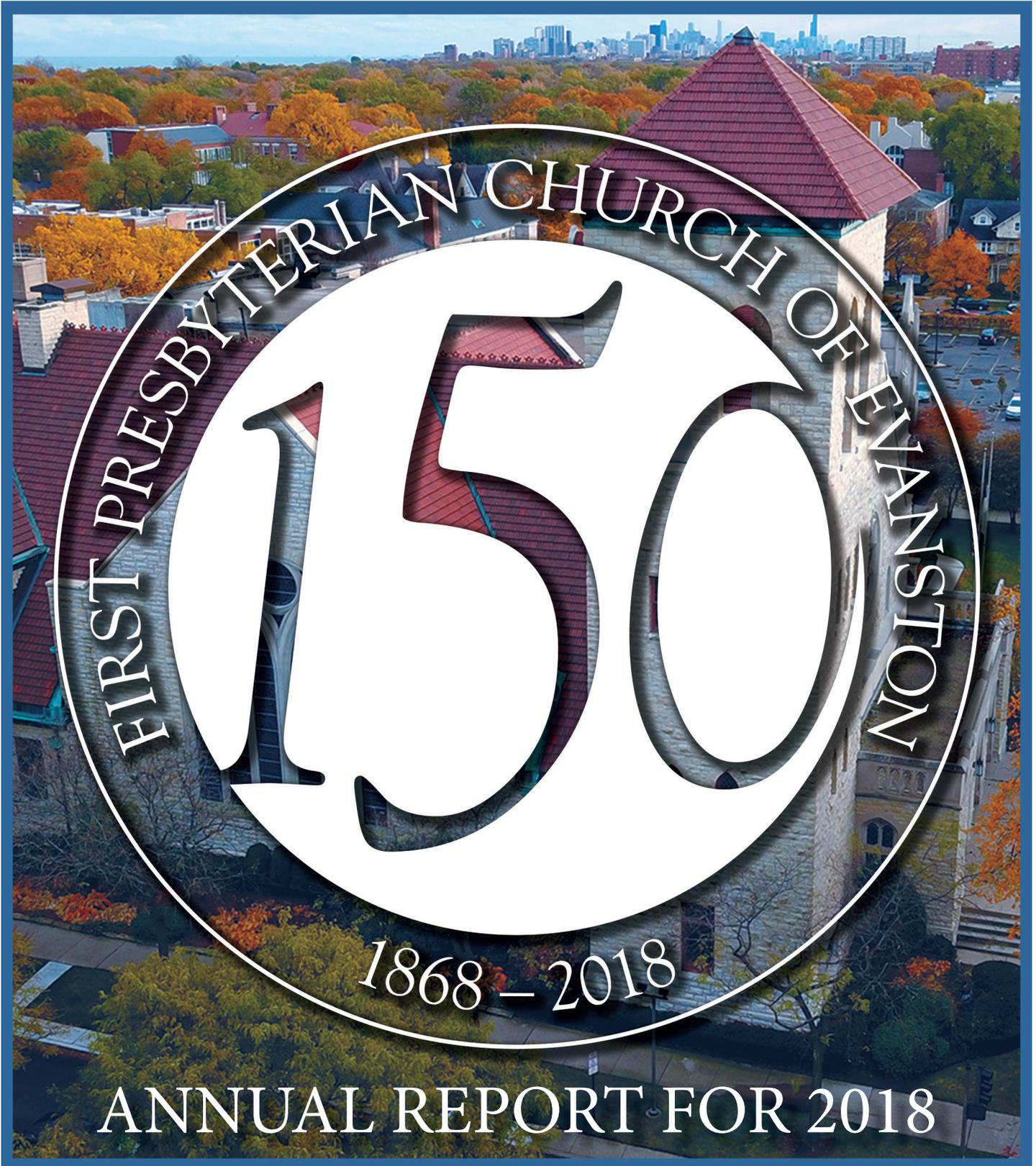


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

***OUR MISSION***

**KNOWING CHRIST**

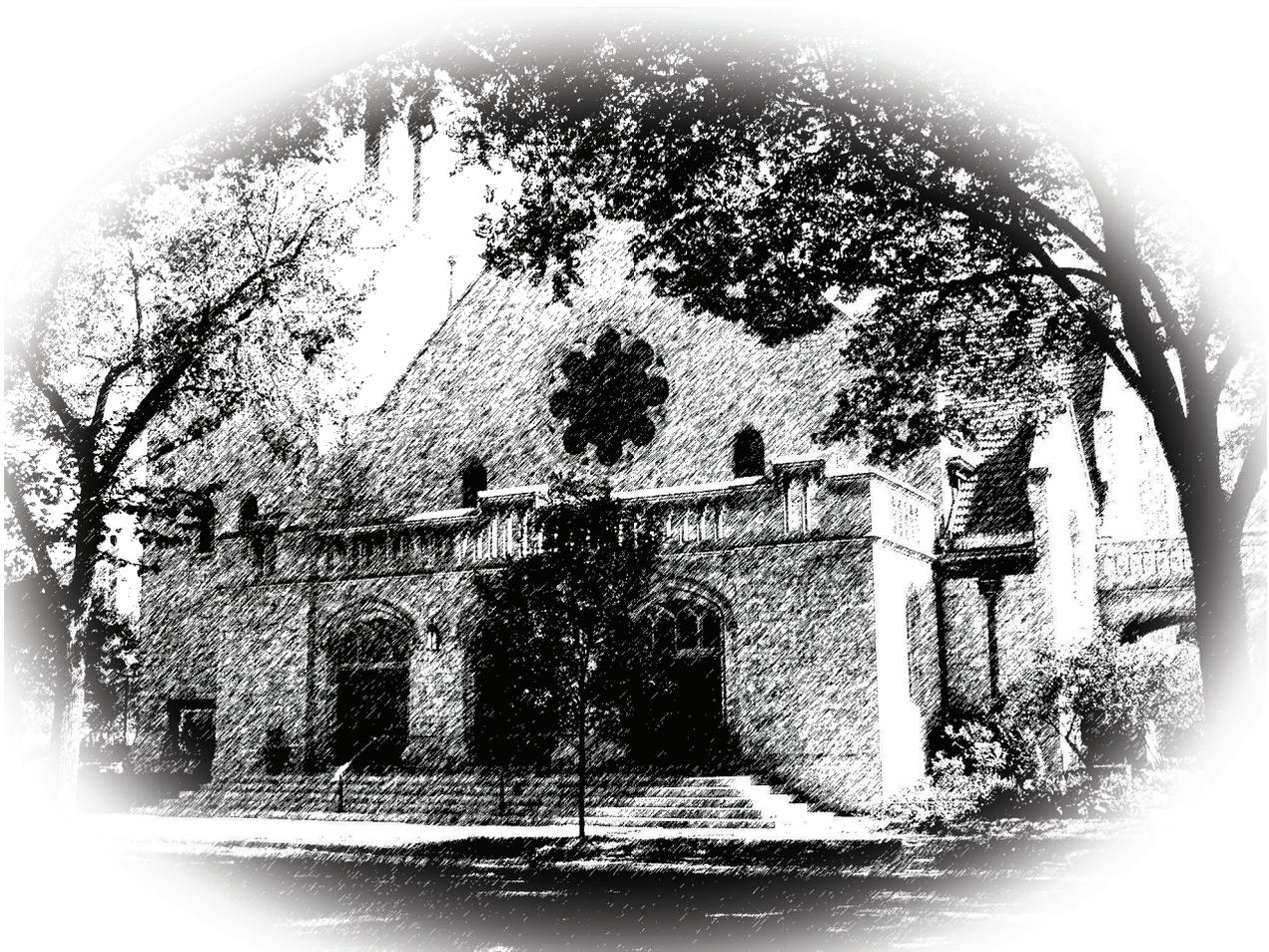
**FOLLOWING CHRIST**

**SERVING CHRIST**

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# 2018 OFFICERS

## ELDERS

Laurie Kaeser, *Clerk*

Daniel Allen  
Sonia Bodi  
Karen Bregman  
Dwayne Dobschuetz  
Katie Duke  
Marilyn Haase

Susan Hood  
Laura Jones  
LeRoy Klemt  
Matt McLeod  
Hugh Parry  
Ricki Rosengren

Daniel Shiau  
Barbara Smith  
Marge Stromberg  
Go Suigura  
May Tchao  
Sharyn Wilson Woods

## DEACONS

Peg Forbes, *Moderator*

Gayle Anderson  
Mosilda Asanji  
Tony Bandawe  
Richard Bell  
Bev Bolsen  
Cynthia Bridges  
Kay Buchan  
Al Covert  
Meghan Dietrich  
Dennis Fledderjohann

Liz Fledderjohann  
Lorna Gayle  
Michelle Hornsby  
Ray Hylton, Jr.  
David Jones  
Allen Kakooza  
Kim Langlois  
Julie Lewis  
Yuan Liu  
Sally Lynch

Lynn Ostick  
John Powell, Jr.  
Jane Pranga  
Peggie Robinson  
Joe Rodrick  
Nancy Sadek  
Melissa Sloan  
Jack Stewart  
Anne Van Heukelem  
Dan Van Heukelem

## TRUSTEES

Bill Bolsen, *President*

Bob Bastian  
Justin Bennett  
Dr. Maude Comeau  
Eleanor Ehresman

Dr. Carol Ivy  
Catherine Lattuner  
Robert Lepley

Jide Nzelibe  
Clark Robinson  
Peter Steffen

## **SENIOR PASTOR'S 2018 REPORT**

*I planted, Apollos watered,  
but God gave the growth.  
(1 Corinthians 3:6 ESV)*

### **Dear Members & Friends of First Pres,**

I am grateful for the many ways you make it your aim to please God. Jesus reminds us that that greatest thing we can do is to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).

