



ANNUAL REPORT — 2015 —

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
512 Seventh Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201
Telephone (812) 372-3783; FAX (812) 372-9533
www.fpccolumbus.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

STAFF

PastorThe Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez
Choir Director/Organist.....Dianne Sprunger
Director of Children and Youth Ministries.....Marietta Macy
Preschool Director.....Barb Newton
Church Secretary.....Tisha Terry

First Presbyterian Church

512 Seventh Street

Columbus, Indiana 47201-6293

Phone: (812) 372-3783

Fax: (812) 372-9533

Email: office@fpccolumbus.org

Website: www.fpccolumbus.org

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

GENERAL STATISTICS

Membership

Information provided in this Annual Report covers January - December 2015

Active Members as of 12/31/15	419
New Members	11
<i>(Zoe Angle, Jerry Blair, Kim Bluitt, John Connor, Kerry Norris, Sherri Norris, Jodi Roberts, Amanda Roggow, Phillip Roggow, Kay Stablein, Lee Hamlin)</i>	
Deceased Members	5
<i>(Jim Lucas, Marge LaBrec, Barbara Hoover, Maurice Battin, Ken Houser)</i>	
Baptisms	
Children/Adults	0

OUR STAFF

Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez

There are still many (many!) unpacked boxes in my office. It has been just over a month since I came to First Presbyterian Church. With the activity of Christmas, planning for worship services, and getting up to speed with committees, I have not been able to unpack all my boxes. I am, however, slowly unpacking what it is that makes this congregation shine brightly, and I'm enjoying the process of discovery. I can feel your commitment to each other, your drive for social justice, your compassion for those in need, and your spiritual journey in worship. There was great energy and leadership for the Christmas pageant and Christmas Eve services, which were my entry point to our worshipping community. I am also unpacking expectations you have of your pastor. I look forward to connecting my vision of ministry with yours so we can join in God's mission work together.

One of the initial challenges I did encounter was a transition in our staff, as our financial secretary Tammy Pace stepped down after serving the church for over eight years. Members and staff attended an open house to express our appreciation for her contribution to the ministry. Work is underway to review this position and find the right candidate to come on board.

I want to thank Rev. Scott Hill, who served as Interim Pastor for nearly three years. He was a blessing to the life and ministry of this congregation. I also want to thank all the staff for their flexibility, as well as committee members and committee chairs for their support in the brief time I have been here. I look forward to the work we will engage in as we live into the church's Vision / Mission / Core Values document and our Long Range Plan.

For now, the unpacking continues...

Shalom,

Felipe

OUR STAFF

Dianne Sprunger, Choir Director/Organist

In line with the forward planning that is on-going at First Presbyterian Church, the Music Director position was re-configured into a Choir Director/Organist position. I started in that new role on January 1, 2015. Lisa Porter continued her volunteer role with Children's Worship Arts and TeenImpact@Worship which enabled the congregation to experience continuity and seamlessness in our Sunday morning worship.

Children's Worship Arts, TeenImpact@Worship, Livin' by Faith Band , and the Adult Choir continued their artistic roles in worship. Some of the noteworthy Sundays include the Easter services, Youth Sunday, the Creation Sundays (one by the children and a second one using the children's art and the Adult Choir), the church picnic at Donner Park, the December 20th and Christmas Eve services which involved many visual and musical artists, singers and instrumentalists from the congregation. The Hymn Sing Sunday and World Communion Sunday allowed us to explore the rich music in our hymnal. The adults, youth, and children who offer their musical talents in worship have been gifts of vulnerability, openness, richness in community and joy.

We continue to expand our music involvement into the community. We participated with North Christian Church in the Ash Wednesday service. Several Adult Choir members joined the St. Bartholomew Church Choir for a workshop and Fall Concert, the St. B's/Fairlawn Presbyterian December concert, and the Columbus Philharmonic Chorus.

Music at FPC hosted five concerts during the calendar year highlighting a broad scope of music from a string group to the Butler University Chorale to Instant Classic barbershop quartet, from flute and piano to our own newly-repaired Casavant organ showcased by four area organists, including our own Ray Hass.

Grants from the FPC Foundation enabled two big projects.

- (1) The major repair project for the Casavant organ was completed during 2015. Two companies (Casavant Freres / Webber and Bourne) did all the technical work. Ron McMillin, Zack Ellison and the Property Committee, Luther Pierson and Doug Sprunger were instrumental in getting the work done.
- (2) A grant paid for five people to attend the Montreat Conference in June, experiencing the arts in multiple forms and from other cultures in well-crafted worship services and hands-on workshops.

I am grateful for all who have made our music in worship varied and thought-filled.

