

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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Annual Meeting Agenda

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2017

Opening Prayer	Rev. Stan Jenkins, Moderator
Call to Order	
Quorum	Jackie Blankenship, Clerk of Session
Receiving of the Annual Report	Rev. Stan Jenkins, Moderator
Session Committees	
Adult Education	Shirley Herrick
Building and Grounds/Capital Campaign	Don Heck
Communications/History	Brian Jackson
Finance	Bev Bockes and Jim LeTourneau
Endowment	Jim Donaldson
Membership	Pam Blair
Mission	Willye Bryan
Personnel	Steve Fitton
Nominating	Judy Lunde-Whitman
Worship	George Bennett and Gwen Botting
Youth Education	Darla Jackson
Deacons	Bill Collins
Necrology	Rev. Stan Jenkins, Moderator

IN MEMORIAM

Wanda Chenoweth	Elaine Wenglarski
Nancy Hammond	Marilyn Poland
Brian Anderson	Frank Feeley
Phyllis Maner	Patricia Coe
Mary Shutak-Jenkins	Jenny Adams
Rev. James Child	Rod Conrad
Jackie Cunningham	

Closing Prayer

Rev. Stan Jenkins, Moderator

Adjournment

2017

**ANNUAL REPORT
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THE VISION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING, 2020

We are believers in Jesus Christ, who gives us faith, life, unity and mission to the world. As a diverse, multi-cultural and enthusiastic congregation, we meet in downtown Lansing to grow in love and knowledge of God.

We are a warm and welcoming congregation that strives to engage believers of all ages and different backgrounds in worship, fellowship and service.

First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

Community Outreach:

We envision a church whose worship, programs, practices, and policies actively seek, intentionally welcome, and fully reflect the diversity of persons, cultures, languages, and lifestyles of the greater Lansing community. We will achieve these goals by intentionally engaging with people within and outside of our community, with their families and friends, and working to incorporate their voices in our ministry.

- We will implement new means of making ourselves and our welcome better known through enhanced use of social media and print media.
- We will strengthen ties with the following communities: LGBTQ, refugee (documented and undocumented), Latino, African American, American Indian and other excluded or marginalized communities in Lansing. We will actively engage with these communities and intentionally increase contact with them.
- We will deepen our relationship with U-Kirk, Q-Cross, PCUSA Churches (at the Synod, General Assembly, Presbytery, and local levels) and other Christian Churches in the Greater Lansing area in the belief that God’s work through Christ is enhanced by our cooperative actions.
- We will actively participate as an institutional member in the Downtown and West Side neighborhood associations.

Integration:

We envision a church that carries on a mission of teaching and service to those who worship with us and to our community, and care of those who form the body of Christ. To those ends:

- We will focus attention on the nurture of our congregation, and focus our programs to meet their spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.
- We will seek ways to draw people from the margins of church life to greater involvement in the Church.
- We will communicate frequently with our members regarding the life and mission of our church.
- We will seek opportunities to include our youth in the mission of the church.
- We will use our church mission to increase inter-generational relationship-building.
- We will welcome volunteers to participate in our mission as discussed below and provide them with tools for effective action.

Mission

We envision a church whose life is more self-consciously shaped around Jesus' ministries of healing and compassion and whose members are equipped and enabled to directly serve the poor and marginalized in our nation, world, and especially our community.

- We envision a facility that actively engages the Lansing region through its welcoming and inviting nature and its safe and well maintained condition that is optimized and maximized to serve our Christian Mission.
- We will use our building and property for the facilitation of mission.
- We will evaluate a proposed mission program, in part, by its capacity to engage church members in practical, “hands-on” ways and we will work to increase participation by engaging 10 percent of the congregation in projects.
- We will work to equip our volunteers for the roles they play on committees and in the activities of the church.
- We will prioritize mission funding based on categories that include food and shelter, education, international projects, and mental and physical health.
- We will strengthen our partnerships with other communities of faith to serve the Lansing region and we will evaluate the needs in our local community every two years.
- We will consistently strive to increase our financial support for the overall mission activities of our church. We will plan to increase the budget of the Mission Committee to a minimum of 10% of our pledged income.
- We will contribute to on-going projects carried out by NGOs and granting organizations that help meet our church mission.
- We will advertise and promote experiential opportunities for “mission tourism” regionally, nationally, and globally.

Member Care and Involvement

We envision a church whose members are friends of one another because they are friends of Christ, and whose familiarity and sense of family is enhanced through regular and concrete acts of contact, caring, and community celebration inclusive of the full worshipping community.

- We will build connections between our Pastoral Care Assistant, Elders, Deacons, Member Care Coordinator and congregation members.
- We will build and maintain formal networks which connect congregants with one another at new levels of friendship, support, care, and nurture so that each person is personally encouraged and then becomes part of a “congregation connection group.”
- We will encourage on-going relationships within these groups, which are free to enlarge their group and establish relationships by means of study or fellowship as each group determines.
- The Church Staff, Elders and Deacons will support and collaborate with the groups' leaders by means of continued assessment of member need, training, and involvement.

Education

We envision a church whose members, friends and visitors are equipped to serve and challenged to grow in knowledge and understanding of self and of God, because we take seriously the promises we make at every baptism. We will provide regular opportunities of study, instruction, discussion, and practical experience, to the end that all are made disciples of Christ.

- We will recognize the centrality of education in our church by budgeting monies to coordinate robust and expanded education programs for all ages.
- We will define our prime education goals to prepare officers and members for life-changing discipleship of Jesus Christ and “equipping them to live as commissioned disciples in the world.”
- We will engage ourselves in life-long learning opportunities, studying scripture and the core beliefs of our denomination, and put this knowledge to work in all areas of justice and healing in the world. The goal is to grow in wisdom and be inspired to act, knowing that we are better equipped to minister in a more Christ-like manner to our neighbors.
- We will expand our discussion of race and diversity in our church and community.
- We will continue to explore and employ available technology as means of teaching and learning and we will ensure our facilities are upgraded to accommodate our educational programming.
- We will greatly increase the involvement and visibility of our children and youth in all aspects of the church’s life and intentionally make use of a variety of techniques and programs to engage them.
- We will provide engaging and interactive opportunities to equip, inspire and fulfill the learning needs of our congregation and families relative to their goal of rearing Christian children.
- We will approach education as an implicit element in everything we do as a faith community, so that learning may occur in worship, fellowship, mission work, small group meetings, and at all other opportunities.

This document revises Vision 2015, adopted by Session 12/16/09 for distribution to the congregation, endorsed by the congregation 2/7/10. Revision, adopted by Session 10/16/13

Vision 2020 was adopted by Session 3/16/16 for distribution to the congregation
Endorsed by the congregation 4/24/16

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

THE SESSION

The Rev. Stanley Jenkins, Moderator
Jackie Blankenship, Clerk of Session
Church Treasurer: Carol Johnson
President of the Corporation: Jim LeTourneau

Class of 2017

Greg Frens
Shirley Herrick
Rachel Layne
Judy Lunde-Whitman
Kim Moore

Class of 2018

George Bennett
Pam Blair
Jackie Blankenship
Willye Bryan
Shelia Conrad
Brian Koon

Class of 2019

Steve Campbell
Steve Fitton
Brian Jackson
Jim LeTourneau
Ed Purchis

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Bill Collins, Moderator
James Pyle, Vice Moderator
Josephine Powers, Secretary
Ceci Anderson, Treasurer
Rev. Stanley Jenkins, Staff Advisor

