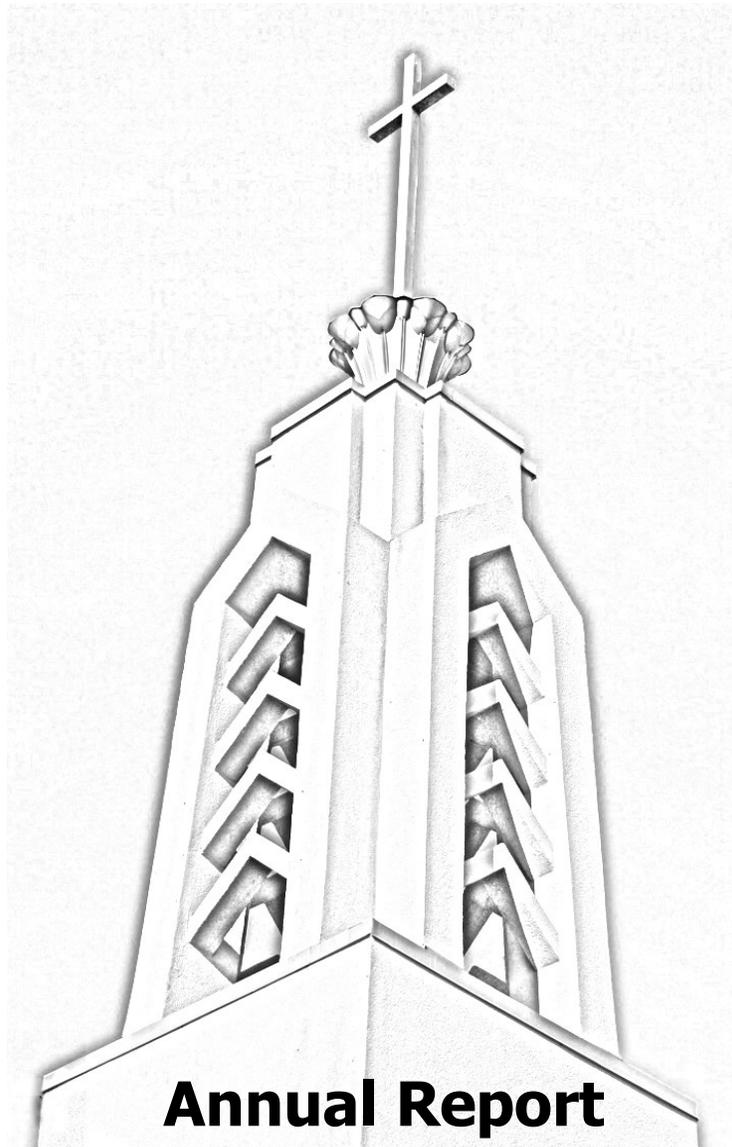


First United Presbyterian Church



Annual Report 2017

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Senior Pastor's Report

We have had a wonderful 2017 together! The community engagement, worship events, increased congregational care, and new faith-exploring activities have provided an amazing backdrop for what God has been doing in our hearts, minds, and souls. I know that throughout this report you will find details of these ministries. I also know that the overall work we have done towards our Vision 2020 is covered. So, rather than repeat portions of this report, let me just make this brief statement and reflection.

It is an honor and a privilege to be your pastor. I experience the work of the Holy Spirit on a regular basis at First United. I have often been overwhelmed by the many ways that you love one another and seek to do more and more in our outreach, missions, learning, etc. I am the pastor of a church that is open to trying new things. I am the pastor of a church that yearns to be more than it was last year and even more than it was last month (or last week!). You unleash incredible support to me as the pastor as well. And that is a touching and humbling experience.

I believe that we are in the midst of a spiritual awakening at our church. The desire to do more and be more is pushing the limits of staff and volunteers. And that's ok. So, now we are searching for an associate pastor. We need that extra help. We also need to continue to keep our ministries focused so that we do not waste the time or the energy of this generous congregation. I look forward to the future that God will unfold out of our efforts. I invite you to read this report with a spirit of gratitude and expectation. For the Spirit of the Living God is lifting us to new heights.

To God be the Glory...
Pastor Rob

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education Committee - 2017

The Christian Education Committee Elder was Nancy Kreeb. Lay Members were Carrie Bair, Connie Darnell, Brenda Fedak (chair), Pam Halel, Stephanie Kraus, and Emily Wilson. Staff member was Stephanie Foltz, Director of Christian Education. These committee members set goals and benchmarks for 2017 to direct the committee's planning, organizing, and implementing the many education programs and activities at First United.

GOAL 1: Assist families in developing spiritual growth.

CE provided opportunities for spiritual growth and mission involvement for families.

1) "Lord's Supper" Supper, January 22: CE hosted the "Lord's Supper" Supper for families with children from birth through grade 5. This was an opportunity for families to learn together about Jesus' Last Supper while sharing a meal; foods served included some that Jesus may have eaten. After the meal, everyone moved to the Sanctuary where Pastor Rob talked about the Sacrament of Communion and answered questions.