Sincerely,
Dianne Sprunger

OUR STAFF

Marietta Macy, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

I began on July 26th as your Director of Children's and Youth Ministry and it's been a busy few months since then! One of my main focuses has been on our Sunday School programs and we can look forward to some exciting changes coming in the fall of 2016, in addition to some of the exciting things we have already been doing. One of our additions this year was hiring our new childcare worker, Jordann Lyon, who is here every Sunday to assist our teachers in the pre-school Sunday School class for ages 2-5, supervise the children during our Second Hour on Sunday mornings, and provide nursery care as needed. We are very excited to have Jordann with us!

Our preschool class adopted the PC(USA) curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude, for the year and have enjoyed consistent story, snack, play, and music time together. The class has also grown enough in size that we are planning to have two classrooms in use next year; one for kids ages 2-3 and one for 4-5. We will also be moving downstairs to the D-wing and using rooms D1 and the library beginning in Feb. The Elementary Sunday school class has also been well attended and utilizing the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum as well. The class often participates in hands on projects, like preparing backpacks for the homeless, in addition to the lesson. Our Youth Class has been focusing on "Sacred Journeys" this year which includes hearing from guest speakers (from our church and outside) about their own spiritual journeys, faith practices, and how they live out their faith in the world.

The Youth Group has also been busy as usual. They have participated in a number of events with our church and larger community and have shared the love of Christ in fun and creative ways. Some of the highlights include Taking it to the Streets, The Heart Tree, The Lincoln Central Neighborhood Christmas Party, and caroling and cookies at the Armory. Our youth are also looking forward to our mission trips planned to Kentucky and West Virginia in 2016.

In addition to work here, I have also been busy with service to the larger church as well. This fall I participated as a leader in several conferences focusing on justice and peace in the Middle East including the Kairos USA Summit, the Friends of Sabeel North America conference, and planning our annual PC(USA) Israel/Palestine Mission Network conference. I am also looking forward to attending the annual Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference this month and picking up some new ideas for our church programs in 2016!

Marietta Macy

OUR STAFF

Barb Newton, Director of First Presbyterian Preschool

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

Board Members: **Barb Newton, (director)**, Kim Burgess (chairperson), Michelle Clark (assistant chairperson), Missie Tempest (secretary), Jake Fedor (finance), Colleen Herrick (scholarship), Rajesh Thyagarajan (scholarship co-chair), Emily McKeon (volunteer Coordinator), Jennifer Bailey, (fundraising); Jake Fitzsimmons (marketing), and Chrissy Simonton (events co-chair)

2015 Highlights and Accomplishments

- 165 students enrolled in 11 classes
- 10 students receiving scholarships at a total cost of approximately. \$18,355.
- 28 staff members
- 3 administrative staff
- Diverse student population: 54% Caucasian (-4%); 24% Asian Indian (+0%); 2 % Japanese (+1%); 8% Hispanic (+3%); 1% African American (+0%); 4% Chinese (+1%); 0% American Indian; 0% Native Hawaiian; 4% Multi Racial (+0%); 1% Vietnamese; 2% Other (+1 %).
- Sixteen different languages spoken in the homes of our preschoolers.
- 2 special needs students joining our childcare program in the afternoon
- Hired an assistant director/Wee Care Director
- Achieved Level 3 of Paths to QUALITY.
- All staff completed 15 hours of continuing education and ½ of staff completed 20 hours
- Held a successful fundraising event “Spring Into Deutschland” that provided \$14,532.23 to the general fund and scholarships. Decrease of \$5,190.77
- Offered Parenting classes to Transition to Preschool parents while their children attended class
- Full capacity in Enrichment Classes - “Marvelous Math” and “Roots to Reading”.
- Transitioned to an Assistant Director instead of a Director of the Wee Care only.
- Director served on the Registered Ministry Advisory Group at the State
- Columbus Area Private Preschools Group (CAPP) continues to facilitate communication with the Early Childhood Education Advisory Board.
- Participated in Cummins Outreach Project for grounds improvement
- Solidifying the assessment program
- Served on the Indiana Professional Development Network Team
- More than 50% of the staff have Early Childhood Education class credit
- 5 teachers completed Child Development Associate classes
- Increased salaries for all personnel
- Wee Care employees were able to earn Personal Days

SESSION REPORTS

Columbarium

Committee: Sharon Larson (moderator), Roger Brinkman, Edith Ziegler, Eleanor Haltom, Gretchen Laemmer, Rita Selheim, and Herschel O'Shaughnessey

The Columbarium Committee did not have a meeting this year. We communicated mostly by email.

We have had two admissions this year: Jim Lucas (1/6/2015) and Barbara Hoover (9/12/2015). There are twenty remaining niches available for purchase.

Seasonal plantings filled the eight hanging baskets and six large planters. Michael Terry, from Monster Hardscapes, installed a new irrigation system, including two new faucets, a much appreciated upgrade. Two small azalea plants were planted along the iron fence, in memory of FPC's former music director, Scott Dewees, who passed away at the age of 40.

