



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

# 2016 Annual Report



*Celebrating 190 Years in Christ's Service*



# Members of Session

Clerk of Session: Diana Gardner

## Class of 2016

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Sue Jeffers  
Dave Kershaw  
Steve McKenny  
Bob Pierce  
Helena Prince  
Kathy Sample

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Nancy Crawford  
Dallas Dort  
Robert Larson  
Hank McQueen  
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Peter Santinga  
Tim Wendler

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Lynn Lande  
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2017 Co-Moderators: Jill Binkley and Jane Myers

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Heidi Dodson  
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Betty Halliday  
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Tom McKarns  
Cathy McKenny  
Angie Miller  
Lynn Milroy  
Bonnie Palmquist  
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Mary Lynn Thomson  
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Marolin Bellefleur  
Jill Binkley  
Shelia Deskins  
Paula Doering  
Gail Einhaus  
Doris Granum  
Ron Gulbranson  
George Hendrickson  
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Mark Endicott  
Lee Evans  
Becky Gaffney  
Gail Grady  
Ellen Johnson  
Michele Madden  
Holly Majorprice  
Chris Queen  
Sue Rigterink  
Nancy Rugani  
Norm Samuelson  
Judy Slade  
Jean Song  
Gayle Stevens

### Co-opted:

Carole Hendrickson

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
January 29, 2017  
Agenda**

**Rev. Dr. Fairfax. F. Fair, moderator**

Distribution of Meeting Materials

Declaration of Quorum

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Recognition of the First Presbyterian Church Staff

State of the Church

Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair

Report on the Sanctuary Trusses

Bill McPherson

Report from the Personnel Committee

Prue Heikkinen

Report on 2016 Finances

Lucie Audette

Celebrating the Resident Minister Endowment Fund

Kathy Sample and Bill Brinkerhoff

Update on Endowment and Special Gifts

Martha Kershaw

Presentation of 2017 Budget

Closing Remarks

Invitation to Lunch

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer and Luncheon Grace

**Please join us for lunch in the Social Hall**

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# Report from The Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair Pastor/Head of Staff

Dear Friends,

It is a joy to write to you as your pastor and a privilege to walk with you in ministry. As I reflect on 2016, know that there is no such thing as “business as usual” around a church. While many of our ministries in 2016 mirrored our ministries in previous years, every effort throughout the year was made to reach new people with the good news that is ours to share and to offer our very best to every age and group. How could we be satisfied with anything less, given that it is God whom we serve! Every day is a gift from God. Every day is a fresh opportunity to make a new connection – with a church member, with a neighbor, with the biblical text – and every day is another occasion to live into being the people God creates us and calls us to be, people who seek to live faithful lives, people who show love and pursue justice, people who demonstrate patience and compassion in dealing with another’s foibles, and people who continually express gratitude to God. Every day and every act of ministry – each worship service, each pastoral interaction, each act of service, each class taught, even each committee meeting and every event added to the church calendar -- give new opportunity to see God at work among us. First Pres is a beautiful communion of God’s people. We have a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and opinions. We have known God’s presence in our lives in a variety of ways and felt God’s call to serve in many different avenues. This is powerfully borne out every November when our newly elected officers share their faith statements with one another. God works in each of our lives, sometimes quietly, sometimes dramatically, and God gives us all gifts to use in doing the Lord’s work. Together we carry out ministry in God’s name in Washtenaw County and well beyond.

Over the last several years your session has settled into a new structure for overseeing all the work of the church. Rather than serving on two committees, session members now serve in one area. This has done more than make serving on session possible for a larger number of people; it has allowed elders to go deeper into an area that is of particular interest to them. Our staff has benefitted from new clarity of processes and role, our operations are more efficient, and we are more productive. We also enjoy working with one another!

During 2016, several groups were charged by the session to take a deep and comprehensive look at key areas of our life together, specifically our youth and college ministries, our mission outreach and partnerships, and our aging facilities. Over the next several months you will be seeing signs of strengthening our efforts in these ministries areas and hearing about plans to upgrade our building to address issues of safety and usefulness for today’s and the next generation of Presbyterians.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to take a sabbatical last summer. My major project was something I had wanted to pursue for almost 20 years. It was such a privilege to talk with

gentlemen who displayed such courage for the sake of the Gospel! These men preached with conviction the inclusive love of God – both from the pulpit and with their lives -- during the traumatic civil rights struggles waged in the 1960s.

Their stories, paired with readings, enabled me to better grasp the depth of their witness, the danger they braved, and the importance of their testimony. Over the course of the 11 weeks I was away, I also visited the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The sabbatical report that I submitted to the Personnel Committee is included in this book of reports, and I will welcome talking with any of you about this unique and precious opportunity.

Thank you for all the ways you open yourselves to God and join hands to do God’s work. Like 2016, 2017 will not be business as usual. “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:22-23). Thanks be to God!

*Grace and peace,*

*The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair*



## Sabbatical Report

I am deeply grateful for my June 26-September 10, 2016 sabbatical. This time away from my regular responsibilities allowed me to dig into a project that I have wanted to pursue for almost twenty years. A poem, *Memphis 1968* by Carmen Anderson, was printed in *The Presbyterian Outlook* in April 1998. I had met Carmen and her husband, Allan, several years before and happened to be serving in the presbytery where they lived when the poem was published. I picked up the phone and called them, thus beginning my personal odyssey to explore the role of PCUS pastors during the Civil Rights struggle of the 1960s.

On that long ago spring day, retired pastor Allan Anderson told me about a book, *The Unsilenced South*, published in 1965. It contains nineteen sermons, preached from pulpits in PCUS churches between 1957 and 1964. Most of the men who preached these words are dead. This summer I was able to talk with two who survive. One retired from ministry in 1996. The other left the ministry in 1971. I also had an extended conver-

sation with the son and daughter-in-law of another preacher included in the book who is deceased. One conversation led to another, and over the course of my sabbatical I traveled to nine states to talk with fifteen retired PCUS pastors, two retired United Methodist pastors, one Cumberland Presbyterian pastor, one PCUS pastor who demitted the ministry, the wives of some of these gentlemen, and the widow of another. Additionally I interviewed an African-American woman who, as a young teenager, attempted to march with her parents across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965 and watched the police club and use tear gas against her friends and neighbors.

I talked with a man who was a 28 year old pastor serving in Mississippi when Gov. Ross Barnett implored “all the good citizens of Mississippi” to use whatever means at their disposal to stop James Meredith from enrolling at Ole Miss. I talked with another pastor and his wife who had their three-year old son threatened if the pastor did not stop making remarks from the pulpit about God’s love for all people, and another who left a church when the elders on his session wanted him to become the chaplain for the Citizens’ Council. One pastor had an elder storm out of the sanctuary on World Communion Sunday when a graduate student from Africa, who spoke perfect British-accented English, read scripture. Several of the men I talked with had crosses burned in their yards, were followed in their cars by armed men, and saw their houses circled by men with guns. Many received threatening phone calls and letters. Most felt they could not go to the police for help. Some knew police who were active members of the Klan. One pastor volunteered space at the church he served when his Tennessee county denied being able to open a government assistance office, using as their excuse that there was no space available.

I visited with men who integrated ministerial associations, hosted services after Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, and who saw African-Americans in line in front of him turned away when they attempted to register to vote. The African-American pastor I met said he felt safer in the 1960s in Vietnam than he had serving a church in Mississippi. I talked with the widow of the pastor who was asked to host the first integrated Presbytery meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Dinner had to be all pick-up food because they knew there would be trouble if blacks and whites were seated together at table. The stories go on and on. I have more than 40 hours of digital recording.

I visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis and read extensively about the period, including two books written by men I interviewed (*Beyond the Burning Bus* by J. Phillips Noble and *Re-Imagining God* by Lucius DuBose). Other titles read during my sabbatical that informed my study of Civil Rights include *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution* (Diane McWhorter), *Across That Bridge* (John Lewis), *Agony at Galloway* (W. J. Cunningham)

and *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (James H. Cone). Other books I read this summer that point out how far we still have to go include *Just Mercy* (Bryan Stevenson), *Between the World and Me* (Ta-Nehisi Coates), and *The Other Wes Moore* (Wes Moore).

I read theology – *Katie’s Canon* (Womanist theology by Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon) and *Against the Third Reich: Paul Tillich’s Radio Broadcasts into Nazi Germany* (edited by Ronald H. Stone and Matthew Lon Weaver), and *Accidental Saints* (Nadia Bolz Weber) – and visited New Harmony, Indiana, where Paul Tillich spent time and where his ashes are interred.

I also read three books about the United States government’s internment of Japanese citizens during World War II: *Farewell to Manzanar* (Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston), *Looking Like the Enemy* (Mary Matsuda Gruenewald) and *Camp Nine* (Vivienne Schiffer), one biography (*Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Charles Marsh), one book of essays (*The Road to Character* by David Brooks), five novels (*Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki* by Haruki Murakami, *A Wolf Called Romeo* by Nick Jans, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, *Home* by Toni Morrison) and one book of poetry (*The Wild Iris* by Louise Gluck).

I worshipped in PC(USA), American Baptist, and non-denominational churches, wore through two pairs of garden gloves, and was with my grandson on his third birthday, my mother on her 82nd birthday, and my granddaughter on her first day of kindergarten.

My sabbatical was a full and productive eleven weeks. I have many hours of recorded conversations, pages and pages of transcribed notes, a stack of books still to read, and several historic sites still to visit. My hope is to use the material I have gathered in a way that honors the lived example of faithfulness I saw first-hand in the people I interviewed. Most of the men I talked with were forced from their pulpits and endured personal threats or other hardship. Not one among them is bitter. I am so grateful to have had this time to make these visits. Two of the men have died since our meeting a few short months ago. None of these humble giants will be with us much longer and their stories must not be lost. Our current day and age points to the relevance of their testimony and the importance of our learning from their experiences.