### **Main events in 2018**

1. Gratitude to God for the 150th Committee. For two years this team, led by Olga Ricketts-Peart, created many wonderful opportunities to celebrate 150 years of God's grace and faithfulness to our church.
2. First Presbyterian Church has a clear mission statement--*make disciples who are knowing, following and serving Jesus Christ*--but we lack effective strategies to advance our mission. In July 2018 Session approved the development of a strategic planning process led by Ministry Architects. The purpose of the strategic process is to address the many challenges facing our congregation in areas of organizational structure, staffing structure, stewardship, and congregational growth. We believe that First Pres has many fruitful years ahead as a historic church in Evanston. To ensure that our church remains healthy, viable, innovative and ready to engage Evanston and the North Shore, a strategic plan is needed.

### **Other tasks in 2018**

I have also been involved in several other important tasks:

1. Worked closely with staff, Elders and Trustees in leading our church.
2. With support from the Personnel Ministry Council, provided intentional leadership and care of FPCE staff.
3. In tandem with Rev. Coates and staff, cared for and lead the congregation into a deeper relationship with Christ.
4. Provided pastoral care ministries in my office, members' homes, hospitals, and nursing homes.
5. Collaborated with Stephen Ministry, Friends in Christ, the Parish Nurse, and The Counseling Center to provide sustainable pastoral care for all our members.
5. With the help of worship staff and lay leadership, facilitated weekly worship, education, and fellowship of our Church.
6. Encouraged responsible stewardship of FPCE's resources and urged generosity of time, talents and financial resources.
7. Worked with Mission Director and elders to courageously enter doors the Spirit of God opens for service and mission.
8. Encouraged greater participation in bi-weekly prayer gatherings.

### **Challenges ahead in 2019**

While I am grateful to God for all our accomplishments in the past year, we have many challenges and opportunities awaiting us in 2019. With the Lord's help and your support we intend to do the following in the coming year:

1. Work with Design Team to implement all phases of the strategic plan.
2. Membership development and congregational care. We welcome many visitors to FPCE each

week. How do we retain and nurture our existing members and meaningfully engage our newest members?

3. Work with Small Group Leadership team to continue finding ways to build up and support small groups and leadership development of groups.
4. Develop a process for members to affirm or discover their Spirit-given gifts for service.
5. Encourage all members to share the opportunities for greater hospitality, evangelism, and witness to our community.
6. Support efforts of Stewardship Task Force in their work to revision the importance of year-round stewardship education
7. Personal spiritual growth and leadership development; possibly taking a Sabbath in 2019.

Paul reminded the church at Corinth that the work of the church involves human and divine engagement. *Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.* Each of us has a significant role to play in watering and caring for God's church. We are called to plan, work smartly, and implement change, but the ultimate results belong to the grace of God. Thanks to everyone who gave themselves first to the Lord; thanks for giving your time, talents and financial resources to the work of the church. Without your engagement, God's work would be hampered.

In Christ,

Pastor Raymond Hylton

## **Staff Telephone and Email Information**

Phone: 847-864-1472

Please send all e-mail addresses below with: **@firstpresevanston.org**

	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Ext.</b>
<b>Pastoral Staff</b>		
Rev. Dr. Ray Hylton, Senior Pastor	rhylton	501
Rev. Henry Coates, Designated Associate Pastor	hcoates	502
<b>Directors</b>		
Rev. Amanda Golbek, Director of Youth Ministries	agolbek	515
Hannah Dixon McConnell, Director of Worship and Music/Choir	hmcconnell	505
Caryl Weinberg, Director of Missions	cweinberg	504
Beverly Bolsen, Interim Director of Children's Ministries	bbolsen	507
<b>Parish Nurse</b>		
Julie Ruchniewicz, Parish Nurse ‡	jruchniewicz	513
<b>Worship/Music Staff</b>		
Rebecca Chu, Organist ‡	rchu	
Neal Ostrovsky, Audio/Visual Coordinator ‡	nostrovsky	
<b>Church/Business Office Staff</b>		
Melody Henrie, Business Manager	mhenrie	510
Janice Dobschuetz, Administrative Associate	jdobschuetz	503
Gail Dotson, Receptionist (Mon. P.M., Wed. P.M., Thurs.P.M. & Sunday A.M.) ‡	gdotson	500
Andrew Griffin, Security (Mon. – Thurs. P.M.) ‡	agriffin	500
Meghan Dietrich, Program Assistant to Dir. Of Children's Ministries and to Dir. of Worship ‡	mdietrich	509
Kelly Levander, Program Assistant to Director of Missions and to Business Manager ‡	klevander	506
Marcia Neuhart, Receptionist (Tues. P.M., Fri P.M.) ‡	mneuhart	500
Ben Suzuki, Receptionist (Tues. A.M., Thurs. A.M., & Sunday) ‡	bsuzuki	500
Jim Teague, Communications Coordinator ‡	jteague	508
Pat Verbeck, Receptionist (Mon, A.M., Wed. P.M.) ‡	pverbeck	500
<b>Building Staff</b>		
Jim Moore, Facilities Manager	jmoore	512
John Carlson, Weekday Custodian ‡	jcarlson	512
Gerardo Guerrero, Custodian	gguerrero	512
James Marohn, Saturday, Security ‡	jmarohn	512
Reginald Walker, Senior Custodian	rwalker	512
<b>The Counseling Center (847-864-9133)</b>		
Rev. Charles Miyamoto, Director of Counseling Center	cmiyamoto	481
Greg Lewis, Clinical Director	glewis	482

‡ indicates part-time

## **150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT**

### ***Sesquicentennial Church Anniversary Celebration July 27, 1868 – July 27, 2018***

The 150th Celebration Committee first met in November, 2015 and continued to meet faithfully for two years and eight months. They worked on many projects to commemorate this significant milestone in celebrating 150 years of God's grace to us.

The projects included a new church anniversary logo, a new church photo directory, a historical reflection video, a beautiful 150th booklet, a commemorative plaque to be installed in 2019, and the commissioning of a hymn celebrating God's grace throughout the past 150 years.

In anticipation of First Pres 150th year anniversary, Ken Wylie in 2015 researched and started the process of having First Presbyterian listed in the Illinois State Historical Society, this committee completed the process. Bob and Martha Sefton attended the ISHS reception in Springfield, and received the award certificate.

The Mayor of Evanston, the Honorable Steve Hagerty and the City of Evanston made a proclamation proclaiming that Friday, July 27, 2018, as the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston day in the city of Evanston. The Tribune published a feature article in the Evanston Review on the 150th anniversary celebration – it was also featured in other north shore papers.

The 150th celebration committee decided that the celebration would be Friday through Sunday, July 27 through 29, 2018. A free musical concert was given on Friday as a gift to the congregation and the Evanston community. An anniversary celebration dinner was held Saturday evening, and the committee petitioned the Session for a 10 a.m. service on Sunday.



The Friday concert was filled with praise and worship under the direction of Hannah Dixon McConnell, director of worship. Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton read the city of Evanston proclamation. The church was filled to capacity. We heard two world premiere musical compositions – the commissioned hymn, *Psalms 100/O God, Our Help In Ages Past* by Robert McConnell and a praise song, *God of Grace* by Elda Peralta McGinty, former choir director. Elda donated her composition to FPCE. It was good to see many former choir members performing in the concert.

The 150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner was held that Saturday in the 10th floor ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel in Skokie. A total of 310 guests attended the reception and dinner. Harpist Autumn Selover performed many musical renditions during the reception at 6 p.m. Jim Wildenradt, master of ceremonies, welcomed everyone. Reverend Hylton opened the program with prayer. Special guests, mission partners, and long term members 50 years or longer were recognized. A video of historical and personal reflections was shown. The food was blessed and a delicious dinner was served. Philip Yancey, a world-renowned Christian author and speaker, delivered the keynote speech. The

*(Continued on next page.)*

evening came to a close with the singing of the hymn *How Great Thou Art*.

On Sunday, July 29, 2018, there was one service at 10 a.m. The service continued the celebration with praise and thanksgiving to God for His grace for the past 150 years. The Rev. Dr. Mitri Rehab brought greetings from our sister church in Bethlehem. The sermon title was Enduring Hope, and the scripture reading was from Hebrews 10:19-25, 32-36. The sermon was preached jointly by the Rev. Dr. Atef Gendy, president of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, Tim Jones, executive director of Good News Partners in Chicago, and the Rev. Dr. Hylton. Elda Peralta McGinty performed her new praise song, *God of Grace*. After the benediction, everyone was invited to the 150th celebration brunch in Roy Hall. Cake was served in the dining room.

Special thanks to all who wrote an article or two for the 150th booklet.

Committee members: Larry Holm, Barb Holm, Katy Ingle, Leah Savoy, Suzanne Sawada, Ellen Wilson, Caryl Weinberg, Rick Parris, Florence Hurter, Bill Floyd, Jim Wildenradt, Sonia Bodi (2018), Katie Duke (2018), and Olga Ricketts-Peart (chair).

## **2018 SESSION REPORT**

The 2018 Session was composed of eighteen ruling elders, elected by our congregation; our senior pastor who moderates the meetings; our designated associate pastor; and the clerk (a non-voting ruling elder elected by the Session) who records the minutes of the meetings. The Session “shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.” (*Book of Order*, G-3.0201)

Our 2018 Session was blessed with a group of faithful elders who attended meetings, served on ministry councils, task forces, and committees, and prayerfully strove to discern the will of God for First Pres.

*The following significant Session events and actions took place in 2018:*

January 2018 started off on a high note with a Session sponsored all-church ministry fair. Nearly two-dozen ministry groups participated. Roy Hall was filled with members and visitors enjoying fellowship, delicious treats, information and resources, as well as special door prizes.

The annual Leadership Retreat took place in mid-January 2018. The retreat’s theme was “*Aligning and Equipping on the Pathway Towards Discipleship.*” This was a continuation of the work Session had done over the past two years based on the principles covered in the book *Simple Church* by Eric Geiger and Thom Rainer. Friday evening was devoted to getting to know our fellow elders and trustees by providing a time of fellowship with an opportunity to hear the spiritual testimonies of our new elders and trustees. We are always blessed by listening to these stories! The Saturday session included discussion groups and presentations revolving around building disciples and focusing our ministries on that process. Our elders, trustees, and program directors deemed the weekend to be quite beneficial.