We have struggled all year with bird droppings and increasing mildew on the slate floor.

The Columbarium has been slated to be included in a historic garden tour on May 30, 2016. We will be doing a lot, including power washing the floor, in preparation for that.

I want to extend a big thank you to Tisha Terry, FPC's secretary, for being a source of information and support for our families as they decide how to proceed with death preparations. Your kindness really matters. Even though some days it might not look like it, a whole hearted effort is made to keep this special space looking well maintained and welcoming.

Sharon Larson, Moderator

SESSION REPORTS

Adult Fellowship and Education

Committee: Dale Nowlin (moderator), Amanda Roggow, B Watt Jorck, Terri Glackin, and Janet Sharp

In 2015 the Adult Nurture and Evangelism Committee became the Adult Fellowship and Education (AFE). The name change was to reflect the work of the committee, to design and execute opportunities for the First Presbyterian Church community to grow through fellowship and through education opportunities on Sunday and at other times. AFE activities focused on First Presbyterian's Strategic Goals.

There were many activities focused on strategic goal #1: Everyday Spirituality - the abundant life Christ offers us can be more fully realized in every moment and in every place, not just in church on Sundays. Some of the activities included the all church book read, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Four small groups met weekly or biweekly to discuss topics like The Practice of Waking Up to God and The Practice of Walking on Earth. The small groups met at different times and on different days. The adult education hour included a series on Faith that included a short animated video and small group discussion and a video series on "Saving Jesus."

In addressing strategic goal #2, reaching out to young adults and young families, a multi-generational Advent event took place on November 29. Also, child care was provided for some of the all church book read sessions. Young families were also included in the Inquirers class.

In addressing strategic goal #3, assessing and addressing poverty, adult education classes were presented on mass incarceration, including a presentation by Judge Heimann, the new homeless shelter, presentations on the high school mission trip to the Dominican Republic, and the middle school mission trip to West Virginia. The AFE committee also organized a Christmas in July and a December Christmas event for children and families in the local neighborhood.

The AFE committee determined to place more emphasis on fellowship opportunities. This was accomplished by a commitment to ensuring a community meal once each month. These meals were organized by different committees, but all offered opportunities for us to spend time getting to know each other better. Dinners for 7 offered another venue for fellowship. Both the community pitch-ins and the Dinners for 7 will continue on 2016.

SESSION REPORTS

Children's Nurture Committee

Committee: Sara Sanders (moderator), Gwen Kresovsky, Nicole Moore, Izzie Nowlin, Lisa Porter, Scott Hill (staff), and Marietta Macy (staff)

This year has been an exciting challenge for the Children's Nurture committee. We worked through a change in leadership and benefitted from the addition of Marietta Macy as Director of Children and Youth. The work of this committee focuses on the education and nurture we provide children in Preschool Sunday School (ages birth-5) and Elementary Sunday School and Worship Arts (age 6- 6th grade). We also joined with Fairlawn Presbyterian, First Lutheran, and Camp Pyoca to put on a week-long day camp for area youth at Fairlawn. The children who attended loved the program and we will continue it in the summer of 2016.

Preschool Sunday School: With Marietta's leadership we implemented a new Presbyterian curriculum for the nursery children this year called Growing in Grace in Gratitude. In addition, this year Session agreed the fund two employees to work with this group of children. We feel strongly that this is an important change because it frees volunteers from the congregation to focus on lesson-time with the kids rather than on supervising play time, and because it provides adequate support for the special needs of this age group. Although at the time of this report we have not successfully hired and trained two employees, we are optimistic that the added support will be important in 2016. Thank you to Marietta and all of the volunteers this year who have planned lessons for the Nursery class, especially Gwen Kresovsky and Izzie Nowlin who have worked together to make lesson/activity time meaningful and to our regular youth volunteer Lizzie Frazier. We were also able to use budget surplus to purchase a variety of toys and activities for the Nursery classroom, and we look forward to 2016 when we anticipate having more space for both play area and lesson time. We have an average of 5-7 children in the nursery this year.

Elementary Sunday School: Thank you to Marietta Macy, Julia Stumpf, and Leanne Loutner for implementing the new Presbyterian curriculum Growing in Grace in Gratitude in our children's Sunday school program this year. We are looking forward to involving more volunteers from the congregation in this work in 2016. We have an average of 7-9 children in Sunday School this year.

Worship Arts: Thank you so much to Lisa Porter and Diane Sprunger for involving the kids in music and art that can be shared with the congregation on Children's Sundays. Worship Arts takes place during Adult Education hour (11-12:00) and involves a variety of musical, dramatic, and hands-on activities for the school-aged children.