2) Faithful Family Celebrations, July 12, 19 and 26: On three July Wednesday evenings, CE

invited families to attend a program called "Tell Me a Story – Making God's Story Our Story." Focused on families with children birth through grade 5, each evening began with a meal. After the meal, there were activities (games and music) for the children. Adults explored how family rituals and traditions support and strengthen faith life, and families were encouraged to intentionally tell God's story through celebrations. Children then rejoined the adults for interactive, hands-on activities. Each family received resources for use in the home, including the book, *Faithful Families*, by Traci Smith.

3) Mound Ridge Mission Day, October 14: CE worked with the Youth Ministry and Mission Committees to plan an intergenerational mission project day at Mound Ridge Camp and Retreat Center. Families were invited to come and participate in several on-site projects and a closing worship service in the outdoor chapel.

4) Bell Ringing, December 2: CE worked with Marilyn Wiltsie to recruit individuals and families to ring the bells for the Salvation Army at St. Clair Square Mall.

GOAL 2: Expand opportunities for Adult Christian Education

Adult Discipleship opportunities in 2017 included regular Sunday classes, a weekly men's study, and several special opportunities including a book discussion group. During the summer, B-Fit: Bible Fitness Program was offered. For study and reflection at home, Lenten and Advent devotions were provided. Read on for details!

1) The Men's Bible Study continued to meet each Wednesday at 8:30 am to share devotions and to read and study God's Word. In memory of the late Dr. Fred Cornell, the group sponsored two children in Uganda who are part of the Hines Ugandan Ministry. The men also served several times as Sunday Coffee Hour Hospitality Hosts. They welcome new members to join them on Wednesday mornings; see Rick Hargrove for more information.

2) The Pastor's Class with Rev. Rob Dyer met on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

- February: FUPC 101 – week 1, What We Believe; week 2, Our Church's Mission; week 3, How to Get Connected
- March: Race and Reconciliation
- April: Race and Reconciliation; Coffee and Conversation
- May: Help, I Don't Know How to Pray; Reading and Actually Understanding the Bible
- June and July: B-FIT: Bible Fitness Program, an 8-week intentional program to help people get to know their Bibles better. Staff chose 40 key Bible passages (5 per week) to be read at home and then discussed during the following Sunday School hour and worship services. The congregation was invited to join the program! Pamphlets were printed; encouraging and information weekly emails were sent out; and the FUPC Facebook group was used to share the link to the scripture passages.
- August: The Book of Revelation, co-taught with Danny Halel
- September: Coffee and Chat; FUPC 101
- October: Coffee and Chat; Community Needs Report; Image of God; Helping Friends on Bad Paths; Spiritual Life of Grandparenting
- November: Coffee and Chat; Sharing Your Faith (the non-awkward way)
- December: Coffee and Chat; New Associate Pastor Position; The Secret to Growing

3) The Thoughtful Christian Gathering met on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

- January: Praying the Psalms, Rosemary Ehrstein; Introduction to the Prophets, Danny Halel; Great Themes of the Bible, Roger Doll & Danny Halel
- February: Great Themes (cont.), Roger & Danny; Abraham, Rick Hargrove
- March: Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul (Lenten study), Sheila Misselhorn & Jim Nicholas
- April: Walking the Way (cont.), Sheila & Jim; The Holy Spirit, Roger Doll
- May: Parables-Stories for Life in God's World (Kerygma), Roger Doll & Rosemary Ehrstein
- June and July: B-FIT: Bible Fitness Program with Pastor Rob
- August: Our Creeds and Confessions, Roger Doll; Parables (cont.), Roger & Rosemary
- September: Parables (cont.) with Roger & Rosemary and Sheila Misselhorn; Romans, Jim Nicholas
- October: Romans, Jim; Jonah, Linda Hangsleben; Elijah, Danny Halel; Martin Luther, Roger Doll
- November: Satan-Can the Devil Make You Do It?, Danny Halel; Angels-God's Messengers, Rosemary Ehrstein; A Season of Hope and Anticipation (Advent study), Jim Nicholas
- December: A Season of Hope (cont.), Sheila Misselhorn, Rosemary Ehrstein, Roger Doll

4) Adulting met on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

- January and February: Amy Shreve led discussion of the book *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family* by Dr. Kara E. Powell
- March, April and May: Shawn Lankford led discussion of the book, *The Year without a Purchase: One Family's Quest to Stop Shopping and Start Connecting* by Scott Dannemiller (former PCUSA mission co-worker to Guatemala); also in April, attended Pastor's Class on Race and Reconciliation
- June and July: B-FIT: Bible Fitness Program with Pastor Rob
- August, September and October: Kristen Link led discussion of the book, *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*, by Rachel Held Evans; Leah & Shawn Lankford helped lead.
- November and December: Brian Dulski led discussion of podcasts from God Complex Radio and "On Being" with Krista Tippett