Throughout the year, our monthly Session meetings opened with prayer and devotions. In addition, the practice of holding an extended time of prayer before every meeting continued to be an essential part of our Tuesday nights. This has been an invaluable time for the elders to come together, pray for each other, the Session agenda items, and the needs of the congregation. Our meetings are preceded by a time of fellowship and a meal prepared by a dedicated cooking crew that includes Barbara Holm, Susan Powell, and Kay Sugiura. Their dinner menus are well planned and delicious!

Our monthly Session meetings began with devotions based on chapters from the book *Growing Young* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. The book provides strategies that can be used in engaging younger generations in the life of the church.

Plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church were well underway. The planning group gave updates to Session on a regular basis. The main events for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration took place over a three-day weekend on July 27, 28, and 29<sup>th</sup>. This included a free concert which showcased the many musical talents within our congregation, a celebration banquet with author Philip Yancey as the keynote speaker, and a Sunday worship service featuring several of our mission partners followed by a Mission Council sponsored brunch.

Early in the year, Pastor Ray encouraged the Session to think about a new strategic plan for our church. *Knowing, Following, and Serving Christ* would inform the process. After discernment, prayer,  
(Continued on next page.)

discussion, and research, the elders approved the hiring of the *Ministry Architects* consulting group to assist in developing the plan for the congregation. In early fall, the *Ministry Architects* consultants put together a Church-wide Assessment Plan which would inform the various goals and benchmarks. The *Simple Church* principles are referred to in the plan and will be revisited. A Design Team was formed which will oversee the process. (Subsequently, a “Visioning Summit” was held on January 11 and 12, 2019 for all church leaders and program directors.)

Session approved the *Explore God Chicago 2019 Initiative*. This is a community outreach initiative led by a committee of local pastor and business and ministry leaders from the Chicago area. A seven-week sermon series on “The 7 Big Questions” was to begin in January 2019 and discussion groups would be formed to further explore these questions.

FPCE hosted the Chicago Presbytery Assembly meeting in February 2018. This was an important meeting as the new Executive Presbyter, the Rev. Susan Krummel, was installed. Our elders and other church volunteers helped with the set-up, served as greeters, and assisted in serving the lunches provided by the Souper Saturday kitchen.

Our elected elders serving as 2018 commissioners to the Chicago Presbytery Assembly included Sonia Bodi, Marilyn Haase, Laurie Kaeser, Clark Robinson, Olga Ricketts-Pearl, Sharyn Wilson Woods, and Barbara Smith (alternate). Reports of these meetings were given at Session meetings. Laurie Kaeser also served another year on the Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry as regional liaison to fourteen north side area Presbyterian churches.

Session welcomed a class of new members in June. It is always a privilege and inspiration to hear the testimonies of faith from prospective new members! Another blessing was the approval of seven confirmands who joined the church as new members in January 2018. In addition, William Jordan, a member of our church, continues to be a candidate for ministry under our Session’s care. He is completing his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary.

We felt the impact of the departures of Director of Children’s Ministries Rev. Kristin Mueller, Interim Director of Youth Liz Ribiero, and church organist Jack Harriff. However, Session welcomed Rev. Amanda Golbek as Director of Youth, Bev Bolsen as Interim Director of Children’s Ministries, and Rebecca Chu taking over the duties of church organist. Choir Director Hannah McConnell became our Director of Worship and Music.

A sincere thank-you is in order to the following elders who completed their terms in 2018: Karen Bregman, Marilyn Haase, LeRoy Klemmt, Ricki Rosengren, Go Sugiura, and May Tchao.

As we look back over 2018, we give thanks for the many blessings our Lord has provided to our church. Please continue to pray for our Session as they lead in the governance of God’s people at First Pres.

Members can read about the monthly Session meetings in the Session summaries found on the website, in the e-newsletter link, and in the literature racks.

Laurie Kaeser  
*Clerk of Session*

## Church Membership Figures (Active)

December 31, 2017: 656

December 31, 2018: 663

### Gains - 27

Confession of Faith: 8

Reaffirmation of Faith: 12

Letter of Transfer: 5

Reinstated: 1

Affiliate to Active: 1

### Losses - 20

Deaths: 6

Dismissed at Own Request: 6

Letter of Transfer: 4

Dismissed through Culling of Rolls: 2

Active to Affiliate: 2

During 2018 the following baptisms were celebrated: 4

**We celebrate the lives of the following beloved members and friends of First Pres who went to join the Lord in 2018:** *Charles McBride (1/22/18), Ernie Roehrborn (2/10/18), Mary Anne Hoover (2/24/18), \*Rev. William Ekhart (3/15/18), Barbara McBride (3/24/18), Sarah Filler (12/3/18), Rita Newman (12/4/18), \*Tom Stamos (12/7/18)*

*\*Friend of FPCE*

## **2018 BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT**

The Deacon Board of FPCE, ordained by our congregation, continues to be an embodiment of our current Mission statement: **Knowing Christ, Following Christ, Serving Christ**. At each of our monthly Board meetings, one of our members gives a devotional, usually Biblically-based, that engages us in getting to know our Lord Jesus Christ better, and we often discuss and pray about how that knowledge can help us Follow him as well. As for Serving Christ—that's our main purpose, as the Book of Order puts forth, and especially to those in need of help or comfort.

The largest effort of the Deacons is Fellowship Hour. This requires several Deacons each Sunday, led by a Deacon leader, to prepare and set out coffee and treats, and then serve the Congregation, friends and others, as well as cleaning up, after the first service. These gatherings provide a chance for members and guests to connect, and to welcome new and potential members. During the summer, we move Fellowship Hour outside for Lemonade on the Lawn.

We also serve our congregation and friends through Communion at Home. Six times a year, deacons bring the sacrament of Communion to those members who cannot attend church. We visit members in teams of two and offer prayer and news of the church along with communion. This year we have typically served between six and ten members each month we offer this outreach. We also have moved away from the prepackaged communion wafers and juice to fresh juice served in Communion cups and pieces of the bread served in our church Communion service. Our members seem to appreciate that our service tries to emulate the experience of taking Communion in church. Another aspect of this work is to send sympathy cards to family members who have lost loved ones. Poinsettias are often delivered as well during the Christmas season. For many years, the Deacons have served Christ by providing gently used clothing to adult homeless folks and others in need. Open the first and third Saturdays of each month, the Clothes Closet served 60-100 guests each time in 2018. Donations from church members and others who know of our mission provide the clothing, and blankets, sheets, towels, and luggage, and the Deacons purchase toiletries and underwear that are handed out, in addition to the clothing, on the third Saturday.

This year we bought and gave out sets of long underwear as well. Deacons both sort the clothing before the guests arrive and then assist guests in finding the clothing that best suits their needs. Volunteers from the Women's Club of Evanston help us during the fall and spring as well.

In addition to these ongoing services, the Deacons have two very special projects that involve the participation of our congregation: the Backpack Project and the Angel Tree Project. Our congregation is very generous in providing school supplies each summer for underprivileged school children in Evanston. This year, for the second time in a row, a member of FPCE provided over 50 new backpacks which were filled by our members and taken to Family Focus for distribution in early August.

Our Angel Tree Project is also well-supported by our congregation. This year we had over 130 angels picked up, each angel representing one of two gifts for each child of an incarcerated parent. The Angel Tree Project is in cooperation with the FPCE Prison Fellowship Ministry. Finally, the Deacons also make a monetary donation to two local non-profit organizations from the funds given to us by our congregation. Those organizations are Interfaith Action of Evanston and Connections for the Homeless, both of which provide services which we cannot, such as transit passes, homeless shelters, job training and others.

Sincerely, The 2018 Deacon Board

## **2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Society of Evanston administers the property, finances, operations and legal affairs of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston. It supervises committees for management of the buildings (Building Committee) and finances (Stewardship, Budget, and Finance and Endowment Committees.) Trustees serve with members of Session on the Personnel and Nominating Committees and serve as liaisons. The trustees work directly with the church business office and church treasurer to assure our financial obligations as approved by the Session and Trustees are met in a timely fashion.

### **Trustees for 2018**

Bill Bolsen – President	Bob Bastian	Clark Robinson – Treasurer
Catherine Lattuner – Vice President	Maude Comeau	Peter Steffen – Asst. Secretary
Eleanor Ehresman - Secretary	Carol Ivy	Tuah Jenta
Jide Nzelibe	Rob Lepley	
Melody Henrie – Business Manager		Jim Moore – Facilities Manager

**The Budget Team** was led by Bob Bastian this year. Enclosed in the latter pages of this report you will find the 2019 budget. The budget again this year projects a significant deficit. The Trustees and Session continue to prayerfully consider how this deficit can be reduced to arrive at a balanced budget.

The financial results of the church are also presented later in this report. The 2018 financial results were significantly better than budget primarily due to the results of our investments. The savings were attained primarily through unfilled vacant positions.

**The Finance and Endowment Team** is responsible for investing the funds that are not needed for the current operations of the church. These are primarily the endowment funds – General, Building, Great Commission, and Pension Funds. This past year the team was chaired by Hugh Parry.

**Our Building Team** was chaired by Doug Hood during 2018. This past year the building team supervised the completion of elevator renovation and the replacement of the dining room air conditioning.

Thank you to the trustee class of 2018 – Eleanor Ehresman, Carol Ivy, Catherine Lattuner, Bob Bastian and Building Chair Doug Hood.

## 2018 TREASURER'S REPORT

**Operating Fund.** The following table gives the revenue and expenses of the operating fund in 2018. These figures as well as all others in this report are before any auditor adjustments.