Class of 2017

Bill Collins
Gary Bailey
Rich Blankenship
Bev Phillips
Jo Powers
Bessie Roper

Class of 2018

Ceci Anderson
Jim Botting
James Pyle
Steve Roosa
Meg Rumfield
Linda Snyder

Class of 2019

Buni Bailey
Mike Bryan
Deb Donaldson
Shaun McClurken
Christopher Venetis

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Total Active Membership January 1, 2017 **350**

NEW MEMBERS

By Profession of Faith 0
By Reaffirmation of Faith 1
By Letter of Transfer 0
By Reinstatement 0

OTHER STATISTICS

Infant Baptisms 1
Adult Baptism 0
Wedding/Commitment Ceremonies
 Member 0 Non-Member 0
 Same sex 0 Same sex 0
Funerals
 Member 10 Non-Member 4

Total New Members **+1**

LOSS OF MEMBERS

By Letter of Transfer 2
By Death 11
By Deletion 9

Total Loss Members **- 22**

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Active membership as of January 1, 2017 **350**

New members **+1**
Loss of members **- 22**

Total membership as of December 31, 2017 **329**

These new members were welcomed into the fellowship of the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing during 2017:

Kurt Civilette

IN MEMORIAM

Wanda Chenoweth	Elaine Wenglarski
Nancy Hammond	Marilyn Poland
Brian Anderson	Frank Feeley
Phyllis Maner	Patricia Coe
Mary Shutak-Jenkins	Jenny Adams

Rev. James Child
Jackie Cunningham

Rod Conrad

PASTOR'S PREFACE

Once again, reflecting over the past year, I am struck by the graciousness of God's presence at the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing. We remain a vibrant community of both hearers and doers of the Word. We are blessed with a beautiful building in which to gather, pray and study—but also a building that can be used to edify and serve our community. Rather than turn inward at a time when mainline denominational churches are in historical decline, following the promptings of the Spirit, we have reached out to our neighbors. Rather than become prisoners of our past, following the promptings of the Spirit, we have become witnesses in word and deed to God's ownership of the future.

I am not shy about bragging about our church, because in so doing, I am bragging about the work that God is doing in our church! It really is something amazing!

I am struck by just how far God has taken us in what is really a very short period of time. Learning to share our space and provide a home for GIL, NWI and the myriad of community groups that use our space, has not always been easy. God has called us beyond our comfort zones again and again. And again and again, God has given us the faith and courage to follow, and in following to press ourselves and our world toward the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God.

It would be disingenuous to suggest that our efforts to be faithful have always been smooth or easy—we are finite creatures and God is not yet finished with us—still, it is hard not to marvel at the new things being done in our midst. Called to face the prejudices of the past and our short-comings and blinders in the present, we have together chosen to face the hard facts of racism, sexism, homophobia, mass incarceration and any number of the demons of our age. I am in awe, despite the reality of sin, and our ongoing need for Grace, at the humility and ultimate confidence in God's mercy that is on display in our church family at any given moment.

I say this advisedly because this evidence of the presence of God in our midst has come in a year of so much loss, in my own personal life, but also in the life of our community. Can I just say loudly and clearly, that we had altogether too many funerals last year! In 2017 we lost too many of God's servants, our brothers and sisters, our colleagues and our friends, to what the Apostle Paul called "the last enemy," death.

But again, it is the very presence of God that gives us the confidence and the courage to keep pressing on in joyful witness and service. It is the very presence of Grace that gives us courage and license not only to bear the weight of so much loss, but also to recognize it, feel it, and in so doing know the closeness of God even in, especially in, the darkest of times. "The light shines in the darkness and was not overcome!" Amen.

Like so many mainline churches the future we face is uncertain. Yes, our congregation is aging, membership is declining, we mourn the loss of the days when our Sunday School was bursting at the seams. But I am so tired of wringing our hands over what is merely obvious. The road is not easy, but I'm tired of not seeing the signs of God's presence in our midst NOW.

In the words of an old song, God "never promised us a rose garden." We have been called to be church at a time when what we once could take for granted is no longer the case.

We have been called to be church in this particular time and in this particular place. But has it ever been different? Isn't this what it means to BE church?

I have witnessed the great miracle of God's presence in this place at this time—I have experienced it personally in the love that I received from all of you in my own time of personal loss and illness—and when I consider the future, I am struck with gratitude. We are so lucky to be here now, together, in this time and in this place, as scary as it might seem, in the presence of our Father, who loves us as a Mother. It is a holy time and a holy place, because the LORD is here with us.

And besides, you guys are so much fun to be with and there is so much good work to be done together! Let us waste no more time pining for what has passed. Again, as the Apostle Paul says, "Behold the new!"

In Christ, Stan

2017 REPORT OF THE CHURCH ADMININSTRATOR

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in the office this past year. You help me keep my sanity! I am still amazed at all the things God is doing in and through this church!

We continue to host several outside groups in the church that use this space to meet, rehearse and perform, teach and learn. NorthWest Initiative has been upstairs over 2 years now, they continue to help so many in our community; the Global Institute of Lansing continues to help young refugee adults obtain their high school diplomas. There continues to be a lot of church business that takes place here. It's an exciting, busy place to be during the week. The church had its first audit since I began. It went very well. Some areas for improvement were noted and I will do what I can to start the process of drafting written procedures for the work I do.

I want all the volunteers that help in the office to know how much I appreciate them being here to help out, especially on crazy, busy days! Mary zurBurg is here every Monday and Wednesday morning to assist me. Other office volunteers included: Sharon Carr, Nan Carter, Jim Hengstebeck, Mary Lou Gebhardt, Vernie Brandell, Doris Drake, Carol Wallace, Bev Phillips, Kim Ringlever, Linda Diepenhorst, Sue Reames, Helen Hansens, Dories Harris and anyone else I might have left out. There were 839 volunteer office hours this year! That translates into a part time person working approximately 16 hours a week, all 52 weeks of the year!

Thank you to the volunteer money counters: Roger Wilkinson, Dick Poland, Carol Johnson, Carole Orth, and Dan Diepenhorst.

Many thanks to volunteers, Bev Bockes and Carol Johnson, who do several financial related tasks for the church.

There are several food bank volunteers who answered phones, helped clients get food orders, stock shelves and purchase food. They were led by Ron O'Connor, Dave Lanckton and Dan DeYonke, and they include: Nan Carter, Sue Reames, Jim and Deb Donaldson, Carol Johnson, Gary and Buni Bailey, Bill Collins, Brian Koon, Bessie Roper, Shelia Conrad, Kathy Borzenski, Ruta Putnis, Mara Rozentals, Kim Truman, John Tucker, Sharon Carr, Doris Drake, Rich Blankenship, Katie Jackson, Charlie Phillips, Bob Noble, Doris Harris, Nancy Duncan, Barb Edema, James Pyle, Linda Keller, Penny Launstien and Allie Maldonado (our Americorp person).

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Weldon, Church Administrator

2017 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2017 offered continued opportunities for service, mission and spiritual deepening for the people of First Presbyterian Church, Lansing. Please see the individual reports of both the Youth Education and Adult Education Committees for the educational highlights of our life together here at First Church this past year, as they continue their focus on providing a variety of faith exploration and spiritual growth opportunities for all ages in our church family.

Our Children and Worship program continued this year during the worship hour, giving children ages 4 years through 3rd grade a chance to experience and worship God in ways that are appropriate to their developmental readiness. An inspired team of storytellers and greeters gave their dedication and devotion to this program. Heartfelt thanks for their leadership go to Design Team member and storyteller Julie Keller, storytellers Joel Layne and Brian Jackson, and greeters Carol Wallace, David Jackson, Griffin Keller, and Elijah Layne. Because the children who have been participating in C&W have now aged out of it, Children and Worship will go on hiatus for 2018. We will maintain the resources needed for this program, so that it can begin anew when our youngest children become old enough! It is truly a worshiping experience for all who participate.

