

First Presbyterian Church On the Square Carlisle, PA



Annual Report for 2019

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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**, serving 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
First Presbyterian Church
On the Square
Carlisle, PA 17013**

Sunday, February 9, 2020

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 Old Testament 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. 2019 was a hard year in many ways. We said goodbye to many faithful, longtime members. We celebrated Debby Madden's ministry and wished her well in retirement. 2020 will be a year of change and transition, but through it all please remember, God remains faithful!

Yours very truly in Christ,
Pastor Tony Lorenz

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

(omitted intentionally; pp. 4 & 5)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

In October of 2000, I first met with Rev. Jon Black to discuss a part-time Christian Educator job at First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle. I agreed to think about it and a few weeks later I was interviewed by the Human Resources Committee which included Dan Deardorff, Sue Squibb, and the late Jim Neslund and John Romberger. The committee and I agreed about the position and with careful consideration, we decided on 01/01/01 as my start date. And the rest as they say is history.

But what a history it has been! My tenure at First Presbyterian has given me more dear friends, has deepened by faith, and has enriched my life more than I ever imagined. I hope I have reciprocated these gifts to me by being a dear friend to many, helping young and old deepen their faith, and enriching the lives of church members.

Here are some statistics from my years at First Presbyterian:

- Book Club has read at least 175 books.
- Prayer Community has prayed for at least 300 people.
- Bible Study and Sunday school classes have studied all 66 books of the Bible.
- The 12 minor prophets and 12 disciples have “visited” our sanctuary.
- 20 people attended Youth Triennium events.
- Over 50 youth have been confirmed.
- 75 people have helped on Mission Sundays and participated in mission trips.

I could continue with numbers, but they are not as important as all the relationships with Christ and with each other that I hope my time at First Church helped create and grow.

I would be remiss if I did not once again thank everyone for their part in my generous retirement celebrations and gifts. It has been my honor, privilege, and joy to serve First Presbyterian from 2001 through 2019. May God bless each of you.

Christian Educator Emerita,

Debby Madden

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT FOR 2019

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle, Pa. for 2019 consisted of fourteen Ruling Elders: Barbara Allen, Bruce Bailey, Richard Darr, David Killian, Lois Lloyd, Lynda Mann, Frank Meehan, Deb Ryerson, Fred Seltzer, Tom Sheperd, Richard Sommers, Ray Thomas, Charlie Thompson and Carlton Walker. Dr. Sommers served as clerk until his untimely death. At that point, Charlie Thompson was elected to serve as his replacement.

Session scheduled and held eleven stated meetings through the year. We also held three special meetings: March 10, to receive new members; June 2, to meet with a group of our young confirmands and review their statements of faith; and June 9, to meet with the remainder of the confirmation class and subsequently receive all nine of them into membership.

Congregational meetings took place on February 3 (annual meeting), and November 24. In the November meeting, we elected Barbara Allen and Lynda Mann to their second three-year terms on Session; and elected Joe Shane to a first term on the board. One seat remains open.

Our church received 21 new members during the course of the year: 10 by profession of faith, including all nine of our confirmands; nine by reaffirmation of faith; and two by letter of transfer from another congregation in Carlisle.

We regretted the departure of three members by letter of transfer to Derry Presbyterian Church in Hershey, and the voluntary transfer to inactive status of a fourth member. And finally, we gave thanks for the lives of eight long-time members who died, but entered the Church Triumphant, as well as the loss of four additional inactive members and friends of the church.

With 21 new members and 12 departures, the roll of church members grew by nine to 242.

There were no weddings in 2019, but we did as a congregation celebrate the baptism of Evelyn Noreen Graver, daughter of Wade and Rachel Graver and granddaughter of Bruce and Trudy Bailey, on January 13.

Throughout 2019, we all, as a congregation, worked and worshipped to the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Thompson, Clerk

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Pastor Tony Lorenz, Debby Madden; Lynda Mann; Peggy McKeehen; 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, Sue Shuey and the choir, and organist Art Thompson, for whom we are all grateful. Our committee met seven times in 2019 and did the following:

