



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

February 4, 2018

LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

2017

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 2017

Debbie Bernardini
(Congregational Life)
Bruce Johnson (Personnel)
Kirk Larsen (Operations)
Suzy Rishel (Education)
Linda Swift (Communications)
Kathy Winsted (Mission)
Justin Leftwich, *Youth Elder*

Class of 2018

Alyssa Bauer (Congregational Life)
Karen Gerth (Worship)
Heidi Haring (Education)
Christie Herman (Worship)
Fred Minzter (Budget & Finance)
Lynda Spring (Stewardship)
TJ Chin, *Youth Elder*
Kiera Wax, *Youth Elder*

Class of 2019

Cheryl Burns (Communications)
Arnold Cribari (MDT)
Ellen Miles (Mission)
Squeegee Mills (Stewardship)
Vinny Wallace (Operations)
John Winget (MDT)

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Judy Chessa Vice-Moderator: Bill Winsted
Secretary: Katharine Frase 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 2017

Bud Coccodrilli
Carol Thorne-Gaetani
Debbie Hager
Marianna Sherman

Class of 2018

Judy Chessa
Terri Froehlich
Sue Nelson
Bill Winsted

Class of 2019

Katharine Frase
Rose Johnson
Martin Scatola
Tony Tomicich

Ellen Gruber, *Youth Deacon*
Max Tieche, *Youth Deacon*

Michael Blaney, *Youth Deacon*
Sophie Low, *Youth Deacon*

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 4, 2018, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall: 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, and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the meeting.”

REPORT OF MINUTES READERS FOR 2017 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of February 5, 2017 Annual Meeting

Connie Knapp and Nance Thompson

Minutes of December 10, 2017 Special Meeting

APPOINT MINUTES READERS FOR 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

NECROLOGY REPORT (page 5) AND MEMORIAL PRAYER

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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Operations Commission-----Ruling Elder Kirk Larsen and Vinny Wallace-----	19
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NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

REPORT OF THE PASTORS

FPCY 2017: A Journey in 5D

Discovery ~ Development ~ Dreaming ~ Discernment ~ Design

For the past three years, FPCY has been on a journey of **Discovery, Development, Dreaming, Discernment and Design**. Three years ago, we realized that there is so much wonderful ministry and mission happening in our church on any given day of the week that we were feeling a bit cramped and crowded. Session commissioned a Space Audit Team (a.k.a. “the Space Cadets”) to look at our space and how we were using it and to determine possible ways to utilize it more efficiently. Over the course of their work, we learned what areas of our current ministry and mission are energized and eager to expand and also what capital needs we may be facing in the near future. When the Space Cadets presented their findings to Session in Fall 2016, Session decided that it was time for a more comprehensive look at FPCY’s ministry and mission. It had been well over 10 years since the last mission study, and many of the goals articulated in that mission study had been accomplished or were well underway.

After the Church Officers’ Retreat in January 2017, the Session commissioned the Ministry Development Team (MDT) to engage the congregation in a process of strategic visioning to further discover the many blessings we share and challenges we face, as well as ascertain the values that hold us together as a faith community. The MDT even invited the congregation to dream as we considered the question, “Who is God calling us to be as a church over the next 10-

15 years?” As you will hear in their report, the MDT did an amazing job meeting with different commissions and groups in the church, as well as two congregational conversation opportunities. They collected a tremendous amount of data and thoughtfully synthesized it all into an instructive colorful map that identifies both our passions and priorities. The MDT presented their work to the church officers this January (2018) and Session is considering how best to proceed. ***Many thanks to the MDT for their hard work, meeting two to six times most months, to prepare a report that reflects what God is saying through our congregation about future ministry.***

While we will certainly continue to discover, develop and dream, we are currently moving through a time of discernment into designing plans to move forward into God’s vision for FPCY. Throughout this whole process, we (your pastors) have been impressed by how consistent this congregation has been in its commitment to the core values of radical hospitality, compelling worship, lifelong faith formation, intentional fellowship, inspiring stewardship and transformational mission.

All along this journey in 5D, the regular ministry and mission of our church has continued to grow and thrive. ***We are so grateful to everyone who participates in the life of our church*** as musicians and Sunday school teachers, gardeners and givers, cleaner-uppers and caregivers and cooks, handy men and women, and volunteers with the Food Pantry, Midnight Run, Noontime meal, Jan Peek, etc. We would not be the vital community of faith that we are without you!

Please keep our leadership and community in your prayers as we discern God’s exciting design for the future!

FPC Yorktown Co-Pastor Responsibilities 2017

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

Chip *Tami*

REPORT OF THE SESSION

2017 Statistics

MEETINGS:

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

Active Members as of December 31, 2016: 380

<u>Gains (34)</u>		<u>Losses (21)</u>	
Profession of Faith	10	Deaths	3
Reaffirmation of Faith	14	Removed	17
Letter of Transfer	3	Transfer	1
Restored	7		

Active Members as of December 31, 2017: 393

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY:

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Allison Grace Child*
Ryan Casey Chin*
Sara Elizabeth Delaney*
Tiffany Yvette Foxworth*
Ashley Jordan Gardineer*
Ashley Anne Leftwich*
Yoham Ariel Ortiz*
Matthew James Oubina*
Jenna Catherine Shaughnessy*
Luke Anthony Torres-Rossi*

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Mavis Dzifa Agbenorku
John Wilson Bentley
Monika (Wojciechowski) Biscoglio
Veronica Clough
Andrew William Cross
Abigail Jacinth (Al-Doory) Cross
Nicole Decintio
Nancy C. (Miller) Paskin
Kaycee M. (Davis) Perry
Nathan W. Perry
Matthew Stuart Sheridan
Jacqueline Leigh (Feldner) Sheridan
Linda J. (Phillips) Watkins
John Ernest Watkins, Jr.