5) During February, CE recruited and worked with members to videotape 47 daily entries in the *Presbyterians Today* Lenten devotional called *Meeting Jesus* by Jodi Craiglow. Each entry told the first-person narrative of a biblical character who met Jesus in the Bible. Paper copies (125) of the devotions were provided for the congregation to use beginning March 1 through April 16. In addition, links to the readings and videos were provided daily to the FUPC Facebook group and weekly in the e-Weekly. Staff and CE's hope was that members would begin to recall where they might have encountered Jesus, or God, or the Holy Spirit – and what were their thoughts and/or feelings.

6) In April, CE coordinated two tours to the St. Louis Art Museum, both led by member Dede Farquhar. On April 12, during Holy Week, the tour was called "Imaging the Way to the Cross" and highlighted paintings, prints, and drawings in the collection. There was also the opportunity to visit the Museum's private print room to see 15th-17th century engravings and etchings depicting Christ. The second trip to the museum on April 26 allowed free time to explore the exhibits and then a tour through an exhibit on Degas and other impressionists.

7) CE hosted a Book Discussion Group at 9:15 am on Wednesdays during June (6, 13, 20, 27). Connie Darnell and Nancy Kreeb facilitated discussion of the book, *The Search for Truth about Islam: A Christian Pastor Separates Fact from Fiction*, by Ben Daniel, a Presbyterian minister, author and blogger.

8) CE along with Stephen Ministry hosted a Mental Health Seminar. The seminar was offered two different times, 10:00 am on Saturday, November 18, and at 4:00 pm on Sunday, November 19, with speaker Jessica Epperson, a licensed social worker from the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation. The seminar was to help folks recognize signs and symptoms of mental health issues, how to talk (and how not to talk) to those with mental health issues, and how to be a valuable resource to them.

9) During Advent, CE provided 85 copies of the *Presbyterians Today* devotional called *Let Love Speak*. The writer used Psalms in the daily devotions, challenging the reader to act in more just and loving ways, especially towards the strangers and foreigners among us.

GOAL 3: Enhance education programs for children from birth through Grade 5

a) Support members who teach by providing training to aid them in infusing music into children's programs.

- During the summer's Faithful Family Celebrations, a team of five (adults and youth) led music for 18 children.
- Music was included each Wednesday evening during worship for the children's programs.

b) Provide opportunities for children to sing in worship services.

- Children sang and played instruments for parents/grandparents during the three sessions of Faithful Family Celebrations.
- Children sang every Wednesday evening during worship for the children's programs.
- Children participating in the Wednesday evening and Sunday morning programs learned "He's Got the Whole World" and sang with the Chancel Choir ("This is My Father's World") as the offertory on November 12.
- On Wednesdays during worship in November and December, Kristen Link taught GFF and PYC to sing "Silent Night" in German. They then sang it for their families on December 13.

c) Establish a Wednesday evening gathering for children birth through second grade.

- In August, CE began a pilot program for children birth through grade 2.
- Curriculum was found for each group from LOGOS.

After a recommendation in May from the Vision Team and Pastor Rob, CE began to consider adding additional programs on Wednesday evenings for birth through grade 2. After a short period of discernment, CE officially decided to try a pilot program and expand the spiritual formation opportunities for all children on Wednesdays. For birth through age 3, GLC (God's Loving Care) was created. The children would have play time, Bible story time, and a response activity. For age 4 through grade 2, GFF (God's Faithful Friends) was created. These students would have activity time, Bible story time with a response, worship in the Chapel with PYC, and game time. Both groups would join the older students for dinner in Eversull Hall. In addition, those GFF students with older siblings in KIX or TIM or with family members in the choir, would join PYC for Homework Club. Curriculum was found for each group and sponsors

recruited and trained in time for kickoff on August 23! In November, CE decided to continue GLC and GFF through May 2018. Mary Blodgett and Shante Elliott worked with GLC. Claudia Brinkley, Karen Mear, and Terri O'Saben signed on as sponsors with GFF. Dee McCarty became a weekly helper with GFF. Numerous others generously helped the first few months to get these two new programs off the ground!

Additional CE Notes for 2017

Baptism Bibles

On behalf of the congregation and in celebration of their baptisms, the CE Committee presented *A Child's First Bible* to Harper, Quinn, Riley, and Winnie; *The Illustrated Children's Bible* to Brady; a NRSV Study Bible to Jordan (youth); and family resources to Mark (adult).

Bible Presentations

On March 26 during the 10:30 worship service, seven kindergarten students (Brianna, Charles, Hannah, Harper, Ingrid, Lilly and Nolan) received from their parents their own copy of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Bible Discovery classes were offered for the students and their families on two Sundays. At the end of the PYC program year, six PYC 5th graders were presented with NRSV Study Bibles: Caleb, Colin, Griffin, Johnny, Marissa and Spencer.

