



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
C O L U M B U S

# 2012

# Annual Report

512 Seventh Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201  
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[www.fpccolumbus.org](http://www.fpccolumbus.org)

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to be an active, growing, inclusive and caring church family that witnesses to God's love and shares the good news of Jesus Christ.*

## STAFF

Pastor .....The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Craig  
Associate Pastor .....The Rev. Peggy L. Casteel  
Director of Music.....Colin Andrews  
Preschool Director.....Barb Newton  
Office Staff.....Tammy Pace & Tisha Terry  
Sunday Facility Staff.....John Frank

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

# GENERAL STATISTICS

## Membership

*Information provided in this Annual Report covers January - December 2012*

Active Members as of 12/31/12	458
New Members	25
Deceased Members	6
Baptisms	
Children/Adults	6

# OUR STAFF

## *Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Craig*

As I write my final report, I am full of appreciation for all of you who are First Presbyterian Church. It has been a pleasure to be your Pastor. And what a party you threw for us in early December! Thank you.

Some 2012 accomplishments in which I have been involved:

- We have continued our relationship with six Parish Associate Pastors who give of their time (Cal Brand, Eric and Norie Erickson, John McKune, Bill Rumsey, and Sharon Williams-Hanrattie).
- With the officers, I reviewed the membership rolls of the congregation. We have removed some inactive members from the rolls and are communicating with others about their intentions.
- I facilitated the initial process of applying for a grant from The Center for Congregations to engage in a long range planning process. That work will likely begin in 2013.
- I preached several “third way” sermons, continuing a methodology that has been well received.

As you will observe in the following reports, we have been unusually faithful in extending ourselves in service to communities near and far.

The committees and groups for which I was staff person are: Deacons, Evangelism and Adult Nurture, Foundation, Men’s Bible Study, Open and Affirming, Personnel, Prayer Circle, Session, Social Justice, Stewardship and Finance, and Worship.

Above all, I am grateful to God, to our Congregation, to our Staff, and to our Officers for bringing us together. I could not have had any finer culmination to my ministry than in being Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana. And I am convinced that your prayers have been a source of hope and healing for me in my recent health challenge. I am grateful!

Peace and Justice, Rob Craig



## OUR STAFF

### *Associate Pastor The Rev. Peggy L. Casteel*

The year 2012 has been a year of change. My Epiphany star in January, 2012 read ‘challenges’ and it lived up to its promise.

My first challenge was to get my mind around returning to school after 10 years of being away from any regular study habit but oh has it been worth it. The Academy for Spiritual Formation has been a gift to my life and my ministry. Every presenter, every book, every week spent in formation and community has been a great blessing. I continue to learn what a wealth of goodness God provides when we surrender our plans.

My next challenge was a challenge but not in the way one might think. The Youth Ministry Architects came in October, 2011 and challenged me to step back from personally managing the youth programs and enlist volunteers instead. The challenge was not getting the volunteers as a team quickly placed the following wonderful people:

Sunny Carrier and Jeff Wheatner as Senior High youth group leaders, Lisa Porter and both Kelly Geckler and Janet Putney as Junior High youth group leaders, Lori Rowan as the fundraising and service leader, Cindy Frey and Monta Frazier as the mission leaders, Leah Jackman-Wheatner as the Sunday School Coordinator, Lisa Porter as the Teen Impact at Worship leader and Bonnie Boatwright as the communicator. We also got the additional blessing of adding Abby and Maggie Frazier as youth representatives to Youth Nurture. I thought the challenge might be to let go of a program that I grew to deeply love in my tenure here and truth be told, while these volunteers are doing amazing work watching instead of doing has been my challenge. However, keep reading as God is good – ALL THE TIME.

Third challenge was learning that our head of staff, Rev. Dr. Rob Craig would need to retire early for personal health reasons. I could see a potential transition coming and while I knew I was up to the challenge, having both the spiritual academy and the working support of this new team of youth leaders gave me exactly what I needed in this time of transition. I absolutely could not have stepped into a transitional role without the love, care and support of not only all these people but the family of First Presbyterian Church. You see, I believe that a leader is only as good as the people around them. So for any victory I have had – take a bow Academy friends, volunteers and church family. My wins are your victories!

So what does 2013 hold? I hope, after the interim head of staff is placed, to return to finding ways of adding additional layers of ministry to youth, children and families of First Presbyterian Church. I know I will support the interim in his time here. I will have a major project to do to complete the Academy this year and I hope to complete that project doing something that adds life and spirituality to this ministry. It will be fun to dream and vision with you as you think about the future of this God’s church. I must say that I am glad my Epiphany star said ‘Faith’ this year.

Life and ministry is always a challenge but I know that we are up to it! It is a pleasure to serve at First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for this opportunity to be part of this ministry with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Peggy Casteel

## OUR STAFF

### *Director of Music, Colin Andrews*

2012 brought about some changes in the Children's and Youth music ministry. In an effort to attract as wide a cross-section of children to participate in worship, the Children's Nurture Committee in conjunction with our Music Assistant, Jenny Mcnamee, initiated a "Worship Arts" program every Sunday morning which included choir and a variety of other worship arts such as drama, reading and constructing liturgical arte facts. Thus, the potential for greater participation in worship by the children, especially in choir was the goal. Thanks to the help of volunteers who helped each month, the program has been very successful and thanks need to be given also to Lisa Porter and Bonnie Boatwright for their excellent leadership. The children's Easter and Christmas programs were conspicuously outstanding this year, kudos to Jenny.

