



2017 Annual Report

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.

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Presented to the Congregation on February 18, 2018

Core Values with Guiding Scripture

Inspiring Worship

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

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. Psalm 105:1-3

Spiritual Growth

Encouraging growth by prayerfully studying scripture and the Christian faith

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. Colossians 2:6-7

Loving Relationships

Nurturing connections in a joyful and safe environment

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. I John 4:11

Faithful Service

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

Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. I John 3:18

Generous Stewardship

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

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. II Corinthians 9:8

Welcoming Community

Striving to be an inviting and supportive Christian family

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. I Thessalonians 2:8

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Trustees and Endowment Committee (continued)

Stewardship Strategy for the Stalker Account

In September, after much discussion, we voted unanimously to direct the Texas Presbyterian Fund to move the Stalker Account from an equity market account into a cash position. Session had voted specific plans and made commitments for all the funds. Trustees reasoned that the entire Stalker Account should therefore be protected from market volatility and risk. Trustees were also impressed with the unstable economic and political environment of our country and the world.

Annual Financial Audit

The annual financial review was completed in October. Team members were Trustee Derrik Olsen, and church members Chris Bell and Lisa Higgins. They reviewed the work of Financial Administrator Laura Winburn and Treasurer Fred Shefte. The audit was successful and was approved by Session.

Co-Pastors — Phil Butin and Jan Butin

An annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to look back and, also, to look forward. When we gather on February 18 for The State of the Church meeting, we'll remember and give thanks for what God has done in 2017 and then engage in conversation about how FUPC's vision of "*reaching out* as a visible expression of God's grace" will look in 2018. It will be exciting to offer your best thoughts as the Spirit moves among us and to begin to shape the next steps of our life together as a church.

We saw God's hand at FUPC in many ways in 2017 and we celebrate!

- Adults, youth, and children (even some of our youngest!) served as Sunday liturgists, proving that as soon as you can say, "The peace of Christ be with you," you can begin to lead worship.
- We heard the entire Book of Philippians presented in worship for edification and understanding.
- A "*Fruit of the Spirit*" tree grew in the Sanctuary as we leaned on God's strength to show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. That tree now welcomes children into our education building.
- Eight members prepared inspiring *Words to Live By* sermons while Phil was on sabbatical in Honduras. You came faithfully to hear them. Important image stories personalized our worship.
- We celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with fall sermons on the Five "Solas" (and more) and a choral concert with Bentonville Presbyterians there.
- A dedicated team led the successful "Faith Is" stewardship emphasis, including the sermon series, brochure, and video where worshipers responded to how the giving of their time, talents, and treasures is a personal faith statement for them.
- Our sanctuary was adorned for Advent/Christmas by Presbyterian Women and faithful volunteers. We found Hope on the Way to the Manger. Children were captivated by the ABC's of Christmas on Christmas Eve.
- Choirs, instrumentalists, and our music staff moved us closer to God and deeper in faith.
- Our volunteer base for monthly community meals and 7Hills meals expanded with many more FUPC members and friends stepping forward to feed hungry people in Fayetteville.
- We were able to help support a PCUSA Mission Co-Worker in Honduras.
- We contracted housekeeping needs with C & C Cleaning with very good success.
- After multiple conversations with the congregation and committees, the Session made a preliminary decision that the Stalker Gift be used: \$200,000 for Outreach, \$200,000 for Properties, \$1,000,000 for Sanctuary Area Renovation, \$50,000 for a new bus, and \$150,000 for Family Ministries. Extensive congregational input continued to be gathered.
- We remembered the life and witness of four members that we loved and a prior First School teacher, Micah Knapp, who died unexpectedly in a car accident in Missouri.
- A Session-appointed task group reviewed the need for evening fellowship. Three exciting fall events (Stalker Gathering, Octoberfest, ThanksLiving) were offered on third-Sunday evenings (alongside youth ministry) and drew high attendance. Meal coordination and program came through the staff and pastors; a caterer was hired; meals were free (donations only); set-up, meal, and clean-up support came through C & C Cleaning.
- A Fifth-Sixth-grade ministry was started monthly alongside the youth ministry. Mid-week small groups provided discipleship for our teenagers.
- We showed a small but significant increase in membership. Our new members are enthusiastic about the warm family welcome they received from the time they first came to worship and have expressed a desire to be involved in work and mission.
- The Friday evening marriage group discussed Gary Chapman's *The Five Love Languages*

Co-Pastors (continued)

- (and other topics). Childcare was provided to give couples time for a dinner date afterwards.
- The deacons organized their second annual Spring Break Banana Bread Bake and FUPC members graciously delivered the many loaves. Nearly 80 poinsettias (needs determined by the Intercessory Prayer List) were delivered to members by deacons, elders, and staff.
 - Two groups met weekly to pray for the needs on The Intercessory Prayer List.
 - Publications became more visually appealing and our social media presence was apparent.
 - We began to enjoy the Rain Garden and continued to be an Earth Care congregation, committed to sustainability practices.
 - We ended the year in the black. Pledges and projections indicate we can meet our budget for 2018. Among other things, we celebrate that Michael Shuman, Director of Music Ministries, will become a full-time member of our staff on January 1, 2018.

Looking Ahead

One of the best ways to grow a church is for its members to make it a priority to be present regularly and often, particularly in worship. It is life-giving to visitors when the welcome is warm and honest, the laughter and care are apparent, the worship is uplifting, the worshipers are of all ages and from all walks of life, and we take the time to know each other well. The culture is changing around us, and our commitments are many. Our heartfelt prayer is that we will stand apart and continue to value this commitment.

Parents, bring your children and youth! Children and youth, bring your parents! Invite your colleagues, friends, and neighbors! Take time to know our visitors and new members. Be the Church wherever you are in the week. Speak God's name with love. Say "yes" when called to serve, even if you can't serve for two or three years. (Tell us you will serve a year.) Tell us your good ideas, even if you can't be the one to carry them out. Give generously. Believe. Let your faith grow here. These are signs of a congregation that wants to have an impact in the community. It starts and continues with people in worship often.

As we begin our ninth year of ministry with you, it is a privilege to serve as your pastors. We are blessed to serve alongside a very talented staff, all dedicated far beyond their job descriptions. They make coming to work a joy. And so do you! Thank you for your investment of time, talent, treasure, and, most of all, love. Love for this church and for the Lord of this church. It would be impossible to thank you enough.

For the privilege of your partnership in the gospel,
Revs. Phil and Jan Butin, Co-Pastors



Trustees and Endowment Committee - Sabra Martin, Moderator

Members:

Derrik Olsen and
Gail Segers

Pastoral Support:

Phil Butin

General Summary

We meet quarterly to review and discuss the monthly financial reports supplied by Financial Administrator Laura Winburn and Treasurer Fred Shefte. This year we watched income, expenses, and investment reports for endowment funds; we also made decisions regarding scholarship amounts and recipients, and investment strategy. Since there was abundant activity in 2017 for the Trustees, we often communicated by phone and email between formal meetings. The quarterly meetings were held January 31, May 2, and September 17. The fourth meeting could not be scheduled because of work conflicts and trustees being out of town. Fortunately, there were no business decisions needed in the fourth quarter, so the financial oversight was accomplished electronically.

