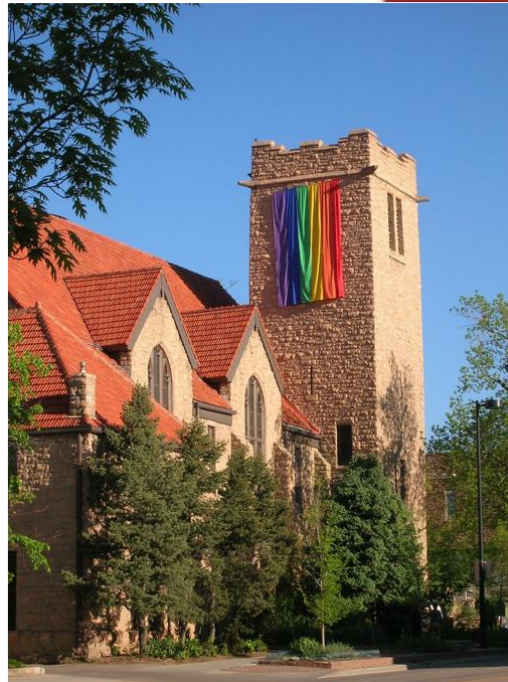




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



30th Anniversary of OPEN and AFFIRMING

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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MODERATOR

It has been a joy and an honor to serve as moderator of the church in the year 2017. While the world around us shifted in alarming and confusing ways, our church remained our bedrock of stability, strength, and community. Together we worship, we sing, we mourn, and we pray. We resist injustices as we seek to be the compassionate hands of Christ in the world. We celebrate our history of stepping out in front to take bold progressive action, and we accept the challenge to continue to be the voice and body of progressive Christianity on many fronts.

Here are a few of the highlights of 2017

- Two staff members welcomed new babies in July. Pedro Silva and his wife Kelly Fitz Silva welcomed baby Mikayah just 12 hours before Kajsa and Ben Teitelbaum said hello to little Liv. We are all blessed by these sweet new additions to our church family.
- After many years of dedicated work and study, the church rejoiced when our own Kevin Pettit was commissioned as a minister for Disability Inclusion Ministries with Faith4All on August 20th.
- On September 17th we had more to celebrate with the installation of Pedro Silva as our Associate Minister. We were honored to host Bishop Carlton Pearson as our guest preacher for the event.
- We welcome a new affiliation with the NAACP as their partner congregation.
- We had a thoughtful and uplifting celebration of the 30th anniversary of our Open and Affirming Covenant, led by our Past Moderator, Patrick Mason. Our celebration included a concert and worship service with Bishop Yvette Flunder, a workshop led by OutBoulder, a new rainbow banner for the tower, a commissioned art installation by Garrett Chappell and an historical commemorative publication detailing the history of our covenant of openness, inclusion and affirmation of gay and lesbian persons.
- The move of Stewardship to January and the Annual Meeting to March was successfully tried out this year for the first time.
- The Opening of the Fox Institute for Creation Spirituality on our lower level took place in October. Preparations started months before with projects to prepare the space and a complete remodel of the Carriage House to be used for offices.
- The playground project off our preschool rooms is almost complete! Our children will have a beautiful space to recreate this spring.
- As a whole, our church has shown great concern for refugees and immigrants. From the youth work trip to Seattle with Syrian refugees, to the efforts to aid immigrant families resettling locally, and sanctuary work being done in fellowship with the Unitarian Church, we are moved to learn, and to act.
- In the pages that follow you will read of many other exciting things that have happened in this dear place we call our church home.

Submitted by Lisa Shearer Cooper, Moderator

SENIOR MINISTER

As I reflect over the past year, I'm drawn to the ways we have again and again been reminded of the generations of people on whose shoulders we stand and how commitments we hold dear were first shaped by their faithfulness. Among other things in the fall, we honored all those in our congregation who have been members for 50 years or more, giving thanks to God for their long witness and memory. We gathered for a Legacy Sunday and luncheon to lift up the enduring contributions our Endowment funds make possible. We observed the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with a sermon series on some of its most important insights.

In September, we dedicated six beautiful banners, designed and stitched by members of our McMane Arts Ministry, visible signs of the six covenants which serve both as expressions of our historically rooted commitments and our ongoing aspirations as a people of faith. On a gala weekend in October, with a rainbow flag on our tower, guest preacher Yvette Flunder in our pulpit, and a concert Still Standing on the Side of Love in our sanctuary, we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the covenant through which we declared ourselves as an Open and Affirming church in the United Church of Christ, a decision which made us the 16th such congregation in the country and the first in the state of Colorado to explicitly embrace GLBTQ persons with God's wide welcome.

Our worship during the season of Epiphany focused on exploring discipleship and citizenship through the lens of the Sermon on the Mount and lessons from the Civil Rights Movement. In Lent, we followed the witness of John's Gospel and the summer was a walk through the epic narratives of Genesis.

In July, we rejoiced with Pedro Silva, our Associate Minister, and Kajsa Teitelbaum, our Director of Music, as they welcomed babies into their families. During the months of their parental leaves, many stepped forward to share their time and gifts generously. Patrick Mason directed the adult choir and accompanied 8:30 am worship. Rudy Sumpter, Charlotte Corbridge, and Kirk Waiblinger played the organ. Liesl Bryant directed the bell choir. Our Moderators, Lisa Shearer Cooper, Larry Dansky, and Patrick Mason, covered Pedro's Board and Committee meetings, Lorraine Leist, Gail McDougale, and Rob Stuart each took a Sunday to preach, and members of the Board of Spiritual Life served as liturgists. My gratitude to each of them and to everyone who extended themselves during the season of reduced church staff is endless.

In the midst of these births and new life, we have also been aware this past year of the remarkable number of farewells we have said in memorial services. Since January, 2017, we have gathered to give thanks to God for the lives of 17 cherished members of our congregation, many after living long lives into their late 80s and 90s, and a few who died much too young. With our great esteem and great affection, we tenderly placed them in God's eternal care.

For all of them, for all of you, and for the life of faith and love we share together as First Congregational Church, I am profoundly grateful.

Faithfully,
Chris Braudaway-Bauman

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Worship and Preaching: At the advice of another minister, I am trying to see Worship as not only the place where we contemplate God's Presence, but also the place where we give ourselves permission to own God's presence within us and live accordingly. This is the current trajectory of how I plan worship and preach. I have started to experiment in sermon delivery and content. My intent is for my contributions to worship to be relevant, challenging, and personally applicable. I am convinced that the larger context in which we "do church" demands that we take Sunday with us into the rest of the week.

Pastoral Care: This year has offered me many opportunities for pastoral care with a variety of members from teens and parents to those dealing with end of life. One particular theme that has reoccurred is faith challenges in our current context. This has caused me to really consider how I approach the subject of questioning God in crisis. Additionally, because of my connections with groups outside of the church, I have been contacted to provide pastoral care for non-members. We created a Visitation Ministry small group that currently functions as a support group for lay members who do visitations and are discerning how to expand so that other members can join the ranks of visitors.

Congregational Life: I served as staff on the Board of Parish Life, Board of Mission and Christian Social Action, the website committee, communications subcommittee, IT Committee, and the A2A mental Health Ministries. In addition, I am working with Rev. Lorraine Leist on a Grief Group, continue to lead the weekly men's breakfast, as well as lead Confirmation and co-facilitate the Confirmation and Men's retreats. I have also led or participated in several memorial services.

Missions and Community Engagement: I am an active member of Together Colorado, a newly formed Boulder County Families of Color Group that meets at the YWCA, lead Living Room Conversations such as #MeToo, #MeToo for Men, and bridging divides. I have spoken at the International AIDS Memorial Walk, attended City Council Meetings on Homelessness, attended court proceedings, worked with other faith communities on initiatives such as the sanctuary movement and immigration, the Boulder MLK Celebration, and have written articles in support for advancement and engagement in different areas of equity and social justice. I am currently working on an Immigration Program with Together Colorado as well as a Dismantling Racism Experiment with The Blind Café, the YWCA, and the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center.

Website and Technology: The Website Committee delivered a new logo and is increasingly closer to delivering the new website. I coordinated a move to a new IT Vendor and the subsequent migration and upgrade to Microsoft's cloud-based product suite. I currently update the current website as well.

Pedro S. Silva II

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Each year at this time I look back over the last year and I am struck by the Grace and Blessings that pour forth into our CE programs and all the wonderful teachers, board members and other volunteers who facilitate what happens each and every week.

In addition to my work with Children, I've been privileged to be involved in the life of the church through: Preaching, The Ministry of Last Things, Women's Retreat, coordinating our Preschool Exploration Committee, and collaborating with Pedro & Eli on Questformation.

Our Elementary Sunday School continues to be successful. We introduce a Bible story on the 1st Sunday of each month, have activities focusing on the story on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday's and then serve on the 4th Sunday through our SERVE SUNDAY projects. Our Pre/K's focus on making friends, learning about Jesus as a boy, exploring Jesus' teachings through parables, and seeing God through the seasons in the world around us and in the people who love us, our preschool and kindergarten children develop a foundation for the explorations they will be asked to embark upon as they move up into the elementary grades and beyond, as well as developing friendships with children who will become companions on their faith journey.

This year I directed the intergenerational spring musical, "In The Image" and coordinated and directed ARTS Camp at Highlands Camp in Allenspark included 30 First Cong kids from 2nd to 8th grade who presented the musical "The Sailor's Bible" to their parents at the end of the week. I was assisted by Musical Director Liesl Bryant, Susan Bryant on Piano and counselors Laura & Roy McCutchen, Kyle Sorys, Susan Wilkinson, Abby Bryant, and Andrew Funk. A reprise of the ARTS Camp musical was done for worship in August.

At the end of each summer my energies are focused on recruiting new teachers for all of our grade levels. The quality of our programs and the resulting excitement of our Sunday School is due to the teachers who, through their wonderful talents, make magic happen on Sunday mornings. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who taught in 2017-18—you make a difference in the lives of our children! This culminates on CE Sunday at the end of September when we covenant with our teachers, children and congregation.

In October I attended the annual Pneuma Conference in San Francisco, CA, and was blessed to come away inspired and renewed! I continue to be on the Conference Planning team, and presented workshops at the conference. I am also on the planning team for Congregations Alive 4, a conference which will be put on by the RMC in February 2019 at which I will be presenting workshops.

I supervise Ginger Johnson, our Childcare supervisor, Liesl Bryant, our Director of Children's Music, and Eli McCutchen, our Director of Youth Ministries. In this year, they have all stepped up and handled with great enthusiasm all of the new initiatives that have come their way.

We ended the year with a great Lights of December parade & Open House; and another wonder-filled Christmas Pageant, which included 20 children, youth from Kindergarten through Middle School and their parents.

Deborah Voss, Director of Christian Education

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Ministry

- Curriculum: switched from teacher/youth leader generating Sunday content, to curriculum for Sunday mornings. Middle School (MS): “Jesus and his Kingdom of Equals”, High School (HS): “Way to Live”.
- Teachers: recruitment low initially, but many rallied after Deborah’s call for congregational support of youth & children on CE Sunday
 - 4 MS teachers: Diana Shellenberger, Chris Shearer-Cooper, Rob Stuart, Gail McDougle. 5 HS teachers: Tania McEvoy-Champlin, Jessica Austin, Rebecca Flintoft, Bob Thomas, Matt Gentry
 - Each team meets monthly for prayer, calendaring, and curriculum discussion.
- Bill & Bonney Forbes hosted a Tuesday night weekly meeting for high schoolers during the Fall semester. It was discontinued because of low attendance, but the Forbes’ continue to look for ways to be involved.
- Addition of monthly youth groups: to make Sunday mornings more focused on CE, but still have a time for group building and fun, I added monthly youth groups after church for each age group. High school has responded more than middle school.

Work Camp

- 2017 Work Camp: two students proposed to work with Syrian refugees, 22 youth & 4 chaperones. I researched & coordinated with grassroots groups who work w/ them in the Seattle area. VERY powerful experience for everyone. Much of the service was yard/house work for local people in the area, as hands-on work with refugees was much harder to do (during Ramadan the families kept more to themselves, and in general they need long-term life support and resources). We attended an Iftar dinner at the mosque, as honored guests and future leaders.
- Successful Feast, Pray, Love fundraising dinner with silent auction, live auction, and return of Pick-A-Party. \$14,000 raised!
- 2018 trip is to Heifer Ranch in Arkansas. 16 students, 3 chaperones.

Question Formation (Confirmation)

- Adjusted the program: December – May, 12pm-1:30pm after church, with lunch
- Held more by Pedro and Deborah than Eli.
- Program calendar was custom made to focus on learning about our church, the UCC as a whole, and what it means to lead a Christian life. Curriculum created week by week for the agreed topic.
- 5 Questioners (Confirmants).

