



## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

February 5, 2017

# LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

2016

## 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 2016

Debbie Bernardini  
(Congregational Life)  
Donna Gresh (Communications)  
Beth Gruber  
(Budget & Finance, Personnel)  
Jessica Mayes (Stewardship)  
Eugene McGrath (Communications)  
Ian Spence (\*Personnel, Operations)  
Justin Leftwich, *Youth Elder*  
Megan Switzer, *Youth Elder*

### Class of 2017

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

### Class of 2018

Alyssa Bauer (Congregational Life)  
Karen Gerth (Worship)  
Christie Herman (Worship)  
Fred Minzter (Budget & Finance)  
Lynda Spring (Mission)

*\*indicates chair of the committee*

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## Board of Deacons

Moderator: Judy Chessa      Vice-Moderator: Chuck Radke  
Secretary: Cynthia Fritz      Financial Secretary: Bill Winsted

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 2016

Carl Anderson  
Cynthia Fritz  
Chuck Radke (Transportation)  
Carol Thorne-Gaetani  
(Communications)  
Ellen Gruber, *Youth Deacon*  
Max Tieche, *Youth Deacon*

### Class of 2017

Bud Coccodrilli (Food Pantry)  
Debbie Hager  
Sue Nelson  
Marianna Sherman (Visitation)

### Class of 2018

Judy Chessa  
Terri Froehlich  
Jocelyn Ramage  
Bill Winsted

# 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 5, 2017, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall: To elect Arnold Cribari as Ruling Elder in the Class of 2019; to elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee; to review and approve the Co-pastors Terms of Call, to receive the Annual Reports, including the report of the Auditors; and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the meeting.”*

## REPORT OF MINUTES READERS FOR 2016 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of February 7, 2016 Annual Meeting

Ann Timmons, Carol Cornish

Minutes of December 11, 2016 Special Meeting

## APPOINT MINUTES READERS FOR 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

## NECROLOGY REPORT (page 6) AND MEMORIAL PRAYER

## ANNUAL REPORTS

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Education Commission ----- Ruling Elder Suzy Rishel -----	13-14
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## NEW BUSINESS

## ADJOURNMENT

## PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

## REPORT OF THE PASTORS

“I thank my God every time I remember you.” Those words from the Apostle Paul are as true for us in our ministry with you as they were for Paul in his. We thank God for the opportunity this annual report gives us to stop and remember what we have done together over the past year. The breadth and depth of our ministry keeps us so busy that if we do not stop and reflect, we might forget how fruitful we have been in our ministry to this point. We might also forget the journey we have been on for over eight years with Chip and four years with Tami that has led us to this point together. This annual report gives us the opportunity to reflect on and remember our journey in 2016. Looking at the report through the lens of our stewardship theme in the fall, where do you see the fruitfulness of our ministry? How have you been involved in the planting, growing, and harvesting of that fruitfulness? In our estimation, this report is a testimony to planting seeds in the good soil, as Jesus’ parable says, and seeing the harvest that produces abundant fruit.

Our stewardship theme in the fall, Fruitful, gives us an important way to read this annual report. Guided by the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Living* by Robert Schnase, we looked at five central practices that form us as disciples of Jesus Christ and as the church: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. Schnase writes, “These practices open our heart—to God, to others, to a life that matters, a life rich with meaning, relationship, and contribution. They help us flourish.” We believe this annual report is a testimony that our church and its people are flourishing, that we are opening our hearts and lives to God, to others, to a life that matters, to a ministry and a calling that is making the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ not simply something we receive but something we give away and make real in the lives of others.

An annual report also gives us the opportunity to say “Thank you!” Thank you for the many ways you have made those five practices core values of our life and ministry by living them. God has gifted FPCY with an amazing group of talented, dedicated, faithful, generous people. The fruit of that is seen in the number of people involved in the

ministry of our church, the spirit of our worship and service, and the lengths to which we go to share God’s love far and wide. Thank you to each and every one of you who invested time, talent and money into this ministry. Thank you for the ways you make FPCY a ministry that puts God first and lives out our calling to be the body of Christ in our context. Thank you for your dedication to be formed by the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ which grounds our identity and determines our purpose. The fruit of your faith is easily seen in the ministry we do.

Finally, we thank God for the opportunity to join God’s mission in the world. In the fall, a group of us read and discussed the book *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* by Kenda Creasy Dean. Among the many insights of the book, Dean says that one question needs to be central in how we instill faith in our children and youth. What does God want me to do? Helping children and youth (and adults too) answer that question keeps the purpose of our church in focus. We are not here to maintain an institution. We are called to be the church in this place and time, a church which molds an active faith in the lives of people, sends them into ministry in their daily lives as well as on mission trips, and sustains them through the joys and sorrows of life. Faith and ministry are gifts that shape who we are and what we do, as we seek to be as faithful, as generous, as hopeful, as welcoming toward others as God has been to us.

We have a partnership at FPCY. We (Tami and Chip) continue to be grateful for the church’s decision to enter into a shared leadership model of pastoral ministry. 2016 concludes the second year of living into that decision, and for our part, we continue to enjoy working together, with each other and with you. We hope that you as the church see and understand that we all share in the ministry and mission Christ has given us and we look forward to following where the Spirit leads us in 2017.