LETTER OF TRANSFER

Jeffrey G. Brown
Joanna M. Marcos
Brett Richard Yarris

*confirmand

BAPTISMS

April 9	Thea Yarris	August 13	Greyson McKendrick Spence
April 30	Austin Vezzuto	September 17	Chase Marfo Duah
May 7	Tiffany Yvette Foxworth*	October 22	Derick Vincent Caroprese
May 14	Julia Garrie D'Ottavio	December 31	Oliver Charles Perry
May 28	Alexandra Taylor Sheridan		
June 11	Emelia Scatola	*confirmand	

DEATHS (*= active members)

Charles (Chuck) Betz
*Eleanor Hibben

*Marguerite (Dixie) Robinson
*Dorothy (Dottie) Slechta

REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP (*= transfer)

Verena Beck Baumgartner	Robert L. Dreher	Karl Louis Konnerth
Rolf E. Baumgartner	Christine [Ciriello] Drysdale	Margaret [Hamilton] Lipscomb
Susan Verena [Baumgartner] Boyd	Rodney Cyril Drysdale	Thomas Hamilton Lipscomb
Jonathan Clark Boyd	Deneen M [Phillips] Furci	Kari Elizabeth [Pearson] Mavian
Patricia Corinne [Wilkens] Dineen	Carmine J. Furci	Andrew Robert Mavian
Marilyn [Domenech] Dreher	Bonnie Kathleen [Meyers] Konnerth	

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Braudaway, Clerk of Session

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Kathy Winsted and Lynda Spring, Ruling Elders

Deacon Representative: Marianna Sherman

Members at Large: Deanna Collins, John Chessa, Robin Corpolongo, Nance Thompson

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway

Officers of the Corporation:

President: Fred Mintzer
Vice-president: Ellen Miles
Treasurer: Beth Gruber
Secretary: Gordon Braudaway

Staff of the Session of FPCY

Clerk of Session: Gordon Braudaway
Co-Treasurers: Gordon Braudaway
Beth Gruber
Tom Travis
Financial Secretary: Lisa Flanagan
Bookkeeper: Stephanie Hare
Auditors: Tony Tomicich (2018)
Bill Winsted (2019)
Caroline Awuor (2020)
Counters: Carol Annacone
Pam Darreff
Ruth Deemer
Donna Gresh
Debbie Hager
Kathy Hodgkinson
Carol Myers
Norean Radke
Fran Schiel

Ruling Elders Class of 2020

John Bentley
Nancy Caswell
Jeff Kephart
Liza Placido
Matt Sheridan
Nance Thompson

Youth Ruling Elders

Natalie Swift (Sept '18 – Aug '19)
Jenna Shaughnessy (Sept '18 – Aug '19)

Deacon – Class of 2019

Maura Delaney (serve out R. Johnson's term)

Deacons – Class of 2020

Patrick Burns
Pam Darreff
Andy Torres
Jean Post-Winget

Youth Deacons

Ryan Chin (Sept '18 – Aug '19)
Aiden McAuliffe (Sept '18 – Aug '19)

Action Items: To elect John Bentley as Ruling Elder to the Class of 2020; Natalie Swift and Jenna Shaughnessy as Youth Elders; Andrew Torres and Jean Post-Winget as Deacons in the Class of 2020; and Aiden McAuliffe as Youth Deacon.

To nominate and elect 5 At-Large Members to the 2018 Nominating Committee

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,

Kathy Winsted and Lynda Spring, co-chairs

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

Members: Alyssa Bauer, Deb Bernardini, Kathy Winsted, session members; Ann Everingham, Louise Fang, Pat Prauda, Melissa Shaugnessy, 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.

2017 On-going Support Activities

Sunday Coffee Hour after our Sunday services we share fellowship with our congregation and visitors. Coffee, tea and refreshments are provided by volunteers that set up and clean up to make it all happen. We appreciate everyone who signs up and helps out with this important ministry. Please consider signing up to support this special time in our church life!

2017 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:

Special Events:

- **Celebration of the contributions of church members** as we wish them well in their new endeavors: Lisa and Gary Eliasson; Mark Linehan and Karen LaBonte
- **Easter Sunrise Service** (April)- early service in Downing Park followed by breakfast back at the church
- **Progressive Dinner** (June)- we once again offered a youth host site. Special thanks to Sue Nelson for coordinating!
- **Ted Talks and Food Trucks** (July)- a three week series in which we enjoyed food from local food trucks while discussing hot topics such as climate change and social class
- **Parish Picnic** (Sep)- Special thanks to Ann Everingham for coordinating!
- **Blessing of the Animals** (Oct)- 7th Annual
- **Commission Carnival** (Oct)- an event to highlight all the amazing work that is done by the various groups and commissions of the church and provide volunteer opportunities
- **Congregation meets Ministry Development Team** (Oct/Nov)- an opportunity for the congregation to hear the work being done by the team and share thoughts over potluck brunch

Youth Events

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

Church Events

- **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** (Feb)
- **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,

Alyssa Bauer and Deborah Bernardini

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Members

Cheryl Burns (co-chair), Donna Gresh, JoAnne Marsh, Barbara Santagata, Linda Swift (co-chair), and Chip Low

