



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

February 7, 2016

LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

2015

Session of Ruling Elders

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway Moderators: Reverend Chip Low, Reverend Tami Seidel

The Session is the governing body of our Church. It consists of “ruling elders” elected by the members of the Church. One class of about six members is elected each year, serving for three years in a rotating membership arrangement. In addition, two Youth Elders are elected each year for one year terms.

Class of 2015

Josie Buckhout (Youth Elder)
*Tim Chin (Congregational Life)
*Robin Corpolongo (Education)
*Marsha Henderson (Worship)
*Bruce Johnson (Personnel)
*Connie Knapp (Mission)
*Tim Lupfer (Stewardship)
Julia Wanamaker (Youth Elder)

Class of 2016

*Debbie Bernardini (Worship)
*Donna Gresh (Communications)
Beth Gruber
(Budget & Finance, Personnel)
Jessica Mayes (Stewardship)
Eugene McGrath (Communications)
Ian Spence (Personnel, Operations)

Class of 2017

Kirk Larsen (Operations)
*David Ramage (Operations)
Suzy Rishel (Education)
Linda Swift (Communications)
Cathy Talbot (Stewardship)
Kathy Winsted (Mission)

**indicates chair of the committee*

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Christine Lazarus Vice-Moderator: Chuck Radke
Secretary: Cynthia Fritz Financial Secretary: John Chessa

In the Book of Order:

“The Office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.”

The primary work of the Deacons involves responding to the needs of our congregation and our Food Pantry. Deacons also serve 3 year terms.

In addition, two Youth Deacons are elected each year for one year terms.

Class of 2015

Emma Capichioni (Youth Deacon)
John Chessa
Todd Child (Food Pantry)
Wanda Diaz
Christine Lazarus
(Bereavement & Visitation)
Justin Leftwich (Youth Deacon)

Class of 2016

Carl Anderson
Cynthia Fritz
Chuck Radke (Transportation)
Carol Thorne-Gaetani
(Communications)

Class of 2017

Bud Coccodrilli (Food Pantry)
Debbie Hager
Marianna Sherman (Visitation)
John Winget

AGENDA

OPENING PRAYER

READING OF THE CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Clerk Gordon Braudaway

“The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2016, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall: to elect one Ruling Elder, class of 2018; to elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee; to receive the Annual Reports, including the report of the Auditors; to review the Co-pastors’ Terms of Call; and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the Meeting.”

REPORT OF MINUTES READERS FOR 2015 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of February 1, 2015 Annual Meeting

Ellen Miles, Carol Jensen

Minutes of April 19, 2015 Special Meeting

Bill Herman, Katharine Frase

Minutes of December 13, 2015 Special Meeting

Nance Thompson, Tony Tomicich

APPOINT MINUTES READERS FOR 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

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ANNUAL REPORTS

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NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

REPORT OF THE PASTORS

Planting Seeds and Nurturing Growth

“One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth.”
(paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 3:6)

In writing to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul uses the image of planting seeds to help the church understand how it grows. Faith and growth in ministry and mission are gifts from God, and all of us are called to join together in tending the garden that is the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown. 2015 has been a year of planting new seeds and nurturing the already established ministries to make sure they have good soil in which to grow.

At our Elder/Deacon retreat in January 2016, we looked back at who we have been and who we are now, and we took a proverbial walk through the garden that is full of our church’s ministries and missions, evaluating the soil and discussing what needs to be done as we move forward into this new year, this new growing season. Many of the ongoing ministries of our congregation are well-rooted and thriving but need the continued care and involvement of our members. *Thank you* to all who have dug in and gotten their hands dirty, continuing the work of ministry that wasn’t necessarily new, but is vital to who we are and what we do. The pages of this annual report of full of the many ways your dedication and hard work are blooming among us.

You will also read about some of newly planted seeds, programs and initiatives that have started in the past year or two and that need our intentional support if they are to grow and thrive. Some of these newly planted seeds include: Youth Groups, Green Faith certification, the Budget & Finance Commission, Covenant/Disciple Bible Studies, Planned Giving, Tech Team, Gardeners of Eden, self-sustaining Usher Ministry, multiple Mission Trips, just name a few.

Perhaps the biggest of these new seeds is the co-pastor model of ministry. Thanks to the faith and forward thinking of the Session, the congregation’s decision to create a new model of leadership was realized in 2015. This decision was not merely about hiring another pastor. It was about the way we will lead together, as pastors, elders and deacons, and members and friends of this church. This new model of leadership represents a commitment to be in partnership in new and fresh ways and to model that for the world around us. We are so grateful to the entire church leadership and the whole congregation for your faith and vision in making this decision and for your support and flexibility as we have all lived into what it means for our life together. We continue to be encouraged and inspired by the many ways that you are embracing this commitment to shared ministry as we serve God together.

FPC Yorktown Co-Pastor Responsibilities 2015/2016

Commission/Task	Chip	Tami	Both
Budget & Finance	X		
Communications	X		
Congregational Life	X		
Deacons		X	X
Education		X	
Adult Education			X
Church School		X	
Confirmation			X
Vacation Bible School		X	
YPP	X		
Youth	X		
GreenFaith		X	
Mission		X	
Nominating			X
Operations		X	
Personnel			X
Session			X
Stewardship		X	X
Worship Design			X
Presbytery			X
Public Ministries - 50/50			X
Worship Leadership			X
Preaching			X
Weddings & Funerals			X
Pastoral Care			X

As with anything that is alive and growing, gardens are places of change and transition. Here is a sampling of some of these transitions and new initiatives:

- **Office Administration:** *Kim Wertz* finished her work as our Administrative Assistant. A new position was created, Office Manager, and we hired *Lisa Flanagan*, who has brought her own wonderful gifts and skills to our ministry.
- **Youth Ministry:** After a year, *Margery Rossi* completed her work as our Youth Coordinator. The position was redefined and titled Director of Youth Ministries, and God led us to one of our own, *Stephanie Hare*, who is already doing wonderful work, increasing our connections with youth and developing opportunities for them and all of us to work together. Along with hiring Stephanie, the Session increased the hours of the new position to give more resources and leadership to youth ministry. During this transition, the insightful and important work of our Youth Design Team, *Karen LaBonte*, *Alice Chin* and *David Monk*, came to a conclusion. Their work to create a youth ministry plan created the momentum we are living in now.
- **New Budget & Finance Commission:** This new commission was created to link together the yearly budget and investments together in ways that support the ongoing mission of the church, its commissions and committees. Thanks to the leadership of *Beth Gruber*, we now have an overhauled financial reporting system that is cohesive and empowering. Our money is working to support our mission in new ways.
- **Grateful Service:** We said thank you to several faithful members as they stepped down from particular service. *Dick Seymour* served as Facilities Coordinator for over 10 years and as member and chair of the Operations Commission. *Frank Hodgkinson* served as one of our treasurers for at least 15 years. *Bill Herman* served as sound system operator and tech guru for worship for as long as we can remember. All three of these men offered their gifts and skills in many ways, and we look forward to how God may call them to live their faith with us next. We are a better church for their service.
- **Green Faith Initiative:** We began a two-year certification process that invites us to follow God's call to be faithful stewards of the planet, property and people God has entrusted to our care and to use our property and resources in ways that honor God's creation. This effort involves members from various commissions and ministries and is a church-wide effort.
- **Mission:** We built on the success of past yearly mission trips and expanded to three. We traveled to Point Pleasant, NJ, the Dominican Republic and Stony Point Center. All three lived our purpose as a church to connect with God, one another and the world. Thanks to *Heidi Haring*, *Stephanie Hare* and *Margery Rossi* for their leadership, and to the Mission and Budget and Finance Commissions for making funding available that supported all three trips.