2018	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Revenue – Church Operations</b>			
Giving Income	1,223,362	1,270,000	(46,638)
Transfer from Investment Accounts	272,872	268,890	3,982
Investment Interest	38,693	32,000	6,693
Other Income	<u>31,476</u>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>(16,524)</u>
<b>Total Revenue – Church Operations</b>	<b>1,566,403</b>	<b>1,618,890</b>	<b>(52,487)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries & Related	1,050,351	1,170,073	(119,722)
Program Services: Children's Ministry	7,303	18,850	(11,547)
Youth Ministry	15,554	18,450	(2,896)
Young Adults	11,234	19,000	(7,766)
Adult Discipleship	8,078	12,350	(4,272)
Evangelism & Membership Development	1,296	5,000	(3,704)
Pastoral Ministries	8,353	10,650	(2,297)
Worship/Music	<u>50,094</u>	<u>49,344</u>	<u>750</u>
Total Program Services	100,708	133,644	(32,936)
Mission: Current Year Disbursements	224,236	208,238	15,998
Transfer from Carry Forward Fund	<u>15,998</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15,998</u>
Net Mission on current year budget	208,238	208,238	0
Administrative	129,385	117,216	12,169
Session & Trustee Leadership	44,006	48,590	(4,584)
Building & Grounds Operating Expenses	<u>87,789</u>	<u>94,199</u>	<u>(6,410)</u>
<b>Total Expenses – Church Operations</b>	<b>1,621,681</b>	<b>1,757,037</b>	<b>(150,279)</b>
<b>Excessive Revenue (Expense) – Church Operations</b>	<b>(53,660)</b>	<b>(153,070)</b>	<b>99,410</b>
without Deacon's and TCC			
<b>Deacons: Revenue</b>	10,931	19,000	(8,069)
Expense	16,022	19,000	(2,978)
Transfer from Carry Forward Fund	<u>5,091</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,091</u>
Net Deacons	0	0	0
<b>The Counseling Center (TCC): Revenue</b>	105,702	100,500	5,202
Expenses	<u>113,316</u>	<u>106,327</u>	<u>6,989</u>
Excess Revenue (Expenses) - TCC	<u>(7,614)</u>	<u>(5,827)</u>	<u>(1,787)</u>
<b>Excess Revenue (Expenses) – Total Operating Fund</b>	<b>(62,892)</b>	<b>(158,897)</b>	<b>96,005</b>

The actual deficit of expenses over revenue for church operations is approximately \$62,900 rather than the budgeted deficit of \$159,000 (with revised amount for mission). The main differences in the actual amounts from the budgeted amounts are as follows. Giving income is over \$46,600 below budget. Total expenses decreased by \$150,300 with the greatest amount from a decrease in salaries of \$119,700 due to unfilled positions. Most other expenses came in under the budget amount. The amount listed for the mission budget is based on the actual pledge giving in 2018 (so is less than previously given.) The amount disbursed for missions was the \$224,236 which was covered by the allocation of \$208,238 from current year pledge giving plus \$15,998 transferred from last year's unspent allocation. In addition there was an additional \$67,111 spent from donations for specific mission projects such as Tumekutana, Refugee Ministry and Souper Saturday. The Deacons had

slightly larger expenses than revenue, but that was easily covered by a transfer of funds from their carry forward account. The Counseling Center had a deficit of \$7,614. Yet to come are corrections to be made by our auditor and any possible adjustment for the Pension Liability, which is not included in the figures presented.

**Restricted Funds.** We have two categories of restricted funds – those restricted by the donors to be used for a specific purpose and funds that have been restricted by board action. The board restricted funds can be used for purposes at the Boards’ discretion. Activity in our restricted funds are shown following.

	Beginning Balances 12/31/2017	Contributions & Transfers	Expenses	Ending Balances 12/31/2018
<b>Donor Restricted Funds</b>				
<b>Mission Funds</b>				
Refugee Ministry	0	14,759	7,239	7,520
Great Commission Reserve Fund	3,921	0	0	3,921
Tumekutana	3,334	48,717	38,046	14,005
Prison Ministry	15,670	(63)	1,704	13,903
Souper Saturday Fund	9,476	4,549	6,672	7,353
Other Mission Benevolences	15,803	12,182	13,450	14,536
<b>Total Mission Funds</b>	<b>48,204</b>	<b>80,145</b>	<b>67,111</b>	<b>61,238</b>
<b>Other Donor Funds</b>				
Children’s Church Camp Scholarship	12,477	(5,904)	2,205	4,368
Youth Mission & Event Scholarship	25,316	9,539	0	34,855
Men’s & Women’s Benevolence Funds	18,111	1,519	4,300	15,330
Pilgrimage Scholarship	7,291	2,490	3,837	5,944
Seminary/Memorial Scholarship Fund	2,658	0	500	2,158
Memorial Reception Fund	2,473	200	40	2,633
Handbell Fund	7,943	0	0	7,943
Chancel Flower Fund	2,291	1,180	1,028	2,443
Deacon’s Carry Forward Fund	50,925	(5,091)	31	45,803
Hampton Fund - Building	660,507	(50,000)	0	610,507
Other	10,637	4,392	13,678	1,351
<b>Total Donor Restricted Funds</b>	<b>848,833</b>	<b>38,469</b>	<b>92,730</b>	<b>794,571</b>
<b>Board Designated Funds</b>				
IT Upgrade Fund	22,907	15,000	11,381	26,526
Mission Carry Forward Balance	34,995	(3,375)	0	31,620
Memorial Gift Balance	863,122	1,650	0	864,772
<b>Total Board Designated Funds</b>	<b>921,024</b>	<b>13,275</b>	<b>11,381</b>	<b>922,918</b>

In total, we received \$111,711 in donations for restricted purposes and a net of \$73,242 transferred out to other funds where the funds were expended. In addition to the funds shown above we had \$101,649 prepaid pledges in 2017 and transferred to the operating budget in 2018, and \$45,542 prepaid pledges received in 2018 for the 2019 operating budget.

The money transferred out of the Mission Carry Forward Fund is used to cover the amount spent for current mission projects but not covered by the allocation for 2018. The final amount has not yet been determined but \$3,375 has currently been transferred and a tentative figure in the table for the church operations shows an estimated \$15,998 will be needed. The budgeted deficits in the operating fund are made up from the Memorial Gift Fund, one of the Board designated funds listed above. Again the final amount will not be determined until the audit, but I estimated it to be about \$62,900 as given in the table of church operations given above.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Building Fund.** The capital for building maintenance is kept in Building Endowment. Each year 4.5% of a three average is transferred to a Building Maintenance Reserve Fund (BMRF) from which the current year expenses are paid. In 2018, \$381,100 was transferred to BMRF from the Building Endowment; in addition, approximately \$327,900 was carried forward from previous years for a total of \$709,000. A total of \$863,400 was spent from BMRF for building maintenance and capital expenditures during 2018. Because more was spent than from the normal allocation from the Building Endowment, approximately \$154,000 will have to be transferred from the Hampton fund (included in the Donor Restricted Funds) which is available for special building projects. Included in this amount are \$64,300 for a new bus, \$160,000 for elevator renovation, and \$325K for a new air conditioning system for the dining room wing of the second floor.

**Overall Financial Position.** The following table lists the assets by various categories as of December 31, 2018. The listing gives the figures after adjustment for liabilities and amounts due between the various funds. All figures in this report are based on preliminary statements as of February 6. Work has begun on the 2018 audited statements, which will be posted on the church's website after they are completed and approved by the Trustees.

<b>Fund Balances as of December 31, 2018</b>	
Fund 1 Operating Fund	(107,050)
Fund 2 Donor Restricted	850,741
Fund 6 Board Designated	922,917
Fund 3 Bldg Main Reserve Fund	(155,397)
Fund 5 Investment Funds	
General Investment Fund	5,194,644
Building Investment Fund	8,018,185
Great Commission Fund	<u>540,862</u>
Total Invest. & Endowment	<u>13,753,690</u>
Total without Plant & Equipment	15,264,901
Depreciated Plant & Equipment	<u>2,921,445</u>
Total	18,186,346

The negative balance in the operating fund reflects \$150,000 in pension liabilities from the defined benefit plan (which will be revised during the audit process). This pension was frozen, but which continues to make payments to our pensioners, and will need to make payments in the future to some of our current staff who were vested in the plan on 12/31/2013. Also the deficit in the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund will need to be covered by the Hampton Fund (in Fund 2). Further adjustments will need to be made in the auditing process.

**Future Challenges.** As you can see from the discussion of the Operating Fund given at the beginning of this report and the Budget Report for 2019, our church continues to face a challenge in terms of meeting current expenses out of current giving revenues. Without the saving from unfilled positions we would be running very large deficits. For these reasons, Session and the Board of Trustees are seeking to find ways to increase giving revenue, reduce expenses, or both.

R-Clark Robinson  
Treasurer

## **2018 BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

The final 2019 operating fund budget as approved at a joint meeting of the Session and Board of Trustees on January 29, 2019 has a deficit of approximately \$188,000, up \$118,000 from the preliminary 2019 budget presented at the October 21 congregational meeting. Unfortunately, pledges for 2019 are \$210,000 less than the preliminary budget and are approximately \$110,000 less than both 2018 actual and budget. Since the mission portion of the operating fund budget is a defined percentage of pledge income, it automatically declined by \$42,000 from the preliminary budget. To keep the operating deficit under \$200,000, the personnel budget was decreased an additional \$50,000 from the preliminary budget.

Obviously, we cannot continue with deficits of this magnitude. Please continue to pray for wisdom in how to meet our budget challenges.