- Took over some of Debby Madden's responsibilities, including serving gluten-free elements, ordering Advent wreath candles, and recruiting readers for the lighting of the Advent candles. This year, all of the readers and candle lighters were relatively new members of the congregation. We will also be responsible for the Advent Devotional this year.
- Longtime Flower Committee coordinators Joan Line and Nancy Augustine announced their retirements, and the Flower Committee was placed under the purview of the Worship Committee. We recruited Megan Crum to chair the Flower Committee and Lynne Hofferica to serve as its treasurer. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and will assist them when needed.
- Recruited readers and ushers and developed list of worship workers twice yearly. Also conducted a September 15 Usher Training Program. Good attendance!
- Oversaw 13 communions and four home communions, making sure that helpers were assigned for preparation, serving, and clean-up. This year, we took over serving the gluten-free elements and designated a server for those members who cannot come forward for communion by intinction. Pastor Tony is looking for a special tray for that purpose.
- Through Art Thompson's leadership, oversaw another successful Lenten Concert Series.
- Through leadership of Richard Tritt and Bob Davis, oversaw Hanging of the Greens for Advent and Christmas and un-decorating in early January. The December 8 Hanging of the Greens began with a congregational luncheon and concluded with a brief carol sing. The decorating went smoothly. Prior to the first Sunday in Advent, a small group, including Richard and Nancy Tritt, Bob Davis, Lynda Mann, and Deb Ryerson hung the garlands and the gaslight torchieres. We plan to continue this practice in 2020.
- Submitted a \$4,050 budget request for 2020, \$200 greater than last year's budget. This sum will help to cover pulpit supply during Tony's absences since Debby will not be here to sub for him.

- Chair Deb Ryerson took over the scheduling of an Active Shooter Presentation by the PA State Police, which will likely happen in February or March 2020. We are planning to invite members of other churches to attend the hour-long presentation and discussion. In light of numerous church incidents in 2019, the Session has been discussing the scheduling of this program.

Sunday Attendance by Month:

• January 2019	333	83	2018 Average = 93
• February 2019	372	93	2018 Average = 93
• March 2019	450	90*	2018 Average = 103
• April 2019	435	109	2018 Average = 118*
• May 2019	305	76	2018 Average = 96
• June 2019	476	95*	2018 Average = 82
• July 2019	291	73	2018 Average = 81*
<u>Months with 5 Sundays</u>			
• August 2019	304	76	2018 Average = 75
• September 2019	399	80*	2018 Average = 88*
• October 2019	342	86	2018 Average = 98
• November 2019	340	85	2018 Average = 88
• December 20189	398	80*	2018 Average = 95*

(*Months with 5 Sundays)

- Ash Wednesday (3/6/19) 40
- Maundy Thursday (4/18/19) 39
- Good Friday – No count taken
- Christmas Eve 5:00 PM - No count taken
- Christmas Eve 8:00 PM 177

Average Weekly Attendance for 2019: 86

Deb Ryerson
Committee Chair

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Again this year, a big word of thanks to all who donated your time and snacks to help make Fellowship Hour a welcome part of our Sunday service. Your weekly contribution to the hospitality of our congregation following worship is truly appreciated!

The Deacons on the committee, Anita Ashbaugh, Connie Husler and Deb Richcreek, always contribute time and effort to the committee's events. A big word of thanks to Peggy McKeehen for always being willing to help. Bob Davis's creativity is always appreciated. Jean Kretzing, Barb Allen, Deb Richcreek, Rita Beck, Sue Meehan, Nancy Jacoby, Nancy Augustine, Jenneane Light, Deb Ryerson, Judie Read, and Connie and Dennis Husler help out frequently too, contributing food items and help for various events. Thanks all!

Highlights of the year's events include:

EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST: On Easter Sunday, all who attended the Sunrise Service enjoyed a breakfast in Fellowship Hall after the service. Thanks to all who contributed food, there was food left over for snacks during fellowship time after the 10:45 service!

WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Potluck/Sandwich Luncheon to welcome all back to the regular Sunday School season in September has become an annual event. This year's event was well-attended with many in the congregation contributing side dishes and desserts. Thank you to all who helped!

DEBBY MADDEN RETIREMENT PARTY: This event, celebrating Debby's years of service to the church and her retirement, was very well attended. Contributors of food items included Rita Beck, Bob Davis, Barb Allen, Connie Husler, Sue Meehan, Nancy Jacoby, Deb Ryerson, Lynda Mann, Peggy McKeehan, Anita Ashbaugh, Jenneane Light, Deb Richcreek and Judie Read. All was delicious!

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, served them, and helped to clean up afterwards. All soups were great! Thanks to those who brought desserts, too! Thanks all!

I'm sure I'm the most non-domestic guy who has ever been chairman of this committee. So I owe a huge thanks to those who lend their talent and expertise to make everything happen. Thank you!