Childcare and Children's Sunday School

Worship Childcare Supervisor Sue Hall oversaw the Crib and Toddler Rooms on Sunday mornings. Joslynn Brooks worked closely with Sue until July; then Mary Blodgett filled in for a few Sundays until Shante Elliott began in August. Dedicated volunteers who have all been background checked and trained work with the paid staff to lovingly care for the children each Sunday morning. Pam Halel coordinated their schedule.

The Preschool Sunday School Class relocated to the Toddler Room during the renovation, and CE made the decision in August to keep the class there. This made for a smoother transition for the children, with Joslynn or Shante assisting the teachers. Winter through summer teachers included Jane Alberter, Claudia Brinkley, Nancy Kreeb, and Beth & Jeff Lind. Gigi Cox and Julia Weeks stepped in as subs. Elizabeth Schramm joined the teaching rotation in the fall. Teachers used Presbyterian curriculum called *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*.

FaithQuest, the Sunday morning Sunday School class for grades K-5, continued with new rotations every one, two, or three weeks. The workshop rotation curriculums during 2017 were written by Stephanie and were titled Flight into Egypt, Jesus Found in the Temple, Jesus of Galilee, Parable of the Good Samaritan, Parable of the Prodigal Son, Bible Discovery, The Easter Story, Resurrection and Doubt, Psalms: Songbook of the Bible, Ascension, Pentecost, The Early Church and Paul, Witnesses Today: PCUSA Mission Co-workers, FaithQuest Year in Review, Introduction and Praying in Color, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac, Jacob & Esau, Joseph, and the Jesse Tree.

Scholarships

Four young adults were presented with the Presbyterian and Ray Angerer Scholarships: Maggie Baltz, Bailey Mokriakow, Jennifer Rea, and Vini Vymola. Allison Harres received the Louise M. Erwin Scholarship. Eden Seminary student, Abbey Croissant, received the Paul Cornell Scholarship and funds from the Professional Church Vocations Fund.

PYC

PYC continued into 2017 with Nancy Kreeb and Stephanie Foltz as mentors. Regular meetings were held January through May 10. Bible study and activities were planned around weekly themes with different service projects and speakers during Wednesday Night Live. PYCers finished and delivered fleece blankets to the St. Clair Sheriff's Department for Patrol Deputies to carry in their cars for giving to children as comfort blankets. PYCers continued to support Presbyterian Women with the GAMAM (Give-a-Meal-a-Month) program. The theme for Mystery Day on April 1 was random acts of kindness, with students looking throughout the day for ways to do this! Stops included the Missouri Botanical Garden for the opening of the Children's Garden and lunch at City Diner. Then it was on to the Science Center for the IMAX Theater's "Dream Big" and the MathAlive! Exhibit. Next was the Great American Human Foosball where the students did all the work! Final stop was at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard. On April 30, all the PYCers participated in leading worship for Youth Sunday.

Fall began with Stacie Mize joining with Nancy and Stephanie to form the leadership team. The new curriculum was called "Old Testament Servants of God." Worship on Wednesday evenings for PYC and GFF was led by the DCE. The lock-in was October 27-28 and centered on forgiveness. Dinner was followed by a Bible study, games including a hymn-based scavenger hunt around church using flashlights, and the movie "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat." After breakfast and a concluding Bible study, students cleaned up and headed home.

Children's Chapel

Children ages 3 through 3rd grade continued to worship each Sunday in Children's Chapel, a time led by nurturing and faithful volunteer Worship Leaders and Greeters of all ages. The orientation in the fall began the 11th year of telling the stories of God to God's children!

Confirmation

On May 21, four confirmands publicly professed their faith and were welcomed into the membership: Nathan Dyer, Aaron Epps, Greg Epps, and Gavin Guinn. Their mentors during the program were Brian Dulski, Dennis Hubbard, Bob Samples and Mike Giles. A new program year began in the fall with six confirmands and mentors.

Quilt

First United Quilters made a quilt for the CE Committee to raffle off and raise funds for the Professional Church Vocations Fund. This fund was established to receive gifts to assist individuals pursuing a graduate program in church-related vocations leading to an advanced degree or certification. In September, Abbey Croissant, a student at Eden Seminary, was awarded \$1,000 from this fund to help with seminary expenses.

From the DCE

Thank you for my continuing education funds. I attended the Annual Event of APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) in Denver and the Mid-Central APCE event called OASIS in Kansas City. Thank you, too, for allowing me to work for the "Good of the Church" by volunteering with our Presbytery. Last summer, July 6-8, I served as a greeter for Big Tent, the summer gathering of Presbyterians, at Washington University in St. Louis. Last February, I was appointed by our Presbytery to serve as POINT rep (Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching), assisting churches with their educational ministries. Also in

February, another Christian Educator and I began caring for our Presbytery's Resource Center, keeping it open and organized. Since fall, we have been tasked with downsizing the collection in preparation for the Presbytery's move to a new office – a big task!

