

First Presbyterian Church
On the Square
Carlisle, PA



Annual Report
for 2017

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OUR VISION AND MISSION



“Through God’s love and power revealed in Jesus Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit, we are called into a community of lively faith. Honored with a rich Presbyterian heritage, and committed to an enduring Christian witness, we respond to God’s grace through ministries of:

Celebration, *worshiping God with gratitude and vitality;
and participating thankfully in community with each other;*

Fellowship, *connecting people with each other and God in a Spirit of
wholeness and care in Christ’s name;*

Spiritual enrichment, *educating people of all ages for growth in faith and service;*

Outreach, *servicing local and global missions in Christ’s name.*

*The Meeting House on the Square is where deep roots are nourished and growing branches
are celebrated in Christ’s name.”*

**First Presbyterian Church
Worshiping – Connecting – Educating – Serving
In Christ’s Name**

Annual Meeting
Frist Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 11, 2018

AGENDA

Call to Order with Prayer – Rev. Anthony D. Lorenz, Moderator

Clerk's Report

Declaration of a Quorum

Minutes of this meeting to be approved by the Session at its next Stated Meeting

Clerk's Report

Moderator's Comments

Committee / Group Reports

Pastor's Terms of Call – the Clerk

Adjournment with Prayer

Pastor's Report

Dear Members & Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Many of you know that my favorite story in the Bible is the long narrative of Joseph and his brothers found in the second half of Genesis. I love how that story plays out over the course of many years. There are ups and downs for Jacob's sons that are every bit as intriguing as a soap opera!

If you stick with the story of Joseph long enough, you discover that there is a happy ending. The family is saved from famine and everyone is reconciled. "What you meant for evil" Joseph tells his brothers, "God meant for good." But if you were to stop at any given point in the narrative and take a quick snapshot, things would look pretty bleak. There's sibling rivalry, potential murder, kidnapping, slavery, and incarceration just to name a few!

That's the problem with snapshots, they don't give us the full story. They don't allow us to see the (potentially happy) ending. They only tell part of the story from somewhere in the middle.

I often think of annual reports, such as the one you're currently reading, as snapshots. In these pages we see snapshots of the year that is now past. We catch glimpses of the good and the bad. We get a brief look at all the ways First Presbyterian Church has been living out our mission here on this historic square in Carlisle.

Snapshots are great, but they don't tell the whole story. To know the whole story is to know you, the people of First Presbyterian Church. To know the whole story is to know the dedication of elders serving on Session and deacons serving the community. To know the whole story is to know the powerful discussions about the meaning of faith in Sunday School and Bible Study and Space for God. To know the whole story is to know the generosity of this congregation that is manifest in more ways than I can list. To know the whole story is to know our commitment to mission both here in Carlisle and around the world. To know the whole story is to know the prayers said for and with brothers and sisters in Christ.

This report doesn't tell the whole story of First Presbyterian Church. But it does give you a pretty good idea of what we're all about as a congregation. There are good times and bad times recorded in the pages of this report. But just like Joseph and his brothers, I believe we are moving in the right direction. We may not know what tomorrow will bring, but we trust that our future is in God's hands.

As I look through the pages of this report, I'm reminded once again just how blessed I am to be your pastor. 2017 was a great year, but I'm looking forward to 2018. My Star Gift word for this year is "Adventure" so let's get out there and find what adventures God has for us this year!

Yours very truly in Christ,

Pastor Tony Lorenz

Congregational Register - 2017

Receptions

Letter of Transfer

Suzanne McKinnon – from Donegal Presbyterian Church, Mount Joy, PA
Stephen N. Walker – from Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, PA
Carlton Anne Cook Walker – from Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, PA
Anna Catherine Walker – from Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, PA
Matthew Eric Wenner – from First Presbyterian Church, Clarion, PA
Peter Tanyi – from the Presbyterian Church at Kumba Mbeng, Kumba, Cameroon

Reaffirmation of Faith

Kari Kornish

Profession of Faith

Dennis Lee Husler
Consolacion (Connie) Husler
Jordan David Leiby
Jessica Lynn Wenner

Dismissals

Letter of Transfer

Jane Douros – to the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church, Norristown, PA