Ray Thomas
Chair

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our main outreach activity in 2019 continued to be sending a welcome letter to new homeowners in the area, with a focus on those moving into the borough of Carlisle. Besides a letter of invitation to visit our church, the envelope also contains a brochure that outlines our various programs and activities. This is a very low-cost effort that we believe is a very good way to reach out to newer, permanent residents in the community. Whether the recipients ever walk through our doors or not, we are fulfilling our role as God's welcoming neighbors.

In August, we also once again participated in Downtown Carlisle Association's "Welcome Jam," a First Friday event aimed at giving new U.S. Army War College students and their families, as well as other newcomers, a chance to explore the downtown through discounted restaurant meals, live performances and other fun stuff. With good weather this year, we welcomed a steady flow of families with kids onto our church lawn to play lawn games and enjoy a cold treat, and anyone interested was also welcomed inside for a tour of the church. Many thanks to Pat Grabey for serving as our tour guide. And many thanks to Bill and Rita Beck, Ryan Crim, Connie and Dennis Husler, Kathy Mulvey, Jen, Grace and Jane Patterson, and Heather and Camryn Thompson for helping with this event. And special thanks to the Becks for lending their games.

In December, we supplemented our usual outdoor banners with some paid advertising in The Sentinel for our Christmas Eve services – three ads in the week before Christmas. The combination seemed to work well for us this year as our 8 PM candlelight service was very well-attended by members, friends and visitors.

The church continued to play host to Carlisle's popular Farmers on The Square market on Wednesdays from May through December. We also opened our doors in October to a well-attended presentation by local historian Jeff Wood from Historic Carlisle on George Washington's 1794 trip to Carlisle to help put down the Whiskey Rebellion. 225 years later, it was an evening that left us Presbyterian Proud.

We celebrated the addition of 21 new members in 2019 – including our nine confirmands. Please think about who you might invite to First Presbyterian during the year ahead to help us start to build our next membership class. And please feel free to share any other ideas you have that will help our church continue to be Christ's witness on the Square.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Thompson, Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee for 2019 consisted of Session members Charlie Thompson, Lynda Mann and Deb Ryerson, and Deacon Bob Read, with Joe Shane representing the congregation-at-large.

We were looking to fill four slots on both Session and the Board of Deacons this year.

After careful consideration of skill sets needed on both boards, attempting to have all facets of our church family represented, and our nominees' ability to serve at this particular time, the committee was able to nominate the following slates to the congregation:

Session: Barbara Allen, Lynda Mann and Joe Shane.

Deacons: Ryan Crim, Rick Line, Vicki McLaughlin and Kathy Mulvey.

The congregation elected these officers without opposition at a congregational meeting held after worship on November 24. We are all grateful for their willingness to serve, and for the careful consideration given by all prospective candidates we reached out to.

At this writing, there is one vacancy on the Session, which we expect to fill in short order.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Thompson

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

In 2019, the Human Resources Committee consisted of the same members as the two prior years: Barbara Allen; Jim Crum; Ellen Darr; and Dick Darr (Chairman).

Starting January 1, 2020, all current staff members will receive merit salary increases. The amounts vary from 1 to 3 percent, based on various factors. The Committee feels we are blessed to have such a fine staff, with each member performing at a high level.

In the summer of 2019 we learned of Debby Madden's planned retirement before the end of the year. She was an important and valued staff member for 20 years, and will be greatly missed.

Starting in July, the Committee met monthly to discuss the position of Christian Educator. Over the course of Debby's long tenure, the position evolved from part-time to full-time. With guidance from Pastor Lorenz, we have changed the position back to part-time. This involves eliminating some activities and asking for more volunteer efforts by the church membership. Before the end of 2019 we were able to provide a new job description that was approved by Session. We hope to fill the Christian educator position in early 2020. The position is budgeted for an annual salary of \$20,000. With benefits, the total compensation will be \$26,000 compared to over \$60,000 last year.

Dick Darr
Chairman

MISSION & INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members are: Rita Beck; Lois Lloyd; JJ Patterson; Terry Shull; Mike Stamey; Barb Allen (chair)

In 2019, the Committee continued to support both local and international missions of our church.

LOCAL:

- We voted to financially support four local charities: Community CARES; Maranatha; the PET Project; and Samaritan Fellowship.
- We continued our commitment to Project SHARE through: 1) monthly soup-giving and 2) the Lenten Concert/Luncheon Series (concerts led by Arthur Thompson; luncheons led by Bob Davis).
- In the fall of 2019 we contributed \$272.18 to the Deacons in support of their Disaster Relief Bucket Project for Church World Service. In conjunction with the after-worship assembling of the buckets, we organized a sub sandwich sale which raised \$66 for the Mission Fund.
- The Christmas Eve offering was equally divided between the Cumberland Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity and the Presbytery's Honduras Housing Project.
- In January, we collected socks and underwear for donation to Community CARES clients.