This winter season is the time to think ahead and plan our garden for 2016. We are committed to supporting the seeds that have already been planted, giving them the resources they need to grow and thrive. At our retreat, we also identified some other seeds that have been suggested and are waiting to be planted when the time is right:

- Outdoor Labyrinth
- Improved and Expanded Food Pantry Ministry
- Sanctuary Lighting and Technology Upgrade
- Website Development and Increased Online Volunteer Sign-Up
- Explore 3rd Worship Service and Weekly Communion
- Youth Internship Program
- Redesign Gathering Space and Narthex for greater hospitality and functionality
- Faithful Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis, Immigration Issues and Gun Violence, Food & Environmental Justice Issues

The planting and tending of these seeds will require prayerful discernment and discussion, and we look forward to your support and input as we seek to grow in our ministry and mission as a church. Through it all, we remember that God is at the center of our church garden and God will give the growth in God's time and with God's grace. We can't wait to see what new life comes up in the coming year!



REPORT OF THE SESSION

2015 Statistics

MEETINGS:

11 Regular Session, 4 Special Session, 1 Session / Deacons Combined, 2 Session e-mail Advisories
2 Congregational (1 Annual, 1 Special)

Active Members as of December 31, 2014: 389

<u>Gains</u>		<u>Losses</u>	
Profession of Faith	11	Deaths	5
Reaffirmation of Faith	10	Removed	25
Letter of Transfer	4		

Active Members as of December 31, 2015: 384

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY:

PROFESSION OF FAITH	REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH	LETTER OF TRANSFER
Michael Gibson Blaney	Deneen M. Furci	Cheryl Burns
Brianna Cardillo	Carmine J. Furci	Jennifer Madelin (McKee) Burns
Brielle Furci	Thomas Hamilton Lipscomb	Patrick Joseph Burns III
Margaret Susan Gruber	Margaret (Hamilton) Lipscomb	Robert Burpee
Sarah MacDonald	Dora Sam-Brew Kelly	
Kianna Denise Mack	Craig Martin Scatola	
Kevin Troy Rishel	Kristen Ashley (Adams) Scatola	
Megan Switzer	Martin Scatola	
Michael Switzer	Lisa Tieche	
Maxwell (Max) Paul Tieche	Vincent Wallace	
Amy Lynne (Armstrong) Wallace		

BAPTISMS

April 19	Arianna Jane Casseday	December 13	Madelyn Jean Scatola
July 5	Avery Pinatello	December 27	Amy Lynne (Armstrong) Wallace (<i>Adult Baptism</i>)
July 12	Olivia Susan Boyd		
September 27	Morgan Elizabeth Lodewick		

DEATHS (*= active members)

*Theodore (Ted) Lyman Crockett	*Nellie Keller	Kwei-Fik Sum
Jose Diaz	Betty MacDonald	Mary Turner
Lynn Fischer	*Francis (Fran) W. Proceller	
*Kenneth (Ken) N. Hardy	Julia Rushon	

REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP

Susanne M. (Honour) Caruso	James Graham	Lauren Kassa
Kristen Lynn Corbi	Lisa Ann (Martin) Graham	Rita (Garber) Kovalsky
Matthew Joseph Corbi	Kaitlyn Guttormsen	Annie Little
David Cribari	Kristen Guttormsen	Allen Manzano
Erin Cruikshank	Christiaan Haring	Frazer Winsted
Christopher Farrell	Casandra Ann Honovich	Melanie Winsted
Debra Elizabeth (Joyce) Farrell	Philip Honovich	Barbara A. (Scribano) Wolff
Joseph Patrick Farrell	Shawn Paul Honovich	
Laura Farrell	Alyse Kassa	

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Braudaway, Clerk of Session

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Robin Corpolongo, Debbie Bernardini, Ruling Elders

Members at Large: Nance Thompson, Alice Chin, David Lee, Katharine Frase, Mark Linehan

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway

Officers of the Corporation:

President: Ian Spence
Vice-president: Linda Swift
Treasurer: Beth Gruber
Secretary: Gordon Braudaway
Auditors: Michele Mosca (2016)
Emily Monk (2017)
Tony Tomicich (2018)
Counters: Ruth Deemer
Kathy Hodgkinson
Pam Darreff
Carol Annacone
Debbie Hager
Carol Myers
Norean Radke
Fran Schiel
Financial Secretary: Lisa Flanagan
Treasurers: Tom Travis
Beth Gruber
Gordon Braudaway

Ruling Elders Class of 2018:

Alyssa Bauer
Karen Gerth
Christie Herman
Fred Mintzer
Lynda Spring

Youth Ruling Elders Class of 2016:

Justin Leftwich
Megan Switzer

Deacons Class of 2017:

Sue Nelson

Youth Deacons Class of 2016

Ellen Gruber
Max Tieche

Deacons Class of 2018:

Judy Chessa
Terri Froehlich
Jocelyn Ramage
Bill Winsted

Action Item: To vote to fill one position of Ruling Elder.