Stalker Estate

Trustees, and Rev. Phil Butin, served on the Joint Hi-Acres Task Force with Rev. Lowell Grisham and a committee from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The goal of the Task Force was to complete the closing of the Stalker Estate, which was left to the two churches. This committee had the responsibility of pricing and selling the contents of the home, maintenance of the property until it sold, choosing a realtor, negotiating the price, and the final sale of whole Hi-Acres property. Long-term FUPC member Jim Harter had been chosen by Eva Stalker to be the Trustee of the Stalker Estate long before she died. His wisdom, his intimate knowledge of the property and his dedication to his responsibility, was crucial to the the Hi-Acres Task Force, and was deeply appreciated.

Church Scholarships for Higher Education

Three Grace Vawter and two Lee Power scholarships were awarded in July. It was agreed that an update of the scholarship application form was needed for 2018, and it is now ready for consideration.

Sale of Hi-Acres Property

The sale of the Stalker property closed on June 22 at \$1,250,000.00. FUPC administrative staff worked quickly to provide necessary documentation for the closing. Sabra Martin was the FUPC official (chair of Trustees and President of the Corporation) signing the final papers. Net proceeds to each church were \$589,566.95. The money was electronically transferred to the special Stalker Account (which was invested in the equity market) in the FUPC Fayetteville Account at Texas Presbyterian Fund.

Sale of Automobile

We sold a 2006 KIA which was left to the church by the family of a deceased church member. Their request was that the proceeds be placed in the FUPC Individual Assistance Fund. Trustees voted unanimously to comply with the family's request.

Texas Presbyterian Fund

We had our annual meeting with a vice president of the TPF in February. Details of their organization, its investment strategy, and programs were discussed. Materials for a Legacy Giving Campaign were made available with encouragement to set a date for the campaign.

Legacy Giving Campaign

Plans for a Legacy Giving Campaign were discussed in detail by a subcommittee of Rev Phil Butin, Derrik Olsen, Fred Shefte, and Sabra Martin. A date was set for September 17, however, obstacles arose. Rev Phil Butin was on sabbatical May to mid- August, and the Session and the congregation were more immediately concerned and preoccupied with plans for use of the Stalker Estate Funds. Therefore, Trustees voted to postpone the Legacy Giving Campaign until after Easter in 2018.

Annual Financial Review

Review Team:

Chris Bell and
John McNair

A financial review of the church's accounting procedures was conducted on November 14 with Laura Winburn, Financial Administrator, and Fred Shefte, Treasurer. The Session has chosen to have a committee of church members perform this activity instead of hiring a public accountant or firm. The committee was authorized to perform this task under the direction of the Stewardship committee chair.

The books and records are reconciled weekly, and reviewed upon request by the appropriate parties through the Financial Administrator, as she is the steward of these records. Review of the monthly financial statements occurs at each stated Session meeting. In addition, the Stewardship committee verbally comments on the state of the finances and provides guidance to Session for financial decision-making.

The review was limited to internal controls, transactions, and balances. This does not necessarily disclose all errors; however, no evidence of significant errors or omissions were found. No reportable conditions or material weaknesses in internal control, or instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, were identified.

Treasurer's Report - Fred Shefte, Treasurer

The church's 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 is withdrawn on September 1 for the previous year and used in the annual operating budget.

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

In addition to the Endowment Funds, FUPC holds funds in restricted accounts from which either principal 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.

Some funds received from our members by lifetime gifts or through estates have been received without restrictions as to their use.

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

2017 Session Deacons, Pastors, and Staff

The Session
Class of 2017

Pam Andersen
LeNelle Cagle
Sara Eichmann
Rebecca Haden
Don Johnson
James Moore
Sabra Martin

Phil Harrington, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Anne Booth
Katherine Boushelle
Emily Bridges

Class of 2018

Chris Bell
Bill Mitchell
Itrel Monroe
Derrick Olsen
Michelle Price
Carol Van Scyoc
Tom Verdery

Phil Harrington, Clerk of Session

Class of 2019

Chris Boushelle
Dennis Brewer
Claudia Driver
Jessie Koeppe
Eunice Millett
Gail Segers
Marti Woodruff

Sung Boon Kim
Lisa Pfitzinger
Kay Pickett
(vacancy)

Bruce Schlegel
Larry Stubbs

Pastors and Staff

Phil and Jan Butin, Co-Pastors
Leslie Belden, Parish Associate
Kristi Button, Director, Christian Education
Brianne and Jacob Christensen, Directors, Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Cathy Hairston, Director, First School
Katie Jackson, Director, Children and Youth Music (until August, 2017)
Jeannie Lee, Organist
Amy McCann, Childcare Coordinator
Molly Murray, Office Manager
Heidi Nash, Membership Secretary/Food Events Coordinator
Dan Schapker, Sound System Coordinator
Michael Shuman, Director, Music Ministry
Laura Winburn, Financial Administrator



Left to Right (front): Brianne, Molly, Heidi, Kristi
(back): Jan, Michael, Phil, Jacob, Laura, Cathy

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 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 notes 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*.
- E-mailing 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 Registry.
- Working with staff in the completion of the annual Church Statistical Report and Clerk's Questionnaire.

2017 Membership Update

Membership Gains

Reaffirmation of Faith	9
Profession of Faith	12
Letter of Transfer	6
Total Gains	27

Membership Losses

Transfer of Membership	9
Due to Death	4
Total Losses	13

Total Active Membership in 2017

513

Baptisms

Children	6
Adults	1

Parish Associate Report - Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden

2017 saw a change in my role as Parish Associate. I was asked to serve the Presbytery of Arkansas as its Temporary Stated Clerk, requiring me to spend most of my time in Central Arkansas. Rather than end my relationship as Parish Associate of First United Presbyterian Church, the position was transformed by Revs. Jan and Phil Butin, with the blessing of the Session, so that my ministry through the Presbytery connects FUPC strongly to the ministry of our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the denomination, and particularly the state. I still remain "on call" for pastoral care needs when Revs. Jan and Phil are out of town, along with Rev. John King, and Revs. Joyce and Danny Daniel. And I remain involved in the life and ministry of FUPC. I'm just not around as much, nor am I directly involved in planning with our Outreach Ministry. I ask for your prayers and support, as you have mine.

Stewardship - Derrik Olsen, Moderator

Each 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 2017 were \$1,187,745.43 and expenses totaled \$1,171,795.94 leaving a positive balance of \$15,949.49. The committee thanks the congregation for honoring its financial commitment to God and to the Session for managing their expenses to the planned budget. As the committee looks forward to 2018, 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 2018 Stewardship Campaign was another success. The committee extends a huge "thank you" to Teresa Weeks and Chris Bell for their leadership as committee chairs. In addition, the campaign would not happen without the dedication of Dave Edmark, Victor Parkerson, Jacob Christiansen, and Mary Mann: many thanks for your service to God and His church. For 2018, the committee recommended and the Session approved a balanced budget of \$1,223,057. You will recognize the budgeted amount is equal to the Challenge Budget presented to the congregation during the campaign. The committee cannot express the amount of gratitude we have to the congregation for their financial commitment in 2018. Each of us has many avenues in life where our financial resources can be committed. It is very obvious that God works in each of us and we desire to return our thanks with our monetary gifts.

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 the church.