INTERNATIONAL:

- Internationally, we continued to support mission efforts in Honduras. We hosted Honduras mission worker Dori Hjalmarson and teamed with the Presbyterian Women to provide a congregational luncheon for her.
- We continued to support Scott and Elmarie Parker, Middle East mission co-workers, and sent a contribution toward development of the Presbyterian Church in Iraq.

We invite every member of First Presbyterian Church to join our fishing expedition to help out neighbors by sharing your ideas, time, talents and treasures with our church's mission program.

Barbara Allen

Committee Chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Property Committee was led in 2019 by Elder Frank Meehan. Sadly, Frank passed away January 14, 2020. Additionally, longtime member and former chair of the committee Dennis Rydberg passed away August 12, 2019. These two losses are keenly felt by the committee and the congregation. We are grateful for Frank and Dennis and their dedication to our historic building.

Some Property Committee highlights of 2019:

- Installation of a new hot water heater
- Painting the fence that surrounds the church property (with extra help)
- Replacing several portions of sidewalk along Courthouse Avenue
- Replacing flapper valves on all toilets
- Regular maintenance of the elevator, heating, and cooling systems

After the church was burglarized in August 2019, the Property Committee assisted in:

- Replacing carpet in the office and workroom
- Replacing damaged office doors
- Overseeing the restoration of the emergency exit doors in the Gathering Room

In 2020, the Property Committee will be re-grouping to evaluate the needs of our historic structure and to continue the high level of maintenance performed in the past.

On behalf of the Property Committee,

Pastor Tony

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

(omitted intentionally; pp. 16-26)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle of First Presbyterian Church represents Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Carlisle. Mostly older women and small in number, we meet once a month from September through May. Although not considered an active PW group, we promote the PW Birthday and PW Thank Offerings each year. As well, we share the responsibility of collections for Blanket Sunday with the Deacons in our church. Having our own bank account, we choose to give to various needs annually, one of which in 2019, was to help finance our Pastor's trip to the Middle East. In September we worked with the Session Mission Committee to host a luncheon after worship when Honduras mission co-worker, Dori Kay Hjalmarson*, visited. On the bulletin board, we placed pictures of the retreat center in Honduras which the PW Birthday Offering helped to finance. This past December we invited all the women of the church to a holiday social held in our Fellowship Hall. Newly retired educator, Debby Madden, introduced the Horizon Bible Study, Love, Carved in Stone, which will be used by the group in 2020.

* Dori Kay Hjalmarson is a mission co-worker with the Presbytery of Honduras and is a facilitator for Theological Education and Leadership Development.

Submitted by Jean Kretzing

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons faithfully served the congregation this year in many ways.

One of our primary functions is reaching out to our shut-ins through visits, cards, and phone calls to let them know they are an important part of First Church. We also delivered Home Communion with elders to these shut-ins several times throughout the year, and took them special flowers at Christmas and Easter. Six Home Communion kits were created in special carrying cases to convey the communion elements and items for serving them.

We supported 26 members who lost loved ones through the *Journeying Through Grief* program, a series of booklets that provide comfort and helpful insights about the process of grieving. Recipients have remarked on their helpfulness. Our notecards with the pencil drawing of the church are popular and will still be sold in the church office during 2020.

New initiatives this year involved sending notes to members who were prayed for in congregational prayers each Sunday to tell them of their remembrance both in the Sunday service and at the deacons' meeting. In addition, we sent nine care packages to our college students in December just prior to their finals.

Our community outreach entailed:

- three Sunday evening dinners at *My Brothers' Table* at the Salvation Army;
- 108 bags of cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry in December; and
- raising over \$160 in bell ringing in early December for the Salvation Army.
- continuing to give Visitor Bags with information about us, our mission and activities to new people who worship with us.

Our donations to local organizations continued with monetary gifts to:

- Carlisle Cares
- The Adult Employment Skills Center
- Project Share
- Safe Harbor
- SPY Program
- Christian Counseling Center
- Samaritan Fellowship, and
- Maranantha.

Through our global outreach, we sponsored Mission Sunday with the Session Mission Committee, during which 100 disaster clean-up buckets were packed and shipped to Church World Service for use in emergencies throughout the world. We also sponsored Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day with the Presbyterian Women.

On Father's Day, we conducted a fundraiser that primarily supports our efforts at *My Brothers' Table*, but also helps fund our other programs throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who supported our missions through donations of time and money.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita L. Ashbaugh, Moderator