PERSONNEL COMMISSION

The Personnel Commission acts as the human resources department of a corporation does, dealing with all aspects of the management of our employees and their needs. Much of what we do is of a confidential nature and therefore cannot be included in the annual report. When there is a need for hiring someone to fill a vacancy, or someone new is being hired, one of our functions is to take the lead in the hiring process, or assist the other commissions with the hiring process. We also conduct annual reviews of each employee, using a survey that is sent to members of the congregation who have interaction with each employee, asking for their input regarding that employee's performance during the year. Actions we have taken this past year: hired a new Office Manager, Lisa Flanagan, when Kim Wertz resigned; hired a replacement caregiver, Laura Quis, for the childcare room, as well as a new Director of Youth Ministries, Stephanie Hare, which was necessary when Margery Rossi resigned; further revised job descriptions for all employees whose jobs had changed; updated and/or drafted employment agreements for all employees; and revised and updated the "Vacation, Sick, Personal, Disability, and Family Leave" guidelines for full time employees. Listed on page 20 are the 2016 Terms Of Call for Co-Pastors Chip Low and Tami Seidel which represent a 1% increase in effective salary.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Jonson, Chairperson*

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

Members: Tim Chin chair; Ruth Deemer, Karen Gerth, Ann Everingham, Louise Fang, Pat Prauda, Melissa Shaughnessy, Sue Mintzer, Kathy Winsted, Rita Child, Diane Hawlk, Lisa Eliasson, Caroline Awuor, Deborah Bernardini, Josie Buckhout

Purpose: We extend our hospitality to our church members, visitors and strangers. We plan, participate in, and help organize events and activities for our extended church families to socialize, meet new people and unite our two services.

“Don’t neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)

May our hospitality reach out to angels and all, guided by God’s grace and love!

2015 On-going Support Activities

- **Sunday Brunch** (now coordinated with Special Events) we encourage our entire church congregation to help contribute bringing in their special goodies and cooking to share. We have many fabulous bakers and foodies in our congregation that we look forward and give thanks for their continued sharing.
- **Sunday Coffee Hour** time after our Sunday services we look forward to sharing continued fellowships with our congregation and visitors. Coffee, refreshments and snacks are provided by our volunteers that setup and cleanup to make it all happen. So please lend a hand in signing up to support this special time.
- **Special Thanks** to Karen and Ruth for their commission service and leadership as they exit from our commission. We are also so grateful to each and every Congregational Life commission member for their continued time and support.

2015 Highlight Events

We are so fortunate to have volunteers that are willing and able to share their time and talents in support for many of our church/community support events. Here are some events our team has had the pleasure in supporting, as we look forward to the upcoming year to continue and build upon:

Special Events: **Installation of co-Pastors Chip & Tami** (Mar); **FPCY Easter Sunrise Service** (Apr) early service in Downing Park and Breakfast back at church; **Celebrating 15 Years w/Simona** (Jun); visiting **Homecoming** weekend, **Progressive Dinner** (Jun) a big thanks to the Grubers for hosting Hors d’oeuvres, and to the Winsted, Wallace, Herman, Fang, Nelson and Deemers for their hosting homes, and to the core planning team of Louise Fang, Sue Nelson and Barbara Humphrey; another fabulous **Parish Picnic** coordinated by Ann (Sep); 5th annual **Blessing of the Animals** (Oct), **Honoring Long-Time Members** (Nov) 40-71 years; **FPCY Tea Dance** coordinated by Kathy (Nov), **Kay Liebermans 100th Celebration** (Nov); **Lower Hudson Valley Presbytery Meeting** (Dec) >80 churches

Youth Events support: **Pancake Supper** (Feb); **“Confirmation Meets Session”** (April); **Congratulations Confirmation Class** (May); **Children’s Sunday** (Jun)

Church events: supporting our **Annual Congregation Meeting** (Feb); **Farewell to Kim, office manager** (Feb); **Ash Wed Service/Brunch** (Feb); **New Member Brunch** (Mar/Nov);

Young Adult Volunteers (Aug) 1 Year Commission to:

Shaina Miller (Peru) <https://shainamilleryav.wordpress.com/>

Alexander Sprague (Chinook, MT) <https://alexspragueyav.wordpress.com/>

Emily Stevens (Ashville, NC) <https://emilystevensyav.wordpress.com/> ; **Sermon for Lunch** (Nov)

Thanks again to all our supporting congregation, and interested ones whom like to come join our team!

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Chin (exiting Chair) and Deborah Bernardini (new Chair)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Members: Donna Gresh, chair, Mark Linehan, JoAnne Marsh, Eugene McGrath, Barbara Santagata, Linda Swift, Lisa Tieche (and Lisa Flanagan as an “associate member”)

Purpose: The Communications Commission manages the internal and external communications of our Church. This includes the website, Facebook, banners at the corner of Routes 202 and 132, online event calendars, press releases, advertising, brochures, and community fairs. We tell the story of the Church's activities, from worship, to concerts, to Church School, to mission projects, the annual Stewardship Campaign, congregational get-togethers, and many other church events mission work.

2015 Activities and Highlights include:

1. Our website became “mobile friendly!” Fifty percent of online searches are from mobile devices, and that number is growing rapidly. Google now includes “mobile-friendliness” in its ranking algorithm. We proactively contracted with our hosting company to overhaul our website before Google’s algorithm changed, to make it completely mobile-friendly. This means that when you view the site on a small screen, it automatically adjusts to remain readable and “clickable.”
2. We continually work to ensure that the website aligns with the goals of the commissions. Blog postings of “current events” (in the “Connections” section of the site, and visible from the home page) average 25 per month and are automatically pushed to our Facebook page and to Twitter. (“Like” us on Facebook!) The home page of the site has an animated and illustrated “slide show” of upcoming events, linked to detailed postings.
3. Lisa Flanagan has been managing an Instagram presence for the church, with pictures of activities.
4. We conducted a survey of how members get information about church activities. This told us that the “most used” conduits are the Disciple, the Bulletin, and the pastors’ weekly emails. We strive to make sure that all timely information is shared across all of these conduits.
5. In November we installed a flat screen monitor in the Gathering Space to further spread information on “What’s Happening.” It shows the colorful graphics from the website home page, as well as photo movies of recent events. It can also be used for special-purpose events, such as the Presbytery Meeting in December when it was used to provide room numbers for breakout sessions.
6. In coordination with the Stewardship commission we have re-worked the “Giving” page information on the website to simplify and more clearly communicate the full process of giving to our church, from pledging to fulfilling.
7. Barbara Santagata and Donna Gresh worked with Lisa Eliasson to update and improve the Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool pages with more information and lots of photos.
8. Donna Gresh worked with Margery Rossi to update the Youth pages and integrate them into the website.
9. We consider our website as our “face to the outside world,” and we try to ensure that it is a hospitable place for visitors, with maps and information for the first time visitor.
10. Barbara Santagata and JoAnne Marsh created dozens of professional and beautiful graphics which were used in our advertisements, blog postings, Facebook announcements, the Bulletin, and pastors’ weekly emails, as well as on our website. These have enhanced our visual presence and create a “brand” that we can truly be proud of.
11. We have been very intentional about highlighting activities throughout the church on the website and in the Disciple. We have written many “stories,” on topics including the Prayer Shawl group, the Noontime Meal, the Food Pantry, and the Confirmation Class Midnight Run. We encourage anyone who wants a story to be written to simply contact any member of the commission.
12. Activities of the new GreenFaith initiative are prominently featured on our website and in the weekly Bulletin and in the monthly Disciple.
13. We have highlighted some of the blog postings of the Young Adult Volunteers that we commissioned in August.
14. Barbara Santagata has partnered with the youth group team to make sure that youth activities are prominently featured on our home page.
15. Chip Low has experimented with advertising for the church on Facebook. He has found that a relatively small expenditure reaches a fairly wide audience.

