



**FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Called to be a Light on the Hill

2016 Annual Report

Presented to the Congregation on February 19, 2017

Mission

*Called to be a light on the hill,
we boldly proclaim and serve Christ,
the Hope of our changing world.*

Vision

*Reaching out as a visible
expression of God's grace,
we will meet people where they are,
inviting all into Christ's family
through engaging worship,
fellowship, learning, and service.*

Core Values with Scriptures

Inspiring Worship

Prayerfully praising God together and being touched and changed by the Spirit

Psalm 105:1-3

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Spiritual Growth

Encouraging growth by prayerfully studying scripture and the Christian faith

Colossians 2:6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Loving Relationships

Nurturing connections in a joyful and safe environment

1 John 4:11

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Faithful Service

Working together to reflect and demonstrate God's love to all people

1 John 3:18

Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Generous Stewardship

Sharing our gifts and cultivating our resources for God's purposes

II Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

Welcoming Community

Striving to be an inviting and supportive Christian family

I Thessalonians 2:8

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also ourselves, because you have become dear to us.

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Co-Pastors – Revs. Phil and Jan Butin

*Stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.
Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:27; 2:4-5)*

2016 was a challenging year for our nation and our world. In the midst of change and many concerns, God's family that is First United Presbyterian Church stood together and sought to fulfill our mission and vision in ways that honor God and make the world a better place.

Each Sunday, integrated worship themes helped us focus on and be filled with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. These included:

- “Taste and See that the Lord is Good” (on the sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper)
- “How Jesus Makes us Whole” (on various ways God heals us and makes us and the creation whole through Christ as told in the gospels)
- “Stories of the Kingdom” (on the power of classic biblical stories from I and II Samuel)
- “The Way of Wisdom” (on ways biblical wisdom can guide us in our daily living)
- “Good Stewards of God's Abundant Grace” (on using our God-given gifts for God's service)
- “Longing for Something More” (on seeking God who fills the empty places in our lives)

With the arrival of Youth Directors Brienne and Jacob Christiansen in January, excitement grew around the church's ministry with teenagers and young adults. Our youth began to internalize the broader story of God's love and grace demonstrated throughout the Bible. In June, the whole church united to support and resource a local REACH mission project organized by deacon Rob Button that brought youth and adults from around the country to serve those with housing improvement needs in Prairie Grove, AR. The Christiansen's brought an exciting new element to our worship: dramatic presentations of the scripture texts by memory, helping God's Word come alive in our midst. This emphasis on the broader story of scripture also found expression in a summer adult class called “A Bird's Eye View of the Bible” that traced a different biblical theme from Genesis through Revelation each Sunday.

Guided by the Worship Committee, we became more intentional about involving adults, youth, and children in worship in new ways. Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education, prepared what children would say and we all looked forward to hearing, even from our youngest, “The peace of Christ be with you!”

The church was blessed in late June with an exceptionally generous legacy gift from the estate of Kenneth and Eva Stalker. The Trustees and the Session have devoted much prayer and energy to sorting out how best to place this gift in the service of God's kingdom. The current conversation has been around dividing the funds between mission support, a substantial building-maintenance reserve, and a multi-faceted renovation of the sanctuary area.

In August, Carol Essen resigned as Office Manager to follow a new calling. She will be remembered with appreciation, especially for her reliability and exceptional organizational and computer skills.

The church history which had been researched, written, and edited over five years was completed in December. *A Light on the Hill: The Journey to Presbyterian Hill (1830-2016)* is a delightful coffee-table style book full of interesting information and fabulous pictures. It bears eloquent testimony to the significant role our congregation has had and continues to have in the history of Fayetteville and throughout northwest Arkansas.

We count it a privilege to be with you in the happy, sad, and “in-between” times of your lives. Births. Baptisms. Graduations. Job changes. Moves. Weddings. Anniversaries. Hospitalizations. Recoveries. Memorials. The deacons and Stephen ministers have also given important care. We are God's family together.

The Session

Class of 2016

Jon Fagg
Jana Hemphill
Howard Higgins
Frank Johnson
Sara Koenig
Lucy McClung
Jennifer Ross

Class of 2017

Pam Andersen
LeNelle Cagle
Sara Eichmann
Rebecca Haden
Don Johnson
Peg Manger (*resignation*)
James Moore
Sabra Martin

Class of 2018

Chris Bell
Bill Mitchell
Derrick Olsen
Michelle Price
Carol Van Scyoc
Tom Verdery
Steve Jarvis

Phil Harrington, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Class of 2016

Debbie McNair
Hallie Jarvis

Class of 2017

Rob Button
Dana Daniels

Class of 2018

Sung Boon Kim
Larry Stubbs

Commissioned Deacons

Carol Hart
Ann Roberts

Katherine Boushelle
Bob Zierak

Vic Parkerson
Cathy Irwin (*resignation*)
Nancy Denn

Pastors and Staff

Phil and Jan Butin, Co-Pastors
Leslie Belden, Parish Associate
Kristi Button, Director, Christian Education
Brienne and Jacob Christensen, Directors, Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Carol Essen, Office Manager (until 9/2016)
Dan Essen, Facilities Manager
Cathy Hairston, Director of First School
Katie Jackson, Director, Children and Youth Music
Jeannie Lee, Organist
Amy McCann, Childcare Coordinator
Molly Murray, Office Manager (as of 11/2016)
Heidi Nash, Membership Secretary/Food Events Coordinator
Michael Shuman, Director, Music Ministry
Laura Winburn, Financial Administrator

Clerk of Session – Phil Harrington

The Clerk of Session serves as clerk for the Session and secretary for congregational meetings. The Clerk is an ordained elder and is elected annually by the Session. Other duties of this position include:

- Coordination of Session meetings with the Co-Pastors to develop the agenda and identify matters requiring Session action to develop the consent agenda.
- Keeping track of unfinished Session business and meeting Presbytery requirements.
- Working with the office staff to document information for church membership rolls and to maintain the records of the church.
- Informing the Session, Co-Pastors, moderators, staff and other leaders of the church on matters relating to the Session.
- Submission of a Clerk's Report for Stated Session meetings that includes members received, transferred, removed, etc., and noting marriages, deaths, baptisms and name changes of church members.
- Recording minutes of Stated Session, Special Session and Congregational meetings.
- Submission of highlights of recent Session meetings in *The Focus*.
- Emailing Session-related materials to Session members, moderators and staff in advance of the monthly Stated Session meetings and as needed throughout the year.
- Submission of approved minutes for the permanent Church Register.
- Working with staff in the completion of the annual Church Statistical Report and Clerk's Questionnaire.

2016 Membership Update

Gains in Membership

Reaffirmation of Faith	9
Letter of Transfer	<u>6</u>
Total Gains	15

Losses in Membership

Transfer of Membership	5
Inactive Status	2
Due to Death	<u>7</u>
Total Losses	14

Total Active Membership in 2016 499

Baptisms

Children	4
Adults	1

Church Register Changes for 2016

NEW MEMBERS (Added to Church Rolls)

April 24, 2016:

Jeb Blanz, by reaffirmation of faith

Buckley Wade Bridges and **Emily Ruth Bridges**, by certificate of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Jacob Mann Christiansen and **Brianne Christiansen**, by reaffirmation of faith

Gary "Rex" Garrett and **Kimberly L. Garrett**, by reaffirmation of faith

Bret Andrew Thompson, by reaffirmation of faith

October 9, 2016

Thermon R. Crocker and **Karen Hatfield Crocker**, by reaffirmation of faith

Bill G. Garber and **Alice Virginia Garber**, by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Joplin, MO

Evelyn Tandy, by reaffirmation of faith

Arthur "Art" Bernard Gust, Jr., by letter of transfer from Lynch Chapel in Alto, TX, and
Barbara Ann Gust, by letter of transfer from First United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, TX

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP (Remove from Church Rolls)

Bonny Stitt, to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR, effective March 26, 2016

Jane Stitt, to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR, effective March 26, 2016

Carla Romere and **Molly Williams**, to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR, effective March 26, 2016

Cathy Irwin, to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, AR, effective May 29, 2016

INACTIVE STATUS

Susan Ferguson, by her request, effective April 23, 2016

Carolyn Ratliff, by her request, effective June 1, 2016

MARRIAGES

Joseph Rossetti and **Samantha Hampton** on June 4, 2016, at First United Presbyterian Church with Revs. Phil and Jan Butin officiating

Christopher Talbert and **Gisela Garcia** on July 2, 2016, at First United Presbyterian Church with Revs. Phil and Jan Butin officiating

Brad Halbert and **Bayley Baker** on October 22, 2016, on the campus of the University of Arkansas (Old Main), Fayetteville, AR. with Revs. Phil and Jan Butin officiating

Church Register Changes for 2016 – continued

BAPTISMS

Diane Shefte was baptized on January 24, 2016. Revs. Jan and Phil Butin officiated.