Purpose

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

2017 Activities—Highlights of 2017 include:

1. Our website is a very important part of communicating with the members of our Church and also with members of the outside community. Almost 200 posts and updates were made to our website this past year! We continually take a look at our website to see how we can improve and streamline it in order for the information about our Church to be easily accessible to anyone and to tell the story that our Commissions wish to tell. For example, this year, we realized that detailed information about our church was found in multiple menu items, and that a streamlined "About Us" page would make this information easier to find. A big thank you to our tireless webmaster, **Donna Gresh**, who continually makes sure that information about events, graphics, and blog posts are posted to our website in a timely manner.
2. An emphasis has been placed this past year on learning how to better use social media to tell our Church's story. Social media has proven to be a powerful tool to reach the community about events our Church hosts throughout the year -- from the tag sale, to TED Talks and Food Trucks, to Blessing of the Animals, to the Arts and Crafts Fair, to Christmas Eve Services. We continue to advertise various events on Facebook at a minimal cost and find it effective in reaching a wider audience. Currently, we have 347 followers on Facebook and 274 followers on Instagram. Please help increase our presence on social media and follow us on Facebook (@fpcyorktown) and Instagram (@fpcyortown), and share posts/images that you are interested in to your own social media timelines! Thank you to **Donna Gresh** for overseeing our Facebook page and to **Cheryl Burns** for taking care of Instagram.
3. Many, many thanks to **Barbara Santagata** and **JoAnne Marsh** for their amazing creativity in creating all the graphics we use for our website, blog posts, advertising, banners, and social media posts. Over 100 graphics were designed by Barbara and JoAnne this past year!
4. The church brochure was updated to give it a fresh look. Thank you, **JoAnne Marsh**, for using your graphic expertise to give the brochure a new look!
5. This past year, 49 podcasts of the Sunday sermons were posted on our website by **Cheryl Burns**, **Donna Gresh**, **Eugene McGrath** and **Linda Swift**. Anyone can listen to these podcasts at any time. Thanks to the **Tech Team** for uploading the sermons each Sunday so that we can post them as a podcast. For future growth, we are currently investigating what it would take to "live stream" our Sunday Services and/or post a video of the sermon for anyone to watch.
6. The monitor in the Gathering Space shows upcoming events and activities not only to our church family, but to all those who pass through our doors on a weekly basis. We also frequently feature "photo movies" of special services, mission trips, youth activities, etc. so that all can get a glimpse of our many activities. Thank you, **Tim Chin**, for providing the photos so these movies can be created.
7. As more and more people use their mobile phones to read emails and look at websites, the weekly emails that Chip and Tami send were redesigned to be mobile friendly. This means that, when reading the pastors' weekly emails on your phone, the layout will be easier to read with a bigger font and better placement of graphics. Thank you, **Lisa Flanagan**, for your help in this change.
8. This year, it was decided that our Church would not have a table at the Yorktown Fair but, instead, have a table at the Support Connection Walk that takes place in FDR Park each October. **Donna Gresh** and **Linda Swift** manned the table and answered any questions. This walk is a fundraiser for breast cancer support services and is

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attended by hundreds of people from the area. We feel having a presence at Support Connection better aligns with our mission and will continue to have a table at the walk each October.

9. New banners and signs were made for the Arts and Crafts Fair and Christmas Eve Services. Thank you to **Barbara Santagata** for designing the graphics for these banners and to **Walter Oudheusden** for making and putting up the banners and signs.
10. **Donna Gresh** and **Linda Swift** continue to place notices of church activities on various online calendars and digital newspapers.

Other people who are integral in helping out the Communications Commission are Tim Chin, for all his wonderful photos; Lisa Flanagan, for creating the Disciple and Bulletin with great creativity and flair, and Chip Low, for giving us details of upcoming events so that we can get the information out to church members and the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Burns and Linda Swift

REPORT OF THE DEACONS

As I look back on 2017, I am continually gratified/amazed/thankful for all our Deacons do to make a difference in people's lives. The Deacons offer food and smiles on a Food Pantry Saturday, deliver meals to families in need, send cheerful get-well cards—and so many other gestures of reaching out with faith and love. With the extraordinary support of the congregation, the Deacons are here to help ease burdens and to bring comfort in the best and the worst of times. Below are the various ministries for which the Deacons are responsible. *Judy Chessa, Moderator*

Contact to the Homebound

Our active visitation team, comprised of past and current deacons, visits church members (and church friends) at home, in the hospital or in nursing homes. The team reaches 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 162 visits in 2017. Thanks to Marianna Sherman, Sue Nelson, Terri Froehlich and all the other devoted visitors.
Marianna Sherman

Transportation

Our Deacons provide transportation to those in our congregation who need rides to attend church services, the lunch bunch, physical therapy sessions, or medical appointments. Although we had no requests this year, the Deacons want you to know that we are here to help. *Marianna Sherman*

Loaves and Fishes

Bud Coccodrilli, Terri Froehlich, Rose Johnson, Sue Nelson, Tony Tomicich, and Judy Chessa shared this ministry in 2017. The congregation provided over 21 meals to those recovering from surgery, experiencing an illness or personal difficulties. Thank you to the congregation for your “hands-on” support of this important ministry.

Card Ministry

A total of 385 cards were sent in 2017. Cards are sent to those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or celebrating a special birthday or anniversary. *Terri Froelich*

School Supplies

2017 was another busy year for school supply distribution. During the two August Food Pantries, we distributed approximately 100 Staples Kits for Kidz boxes: 50 (Gr K-2) and 50 (Gr 3-5). In addition, our congregation generously donated many items which were used to assemble 75 “upper grade” school supply kits. Approximately \$125 from our budget was spent to supplement the donations received. Thank you to the congregation for your donations. It was a joy to see the happy faces of the families receiving their supplies. *Debbie Hager*.