Sanctuary Area Renovation Task Force (continued)

- The wall into the Sanctuary would be removed and replaced with a glass wall and glass doors. The new exterior walls and doors would be mostly glass.
- New walls would be added in the front of the Sanctuary to provide two video screens.
- The entire sound system would be evaluated and improvements would be made, especially for the hearing-impaired. We plan to remove the current speakers hanging from the ceiling.
- Lighting would be changed to LED in the Sanctuary and new lighting in the Music Room.
- Flooring in the entire Sanctuary and Music Room would be replaced.
- A few rows of pews would be removed to allow more space in the back of the Sanctuary.
- An addition to the west side of the Sanctuary will include five new bathrooms.
- Replace the sidewalk on the west side of the Sanctuary to direct water flow away from the building.
- Replace exterior sliding doors in Music Room with storefront system and improve the drainage out of the courtyard by adding gutters.
- Remove angled walls in the back of the Sanctuary and add cabinetry to provide for greater storage capacity and security for the bells.
- Provide a structure over the existing large patio to the north of the Sanctuary to provide shade.
- Add a covered drop-off area by the Calvin kitchen entrance.
- Add a covered entrance area into the Sanctuary from the visitor and handicapped parking lot on the east side of the Sanctuary.
- Add a raised walkway west of the Sanctuary to connect to the catwalk between Witherspoon and Knox.
- Provide new egress exits at the back of the Sanctuary and ADA entrances into the gathering space.

This task force was dismissed by the Session and a new Construction Task Force, consisting of new and old members has been formed to work with the architects and contractor on the actual construction in 2018. We are working with the architect and contractor to reduce the total cost of the project to \$1,000,000. The Session approved moving forward with the construction drawings that are now in process. Once these drawings are complete we will get new pricing from the contractor. We intend to enter into a contract with Milestone that will guarantee the cost of construction.

The Session will need to determine the source and amount of money allocated for the project.

Personnel - Bill Mitchell, Moderator

The following items highlight the work of this committee in 2017

- Completed the annual performance review for each of the Co-Pastors
- Worked with Rev. Phil Butin on the terms and conditions of his sabbatical which took place during this year.
- Worked with Rev. Jan Butin to define the terms and conditions of her sabbatical which is expected to begin in the spring of 2018
- Reviewed the performance evaluations conducted by Phil and Jan Butin on each of the staff members employed by FUPC
- Assisted the Properties Committee moderator in the search for new custodial services for FUPC

Members:

Gail Segers,
Shawn Daniels,
Diane Warren,
Dwight Power,
and Bruce
Schlegel

Pastoral Support:

Phil and Jan
Butin

Church Register Changes for 2017

New Members (Added to Church Rolls)

April 2, 2017:

Angelique (Angel) Elizabeth Frazier, born June 16, 1984, mother of Harley Dalton Frazier, born July 13, 2006, and Jaxson Leelin Frazier, born February 22, 2012, by profession of faith
James Mabry, born September 9, 1959, and **Cindy Mabry**, born September 9, 1963, by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of El Dorado, AR
Brett Torbett, born December 17, 1982, and **Sara Torbett**, born September 5, 1982, parents of Anna Ruth Torbett, born June 17, 2011, and Betsy Grace Torbett, born November 27, 2012, by profession of faith

May 7, 2017:

Allison Byars, daughter of Steve and Diane Byars, by profession of faith
Riley Button, son of Rob and Kristi Button, by profession of faith
Brendan Curry, son of Ron Curry, by profession of faith
Connor Robbins, son of Brian and Wendy Robbins, by profession of faith
Cole Jackson, son of Ed and Katie Jackson, by profession of faith

September 10, 2017:

Guadalupe Gonzalez (Lupe), born January 19, 1979, mother of Yesenia Nevarez, born October 26, 1996, Eric Nevarez, born May 20, 2002, Luis Perez Jr., born January 11, 2009, and Yoselin Perez, born August 26, 2010, by reaffirmation of faith
George Allen Dwayne Wood (Allen), born August 8, 1962, by profession of faith
Scott Anthony Price, born April 20, 1961, and **Shizuko Price**, born May 31, 1964, by reaffirmation of faith
Lara A. Anderson Miller, born June 3, 1970, wife of Michael Miller, mother of Patrick M. A. Miller, born March 6, 2000, Peter J. A. Miller, born December 11, 2002, and Mary Vivianne Miller, born February 6, 2007, by reaffirmation of faith
Andrew Kennedy, born May 6, 1985, by reaffirmation of faith
Neil Barton Ingels, Jr., born July 15, 1937, and **Judith Ann Ingels (Judy)**, born February 18, 1938, by reaffirmation of faith
Kian Ruel McWilliams, born March 17, 2000, by profession of faith

December 17, 2017:

Janet E. (Liz) Blackburn, born October 5, 1956, by reaffirmation of faith
William Bradley Henry, born April 29, 1956, and **Catherine Ann Henry**, born November 2, 1955, by letter of transfer from Trinity Presbyterian in Little Rock, AR
Gary Wrotny, born August 13, 1980, and **Emily Wrotny**, born June 15, 1986, parents of Ada James Wrotny, born February 15, 2017, by profession of faith
Jacob Nelson McClintock, born March 15, 1981, and **Sarah Elizabeth McClintock**, born January 13, 1981, parents of Owen McClintock, born March 30, 2009, by letter of transfer
Yesica Gonzalez, born February 20, 1984, mother of Ivan A. Saldierna, born May 23, 2004, Antonio I. Saldierna, born January 18, 2008, and Yazmin E. Saldierna, born December 14, 2014, by reaffirmation of faith

Church Register Changes for 2017 (continued)

Transfer of Membership (Remove from Church Rolls)

Connie Awtrey transferred to a Lutheran congregation in Rogers, AR (Session notified on January 15)
Jacob and Sarah McClintock transferred to a church in Houston, TX (Session notified on January 15)
Paul and Lea Millett transferred to St. Paul's Episcopal in Fayetteville, AR, effective December 4, 2016 (Session notified on January 15)
Elizabeth Underwood transferred to Mountainburg Presbyterian Church, Mountainburg, AR (Session notified on January 15)
Tony Stankus transferred to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, AR (Session notified on March 12)
Brooks and Marilyn Rice transferred to First Presbyterian Church Hot Springs, AR (effective October 1, 2017)

Baptisms

Alison Grace Harrington, born June 29, 2016, daughter of Phillip and Melissa Harrington, was baptized on March 19, 2017
Angelique (Angel) Elizabeth Frazier, born June 16, 1984, and her children **Harley Dalton Frazier**, born July 13, 2006, and **Jaxson Leelin Frazier**, born February 22, 2012, were baptized on April 30, 2017
Allison Byars, daughter of Steve and Diane Byars, and **Brendan Curry**, son of Ron Curry, were baptized on May 7, 2017
Eliot James Sibley, born March 3, 2017, son of Jesse Lennon Sibley and Dory Rebekah Sibley, was baptized on December 31, 2017

Deaths (Deletions from Church Rolls)

Steven Michael Curry, born August 31, 1951, passed away on January 30, 2017
Billy Thompson, born June 30, 1932, passed away on February 3, 2017
Freda Dyer, born February 10, 1925, passed away on April 22, 2017
Jennie Wallin Ourand, born January 27, 1924, passed away on May 12, 2017

Elders and Deacons

Ordained and/or Installed or Commissioned January 8, 2017:

Elder Class of 2019:

Ordained and Installed--Chris Boushelle
 Installed--Dennis Brewer, Jessie Koeppe, Eunice Millett, Gail Segers, Marti Woodruff

Board of Deacons Class of 2019:

Ordained and Installed--Lisa Pfitzinger
 Installed--Dave Edmark

Commissioned Deacons Class of 2017:

Ordained and Commissioned--Emily Bridges, Bruce Schlegel

Elder Resignation:

Elder Steven Jarvis, Class of 2018, resigned effective January 13, 2017.