Jacob Alan Schierschmidt (Joe and Elizabeth Schierschmidt, parents) was baptized on Sunday, February 28, 2016 Revs. Jan and Phil Butin officiated.

Justinian Alexander Schierschmidt (Joe and Elizabeth Schierschmidt, parents) was baptized on Sunday, February 28, 2016 Revs. Jan and Phil Butin officiated.

Jonathan Alaric Schierschmidt (Joe and Elizabeth Schierschmidt, parents) was baptized on Sunday, February 28, 2016 Revs. Jan and Phil Butin officiated.

Adrian Ellis (Rex Garrett and Kimberly Garrett, guardians) was baptized on May 8, 2016 Revs. Phil and Jan Butin officiated.

DEATHS (Deletions from Church Rolls)

Helen Ezell was born August 17, 1920, and died January 11, 2016, in Springdale, Arkansas. A funeral service was held at First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, on Saturday, January 16, 2016, with a reception following in Upper Witherspoon.

Marilyn Mabel Anderson was born July 21, 1921, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and died April 22, 2016, in Clinton, Tennessee. A private interment was held at the Tennessee State Veterans' Cemetery.

O'Dette Havel was born October 29, 1949, and passed away on June 23, 2016. A columbarium service was held at First United Presbyterian Church on July 5, 2016, followed by a memorial service in the sanctuary. Rev. Jan Butin officiated. A reception was held in Upper Witherspoon.

Sue Ellen Ward was born April 21, 1954, and passed away on June 28, 2016. A graveside service was held at Fairview Cemetery on July 6, 2016. A memorial service followed at First United Presbyterian Church. A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall. Revs. Phil and Jan Butin officiated.

Helen Louise Jablonski was born February 11, 1925, and passed away on September 20, 2016, at Fayetteville Health and Rehab. A service was held at the Fayetteville National Cemetery on September 23, 2016. Rev. Jan Butin officiated.

Lorrie Bashor was born July 30, 1928, and passed away on September 24, 2016. A family memorial service was held at the columbarium of First United Presbyterian Church on October 8, 2016. Rev. Jan Butin officiated. A reception followed in Upper Witherspoon.

Mary Ann Alderson was born June 6, 1922, and passed away on October 6, 2016. A memorial service was held at Arlington Memorial Cemetery in El Dorado, AR, on October 10, 2016.

Church Register Changes for 2016 – continued

ELDERS AND DEACONS

Ordained and/or Installed or Commissioned January 17, 2016

Elder Class of 2018:

Ordained and Installed--Steven Jarvis

Installed--Chris Bell, Bill Mitchell, Derrik Olsen, Michelle Price, Carol Van Scyoc,
Tom Verdery

Board of Deacons Class of 2018:

Ordained and Installed--Larry Stubbs, Sung Boon Kim

Commissioned Deacons 2016:

Ordained and Commissioned--Kay Pickett

Installed--Ann Booth, Cathy Irwin, Victor Parkerson

Elder Resignation

Elder Peggy Manger (Class of 2017) resigned effective January 14, 2016.

Installed February 14, 2016

Elder Class of 2017:

Installed--LeNelle Cagle.

Deacon Resignation

Commissioned Deacon Cathy Irwin resigned effective May 29, 2016.

Ordained and Commissioned July 17, 2016

Commissioned Deacon 2016:

Ordained and Commissioned--Nancy Denn

Committee and Commission Structure

Session Committee Structure to support current vision [affirmed by Session 1-15-17]

2016 STANDING COMMITTEES	SUB-COMMITTEES (Defined as needed by committees)	COMMISSIONS	TASK FORCES	BOARDS
Worship				Deacons
Fellowship				
Welcoming	Belonging			
Education	Library Youth Ministry Adult Education Children's Ministry	First School Commission [w/2 elders]		
Outreach				
Stewardship	Annual Campaign			
Properties	Columbarium			
Trustees and Endowment				
Personnel				
Planning				
*Nominating				
			**Earth Care **Sanctuary Area Renovation **Significant Gift	

*Committee of the congregation chaired by Session member
 **Task Force of the Session

Personnel Committee and First School Commission members are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected annually by Session to staggered three year terms.

Other Session committees are open to all church members and regular participants, with membership approved annually by Session as recruited by the committee chair, for one year renewable terms.

Committee and Commission Structure – continued

Worship Committee: Guides, supports, and oversees the worship ministries of the church on behalf of Session, in close cooperation with the co-pastors and the Director of Music Ministries.

Fellowship Committee: Guides, supports, leads, recruits leadership for, and oversees the fellowship ministries of the church on behalf of Session.

Welcoming Committee: Guides, supports, leads, recruits leadership for, and oversees the church's ministries of evangelism, welcoming visitors, advertising, web presence, and reception of new members.

Subcommittee: Belonging. Supports and integrates new members, oversees regular review of the church roles and production of church directory.

Education Committee: Guides, supports, recruits leadership for, and oversees the churches ministries of Christian education, nurture, faith formation, and discipleship with children, youth, and adults, including the provision of childcare for church activities, and child protection policies.

Subcommittees: Adult Education, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, Library .

Outreach Committee: Guides, supports, leads, recruits leadership for, and oversees the church's ministries of mission, outreach, and hands-on service in the community, region, nation, and world.

Stewardship Committee: Guides, supports, leads, recruits leadership for, and oversees the church's ministries of stewardship, and oversees the church's finances.

Subcommittee: Annual Stewardship Campaign.

Properties Committee: Coordinates, oversees, and recruits leadership and volunteers to care for, repair, and enhance the church buildings and grounds.

Trustees and Endowment Committee: The Trustees are members of the Session empowered to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer church property, real or personal, for and on behalf of the Session, with Session approval. The Endowment Committee meets with the Trustees in an advisory role regarding the structure and investments of the church endowment.

Personnel Committee: Guides, supports, oversees, and reviews the work of the pastors, employs the program and support staff of the congregation, and oversees the work of the pastor as head of staff in supervising and reviewing the staff.

Planning Committee: Develops, proposes, and reviews the congregation's mission, vision, and core value statements, and keeps these before the Session and the congregation to set direction and ensure forward momentum. Develops and proposes accountability processes for achieving the mission and vision and regularly evaluating progress to the Session. Plans and coordinates leadership for the annual Session retreat, in close collaboration with the pastors.

Nominating Committee: Prayerfully invites members of the congregation to be nominated for service as ruling elders and deacons, and invites members to serve as church officers and members of specific committees as requested by the Session.

Board of Deacons – Hallie Jarvis, Moderator

Members: Hallie Jarvis (Moderator, Nominating Committee liaison), Rob Button (Visitation Coordinator), Dana Daniels (Minutes, Postcards), Sung Boon Kim (Visits), Debbie McNair (Cards, Poinsettias, Personnel liaison), Larry Stubbs (Transportation).