Hat and Mitten Tree

We distributed hats, scarves and mittens during the 12/16/17 Food Pantry. Our busy and creative group, the “Knit Togethers,” contributed dozens and dozens of colorful hats, mittens and scarves for all ages. Mrs. Marti, a long-time knitting supporter, actually came to the Pantry this year. She stayed the morning and was able to see the joy on the faces of our clients as they chose items for their families. Mrs. Marti makes several hats every day and gives them to

(Continued on page 10)

our church as well as other community outreach programs. She is in her 90s and a faithful supporter of our Pantry for several years. Thanks to all who contribute 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. Families supply the food, and the Deacons host the reception. This year we were honored to host the receptions for Eleanor Hibben and Dot Slechta. Also, bereavement booklets are now sent to families who are mourning the death of a loved one. Four series of booklets were sent in 2017. The booklet series is meant to provide comfort and connection for the families. *Sue Nelson, Marianna Sherman*

Food Pantry

For nearly thirty years we have been providing emergency food supplies to the needy in the greater Yorktown area in the form of pre-packed bags of non-perishable food (augmented with frozen meats, fresh breads and produce as available). In 2017 we made the transition to a “full choice” pantry model in which our clients shop our shelves for the food items their families like and need. Clients are assisted in their shopping by our pantry volunteers, without whom we could not function.

We continue to serve about 100 families per pantry (total for the year 2,700 families and 10,000 individuals), including delivering food to the Beaver Ridge senior community in Yorktown. The transition to full choice affected every aspect of our operations, and we are grateful for the flexibility of our volunteers and for the substantial monetary support from the Food Bank For Westchester, which is not only the source of most of our food supplies but granted us funds to underwrite much of the cost of a new refrigerator (we can now supply eggs to our clients!), racks and shopping carts.

Critical support has also come from Acme, Polymedco, JV Bagels, Panera and BJs, as well as a number of schools and civic organizations. The Acme “Fight Hunger” program has, as an example, donated food supplies valued at \$4,250 during 2017. The ongoing operational costs for the Food Pantry continue to run in the \$40,000 range, even with the food donations and Food Bank credit lines working in our favor.

We are so grateful to the support of the congregation and the community to enable us to operate – certainly the need for food aid is not decreasing in our region – and we are grateful to be able to answer Christ’s call to feed the needy. *Bud Coccodrilli and Katharine Frase, co-directors*

Toys for Tots

The Deacons were again privileged to be part of USMC Reserve Toys for Tots distribution in December. We were pleased to give toys to 96 families with 346 children. The breakdown consisted of 13% for children's ages 0-2, 43% for ages 3-8, 26% for ages 9-12, and 18% for ages 13-18. Thanks to all the volunteers, gift givers and all who supported us in this endeavor. *Bill Winsted*

Blood Drive

The Deacons, in conjunction with the Red Cross, held a blood drive on August 26, 2017. The results were impressive: 32 donors registered; 32 units were collected (including “power red” donations) -- 96 lives potentially impacted. Thank you to all who donated and supported this important cause. *Judy Chessa*

Diapers

The Deacons provide a one-week supply of diapers to approximately one third of our Food Pantry clients once a month. Thanks to everyone who donated to the diaper ministry in 2017. Special thanks to Pat Prauda, who is our coupon-user, savvy diaper shopper. *Rose Johnson, Tony Tomicich*

THANK YOU and FAREWELL

Thank You and Farewell to our outgoing Deacons: **Bud Coccodrilli, Debbie Hager, Rose Johnson, Marianna Sherman, and Carol Thorne-Gaetani**. Thank you all for your dedication, energy and enthusiasm! Thanks also to **Carol**, whose monthly Deacons’ Disciple articles were both informative and inspirational.

We extend a warm welcome to the new class of Deacons: **Patrick Burns, Pam Darreff, Maura Delaney, Jean Post-Winget, and Andy Torres**. Our new Youth Deacons are **Ryan Chin and Aidan McAuliffe**.

The Board of Deacons thanks the congregation for its support, caring, and generosity. Our ministry thrives because of all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Chessa, Moderator

MISSION COMMISSION

Members: *Kathy Winsted, Ellen Miles Co-Chairs, Lynda Spring, Heidi Haring, Nance Thompson, Stephanie Hare, John Winget, TJ Chin, Kiera Wax, Chip Low*

Purpose: To provide opportunities for the congregation to live out our mission of Connecting to God, One Another and the World. We plan, and support activities that provide assistance to those in need, advocate for justice and peace, and enhance our connections with those around us and with each other.

Mission Trips:

We sponsored two mission trips in 2017; one domestic and one international. A big thanks to **Stephanie Hare** for her amazing work organizing these trips. A group of 9 youth & 3 adults went to Annapolis, MD in July where they spent a week working with underserved students in a daycamp focused on literacy. This trip was facilitated by The Center, a ministry of the Baltimore Presbytery. Fifteen (15) members of the congregation traveled to the Dominican Republic, partnering with Bridges to Community on a project team to renovate a house for a family of 7 people. While there the team discovered a need for school uniforms for the local village children. The congregation graciously donated funds to this effort.

These trips would not be possible without the support of the congregation and our fundraising activities. These include coffee sales, hand & feet sales, donations of recyclables, pancake supper attendance. Our two major fundraisers, the Tag Sale and the Craft Fair, were coordinated by **Barbara Humphrey**. We give thanks for her and her committee members: **Suzi Jarosz, Emily Monk, Mary Vezzuto and Linda Swift**.