Bob Bastian, Chairperson

### **First Presbyterian Church of Evanston - Operating Fund**

	<b>2018 Final Budget</b>	<b>2019 Budget Submission</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>	<b>2019 Prelim Budget Proposal</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>	<b>2019 Final Budget</b>
<b>Revenues</b>						
Pledge Income	\$1,075,000	\$1,075,000	\$100,000	\$1,175,000	(\$210,300)	\$964,700
Faith Giving	180,000	180,000	(30,000)	150,000		150,000
Loose Plate	15,000	15,000		15,000		15,000
Special & Supplemental Gifts	-	-		-		-
<b>Total Giving Revenue</b>	<b>1,270,000</b>	<b>1,270,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>1,340,000</b>	<b>(210,300)</b>	<b>1,129,700</b>
Endowment Income	234,000	234,000		234,000		234,000
Unrealized Capital Gains/(Losses)	↓	↓		-		-
Intermediate Invmt Fund 4% Transfer	39,000	39,000		39,000		39,000
Transfer from Memorial Gift for 150th	14,950	-		-		-
Other Income	57,000	57,000		57,000		57,000
	344,950	330,000	-	330,000	-	330,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,614,950</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$1,670,000</b>	<b>(\$210,300)</b>	<b>\$1,459,700</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Salaries & Related	\$1,170,085	\$1,157,520	(\$50,000)	\$1,107,520	(\$50,240)	\$1,057,280
<b>Program Expense</b>						
Children's Ministries	19,200	18,000		18,000		18,000
Youth Ministries	18,450	18,450		18,450		18,450
Adult Discipleship	12,350	12,350		12,350		12,350
Young Adults/Young Families	19,000	19,000		19,000		19,000
Evangelism/Membership	5,000	5,000		5,000		5,000
Pastoral Ministries	10,650	10,900		10,900		10,900
Worship/Music Ministries	49,345	49,345		49,345		49,345
Administrative Expenses	117,220	117,220		117,220		117,220
Buildings & Grounds	94,200	93,215		93,215		93,215
150th Anniversary Celebration	14,950	0		0		0
Session/Trustee Leadership	34,000	34,000	20,000	54,000		54,000
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>394,365</b>	<b>377,480</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>397,480</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>397,480</b>
Mission	215,000	215,000	20,000	235,000	(42,060)	192,940
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,779,450</b>	<b>\$1,750,000</b>	<b>(\$10,000)</b>	<b>\$1,740,000</b>	<b>(\$92,300)</b>	<b>\$1,647,700</b>
<b>Excess Revenue (Expense) from Operations</b>	<b><u>(\$164,500)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$150,000)</u></b>	<b><u>\$80,000</u></b>	<b><u>(\$70,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$118,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$188,000)</u></b>
The Counseling Center Revenue	110,000	110,000		110,000		110,000
The Counseling Center Expense	110,000	110,000		110,000		110,000
TCC Excess Revenue (Expense)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deacon's Revenue	19,000	19,000		19,000		19,000
Deacon's Expense	(19,000)	(19,000)		(19,000)		(19,000)
Deacon's Excess Revenue (Expense)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating Fund</b>						
<b>Excess Revenue (Expense)</b>	<b><u>(\$164,500)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$150,000)</u></b>	<b><u>\$80,000</u></b>	<b><u>(\$70,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$118,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$188,000)</u></b>

## **2018 FINANCE & ENDOWMENT MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

Members: Bill Bolsen, LeRoy Klemt, Rick Parris, Hugh Parry, Clark Robinson, Bob Sefton and Maude Toussaint

The Finance and Endowment Committee (F&E) is appointed and supervised by the Board of Trustees. F&E oversees the endowment and other investment funds of the church. The endowment funds were established in the 1980s and provide resources for building maintenance and capital improvements, as well as funds to support general church operations. Chicago Partners provides investment advisory services to the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston and reports quarterly to the F&E Committee.

The endowment is comprised of six funds: Building (\$7.7M), General Endowment (\$4.9M), Great Commission (\$0.5M), Retirement (\$1.5M), Intermediate-Term Investment (\$1.04M) and Short-Term Investment (\$0.27M). These assets are allocated in our portfolio to cash (3.8%), equities/stocks (58%), fixed income/bonds (34%) and other (3.9%). In 2018 the church withdrew \$1.34M from the endowment for the rebuild of the elevators, HVAC, tuckpointing and general operations.

For those who do not follow financial markets 2018 was a rocky investment environment. The stock market in particular was volatile with indexes peaking in the summer and declining at the end of the year. For the church we began 2018 with \$18.7M in our endowment and finished the year with \$16.1M. Beyond the withdrawals noted above the church's endowment experienced a \$1.06M decline in the market value of its investments.

Is there cause for concern about our endowment and how it is invested? Not at all. Investment markets provide positive returns in the long run but occasionally correct in the short run. Much of the market volatility late in 2018 was due to concerns over U.S. - China trade relations and rising interest rates. We are indebted to Chicago Partners for their long and faithful service to our church. Chicago Partners has been advising us on our investments for over thirteen years. During that time the church targeted an investment return of 5.6%. Thanks to Chicago Partners we have realized a return of 6.11% and that includes the impact of the 2008 financial crisis as well as the unpredictable markets of 2018.

## **2018 STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

The “Stewardship Ministry Team-2019” was formed in April, 2018, with the following members: George Collins, Eleanor Ehresman, Marilyn Haas, Pastor Ray Hylton, Jim Teague and Go Sugiura as its chair.

The Committee met once a month, through January, 2019, setting its goals, scheduling activities toward the Stewardship Sunday, etc. Stewardship Sunday was set on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. At the August meeting, the theme of the Ministry-2019 was set as “Onward and Upward”.

Based on the theme, a graphic design was created by Jim Teague, which was incorporated in all the communication materials, such as pledge cards, posters, campaign brochures, etc.

According to the schedules established, officers of the church made their pledges at their meetings in September: Deacons at their meeting on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and Trustees and Elders at their joint meeting on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

On Sundays in September and October, several members presented their testimonies on “giving”, Dan and Sharon Allen, as well as Hank Bohanon via video, and Go Sugiura in person, during the Service.

In preparation for the Stewardship Sunday, which was set on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Annual Pledge packet was mailed to the Congregations. It contained the letter from Pastor Ray Hylton, pledge cards, campaign brochures, etc. On Stewardship Sunday, the Congregations presented their pledges during the Service.

During the month of December, George Collins made a round of phone calls as a friendly reminder to those who had not yet presented their pledges.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the total pledges and faith giving received are as follows:

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
<b>Pledges:</b>	195 for \$964,000	213 for \$1,082,00
<b>Faith Giving:</b>	31	27
<b>Total Participations:</b>	226	240
<b>Total Giving Units:</b>	274	274
<b>Participation Ratio:</b>	82.5%	87.5%

Further review of the pledges indicates that over 46% of total dollars pledged came from members of 70 years of age and over. This situation we are facing is a challenge.

We are most thankful for those who have made their pledges and faith giving, and our prayer is that we continue seeing the growth of the Congregation’s participation to the Ministry.

Respectfully,

Go Sugiura, Chair

## **2018 ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REPORT**

The purpose of the Adult Discipleship Council (ADC) is to further our church's mission of making disciples who are growing in knowing Christ, following Christ, and serving Christ through nine ministries, seven of which are on-going, year-round ministries: Adult Education, Small Groups Ministry, Young Adults Ministry, Young Families Ministry, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, and Moms R Us. Pilgrimage is a once/year spiritual retreat, and the Library ministry seeks to resource the other seven.

**Adult Education:** The Sunday morning Adult Education offerings had an average attendance of at least 95 – we have never had so many people attending classes. Two ongoing classes are Sunday Morning Forum – Richard Bell and Building Lasting Relationships – Judith Hylton (plus a periodic gathering of Single but Not Alone led by Karen Shaw) The Bible Class finished its in-depth journey through the Gospel of Mark taught this fall by Rev. Henry Coates. This fall we introduced a new teacher and class with JJ Ivaska teaching on the theme of the Exile in the Old Testament. The Missions class facilitated by Caryl Weinberg did two training-based classes: a video class on loving Muslim neighbors by Carl Medearis and sharing our stories by Melanie Myatt. 2018 concluded with a 3-part Advent class on “Faith and Art”. To start 2019, we are gearing up to do a 7-week series to match the sermon series for Explore God.

**Small Groups:** The Ministry Architects' October 2018 Report listed the level of small group engagement at FPCE as high and one of our church's assets. There are currently 187 people involved in 17 small groups. This does not include the Young Adult group, the 3 Young Family groups, Nourish (Thursday a.m.) or the Thursday night Women's Bible study, which are all open groups. The small groups ministry team helps connect members with a small group; assists in the organization of the Lenten study; and, prays for the ministry and small group leaders. We are currently re-evaluating our ministry's purpose and how best to serve existing groups and encourage growth. At the January Visioning Summit, church leadership included growth of this ministry as one of its top goals.

**Young Adults:** The 20s/30s small group has developed into something special—although this age group sees a lot of turnover as people leave Evanston/Chicago area, there is a good core group of people. Pastor Henry has identified a couple of leaders who help in guiding discussions and hosting the small group, and has a plan to disciple them further in leadership development. The group just concluded a study in Proverbs, and will begin delving into Colossians.

**Young Families:** The Family Small group, which meets monthly, is going well. Right now there are three groups that meet simultaneously, led by Judith Hylton, Sally Ivaska, and Kathy Shiau. We have approximately 20 families involved. We have childcare for all ages of kids with Tom Klamm running games for the older kids while their parents meet. It has been really special seeing so many kids have a blast running around our gym. Joan Borg has been helping set up meals. We cater each meal, and have a suggested \$10 donation per family. Since Fall 2018, we have had the Youth, 20s/30s, and the families altogether for the meal—which comes close to about 70 people eating together. It's been a powerful witness God's hand in the growth and multiplication of this ministry.

**Women's Ministry:** Our mission is to help women know Christ, follow Christ and serve Christ. Last year we held our 3rd Annual Pre-Valentine Movie night/Jewelry Swap event. This event brought over 50 women together to fellowship whether single or married, young and old. The donations were given to the Good News Partners Women's shelter and the Emmaus Ministry in Chicago. We supported the Tumekutana event by sponsoring an African female leader to attend the conference. We continue to

send money through the sale of cards to support the Salem Medical Center in Egypt (Thanks to Barb Warnecke). Our Annual Women's Retreat last year was a big hit. We had over 100 women attending from FPC and all over the Evanston and Chicago area. Women came to know the Lord at this event and renewed their commitment to Christ. Thanks to the amazing, hardworking members of the Women's Ministry Team and the wonderful support of the FPC staff. The Women's Thursday bible study continues to impact the lives of many women and is still growing.

**Men's Ministry:** The Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast of the Mens Ministry draws 25-35 men every Saturday morning for breakfast, fellowship, prayer and an interesting speaker. In March of 2018, we held our 24rd annual men's 2-day retreat. Many men (55) came to hear Dr. Clifton Black, a professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, speak on the Gospel of Mark. We also financially helped unemployed Church members at Thanksgiving and Christmas with gift cards to help with their needs.