The Youth program is still being redefined, again under the leadership of Lisa Porter with help from Jenny Mcnamee. It is certainly true that Youth is the most difficult age group to reach when it comes to providing a solid approach to music in worship; there are so many external messages that blur the role that Youth can potentially have as music leaders in worship. Kudos goes to Lisa for her creative thinking around this question. We aim to see more of the kinds of participation that the Youth has produced, most notably, the annual "Youth Sunday", plus, solos, both vocal and instrumental, by the many talented young people who attend the Sunday evening Youth program. There are also the various skits and "flash mob" style presentations which give the Youth that contemporary edge and which meet them where they are in the outside world.

The adult choir program has remained stable throughout the year and, I am happy to report that we have 3 new members as of the fall semester; Ms. Charli Reed, who sang in the choirs here at FPC when she was between the ages of 7-11, and Doug and Dianne Sprunger who moved to Columbus in July 2012 to work at Cummins. Doug has an especially wonderfully rich, bass voice. The choir sang two major programs this year, the very difficult Requiem by Durufle, and the Christmas Lessons and Carols service, "The Promised Messiah". Additionally, the choir joined with our brothers and sisters at North Christian Church for the annual Ash Wednesday collaboration. The choir continues to go from strength-to-strength, especially benefitting from the challenge of major works in addition to the regular contributions to worship. They are a joy to work with.

The Music at First Presbyterian Church concert series is still going despite some financial hardship; we hope for more contributions this year and continuing attendance by the many music-lovers in the congregation. This past year, we presented everything from world-class jazz, an internationally acclaimed organist from Estonia, and a concert performed by our own, Cindy McMillin and Ray Hass.

Respectfully submitted.  
Colin Andrews.

# SESSION REPORTS

## Columbarium

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Roger Brinkman, Gretchen Laemmer, Edith Zeigler, Rita Selheim Eleanor Haltom, Herschel O'Shaughnessey.

LANDSCAPE HELP: Lori Rowan, Barb Tuttle and Jacquie Franz, Nancy Marble.

The Committee has not had a meeting this year. We've been able to communicate with each other, when necessary, by email or phone. This year, we benefitted from extra help with plantings and maintenance from the folks mentioned above, it was really appreciated. We have had a very limited amount of activity this year, only two individuals interred. The committee voted to have A+ Residential Services hand paint the iron fencing throughout the Columbarium. They did an extraordinary job in sweltering heat. This was a job that has been on our "wish list" for several years, so we're happy to have that completed. We need to have some plantings replaced that have died. We hope to buy three rhododendroms and plant them in the spring. We planted seasonal flowers: 10 flats of pansies in the spring, replaced by summer flowers in late May, mums in the fall. Each year we try to do things a little differently, some things work and others don't do as well, this year the drought was a challenge! Since the number of available niches is growing smaller, we hope to begin seriously considering whether we need to proceed with the next phase of building. Hopefully this will be accomplished by next year.

I would like to thank all those who have served on the committee or helped out in any way this year. We take pride in the Columbarium and hope the congregation feels welcome to share this sacred space for meditation, prayer or just "being".

Sharon Larson  
Moderator



# SESSION REPORTS

## *Evangelism & Adult Nurture*

Members: Sharon Craig, Anne McClaren, Terri Glackin, Natalie Roll, Janet Sharpe, and Pastor Rob Craig.

We are so very fortunate to have such talented, educated and giving members of our congregation. Thanks to their generosity with their time and knowledge they educated, informed and inspired our congregation in many ways during the Sunday nurture hour.

Our thanks to them for these programs:

- Luther Pierson for leading both *Victory & Peace or Justice & Peace* and the *Confirmation for Adults* series.
- Jo Lucas, Vern Jorck, Madonna Yates & Gretchen Laemmer for informing us of mission work in Bethlehem, Haiti, and Africa.
- Our senior high youth for sharing their mission trip experience in West Virginia.
- During the summer for their *60 Minutes* –Ann Jones on ending torture, John Seltzer for his presentations on evolution and the church, Keith Weedman on welfare reform, and Warren Ward on the General Assembly.
- Norie Erickson and Sharon Williams Hanrattie for the women's retreat at PYOCA.
- For informing us of their work -- Members of Children's Nurture, Open & Affirming. Committee, Hot Meals teams, Barb Newton as Preschool Director, OWL leaders and Tisha Terry's introduction to the church website.
- Eric & Norie Erickson for the Advent series.

This year we welcomed Ben and Deborah Fogt and sons, Krystal Dawn Barnes, Dee Jones, Becky Carmichael Kleihege, Kathja Anderson, Stephen and Takako Hara, and Lala Isom into our congregation along with 18 youth who were confirmed. We are so very blessed.

With thanksgiving for a great 2012, we look forward to new opportunities for growing and nurturing our congregation in 2013.