Commissioned: Ann Booth (Visits, Meals), Katherine Boushelle (Child/Youth Visits, Meals), Nancy Denn (New Baby Visits—filled unexpired term), Carol Hart (Memorial Receptions, Meals), Cathy Irwin (Visits—resigned 2/17), Kay Pickett (Cards/Visits/Meals), Vic Parkerson (Support). Rev. Jan Butin provided pastoral support.

The ministry of deacons is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ (*Book of Order*, G-2.0201). We strive to be aware of needs within the congregation and to be compassionately involved in the lives of FUPC members and visitors through meals, visits, calls, and cards. Meals in time of need are coordinated by pairs of deacons (quarterly). Personal visits are made in homes, assisted living, and healthcare settings. Postcards are sent monthly to members. Transportation is provided as needed and requested. Christmas poinsettia deliveries are divided among deacons, elders, and staff. (Eighty-four plants were given and 40 poinsettia cards were mailed this year.) CDs of worship services are distributed to the homebound by request. When serious financial needs arise affecting church members, the Board is called upon to authorize help through the Individual Assistance Fund (created by the Christmas Offering each year). A new initiative, the Spring Break Banana Bread Bake, provided small loaves delivered to 25 members by others in the congregation on a Sunday afternoon in March. The work done by deacons is gratifying and deeply appreciated by those who are served. Special appreciation is also expressed to the many volunteers who assisted the deacons with grace and lovingkindness.

Stephen Ministry

Those who were active as Stephen ministers with members and friends in the congregation and community this year were Lorraine Brewer, Martha Brewer, Sabra Martin, Marilyn McLaughlin, Kurt Pfitzinger, Ron Talbert, and Chris Wolf. Between August-November, a new group of Stephen Ministers received 50 hours of training in compassionate care and were commissioned for service on November 20. Our newest Stephen ministers are Dennis Bailey, Barbara Brown, Brianne Christiansen, Mishann Luedders, Bill Martin, Barbara Rutledge, and Elizabeth Schierschmidt.

Christian Education Committee – Jana Hemphill, Moderator

Members: Moderator Jana Hemphill, Amy Blanz, Diane Byars, Jennifer Ross, Nancy Waite, and Kristi Button, Staff

The Team reinforced its commitment based on the spiritual growth core value:

Core Value: Spiritual Growth

Guiding Scripture: Colossians 2:6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

The FUPC Christian Education and Spiritual Growth initiatives shifted to focus on our core values and selected Colossians 2:6-7 as its guiding scripture. The team structure and function was slightly adjusted due to fewer members with subcommittees reporting on their group's activities. These include Youth Education, Vacation Bible School, Nursery, Library and Wednesdays Together.

Highlights of the Year:

- Ten different Christian Education Classes were offered on Sundays for children, youth and adults.
- There was a shift in focus on Wednesdays Together from a weekly program to monthly programs on a wide variety of subjects.
- *The Noah Story* for Preschool Vacation Bible School and a new Ferncliff-led *Fun in the Sun* elementary curriculum for Kindergarten-fifth grade were held June 27-July 1, with increased youth involvement in the leadership of VBS.
- Wednesdays Together took a break in the fall.
- Kristi Button shifted back into her regular duties as Christian Education Director with the hiring of Jacob and Brianne Christiansen in January to fill the vacant Youth Director position.
- Katie Jackson continued to teach music in our children's Sunday School classes in the spring and fall. The children were able to sing these songs for worship services.
- We continued the revision of the Child Safety Policy.

FUPC is blessed to have wonderful support from our members who are involved in keeping our Christian Education programs thriving throughout the year. We strive to continue to have a positive influence in the lives of our children, youth, adults and their families and friends. We appreciate everyone's commitment to the mission of Christian Education and Spiritual Growth at FUPC.

Christian Education – Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education

This year has been a great one for Christian Education. We began planning for new programs that will help us expand and grow our ministries for all ages. The new energy is exciting.

Highlights of Christian Education:

- Vacation Bible School this year included a preschool program that was more centralized and focused. First School stayed open to provide care and fun for the youngest while the three-, four-, and five year-old children were welcome to join VBS at no additional cost. The theme was “Noah and His Big Boat.” The elementary program brought in “Camp 2 You” from Ferncliff for the first time to offer an all-day program from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This was a fun week filled with activity. We also served lunch. We learned a great deal and think we can have a program that extends beyond lunch in the future. A 2:00 p.m. ending time seems most realistic for us with the volunteer base we have. We plan to utilize our own volunteers and not bring in an outside group. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who gave of their time, providing food and leadership and making this a wonderful experience!
- Katie Jackson continued to lead the elementary children in a combined choir and chimes ensemble on Sunday mornings throughout the school year. Katie Jackson led occasional music with our preschoolers in their classrooms and the teachers practiced the songs with them weekly. This provided an opportunity for more children to participate.
- A team of wonderful church members put together an all-church retreat at Dwight Mission Camp and Conference center in October. This was our seventh year coming together for this retreat. We continued to welcome new people and had church members of all ages, from babies to members in their eighties!
- Our Wednesday evening programming continued through the spring. In the fall, we decided to take a break and evaluate the future offerings. “Fun & Fellowship” groups were a wonderful addition to our church life and many of these began to meet during the week. In 2017, we look forward to monthly “Meet and Eat” nights in local restaurants, which will be a good touchstone time for church members mid-week. This will be a CE-sponsored endeavor, with a high focus on just connecting with one another.
- In the fall, we had four concurrent adult Christian Education options, with a new Second Sunday Circle added. This group studies the Presbyterian Women’s *Horizons* study on the same pace as the other circles, but on Sunday mornings. New leadership transitioned the class that had operated as a theology class to a new focus with the study of *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr. During Advent, there was a study of the James W. Moore book, *All I Want for Christmas*. It was very well received and followed our Advent worship theme.

United Presbyterian Youth — Brianne and Jacob Christiansen, Directors of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

We celebrate 2016 as our first year of marriage and ministry—our first year here at First United Presbyterian Church. As we expressed in our interview process, we have worked (and continue to work) to create a youth ministry program that is relational, experiential, imaginative, and gospel-centered. We began 2016 by working to increase biblical literacy among our students: what exactly is in the Bible? We continued the established rhythm of gathering on Sunday evenings (UPY Together) for dinner, games, and lessons, beginning with a year-plus long study of key stories throughout Biblical history. Wednesday night Small Groups were established as a time for youth of the same gender and church adults to meet for relationship-building and Bible discussion. The youth Sunday CE Hour was relabeled UPY Mornings in an intentional effort to unify all youth programing under the UPY labeling.

Youth highlights of the year:

- The youth participated in several Presbyterian Youth Council events: six attended Senior High Youthquake, three (and Brianne as a chaperone) joined the Presbytery of Arkansas delegation to Triennium, and seven attended Junior High Youthquake.
- While FUPC helped to host Reach Workcamps in Prairie Grove, AR, fifteen youth and three chaperones attended Reach as participants, working on teams with other youth groups to repair homes in the Prairie Grove area.
- The youth frequently helped to lead the liturgy in Sunday morning worship as well as planning and leading the Youth Sunday service in the spring.
- Twelve senior high students traveled with us on the Senior High Ski Trip to Winter Park, CO, for two days of skiing and winter fun as well as relationship building and discussion of Prayer through the Psalms.

Nursery and Childcare — Amy McCann, Childcare Coordinator

The church nursery is open Sunday mornings for the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services and during Christian Education at 9:30 a.m. This past year we have had between 3-8 children each Sunday. The nursery is open to all children from birth to pre-kindergarten age. We serve approximately 6 to 8 families of the church on a regular basis. Along with myself, there are six well-qualified caregivers that currently work in the nursery and two that work for special events. Our nursery staff is dependable and has a great reputation with parents and consistency with our families and workers. We also have childcare available for special services such as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunrise, during which we have as many as 25-30 children. This past Easter, we had approximately 24 children for the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Toys, coloring sheets, crafts and more are provided for the children in our care.