Suspension/Removal to Inactive List

Deaths/Funerals

Active members

Bettie J. (Daniel) Henry – February 22, 2017
Frances (Daly) Michael – March 15, 2017
Arthur F. Sylvester – July 30, 2017
Aliene Ruth (Gross) Mahoney – October 18, 2017
Linda Kay (Miller) Crum – November 18, 2017

Non-members

Frances Jane (Hartzell) Allen – July 6, 2017
Perry D. Heath – November 13, 2017

Weddings

Katherine Kay Laird and Joshua Dennis Husler – July 17, 2017
Eve Ellen Ostrowski and Michael Patrick Koehler – December 15, 2017

Director of Educational Ministry

“Everyone’s Invited”

In 2017 for the Advent and Christmas seasons, I invited the members of our congregation to share their Nativity sets from home. Many people loaned the church their crèches and what a wonderful display they created. From carved wooden Mary’s to handmade Magi, to tiny porcelain shepherds and crystal angels, the story of Jesus’ birth truly reflected the entire world in all its diversity and beauty. For me, it signified what I have always hoped and prayed my work at First Church would be – a place where all are welcomed and a class or event where each person can hear their own call to Christ and their ministry.

Books are one example of the many invitations sent out by our church. We are blessed with a Book Club which has been in existence for over 15 years, and the fellowship and caring friends created by this group reading together. It’s a rare book that we *all* like, but we can discuss and argue, laugh and smile over books and what they mean to us. The church also has a Space for God reading group, which reads and studies books of theology. I am so blessed to receive joy and information from both groups. I learn something new and unique at every meeting.

The most important book to study in church is obviously the Bible. I have learned so much from the Tuesday night Bible Study group and have appreciated their faithfulness and willingness to share their understanding and beliefs with each other. Of course, Sunday school classes are also Bible-based, and whether I am helping teachers prepare or leading a class, God’s goodness and mercy flow through our discussions and questions.

One of the things we learn as we study is the importance of prayer. First Presbyterian is blessed with a faithful Prayer Community and I enjoy leading this group in prayer each month. The people in our church, our community, and our world are prayed for with deep conviction and faith, knowing God hears our prayers.

I have been blessed to attend events and conferences outside our church walls. From National Association of Professional Christian Educators (APCE) and Eastern APCE, to serving as a chaplain at Camp Krislund, to being co-director of Vacation Bible School in partnership with Second Presbyterian – what I can learn from others I try to impart to members at First, thereby increasing the knowledge and love of Jesus for all.

So many items I have not touched on: the Presbyterian Women’s group and their Bible Study; summer Toddler Time; worship each Sunday; and special Christian Education Game Nights and events. One of these activities and groups is right for YOU to join, to enjoy fellowship and fun with other church and community members. And there are many more ways to connect. So if you have an idea, please invite me in and let us together share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Debby Madden
Director of Educational Ministry

Clerk of Session Report

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for 2017 consisted of fifteen Ruling Elders: Barbara Allen, Trudy Bailey, Richard Darr, Ann Gottlieb, Lynda Mann, Elizabeth Martin, Margaret Owen, Ronald Richcreek, Deborah Ryerson, Thomas Sheperd, Richard Sommers, Michael Stamey, Ray Thomas, Charles Thompson, and Nancy Tritt. Dr. Sommers was chosen as Clerk of Session. On November 12, Elders Darr and Ryerson were re-elected to second terms starting in 2018. Elders Gottlieb, Richcreek, and Stamey were thanked for their contributions as they left Session at the end of 2017.

Session held eleven Stated Meetings: January 17, February 21, March 21, April 27, May 16, June 20, August 15, September 27, October 17, November 21, and December 19. Special meetings were held April 2 (two), July 9, and November 12. Congregational Meetings took place on February 5 (Annual Meeting) and November 12.

Minutes of these meetings, as well as the accompanying committee and officer reports, record Session's activities, projects, and decisions. This annual Clerk's report highlights some key features: Our Capital Campaign was extended from May through December; thanks to the generosity of many members and of the Stuart Foundation, we exceeded our goal of \$150,000. Some of that money went to repairing our organ (all 1280 pipes). Other funds improved security by replacing the key pad with a fob system for access at our southwest door. Sunday School services on May 21 celebrated the 200th anniversary of our Sunday School, the first in the Cumberland Valley. An even older anniversary, the 500th of the Protestant Reformation, was commemorated with Sunday School classes and church services in September and October.