# SESSION REPORTS

## *Library Committee*

Members: Janet Anderson, Peggy Casteel, Merry Carmichael, Barb Newton, Carol Rumble and Janet Sharpe.

This year saw the grand reopening of the church library after several months and countless hours of weeding, processing and shelving books in the Cummins Room. We purchased library software which has made it easy to enter books into the system and print labels. The library is now a comfortable environment where one may go to check out books, read, study, and have small group meetings. We are blessed to have a yearly endowment from the Joseph FitzGibbon Fund for the purchase of books and we also have a small budget for the purchase of supplies and necessary items for the upkeep of the library. While the work is ongoing, it is our goal to one day be able to access the availability of books online through the FPC website.

# SESSION REPORTS

## Children's Nurture Committee

This year has been another wonderful year full of blessings in Children's Nurture. Here are just a few of the blessings:

- As a result of the Youth Ministry Architects, elder Bonnie Boatwright did a major listening session with parents, Sunday School teachers and helpers. Bonnie conducted several meetings and a team of volunteers met and produced a redesign on the Sunday morning schedule for children. This schedule allows for children to leave after the Time With Children and have snack and play time in the gym before heading up to their classrooms. After Sunday School, they still have The Gathering but another wonderful program called Worship Arts has begun. Worship Arts is a program to encourage the children in more than just choir. Worship Arts is helping children feel empowered to be liturgists in adult worship, do the Time With Our Children, and share their own talents in drama and music. A huge note of thanks goes to Bonnie Boatwright for her leadership in helping redesign the Sunday morning program for children.
- Sunday School is now most every Sunday including children's singing Sunday's to give consistency to the program.
- Another note of thanks goes to Jenny McNamee and Lisa Porter for their continued leadership in children's singing Sundays and the Children's Christmas program. Jenny and Lisa put in tireless hours to give our children wonderful opportunities to share their gifts in worship. People are still commenting on the children's Christmas program and how wonderful it was.
- A young youth group for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students began under the leadership of Samantha Harpring and Sharon Williams-Hanrattie. This group meets once a month and is known as the PULLLL group. PULLLL stands for Presbyterians United Living, Learning, Loving and Leading. They have had fun events such as movie nights but have also Christmas caroled to shut in's and helped rake the grounds around the church and Pastor Rob and Sharon's home. There has been an average of 12 students attending this program. A big note of thanks goes to Sharon and Samantha for helping to birth this wonderful addition to our youth program.
- B Watt Jorck, Ann Jones, Terri Glackin and Sunny Courier took the OWL training for offering the OWL program to younger children. We are grateful to all of them for taking this training. We hope to get a class going in 2013.

## SESSION REPORTS

### *Children's Nurture Committee cont.*

Our team this year consisted of Donna Brand, elder chair, Bonnie Boatwright, elder, Rev. Norie Erickson, Nicole Moore, Ben Fogt, Janet Jackson and Peggy Casteel, staff. In 2013, the elder chair will be Colleen Herrick and elder Barb Newton will be joining our team.

Our hopes for the future include growing the children's nurture committee to include more parents and others interested in working for the nurture of our children, continuing to develop the worship arts program to see more leaders empowered to serve and the children given more opportunities to showcase their talents, continue to grow the PULLLL group and take our children to places of opportunity to serve, and find ways to meet the needs of our parents of younger children better as a community of faith. A personal hope for Pastor Peggy would be to see First Church design an additional service offered at a time that families can slip in with children or youth fresh off the playing and practice field so that they can worship on a more regular schedule.

You have beautiful children First Church. We have a wonderful program – but a program is only as good as the willing volunteers who lead it. We are grateful to the elders, parents and volunteers engaged with our children. We anticipate with you what the year 2013 will bring!

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brand, Elder Chair  
Bonnie Boatwright, Elder  
Rev. Peggy Casteel – Staff Support

# SESSION REPORTS

## Youth Nurture Committee

Youth Nurture continues to grow and 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 has moved from being a pastor led program to a team led program which was an important transition to make. First Presbyterian Church now has a fine leadership team for the youth as follows: Sunny Currier and Jeff Wheatner, senior high youth group leaders; Lisa Porter, Kelly Geckler and Janet Putney, junior high youth group leaders; Lisa Porter, Teen Impact at Worship leader; Cindy Frey and Monta Frazier, mission and service leaders; Lori Rowan, fundraising; Leah Jackman-Wheatner, Sunday School Coordinator; Bonnie Boatwright, elder chair and communicator; Dennis Heathfield, elder and Rev. Peggy Casteel, staff. These fine leaders help one another as they work together collaboratively.

Mission continues to be an important part of youth nurture. In 2012, the senior high youth traveled to Summerlee, West Virginia where they began to build as part of their mission work. They roofed a house, remodeled a kitchen and bathroom, painted the outside of a home and did finish work on the drywall of a house all work that was greatly needed by those in great need in WV. West Virginia Ministry Advocates loved our youth and very much desires to see them return. Now our senior high youth are beginning to do work on local homes here in Columbus for families in need. The senior high youth desire a foreign mission trip and is in the works for the future. The junior high youth took their mission trip into inner city Detroit, Michigan where they led a Vacation Bible School for the Second Mile Center. The Second Mile Center is an outreach of the PCUSA church to the impoverished children of Detroit. It was a challenge to serve over 100 youth daily but your junior teens were up to the challenge. Of course, our chaperones and leaders all make this work possible.