Note: In all three settings we are working with teachers to implement the new safety protocols established by the Safe Church task force.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Sanders

SESSION REPORTS

Youth Nurture Committee

Committee: Bonnie Boatwright (moderator), Thomas Boatwright, Sunny Currier, Julie Daiker, Monta Frazier, Cindy Frey, Hannah Frey, Kati Jackman-Wheitner, Leah Jackman-Wheitner, Evan Porter, Lisa Porter, and Dan Spurgeon

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

An important transition took place in 2012 as a result of the feedback from the Youth Ministry Architects in October, 2011. The program moved from being a pastor led program to a team led program which was an important transition to make. In September 2013 we said goodbye to Pastor Peggy and honored her for the amazing work she did growing our youth program during her 5 years with us. Because of the transition away from a pastor-led program, the youth programming was able to continue unimpeded after her departure. In July, 2015 we welcomed Marietta Macy as our Director of Children's and Youth Ministry.

First Presbyterian Church now has a strong leadership team for the youth as follows: Lisa Porter and David Porter, senior high youth group leaders; Sunny Currier, middle school youth group leader; Lisa Porter, Marietta Macy, and Dianne Sprunger, TeenImpact@Worship leaders; Cindy Frey, mission and service leader; Dan Spurgeon, fundraising; Marietta Macy, Sunday School Coordinator; Julie Daiker, College Connections; Kati Jackman-Wheitner, Thomas Boatwright, and Evan Porter as youth representatives; Bonnie Boatwright, elder chair and communicator. These fine leaders help one another as they work together collaboratively.

Mission continues to be an important part of youth nurture. For their local service projects and mission trips, the youth raised just under \$35,550 in 2014. The youth were involved in several local service projects. They are regular volunteers at Hot Meals. Many of the youth supported Hannah Frey in her Senior Project "Taking it to the Streets", as well as Alexandria Friend's "Heart Tree" and Ben Porter's "Dominican Republic Jazz Concert" fundraiser for the Dominican Republic trip.

Both youth groups went on mission trips in 2015. The high school youth traveled to the Dominican Republic with Foundation for Peace where they helped build the top story of a church, worked at the medical mission, and taught Vacation Bible School style classes for the local children as well as led and participated in worship services. This trip was the culmination of 6 previous years of trips. We worked hard throughout the year on the fundraising, education, and preparations for this trip. The middle school youth took their mission trip to Asheville, North Carolina, partnering with Asheville Youth Mission. They served in a number of capacities with local service organizations, learning more about the plight of homelessness, the hungry, disadvantaged people of all walks of life, and veterans. Of course, our chaperones and leaders all make this work possible.

SESSION REPORTS

Youth Nurture Committee cont.

Lisa Porter continued her role leading our Youth's TeenImpact program and the annual Youth Sunday event. Musicians of all sorts meet weekly after youth group with Lisa Porter, Marietta Macy, and Dianne Sprunger. Under their leadership the youth create and practice different pieces of the worship services, in which the youth share their gifts and perspective each month. They also continue their great annual tradition of Youth Sunday, actively involving 25+ youth in learning about and leading us all in worship.

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

In 2015 we were fortunate to have elder Hannah Frey serve on the Youth Nurture Committee. We are fortunate to have several youth in active leadership roles in the church and we continue to create more opportunities for the youth to serve, worship together, and have fun!

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Boatwright, Elder Moderator 2015

SESSION REPORTS

Personnel Committee

Committee: Janet Sharpe (moderator), Scott Hill (staff), Lynne Hyatt, Mary Orben, Rita Selheim, Sherry Stark, Merry Carmichael,.

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

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

- oversaw the personnel policies and procedures of the church.
- conducted or oversaw work reviews of the Interim Pastor, Director of Music, Director of Children and Youth, Sunday morning custodian, and office staff.
- made ourselves aware of feelings and wishes of church staff.
- participated in the hiring of a child care provider for Sunday morning.
- held a retirement party for John Frank for his many years of service as the Sunday custodian.
- hired a new Sunday custodian, Wayne Huff, who had been a custodian for our church ten years ago.
- revised the First Presbyterian Church Personnel Policy Manual as of June 2015.
- Director of Children and Youth Ministries - we reviewed and made changes to the job description that was prepared by Children's Nurture and presented it at Session. A search committee was recruited by Scott Hill in consultation with youth nurture and children's nurture. One member from Personnel and a youth representative served along with other recruited members. The committee who hired the new director will also serve as the support and feedback team.
- Marietta Macy was hired as our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries to develop and implement programs and activities that will support, strengthen and encourage growth for children, youth and their families in their faith journeys. She will work with and under the supervision of the Head of Staff of and will be responsible to the Session through the Personnel Committee.
- Dianne Sprunger was hired effective January 1, 2015, as our Choir Director/Organist to fill the half-time position. She has been very effective in providing special music every Sunday and in finding ways to use our youth and church members to participate in the music program. Dianne continues to work with Lisa Porter to create special and meaningful ways to include children and youth in the worship services.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee, headed by Colleen Herrick, presented The Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez, as their candidate to be our next pastor. Dr. Felipe Martinez was invited to preach on October 18 after which the congregation voted by ballot to elect him and to accept the terms of call. He accepted and we welcomed him, his wife Tracy, and children Montez and Michael into our lives.