*Chip*      *Tami*

### FPC Yorktown Co-Pastor Responsibilities 2016

Commission/Task	Chip	Tami	Both
Budget & Finance	X		
Communications	X		
Congregational Life	X		
Deacons			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
Worship Design			X
Presbytery			X
Public Ministries - 50/50			X
Worship Leadership			X
Preaching			X
Weddings & Funerals			X
Pastoral Care			X

# REPORT OF THE SESSION

2016 Statistics

## MEETINGS:

10 Regular Session, 5 Special Session, 1 Session/Deacons Combined, 2 Session e-mail Advisories  
2 Congregational (1 Annual, 1 Special)

Active Members as of December 31, 2015: 384

<u>Gains (23)</u>		<u>Losses (27)</u>	
Profession of Faith	10	Deaths	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	7	Removed	26
Letter of Transfer	6		

Active Members as of December 31, 2016: 380

## MEMBERS RECEIVED BY:

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Gaia Bernardini  
TJ Chin  
Larry Hetz  
Sophie Low  
Aidan McAuliffe  
Emily McGrath  
Ryan Marsh  
Natalie Swift  
Kiera Wax  
Ruby Uszak

### REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Joann Campoli  
Indiana Davis  
Michael Delano  
Rebecca DiSisto  
Alex Golematis  
Erlinda Golematis  
Barbara Wanamaker

### LETTER OF TRANSFER

Bridget Bentley  
Chelsea Delano  
Cathy Leonard  
Jason Leslie  
Margery Rossi  
Andrew Torres

## BAPTISMS

March 13	Michael Avery Delano	November 27	Mason Reilly Cordone
May 1	Emily McGrath ( <i>confirmation youth</i> )	December 18	Molly Grace Blaufarb
May 1	Larry Hetz ( <i>confirmation youth</i> )		

## DEATHS (\*= active members)

Genevieve Palmer	*Robert Burpee	Judy Zito
Raymond Travis	Edmund Switzer	Florence Ross

## REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP (\*= transfer)

Joanne Bauckham	Virginia LePre	Charlotte Savino
William Bauckham	Caroline Lupo	Ruthann Scheffer
Carolyn Ciriello	Christopher Mosca	Pauline Spitzer
Paul Ciriello	Julie Moulic	Michael Stewart
Allison Frost	Andre Nelson	John Perrone
Robert Graham	Gary Olivier	Vanessa Sudnik
Andrew Suzanne Lasseter	Eileen Olivier	
Suzanne Lasseter	Cole Partenza	
Jean Leet	Ryan Prestiano	
Bradley Leet	Amy Savino	

Respectfully submitted,  
Gordon Braudaway, Clerk of Session

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Submitted by: Debbie Bernardini, Kathy Winsted, Ruling Elders*

*Deacon Representative: Marianna Sherman*

*Members at Large: Deanna Collins, Liza Placido, David Lee, Jeff Kephart, Tim Chin*

*Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway*

### **Officers of the Corporation:**

President: Linda Swift  
Vice-president: Fred Mintzer  
Treasurer: Beth Gruber  
Secretary: Gordon Braudaway

### **Ruling Elders Class of 2019**

John Winget  
Vinny Wallace  
Ellen Miles  
Cheryl Burns  
Squeegie Mills

### Staff of the Session of FPCY

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway  
Co-Treasurers: Gordon Braudaway  
Beth Gruber  
Tom Travis  
Financial Secretary: Lisa Flanagan

Auditors: Emily Monk (2017)  
Tony Tomicich (2018)  
Bill Winsted (2019)

Counters: Carol Annacone  
Pam Darreff  
Ruth Deemer  
Donna Gresh  
Debbie Hagar  
Kathy Hodgkinson  
Carol Myers  
Norean Radke  
Fran Schiel

### **Youth Ruling Elder Class of 2017**

Justin Leftwich (Jan '17-Aug '17)

### **Youth Ruling Elders Class of 2018**

Keira Wax (Jan '17 – Aug '18)  
TJ Chin (Sept '17 – Aug '18)

### **Deacon – Class of 2017**

Carol Thorne-Gaetani (serve out S. Nelson term)

### **Deacon – Class of 2018**

Sue Nelson (serve out J. Ramage term)

### **Deacons – Class of 2019**

Rose Johnson  
Katharine Frase  
Martin Scatola  
Tony Tomicich

### **Youth Deacons – Class of 2017**

Ellen Gruber (Jan '17 – Aug '17)  
Max Tieche (Jan '17 – Aug '17)

### **Youth Deacons Class of 2018**

Michael Blaney (Sept '17 – Aug '18)  
Sophie Low (Sept '17 – Aug '18)

### **Ruling Elders Class of 2017**

Bruce Johnson (serve out D. Ramage term)  
Debbie Bernardini (serve out C. Talbot term)

**Action Items:** To elect Arnold Cribari as Ruling Elder in the Class of 2019

To nominate and elect 5 At-Large Members to the 2017 Nominating Committee

Youth Elders and Deacons: Decision taken to have Youth Deacons and Elders to serve one year terms based on the school year rather than the calendar year

Thank you to all the hardworking members of the nominating committee and to the people who stepped up to serve. We feel very good about the wonderful new group of elders and deacons who are joining our church leadership.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Debbie Bernardini and Kathy Winsted, co-chairs*

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

**Members:** Alyssa Bauer, Deb Bernardini, Kathy Winsted, Session Members; Ann Everingham, Louise Fang, Pat Prauda, Melissa Shaughnessy, Sue Mintzer, Diane Hawlk, Lisa Eliasson, Caroline Awuor, Josie Buckhout, Barbara Humphrey; Sue Nelson.

**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.

### *2016 On-going Support Activities*

- **Sunday Brunch** We conduct Sunday Brunch 3-4 times per year, giving our congregation the opportunity to share fellowship along with our favorite recipes!
- **Sunday Coffee Hour time** after our Sunday services we look forward to sharing continued fellowship with our congregation and visitors. Coffee, tea, and refreshments are provided by our volunteers that setup and cleanup to make it all happen. We appreciate everyone who signs up to support and those who pitch in when they see a need. Please consider signing up to support this special time in our church life!

### *2016 Highlight Events*

We are so fortunate to have volunteers that are willing and able to share their time and talents in support of many of our church/community events. Here are some events our team has had the pleasure of supporting. We look forward to continuing and building upon:

#### Special Events:

- **Celebration of the contributions of church members** as we wish them well in their new endeavors: Bob and Marilyn Dreher, Dave and Jocelyn Ramage and Eleanor Hibben.
- **Progressive Dinner** (June) – this year we included a vegetarian offering and a youth host site. Special thanks to Barbara Humphrey and Sue Nelson for leading the core planning team
- **Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast** – Special thanks to Lisa Eliasson for coordinating a delicious breakfast!
- **Commission Carnival** (March) – a great time was had by all as our Session Commissions and Deacons created displays to educate the congregation on our various missions and to recruit new members.
- **Parish Picnic** – Special thanks to Ann Everingham who did an amazing job coordinating from afar!
- **Blessing of the Animals** – 6th Annual
- **Vegetarian Thanksgiving Brunch** – in support of our Green Faith Initiative, this meal was 100% vegetarian and 100% delicious!