Youth Events

- Movie Nights: monthly movie nights continue to be a constant part of MS ministry, though attendance is lower than past years.
- GREAT build-up of both age groups through special events: Haunted Corn Maze at Anderson Farms in October, La Foret Retreats
- Earth Day retreat: expanded to be day-long with overnight at the church. Included plastic-replacement workshop, trash pickup, cookout at Settler’s Park, and movie “Dirt” at night. Middle and High school students participated, with mixed results.
- Addition to 2018 calendar: Spring Break desert backpacking trip for high school students. Called “Tested”, it will be 4 days mirroring Jesus’ 40 days in the desert, and include education, spiritual reflection, and personal growth.

Eli McCutchen, Director of Youth Ministries

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The year 2017 was an exciting and eventful year for the music program. All music groups welcomed new members, and we continue to thrive and have fun while making music and praising God together.

In July, Kajsa's family welcomed a baby girl, Liv. Kajsa went on maternity leave and returned in November. A huge thank you to everyone who covered for Kajsa in various areas: Patrick Mason, Liesl Bryant, Kirk Waiblinger, Rudy Sumpter, and Charlotte Corbridge.

Easter Sunday was celebrated with a brass quartet providing special music, along with the adult choir and bell choir participating in a larger Easter anthem together. Handbells and adult choir also participated in the joint service on Pine Street on Palm Sunday.

In April the Faith Singers and Youth Choir, along with adults from our congregation, successfully presented their intergenerational spring musical "In the Image", which was greatly appreciated.

The 8:30 am services have been blessed with appearances by Rebecca Flintoft, Susan Rose, and Jeanne Quinn, offering their musical gifts on a regular basis.

Throughout the year, the bell choir rang once a month, and the adult choir sang every Sunday. During the summer, various members of the church contributed with special music for the services.

The Youth Choir and Faith Singers have participated in the services on a monthly basis. During 2017, they have been rehearsing and performing as a joint group, due to the logistics in finding a rehearsal time that would not interfere with the new schedule of the confirmation class. Thank you to Julie Graf Frye for serving as their accompanist.

The Adult Choir and Bell Choir have had regular rehearsals throughout the year. In April, the bell choir travelled to Casper, WY, for a two-day event with workshops and mass-ringing, ending in a concert for the community. The adult choir participated in a choir retreat led by Patrick Mason, to prepare for Music Sunday.

On Music Sunday, December 17, Kajsa Teitelbaum directed the Adult Choir, strings, and Organ, in the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah. Our soloists were all members of the choir – Julieta Garcia, Dean Fowler, and Marjorie Fowler.

Several concerts with connections to FCC has occurred this year. Director Kajsa Teitelbaum has continued her lunch music series, third Wednesday of every month. On November 17 the Sawyer Memorial Concert was played Colorado native organist Bryan Dunnewald. On December 2 the bells rang their Christmas program in Plymouth Hall while people came in after the Boulder Parade of Lights.

First Congregational Church also continues to be a popular concert venue for outside groups, which generate additional funds for the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Kajsa Teitelbaum,
Director of Music

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Significant happenings in 2017:

We signed a lease with the Fox Institute of Creation Spirituality which gives Fox full-time use of the Carriage House, Classrooms 120 and 122, and the former bell choir room, and part-time use of Plymouth Hall/kitchen and the Choir Room. That lease has an initial term of five years, with two three-year extensions at Fox's election. The income from Fox will contribute significantly to our operating budget, more than making up for the departure of Bauman College. Fox completely remodeled the interior of the Carriage House at their expense.

We repainted the south lobby, Classrooms 120 and 122, the Choir Room, the former bell choir room, and Plymouth Hall, and installed new flooring in all of those spaces except Plymouth Hall as part of our responsibility to Fox Institute.

We established a Building Use Task Force to evaluate who is using our building, what rental rates have been, and we have developed new rates, policies and procedures going forward.

We applied three times to the State Historical Fund to pay for repairs to our stained-glass windows, and to provide protective, exterior over-glazing. We failed to receive any grant monies.

Construction of new our playground is substantially complete, with only plantings and irrigation to be finished.

We developed and are near implementation of a new website.

Our tenant and mission partner, Infinitely Simple, changed its name to Mindful Works, and moved into a different classroom to accommodate Fox's space needs.

Financial Summary: See the Treasurer's report for final numbers. It should be noted that most of the allocation from the Capital Needs portion of the Endowment was used to balance the operating budget.

Action Items for 2018:

We will apply for funding from the State Historical Fund to replace the main tile roof over the sanctuary.

We will investigate a mutually advantageous arrangement for a preschool to use our lower level classrooms and new playground.

We will repair the stained glass windows in the sanctuary and install protective, exterior glazing over them.

We will install new flooring in Plymouth Hall to meet our lease obligations to Fox.

We will finish planting and irrigation in our new playground.

We will develop and implement a Safe Church plan.

Robert F. Matthias, Chair

BOARD OF MISSIONS and CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

The BMCSA:

- Coordinates the mission outreach and Christian social action of FCC with the congregation and our mission partners.

In 2017 the BMCSA:

- Provided weekly communications in the weekly newsletter and Facebook to inform the congregation about events, opportunities to become involved. This effort was coordinated by Pat Whitaker.
- Reviewed and acted on grant requests from mission partners and made recommendations to the Church Council for approval. In 2017 a wide range of mission partners were funded including those who serve the hungry, homeless adults and youth, those with mental health challenges, medical care those in need at the 4th Sunday soup kitchen, education of children in Africa, helping women in Mali to become self-supporting through agriculture and handiwork, victims of domestic violence, building of Habitat homes, the youth mission trip among many more. Please refer to the financial report for more detail.
- Organized the mission fair, the Christmas Alternative Gift Market, and the backpack drive (for school children) led by Jay Rourke, grocery card program for Habitat for Humanity, donated clothing and boots were provided to a man reentering the community from prison, and Jessica Austin led a Poverty Simulation which included adults and youth.
- Assisted and provided for the local community through Sunday soup kitchen coordinated by Soo Rhee and Elizabeth Gold on the fourth Sundays of the month at FCC and Community Table at First United Methodist Church on the first Wednesdays, coordinated by Denise Cone.
- Served the wider community by hosting the Church World Service/Crop Walk which involved 16 churches and collected \$29,561 total. FCC was represented by 21 walkers and a collection of \$8,650 (included in the financial report). This was led by Denise Cone.
- With the IRC (International Rescue Committee), provided local refugees with goods, and furnishings, a baby shower and a “first Thanksgiving meal”. Also, the Hessari family, Afghani refugees living in Longmont, were provided with gift certificates, home goods and furnishings, assistance, and English mentoring. This was coordinated by Susan Bryant.
- Coordinated special offerings including Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing and Disaster Relief for hurricanes and fire. The 2017 Christmas offering was designated for the Houston Hurricane work trip to build Habitat houses and hurricane relief to include Puerto Rico through the UCC and \$7516 was received and will be distributed in 2018.
- Social action of FCC included a decision to support the Unitarian Universalist Church as a sanctuary church, hosting Immigration 101, a gathering supporting just treatment of African Americans by police held at Shorter AME church, the women’s march in Denver, and support for the newly formed Boulder chapter of the NAACP, led by Rob Stuart, president.
- First Congregational Church provided space to a variety of nonprofits for free or reduced rates. In 2017 the value of the space provided totaled over \$78,000. See the financial report for details.

Karen Wilson and Jessica Austin, Co-Chairs
Doshia Kretke, Treasurer

2017 Mission Expenditures

Missions Board Operating Budget	
Bike and Build (additional donations of \$95 to budget amount)	381
Interfaith Alliance Membership Dues	250
Soup Kitchen (includes Food Share membership)	250
CIRC Membership Dues	100
Association per capita (Assn Metro Denver)	1,403
Conference per capita	11,220
Our Church Wider Mission	30,000
Total Operating	43,604
Benevolence Fund Grants	
Soup Kitchen	900
WISE conference	1,724
Attention Homes	2,000
One School at a Time	3,500
Opportunity Tree	1,596
St. Benedict	3,000
Wildland restoration	2,000
Emergency Family Assistance	3,000
Global Education Fund	1,500
Safehouse	2,500
Agile International	3,000
Windhorse Guild, Inc (Infinitely Simple)	1,000
International Rescue Committee	1,000
Boulder County AIDS project	1,500
Empakasi	2,000
Bridge House	3,500
Crop Walk	500
Meals on Wheels	3,000
USC Disaster Relief	5,000
St Benedict	3,000
Total Grants	45,220

Mission Partners	
Alternative Gift Market (2016 paid 2017)	6,850
Backpack Drive (including \$2100 in-kind donations)	3,125
Crop Walk (sponsorship expenses; \$111 donation, \$8650 raised from	8,761
Empakasi Primary School	2,000
Habitat for Humanity	2,330
Pastor's Purse	301
EcoMinistry	2,063
Economic Justice (\$3000 donation)	2,000
Sisters of Sudan	255
Soup Kitchen (\$900 from Grants; \$250 from operating budget; \$50	1,400
Adult work trip (Balance of \$204)	
<i>Correction for amounts transferred to Mission Partners/otherwise</i>	<i>(3,150)</i>
Total Mission Partners	29,085
Special Offerings	
Christmas 2016 Boulder Food Rescue	3,783
Christmas 2016 Infinitely Simple	3,783
Neighbors in Need	3,505
Hurricane Harvey	5,080
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,649
Total Special Offerings	18,800
In-Kind Building Use	
Mindful Works	18,600
YES School	28,000
Eight 12 Step Programs	14,560
BSURJ	3,120
NAACP	320
Boulder United Nations	960
Mental Health Support Group	1,920
Boulder Concert Band	240
Boulder Chamber Orchestra	177
Rocky Mt Compassionate Comm	160
EWAM-Tibetan Buddhist	300
Meadowlark Concert	38
CO Citizens for Canine Welfare	150

Boulder Jung Seminars	468
Museum of Boulder	90
Gamma Phi Beta Initiation	200
Flatirons Ski Club	150
Rocky Mt. Revels	1,650
Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow	5,000
Bike & Build	2,400
Total In-Kind Building Use	78,503
Total 2017 Outreach Missions Support	\$215,212

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Youth Ministerial Transition: Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries position will be open after April/May. There is a personnel search committee formed to understand the intergenerational desires of church members. Members of the Board of Christian Education (CE) met with the head of Personnel, Patrick Mason and Chris Braudaway Bauman to understand the vision of Christian Education as we work to fill this role. Part of determining the right fit for the role will include budget available and the skill set and personality of the applicants. CE committee agrees with Chris and Patrick that the top priority of this role will be relationship building with community between the middle and high schoolers as well as adult leaders and the wider church.
- Children's Choir, Musical Presentations, and ARTS Camp: The Children's Choir had a successful year and performed during several church services. ARTS Camp in Allenspark was very successful. This summer's ARTS camp will be held at the YMCA Estes Park facility due to changing licensing requirements the church would need to hold a children's program at Highlands Camp.
- Work Camp: Seattle Work Camp, focused on Syrian refugees, was tremendously successful with 22 youth learning about and serving Syrian refugees in the sanctuary city of Seattle. The youth returned with lots of gratitude and appreciation for the fellowship that grew within the group and between multi-faith new friends. The next work camp is in coordination with Heifer international to understand the impact first world countries have on the developing world. Eli will attend this trip as her last activity within the role of Youth Director.
- Fall Welcome Festival: We worked with the Board of Parish Life to provide an All-Church celebration to mark the beginning of a new school and church year. We provided planning and also day-of supervision and support.
- Regular youth and children programming: The weekly Sunday school schedule was much more predictable this year. Scheduled communion attendance and serve Sundays has become a staple in the Sunday school programming. Middle school and High school youth groups on the 1st and 2nd Sundays after church has seen 2-12 participants in each grade. There has been mixed feedback and the program is still evolving especially with a new director to be hired.
- Questformation has a new curriculum this year focused on learning what it means to be a member of our church with Questers meeting with Eli, Pedro, and/or Deborah after every Sunday church service with a fall and spring retreat.
- Fundraising: Fundraising has been consolidated to fewer events and now includes separate fundraisers for Work Camp and Arts Camp. Feast, Pray Love 2017 was very successful with youth and parent participation silent and live auctions, and pick a parties sold.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Tatterson and Amy Shoffner, Co-Chairs

BOARD OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

The sixteen members of the Board of Spiritual Life (BSL) assist the ministers and music director in coordinating aspects of the worship service as well as the spiritual care of the congregation. Additionally, BSL oversees the Arts Ministry.