Our church welcomed eleven new members: Suzanne McKinnon from Donegal Presbyterian Church, Mount Joy, PA; Peter Ayuk Tanyi from Kumba Mbeng Presbyterian Church in Cameroon; Stephen, Carlton, and Anna Walker from Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle; and Matthew Wenner from First Presbyterian Church, Clarion, PA, all by transfer; Kari Kornish by reaffirmation of faith; and Dennis and Connie Husler, Jessica Wenner, and Jordan Leiby by reaffirmation of baptismal vows and public profession of faith.

At the same time, we regretted the transfer of Jane Douros from our church to the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church in Norristown, PA. And we gave thanks for the lives of five long-time members who entered the Church Triumphant: Bettie Henry, February 22; Frances Michael, March 15; Arthur Sylvester, July 30; Ailene Mahoney, October 18; and Kay Crum, November 18. Rev. Lorenz performed funeral services for them and also for friends of our church Frances Jane Allen and Perry Heath, who passed away on July 6 and November 13, respectively. Mrs. Allen was the mother of our Church Secretary, Avis Allen; Mrs. Charlotte Styczen, mother of Director of Educational Ministry Debby Madden, passed away November 18. We console Avis and Debby for their mothers.

With six departures and eleven gains, church membership now stands at 245.

Rev. Lorenz performed weddings for Joshua Husler and Katie Miller Laird, July 17, and for Michael Koehler and Eve Ostrowski, December 15. Joshua's and Eve's families belong to our church.

With weddings and funerals, arrivals and departures, anniversaries of centuries and of half millenia, we help do our part in God's Kingdom, which is everlasting and eternal.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard J. Sommers, Clerk of Session

Worship Committee

Committee Members: Pastor Tony Lorenz; Debby Madden; Peggy McKeehen; Ron Richcreek; Sue Shuey; Art Thompson; Richard Tritt; Deb Ryerson (chair)

The Committee supports the activities of those who plan and lead worship on a weekly basis, including Pastor Tony, educator Debby Madden, choir director Sue Shuey and the choir, and organist Art Thompson – for whom we are all grateful.

Our committee met seven times in 2017 and did the following:

- Oversaw, through Ron Richcreek, the repair of the organ being done by Susquehanna Organ Company. As of December, the company was still working to finish.
- Recruited readers and ushers and developed a list of worship helpers twice yearly.
- In conjunction with the Finance Committee, developed and enlarged the list of counting teams.
- At Pastor Tony's suggestion, developed Communion prep, intinction and serving teams and added them to the worship helpers list. Oversaw 14 Communion services during the year: five served and nine by intinction. Assisted with four home Communion services.
- Scheduled 14 Communion dates and four home Communion dates for 2018.
- Fine-tuned the usher and reader instructions and conducted usher training sessions. Will continue training sessions periodically after worship.
- Through Art Thompson's leadership, oversaw the Lenten Concert Series.
- Instituted the use of pita bread for intinction Communion and Scottish shortbread for served Communion, using a recipe provided by Elizabeth Martin. Elizabeth and Peggy McKeehen have baked the bread thus far.
- Through leadership of Richard Tritt, oversaw Hanging of Greens activities for Advent and un-decorating in early January. As discussed earlier in the year, instead of asking the choir to take down the decorations, the Worship Committee solicited help from members following worship on January 7th. The Committee will continue to fine-tune the operation for 2018.
- Oversaw conversion of the old parlor into a new chapel for prayer and contemplation. Currently working on finding a cross or artwork for the wall or table at the front of the room.
- Re-instituted piping of church service into Fellowship Hall so that those working in the kitchen during special occasions can hear the service.
- Reviewed and submitted a budget of \$3,675 for 2018. The amount requested was the same as in 2017.
- Member Ron Richcreek wrote special music and conducted the choir in performing that music for Palm Sunday.

2017 Worship Attendance by Month

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Average in 2016</u>
January	471	94*	111*
February	401	100	108
March	380	95	119
April	648	130*	101
May	383	96	97*
June	372	93	86
July	455	91*	88*
August	335	84	84
September	370	93	92
October	495	99*	104*
November	392	98	104
December	497	99*	94

* indicates 5 Sunday Months

Special Services

MLK Service (1/15/17)	248
Maundy Thursday	49
Christmas Eve, 5:00 PM	60
Christmas Eve, 8:00 PM	123

Submitted by
Deb Ryerson, chair

Parish Life Committee

I'd like to start with a big "Thank You" to all who donated their time and snacks to Fellowship Hour throughout the year. Your weekly contribution to the hospitality of our congregation following worship is truly appreciated! Also, thanks to all who set up snacks for the new members classes.