#### Youth Events

- **Pancake Supper** (Feb)
- **Confirmation meets Session** which we conducted as a pot luck supplied by our Confirmation Class (April)
- **Congratulations Confirmation Class** (May)

#### Church Events

- **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** (Feb) in support of our Green Faith Initiative, this meal was 100% vegetarian.
- **Young Adult Volunteers** (Aug)
- **Sermon for Lunch** (Nov)

Thanks again to our entire congregation for your support of these events! We welcome anyone who would like to come join our team!

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Deborah Bernardini

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### *Members*

Linda Swift and Donna Gresh, co-chairs, Mark Linehan, JoAnne Marsh, Eugene McGrath, Barbara Santagata (and Lisa Flanagan and Tim Chin as “associate members”)

### *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 and church mission work.

### *2016 Activities*

Highlights of 2016 include:

1. The ad that **Barbara Santagata** created for the LoHud “Give and Grow” contest won first place! The food pantry received \$750 and we received free advertising (full color, half-page ads on two Saturdays. We timed them to be before the November and December food pantries).
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. **Donna Gresh** is our talented webmaster and continuously ensures that events, graphics, blog posts, and information on our website’s pages are current and relevant.
3. Our Gathering Space monitor shows the colorful graphics from the website home page, as well as photo movies of recent events.
4. 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.
5. **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.
6. We have been very intentional about highlighting activities throughout the church on the website and in the Disciple. We have written many “stories.” We encourage anyone who wants a story to be written to simply contact any member of the commission.
7. Activities of the new **GreenFaith initiative** are prominently featured on our website and in the Bulletin and Disciple.
8. We have created new signage for the wall outside the Childcare Room, a sign for the spring tag sale, a new church banner used for the Fall Festival, and new, professional-looking Christmas service signage. We thank **Walter Oudheusden** as well as **Barbara Santagata and JoAnne Marsh** for help with these projects.
9. **Barbara Santagata** created a new “Welcome” sign for the wall opposite the office entrance.
10. **Chip Low** has experimented with advertising for the church on Facebook. He has found that a relatively small expenditure reaches a fairly wide audience.
11. **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 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 5 and 15 people listen to the sermon podcast.
12. **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.
13. **Eugene McGrath** organized a table to represent the church at the Yorktown Community Fair in October.

We would like to give many thanks to **Tim Chin** for his photos of church events which allow us to create movie slideshows of our many activities such as progressive dinner, midnight runs, lunch events, special services, church clean-ups, etc. **Chip Low** (animal blessing, Youth Triennium) and **Stephanie Hare** (mission trips and youth activities) have also been tireless photographers. We encourage anyone who wishes to take photos of events to get in touch with a member of the team-- high resolution and “landscape” orientation is best!

*(Continued on page 9)*



We want to especially thank **Lisa Flanagan** for her wonderful efforts in producing *The Disciple*, the *Bulletin*, and the **pastors' weekly email** as well as posting to **Instagram**. Her professionalism, creativity, and design skills are very much appreciated. These print and electronic communications are beautiful and visually engaging. The GreenFaith team also thanks her for choosing and placing an "Eco-Tip" in the weekly emails and the worship bulletin.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Swift and Donna Gresh*

## REPORT OF THE DEACONS

Below are the various ministries for which the Deacons are responsible. What is clear in all these activities is that it is no wonder Deacons are often referred to as "servants" or "caregivers" of the congregation. Deacons are the "hands and hearts" of our congregation, reaching out to all those who are in need. Whether a person is recovering from surgery, grieving a loss, feeling lonely, or unable to afford to feed their families, the Deacons, with the extraordinary support of the congregation, are there to ease the burdens people carry and to bring joy and comfort in the best of times and the worst of times. *Judy Chessa, Moderator*

### Contact to the Homebound

Our active visitation team, comprised of past and current deacons, visited church members (and church friends) at home, in the hospital or in nursing homes. The team reached out to those who are unable to attend services, who are ill, recovering from surgery or who are experiencing uncertain times in their lives. The team made approximately 186 visits in 2016. *Marianna Sherman*

### Transportation

A total of about 18 rides were arranged for and given to at least five different persons to attend church services, the lunch bunch, physical therapy sessions, or medical appointments. We stayed in contact with four persons who were considered likely to have a need. We thank those who had signed up to help and who helped us help others who had temporary transportation needs. *Chuck Radke*

### Loaves and Fishes

Sue Nelson, Jocelyn Ramage, Terri Froelich, and Bud Coccodrilli shared this ministry in 2016. It was a very active year as the congregation was able to provide over 50 meals to those recovering from surgery or experiencing an illness. Thank you to the congregation for your "hands-on" support of this important ministry.

### Card Ministry

A total of 278 cards were sent this year. Cards are sent to those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or celebrating a special birthday or anniversary. *Terri Froelich*

### School Supplies

The Deacons spent a grand total of \$1,400.64 on school supplies in 2016. Here is the breakdown: \*\$1,228.50 on "Kits for Kidz", the pre-assembled kits from Staples for grades K-5. (We purchased 70 grades K-2 kits, and 70 grades 3-5 kits.) \*We received numerous, generous donations which were used to assemble our customized grades 6-12 kits. In addition to those donations, we spent \$172.14 out of pocket. (We assembled 75 kits.) In total, we distributed 215 kits to the families of our Food Pantry. *Debbie Hager*.

