

BECAUSE

love

First Presbyterian-Bend
2018 Annual Report

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A Note from the Pastor

This Annual Report marks my 13th anniversary of serving as your pastor. Can you believe it? I think you all deserve t-shirts that say, "I survived 13 years of Steven Koski."

As I reflect upon the last thirteen years of sharing ministry with you and read the faithfulness and love expressed in these reports, what I want to celebrate is you. I want to celebrate the passion and gifts each and every one of you bring to this community and to the world. I want to celebrate the gifts you have brought to my life. I want to celebrate the ways you have tolerated me when I have said, "I have an idea." I want to celebrate that you have forgiven me when I have failed you or let you down. I want to celebrate that you have allowed me to be me, warts and all, and you have accepted me. I want to celebrate that you have disagreed with me but have been willing to stay in dialogue. I want to celebrate that you have been willing to live in the spaciousness of the questions and not demand answers. I want to celebrate that you have invited me into the sacred spaces of your lives and you have let me cry with you. And, I want to celebrate that you have mostly laughed with me and not at me.

Most of all, I want to celebrate and express my deep gratitude that you have loved me, at my best, and at my worst. I want to celebrate today how I have witnessed the deep ways you have loved one another. I want to celebrate how you have showed me what God's love looks like as you have, time and time again, chosen love over fear and reached out with love to this broken world of ours.

I'm not thinking what I may or may not have accomplished over the last 13 years or even in the last year. I am thinking what a gift it has been to be in community with you - not always easy and sometimes even painful - but even in the hard places, it's clear that God has been and continues to be at work in and through First Presbyterian. I feel the deepest and richest connection with God right now than I have ever felt in my life and much of that is because of my connection with you, the gifts you bring into this community and the privilege to serve you and serve with you.

I would argue that the church, at its best, being the visible presence of Christ's love in the world, is one of God's best ideas. The reports in these pages reflect the many ways First Presbyterian Church "Creates Spaces of Grace to Cultivate Hope, Healing and Purpose." Thousands of lives are positively impacted every week with the love of Christ because of the faithful, generous and compassionate commitment of this church family to respond to God's call to be good news in our world. You have been such good news to me over the past thirteen years. I pray the pages of these reports will only inspire us deepen our commitment to be the presence of God's love in the world in the days ahead.

As always, grateful to serve you and serve with you,

Steven
Rev. Dr. Steven Koski
Lead Pastor

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Bend, Oregon

February 11, 2018

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend, Oregon, was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 11, 2018, at 10:40 a.m..

OPENING

The meeting was opened with prayer at 10:40 a.m. by Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, lead pastor and moderator. A quorum was present.

Dr. Koski welcomed those in attendance. He talked about the pioneering spirit of Bend and of the FPC congregation. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear a report on the 2018 budget that was adopted by Session, to approve pastoral terms of call, and to elect a Nominating Committee.

Dr. Koski acknowledged the members of session: Debbie Barnes, Lloyd Brogan, Steven Hummel, James Jaggard, Deb Klotz, Mike Maidl, Kat Mastrangelo, Don Mercer, Lynda Paznokas, Joan Roane, and Cynthia Serra.

2018 BUDGET

Boyd Levet, Finance Director, talked about the history of the faith factor in budgeting at FPC Bend. He said that he is available in the office to discuss budget matters with members of the congregation.

Steve Hummel, a member of Session and the Finance Committee, talked about what are we called to do and where we will find the resources to do it. He said that FPC is a force for good in the community. He outlined the 2018 Operating Budget Projections as follows:

Total income \$924,513

Total expense \$990,637

Faith factor \$-66,124

Steve explained that a large portion of ministries get funded outside the operating budget from the following:

Foundation, estate donations

Dedicated funds

Volunteers pay for own expenses

In regard to staff salaries, Steve explained that church personnel salaries had been brought to market rate and that salary changes also acknowledged actual hours worked by various church staff. The 2018 budget also reflects an increase in the total number of office hours.

Steve said that three areas had been strengthened as result of the survey taken last year:

Family and children

Spiritual formation

Ministries and mission

Steve talked about the fresh new energy of church staff and said that they were looking at 2018 as a year of growth.

PASTORAL TERMS OF CALL

MSP for Boyd Levet to become the moderator for the discussion of the terms of call for Dr. Koski. Dr. Koski then left the room for the duration of the discussion. Boyd explained that Dr. Koski's salary had been raised by the 2% COLA and that the remaining items making up his salary package remains the same as it was in 2017. The terms of call for Dr. Koski are as follows:

Continuing Education \$2,000

Dental \$1,632

SECA \$7,766

Housing \$50,760

Mileage \$2,500

Professional/Miscellaneous Expenses \$3,000

Pension/Medical \$40,435

Salary \$50,759

A motion was made and seconded to accept the terms of call. There being no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following members were nominated to be members of the 2018 Nominating Committee:

James Jaggard, Session member representative

Deb Klotz

Marcia Houston

New members:

Kurt Weaver

Ralph Delamarter

Mary Anna Swinnerton

Gretchen Williver

MSP to elect the proposed members of the Nominating Committee.

CLOSING

The meeting was closed with prayer. Dr. Koski urged those in attendance to choose to begin each day with a "yes" and said that their "why" will invite and call them.

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia Serra

Clerk Pro Tem

Rev. Dr. Steven Koski

Moderator

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Bend, Oregon

Sunday, June 10, 2018

A special meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 10, 2018, for the purpose of electing elders and deacons for the class of 2020/2021 and serving elders for worship. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, moderator, at 11:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

Deb Klotz, Elder chair of the Nominating Committee, began by acknowledging and thanking the members of the committee: James Jaggard, Elder representative; Marcia Houston, Deacon representative; and Ralph Delamarter, Kurt Weaver, and Gretchen Williver, members at large.

ELECTION OF ELDERS

Deb Klotz introduced the nominees for the office of Elder for the class of 2020/2021, asking them to stand as their names were read. The nominees were:

Gretchen Williver, Christina Davenport, Steve Hummel, Samantha Nelson, James Jaggard

Dr. Koski asked for nominees from the floor. There being none, he asked for a motion to close the nominations. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominations be closed. Dr. Koski then asked for a motion to accept the slate as presented. A motion was made to accept the slate as presented. It was seconded and approved.

ELECTION OF DEACONS

Deb Klotz introduced the nominees for office of Deacon for the class of 2020/2021, asking them to stand as their names were read. The nominees were:

Kyle Weaver, Jill Anderson, Mimi Graves, Marilyn Feis, Carol Smalley

Dr. Koski asked for nominees from the floor. There being none, he asked for a motion to close the nominations. It was moved, seconded and approved that the nominations be closed. Dr. Koski then asked for a motion to accept the slate as presented. It was moved, seconded and approved that the slate be elected as presented.