Other important changes are happening with youth. They are being trained to serve as youth elders and deacons and to be called and ordained into these positions of leadership but they are also serving committees such as the O & A committee, deacons, property, youth nurture, Sunday School and more. They are wonderful leaders in adult worship using their time and talents to fully participate as full members of this church.

Youth isn't all about work and service. They still enjoy lock-in's, ski trips, laser tag, white water rafting or hanging out together at meals or youth time.

In 2012, a confirmation class was held for 19 youth in which 18 joined and 3 were baptized on December 9<sup>th</sup>. This meant that 19 adults stepped up to mentor these youth and invest in the future of our church. What a great way to end the year!

In 2013, Charlie Farber, elder chair has moved over to serve the worship committee and the nominating committee. We are grateful to Charlie for his marvelous leadership in youth nurture and for the support that both Charlie and Jayne continually give to youth mission and our youth in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Casteel, Staff

Charlie Farber, Elder Chair, 2012

# SESSION REPORTS

## Personnel Committee

**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.

**Committee members:** Merry Carmichael, Rob Craig, Rich Eynon, Mike Hacker, Lynne Hyatt, Mary Orben and Sherry Stark - Moderator

The Personnel Committee met seven times during 2012. Major activities included the following:

- Oversaw the personnel policies and procedures of the church.
- Finalized a revision of personnel policies (with Session approval).
- Conducted or oversaw work reviews of the Pastor and Associate Pastor and engaged with the Pastor in reviews of other key staff.
- Assisted the Pastor with church staff transitions including welcoming a new church secretary and rearranging of office layout.
- Supported efforts to create a positive work environment including rearrangement of office layout, steps to address air quality issues and other matters.
- Took the lead on planning activities for Rob Craig's retirement party.
- Worked with the Pastor and Associate Pastor and other church committees on a variety of matters during the year.
- Arranged expanded benefits for office staff.
- Recommended pastor and staff compensation for 2013 in partnership with Stewardship/Finance Committee.
- The Committee Moderator has been serving as Acting Head of Staff during the search for an Interim Minister.

We express our deep gratitude to our Pastors and to all of the staff at First Church who serve with such faith and devotion. In particular we appreciate the invaluable support of Pastor Rob Craig during the year and Pastor Peggy Casteel's selfless efforts during our transition period. We also salute our office staff for their unflagging commitment to our church.

# SESSION REPORTS

## Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana

**2012 Unrestricted Grant Funds Available** \$ 80,358

**2012 Grants Awarded from Unrestricted Funds:**

Stewardship - Mission Matching Grant	\$ 35,000
Books for Children's Library	\$ 5,000 (to be used over 5 years)
Green Church projects	\$ 20,000 (up to)
Camp Pyoca capital campaign scholarships	\$ 660
4 Pre-school Teachers to Atlanta Conference	\$ 6,000
Church-wide Strategic Planning Process	\$ 10,000 (up to)
TOTAL	\$ 76,660

**2012 Reeves Grants Recommended** (from Heritage Fund)

Sanctuary gutter & downspout repairs	\$ 8,800
Advance for new Hymnals	\$ 3,300
Cover over-run on "greening" the sanctuary	\$ 803

**2012 Harrison Fund Grants Approved**

OWL (sex ed) certification for 2 teachers	\$ 2,000 (up to that amount)
Support for 2012 Confirm and Class	\$ 2,250

**TOTAL GRANTS FROM ALL SOURCES IN 2012** \$98,813

**Foundation Balances**

PNC – Foundation Investments	\$ 2,035,906.76
First Financial Bank – Foundation Checking	\$ 17,201.43

**Restricted Funds:**

Columbarium - New Covenant Investments	\$ 14,811.84
Columbarium - First Financial Bank checking	\$ 11,389.88
Organ Maintenance - New Covenant Investments	\$ 78,598.42
Harrison Youth Fund – New Covenant Investments	\$ 18,802.26
Reeves Fund at Heritage Fund - sanctuary/ & organ	\$ 635,986.72

as of 9.30.12

# SESSION REPORTS

## Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus, Indiana cont.



The Foundation encourages people to remember and/or honor loved ones through gifts to the Foundation.