**Nourish (the ministry formerly known as "Moms R Us"):** The big change in 2018 was the changing of the name of our ministry from "Moms R Us" to "Nourish." Since the change, we have had more women attending who are not "mothers" so that our group numbers now between 15-18 attendees with a very diverse range in age We meet on Thursday mornings for bible study and prayer support led by Sally Ivaska and Holly Halliday. We are a close-knit, supportive community, but always open to new women. We continue to offer babysitting for young children and babies.

**Pilgrimage:** Our last Pilgrimage weekend was held in June of 2018. There were 26 staff members from 8 different churches, and 13 participants from 3 different churches in the Chicago area. The weekend was moderated by Sue Arntsen from Village Pres in Northbrook. Pilgrimage is a 3-day weekend, designed for spiritual renewal, and is an opportunity to fall in love with Jesus all over again. There are talks, discussion, worship, communion, and much more. Our June weekend was a joyous one, with good participation by everyone! The next Pilgrimage weekend will be May 30 – June 2, 2019. Please come! We hold regular gatherings throughout the year as well, to share our joy of living in Christ.

**The Church library:** volunteers operate our First Presbyterian Church Library. We offer resources focused on Christian thought, history and theology to support congregational members' growth and understanding of Protestant Christian faith. Our library has resources for adults, youth and children, including a kid's corner with Christian books, DVD's and bean bag seating. In 2018 we added more than 200 new books, magazines and DVD's, improved labels in the nonfiction shelving and moved the Parenting Collection into the children's area.

Contacts: Dan Shiau and Matt McLeod

## **2018 EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REPORT**

The mission of the Evangelism and Membership Development (EMD) Council is to bring people to Christ by reaching out to members of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, visitors and our community.

In 2018 the EMD worked with Church staff to find new ways to meet our goals, including setting up a formal process to connect new Church members with the Church community, reaching out to participants in new member classes over the past 2 years to encourage attendance, establishing a visitor welcome process, tracking and additional follow-up with visitors.

The EMD is focused on the need for person to person connections when bringing people to the Church and to know God. We will accomplish our mission through the following three goals:

1. Finding ways to connect new Church members to the overall Church community.
2. Developing an intentional process that welcomes visitors. This includes creating a welcoming environment and reaching out to visitors after they have attended.
3. Expanding the membership of the EMD council

In 2019 we will continue our goals of welcoming and reaching out to visitors to and new members of the Church and introducing them to service opportunities and programs offer by First Presbyterian Church of Evanston. We are seeking additional volunteers to serve on the EMD Council. For more information on the EMD Council or to become members contact Paul Haase at 773.507.2982 or lphaase@hotmail.com.

## **2018 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT**

Sadly, we said goodbye to Director Kristin Mueller as she and her family moved to Indiana. Bev Bolsen filled in as Interim Director.

The Children's Ministry mission is to: *share Christ* with children as they grow and develop from infancy through grade 5, *equip parents and caregivers* to be the primary faith-builders for their children, and *help children and parents integrate* with the large church community for worship and service.

### **Share Christ:**

- Age-appropriate Sunday School classes are provided for ages 2 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade during the education time between services.
- Children's Worship, for 4 to 9 year olds, is offered after the children's moment in the first service. Childcare is offered for infants to 4 year olds, during both worship services and includes hearing a Bible story.
- First Kids Choir, led by Hannah McConnell, meets weekly with singing for pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and chimes for those in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Second grade children received Bibles, and Kindergarten children received the Jesus Storybook Bible.
- The Christmas Pageant on December 24 returned to a tableau format, featuring children from age 3 through high school.
- VBS moved to the Chapel during August, with the theme *Shipwrecked*.
- Church camp was held at Phantom Ranch for the last time. In 2019, Camp Timber-Lee will provide church camp.

### **Equip Parents and Caregivers:**

Parents and children participated in a Communion workshop, led by Pastor Ray.

During the Good Friday workshop, children and families learned more about the meaning of the resurrection.

### **Help Children and Parents Integrate:**

- Family Fun at First, a family game day, provided fun and fellowship for all ages on a Saturday afternoon.
- An Explore Advent fair, led by Pastor Amanda Golbek, allowed all ages to mingle and create while learning more about Advent between worship services.
- Gingerbread house decorating included families from FPCE and their friends, Refugee families, and Angel Tree children.
- Family Camp was held July 6 – 8 at Stronghold.
- Thanks to the Children's Ministry Council and the many volunteers who make ministry with children possible.

## **2018 MISSION COUNCIL REPORT**

**Members of Mission Council:** Sonia Bodi (Elder), Ron Ehresman, Jack Harrif, David Ivaska, Pastor Younan Shiba, Peter Steffen (Trustee), Richard Taiwo, May Tchao (Elder), Dave Tilson (Chair), Cam Traut, Dick Warnecke, Caryl Weinberg (Staff), Susan Moreland-Wilkins, Kelly Levander (Admin. Support)

**Members of Mission Budget Team:** Renee Cox, Ron Ehresman (co-chair), Bill Floyd, Richard Taiwo, Caryl Weinberg (Staff), Susan Moreland-Wilkins (co-chair)

The Mission Council celebrates the work that God is doing here and around the world through our serving groups of volunteers and our 36 Mission Partners. This year we are sharing highlights of all our serving groups at FPCE. Before that though, here are some overall Mission praises:

- We celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FPCE with the presence of partners and International Christian leaders, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, former senior pastor of our Sister Church, Bethlehem Christmas Lutheran, and Rev. Dr. Atef Gendi, President of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt.
- Tumekutana happened for the fourth time, this time in South Africa, much in part through the generosity of prayer and resources of First Presbyterian members. This gathering started the process of formal recognition by “The World Communion of Reformed Churches” with the presence of their President, Rev. Dr. Najla Kassab, at the gathering. For the first time a six-member team of FPCE volunteers travelled to South Africa to be part of Tumekutana.
- The Perspectives Course on World Mission was launched in Arabic, at Cairo Seminary, thanks to the initial gift given by FPCE nearly 11 years ago.
- The Mission Council dedicated budget and resources to improving communication about Mission at FPCE. 11 banners with corresponding rack cards were created. And three videos were created to be used on the new FPCE website, with a plan for nine more in 2019.

### **2018 Mission Ministry Highlights: (And Ministry Leader)**

Under the umbrella of the Missions department at First Presbyterian of Evanston we have twelve ministries led by our wonderfully dedicated lay-people in the church. Here are a few of the 2018 highlights from each ministry:

#### **International Friends: Ned Hale**

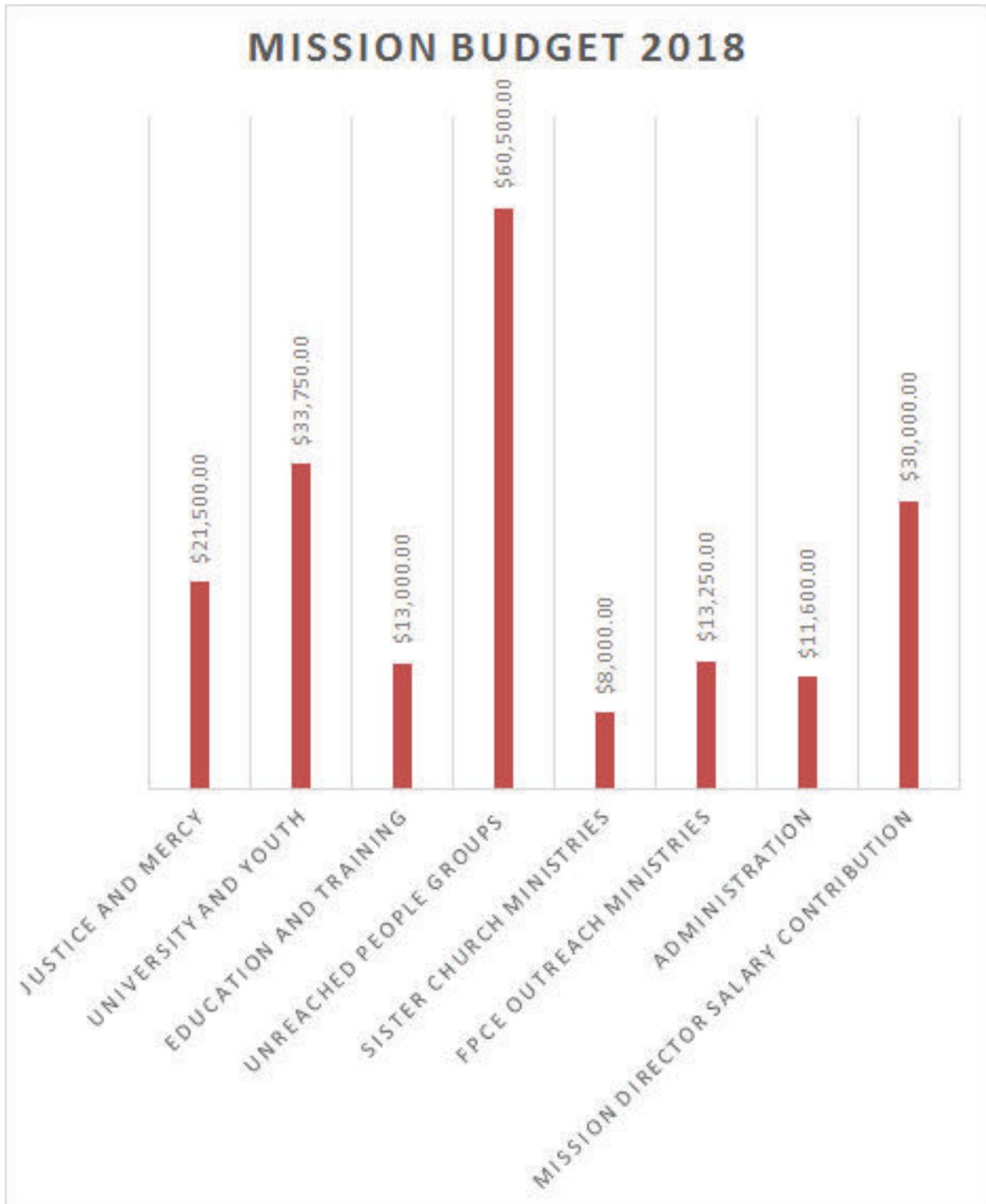
- 15 FPC individuals or couples signed up this past year to befriend a newly arrived international student at Northwestern.
- Over 25 gathered and had a great time celebrating Thanksgiving with American and “International” friends at the Porter’s home in November.