ELECTION OF SERVING ELDERS FOR WORSHIP

Dr. Koski introduced the office of Serving Elder for Worship. He explained that this election will allow the nominees to officiate communion at TAP and other worship services. He stated that the office had been allowed by permission which he had received from the Presbytery of the Cascades. The nominees were: Morgan Schmidt, Mark Schmor, Stephanie Obad-Schmor

Dr. Koski asked for nominees from the floor. There being none, he asked for a motion to close the nominations. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominations be closed. Dr. Koski then asked for a motion to accept the slate as presented. It was moved, seconded and approved that the slate be accepted as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the congregation, the meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Deb Klotz, Clerk Pro Tem Rev. Dr. Steven Koski, Moderator

2018 Baptisms, Weddings, Deaths, and New Members

BAPTISMS

Riley Isabella Florez – 3-10-18
Daisy Marie Montgomery – 4-1-18
Carsten Michael Carrick – 5-13-18
Sierra Grace Grupe – 11-23-18

NEW MEMBERS

Theodore (Ted) and Alletta Bayer – 6-3-18
Martha Henderson – 6-3-18
Richard (Dick) and Kathleen (Kathy) Malone – 6-3-18
Georgie R. Merrifield – 6-3-18
Joel and Stephanie Michelsen – 6-3-18
Elizabeth (Bette) Rice – 6-3-18
Michael (Mike) and Deborah (Deb) Rogers – 6-3-18
Stephanie Obad Schmor – 6-3-18
Barbara Silversmith – 6-3-18
Kenneth (Ken) and Perry Stevens – 6-3-18
Jim and Karen Dunn – 7-17-18
David and Avalon Parsons – 9-18-18
Barbara Darnell – 11-27-18

DEATHS

Marion E. Johnson – 1-9-18
Shirley Vivian Ray – 1-12-18
Alexander Anderson – 3-26-18
William (Bill) J. Wallace – 4-15-18
Myrtle (Myrtie) Rosemary Baney – 4-19-18
Robert Gordon Johnson – 5-1-18
Eugene Johnson McNurney – 5-5-18
Karen Jean Buhman – 5-13-18
Bonnie Beth Clausen – 8-5-18
Bill E. Moore – 8-24-18
David L. Dewey – 10-24-18
Mike Van Meter – 11-2-18

WEDDINGS

None

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

The Session of First Presbyterian Church Bend held nine regular meetings, one special meeting to meet with potential new church members, and three additional special meetings. Session also held retreats in March and August for the purpose of visioning, prioritizing, and planning. Minutes of Session meetings and monthly financial statements are on file in the Session notebook in the Church Office. Session normally meets in the Wonder Room (former Library) on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. except during the months when a retreat is held. Retreats are usually held in March and August.

The annual congregational meeting was held on February 11, 2018, at the church. A second congregational meeting was held on June 10, 2018, for the purpose of electing elders and deacons to the Class of 2021. 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.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Membership January 1	746	741	733	731	722	721	693	649	608	596	563	567	507
+ Confession of Faith	3	3	5	0	5	2	9	12	13	4	10	19	19
+ Certificate of Transfer	10	2	17	8	8	6	12	20	20	12	33	26	34
+ Reaffirmation of Faith	7	10	7	16	10	7	23	27	26	7	10	11	20
+ From inactive list	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	6	6
- Transfer	8	0	15	5	2	2	2	0	1	0	4	5	7
- Death	12	6	1	13	10	6	10	8	13	10	14	9	6
- All other losses	1	4	5	4	2	8	6	7	4	2	4	52	6
Membership December 31	745	746	741	733	731	722	721	693	649	608	596	563	567

Sharon Lichti, Clerk of Session

Session Members: January 1 to August 31, 2018

Debbie Barnes	Jane Kirkpatrick	Don Mercer
Lloyd Brogan	Deb Klotz	Lynda Paznokas
Steve Hummel	Mike Maidl	Joan Roane
James Jaggard	Kat Mastrangelo	Cynthia Serra

Session Members: September 1 to December 31, 2018

Debbie Barnes	Jane Kirkpatrick	Joan Roane
Lloyd Brogan	Mike Maidl	Cynthia Serra
Christina Davenport	Kat Mastrangelo	Gretchen Williver
Steve Hummel	Don Mercer	
James Jaggard	Samantha Nelson	

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir Director
Nathan Gosselin-Sebens

Choir Members:

Becky Brown
Dolly Dittler
Evelyn Donaldson
Dave Frewing
Howard Hall
Beth Hamilton
Cathy Laird
Morris Martin
Davis Maingarten
Joe Murray
Blair O'Donnell
Keith Pharr
Pat Rogers
Joan Roane
Linnea Saverude
Georgia Schilz
Rod Schilz
Rainey Shriver
Carol Smalley

2018 has proven to be a year full of worship and meaningful music-making in the Chancel Choir. As a choir, we strive to learn and provide music which is useful to the congregation in worship. We also are a community of worship within the larger community. We did sing together in 2018, but we also prayed, laughed, worshiped, cried, and loved each other as well.

2018 also saw the beginning of the Bend First Presbyterian Choral Scholars program. In this program, we invite local high schoolers and recent high school graduates to come and sing with us. This provides them with the opportunity to develop their choral voice and singing technique for their life after high school. This program has been a resounding success, offering our scholars the opportunity to grow in a choir outside of their high school and our Chancel Choir a bigger sound and a more diverse population.

The Chancel Choir, as is our tradition, led the congregation in worship on Good Friday and Christmas Eve, as well as providing anthems and special music throughout the year. We also have taken our music beyond our own congregation in the last year. Twice, we joined together with our brothers and sisters at Nativity Lutheran Church. We sang a concert with the choir from Nativity in May and in December we joined together to present a cantata to both congregations. We have loved these opportunities.

This year would not have been what it was without the diligent and joyful leadership of Julie Geveshausen on the piano and organ. She is an invaluable part of our choir. We also would like to thank the other instrumentalists who joined us this year: Jo Boozer, Wendy Bloom, Stephanie Seed, Darla Mercer, and Carol Smalley.