The Deacons on the committee, Anita Ashbaugh and Deb Richcreek, always contribute their time and effort to the committee's events. A big word of thanks to Peggy McKeehen for her unswerving devotion to helping out with all events the committee is involved in. Peggy is always there if nobody volunteers for Fellowship Hour. She is literally a one-woman hospitality committee. Bob Davis' efforts and creativity are always appreciated (and his cream of crab soup is wonderful!). Peg Owen, Jean Kretzing, and Barb Allen help out frequently also.

Highlights of the year's events include:

- **EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST:** Bob Davis exquisitely decorated Fellowship Hall for the occasion, and we all enjoyed breakfast following the Sunrise service. Thanks to all who contributed food. There was plenty left over for snacks during fellowship time after the 10:45 AM service!
- **WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our Fried Chicken Luncheon to welcome all back to the regular Sunday school season in September has become an annual event. It was first tried last year after nobody wanted to do a church picnic due to the unusually hot August weather. This year's event was well-attended with many in the congregation contributing side dishes and desserts. Thank you!
- **HANGING OF THE GREENS:** A soup, bread and dessert luncheon was served followed by our annual Hanging of the Greens. The soups were fabulous! Thanks to all who contributed the soups, helped to serve them, and helped to clean up afterwards.

As someone with absolutely zero talent in the kitchen (I'm still working on perfecting my microwaving skills), as Chairman I owe a huge thanks to those who lend their talent and expertise to make this committee's activities happen. Thank you!

Ray Thomas
Chair

Membership and Outreach Committee

We celebrated the arrival of 11 new members in 2017, plus two new friends of the church. Have you met: Dennis and Connie Husler; Kari Kornish; Suzanne McKinnon; Stephen, Carlton and Anna Walker; Matthew and Jessica Wenner; Jordan Leiby; and Peter Tanyi? If not, please look them up and introduce yourself. This has been a very active class of new members that has plunged right into the life of the church and enriched our congregation in many ways.

With the cooperation of Farmers on the Square, we again opened our doors to the market-goers during one market day each month through the summer, giving visitors a chance to tour the sanctuary and learn a little bit about us. As for other downtown outreach, we participated in the Downtown Carlisle Association's First Friday / Welcome Jam, aimed at introducing the new class of U.S. Army War College families to Carlisle. And finally, we were one of a handful of downtown churches to extend a direct invitation to new and returning Dickinson College students through the college's Faith Fest in September. Thanks so much to everyone who volunteered in these efforts to help our church raise its profile a bit with those who aren't necessarily familiar with the big stone building on the Square.

We also continued a pilot program aimed at introducing our church to new residents to Carlisle. We are periodically sending letters welcoming new homeowners to the community, letting them know about our church, and inviting them to worship if they are looking for a church home. As a pilot, this campaign has been targeting people in Carlisle's 3rd and 5th wards, and we have also sent some letters into South Middleton Township. We will try to expand into more areas this year. *A copy of the letter is enclosed.*

This also seems like an appropriate place to mention the rousing Martin Luther King commemoration service that packed our sanctuary last January. First Presbyterian, as one of the core downtown churches, periodically hosts the community's MLK Service, and it was gratifying to see our church filled with one of the most integrated crowds that one could ever see, anywhere.

Finally, I want to thank the Deacons for so many things they do to help put First Presbyterian on the map (like the cellphone screen cleaners). But I'm also thinking here of the welcome bags that are given to our Sunday visitors, and their general willingness to rally to the cause.

I'll close by encouraging every one of us to make a conscious effort to invite someone new to our church this year. We are proud of our staff, our worship services and programming, our history, our music, and our location on the Square. Let's be willing to share that with friends, family and neighbors whenever possible. Our invitations may not always be accepted. But you can be sure they will be appreciated, and maybe you'll have a direct role in enhancing someone's faith life and helping to build our church.