### Hat and Mitten Tree

Carol Thorne-Gaetani coordinated the Hat and Mitten Tree in 2016. Because a pantry day was in the midst of a snow storm, the hats and mittens were made available at the January 14, 2017 Food Pantry. Pantry clients were able to select hats, mittens, scarves or headbands for each of their family members. "The KnitTogethers" did another amazing job and contributed over 100 handmade items. Members of our Congregation and friends of our Church also hand-made hundreds of items. Thanks to all who contributed such beautiful and useful hats, scarves and mittens! *Carol Thorne-Gaetani*

### Bereavement

The Bereavement ministry hosts receptions for grieving families, after a memorial service for a loved one. The family supplies the food, and the Deacons host the reception. Also, bereavement booklets are now sent to families who are mourning the death of a loved one. These booklets are sent over the course of a year and are meant to provide comfort and connection to the families. *Sue Nelson, Marianna Sherman*

### **Food Pantry**

In 2016 the Food Pantry distributed over 3,800 bags of groceries to the nearly 2,700 family clients. At an average pantry we had 112 families (representing 415 people), and distributed 160 bags of groceries plus accompanying meat, (e.g. whole chicken), produce and bread. On average, we distribute 3,500 to 4,500 pounds of food at each pantry. At the Thanksgiving pantry we served 202 families and provided 300 bags of groceries in addition to 160 turkeys and 42 chickens. The total spending for the year was ~\$41,000. We received non-monetary donations of food from ACME, Panera, JV Bagel I, U.S. Postal Carriers, Panera, Hanover Farm and several schools.

In addition to generous giving from the Congregation and the Matching Fund, we again received special support from Polymedco and ACME at the Triangle Center in Yorktown. We re-established the fresh produce program (Green Thumb), supplied by Food Bank For Westchester, which provides over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce each month. We also finalized our assessment of the "Client Choice" distribution model and have plans to implement it this year. *Bud Coccodrilli, Bill Winsted, Katharine Frase*

### **Toys for Tots**

The Deacons were again privileged to be part of USMC Reserve Toys for Tots distribution. Deacons distributed nearly 800 toys to 122 families. Thanks to the many volunteers, including Boy Scout Troop 165, nine Girl Scout Troops, Debbie Sepa, and Eunice Cruz. Also, thanks to JV Hot Bagels, BJ's, Stop & Shop, Nanuet Lions Club, Yorktown Lions Club, and Yorktown Organizations United for their generosity. *Carl Anderson*

### **Blood Drive**

The Deacons, in conjunction with the Red Cross, held a blood drive in August, 2016. One half of the donations came from church members, and one half from the greater Yorktown community. The effort collected 33 blood units, which helped 99 people. We plan another drive in 2017. *Carl Anderson*

### **Diapers**

The Deacons provide a one week supply of diapers to approximately one third of Food Pantry clients each month. During the year, a total of nearly 150 boxes were given to client families. Thanks to everyone who donated to the diaper ministry. A special note of thanks to Walmart, who made a \$750 donation, enabling us to conduct two diaper disbursements in November. *Carl Anderson*

### **THANK YOU**

Thank You to our outgoing Deacons: Carl Anderson, Cynthia Fritz, Jocelyn Ramage and Chuck Radke. You will be missed. Thank you so much for your unwavering dedication, compassion and enthusiasm. We extend a warm welcome to the new class of Deacons: Katharine Frase, Rose Johnson, Martin Scatola and Tony Tomicich.

The Board of Deacons would also like to thank the congregation for its support, caring, and generosity. As we work together, we bring true hope and real help to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Judy Chessa, Moderator*

## **PERSONNEL COMMISSION**

The Personnel Commission acts much like the human resources department of a corporation, 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 interactions 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 child care giver, Laura Farrell; revised, extended, and finalized 2017 contracts for all employees; converted terms of our custodian's contract from annual hourly to annual full time salaried with attendant benefits; expanded the role of Youth Director; added the position of part-time bookkeeper; and created a comprehensive Benefits Plan for our staff which included extending new benefits and pension options to staff as delineated by the Board of Pensions. Listed on page 20 are the 2017 Terms Of Call for Co-Pastors Chip Low and Tami Seidel which include a 1% increase in effective salary.  
**Action Item:** Approve 2017 Terms of Call for Co-Pastors

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ian Spence, Chairperson*

## WORSHIP DESIGN COMMISSION

**Members:** Jane Amato, Debbie Amorese, Gordon Braudaway, Simona Frenkel, Karen Gerth (co-chair), Marsha Henderson, Bill Herman, Christie Herman (co-chair), Rev. Chip Low (co-pastor), Sara Mann, Barbara Santagata, Rev. Tami Seidel (co-pastor) 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 resource and support to the pastors in developing themes for worship and seeking to design and implement an emotionally meaningful, and thoughtful worship experience. This includes, but is not limited to, reviewing the content and structure of worship, planning and implementing worship themes, designing special services, overseeing the Usher Ministry and lay leaders, making arrangements for the serving of the Lord's Supper, providing for the technical audio-visual aids to worship, and planning for appropriate decoration of the Sanctuary (such as banners, candles, flowers, themed decor, and greens). Additionally the Worship Design Commission oversees the musical life of our congregation, including service music, the Adult Choir, the Adult and Youth Bell Choirs and the Concert Series.

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

**Lent: Coming to Our Senses** (A theme coordinated with the Education Commission study of the book "*Coming to our Senses, Honoring the Body During Lent*" exploring the aspects of sight, touch (healing), faith and sexuality with guest preacher Kate Ott, hearing (musical sounds), taste (Communion), Smell, exploring the senses associated with Good Friday and culminating with the resurrection of the body on Easter.,

Ash Wednesday Services

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday: A Service of Shadows

Easter Morning Services at 6:30, 8:30, 10:45

**Work of Our Hands** – incorporating testimonies from the Mission Trips, Triennium, and YAVs

**Fruitfulness** – in cooperation with the Stewardship Commission

**Advent:** Expect!

Other Special Services throughout the year included worship focused on:

Faith and Science

Earth Day and Green Team

Confirmation Sunday

Pentecost

Men and Women of the Church Sundays

Children's Sunday

Commissioning of Mission Trips, Triennium, and YAVs

Annual Parish Day Picnic

Blessing of the Backpacks

World Communion Sunday

Blessing of the Animals

Peace and Justice Sunday – World Food Day

Dedication Sunday

All Saints Day

Longest Night Service on the Winter Solstice (From darkness into the light)

Christmas Eve Services (Family Service and two Candlelight Services)

Lessons and Carols

***Highlights of the Year:***

- The Worship Design Commission continued its collaboration with Co-Pastors Chip Low and Tami Seidel, partnering in the creation of worship designed to be meaningful, thoughtful, and experiential. Special highlights of the year included the evening reflective special services during Lent and the Longest Night service in Advent as well as the worship themes exploring our senses and fruitfulness.
- The Usher Ministry now in its third year has grown to 21 ushers serving the 8:30 service divided among 6 teams, and 31 ushers for the 10:45 service divided among 7 teams. 15 congregation members are willing to serve as substitutes. On October 23, the Worship Design Commission held a catered luncheon for the Usher Ministry to express our gratitude for their ministry of hospitality, to review best practices, elicit suggestions, and plan for the future.

- **The Tech Team** has grown out of a need for more experienced hands with technology during worship, including but not limited to running the sound board during worships, utilizing a new lap top computer and new application called “Capture” to record the services, sharing videos during worship, Skyping with other churches during worship, and providing audio support for concerts and large meetings. In 2016 Sound Engineer Kris LaGond from Sam Ash, was invited to the sanctuary to make some recommendations regarding our existing set up. As a result of his visit we upgraded one of our body microphones to the Senheiser brand and began using “Capture” to record our services. We are pleased with the improved sound quality in worship and on-line. The new laptop is shared weekly at Sunday school gatherings and utilized during both services. There are currently nine members of the Tech Team: **Karen Gerth, Benjamin Low, Bill Herman, Bill and Kathy Winsted, Marina Wheeler, Louise Fang, Gordon Braudaway, and David Golematis.**
- Worship Design also participated in the Yorktown Community Day booth representing FPC, and participated in the spring Commission Carnival. We have participated in the **Green Faith** efforts of the church by weekly recycling bulletins and re-using candles throughout the year. **Debbie Amorese** was the Worship Commission representative to the Space Audit Work Group.
- Worship Design sent two of its members, **Simona Frenkel** and **Christie Herman** to the Presbyterian Music Association Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina for a week-long conference on integrating music, liturgy, and the arts in worship.
- **Christmas Eve services** welcomed over 555 worshippers. Many thanks to **John and Judy Chessa** for their smooth coordination of the Hanging of the Greens, and to the **Wilkens/Pratt families** for the gift of Christmas Trees, wreathes and garlands. Christmas Eve also introduced a stunning new sanctuary banner created by **Barbara Wilkens.**
- The Worship Design Commission oversees **The First Presbyterian Church Concert Series** which produced its 16th 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 Management), **Carol Jensen** (Patron Care & 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, Amy Wallace** (Reception support), and **Katharine Frase, Bill Herman** (utility players). The concerts draw over 60% of their attendance from our local community. 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 2016:

<b>February 13</b>	<b>An Evening with Lenten Ladies</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Violinist Dmitry Berlinsky and Pianist Simona Frenkel</b>
<b>April 23</b>	<b>O, Broadway!</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Jazz Club Cabaret with Glenda Davenport</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Messiah and More</b>

The Worship Design Commission is deeply grateful to the talents of those on the Commission and Concert Task Force as well as the spiritual leadership, support, and talents of **Chip Low** and **Tami Seidel**. We are grateful for the office support of **Lisa Flanagan**. We are blessed in the musical leadership of **Simona Frenkel**, and the gifts brought to our worship by the Adult Choir, both Bell Choirs and the tremendous efforts of **Carol** and **Erik Jensen** who provide all the behind the scenes work for the bell choirs. We thank the talents and gifts of **Connie Knapp** for her preaching and worship leadership this year. We offer special thanks to **Karen Gerth** and **Gordon Braudaway** for the ongoing ministry of providing the communion elements, and **Pat Prauda’s** for her care of the Paraments, and **Barbara Santagata’s** amazing graphic designs. The Worship Design Commission also recognizes with thanks all those who have ushered, set and served the Lord’s Supper, created and provided signs, banners, and webpages to communicate our message to the community, donated the materials and decorated our worship space, provided lay leadership, and those who have stepped in to assist in countless ways; -- all of which contribute to the powerful worship experiences with which we are so blessed. We are thankful to have the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of our vibrant faith community.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Karen Gerth and Christie Herman, Co-Chairs*

## EDUCATION COMMISSION

**Members:** *Suzy Rishel, chair; Heidi Haring, elder; Robin Corpolongo, Lisa Eliasson, Stephanie Hare, Heidi Haring, Carol Jensen, Connie Knapp, Sharon Larsen, Jessica Mayes, Michele Mosca, Jill Pagliettini, Liza Placido*

### **Overview**

The Education Commission is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of educational programs that address the needs and interests of our entire church family. The various subcommittees endeavor to provide new and innovative programs that will capture the interest of the congregation from the youngest children to our seniors and help each person progress on their own journey of faith development. Those subcommittees are: Yorktown Presbyterian Pre-School; Church School; Adult Education; Childcare Room; Library; Vacation Bible School Confirmation Class and Youth Ministries.

### **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 **Liza Placido** and **Sharon Larsen** (Co-chairs), **Debbie Hager** (recording secretary), and **Julie Friscia**. YPP parent Christine Dunn serves as treasurer. This year, despite a slight increase in tuition the YPP enrollment was full, with a waiting list.

### **Childcare Room**

Consistent and dependable childcare on Sundays and during 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 who are currently **Denise Oschmann-Tomicich and Laura Farrell**. Our thanks and appreciation go to **Michele Mosca**, our Crib Room Coordinator, for all her efforts to provide a safe, nurturing environment for our smallest church members and for her continual efforts in keeping the childcare room staffed with reliable and qualified caregivers. To ensure there are always two caregivers in the childcare room we are recruiting for a third person enter the weekly rotation.