This sabbatical was precious time, and I am grateful to my colleagues who kept our ministries running smoothly in my absence. Despite the pace I kept, I did manage to get more sleep that I ordinarily do and it is immensely satisfying to have had the time and privilege of sitting with these amazing men. At the same time, I missed the congregation of First Pres, our day-to-day interactions, and the regular routine of worship. It is great to be back to the ministry to which I feel called, serving the Lord and the people of The First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. Thank you for your support and encouragement.



## Report from The Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life

What joy I feel in this call to support the energetic, enthusiastic, and authentic gifts of faith and friendship given by the Holy Spirit to our First Pres family!

My work encompasses much of what happens from the moment a guest steps into our building for the first time. With the Congregational Life Committee, we aspire to welcome them warmly and fully, and help them engage actively in worship and more — a Bible study, mission group, music ministry, social event, or one of our other programs and small groups. I witness our congregation enfold new people and embracing them as members of our family. Along with our gifted administrative, pastoral, and program staff, my committee has a front row seat to see God shaping and inspiring our church through these guests and new members.

In a typical week, I attend two or three committee meetings in addition to my duties supporting our whole staff, lending support to the Congregational Life Committee, the Board of Deacons, the Stephen Ministers, the Nicaragua Mission Team, and the Rotating Shelter Planning Team. I meet often with leaders of these groups in preparation for what each month will bring in terms of program and activities. Each gathering gives me an opportunity to be grateful for the outstanding leadership and diversity of First Pres' members, and to remember how thoughtful and caring we are called to be in our life and work together.

Pastoral care fills in all the gaps between meetings, events, and worship services — from bedsides to gravesides, in living rooms and kitchens, at nursing homes and funeral homes. Pastoral care is also at the heart of our Mature Ministries program — calling those in the last third of life together to stay active and live in body, mind, and spirit. I share this calling with our Parish Nurse Sandy Talbott, our pastoral staff, and our “pastoral associates” (retired ministers who support our work — Eldon Beery, David Downton, Bill Findlay, Gary Oliver, and Kent Palmquist). The Holy Spirit equips us all to be truly present to people. As we say, “there is a heartache in every pew.” Inevitably, we will fail sometimes to show up where most needed, or leave someone unattended that needs the love and mercy of the Lord shown through our pastoral staff. By the grace of God, we continue to give our best effort to make sure that all are comforted and encouraged.

This year will be remembered as our 190th year of ministry in Christ's name. Outstanding volunteers helped us enjoy a lovely celebration on August 21, and begin a year of giving thanks for our history, even as we grow forward into a future that belongs to God. I am grateful to our 190th committee members: Mitchell Dudley, Gail Grady, Diane Hockett, Dale Leslie, Cathy McKenny, Jeanette Middleton, Marita Servais, Carol Smith, and Jeanette Swartz. Mary Jones outdid herself in

designing our logo and stationary to celebrate our history. Our six-word stories will be used on our Facebook page as we enter the second half of our 190th year, and as we sail towards the culmination of our celebratory year when we gather as a church family on Mackinac Island, May 5 - 7, at our all-church retreat.

This year held two wonderful challenges — serving as “Acting Head of Staff” during the sabbatical of Dr. Fair, and leading 15 outstanding women on Pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain in the fall. Working hand-in-glove with Rev. Jay Sanderford, Dr. Fair's sabbatical occurred with no concerns of significance. Our decision to focus on the theme of “compassion” was well-received. Our team approach to leadership, and our dedication to help our staff enjoy social time outside of our work environment, was appreciated. Leading these incredible staff members never felt like an additional chore. When everyone is working at such high levels, being an affirming leader is quite easy!

The Camino pilgrimage, a 150-kilometer walking journey with the theme, “Growing in Faith on the Way with Jesus”, was restorative to me personally, and faith-building and guiding for our pilgrims. The spiritual and physical preparation were demanding, but our First Pres women did not disappoint! The culture and community of the Camino inspired us, as we walked and talked, prayed and meditated on the way to the Santiago Cathedral. Arriving, we worshipped with hundreds of pilgrims from around the world. Resident Minister Rev. Angela Ryo's invaluable assistance and presence on the trip was a particular treasure to the group, and a godsend to me personally. The Camino will live in all our memories as a deeply enriching spiritual time. We hope in 2018 to return to the Camino. If you have interest in a walking pilgrimage, please contact me.

Pilgrimage is a word to describe a spiritual journey. The focus is not on the destination but on the path itself, and on the experiences and surprises that we encounter when we walk with God. This is much the experience I have as your Associate Pastor. Another year has passed, and my walk with God in this ministry, and my partnership with you as a pastor, continues to be a great blessing full of unique experiences and surprises. On to 2017 to see what our Lord has in store for us!

*Prayerfully,*  
*The Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers*







## Report from The Reverend Jay Sanderford Associate Pastor for Adult Education, Mission and Director of the Resident Minister Program

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In our 190th Anniversary Year, I am energized by the creative spirit and drive of First Presbyterian. The historical arc of our congregation and a relentless calling the core values of this congregation--excellence in worship and music, deep commitments to mission and outreach, thoughtful engagement in Christian formation for children, young people, adults and families and compassionate pastoral care for the whole church—keep our community flourishing. It's Isaiah the prophet who asks somewhat rhetorically, "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?" (Isaiah 43:19 CEB).

Scanning First Pres, there are fresh expressions of creative ministry at play, all set amidst enduring forms of ministry. This past summer, a congregational-book read of *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong shaped our worship and generated serious face-to-face conversations in our ConnectEd gatherings. Debbie MacVey and Rev. Angela Ryo gathered groups of young families, children and parents to create friendships and share the joys and tasks of faithful parenting. Rev. Daniel Ervin and Debbie MacVey created a wonderful all-generations experience around the sacrament of communion in early October that attracted scores of young and old alike. Our Local Mission Team led by Martha Kershaw and a band of leaders re-engineered our public grant program to focus our faithful energies and social capital on meeting the acute human needs – shelter, food and mental health – of our Ann Arbor and Washtenaw communities. Led by Helena Prince, a broad contingent of mission leaders joined together to re-envision how First Pres can best do global and local ministry. An ambitious plan to ensure practices of transformation, collaboration, partnership and sustainability has now been set out by the Mission Committee. I see God doing powerful things in these critical ministry areas and am greatly encouraged.

As one of the Associate Pastors at First Pres, my work is concentrated in two program areas, Adult Education and Local and International Mission, and I serve as Coordinator of the Resident Minister Program. Administratively, I coordinate the work of three key church managers, Anna Miller, Finance Manager, Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager and Linda Robinson, Office Manager. It's an exciting and challenging position, and I love what I do to create and maintain a strong, elastic team of devoted and skilled professionals to support the ministries of First Pres. During the summer, in the time of my colleague Dr. Fair's sabbatical, with Rev. Rogers as our Acting Head of Staff, we brought our talented staff together for several fun and energizing social gatherings and navigated that important time very smoothly.

Our three Resident Ministers, Rev. Emily Béghin, Rev. Daniel Ervin and Rev. Angela Ryo continue to shine in their ministries at First Pres and show growth and promise as leaders in our Presbyterian Church. It is such a delight to watch, mentor and shape these gifted church leaders! Since arriving in August 2015, Emily, Daniel and Angela have been immersed in ministry and our experiential First Pres Pastoral Residency. They have preached, led worship, sung with our Chancel Choir, taught Confirmation, led our Middle School ministry, collected young adults for fellowship and study, taught adult groups, trained our elders and deacons, guided our Officer Retreat, visited members and friends in hospitals and care facilities, presided at weddings and memorial services, supported the work of committees and distinguished themselves as pastors.

Through the Residency Program, Emily, Daniel and Angela have been shaped by intentional learning units on preaching and worship leadership, pastoral care and visitation and teaching and learning methods. Our Residents continue to take the Good News of Jesus Christ beyond our church walls as they refine their gifts of ministry and prepare for their next calls.

Our Local Mission interests are diverse, and during the first six months of 2016, the team leaders evaluated and redesigned our community ministry to focus on meeting the raw human needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The Local Mission team pointed our volunteer effort and financial aid toward places, programs and ministries that promised to transform lives, relieve suffering and follow Jesus into the dark places in our neighborhoods. An analysis of our community needs indicated that housing/shelter, good, healthy and plentiful food and mental health were the three most pressing needs and so we sought to make the greatest impact in those areas. And attentive to emerging issues, our Local Mission Team established a way to welcome refugees and support their well-being in a new land. In addition, First Pres rescued thousands of pounds of food from UM's Big House, rehabbed a house with Habitat in Ypsilanti, supported families in crises via our Family-to-Family ministry, connected people in Ann Arbor to people in Detroit in our joint work with Cass, fed thousands at the Delonis Center and worked with partners at Peace Neighborhood Center.





First Pres covers the world with God's grace through our common mission – Haiti, Israel/Palestine, Nicaragua, Niger, Philippines and Russia. Early in 2016, we launched an appreciative process – Mission Re-Imagined – to capture the best of our mission teams, focus our diverse interests and create a healthy missional culture of collaboration and partnership.

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Kirkpatrick stirred our imaginations and focused the Gospel's call to be transforming agents in our ministry. His challenge has guided our sprawling mission ministry to embrace a shared vision and to adopt a set of best missional practices. 2016 saw our Mission Teams travel to Nicaragua in spring and to the Philippines in early September. Both teams connected with our mission partners, renewed

friendships and did important work across cultures to share the Good News of God. With mission interests spanning our globe and touching many locations in Ann Arbor, our gratitude and compassion inspire us to be God's agents of hope and Christian transformation.