Elected April 23, 2017:

Itrel Monroe was elected to the Class of 2018, to fill an unexpired term.

Members:

Brittany Adair,
 Steve Adair,
 Melissa
 Harrington, Bill
 Hewat, Howard
 Higgins, Don
 Johnson, Jim
 Price, and Bill
 Waite

Pastoral Support:

Phil Butin

Planning - Tom Verdery, Moderator

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 some of our work on visiting churches in northwest AR looking for **Best Practices** in the areas of Sanctuary Innovation, Visitor Engagement, Worship Innovation, and Christian Growth and education of all ages. The committee visited 11 services in 10 different NWA churches during May – June, 2017 and interviewed Patrick Pilkington, the author of a blog titled *52sundaysnwa*, where Patrick visited a different church each week in Fayetteville in 2016. The committee visited six mainline protestant churches and four non-denominational Christian churches.

In August and September, the Planning Committee, led by Steve Adair, shared their key observations to Session, which included examples like - most main services started between 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Nine out of ten churches used visuals/screens during their worship service (including all PCUSA churches in major cities in NWA), and most churches had a coffee/tea fellowship adjacent to the Sanctuary right before worship.

Also during the summer, our focus was on developing and leading a successful Session annual retreat on August 25 and 26. The focus was on Phil Butin's sabbatical experience in Honduras, understanding the needs of our church with Outreach, Properties, Family Ministries, and the Sanctuary renovation proposal. Lastly, the Planning Committee led a fall congregational meeting on September 17, sharing the final news on the Stalker gift with several ideas from Session on how to use the gift, followed by excellent feedback and ideas from the congregation.

One of our key focus areas in 2018 will be on helping Session take our FUPC Vision to the next level with clear objectives. Our committee is excited about the future of FUPC and God's continued call for our church family in the coming years.

Sanctuary Area Renovation Task Force - Ted Belden, Moderator

Session appointed this Task Force on June 12, 2016. The last time any major work was done to the Sanctuary was 1994. At the Task Force's recommendation, Session hired the architectural firm of Fennell Purifoy to help us through the design development phase. The local firm of DeMx Architecture was included in this recommendation to primarily provide oversight for construction work.

The Task Force worked with the architects to determine what we would like to accomplish. The scope of the work has changed over the course of the conversations due to input the Task Force has received from the congregation and the cost estimates that have been provided by the contracting firm that we recommend using for the work, Milestone Construction.

We have received estimates from the contractor to do the following improvements at a cost of \$1,150,000. The work is estimated to take between five to six months. We have told the contractor that in order for this work to be done as quickly and as cost effectively as possible that the church would not use the Sanctuary during this time. We anticipate work to begin after Easter of 2018.

Sanctuary Area Scope of Work

- Expand Narthex/Gathering Area by enclosing the outside walkway and removing the parlor. A small beverage area would be added to serve refreshments.

Members:

Howard Higgins,
 Katie Jackson,
 Fred Shefte,
 Barbara
 Verdery, Lucy
 McClung, Laurie
 Reh, Brittany
 Adair, and Ron
 Talbert

Pastoral Support:

Phil and Jan
 Butin

Properties (continued)

switches in the bathrooms to prevent fans from being left on. Record logs were created for information on all our HVAC units. All of the fluorescent bulbs in Lower Witherspoon were replaced with LED wiring and bulbs. The large stained glass windows on the north end of Fellowship Hall were reinstalled following completion of the repairs. In August, we had to replace a significant amount of the old clay sewer pipes along the west side of Knox and Witherspoon with PVC pipe due to a sewer blockage from tree roots. A Garden and Grounds Subcommittee was formed with a budget of \$1,000 per year in an effort to better maintain our gardens around the campus. We had a very productive Spring Clean Up Day on April 1, with good volunteer participation. Due to some leaks, roofing repairs were carried out of the north sloping roof of the Sanctuary, and we installed a new DuraLast membrane roof over the Linen Closet. Repairs and maintenance of the kitchen equipment was done with the help of a member of the congregation serving as an advisor to the committee. Significant repairs were made on the church bus and van, and new tires were purchased for the van before a youth trip. New directional signs to the church will be installed when construction at the bottom of Calvin and Birwin Streets is completed.

Earth Care Task Force

Members:

Barbara Rutledge,
Steve and Brittany Adair,
Bernie and Sue Madison, Don and Jane Steinkraus,
Nancy Denn, Leslie Belden, Pam Andersen, Rebecca Haden, Thermon, and Karen Crocker

Pastoral Support:

Phil Butin

Early in the year, we made plans to reapply for certification as an Earth Care Congregation from the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Sue Madison completed the application, and we were approved for another year—our fourth year with this designation. We studied the Actions required in each of the areas of Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach, and planned how to accomplish our goals.

Worship: We had an earth-themed worship service on April 23, reported on the energy saved by our solar panels as part of that service, used Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday, maintained an outdoor meditation labyrinth, regularly did communion by intinction, and used pesticide-free flowers in the Sanctuary one Sunday a month from April—October (some of those flowers came from the FUPC Cutting Flower Garden).

Education: We maintain a number of books in the church Library with an earth care focus, and there was a program during Vacation Bible School on earth care topics each day.

Facilities: We have changed most lighting to T8 fluorescent, CFL, or LED; we have performed an energy audit and have implemented several of the suggested items; perform twice yearly heating/air conditioning check-ups and filter changes; have gone mostly to programmable thermostats; generate over 10% of our electrical use from our own solar panels; have mostly low-flow toilets; recycle glass, plastic, aluminum, and paper; have used a significant amount of reusable plates, cups, and silverware, and we also have a rain garden on campus.

Outreach: We have sent recycled clothing to outside agencies such as 7 Hills; sent usable materials to Habitat for Humanity; had a churchwide Spring Clean-up with removal of invasive plants and addition of native plants.

After careful study, we made a choice of the most environmentally friendly toilet tissue to be used campus wide, which is biodegradable and cost-effective. The Cascades "Moka" was chosen by the task force, and we expect it to be in use during 2018.

Members were involved in caring for the Butterfly Garden, the Cutting Flower Garden, and the Rain Garden. We discussed being designated a Monarch Butterfly Waystation and also would like to study more the "Sacred Grounds" designation by the National Wildlife Federation. Members of the task force obtained free trees from the Fayetteville Tree Giveaway and planted two Paw Paw trees and two Red Bud Trees in October.

Committee and Commission Structure

Session Committee Structure to support current vision [affirmed by Session]

2017 Standing Committees	Sub-Committee (Defined as needed by committees)	Commissions	Task Force	Boards
Worship				
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				

*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

** Earth Care
** Sign/Property
** Sanctuary Area Renovation

Deacons

Committee and Commission Structure (continued)

as recruited by the committee chair, for one year renewable terms.

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

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

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

Subcommittees: 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

**Task Force of the Session

Presbyterian Women - LeNelle Cagel and Barbara Verdery, Co-Moderators

Circle Leaders:

Janet Clausen,
Christi Cox,
Melanie Dietzel,
Melissa
Harrington,
Katie Jackson,
Lina Long,
Barbara
Verdery, and
Diane Warren

Presbyterian Women is a mission-oriented group that donates to church, community, state, national, and international needs. It is open to all women in our congregation.

In 2017, women could choose from six circles, three 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. 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. 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 April, individuals from Oasis of NWA spoke and several women testified to the care they were given by Oasis. Leslie Belden and Lora Horne were awarded Honorary Life Memberships in Presbyterian Women for their outstanding service to the church.