### **2011 Memorial Gifts:**

*In memory of Elizabeth (Sukey) Nie* -- Jane Daniel; John and Arleen Keele; K. Grable & L. Barichart; Herschel and Sally Crippen; Zack and Glinda Ellison; Don and Dody Harvey; Bill and Nancy Hunt; Pete and Cathy King; David and Barbara Kirr; McDugle Trust; Kris Medic; Bob and Mary Orben; Carol Rumble; Judy Shepherd; Sherry Stark; Brooke and Barbara Tuttle  
*In memory of Vince Hruby* -- Mr. and Mrs. E. Clipp; Hal and Cindy Gelfius; K. Henderson, Nancy Heimlich; Betty Hooker; Mary Ann McCray and Hazel Pulse; Ann Kramer

### **2012 Memorial Gifts:**

*In memory of Richard Stenner, Sr.* -- Sherry Stark and David Tiede  
*In memory of Barbara Dissler (Janet Ward's Mother)* -- Jayne and Charlie Farber;  
Sherry & David Tiede

### **2012 Gifts in Honor:**

*In honor of Sherry Stark's and David Tiede's wedding* -- Jayne and Charlie Farber  
*In honor of Rob and Sharon Craig on Rob's retirement* -- a wonderfully generous outpouring of gifts from church members and friends both near and far -- including many with no identifying name

### **2012 and 2013 Foundation Board of Directors**

Doug Bonnell	Gift Acceptance Policies
Pastor Rob Craig	Ex officio Advisor
Jayne Farber	Vice President & Matching Grants
Jacquie Franz	Secretary
Dennis Heathfield	Planned Giving
Seth Keele	Treasurer
Clare Moore	Planned Giving
Sherry Stark	President
Warren Ward	Investments

Scheduled 2013 Foundation Meetings: Feb. 20, April 17, June 19, August 21, Oct. 16 and Dec. 18



# SESSION REPORTS

## Property Committee

The achievements of the Property Committee are invariably collaborative as evidenced in this report. As Zack Ellison assumes the role of moderator for 2013, I want to take this opportunity to publically thank all of my committee members and others, whether mentioned here or not, for all your work, creativity, thoughtful suggestions and pulling together to make good things happen for our grand old facility over the past four years. Thank you.

~Janet Ward

Here is a summary of 2012 Property Committee projects:

- The reconfiguration of the church office for better efficiency (thank you office staff and spouses);
- The completion of a needed office hardware upgrade made possible by leasing rather than buying the equipment with helpful specs and advice from the Property Committee's resident technical advisor (thank you Luther Pierson);
- The facilitation of an FPC Youth initiative to install an Abitibi recycling dumpster in the parking lot to increase church and congregational recycling (thank you youth and Youth Nurture Committee);
- The maintenance and beautification of the church grounds through the hard work of Pam Robertson and the landscape team (thank you team);
- An investigation of the mechanics, costs and energy savings involved in installing a church sprinkler system (thank you Mike Terry);
- The maintenance and beautification of the Columbarium as well as the management of the niches and finances through the hard work of Sharon Larson & the Columbarium team (thank you team);
- The changing of the ceiling light bulbs in the front of the Sanctuary coordinated with the timing of the insulation being blown in (thank you Chris Galdikas);
- A review of a draft Emergency Evacuation Plan for FPC being created by the Deacons (thank you Doc Graninger);
- The repair of Sanctuary guttering to prevent further damage to interior walls from water collecting in the gutters, freezing and pushing up under the slate (thank you Reeves Fund);  
The addition of periodic checks of defibrillator pads and batteries to the maintenance routine (thank you Terri Glackin);
- The coordination of parking lot striping donated by a preschool parent (thank you Barb Newton and Travis Calhoun);
- The addition of a black and white copier to the library for church-related copying by the congregation (thank you to the anonymous donor);
- Further work on the proposed Stained Glass Windows Restoration with successful negotiations to reduce the total cost by almost half (thank you Bob Smitherman and Jim Farrar) and submission of a Foundation grant that was approved by the Session in December to fund the project through a combination of sources;
- The initiation of an inventory of janitorial and kitchen supplies in an effort to better contain maintenance supply costs (thank you church office staff);
- Creating a document to capture the scope of janitorial and mechanical work required to maintain FPC - a work in progress - and securing contractors to execute it (thank you Pastor Peggy).

# SESSION REPORTS

## Social Justice Committee

**2012 Social Justice Committee Members:** Sunny Currier, Sherm Franz, Steve Franz, Ann Jones, Vern Jorck, Gretchen Laemmer, Jo Lucas, and Keith Weedman. Rob Craig staffed the committee. Upon Rob's retirement, John McKune serves as staff.

### **Priorities for 2012:**

- Poverty
- Middle East
- Immigration
- HIV/AIDS
- Empowerment
- No to Torture

In addition, two sub-committees report to Session through this Committee. They are: Open and Affirming and Environment/Green Practices.

### **Financial Highlights** (Detailed information is available)

The budget is \$750.00. This Committee oversees the expenditure of funds for local mission, the Sarah Hunt Center Funds, The Laws Lecture event, and decides on the Peacemaking Fund allocation.

\$23,200 annual mission allocation for local mission (Including Love Chapel, Housing Partnerships, Turning Point)

\$5,180 requested and approved from Mission Matching Funds for Power of Love

\$5,000 requested and approved from Mission Matching Funds for construction of MMI's guest house in Haiti

\$10,000 requested and approved from Mission Matching Funds for Abbey's House/Hillside Clinic in Belize

\$6,000 requested and approved from Mission Matching Funds for The International Center of Bethlehem

\$2,000 requested and approved from Mission Matching Funds for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund

\$200 from the SJC budget to Bread for the World

### **Work Accomplishments**

**The Green Team** reports that it is half way through a process that began in 2010. Working with an energy consultant, we sought recommendations that would achieve our desired 30% energy savings goal. Working with the Property Committee as well, much of the building has seen improvements in lighting and the church "envelope" is much more airtight through the addition of insulation. In addition, the sanctuary has four new energy efficient furnaces and air conditioners. Funding for this work comes from the Reeves Fund, which provides money for Sanctuary improvements, and from the First Presbyterian Church Foundation. Additional work awaits funding, with the desired completion date being the end of 2013.