Respectively submitted,

Nathan Gosselin-Sebens

Praise Band

Regular Members:

Steve Anderson: Percussion/Vocals
Lori Brizee: Piano/Vocals
Bob Brydges: Guitar/Vocals
Brian Cash: Guitar/Vocals
Julie Cash: Piano/Vocals
Adam Cash: Guitar/Vocals
Steve Hummel: Vocals, Bass, Guitar
Robin Fuerst: Vocals
Steve Knapp: Bass
Megan Rau: Vocals
Mike Shay: Percussion
Tom White: Percussion/Bass

Special Guests &

Dedicated Professionals:

Devon Cash: Bass/Vocals
Jacob Koski: Vocals
Karen Cardin: Bass/Percussion
Chris Centers: Percussion
Jo Booser: Flute/Violin/Vocals
Greg Young: Piano/Vocals
Andy Warr: Saxophone

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." - Berthold Auerbach

Julie Cash, Director of Contemporary Music Ministries, leads a group of talented and dedicated volunteer musicians at the 9:30am service. Their gifts are often enhanced by a select group of local professional musicians. They rehearse twice weekly, 7pm Thursday evenings and 8am Sunday mornings.

The Praise team continues to welcome new members and enjoys the fellowship that comes with creating an intentional and thoughtful music worship experience for our church family. As a group, we continue to grow closer in faith and friendship; enjoying the occasional group outing to support a member in a local production or just to continue fellowship with one another.

We enjoyed our summer combined services with the choir and their director, Nathan Goselin-Sebens, and look forward to further collaborations.

The Praise Team worked with the Youth Singers (littles to middle school singers) for both the Christmas Eve 4pm and Easter services last year.

We have begun work on a recording project with Tom White and are excited for the outcome of this experience.

Special thanks also to Chris Ossig and the sound engineering team (Brian Cash, Steve Hummel and Tom White) for your detailed work on the sound equipment and procedures this year. You keep us all sounding our best. Interested in sharing your talents? Email: julie@thecashs.com

Respectively submitted by,

Julie Cash

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Sunday Worship

Worship at First Presbyterian

At the heart of First Presbyterian is worship. In worship we proclaim the expansive, inclusive, boundless, unconditional love of God revealed to us in and through Jesus Christ. That love makes a difference in our lives and challenges us to make a difference in the world.

There are five worship services each week –

Sundays:

- 8:30-9am – Contemplative Worship in Heritage Hall
- 9:30 – 10:30am – Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11-11:45am – Classic Worship in the Sanctuary
- 6-7pm – TAP. Casual, Conversational, Community-oriented Worship in Heritage Hall

Wednesday:

- 12-12:30pm – Contemplative Worship with Communion followed by Centering Prayer for those who wish.

There are special worship services throughout the year. A highlight this past year was hosting the InterFaith Thanksgiving Worship in November.

Our worship services are only possible due to the many volunteers who show up to share their gifts every week. A huge thank you to the musicians, singers, worship leaders, greeters, ushers, communion preparers and servers, welcome hosts, hospitality volunteers and so much more.

Respectively submitted by,

Rev. Dr. Steven Koski

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Teen & Twenty-something Ministries

Director of Youth & 20-something Ministry
Morgan Schmidt

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

Our youth remain active participants in the revolutionary ministry that is the Bend Youth Collective! I serve as the Director of the Bend Youth Collective alongside Leigh DeVries (Nativity Lutheran & Bend Church UMC) and Shanna Sharp (Grace First Lutheran) as Associate Directors. We love this partnership and are so grateful for church communities that let us collaborate creatively in the ways we care for middle and high school students.

The BYC motto is: "We Love You Already!" and that really sums up our ministry with these amazing young people. 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 in meaningful ways. To balance these intense conversations, we also just hang out, play games, and laugh a lot! All of this is made possible by an incredible team of 15 adult volunteers who give their time, energy, and love each week to care for our youth.

Last summer, we took 17 middle school students to camp in the Wallowas for a week of community building and service. 17 high schoolers ventured to Los Angeles, where we learned about being good news in our neighborhoods from local peacemakers. We look forward to more amazing and life-changing

The BYC motto is:
"We Love You Already!"

trips this coming summer at camp in Joseph, OR and immersing in urban challenges in Oakland, CA.

Many folks are curious about our other big ministry experiment: The Tap community. I'm deeply honored and thrilled that First Presbyterian 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 a big family that welcomes anyone and everyone into the adventure of following in the way of Jesus together. We hear from amazing speakers, have small group discussions, pray, create, sing together, and share in communion each week. We are trying to be intentional about being good news in one another's lives. We have an amazing team of leaders who thoughtfully plan each Sunday and help transform Heritage Hall into a welcoming, cozy space where all are welcome and celebrated for who they are. As always, the Tap community's heartfelt thanks go out to our First Presbyterian family for the courage to walk with us in this adventure, 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 service.

Thank you for being such very good news in the lives of our teenagers, in the life of the Tap community, and in my own life. I love you all dearly.

Respectfully submitted by,

Morgan Schmidt

Children And Family Ministry

Director of Child & Family Ministry
Becca Ellis

I am delighted for the chance to take a breath and look back on the past year

of ministry with children & their families here at First Pres (and beyond!). I am incredibly grateful for the support from each of you, staff, and our amazing parents and volunteers to try some new things. Here are a few happenings worth noting from 2018:

Popsicles in the Park

Last summer, we tried something new and showed up for a series of after noons at Orchard Park armed with Popsicles and themed activities. Except for one very HOT day, we had an average of 30-40 kids & adults come each time from the surrounding neighborhood and our own church community.

Summer Sunday Picnics

4 times over the summer following the 10am service, families were invited to meet up at a park or outdoor eating spot to have lunch and connect with one another.

Mama Connect

Over the summer, our Mama Connect initiative was launched – a moms group and on-line community that creates space for moms to connect and consider together how to enter into the role of motherhood as a spiritual practice. I had the joy of facilitating two groups in the Fall and am in the midst of facilitating two new groups, ministering to 15-20 women. These women are mostly coming from our Bend community and not previously affiliated with First Pres.

Parent's Day Out

In August, we held a Parent's Day Out and had a blast providing this low- cost childcare option to parents in our community, as well as a chance for our own kids to spend time getting to know each other outside of Sunday mornings. Children participated in yoga, baking, water play, art activities and more.

Cultivate Night

In November, we held our first Cultivate Night as a connection point for parents and grandparents. Dinner and childcare was provided, while parents and grandparents entered into

rich discussion regarding their role in cultivating children's spirituality. We plan to hold this event again in Spring of 2019.

In House Curriculum

This past year, the children have been following along the sermon topics with in-house curriculum written specifically church. Use of our Godly Play materials are incorporated when relevant. We have started a separate class for our 3rd-5th graders to dig a little deeper into the weekly scripture, as well.