SESSION REPORTS

Personnel Committee cont.

- Interim pastor Scott Hill's last Sunday was November 22. Scott and Candace were honored at a luncheon/party following the worship service so everyone could show their appreciation and gratitude for serving us so well for the past two years, eight months.
- Pastor Felipe Martinez joined us on December 20 to preach his first sermon as our new pastor. He immediately joined in the flow of the church life and connected with many people, activities and events. He will use his strengths of depth and diversity of experience, vision, warmth, pastoral care, church organizational development expertise, passion for music and social justice and sense of humor to lead us into a new year of leadership.

Goals for 2016:

- work with our new pastor to facilitate a good start
- continue to work on our strategic goals
- continue to encourage and show appreciation for our entire staff
- have joint goals with employees which will include seeing that job descriptions are being followed and that each person is comfortable with those expectations.
- encourage fair pay for employees while working within the church budget
- continue annual performance reviews and continue support teams

We express our gratitude to each of the pastors who have served us with faith and devotion. We are especially appreciative of the support and good work of Scott Hill in helping our church through the many transitions that have occurred in 2015.

SESSION REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2015 Annual Report

2015 Foundation Board of Directors and Officers

Doug Bonnell	Planned Giving, Mission Support Committee
Monta Frazier	Secretary
Jayne Farber	Secretary (2016)
Eric Frey	Planned Giving Chair
Scott Hill	Advisor
Seth Keele	Treasurer
Dan Spurgeon	President
Sherry Stark	Vice President
Warren Ward	Investments

Mission: To serve the religious, educational and charitable needs of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Indiana

2015 Unrestricted Grant Funds Available **\$88,664.95**

2015 Grants Awarded from Unrestricted Funds:

Books for Children's Library (5 year project)	\$1,000.00 (2012 Grant Distribution)
Mission Support	\$29,554.98
Laws Room Updates	\$32,000.00
Green Church - A/C	\$5,992.00
Brighter Days Emergency Shelter Grant	\$21,117.97

Total Granted from Unrestricted Funds **\$89,664.95**

2015 Reeves Fund Grant (administered by Heritage Fund)

Sanctuary Organ Repair \$30,845.00

Foundation Balances – Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Vanguard Investment Account	\$2,391,105.32
Columbarium – New Covenant Investments	\$18,204.90
Columbarium – First Financial Bank checking	\$14,269.62
Organ Maintenance – New Covenant Investments	\$92,961.16
Harrison Youth Fund – New Covenant Investments	\$23,109.44
Reeves Fund (administered by Heritage Fund)	\$716,242.89 (as of 06/30/2015)
Foundation Checking Account	\$19,737.89
Craig Fund (for expenses related to new minister)	\$6,347.31

SESSION REPORTS

Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana 2015 Annual Report cont.

Highlights during 2015

- Selected a new auditor
- Clean Audit for 2015 conducted by Agresta, Storms & O’Leary
- -0.3% return on investments during 2015 (Vanguard & T Rowe Price Investment Managers)
- Grant request process updated and approved
- “Legacy Circle” event recognized those with the foundation and/or church in their estate plans

2015 Foundation Board of Directors and Officers

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Sherry Stark	Vice President
Warren Ward	Investments

During 2015 the foundation received the following gifts remembering our loved ones and honoring the wonderful contributions others have made;

Memorial Gifts

Ann Hackett
Barbara Hoover
Jim Lucas

Honoring

Jacquie Franz

Gifts totaled \$625.

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

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

2016 Meeting Dates: February 3, April 6, June 1, August 3, October 5, December 7 (Annual Meeting)

SESSION REPORTS

Property Committee

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

Mission: The purpose of the Property Committee is to be sure the church building and grounds are maintained and updated when needed. 2015 was a busy, but very good year with the Property Committee overseeing projects listed below.