It is a great joy and privilege to serve with a host of talented colleagues and among gifted church leaders. I am grateful for this opportunity in ministry as First Pres continues to present a strong witness to God's presence in our world, to be a holy place of hospitality and to a voice for peace, justice and mercy in our Ann Arbor community.

*Peace,*  
*Rev. Jay Sanderford*

## Reports of Session Committees



### Christian Education

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The Christian Education Committee is responsible for Christian Education for all ages. Three work groups, corresponding to the prior committees, are part of the overall Christian Education Committee: Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Adult Education. The three work groups were ably led this year by Karen Mundus, Sarah Glinka Endicott, and Tim Wendler respectively. Many thanks to them, the staff members Debbie MacVey, Jim Monnett, and Jay Sanderford, and to the more than 200 volunteers who teach and help with Sunday school, lead our youth ministry, and lead adult education experiences. Another part of this ministry is to provide support to candidates for the ministry. We have two candidates, Anna Cooke, and Andy Spaulding, both of whom are studying at Union Theological Seminary. Jim Cameron maintains contact with Anna and provides periodic updates to Session on her status, and Tim Wendler does the same for Andy.

An important part of our job as the church, in Jay Sanderford's succinct phrase, is to 'make disciples.' First Pres Ann Arbor provides the space – the teachers, the leaders, the curriculum, the chairs, the whiteboards, the markers, Bibles, the projectors, the TV screens – so that Christian wisdom can be experienced by children, youth, and adults. We give everyone an opportunity to claim their identity as believers in Jesus Christ so that we can be witnesses and servants of God to our church, our local community, and our world.

Here's a summary of the past year, showing the breadth and depth of vibrant learning at First Presbyterian Ann Arbor this past year:

- Eighth Graders explored their Christian faith through a year-long Confirmation class. All ten joined the church as full members in May.
- In March the Children's Education Ministry held the annual Peeps Fair. Families gathered on a Saturday morning and, using Easter Candy Peeps, created shoebox dioramas, illustrating favorite Bible Stories. The families' wonderful creations were on display the following Sunday during Coffee Hour.
- In April our Mids youth went to Holland for the Believe Youth Conference to learn about David, worship with 600 others and grow in their faith.
- 90 children followed the Apostle Paul in his journeys in June, at Vacation Bible School. They were led and assisted by more than 70 volunteers.
- 25 children and youth attended Camp Westminster this August; several of whom received scholarship assistance for camp. This was our seventeenth summer there.
- 19 of our high school students had a successful mission trip to Mt. Vernon, Indiana in June. They worked with Evansville Habitat doing finish landscaping on one house, and right next door they did site prep removing a large wooden garage. They also removed a cinder block out building for the African Episcopal Church.
- 15 Third Graders received Bibles in October. We give the Common English Bible. This is a new translation with clear language and very good helps to make the Bible come alive for young (and not so young) readers.
- 34 Sunday School teachers helped with child care or teaching in the children's area from crib through fifth grade.
- 70 children and their parents participated in eight Milestone events, highlighting the tie between church and home. Milestone events are related to learning about

baptism, communion, worship, the Bible, mission, Sunday School, and the “Amazing Stuff” classes to learn about our bodies being made in the image of God. Two of the events are for preschool children, and six are for Kindergarten - fifth graders.

- Author, activist, and Fourth Presbyterian Chicago member Jeane Bishop visited First Presbyterian for a presentation on “Change of Heart: Justice, Mercy and Making Peace with My Sister’s Killer” relating her experience related to the murder of her sister and her family in their Chicago home
- A new intergenerational ‘ConnectEd’ after-worship program focusing on discussion of the main theme of that day’s service – started in summer, continued into the fall
- Long time Adult Education leaders Wally Schmeichel and Ed Koster were recognized for their dedication and service
- An increase in the breadth of adult education classes offered this fall (the variety of Adult Education programs include: Bible studies, theological interpretation, mission and social justice, environmental opportunities, interaction of faith and science, current challenges of the church, parenting, and discussions of the weekly sermon).
- In November, 14 high schoolers went to Pittsburgh to rehab houses with the Pittsburgh Project.

The Children’s Ministry continues to prosper under Debbie

MacVey’s wonderfully personal and constant leadership. Staffing the many programs with volunteers and equipping them with materials is an enormous task that Debbie and the Children’s Ministry Work Group faithfully and cheerfully execute. The Youth Ministry continues to grow both in numbers and activity level under the Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett’s very capable leadership. Middle and high school youth have many opportunities for spiritual and personal growth through Bible study, mission experiences, social events, and, particularly at the high school level, leadership development.

The Adult Education Ministry continues to grow and evolve under the leadership of the Rev. Jay Sanderford. Jay shared new perspectives, utilized his significant adult education experience and impressive knowledge of current Christian authors and publications to identify new formats and topics. This work group focused this year on expanding the program variety to reach more of our members and visitors. Thanks to the many leaders who spend copious amounts of time and energy preparing and presenting.

When we baptize we promise to guide and nurture each new believer with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of Christ’s church. The many people involved with these ministries, only a few of whom can be named in a brief report, are part of fulfilling that promise. Thanks to all of them.

*Steve McKenny, Chair*



## Congregational Life

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The Congregational Life Committee seeks to support a community of God’s people that nurtures and sustains members of the congregation and provides a warm, welcoming atmosphere to all.

Committee members work closely with our intrepid staff liaison, the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, to welcome visitors, conduct new member classes and host all-church events.

Congregational Life also supports other aspects of our life together including Stephen Ministry, the Parish Nurse ministry, age-based fellowship groups - Mature Ministries (60 and up), Immature Ministries (40s and 50s), T2A2 (20s and 30s) - ushers and the Board of Deacons.

Each Sunday a host of volunteers seek to create a welcoming church.

- In addition to ushers, greeters at entrances to the building on Sunday mornings welcome people to the church.
- Volunteers answer questions and provide directions at the Welcome Center and in the Church Office.
- Greeters-in-the-Pew welcome visitors and people they do not know and greet them before moving on to their regular Sunday routines.

- A cadre of cookie bakers provides home-baked cookies at Coffee Hour, apparently appreciated as there are never left overs.
- In support of serving Fair Trade Coffee at all church events, on the first Sunday of each month at Coffee Hour volunteers from the Congregational Life and Mission Committees sell Fair Trade coffee, which, thanks to Linda Robinson, is also available for sale at the Church Office during the week.

A number of special events supported by the committee are observed on Sunday mornings throughout the year.

- On Easter and Christmas Sundays when there is no regular Coffee Hour, a special welcome is provided with coffee and some food in the area outside of the Sanctuary.
- A milestone event, the celebration of 190th Anniversary First Presbyterian, Ann Arbor, was held on Sunday, August 21 and will continue throughout the year.
- An Ice Cream Social held in early September was enjoyed by people of all ages – what’s not to like about ice cream?

- A Blessing of Animals, including dogs, cats, birds, a horse, God's creatures all and loved dearly by God's people, was held September 25.
- A new event, a Christmas cookie exchange, was held at the December 18 at Coffee Hour where each participant who brought cookies selected a variety of cookies to take home in a nifty seasonal take-out box.
- A Women's "Walking Retreat" was held in May. Participants were divided into several walking groups, based on distance they wished to walk, with stopping points for reflection and meditation.
- During December a program, the Gift of the Magi, where each person committed to pray, make a gift and do something for another person.

The committee extends an invitation to attend the church and to membership to regular visitors and to those who express an interest in uniting with the church.

- The committee oversees publicity working with Mary Jones to create and place ads in several print publications to reach different segments of the Ann Arbor community.
- A Sunday morning Q&A's with Fairfax Fair, "Tell Me More," were held February and April to provide information about the church to interested prospective new members,
- Four sets of New Member classes and breakfasts were held in March, May, September and December. The classes provide an introduction to the Presbyterian Church and our Ann Arbor church in particular. The breakfasts, also Session meetings, followed by recognition during the worship service, welcome participants into membership. Forty seven people, excluding confirmands, joined the church in 2016; see the section "New Members" later in this report for a list of their names.
- A welcome reunion for members of the Winter/Spring 2016 New Member Classes was held at Fairfax's home in September to provide a chance for these new members to reconnect and to make new connections with each other and with Fairfax.

The committee, to foster cross-generational community, sponsors a number of all-church events.

- The church was at near capacity for the Annual Meeting held in January that was followed by a well-attended luncheon prepared by chef Christine Miller, and served by a group of experienced assistants.
- The All Church Picnic held in June included the appearance of the Thunderwüde Blue Grass Band, a repeat of the ever-popular barbeque catered by Satchel's and inflatables for children. The weather was great, the band was good and there was a good turnout by the congregation.
- The fourth annual Christmas Dinner was held, December 4, with 200 guests who enjoyed a festively decorated social hall, yummy food prepared by our chef, music provided by jazz musicians from Community High School, singing of Christmas songs and a spirited, animated rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The committee also sponsors smaller fellowship events.

- Saturday Suppers held in the spring and the fall at members' homes provided an opportunity to share a meal with new friends and old.

The work of the 2016 Congregational Life Committee was made possible by elders Gwen Alexander and Olivier Joliet and co-opted members James Cameron, Rachel Dudley, Kay Erdman, Gail Grady, Jennifer Hoy, Peggy Jensen, Diane Johnston, Catherine Kendall, Dale Leslie, Barb Mueller, Marcey Terrien, Sara VanderVoort and Marti Wendler and staff liaison Melissa Anne Rogers.

*Marita Servais, Chair*

## Parish Nurse

I can't believe I'm starting my fifth year as your Parish Nurse. There are so many wonderful people in this congregation who allow me to be part of their lives, sometimes at their most vulnerable or painful. I do not take this responsibility lightly, and am humbled by your trust in me.