New Children's Spaces

We added a new space for families with young children at the front of the sanctuary, which has provided room for kids to wiggle, have a better view of what is happening in the service, and create an atmosphere of welcome for even the youngest among us.

A huge project has been the creation of the Wonder Room – a beautiful, highly visible space for children to engage in spiritual wondering through story, art, creativity and play and let families and their children know how very much they matter to us.

Nursery

Our child care workers support families during worship and other special events. On Sunday mornings, interactive worship through age appropriate music, Bible stories and activities are offered for the age 4 and under crowd in the nursery.

Children's Ministry Team

The Children's Ministry Team meets monthly to review goals and plans. Members of the team include: Deb Klotz, Scott Nelson, Janet Pearson, Adrea Lovejoy and Becca Ellis.

I am continually grateful for your support and prayers and look forward to serving with you in the coming year.

Becca Ellis
Director of Children & Family Ministries



The Wonder Room, the new children's ministry area was complete early February 2019.

Mission And Justice Ministry

Pastor of Justice & Mission
Rev. Shimiko Montgomery

2018 Annual Report for Justice and Outreach Ministries

BURUNDI

Team Leaders – Maggie Hanson and Jacquie Coe, Co-Leaders

Team Members – Karen Bates, Jane Kirkpatrick, Evelyn Donaldson, Hilary Rotherth, Kecia Weaver, Susan Hood, Martha Henderson, Christina Davenport, Rod Schilz, Georgia Schilz

Celebrating Our Friendship with Batwa in

Burundi: As we enter the fourth year of partnership with our Batwa friends, it is with gratitude that we share good news. All adults in the villages of Ndava, Mwendo, and Gahombo have ID cards, marriage licenses (if desired), and are able to vote. Children have birth certificates.

AGRICULTURE

“Batwa no longer die of hunger or diseases related to malnutrition because they eat their own harvest and have improved health.”
Evariste Ndikumana

BOUNTY

- 44,000 lbs. of crops were harvested this year, which is 7,000 more than in 2017.
- Each individual crop harvest feeds people for two months of the year
- 74% hunger alleviation as a result of increased crop yields and support of Medical Insurance Cards provided by FP Bend
- For the first time, an entire year passed without burying at least 15 people

STRATEGY

- Villagers are continually learning how to make strategic choices about the best crops to plant for sustainable agriculture

- Sweet potato plantings are being tested as a third season crop in two villages

OWNERSHIP

- Two villages now own their own land, no longer having to rely on rented land

EDUCATION

“Batwa children now have a real desire to go to school and to stay in school.” Evariste

ENROLLMENT

- Nearly 300 Batwa children are now enrolled in school

BASIC NEEDS MET

- All students have uniforms, school supplies, and all fees paid
- Children arrive with full stomachs ready to learn and are accepted by other students

INDEPENDENCE

Educated Batwa means not only personal dignity, but also future jobs and further leadership development

ENERGY, ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOMPANIMENT

Maggie Hanson and Jacquie Coe visited all three partner villages in Burundi this year! It was an amazing experience. The joy was palatable as we danced and celebrated with our Batwa friends, toured each village and engaged with individuals young and old. None of this would have been possible without the leadership of Evariste and his ASSEJEBAs team who are our “feet on the ground in Burundi”. After our visit to the villages, we spent time with Evariste and his team and gained valuable input as they shared their joys, hopes and concerns. We are also thankful for our partnership with Kelly Bean and African Road who guide and facilitate our work with the Batwa in Burundi.

A note of thanks from Evariste and Grace, our Batwa visitors to Bend, and our partners in Burundi: “This visit helped us to understand that in Bend more than anywhere else our partnership is not only perceived as support for poverty eradication but also and principally as friendship.”

CHALLENGES AS WE MOVE FORWARD ADDITIONAL GROWING SEASON

- There is a need for 3 growing seasons to provide a more sustainable food source. Gahombo and Mwendo own their land and have more flexibility to add a 3rd growing season. Ndava has to rent land so does not have access to a 3rd season. Purchase of land would help alleviate this problem. More land means greater yields, less hunger, and an opportunity to sell crops to become even more self-sufficient.

EDUCATION BUDGET INCREASES:

- As more children attend and want to stay in school, the fees increase.
- With the continuation of a healthy birth rate, the education budget is now reaching its limit.

FRUSTRATIONS, LEARNING AREAS, GOALS

Each year we struggle to raise \$18,000 to support the Agriculture/ Education Projects which includes implementation fees for African Road and ASSEJEBAs. We were able to meet our commitment this last year through market place sales (Burundi Sundays and Christmas Market), Letter Appeal in June and help from the Church Foundation Funds. We do feel there is donor fatigue within our faith community and we know that it is imperative to reach out beyond the church and cultivate partnerships with other faith communities, organizations and business/corporations. As a part of this, there is a need to add a person to

our team who has the necessary skill sets to spearhead the marketing and outreach efforts to potential partners/donors.

FRIENDS OF JESUS

Team Leaders: Thiel Larson, Valerie Del Soglio

Team Members: Ali Kent, Meg Brookover, Kathy Crackle

HIGHLIGHTS

We sent 20 low income children to church camps for one week at Suttle Lake. We provided transportation for 10 Hispanic children to a new Park & Rec. program for low-income Hispanic youth. It was one week long and they had many outdoor adventures. In addition, we accompanied 47 youth from First Pres. To Vacation Bible School at Nativity Lutheran. Twenty middle and high school children were helpers and 27 were attendees.

AREAS OF GREATEST ENERGY & ENGAGEMENT

We keep in close touch with the families' of the Friends of Jesus children.

FRUSTRATIONS AND AREAS OF LEARNING

It is how to engage families in planning for education beyond high school. And we still need support from younger people so the program will carry on. Talking about the F.O.J. program was very helpful. I am going to show pictures on the screen of different events.

VALUES AND ACTIONS OF ACCOMPANIMENT

We are constantly walking beside the children and their families in times of joy and trouble!

GUATEMALA

Team Leader: Sue Nell Phillips

Team Members: Meredy Skillern, Ralph Delemarter, Gretchen Williver, Mimi Graves, Susie Brewer, Deb Klotz, Mary Wonser, Steve Rothert, Terry Re

HIGHLIGHTS

1. November and June Habitat Build trips with multi-generational participants. Many participants come from outside the FPC population. The emphasis of the trip is to partner with Habitat Guatemala and local families to build homes and provide and help constructing Healthy Home Kits (latrines, clean water filters and smokeless stoves)

2. March/April Cultural Trip to San Lucas Toliman where participants meet with their sponsored students and families, visit some students' homes and schools and learn about the economy and culture of the area by visiting co-ops, weavers, basket makers and potters

3. Enrolled 35 new sponsors for the SLT Scholars program bringing the total of sponsors to close to 130 sponsoring over 225 students. Dennis Evans, the program's founder, calls us the Bend phenomenon. Some of our sponsors live as far away as Maryland.