Our Sunday School education-hour programs continue, using a variety of resources to further the education and spiritual formation of our children and youth. As always, we have a dedicated group from our church family who work together to make this happen. Special thanks to those who answer God's call to share our faith: younger group teachers Kim Ringlever, Aaron Bales, Mary Lou Gebhardt and Julie Keller; Middle high teachers Pam Blair, Brian Jackson, Julie Keller, Justine Achuonjei and Darla Jackson; and High school teacher Rachel Layne. And a sincere and heartfelt thank you as well to our Director of Music, Megan Higle, for offering our younger children musical experiences most Sundays. You who travel beside our children and

youth are important and blessed. Thank you for answering God's call to these important ministries -- it is something we are all called to do!

I am very mindful of the profound blessings we enjoy here at First Church: this beautiful facility that houses us, and our caring, generous church family with whom God has surrounded us, who desires to grow in knowledge and faith, and who is willing to mentor and share their faith stories with their brothers and sisters of ALL ages. The Youth Education and Adult Education Committees are united in their desire to provide nurture for our spiritual journeys, and opportunities to reach out in love and caring to all of God's people. There is a place at First Church for each of us to be Inspired, Equipped, Ignited and Engaged in God's work and world!

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen R. Banghart, Director of Christian Education

2017 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As the Director of Congregational Life and Community Outreach, the emphasis of my work includes areas both inside and outside the First Presbyterian church walls. My work includes looking for ways to connect us as a congregation to each other, and also to the surrounding community. I try to attend as many neighborhood meetings and events as I can, but having NorthWest Initiative as a collaborating institution has been a real benefit for me. They have helped me learn so much about the downtown Lansing community and how to spread the word about First Presbyterian! They are quite familiar with other organizations and events/activities that occur across the downtown area and they serve the same people we do in this neighborhood. I have also learned more about grant writing, and when and where to submit requests for financial support. This has been particularly helpful in establishing a relationship with the City of Lansing.

One of my goals for 2018 is to continue to look for ways to connect First Presbyterian with the service learning opportunities in the surrounding neighborhood and the whole downtown area. I staff several committees of Session, so I have the unique opportunity to try to overlap events and activities that happen church-wide. I know there is an interest in having more committee involvement with different things that happen here, so that is something I will continue to try to communicate. First Presbyterian hosted the presbytery-wide youth event, Urban Plunge, this year. About 125 youth and leaders came to the Lansing area to spend the weekend at First Pres and perform service to our community (Lansing). Thanks to the Deacons, we also were able to provide going to the Westside YMCA to shower and play. Through organizing the work-sites for the event, I had the chance to get to know more about some of the organizations we already support through the Mission Committee. It is my hope that in the coming year, we will

find ways to expand those relationships as well as create new ones, giving our families and individuals additional opportunities to directly serve the community.

We have been a participating organization with AmeriCorps for the last couple of years. We share a full-time person with NorthWest Initiative. Our half-time position is funded through the Mission Committee and supervised by me. This has become a true benefit, and provides a liaison for the work of both organizations, as we share many of the same goals in caring for people in this neighborhood. Our AmeriCorps member is specifically assigned to the Food Pantry. She has been providing direct service to both the pantry clients and the volunteers. This gives her the opportunity to nurture those relationships and find out more about how we might be helpful to the people we serve. She is expanding the work of the pantry by developing additional food related services. She has developed an additional cooking class specifically targeting pantry folks. She is using a cookbook that was developed for the pantry that includes recipes of foods that are available at the pantry. She is providing samples and nutritional information from various recipes to clients as they wait their turn at the pantry. She is also encouraging them to attend one of the two cooking classes she is leading in the First Pres kitchen. Our connection with AmeriCorps has also provided us the opportunity to have the work of the church be more visible and recognized across the community. It's an awesome organization that exposes their members to all kinds of community work. The members collaborate on shared projects, which also gives the church more visibility across all the other organizations involved. Right now, First Pres is the only church participating as a member organization with the AmeriCorps State program in the Lansing area.

Our youth fellowship program continues to be a challenge. Most of our families (and youth in particular) are very busy in their own communities and have little time to give to a fellowship program. Therefore, I'm always looking for ways to work within their outside commitments, yet provide something different than the secular opportunities they have, for experiencing spiritual growth as well. The time we do have together continues to be fun and fruitful. We have and will continue to move toward intergenerational opportunities for service. This provides not only the youth with the chance to get to know other adults from our congregation, but also provides other adults opportunities to get to know the youth in new ways. Working and worshipping alongside one another provides a chance for those relationships to flourish. We have established a 2-year tradition of going to Greensky Hill church in Charlevoix to try to connect with the Odawa tribe in that area. This project will continue as long as there are folks who are interested in participating. Word of this project has also begun to spread across our presbytery, and other churches have begun asking if they can participate too. Our presbytery is looking for more and more ways to connect individual congregations with one another in a "connectional church" relationship, and mission work is one of the ways to do that. The Youth Strategy Team of the presbytery is also continuing to provide youth opportunities for all presbytery-wide youth together. One of our youth attended a Montreat Youth Conference last summer along with about 16 other youth from across the presbytery. Youth Strategy Team is also continuing to provide youth mixes and mission opportunities for Lake Michigan Presbytery youth.

Another organization that I am connected to is the Global Institute of Lansing. This is the refugee school, housed downstairs in our building. Over 60 people have earned high school diplomas through the hard work of several adults assisting them as teachers and tutors. Some of our own members have spent many hours helping in this area and have experienced wonderful relationships through this connection. The students in the school appreciate the church tremendously and look for ways to give back on a regular basis. Our denomination has become aware of this project and is interested in learning more about the work of the school.

I refer you to the reports of the Membership, Mission and Communications committees, as I staff those committees as a resource to them. You can read more about the work they are doing there.

Respectfully submitted,
Sallie Campbell, Director of Congregational Life and Community Outreach

2017 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Men, women and children alike [should] become as one with the choir of angels.

- John Calvin, from *Preface to the Geneva Psalter of 1543*.

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

- Martin Luther

Music at First Presbyterian Church continued to glorify God and enhance our worship experiences in 2017. We continue to be thankful and grateful for the many volunteers that work to enhance, participate in and encourage the music program in our congregation and our community.

Director of Music – Megan Higle has finished up her fourth Christmas with us as Director of Music. She continues to work closely with the pastoral and education staff as well as our organist, Sergei Kvitko, to stitch together worship services that reflect our community.

Some music highlights: The choir sang some new anthems, including “Deep Waters,” which was one that became a choir and congregation favorite; we sang at the Good Friday Service and presented a spirit-filled and lovely spring concert (featuring the Schubert Mass in G with a string quartet); we had wonderful special music during the summer months; the choir supported World Wide Communion and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a variety of musical offerings; Choral Sunday in December and the Christmas Eve service was filled with lovely music.

Special services (outside of Sundays) during the year included the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday; Community Prayer Service with our friends at Union Missionary Baptist; Love

Feast on Maundy Thursday; Tenebrae service on Good Friday; Blue Christmas on the 3rd Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols.

The First Epistle, our webpage and FaceBook are being utilized to educate & communicate with members and non-members about music events, hymn/anthem selections and ways we can praise God through music.

Chancel Choir – The Chancel Choir rehearses weekly (September through May/June) and presents up to two (2) anthems each Sunday, as well as lead hymns and service music. They sing a variety of styles – classical, gospel, renaissance, 20th century, etc. – and strive to highlight the theme presented on Sunday mornings. They presented “Mass in G” (Franz Schubert) in the spring and “The Winter Rose” (Christmas Cantata by Joseph Martin) in the winter. Collectively, the chancel choir provides over 10,000 hours of volunteer time in rehearsal and services, and learns 75+ pieces of music annually. They are an amazing group of people!