We continue to support our Helping Hands Volunteers who cook meals, drive members to appointments, help with some of our homebound members and share God's love through their service to our congregation. Our Restore Hope support group continues to offer compassion and a listening ear to others who have a family member with a severe mental illness. This is a very unique and immensely helpful group, led by Linda Koopman and Nicole Joliet. I am most grateful for the care and time both Nicole and Linda give to make this group a reality. Our Caregivers Support group continues to meet monthly for those who need an outlet and safe place to talk about the challenges of caring for a loved one. And of course, we continue to offer the fall flu shot clinic and several blood drives throughout the year.

Our Safety Group continues to meet and look at different areas within our church building and events. Perhaps you participated in our first ever Sunday Sanctuary Evacuation held in June. We emptied a full sanctuary in under 2.5 minutes - which impressed the Ann Arbor Emergency Manager. We also learned what areas we will need to work on in our beautiful, but old building, to safely and efficiently evacuate everyone from every floor. Signage, usher training, staff training, and emergency policies continue to keep this group busy, and you will again, hear more as the year goes on.

*Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse*





## Finance & Stewardship

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We are happy to report that due to the diligence of all Session Committees, our 2016 annual budget has remained either at or under budget through December. Thank-you to the congregation for your 2016 pledges which allowed us to end on such a strong note. As we enter 2017, we would again like to thank the congregation for your continued generosity and pledges for 2017, along with Bill and Pam Wood, Annual Giving Co-Chairs, for their leadership for the 2017 Stewardship campaign.

2016 was a year of transition in our Finance Office. Lynette Conner, who had served our congregation for five years, departed in February 2016 and a search began for a replacement. In October, Anna Miller was named our new finance manager. We are indebted to both Bill Austin, our church treasurer, and Anna for their leadership and dedication during the extended interim period. Our finance office did not miss a beat! With Anna's promotion, the Personnel Committee hired a new part-time finance assistant, Stephanie Anderson, who began her duties January 9, 2017.

The Committee in December 2016 recommended to Session the creation of a new Campus Ministry Fund in the Church's designated funds, with the \$300,000 gift received from UMPC in November 2015. In addition, Finance recommended the 2017 quarterly payments associated with the ECIR 30 year promissory note also be directed to this designated fund to be used to support our church's campus ministry program. Session approval is expected as part of approving the 2017 annual budget. The Church received the first two quarterly payments of \$13,750 in July and October as provided for in the promissory note.

The Committee began discussions in early 2016 regarding the resident ministry program and our church's assumption of the program in August 2017. The committee's research and deliberations were undertaken to insure that when our church assumes responsibility for this program we are well prepared and ready to launch a successful and sustainable program. The committee has focused on three key issues: (1) the status of the Resident Endowment Fund, (2) the appropriate annual withdrawal rate beginning in August 2017, and (3) how to fund ongoing pastoral and facilities costs currently underwritten by the Lilly program. The committee continues to work with the Resident Minister Campaign Committee, the Resident Minister Committee, pastoral staff, and Session to insure a successful transition of this program in mid August 2017.

In May 2016 the Committee approved the hiring of Myler Szczyпка to conduct a 2014 and 2015 independent financial review of First Presbyterian financial statements. The audit review began in September with a series of meetings with the finance staff and the church treasurer. The final 2014 report was completed in October and the 2105 report will be completed in early January 2017. The Committee will meet with

the firm to review the findings for both years at that time.

Officers for the Corporation for 2016 were President- Peter Santinga, Vice President- Lucie Audette, and Treasurer, Bill Austin. Members of the Finance Committee were Lucie Audette, Chair, Bill Wood, Elder Class of 2018, Peter Santinga-Class of 2017, and co-opted members Len Rezmierski, Jackson Turner, Jim Clark, Zach Monsma, and Kathy Hillig. In June, three new co-opted members joined the committee Brian Dabrowski, Susan Washabaugh, and Bruce Thomson. Resident Minister Rev. Daniel Ervin rotated onto the committee for the first half of 2016 and Rev. Angela Ryo joined the committee for the final half of 2016. Thank you to all who have served during this past year. Your dedication and commitment are appreciated.

*Lucie Audette, Chair*

### Annual Giving

As co-chairs of this year's Annual Giving Workgroup we are very thankful for the hard work of our members: John LeDuc, Katie and Bill Parker, Chris Queen, Brian Baumhover and Lee Roberts. Throughout the campaign other members of the congregation responded generously with their time by making telephone calls, writing articles for the newsletter, and giving Sunday Faith in Action talks. The entire church staff provided invaluable guidance and support.

Our theme, Grace and Gratitude, was reflected in the written materials developed by the committee, the music chosen by Tom Granum, and the scripture readings selected by Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair. Our goal was to convey this message in a simple, straightforward way that encouraged people to focus on God's grace as they prayerfully considered how to respond with their pledges for 2017.

The five-week formal campaign kicked off on September 18 with a Faith in Action presentation and mailing of the Stewardship packets to the congregation. Presentations were made to new member classes during the Fall to explain the importance of pledging to the work of the church. Members of the congregation representing different demographics shared their Faith in Action stories each week. The committee decided to highlight the aggregate numbers in our budget by presenting large graphic checks made out to the four areas of ministry, Congregational Life, Mission, Christian Education and Worship.

Commitment Sunday was October 23 with a final Faith in Action appeal. That afternoon a team of volunteers made phone calls to all households that had not pledged up to that point. The feedback from these calls was helpful in guiding our efforts to wind-up the campaign. A second round of phone calls was made in early December.

Pledges received as of January 20 total \$1,581,861 with 540 households participating. We are at 93% of our goal for 2017.

While the formal campaign is over, the finance office reports that pledges are continuing to come in daily. We have stressed that no pledge is too big or too small and we are hoping to increase this percentage so that vital programs can be maintained in the coming year.

In closing, we want to express our gratitude to all who have submitted pledges for 2017.

*Bill and Pam Wood, Co-Chairs*

## Endowment and Special Gifts

The Endowment & Special Gifts (E&SG) Committee includes: Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Rev. Daniel Ervin, Lucie Audette, Martha Kershaw, Peggy Fisher, Bill Upton and Chair Doug Gottliebson. Keith Molin has remained an active advisor to the group.

2016 started out with 96 Legacy Partners. We ended the year with 104. There are currently seven family units moving through the various stages of giving starting with “interested in leaving a gift to First Pres” through paperwork at the estate planning lawyer. Legacy Partners are active members that have decided to include First Presbyterian Church in their estates. These church members intend to give as they did during their active years with the church.

E&SG dedicated an entire meeting to the “giving experience” from Cheryl Elliot, retired President of the Community Foundation and Julaine Le Duc, Fund Raising at Washtenaw Community College. We learned how complicated the giving process can be.

In June we hosted a Legacy Weekend with Rev. Buchanan, retired Fourth Presbyterian Chicago Minister, as the guest speaker at Sunday services and the Legacy Luncheon where 65 Legacy Partners gathered for food, conversation and gaining insight about endowment from Rev. Buchanan.

Ron and Diana Gardner hosted an estate planning seminar during the Legacy weekend which lead to new endowment partners.

Communication with First Presbyterian families has included a revised Legacy Brochure, direct mailings, monthly newsletter highlights and one on one meetings for the purpose of aiding and guiding church members to make long-lasting gifts to First Presbyterian Church.

We could use a few more church members on the E&SG Committee and we are always looking for that next Legacy Partner.

*Doug Gottliebson, Chair*

## Technology

Technology Work Group is responsible for many of the systems at First Pres, including

- coordinate the volunteers for running the sound board and lights for all services and meetings in the Sanctuary (including memorial services and other uses during the week) and for the outdoor worship,

- provide audio feed to WAAM and podcast of sermons for the website,
- keep audio visual equipment and video monitors in good working order,
- ensure staff have computers, printers and LAN access, and
- contract with service providers for our website, telephone service, software.

At the beginning of the year we had a series of conference calls with Shelby to address some issues with the Arena software. Shelby worked with us to resolve these issues and we have a contact to work with for any future difficulties.

The major activity this year was to enhance the recording capability in Monteith Hall. Sound Planning was engaged to

- install two PZM microphones in the front of the room,
- add a new solid-state USB/Compact Flash (and CD) recorder to the audio closet for better recording,
- add two more wireless mics on a separate frequency, and
- re-wire the existing soundboard for more streamlined operation.

This was done in time for recording in Monteith Hall while summer worship at 9:30 a.m. was held outdoors.

In the Sanctuary, the pre-sets for the lighting were re-programmed to improve the function for the operators during services. Additional neck loop receivers were purchased for use with the telecoil hearing aids. They are in the cabinet with the older earbud style receivers. We’re also in the process of replacing some of the hanging mics in the Chancel.

We continue to keep the computers and printers used by the staff in working order and replace the oldest ones as they begin to fail. A Disaster Recovery Plan for the church’s technical equipment was finalized this year.

I would like to thank the Work Group and many other volunteers for their dedicated service this year, in the many IT activities at First Pres. Special thanks to Lisa Haddrill for following through and helping to coordinate all the projects we worked on this year.

*Kathy Hillig, Chair*





# Mission

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The vision for Mission at First Presbyterian Church is to see God's compassion transforming the world through our witness. The First Presbyterian mission community exists to go and bear witness to Jesus Christ in love, justice and reconciliation. These two statements were developed in 2016 as the Mission Committee worked to define and vision the future of Mission at our church. We began our Re-Imagining Mission process in January with a Mission Vision Retreat, "Heavenly Calling, Earthly Work," facilitated by Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, former Director of the Presbyterian World Mission Agency and Stated Clerk of PC(USA). This conference started an ongoing conversation about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the world. In our discussions we celebrated our church's current and past work in mission, assessed and evaluated that work, and then worked collaboratively with our global and local Mission Teams to develop mission and vision statements and identify core values that will guide our future mission endeavors. We also developed consensus on some standard operating practices.