For my yearly review in 2017, the Personnel Committee asked what two aspects of my job bring me the most joy. Joy comes when I get to bless the children as they leave Children's Chapel, reminding each one that she/he is a beloved Child of God and then encouraging each one in her/his faith walk for the week to come. Also bringing me much joy is working with members to teach and mentor FUPC children in Children's Chapel, PYC, GFF, GLC, and FaithQuest!

Another question the committee asked was what two aspects of my job give me the greatest sense of serving the Kingdom of God. I loved collaborating with Rob and Kaitie for B-FIT! Last spring, we spent time in prayer and brainstormed ways to help FUPC members grow spiritually. Once we decided on B-FIT, we then spent time reading the Bible, searching for passages, and discussing which ones to keep and which ones to let go as we could only have 40. (That was a challenge!) I loved seeing the number of folks who signed up to participate, seeing all who showed up each week for Rob's class, hearing back from folks after sending out the weekly B-FIT emails, but most of all, there were so many folks reading their Bibles!!!!!! The second aspect was twofold: working the CE Committee last year as we figured out how to enrich our CE programs for children and families and also working with the Adult Ed Team, watching those leaders get excited as they planning how to share God's word with their classmates!

Members of the Christian Education Committee and I are excited to work with the Vision Team and other committees on FUPC's 2018 Goal of Active Discipleship. We will set new committee goals and benchmarks that will help children and adults speak and/or write confidently about their relationship with God, share the Gospel with someone else, or personally witness their faith to another person.

Stephanie Foltz
Director of Christian Education

Library Committee

Upon spring completion of the renovation of Eversull Hall and the Library, the Library Committee got to work unpacking many boxes of books and setting up the Library. Members had hard decisions to make as there were still too many books for the new shelves. Choosing to focus on biographies for adults and books for children, members delivered excess books to local libraries, schools, and the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Book Bazaar. In the Library, one can now find the biographies on shelves on one side and lots of children's books on shelves on the other side. Committee members change books monthly on the Library cart in the Commons. All books can now be borrowed on the honor system.

The Library Committee used 2017 funds to enlarge the children's collection. New books were placed on the cart in the Commons in the fall and before Christmas. Other books will be displayed in 2018 down in the Library and in the Commons. These will be available for the Preschool families as well as children in Sunday School classes and Children's Chapel.

Books on grief and care giving are still located on the small bookcase outside the Sanctuary.

The Library Committee members include: Virginia Purkel, Committee Chair; Inez Bridges, Director (faithfully serving the Library since 1987); Janice Hoenig, Marilyn Linton, Barb Lunn and Nancy Schmidt. Director of Christian Education Stephanie Foltz is the Staff Liaison.

Presbyterian Community Preschool

The Presbyterian Preschool is an excellent program working directly with the Christian Education Committee and staff liaison, DCE Stephanie Foltz. The Preschool Board is made up of Preschool parents and church members. The entire program is successful because of great commitment from teachers, parents, Board members, the church staff and church members.

Early childhood education helps students develop skills to make them ready to learn, develop socialization skills, interact with their peers, and to relate and learn from adults preparing them for kindergarten. Our program is open to 3, 4 & 5 year olds. The emotional, social and physical development strengthens the students' overall success building a strong foundation which will continue to develop throughout the years preparing them to grow into successful adults.

Teachers have established a great communication connection with the parents and encourage them to keep tuned in to what is happening in the classroom. Parents who are connected establish a great foundation between school and home. We have an outstanding staff with Nancy Hodges and Terri O'Saben teaching the three-year-old classes and Phyllis Schuetz and Joelle Ahrens teaching the four-year-old class. Also available are several outstanding substitutes as needed.

The children are so excited to come to school and the teachers are enthusiastic and passionate about teaching them. Parents and grandparents are thrilled to participate in all of the different programs offered. So far this school year they willfully participated in field trips, attended the Open House, and enjoyed the Christmas pageant and classroom parties. Preschool offered the first annual "Breakfast with Santa" program. It was a huge success with 65 attendees coming to see FUPC's Andy Morgan as Santa. All of those little faces glowed with beautiful smiles.

FUPC members have been such great supporters of the Preschool. In addition to three Preschool Scholarships offered this year, FUPC members provide additional financial assistance to ensure children remain in the classroom. The Preschool sometimes ends the school year with a negative financial balance. Although the school was never established to be a "money maker," the church community helps when needed with students' financial need.

We will have our annual Spaghetti Dinner on March 23, so mark your calendar. The Preschool spaghetti dinners are very successful due to parents, church, and community coming together to help as needed. How can you help? Volunteer to set up, serve, clean up or donate items for the silent auctions, but most of all come enjoy a \$5 spaghetti dinner.