Members and friends of the chancel choir did a 10 day tour of Southern Ireland in June. We performed (four times), worshipped and did a lot of sight-seeing, eating and laughing.

Section Leaders & Interns – We are blessed to be able to continue having paid section leaders in our choir. Their leadership and musicianship encourage, inspire and complement our chancel choir. We are happy to continue our relationship with our section leaders, Darin Showalter (bass), Jessica Brancheau (soprano, LCC) and Ben English (tenor), and we are happy to welcome Ashely Wright (mezzo-soprano, MSU). At the end of December, we were thrilled to welcome Blake Castonguay (soprano, Okemos High School) as our new Choral Intern. If you would like to continue offering this service to our congregation, consider making a donation to the Section Leader Scholarship Fund!

Bells of First – Director Sheila Conrad and the ringers of the bell choir, once again, had a very busy season. They gave multiple concerts (May and December) at local nursing homes, presented liturgically appropriate music monthly for service, performed for the Music of First Pres spring concert, and provided special music on Christmas Eve. This all-volunteer group provides 450+ hours of volunteer time between rehearsals, services and performances. They play a variety of music – hymn arrangements, contemporary Christian songs, classical, and secular music for their community concerts.

Children & Youth – The children sang and played for Palm Sunday and, in November, Megan and Kathy Banghart helped the youth and children of our church put together and lead a worship service - over 12 children/youth were worship leaders, singers and liturgists. They presented a Readers Theater play on God’s gift of peace through Jesus Christ at Christmastime.

Guest Instrumentalists – We have been able to have a variety of other instruments join us in worship – flute, violin, viola, cello, trumpet, trombone, African drumming, bagpipes, percussion,

handbells – from both inside and outside our faith community. Vocal and instrumental soloists generously provided special music for worship during the summer months.

Concerts – Our space has been utilized for a variety of concert offerings this year – Lansing Children’s Choir, LanSINGout and the Lansing Symphony use our facility on a regular basis. We welcomed The Lange Ensemble and Men of Orpheus for their concerts, as well as a special concert from the new professional women’s choir, Mirabai. We are looking forward to hosting Oakland University Chorale on their spring tour in May.

Looking ahead into 2018, I hope that we continue to encourage and enrich your worship and give you opportunity to share in fellowship through music. We will have our spring concert on Sunday, May 6 (mark your calendars!) and have already begun looking at what type of choral fun we can have next Advent/Christmas!

On behalf of the music staff (Sergei, Shelia, Jessica, Ashley, Ben & Darin), I thank the congregation for their continued support of the music program here at First Presbyterian.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Higle

OUTREACH AND SERVICE PROGRAM AREA **MISSION INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**

Members of the Committee are: Mike Bryan, Willye Bryan, Kathe Smith, Sam Smith, Andrew Edimo, Carol Wallace, and Sallie Campbell, staff

The Mission Committee has again been working very diligently in support of Mission giving for First Presbyterian Church of Lansing in 2017!

Projects supported with Mission Funds:

An AmeriCorps Volunteer, Elizabeth Akerly, a Michigan State University graduate, served First Presbyterian part-time along with NorthWest Initiative part-time, until October 2017. Another AmeriCorps Volunteer, Alexandria Maldonado came on board in October 2017, and will go through October 2018. The Interns worked on hunger programs at First Presbyterian with the Food Pantry and other areas. Other areas that the Interns worked on:

- A garden project for individuals in need of fresh food.
- A series of garden workshops were held at the church.
- The Weekend Backpack Project – food was packed into backpacks and given to school children to take home for weekends.
- Upgrading the Food Pantry brochure.

- Cooking classes which were held in the First Presbyterian Church kitchen.
- The Food Pantry added the 48915 zip code to the present church community that was being served.

The Global Institute of Lansing (GIL), a school for refugee youth ages 20-26 years who are working to complete their high school education, meets in the Reception Room in the basement. Five members of our congregation are volunteer tutors, and mission funds help to provide materials and scholarships for the program. GIL now has 36 students and plans to add an ESL program. GIL is also considering adding a second class because there is currently a long waiting list to enter the school.

The Committee continues to provide leadership for First Presbyterian to participate in the One Church One Family program offered by the City of Lansing. The program provides a home for a family in need who cannot easily qualify for purchasing a home. The original family continues to reside in the residence. The members are the mother, Vanevia, and her four sons, Justin 17, Cameron 7, and twins Andrew and Antonio 6 years old. Supporters from the congregation, led by Mission member, Kathe Smith, have served as counselors, tutors, handy persons, and general guides for the family throughout the year. Some funds have been donated to the family to help in times of need. The Committee was able to help Vanevia get a car, which was donated by a church family. We also provided Christmas presents for the family, especially the children. We plan to continue supporting the family in 2018.

The Mission Committee continues to help sponsor the Computer Lab at the church. The lab has a full complement of computers that were donated by Michigan Works. The Committee helped support the lab in addition to grant funds from the Presbytery. Computer classes are now being conducted in the lab that serves several public groups.

Beyond Boomers is another group established under the leadership of Mission. The group is led by Kathe Smith and provides a meal and fellowship once a month for members who are a part of the Baby Boomers generation and beyond!

The Two-Cents-A-Meal collection taken the last Sunday in each month continues to grow, and helps to support the food pantry and other hunger programs. This is Mission programming for everyone and led by Carol Wallace.

Carol Wallace also continues to offer Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and olive oil sales for church members. This includes coffee served after worship during fellowship time. The Presbyterian Coffee Project helps small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the U.S. as they build a better future for themselves and their families.

Mission collaborated with ACTION of Greater Lansing to co-sponsor the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast that was held at Union Missionary Baptist Church, Saturday, February 4, 2017.

The collection of Hurricane Clean-up Buckets was initiated from the congregation. The First Pres Children's Choir assembled the buckets on September 23, 2017, for pickup and delivery by Church World Services to hurricane victims in Texas.

A Mission Fair was hosted October 17, 2017. Members provided light snacks for refreshments during the Fair. Tables and refreshments were set up in Litten Hall. All organizations were invited to attend worship services on that Sunday. The Mission Fair was a rousing success!

Mission funds were given to agencies in five categories:

Food and Shelter: Presby House; Loaves and Fishes; First Presbyterian Food Pantry; Greater Lansing Food Bank; City Rescue Mission; Haven House; Advent House; PCUSA Disaster Assistance program- PDA funds to Houston for Disaster Relief; EVE, Inc.; Shared Pregnancy; Volunteers of America.

Health: Lansing Area Aids Network; CROP; Ingham County Health Department.

Education: Global Institute of Lansing (GIL); First Pres Computer Lab; First Presbyterian Children's Choir; Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind.

International: Macheo children's program in Kenya; water project in Wum, Cameroon; Association of the Empowerment for Women, Cameroon; Presbyterian Disaster Relief to Puerto Rico; Presbyterian Disaster Relief to the U.S. Virgin Islands; PDA for the Presbytery of Syria and Lebanon to support activities for helping refugees in the Lebanon/Syria region.