The primary work of the Mission Committee is to identify and meet crucial global and local needs of people and communities. Mission is done in partnership as we are called to work locally and globally to share the Good News. In 2016 the Local Mission Team dispersed funding to 15 partner organizations on the basis of identified core values and after assessment of local community needs. The Team also coordinated volunteer efforts for members wishing to help with food, shelter, housing and health needs. Five global mission teams (Haiti Medical Mission, Philippines, Israel/Palestine, Russia and Nicaragua) worked in partnership with people in the countries they connect with, building friendship and understanding as they worked together to determine and meet needs. The Co-Worker Ministries Team promoted the work of our PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Michael and Rachel Ludwig who are working and living in Niger with their two young children.

While we continue to support a College Ministry program under the able and faithful leadership of Rev. Dr. James Monnett, a College Ministry Study Group works to complete their study of College Ministry and provide a vision and pathway for the future of this mission to students in our community.

Through Mission Committee efforts the congregation contributed to five special offerings: four PC(USA) offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost (40% to Corner Health Center for mental health care for youth), Peace & Global Witness (25% to Samaritas to help with resettlement of unaccompanied refugee minors from Syria and the Middle East), Christmas Joy; and the Christmas Eve Offering for recovery efforts in Haiti. Also, the committee provided information for those who desired to make a donation to help in the Flint Water Crisis.

In partnership, the committee again participated with the Washtenaw Mission Cluster, a collaboration of six Presbyte-

rian Congregations in Washtenaw County, working together to do mission projects such as the Riverside Meal program at Ypsilanti First Presbyterian Church. We also recommended and received Session approval for the "One Human Family" banner which was posted outside our church in support of refugees and our Muslim neighbors. Additional efforts have been launched for involvement with other community partners in support of the resettlement of refugees in our community. We also partnered a second year with Hillel Student Center, our Jewish neighbors, in a garden project on the Hill St. property, with produce given to Food Gatherers' local food programs. And we partnered with the Congregational Life Committee to sell Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee which supports a fair wage and sustainable livelihood for coffee farmers around the world.

Our Mission Re-Imagined year culminated in a collaborative effort to raise awareness and familiarize the congregation with the varied aspects of mission work at First Presbyterian and the opportunities to serve. In November, twelve Mission groups participated in "Forward in Mission," a Mission Bazaar and Activity Fair. Thanks to all who visited and supported the Fair. We are grateful and blessed by the generosity of our church family and the caring work of so many, and are most appreciative for the leadership and vision of our staff liaison, Rev. Jay Sanderford. We ask for your support and prayers as we together continue to bear witness to Jesus Christ in love, justice and reconciliation.

*Helena Prince, Chair*

## Local Mission Team

During 2016, in the spirit of "Mission Re-Imagined," the Local Mission Committee sought to clarify our vision. We reviewed local community needs assessment data and surveyed FPC mission participants to determine which areas of need we felt God was calling us to address. We identified the following priorities:

- 1) Shelter, Housing and Homelessness
- 2) Hunger, Food and Nutrition
- 3) Community Mental Health
- 4) Emergency Assistance & Coordination of Care
- 5) Social Justice, Advocacy and Education
- 6) School Age Youth
- 7) Refugee Resettlement
- 8) Employment Assistance and Job Training

In 2016, First Pres continued to serve our neighbors in Washtenaw County and Detroit with programs such as English as a Second Language, Family to Family Christmas, the Rehoboth Garden, and the Rotating Shelter. The Stadium Food Rescue program expanded to distribute athletic department food



throughout the school year to food programs in Ypsilanti and Detroit. It is now called “Feeding Our Neighbors.”

Our volunteers helped meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in our community through numerous agencies, including Alpha House, Cass Community Social Services, Delonis Center, Hope Clinic, Habitat for Humanity, Peace Neighborhood Center, and several more First Pres members joined with other religious and social service organizations to form a new initiative, “Washtenaw Refugee Welcome” (WRW).

Finally, our grant application process was refined and updated. The result was more focused mission impact than previous years, with fewer grants (15) but some larger “impact” awards (up to \$10,000) to programs which address our highest priority areas. We awarded \$70,500 in grants with an additional \$4,000 distributed to other agencies who requested support. Our goal is to direct our limited funds where they will have the greatest impact in our community.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, expertise and money to support Local Mission at First Pres – we are living God’s call to love our neighbors!

*Martha Kershaw, Chair*

## **Jeanne Seeley Mission Fund**

The Jeanne Seeley Mission Fund committee was pleased to receive multiple applications in 2016 and awarded funds for several projects that reflect the mission values of First Presbyterian Church.

- **Habitat Home Improvement Program, Washtenaw County** – \$15,000 was awarded to assist current homeowners make much needed improvements to increase energy efficiency and the safety of their homes.
- **Friends in Deed Circles Program, Washtenaw County, (2016-18)** – \$25,000 was awarded over three years to begin a mentorship program that provides support to break the cycle of poverty.
- **Role of Faith-based Communities in Peacemaking, Ann Arbor Rotary** – \$25,000 was awarded to support a two day conference in April, 2017 that will address the root causes of violence and poverty in the US and worldwide.

Financial awards for 2016 totaled \$65,000. Approximately \$20,000 remains in the Seeley Fund. We continue to review applications, especially those addressing food and housing insecurity.

*Carol Smith, Chair*

## **Haiti Mission Team**

### **Background and History**

The Haiti Medical Mission Team was established at First Presbyterian Church in 1999 in cooperation with the Medical Benevolence Foundation, the largest and oldest of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly-validated mission support groups, to provide opportunities for members to carry out Jesus Christ’s commission to heal the sick. The Mission Team

chose Haiti as its focus because Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and its proximity to the U.S. makes travel relatively quick and inexpensive.

### **Vision**

The Haiti Medical Mission’s vision is not simply to deliver health care and related services, but also to empower and support Haitians to meet their own health care needs. Members have developed long-range, sustainable mission partnerships with the following organizations in Haiti:

- Hospital Ste. Croix (Holy Cross Hospital), Leogane, Haiti
- Faculte de Sciences Infirmieres de l’Universite Episcopale d’Haiti (School of Nursing, Episcopal University of Haiti), Leogane, Haiti [www.haitinursing.org](http://www.haitinursing.org)
- Pazapa Center for Handicapped Children ([www.pazapa.or](http://www.pazapa.or)), Jacmel, Haiti

### **2016 Accomplishments**

1. The School of Nursing graduated its eighth class and celebrated the eleventh anniversary of its opening.
2. The Pazapa School in Jacmel reopened in a new building. Classes are held in a building with earthquake safety standards. Over 140 students receive special education classes and family services.
3. The HMT fund-raising sales event of apple pies and rum cakes at the Mission Bazaar was again a success. Members and friends of the Haiti Mission Team made these baked goods in November to obtain funds for our various projects in Haiti.
4. We also changed the Haiti Medical Mission Team name to “The Haiti Mission Team” (HMT) to more accurately reflect our work.

### **Goals for the Future**

During the 2016 year the HMT reviewed and discussed various aspects of the Haiti HMT. The following 2017 goals were unanimously supported:

1. Continue collaboration with and sustained active support for the FSIL Nursing School in Leogane, Haiti, the Haiti Nursing Foundation, the Medical Benevolence Foundation, and the Pazapa/Siloe Foundation & Family Health Ministries.
2. Consult with partners in Haiti on needs and how we can collaborate.
3. Make supportive nursing/medical or advocacy trips to the Leogane area.
4. Be open to opportunities for medical mission in collaboration with others.
5. Recruit members to continue an active Haiti Mission Team.

Haiti 2017 mission trips are presently in the planning stages.

*Rosemarie Rowney and Leonard Rezmierski, Co-Chairs*

## Israel/Palestine Mission Team

The Israel/Palestine Mission Team is an advocacy and social justice group that is committed to peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. A summary of some of the notable events and activities in 2016 follows.

- We held regular meetings of the mission team in the French Room/Library on the following dates: Jan. 22, Feb. 22, March 28, April 25, May 23, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, and Nov. 28. In addition to handling business of the mission team, a part of each meeting was devoted to learning more about our several peace partners in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.
- An event was held on February 13 to recognize the peace-making contributions of our founder and long-time member Rodney Bentz. Members of our mission team and community members who had worked with Rod spoke about his good work; Rod gave a few brief remarks. We mourn Rod's death, which occurred on February 27.
- A major initiative of 2016, as part of our participation in the Mission Re-Imagined Process, was the development of a strategic mission plan, a set of objectives, and a plan to implement these objectives during the next several years.
- Our mission team was well represented at a dinner and presentation on "Peacemaking in the Midst of Conflict" by Aziz Abu Sarah, held at Zion Lutheran Church on March 20. We heard an excellent speaker and we made important connections with many of the several hundred local persons who attended the event.
- The annual IPMT study retreat, held on June 4 in Monteith Hall, hosted Kathi Neubert, who spent a year at the Max Rayne School in Jerusalem, where the Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel was founded. Kathi described her experiences at the school; she helped to inform us about the daily work of the school.
- Our mission team helped to bring the arrival of refugees to Washtenaw County to the attention of the Session; the Session agreed to display One Human Family signs on church property. Our mission team has strongly supported the congregation's involvement in the Washtenaw Refugees Welcome organization.
- Jim Thomson was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pilgrims of Ibillin. Jim's presence on the Board will make use of his organizational and business skills to help define future support for the Mar Elias Education Institutions and the other peace partners of the Pilgrims of Ibillin. Jim will be invaluable in interpreting the peace, justice, and reconciliation missions of the Pilgrims of Ibillin to our congregation.
- The annual cinnamon roll fund raiser was again held. On Saturday, November 5, twenty five of us, under the leadership of Barb McKinley, produced, baked, and packaged 150 pans of cinnamon rolls. These were distributed on Sunday, November 6; all pans of cinnamon rolls were sold. Proceeds go to support our mission work.