The nursery/childcare is also used for church functions, weddings, and meetings upon request. Ministries and anyone needing childcare services fill out a childcare request form, located in the Church Office, at least two weeks prior to their event to ensure availability and adequate children/caregiver ratios. Last year, we staffed a nursery for Presbyterian Women's meetings and events, Session and committee meetings (when needed), Friday Night Fun, the Marriage Group, and many other events.

The nursery has 12 digital pagers for parents to use in case of emergency. Each parent/guardian signs their child in as they drop them off and, if they choose, can take a pager. In case of emergency, the pager will vibrate, light up, and send a message to let the parent/guardian know that they are needed downstairs.

Fellowship Committee – Carol Van Scyoc, Moderator

The members of the Fellowship Team are Carol Van Scyoc (chair), Sara Koenig (Session), Mary Ellen Moore, Nancy Waite, Catherine Kirkpatrick, Jessie Koeppe, and LeNelle Cagle. Rev. Jan Butin is our staff liaison. Fellowship meetings are held the fourth Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in Calvin 201. A wide variety of events and activities from **Buffalo River float trips to Bunco games, and the Dwight Mission all-church retreat** are supported through the talents and participation of the congregation. Fifth Sunday covered dish luncheons were part of trial schedule change and will not be continued in 2017.

Continuing events supported by the Fellowship team:

***Fellow”Shape” classes-** new this year are Tuesday yoga nights and Thursday Zumba nights. Classes meet weekly in Fellowship Hall.

***First Fellowship-** monthly luncheon meetings for those 55 and over.

***Friday Night Fun-** a self-directed group of younger church members who gather monthly for meals, game nights, movies, bowling, etc. Childcare is provided.

***Fun and Fellowship Groups-** intergenerational groups engaging in activities of interest to that group. New groups are formed yearly and are encouraged to meet monthly. This year we recruited group leaders and co-leaders prior to encouraging membership sign-up. Strong, informed leadership along with good communication were found to be vital to successful groups in past years. New members are welcome to join a group at any time.

***Gatherings around holy days, meals and music:** September **All-Church Picnic at Bobby and Lana Odom’s, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Easter Brunch, August Coffee House** with music supplied by church members, **Christmas Brunch.**

Scholarships for the Dwight Mission Retreat are budgeted through Fellowship. We also support kitchen supply needs.

First Fellowship – Ron Talbert, Facilitator

This group for 55+ adults meets for a luncheon and program on the second Thursday of each month at Butterfield Trail Village Lodge. The meal is served at 11:30 am with the program following lunch.

Programs in 2016 were:

- January 14 – The Growth of the Marshallese Population in NW Arkansas - Rob Button, Hospice Nurse, Hospice of North Arkansas.
- February 11 – Crystal Bridges –The Last Four Years and Counting – Diane Carroll, Crystal Bridges, Media Relations.
- March 10 – Battle of Pea Ridge – Steve Bailey, Civil War Reenactor.
- April 14 – Youth and Young Adult Ministries at FUPC – Jacob and Brianne Christianson, FUPC Directors of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
- May 14 - Mystery Novels from the 1920's – Dr. Ed Allen, History Professor, NWACC.
- June, July and August - No meetings
- September 8 - Dietary Supplements: Are Nutraceuticals and Herbal Medicines Safe and Effective? – Tony Stankus, Distinguished Professor of Library Science.
- October 13 – Preview of Topics Related to the November Elections – Brenda Blagg, Freelance Columnist for Northwest Arkansas Times.
- November 10 – The Little Free Pantry: Applying a Familiar Concept to Address Food Insecurity - Jessica McCloud, member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR.
- December 8 - Christmas In Other Countries – U of A International Students from Bolivia, Germany, and Nigeria, arranged by Cynthia Smith with the University of Arkansas International Student Department.

The Steering Committee for 2016 was Ron and Alice Talbert, Ed and Jane Piper, Jim and Margaret Johnston, Carol and Al Hanna and Wade Burnside (our BTV contact) Jan Butin was pastoral support. Thanks to our callers, Nancy Denn, Lina Long, Nell Tuck, Jenny Ourand, and Ron Talbert. In addition to calling senior members to acquire reservations for each meeting, they make monthly contact from the church to about 60 senior families. The group also appreciates the Butterfield Trail Village wait staff for their service and the atmosphere for our meetings at the Lodge.

First School Commission – Sara Eichmann, Moderator

The First School Commission members for 2016 were Sara Eichmann and Lucy McClung, session representatives; Barbara Rutledge, Melissa Werner and Erin Wilson, church members; Cathy Hairston, First School Director; Cheryl Wiebe and one rotating teacher representative; Laura Burnett and Mike Rousseau, parent representatives; Phil Butin, pastor; and Kristi Button and Laura Winburn, staff liaisons.

First School is a Parent's Day Out Program, Preschool and Kindergarten. It also has an 8-week Summer Program for elementary students. First School is an outreach to our community. As a part of FUPC's Christian Education Ministry, all First School classes reflect the Christian values and the vision of First United Presbyterian Church.

First School had an exceptional 2016 serving 141-148 children and over 130 families. Cathy Hairston, the Director, provides excellent leadership, supervision and training. The 21 teachers and aides at First School provide a safe and caring environment for students to learn and grow. Classes are MWF or TTH. The Parent's Day Out program serves children under 3 in age groupings 12-20 months, 21-28 months, and 29-35 months. The Preschool has 4 classes, 2 classes each of age 3 and 4. Kindergarten is 5-days and had 12 students of which went to first grade or repeated kindergarten in public school. An enrichment program in dance, Jitterbugs, is offered. FUPC Pastoral Staff members conduct Chapel Time each week, guiding children through the Bible using stories, flannel board time and songs. Notes from the pastoral staff about each story goes home for parents to be informed and talk further about the story.

During 2016, the Outreach Committee provided scholarship money to seven First School families that requested assistance. Scholarships were 25% of each family's tuition. This money, combined with funds from First School's tuition line item totaled approximately \$600 a month. Scholarship applications are received February through April and recipients are notified in May.

First School holds several fundraisers, which includes the annual picnic with a silent auction, Box Tops for Education, Scholastic Book Fair, a pumpkin auction, and Little Bird coupon books. Proceeds from these fundraisers were used to fund needed building improvement this year. The annual trike rally raised money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of Trevor Trumbo, a former student that lost his battle with brain cancer in 2014. Parent's participated in the Potter's House Christmas Tag Tree providing gifts to families in need that had tag on the tree.

This year First School made improvements to the Calvin and Knox Buildings. The entire school was repainted, all window blinds were replaced, contributed one-half the cost of the adult/pediatric AED unit and a portion of HVAC units. First School's website was updated at www.firstschoolfayetteville.org. The program went paperless this year by added I-pads in the classrooms and a software to communicate with parents, This software generates daily notes, keep records, stores lesson plans and stores children's portfolios of developmental benchmarks.

As a part of FUPC, First School commits each year to provide funds generated from fixed costs over tuition to the church at year-end to help with the general operating expenses of the church. This amount varies each year. In 2016, First School had another exceptional year and the program could provide over \$22,000 to FUPC for the general operating budget.

First School is an Arkansas Quality Program participating in Arkansas Better Beginnings, 3-star rating. The Mother's Day Out was voted #1 in the area by Kid's Directory. The First School Commission is proud of First School and of Cathy Hairston's 16 years of service. We are grateful for the continued support of the FUPC staff, the Session and the congregation. If you would like to have additional information about First School, copies of the Parent Handbook are available in the First School Office.

History Committee – Martha Brewer, Moderator

In late summer, the History Committee completed final proofing and editing, and a five-year project of researching and writing our church history was finished! *A Light on the Hill: The Journey to Presbyterian Hill, 1830-2016*, was submitted to the publisher in early October. Our plan was to have the book in time for Christmas, however, because of unforeseen problems with their printing equipment, the publisher was unable to deliver the books in time for the Christmas market. Five-hundred copies of the publication were received on December 22, and are stored off campus.