Knit Together: The Knit Togethers, gave 200 knitted items to Arch Care Nursing Services, Deacon's Mitten Tree for our Food Pantry, The Field Home, Somers Manor Nursing Center and the YMCA of White Plains. This group is Co-Chaired by **Noreen Radke and Lois Ostling**. Members: Nancy Betz, Barbara Dronzak, Terri Froelich, Diane Hawk, Barbara Humphrey, Priscilla Lucas, Carol Myers, Sue Nelson, Nancy Paskin, Pat Prauda, Mable Seymour, Fran Schiel, and Maxine Travis.

Other Mission Activities in 2017:

- Monthly dinners for Jan Peek homeless shelter (Pat Prauda)
- Monthly noontime meals in partnership with the Salvation Army (Pat Prauda)
- Monthly Amnesty International letter writing campaign (Ruud Haring)
- Alternative Giving Fair (Heidi Haring)
- Midnight Run (Heidi Haring, Nance Thompson and Pam Darreff)
- Giving Sunday in support of Toys for Teens and the Bedford Prison's children's center (Heidi Haring)
- Monthly sales of Dean's Beans coffee to support free trade and raise mission trip funds
- Good Samaritan fund to help church and community members in need

Special Offerings:

- Deacon's Fund (Feb & Aug) - 100% to support our Deacons
- One Great Hour of Sharing – 100% to PCUSA for global sharing programs
- Easter Offering – 50% to Midnight Run and 50% to Deacon's Diaper Fund
- Pentecost Offering – 60% to Presbytery and 40% to FPCY camp scholarships to Holmes
- Peace & Global Witness – 75% to Presbytery Peace & Global Witness programs
25% to Rural & Migrant Ministry
- Thanksgiving Offering – 100% to our Food Pantry
- Christmas Joy Offering – 100% to PCUSA

Coming in 2018: The Mission Commission is planning on one domestic mission trip and supporting attendance at the Youth Conference at Montreat. We're in the midst of planning a Talent Show (March 4th) and in organizing a sub-committee to advocate for reducing Gun Violence. We will also be repeating both the Tag Sale and Craft Fair.

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in or supported our mission activities this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Miles

GREEN FAITH

The Green Team is delighted to report that we have completed the requirements for GreenFaith certification as of November, 2017. This was a two-year process that required a number of accomplishments in the areas of stewardship, education, worship, environmental justice advocacy, and communications. We were also required to have several interfaith and intergenerational events. We would like to give a short summary of our many activities.

In stewardship, we were required to accomplish at least 25 tasks covering both action and awareness in the areas of energy conservation, water conservation, waste reduction, toxin reduction, responsible outdoor maintenance, transportation, and food issues. Just a small sampling of our activities are: water conservation signs and water-reducing faucets around the church, two waste audits and new recycling containers, a professional energy audit for both the manse and the church building, an Energy Star purchasing policy (and new high efficiency refrigerators), providing Fair Trade, organic tea and coffee, several vegetarian events as well as attention to having vegetarian options at our fellowship events such as the progressive dinner, publicizing local Community Supported Agriculture options and local farmers' markets, a "food waste weekend" event, information on electronic recycling and non-toxic cleaning products at our Earth Day service, a garden tour and discussion of butterfly-friendly plants, and a no-idling policy with signage in front and back of the church building. And that's just in the area of stewardship!

In worship, we had multiple services and themes oriented around environmental issues, including "The Earth is the Lord's and Everything in it" (fall 2015), Water in the Desert service (January 2016), two Earth Day services, and a Food Waste service (November 2016). Lent 2017 was devoted to honoring the Sabbath, including spending time outdoors. Our biggest project was the design and installation of our beautiful outdoor labyrinth as a way for us to find spiritual connectedness in our outdoor environment.

We had several interfaith engagements, including the Thanksgiving 2016 service focused on thanksgiving prayers for the earth, and our spring 2017 dedication of our labyrinth.

In education, we had a multi-session adult ed series on the GreenFaith book, a women's series on water, a youth study on Food Justice, youth involved in the waste audit and planting a potato garden, and activities in both the church school and preschool around environmental conservation.

In the area of environmental justice, we had a Lenten tour of the Peekskill area "Healing our Sacred Spaces" and attention to environmental issues for both of our Dominican Republic mission trips (2015 and 2017).

Finally in the area of communications, we published a number of articles in the Disciple on ways to save energy, make personal choices for helping the environment, stories about our waste audit, an article on food justice, and on the "farm to pantry" effort. We wrote eight eco-theological reflections in the Disciple and on the website highlighting theological support for caring for the earth, and provided eight press releases to our local newspapers on our activities. The GreenTeam thanks the following people for their contributions to this two year project: **Robin Corpolongo, Nicole DeCintio, Donna Gresh, Diane Hawlk, Theresa Kennedy, Connie Knapp, David Lee, Andy Mavian, Jean Post-Winget, David Ramage, Tami Seidel, Lynda Spring, Wendy Whetsel.** A special shout-out to all the many volunteers and their hard work building the labyrinth. We plan to have a formal celebration marking our GreenFaith certification in the spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Knapp and Donna Gresh

WORSHIP DESIGN COMMISSION

Members: Jane Amato, Debbie Amorese, Cheryl Burns, 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.

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 to design and implement meaningful, thoughtful and experiential worship. 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:

We began the year with a **study of Matthew 5 and The Beatitudes**.

Lenten worship focused on Pause: Resting in God, a study of Sabbath, with services celebrating Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning Services at 6:30, 8:30, and 10:45.

Once Reformed, Always Reforming: The Five Solas of the Reformation in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

Grace and Gratitude – in cooperation with the Stewardship Commission

Advent: Darkness into Light

Other Special Services throughout the year included worship focused on:

Green Faith Sunday

Dedication of the Labyrinth

Women of the Church Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

Pentecost

Children's Sunday

YAV Sunday

Labor Day Weekend – Blessing of the Tools

Annual Parish Day Picnic

Blessing of the Backpacks

Mission Trip Reflections Service

World Communion Sunday

Blessing of the Animals

All Saints Day

Peace and Justice Sunday – Rick Ufford-Chase preaching on Reformed Resistance

Stewardship Celebration

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

Christmas Eve Services (Family Service and two Candlelight Services)

Highlights of the Year:

- Special highlights of the year included the reflections on Sabbath during Lent, special services during Holy Week, the Longest Night service in Advent and the Lessons and Carols services on Christmas Eve. Throughout the year the Commission has been working with artist **Barbara Santagata** who has designed and is completing a glass cross for the narthex. Installation and lighting are nearing completion.
- The **Usher Ministry** now in its fourth year has grown to 21 ushers serving the 8:30 service divided among 6 teams, and 30 ushers for the 10:45 service divided among 7 teams. 16 congregation members are willing to serve as substitutes. On October 22nd, the Worship Design Commission held a 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.

(Continued on page 14)

- For the second year, Worship Design assisted in sending members and clergy (**Christie Herman, Heidi Haring, Sophie Low, and Tami Seidel**) to the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina for an inspiring week of education, creative design, worship, and music.
- Many thanks to **Lynn and Ken Shulman** for their leadership in the **Blessing of the Animals** service. This outdoor worship annually draws 50-60 people and pets from the church and community. Animals receive a blessing “tag” and treats, and their families express gratitude for this acknowledgement of the importance of animals in our lives.
- 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, share videos during worship, Skyping with other churches during worship, and providing audio support for concerts and large meetings. 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**.
- **Christmas Eve** services welcomed 545 worshippers. Many thanks to **John and Judy Chessa** for their coordination of the Hanging of the Greens, and to the **Wilkins/Pratt** families for the gift of Christmas Trees, wreathes and garlands. The Christmas Eve Family Worship and Pageant moved to a new time on Christmas Eve morning, and the two evening Christmas Eve services offered a traditional Lessons and Carols worship. Many thanks to **Simona Frenkel, Tami Seidel, and Chip Low** for the creative development of this time-honored Christmas Eve worship tradition.
- The Worship Design Commission oversees **The First Presbyterian Church Concert Series** which is financed solely through the generous support of the Concert Series Patrons and audience donations. Three seasonal concerts were organized by task force members **Simona Frenkel** (Music), **Christie Herman** (Production Management), **Carol Jensen** (Patron Care & Nurture), **Stephanie Hare** (Audience Development), **Barbara Santagata** (Art Design), **Ann Timmons, Ken Shulman** (Front of House), **Amy Wallace** (reception design), **Beth Gruber** (Budget Oversight), **Judy Chessa, Ruth Deemer** (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 2017:

April 1	Juilliard in the Heights
October 21	Masquerade
December 9	Gerard Carelli Jazz Quartet

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 are thankful for the talents of **Alan Briones**, a professional tenor who supports the choir lower voices during rehearsals and worship music. We offer many thanks to **Gordon Braudaway** for his many years of faithful service providing the communion elements for the 10:45 worship. A new team including **Nance Thompson, Heidi Haring, Connie Knapp, Alice Chin, Christie Herman, Jean Post-Winget and Gloria Coccodrilli** joined **Karen Gerth** in preparing communion elements each month. Special thanks to **Barbara Wilkins** for selecting and hanging Banners, **Pat Prauda** 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; Betsy Alberty, Robin Corpolongo, Abigail Cross, Andrew Cross, Stephanie Hare, Carol Jensen, Connie Knapp, Sharon Larsen, Jessica Mayes, Michele Mosca, Liza Placido, Rev. Tami Seidel.*

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 advance in their own faith journey. 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 Pre-School (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 typical 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 past Director, **Lisa Eliasson**, stepped down in June and was replaced by **Betsy Alberty**. Other church members currently on the board are **Liza Placido** and **Sharon Larsen** (co-chairs), **Debbie Hager** (recording secretary), **Julie Friscia**.

Childcare Room—Consistent and dependable childcare on Sundays and during special services is an important consideration for parents of young children. Children from birth thru kindergarten age are warmly welcome here by our crib room caregivers who are **Denise Oschmann-Tomicich** and **Laura Farrell** (and **Ryan Mansell** during the summer months). Great thanks and appreciation go to **Michele Mosca**, Crib Room Coordinator, for all her hard work in providing a safe and nurturing environment for our youngest church members and for her continuous efforts in keeping our childcare room staffed with reliable and qualified caregivers.

Sunday School

FPCY’s Sunday School program offers a unique education 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 (or three) rotating superintendents each fulfilling a two year term. The current superintendents, **Jessica Mayes, Abigail Cross** and **Andy Cross**, are responsible for running the Sunday School program from staffing our centers and shepherd roster to organizing our rotation schedule and planning special events. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to **Michele Mosca** who completed her term in June 2017 and who enriched our Sunday School with her dedication and obvious love of our Sunday School children.

Our Sunday School is comprised of four sections to best serve the education and spiritual needs of the various age groups. We use the Sparkhouse curriculum which provides: Pre-School; Kindergarten 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 with Gathering Time in the Sanctuary before being dismissed to their rotating activities. Continued thanks to **Beth Gruber** and **John Winget** who provide music for gathering time.