Local Mission and Community Development: Community Foundation of Greater Flint; ACTION of Greater Lansing; Building Community and Family Initiatives (BCFI); Northwest Initiative; Beyond Boomers; UKirk @MSU

Respectfully submitted:
Willye Bryan, Chairperson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee Members: class of 2017

Justine Achuonjei, Judith Davis, Dart Hartgerink,
Stan Jenkins, staff, and Judy Whitman, chair

Elders: class of 2020

Greg Frens, and Kim Moore returning elders, Justine Achuonjei,
Bev Bockes, and Bill Collins

Board of Deacons: class of 2020:

Gary Bailey, returning class of 2019, Judy Whitman deacon-elect for class of 2018, Alyse Collins, Jean Fellows, and Helen Hansens

Nominating Committee: class of 2018

Nan Carter, Linda Diepenhorst, Joyce Oberg, Stan Jenkins, Staff, TBD (chairperson), TBD - Deacon, and second Session member

Audit Review Committee: class of 2018

Bill Collins, Nancy Duncan, James Pyle, and Darin Showalter

Respectfully submitted:

Judy Whitman, Chairperson

BOARD OF DEACONS

The office of Deacon is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. 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.

Outreach

The Deacons served six Advent House meals, serving approximately 100 people at each meal. Bingo continues at the Washington Street Apartments, continuing Rod Conrad's legacy to the residents there. Deacons worked with other members of the congregation to support outreach at Michigan Pride, the September Tailgate event, Urban Plunge, and various small efforts for families in the First Pres neighborhood.

Member Care & Angel Team – *“Please see the report of Deacon’s Member Care Committee.”*

Food Pantry

The largest effort by the Deacons continues to be the First Pres Food Pantry mission. Our Pantry continues to serve nearly 2,000 food orders to over 4,500 individuals in the church neighborhood. Under Ron O'Connor's leadership, ours is an exceptionally well-run pantry and serves as a model for other pantries in the area.

Food Baskets

In addition to the regular Food Pantry effort, the Deacons provide 125 food baskets to needy families for each of the holidays of Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. These baskets ensure that the neediest families of our community can celebrate the holiday with a good family meal. The preparation and distribution of these food baskets are among the best times to see our church family in action, working together to fulfill the work of Christ.

Other Activities

The Deacons provide volunteer and financial support for various other needs in the course of the year, including purchasing the new AED and storage cabinet for Litten Hall; ushering; supporting the Northwest Initiative Mobile Food Market; and many other occasions for acts of service.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Collins, Moderator

DEACONS' MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE

Member Care Ministry

For the calendar year of 2017, the Member Care Committee had 8 deacons compared with 13 Member Care deacons for the year of 2016. There were 16 congregation members cared for by the Member Care deacons, compared with 20 congregation members in 2016.

During 2017, Member Care deacons provided 32 home visits to congregation members. Deacons delivered flowers to the congregation members at Easter and at Christmas. Homebound Communion was served four times for congregation members, each by a team of one elder accompanied by a deacon.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Members of the congregation have been knitting prayer shawls for several years. During the knitting process, the person who knits the prayer shawl prays for the person receiving the prayer shawl as the knitting is worked. During 2017, there were six congregation members knitting prayer shawls. Two prayer shawls were completed and given to Pastoral Care Assistant. Both the Pastoral Care Assistant and the Pastor have access to completed prayer shawls, and provide them to members of the congregation as needed and desired.

Prayer Pager Ministry

The Board of Deacons provides two prayer pagers for use by members of the congregation who request prayers from the congregation. The prayer pager helps the person who requests prayers to determine how many prayers have occurred per day. During 2017, neither prayer pager was in use. They are maintained for the use of those who are not comfortable with smart phone technology.

Tailgate Sunday - 9/10/17

The Member Care Committee participated in Tailgate Sunday. The Committee combined Tailgate Sunday with a successful drive for a new member to the Angel Team. During-Tailgate Sunday, two congregation members also requested Prayer Shawl kits to knit.

Angel Team

The Angel Team program was developed between February of 2016 and February of 2017. There are nine members of the Angel Team since Tailgate Sunday in September.

The Angel Team received its first referral on 3/11/17. Since that time, there were 21 referrals for the year, generating 63 volunteer assignments. Two additional referrals, primarily for transportation, were referred to the Men's Group. For the two times when members of the Men's Group were not available to transport, Angel Team members provided transportation as requested.

There is also an Auxiliary Angel Team for providing meals when requested. There were three referrals that were for meals. These referrals generated nine volunteer assignments for both the Angel Team and the Auxiliary Angel Team.

Members of the Angel Team also participated with one of our LINK groups to provide meals for a member. This activity was not counted as an Angel Team referral, as we were providing assistance for a LINK group, who coordinated the activities

Angel Team Referrals and Assignments

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Referrals	1	2	2	1	3	3	5	2	1	1	21
Assignments	2	13	6	10	4	3	4	4	8	9	63

Expenses

For 2017, the Member Care Committee spent \$710.00. Of this amount, \$50 was spent for educational materials for Tailgate Sunday; \$250.00 was spent for two Prayer Pagers; and \$200

was spent for flowers. Additionally, \$100 was donated to furnish the materials to make five Prayer Shawl kits.

During the November 8 Deacon's Meeting, a motion was approved to spend \$99.00 to upgrade the congregation's access to the SignUpGenius software, for documenting Angel Team referrals and scheduling assignments for 2018. This purchase increased First Presbyterian Church's level of participation from "Volunteer" to "Silver", the second of four levels. The benefits of belonging to the Silver Level include: a reduced number of advertisements on our sign-ups; the ability to retrieve Angel Team statistics and export them to Excel; the ability to create a report to show volunteers for each assignment; the ability to have more than one coordinator; and the ability to create a logo for the Angel Team using First Presbyterian Church's logo.

The new abilities will assist our volunteers and coordinators as we administer our growing program. The new program components will also permit us to create a personalized schedule for each family and provide them with contact numbers for volunteers right on the schedule. We will be able to share the administration and coordination duties. And best of all, we will be able to visually identify the Angel Team with our Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meg Rumfield

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND NUTURE PROGRAM AREA

YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Youth Education Committee is responsible for providing opportunities for the children and youth at First Presbyterian Church to know and experience God's love, grow in their knowledge of the Bible, and develop a faith in Jesus Christ and his saving grace. The committee consists of Kathy Banghart, staff advisor, Darla Jackson, chairperson, Brian Jackson and Brian Koon, elders, Bethanne Jenks, Julie Keller, and George Bennett acting as a liaison from Worship Committee.

Children 4 years – 3rd grade discovered worship through Children and Worship, which was held January through December, minus the summer months. All children through 12th grade had Sunday school available from 11a.m. - 12:00 p.m. This year we continued using the curriculum from PCUSA, "Growing in Grace and Gratitude," for the younger children, which, expounding on scripture, encourages children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace. The older youth continued the curriculum "Faith Questions," which encourages youth to look to scripture and our faith tradition in relevant, responsive ways. Additionally, the younger children enjoy a regular music class with Megan Hagle after Sunday School.

In spring, three third graders received a Bible from their church family and we recognized three high school graduates. During Lent, we worked with the Member Involvement/Fellowship Committee on the Lenten Partners Program. We have been working with Worship Committee to try to expand the opportunities for youth to be involved regularly in worship service. The youth of First Pres. led a service during both Lent and Advent, singing, reading, and performing other leadership and worship roles. In fall, we worked with other committees and groups in the church to make Urban Plunge a success.

YEC took a step toward strategic planning for the future, and held a strategic planning session off-site for a morning to discuss opportunities and challenges to fulfilling our mission in 2017 and beyond.

Some of our programs have faced declining attendance due to a number of factors, such as families moving or scheduling conflicts. In 2018, we plan to adapt programming to meet the needs of the young members of our church family, while leaving the possibility open to expand our offerings as needed.

Overall we had a great year, and YEC is looking to improve educational opportunities for 2018 so our children - the future of the church - will have the chance to become closer to God and the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Faithfully submitted,
Darla Jackson, Chair

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Adult Education Committee is an umbrella committee that includes Library Committee, Bible Studies, Parents Parallel, and the Adult Ed committee, which plans Adult Forum programs.