(Continued on page 10)

16. Eugene McGrath, Mark Linehan, Linda Swift, and Donna Gresh shared the effort of placing the sermon on the website each week. Don't forget that you can automatically get the sermon podcast delivered each week via iTunes. Thanks to Bill Herman and now the members of the Sermon Technical Team for their work in uploading the sermon to Google Drive each Sunday so that we can create the podcast. Each week between 20 and 30 people listen to the sermon podcast.
17. Eugene McGrath, Mark Linehan, and Donna Gresh placed notices of church activities on a half-dozen online community calendars, and sent announcements to local newspapers.
18. We organized a table to represent the church at the Yorktown Community Fair in October .

We want to especially thank Lisa Flanagan for her wonderful efforts in producing The Disciple, the Bulletin, and the pastors' weekly email. Her professionalism, creativity, and design skills are very much appreciated. These print and electronic communications are beautiful and visually engaging.

*Respectfully submitted,
Donna Gresh*

REPORT OF THE DEACONS

Contact to the Homebound

Again this year, our active visitation team, comprised of past and current deacons, visited church members at home, in the hospital or in nursing homes. We forged and deepened friendships with the people we have visited and the experience has been very rewarding to us all. This year we made 119 visits, including several communion visits, and many calls. *Christine Lazarus and Marianna Sherman*

Transportation

About 25 rides were arranged to transport church members to medical appointments, church services or functions during the year. Contact is maintained with seniors who no longer can drive to find out their transportation needs. Church members often also provide rides to those in need without our knowledge. That kindness is encouraged to be continued. We thank those who have helped with temporary transportation needs. *Chuck Radke*

Loaves and Fishes

John Winget, Bud Coccodrilli, John Chessa and Christine Lazarus shared this ministry this year. Several members of the congregation readily responded to the needs of their friends and they prepared and delivered meals without the deacons' help, which explains the small number of meals (five) we provided this year.

Card Ministry

Wanda Diaz mailed 100 cards this year. Cards were sent for the birth of a baby, weddings, significant birthdays and anniversaries, sympathy and in times of illness. Thank you letters were also sent to the major contributors to our food pantry.

Hat and Mitten Tree

Carol Thorne-Gaetani coordinated the Hat and Mitten Tree this past Christmas. The Pantry clients were able to select hats, mittens, scarves or headbands from the Christmas tree for each of their family members. "The Knit-Togethers" did an amazing job and contributed over 100 handmade items. Members of our Congregation and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown also hand-made hundreds of items. All together we had over 385 beautifully hand-crafted, colorful and unique items to give to our clients. It was a joyful event for ALL involved!

Bereavement

Christine Lazarus and Marianna Sherman, assisted by members of the congregation, helped with the receptions held after the memorial services of Ken Hardy, Jose Diaz, Nellie Keller, Betty MacDonald, Fran Proceller and Ted Crockett.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry saw a reduction in overall clients back to the 2011-2013 ‘normal’ levels. This is very good news, as 2014 had been a very high anomaly. That said, 2015 was still a very busy year, with 4,336 bags of groceries given out throughout the year to 464 [unique] households. The average pantry served 124 families, which represents food for 486 individuals each pantry. At Thanksgiving we set an historical record giving out 338 bags to 236 families.

In addition to generous giving from the Congregation and the matching fund, we received additional help from Polymedco again this year, as well as significant financial and food assistance from Acme. The corporate gifts offset a marginal reduction in federal and Food Bank-based grants this year. Hilltop Hanover Farm also kindly donated hundreds of pounds of produce. The total spending for the year was \$23,987 against a planned budget of \$25,600. As is typical, but perhaps not intuitive, the vast majority of clients are very short term, taking assistance less than four times. The majority of the long term clients are the local disabled, elderly and veteran populations.

Bud Coccodrilli now takes over as the lead Deacon Pantry Co-Director (Todd will continue to assist). Bud is re-establishing fresh produce distribution and investigating a move to ‘Client Choice’ distribution. *Todd Child*

Toys for Tots

FPCY was again privileged to serve as a distribution partner for the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots program for the Yorktown area. With help from several Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and a number of our regular food pantry volunteers, we distributed 800 toys to some 140 families with some 440 children. This year, thanks to JV Bagel, Dunkin Donuts, and members of the congregation, we also provided bagels and cookies to our clients.

Carl Anderson

School Supplies

The Deacons spent \$1359.47 on school supplies, \$659.47 from the Deacon’s fund and \$700 from donations. School supplies were distributed on August 8 and 22. We purchased 135 school supplies kits from Staples’ Kits 4 Kidz program (60 K-2 and 75 grades 3-5). In addition, the congregation donated supplies or money for us to assemble 60 middle and high school kits. We gave out a total of 195 kits to school age children. *Debbie Hager*.

Diaper Ministry

Our Deacon Fund, combined with the generosity of our Congregation and of the Yorktown Lions Club, enabled us to distribute diapers to our food pantry clients once a month. Over one third of our clients request diapers, and our resources enabled us to distribute 612 parcels of diapers, for an approximate amount of \$3600 through cash and in-kind donations. *Carl Anderson*

Thank You and Farewell

A heartfelt thank you to my fellow outgoing Deacons, John Chessa, Todd Child, Wanda Diaz and John Winget, for the care, dedication and enthusiasm they demonstrated in their various ministries and best wishes to Emma Capichioni and Justin Leftwich, our Youth Deacons. We extend a warm welcome to the new class of Deacons, Judy Chessa, Terri Froehlich, Sue Nelson, Jocelyn Ramage and Bill Winsted, as well as to Ellen Gruber and Max Tieche, our Youth Deacons.

The Board of Deacons would also like to thank the congregation for your support, prayers and generosity which enables us to carry out our mission to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Lazarus, Moderator

WORSHIP DESIGN COMMISSION

Members: Jane Amato, Gordon Braudaway, Judy Chessa, Lisa Eliasson, Simona Frenkel, Karen Gerth, Marsha Henderson (chair), Bill Herman, Christie Herman, Squeegie Mills, Rev. Chip Low, Sara Mann, Barbara Santagata, Rev. Tami Seidel, Lynda Spring, Ann Timmons, Barbara Wilkens

The Worship Design Commission oversees the needs of our faith community as it gathers for worship. The Commission serves as a support to our Co-pastors as we develop and implement the various themes of worship during the year, endeavoring to make the worship experience more meaningful. Special services are planned, worship themes are emphasized by appropriate decoration of the Sanctuary using banners, flowers, candles and other themed decor. The Commission oversees the Usher Ministry, the lay ministry, and makes arrangements for the serving of the Lord's Supper. In addition, The Worship Design Commission oversees the musical life of our congregation, including music for the services, the Adult Choir, the Adult and Youth Bell Choirs and the Concert Series.