**Open and Affirming** designed, edited, approved and circulated a Brochure for First Presbyterian Church. The brochure is an information and educational offering for all of us as we speak of the work and welcome to all who worship here.

**The William R. Laws Peacemaking Lecture** hosted Dr. Stephanie Pausell, faculty of Harvard Divinity School. Healthy Community Council and the Inter Faith Forum Columbus partnered in this work, looking at the Spiritual Dimensions of Health.

**The Peacemaking Offering** invites congregations to retain 25% of the Offering for a Peacemaking Work. In 2006, the Presbyterian church USA General Assembly passed a resolution encouraging all to give a portion of their offering to the work of HIV/AIDS. First Presbyterian Church Columbus, designated the 25% to the Power of Love, an International HIV/AIDS work.

In addition, members of the Social Justice Committee led FPC's annual food drive for Love Chapel and provided leadership for Second Hour classes. Alternate Holiday Giving Opportunities were provided to the congregation during Sundays in Advent.

## SESSION REPORTS

### *Opening & Affirming Subcommittee*

Our committee created a brochure on inclusivity at FPC, “How is FPC Inclusive of LGBT Persons?”, which could be used to answer questions about the history and positions of FPC on LGBT issues. This brochure was made available to the congregation at tables during coffee hours in June, then placed on racks with other brochures that members and visitors may access near the front door and a newsletter article explained the creation of this brochure. We also made available a range of rainbow pins to the congregation so that those who wish to do so could signal support of inclusivity. We included an article in a congregational newsletter explaining the meaning of the rainbow pin.

In February, we supported a film festival hosted by Pride Alliance Columbus. One movie featured one of our committee members, and she was available at the screening for a discussion.

In July, we presented a “60 Minutes with the Open and Affirming Committee” adult nurture opportunity, which informed the congregation about open and affirming activities we are aware of and /or support within our congregation, the Presbyterian Church through General assembly, in our community, and some resources available regionally. This included a high school committee member who has established a GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Club at East High School.

Some committee members attended OWL (Our Whole Lives) training, and have presented information about possible OWL classes which will be available to parents and children in the congregation. We have partnered with the UU church in some of these classes.

In October, committee members presented a class to both the youth and adults involved in confirmation classes.

In November, we hosted the first annual Transgender Day of Remembrance in the Laws Room, which we co-sponsored with other area church committees and groups, such as the Inclusive Community Coalition, Pride Alliance Columbus, and PFLAG. We committed to be involved in this commemoration for at least 3 years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Summerville, Moderator

Committee members:

Jennifer Wright Berryman, Cal Brand, Donna Brand, Sunny Currier, Howard Graninger, Dana Harrison, Lexi Jackman Wheatner, Ann Jones, Jim Lucas, John McKune, Margy McKune, Natalie Roll, Janet Sharpe, Ted Sharpe, Julia Stumpff, B Watt Jorck, Staff representative, Rob Craig

# SESSION REPORTS

## *Stewardship & Finance Committee*

The purpose of the Stewardship and Finance committee is both practical and spiritual. The committee strives to communicate and facilitate the Christian ideal of sharing God's gifts to support our Church's programs as well as supporting the work of the Presbyterian governing bodies.

The mission of this committee is to provide sound financial management of the Church's financial resources and to make financial stewardship meaningful to the congregation.

### **2012 Highlights:**

Completed a multi week 2012 Consecration Campaign (for 2013) with 103 giving estimates totaling \$413,000.

Continued detailed and consistent financial reviews and controls over accounts and balances, including operations and routine review and reconciliation of restricted funds.

Coordinated the 2012 Operating Budget for the Church with the goal of eliminating deficits by 2013. Conducted and facilitated Special Offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, Fish, and Christmas Joy offerings were conducted successfully, in conjunction with other committees and Sunday School Class (Christmas Joy Offering).

Assisted Kay Williams from Hanover Presbyterian with guidance in her new role as Church Treasurer.

Continued support of the First Presbyterian Preschool to provide some oversight of the financial reporting and budgetary controls.

Completed an updated Gift Policy to ensure a consistent and prudent process for all future bequests.

Published financial data to the church public for improved knowledge of financial status.

Aided FPC during the transition to an Interim Pastor to continue the financial stability of the church.

### **Goals for 2013:**

- Create and implement a plan to increase the number of pledges cards provided during the Consecration process.
- Work with the long term planning committee to recommend changes to operating expenses that are in line with revenue.
- Review and summarize the 2013 Stewardship Estimates of giving; recommend the annual budget accordingly.
- Continue financial reviews and improving internal controls and reporting.
- Continue to maintain the positive working relationship between committees, head pastor and staff.

Members of the Committee: Doug Bonnell, Pam Bolton, Peggy Casteel (staff), Herschel Crippen, Alan Kilbarger (Moderator) and Dan Spurgeon (Treasurer).