Charles Thompson,
Chair

Nominating Committee

Committee Members: Dick Sommers, Deb Ryerson, Bob Reed,
Sue Meehan, Fred Seltzer, Lynda Mann (Chair)

Proposed Slate of Officers for Class of 2020

Board of Session:

Deb Ryerson
Dick Darr
Fred Seltzer
Frank Meehan
Lois Lloyd

Board of Deacons:

Anita Ashbaugh
Bob Reed
Judie Reed
Rita Beck

Submitted by

Lynda Mann, chair

Human Resources Committee

Pastor Lorenz suggested that we increase the size of our current committee which consists of Barb Allen, Ellen Darr and Dick Darr. Jim Crum is a welcome addition. The committee now performs staff evaluations twice a year rather than once.

At the request of the sexton, Pastor Lorenz and the committee redefined the sexton job description to exclude custodial duties. Therefore, we are in the process of hiring a custodian. With this new separation of duties, we anticipate little or no additional cost.

Pastor Lorenz and the committee are pleased to report that staff members continue to perform at a high level. We proposed merit increases for the staff. However, Pastor Lorenz requested no change in his salary.

HR committee members, as well as many members of the congregation, have expressed appreciation for the continuing fine job by Pastor Lorenz as leader of the church.

Richard Darr
Chairman

Christian Education Committee

First Presbyterian Church's Sunday school program has continued to be supported and blessed, this year as in years past, by faithful, eager students (of all ages) and kind teachers. We are very thankful for the continued dedication of our children and youth teachers.

- ~ Preschool - Kindergarten taught by Barbara Crum and Lynne Hofferica
(“Feasting on the Word” series)
- ~ 1st - 5th grade taught by Bob Davis
(“Feasting on the Word” series supplemented by the book God's Word, My Voice)
- ~ 6th - 9th (Pre-Confirmation) taught by Debby Madden and Rita Beck
(This class is studying 100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation)
- ~ Teens, taught by various church members
(NOOMA DVD series)

The Adult Sunday School program has been led this year by Pastor Tony, Debby Madden, Bill Beck, and a variety of generous church members. The adult education class primarily followed the lectionary schedule, but also included in-depth discussions on several books (Great Ends of the Church – Lent; and Reformation Questions, Reformation Answers – Fall); and an Advent series centered around memorable Christmas music.

2017 Educational Events:

- **Bible Study** - This group, led by Pastor Tony, has enjoyed studying the book of Romans.
- **Toddler Time** - This year Toddler Time was held every Tuesday and Thursday evening, August 1-17.
- **Game Night** - Two successful (and very fun) nights have been shared with congregants of all ages gathering to play their favorite games.
- **Youth Sunday** - This year twelve of our very talented youth participated in Youth Sunday when they led us all in worship.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** - First and Second Presbyterian combined their efforts to offer VBS to many children in both congregations (June 12-16). We greatly appreciate the many individuals who volunteered their time and donated generously to support this important part of our kids' summer.

It should be stated that we at First Presbyterian have a long history of sharing Christian Education with our members and the community. We gather on May 21, 2018 to commemorate and celebrate our churches historic 200 years of Sunday school.

We have been blessed this year with the thoughtful reflections of two congregational devotional booklets (Lent and Advent). We greatly appreciate everyone's participation and support for these projects.

Christian Education is not limited to Sundays. In addition to Sunday mornings, there are multiple times that the Bible is studied, from Space for God, Book Club, Presbyterian Women Meetings, Men's Breakfast, Prayer Community meetings, Fellowship time. Every time and place we meet, God is teaching us how to be the family of First Presbyterian Church.

Elizabeth Martin
Chair

Safety and Security Committee

Committee Members: Thomas Sheperd, JJ Patterson, Debby Madden,
Pastor Lorenz, Ann Gottlieb (chair)

The security of our church was paramount to our Committee 2017 tasks. First, doors repeatedly being left unlocked precipitated the need to rekey the doors. New keys were provided only to pertinent personnel. Two continuous concerns have been the numerous non-members who (over many years) have been given the access code to the church and the inability to change that access code. In response, the Committee researched security access options, reviewed competitive bids, and contracted with Hilton's Lock & Security to install a fob reader system and a new security camera and color monitor.