On August 18, FUPC was the host church for the Cluster I Fall meeting. We worshiped and previewed the 2017-18 *Horizons* bible study "Cloud of Witnesses," and enjoyed fellowship and a catered lunch. Ladies from FUPC provided pound cakes for dessert. Katie Jackson serves as the Cluster 1 Leader and was instrumental in organizing this event.

Christi Cox organized the Helping Hands donation project to provide assistance for church families during the Christmas season.

Coordinating Team Members:

Chris Bell, Secretary and Session Liaison
Lorraine Brewer and Nancy Mays, Search Committee

Nancy Denn, Treasurer
Amy Rossetti, Together in Service

Properties - James Moore, Moderator

Members:

Hugh Brewer, Al
Hanna, Howard
Higgins, Ed
Piper, Cyril
Sturm, Philip
Talbert, David
Rodgers, Kurt
Pfitzinger, Marti
Woodruff, and
Kathy Pederson
(advisor)

Pastoral Support:

Phil Butin

We experienced problems with the heat exchanger in the Boiler Room in Lower Calvin at the beginning of the year, requiring a new gas control valve. We became aware that a new heating exchange element was also needed and were told we may soon need a new boiler at the cost of \$15,000-20,000. We continued a detailed study of the HVAC system for Fellowship Hall which took the better part of 2017, involved several engineering companies, and included studying the water that gets into the underground return air ducts. Eventually, we voted to follow the recommendation of Harrison Energy Partners and, in December, installed a Daikin VRV Heat Pump System. This will be more energy efficient and is projected to save \$3,000-\$3,500 a year in utility bills. The old heat exchanger, boiler, and a large amount of duct work were removed from the Boiler Room and Resource Room. This freed up much more storage space. All duct work has been capped off and a basin constructed beneath the old return air ducts to catch any water resulting from heavy rains. It is unclear how this will work until tested by the rain storm. A new DuraLast membrane roofing over Calvin stopped leaks and we undertook sheetrock repairs and painting in Upper Calvin hallway, women's restroom, and Floral Room. In March, the church changed to a janitorial service model, and contracted with C & C Services for the remainder of the year. Properties had to assume more handyman type jobs with this change. The committee members changed the usual ballasts, light bulbs, and made numerous other repairs. We oversaw the replacement of the large exhaust fan that serves the bathrooms in Lower Calvin, replaced the exhaust fan in Upper Calvin, and put timer

Men's Breakfast Prayer Group

The group meets every Wednesday at Village Inn at 6:30 a.m. They have been meeting since July 1999 and, this year, celebrated the 900th meeting with appropriate festivities provided by Village Inn. Attendance averages 16 senior men, primarily from our congregation, but anyone is welcome.

Our purpose is fellowship, but we begin with the distribution of the weekly Intercessory Prayer List which is perused to determine if there is a way we can help. After everyone's order is taken, a short devotion is presented which includes Bible reading, a meditation, announcements and comments on historical events followed by prayer. During and after the meal, local, state, and world events, are "chewed" over but not as an entire group.



Left-Right (front): Victor Parkerson, Art Gust, Dennis Bailey, James Johnston, Jim Harter, Ken Mays, Ronnie Denn, and Phil Wilson
 (back): Ed Jackson, Cole Jackson, Bill Martin, Bill Medley, Dennis Brewer, Ed Piper, Fred Shefte, Wade Burnside, Al Hanna, Cyril Sturm, and Ron Talbert

Nominating - Rebecca Haden, Moderator

The Nominating Committee met for approximately 12 called meetings in 2017 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:

Elders:

Class of 2018 (completing an unexpired term)

Itrel Monroe

Class of 2020

Christi Cox

Lisa Higgins

Bo Morton

Ben and Megan Ober (co-elders)

Jane Scroggs (elder-trustee)

Joe Schierschmidt

Bruce Schlegel

Deacons:

Cindy Mabry

Sharon James

Barbara Gust

Don Steinkraus

Heather Dismang-Koeppe

Bret Thompson

Elected Committee Members, Class of 2020

Brett Torbett, Personnel

Erin Wilson, First School

Bob Zierak, Endowment

2018 Nominating Committee:

Sara Koenig

Peggy Manger

Ron Woodruff

Lisa Talbert

Julie Olsen

Lyle Gohn

Lisa Higgins (elder)

Emily Bridges (deacon)

Jessie Koeppe (elder)

Thank you to all of the members of the committee for devoted, intelligent, compassionate service.

Board of Deacons - Lisa Pfitzinger, Moderator

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 needing support. Birthday and special occasion cards are sent as well. Transportation is provided as needed and requested. Christmas poinsettia deliveries are divided among deacons, elders, and staff.

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). The Spring Break Banana Bread Bake provides small loaves to be delivered to 30 members by others in the congregation on a Sunday afternoon in March. During finals this spring, our church's college students received a quick note and a coffee gift card to help them get through finals.

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

Stephen Ministers are church members who provide one-to-one, confidential care in Christ's name for other members or FUPC friends who are experiencing grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, or other life changes. Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of training in listening skills and compassionate care. They are God's love in action.

This year, we experienced the unusual situation of having more available Stephen Ministers than requests for care, but there continue to be Stephen Ministry relationships within the congregation. Stephen Ministry care is being requested again, and new relationships of care are being put into place. Stephen Ministers provide care as often as once a week for care receivers. Some Stephen Ministers provide support to Deacon Visitation when they do not have an ongoing care receiver relationship.

Stephen Ministers, over the course of a year, provide a set of four *Journeying through Grief* books to members after the death of a spouse, parent, or child. The first one, *A Time to Grieve*, is accompanied with a visit from a Stephen Minister or pastor one month following the death; other books are mailed at three, six, and twelve months. They are *Experiencing Grief*, *Finding Hope and Healing*, and *Rebuilding and Remembering*. Many have commented on how helpful these books are to them.



Worship Committee - Itrel Monroe, Moderator

Members:

Chris Bell,
Barbara Gust,
Amy Locke, Bo
Morton,
Elizabeth
Schierschmidt,
and Barbara
Verdery

Staff Support:

Michael
Shuman, and
Jeannie Lee

Pastoral

Support:
Phil and Jan
Butin

Pursuing its goal to make the weekly worship services as meaningful as possible to the worshiping community and also to emphasize the community nature of the services, the Worship Committee has continued the ongoing practice of involving members of the congregation in almost every worship service, usually has lay liturgists. The goal is to involve not only as many adult members of the congregation as possible but also children and youth. Usually, the parts of the service that they lead are the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession, the Assurance of Pardon, and the Passing of the Peace. During Advent, families will light the Advent candles for each service and give a short reading and a prayer.

Throughout the year, there are, periodically, reports from member of various committees on the committee's activities and programs. And this year, Pastor Jan Butin worked with members of the congregation who provided the sermons during the summer worship services. That series was well received.

There has been continued work with the sound system and the committee feels that there has been an improvement.

The fee schedule for weddings has been updated and there is an ongoing study of the wedding policy with the intention of updating that this coming year.

A full report of the music element of the worship services can be found in the Music Ministries report below.

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

Music continues to play an integral part at FUPC. The congregation is blessed with many dedicated musicians who share their gifts for the glory of God. The following are a few examples of music ensembles and individual participation in 2017.