Library Report

The Library Committee continues to meet about 6 times a year to update the fireplace mantel and shelf displays, and also check the circulation of the church library books. This year most of the book purchases were our church's Book Club selections. As hoped, the use of our library did increase somewhat with that offering. Each week the committee also supplies the Little Free Library (LFL) on Pine Street with both children's books and adult's books. These books are a gift to the community. We are excited to see that the children's books are taken the most. Our supply of these gently used books comes from the congregation's generous contributions and also good used books at public library sales. As our funds are adequate for the small amount of purchases needed for both our church's library and the LFL, there will not be a Book Sale in

2018 to raise additional funds unless a specific project or a large item is needed to continue library operations. Committee members are: **Doris Drake, Sue Jenks, Jan O'Connor, Joyce Oberg, Karen Rude and Linda Diepenhorst (chair).**

Wednesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study

This is a spirited group that meets Wednesdays at 10:30 in the Library, led by **Pastor Stan**. There is lively discussion of Bible passages both in original context and how they relate to us now. All are welcome to join in anytime.

Parents' Parallel is for any parents who would like to meet with other parents in open discussion about what the children are learning in church school, or any topics concerning parenting. All are welcome to drop by Sunday mornings after worship in the parlor. Contact person is **Joel Layne**.

Adult Ed Committee works to provide an enriching program of learning opportunities in Adult Forum following Sunday worship. Listed below are the Guidelines for **Adult Forum** programs we have developed, with example programs:

~**Personal faith stories** – Faith journey shared by Tracy Weldon; Eric Hemenway of GreenSky Hill; members from Cameroon on the crisis in their home country; Specialist Darla Jackson on the Human Services offered by Meridian Township; Instructor Chris Venetis on Yoga; Visit to a leper colony in China with Will Bales.

~**Social justice** - Building Relationships – LaShawn Erby of Union Missionary Baptist Church and Action of Lansing; ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) - Michelle Lantz of Capital Area United Way; Building the Beloved Community with Pastor Stan and Jessica Trotter, Collection Development Specialist at Capital Area District Libraries; Restorative Justice with Attorney Bryan T. Jackson; Race, Culture & Health: The Conversation on Race Continues with MSU Prof. Sabrina Ford; The work of Lansing City Rescue Mission with Mark Criss, executive director.

~**Spiritual growth** - Contemplative Prayer with Pastor Stan; On Loving God with Pastor Stan.

~**Art & Music of the Church** – *Christ as a Rose* with Music Director Megan Higle

~**Bible study** – Elder Ceci Anderson offered a six-week Basic Bible Study.

~**Theology** - Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection with Rev. Charlie Herrick; 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, Charlie Herrick

~Topics and Programs within the church - Children and Worship with Elder Brian P. Jackson; Report by Finance Committee; Global Institute of Lansing with Executive Director Paula Frantz.

~Church history - Passion Plays: What are they and why are they important with Megan Higle

~Other religions

A big thank you goes to our dedicated Adult Education Committee members: **Sharon Carr, Shirley & Charlie Herrick, Carol Wallace, Linda Diepenhorst, George Bennett, and to staff advisor Kathy Banghart.**

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Herrick, chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

www.lansingfirstpres.com

<https://www.facebook.com/LansingFirstPresbyterian/>

Committee Members: Brian P. Jackson (Chair), James McClurken, Krista Botting, Brian Koon
(Staff participants: Sallie Campbell, Megan Higle, Sergei Kvitko).

Contributors: Josephine Powers, Darla Dowker Jackson, Jim Donaldson, Liz Bales, and Rich Blankenship

The Communications Committee is charged by Vision 2020 with implementing “new means of making ourselves and our welcome better known through enhanced use of social media and print media.” Toward that end, committee members have focused our attention on the First Presbyterian Church website, the church’s Facebook page, purchased advertising in print media, and sent media announcements.

Facebook

Facebook is a cost-effective tool for spreading news about the church and its congregation. Our church still maintains the sixth most used Facebook page of all the religious institutions in metro Lansing.

To make this investment in time, creativity, and resources be more effective, we need church members to “share” posts and videos. For example, a Facebook live video of the closing song of the Christmas Candlelight Service reached 1,300 users and viewed 706 times because it was “shared” by just 15 people.

Committee members have encouraged church members to photograph and or video record and post the church in action. Children’s worship, food distribution, concerts, church services, yoga classes, and candid photos of staff and members have all been subjects of recent posts. Our goal has been to post something on our page every single week of the year. Because of these efforts, thousands of readers have learned about our church in 2017. Facebook distributes church posts to people who “like” the page, as well as to their family and friends.

Facebook History

Year	# of followers who “like” the Church Web Page
2014	38
2015	281
2016	380
2017	401
2018	TBD

Lansing First Presbyterian Church Survey April-May 2017 Summary

The Communication Committee wanted to take a “snapshot” of the congregation in order to provide an educated recommendation on ways to grow the church in members and engagement in the community. Below is the summary of the survey of sixty-six completed surveys taken in April 2017 by collecting hard copy and electronic results.

Summary:

We have a strong consensus among survey participants that:

- the Church meets their spiritual need because of the connection with the church community
- identify as Presbyterians
- “Worship” especially the Music and “Outreach” via the Food Pantry are recognized as strengths of First Presbyterian Church

There was a lack of consensus about the Church should do to improve, but lots of ideas to be shared with the appropriate committees.

In moving forward, I join the Membership Committee on focusing on how we can better engage and interact with first and second time attendees. At the same time, we engage our Church family with education and encouragement to invite more people to join us for worship and outreach.

The Communications Chair continues to work with the Membership Chair, Pam Blair, to communicate some of the new procedures to create a more-welcoming church for all, and easy opportunities to engage in the work of the Church.

Website Activities:

The First Presbyterian Church website (<http://www.lansingfirstpres.com>) is designed as a tool for outreach to the broader Lansing community. The site includes our church mission statement, our Vision 2020 goals, the First Epistle, ministries information, a calendar of events, information about the history of our ministry, and church reports.

The Communications Committee's major project of 2017 was the migration to the new web page lansingfirstpres.com. With the technical assistance of Stephanie Gilmour as hired web design expert who was paid for by a church member, Krista Botting, Megan Hagle, Sergei Kvitko, and Brian Jackson, it took several weeks to bring the new website into operation.

There is untapped potential in the website that could benefit the church if additional volunteer support from any individuals willing to learn or having knowledge of Wordpress. Anyone interested should contact Brian Jackson.

Finally, Session approved a Communications budget of \$3,000 for 2017. The Committee used most of this money to purchase advertisements in the Lansing City Pulse to run monthly throughout the calendar year. With a distribution of 50,000 weekly, this free paper reaches a broad section of the Lansing community.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian P Jackson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This year started by combining Member Involvement and Member Development into one committee called Membership. This was a huge undertaking, but we were able to set goals and develop a new mission statement.

We sent out cards from the congregation to snowbirds and college students.

Developed a group to record attendance. Many thanks to Sharon Carr for all her hard work and dedication to recording the attendance, and helping with the transition to a new group.

Helped organize a Lenten Journey for the congregation to participate.

Developed a system to contact visitors.

Hosted 3 potlucks throughout the year and provided meals during un-decorating and decorating.

We hosted an Ice Cream Social, where two 70 year members were recognized.

We began contacting non-attending members to ask them if the church could serve them in any way. Thus far we have received mostly positive feedback and they were glad we called. From this we started a Simple Supper, to help ease the busy lives people lead. We also provided a simple supper to the workers that helped pass out the Thanksgiving baskets. We are trying to send a caring, positive message to people. If anyone is in need of a simple supper, please contact the committee.