- Seven of our members attended a fund-raising dinner on November 10, sponsored by Zeitouna, a group of eleven Jewish and Arab women in Ann Arbor. The fund raiser was to support "B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories."
- Our mission team participated in the "Forward in Mission" event that was held on November 20. We engaged some members of our congregation in conversation about our mission. We sold olive oil soap from the West Bank community of Zababdeh, olive wood products carved by Palestinians, and other craft items.
- The annual IPMT "Christmas in Bethlehem" potluck dinner was held on December 7 at the home of Marcey Terrien; we celebrated the activities of the Israel Palestine Mission Team during 2016.

At the end of the year, IPMT decided to disperse most of its available funds according to the following: \$7,000 to fund science lab equipment and computers for the elementary and secondary Mar Elias schools; \$2,500 to fund students at the Beit Jala secondary school, program support for the Wi'am Center for Conflict Resolution in Bethlehem, support for a girls soccer program at the Diyar Consortium in Bethlehem, clean water programs for schools in Gaza, scholarships for the Friends School in Ramallah, support for the Open House Preschool for Arab Children in Ramle, support for books and computers for the Seraj Libraries in the West Bank, and job creation and scholarships in the West Bank village of Zababdeh. In addition, \$1,500 was sent to the Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel for student scholarships. Finally, \$500 was sent to support the advocacy of the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the PCUSA.

We give thanks that Rev. Daniel Ervin was our staff liaison during this year. He was a strong supporter of our mission; he provided excellent advice and liaison with the clergy and staff.

Please contact us to learn more about the Mission Team activities or if you would like to be added to our email distribution list.

*Margaret McClamroch, Silvia Pedraza, Co-chairs*

## Nicaragua Mission Team

In 2016 the Nicaragua Mission Team made its third intergenerational trip. This year we traveled to a new location, a tiny community, Quebrada Honda in the mountainous region near Matagalpa. Twelve participants including three youth spent the week of April 2-10 helping the community build a new classroom. We supplied the materials and assisted in laying cement block, creating rebar forms and painting the existing classroom. We spent time getting to know the children and members of the community, eating, playing and working. Again, our partner in Nicaragua, CEPAD, made our arrangements and our leader was Justin Sundberg, a PC(USA) mission co-worker.

In June, 2016, Justin Sundberg, his wife Renée and their

four children visited with us at First Pres. They taught an intergenerational Sunday school class, enjoyed the church picnic and barbeque. We planned several opportunities to socialize with and learn more about the Sundbergs and their role as mission co-workers in Nicaragua. During the church picnic, we were able to sell the beautiful jewelry made by our friend in Nicaragua, Roberto Corrales.

The Nicaragua mission team actively participated in the Mission ReImagined process that spanned 2016.

We participated in the Forward in Mission Bazaar on November 20 where we increased awareness of our mission project in Nicaragua. We sold jewelry and shares to support our next efforts to paint the classroom we built and help supply clean water using simple filters that we will construct during our next intergenerational trip in April, 2017.

We anticipate another visit from the Sundberg family in 2017.

*Carol Smith, Chair*

## **Philippines Mission Team**

The Philippines Mission Team (PMT) continued its support of seven ongoing projects in the Philippines:

1. Academic Scholarships for about seventy iHome Dumaguete elementary, high school and college students.
2. Talay Psychiatric Hospital and Rehabilitation Center daily breakfast and water project, providing protein (i.e. eggs, beans, sausage) and clean water every day of the week for more than eighty-five otherwise malnourished patients.
3. School textbooks, supplies, and children's books, providing about thirty large shipping boxes sent to locations in the Philippines.
4. iHome Dumaguete Youth Leadership Summer Camp, a leadership training camp for sixty-plus iHome teenagers.
5. Dumaguete Sewing Project providing two large shipping boxes of fabrics sent for this "sewing mothers" livelihood project.
6. Dumaguete Prison Ministry, providing two large shipping boxes of dental care and other hygiene supplies for jail inmates,
7. Bajumpandan Dental Clinic, providing upkeep, supplies, and financial assistane for iHome residents to receive much-needed dental care.

To help support our mission projects, which have an annual total operating cost of nearly \$17,000, the PMT held a Soup and Salad Luncheon in January, a Rummage and Bake Sale in April, a Philippines Pig Roast Dinner in October, and participated in the Moving Mission Forward Bazaar in November. In May and June we were busy with the collection of school books and supplies.

On September 1-9 a group of six (Liina Wallin, Elsie Weil, Romy Aquino, Hank McQueen, Rev. Gary Oliver, and Bob Wallin) visited the Philippines, particularly Dumaguete and Manila, on an exploratory and partnership-strengthening

mission trip. The site visits, information-gathering, numerous meetings, and food and weather were a great success, and the PMT continues its review and assessment of our mission work with our partners (iHome Dumaguete, a Christian non-profit; Silliman University; and Silliman University Church).

The Philippines Mission Team wants to express its great appreciation Rev. Jay Sanderford for his valuable assistance in 2016. We also thank all of our supporters, volunteers, and donors without whose support we could not maintain our mission. All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, and to join our team as a member, activity volunteer or supporter.

*Bob Wallin, Chair*

## **Russia Mission Team**

The Russia Mission Team's focus is on ministry at a summer camp in Davydovo, Russia, for children with disabilities and their caregivers. In order to raise funds for ministry, we've sold Russian baked goodies for our congregation's members and friends. We sponsored a Coffee Hour in March, partly to let folks know of our connections in Russia, and partly to take orders for traditional Russian Easter Cakes to be picked up on Palm Sunday. For November's "Forward in Mission," we offered Russian Tea Cakes and Stolichni (raisin bread). We continue our friendship with nearby St. Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Church and with efforts to field a team to serve at the summer camp in the village of Davydovo, northeast of Moscow. Fr. Vladimir Klimzo, rector of the church there, has two members of his family in the Ann Arbor area this academic year, and we enjoy contact with them. His youngest daughter, Anastasia, is working in music ministry at St. Vladimir; his oldest granddaughter, Maria, is studying English. At the close of 2016 we were in the process of recruiting a team of students to serve at the summer camp and of planning a possible trip to participate in an October church festival in Davydovo.

*Linda Speck, Chair*

## **Co-Worker Ministry Team**

The Co-Worker Ministry Team continues to support PC (USA) Co-Workers Rev. Michael and Rachel Ludwig, serving in Niger, Africa, with prayers and monthly updates reported in First Press.

The Mission Committee also continues its support for the Ludwigs' financially, through budgeted and special giving.

Thanks to the congregation and the Forward In Mission Bazaar 58 shares (\$5.00 each) were sold to support the rickshaw program the Ludwigs' helped to create and support. This program provides jobs for men and transportation for the village. These funds will help with additional income-development rickshaws as well as for repair and maintenance.

The Ludwigs' have recently opened their heart and home and adopted a young Niger boy. This will make his life not only a part of their lives but one far better than ever dreamed possible.



The Ludwigs' write: "It's captured our hearts as a place of great need, where people with skills in language and teaching can make a huge impact in the lives of ordinary Nigeriens through literacy training and exposure to the gospel."

Niger is among the world's poorest countries, has a literacy rate of 29% and experiences frequent famines. Please continue to pray for the safety, well-being, and success of Michael and Rachael with their work with literacy and leadership training in Niger.

*Virginia Bell, Chair*

## College Ministry

First Pres College continues under the direction of Interim Campus Minister Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett with Peer Ministers Alexis Allum and Jenna Harms.

Last winter the Jamaica Mission Trip included students from EMU, WCC, and UM and was a success with combination of work days, community engagement (school & infirmary visit) and time for relationship/team building. The upcoming annual mission trip will be to work at Holy Cross Anglican Church and School in Belize (February 24 - March 3, 2017).

After deliberation First Pres College and Young Life College separated activities this year. The Campus Ministry Workgroup underwent a brainstorming session this summer to help build and focus the program activities for this year.



Relational engagement of college students continues with Sunday college lunches hosted at members' houses or local restaurants and First Pres College on Wednesdays at the Michigan League.

The annual Pancake Supper was a huge success with hundreds of students attending and was made possible with the efforts of many volunteers.

This year the Campus Ministry Study Group consisting of Jeff Colton, Shanna Daly, Jane Dutton, Jackson Turner, Mary Lynn Thomson, and Chris Wahl met regularly and completed their report to guide future policies and practices of First Pres College

Special thanks to the College Ministry work group members Lex Allum, Ann Andrews, Emma Cozier, Mitch Dudley, Emily Karlsson, Josh King, Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett, Katie and Bill Parker, Rev. Jay Sanderford, and Carson Smith.

*David Kershaw, Chair*



## Personnel

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During 2016, your Personnel Committee has followed the good leadership of our predecessor committee chaired ably by Rick Boothman. We have done our best to use the resources of First Presbyterian in an effective and efficient fashion. We have also continued the structure Rick put in place to conduct methodical reviews of how well we are implementing our pastoral and staff resources in order to best serve the congregation's diverse needs and the overall mission of First Pres.

The following elders make up the Personnel Committee: Jim Cameron, Dallas Dort, Chris Dahl, Linda Dabrowski and Chair, Prue Heikkinen. The Reverend Dr. Fair provides executive guidance.

### Overview

Both our pastoral staff and our administrative staff have proven themselves to be hard-working and creative throughout the year.