A marketing committee was appointed to direct the sales campaign; they are now planning special church and community events in early 2017 to showcase the book. Retail price for the book was set at \$37.50 (plus postage if needed) with discounts for multiple copies. This price allows us to cover publication costs and to reimburse the memorial gift fund for “up-front” monies loaned to our committee for expenses.

We are proud of our work and believe that we have a product that will assure that the history of our church is preserved for the ages. It was a privilege to work on this project, and we would like to thank the staff, Session, and all who helped make our dream a reality. Our hope is that FUPC members and friends will share our enthusiasm and pride in this project.

Authors of *A Light on the Hill: The Journey to Presbyterian Hill, 1830-2016*

Nancy Waite
Barbara Rutledge
Bo Morton
Phil Butin
Lee Power
Leslie Belden
Martha Brewer

Nominating Committee – Don Johnson, Moderator

The members of the 2016 FUPC Congregational Nominating Committee were: Liz Fulton, Leigh Woodruff Harvey, Hallie Jarvis (representing Deacons), Jane Steinkraus, James Ezell, Cyril Sturm, Dick Oliver, Lucy McClung (Elder), and Don Johnson (Elder-Moderator); Revs. Jan and Phil Butin served as *ex officio* members of the committee. The Nominating Committee met for approximately 12 called meetings in 2016 to discern God’s call for members willing to serve FUPC in leadership and service roles. The following church offices were filled as a result of God’s work through this committee:

<p>Elders - Class of 2019 Gail Segers Jessie Koeppe Eunice Millett Marti Woodruff Claudia Driver Chris Boushelle Dennis Brewer</p> <p>Clerk of Session Phil Harrington</p> <p>Treasurer Fred Schefte</p>	<p>Board Deacons - Class of 2019 David Edmark Lisa Pfitzinger</p> <p>Commissioned Deacons Nancy Denn (completed unexpired term for 2016) Emily Bridges Bruce Schlegel</p> <p>Endowment Committee - Class of 2019 Jim Harter</p> <p>Members, Personnel Committee Dwight Powers (Class of 2019) Diane Warren (Class of 2018)</p> <p>At-Large Representative to First School Commission Sarah Berry (Class of 2019)</p>	<p>Butterfield Trail Village (BTV)</p> <p>Members, BTV Corporate Board Lorraine Brewer Martha Brewer Nancy Mays Ed Piper Ron Talbert</p> <p>Nominating Committee Representative - BTV Nancy Mays</p>
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As Moderator, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all committee members for their energy, dedication, and collegiality throughout the year. Working with each of you has been a pleasure and a blessing. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,
 Don Johnson, Moderator

Outreach Committee – LaNelle Cagle, Moderator

2016 Membership - Carol Barnett, Leslie Belden (Pastor), Chris Bell (co-moderator), Phil Butin (Pastor), Rob Button, LeNelle Cagle (moderator), Claudia Driver, Betty Ezell, Bill Hart, Carol Hart, Bernie Madison, and Carol Madison

All-Church Mission Sundays - In the Spring, our project was packing meals for the Pack Shack. In the Fall, our project was focused on assembling 20 Disaster Assistance buckets that were sent to Ferncliff. Both Sundays invasive plants were removed from the church campus and new or gently used clothing was collected to be given to our friends at Sunday Suppers.

Community Meals - Our Feeding ministry volunteers helped prepare food (at FUPC) and served a meal at Seven Hills Homeless Shelter at noon on the third Friday of each month under the direction of Betty Ezell, and Sunday Supper was served on the first Sunday of each month at Trinity United Methodist Church at 3:30 p.m. under the direction of Carol Barnett. Approximately 75-100 are served at each location with an annual budget of \$3,600.

Alternative Market - Our annual Alternative Market was held on Sunday, December 11, with 18 non-profit organizations participating. A total of \$8,625.72 was raised.

Honduras Mission– Phil Butin and Leslie Belden traveled to Honduras in May for an international gathering focused on the selection of an appropriate theological education curriculum for the pastors of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. Leigh Woodruff Harvey led the first ever officially-approved Presbytery of Arkansas Honduras trip October 23-29 to the Copan region, with members of FUPC, other northwest Arkansas congregations, and Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. Phil Butin served on the national search committee for new Honduras mission co-workers, and Leslie Belden continued to coordinate the national Presbyterian Honduras network.

Additional Projects - Backpacks and school supplies were collected and given to the Fayetteville Public School System in August. Ongoing ministries are collection and delivery of non-perishable food and hygiene products, clothing, and toys to benefit CEO, Peace at Home Shelter, and Lifestyles.

Special Offerings - In September, \$4,224.50 was collected for the following:

Organizations	Amount
Seven Hills	\$ 1,018.00
Individual Assistance Fund	\$ 637.00
Peace at Home	\$ 442.50
Youth Mission	\$ 345.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 325.00
Hope Cancer Center	\$ 242.00
United Campus Minisry	\$ 200.00
Casa	\$ 150.00
Honduras Ministry	\$ 150.00

Organizations	Amount
Rice Depot	\$ 125.00
Dwight Mission	\$ 110.00
Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana	\$ 100.00
Fercliff	\$ 75.00
Children's House	\$ 50.00
Pack Shack Meals/Mission Sunday	\$ 50.00
CEO	\$ 25.00
LifeStyles	\$ 25.00
Heifer Project	\$ 20.00

Parish Associate – Rev. Dr. Leslie Smith Belden

It has been a joy to serve as your Parish Associate resourcing our Outreach Ministry. In 2016 our ministries outside of the congregation were not only strengthened, but were also more strongly led by the leadership of our members rather than the efforts of staff.

Revs. Phil Butin and Leslie Belden are leaders in our PC(USA) national ministry with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. But our congregation's ministry and the community development efforts of the Presbytery of Arkansas are led by Leigh Woodruff Harvey.

We also began the transition of our feeding ministries from the capable leadership of Betty Jo Ezell and Carol Barnett to a more shared model in the hope of involving more members of the congregation. The goal of FUPC is for everyone to be involved in some form of hands-on ministry.

We had two All-Church Mission Sundays this year rather than just one: at the Spring workday we worked on the grounds to remove invasive plants and packed meals with The Pack Shack for LifeSource clients; and at the Fall workday we continued our efforts on the church grounds and prepared Disaster Assistance buckets and hygiene kits to aid in clean-up efforts following the flooding in the Eastern USA and Caribbean.

Our congregation further demonstrated our commitment to the needs of others through the special offerings of the denomination, our monthly giving to CEO, and the Special Offering for organizations we support. We also had the most successful Alternative Market in recent history, with more vendors and money raised – thanks in part to the ability to use credit cards this year.

I am proud of how the congregation has responded to our efforts to more directly serve as Christ's hands and heart in the world, and I am confident that as I transfer my efforts to serving the Presbytery of Arkansas the commitment of FUPC to serve the needs of others will not waver. I will continue to worship at FUPC when not filling pulpits elsewhere, and I look forward to the future!

Earth Care Task Force – Sue Madison, Moderator

Early this year we explored the possibility of having a rain garden on the eroded hillside southwest of the sanctuary. James Moore and Sue Madison attended a morning workshop at the Illinois River Watershed offices in Cave Springs to learn about a grant offered by the Watershed. Local Boy Scout Troop #46 was interested in participating in the construction led by Connor Button from our church. The church hired local landscape architect Alan Ostner to design the rain garden. Mr. Ostner evaluated the site and calculated the amount of rainwater washing through the area. Plans were drawn to accommodate some of the rainwater with the remainder diverted into additional drains. Properties Committee arranged for the excavation and contouring of the area. The hard work of hauling soil, gravel, mulch, and sod was done by the Boy Scouts. ECTF members worked with Mr. Ostner in selecting suitable native plants for the sides and interior of the rain garden. Locally grown native plants were purchased from a nursery in West Fork with a few additions from ECTF members. ECTF members assembled one morning and planted the garden. We were excited to have a picture in the local newspaper. Properties Committee members provided irrigation to settle the young plants into their new home. Two lovely benches were built, finished, and installed by Connor Button thus completing our rain garden. The grant from the White River Watershed supplied almost all of the cash funding of the rain garden with matching labor from the Boy Scouts and church members.

Our church became a member of Presbyterians for Earthcare this year.

ECTF continued supplying locally grown pesticide-free flowers for worship services one Sunday per month from April through October. Two Earth Care tips were emailed to church members: one citing problems of disposable plastic shopping bags and encouraging the use of re-usable shopping bags highlighting our own FUPC bag and another about recycling wine bottle cork stoppers at our local Whole Foods.

In June we were honored by the Altrusa Club of Fayetteville with their Sustainability Award which included local press coverage.

ECTF participated again in Outreach Sunday in October continuing our work to remove invasive plants from the church campus.

Personnel Committee – Bill Mitchell, Moderator

Those serving on the Personnel Team in 2016 included Bill Mitchell and Steve Jarvis, elders; Shawn Daniels, Debbie McNair, Angie Hewat, and Gail Segers. Pastors Jan and Phil Butin were also in attendance for our meetings.

Routine actions by the committee included:

- Reviewing the Co-Pastors' report of all staff evaluations
- Performing the annual performance review on our Co-Pastors and receiving/reviewing/discussing the goals for each for the coming year
- Reviewing and approving as a recommendation to the Session the 2017 staff compensation package, including the Co-Pastors.
- Assisting as needed/requested with the search to fill one staff position.

Unique issues/actions addressed by the committee:

Our Co-Pastors' terms of call at the time of hiring included the possibility of sabbatical leaves [as recommended by our Presbytery] for each after seven years of service to our church.

- recommended to Session that the sabbatical leaves as defined be offered beginning in 2017
- worked to outline the various parameters for those sabbaticals
- worked with the Co-Pastors individually to outline how and when these sabbaticals would take place
- began to develop plans to oversee and assist with the ongoing work of our church while each pastor is away.

Continuing work into and throughout 2017

- Oversight of the Co-Pastor's sabbatical leaves
- Implementation of plans to adjust and cover the workload to make the impact of those sabbaticals as reasonable and as seamless as possible with regard to the work of the First United Presbyterian Church

Planning Committee – Tom Verdery, Moderator

The 2016 Planning Committee members were: Brittany Adair, Steve Adair, Melissa Harrington, Bill Hewat, Howard Higgins, Jim Price, Bill Waite, and Phil Butin.

The Planning Committee for FUPC assists the FUPC Session, committees, boards, and commissions in establishing and implementing initiatives and action steps that focus their work on achieving FUPC's *Mission* and *Vision*, while exemplifying our *Core Values*. The committee also assists in planning and facilitating the annual Session Retreat, congregational annual meeting, and seeks congregational input about our Mission, Vision, and work of FUPC. This past year we focused our work on listening to congregational ideas in February to grow our **Core Values of Inspiring Worship, Spiritual Growth, Loving Relationships, Faithful Service, Generous Stewardship, and Welcoming Community**. We delivered the key recommendations from our congregational meeting to the respective committee moderators shortly after our annual meeting, to help them build these ideas into their 2016 plans.

The key overall theme from the annual meeting was that FUPC needs new member growth in all ages and stages of life, by sending the church "*Down the Hill*" to invite the community "*Up the Hill*."

This last summer our focus was on developing and leading a successful Session annual retreat on August 26 and 27. The focus was on Spiritual Refreshment and Renewal, by using outside facilitators and speakers. One of the key learning's from the retreat included the need for a *Spiritual Gifts Assessment* for our congregation in 2017. To support that learning, our committee reviewed several different types of assessments and plan to report our key findings to Session at the March, 2017, meeting.

One of our key focus areas in 2017 will be on looking at Best Practices of "like churches" in NWA in the areas of Sanctuary Innovation, Visitor Engagement, Worship Innovation, and Christian Growth and Education of all ages. Our committee is excited about the future of FUPC and God's call for our church family in the coming years.

Presbyterian Women – Katie Jackson and LeNelle Cagle, Co-Moderators

Presbyterian Women is a mission-oriented group that donates to church, community, and state, national, and international needs. It is open to all women in our congregation. For the 2016 year, women could choose from six circles, four of which meet monthly to discuss the current *Horizons* Bible Study. Two circles selected a Bible-inspired book which explores a topic of their choice, and the Covenant Group meets monthly to discuss books and topics of timely interest.

- One of the four *Horizons* study circles is a new circle called “Second Sunday Circle” which is offered once a month during Sunday school hour. This group has met three times and has a small but steady attendance.
- Another group is Hooks and Needles, which met each Friday morning to work on projects such as knitting. Beginners are welcome! This group presented prayer shawls to several church members and offered some of their treasures for purchase at the Alternative Market. They received \$1,300 from the sale of these handmade items, turning over this sum to CEO. A variety of hats, mittens, and scarves that had been purchased by church members were displayed on a tree and then given to children in the Fayetteville Public Schools. Hooks and Needles also donated hats, mittens, and oven mitts to the Vera Lloyd home and to the veterans.
- At our Spring Dinner in May, we learned about the history of Presbyterian Women by viewing a DVD titled “200 Years of Presbyterian Women.” The thirty minute DVD was very informative about the history of women’s roles in the church. At this same event, Sara Koenig, Al Hanna, and Carol Hanna were awarded Honorary Life Memberships in Presbyterian Women for their outstanding service to the church.
- Carol Barnett, Betty Ezell, and a number of other Presbyterian women have lent their talents and industrious work to provide food for Seven Hills and for the Trinity Methodist Church Sunday dinner each month. Sara Koenig has been instrumental in organizing and working to produce our all-church luncheons several times a year. Martha Brewer and Nancy Waite worked diligently to write our church history which is now available.
- Diana Shefte and Pam Andersen, along with other volunteers, worked with the UPY group to make fleece blankets for the Linus Project after the congregation donated 50 pieces of fabric. These were donated to Peace at Home.
- Our annual PW Fall Coffee was held on Saturday morning, August 22, at the beautiful home of Carrie Wolf, where we gathered both inside and out in her garden to visit informally and to enjoy sweet and savory treats and meet new and potential members. We also were able to obtain our study books for several of the circles.
- On August 28, attended the PW Cluster 1 Fall Gathering was held at the Bella Vista Presbyterian Church where Rev. Jan Butin led the worship service. Susan Gray and Georgia Senor assisted in the service.
- Catherine Lucke from Oasis of NWA gave a presentation about the Oasis women and children’s ministry in Bella Vista. Katie Jackson serves as the Cluster 1 Leader and assisted the Bella Vista Church in organizing this event. There were many displays of the outreach activities of Presbyterian Women in Cluster 1. The Fall Gathering for 2017 will be held at our church.
- On December 4, PW sponsored a Christmas Tea in the Fellowship hall. At this event, we were given the opportunity to donate to toiletry items such as shampoo and toothpaste to Peace at Home.
- Christi Cox and Jan Butin organized the Helping Hands donation project to providing assistance for church families during the Christmas season. The total donations received were \$2,026.
- Members of the 2016 Coordinating Team include Katie Jackson and LeNelle Cagle (Co-moderators), Ruth Rodgers, Mary Boushelle, Lynda Schulte, Chris Bell, Christi Cox, Lora Horne, Ellie Dugan, Diane Warren, Janet Clausen, Diane Shefte, Nancy Denn, Ada Lee Malone, and Sara Koenig.

Properties Committee – James Moore, Moderator

The 2016 Properties Committee members were: Hugh Brewer, Al Hanna, Howard Higgins, Ed Piper, Cyril Sturm, Phillip Talbert, Dan Essen (Facilities Manager), and James Moore, Moderator.

Our year began with an 11 inch rain which caused major leaks in the roof of the Sanctuary, around and through the cross, and heavy leaks through the flat roof over Calvin building. This began a process which took months to complete, but eventually resulted in the leaks being fixed that were part of the cross, sealing and waterproofing around the ceiling next to the cross, and re-roofing the flat roof over Calvin. The sheetrock in the roof of the Sanctuary was fixed, and repainting was done.

A painting project was completed which involved scraping and painting any peeling wood trim around the exterior of Fellowship Hall and Calvin Building, power washing and restaining the wooden overhead covers of all the breezeways, cleaning and repainting of the soffit around the exterior of the Sanctuary, and repainting of the metal lintels as a part of the breezeway overhead structures.

The exterior lights were put on photocell circuits, and additional exterior lights installed around the Sanctuary. All bulbs were changed in the ceiling of the Sanctuary when we had the power lift to assist the painters. Money for a new mailbox was given to FUPC by church members. The mailbox was selected, ordered, and cemented into the ground.

We studied all year on the problem of water getting into the return air ducts of the HVAC system in Fellowship Hall after a heavy rain. McClelland Consulting Engineers, Multicraft Contractors, and several tradesmen have worked with us to find the best solution. We are still studying the problem. We had to replace a 9 ton HVAC system in First School. Two smaller HVAC units in Calvin were replaced this year as well.

We helped co-ordinate the installation of a Rain Garden to control erosion on the hillside south of the Sanctuary, along with the Earth Care Task Force, and Connor Button and his fellow scouts who built the Rain Garden with a grant from the Illinois River Watershed Partnership. Our security system was hit by lightning during the spring, and SecureUs had to replace part of the system, but it is all working well again at this time. As part of that process, we re-issued or confirmed entry codes. We shared equally with First School on the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator with adult and pediatric pads. It was installed just inside the south doorway of Upper Calvin near the floral room. We power washed some exterior areas, and had all the windows upstairs and down cleaned, dividing the cost with First School, before the fall semester began.

The stained glass windows on the north end of Fellowship Hall have been removed by professionals to replace a few pieces, relead the edges, and apply protective tempered glass over the interior and exterior surfaces. The board that the windows sit on had deteriorated and required replacement also. The process will take several months, and the windows will be installed when finished.

We have had the usual twice yearly HVAC service done, filters replaced, replacement of fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, cleaning of the carpet in Upper Calvin, repairs of various types, and some outside projects as well. We are ready to plan some inside sheetrock repair, interior painting, and replacement of some ceiling tiles in Calvin.

Stewardship Committee – Derrik Olsen, Moderator

Members: Chris Bell (Elder), Teresa Weeks, John McNair, Kenton Ross and Kurt Gastrock

Support Members: Laura Winburn (Accountant), Fred Shefte (Treasurer) and Rev. Dr. Phil Butin (Co-Pastor)

Just like every year, the Stewardship Committee is charged with two main initiatives: stewarding the year's financial plan and executing the next year's Stewardship Campaign. The committee actively supported the Trustees on long term financial planning and worked closely with all committees to identify funds needed to cover unexpected capital costs. In addition, the annual Financial Review was completed and that report is submitted separately.

This past year the church's Operating Budget stayed right on plan. Receipts for 2016 were \$1,179,463.98 and expenses totaled \$1,166,491.30 leaving a positive balance of \$12,972.68. The committee thanks the congregation for honoring its financial commitment to God and the Session Committees for managing their expenses to the planned budget. As the committee looks forward to 2017, we will be implementing a new communication initiative designed to provide the congregation with insight into its work and hopefully generate more conversation on finances as we approach the yearly Stewardship Campaign.

The 2017 Stewardship Campaign was another success. The committee extends a huge thank you to Kurt & Lisa Pfitzinger for their leadership as Committee Chairs. In addition, the campaign would not happen without the dedication of Amy Rossetti and Mary Mann: many thanks for your service to God and His church. For 2017, the committee recommended and the Session approved a balance budget of \$1,208,829. You will recognize the budgeted amount is lower than the Challenge Budget presented to the Congregation during the campaign. Even though many congregants increased their pledges, the committee recognized the loss in pledges associated with congregants moving from the area.

Lastly, the committee could not complete its work without the outstanding support, attention to detail and creative thinking of Laura Winburn and Fred Shefte. We thank you both so much for your dedication to God and His work in this world through First United Presbyterian Church.

Review Team: Laura Winburn (Treasurer), Chris Bell (Elder), Teresa Weeks, John McNair, Lisa Higgins and Derrik Olsen

To the Members and Session of First United Presbyterian Church

Per the Presbyterian Book of Order, each year the church is required to conduct a Financial Review of its financial books and procedures. Historically, FUPC has done an excellent job of conducting this review, implementing improvements where needed and most of all ensuring its practices are aligned with Accepted General Accounting Procedures.

The review process consisted of Laura walking the team through a standard Accounting Procedures Checklist/Questionnaire. The checklist covers all aspects of financial reporting, accounting practices, required approvals/signatures and general management of the church's finances. Since the team had spent the entire year reviewing/studying/analyzing monthly financial statements, it decided a review of the financial documents during this time was not necessary.

This year's review was conducted on Tuesday, December 6. The team found nothing out of line and all accounting procedures conducted by the financial team to be excellent and exemplary. The review team extends its compliments to Laura Winburn, Fred Shefte and Jim Harter for their excellent work.

Treasurer's Report – Fred Schefte, Treasurer

First United Presbyterian Church (FUPC) non-annual operating funds are held in three ways, Endowed Funds, Restricted Funds and Unrestricted funds. The Endowment Funds are gifts from which only the annual or accrued income may be used. The bulk of the endowment funds are held in the FUPC Endowment managed by Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF). The use of the funds held in the FUPC Endowment is not limited for a specific type purpose. Currently, by action of Session several years ago, 5% of the value of the FUPC Endowment on September 1st for the previous year is withdrawn and used in the annual operating budget.

Additional Endowed Funds are further restricted for specific purposes such as hospitality, maintenance or education.

In addition to the Endowment Funds, FUPC holds funds in restricted accounts from which either principle or income can be used by action of Session for limited specific purposes such as music, maintenance, scholarships, or the several specific special offerings held during the year. Some of these funds are held at TPF and some held in FUPC bank accounts.

Lastly, some funds received from our members by lifetime gifts of the through estates have been received without restrictions as to their use.

A chart showing some of the more significant and special offering funds are shown on the Annual Treasurer's Report attached hereto. How the Funds are held for specific purposes is shown on the attached Funds Report by Purpose.

During 2016, the church withdrew \$94,385 from the FUPC Endowment based on the September 1, 2015 value of the endowment. The FUPC Endowment was valued at \$1,951,020 and at \$1,963,156 on December 1, 2017. So, with a net gain of \$12,136 plus the \$94,385 withdrawn, the FUPC Endowment showed net earnings of \$106,521 or 5.46% of the January 1, 2016 value.

The funds held at TPF are invested in the TPF Balanced Fund and so all the endowment funds invested at TPF performed identically.

FUPC also owns a \$10,000 US Treasury Bond which has earned significant income during its lifetime. Session has voted to withdraw the built up income and deposit it at TPF as part of a fund shown on the attached as "2014 Undesignated."

Trustees and Endowment Committee – Frank Johnson, Moderator

The Trustees and Endowment Committee is a joint committee of elected Elders serving as Trustees along with nominated members serving as investment advisors of the Endowment. The Trustees for FYE-2017 were Frank Johnson, Moderator, Derrick Olsen, and Sabra Martin. Serving on the Endowment Committee were Jim Harter, Ed Piper, and Wendy Robbins. Ex-officio members of the committee include Phil Butin (Pastor), Laura Winburn (Church Accountant), and Fred Shefte (Treasurer).