#### **First Friends: Sally Ivaska**

- Eight First Friends teams (of adults, teens and children), continue to visit our Syrian families. In addition to our regular visits, we hosted four larger events: a Mother’s Day dinner with music by Nour and his friends; a World Cup soccer party; a picnic; and our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Next year we hope to offer some seminars on family life and American culture, led by Pastor Younan.
- Thanks to generous offerings by the First Pres. congregation, we have been able to help at least four families with financial needs.

#### **Warming Shelter: Cary and Sherin Peters**

- Providing a warm and safe environment for our guests.
- A weekly Bible study that is led by volunteers from Northwestern University.



**Overnight Shelter: Charlene Parris/Craig Baxa**

- The FPCE Congregation once again responded in an amazing way to the request for volunteers for set-up, overnight and clean-up. Almost eighty per cent of the volunteer spots were filled by the FPCE Congregation.

**Souper Saturday: Kris Economos/Barb Spencer**

- Welcomed and served approximately 3,700 guests lunch over 52 Saturdays.
- Prepared for and served 90-100 diners for the 3rd Annual Syrian Thanksgiving Dinner.

*(Continued on next page.)*

### **The D.R. Congo Ministry: Jan Sullivan**

- Coordinated and raised funds to build two schools which now educate 575 students in durable, dry classrooms with desks, latrines and water systems. This number includes a wonderful increase in the attendance of girls to the schools.
- Prayed for and advocated with Legislators to support the election of a new President in the DRC who would honor the wishes of the Congolese people and use Congo's resources to meet the needs of the people.

### **Arts Ministry: Gordon Stromberg**

- We created and installed a 150th all church Art Exhibit on the second floor, as well as an African Fabric Collection of C. Weinberg. Professional photos from 2018 Tumekutana, 2013 sanctuary remodeling, and a father-daughter art show were exhibited on the 1st floor.
- We also introduced the final concert of the Chicago Jazz Festival (vocal) in October.

### **Mission Prayer: Ron Ehresman**

- Every third Wednesday several First Presbyterian members join in the parlor to bring before the Lord prayer requests sent to us by our mission partners.

### **Great Commission Fund: Peter Steffen**

Good reports were sent as to the impact of grants given through the fund:

- The Arabic Bible Commentary was launched in October 2018, in Egypt, as the first complete Biblical Commentary of authors indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa.

### **Rebuilding Together: Don Wilkins**

- April 2018 about 25 FPCE volunteers transformed the home of an Evanston homeowner in need with various repairs, interior and exterior painting and organizing.
- 

### **Prison Ministries: Peter Steffen:**

- PM started writing newsletters for families of Prisoners, (Angel Tree children) and others that attend the Saturday Surprise outings. They introduce PM and describe outings and activities. They've been well received!
- Last year PM hosted outings for Angel Tree, First Friends refugee and New Life families at the following places: Chicago Botanic Gardens, Halloween at Emily Oaks, Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier, The Peggy Notebart Museum and FPCE for making Gingerbread Houses.

### **New Life Shelter and Outreach: Dane/Catherine Potts-Watkins, Dana Teeter**

Our annual New Life Shelter Christmas party. Dana Teeter organizes her neighborhood elves to purchase gifts for every adult and child at the shelter. Santa makes an appearance to pass out the gifts. This is very exciting to the kids! First Pres generously buys the food - pizza, veggie trays, and cookies.

## **2018 PASTORAL CARE COUNCIL REPORT**

**Friends in Christ:** In 2018, Friends in Christ continued its ministry of bringing practical short-term support to people who are going through a difficult time. We brought meals, gave rides, and visited throughout the year. We hosted a spring potluck, with Mike Denesha speaking on “My Walk With Cancer and the Power of Healing Prayer”; our fall potluck featured Rev. Ray Hylton presenting “The Practice and Power of Gratitude.” Finally, we joined the Stephen Ministers in organizing and hosting the Service in Memory of All Souls.

**Prayer Chain:** A pastoral prayer concerns’ team emails confidential prayer requests one or more times a week to about fifty people who pray at least fifteen minutes a day for the needs. Prayers cover healing and recovery, sympathy and comfort, encouragement and support, and employment. Each submission includes either new or continuing prayer requests from twenty to thirty people. Feedback from the efforts is positive.

**Knitting Ministry:** The Knitting Ministry’s mission is to make shawls that give comfort to shut-ins. Each shawl is tagged with a note that identifies it as a token of Christ’s love. They are delivered by Parish Nurse Julie. The group also makes scarves and hats for those who come to the warming center. Their motto is ‘Knit, Eat, Laugh, Pray.’ In their prayer time, they pray for concerns of the group as well as the church community and its needs. They are led by Marge Oakley.

**Parish Nurse:** Julie Ruchniewicz serves as the Parish Nurse. She strives to nurture the human spirit and integrate faith and well-being through health education, spiritual support and linking the needs of the whole person to resources within the congregation, community and health care system. Julie continues to meet with Pastor Ray and Pastor Henry to navigate the pastoral needs of the congregation. Last year Julie’s ministry attended to 597 connections, ranging in age from 33 to mid-90’s. Chronic disease, mental health, cancer and health-seeking behavior issues were the most common purposes for the interactions. Julie also initiated and organized, along with other staff, a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan. She works diligently at communicating with other ministries to match up volunteers from Friends in Christ, distributing prayer shawls, facilitating Stephen Ministry relationships, assisting in the creation of Senior Varsity programs, participating in the ever-growing book club and fulfilling unmet needs of clients. Along with Charles Miyamoto and Greg Lewis, Julie also serves the Counseling Center.

**Prayer Team:** It’s the mission of this team to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on First Pres. The Prayer Team is responsible for the Prayer Companions. There was retreat held for all Prayer Companions during the year. We also meet regularly with the purpose to grow together in intimacy and love for our Lord as well as grow in our ability in listening to others and the Lord in order to better pray with others. From time to time the Prayer Team is contacted for personal prayer ministry. The Prayer Team is responsible for “changing” the Parlor into “A Place of Prayer” each Wednesday of the year. Every Wednesday from 8 AM to 9PM folks are welcome to spend time there communing with God. One will find materials, scripture, a map and a reverent atmosphere, things to invite one’s reflection and communion with God. Our desire is that through meeting with God, we all will grow more in love with God and be at peace with ourselves and each other and our neighbors.

**Employment Ministry:** The employment ministry will provide a list of resources for people seeking assistance with employment, offer prayer support and meet individually with each person. Suzanne Sawada is the primary person for this ministry, and there are others in the congregation who are also available to help.

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry where the identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private. For 31 years, our congregation's Stephen Ministry has equipped lay-people to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. In 2018 there were 12 Stephen Ministers actively providing care.

Highlights of the year include a 6-month training class with 5 new Stephen Ministers commissioned into service on Sunday, March 4, 2018. RuthAnn Ostrowski and Mike Denesha were guest speakers at North Park Covenant Church for their Sunday, April 22, worship service. Hearing the call to become a Stephen Minister and the importance of asking to have a Stephen Minister were the "Faith in Action" topics. At First Pres. we continue to sponsor the annual Service in Memory of All Souls held on the first Saturday in November. This year over 400 names were remembered and read aloud during the November 3 service. A 1-page reference sheet, Stephen Ministry by the Numbers, was developed to communicate the positive impact First Pres. Stephen Ministers have had on providing pastoral care through the years and was submitted to the Design Team.

RuthAnn Ostrowski leads the Stephen Ministry program with Mike Denesha in a secondary leadership role.

Karen Bregman, Chair

## STEPHEN MINISTRY by the NUMBERS

### First Presbyterian Church of Evanston



To learn more about Stephen Ministry at our church, please contact either:  
Mike Denesha 847.612.9479 | RuthAnn Ostrowski 312.613.0644

## **2018 PERSONNEL MINISTRY COUNCIL REPORT**

2018 was another year of transition for First Pres Evanston and a very busy year for the Personnel Ministry Council. All of us on PMC believe that our Church is blessed to have such a dedicated, talented and Spirit led staff. Following are some of the more important matters PMC dealt with this past year.

In February we celebrated Liz Ribeiro's faithful and energetic service to our youth as the Interim Coordinator of Youth Ministries, and in March we welcomed Amanda Golbek as our new Director of Youth Ministries.

In June we celebrated Kristin Mueller's long and faithful service as our Director of Children's Ministries. Kristin and her family moved to Lafayette, Indiana where she accepted a similar position at the Evangelical Covenant Church of Lafayette. In July our church was very fortunate to welcome Bev Bolsen as the Interim Director of Children's Ministries, who provided stability and continuity to our children's programs with the able assistance of Amanda Golbek.

In July we celebrated our 150th Anniversary with a concert that marked the last performance of our organist, Jack Harriff. Jack retired after many years of faithful and inspired service. Again, our church was fortunate to be able to welcome Rebecca Chu as our new organist.

Later in the year we said good bye to Elizabeth Ferguson as our Interim Praise Band Director. The search for a new Praise Band Director has continued. Also, we welcomed Gerardo Guerrero as our weekend custodian, replacing Steven Jennings.

PMC has continued its work on improving the Human Resources Manual by amending the provisions regarding the hiring of congregational members and family members of staff and church leaders. These recommended changes have been submitted to Session and the Board of Trustees.

Throughout the year PMC also informed and consulted Session concerning other personnel matters.

The PMC members who served faithfully and with great dedication during 2018 are LeRoy Klemt (chair), Mike Campell, Eleanor Ehresman, Hugh Parry, Dave Sloan, and Peter Steffen. In addition, Pastor Ray and Melody Henrie provided valuable assistance and support to PMC.