### Highlights of 2016 include:

- **Reverend Dr. Fair's sabbatical** - This time provided an opportunity to research a topic of great faith challenges in the face of adversity. During her time away from us, the church's Sunday and weekday world continued smoothly with leadership and cooperation of both Rev. Melissa

Anne Rogers and Rev. Jay Sanderford. Their dedication to First Pres, along with Dr. Fair's advance planning, yielded a varied and thought provoking series of sermons and services.

- **Changes to Employee Benefits Program** - Most of our full-time employees, both pastoral and administrative staff, obtain healthcare, and other benefits via the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Board Of Pensions programs. Beginning in 2017, there will be implementation of a "menu-based" plan with choices in options for healthcare coverage. This has no impact on our current staff's benefits which remain in place. However the newly introduced options by Board of Pensions may give First Pres some ability for additional flexibility in future years. This flexibility may or may not change costs, but will give us some choices which may appeal to our employees who have varying levels of need and preference. Making the transition to this new structure has required a fair amount of time by our Finance Office and we must thank Anna Miller for her patience and skills in this area. It will certainly take all of 2017 for us to learn of the upsides and possible downsides of the new benefits plan.

- **Purposeful Review Studies** - Both administrative and pastoral staff annual appraisals were completed. First Pres' annual reviews are aimed at maximizing the precious time and financial resources of the church. As will not surprise you, our staff excels in many ways and there is not a single staff member of First Pres who does not go the extra mile to help. We thank them all for their time and dedication.

#### Transitions:

- We said goodbye to our Finance Manager, Lynnette Conner in February 2016 as she left us to resume a position with her former employer. Anna Miller agreed to become our full-time Finance Manager, moving into the role after having performed the job on a part-time basis for many months. In early 2017, we expect to have a replacement for Anna's former part-time Finance Assistant position filled. With that, our Finance Office should be fully staffed. Again, we owe Anna much gratitude for her calm patience and hard work throughout 2016.
- Michael Wright also left us in 2016 in order to retire from the working world. Mike had been employed by First Pres for many years and he was highly regarded by many members. His ability to work the vintage boiler system was without parallel. We have recently hired a part-time maintenance specialist to assist Adrian Prundeanu with physical plant care. Adrian has added hours to become a full-time administrative staff member.

#### Looking Forward to 2017:

- **Youth and Campus Study Workgroups** - The Personnel Committee will listen closely to the recommendations of both the Youth and Campus Study Workgroups to establish our strategy for filling whatever staffing needs those reports dictate for 2017 and beyond.
- **Resident Ministry** - Our cohort of three Resident Ministers, Emily, Daniel and Angela will be leaving us in mid 2017. It seems they just arrived, but the interview process for the next Resident Ministers has already begun. Kate Silbert has led the Resident Ministry program more than capably during all of 2016. The June 26, 2016 Ordination Service for the Reverend Daniel Ervin held at First Pres was one of the year's highlights and joys. It has been a pleasure and point of pride to witness the growth in spirit and maturity of pastoral skills exhibited by our current Resident Ministry trio.

*Prue Heikkinen, Chair*

### Residency Work Group

In 2016, the Residency Work Group (RWG) continued to strengthen the unique structure of First Presbyterian Church's residency program and to support our three Resident Ministers (RMs): Revs. Emily Béghin, Daniel Ervin, and Angela Ryo. The RWG was especially blessed in celebrating the ordination

of Daniel Ervin here at First Pres on June 26, 2016. Highlights of the RWG's work this year include:

- Establishing and following a Residency curriculum to undergird the development of each Resident Minister in ways that enhance the skills ministers need for twenty-first century ministry
- Conducting comprehensive performance evaluations for each resident minister, as a means to shape his/her continuing work at First Presbyterian Church and the preparation for his/her next call
- Receiving and offering feedback to the resident ministers and to Program Director Rev. Jay Sanderford at monthly meetings
- Designing new, more visually appealing recruitment materials to advertise the program to potential candidates, seminaries, and leaders in the PCUSA
- Tracking and remembering in prayer the seven classes of residents – 21 graduates in all – who have participated in our program since 2001 and now serve the church globally

As 2017 begins, more milestones are on the horizon. Members of the RWG will continue to collaborate with Rev. Sanderford and the Personnel Committee in overseeing the program, and Chris Dahl will assume leadership of the RWG. Between January and March, the group will review applications and interview candidates for the new cohort of resident ministers, the ninth such class to join the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. We hope you will welcome the candidates when they join us for worship on March 5, 2017!

In August 2017, when the new cohort arrives, First Presbyterian takes on full financial responsibility for the residency program. Thanks to the work of the Residency Endowment Committee and to thoughtful input from the Finance Committee and Session, the church is well positioned to steward, financially and spiritually, this new chapter of the resident ministry.

*Kate Silbert, Chair*





## Property

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2016 was a good year for the Property Committee with excellent routine facility maintenance and many completed special projects. Overall expenses were less than anticipated due to lower natural gas costs, a relatively mild winter, and the first full year with new energy-efficient windows in the Lemon wing of the church. The work of the Property Committee and Facilities Manager Adrian Prundeanu, in his first complete year with the church, were also critical to 2016's budget performance. In September our Repair/Maintenance Manager Michael Wright retired after two decades of faithful service to the church. We are fortunate that this essential position has been filled by Almer Harris, a hands-on maintenance and custodial manager with many years of experience in the Ann Arbor Public Schools system.

In February the committee issued a request for professional engineering services to evaluate our existing heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and to recommend improvements and/or replacement systems with estimated costs. In March the Session awarded a study contract to Process Results, an engineering firm from Saline. An excellent, thorough report was completed in September with many suggested options ranging from \$500,000 for selected renovations to nearly \$4,000,000 for complete replacements with contemporary and ecologically-sensitive HVAC systems. It is likely that this report will be a key element in an eventual fund drive for capital improvements to our church.

The committee addressed the following site projects throughout the year:

- The once-active "Green Thumbers" group was reactivated with leadership from committee member Kathy Sample and guidance from Dexter Landscape Architect Sandy Hansen and church members Kathy Clark, Bob Larson, Susan Cares and others. Susan provided some funding for this group's projects in memory of her parents, former members Charles and Marian Cares. The Thumbers have done misc. site projects, replaced four trees in the Memorial Garden and developed a plan dividing our property

into eight zones of limited size for volunteers to manage the landscaping within each zone.

- An enlarged Rehoboth Garden on the Hill Street property had a successful second year. Gardening volunteers from our church and from our Hillel Foundation neighbors produced approx. 300 pounds of produce to help feed those in need.
- The annual leaf raking day was a big success, thanks to Mr. Prundeanu's advance planning and many volunteers including our church's Boy Scouts.
- Two sets of steps leading to the narthex were repaired and recaulked, parking lots and drives were restriped, the stone wall by Triangle Nursery's playground was repaired, and Monday cleanup days were continued.

\*Other 2016 Highlights:

- The new wheelchair lift installation in the Social Hall was completed. This project was funded by an anonymous donor.
- The northwest and southeast side entrance doors were replaced including all hardware and activators.
- Carpeting in five classrooms on the 300 level was replaced.
- Well-done routine maintenance continues to provide an inviting, safe and functional environment for staff and members — cleaning, repair/replacement of plumbing/heating/electrical apparatus and equipment/appliance upkeep of our aging building. Special thanks are given to the church's regular facility volunteers — Don Redding, Paul Smith, Dick Stuber, Kent Palmquist, Joseph Cox, Jim Judson and doubtless others.

The Property Committee wishes to thank members of the congregation for their support of our work and to the Session for its general support and financial backing.

*Robert Pierce, Chair*



## Worship

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In 2016, the following people served on the Worship Committee – Grace Chung, Pam Ehrhart, Kate Drinkwater, Sheryl Powell, Rebecca Benedict, Tom Brandt, Sue Jeffers, Nancy Crawford, Tom Granum (staff liaison, Director of Music Ministries) and Daniel Ervin (Resident Minister).

The committee focused their efforts on coordinating the set up and serving of communion each month, organized volunteers with setting up for summer outdoor worship, decorated the Social Hall, Monteith Hall and the sanctuary for Advent and assisted with any other special worship needs that arose.

With the help of the pastors, we began using a loaf of bread when serving communion by intinction at both the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. With the positive response we have received we are looking at finding a way to serve pieces of bread as we pass the plate to one another at the 9:30 a.m. service in 2017.

The Worship Committee meets the third Monday of each month and we would love for anyone who is interested to join us. Please contact Nancy Crawford at [nancyetal@gmail.com](mailto:nancyetal@gmail.com) with any questions.

*Nancy Crawford, Chair*



## Ministry Through Music 2016

We had over 250 active participants in our congregation's music ministry this year: Chancel Choir and other adult singers (115), Youth Choir (20), Children's Choir (30), Recorder Ensemble (6), Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir (20), Orchestra (40), youth instrumentalists (30). Not only is this a net gain in participation, many of these musicians have been more active this year than in past years. The mission of our ministry through music is "to glorify God and enjoy God forever." Our primary focus is to provide musical leadership for worship.

Special worship services throughout the year, in addition to Sunday-morning and evening worship, included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, memorial services, and weddings.

Some of the highlights of 2016 for worship and music included:

- the interpolation of a variety of settings of *Ah, Holy Jesus* with scripture on Good Friday;
- special choral and instrumental music presented by the youth and children on Palm Sunday and World Communion Sunday;
- outstanding choral and instrumental music for Easter;
- outside summer worship (9:30 services in July) with special music ranging from bagpipes to jazz;
- our hosting a youth choir from Germany on the Sunday celebrating our congregation's 190th anniversary;
- the November 9 (post-election) communion service;

- presentation of excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* for soloists, choir and orchestra during Advent, culminating with an extended presentation of excerpts on December 18;
- the inclusion of John Rutter's *Gloria* for choir, brass octet, percussion and organ as the Christmas Eve prelude for the Services of Lessons and Carols.