The Trustees, as representatives of Session, shall have the power to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property (real or personal) for the congregation; to accept and execute deeds of title of such property; to hold and defend title to such property, to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the congregation; and to conduct other business as assigned by the Session. The Endowment Committee provides advice on investing Endowment Funds and on new Endowment growth opportunities. The joint committee meets quarterly and as needed. Each meeting includes a financial report from the church accountant, banking and investment report from the treasurer, along with an update on the Capital Campaign and Annual Campaign from Stewardship. Any old and new business is also addressed during the meetings.

During FY 2015 – 2016 the Endowment Committee's primary focus was on receiving the Eva Stalker Gift. Quarterly meeting agendas included regular investment and financial reports and discussion on how to invest the Stalker funds and manage the sale of real property (High Acres) in collaboration with a joint committee with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Endowment Committee with Session approval proceeded with a strategy to list and market the Hi Acres property for \$1.6 million with Faucette Realty - Coldwell Banker. The property has received some interest but no offers as of the FYE-2016. We are confident that the strategy developed by the joint committee of FUPC and St. Paul's Episcopal will result in a successful transaction to benefit both churches.

Our endowment fund continues to grow with the guidance of Texas Presbyterian Foundation where most of our endowed funds are invested. Total endowed funds for FYE-2016 are \$2,495,538.

Hi-Acres – Jim and Susan Harter, Trustees

Hi-Acres is a 7-acre parcel of land on Mount Sequoyah, with wonderful views to the east and to the west that was owned by FUPC Member Eva Stalker and her husband Kenneth. The property has two main houses, one of which was the home of Eva and Kenneth. The other home, built in 2001, known as the “Pastor’s Cottage” accommodated the needs of the staff of FUPC, and rent was paid to the Eva Stalker Trust for the use of this residence where our Director of Christian Education Kristi Button and her family (Rob, Connor and Riley) resided until the spring of 2016. There is also a caretaker, Bobby Catt, who replaced Darren Marshall this year, who lives in a third residence on the property.

The property was held in trust with Jim and Susan Harter acting as Co-Trustees until the Trust ended on June 28, 2016, three years following the death of Eva Stalker. At that time, the ownership of the property transferred in equal shares to First United Presbyterian Church and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. As stated in the trust, FUPC and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church made wonderful use of the property for humanitarian purposes, including retreats for peace, quiet and fellowship; a home for the use of pastoral staff; a facility for church administration, studies and education; a temporary lodging for guests, those which it serves and staff; for church gatherings, fellowship and worship; and to further worldwide mission.

The property was used on a weekly basis by the Healing Touch Ministry of St. Paul’s that was under the co-supervision of FUPC member Jane Steinkraus. The Easter Sunrise Service was also held at Hi-Acres.

Both FUPC and St. Paul’s are forever grateful to Eva Stalker for her generosity and her vision for Hi-Acres. Eva Stalker died on June 28, 2013.

Welcoming Committee – Pam Andersen, Moderator

The Welcoming committee members were Pam Andersen, chair, Michelle Price (Belonging Committee Chair), Jon Fagg, Angie Hewat, Amy McCann, Jackie Rocha, Nell Tuck, Angelika Will, Heidi Nash (Staff Support) and Jan Butin (Pastoral Support).

The purpose of this committee is to offer a warm and caring environment for all visitors who worship with us.

Highlights of the Year

- Contacted visitors (when they provided us with contact information) with a letter from the co-pastors and follow-up phone calls from the committee
- Developed a system for FUPC members to sign up and greet members and visitors at both services
- Offered two Look Before You Leap classes for those interested visitors who expressed a desire to join the church or wanted more information about FUPC and sponsored three New Member Receptions
- Secured Easter and Christmas ads in the local paper informing the committee of events related to these Christian celebrations. We also submitted periodic announcements about FUPC activities to the religious section of the same.
- Invited First School families and others using the church campus to Celebration at the Manger, coordinated and served a meal. The outdoor Nativity Scene was complete with animals.
- The Belonging Committee delivered breads and cookies to new members and informed and invited them to upcoming church events. They also arranged for FUPC members to have their pictures taken and to begin working on a new pictorial directory.

Visioning for the Future

- Implement a program for not only recruiting but also training greeters
- Continue to improve web-based and social media communications

Worship Committee – Rebecca Haden, Moderator

The Worship Committee set three main goals for the year:

- Increase appeal and appropriateness of worship to young adults and young families.
- Increase variety of worship service and include more different people from the congregation.
- Increase accessibility of worship services and prepare a brochure to make sure people are aware of options available to help with issues of mobility, limited vision, and limited hearing.
- We accomplished all three of these goals.

More from 2016:

- The Fifth Sunday initiative, which appeared to reduce attendance, was ended.
- Worship collaborated with the committee working on the updates to the sanctuary.
- Michael Shuman became the individual responsible for the sound system.
- Planning for a series of Lenten Devotionals on the website took place; the pages and posts were added and content is being collected from the congregation.
- Earth Care elements in worship continued to add to our identity as an Earth Care congregation.
- Changes to the Advent and Christmas traditions were made in response to changes in the surrounding culture: the Hanging of the Greens was replaced by a more gradual unfolding of the decoration and Christmas carols were introduced during Advent.
- Rutter's *Gloria* was presented in worship.

Music Ministries — S. Michael Shuman, Director of Music Ministry

During 2016, music continues to play an integral part at FUPC. The congregation is blessed to have so many dedicated musicians who share their gifts for the glory of God. The following are a few examples of how the music ensembles and individuals at FUPC participated in church activities over the past year.

- The Chancel Choir continued to provide musical offerings during the weekly Sunday services. These offerings included a variety of styles and moods, from the celebration at Easter to the presentation of John Rutter's *Gloria* during Advent. The Chancel Choir also collaborated with the Chancel Bells and Children/Youth Ensembles throughout the year. The volunteer choir members are generous with their time and gifts in order to assist the congregation in the musical elements of each service. New singers are always welcome and no audition is required.
- The Summer Sunday Singers and several individuals (Rob Button, Sue Gohn, Richard Lee, Mary Mann, and Beth Stockdell) gave musical presentations during the summer months while the Chancel Choir was on vacation.
- The Handbell program, now under the direction of both S. Michael Shuman (Chancel Bells) and Katie Jackson (Youth Bells), continued to enhance worship services. The variety of music provided by the Chancel Bells and Youth Bells helped facilitate worship. Both hand bell groups welcome anyone who might be interested in joining.
- The Youth Ensemble and Children's Choir, under the direction of Katie Jackson, continued to contribute to worship. All youth and children to participate in the music of FUPC whenever possible in their busy schedules.
- Jeannie Lee, from the organ and piano, enhanced the overall message of each service (Sunday worship services and other special events). Her willingness to offer ideas for worshipful moments and meditate on what musical choices are appropriate for services is much appreciated. She also spends extra time in preparation for the many extra services during Lent, Holy Week, Advent, etc. Of special note is her passing of the American Guild of Organists Service Playing Certification. This achievement is a wonderful example of her willingness to continue her education in music and use it for God's glory.
- The interns were an asset to the Music Ministries of FUPC. From their singing abilities to conducting to administrative duties, they are always willing to help where needed.
- The church is blessed to have Rob Button and Richard Lee contribute most weeks to the musical elements of worship with their talents on the guitar (and other instruments). Other instrumentalists who wish to join the weekly band are encouraged to contact Michael.
- Several musical events occurred this year outside of Sunday worship services. A service of prayer in the style of Taizé, France, was held. The American Guild of Organists Northwest Arkansas Chapter held a recital in honor of its 35th anniversary and S. Michael Shuman presented *Dreams and Visions*, a multimedia piano recital. These examples are only a small portion of what was offered by the numerous musicians of the church. FUPC continues to be blessed with a number of individuals who give their time and gifts to come together as a cohesive group to aid the congregation in the worship and glory of God.

Notes



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