott, and Chris Wahl.

With appreciation and acknowledgement for their commitment to this important responsibility, the members of the 2017 Congregational Nominating Committee were Tom Brandt, Catalina Esguerra, Lynne Lande, Bill Parker, Peter Santinga, Susan Sweet Scott, Barry Swartz, and Cynthia VanRenterghem.

Tom Brandt, Chair



Presbyterian Women (PW)

All women of the church are considered a part of Presbyterian Women but it takes a very loyal and hard working group to maintain and grow the organization. The Coordinating Team of PW does just that and much more. It gives me great pleasure to work with an outstanding team of women who love our church, PW and what PW stands for.

Secretary	Marolin Bellefleur, Lynne Gulick
Treasurer	Bonnie Hughes
Mission	Alice Gaujanian, Angie Miller, Joyce Himebaugh
Justice & Peace:	Jean White, Marian West
Studies:	Jane Myers, Meg Brown
Program:	Martha Krehbiel, Elsa Stuber
Membership:	Diane Johnston
Hospitality:	Eleonora Charlson, Rohn Federbush
Publicity:	Jane Myers, Carole Hendrickson, Katie Beery
Scholarship:	Joan Bentz, Sue Leong

Honorary Membership: Ruth Barnard, Marolin Bellefleur, Joanne Freethy

Nominations: Katie Beery, Jill Binkley, Carole Hendrickson, Diane Johnston

Scholarship: Joan Bentz, Sue Leong

Receptions: Jeannette Middleton, Judy Landau, Jennie Stahl, Marolin Bellefleur

Volunteers: Nelly Petrock

Cookie Bakers: Katie Beery

Session Liaison: Jeannette Middleton

Co-Mission Prayer Partner: Carole Hendrickson

Cluster 1 Partner: Marian West

Not only does this group plan and lead our monthly Bible Study and Program meetings (Third Wednesday of the month 9:30 a.m. – Noon) and lunch (Noon – 1:00 p.m.) they continue to reach out and support many organizations (PWPD, Haiti FSIL, PC(USA)Disaster Relief, Second Mile Center (Detroit), PC(USA) Co-Workers, Friends In Deed).

Special Events in 2017 included hosting PW of Presbytery of Detroit, Prepare to be Amazed Campaign, food collections for local missions, a Skype call to Rev. Elmarie Parker, PC(USA) Regional Liaison in Lebanon on her work there, and a visit and luncheon with PC(USA)Co-Workers Jeff and Christi Boyd from Central Africa. It was also a great pleasure to give PW Honorary Memberships to Bill Austin and Mary Jones.

Without the support and generosity of the women and men of First Pres we could not continue to meet our mission goals of almost \$9,000 and our seminary scholarship program. Thank you to all who financially give to PW through our February mission support campaign and the financial support we receive through the selling of shares for seminary scholarships at the Forward In Mission Bazaar.

Virginia Bell, Moderator



New Members

We give thanks to God for those members who joined First Presbyterian Church in 2017.

** Denotes Confirmands*

Dave Andrea	Callie Feyen	Jason Lindauer	Luke Rogers*
Katie Andrea	Jesse Feyen	Aidan Majorprice*	Lauren Sansbury*
Lizzie Andrea	Heidi Ford	Katie Maugh*	Julie Santinga
Aaron Andren	Tom Ford	Jack Mikhail*	Thor Santinga
Katie Andren	Isabelle German*	Heath Monsma*	Tara Shantz
David Burns	Katie German*	Karen Moorhead	Calvin Shaw*
John Byrn	Marilyn Goodman	Tom Murdock	Cassee Stem
Dan Christensen	Jim Hall	Denise Murray	Bill Taylor
Dave Christensen	Kyle Hall	Alice Owings	Carol Teucke
Leslie Christensen	Linda Hammond	Linda Pace	Jeff Teucke
Stephen Cowen	Rick Hammond	Andrew Paine	Heidi Van Wieren
Jennifer Cowen	Shannon Hoy*	Lindsley Paine	Elisabeth VanVliet
Jennifer Day	Margaret Johnston	Lynn Parker	Katrine Weismantle
Michelle Deatrick	Jay Kim	Jess Parks-Piatt	Nan Welch
Mark DeLano	Matthew Kozma*	Frederick Peebles	Felicity Williams
Russ Endicott*	Mary Layher	Tina Peebles	Craig Williamson
Don Faber	Tom Layher	Kirk Profit	Arden Wykes
Jeannette Faber	Amy Lindauer	Pat Pudduck	



In Memoriam

We grieve the loss of those who died in 2017.

January 11	Mike Neighbors	September 20	Jack Austin, Sr.
February 11	Roy Oliva	September 29	Esther Howell
February 23	David Krehbiel	October 7	Ginny Owings
February 26	Dan Benedict	October 15	George De Muth
March 29	Bill Stegath	October 23	John Gannon
May 4	Burton Perry	October 29	Jean Smith
May 6	Margaret Ingram	November 16	Vera Strongman
May 12	Hal Rex	December 13	Beth Johnson
May 27	Don Faber	December 18	Jim Wheaton
June 19	Peter Kaufman	December 24	Virginia Bachtal
July 10	Rudy Klose	December 24	Charles Donahey
August 5	Leon Ostrander	December 28	Betty Spaid
August 25	Rick Hammond	December 29	Dick Spaid
September 13	Sinclair Powell		



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
Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries
Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries
Reverend Blair Buckley, Resident Minister
Reverend Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister
Reverend Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Resident Minister
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator
Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator
Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse

Administrative Staff:

Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/Children's Education Assistant
Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
Megan Roemer, Finance Assistant
Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant



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