Listing of many projects that were completed in 2015:

1. Laws Room painting and reupholstering work. The new colors update a room that had not had any work/updates done for over 30 years. The large windows were replaced, since they had failed seals and were cloudy.
 - A. There is further work that will be started in 2016 to repair the subfloor, re-carpet, and add \ ceramic slate tile to heavily traveled walkways. Barb Smitherman has been overseeing this project... thank you. Also a big thank you to our Foundation for funding the first phase of this work.
2. The water leak in the SW corner of the sanctuary was repaired and loose/missing slate shingles were replaced. The source of the leak had been very difficult to find, but after renting a lift, so the roof could be fully inspected, a 3/8" hole was found in a gutter and repaired. Leak is finally fixed and water stains have been repainted.
3. The sanctuary, Laws Room and columbarium brick walls were tuck pointed to repair missing mortar. Thanks to Bob Smitherman who engaged a person he uses for his construction work and they did a very nice job, for a reasonable price.
4. The organ pipes have been repaired by Casavant to better than new. Casavant, the original builder of our organ came to FPC, measured every pipe for throat opening width and replaced many pipes that were collapsing under their own weight. In addition Casavant added structural bracing to the heavier pipes that will prevent any reoccurrence. We have contracted with Pete Weber from Louisville to maintain and tune our organ. Ray Hass stated that the organ has never sounded better than after this repair work/tuning was completed. Ron McMillin and Dianne Sprunger were instrumental (so to speak) in overseeing this important project, thanks to them. Thanks to our Foundation and the Millie Reeves fund for financing this project.
5. A new more efficient air conditioner was installed above the ceiling in the Laws Room. The old unit was rusted out and causing large water stains on the ceiling. Thanks to our Green Team and Vern Jorck for working with our Foundation to fund this project.
6. Both sewage grinder pumps, in our education wing, failed and had to be replaced. This work was led by Tisha Terry, thank you.
7. Grass cutting and trimming was done over the summer by volunteers that saved us several thousand dollars. Thanks to Glinda Ellison and our other volunteers. We are seeking others for help in 2016.
8. FPC has changed our property insurance carrier to increase our coverage and do so at reduced premiums. Thanks to Vern Jorck and Tammy Pace for leading this work.
9. A timer regulated drip irrigation system has been installed in the Columbarium to keep the plants green and beautiful. Thanks to Sharon Larson for her leadership keeping the Columbarium in top shape. Herschel O'Shaughnessey frequently tells me how beautiful it is.

Respectfully submitted, Zack Ellison, 2015 Property Committee Chair

SESSION REPORTS

Safe Church Committee

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

Committee: Sunny Currier (moderator), Marietta Macy (staff), Mary Ann McCray, Julia Stumpff, Nicole Moore, and Ted Sharp. Keith Weedman serves as an additional Response Team Member.

Mission: The mission of the Safe Church Committee is to support and enable First Presbyterian Church in providing a safe, healthy, loving environment for all, in which children and teens can thrive, and ultimately know that they are loved by God through us. We hope that all of God’s children will feel the welcome and love of Jesus Christ and will develop a lifelong relationship with God. The Safe Church Committee was formed in 2015 to create, implement, and maintain policies and procedures that promote a safe environment for all. Safe Church/Child Protection policies were researched, and a policy was written reflecting PCUSA guidelines, best practices, and the specific needs and circumstances of First Presbyterian Church. Both the Youth Nurture and Children’s Nurture Committees were consulted for their recommendations as well.

Having a Safe Church committee and policy communicates the importance of a safe church for children, teens, adults, and the church. The objectives of the policy are to provide a safe environment for children and teens to learn, grow and experience God’s love. Effective ministry for children and teens requires relationships with caring, loving, and mature adults, teachers, and youth leaders who can demonstrate God’s love to them. Safety policies are intended to keep these relationships and all aspects of ministries with minors safe from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior. When adult leaders are interacting with children and youth, they need to be in a safe place as well. The intent is to create an environment that sets appropriate guidelines and boundaries, to provide the support that staff and volunteers need to be effective in their roles with children and teens, and to protect & prevent adults from encountering a situation where they could be wrongfully accused.

The Safe Church – Child Protection Policy and related forms were approved by Session in November 2015. A revised Appropriate Sexual Conduct Policy was also approved at the same time. The Committee is now moving forward to begin introducing the policy to the congregation. Opportunities will be created for parents, children, teachers, leaders, and the congregation at large to learn more about the policy, as we go forward with implementation. Our goal is to achieve full implementation by August 1, 2016.

Submitted in Christ’s service by Sunny Currier

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice

Committee: Ann Jones (moderator), Scott Hill (staff), Gretchen Laemmer, Sarah Sanders, Vern Jorck, Jo Lucas, Sunny Currier, Sherm Franz, and Izzie Nowlin.

What does it mean to live faithfully as a Christian in the world? The social justice committee guides the church's response to community, national, and global issues. It strives to answer Christ's call to share passion, commitment, creativity, and courage to ameliorate social ills and perhaps create a better world for all who live in it. Through a group activity our 2015-2016 priorities were established as follows: Global Wealth Inequality, Environment, Hands-on Involvement in Mission, Local Poverty, Global Health. We share our working support with two sub-committees: the Green Committee, focused on environmental stewardship and care as well as the Open and Affirming Committee, now under new leadership with facilitator Julia Kilbarger-Stumpf. Her committee report is attached.