The following special worship themes, events and services highlighted our year:

- FPCY Adult Choir again joined with the Antioch Baptist Church for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day service.
- Lenten Theme: **Directions: Seeking God.** When you search for me you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13. Upward, Downward, Inward, Outward, Backward, Forward, Onward (Easter Sunday)
- Ash Wednesday - **Asking for directions. Seek first the Kingdom of God.** Two services: 12 noon in cooperation with the Lunch Bunch who served lunch following the service. 7:30 evening service.
- Installation Services for Tami and Chip, our new co-pastors. This service was presented by the Presbytery with Dr. Susan Andrews as the main speaker.
- New Member presentation: Spring group
- Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday: three services at 6:30 am. 8:30 and 10:45
- Pentecost
- Summer schedule began with the 9:30 service for Children's Day
- Vacation Bible School Dedication - held this year at FPCY for the community.
- Recognition of Simona Frenkel for 15 years of service as music director.
- Blessing of the Hands
- Parish Day Service and picnic. Green Faith Kick-off
- Fall theme: **The Earth is the Lord's and Everything it.** Psalm 24:1
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- World Communion Sunday
- Mission Trip Reflection Service - 2 services resume. **I am a witness. The Armor of God.** Ephesians 6:10-18
- October focus: Stewardship. **The whole world belongs to God.** Give more than money. "Giving Tree" became focus for month.
- Blessing of the Animals
- November focus: Racism and Privilege
- All Saints Sunday - Members who died during the year as well as long time members remembered and honored.
- Peace and Justice Sunday
- Welcome new members - fall group.
- Thanksgiving Theme
- Advent theme: **Awaken: Keep awake therefore, for you do not know what day your Lord is coming.**
- Hanging of the Greens
- Longest Night Service
- Christmas Eve Services: 4, 7:30, 11:00
- Lessons and Carols

Highlights of the Year:

The installation of Chip Low and Tami Seidel as co-pastors of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown on March 15. Chip entered his sixth year of his pastorate, now joined by Tami Seidel, his wife to begin a new experience as co-pastors.

The Usher Ministry completed its first year as a self-directed group who served the church at every service. It was developed and overseen by the Worship Design Commission and it continues to work very well. It emphasizes our commitment to hospitality as we welcome all our members and all our visitors to our worship services.

We welcomed over 400 worshippers at Easter time and 600 at our Christmas Eve Services in 2015.

Tech Team

The need for a team to assist with technical requirements during worship and meetings was raised in the spring of 2015. The balance of the year has been spent “building bench” and training volunteers. There are now 14 members on the Tech Team. Not all members are currently active, but there are 9 members who have been trained on the sound board and have run the board during worship.

In addition to running the sound board during worship, the Tech Team will also polish their skills in utilizing Power Point presentations and video clips during worship. Tech team members assist in uploading an audio recording of the 10:45 worship service to software that allows us to share it on our website. The tech team got its start through the expertise and patient guidance of **Bill Herman, Ben Low** and **Ken Schulman** along with the leadership of **Karen Gerth** who now serves as the team’s leader.

Concert Series

The Worship Design Commission oversees the **First Presbyterian Church Concert Series** which produced it’s 15th season under the musical direction of **Simona Frenkel**. The Concert Series is financed solely through the generous support of the Concert Series patrons and audience donations. Five seasonal concerts are organized by task force members **Simona Frenkel** (Music Director), **Christie Herman** (Production Manager), **Carol Jensen** (Patron Care and Nurture), **Mark Linehan, Stephanie Hare, Amy Wallace** (Audience Development), **Barbara Santagata** (Art Design), **Ann Timmons, Ken Shulman, Sharon Larson** (Front of House), **Kathy Anderson** (Reception Design), **Beth Gruber** (Budget Oversight), **Judy Chessa, Christine Lazarus, Ruth Deemer,** (Reception Support), and **Katherine Frase, Robert Dreher** and **Bill Herman** (Utility Players). Concerts were followed by themed receptions for the audience to meet the performers, which continue to be a popular aspect of our series. The Concert Series offered the following performances in 2015:

February 7, 2015	Candlelight Chamber Music with Dmitri Berlinsky, violin and Simona Frenkel ,piano.
March 28, 2015	Music in the Night with Andrey Tchekmazov, cello and Simona Frenkel, piano
April 18, 2015	Music from the Movies: A Melodious Medley of Musical Merriment
November 14, 2015	The Gerard Carelli Jazz Quartet
December 5, 2015	Christmas in Vienna

The Worship Design Commission is extremely grateful for the gifts of spiritual leadership, time and talent that have come from **Chip Low** and **Tami Seidel**, members of the Commission and Concert Task Force, the musical leadership of **Simona Frenkel** and the Adult Choir and the Adult and Youth Bell Choirs and the behind-the-scenes work of **Carol and Erik Jensen**. We are grateful for the ongoing ministries of **Gordon Braudaway** and **Karen Gerth** in providing the communion elements. Many thanks to **Pat Prauda** for overseeing the Paraments, **Barbara Wilkens’** banners, the Christmas trees, wreathes and garlands supplied by the **Wilkens and Pratt families** and **Barbara Santagata’s** amazing graphic designs. Thanks to **Lisa Flanagan** for keeping us all on the same page.

Thanks to all who stepped up in countless ways to make our worship experience so memorable.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Henderson, Chair

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Members: Robin Corpolongo, chair; Shawn Cribari, Lisa Eliasson, Stephanie Hare, Heidi Haring, Aloha Hicks, Carol Jensen, Connie Knapp, Dave Monk, Michele Mosca, Jill Pagliettini, Liza Placido, Suzy Rishel, Margery Rossi, Rev. Tami Seidel

Overview

The Education Commission is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of educational programs that address the needs of our entire church family from the youngest child to our seniors. The various committees strive to provide new and innovative programs that will capture the interest of the congregation and help each person progress on their own journey of faith development.

While we continue to serve adults in the congregation, the major initiatives in 2015 continue to be aimed at the youth of the congregation. We are in the second year of a new and vibrant church school education curriculum. This curriculum comes with its own child-friendly Bible, which aids in teaching our youth. The youth group that was reinvigorated in 2013 continues to be a focus as well. We had tremendous success with our Middle School youth program, and are now working to expand our Senior High program offerings and participation. This has been a year full of changes in leadership in almost all areas of Education, and with that some fresh new perspectives and energy have emerged.

Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool

Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool (YPP) offers morning classes for three and four year olds and a morning “Mommy and Me” program for two year olds. The school welcomes children with special needs as well as any required support personnel. The “Mommy and Me” program is offered in collaboration with the Westchester County Early Intervention Program. This program provides a socialization experience for two year old children; the group consists of both typically developing children and children with special needs.

YPP is governed by a Board composed of four parent representatives and five members from our church. The Director, **Lisa Eliasson**, serves on the board ex officio. Other church members currently on the board are **Jill Pagliettini** (Chair), **Deborah Cruickshank** (Treasurer), **Debbie Hager** (recording secretary), and **Julie Friscia**.

In addition to updating the YPP by-laws, highlights of the year include moving 15 students up to kindergarten in the neighboring school districts and both the three and four year old programs being full for the 2015-2016 school year. In addition to kindergarten readiness, YPP has strengthened its science program and included several field trips to local businesses.

Childcare Room

Consistent and dependable childcare during the Sunday and special services is an important consideration for parents of young children. Children from birth through kindergarten age are warmly welcomed here by our crib room caregivers **Denise Oschmann-Tomicich** and **Laura Quis**. Our thanks and appreciation go to **Michele Mosca**, our Childcare Room Coordinator, for all her efforts to provide a safe, nurturing environment for the youngest of our church family. We are currently seeking a third back-up person to provide coverage when our primary caregivers need time off, so that there are always two caregivers in the room at a time.

Church School

The Church School program continues to be a signature ministry of FPCY, offering a unique educational experience to children from pre-school through middle school. We have rotating superintendents working a two year term. The current Superintendents, **Liza Placido** and **Michele Mosca**, are responsible for the smooth running of the Sunday School program. We want to express our deep appreciation to **Jen Dixon** who completed her commitment in 2015 and enriched our church school with her dedication and wisdom. The Church School committee has had the blessing of **Suzy Rishel** as its leader for the last few years. Suzy led the committee through September of this year at which time the chairperson position was dissolved. Leadership is now the responsibility of the Superintendents. Suzy, thank you for your fantastic service! We also want to thank **Aloha Hicks** who has retired from this committee and serving on the Education Commission after many, many years of dedicated service.

Our Church School is composed of four sections to best serve the educational needs of the various age groups. These are: Pre-school; K through 4th grade; 5th and 6th grade; and 7th and 8th grade. We are in the midst of our second year using the *Spark, Connect & Re:form* curricula which are different for the different ages. Each Sunday, the pre-K through 4th

grade children start off in the Gathering Time before being dismissed to their rotation activities. A special feature of this program through June of 2015 was our gifted storyteller, **Bill Herman**, who brought a wonderful excitement to the start of each new church school lesson. He retired from the role after many years of creative service. Thank you Bill for the tremendous impact you've had on our elementary age youth. Starting in Sept, **Rev. Tami Seidel** graciously accepted the role of gathering time leader where the children learn the lesson, songs, and participate in a mini worship designed to give children exposure to the usual practices of worship in a child centered context. It is a joy having her in this new role. We continue to be grateful for **John Winget** who plays music in the gathering time.

Alternative Giving Fair: Thank you to **Heidi Haring** for coordinating the Alternative Giving Fair once again, and to **Kathy Blaney** and **Emily Monk** who help run it. The Fair Trade Market sells goods that benefit many small cooperatives and communities around the world. The Fair Trade Market is not a fund raiser for the church school. Instead, we support these vendors when the goods are purchased. The intention is to simply break even while providing our congregation with the chance to purchase interesting and unique gifts which make for fun holiday shopping!

Vacation Bible School

FPCY was the host church for this year's Yorktown Cooperative Vacation Bible School with the theme of *G-force: God's Love in Action*. It was tremendously successful with 35-40 youth volunteers, 25-30 adults and 107 children. VBS continues to be a cooperative program consisting of FPCY, First United Methodist Church of Yorktown, and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a young person's initiation into the life and ministry of our church. The students are being led on this important journey by **Pam Darreff**, **Gordon Braudaway** and **Ellen Miles** under the direction of **Rev. Chip Low**. Ten young people went through the class culminating in their Confirmation on May 3, 2015. Eleven more began their confirmation journey in the fall of 2015. They will complete their work in the spring.

The curriculum examines the seven parts of the Presbyterian Church (USA) seal. The class learned about the Presbyterian Church, its ministry, leadership and decision-making process. They also attend services of different Christian traditions, a Synagogue and a Mosque, as well as the MLK Community service at Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford Hills. The group participated in outreach ministries of our church, including going on a Midnight Run and serving at the Food Pantry, went on a retreat, enjoyed some group building activities and attended weekly worship.

Youth Ministries

The Middle School youth program flourished this year under the leadership of **Margery Rossi**. They focused on the theme of Stewardship, with activities provided each month by members of the congregation on specific topics related to this theme. The Youth Planning Team met regularly to plan the "nuts and bolts" of each month's activities in keeping with our mission statement and values, from the Vision for Youth Ministry document.

Mission: The youth ministry of FPCY invites our youth and their friends into a welcoming and Vibrant community that

- Surrounds youth with an unconditional love that fosters genuine relationships;
- Engages youth in the joys and traditions of the Christian faith;
- Energizes youth to extend the love of Christ to the world;

What We Value

- **Grace**, God's greatest gift to us, is the foundation of all we do and strive to be.
- **Growth**. Our covenant with youth begins at baptism and grows throughout their lives; we support and encourage our youth as they grow their faith in God, their relationship with the church, and with each other.
- **Trust**. We provide our youth with a nurturing and safe environment enabling them the opportunity for honest expression and inviting their questions and opinions in a non-judgmental way.
- **Joy**. We live a faith that shows our love of life, our delight in God as our strength and our desire that others know this faith with us.

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- **Service.** We seek to discover and express our faith through service to our community. By helping others we learn more about ourselves and our relationship with God and those around us.
- **Community.** We embrace our youth as vital members of a dynamic body, integrating them in the life and work of the Church as we also seek to know them as individuals.

This document was created by a Design Team consisting of **Karen LaBonte, Alice Chin, Jack Shaughnessy, Dave Monk** and **Chip Low**. Since this group has faced a variety of demands on their time and attention they are no longer able to oversee the “big picture” for a sustainable youth ministry. We have tremendous gratitude toward these five people for all the time, talent, and resources they put into designing this ministry and getting it off to such a great start.