- The Chancel Choir continued to provide musical offerings during Sunday services. These offerings included a variety of styles and moods, from Holy Week to the Easter celebration with R. Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, to the Lessons and Carols service during Advent. They 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.
- The Handbell program, now under Michael's direction, continued to enhance worship services. The variety of music provided by the Chancel Bells and Youth Bells helped facilitate worship. The Fall brought the two groups together to play often. Both hand bell groups welcome anyone who might be interested in joining.
- The Youth Ensemble and Children's Choir, now under Michael's direction, continued to contribute to worship. All youth and children are encouraged to participate in the music of FUPC whenever possible in their busy schedules.
- Jeannie Lee, from the organ and piano, enhances the overall message of each service. Her willingness to offer ideas for worshipful moments and dedication to make musical choices appropriate for services is much appreciated. She also spends extra time in preparation for the many extra services during Lent, Holy Week, Advent, etc.
- During the months of October and November, Jeannie had attendants on the organ bench. From young children to adults, she would tailor tasks for each individual (pulling stops, pressing memory buttons, turning pages, playing notes, etc.).

Jeannie Lee
organist
Daniel Schapker
sound board

Members:

Jessie Koeppel,
Sara Koenig,
Mary Ellen
Moore, Nancy
Waite, and
Trina Oliver

Pastoral

Support:
Jan Butin

Fellowship - Carol Van Scyoc, Moderator

Fellowship meets the fourth Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in Calvin 201. A wide variety of events from Bunco games, all-church dinners, a Fayetteville trail hike, and the Dwight Mission retreat were supported through the talents and participation of the congregation.

New this year were three catered Sunday evening meals. A special theme accompanied each event: *Stalker Gift: Sanctuary Enhancement Information*, *Octoberfest*, and *ThanksLiving*. A special task force will evaluate these Sunday meals and decide whether to suggest to Session that three more events be planned for the spring and fall, 2018.

Continuing events supported by Fellowship:

- Fellow"Shape" **Yoga and Zumba** classes which meet weekly.
- **First Fellowship** monthly luncheon meetings for those 55 and over.
- **Fun and Fellowship** intergenerational groups engaging in activities of interest to that group. These are under evaluation for 2018. Consideration will be given to when to start new groups, when to reform (yearly, etc.), and whether some other plan for small group fellowship might be effective for Christian love and spirit to expand within the congregation.
- Gatherings around holy days, meals and music: Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, Easter brunch, July hot dog and ice cream dinner, August picnic at the Koenig's home, Christmas brunch.

Scholarships for the Dwight Mission Retreat are budgeted through Fellowship. We also support kitchen supply needs which have increased with the addition of the catered Sunday evening meals.

First Fellowship - Ron Talbert, Facilitator

The group for 55+ adults meet for a luncheon and program on the second Thursday of each month. The meal is served at 11:30 a.m. with the program following lunch. Programs in 2017 were as follows:

- January 12:** American Red Cross Program - Julie Brown, NWA Executive Director
February 9: Earthquakes and Fracking - Walt Manger, Geologist, U of A
March 9: Immunizations for Adults - Steven Johnson, MD
April 13: Water Quality Concerns and Outreach Efforts in the Ozarks - Colin Massey, Washington County Agent, AG/Water Quality
May 11: John Calvin: What to Keep and What to Let Go - Phil Butin, Co-Pastor
September 14: What's Eating Our Lunch: The Most Devastating Insect Pests in the 21st Century - Tony Stankus, Distinguished Professor of Library Science
October 12: Besides the Sanctuary: A Stalker Gift Conversation - James Moore, Properties Committee; Dennis Brewer, Outreach Committee; and Jan Butin, Co-Pastor
November 9: The Sanctuary Area: A Stalker Gift Conversation - Ted Belden and Barbara Verdery, Sanctuary Area Renovation Task Force
December 14: "Christmas In Other Countries", U of A International Students from the Bahamas, Indonesia, and Angola—arranged by Cynthia Smith, U of A

Thanks to our callers, Nancy Denn, Lina Long, Nell Tuck, Carol Hanna, Alice and Ron Talbert, and Jenny Ourand (who called faithfully until her passing this year). In addition to calling around 60 senior members to acquire reservations for each meeting, they also maintain communication with the church. The group really enjoys the service and the atmosphere for our meetings at the Butterfield Trail Village Lodge.

Honduras Mission Outreach

- “El Dia de los Presbiterianos” honoring the work of the PC(USA) in community development in the department of Copan.
- In the Fall, Session authorized \$6,000 to pay for materials needed to build a church in El Guayabo, in southern Honduras.

Rev. Phil Butin planned his three-month sabbatical around our congregation’s mission commitment to Honduras. His main goals—developed in conversation with PC(USA) mission staff and leaders of the Presbytery of Honduras—were to gain a deeper understanding of the vision, hopes, and needs of Presbyterians in Honduras, and to extend the love, support, and commitment of U.S. and AR Presbyterians, and of FUPC personally, to each pastor, their families, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras during his time there.

- Phil’s sabbatical began with two weeks of Spanish review at the Universidad Biblico Latinamericano in San Jose, Costa Rica, which provides theological education for the Honduran pastors.
- The Presbytery of Honduras convened a meeting in Tegucigalpa in early June for all pastors, to welcome Rev. Butin and to plan his congregational visits. Rev. Butin participated in several additional meetings of the presbytery for decision-making and theological education of the pastors and “obreros” (lay pastors).
- During the summer, Rev. Butin was able to visit 25 of 26 of the established Honduran Presbyterian congregations. He stayed in the homes of many pastors, shared meals in the home with others, preached in Spanish in most of the congregations, and also visited several new church developments.
- Rev. Jan Butin and Leigh Harvey traveled with Phil to Tegucigalpa to meet some of the pastors and leaders of the presbytery. Leigh stayed for an additional week to visit eight congregations and meet additional Honduran Presbyterians and their leaders.
- Rev. Phil Butin made several presentations following his sabbatical to share his experience in Honduras and led a Honduras-themed worship service.
- In January, we anticipate a visit from Diana and Marion Fernandez-Bendeck and their children from Trinidad de Copan. Ted and Leslie Belden will host a lunch in their honor.



Music Ministries (continued)

- Revs. Phil and Jan Butin, Jeannie, and Michael attended the Calvin Symposium on Worship in Grand Rapids, MI. This event sparked several ideas for the group. One aural example was Jeannie’s purchase of music to carry out her Luther hymn project in the Fall leading up to Reformation Sunday.
- The interns are 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.
- Several musical events occurred this year outside of the church’s typical Sunday worship services: the University of AR Inspirational Chorale presented a Sunday afternoon concert; M. Haugen’s *Holden Evening Prayer Service* was offered on the Tuesday of Holy Week; the John Brown University Cathedral Choir sang during worship; a service of prayer in the style of Taizé, France, was held; and members of the Chancel Choir joined with other choir members in the area at First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville, for a Reformation Hymn Festival. 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 to encourage our congregation, invite our community, and worship our God.
- Highlights for 2018 include two presentations of J. Stainer’s *Crucifixion* during Holy Week, a Sunday afternoon concert featuring Colibri (a violin/piano duo), continuation of musical prayer services, and other opportunities for FUPC to encourage our congregation, invite others, and worship our God.