In 2017 the Board:

- Prepared and assisted in serving communion
- Organized monthly flower coordinators including the special Easter flowers
- Provided ushers for all church services and memorial services.
- Provided devotional booklets for sale for Lent and Advent
- Organized the Ash Wednesday supper
- Worked with the Arts Ministry to integrate arts into the life of the church, including First Fridays
- Decorated (and un-decorated) the sanctuary at Christmas
- Supported several new initiatives including the morning service on the day before Christmas (90 attendees) and an evening Epiphany service of blessing the rooms in the church (60 attendees)
- Initiated a home communion services for those who are not able to attend church
- Promoted ways for ushers to welcome everyone
- Started the prelude earlier, and worked to make that a time of reflection
- Commissioned Keven Pettit as a minister

2017 BSL Board Members:

Betsy Barrett, Anne Byrne, Judy Cardell, Karen Cumbo, Carolyn Gard, Lauren Goldsmith, Keith Curry Lance, Wes Lemasurier, Rodger Lucero, Laura McCutchen, Kevin Pettit, Charlie Rastle, Diana Shellenberger, Nancy Stevens, Nancy Wade

Carolyn Gard, co-chair
Nancy Stevens, co-chair

BOARD OF PARISH LIFE

- Hosted 50 Sunday Fellowship Hours with the help of food donations from church members.
- Hosted 15 receptions following Memorial Services for members, including the January 29th one for Pastor Emeritus Bruce MacKenzie, 400 served.
- Organized and hosted a major Plymouth Hall storage room, closets and cabinets cleanup with the help of the Board of Spiritual Life and the Board of Management.
- Sought and received Board of Management approval to conduct a Kitchen Shower to bring the Main and Warming Kitchens to proper equipment capacities. Main Kitchen now has 200+ counts of Corelle dinnerware, new Gorham stainless steel flatware, and Anchor Hocking stackable water glasses. Purchased storage bins for the flatware, rods and hangers for new lockable tablecloth storage cabinets, and 100 sets of new flatware for the Soup Kitchen ministry. Thank you, members!
- Altered donated round tablecloths to fit our tables; and sorted, stored and labeled the various shapes, colors, and fabric types of tablecloths.
- Major Events: Hosted April 15th **Easter Sunday Choir/ Musicians Brunch, plus Easter Fellowship Hour**; re-instituted **All Church Picnic** on May 7th, 200 served; attended May **BPL Visioning Retreat and Dinner** with Moderators and Pastors; served August 15th **Ugandan Children's Choir** and their host families to a pre-concert dinner; helped served **Kevin Pettit's Ecclesiastical Council and August 29th Commissioning** receptions; helped serve **Pedro Silva's Getting to Know You events, Call Sunday, and Installation Service** receptions; prepared food and served 150 on September 8th Welcome **Sunday Picnic**; served treats and hot drinks at the December 2nd **Mingle & Jingle Event** after Boulder's Parade of Lights.
- Thanks to the Board of Management and Moderator Lisa Shearer-Cooper for creating a Kitchen Management Team to establish kitchen use policies and for procuring a much-needed new freezer.
- BPL member Kathy Dayhoff has been re-organizing our two kitchens and helping renters (Mindful Work/ Fox Institute) understand the kitchen equipment. Soon kitchen labeling (in Spanish and English), with photos, will be done.
- Organized the congregation through Meal Train, Care Train, and Ride Train to respond when church members need delivered meals, greetings of care and celebration, and rides to worship and appointments. During Advent, prepared 75 gift candles to those who have suffered illness, loss or celebrated births.

Carol Green and Gail McDougale, Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Committee (MC) was begun by Bob Gurtler in 2006. It was led by Alan Johnson for many years, and I took over about three years ago. We have eight active members who may serve as long as they feel called to serve. We add new members when needed. MC is committed to offering welcome to visitors, and invitation, orientation, membership and involvement for new members. We're always working on becoming more effective.

- 1. Welcomer and followup:** Welcomers are stationed in the Link near the Welcome Table between worship services. We look for new faces, recent visitors, and people we haven't seen in a while, and we chat with them. Literature about the church and visitor cards to fill out are available at the Welcome Table. Visitor information from cards and pew pads is collected by Donna in the office. MC maintains a spreadsheet with information about prospective members and new members. Links to those spreadsheets are available to those any who need them. Just ask. Followup includes emailed invitations to attend Welcome Receptions, and information about upcoming Joining Sundays.
- 2. Information folders:** This year we started redesigning our information folders for beauty, clarity and branding. They should be ready soon. They contain essential information that we hand out at receptions and to people who ask for it.
- 3. Name Tags** have caught on spectacularly. Anyone may have one; not just members. The rack continues to work well, and Tom Woods added several new bars because it is pretty full. There's a sign-up sheet on the welcome table in the link if you need a name tag.
- 4. Newcomer Welcome Receptions** are less frequent. Monthly didn't work with our busy church schedule. The simple format with coffee-hour type food works well. The primary goal is to make personal connections with and among people interested in becoming more involved, and to answer their questions.
- 5. In-depth information and orientation:** A two-session series about our local church, UCC history and polity, our covenants, etc. was launched in April. It has proven very popular and will continue to be offered as a small group once or twice a year. It is for new members, prospective members, and anyone else who wishes to learn more about our church and denomination.
- 6. Joining.** MC organizes Joining Sundays and also posts new member posters in the hallway. New member posters with photos and bio information are collected and kept in a binder on the receptionist's desk, and can also be seen online if you have a link. The posters are useful in recruiting new board members and getting the new members involved at church.
- 7. New Members:** In 2017 we had five Joining Sundays, at which we received a total of 26 new members. This doesn't include new members who joined at other times, such as the confirmands. Official membership numbers and data are kept by staff in the church office.

Julie Griffiths, chair

McMANE ARTS MINISTRY

This year the McMane Art's Ministry took time to review our mission, determine priorities and put together list of potential projects. Our Mission statement is;

The Arts Ministry's mission is to create, encourage and promote opportunities for people to experience and explore the dynamic flow between spirituality and the arts. The arts are understood to include visual arts, dance, music, drama, creative writing or any other art form the Arts Ministry wishes to include in furthering its mission.

The activities of the Arts Ministry include:

- *The Exhibition Committee hosts of First Friday art shows that give both our congregation and the general public the opportunity to view a wide variety of artwork produced by talented local artists. The committee works to plan and install exhibitions, find new artists and hosts First Friday Opening Receptions.*
- *The Arts Ministry works to enrich our worship experience through the arts including fabric arts, liturgical dance, and drama.*
- *The Arts Ministry works on our education goal of sponsoring workshops for artists and non artists. The ministry also works on sponsoring an artist in residence program for the enrichment of the congregation.*

We solicited the congregation and put together a list of potential projects. This list, along with our mission statement is being used to help set priorities.

The McMane Art's Endowment funded;

- The Proud exhibit. As part of the O&A celebration, we commissioned work by Garrett Chappell entitled Proud. Proud is a photographic installation inspired by the strength, diversity, and beauty of the LGBTQ Community.
- Covenant Paraments. This set of 6 paraments are based on a design by Scott Reed and implemented by members of our Art's Ministry; Cindy Mueller, Karen Hoover, Alma Albers, Garrett Chapell, and Laura McCutchen.
- The Rainbow Flag. We bought the Rainbow flag for our tower.
- Music and supplies for First Friday Art Receptions

We coordinated and installed the following art shows in our gallery. This also included providing a First Friday reception.

- Color and Light for a Dark Time by John Uhr and Lonny Granston
- Art Speak visual and spoken word art curated by local artist Annette Coleman
- "The Garden Show". Church member Cathy Woods and Mimi Elmore
- Proud by Garrett Chappell and the (In)visible Boulder County Project by the Sonder Collection
- Art by David Beumee, Marti Nash and Louie Sliman

Submitted by Cindy Mueller (Chair of committee)

ACCESIBLE TO ALL/MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY (A2A/MHM)

We are ever mindful of our commitment to the covenants (A2A and WISE) under which we operate. To that end, we have engaged in a variety of activities during the last year:

1. We hosted speakers during the Meeting in the Middle time in February, April and May. We were able to offer topics on both mental health issues and issues related to aging and disability.
2. We sponsored a small group designed to support the work and mission of Mindful Works (formerly Infinitely Simple).
3. We provided an article for the Weekly Update on the Spiritual Support Group.
4. We continue to sponsor the Mental Health and Wellness Support Group on the second and fourth Monday every month.
5. We planned and offered the program for Mental Health Sunday, August 24th. Megan Carnarius, nationally renowned expert on dementia was speaker. We followed the service with a workshop on dementia.
6. We requested that the congregation designate Mental Health Sunday as the last Sunday in August.
7. We worked with Alma Alber and the Arts Ministry to design paraments for our groups.
8. We authorized the creation of a stole for Kevin Pettit's commissioning service.
9. We provided financial support for the first WISE conference in Omaha. This conference provided guidance for congregations wanting to implement the WISE covenant which was written and first adopted by our congregation.
10. We provided financial support for the Interfaith Network on Mental Illness (INMI) at their spring event, "Let's Not Keep Quiet: Mental Illness in Our Community."
11. At INMI's fall event, with Dr. Rachael Keefe, "Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention" we were involved not only financially but we engaged in outreach to the wider community, publicizing the WISE covenant and the spiritual support group.
12. We financially supported the Hope Coalition's "Hope Lights the Night". A program which honors the lives of those who lost their lives to suicide.
13. We took the first steps in planning a series of workshops on dementia with Megan Carnarius. The emphasis on these workshops will be how to include those touched by dementia in the life and work of the church.
14. We continue to educate the congregation on the need to be mindful of those who are less able. To that end, we continue to monitor the physical space to ensure that we are truly assessable to all.

2017 A2A/MHM members: Anne Weiher (chair), Alma Alber (secretary), Richard Alber (treasurer), Carole Jones, Louisa Young, Kevin Petit, Randy Crowe, Margaret Perez, Eric Malmborg, Pedro Silva II (staff).

Anne Weiher, chair

ECO-MINISTRY

- Organized Small Groups in Spring -- E. O. Wilson, *The Future of Life*; and National Geographic *Years of Living Dangerously* with presentation by Citizens Climate Lobby and sign up for membership
- Introduced Church Covenants to Middle School Curriculum
- Highway Cleanup led by Monica Rutkowski
- Summer Worship service with focus on the extreme threat to the biosphere, including interpretive dance and music
- Provided an Expanded Adult Forum after morning worship, high-lighting and educating around Sustainable Seafood
- Participated with Institutional Partners on both National (Creation Justice Ministries, GreenFaith, Citizens Climate Lobby) and State levels (Eco-justice Ministries and Colorado Interfaith Alliance)
- Participated in political action, meetings with Colorado elected official, the Colorado Water Board
- A founding member of a Boulder County, faith based, collaborative focused on environmental justice, action, and education -- in the process of becoming a Green Faith Circle

Submitted by Rob Stuart, Chair

MACKENZIE LECTURESHIP

These annual events at First Congregational Church are made possible by the MacKenzie Lectureship Endowment and designed to honor Minister Emeritus Bruce MacKenzie and his wife Jeanette, both now deceased. The work of the Committee centers on selecting speakers/presenters, recruiting them, and organizing an annual event.

- Diana Butler Bass delivered the 17th MacKenzie Lecture on January 27th, 2017. The Title was “*Spiritual Revolution: Finding Sacred Ground in Difficult Times.*” A workshop followed on Saturday. We achieved an audience of over 200 for the lecture and approximately one third of the audience were not from our congregation, indicating that MacKenzie helps First Cong reach out into the broader community.
- The Committee made significant progress in moving our communications into the digital age in 2017. This included a separate email account, a permanent web presence, an upgraded and integrated database for email and regular mailings, and a Facebook advertising campaign for the January 2018 event.
- Professor Stewart Hoover agreed to deliver the January 26th, 2018 MacKenzie Lecture and workshop the following day, titled, “*The Crisis Of Religion In A Media Age.*” The Committee developed brochures, email campaigns and Facebook advertising to promote awareness of the event. Richard Robledo has taken over creating the brochure, flyer and poster.
- Reverend Otis Moss 111 was recruited and is scheduled to deliver the January 2019 lecture and workshop.
- The Committee operated within budget in 2017.

Neil V Palmer, Tom Stiers, Co-Chairs

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2018 Boards/Committees/Ministries

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of names for election to membership on boards, committees, and ministries – the leaders of the church – for 2018. Proposed new members' names are in *italics*. Continuing members' names are also listed, but do not need a vote. Where appropriate, the final year of a member's term is also listed.

Patrick Mason, Past Moderator
Chair, Nominating Committee

Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title (Term End)</u>
Larry Dansky	Moderator
<i>Jessica Austin</i>	<i>Moderator Elect</i>
Lisa Shearer Cooper	Past Moderator
<i>Daphne Mendel</i>	<i>Treasurer (2020)</i>
Kathy Minter	Clerk
Vickie Johnson	Historian

Boards

Members serve three-year terms.

Board of Management

The Board shall consist of twelve (12) elected members and three ex-officio members – Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
1. Bob Matthias, Chair	2018
2. Louisa Young	2018
3. Steve Hultgren	2018
4. Louisa Matthias	2018
5. Victor Austin	2018
6. Jodie Cottrell	2019
7. Tom Feiler	2019
8. <i>Bill Pottoff</i>	<i>2020</i>
9. <i>Jeff Kraft</i>	<i>2020</i>
10. <i>Julie VonTilius</i>	<i>2020</i>
11. <i>Karon Johnson</i>	<i>2020</i>
12. <i>Christina Ingersoll</i>	<i>2020</i>

Board of Christian Education

The Board shall consist of at least six (6) members along with the Associate Minister(s) or Program Staff working with children and youth.