Perhaps the musical highlight for much of the Chancel Choir was their presentation of the Mozart *Requiem* with guest conductor Allen Crowell on All Saints' Sunday.

Four youth and three adults from our congregation participated in the Presbyterian Conference on Worship and Music at Montreat, N.C., in June. In the fall, the Children's Choir rehearsal changed from Wednesday evenings to Sunday morning to better meet the needs of our congregation's families.

Our congregation continues to be recognized as a wonderful asset to the community, including our hosting several concerts and events: the Aeolian Chorale; the organ improvisation competition held in conjunction with the UM Conference on Organ Music; Eastern Michigan University Choir; Christmas concert with the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; and A Boychoir Christmas with the Boychoir of Ann Arbor.

We look forward to the continued growth and enrichment of our music ministries in 2017.

**Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy God forever!**

*Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries*

## Other Reports



### Board of Deacons

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Often referred to as the hands and feet of the Church, the deacons quietly and dependably provided active care, love and service to the congregation. The following examples represent some of the many things deacons do throughout the year:

- make countless phone calls
- visit hospitals and homes
- serve communion at all worship services and to those are homebound
- help with special services, including those at Glacier Hills
- serve at the Welcome Center
- make more than 500 flower deliveries
- support the Care Card ministry
- organize and sponsor brunches
- welcome and shepherd new members

Under the guidance, encouragement and supervision of our

pastoral care staff leaders — Associate Pastor, Melissa Anne Rogers and Parish Nurse Sandy Talbott — deacons served as liaisons to the pastoral staff. This experience helped many deacons gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which the church works to support the congregation.

The Board of Deacons said farewell to an exquisite group of deacons who served faithfully and well. Several of the outgoing deacons served an additional "co-opted" year by choice, making their terms of service 4 years. We welcome 18 new members for 2017, and we look forward to another great year of pastoral care. Our leadership team for 2017 will be led by Jane Myers and Jill Binkley. Jane replaced Jinx Cooke who completed her term of service as co-Moderator. Co-Moderator Jill Binkley and Jane look forward to working together.

*Jinx Cooke and Jill Binkley, Co-Moderators*



# Congregational Nominating Committee

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## Congregational Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee worked with dedication, commitment and prayerful discernment to identify a slate of officers that reflect the diversity of the congregation with the skills and experience to lead the congregation. The following Church Officers and members of the 2017 Congregational Nominating Committee were elected at the Congregational Meeting on September 18, 2016.

Elders for the class of 2019 serving a three-year term:

Karla Bellfi                      Henry Johnson  
Linda Dabrowski                Lynn Lande  
Tim Dickinson                  Rick Platte  
Kay Fuller                        Pat Tamblyn

Deacons on the Board of Deacons for the class of 2019 serving a three-year term:

Mark Endicott  
Rob Bauman                      Lee Evans  
Lisa Danielson                  Becky Gaffney  
Jim Dickinson                  Gail Grady  
Carol Downton

Ellen Johnson  
Michele Madden  
Holly Majorprice  
Chris Queen  
Sue Rigerink

Nancy Rugani  
Norm Samuelson  
Judy Slade  
Jean Song  
Gayle Stevens

Deacons filling unexpired terms:

Class of 2017 - Nancy Fox  
Class of 2018 - Shelia Deskins

Members of the 2017 Congregational Nominating Committee:

Tom Brandt, Catelina Esguerra, Sean Hoskins, Lynn Lande, Bill Parker, Peter Santinga, Susan Sweet Scott, Barry Swartz, and Cynthia VanRenterghem

With appreciation and acknowledgement for their commitment to this important responsibility, the members of the 2016 Congregational Nominating Committee were:

Tom Brandt, Doug Gottlieb, Sean Hoskins, Tom McKarns, Susan Morville, Helena Prince, Peter Santinga, Brian Schneidewind, Cynthia VanRenterghem, and Kathy Wirstrom.

*Helena Prince, Chair*



# Presbyterian Women

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## Celebrating 170 years of service to First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor

All women of the church are considered Presbyterian Women (PW) and all are welcome to attend programs sponsored by PW. PW also invites any men in the congregation and friends to attend our monthly program and luncheon.

PW meets on the third Wednesday of the month – September through May. The first hour is Bible study using the Horizons 2016/2017 Bible Study *Who Is Jesus? – What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker. The second hour of PW consists of programs of interest to the women of the church. Our theme for 2016/2017 is a year of justice and peace. Mission remains the main focus of PW. PW participated in the following projects in 2016:

- Presbyterian Women of Presbytery of Detroit pledge
- Disaster Relief
- Detroit Mission
- Haiti FSIL
- Local mission projects

One very special program of Presbyterian Women is hosting funeral/memorial receptions for families who request one. We have an excellent leadership team for these receptions. Under the direction of Jeannette Middleton and Judy Landau who receive the call from the church, contact is made to Nelly Petrock and Katie Beery. Nelly recruits volunteers to set up

and serve at the reception and Katie contacts her faithful cookie bakers for the number of cookies anticipated. In 2016 there were 14 receptions, three to ten volunteer workers at each reception, between 50 - 200 guests per reception, and 60 women baking over 2,160 cookies.

In February of each year PW encourages all women to make a financial pledge to PW. These pledges plus the funeral/memorial reception donations are the only income that PW has to do their work. The funds of our three special offering (Thank, Birthday, Least Coin) do not stay within the local PW group but are sent directly to the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Detroit. Thanks to the gracious giving of the women of the congregation we received \$8,631 in 2016 for our work.

May saw PW taking their hats off to the women of the church by hosting a celebration dinner in recognition of 170 years of service to First Presbyterian, Ann Arbor. Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair shared how Presbyterian Women helped her in her career as did others. Though Harriet Parsons, an original member, organized the first Sunday School with twelve pupils in 1825, it wasn't until 1846 when Martha Leech Curtis, wife of First Pres Minister William Curtis, organized the first Ladies Aid Society.

During the year PW selected two PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers to pray for and maintain an email relationship with. Jeff and Christi Boyd are serving in the Democratic Republic

of the Congo and Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer serve the people of Guatemala.

The year ended with a December special musical program hosted by our own choir director Tom Granum and lunch at Jerusalem Gardens.

It was our pleasure to give two lifetime honorary membership this year. The recipients were Judy Landau and Jeannette Middleton.

PW could not exist without the leadership of the women who give so much each year to make PW strong and vital.

Thank you to the Coordinating Team of Vice Moderators, Coordinators, Standing Committee and Special Assignment leaders, Bible Study leaders, Publicity and Memorial reception leaders and bakers and to all who have participated and prayed with us and for our PC(USA) Co-Workers.

**Think you know Presbyterian Women?  
Prepare to be Amazed!**

*Virginia Bell, Moderator, 2015/2016*



## New Members

**We give thanks to God for those members who joined First Presbyterian Church in 2016.**

*\* Denotes Confirmands    \*\* Denotes Affiliates*

Ruthie Ackenhusen	Karen Hollingsworth	Clara Politis
Alexis Allum	Richard Ingram	Barbara Richardson
John Barks	Xavier Jones	Victor Rotberg
Hailey Berrigan*	Mara Kent	Joe Ruggeberg
Ashley Bowers*	Tom Kent	Lisa Ruggeberg
Ron David	Dee Lamphear	Lisa Shultz
Dave Deromedi	Cooper Lemaster*	Roger Shultz
Mary Engelhardt	William Lewis*	Kathleen Sienko
Franklin Epielang	Mary Ellen Mays	Marilynn Simpson
Jung Eun	Matt McCammant**	Bruce Thomson
Allison Everett**	Shannon McCammant**	James Thomson**
Carol Fairweather**	Jessica Menke	Robert VanRenterghem*
Erik Firehammer*	Allan Monich	Doug Vredeveld
Susan Froelich	Jeanne Monich	Judy Vredeveld
Chris Haddlesey	Alexandra Montgomery*	Evan Waryas*
Betsy Hammond	Mike Neighbors	Hailey Waryas*
John Hammond**	Anna Nicklas*	Ashley Wood
Marge Higley	Stevany Peters	Dan Wood
Doug Hollingsworth	Kevin Pipe	Yuan (John) Yao



## In Memoriam

**We grieve the loss of those who died in 2016.**

January 4	Ted Trimble	October 8	Richard Wickboldt
January 7	David Pollock, Sr.	October 10	Libby Hillegonds
February 27	Rodney Bentz	October 14	Margaret Rookes
March 16	Beryl Nicklas	October 18	Paul Kirton
March 17	Dale Briggs	October 20	Jack Edman
March 25	Marcia Van Tuyl	October 22	Audrey Curtis
March 29	Dottie Zelisse	November 1	Frances Bull
April 25	Evelyn Hepla	November 26	Robert Cooney
May 10	Elizabeth Rogers	November 28	Jackie Voss
June 20	Robert Kerschbaum	December 2	Sylvia Baker
August 11	Fritz Lehmann	December 12	Sarah Mohrlock
August 22	Gwen Groves	December 21	Jack Tobias
September 16	Donna Underwood	December 26	Dana Underwood
October 4	Carol Tice		



## **Pastoral and Program Staff:**

Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Reverend Dr. James Monnett, Director of Youth Ministry/ Transitional Campus Minister

Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

Carol Muehlig, Associate Music Director and Organist

Resident Ministers:

Reverend Emily Béghin

Reverend Daniel Ervin

Reverend Angela Ryo

Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse

Alexis Allum, Peer Minister

## **Administrative Staff:**

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

Lisa Hadrill, Technology Coordinator

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/ Children's Education Assistant

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant



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Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor