

# *First Presbyterian* 2015 Annual Report

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“Creating spaces of grace to cultivate  
*hope, healing and purpose.*”

## *Lead Pastor*

There is hardly a day goes by where I don't receive a thank you from someone sharing how the ministry of First Presbyterian has made a difference in their lives. You are the ones who deserve the thank you as you are First Presbyterian Church. These are challenging days that call for a robust, courageous, generous and spacious faith. I witness this faith lived out daily in and through each of you. It is naïve to think we can fix the world. However, it is also naïve to think that we do not change the world. We change the world every day by the spirit we bring into the world. I witness every single day the spirit of Christ's love bringing hope, healing and purpose where it is needed most through your faithfulness and generosity. Thank you!

The pages of this annual report tell the story of many of the events, activities, ministries and mission programs that took place in 2015. The pages of this report do not come close to telling the story of amazing people faithfully showing up and offering their hearts in so many ways every day. The pages of this report are important to keep a record of the history of First Presbyterian. I want to go on record saying these pages do not come close to capturing the robust and spacious faith, compassion and generosity of this community of faith. I can't even begin to express my gratitude for the countless contributions of all of you. I don't say it often enough but thank you. The heart of Jesus is shared and lives are changed here in Bend and across the world because of the spirit of love you bring to each and every day.

I just reached a milestone of serving 10 years as your Lead Pastor. Such milestones offer opportunities to pause and reflect. My reflections remind me of how fortunate I am to be graced with the privilege to serve you as pastor. These are challenging times. Many people point to a national trend of declining church participation and bemoan that the church is not up to the challenge. I realize how fortunate I am to serve a community of faith that is not only up to the challenge but accepts the call and challenge to be leaders courageously paving a path to an unknown future.

First Presbyterian is blessed with an incredibly gifted and committed staff team. They serve you with grace, humor, and humility.

I encourage you to make a point of thanking them for they each give far and above what they are asked to do.

I reached another milestone of celebrating 25 years of marriage to Laurie. Being a pastor's spouse is never easy and I suspect being my spouse significantly raises that bar of difficulty. I want to personally and publicly thank Laurie for her never-ending love, patience and support. I would not be able to do what I do without the unconditional love she graces me with every day.

I am extremely excited for the year ahead. May we continue to change the world with a robust and spacious faith that carries the spirit of Christ's love where it is needed most.

So very blessed to serve with you as your pastor,

Steven

## *Pastor for Justice, Spirituality & Community*

Friends,

This is my fifth year of being your pastor and I continue to be humbled and honored by that privilege.

This past year contained quite a bit of travel for me as a pastor. The longest trip was in February when I journeyed with Maggie Hanson and Jane Kirkpatrick and our African Road partner, Kelly Bean, to Burundi where we made wonderful connections, cemented our partnership with the Batwa people and visited each of the three villages that First Presbyterian funded to receive national identification cards. To follow that trip with concrete action both through the cards and agriculture and education within the following year was very gratifying. As the photos and reports come in of crops harvested and children at school, I often recognize faces that I met. What an honor it is to partner with these beautiful people as they journey towards wholeness and a sustainable future.

In March, I was surprised to receive a call from the presbytery nominating committee asking me to stand for Moderator of the Cascades Presbytery. After much prayer and consultation, I said yes and in June, I was elected Moderator. I am so grateful that you have given me the space to lead the presbytery this year as Moderator and next year as the chair of the Presbytery Leadership Commission. This is a big commitment but I have felt so supported by both the congregation and our staff as I take this opportunity to grow and learn.

In the summer and fall, I enjoyed the privilege of helping TAP begin its life as a worshipping community. God has been so evident in the journey as people begin to find it to be a place of welcome and home. Once again, we have demonstrated that we are a community that believes in the timeless reality of God in Christ as we follow where the Spirit leads us in a new time.

This past year, I have been especially aware of all the places and people that First Presbyterian touches. In my experience and observation, this church is one of the busiest and most engaged congregations around! And we have been at it long enough to do it in such a way that is not only compassionate but effective and collaborative.

As 2015 wound up in our Christmas Eve services, I once again reveled in the gift of being a community together – sharing life, faith and hope.

May 2016 take us deeper into our calling: creating spaces of grace to cultivate hope, healing and purpose.

Grateful to be with you in this adventure,

Jenny

## *Director of Teens & 20-Somethings*

Thank you so much for welcoming me into the First Presbyterian community! It has truly felt like coming home, and I have been humbled and amazed by the way you've made me feel like I'm part of the family. It's been a privilege to lead the Bend Youth Collective and begin building relationships with our incredible teenagers and their families.

It is with much love that I share some of the highlights of the past year in the wholehearted, beautiful chaos that is teens & 20-something ministry:

2015-2016 brought a ton of change to the Bend Youth Collective: sending Ron to his first call in Portland, my transition into leadership, bringing more volunteer leaders onto our team, welcoming Dane Breslin into the co-director role, integrating the students of First United Methodist Church, and multiple changes of venue - just to name a few!

We continue in partnership with Nativity Lutheran, First United Methodist, and Trinity Episcopal. With the help of Wendy McCall, we are in the midst of an intense organizational development process that will allow us to better serve our students and their families. It's amazing how a clear mission statement, vision, goals, and organizational structure can really bring more energy and capacity to our unique ecumenical collaboration.

Our middle and high school gatherings are a safe place for students to become more whole, belong in community, and explore what it means to participate in the peacemaking way of Jesus. We have played, told countless stories, and learned more and more about what it looks like to be people of faith. Our hope is to continue to be a community that offers space to be authentic, ask questions, express doubt, do justice, and connect with others. To balance these intense conversations we also just hung out and played a host of games including spike ball, capture the flag and life-sized hungry hungry hippos! All of this is made possible by an incredible team of 20 adult volunteers who give of their time, energy, and love each week to care for our youth.

This past summer, we took 23 middle school students to Camp Lutherwood for a week of community building and learning about how we experience God. 19 high schoolers and 4 leaders ventured to San Francisco and Oakland for an urban immersion about peacemaking practices from locals who are working for justice in their communities. We had the privilege of being coached by a modern-day monastic about how to be in community with those experiencing homelessness and spent an evening preparing a meal and feasting with people who live outside. We also listened to first-hand stories of oppression and joined with other communities of faith for a peace walk in Oakland.

The other half of my life has been devoted to the new adventure that is Tap! I've been thrilled that our community is willing to take risks and explore new ways of being church with those "Nones" and "Dones" who otherwise might not feel at home on Sunday morning. Our intergenerational Sunday night community is really starting to feel like a family that welcomes anyone and everyone into the adventure of following in the way of Jesus together. We hear from speakers, have small group discussions, pray, create, sing together and share in communion each week, and are trying to be intentional about being good news in one another's lives. We have an amazing team of liturgists and musicians who thoughtfully plan each Sunday and help transform Heritage Hall into a welcoming, cozy space where all are welcome regardless of age, religion, or background.

Tap's heartfelt thanks goes out to our First Presbyterian family for the courage to create new space and new community, for the curiosity and kindness of those of you who have come to check it out, and for the generosity of spirit that has gone into this new service.

All of these ministries for youth and young adults would not be possible without your support - thank you for all the ways you show your care and love. I can't wait to see where God takes BYC and Tap in the coming year!

With love,  
Morgan Schmidt

## *Children and Family Ministries*

Children and Family Ministries is dedicated to supporting families in showing the love and compassion of Jesus to children from birth to fifth grade. We delight in sharing the continuing story of God's love.

The Children's Ministry Team meets monthly to review goals and plan. Members of the team include: Deb Klotz, Heidi Lamb, Scott Nelson, Nancy Paslay, and Janet Pearson, Director of Children and Family Ministries.

The Nursery supports families during worship and other special events. Our Nursery staff is continually working to improve the nursery experience for the youngest members of our church family. "Play-N-Worship" helps toddlers and twos know Jesus through purposeful play and reinforces that God loves them. A monthly newsletter is sent to the parents of children from birth to 36 months. This year three toddler parties were hosted in the nursery mid-week.

Godly Play, offered at first and second services, provides a rich learning experience for our preschoolers and kindergarteners. They are introduced to the core stories of our faith cycling through the church year. Story Tellers and Door Keepers are specially trained to provide a rich environment for learning about God.

The first service Sunday School featured "Feasting on the Word" a lectionary based curriculum for the first part of the year. We experimented with "Holy Moly" a video based curriculum during the summer. And launched a Godly Play parallel lesson plan for First through fifth grade students this fall.

Second service Sunday School provides a classroom opportunity for second through sixth graders. Children of the Way is a quiet and reflective class where children can come closer to God.

Fourth and Fifth grade students spent nine weeks in a special series of workshops focused on the Bible. Jason Medina led this center based learning experience. We presented 8 Bibles to our young scholars on June first.

The Vacation Bible School theme this year was Bible Blast to the Past. Vacation Bible School is a growing expression of God's love in our community. Deb Klotz, Heidi Lamb and Julie Nelson led a dedicated team of volunteers who provided music, fun, learning and fellowship during the week of July 27.

Working with the children and families of the church is a continuing joy. We learn from the children as they learn from us.

Abundant Blessings,

Janet Pearson

Director of Children and Family Ministry

## Clerk of Session

The Session of First Presbyterian Church Bend held seven regular meetings; a special meeting to accept new members; a special meeting after the congregational meeting to address concerns, if any, which needed to be covered before the next regular meeting; a special meeting in lieu of a retreat to discuss business; and a special meeting in order to vote to allow newly elected elders to vote on matters before Session before their ordination and installation and also to discuss status of the 2015 budget. Copies of minutes of all Session meetings and monthly financial statements are on file in the Session notebook in the Library. Session normally meets in the Library on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. except during the months when a retreat is held, and none during the month of June.

The annual Congregational meeting for the presentation of the 2015 budget and accept the 2015 terms of call for the pastors was held on February 17, 2015 at the church. A second congregational meeting was held on June 14, 2015 for the purpose of electing elders and deacons to the Class of 2018 and an elder to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2015. Copies of the minutes of those two meetings are included in this annual report and are also on file in the Session notebook in the Library.

The church's official rolls of membership, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and ordination and installation of elders and deacons are also recorded by the Clerk of Session.

Chris Hermeling  
Clerk of Session

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Membership January 1	730	722	721	693	649	608	596	563	567	507	507	589	619	642
+ Confession of Faith	0	4	2	9	12	13	4	10	19	19	13	6	5	5
+ Certificate of Transfer	8	8	6	12	20	20	12	33	26	34	6	14	13	20
+ Reaffirmation of Faith	17	11	7	23	27	26	7	10	11	20	3	1	7	16
+ From inactive list	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	6	6				
- Transfer	5	4	2	2	0	1	0	4	5	7	3	5	12	11
- Death	15	11	6	10	8	13	10	14	9	6	10	12	17	6
- All other losses	4	0	8	6	7	4	2	4	52	6	9	86	26	47
Membership December 31	731	730	722	721	693	649	608	596	563	567	507	507	589	619

## Session Members

January 1 to August 31, 2015

Todd Ainsworth

Gary Lovinger

Lee Fritchman

Judy Alford

LeighAnne Medina

Kat Mastrangelo

Josh Bishop (resigned 3/17/15)

Jane Kirkpatrick

Brian Paslay

Betty Bullis

September 1 to December 31, 2015

Judy Alford

Gary Livingier

LeighAnne Medina

Jane Kirkpatrick

Deb Klotz

Lee Fritchman

Kat Mastrangelo

Brian Paslay

Ordained/Installed:

James Jaggard

Lynda Paznokas

Steve Hummel

2015 Baptisms, Weddings, Deaths and New Members

Baptisms

Miriam Grace Wirtz, 7/ 25

Weddings

None recorded

Deaths

Bruce White, 3/15

Jack Dunlevy, 4/2

Tom Anderson, 4/8

Betty Hall, 5/8

Dennis Douglass, 6/29

Janet Karstedt, 7/19

Lyle Potter, date unk.

Lorraine Meyer, 7/25

Jean Curl, 8/14

Patricia Lee von Riedl. 8/30

Frank Rosga, 8/20

John Oliviera, 9/9

Ollie Peters, 9/11

Roger Gildersleeve, 9/27

Elinor Brydges, 11/1

New Members

Agnes Pearson, 1/20

Wendy McCall

Debby Ofstedahl

Susan and John Battle, 1/25

Brenden Butler

Mimi Graves

James Harrison

Barry and Connie Heath

Mary Kellogg

Ann and Daniel Lee

Theresa Merrick

Judith Solomon

Linda Stewart-Jones

Lynda Wetzel

Wendy Heath-Wirtz and Joel Wirtz

Barbara Gerard

Evelyn Donaldson

Susan Collins

Morgan Schmidt. 3/17

Mary Long, 7/21

Ardys Craghead, 11/17

*Annual Congressional Report*  
*First Presbyterian Church, Bend, Oregon*  
*February 17, 2015*

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend, Oregon, was held in the context of an annual gathering in the sanctuary on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The meeting was preceded with a "Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras" themed celebration, with a potluck of favorite desserts and suggested fun discussion topics. The dessert sharing was topped off with "Second Line" dancing in the Commons and a procession into the sanctuary with special music.

OPENING

The meeting was opened with prayer at 7:15 p.m. by Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, senior pastor and moderator. There were 100 in attendance; a quorum was present.

Dr. Koski welcomed everyone and explained the meeting agenda.

PRESENTATION OF 2015 BUDGET

Dr. Koski advised that it is the Session that is responsible for approving the annual budget, and advised that Session has already done so. He introduced Ruling Elder Kat Mastrangelo, who explained the process of the FPC finance committee recommendations, and the preparation of this year's budget. All ruling elders present were called to the front of the sanctuary to take questions from the congregation. Mrs. Mastrangelo highlighted the faith budget history, and detailed the percent of total giving to Justice, Outreach and Mission. She also noted that Session had approved a flat salary increase of five percent to all staff, including pastors, and the addition of salary for the new full-time youth Director. Dr. Koski said that copies of the budget can be picked up at the Welcome Center desk in the Commons for anyone interested.

On completion of the budget presentation Dr. Koski noted that Mission giving generosity of members and friends has more than doubled in the past eight years. He then asked if anyone had questions or comments. Gretchen Williver stood and reported that the Happy Learners Ad Hoc Committee would be meeting with Session to make a presentation at the next stated meeting in March. Youth Director Morgan Schmidt advised that she was looking forward to her first get-together with middle schoolers, and Caitlin Jarvis announced that the FPC Annual Report to the Congregation is now available, either by hard copy at the Welcome Center or on the Website

2015 TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTORS

Dr. Koski turned the meeting over to Dr. Rev. Brad Kent to moderate during the discussion of the terms of call for the two pastors, who left the room during the discussion. In the absence of Personnel Chair Natalie Hummel, who was unable to attend the meeting, Rev. Kent presented the 2015 terms of call.

The terms of call for Rev. Jenny Warner, pastor for Justice, Spirituality, and Community are as follows:

Continuing Education .....	\$ 1,500
Dental .....	1,632
*SECA Allowance .....	3,671
**Housing .....	24,154
Mileage .....	1,000
Professional Expenses .....	2,500
Pension/Medical .....	17,632



\*\*Salary ..... 24,154

Two weeks study leave

Four weeks vacation

Total budget for this position..... \$76,243

\*SECA = Self employment tax. Clergy fall under the self-employed tax code. FPC pays this for its pastors.

\*\*Housing and Salary will be adjusted for line amounts to meet taxation preferences under the law. Their sum remains the same at \$48,308. For the purposes of this display, they are simply halved.

Rev. Kent then presented the terms of call for Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, Lead Pastor.

They are as follows:

Continuing Education ..... \$ 2,000

Dental ..... 1,632

\*SECA Allowance ..... 7,342

\*\*Housing ..... 48,305

Mileage ..... 2,500

Professional Expenses ..... 3,000

Pension/Medical ..... 35,263

\*\*Salary ..... 48,306

Two weeks study leave

Four weeks vacation

Total budget for this position ..... \$148,348

\*\*Housing and salary will be adjusted for line amounts to meet taxation preferences under the law. Their sum remains the same at \$96,611. For the purposes of this display, they are simply halved.

A motion to approve the terms of call for Dr. Koski and Rev. Warner was seconded; there was no discussion, and the motion passed.

Dr. Koski and Rev. Warner returned to the meeting and were greeted by a standing ovation.

CLOSING

Dr. Koski introduced and expressed appreciation to staff members Marla Polenz, Caitlin Jarvis, Eileen Heaton, Julie Hanney, Derwin Hanney, Janet Pearson, Elizabeth Stephan and Doug Gillespie. He also thanked Wendy Imel for her work and announced that she would still be around for special projects, and also recognized Natalie Hummel and the personnel committee as well as the Finance Committee and continued work of Boyd Levett.

Dr. Koski then announced a time for storytelling and ask Morgan Schmidt to talk about her recent trip to Israel. Morgan spoke about her travel to a refugee camp, and how she learned about how to bring hope to those who are cared for, learning to belong and be loved. Elder Jane Kirkpatrick was then invited to tell a story about her recent trip to Burundi with Jenny Warner and Maggie Hanson. She recapped the experience and talked of meeting the Batwa people at the base of a hill, led by "Everest," their guide and a member of the Burundi Parliament. She said that they all danced and proceeded up the hill, where they were welcomed with thank-you's and later given a hut for the First Presbyterian

Church of Bend people to stay in future visits. She expressed deep appreciation to the members of the church for their prayers for the African journey.

Dr. Koski then conducted a drawing (from names proposed earlier by meeting attendees who nominated persons "who gave their all and more" to the church and its members). Kurt Weaver received a prayer shawl; Maggie Hanson received a "Lunch with Jenny Warner;" Marilyn Burwell received a "Lunch with Steven Koski;" and Marla Sandner received a quilt from the FPC quilters group.

Dr. Koski thanked to congregation for participating in the evening and invited everyone to stand and sing together, *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

At 8:15 p.m. Rev. Warner closed the gathering with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hermeling, Clerk

Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, Moderator

*Special Congregational Meeting*  
*Sunday, June 14, 2015*

A special meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 14, 2015, for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. The meeting was called to order with prayer at 11:20 a.m. by Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, lead pastor. A quorum was declared present.

Dr. Koski explained the purpose of the meeting to those present and the roles of serving elders and deacons. He then introduced Elder Betty Bullis, chair of the Nominating Committee.

**ELECTION OF DEACONS**

Betty Bullis presented the names the following nominees for the position of deacon for the various terms listed below:

Marilyn Feis – Class of 2018  
Marilyn Lakey – Class of 2018  
Oscar Sorlie – Class of 2018

Courtney Suhr – Class of 2018  
Chris Warner – Class of 2018

Dr. Koski asked for nominations from the floor; there being none, it was MSC to close the nominations. MSC to unanimously elect the nominees to serve on the Board of Deacons for the Class of 2018.

**ELECTION OF ELDERS**

Betty Bullis presented the names of the following members to serve as elders for the various terms listed below:

Debbie Barnes – Class of 2018  
Steve Hummel – Class of 2018  
James Jaggard – Class of 2018

Lynda Paznokas – Class of 2018  
Judy Alford – Class of 2016

Dr. Koski asked for nominations from the floor; there being none, it was MSC to close the nominations. MSC to unanimously elect the nominees to serve as elders for their respective terms.

**INTRODUCTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Betty Bullis introduced the following members of the Nominating Committee and thanked them for their service

Bob Bridges   Ron Carver   Deb Klotz  
Lynda Hathorn Julie Nelson

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Koski adjourned the meeting at 11:30am with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Lichti, Clerk Pro Tem  
Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, Moderator

## Care Ministries

"...no one is left alone and we are Christ to and for one another."  
(A mission directive of this congregation)

The Care Ministries are led by the 13 members of the Board of Deacons. The Deacons are elected by the congregation and ordained into a ministry of caring, a ministry of love, a ministry of compassion, and a ministry of prayer. The Deacons have been elected and ordained by the congregation to serve rotating three year terms. Each Deacon is assigned to one of the 11 ministry areas. Below is a brief description of the activities of this ministry area for 2015.

*Health Care Ministry – Provides programs to assist in the care of our health.* Deacon Sheryl Snapp and Deacon Courtney Suhr currently serve as the ministry leaders. During 2015 85 people had their blood pressure checked, 40 had their blood glucose testing, 28 people had hearing tested, and 20 people had flu vaccinations. Under the instruction of Julie Carda, Geriatric Wellness Consultant, was contracted to teach Brain Fitness classes, Tai Chi for balance classes, and Tai Chi specifically designed for people with Parkinson's disease. *If you feel drawn to participate on helping on this team please contact Sheryl at 541-390-1122 or [skslra@msn.com](mailto:skslra@msn.com) or Courtney Suhr at [Courtney.j.suhr@gmail.com](mailto:Courtney.j.suhr@gmail.com) or 714-642-1961*

*Visitation to the Homebound – Provides companionship to those unable to have sustained contact with the congregation.* Deacon Shauna Weltmann, assisted by Deacon Susan Hood, facilitates this ministry area. The focus of this ministry is to see that people who may no longer be able to actively participate in the worship and programs of the church, due to health or life circumstances, remain connected through our visits. Shauna and Susan matched visitors with those in our congregation who wish to be visited. In 2015 there were 62 visitors, 88 people visited, 181 visits, 141 calls and 37 cards sent. In addition to the 37 cards sent by individuals on the visitation team there were 72 cards mailed by Deb Cushman who assists the congregation by sending cards to individuals who are struggling with life situations. *If you are interested in participating in this ministry please contact Shauna at 541-350-6878 or [slw@bendbroadband.com](mailto:slw@bendbroadband.com) or Susan at 231-499-2963 or [tcsghood@gmail.com](mailto:tcsghood@gmail.com)*

*Spiritual Friends Ministry – This program offers support groups and classes that teach skills for being able to care for one another in healthy ways.* During 2014 this ministry has been facilitated by Michael Coe and Chris Warner. These two Deacons have been responsible for the two Care Ministry retreats. The Spring Retreat focused on spiritual practices to help the Deacons grow in their spiritual life. At the Fall Retreat the focus was on how to build effective teams in order to involve more members of the congregation in the caring ministries we offer at First Presbyterian. This team has also sponsored the Women's Care Givers' Support Group which meets approx. twice a month. Evelyn Donaldson has now taken over the role of facilitator for this group. Barry Heath facilitated a Cancer Support Group in 2015. The emphasis of this group was caring for your soul during this cancer journey. Lorraine Stuart provided a Grief Recovery group this past year. In all of the support groups we have both church members as well as community members who have no affiliation with this congregation. We see these support groups as providing a mission to the larger Bend community. *If you would like to participate on this ministry team please contact Michael Coe at 541-390-5990 or [cephasmc@bendbroadband.com](mailto:cephasmc@bendbroadband.com) or Chris Warner at 1-925-708-5979 or [cniwarner@mac.com](mailto:cniwarner@mac.com)*

*College Ministry – This ministry kept connections with college students who have been connected with our congregation.* Deacon Sandi Carmiencke facilitated this ministry area. She sent cards and little gifts to the students whose names we were given as a way to let them know they were being remembered by their home congregation. (At the beginning of 2016 this ministry has been discontinued as Morgan Schmitt is now working with this age group so the Deacons will no longer be serving in this ministry area.)

*Medical Equipment – Medical Equipment is made available for loaning to that in need.* This ministry was facilitated by Deacon Kurt Weaver. This program has continued to grow this year as more and more individuals are making use of the equipment that is available for loan, and as more individuals donate medical equipment they no longer need. Kurt keeps the equipment in good shape and often delivers and picks up the equipment for individuals unable to get the equipment to their homes themselves. *If you like to repair things or keep equipment in good order perhaps this ministry could be a way for you to serve. If this is the case then please contact Kurt at 541-317-8663 or [kurtoweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:kurtoweaver@yahoo.com).* (at the beginning of 2016 this ministry has been shifted to the Health Care Ministry area and so if you have questions or would like to help in this ministry please contact Sheryl Snapp or Courtney Suhr who facilitate the ministry).

Food Ministry – *This ministry has an ongoing food collection to help St. Vincent De Paul with their food pantry. At Christmas this ministry provides families and other organizations in need with food boxes.* Deacon Jan Tetzlaff facilitates this ministry. For the year 2015 67 families were served and 8 meals were delivered to St. Vincent de Paul. \$4,700 was spent on this project. In addition to the food for Christmas dinner each family was given a \$25 or \$50 gift card from Food for Less. There were some extra food gift cards that were given to Elizabeth Stephan to offer families with food needs during the year. In 2015 there was a \$2,000 drop in contributions from the year 2014. We began 2015 with \$1,900 in a dedicated fund and the same amount will be present for us to use in 2016. In addition to the Christmas basket project there has been an on-going food collection during the year. The grocery carts are always available for donations of food and at times there have been special collections as well. During Vacation Bible School the children brought food donations as a mission project. *If you would like to participate in the food ministries please contact Jan Tetzlaff at 951-218-1831 or [jmtathome@hotmail.com](mailto:jmtathome@hotmail.com)*

Bereavement Ministry – *This ministry assists the Pastor in preparing the sanctuary for memorial service by providing ushers for the services, setting up the Library for family members to gather before the service begins, and providing receptions following the service.* Deacon Marilyn Lakey, assisted by Deacon Marilyn Feis, and a wonderful team of volunteers facilitates this ministry to help provide loving hospitality following memorial services to those grieving the loss of a loved one. In 2015 this year this ministry assisted with 10 memorial services. Thank you to so many folks who helped to provide food, served the food, ushered at the services and of course for those willing to do the necessary clean up following the receptions. This is a wonderful team effort to care for those who want to celebrate the life of their loved ones by gathering with friends. *If you can see yourself volunteering in this ministry please call Marilyn Lakey at 541-382-6722.*

Hospitality Ministry – *This ministry provides hospitality for events sponsored by the Deacons.* This year Deacon Earlene Monroe, our Hospitality Deacon, and Marilyn Feis provided refreshments for the Deacon's retreat, and coordinated the people necessary to provide refreshments at Care Ministry sponsored activities. Another vital part of this ministry is the coordination of meals to be taken to people within our faith community who are experiencing a difficult time. During this year Earlene's and Marilyn's team has provided 43 meals for families. What a wonderful way to say we care! *If you want to show your loving support by offering to provide meals to those who are struggling please contact Marilyn Feis at [grammyfeise5@gmail.com](mailto:grammyfeise5@gmail.com) or 541-419-9769.*

Prayer Ministry – *This ministry provides: opportunities for people in need to receive prayer support. It also supports the Prayer Shawl ministry, sends cards to those who are experiencing painful times in their lives, the Reiki ministry that provides for hands on healing prayers for anyone who would like that gift. This ministry also offers prayer workshops.*

In 2015 we had over 115 members on our e-mail prayer team praying for the many requests from church members and beyond. We have provided approx. 80 prayer shawls in 2015 to both St. Charles and to First Pres. members or friends who were in need of a reminder that they are loved and being thought of during a difficult time. During 2015 we have offered Reiki to 22 individuals, some from this congregation and some not associated with First Presbyterian. Also during 2015 we have sponsored a 1½ day workshop to teach the practice of Centering Prayer and two Taste of Silence events that provide an opportunity for people to gather to practice Centering Prayer together from 9:00 to Noon. These three prayer events collectively gathered 75 people. *If you would like to participate in the prayer shawl ministry contact Deb Klotz at [dklotz@bendtel.net](mailto:dklotz@bendtel.net) or call 541-385-3109. If you would like to participate in the on-line prayer team please contact Brigitte Dysart at 541-385-5342 or [brigdysart@att.net](mailto:brigdysart@att.net). If you would like to explore more about becoming a member of the Reiki ministry then please contact Robin Fuerst at 541-318-6385 or [healingjourneyoptios@gmail.com](mailto:healingjourneyoptios@gmail.com).*

#### Medical Needs for School Children

This program has been coordinated by the Deacon Treasurer Shauna Weltmann. She is the contact for the nurses in the Bend LaPine School District who have children who have some special medical need that is not provided from any other source. This might be a drug prescription, glasses, insulin, or gas money to see that a family can take their child to Portland for treatment. The funds for this program are provided by the Foundation and donations made to a Children's Medical Dedicated Fund. In 2015, \$674.50 was used to help children with medical needs.

Care for the Homeless – *This ministry partners with others in the community to provide services to assist the homeless.* This ministry is facilitated by Deacon Rhonda Chesney. This year we collected and donated many bags of warm winter clothing and camping equipment to the Bend Community Center for distribution. Rhonda carries hats, gloves, socks, etc. in her car and hands them out to the folks around town in need of clothing items to keep warm. In 2015, in partnership with Nativity Lutheran Church the Bend Community Center and from the generous

donations of those who wanted to support this ministry area, many cords of wood were made available to individuals in need of wood for heating their homes or in their homeless camps. Bend Community Center and Bethlehem Inn are often the recipient of food that we have left from events here at the church. They are most grateful for this sharing. . *If you are interested in assisting Rhonda in this ministry then please contact her at 541-389-2294 or [rchesney@bendcable.com](mailto:rchesney@bendcable.com).*

*Senior Concerns – This ministry focuses on those needs of the older members of our congregation.* Deacon Marianne Watson and Deacon Oscar Sorlie have been working with other ministries that support the older members of our fellowship. The he driving ministry, Wheels of Grace continues to provide transportation to worship services for those who want to attend worship but are unable to drive themselves. This ministry also continued to offer people their packets of information intended to help determine and inform family members of your final wishes as you consider how you want to make the transition from this life to more life. During 2015 we welcomed retired chaplain Steven Rich to assist in visiting many of the senior members of our congregation. He began his visitation ministry toward the end of 2015 but was able to spend time with 18 members of our congregation over the age of 80. *If you are interested in participating in this ministry area please contact Marianne at 541-388-4968 or [mwatson@bendbroadband.com](mailto:mwatson@bendbroadband.com). or Oscar Sorlie [sorlieo@bendcable.com](mailto:sorlieo@bendcable.com) or 218-205-9725.*

Thank you so much for all of the support you offered to the Care Ministries during 2015. You have generous hearts that allow us to find many ways as a faith community to love like Jesus in practical ways that help people know they are loved.

## *Community Life*

We are so thankful for everyone who volunteers for First Presbyterian throughout the year. From ushering and greeting on Sundays, to counting, hosting the Welcome Center, to picking up coffee, operating the slides, reading, working in the front office, helping with bulk mailings, cleaning the groups and so much more- your help makes all of the difference and we are endlessly grateful.

In 2015, we had fun and grew together as a community during a variety of community events, including a summer church picnic with water balloons, croquet and a meal in the park together, a BBQ end of summer celebration in the parking lot, and Santa visited us around Christmas and told some stories before we all watched Elf together and ate popcorn in the Sanctuary.

## *Finance Committee*

The Finance Committee furthers the mission and purpose of Bend First Presbyterian Church through fiscal responsibility. It provides a clear and up to date picture (to Session and interested members) of the church's finances through proper data gathering and monitoring and forecasts potential future challenges and opportunities.

1. The Finance Committee approved a 2014 income estimate of \$893,621.
2. Talked with Session about an external church audit and, after looking at the statistics, recommended that one NOT be held. The cost is significant and statistically the odds of finding a problem are extremely low.
3. Agreed to meet with Dave Osgood to discuss The Ministry of Money.
4. Met with Natalie Hummel, Chair of Personnel to discuss filling the vacant Church Administrator position. She convinced us that the duties would be filled by existing personnel and the vacancy would allow the church to move forward in other directions.
5. Overall church finances were very strong over the year due primarily to a special appeal in February. We ended the year in the black with a strong cash position.

## Foundation

The Foundation's purpose is to act as perpetual trustee and administer gifts from members and friends of the Church. All gifts are managed and invested by the trustees to obtain maximum safe earnings. The Church Session has the primary authority to direct disbursement from the Foundation assets. These assets are used to support local, national and foreign mission work, scholarship, and children's medical and ministries, music enrichment, and youth activities. They may also be used for capital improvement and maintenance of church property, or for any purpose specified by donors relating to church programs and approved by Session. These assets cannot be used for general operating funds.

In 2015, the Foundation received \$2,950 in new contributions, and \$29,456.26 in earnings from its investments. Earnings from these funds will be used to support nursing scholarships, education for low income individuals, mission activities, youth, needy school children, music programs, and children's ministries. During the year, \$20,522.55 was approved for distribution as outlined below.

### 2015 Disbursement Summary from Foundation Endowments

Local and general mission support	\$6,567.20
Medical Mission support	\$2,192.20
Nursing scholarships at COCC	\$6,500.00
Youth Activities	\$857.74
School Supplies	\$1,310.97
Educational Support	\$1,400.00
Children's Medical	\$220.00
Music Enhancement	\$695.49
Children's Ministries	\$730.20
Administrative Cost	\$48.75

The Foundation, at the request of Session, has managed a gift made to the church by the estate of a parishioner. The Foundation continues to administer a housing loan made from this gift which had earnings of \$4,979.04 in 2015. These earnings were transferred to the Church as received.

As of December 31, 2015, the Foundation had assets totaling \$542,786.29 which excludes the balance of the estate gift, \$97,152.06, held by the Foundation. 5% of the asset total is used to determine the amount of funds available for the following year. The Foundation asset total decreased by \$27,633.14 in 2015.

Trustees

Betty Bullis, President; Kit Carmiencke; Laura Jo Gildersleeve; Ralph Litchfield, Secretary;  
Charles Mackdanz, Treasurer; David Osgood; Brenda Simpson; Oscar Sorlie

## Justice and Outreach Ministries

Team Leader: Pastor Jenny Warner

The Vision Team and Session adopted the following Values and Actions of Accompaniment (from ELCA Mission Gathering) to provide a concrete map for outreach and to help guide decisions about allocation of resources. Each value and action is followed by questions to facilitate application and understanding for ministry teams. In addition, the Vision Team devised a reporting form that the team hoped would reflect *First Presbyterian Strategic Commitment (1 of 6): Acting With Compassion and Justice: We seek to be a community that yearns for justice and that is learning to think theologically about our world. A community that combines worship and justice and that advocates for justice in a way that unites rather than polarizes. We want people of all ages to find their purpose in healing our world.*

Justice and Outreach Ministries: Burundi Team  
Team Leaders: Maggie Hanson & Jacquie Coe

Our greatest highlight and accomplishment of the past year is the completion of the ID Kit Project in three Batwa villages (Gahombo, Ndava and Mwendo) in the province of Kayanza. For this project we raised \$17,000 in a short span of time, and the project was completed by June 2015 so that adults could vote in the national elections. As a result of this project: 195 people received identity cards, 146 children received birth certificates, and 70 couples were legally married at a wedding celebration.

This year also saw the opportunity for the first FPC Burundi team, led by Kelly Bean of African Road, to travel Burundi. Three members of our team and Kelly were able to visit the Batwa villages in Kayanza, as well as other more established African Road projects. Relationships were established with our partner organization in Burundi (ASSEJEBA "Hope for Batwa Youth"), as well as the villagers and their leaders. This was an important step in establishing our long-range goal of walking alongside the people in the villages of Kayanza.

Due to political unrest in Burundi, preceding the national elections, we held a prayer vigil. This was a chance to educate members of our congregation and the community about the situation and the plight of the Batwa. This unrest also created a short-term food shortage in the villages. We were able to respond as a team, and quickly facilitate an emergency distribution of food to villages in two phases during July & August. Responding to a story about a Batwa child told every morning at VBS, the children of our congregation also contributed by bringing bottles and cans to redeem for this effort. The good news is that the food supply appears to be returning to normal at this time.

Justice and Outreach Ministries: Friends Of Jesus Team  
Team Leader(s): Thiel Larson and Marilyn Burwell  
Regular Volunteers: Ali Kent, Kathy Crackel, Valerie Dal Soglio & Tommy Brown

On one Saturday last spring we attended the book sale at the public library. The children were all given a small amount of money to buy books. At this sale, a little bit of money goes a long ways. Volunteers helped the kids choose books, and everyone went away with a pile of books. We try to encourage the children to read. On other Saturdays, we have given books and winter clothing away.

One of our yearly highlights is always VBS. Forty-seven Friends kids or teens attended VBS. In fact the Friends teens were the majority of the helpers for VBS – 11.

In order for our 47 kids to attend VBS, there must be volunteer drivers. This year those drivers were: Tim Conlon, Ali and Brad Kent, Bill and Marilyn Burwell, George Larson, LeBron Hardy, Barbara Balz and Meg Brookover. Four parents also drove, Marilu Rincon, Rosie Lopez, Maggie Chavez and Eladia Silva.

Justice and Outreach Ministries: Green Team  
Team Leader: Thiel Larson

- Renewed Creation Care Congregation Status for 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- Began discussion with Foundation of divesting from Fossil Fuels in First Pres. Portfolios.
- Realized the goal of combining efforts with other Ecumenical Green Teams. We meet every three months and have been able to embolden and encourage each other as well as share information.
- Shared Earth Day Booth with other Green Teams; Helped bring Mary Woods (lawyer from Eugene working in area of Our Children's Trust) from Eugene and hosted a meeting with Mary Wood and high school students from the area which led the students organizing a YouCAN ( Youth Climate Action Now) chapter in Bend.
- Supported the youth as they approached the city council and asked for Climate Action.
- Secured support from session to invite the congregation to join the Bend Energy Challenge. Provided education and support to congregation in doing so.



- Wrote letters to congress opposing the Trans-Pacific-Partnership which will have disastrous effects on our environment worldwide.
- Provided information to congregation about Slave Chocolate and Conflict Palm Oil.
- Provided a luncheon for the showing of Chasing Ice movie and subsequent hike in the wilderness for those attending from our Presbytery.
- Have continued to show a monthly Green Team Movie to the general community.

#### Justice and Outreach Ministries: Guatemala Team

Team Leader(s): Bill Burwell, Sue Nell Phillips (coordinator), Nari Maidl, Mike Maidl, Gretchen Williver

- Three trips to San Lucas Tolimán where we worked on four homes and numerous stoves (4-8 per trip) and latrines
- The association with Thrivent Builds on the trip led by Nari and Mike Maidl
- Successful fundraiser in July totaling \$2398
- Close to 100 sponsored students through SLT scholars by members and friends of our church (800 students in total in program)
- Hiring of new assistant to director of SLT scholars, funded by anonymous donation from our church
- Grant from Rotary International through the local Greater Bend Rotary totaling \$36,500.
- Initial steps taken to begin an annual trip to focus on the San Lucas Tolimán scholars and to allow those who cannot or do not want to participate in a build to still travel to San Lucas.

In 2015 the HFHG Sololá will have received \$24,992 from the members and friends of First Presbyterian Bend. Since 2011 to date, there has been a total of \$105,208 in donations. These have provided products of stoves, latrines, water filters (406 families total received some combination of those products) and materials for homes as well as some administrative costs and plans for a new experimental home. The funds from Greater Bend Rotary were in addition to those funds and will go specifically to water filters. The donations included in the trips costs, \$620 per participant, were divided between Habitat International, \$200, while the remainder went to Guatemala, but not necessarily to our project in San Lucas Tolimán.

#### Justice and Outreach Ministries: Hunger and Homeless Taskforce Team

Team Leader: Karen Bates

Refocusing our attention on Habitat for Humanity was probably our number one highlight. By organizing work days at the build sites and training sessions at The ReStore, a new energy was created - FPC members came together to experience Habitat for Humanity first hand. Second, was probably the renewed energy injected into our relationship with Bethlehem Inn. My thanks goes to Tim Conlon. We met and discussed the lagging signups for the First Friday Dinners - my hope was that he would step up and take over my role in this mission. The sign ups tell the story - his skill at recruiting and organizing go without question. So happy he accepted when I asked him to join the Task Force! Third, and I guess this is personal, is the unbelievable commitment I see month after month at Family Kitchen. Many of the volunteers have served for years, some are brand new - doesn't matter - they come together and form this amazing team. They all share the same purpose and that is to serve those who come for dinner and do it with respect for all.

#### Justice and Outreach Ministries: Peace and Justice Team

Team Leader: Janet Whitney

Legislation: We worked in collaboration with Central Oregon Social Justice Center and Strong Voice Oregon to help pass Fair Shot legislation: End profiling

Ban the box (on job application forms that ask if the person has been jailed. The employer may ask that question during the interview, not the application.)

Paid sick days

Retirement security

Raise minimum wage

Four items passed. We will continue to support *A Better Oregon* in legislation to raise minimum wage.

Racism: In collaboration with Season of Non Violence, a six week book study/discussion was held at First Pres on

racism. We are continuing that discussion with plans for Season of Non Violence 2016 with *Breaking Common Ground*, a group of local social justice representatives including COCC.

Human Trafficking: An ongoing advocacy in which we offer education to First Pres when Maggie Hanson, representative, so informs us. We helped promote the movie *8 Days* in April which was shown at Regal Theatre in April, well attended by First Presbyterians, other churches and general community.

Restorative Justice: An ongoing project with others in the community to encourage the training and practice of restorative justice in the schools. Marilyn Burwell represents Peace and Justice on the Local Public Safety Committee. We have spoken at school board meetings.

Affordable Housing: An outgrowth of a decision by Strong Voice Oregon to advocate for housing needs for the working poor and homeless in Central Oregon. We have narrowed our outreach to tenant advocacy. We are currently engaged with other community agencies in exploring legislation toward better landlord/tenant policy in the state.

## Library

The Library continued to be a vibrant place for meetings and special events throughout the year; beginning with, FAT Tuesday Annual Gathering and ending with the Alternative Christmas Bazaar, where the library team also had a booth with proceeds going to Central Oregon SMART program. At Easter and Christmas Eve, the library was transformed into a Photo Booth, which had a lively attendance with thanks to Morgan Schmidt for creating this new experience.

425 items were recorded as being checked out. 95 new entries were cataloged into our system using the software *Concourse* from Book Systems, Inc., a program that was purchased in 2003; the yearly user license contract was renewed. Technical support needed to be contacted this year, as there was an error in generating reports, which was corrected and software updates performed. A new computer, HP All-in-One was donated. Our patrons may use this one in searching the catalog using OPAC (also a product of Book Systems, Inc.). There are currently over 4000 items in this catalog, but still does not include "all" that we have on our shelves.

One of the new resources introduced this year is Kits for Caregivers, four colorful bags of activities, titled Nature, Travel, Sports and Games, for caregivers to use with memory challenged persons. This is in coordination with Care Ministry.

Weekly submissions of new or resources of interest were written in E-News. For instance, this appeared in April. @your Church Library - NEW "Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written" by Marcus Borg - Organized in chronological order, including explanatory annotations for each chapter, gives readers a more informed understanding of the Scripture; showing how the core ideas of Christianity took shape and developed over time. Borg reveals how spiritually and politically radical the early Jesus movement began and how it slowly became domesticated. LeBron Hardie recommended this book for our library. He believes readers will find it very interesting, and the book has great potential for adult study. Check It Out!

Periodical subscriptions were renewed for *Presbyterians Today*, *Presbyterian Outlook*, *Horizon*, and *Sojourners*. Other magazines, like *Biblical Archaeology Review*, were donated.

Special displays were maintained highlighting events, holidays and festivals on the church calendar. The children enjoyed coloring pictures at the little table. There were many delightful moments when young and old picked out one of our many picture books (cataloged EASY) to read and share together. One of the loveliest gifts we received was from an avid reader, who drew a picture with the caption "Thanks for being our librarian"!!

We were blessed with many donations and give thanks to all. Due to restraints of space, duplications, and context, some of the gifts did not make it to our shelves. We were able to replace several copies that were "lost" or long overdue. *Weeding* was an on-going process, -- removing old and worn editions, or books that just haven't been checked out in years.

We tried to meet as a team on most of the first Thursdays of the month. Other Thursdays taking turns to process the check-outs/ins and maintaining the library.

Giving thanks to our volunteers – Valeri Jones, Janet Litchfield and Joyce Ownby for their labors of love.

Respectfully submitted by  
Brigitte Dysart, Librarian

## *Liturgical Arts*

The Liturgical Arts Team continues to enhance our worship experience through the visual arts. Worship during all the seasons of the church year like Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas, is given more depth and meaning because of the faithfulness and creativity of this important team.

In 2015, the team, with the help of donations from the congregation, placed potted plants and flower arrangements in the sanctuary for Easter and Poinsettias in the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. The spring bulbs were then planted on the church grounds.

Two new banners were created for the sanctuary in 2015. For Easter, a cross was collaged throughout Lent with the prayer papers from the congregation, covering over a dark "FEAR" banner. Our newest member, Brenden Bulter, painted a stunning banner for the summer series, "Spacious Christianity." We celebrated Advent and Christmas surrounded in the sanctuary by the illustrations of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE with the help of the coloring from the congregation.

Our team welcomes anyone who wishes to join in our joyous experience.

It's not just ARTS, it is HEARTS

### Liturgical Arts Team

Bonnie Altig	Brenden Butler
JoAnn Dewey	Dolly Dittler
Susan Hood	Jeri Kardos
Pamela Keyes Lyle	Sharon Lichti
Sharon Lovinger	Terry Re

## *Quilters*

Quilters meet Thursdays during the school year, 9:00am-2:00pm in the Adult Center.

In 2015 we gave out 70 quilts. 60 were twin sized and 10 were baby quilts/lap sized/

The organizations to whom the quilts were given were:

The Loft  
Healthy Beginnings  
Grandma's House  
Bethlehem Inn  
Neighborhood Impact  
Family Kitchen  
& J Bar J

Quilts were prepared for church baptisms as well and will be given to the graduating Happy Learners.

One of our quilts hangs in the church office. Two were auctioned off in the Alternative Christmas. At the same time, Harriet Langmas sold various items made from our scraps. We made \$790 for sewing supplies.

Our fabric is donated often by people down-sizing sewing supplies.. We warmly thank all who have helped in this way. Over \$1,000 worth of batting, sewing supplies, and sheets to back our quilts. This was dedicated fund money, not mission funds.

We welcome drop-in visitors and would love to add a couple of yarn tiers on our crew.

Report prepared by Jan Leonard and Ann Kelly

## *Personnel*

2015 has been a busy and dynamic year for First Pres. The Personnel Committee has met monthly to support the mission and vision of our church.

The beginning of 2015 began with the expansion of the Personnel Committee to include Bob Bridges, Betty Bullis, Natalie Hummel, Charlotte Brady, Wendy Imel and Gwen Jones. Pastor Steven presented 18 month goals that included:

1. Gain understanding of First Pres staffing history. Design and plan future needs, moving beyond a traditional structure.
2. Assess current salaries and design strategies to address discrepancies.
3. Formulate an empowering, strengths-based staff performance review process.
4. Create an avenue for ongoing professional development to support a dynamic work environment.

Our progress toward these goals has included the following:

Review of staffing history for the last 8-10 years revealed First Pres. expansion from five staff with one ministry leader (senior pastor) to currently nine staff with five ministry leaders and four support staff. The main area of concern included the shift from having a full time, on-site business administrator to a part-time business administrator and reallocating duties to various ministry staff, resulting in a decrease in organizational efficiency.

It became apparent through this historic review that job descriptions were outdated and did not reflect the current responsibilities of each position. Over a 4-6 month time period, the personnel committee met with each staff member to review and update each individual's job scope. A standardized job description format was identified. The updated job descriptions were finally formatted for uniformity. As of this date, nine job descriptions have been completed with three more to be formatted.

Regarding salaries, an expressed concern has been that staff have not consistently received cost of living raises, nor had they had a salary raise for 3-4 years until 2015. It was also unknown how salaries at First Pres compared to other, similar churches in our region. As a result, the 2014-2015 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff was obtained, and salary comparisons were begun. As of this date, seven of eleven compensation comparisons have been calculated.

Other events and accomplishments included:

Hiring Julie Cash as Interim Contemporary Music Director to replace Julie Hanney. A 3-4 month search for a sound tech that led us to hire Chris Ossig to replace Derwyn Hanney. And making recommendations to Session for the 2016 budget.

Many heartfelt thanks to the volunteers of the Personnel Committee that support and care for the staff of First Presbyterian Church of Bend. Without your gifts of time, heart and thoughtful considerations we could not do what we are doing to share God's love.

Thank-you for the honor of serving,

Gwen Jones

## *Spiritual Formation*

2015 held the bulk of our journey through the Bible, guided by Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. Approximately ten small groups read the book and met throughout the year to discuss it. The conversations around the book were transformative for many, giving them new understandings of God, Scripture and themselves. This yearlong study was the start for several groups who continued to meet after the book study was complete, including a group on Sunday morning at 10:30 that has provided in depth study and conversation.

Lent 2015 was focused on spiritual practices. We held five Wednesday evening sessions in which participants experienced soul collage, walking the labyrinth, icons, mindfulness and sacred movement. Each one was well attended and received.

In the fall, we held a five session workshop on listening practices on Monday evening in conjunction with our Sunday morning service, "Finding life's answers in God's questions." Facilitators included Steven Koski, Barbara Munster, Elizabeth Parks, Caryl Casbon and Barry Heath.

Centering Prayer groups continue to meet three times weekly with faithful attendance.

Pastors Steven and Jenny each led a book group. Steven facilitated discussion on Brené Brown's book, *Daring Greatly*, and Jenny on *Faith Shift* by Kathy Escobar.

## *Worship: Praise Team*

Julie Cash, Interim Director of Contemporary Music Ministries since August 2015, leads a group of talented and dedicated volunteer musicians at the gam service each week. Their gifts are often enhanced by a select group of local, professional musicians.

The Praise Team continues to welcome new members and enjoys the fellowship that comes with creating an intentional and thoughtful music worship environment for our church community.

A highlight this year was the inclusion of our talented middle school vocalists for the 4pm Christmas Eve service. A special thank you also goes out to Molly Howatt and Megan Rau for working with the Children's Choir, our youngest singers!

We are also very fortunate to have the support and expertise of Chris Ossig and the Sound Engineering Team (Steve Hummel, Brian Cash & Al Sandner).

"Where words fail, music speaks!" -Hans Christian Andersen

### Praise Team Members:

Steve Anderson	Lori Brizee	Bob Brydges	Brian Cash	Tom White
Michael Coe	Robin Fuerst	Molly Howatt	Steve Hummel	Jenny Warner
Steve Knapp	Sharon Lichti	Jason Medina	Megan Rau	Larry Rauch
Nita Rauch	Diane Turnbull	Shoshana Mueller	Sandra Harbison	Adam Cash
Devon Cash	Jacob Koski	Lance Olivieri		

### Dedicated Professionals:

Jo Booser	Andy Warr	Julie Geveshausen
Chris Centers	Rich Hurdle	Bob Akers

## *Worship: Chancel Choir*

Eileen Heaton, Director of Traditional Music Ministries, reports a year of wonderful music making with the Chancel Choir, continuing to offer a Space of Grace to those whom offer their time and talent to provide inspired music ministry, embracing music as a way to pray together with the congregation to assist the pastors in developing and understanding the theme of the Sunday services. We were happy to welcome new members to our vibrant Chancel Choir and continue to form meaningful community.

Julie Geveshausen continues to bring immense talent and creativity each week as choral accompanist and soloist on the piano and organ and harp. She also arranges music for our instrumentalists and vocalists.

We were able to put a wonderful group of musicians together to play handbells several times this year under the direction of Becky Brown and we hope that is the beginning of re-forming a regular Handbell choir.

### Choir Members:

Becky Brown . Jim and Linda Corson. Evelyn Donaldson. Dave Frewing. Dana Gregg. Sue Katka. Ali and Brad Kent. Carolyn Klindt- Stoops. Cathy Laird. Ralph Litchfield. Morris Martin. Barbara Munster. Joe Murray. Phyllis Neumann. Blair O'Donnell. Keith Pharr. Barbara Rich. Pat Rogers. Joan Roane. Jaimie Roderick. Claude and Judie Sandell. Al and Marla Sandner. Linnea Saverude. Brian Seed. Emil Smith. Judy Stiegler. Ledlie Szaraniec. Karin Tadjiki. Cullie Treichler.

Instrumentalists: Jo Booser, Wendy Bloom, Stephanie Seed, Steve Anderson