Christmas Pageant—Many of the children from Sunday School participated in the Christmas Pageant which took place at the 10:45 worship service on Christmas Eve. Under the direction of **Bill Herman** and **Liza Placido** our children brought the amazing story of Christ’s birth to life. Many thanks to the children and to pageant team (**Bill, Liza, Sharon Larsen, Alice Chin, Jill Pagliettini, Sophie Low, Ben Low** and **Beth Gruber**).

Alternative Giving Fair—Thank you to **Heidi Haring** for coordinating the Alternative Giving Fair for another year and to **Kathy Blaney** and **Emily Monk** who assisted in running 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 but a way 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 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church with the theme *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God*. 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. Students are being led on this important journey by **Pam Darreff, Gordon Braudaway** and **Ellen Miles** under the direction of Reverend Chip Low. This class culminated in their confirmation on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

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 attended services of different Christian traditions: a Catholic Church; a Synagogue and a Mosque, as well as an Interfaith Service. The class participated in outreach ministries of our church including a Midnight Run, serving at the Food Pantry, cooking for the Pancake Supper and attending a retreat at the Holmes Camp.

Youth Ministries (*see next page*)—Thanks to the innovative and tireless efforts of our Director of Youth Ministries, **Stephanie Hare**, our Youth Group has been busy with an impressive variety of activities which take place as far away from home as the Dominican Republic to a Lock-In right in our very church.

Adult Education

Our focus in adult education is on faith formation, for us as individuals and as a community. We engage the head, the heart and the spirit, providing a safe place for participants to share their questions, doubts and struggles as we support each other in responding to Christ's call to be disciples.

Study groups meet on Sunday mornings during the Church School hour, Thursday mornings, and some Sunday evenings. The studies are coordinated with the liturgical year (Advent, Lent) as well as themes that arise from the events of the day. For example, this fall we studied the Protestant Reformations to mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 theses. All are invited to attend these sessions which are led by members of the congregation. Our Women's Circle group meets monthly on the first Wednesday and follows Presbyterian Women's Horizon year-long curriculum. Bible study groups meet on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and are following The Disciple curriculum. These groups require more of a commitment than other Adult Ed offerings; members are expected to attend each of the 12 weekly sessions and to read the week's assigned Scripture. These groups have been led by Reverends **Tami Seidel** and **Chip Low**.

Adult Education is coordinated by the Adult Ed Planning Team, currently led by **Connie Knapp**.

Church Library—The Church library is a valuable resource that is open to all members of our church family. Feel free to browse and take out a book. **Carol Jensen** continues her service as our Church Librarian. In addition to books on Bible study, theology, and the Presbyterian Church, the library had 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 website. Also check the Disciple each month for a review of new items.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzy Rishel

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Youth of FPCY were very busy in 2017. During the 2016-17 school year, our theme for Youth Group activities was “Loving our Neighbors”. We put that into practice through a variety of activities and acts of service during our Sunday evening meetings twice a month. We also had opportunities to get together for fun and fellowship outside of our usual Sunday time slot with an ice skating event in February. We hosted our first ever “Parents Night Out” in the spring, an opportunity to get to spend quality time with some of the younger members of our church family.

During the summer, our Youth were vital members of both of our Mission trips teams. Our first Mission crew, featuring nine Youth and three adults, departed from FPCY to travel to Annapolis, MD - the very next day after the conclusion of a full week of Vacation Bible School in which many of our team had been counselors and leaders! Our week in Maryland had us working with the literacy program “Start the Adventure in Reading”, or STAIR, at the First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis. Our teens were the shining stars of the volunteer staff of the camp and truly put their hearts into their work with the children in the program.

Our second Mission trip team traveled to the Dominican Republic and featured four high school students and two college students in addition to the nine adults in the group. Our team had the opportunity to work on expanding and improving the home of a family in rural DR, and at the same time form bonds with and learn from the local community about the realities of living in an area with little infrastructure and limited access to education.

The 2017-18 school year got off to a great start in the fall, as we began to explore our theme of “Making Connections”. 19 Youth from 6th through 12th grade came to a super fun Lock-In, which featured food, fun, two service projects, a late-night movie, and the most epic game of Sardines ever witnessed at FPCY. We rounded out 2017 with beginning preparations for the upcoming summer’s adventure to the Montreat Youth Conference. We already have 15 Youth signed up for MYC; 2018 is already guaranteed to be an exciting year.

In addition to Youth Group activities, we have been living into our first year of our Youth Elders and Deacons serving on an academic year basis rather than a calendar year. We continue to explore this program to better help our Youth live out their call to serve the church as Elders and Deacons.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie L. Hare, Director of Youth Ministries

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: assisted the Education Commission and YPP Board in the hiring of a new Pre-school Director, Elisabeth Alberty, due to the resignation of the previous director, Lisa Elliason; assisted in the hiring of several care givers for the child care room. Listed on page 21 are the Terms Of Call for Co-Pastors Charles Low and Tami Seidel for last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Johnson, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Members: Gloria Coccodrilli, Pam Darreff, Tim Lupfer, Marianna Sherman, Cathy Talbot, Rev. Tami Seidel, Rev. Chip Low, Co-Chairs: Squeegie Mills, Lynda Spring.

Stewardship Campaign: For 2018, our pledge campaign theme was “Grace and Gratitude”. Lynda Spring and Abby Cross gave testimonies of how they experienced this in their lives. Our church members shared their time, talents, and treasures in a myriad of ways. Financially our congregation pledged \$433,000.61 for 2018. This represents 133 giving units. Currently, pledged gifts for 2018 are lower than 2017 levels. Although not unusual for this time of year, we continue to encourage the submission of pledges for 2018. 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).