# SESSION REPORTS

## Worship Committee

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

**Committee Members:** Glinda Ellison, Zack Ellison, Mary Ann McCray, Mary Clark, Laura Pierson, Luther Pierson, Marilyn Richardson, Eric Ericson, Colleen Herrick, moderator, & Rob Craig and Colin Andrews, staff.

### **Committee Responsibilities and Accomplishments in 2012:**

Prepared and set up communion whenever it was served.

In consultation with the pastors, selected the appropriate sanctuary banners and provided sanctuary decorations for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Donner Park worship service, Trinity Sunday, World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving and Ordinary Time.

Coordinated floral arrangements for Sunday worship services.

Coordinated Lay Liturgists for Sunday worship services.

Coordinated with Grammer Presbyterian Church for an exchange of lay liturgists and provided a lay liturgist from FPC to Grammer five times during the year.

Held a 'Christmas in July' event to generate enthusiasm and funds for a new nativity set for the sanctuary. This set debuted at Advent 2012.

Received a Foundation loan to pre-purchase new hymnals at a reduced cost.

### **Looking ahead to 2013:**

We anticipate the arrival of our new hymnals in the fall of 2013 and hope to hold a fundraiser to offset some of the purchase costs. This could include an adult nurture opportunity to hear and sing some of the new songs.

We look forward to the arrival of an interim pastor and working with the staff to keep our worship services interesting and welcoming to all.

### **Special thanks to:**

Janet Sharpe for making a new Palm Sunday banner for the sanctuary.

Clare Moore who coordinated floral arrangements for Sunday worship services through the spring and to our members and friends who gave the flowers.

All members and friends who donated lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas.

Peggy Dunlevy, Zack Ellison, Charlotte Battin, John Anderson and Glinda Ellison who served as lay liturgists at Grammer Presbyterian Church.

Norie Erickson who made gluten free bread for our communion services and for all of our members and friends who helped us decorate for Easter and Christmas.

# OTHER REPORTS

## *Report from the Board of Deacons*

**2012 Deacons:** Sarah Sanders (Moderator) Janet Putney (Vice Moderator), Ann Keaton (Secretary), Judy Holdread, Connie Hudson, Gretchen Laemmer, Mary Orben, Janet Putney, Marilyn Richardson, Nancy Sawin, Janet Sharpe, Andy Therber, Connie Whitley, Lynne Hyatt, Natalie Roll, Melissa Hacker, Dana Harrison, Vern Jorck.

### **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, make themselves available as a resource to members on their Deacon lists, serve as Head Ushers and recruit door ushers, and represent Deacons by serving on other church committees.**

### **2012 Fellowship Events**

February: Deacon Breakfast

April: Easter Breakfast

June: Summer Picnic at Donner Park

November: Consecration Brunch

December: Helped organize the retirement celebration for Rob and Sharon Craig

### **Additional Work in 2012:**

- Working with the Accessibility Taskforce to increase usher familiarity and resources regarding church accessibility
- Working on safety/health/evacuation needs and planning
- Working with the Kitchen Committee to provide dishes for church events and receptions and several memorial services.

*Thank you to everyone for their hard work and dedication!*

*Respectfully submitted by Sarah Sanders*

# OTHER REPORTS

## Preschool

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

**Preschool Director:** Barbara Newton

**Board Members:** Colleen Herrick, Chairperson; Kathy Therber, Assistant Chairperson; Karen Dutro, Finance; Kathy Therber, Scholarship; Kelly Smit, Program Chairperson; Tricia Ghumann, Join Our Table Chairperson/ Marketing; Toyi deAlba, Fundraising; Phuong Nguyen-Fay, PTO Chairperson.

### 2012 Highlights and Accomplishments

- 162 students enrolled in 11 classes
- 10 students receiving scholarships at a total cost of approx. \$24,000.
- 26 staff members
- 3 administrative staff
- Diverse student population: 63% Caucasian (4% decrease); 23% Asian Indian (14% increase); 9% Japanese (1% increase); 3% Hispanic (3% decrease); 2% African American (2% increase) ; 2% Chinese
- Native English language speakers make up 59% of our preschool population. 16 different languages are spoken in the homes of our preschoolers.
- 8 special need students receiving BCSC services.
- Received Community Scholarship Program Scholarships for 6 students at a \$1200 value and 3 scholarships at \$2400.
- Completed Level 2 Paths to QUALITY rating
- All staff completed 15 hours of continuing education.
- Held a successful fundraising event” Under the Cherry Blossoms” that provided \$16,000 to the general fund and scholarships.
- Continued Enrichment Classes for “Marvelous Math”, “Roots to Reading” “Adventures in Art” and “Super Science”.
- Received \$5,000 from Heritage Fund’s Women’s Giving Circle Grant
- Director of Wee Care trained new Wee Care employees
- Director served as the chair of the Registered Ministry Advisory Group
- Director elected to serve as President of Indiana Assoc. of the Education of Young Children- Columbus chapter
- Finalized Preschool Assessment with Cummins and piloted the assessment
- Offered Child Care Answers training for Early Childhood Educators
- Orchestrated and held an Early Childhood Educators conference at FPC which was attended by 100 people from 5 counties.
- CAPP (Columbus Association of Private Preschools) continued to meet at FPC. Worked on improving education for all young children.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### **Use of Facility**