The Senior High group that got off the ground in the fall of 2014 was run by **Rev. Chip Low** and **Margery Rossi** until May of 2015. Attendance was more of a challenge because of the many conflicting demands of active high school youth. In September, Margery gave notice that she would be resigning her role as Youth Coordinator effective mid-October to assume a call as pastor at a sister congregation in our Presbytery. Thank you Margery for your wisdom and dedication toward maintaining and growing this important ministry. With Margery’s input, we redefined the job description and revisited the time needed to fulfill this role. In November Session approved increasing the youth coordinator’s hours to 20 per week.

We have been blessed with one of our own members, **Stephanie Hare** who was hired as our new Director of Youth Ministries in November. She has enthusiastically jumped into her role and is keeping the Middle and High School programs active and energized. Some exciting Senior High initiatives include efforts toward an internship program, as well as preparations for eleven of our high school youth to attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University in July of 2016.

Mission Trips: One of the values our youth ministry embodies is “service”. Two mission trips took place this year. In the summer an intergenerational mission trip occurred and in Sept. the Middle School youth participated in a mission trip to Stony Point. They both provided our youth the opportunity to serve God and others with joy and trust, as an expression of their own faith. We continue to welcome your input into our ongoing efforts to sustain a dynamic and engaging youth ministry, and look forward to another great year of growth at FPCY!

Adult Education

Adult Education studies at FPCY are as much about our faith formation, both for us as individuals and as a community, as they are about education. Our studies engage both head and heart, providing a safe place for participants to share their questions, doubts and struggles and to support one another as we seek to live the Gospel.

We offer studies during the Church School hour on Sundays, and on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. A monthly “Sermon for Lunch” is an opportunity to gather after the 10:45 worship service on Sunday to discuss the day’s sermon, or any other faith issues that participants bring to the conversation. Our Women’s Circle bible study group meets monthly on Wednesday mornings. Adult Ed is coordinated by the Adult Education committee, which is now chaired by **Connie Knapp. Shawn Cribari** who has chaired the committee for many years stepped down in the fall. Thank you Shawn for your leadership and devotion to this ministry. Adult Ed is one of the areas where **Rev. Tami Seidel** has devoted her time. In 2014 Tami started two groups performing an intensive Bible study, with mandatory attendance, homework, and daily readings. They were completed in the spring and were so well received that three more study groups were formed this fall.

Church Library

The Church Library is a valuable resource that is open to all members of our church family. Feel free to browse and if you would like to take out a book, simply fill out a card and drop it in the box provided. **Carol Jensen** continues her service as our Church Librarian. In addition to books on Bible study, theology, and the Presbyterian Church, the library has many titles on examining and nourishing personal faith as well as all the recent Adult Education studies. The complete catalogue is available on the church’s website along with reviews of recent acquisitions. Additionally, each month a brief review of new items appear in the “Disciple”.

*Respectfully submitted,
Robin Corpolongo*

MISSION COMMISSION

The Mission Commission plans, coordinates and sponsors mission opportunities throughout the year. Stephanie Hare, Heidi Haring (Deacon), Nance Thompson, Jean Post-Winget, and Kathy Winsted served as members of this commission this past year and Ruling Elder Connie Knapp served as chair. Many members of the congregation participated in the activities of this commission; without their support First Presbyterian Church would not be able to accomplish as much as we do. We are grateful for the prayers and support of the congregation.

The congregation supported three (!) mission trips during 2015: an international trip to the Dominican Republic with Bridges to Community, a domestic trip to Point Pleasant, New Jersey to provide assistance to those still recovering from Hurricane Sandy, and a trip to Stony Point for the middle schoolers to learn about sustainable agriculture. The Mission Commission worked with the Adult Education Planning Team for Peace and Justice Sunday. We invited Reverend Kymberly McNair to preach and teach on Peace and Justice Sunday about the relationship of privilege, race and a faithful response to violence and racism.

We also worked with the Deacons and Education Commission on Giving Sunday to coordinate all of the giving opportunities during the Christmas Season by designating a “Giving Sunday” that provided Toys for Tweens to serve our food pantry clients, hats and mittens for the “hat and mitten” tree, food pantry donation cards, gifts for Bedford Prison Project and funds for the Presbyterian Joy Offering.

Our other offerings this year were distributed as follows:

- The Easter offering supported the disposable diaper ministry of the food pantry
- The Peacemaking Offering supported the work of Rural & Migrant Ministries
- The Pentecost Offering supported scholarships for youth to attend summer camps at Holmes Camp and Conference Center
- The congregation also supported the One Great Hour of Sharing offering of PC(USA).

In May we learned that our application to begin the process of becoming Green Faith certified was accepted by GreenFaith.org. Our application was funded in part by PC(USA). This is a two-year process that includes activities in the areas of spirit, stewardship, justice and communications. Our “Green Team” includes members of the communications, education, worship and operations commissions as well as members of the mission commission. We have spent the past few months conducting audits and planning our activities.

Other mission activities this past year included:

- Serving meals every month at Jan Peek House, a 19 bed safe haven for homeless men and women operated by CHOP, Caring for the Homeless Of Peekskill, Inc.
- Cooking and serving the Noon Time Meal monthly, in partnership with The Salvation Army and Peekskill Presbyterian Church, whose commercial kitchen is used for cooking
- Supporting the Education Commission’s Alternate Giving Fair in Thanksgiving to provide opportunities to support artisans and projects in the spirit of giving
- Sponsoring the Amnesty International letter writing campaign

The “Knit Together’s” co-chaired by Noreen Radke is also part of the Mission Commission. This year the group knitted 216 items that were distributed to the Deacon’s Mitten Tree for food pantry clients, Dominican Sister Family Nursing Services for the support of the Maternal Child Health Program (items are given to new moms and their babies), and the Field Home.

*Respectfully submitted,
Connie Knapp*

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Members: Jessica Mayes and Tim Lupfer, Co-Chairs. Gloria Coccodrilli, Mariana Sherman, Pam Darreff, Cathy Talbot, Tami Seidel and Chip Low.

Stewardship Campaign: We are pleased to report that 2015 was another year of remarkable generosity and faithful giving. Pledged gifts in 2015 amounted to 99.75% of the budgeted amount! Moreover, “non-committed” giving (gifts not associated with pledges), plate offerings, and other giving exceeded the budgeted amounts. More than forty “giving units” (individual members or families) gave more than the amount of their pledge. For 2016, our pledge campaign was “The Earth is the Lord’s and All That is in it.” We are still hopeful that a few additional pledges will come in, but generally we appear to be on track with 2015. Online giving remains strong, and we will continue to review online pledge/giving procedures to make the process as user-friendly as possible. We’ll also consider ways that members who give online can still participate in the offering during worship services.