The new fob system allows us to schedule locked and unlocked times – the door automatically locks or unlocks itself based on how we program it. It also enables us to put access limits on fobs and provides a diary of when each fob is used. This allows for greater security and negates outside groups having unlimited access to the church. Fobs were issued to church leaders and regular volunteers and to others on an as-needed basis determined by Pastor Lorenz and the Committee. The new outdoor security camera and color monitor provide greater clarity and motion-activated recording.

Furthermore, the Committee created Standard Operating Procedures for both the fob and security camera systems for inclusion in the church's Manual of Operations. It also started a fob issuance tracking system that will be maintained by the church secretary.

The Committee replaced the outdated first aid kit and purchased additional kits so that one is easily accessible on each floor of the church. The first aid kits are located in the kitchen and the secretary's office. A trauma kit was also procured in case of an extreme emergency. It is located with the defibrillator outside the Sanctuary.

An important continuation of improving our safety and security in 2018 will be formulating an "active shooter" policy. The Committee expects to complete this after consulting with and receiving training from experts in this field. The Committee will also continue to monitor employee and volunteer clearances required for involvement with our children and youth. Furthermore, it will complete a review/update of our Child and Youth Protection Policy and Procedures. Finally, the Committee will explore the possibility of having first aid training conducted for our educational staff covering basic CPR and defibrillator use as well as training on select items in the trauma kit.

New Committee members and suggestions for ways to increase our safety and security are always welcomed. Please contact any member!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Ann Gottlieb, Chair

Mission and Interpretation Committee

Committee Members: JJ Patterson; Delaney Sandberg; Mike Stamey;
Rev. Lorenz; and Barb Allen (chair)

In 2017, the Mission and Interpretation Committee continued support of local and international missions of our church.

(Locally) From the congregational budget, we shared our bounty with Carlisle C.A.R.E.S, Samaritan Fellowship, Maranatha, and Project S.H.A.R.E. We responded to an appeal from the Presbyterian Church of the Upper Conococheague, Mercersburg, for help with their sidewalk project, and from a member for help with moving expenses. We extended our support to Project S.H.A.R.E. through our contributions from the Lenten Luncheons and donated 539 cans of soup; and donated cold-weather wear to Carlisle C.A.R.E.S.

(Internationally) First Presbyterian Church supported our pledge to Carlisle Presbytery to re-establish a mission co-worker in Honduras, which has been accomplished. We supported co-workers Scott and Elmarie Parker serving in the Middle East to address the needs of refugees from the Syrian War. We contributed to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund and through undesignated funds, we generously support other Carlisle Presbytery mission work.

In 2018, we hope to do the following in support of our mission projects:

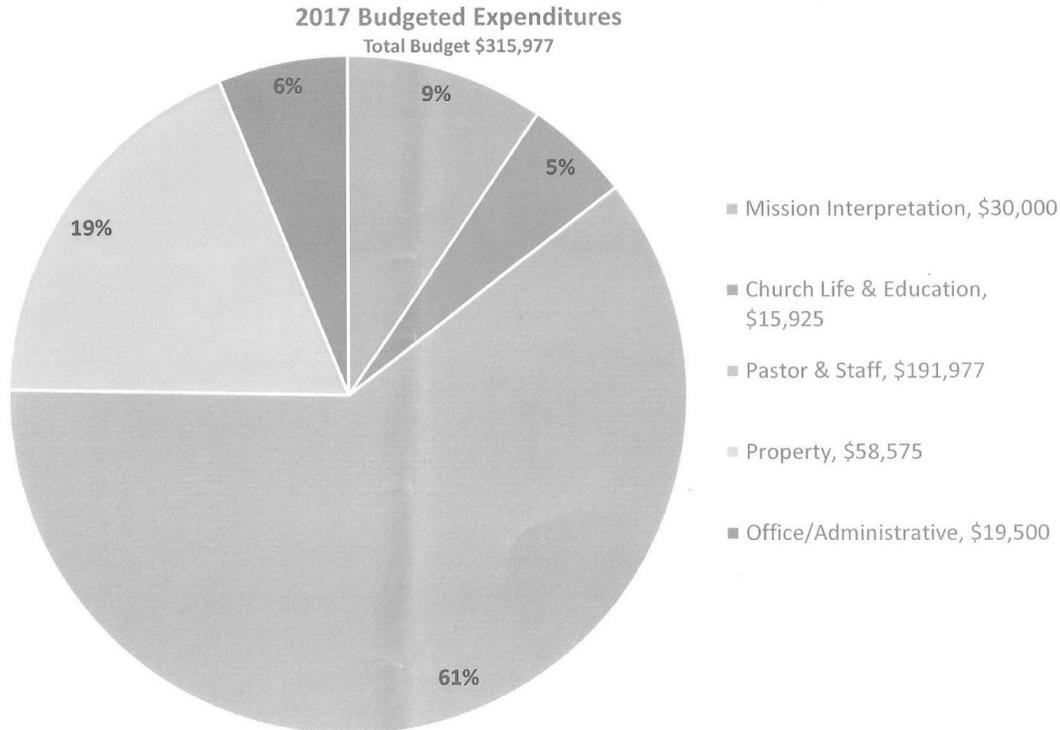
- participate in a Personal Energy transport (P.E.T.) worship through Mobility Worldwide which build carts for the mobility-challenged in Third World countries; and
- to secure a speaker for our International Mission Sunday in October.