Chancel Bells

Dave Edmark
Linnette Garber
Katie Jackson
Deeg Mitchell
Jennifer Ross
Barbara Stephenson
Diane Warren
Marti Woodruff

Music Ministry Ensemble

Rob Button
Richard Lee
Vic Parkerson
Don Steinkraus

Music Ministry Interns

Amanda Davis
Paige DeJarnett
Anthony Graham
Kristen Smith
Clara Tiggelaar
Kellyn Werner

Chancel Choir

Dennis Brewer
Lorraine Brewer
Phil Butin
Rob Button
Hillary Fischer
Rebecca Haden
Richard Lee
Mary Mann
Sabra Martin
Eunice Millett
Bill Mitchell
Itrel Monroe
Melinda Nickel
Julie Olsen
Sandy Parkerson
Vic Parkerson
Kathy Pederson
Laurie Reh
Ruth Rodgers

Youth Bells

Connor Button
Riley Button
Elliot Eichmann
Sara Hardcastle
Alexander Hemphill
Cole Jackson
Robert Ross

Children’s Ensemble

Many thanks to all the children’s Sunday School classes for participating in worship.

Welcoming Committee - Michelle Price, Moderator

Members:

Pam Anderson,
Angelika Will,
Tommie Hively,
and Michelle
Price

Staff Support:

Heidi Nash

Pastoral
Support:
Jan Butin

**Belonging
Sub-
committee**
Members:
LeNelle Cagle
(Moderator),

Sandy Davies,
Carol Hanna,
Amy McCann,
and Lynda
Schulte

**Pastoral
Support:**

Jan Butin

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
- Organized FUPC members to greet members and visitors at both services
- Offered three Look Before You Leap classes for those interested visitors who expressed a desire to join the church or wanted more information about FUPC
- Placed Easter and Christmas ads in the local paper informing the community of events at the church
- Submitted announcements periodically about FUPC activities to the religious section of the newspaper
- Coordinated and served a meal at Celebration at the Manger (The outdoor nativity scene was completed with live animals from the Hewat family farm.)
- Invited First School families and others using the church campus to Celebration at the Manger
- Belonging subcommittee hosted three New Member receptions and assisted at the Celebration at the Manger meal
- Belonging subcommittee delivered bread, our FUPC history book, and a folder of church information to all new members
- Belonging subcommittee called new members to invite them to upcoming church events

Visioning for the Future

- Continue to improve web-based and social media communications
- Continue to recruit members to be greeters

Members:

Hillary Fischer,
Bill Hart, Carol
Hart, Leigh
Harvey, Cyril
Sturm, and
Marti Woodruff

**Pastoral
Support:**

Phil Butin

The congregation contributed \$33,900 through eleven **special offerings** and the Alternative Market in addition to amount allocated for outreach through the 2017 budget. This amount includes three special offerings for disaster relief totaling \$6,080.

Volunteers prepared and served two **community meals** monthly. Approximately 70-90 people are served at each meal for an annual total of about 2,000 meals prepared with a budget of \$3,600.

The annual **Alternative Market** was held on Sunday, December 3. The Market, with \$5,706 in sales and donations, supports a variety of non-profit organizations.

FUPC completed a five-year pledge to **Community Emergency Outreach's (C.E.O.)** Capital Campaign with a donation of \$5,000. The Campaign funded the relocation to new quarters on Huntsville Road. Special offerings taken each month totaled \$12,780. This is in addition to \$2,300 allocated to C.E.O. through the annually.

The committee developed a recommendation to Session regarding the investment of the Outreach portion of the **Stalker Gift** bequest of Ken and Eva Stalker. The recommendation was reported to Session and the congregation and centers on alleviating homelessness and hunger in our local community. As a part of this commitment, Session approved a special gift of \$20,000 to 7-Hills Shelter for emergency infrastructure needs at the Day Center.

Mission

*Let us not love
in word or talk
but in truth and
action. 1 John
3:18*

The emphasis of the annual congregational meeting held, Sunday, February 19, was to encourage hands-on participation in four focus areas: hunger, REACH, sustainability, and Honduras.

Our Church and Presbytery continued to develop a robust relationship with congregations in the Presbytery of Honduras. This year was highlighted by Phil's three-month sabbatical visiting Honduran churches and supporting their pastors.

Honduras Mission Outreach

Our commitment to Honduras mission was strengthened in 2017 through a number of important initiatives:

- Members of FUPC provided substantial leadership for the Honduras mission commitment of the Presbytery of AR and the denomination. Leslie Belden is the Convener of the National PC(USA) Honduras Mission Network and Leigh Harvey is the Arkansas Presbytery Honduras Mission Sub-committee Chair.
- A Facebook page entitled "Our Honduras Mission," managed by Rev. Phil Butin, Leigh Harvey, and Alex Rodas of the Presbytery of Honduras, was started.
- Prayer partnerships were formed between 15 FUPC families and the 26 established congregations in Honduras.
- FUPC contributed \$650 to provide t-shirts and meals for an outreach event attended by 75 youth at the Puerto Grande church on the Pacific Ocean.
- New tires were provided for two vehicles used by the Presbytery of Honduras.
- In July, Rev. Jan Butin, Leigh Harvey, and United Campus Ministry students, Teila Creekmore and Kate Morales, traveled to Honduras with a group from Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church of Charleston, SC. They build concrete block homes for families with inadequate shelter in Western Honduras. Rev. Phil Butin, and pastors and leaders of the Presbytery of Honduras joined them for the annual celebration of

First School Commission - Eunice Millett, Moderator

Members:

Don Johnson,
Melissa
Werner, Erin
Wilson, Cathy
Hairston, Carla
Davis, Joy
Strancar, and
Miki Rousseau

Staff Support:

Kristi Button
and Laura
Winburn

**Pastoral
Support:**

Phil Butin

First School is a Parents' Day Out program, Preschool, and Kindergarten. It also has a nine-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 year serving 142-146 children and over 130 families. Cathy Hairston, the Director, provides excellent leadership, supervision and training. The 21 teachers and aids provide a safe and caring environment for students to learn and grow. Classes are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. The Parents' Day Out program serves children under three in age groupings 12-20 months, 21-28 months, and 29-35 months old. The Preschool has four classes, two classes each of age three and four year-olds. Kindergarten is five days and had 12 students that went to first grade or repeated Kindergarten in public school. Two enrichment programs in dance, Jitterbugs and Tippitoes are offered and one in art, Artzkids. FUPC pastors and staff conduct Chapel Time each week, guiding children through the Bible using stories, felt board, time and songs. Notes about each story go home for parents to be informed and talk further about the story.

The Outreach Committee provided scholarship money to nine 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 include the annual picnic with a silent auction, Box Tops for Education, Scholastic Book Fair, a pumpkin auction, and Charleston Wrap. Proceeds from these fundraisers were used to fund needed building improvements this year. The seventh 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. Parents 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 sent five teachers to Conscious Discipline training for continuing education. A University of AR student, Hartley Allen, was a United Campus Ministries intern during the fall semester. Wooden dividers were located and refurbished for use in the Fellowship Hall during indoor activities. First School's website was updated at www.firstschoolfayetteville.org.

As a part of FUPC, First School commits each year to provide funds generated from fixed costs under tuition to the church at year-end to help with the general operating expenses of the church. This amount varies each year. First School provided \$1700 to FUPC for the general operating budget in 2017.

First School lost a former teacher in a car accident in June. A memorial for Micah Knapp was held in the Sanctuary and family came in from out of town. Parents are very involved with the program, helping in classrooms, attending the Mom's Group Book Study led by Jan Butin and Kristi Button. The school works to build a community by having playdates at the park and Chuck E. Cheese where parents can mingle while kids play.

First School is an AR Quality Program achieving recertification in AR Better Beginnings, three-star rating. The preschool was voted number one in the area by Kid's Directory. The First School Commission is proud of First School and of Cathy Hairston's 17 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 provided on request.