## **2018 WORSHIP MINISTRY COUNCIL REPORT**

The Worship Ministry Council assists with the coordination and oversight of many aspects of our Music and Worship ministry activities throughout the year. The primary responsibility for creating, planning, and leading our congregation in worship is shared among our staff and volunteer leaders including our 2018 Director of Music and Worship, Hannah Dixon McConnell, Pastor Ray Hylton, and Pastor Henry Coates, along with the Chancel Choir, Praise Band, instrumentalists, audio/visual support staff and volunteers, led by Neal Ostrovsky, and numerous worship participants from the congregation.

The celebration of Communion was given continued emphasis in the worship services, and was provided once a month, at a minimum, at the Sunday morning services. The logistics of traditional and intinction communion set-up and serving were reviewed and modified by the WMC, and recruitment of communion servers was streamlined, in coordination with Ricki Rosengren, representing Session.

The church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, held July 27-29, included a special Concert of Praise including the Chancel Choir, Praise Band, Handbell Choir, 1<sup>st</sup> Kids Choir, present and past church organists and instrumentalists, as well as Chancel Choir, Praise Band, and Handbell Choir alumni.

There was increased attention to hospitality as part of the Sunday worship experience. Additional usher training was provided, and a Welcome Center was set up on during the post-Easter season in Room 103 to provide refreshments and resources for visitors to First Pres.

2018 was a year of transition for worship at First Pres. Hannah Dixon McConnell assumed the position of Music and Worship Director, in addition to her role as Choir Director, following the departure of Elda McGinty. Elizabeth Ferguson filled the role of Interim Praise Band Director until her departure in the Summer. A search for a new Praise Band Director will continue. Organist Jack Harriff retired at the end of July, and Rebecca Chu joined First Pres as the new church organist in October.

The Council continued to recognize the importance of Children and Youth in worship. The First Kids children's choir was included in worship once a month, along with a Youth Scripture Reader, in coordination with Youth Ministry Director Rev. Amanda Golbek. New Children's Bibles were acquired and placed in the pew racks, in coordination with the Children's Ministry and Pastor Henry Coates.

New opportunities to serve people through music were explored, including a possible Sundays @4 concert series. In April, an organ recital was hosted by the American Guild of Organists, and Worship & Music sponsored a Bluegrass Vespers service in September.

A reevaluation of the 11:30 am Contemporary service was begun at the end of the year in an effort to provide a service that offers a different worship experience than might be had at the 9 am Blended service, that might serve to draw new people to the church, and that would serve as an additional welcoming opportunity to be in community with others at First Pres.

Thanks to each of the WMC members and all volunteers who contributed to the planning and faithful support of Music and Worship activities in 2018: *Daniel Allen (Chair, Elder), Hannah Dixon McConnell (Director of Music and Worship), Ricki Rosengren (Elder), and members-at-large (Jan Sullivan, Fred Bryant, Carol Smith, Kay Sugiura, Kiki Hood, and Tom Kaeser).*

## **2018 YOUTH MINISTRY COUNCIL REPORT**

2018 was a year of excitement and growth in youth ministry at First Pres.

Here are the highlights:

- We started the year by thanking Liz Ribeiro for nearly two years of service as the Interim Youth Director. She took on this leadership role at a critical time and did a remarkable job rebuilding the youth program.
- In March, we welcomed Rev. Amanda Golbek as the Youth Director. She has brought great enthusiasm and dedication to this role. Under her leadership, the youth programs have seen wonderful growth.
- On a weekly basis, we offer Sunday school classes for middle and high school students. On Friday nights, we host middle school youth group, and on Sunday afternoons, we offer youth group for high schoolers. In the fall, we started a year-long confirmation class for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. We are grateful to have twelve adult and youth volunteers helping to lead our programs.
- The students organized and led a wonderful worship service on Youth Sunday.
- During the summer we offered a weekly “Popsicles in the Park” get-together for middle and high schoolers, which was well received. We hosted several all-youth campfires in the church parking lot. We also offered summer camp for middle schoolers at Phantom Ranch.
- In July the high school group went on a mission trip to Benton Harbor, MI where they participated in community service projects. The trip was funded in part with money raised during the annual car wash held in June.
- In an effort to increase parent engagement, we offered a fall kick-off evening for youth and parents. We also hosted a showing of the documentary Screenagers.
- We formed a youth leadership team with the goal of having students more involved in the planning and implementation of youth ministry activities.
- The Youth Ministry Council spent considerable time over the summer and fall discussing our hopes and dreams for youth ministry at First Pres. Through this process, we created a mission/vision statement and also developed tangible, measurable goals for the year. We regularly revisit our goals and discuss progress made toward reaching these goals.

**Our mission:** Youth ministry at First Presbyterian provides a community where youth can come to meet God, grow in knowledge and faith, and learn how to live out their faith in the world.

**Our vision:** Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian strives to be an inclusive Christian community that journeys with youth and families wherever they are in their faith, equipping them to live God-centered lives and guiding them to share the love of Christ in their families, community and world.

**Goal #1:** Have 40 different youth involved each week in youth events by May (goal achieved)

**Goal #2:** Develop a youth leadership team by May (goal achieved)

**Goal #3:** Increase parent engagement in youth programs by May (in progress)

**TCC**  
The Counseling Center  
First Presbyterian Church Evanston

**Annual Report: 2018**

**HISTORY**

The Counseling Center (TCC) is a faith based counseling center and a ministry of First Presbyterian Evanston. Since its founding, the Center has been an extension of the mission of this church with the clear intent to offer hope and healing care through personal, professional counseling. 2018 continued the trend of a high number of appointments and a significant client caseload. TCC had over 1000 appointments providing therapy sessions for children, teens, individuals and couples.

**2018 STAFF**

The staff included:

- The Rev. Charles S. Miyamoto, Director
- RN Julie Ruchniewicz, TCC-FPCE Parish Nurse
- Marisella Ramos, TCC Therapist
- Dr. Gregory N. Lewis, Clinical Director
- Judith Hylton, TCC Therapist

The staff provides experience and expertise in the clinical setting, nursing-medical field, and the parish. Marisella is a social worker in training and is fluently bi-lingual in English and Spanish. Judith is our recent addition to our Staff. She comes with experience, expertise in her therapy approaches, and an infectious enthusiasm to help people. This blend of leadership from a variety of disciplines enables the Center to respond to God's holistic design of body, mind, and spirit.

**2018 TCC BOARD**

Throughout the year, the Center was fortunate to have dedicated, committed board members:

- Jim Wildenradt, Chairperson
- Bob Bastien
- Go Sugiura
- Bob Sefton, Vice-Chairperson
- Marlene Sefton

**APPOINTMENTS, SERVICES, FEES, ETC.**

All therapy sessions are made by appointments. TCC offers a wide spectrum of services, ranging from individual counseling to referrals. The Center is committed to high quality, affordable services and recognizes that finances are often an additional issue people face. We accept insurance plans and direct payments. Also, TCC has developed a sliding fee scale that allows for multiple factors to be applied so that finances will not be the sole reason for services to be declined. Every effort is made to find appropriate referrals for those unable to be served by TCC.

**CONTACT INFO:**

[www.thecounselingcenterevanston.org](http://www.thecounselingcenterevanston.org)

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**FPCE Goals and Benchmarks for 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Draft**  
**Created by Strategic Plan Design Team, January 21, 2019**

*The information below includes the draft that resulted from the two day visioning process led by Ministry Architects consultants and experienced by around 60 FPCE leaders at the annual Leadership Retreat held January 11-12, 2019.*

*Action steps listed below, if adopted, will be worked into the current timeline being follow during our strategic process. The Design Team, staff and Session will need to collaborate to implement the work needed to achieve these benchmarks.*

**GOAL #1:** By January 2022, church membership has increased by 300 and 225, or 75% of the new members, are under 40 years old.

**BENCHMARK:** By January 2020, FPCE has increased church membership by 100.

**GOAL #2:** By January 2022, Two thirds of the FPCE members have joined a small group.

**BENCHMARK:** By January 2020 20% more of the membership is involved in small groups than were involved January 2019.

**GOAL #3:** By January 2022, 100 FPCE members have experienced a robust training and development program for lay leadership that resulted in new lay leaders, mentors, and volunteers.

**BENCHMARK:** By January 2020, build an intentional program of discipleship opportunities based on stages of spiritual maturity utilizing inventory of spiritual gifts and mentorship opportunities.

**GOAL #4:** By January 2022, 100 kids have regularly attended PYGS and 100 kids have regularly attended NUBS.

**BENCHMARK:** By January 2020, 25 more kids have regularly attended PYGS and 25 more kids have regularly attended NUBS than in January 2019.

**BENCHMARK:** By January 2020, \_\_\_\_\_ (specific # TBD) fourth and fifth graders are actively involved in FPCE.

**GOAL #5:** FPCE has developed a comprehensive Christian education program to promote biblical literacy and mature Christian faith for all children and youth.

**BENCHMARK:** By the end of March 2019, FPCE has made a decision regarding the staffing structure for children's ministry.

**BENCHMARK:** FPCE has held a Christian Formation Summit for children's and youth ministry.

**Note:** Design Team discussed doing this as early as Spring 2019, but also expressed desire to have resolved the staffing of children's ministry first so as to involve any new staff members in the process. Timeline of these two benchmarks needs to be coordinated.

**GOAL #6:** By January 2022, FPCE has become a premier resource in Health and Human Services with representation on each HHS committee on the North Shore.

**BENCHMARK:** By January 2020, FPCE has developed a criteria for selecting one or two initiatives to determine what the church should do to impact the community in partnership with existing organizations.

**Note:** There was conversation with consultants and the Design Team about postponing this goal and benchmark until compilation of results from the current investment and impact survey and consequential decisions.

**BENCHMARK:** By January 2020, FPCE has begun offering spiritual nurture and healthy prayer at the soup kitchen and clothes closet. *Note: This benchmark could be addressed without delay with availability of leadership and interest.*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

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