Name	Term Ending
1. Cezanne Mascioli	2018
2. Amanda Brown	2018
3. Jerry Champlin	2019
4. <i>Chris Shearer Cooper</i>	2020
5. <i>Garrett Steed</i>	2020
6. TBD	

Board of Parish Life

The Board shall consist of fifteen (15) elected members.

Name	Term Ending
1. Gail McDougale (co-chair)	2018
2. Amalia Hurtado (co-chair)	2018
3. Allison Hamm	2019
4. Caroline Douglas	2019
5. Judy Ludwig Keller	2019
6. Dean Keller	2019
7. Kathy Dayhoff	2019
8. Linda Whitehead	2018
9. Nancy Sissom	2019
10. Patty Goward	2019
11. Pedro Silva (advisor)	
12. Phil Braudaway-Bauman	2019
13. Heather LeMasurier	2019
14. <i>Margaret Perez</i>	2020
15. <i>Christine Miller</i>	2020

Board of Spiritual Life

The Board shall consist of sixteen (16) elected members.

Name	Term Ending
1. Nancy Stevens (Co-chair)	2018
2. Diana Shellenberger (Co-chair)	2019
3. Lauren Goldsmith	2018
4. Betsy Barrett	2019
5. Anne Byrne	2019
6. Judy Cardell	2019
7. Karen Cumbo	2019
8. Wes Lemasurier	2019
9. Rodger Lucero	2019
10. Charley Rastle	2019
11. John Flynt	2020
12. Lou Aderman	2020
13. <i>Bill Gilbert</i>	2020
14. <i>Abigail Sperry</i>	2020
15. <i>Nancy Wade</i>	2020
16. <i>Carol Poston</i>	2020

Board of Missions and Christian Social Action

The Board shall consist of twelve (12) elected members.

Name	Term Ending
1. Susan Bryant	2018
2. Doshia Kretke (Treasurer)	2019
3. Soo Rhee	2018
4. Jay Rourke	2020
5. Rob Stuart (Co-chair)	2018
6. Pat Whitaker	2018
7. Karen Wilson (Co-chair)	2019
8. Tom Woods	2019
9. <i>Diana Sealand</i>	2020
10. <i>Julieta Garcia</i>	2020
11. <i>Sarah Schulte</i>	2020
12. <i>Lori Davis</i>	2020

Standing Committees

Members of Standing Committees may hold office longer than three years, subject to re-nomination and approval by the congregation.

Investment Committee

The Committee shall consist of four (4) elected members plus one (1) member from the Board of Management (BoM) who chairs the Committee.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <i>Jody Cottrell, Chair (BoM)</i> | 4. Eric Nickell |
| 2. Neil Palmer | 5. Bob Cutler |
| 3. Rob Stuart | |

Personnel Committee

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: the Senior Minister, Moderators and three members at large from the Congregation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Lisa Shearer Cooper, Past Moderator, Chair | 5. Nancy Wade |
| 2. <i>Larry Dansky</i> , Moderator | 6. <i>Tania McEvoy-Champlin</i> |
| 3. Jessica Austin, Moderator Elect | 7. Chris Braudaway-Bauman, Senior Minister |
| 4. Janet Beardsley | |

Stewardship Committee

The Committee shall consist of six (6) or more elected members.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Libby Black, Chair | 6. Bob Matthias |
| 2. Betsy Barrett | 7. Tania McEvoy-Champlin |
| 3. Rev. Chris Braudaway-Bauman | 8. Tom Stiers |
| 4. Jon Hinebauch | 9. <i>Jeanne Lounsbury</i> |
| 5. Cezanne Mascioli | |

10. Eric Malmborg**Membership Committee**

The Committee shall consist of six (6) or more members.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Julie Griffiths, Chair | 5. Linda Nordberg |
| 2. Jon Hinebauch | 6. Diana Shellenberger |
| 3. Keith Lance | 7. Carol Polston |
| 4. Gail McDougale | 8. Julie Von Tilius |

Endowment Committee

The Committee shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) members.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Charley Rastle, Chair | 6. Tom Stiers |
| 2. Libby Black | 7. <i>Nancy Stevens</i> |
| 3. Bob Patoff | 8. Jim Feket |
| 4. Jon Hinebauch | 9. Christina Ingersoll |
| 5. Louisa Young | |

Ministries

Some ministries operate with defined members but are also open to all members of the congregation. Others do not have defined members, are open to all and only list chairs or contact people.

Arts Ministry

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Cindy Mueller | 2. Louisa Matthias |
|------------------|--------------------|

A2A/Mental Health Ministry

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Anne Weiher, Chair | 7. Randy Crow |
| 2. Alma Alber, Secretary | 8. Richard Alber, Treasurer |
| 3. Carole Jones | 9. <i>Eric Malmborg</i> |
| 4. Kevin Pettit | 10. <i>Margaret Perez</i> |
| 5. Louisa Young | 11. <i>Cynthia Liguori</i> |
| 6. Rev. Pedro Silva | |

Eco Ministry

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Rob Stuart, Chair | 7. Vickie Johnson |
| 2. Diana Shellenburger | 8. Monica Rutkowski |
| 3. Donna Daniel | 9. Allison Hamm |
| 4. Kevin Pettit | 10. John Flynt |
| 5. Diane Thomas | 11. Marsha Flynt |
| 6. Marty Hoerling | 12. Heidi Lindeman |

MacKenzie Lectureship Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Neil Palmer (Co-Chair) | 2. Martha Palmer (Secretary) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|

3. David Bearce
4. Drew Schwartz
5. Rob Stuart
6. Rev. Lorraine Leist

8. *Carol Green*
9. *Nancy Wade (Co-Chair)*

7. *Amy Volda*

10. *Andrew Nicholson*
11. *John Edlin*

Delegates

Delegates to Metropolitan Denver Association and Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC

1. Jane Strohm
2. Jeff Bogart
3. Stewart Leach

CHURCH HISTORIAN

The following is a summary of tasks related to the historical archives that were accomplished in 2017:

- Historical file cabinets and most of the artifacts, books, and Bibles were moved from the moderator's study to the conference room.
- Most of the historical materials have been removed from storage in the attic, culled, and filed in the lateral files, as well as two large boxes of materials from Bruce's ministry that his family didn't want. The file cabinets are nearly full, so options were discussed regarding disposing of some materials or re-packing them to be stored back in the attic.
- Research was conducted on proper ways to conserve and preserve archive materials, especially the record books dating back to the church's founding.
- Information was gathered regarding repairs to the bindings on some of the historical Bibles in the collection.
- Work on updating the history booklet continued. A draft chapter covering Bruce's tenure has been written, and two volunteers have agreed to write Martie's and Chris' sections.