Our 2017 pledge totals were about \$453,000 thanks to 111 pledgers fulfilling their pledge or going over it. 41 fulfilled a portion of their pledge in 2017, some at the beginning of 2018 and some did not give at all.

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. Since 2013 when Session approved the establishment of an endowment fund for FPCY to support planned giving, **Tim Lupfer** has provided leadership in encouraging long-term giving. He has spoken to the congregation and offered information on how members might consider remembering our church in their financial plans.

Outreach: **Pam Darreff** has done an amazing job of keeping track of our college students and military personnel. Care packages went out in the fall to our freshman college students and active military personnel, in December all college students and active military received a gift card. In the spring care packages went out to all college students and military personnel. Additionally, the “Visit the Visitor” team continues to welcome newcomers with bread and a copy of the Disciple. Thanks to **Marianna Sherman** for leading the team that included **Ken Sherman, Judy and John Chessa, Gloria and Bud Coccodrilli, Squeegie and Dick Mills, Alice and Tim Chin, Jean and John Winget**. We continue to encourage all members to practice hospitality with friendly greetings to new faces. Marianna also shepherds the Prayer Shawl Ministry. This group prays for those who request prayers and through prayers of intercession, remember joys and concerns of members. Prayer shawls are given to those who have a need. Handknit scarves have been given to our confirmation class and a school in the Bronx. Blankets are made for the *Linus Project*. Thanks to **Gloria Coccodrilli** for presenting a Stewardship Table at the Commission Carnival.

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) removing 18 members from our rolls due to moving away or joining new churches. 3 of our members passed away in 2017. We also welcomed 27 new members (including the Confirmation Class) in 2017. As of December 31, 2016, FPCY has 393 members.

Stewardship Seminars: Rev. Tami Seidel, Rev. Chip Low, and Elder Lynda Spring attended the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in St. Pete's Beach, Florida, September 25-27th, 2017. With scholarships from Presbytery, funds from FPCY and a share by participants we participated in a stimulating program with people from all over the country. Following this opportunity on October 11, 2017 our commission held a mini retreat and viewed a Webinar by Karl Travis, “The Hesitant Herald”.

Stewardship commission is charged to care for our members, asking each of us to care for all of God’s creation through our time, talents and treasures.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynda Spring and Squeegie Mills, Co-Chairs

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Members: Bud Coccodrilli, Deanna Collins, John Chessa, Matt Hager, Kirk Larsen, Chip Low, David Lee, Don Blaney, Walter Oudheusden, Tami Seidel, Ian Spence, Tom Travis, Peter Eagleton, Vinny Wallace

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.

2017 Highlights:

We would like to recognize **David Lee** and **Matt Hagar** for their dedication and hard work as a part of the Operations Committee. Dave and Matt work on their own time both at FPCY and at home organizing repairs and getting projects completed. 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 2017 maintenance tasks and projects:

- Continue to pass along 'institutional memory' of our building and grounds.
- Ops members continue to be educated on our cemetery layouts to ensure future utility and maintenance.
- Rear parking lot light repaired by electrician and functioning properly.
- All tiled floors were cleaned and re-waxed.
- Minor furnace repair in December.
- New plowing company selected. New snow removal plans continue to improve.
- repaired lights at preschool doors and hallways.
- Doors/handles on sanctuary doors repaired.
- Battles with groundhogs & mice continue
- Outlet replaced in kitchen
- Door alarm installed in preschool.
- 'Outside Office' door replaced
- Sump-pump & drainage for sanctuary repaired/improved
- Roof leak over fellowship hall was repaired
- Continue to monitor the kitchen remodel in the manse.
- Gathered estimates on future expenses for Ministry Development Team

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 success in both work done, and fellowship experienced. We will continue to work with The Gardeners of Eden to maintain the current level of appearance.

2018 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.
- Move from discussion to design to delivery of security systems within the mission of the church as envisioned by the membership.

(Continued on page 20)

- Improve faucet in kitchen.
- Repair & paint the windows of the sanctuary.
- 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,
Vinny Wallace
 Co-Chair, Operations

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMISSION

The Budget and Finance Commission is responsible for recommending and implementing financial policies, goals, and budgets to the Session that support the mission, values, and strategic goals of the Church. The Commission reviews the Church's financial performance against its goals and manages the Church's investments. Budget and Finance was formed in 2015, and is still "on a journey" to truly fulfill those responsibilities.

Budget and Finance prepared a 2017 budget for consideration by Session, which was subsequently adopted by Session and is included in the accompanying financial statements. The Budget and Finance Commission provides the Session with reports on the Church's finances, including updated budget-to-actual performance and an updated balance sheet, at the Session's monthly meetings.

Manse Renovation

In 2017, Co-pastors Chip Low and Tami Seidel requested permission to undertake a renovation of the manse to better serve their needs. After Operations agreed to the scope of the project, and Budget and Finance agreed to the terms of its financing, it was approved by Session. The project is now ongoing. Budget and Finance continues to execute the funding plan for the project, and will appropriately revise the Manse Purchase Agreement when the project is completed.

In 2017, Budget and Finance was Co-Chaired by Fred Mintzer (member of the Session) and Beth Gruber (Treasurer). The Commission's membership also included Gordon Braudaway (Treasurer), Co-pastor Chip Low, Jack Shaughnessy, Tom Travis (Treasurer), and Matt Sheridan who graciously joined the Commission this year. Budget and Finance is blessed by, and thankful for, their generous contributions of time and financial expertise.

Respectfully submitted
Fred Mintzer and Beth Gruber
 Co-Chairs, FPCY Budget and Finance