4. Continue our relationship with the Greater Rotary of Bend sponsoring Healthy Home Kits. Last Fall Judy & David Osgood were invited to a Rotary meeting to talk about the SLT Scholars program. There are now around 10 new sponsors due to this presentation.

5. We were able to collect over \$8000 in volcano relief funds that the June trip carried to Guatemala to help the thousands of people displaced by the eruption in May. This was

due to the gracious generosity of the friends and members of FPC.

6. Two successful product sale in December and July the proceeds divided between Healthy Home Kits, Travel Grants, and SLT Scholars.

7. We identified Susie & Russ Brewer as new leaders for Habitat build trips. They were trained in Minneapolis in October.

AREAS OF GREATEST ENERGY & ENGAGEMENT:

The enthusiasm of participants in our trips to San Lucas Toliman and the stories they share generate increased interest in our relationship with that community. Our partnership with Greater Bend Rotary extends our reach providing Healthy Home Kits to a greater number of families. The Rotary members have also become sponsors for SLT Scholars. We continue to attract new sponsors to the SLT Scholars program as well as current members sponsoring more than one student. The product sales remain popular.

FRUSTRATIONS AND AREAS OF LEARNING:

Our greatest frustration is identifying new leadership teams. We were unable to sponsor a build trip this November due to lack of leadership. Habitat requires leaders to be trained. This is an expense and time commitment. Once leaders are found and trained they are then expected to participate in yearly trips to Guatemala. This is also an expense in time and money. We would like to have 3 or 4 trained leader teams. We would also like to identify new folks who would be interested in being part of one of our trips.

VALUES AND ACTIONS:

Each trip of our ongoing work in Guatemala-

la embodies the values and action. We believe firmly in the local Habitat and community leaders identifying their own needs and taking the initiative in realizing their dreams and goals. Their skills, vision and understanding of the local culture and people far surpass our own. We are enriched by working alongside the families and masons on our Habitat housing solutions projects. All our trips and especially the cultural trip include learning about the lives and culture of the community.

Our participation in the SLT Scholars program and our cultural trips to San Lucas Tolima give us insight to the lives of our students, their families and the culture of the community. We visit with our student and their families, visit the schools, and hear from students that have graduated from the program and listen to the success stories.

GOALS

1. We hope to be able to sponsor 2 build trips and one Cultural trip (already scheduled) in 2019. We were unable to offer a build trip in November 2018 due to lack of trained leadership.

2. We will continue to partner with Greater Bend Rotary toward funding Healthy Home Kits and SLT Scholars Sponsors.

3. We will work to encourage and identify new leaders and participants in both the build and cultural trips.

4. We will continue to inform the community about our relationship with San Lucas Toliman, the impact of the scholars program on the community and the health benefits from the Healthy Home Kits. We will relate the transformative experience the participants share with the families of those with whom we partner.

5. We will continue to reach out beyond our church community to encourage new SLT Scholars sponsors and trip participants.

HUNGER AND HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Team Leader: Karen Bates

Team Members: Sandra Croney, Rhonda Chesney, Mimi Graves, Nancy Mullins, Jan Tetzlaff, Gretchen Williver, Tom Hall, Randall Wood, Valerie Dal Soglio, and Ann Kelly

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Task Force successfully transitioned from the once a year Christmas Basket distribution to a more inclusive grocery gift card mailing that is done three times/year. An average of fifty cards are sent out at each mailing with a greeting and a \$25 food certificate or gift card. The list is prepared by Friends of Jesus volunteers, the FAN representative from Bearcreek Elementary and any names suggested by congregation or staff.

2. A new Wednesday Team was formed to prepare and serve breakfast each week at the Back Door Cafe and Day Center (Bend Church). \$2400 was requested from Foundation Funds and sent to Back Door Cafe to help with food cost.

3. Alternative Christmas Market enabled Task Force to collect warm clothing, sleeping bags, tents and propane and distribute to those in need. In addition, gift cards totaling over \$600 were collected for The Loft - these cards (avg. \$5-\$10/card from local businesses) are given to residents at The Loft as incentives for good grades, attending mandatory meetings, and completing required chores.

4. With the help of the FPC congregation, the

Ruckus Sundays were concluded by filling ninety-five "Summer Survival Kits" for Bethlehem Inn and stuffing one hundred panda bears for the Kid's Center.

5. The CentsAbility Offering is divided between the local agency, Neighbor Impact and the national assistance program, Presbyterian Hunger Prevention Coalition. This year, with the help of one large donation, \$1000 was sent to St. Vincent de Paul in Prineville to help reopen their food bank.

AREAS OF GREATEST ENERGY & ENGAGEMENT

1. Kits for Kids filled and distributed 1099 hygiene kits this year - this project continues year after year due to strong and reliable donations and volunteers.

2. Volunteer lists have swelled for both Family Kitchen and Bethlehem Inn. On average, Family Kitchen will serve 175 meals on the fourth Thursday of each month involving usually 14-16 volunteers - FPC provides \$2400/year to purchase the food that is prepared and served by the volunteers. On the First Friday Dinner at Bethlehem Inn each month, approximately 100 people are served - again this food is purchased and served by FPC volunteers.

3. The St. Vincent grocery carts are an ongoing food outreach benefitting our local community - many of the volunteers working at the center are from FPC.

FRUSTRATIONS AND AREAS OF LEARNING

The transition from food basket distribution in December to food assistance periodically throughout the year has continued to be supported through donations but not sure that

there is a clear understanding of how things are now being done. It will be important, prior to and during Alternative Christmas Market, that the changes made be posted again in ENews and at the Christmas Market.

Ruckus Sundays are a wonderful way to bring attention to local mission outreach and should definitely be continued! But, the special projects were too costly - Bethlehem Inn Survival Kits and Bears for Kid's Center.

It is important to get the whole congregation involved in local mission outreach, but we need to find a different way to get folks excited and involved!

We need to continue funding Back Door Cafe (not approved as part of 2018 Task Force budget request). This outreach now has a regular and active FPC volunteer team who serve breakfast each Wednesday to approximately 130 people in need - this outreach needs to be supported!

VALUES AND ACTIONS OF ACCOMPANIMENT

Helping those in need when they're most in need - that is our mission as the Task Force. Whether it's a family, teenager or a single homeless person - no one needs to be hungry or living on the street. Winter always brings it's own challenges - there is no designated cold weather shelter in place for Bend this winter (2018-19). Once again, agencies will be pushed to help the homeless. Churches in Bend have not stepped up (willing to open their doors to shelter in cold weather) - there are a lot of barriers and concerns regarding who comes through that door.

Task Force will be working with Bend Church in hopes of forming a collective with other

churches to employ a person who is able to connect with agencies that will help families and individuals work their way through the bureaucracy and access food, funds and medical help they so desperately need.

On the horizon - a permanent homeless camp - probably two years out, but maybe an answer to part of the problem. A safe shelter that will treat all with dignity and compassion.

Donor Fatigue It's not donor fatigue - it's volunteer burnout! We must somehow reach the younger members of the congregation and involve them in local mission work. Seems like this election year is a good time to engage - so much going on in our community. So many of the current volunteers have been working endlessly for years - no wonder they hesitate to re-up. I think a member of Vision Team should regularly attend Task Force meetings.

Hunger and Homeless Task Force is an umbrella that covers ten local outreach ministries - that's a lot! Each Task Force member represents a different mission and reports at our quarterly meetings. What I know is that every person brings something to our meetings that is of value and enables us to move forward to complete our mission statement.

Peace and Justice

Team Leader: Amy Spernak

Team Members: Janet Whitney, Jack Rinn, Brad Kent, Maggie Hanson, Beth Hoover, Meg Brookover, Laurel Sorlie, Shimiko Montgomery, Thiel Larson, Karin Tadjiki, Amy Spernak

HIGHLIGHTS

Human Trafficking - Volunteered with In Our Backyard to assemble information packets for business in Minneapolis so that they might

recognize signs of human trafficking during the Super Bowl in January.

Housing/Tenant Education- Supported Tenant Education Forum for Mountain View Neighborhood Assn in April. Team members served on the panel and hand distributed notices to homes of renters in the community.

Community Solidarity- Team attended the Forging Alliances Workshop and now serve with ISN (Immigration Solidarity Network). Volunteered/attended Friend Making Events. Carried the First Presbyterian Church banner in the Women's March. Attended protest march at Norcor Prison, The Dalles. Gun Safety – With Mothers Demand Action, we provided a speaker and attended the "Wear Orange Event." Green Team-researched and made possible the transition to compost-able plates & utensils for use at church events.

Restorative Justice & Equity – actively supported the Town Hall Symposium on Racism which gives local high school students who have been a target of racism a voice. Addressed a Bend La Pine School Board meeting encouraging the use of restorative justice practices in the school disciplinary policies. The team proudly selected Restorative Justice & Equity to receive the local portion of the Peace Making offering this year.

ENERGY AND ENGAGEMENT

It is difficult to answer this question, we are facing so many issues; however, we try to be actively involved with other justice communities as needed, such as: Signing petitions, letters to OR representatives in Congress. Supporting ROP, educating about Measures on ballots.

FRUSTRATIONS AND AREAS FOR LEARNING

Frustration of staying educated on the many ever changing justice issues. How to reach out kindly to a congregation with various levels of interest and many viewpoints? What is the Christian response to some of the justice issues?

VALUES AND ACTIONS OF ACCOMPANIMENT

Each team member is encouraged to bring to the table justice issues that need to be or are being addressed in Bend or Central Oregon. The team responds with compassion, discussion and support to help address the issue. We require little funding since team members belong to larger organizations that have funding.

SYRIA

Team Leader: Lynda Hathorn

Team Members: Meg Brookover, Mindi Ciccinnelli, Avalon Parsons, Gretchen Williver

HIGHLIGHTS

There was a SLPN (Syria- Lebanon Partnership Network) trip to the middle east last Spring. We publicized it, but nobody from our church or city was able to attend. However, we remain in contact with the Rev. Lorne Bostwick of Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene, who is very involved in this area. We also are in contact with the Revs. Elmarie and Scott Parkers, our liaisons to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon.

GREATEST ENERGY AND ENGAGEMENT

We are pleased that we continue to exist and bring the Syrian situation before our congregation. At our recent fundraiser, we raised almost \$2000 to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Lebanon/Syria. The money goes to the area(s) of greatest need which at this point are refugee schools and after school programs for children.

FRUSTRATIONS AND AREAS OF LEARNING

It is difficult to keep interest in the Syrian conflict and refugees and the importance of this need before the congregation. We have hit dead ends trying to get local Muslims involved - as speakers, etc. Nor are any of the area church interested in joining us. We are frustrated trying to interest others, especially younger people, in helping.

One of our leaders and founding members, Bill Wallace, was diagnosed with cancer and succumbed in April. Another leader, Connie Stoaks, moved to the Redmond Church. Most of our other leaders have had family health issues, so we are really limping along.

Fortunately, the Reverend Shimiko Montgomery has been willing to come to meetings and offer suggestions.

VALUES AND ACTIONS OF ACCOMPANIMENT

The Syrian Crisis continues to be a major, ongoing crisis with millions displaced both inside and outside of their country. We believe that even though the world may get tired of the bad news, we need to keep ourselves and our congregation informed of the positive things that PDA is doing and to help support those affected by this crisis. Those of us on the committee strongly believe that even if we can only do a little, the situation in Syria and for Syrian refugees is well worth our efforts.

GOALS

We will continue with collaborative events with the other mission teams, like the Christmas Bazar. We will continue to be in contact with our PCUSA Regional Liaison to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Elmarie and Scott Parker. We hope to have them speak to our church again after the first of the year. There is money needed

for their stipend, for mailings we hope to do to our state and federal representatives.

If anybody has any ideas about encouraging new members, etc. we would be happy to hear them!

Guatemala Steering Committee

The Guatemala Steering Committee has been happy to represent and promote the work of our congregation and friends to support the Mayan peoples who live in and around San Lucas Tolimán in the highlands of Guatemala during 2018. While we have heard much about Central Americans arriving at our southern border, perhaps you did not know that close to 30 of our congregates, their families and friends ventured to Central America from Bend and beyond to form friendships and become partners and co-workers with masons, students, and recipient families overlooking beautiful Lake Atitlán.