Jesus asks his disciples to be fishers of men. We invite every member of First Church to join our fishing expedition to help our local and international brothers and sisters by sharing your ideas, time, talents and treasures with our church's mission program.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,
Barb Allen, chair

Stewardship and Finance Committee

On the following pages you will find the summary of the 2018 budget for First Presbyterian Church. This is an estimate of the anticipated income and expenses for the coming year. This budget does not include any capital campaign expenditures. The various committee chairpersons are responsible for monitoring expenses within their respective areas.



Income

General Fund Support includes white envelopes, plate offerings, per capita contributions and Sunday school giving. The Finance Committee continues to ask that each member pay their per capita of \$25.81 for 2018, otherwise it comes out of the church operating funds.

Investments & Trusts

These are investments that are currently held by F&M Trust Company and the New Covenant Fund, part of the Presbyterian Foundation. In September, the Committee voted to switch the New Covenant investments from a Balanced Income fund to a Growth fund. Due to the bull market, both investments performed well in 2017. Let it be noted that in November, Session authorized a \$24,000 withdrawal from our New Covenant investments to keep the checking account balance sufficient for operating expenses. This is in addition to the distributions we receive from both sources throughout the year.

Capital Campaign

In 2017 the Finance Committee completed a capital campaign for repairs and improvements of the church property, especially the organ. With the generous support of the congregation and a grant from the Stuart Foundation, our goal of \$150,000 was met. Thank you.

Congregational Commitment

As of January 21, 2018, 60 pledge cards have been returned, amounting to \$190,684. We realize it is difficult to anticipate what the future will bring, but it is helpful to the Finance Committee to have a realistic expectation of what the church's income will be when working on the budget.

The Session thanks the congregation for its strong support of this church and its work.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Bailey and Nancy Tritt
Finance Chairs

Finance-Specific

Pages 18-26 intentionally left blank

Property Committee

Committee Members: Peg Owen, Co-Chair; Mike Stamey, Co-Chair;
Mary Jane Blosser; Peggy McKeehen; Dennis Rydberg

As part of the Capital Fundraising Campaign, we replaced one of the church's five air-conditioning systems when it failed this Spring. It air-conditions the church office and Debby's office. Additional ductwork was extended to air-condition the Treasurer's office.

The church's fire alarm system, heating and air-conditioning (HVAC), and elevator maintenance contracts were in effect through 2017. Two of these contracts will expire in 2018: elevator maintenance in September, and HVAC in November.

Our snow removal contractor this winter is Glen E. Dobyns, Jr., Snow Removal. He also does snow removal at St. John's.

The elevator passed its annual inspection last winter and its five-year heavy load test in November.

Electrical connections for the organ restoration project were completed and an exterior six-outlet electrical panel was installed near the tower door by the magnolia tree.

Several thermostats were updated to digital (programmable) ones.

Some plaster repairs were completed in the sanctuary.

Repairing (including removing the damaged exterior tower door and then rebuilding and reinstalling it) and updating (closers, pivots, etc.) some of our exterior entrance doors were completed.

All of our interior emergency exit signs have been brought up to code. They now use ordinary batteries that can be easily tested and replaced on each individual sign.

On August 25, 14 Dickinson College Service Day students (including one from Germany) worked at our church. They painted the churchyard fence and worked in our lawn area's St. Andrew's Cross flower garden. We provided refreshments for the students in Fellowship Hall that afternoon.