Planned Giving: The policy for Planned Giving was approved by Session on September 8. The members of the Planned Giving Committee for 2016, which will review endowment gifts as they come in, are our pastors, Carol Thorne Gaetani, Cathy Talbot, Fred Mintzer, and Tim Lupfer.

Staying Connected: Led by Pam Darreff, we continued to stay in touch with our college age youth. This year we sent "care packages" to all freshman in the fall, and gift cards to all college students during finals week. Many students have written to express their appreciation that we are thinking of them and keeping them in the life of the church.

Visit the Visitor: Marianna Sherman continues to lead a team of volunteers who deliver homemade banana nut bread and a copy of the latest Disciple to people who have visited the church. To help ensure that we have as much relevant information as possible for both visitors and members, we redesigned the visitor card in 2015, which is now available in the pew racks.

Membership and New Members: As part of our annual duties, the Stewardship Commission reviewed the membership rolls of FPCY, and we recommended to the Session (which approved) dropping twenty-five (25) members from our rolls due to moving away or joining new churches. Five of our members passed away in 2015. We also welcomed 25 new members (including the Confirmation Class) in 2015, with a celebratory dinner/brunch following the church services when the new members were introduced to our church.

Many thanks to all who have helped this Commission throughout the year!

*Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Mayes*

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Members:

Bud Coccodrilli, Deanna Collins, John Chessa, Bill Friscia, Matt Hager, Suzie Jarocz, Kirk Larsen, Chip Low, Peter Marsh, Walter Oudheusden, Dave Ramage, Tami Seidel, Ian Spence, Tom Travis

Purpose:

The Operations Commission is responsible for maintaining and improving our facilities and properties and in so doing, support the Church’s work in our community and beyond.

2015 Highlights:

Before summarizing some of the work completed in 2015 we first want to recognize the outstanding and faithful contribution that Dick Seymour has made to the Commission over the many years. Dick resigned from the group this

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past summer but remains active in many facets of the operation. You will regularly see him diligently working on gardening tasks, maintaining parking lots and tending to repairs on sundry items.

Chairmanship of the Operations Commission is now shared amongst 3 people; **Kirk Larsen, Ian Spence and Dave Ramage**. There is no longer a single Facilities Coordinator, rather, all members of the Commission serve in that role as the situation dictates. To this end we are adding new members to our group. Thanks to Suzie Jarocz and Matt Hager for volunteering to come on board in 2015 as well as David Lee and Don Blaney who will join us this year.

Here is a sampling of some of the 2015 maintenance tasks and projects:

- A project to replace incandescent lighting with Light Emitting Diode and Compact Fluorescent Lighting hardware was completed. This contributed to reducing our electricity costs last year by almost 50% versus 2014.
- A major undertaking was the repainting of sanctuary ceiling and upper balcony walls in June. This work completed in time to minimize major disruptions to summer programs.
- Repainting of pews in the East Balcony was completed.
- All tiled floors were cleaned and re-waxed. This required a complete stripping in room 16.
- Rugs in the Pre-School area as well as Rooms 3, 4, 9, 12 & 15 were professionally cleaned.
- Damaged screens and glass panes on a number of windows were replaced.
- Repairs to fences and gates were accomplished in the playground area, north parking lot and parking lot driveway.
- The stone surface of the north parking lot was levelled and lines were re-painted in the east paved area.
- Because of several false fire alarms, we have established a contract with Marshall Alarms that, for a modest monthly fee, will cover the costs of most service visits and reduce the price of parts where required. They have recommended that we not replace the old system at this time because of the prohibitive expense.
- Thanks to the many volunteers from across the Church community our grounds and buildings are looking good. Spring and fall clean-up as well as grass cutting parties were a great success and The Memorial Garden has been weeded. We will continue to work with The Gardeners of Eden to maintain the current level of appearance. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of Deanna Collins and her outstanding organizing skills. She is also our top Operations Commission recruiter having brought 4 new members to the group in the last few months.
- Book holders in sanctuary pews have been inspected and repaired where required.
- Thanks to Dick and Barbara Hunter's generosity we now have a new, energy efficient kitchen refrigerator.
- Various other tasks included repair of the office air conditioning system, installation of a new hand drier and resolution of several plumbing leaks and blockages.

2016 Outlook

Our sanctuary is over 175 years old and other parts of the facility range in age from 66 to 18 years. Thanks to diligence of many in ensuring its upkeep over the years we do not face any known crises at this point but realizing that could change at a moment's notice, we do maintain and regularly contribute to a maintenance reserve fund to protect us. This year a few of the things we want to accomplish include:

- Replacement of the tiled floor in Fellowship Hall
- Completion of pew painting in the sanctuary west balcony
- Touching up exterior paint in certain areas
- Inspecting the roof and windows as there have been isolated leaks during a few extreme weather events
- Conducting a new energy audit and possibly changing to an environmental-friendly supplier as part of our Green Faith initiative

In closing, to members of the congregation including Operations Commission volunteers and Jose Sandoval, please accept our sincere thanks for everything you do to take care of our property and remember, if you see something that concerns you don't hesitate to bring it to the attention of anyone on our team.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Spence, Kirk Larsen, Dave Ramage

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YORKTOWN

2880 Crompond Road

Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

Phone: 914-245-2186

Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45am

Church School and Adult Education: Sundays at 9:30am

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm

Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool: 914-962-8712

www.FPCYorktown.org

Chip Low and Tami Seidel, Co-Pastors

Simona Frenkel, Organist & Choir Director

Stephanie Hare, Youth Coordinator

Lisa Flanagan, Office Manager

Jose Sandoval, Custodian

Liza Placido & Michele Mosca, Church School Superintendents

Tom Travis, Gordon Braudaway, Beth Gruber, Treasurers

THE SESSION

Class of 2016

Donna Gresh

Beth Gruber

Jessica Mayes

Eugene McGrath

Ian Spence

Debbie Bernardini

Justin Leftwich, *Youth Elder*

Megan Switzer, *Youth Elder*

Class of 2017

Kirk Larsen

David Ramage

Suzy Rishel

Linda Swift

Kathy Winsted

Class of 2018

Alyssa Bauer

Karen Gerth

Christie Herman

Fred Mintzer

Lynda Spring

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway

Moderators: Chip Low, Tami Seidel

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2016

Carl Anderson

Cynthia Fritz

Carol Thorne-Gaetani

Chuck Radke

Ellen Gruber, *Youth Deacon*

Max Tieche, *Youth Deacon*

Class of 2017

Bud Coccodrilli

Debbie Hager

Sue Nelson

Marianna Sherman

Class of 2018

Judy Chessa

Terri Froehlich

Jocelyn Ramage

Bill Winsted

Moderator: Judy Chessa

Vice-Moderator: Chuck Radke

Secretary: Cynthia Fritz

Financial Secretary: Bill Winsted