Christian Education Committee - Sara Eichmann, Moderator

Members:

Amy Blanz,
Diane Byars,
Chris Boushelle,
Claudia Driver,
and Nancy
Waite

Staff Support:

Kristi Button

Guiding Principles

As a community of faith committed to spiritual growth and education that sustains hope, cultivates wonder, and develops a joyful and genuine faith grounded in scripture, we:

- Challenge, encourage, and equip each of our members to regularly pray and study Scripture.
- Explore other models for fulfilling and challenging Christian education for children, youth and adults.
- Provide opportunities for praying in groups and support and develop new small groups for study and prayer.
- Work to increase participation in our educational ministries.
- Identify those with gifts for ministry and encourage and support them in developing their call.

Highlights of the Year

- Vacation Bible School was very successful. We incorporated new structures and activities with a focus on learning about food insecurity in our area and ways that children can help. They seemed to enjoy the community aspect of the program.
- The Committee has started a new breakfast program before and after Sunday school to encourage fellowship among members and encourage more families to attend.
- The "Meet & Eat" events replaced Wednesdays Together and were well received. Once a month, members meet at a different restaurant around town for a meal, fellowship time, and to enjoy a little Christian Education moment. It has worked well to not only vary the location but also the day and week of the month.

FUPC is fortunate to have tremendous support from our members who are involved in keeping our Christian Education programs thriving throughout the year. We strive 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.

Adult Christian Education

2017 saw an overall increase in attendance in Sunday morning adult education. About 60 adults participated in at least one of the following studies.

All the Places to Go: How Will You Know, John Ortberg

Animate: Faith

Animate: Practices

Being Reformed: The Protestant Reformation, Donald McKim

October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day that Changed the World, Martin Marty

The Great Divorce, C. S. Lewis

John: The Gospel of Light and Life, Adam Hamilton

Life on the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Christian Community, Philip D. Kenneson

The Present Word: Care of Creation, Galatians, Lent—God Loves Us, and Covenant with God

Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian, Tom Long

Who Is Jesus, Judy Yates Siker

Christian Education - Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education

Looking back on this year, we were able to build on the stability of staffing and welcome new people into our congregation and our activities.

Highlights of the past year include:

Vacation Bible School: We were able to offer an extended day option for the second year. This year, we returned to our own VBS planning and leadership, using what we learned from the Camp 2 You program in 2016 to extend our day. The volunteers who stayed into the afternoon, youth and adults, particularly the recreation station leaders, made it possible to enjoy large group games and a special speaker each afternoon for the elementary students. The preschool program was morning only and had wonderful leadership. They worked with the story of Feeding the 5000, which tied in with the elementary theme of *Abundance Orchard*, a curriculum on stories of Jesus and food, as well as addressing hunger and food insecurity in our culture. Our guest speakers each afternoon enhanced the week, as well as added to the churchwide dialogue about how to help those who are food insecure in our area. Monday- The Northwest AR Foodbank, Tuesday- CEO, Wednesday- Tricycle Farms and Americorps volunteers, Thursday- Andy Lemmon from Society of St. Andrew (the organization that created the curriculum and made it available at no charge), Friday- Don Steinkraus, congregation member and entomologist, brought travelling beehive.

Middle School Ministry: In the fall, we introduced a new fifth and sixth grade monthly ministry program on one Sunday evening a month. This was a way to begin to experience youth ministry as middle schoolers and have a program just for them. The number of youth this age is small to begin with, so participation was small, but the integration with the larger junior high and high school program made it work. This program coincided with the monthly churchwide meal which was led by Fellowship Committee. This was the best way for both programs to be introduced this fall and it worked well.

Adult Christian Education: There were three adult classes in the fall. **All Are Welcome** class was particularly advertised to adults with families at home, as well as others who want a drop in, no reading required option. They began with *Animate: Faith* and then *Animate: Practices*. This video-based approach works well for people to participate when they can.

The Thoughtful Christians a discussion-based conversation that seeks to integrate beliefs, worship, and Christian action, typically inspired by weekly consideration of a chapter from a substantive but accessible book. The winter theme was *The Great Divorce* by C. S. Lewis, reflecting on what life after death might be like. In the Spring, the discussion dovetailed with the sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit with the book *Life on the Vine* by Philip Kenneson. The Fall theme was "Reformation Conversations" in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

The **Bible Study Class** continues to use the Present Word curriculum. This is a topical survey of themes found throughout the Bible. Thank you to the leaders of these classes for continuing to make available relevant study and faith-building opportunities for adults.

Other highlights included: a small, and very meaningful, Dwight Mission Retreat in October, and Celebration at the Manger, including many First School families, in December.

We continue to seek ways to nurture and enrich our families with young children, invite and welcome First School families, and find church events that will nurture the faith of our families, young adults, and members of all ages.

Youth Leadership Team 2016-2017: Katherine Boushelle and James Price
Youth Leadership Team 2017-2018: Rebecca Boushelle and Reed Fagg
Arkansas Presbytery Youth Advisory Team 2017-2018: Daniel Byars and James Price

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

2017 was another great year for United Presbyterian Youth. We continued our school year rhythm of UPY Mornings (Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m.), UPY Together (Sundays 5:00-7:00 p.m.), and UPY Small Groups (Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m.). We tried a new rhythm for the summer consisting of UPY Mornings (Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m.) and UPY in the Park (Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 p.m.) where we met at the Gulley Park gazebo. Our summer topic was "Who is God?" It was wonderful to ask this question surrounded by God's creation.

Youth highlights of the year:

- 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.
- The youth participated in several Presbyterian Youth Counsel events: six attended Senior High Youthquake, three attended Junior High Youthquake, and two joined the Youth advisory team, helping to plan and lead Junior High Youthquake.
- Nine youth participated in the UPY Homeless Vigil where they collected donations for 7Hills and created care packages for the congregation to give to needy people in our community.
- We took eleven youth and three chaperones to Portsmouth, Ohio, with Reach Mission Trips. Our youth helped shingle roofs, paint houses, build porches, and bring joy to the community through relational service. It was eye-opening for our youth to serve in a community very different than our own.
- In all, over 60 different youth participated in a UPY event at some point in 2017.

King Sightings - a few moments when our youth saw God in their daily lives:

The sunrise on Monday.

God gave me patience to read through Acts today.

Writing my faith statement helped me feel closer to God.

Athletes thanked me for helping them even when I think I didn't help that much.

I saw a picture of Grandpa's finished headstone.

Nursery and Childcare - Amy McCann, Childcare Coordinator

Childcare is available for children up to five years old on Sundays for the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services and during Sunday School. In 2017, we had between three and eight children on average each week. We serve approximately six to eight families of the church regularly. We have two trained nursery workers who typically give care alongside of our coordinator on Sundays and other childcare workers who provide care during special events. Our childcare staff is consistent, dependable, and has a great reputation with families. We provide childcare for special services such as Christmas Eve and Easter during which we have as many as 25-30 children. Toys, coloring sheets, crafts, and a short Bible story are provided for the children while in our care.

Childcare is available for church events, meetings, and weddings (upon request). Anyone needing childcare services fills out a request in the Church Office at least two weeks prior to the event to ensure availability and adequate children/worker ratios. This year, we staffed childcare regularly for the Marriage Group, Session and committee meetings, worship services, and special events.

The nursery has 12 digital pagers. Parents/guardians sign their child in as they drop them off and may take a pager. In case of emergency, a message is sent to the pager letting the parent/guardian know that they are needed.