### **Sunday School**

FPCY’s Sunday School program offers a unique educational experience to children from pre-school through middle school. Together with attending weekly worship services, it is a cornerstone for their faith development. We have two rotating superintendents each fulfilling a two-year term. The current Superintendents, **Michele Mosca** and **Jessica Mayes**, are responsible for the smooth running of the Sunday School program from staffing our centers and shepherd roster to organizing our rotation schedule and planning special events. We want to express our deep appreciation to **Liza Placido** who completed her commitment in June 2016 and enriched our Sunday school with her dedication and creativity. Liza continues to be a blessing to our Sunday school as a cooking center leader.

Our Church School is composed of four sections to best serve the educational needs of the various age groups. We use the Sparkhouse curriculum which provides us with: Pre-school; K through 4th grade (*Spark*); 5th and 6th grade (*Connect*); and 7th and 8th grade (*Re:form*). Each Sunday, the pre-K through 4th grade children start off at the Gathering Time in the Sanctuary before being dismissed to their rotation activities. We continue to be grateful for **Beth Gruber** and **John Winget** who provide music for the gathering time.

### **Christmas Pageant**

Many of the children from our Sunday School participated in the Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve. Under the able direction of **Bill Herman, Liza Placido** and **Jill Pagliettini**, our children brought the wondrous story of Christ’s birth to life. Many thanks to all the children, parents and Pageant Team (Bill, Liza, Jill, Sharon Larsen, Jennifer Dixon, Alice Chin, Sophie Low and Beth Gruber)!

**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. The intention is to support these vendors by selling their goods which make for fun and unique holiday shopping!

### ***Vacation Bible School***

This year's Yorktown Vacation Bible School was held at the United Methodist Church with the theme Surf Shack: Ride the Wave of God's Amazing Love. VBS continues to be a cooperative program consisting of FPCY, United Methodist Church, 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**. Nine teenagers went through the class culminating in their Confirmation on May 1, 2016.

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 Catholic Church, a Synagogue and a Mosque, as well as an Interfaith Service held at the Hudson Valley Islamic Cultural Center. The group participated in outreach ministries of our church, including going on a Midnight Run, serving at the Food Pantry and attending a retreat

### ***Youth Ministries***

We have been blessed with one of our own members, **Stephanie Hare** who was hired as our new Director of Youth Ministries in November 2015. She has enthusiastically jumped into her role and is keeping the Middle and High School programs active and energized. Read more in Stephanie's report on page 15.

### ***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, as well as weekday mornings and evenings. Our Women's Circle Bible Study meets on the first Wednesday of the month and uses the Presbyterian Women Horizons curriculum. Our weekly Thursday morning discussion group has become quite ecumenical and tackled topics like Christianity & World Religions and Faith & Politics. We also have more intensive Covenant and Disciple Bible studies for small groups committed to daily Bible reading and weekly meetings. In 2016, we hosted two special speakers: Dr. Kate Ott on February 28 who engaged our youth and adults around issues of Faith & Sexuality, and Dr. Kirk Wegter-McNelly on April 10 who helped us think more deeply about the relationship between Faith & Science. Thanks to the Adult Education committee, chaired by **Connie Knapp**, for giving adults so many great opportunities to grow in our faith!

### ***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".

This year, the Education Commission led the effort to create a Child Safety Policy for FPCY which will affect all programs run by the church that involve children and youth beginning January 1, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Suzy Rishel*

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

2016 was an exciting year of growth in the life of Youth Ministry at FPCY. We had meeting and activities of both the Middle School and High School Youth groups twice a month during the school year. We had unique opportunities to have guest speakers. Dr. Kate Ott visited us in February to discuss Faith and Sexuality. Dr. Ott conducted age-appropriate workshops with each of our Youth Groups as well as a separate lunch time workshop for parents. All sessions were very well attended. In April, Dr. Kirk Megter-McNelly visited to help us explore the intersection of Faith and Science in a joint Youth Group meeting.

Our other Youth Group activities have been widely varied. Our Middle Schoolers assisted our congregation's Green Team by conducting a 2nd audit of the FPCY trash and recycling cans. We used the kitchen frequently, baking brownies for the Noontime Meal and making soup for the Midnight Run. Our High School group often enjoyed meals together that they prepared as a group, honing their cooking and hospitality skills. 2016 included what have become some of our favorite Youth Group traditions such as the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (in conjunction with the Confirmation Class) and Christmas Caroling at the homes of our senior members of our congregation. We have also spent time discussing important issues, from water pollution to identity of the self.

In September, we broke with tradition by moving our Youth activities from room 17 to room 4 as an outcome of the congregation wide space re-allocation conversations. Room 4 has proven to be a warm and cozy space for our meetings. Many thanks are due to Matt Hager for his help in procuring and installing a new flat screen TV, as well as Jose Sandoval for his work on moving bulletin boards and making necessary repairs to the surfaces and paint of several walls. The move to room 4 has also allowed for the creation of office space for the Director of Youth Ministries which is most appreciated.

Outside of our Sunday evening Youth Group meetings, our Youth have been involved in many ways in the life of our congregation. In May, we instituted a new tradition of having Youth participate in Worship as liturgists once a month. In June, the Congregational Life Commission invited our Youth to participate in the annual Progressive Dinner when Debbie Bernardini hosted Youth and the Youth Director in her home where we enjoyed dinner and board games. Over the spring and summer several of our Youth made a significant contribution to the construction of the Labyrinth.

July was a momentous month for a group of our Youth, when we sent eight Youth and three Adult Advisors to the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium held at Purdue University. We believe this to be the first group from FPCY to attend this tri-annual conference in 18 years. Triennium was an awe-inspiring event attended by approximately 5,000 Presbyterian Youth from all 50 States and Puerto Rico. TJ Chin, Ryan Chin, Margaret Gruber, Sophie Low, Yoham Ortiz, Natalie Swift, Max Tieche, and Luke Torres-Rossi represented FPCY by attending dynamic daily worship services and participating in large and small group activities exploring their faith and our calling as Christians.