Christians have long recognized a call to defend and uphold the dignity and well being of all persons. Our community mission allocation involves engagement with numerous other local organizations and the dispersing of \$23,500. The largest contribution went to Ecumenical Assembly. Special donations went to Love Chapel for communication equipment. Our food collection drive in Jan. 2015 for Love Chapel netted \$4,910! Five grant requests came through our committee en route to Mission Support totaling an allocation of \$23,120. Our committee promotes the Peace and Global Witness offering each year and several members of Granny Connection were present for a special grandmother focused service. The work of Granny Connection supports the Power of Love Foundation, a recipient of $\frac{1}{4}$ the total offering. Total donations to Peace/Global Witness amounted to \$1,290, down from other years. One other special offering we shepherded was One Great Hour of Sharing- \$2,212.

We continue monitoring and supporting the hot meals program both financially and with volunteer hours. From Community Mission Funding we budget hot meals at \$150 per month.

Since Mother's Day originates from a peacemaking emphasis, our committee acknowledged this with the Julia Ward Howe Proclamation. In addition we sold mission Mother's Day cards and were able to send \$366 to PCUSA mission partners for their work of health care and family support.

June brought support for Gay Pride month. Our committee purchased a banner which was hung downtown and we also placed a rainbow banner outside our church facility. In addition we were very engaged with our Human Rights Commission to expand city protection for LGBT persons (see attached report).

June also was Anti-Torture month and we provided an adult education class on the prolonged use of solitary confinement and the pursuit of accountability regarding U.S. sponsored torture.

Our partnership continues with Bright Stars of Bethlehem and we continued financial support for Dar al-Kalima University. Marietta Macy will lead a tour to Palestine in early February to plant olive trees. Our committee also continues to support divestment from Israeli businesses that oppress Palestinians. More on this will possibly be within our 2016 vision.

SESSION REPORTS

Social Justice cont.

While only 15% of Presbyterian churches enjoy the opportunity to support mission co-workers, our committee gives support each month to Luta Gabat-Welch (Malawi) and Kate Tabor (Palestine). We look forward to hosting Luta and Jeremy again when they return to the states in the summer of 2016. Local and global mission is one definite priority of this committee.

We have started planning for the annual Laws Peacemaking Lecture scheduled for April 16, 2016. Lee Hamilton will be our speaker and we eagerly await his message.

In May 2015 we participated in the Church Committee Fair and enjoyed acquainting others in our congregation with our work. We would welcome new members to our committee so please let us know of your interest.

During the holiday season we opened Advent with acknowledgement and prayers for World AIDS Day. We also participated in an Alternative Christmas sales event providing opportunities to gift others in ways that make a difference throughout the world. The PCUSA Giving Catalogue was available as well as Palestinian olive oil and glazed pecans and African batik for Power of Love Foundation. On December 13 we focused attention on hunger and wrote letters on behalf of Bread for the World. Our offering of letters resulted in twenty handwritten letters going to our legislators.

Given the Syrian refugee crisis, our Social Justice committee feels compelled to assist. In collaboration with Exodus Refugee, Inc. and Irvington Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, we hope to give support to a family of Syrians soon to arrive in Indianapolis. We are currently in the early stages of this collaboration and look forward to future involvement in the family's resettlement.

Our committee assisted Adult Fellowship and Education by offering several Sunday classes for adults (Jim Crow and incarceration, Chautauqua Institute, anti-torture, Bright Stars, etc.) as well as communicating information to our church body through minute for mission sharing, newsletter articles, and E-blasts as well as notices in the church bulletin.

We have a God that cries out demanding that justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24). We long to heed that demand and to bring renewal to communities near and far.

SESSION REPORTS

Open & Affirming Sub-Committee of Social Justice

Committee: Cal Brand, Donna Brand, Sunny Currier, Dana Harrison, Ann Jones, B Watt Jorck, Marilyn Richardson, Natalie Roll, Janet Sharpe, Julia Stumpff, and Judy Summerville.

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

Mission: The mission of the Open and Affirming Subcommittee is to nurture and deepen a welcoming and affirming ministry and spirit for all of God’s children within our congregation of FPC Columbus, including persons of all sexual orientations or gender identities and their families.

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

Leadership of the Open & Affirming sub-committee changed hands a few times during the past year. As of October, 2015, Julia Stumpff became the moderator of this committee. The following activities related to the Open & Affirming committee took place during 2015.