We also started a self-serve coffee bar with flavorings and real cream! This has been well received and enjoyed.

We are trying new ways for people to volunteer, but this is a work in progress.

We ended the year by developing a Communication Card to be filled out by those in attendance on a Sunday morning, to replace the friendship pads. We are very excited by the possibilities with this.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Please contact anyone on the committee with your ideas. Also, we are asking you continue to pray for our committee and church.

Respectively submitted,
Pam Blair Chairperson

SALAD LUNCHEON

The salad luncheons went well in 2017 we had 2 luncheons- May and October. Everyone in our church family helped make it fun and profitable, we were able to give approximately \$750 each to help purchase supplies for the kitchen and mission work for the year. We will not be doing a salad luncheon this coming may but will do something in October of 2018. We appreciate everyone's help and willingness to make these type of events successful.

Respectively submitted,
Jean Dietrich, Mary Lou Gebhardt, and Sharon Johnson

FPC MEN'S GROUP

The First Presbyterian Church Men's Group or F.P.C. Men was formed in 2014 in response to many years of unfulfilled potential in our congregation.

F.P.C. Men is based on four components: Worship, Serve, Growth and Fellowship.

In 2017, F.P.C. Men:

- provided the dinner following the congregational Annual Meeting
- participated in the "Weekend Survival Kit" Project
- participated in MDOT's "Adopt a Highway" Program
- helped with the set-up for the packing of Easter baskets
- provided breakfast for the "Urban Plunge" event
- provided assistance to a couple of church members

In 2017, F.P.C. Men gathered for a time of fellowship including a golf outing on five occasions. If a church member needs assistance (transportation, etc.), please contact one of the Men's Group Planning Team members or the church office. Also, contact can be made with the "Angel Team" (517 243-4430) for any requests for assistance, and F.P.C. Men will subsequently be notified regarding requests.

The Planning Team members (Gary Bailey, Jim Hengstebeck, Brian Koon and Ron O'Connor) extend an invitation to men of ALL age groups to participate in F.P.C. Men!

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Koon

LINK GROUPS

LINK Leaders: Carol Johnson (Dewitt), Howard Powers & Harv & Judy Whitman (Grand Ledge & W. Delta), Jackie Blankenship & Carole Orth (North Lansing), Judy Davis & Dart Hartgerink (South Delta), Karen Wampler and Kathe Smith (East Lansing/Meridian Twp./Williamston), Brian Jackson (South Lansing), Dan Diepenhorst & Shirley Herrick (Holt/Mason/Delhi Twp./Eaton Co.)

LINK is an organized expression of our love and concern for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Our purpose is to assure that all who consider First Presbyterian Church their spiritual home are part of an established small group of caring friends.

History: A Steering Committee was formed and began meeting in October, 2009. Along with its workgroups it met monthly through June of 2010 and resuming in September, 2010, when it began meeting on an as-needed basis. Several organizational documents were produced and

35 group leaders were recruited, oriented, and commissioned by May, 2010. All congregation members and friends were assigned to one of 12 groups, each with at least 2 assigned leaders.

LINK groups continue to consist of a total of 7 groups. Leader support meetings were held several times in 2017.

LINK continues to be an accepted program in the life of the church. Most groups meet at least intermittently, while several have developed more routine and active formats.

The creative LINK Leaders coordinated a variety of activities in 2017, attempting to meet the varied makeup of the groups. Activities included a variety of fun and enjoyable events, such as hosting ice cream socials, attending concerts, picnics and Christmas parties. Our LINK Leaders participated in the fall church "Tailgate," promoting the purpose and promise of LINK, discussing group activities, and assisting of new LINK members. In addition, LINK was promoted in the display case adjacent to the Adult Forum room. In addition, our LINK groups continue to be a conduit to help members in need, providing rides, meals, etc. Evaluations and checkpoints with leaders indicate a continued high degree of satisfaction with orientation and support.

The primary goal continues to be the development of an active, stable group available to every congregation member. Objectives include: Ongoing leader support; ongoing communication involving the church office, the web site/bulletin/First Epistle, the Session and Deacons; the maintenance of committed, well oriented group leaders; and an enhanced capacity of each LINK group for member care.

Respectfully Submitted,
Howard Power

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee include: Gwen Botting (co-chair); George Bennet (Elder co-chair); Pastor Stan Jenkins; Music Director Megan Hagle; Darin Showalter and JoAnn Hengstebeck. The Committee wishes to thank Barb Edema for her participation at the November 14, 2017 meeting, as Stan had an excused absence.

The Committee maintains responsibility for all matters related to communion. The Communion schedule is prepared by George Bennett and Darin Showalter: that facilitates the scheduling of communion dates, type of communion (intinction or trays); preparation of the elements (Franco and Salima Nasef). The Committee wishes to thank others for preparation of the elements for Special Service events including Gwen Botting, Sallie Campbell (total responsibility for the Maundy Thursday Service), and Barb Edema for preparation of the bread for Blue Christmas Service). George Bennett coordinated the Homebound Communion effort, and wishes to thank Meg Rumfield and Chris DeYonke for their invaluable help. The Committee wishes to thank the Botting Family for their responsibility for the Good Friday Service. At the November 14, 2017

Meeting Gwen indicated that the number of servers will be changed from 12 to 10. The Committee wishes to thank Kim Moore for her suggestion to have one server rather than two for the balcony and the Chancel Choir.

The Committee recommends baptisms. To that end, Pastor Stan baptized Alden Hughes during the May 14, 2017 Service.

JoAnn guides the Chancel Guild efforts. They include: maintaining the communion table and equipment, vestments/flowers, and storage of Christmas decorations. Jo Powers has been instrumental in organizing the Christmas decorations due to JoAnn's excused absence, working with the maintenance of vestments. The Committee wishes to thank JoAnn, Jo and Gwen for the time they have devoted to make new curtains (e.g. JoAnn made new white curtains for the reredos). JoAnn determined, and the Committee concurred, that the color change for Advent will be blue. The Committee wishes to thank Jim Botting for facilitating the repair (welding) of the Christ Candle holder into the Advent Wreath and new boxes for the storage of the Italian creche. The Committee wishes to thank Judy Whitman for indicating that she is interested participating in Chancel Guild efforts.

The Committee notes that a pending issue will be the repair and maintenance of the Molly Grove organ.

Under Megan's direction, music continues to be a crucial facet of the worship experience. To that end a Fund Raiser Concert was held on May 7, 2017 in which \$250.00 was raised for the purchase of music. The funds were divided between Chancel Choir and Bells. She hosted a "July 4 Service" on July 9 entitled "America for All and Welcoming the Stranger". The Committee thanks Gwen for her French horn performances at numerous services, including Easter Sunday and Blue Christmas. The Committee thanks Bill and Alyse Collins for their bagpipes for the October 1, 2017 World Communion Sunday and wishes to welcome the participation of Kurt Civilette as he plays French horn with the Chancel Choir.

The Committee wishes to thank Stan, Kathy and Sallie as they worked with the children as they presented a play during the Palm Sunday Service.

The Committee thanks Darla Jackson to the September 12, 2017 meeting in which she discussed the concern for youth participation in services as acolytes.

Gwen continues to schedule liturgists for the services.

Respectfully submitted,
George Bennett, Elder co-chair

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

January	111	May	109	September	79
February	122	June	84	October	99
March	106	July	102	November	152
April	147	August	87	December	112

RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AREA

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

When one enters into First Presbyterian Church through one of the many doors around the building, I suspect the first thoughts are that of worship or service to one of the many groups that use our grand facility; however, a few members of the congregation likely think about the physical building and the things that go along with the building. This group of people are the members of the Building and Grounds Committee. For 2017 these members included Steve Campbell, Laird Eddie, Don Heck, Kim Moore, Ron O'Connor, Dick Poland and Karen Rude. Again, we relied heavily upon our staff liaisons, Tracy Weldon and Steve Taylor. Spiritual reflection, guidance and discernment were provided to our committee by The Reverend Stanley Jenkins.