#### **Organizations that regularly use the church building:**

- Peace Fellowship - once a month or more
- Fogerty Music Therapy Sessions
- Granny Connection
- Volunteers In Medicine

#### **Other that have used the church in 2012:**

- Spiritual Direction
- Support Groups
- Piano & Vocal Recitals
- Violin Lessons
- Tai Chi
- Yoga



## OTHER REPORTS

### *Mission Matching Funds Task Force*

The Mission Matching Funds Task Force was formed in 2006 as an eight (8)-person committee to receive, review and recommend to Session specific grant expenditures that further the mission and outreach of First Presbyterian Church. Historically, the Stewardship & Finance Committee of Session has asked the Foundation (The Presbyterian Foundation of Columbus Indiana) to match NEW and INCREASED pledges from the congregation, up to \$35,000 annually. This match provides the funding for the mission and outreach grants. 2012 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a second 3-year challenge to the congregation.

Grant applications for mission related projects are encouraged from any committee or member of the congregation. The Mission Matching Fund Task Force is comprised of representatives from Social Justice, Stewardship and Finance, and Evangelism committees, Board of Deacons, the Foundation, a staff liaison and a congregational Member at Large.

Grants recommended by Mission Match and approved in Session during 2012 are as follows:

- \$4000 Presbyterian Cuba Connection: An undesignated gift to be to be used at the discretion of The Cuba Connection( PCUSA) Board of Directors. Needs include church building repairs, pumps, wells and auto repair for pastors. (Social Justice, Rob Craig)
- \$5000 Medical Ministry International – Haiti: The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2-year match of local gifts (long-term earthquake relief) (Witness, Madonna Yates)
- \$2000 Pastor’s Discretionary Fund: Each year our pastors have opportunities to expend small amounts of money for individuals or groups in response to crises. Some opportunities are non-congregational members from the community at large. (Social Justice, Rob Craig)
- \$500 Gospel Music Workshop: A weekend workshop for music directors, teachers and choirs. Workshop culminated in a Sunday concert for the community. This grant helped fund attendance for 14 public school teachers who use music in their classrooms to further appreciation for gospel music and its African American roots. (Worship Committee)
- \$5,180 Power of Love Micro Loan program: Loans to grandmothers in the Matero compound, Lusaka, Zambia who are caring for children orphaned by AIDS. Grant includes loan capital, staff supervision, and business training for 20 women for a 6-month business cycle. (Social Justice, Ann Jones)
- \$6000 International Center of Bethlehem: A 1:1 match from Bright Stars of Bethlehem, a funding organization for the ICB, doubles our gift. This grant helps underwrite a civic engagement program for leadership training. Our presbytery has a partnership with the International Center of Bethlehem. (Social Justice, Jo Lucas)
- \$5000 Tornado Relief – Henryville: This was a 2-part grant. \$4500 sent to Henryville. \$500 set aside to match funds raised by FPC youth to be used in Henryville Tornado relief efforts. The youth will have a voice in how their portion of the grant match is used in Henryville. (Youth Nurture, Peggy Casteel)

- \$300 Immediate Relief for Emmanuel Church, Nakuru, Kenya, Presbyterian Church of East Africa: Request through Rev. Gladys Muchoki for food aid for her church. (Social Justice)
- \$10,000 Raising the Roof at Abby's House: Request to match money (up to \$10,000) from a broad scale public fundraising campaign to support the "redesign and replacement" of the flat roof on Abby's House which is not draining effectively. (Social Justice, Roger and Jan Brinkman)
- \$250 Support for Medical Lab tech training for student from East Timor: Request from Tom Liddle, son of former Pastor, David Liddle, who worked in a clinic that is a ministry of the Protestant Church of East Timor. (Social Justice)
- \$5000 Support for Youth Mission Trips: Funds to support and encourage 2013 youth mission projects and mission trips. Trip expenses often need to be paid in advance to reserve space and secure transportation. Mission trip funding is supplemented with fund raising activities of the youth. (Youth Nurture, Charlie Farber)

\$43,230 \* TOTAL MISSION MATCHING GRANTS APPROVED IN 2012

\* Note:       \$35,000 received from Foundation for 2012  
                   \$ 7,794 remaining from 2011  
                   \$42,794 available for 2012 grants (balance end of 2012 (\$436))

Looking back, many thanks to the Foundation for their generous support of mission funding. Looking ahead, \$35,000 has once again been approved for Mission Matching Funds Task Force for 2013 by the Foundation. Thank you.

2012 Mission Matching Funds Task Force Members:

- Pam Bolton           Finance & Stewardship
- Jayne Farber        Foundation (Task Force chair)
- Sherm Franz        Member at Large (ended term 2012)
- Vern Jorck          Social Justice
- Gretchen Laemmer   Social Justice
- Anne McLaren      Evangelism & Adult Nurture
- Sarah Sanders      Deacons
- Rob Craig           Staff Liaison - Pastor and Voting Member (ended term 2012)