We sponsored two trips in 2018. One was a cultural/educational opportunity to meet some of our sponsored students through SLT Scholars and their families, as well as to learn more about the work of local cooperatives to better the lives of some of the poorest of the poor in the Atitlán area. The other trip of 15 hearty and/or happy laborers helped Sonia Morales and her four children build a new home of cement blocks, rebar, and stucco while also completing the smokeless stoves and latrines to join water filters for four families living in extreme poverty. Another highlight of the June, intergenerational trip was delivering and spending the \$8000 provided by the First Pres community in the aftermath of the Fuego Volcano eruption in early June. Bill Burwell and Sue Nell Phillips visited the factory where a former Habitat employee and 45 Guatemalans were building portable smokeless stoves as fast as they could for families left homeless by the volcano's pyroclastic blasts. We were able to provide 35 families with stoves, water filters, and \$100 vouchers.

This fall and Christmas saw the addition of 14 new students to those sponsored by 146 individuals or families connected to First Pres. That brings the total to over 220 students who currently are able to continue their educations beyond sixth grade because of many of you and your friends and family. For \$250 a year, another Mayan child can have the supplies, transportation, uniforms, and fees necessary

for their schooling and eventually can create a more stable life for their families. Thank you. We also added to funds, with the summer and Christmas sales, to send from our church to Guatemala Habitat for a total of \$6500 to be used for Healthy Home Kits. Other funds went towards Travel Grants and scholarships for both pastors and group leaders.

Finally, through the hard work of Steve Rotherth and the generosity of local and district Rotary club members working with Rotary International, we were able to obtain and facilitate the grant of \$70,750 for Healthy Home Kits and the education in their use for an additional 150 families in the San Lucas Tolimán area. Thirty-five families have already received their kits, kits that dramatically improve their respiratory and sanitary health. They also reduce the burning of wood harvested from rapidly disappearing forests by 30% or more while also reducing carbon emissions. Habitat for Humanity representatives are now interviewing and identifying the remaining families who will benefit from this tremendous gift. And, in keeping with Habitat's philosophy of "sweat equity," each family helps with the production of adobe bricks, the digging of holes for the latrines, education in the proper use of each element of the HHK, and in many cases, the actual construction of the latrines and stoves.

2019 will see two more groups leave for Guatemala in late March (SLT Scholars' trip) and June for another Habitat build. These trips are full, but plan ahead. Join us in 2020!

The Center for Wellbeing & Wisdom

The Center for Wellbeing Director
Ruth Ann Clarke

GENTLE YOGA

Gentle stretching to improve flexibility and help to develop a more quiet, peaceful, and focused mind. Gentle Yoga is especially great for older adults, and all equipment is provided.

MONDAYS: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Laura Donahue

CHAIR YOGA

Specifically designed for individuals with mobility constraints, chair yoga helps improve flexibility and to develop a more quiet, peaceful, and focused mind. All equipment is provided.

WEDNESDAYS: 11 a.m. – noon

Instructor: Laura Donahue

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE

Build stamina through repetition, reduce falls, and improve your brain functionality. Begin with the 8 movement class and continue to advance your skills to the 24 movement class.

TUESDAYS: 1 – 2 p.m. (8 movements)

THURSDAYS: 1 – 2 p.m. (24 movements)

Instructor: Julie Carda

AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT

The Feldenkrais Method is a gentle, very deliberate, and focused series of movements to improve the day-to-day functioning of your body. Mats are provided.

THURSDAYS: 9 – 10 a.m.

Instructor: Teresa Sabo

REIKI

Reiki is hands on prayer focusing on the life force energy present in all creation. This energy flows through our bodies allowing us to release tension. Reiki therapy helps us be more receptive to the benefits of medicine, rest and other therapies. Two practitioners, using hand positions to focus the healing energy can be done by touching the body or placed above the body at the patient's request and can be offered while you rest in a chair or on a massage table. You will receive God's love expressed through the hands of the trained practitioners.

MONDAYS 1-2pm

WEDNESDAYS: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

TAI CHI FOR PARKINSON'S

Build stamina through repetition, reduce falls, and improve your brain functionality. All abilities are welcome; moves are modified to accommodate all levels. Classes are for 12-week sessions, but you may begin at any time.

TUESDAYS: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

COST: \$60 for one class per week; \$120 for two classes per week

DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S

Improve balance, brain fitness, and have fun moving to live music provided by pianist Jonathan Shepherd! Classes are for 12-week sessions, and you may begin at any time. We start with dancing by trained dance instructors Julie Carda and Ashley Trottier, followed by social time and refreshments.

FRIDAYS: 10:30-11:45 a.m. plus social hour

COST: \$8 per class; \$96 for 12 weeks

NEW CENTER DIRECTOR

Ruth Ann Clarke was hired the fall of 2018 to help coordinate and oversee the center. Ruth Ann Clarke has over 15 years of experience in the field of fitness and wellness in Central Oregon and is an excellent addition to the team.



Instructor Laura Donahue leads the chair yoga class on Wednesdays.

2018 @ your Church Library

Brigitte Dysart, Librarian

Changes took shape in 2018 to relocate the library and transform the space

into a welcoming place for children's ministry, revitalizing the commitment to our future: Children and Families. A relocation library committee was formed to lend support for the transition with Elders on Session: Jane Kirkpatrick, Joan Roane, Gretchen Williver, and James Jaggard. The congregation was presented with diagrams of proposed locations. It was decided that the best fit would be downstairs as part of the Center for Wellbeing and Wisdom.

In October, work parties took place to box up the books and resources, and move downstairs to an interim location, one of the former classrooms, called the Studio – the one with the Egyptian theme. The comment was made “how appropriate, since the first library started in Alexandria!”. Giving thanks to Becca Ellis, Director of Family & Children, and the many helping hands who assisted that Saturday morning. With much gratitude to ALL who shared in making this transition a reality. Special thanks to Elder, Steve Hummel, who rebuilt and secured the shelves to their new location.

On November 4, in honor of All Saints Day, we wrote messages expressing our gratitude for the saints that have come before us, as well as blessings for future generations who will be using this wonderful space! The library team also hosted coffee fellowship.

The Library had seasonal displays and highlights in weekly E-News. The computer catalog was maintained, and license for the software Concourse by Book Systems, Inc. was renewed. The system is used for look-up and preparing pockets, check-out cards, and spine labels. Our patron and check-out procedures are still being handled on a manual self-help honor system.

Non-fiction:

- “Mending the Divides: creative love in a conflicted world” by Jon Huckins – the companion book for the Lenten sermon series.

- “Gundamentalism and Where it is tak-

ing America” by Rev. James E. “Jim” Atwood – recipient of the 2018 David Steele Distinguished Writer Award by the Presbyterian Writers Guild.