Half of the school year is completed, and this has been a wonderful school year so far. As President of the Board, I would like to thank the Preschool Board, teachers, church staff, church members, the local community, and the families of the students for their support. Most

of all, I thank God for his constant love and support to maintain this school dedicated to the educational needs of the students to ready them for their future.

In GOD I Trust,
Linda Hangsleben, Board President

College and Young Adults

This is the second year since the establishment of this committee. Members include: Kevin Meder, Jackie Bainter and Kaitie Kautz for the College branch, Dede Farquhar and Scott Shreve for Lindenwood/International students, and Kristen Link, who oversees Young Adults.

College: Upon reflection of the work of 2016, it was decided to focus most of our energy on our college group, since they were the most readily accessible and responsive. We had a meeting with 8 students in May and a 3 night "Adulting 101" Session in July. At the first session, we discussed career and calling with church members Mandy Guinn, Andy Jensen, John Mann, Dave Misselhorn, and Dr. Katie Wright. The next night focused on skills, as taught by Martha Tambala (cooking), Susy Rybicki and Diane Richardson (sewing repairs), Kevin Meder (financial planning), Brian Kuhn (mental health), and Kari Bechtold (meditation). The third night was held at 4204 Main Street, where we had a lively discussion based on faith topics.

We sought to support our college students during the year by sending large care packages before spring and winter finals. Each college student has also been paired with an adult from the congregation, who serves as a prayer partner and connection to their home church.

International: The main method of outreach to this group has been through donations of 75 laundry baskets, blankets, and pillows, which were generously provided by the congregation in early August. Because of this connection with Lindenwood, we were invited to set up a table at their Move In Day. Jackie Bainter oversaw the creation of magnets with local info and staffed the table. We made contact with hundreds of students.

Young Adults: Tapping Into Faith is an event designed for this age group, though people of varied ages did attend. We held quarterly events at 4204, discussing general faith topics, excerpts of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, calling and career, and social justice, with special guest Pastor Mel Smith.

Submitted by: Kristen Link, Elder

Equipping Team

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

In 2017, the Equipping team switched perspective from development to maintenance and growth. This year our team was called to help leaders feel equipped to lead. To that end, we encourage and facilitate an annual leadership training. We continue to encourage and give resources to leaders so they are able to fill leadership and volunteer roles with people who are called and gifted to serve. The team constantly reevaluates the best way to equip the leaders

of the church with self-evaluation and reflection. The team ensures the update of all ministry descriptions yearly, encourages leaders to use ministry descriptions, and continues to promote sustainable ministry practices. In conjunction with the membership committee, the Equipping team supports member connection by providing a survey to help determine spiritual gifts and attending each new member session.

In 2018, the team will continue to build upon these concepts under the leadership of a new Equipping elder, Shawn Lankford. In 2018, the team will focus on the following areas: Maintain Ministry Descriptions for each ministry position, Develop a process to easily connect people with their gifts and use them for the glory of God, Facilitate the matching of ministries when requested by committee and ministry leaders to individuals with gifts and skills who match the ministry description, Help committees utilize the equipping process to enable them to reach goals, align their committee goals with the overall church goals, and manage volunteers effectively.

Submitted by Mandy Guinn

Evangelism Committee

Committee Members:

Elder Angela Sheridan, Brenda Fedak, Danny Halel, Pastor Rob Dyer

The Evangelism Committee and First United Presbyterian Church continued our challenge from 2016 through 2017. The big challenge for FUPC is that we are seeking to reach the unchurched and the dechurched. By unchurched, we mean people who have never been involved in a church community of faith. By dechurched, we mean people who were involved and then became "turned off" to what churches have to offer. We are seeking to partner with God to clearly demonstrate and communicate how the Good News of Jesus Christ is very real and relevant in people's lives.

Towards this purpose, we have had to rethink how we do worship, discipleship, service and fellowship. From the evangelism perspective, we hope to engage specific strategies that will make our church attractive for a wide-range of unchurched, dechurched, and church-seekers alike. For the most part, this will mean leveraging the more effective methods of connecting with new people, through Personal Invitations, Internet Evangelism and Community Interaction. In short, it is an effort to create authentic connections.

In the paragraphs below, are specific actions taken in 2017 to successfully create authentic connections with new people.

Goal # 1: Connecting with New People - Personal Invitations, Internet Evangelism and Community Interaction

Actions taken:

- The Evangelism Committee (EC) created a Facebook page to better reach people through internet means.
- EC created Facebook events for upcoming events within the church. We did this for events that would be optimal for "in person, via Facebook" personal invites.

- The Evangelism Committee is continuing our Google Ads campaign as an important platform for Internet exposure.
- We are also upping our Google Ads campaign budget during Easter and Christmas season.
- EC is hopping to switch website platforms within the next few weeks. The 3.0 version shows us a more updated interface.
- We have run a few “boosted” posts on Facebook, and they have seemed effective.
- We are continuing to run the BND Easter and Christmas Ads.
- We have decided to try a banner campaign.

Goal # 2: Connecting with Visitors - Sunday Morning Connections and Visitor Follow-up Plan

Actions Retained:

- EC and the ambassadors reviewed the Sunday morning welcoming routine and shared thoughts on how to make better contact with new visitors.
- EC wrote new ministry descriptions for the Ambassador roles and in addition, training sessions were designed to help Ambassadors to fulfill their roles.
- We continue to review and upgrade our “Welcome Bags” to ensure we are handing out things that entice people to return to First United Presbyterian.
- EC created and implemented a management tool using Google spreadsheets for sharing information so that Ambassadors, office staff, and the pastor can be aware of where visitors are in their “number of visits” or “follow-up actions.”

GOAL # 3: Connecting People with Mission and Ministries:

Action taken:

- EC is starting to work with the Membership Committee by way of coordinated efforts to connect people with Mission and Ministries by ways of potentially coordinating the Trivia Night event.

Submitted by Angie Sheridan

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee consists of 5-8 members including the church Treasurer, the chairman of the Investment Committee of the Trustees, a representative from the Session who sits on the Budget Committee and other members of the congregation at-large as nominated by the Budget Committee. The Committee chooses its own Moderator and sets its own schedule of meetings at least quarterly.

The responsibilities of the finance committee are to review financial procedures, to identify areas in need of modification or change, to make recommendations to the Session concerning these procedures, to oversee the day-to-day financial transactions of the church, and to bring areas of financial concern to the Session.

In 2016, an analysis of church investments was performed to determine if we should self-fund a portion of the building costs rather than borrowing from the bank. It was determined that borrowing from the bank would be a better financial decision for our church.

Joe Fedak, Chairman

Hospitality Committee

Several changes were initiated by this committee in 2017. In May, the name was officially changed to Hospitality Committee, to better describe how this group serves the Church. Another change was for Membership Committee to assume responsibility for the Recognition of 50-Year Members and Centenarians. Hospitality is also proud to have initiated a Trustee Action Request for railings on the steps to the Chancel area in the Sanctuary. The new, larger sink with pull-down faucet, as well as the hand towel dispenser, have been welcomed additions to the kitchenette for everyone! Finally, with the help of Martha Tambala, this committee has been making an effort to encourage all groups in the Church to observe food safety guidelines in the two kitchens.

Committee members include two elders and five lay members. One of the lay members purchases all paper products and consumables for the church. Another lay member writes thank you notes to the weekly host groups. The committee continues to encourage groups, organizations and smaller groups of church members to serve as coffee hour hosts. When called upon, the committee also helps with planning and support for larger church events. The Coffee Crew (six volunteers) continues to be helpful with coffee and lemonade prep for Sunday coffee hour.

We continue efforts to simplify the work for hosts and to communicate that Sunday coffee hour is not just about food or even coffee. Rather, this time every Sunday is a First United ministry that encourages fellowship through hospitality. More important than the food on the table is sharing God's love through friendship, kindness and caring for one another. Cornell Commons is a welcoming space to share these blessings with church family and guests. This committee is indeed grateful to the twenty groups who hosted in 2017; many offered to host as many as three or four times. Quite often however, Hospitality must serve as coffee hour host when no other group is scheduled.

Cakes continue to be a Pastor Rob tradition at First United, to celebrate a variety of occasions; this year there were cakes for 18 special events. We shared the joy of seven baptisms, welcomed seventeen new members, recognized several special anniversaries and marked the Ordination and Installation of New Officers. In February, a combined celebration recognized the Kickoff for Vision 2020, the completed renovations from the Capital Campaign and the dedication of the relocated bell; in addition to cake, there were LOTS of cupcakes. In March, we celebrated the Gifts of Women, and the congregation again supported coffee cake Sunday at Easter. In May, Hospitality hosted the recognition of 50-Year Members and Centenarians. Church Man (2) of the Year was announced in June, and our committee coordinated coffee hour for the event. Grandparents' Day in September was a new, successful theme for coffee hour; church members brought food from favorite family recipes – the table was overflowing with goodies! In addition to a very special cake for Pastor Appreciation Day, groups were asked to show their "appreciation" by bringing at least one food item for coffee hour; this, too, proved to be a new idea that was well-received. For the International Mission Festival in October, Hospitality organized groups to provide international food, coordinated publicity and assisted with set up and table decorations; we also helped Martha Tambala prepare and serve food for Uganda.

Hospitality is charged with providing a welcoming presence within our church facility. Several completed projects have been mentioned. Improved outdoor signage is still a work in progress but is very close to completion. Then work on indoor signage will begin. We certainly appreciate the cooperation of the Trustees with these projects.