Our Youth were active in Mission trips in 2016. Teenagers comprised 50% of our team who traveled to Atlanta, GA in August to participate in a variety of service activities with the DOOR agency. In October, 10 Youth and three Adults took part in a "24-Hour Mission Trip" at the Broadway Presbyterian Church in New York City. We stayed overnight in the BPC Parish Hall, helped prep ingredients for and serve breakfast and lunch to approximately 120 clients of the Broadway Community Soup kitchen.

In November and December, our Co-Pastors, a group of parents, and the Youth Director engaged in a discussion group of the book *Raising Teens in an Almost Christian World* by Rev. Deitrich Kirk. This is a companion piece to a larger work that examines the results of the National Study of Youth and Religion. The study produced eye-opening and useful data about trends in the religious and not-so-religious lives of teenagers in the United States. Our group had the opportunity for in depth discussion into the roles that parents play in the life-long faith formation of our children.

None of our accomplishments of 2016 would not have been possible without the aid of our faithful adult volunteers,

Jennifer Burns, Linda Swift, Tony Tomicich, Mary Vezzuto, and our Co-Pastors Chip and Tami. We are indebted to everyone who has offered their time to drive, cook, chaperone a trip, planned an activity, prayed for, and helped fund the Youth Ministry program in 2016. Many thanks are due to the Session, Deacons, Commissions, and Committees who have been thinking creatively about how to include Youth in your work. Thanks in particular to the Nominating Committee for reimagining the terms for our Youth Elders and Deacons in support of a more successful and productive experience for our Youth and the Boards on which they serve.

As Youth Director, I am grateful to have had opportunities for Professional Development this past year. In April, I attended the 2016 Forum on Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary. On a local level, I have been participating in monthly meetings of a group of Youth and Christian Ed directors from other congregations in Hudson River Presbytery. These both have been inspirational for me in working through practical, nitty-gritty details as well as big-picture planning and visioning of Youth Ministry.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Stephanie L. Hare, Director of Youth Ministries

## GREEN FAITH

In Spring, 2015 our congregation began the two-year process of becoming Green Faith certified. The goal of GreenFaith.org, the group that sponsors the certification, is to turn houses of worship into environmental leaders. To that end there are four areas in which we are working: communications, stewardship, worship and spirit, and environmental justice. A Green Team was formed, composed of members from the congregation and members of the Operations, Worship, Education and Mission Commissions.

***Your Green Team is currently:*** Robin Corpolongo, Donna Gresh, Theresa Kennedy, Connie Knapp, David Lee, Tami Seidel, Lynda Spring, Jean Post-Winget, Amy Wallace and Wendy Whetsel. David Lee replaced Dave Ramage as the Operations Commission representative. We are grateful for all of Dave Ramage's contributions to our environmental stewardship activities.

Part of the certification process involves working closely with GreenFaith by submitting six-month progress reports and receiving feedback on our process.

Highlights from our recent progress reports include:

- Installation of "No Idling" signs in the front and the rear of the church to encourage drivers to keep the air around the church clean.
- Installation of signs in the kitchen and restrooms reminding us to conserve water.
- Press releases highlighting our acceptance into the GreenFaith program and the work on our labyrinth.
- Eco Tips in our church bulletin each Sunday.
- Our vegetarian "potluck" annual meeting where we highlighted the impact of meat production and consumption on our planet and offered alternatives.
- Participation in the 2015 Yorktown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that focused on the care of the earth.
- Clearing the rear garden area and completing the outdoor labyrinth.
- Holding a "food waste" weekend to draw attention to the ways we might conserve food.

As we move into 2017 toward the end of our certification process, we will continue to focus on waste reduction and recycling, non-toxic cleaning products and environmental justice activities. We look forward to "officially" dedicating our Labyrinth this spring and incorporating it into the spiritual life of our congregation.

Completion of our requirements to date has resulted in our being named an Earth Care Congregation of PC(USA), one of 190 PC(USA) congregations across the nation.

We are grateful to the congregation for your enthusiastic support of our efforts to become an environmental leader.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Connie Knapp



## MISSION COMMISSION

**Members:** *Kathy Winsted, chair, Lynda Spring, Heidi Haring, Nance Thompson, Stephanie Hare, Jean Post Winget, Pat Prauda, Chip Low*

**Purpose:** The Mission commission plans, coordinates, and sponsors mission opportunities throughout the year. Mission activities provide assistance to those in need and also provide opportunities for members of our congregation to better follow Christ's teachings by helping others. These activities also provide a chance for members of the congregation to build fellowship with each other and better understand and relate to the needs of those less fortunate.

**Mission Trips:** The Mission commission again sponsored three mission trips this year. A group of high school youth and chaperones went to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium conference in Indiana. An intergenerational trip in August provided service to people in Atlanta through a faith-based organization called DOOR. In October, a group of middle schoolers went to Broadway Presbyterian church in New York City to provide services to people experiencing homelessness. All Mission trips were planned and organized by our amazing **Stephanie Hare**. These trips were made possible by the incredible generosity of the congregation who sponsored the trips through hands and feet donations, attendance at the youth pancake supper, purchases of Dean's Beans coffee (purchased by **Heidi Haring**), and donations to the extremely successful tag sale organized by **Barbara Humphrey**.

**Knit Together:** The Knit Together, a sub-group of the Mission commission, knitted 220 items this year which were given to the Deacon's hat and mitten tree for the food pantry, Dominican Sisters Family Nursing Services, the Field Home, Somers Manor nursing center, and the YWCA of White Plains. This group is co-chaired by **Lois Ostling** and **Norean Radke** and knitters include Deidre Cronin, Terri Froehlich, Diane Hawlk, Eleanor Hibben, Priscilla Lucas, Carol Myers, Sue Nelson, Pat Prauda, Fran Schiel, and Maxine Travis.