- “Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks” by Diana Butler Brass – inviting readers to understand new dimensions of American spirituality.

- “On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old” by Parker Palmer, who writes “Age itself is no excuse to wade in the shallows. It’s a reason to dive deep and take creative risks.”

- “Almost Everything: Notes on Hope” by Anne Lamott – Divided into short chapters that explore life’s essential truths, pinpointing these moments of insight as it shines an encouraging light forward.

Three books for our Summer Read were:

- “Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship” by Greg Boyle

- “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” by Maya Angelou, a classic already on our shelf.

- “Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I’ve Loved” by Kate Bowler

Fiction

- “Everything She Didn’t Say” by Jane Kirkpatrick – an inspiring, remarkably researched story about Carrie Strahorn. Jane’s readers have once again been blessed with her engaging depiction of this spirited woman. Yes, we are delighted to say that we have all of Jane’s books in our library!

- “If We Make It Home: A Novel of Faith and Survival in the Oregon Wilderness” by Christina Nelson.

- “No One Can Pronounce My Name” by Rakesh Satyal – 2018 “A Novel Idea” selection for Deschutes Public Library Community Read.

- “My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry” by Fredrik Backman.

- “The Next Person You Meet in Heaven” by Mitch Albom

Children’s Books:

- “Love” by Matt de la Pena and illustrated by Loren Long – depicts the many ways we experience this universal bond ...

- “All Are Welcome” by Alexandra Pen-

fold – rhyming text introduce a school where diversity is celebrated and songs, stories, and talents are shared.

- “Soñadores” by Yuyi Morales – Spanish edition, tells the author’s own immigration story and a tribute to the transformative power of hope – and reading.

- “Tal : His Marvelous Adventures with Noom-Zor-Noom” by Paul Fenimore Cooper. Selected when Rev. Shimiko Montgomery, Pastor for Justice & Mission, mentioned it, as she was asked what her favorite children’s book is.

We give thanks for the many donations to our library. At the same time, we regret that all may not have found a space on our shelves and they were given a home elsewhere. Weeding out the old, removing damaged and worn items is an on-going process. Lost or long-overdues were noted in the computer catalog as such. VHS videos were also culled and donated. Archival materials and historical items such as photo albums were also moved to the Studio, yet to find a proper display case.

The Library also maintained a presence in the Commons with current selections, and items available for check-out. A special library email address was re-instated so patrons may send their requests and/or comments to library@bendfp.org. With gratitude for our long-time dedicated volunteer, Valeri Jones, who processed the circulations and prepared the items for the shelves over the years. She resigned her duties in the Fall.

The re-location committee had several meetings, planning our new spaces and selecting our décor. A new group of volunteers have stepped forward helping with the transition and beyond.

I’m thinking of a title “Everything Must Change” (a book by Brian McLaren, in our library), and so at the end of 2018, I have come to accept the Library Change as a Blessing. Praying that it may be so ... With gratitude for All.

Respectfully submitted by
Brigitte Dysart, Librarian

Finance Office

Finance Director

Boyd A. Levet

Treasurer

Patrice Pease

2018 kicked off with FPC's annual process for estimating revenue

and gathering together expense requests from each of the ministries and from The Personnel Committee. Large amounts of data comprise the process for budget preparation. Our roles include forecasting revenue for the new year, completing the annual appeal campaign and working up a draft budget proposal for Session.

2018 followed this pattern, with good results from the "Because Love" pledge campaign, and a previous year's extraordinary result from an increase in "Non-pledges." Non-pledges are checks placed in the offering or sent through the year to the church office. These are gracious gifts that are not pledges. Non-pledges comprise the fastest growing income source for the congregation, while Pledges continue to represent, by far, the largest flow of financial support for this congregation's extraordinary ministries.

As with most prior years, Session commenced the budget year with a "Faith Factor," by which expenses exceeded income; in the case of 2018, this differential totaled about \$66,124. (Income was forecast at 924,513. Expenses were forecast at 990,637) This practice has a long-term successful record of leading the congregation's financial commitments, resulting in a 13-year history of net positive performance. The report in the 2018 Annual Meeting of the congregation shows this striking achievement. By year end 2018, Session's budget had essentially broken even. In addition, those who pledged fulfilled their pledges in excess of 100%, an extraordinary percentage when compared with the usual pledge fulfillment in North American churches. The

Non-pledge income soared far above its budget forecast, as outlined in the 2018 financials reported in early 2019. Expenses came in 8% under budget, in part due to two staff vacancies in the final two months of the year.

We monitor income/expense pacing monthly with direct reports to the congregation in FPC E-News, Session, staff and The Finance Committee. Copies of each month's complete set of financial documents are always posted in the church office, in the Session Notebook, for anyone to read. The Treasurer's Office and The Finance Office consistently follow the strict standards of accounting, guided by and consistently following the rules of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and GAAP Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). We are very blessed to have the service of Patrice Pease, FPC's Treasurer. Led by multiple steps of expense approval methods and direct coding of checks received, FPC's multiple step processes for approvals and signatures locks in exacting standards with the highest credibility. The church's manual of Accounting Policies and Procedures is much sought-after by other churches, with which we freely share copies.

The 2019 budget was adopted by Session in January, 2019 and is to be outlined to the congregation at Session's Annual Gathering of the Congregation, Tuesday, March 5. It is based on analysis of 2018 giving, performance, expenses analysis by the ministries and pledge forecast for the succeeding year.

Through 2018, the finance office received gifts of stock, gifts from IRAs and regular monthly automatic giving from personal accounts at financial institutions. The finance office regularly receives inquiries about these processes

and is delighted to discuss them with members and friends of FPC/Bend. FPC's ministries are also deeply grateful to the estate gift management of the FPC Investment Foundation that provided earnings from families having donated generous estate gifts. Expense management by the ministries consistently tracks at or below budgets and results from funding provided by the operating accounts, dedicated funds and the foundation gifts.

FPC's electronic giving platforms received robust participation in 2018. Since the introduction of VANCO donation services, 233 households have used the system. (43 of those have set up auto-pay for 2019). In 2018, there were \$40,751.56 in ACH, and \$57,531.58 in credit card transactions.

No report like this would go without expressing the deepest gratitude to all donors for their generosity in the "Because Love" annual appeal campaign. Your ministries are deeply grateful for participation in the vision each shares to provide God's outreach near and far. In addition, Patrice and I extend to all ministry managers our appreciation for their work to uphold the highest standards of accounting.

Many blessings to each of you for your faithful engagement with the ministries of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Bend!

Boyd A. Levet
Finance Director

Patrice Pease
Treasurer