Vickie Johnson, Church Historian

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee implemented the decision of the Congregation to transition into Socially Responsible Investments (SRIs). At the beginning of the year we were invested 25% in SRIs, and by the end of the year we were at 30% across all portfolios.

One change in the accounts deserves some explanation. A few years ago, the EcoMinistry came to the Board of Management with a proposal for a solar garden. The Board of Management saw some flaws in that specific program, but wanted to honor the EcoMinistry's intent to move the church toward renewables. Xcel offers a program to allow the church to buy solar credits, and the Board of Management set aside \$36,000 for renewable equipment on our campus. Earnings from the allocated funds would pay for solar credits. By 2017, the set-aside was not tracked separately from other church assets, so this year the Investment Committee formally segregated it as a separate account. Since then, thanks to Victor Austin, the Board of Management found a different way (outside of Xcel) to purchase renewable energy credits.

Overall the church's annual rate of return was strong this year, and generated an 11 and 14% increase in value. We continue to be pleased with advisers at R. W. Baird, who were always available to answer questions and implement decisions.

We have a fantastic committee: Bob Cutler, Eric Nickell, Neil Palmer, and Rob Stuart in addition to me. I will step down, and Jodie Cottrell will take over as chair in the coming year. She has been attending meetings all year in preparation.

Louisa M. Young, Chair
Investment Committee

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The focus for the Endowment Committee in 2017 was increase marketing efforts. We wanted to improve the understanding of the Endowments and increase donations to the Endowments. The second step was to host an event to provide information about the Endowment to the congregation and the general public.

During the first part of 2017, the committee worked to design and develop a brochure that described the Endowments. We decided on a tri-fold brochure that described our church, the Endowments, and how they advanced the mission of the church. All the

members contributed to the design and message in the brochure. After multiple revisions, the brochure was completed in the summer, and Richard Robledo did a great job of creating the final product. We appreciated his work in the design of the final document.

The next step of the committee was to host an event to allow the congregation to consider their legacy to their family, church, and community and how the Endowment might play a part. The committee worked with Pastor Chris and the staff to plan a “Legacy Sunday” in November. The date selected was “All Saints Day”. The sermon that day discussed how people leave legacies by how they live their lives, what they do for their community, and how they leave a lasting legacy by their actions or gifts. After the service, the committee hosted a complimentary lunch for any member of the church that wanted to attend. A short film, made by Zoe Polando, a member of our church, told the stories of several members of our congregation (Kraft, Ostwald, Fitzpatrick, and Benson). The stories showed the part our church played in their lives and the wonderful gifts that they contributed to our congregation to grow our Endowments.

In December, the committee presented a “Meeting in the Middle” that described ways that people could make financial donations to the church, and the many options that they had.

In the next year, we plan to develop a second brochure that goes into more depth about our Endowment and the type of donations that a person could make to the Endowments. There are many financial instruments that are used for this “End of Life Giving”, and we want to be a resource for people that have questions.

Respectively Submitted,

Charley Rastle
Endowment Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

2017 Stewardship Annual Report

The theme for our 2017 Stewardship effort, conducted during October 2016, was Woven Together. During our discernment, members wove ribbons on a standing loom sharing what they love about the church. We do love this church!



Our challenge for 2017 was large (7.2% increase) because in 2016 we had a renter of the kitchen and several classrooms that was about \$35,000 in income a year. Bauman

College closed its doors thus dramatically decreasing our facility income. Due to extremely generous one-time gifts we did reach our budget goal.

2017 Stewardship Committee:

Libby Black, chair; Betsy Barrett, Rev. Chris Braudaway-Bauman, Jon Hinebauch, Cezanne Mascioli, Bob Matthias, Laura McCutcheon, Tania McEvoy Champlin, Tom Stiers

2018 Stewardship Annual Report

For our 2018 Stewardship we moved our traditional October campaign to January. Our theme was Aha! as we looked for the ways in which the light of our faith and our church shined upon us during the Epiphany season.



Our challenge for 2018 was epic! The Finance Committee, Church Council and Board of Management decided it was time to eliminate one-time gifts in our budget. The Congregation was informed that we would reorganize and reduce our staff and programs based on whatever the pledges were and we would not go back to the Congregation and ask for more at the end of the Stewardship season. The Stewardship Team also took a new approach which was to ask each family to consider pledging within a specific range based on the growth we were hoping to attain as a church.

The Congregation responded with astounding commitment. We came within 1.6% of our goal without any one time gifts. We had 30 new pledges and an additional 58% of families increased their pledges. Only 8% of pledges decreased. We are blessed!

Respectfully Submitted,

2018 Stewardship Committee: Libby Black, chair

Betsy Barrett, Rev. Chris Braudaway-Bauman, Allison Hamm, Jon Hinebauch, Jeanne Lounsbury, Eric Malmborg, Cezanne Mascioli, Bob Matthias, Tania McEvoy Champlin, Tom Stiers

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR 2017

New Member Gains:..... 38

- Confirmands 12
- New Members 26
- Returning members 0

Deaths:..... 15

- Bruce MacKenzie 1/3/2017
 - Henrietta Potter 3/16/2017
 - Laura Barclay 4/8/2017
 - Jess Cleveland 5/16/2017
 - Parker Calkin 6/10/2017
 - Stephen Smith 6/10/2017
 - Tim Ostwald 7/9/2017
 - Walter Weers 9/28/2017
 - M. Alan Brown 9/3/2017
 - Elden Nickerson 10/25/2017
 - Carol Garn 10/27/2017
 - Corrine "Toddy" Patoff 10/27/2017
 - Hardy Long Frank 11/26/2017
 - Wilda Swift 11/29/2017
 - Elizabeth (Liz) 12/2/2017
- Weiher LeRoux

Transferred Out:..... 0

Baptisms:..... 7

- Henry Jaeckle 5/14/17
- Elias Quinn 6/18/17
- Zach Shoffner 8/19/17
- Noah Nollerstuen 8/19/17
- Siena Mollersstuen 8/19/17
- Ean Henry Pramann 9/3/17
- Elliott Asher Phillips 9/24/17

2016 Membership..... 936

2016 Total	936
Losses	<u>-15</u>
	921

Gains	<u>+38</u>
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2017 Total **959** (Members, Associate Members and Friends)