1. The LGBT-focused FPC church brochure was re-written to include changes that had been made to the PCUSA Book of Order – early 2015
2. One of the Pride Alliance banners hung downtown during Gay Pride month was purchased/ sponsored by the Social Justice committee. – June, 2015.
3. Church members showed up in great numbers in support of the change in wording to the Columbus City Human Rights Ordinance which now includes Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender people: June – September, 2015
4. B Watt Jorck and Julia Stumpff attended the Saturday activities of the More Light Presbyterians Conference in Louisville – September 19, 2015
5. The fourth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service was held at First Presbyterian – November 21, 2015
6. More Light Presbyterian stickers were hung around the church on windows, doors, etc. to publicize the church’s affiliation with More Light Presbyterians.
7. The Social Justice committee purchased two different rainbow flags that were hung outside of the church during Gay Pride month and during the week of the Transgender Day of Remembrance service. Each flag was stolen: June and November, 2015
8. The Open & Affirming committee has begun meeting more regularly and is focused on brainstorming and prioritizing plans for the future.

SESSION REPORTS

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Committee members: Keith Weedman (Moderator), Scott Hill (Interim Pastor), Alan Kilbarger, Vern Jorck (Treasurer), Felipe Martinez (Pastor), Mary Ann McCray, Marilyn Richardson, Tammy Pace (Financial Secretary) and Dan Spurgeon.

The Stewardship and Finance committee's focus is to support all church members and regular attenders in being good stewards of God's gifts. Stewardship has often been misunderstood as being about raising the funds necessary to sustain the church. There is no church without our members so our work is truly about supporting one another. In addition to being good stewards through financial support, it is also about being generous with our time and talents within our broader community. We see being good stewards as including all of the ways in which we are each involved outside of the walls of our church as we take our Christian values and generous spirit with us wherever we go. Where any one of us is present, all of us are represented.

2015 Highlights

- Recognized Alan Kilbarger and Dan Spurgeon for their longstanding commitment serving respectively as Moderator and Treasurer and as active committee members.
- Made the difficult decision to ask members to revisit their campaign pledges for 2015 with the promise that this action was an exception and not the beginning of a new norm. Members responded in an extraordinary way and our financial needs were addressed for 2015.
- Held a series of town hall meetings at the church in the spring to help members understand our financial needs and encouraged members to consider a five year plan to increase their giving incrementally, each year, in order to provide time for our new pastor to be installed, and to then make progress in achieving our strategic plan.
- Held conversations in family members' homes and Phillip Roggow's coffee shop to discuss our church's future as our primary focus, and shared a preliminary budget for 2016.
- Regular updates were provided on the progress of the fall campaign. These changes were made in response to feedback from members from the spring town hall meetings.
- Compiled notes from the fall conversations, as a guide for our committee's work in 2016 and to share with Session.
- Provided oversight as to the financial status of our church and kept the Session informed.

2016 Goals

- Incorporate Pastor Felipe's ideas related to Stewardship including:
 - Focus on experiencing our church family as an extension of our immediate family;
 - Utilize coffee hours as opportunities to build relationships;
 - Support all members in finding and unleashing their passion;
 - Build meaningful relationships with more church members.
- Examine how Stewardship and Finance Committee can live into the vision for our church and implement our strategic plan.
- Provide financial oversight to Session and committees.
- Revisit Power Church as a software resource to manage First Presbyterian financial data with Pastor Felipe's expertise.
- Complete financial reviews for 2013, 2014, and 2015.

SESSION REPORTS

Worship Committee

Committee Members: Terri Glackin (moderator), Glinda Ellison, Eric Erickson, Susan Kell, Kathy Molewyk, Laura Pierson, Luther Pierson, Lisa Porter, Scott Hill (staff), and Dianne Sprunger (staff).

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

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

Of special note in 2015: The collaboration of our interim pastor, Rev. Scott Hill, and our new Choir Director/Organist, Dianne Sprunger, in planning worship provided some extraordinary worship experiences for our congregation. The Worship Committee enjoyed supporting our own *Creation* celebration by children and adults, as well as, the *Seasons of Creation* liturgy celebrating Humanity, Sky, and Mountain Sundays. The FPC Foundation grant which enabled Pam Bolton, Luther Pierson, Lisa Porter, Dianne Sprunger and Terri Glackin to attend the *2015 Montreat Conferences on Worship and Music Ideas* resulted in new ideas which enhanced our worship experience.

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

OTHER REPORTS

Deacons

2015 Deacons: Deborah Fogt (moderator), Lynne Hyatt (vice moderator), Gretchen Laemmer, Natalie Roll, Kelly Geckler, Rita Selheim, Tom Carmichael, Tom Davies, Marquita Tuck, and Glinda Ellison.

Deacon Responsibilities

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

--Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church

FPC Deacons lead hospitality events, care for church members in need, serve as Head Ushers and recruit door ushers, and represent Deacons by serving on other church committees.

2015 Fellowship Events

February: Deacon Breakfast

April: Easter Breakfast

June: Summer Picnic at Donner Park

November: Consecration Brunch

Additional Work in 2015:

Deacons worked with the newly-formed Care Team to improve the process of identifying and providing congregational care.

OTHER REPORTS

Use of Facility

Organizations that regularly use the church building:

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

Other that have used the church in 2015:

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