### **Other Mission Activities in 2016:**

- Monthly dinners for the Jan Peek homeless shelter (coordinated by **Pat Prauda**)
- Monthly noontime meals in partnership with the Salvation Army (also **Pat Prauda**)
- Monthly letter writing for Amnesty International causes (coordinated by **Ruud Haring**)
- Monthly sales of Dean's Beans coffee to support free trade and raise mission trip funds
- Alternative giving fair (with the Education Commission) to support free trade (coordinated by **Heidi Haring**)
- Two Midnight Runs – one youth and adult (coordinated by **Heidi Haring and Nance Thompson**) and one by the confirmation class (coordinated by **Pam Dareff**).
- A brochure for the Commission Carnival with copies outside the office for ongoing use
- Souper Bowl Sunday to collect soup for the food pantry
- Giving Sunday - Toys for Teens and gifts for the Bedford Prison children's center
- Support for Green Faith activities within the church including labyrinth construction
- Good Samaritan fund to help church members in need

### **Special Offerings:**

- Deacon's Fund (February) – 100% to support the Deacon's Fund
- One Great Hour of Sharing (March) – 100% to PCUSA for global sharing programs
- Easter offering (April) – 50% to Midnight Run and 50% for Deacon's diaper fund
- Pentecost offering (May) – 60% to Presbytery and 40% to FPCY campers scholarships to Holmes
- Deacon's Fund (August) – 100% to Deacon's Fund
- Peace and Global Witness (October) – 75% to Presbytery Peace and Global Witness programs, 25% to Rural and Migrant Ministry
- Thanksgiving offering (November) – 100% to food pantry for Christmas hams
- Christmas Joy offering (December) – 100% to PCUSA in support of racial ethnic colleges and retired church workers

## **Other Support:**

\$34,000 to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly for general mission

\$100 for graduation cakes at area prisons

\$500 to Broadway Presbyterian church to help with homeless programs

\$200 to Peekskill Presbyterian church for use of their kitchen

\$500 to Everytown for Gun Safety

**Looking Forward:** The Mission commission has three mission trips planned again for summer of 2017, so be sure to set aside any furniture, lightly worn clothing and household items for the tag sale in April. Be sure to also save warm clothing and toiletries for the Midnight Run planned for February 10, 2017.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kathy Winsted

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION**

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

**Pledge Campaign:** FPCY members and friends continued a long tradition of generous giving in 2016. We saw a 99.3% fulfillment rate on pledged gifts. Overall giving was up approximately 1.6% over 2015. For 2017, our pledge campaign was “Fruitful: With Little, With Much, With All.” Currently, pledged gifts for 2017 are lower than 2016 levels. Although not unusual for this time of year, we continue to encourage the submission of pledges for 2017. This year’s campaign continued our emphasis on proportionate giving, in which we encourage congregation members to pledge a percentage of their income (with the goal of tithing).

**Planned Giving:** The infrastructure for planned gifts is in place, and on Legacy Sunday, we hosted an informational table to provide further information to members.

**Outreach:** We continued the popular outreach effort of sending care packages to our college students. We sent a package to freshmen in early fall, and cards/packages to all students in time for fall/spring finals. Additionally, the visitor team continues to welcome newcomers with bread and a copy of the Disciple. As not all newcomers are forthcoming with their addresses, the team has become adept at catching people after services to welcome them. We continue to encourage all members to practice hospitality with friendly greetings to new faces.

**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 26 members from our rolls due to moving away or joining new churches. 1 of our members passed away in 2016. We also welcomed 23 new members (including the Confirmation Class) in 2016. As of December 31, 2016, FPCY has 380 members.

**Stewardship Seminars.** In April, FPCY hosted a “Stewardship 101” seminar, at which the Presbytery’s stewardship team led an excellent workshop covering the Biblical basis for stewardship, best practices, and ideas from other churches. It was well-attended by FPCY members and representatives from other churches. Additionally, in March, Tami Seidel attended the Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference, which she reported was an informative and inspiring experience.

**Offering Materials.** We unveiled new offering materials consisting of laminated “online giving” cards, and offering notepads, to expand the offering to all those who give.

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, Matt Hager, Kirk Larsen, Chip Low, David Lee, Don Blaney, 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.

**2016 Highlights:** We would like to recognize Dave Ramage and Ian Spence for their dedication and hard work as a part of the Operations Committee. Dave and his wife Jocelyn moved back to their homeland Canada, while Ian Spence attained the chairmanship role of the Personal Commission.

Chairmanship of the Operations Commission has temporarily been held by Kirk Larsen with David Lee and Matt Hagar volunteering as Co-chair until the January elder installment. The operations commission still maintains a team oriented strategy in which all members of the Commission serve and volunteer as situations arise. Here is a sampling of some of the 2016 maintenance tasks and projects:

- Pump 4 in the boiler room failed and was replaced.
- All pew fixtures re-nailed.
- Rear parking lot light repaired by electrician and functioning properly.
- Failed sump pump underneath Sanctuary replaced.
- All tiled floors were cleaned and re-waxed.
- Food pantry freezer replaced with updated unit.
- Damaged glass panes on a number of windows were replaced.
- 70 broken folding chairs replaced.
- A.C. unit in the pastor's office repaired again.
- Iris beds removed and grass planted for easier maintenance.
- Fellowship hall re-tiled.
- Circulator pump for the sanctuary replaced.
- Roof leak over office bathroom sealed and drop ceiling replaced.
- Shared wall between room 17 and Chip's office rebuilt for soundproofing.
- Labyrinth completed.
- 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. We will continue to work with The Gardeners of Eden to maintain the current level of appearance.

### 2017 Outlook

Our sanctuary is over 175 years old and other parts of the facility range in age from 18 to 66 years. Thanks to diligence of many ensuring its upkeep over the years, we do not face any known crises at this point. However, going forward, that could change at a moment's notice. We do maintain and regularly contribute to a maintenance reserve fund to for expensive improvements. This year the operations commission will continue to focus on the following issues:

- Continue to monitor the state of the Church's roof tiles as they approach their life expectancy.
- Monitor boiler functionality.
- Maintain and preserve the Church's facilities and grounds.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Kirk Larsen