Our committee is very grateful for the expertise and guidance we receive throughout the year from Tobie Wolf, P.E., our church's consulting engineer. His years of experience with our facility make our tasks easier, more professional and economical.

The Property Committee would like to thank the congregation for their continued prayers, support, ideas and feedback.

Submitted by Dennis Rydberg

Presbyterian Women (PW)

PW Faith Circle meets on the 4th Monday of the month from September to May at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall. We were so glad to welcome two new ladies into the group. For this year's Bible study, we are using "Prayer, An Adventure with God" by David Healey.

Specific offerings received include:

- May 14, 2017: Blanket Sunday (in support of Church World Services)
- May 28, 2017: PW Birthday Offering
- November 19, 2017: Thank Offering

A big undertaking by the PW was refurbishing two rooms on the second floor: 1--what used to be the parlor; and 2-the library. The group decided to change the parlor into a chapel, which included new carpet (done!) and reupholstering two chairs (underway). In the library, the wooden chairs' six cushions plus a wingback chair were reupholstered and the carpet was cleaned. Great credit goes to Peggy McKeehen who contacted many businesses and worked tirelessly to accomplish these upgrades. Thanks also goes to Frank and Sue Meehan, who pitched in to help every time needed. PW financially supported these projects, and continued to give to our local missions as follows:

Local Mission	
Domestic Violence	\$200
Meals on Wheels	\$150
Salvation Army	\$200
Safe Harbour	\$200
Blanket Sunday	\$1,115
PW Birthday Offering	\$700
Thank Offering	\$889

Jean Kretzing
Moderator

Peggy McKeehen
Treasurer

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons continued to serve the congregation of First Presbyterian in a variety of ways while providing outreach to the community and others in need as well.

During 2017:

- Each Deacon reached out to one or more homebound member through cards, home visits and home Communion.
- Deacons continued the “Journeying through Grief” program which provides guide booklets offering comfort and support to those in the congregation dealing with the loss of a loved one.
- We continued to support the preparation of receptions following funerals at the church.
- The Deacons continued to work with Pastor Tony to identify newcomers each week during and after the Sunday service. The goal was to make an introduction with the new person and give him/her a bag containing information about our church. The bags continue to be very well-received and the program will continue.
- Note cards and sticky cleaners continued to be sold by the Deacons. The original sketch for the note cards was done in 1989 by our late member Betty Barcus.
- Hurricane relief was a major fund-raising focus for the Deacons and First Presbyterian Church following the storms that struck the Texas coast, Florida, and other parts of the Gulf Coast states. The combined total of \$4,345.70 came from the Deacons’ fund, money contributed by the Session from Mission funds, and money raised from members of our congregation. The money was used to purchase household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene kits. The cleaning buckets and personal hygiene items were packed during an after-service work party in the gathering room. David and Sue Shuey delivered the goods to Church World Services the following week.
- The Deacons made a separate hurricane relief contribution in the form of a \$500.00 Lowes gift card to Bryan and Genoa Black to aid in home repair and cleanup. (Bryan is the son of Pastor Emeritus Jon and Jane Black. Bryan, Genoa and Henry live in Port Aransas, TX.)
- The Deacons raised money for the local mission “My Brother’s Table” through Give-a-Meal remembrances on Father’s Day. (“Dinner for Dads”)

Our community outreach entailed:

- Serving three Sunday suppers at “My Brother’s Table” at The Salvation Army.
- Contributing to a children’s lunch program in June for the local SPY initiative.
- Serving as bell-ringers at the Point Mall on December 9 for The Salvation Army’s annual fundraiser.
- Coordinating, preparing and delivering 132 bags of Christmas cookies to Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry on December 18.

Financial Summary: The year-end checking account balance was \$2,802.96. The savings account totaling \$505.62 was closed, and the money transferred to the checking account with the stipulation that \$500 be kept in reserve.

Throughout the year, we provided ongoing financial support (\$100.00 each) to eight local organizations:

First Quarter – Project Share and Safe Harbour.

Second Quarter – Samaritan Fellowship and SPY.

Third Quarter – Christian Services Counselling Center and Maranatha.

Fourth Quarter – Carlisle Cares and Employment Skills Center.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our efforts in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Read
2017 Moderator, Board of Deacons