This year it seems practical to provide a tabulation of the projects completed and the dollars associated with those projects:

Sanctuary Window Improvements and Painting	\$120,000
Granite steps and concrete repairs at Ottawa Entrance	\$ 18,360
Molly Grove Chapel Entrance stonework	\$ 21,180
Various Landscaping Items	\$ 3,300
LED Lighting in Sanctuary	\$ 2,200
New tread on stairs to kitchen	\$ 1,950
New Commercial Freezer*	\$ 1,850
Painting of metal railings around building*	\$ 1,000
Large windows throughout cleaned	<u>\$ 1,875</u>
	\$171,715

*Made possible by a generous gift

We continue to host many diverse organizations from in and around the Greater Lansing area. A significant portion of our congregation is involved with these organizations. This is a further manifestation of the benefits of our physical presence in the area and a direct testament to the value of this building.

As always, we are the beneficiaries of the willingness and ability of those who volunteer. Please know that the Building and Grounds Committee thanks you for your support and gifts of time, talents and treasures. Without you none of this would be possible.

Overall the condition of our facility is outstanding but the challenges to a property of this scale are never-ending. Please continue to support the works of First Presbyterian Church by literally supporting the building through your use, fellowship and generous monetary contributions. Perhaps, you may even contemplate the beauty and complexity of this physical structure the next time you cross the threshold....

Respectfully Submitted by:
Donald B. Heck, PE
Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee met twice, January 19 and May 31. Updated copies of the Plan and "Procedures in Brief" were made. The most recent update of the Plan is kept with Tracy and copies of the "Procedures in Brief" are displayed throughout the church. Two new AED devices were purchased and placed by the chapel cloakroom and at the south end of Litten Hall. Two congregation orientation sessions were held on March 26 and April 23. The first fire drill occurred on May 11. Procedures were reviewed and revised. A first aid training was held on June 10. All emergency kits and signage were fully operational.

Mike Bryan and Bill Collins have replaced Dan Diepenhorst as the Plan Coordinators. Final recommendations for the next year were summarized and provided in the last Subcommittee meeting on May 31.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Diepenhorst

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee had a number of priorities during the year. The most critical was to maintain staffing, including pastoral coverage. Times where Pastor Stan's wife was critically ill and then Stan himself was hospitalized required coverage of the pulpit and other pastoral functions. We were blessed with the generosity of Charlie Herrick and Barb Edema to fill the pulpit and, along with our staff, cover other duties that Stan performs.

These events directed our attention to various personnel and benefit policies, including those required by the denomination. We began the process of looking at all aspects of church policies. Assuring up-to-date job descriptions is part of this process. We also spent considerable time evaluating staff benefits to assure that family needs are met.

There was a staff vacancy in the Sunday a.m. host position that occurred late in the year. Our thanks to Ben English for his many years of excellent service. We are very pleased that David Jackson has assumed that role going forward.

The Personnel Committee carried out its standard responsibilities including making recommendations for staff compensation.

Finally, along with session, our committee considered how we could help advance the goals of the church in the context of the book *Fusion*, which focuses on church growth. We spent time thinking about the appearance of the church and how to make it more appealing to visitors.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Fitton, Chair

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee met four times through the year to review performance reports prepared by fund manager, The Windsor Group Ltd. of Indianapolis. The committee is composed of members Jean Dietrich, Carole Orth, Rich Blankenship, Jim Donaldson, Nancy Duncan and Ed Purchis. Both Carole and Rich have completed their three year terms and will not serve in 2018. We thank Rich and Carole for their service, as well as Brendan Ringlever and Mark Fellows whose terms on the committee expired in early 2017.

The combined value of the general and designated endowment funds totaled \$1,996,542 as of December 31. Year-to-date investment gain was \$273,833 with a beginning valuation of \$1,693,167. The endowment portfolio maintained its target allocation between asset classes of 61 percent equities (stocks), 37 percent debt securities (bonds), and 2 percent cash and equivalents.

The Birthday and Anniversary Club (Celebration Club) collects contributions throughout the year to support the Endowment Fund and has so far this year received \$1,042 from 14 church families marking special occasions. Total gifts to the fund from all sources in 2017 were \$148,246.

Annual disbursements are based on the church's policy of taking 5 percent of the value of each fund, calculated based on the average of the prior 12 quarterly valuations. This method tempers the effects on church funding from any sharp downturn in fund valuations in any quarter or year.

Recommended grants to the church for 2017 were \$80,549, up 3.6 percent from grants made in 2016. The church's general operating budget received unrestricted funds of \$69,959, which is 19% of the revenue used to pay for staff salaries, utilities, maintenance and other routine expenses. The designated restricted funds available in 2017 were \$10,590, which supports scholarships to Alma College, the food pantry, chapel music expenses, building repairs and other purposes.

Here is a breakdown of the unrestricted and restricted funds made available in 2017:

Unrestricted funds for the General Fund:	\$69,959
Harvey Whitman Fund (supports youth ministry)	\$441
Jean Byrd Fund (pays extraordinary church repairs)	\$1,948
Chapel Music Fund (maintain chapel instruments)	\$1,368
Barth Youth Fund (scholarships to Alma)	\$3,319
Lopp Emergency Food Fund (supports the pantry)	\$930
Woodhouse Fund (pays for medical expenses)	\$1,223
Audrey McGee Fund (supports Christian Education)	\$1,360

Contributions to the Endowment Fund are welcomed at any time. For more information, see Stan Jenkins, or any of the fund committee members. Thank you for your support.

Submitted by,
Jim Donaldson, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members of the Finance Committee: Bev Bockes, Jim Donaldson (Endowment), Mark Fellows, Stan Jenkins (Pastor), Carol Johnson (Treasurer), Jim LeTourneau (Chairman) and Ed Purchis.

The purpose and responsibilities of your church's Finance Committee are to develop financial policies, procedures, and practices of the church, and to monitor these programs. We also conduct the Stewardship Program and develop the next calendar year's Budget. When completed, the Budget is sent to Session for consideration and approval.

The committee monitored the income and expenses each month this year to assure the correct posting of accounts and to be assured that all of the committees stayed with their 2017 Budget.

We started out the year with a balanced Budget with room for any unexpected expenses and ended the year with a small carry forward of \$ 6,732.01 and no deficit.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim LeTourneau, Chair

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE SUMMARY

In 2017, Session appointed a Financial Review Committee to audit church finances. The scope of the review covered the period of time from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. Financial Review Committee members included: Bill Collins (chair), Sharon Carr, Bryse Friess, and James Pyle.

While the church Endowment Fund has undergone regular audits, a broad review of all Lansing FPC finances had not been undertaken for many years. So the work of this committee entailed not only a review of recent church finances, but establishing a process framework for ongoing Financial Reviews. The **Book of Order G-3.0113** requires yearly audits, though it does not require specific audit procedures.

The Committee reviewed receipts, disbursements, and available balances with church financial records and bank or credit card statements over several sample periods in 2016. Available balances were found correct, with no discrepancies.

The Committee also reviewed church payroll, insurance coverage, the Endowment Fund, and various financial procedures. In this review the Committee identified a number of findings and recommendations which were presented to Session. For the most part, these observations highlight opportunities to improve process documentation for efficiency and continuity. In general, FPC Lansing is in good financial order and our affairs are run by capable staff and committee leadership.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Collins, Financial Review Committee Chair