The Hospitality Committee continues to consider how best to “nurture fellowship” within our congregation. The combination of God’s spirit working in many ways among us, growing numbers, meaningful endeavors in the community and sharing our newly-renovated facilities with outside groups all bring exciting opportunities. Hospitality is pleased to partner with this session in carrying out not only the FUPC Mission Statement but also in fulfilling the goals discerned by the Vision 2020 Team. We look forward to growing our relationships with one another and with God in the new year.

“Gracious hospitality flows from belief in a gracious and providing God. Gracious hospitality believes that God’s gifts exist not to be hoarded but shared.”

~ Openings, Larry James Peacock

Martha Dexheimer, Martha Tambala, Peg Badgley, Mary Isom, Sue Perez, Julia Weeks and Sammylane Wirth

Membership Committee

This year the Membership committee set goals based on committee member roles. The Membership Committee Chairperson goal was that each committee coordinator would be provided a binder that contains all Ministry descriptions for the committee as well as the goals for the year. This binder will be kept up to date and passed on to future committee coordinators. Each committee member received their binder this year.

The Membership Care Coordinator set 3 goals this year.

1. Membership roll correspondence and communication recorded. Update - Kari Bechtold set up an excel program to record missing you cards sent, calls made and responses received. Our 2018 goal will be to utilize this more frequently in meetings and Session reports.
2. Current Member Outreach breakfast – update: This has been planned for January 2018.
3. Celebrating milestone Membership Anniversaries – 25 years/50 years. This will be a 2018 goal.

The Membership Rolls Coordinator goal was to contact members who have been absent from church to assist in the 2017 FUPC goal of “every member of our church is confident that the church will help them through whatever physical and spiritual challenges they face” by contacting members who regularly attend and have been absent for 3 weeks, send missing you cards to members who have been absent for 3 months or more and reaching out to former members who have returned to church. Update - Erma Jean has received the list from the office about once a month. She continues to send missing you cards and make phone calls. The committee continues to try to make this process better. In 2018, I would love to have more volunteers join our committee to assist with phone calls to all members who have been absent for 3 weeks. The membership rolls are currently up to date.

The Visitor-to-Member Coordinator goal was to contact new members within 3 months of membership to assist in the 2017 goal of "every member of our church is confident that the church will help them through whatever physical and spiritual challenges they face". The goal was set up as a time to encourage the equipping process if it hasn't been utilized and make sure our church is meeting their needs. Update - calls have been made throughout the year. We will also be utilizing the January breakfast to assist with this goal. In 2018, I would love to have more volunteers join our committee to assist with calls and New Member Sundays.

The 2017 Membership Committee continues to work towards our Ministry description objective of helping First United to glorify God through active discipleship and nurturing fellowship by caring for current members, new members, visitors to members and keeping the membership rolls up to date. We are grateful for the support of Pastor Rob, LuAnn and Dawn Sitton.

On behalf of Kari Bechtold, Erma Jean Vandiver and Emily Wilson,
Respectfully Submitted, Joy Baltz
Membership Committee Chair

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee for 2017 included the following members: Session Elders Dwight Lied and Tom Hall; Rev. Rob Dyer (Pastoral Advisor); Lay members Ellen Hall, Joyce Lied. Andy Morgan, Diane Richardson, Bob Samples, Abby Smith and Chuck Thurig. The Mission Committee monitored the disbursement of funds for various mission activities which were approved by the Session (see below).

Our local outreach support includes Beacon Ministries, Bethany Place, Catholic Urban Programs (GAMAM food pantry), Community Interfaith Food Pantry, Mound Ridge Retreat Center, Neighbors for Renewal (NFR), Project Compassion, Summer Lunch Program (SLP, Feed My Lambs, partnering with Faith Community), UKirk of St. Louis (campus ministry) and Uni-Pres Kindercottage.

Abby Smith coordinates our Dental/Eye Glass program which helped six students receive glasses and/or eye exams; five students received dental work consisting of x-rays, fillings, root canals, and extractions. Caroline Smith continued to monitor the Lions' Club eye glass program as part of her Girl Scout project collecting two contact lens glasses, 28 glasses with cases, 43 eye glass frames, 36 glasses without cases, one magnifying glass, two single lenses, one clip on sunglasses, and 38 single sunglass lenses.

Nationally we supported Presbyterian Children's Services, Theological Education Fund, and a small congregation church.

Internationally we supported mission teams located in Australia, China, Germany, Haiti, Malawi, Mexico, Peru (2), South Korea, Thailand and Uganda. We also supported one organization in Jamaica serving the deaf and one providing food to the poor throughout 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. Thus, our total international mission supports five organizations spreading God's Word. We were fortunate to have Katherine Hines visit us from Hines Ugandan Ministries, Uganda and a team working in Asia. For details on most of these programs pick up a copy of our 2018 Mission Directory & Prayer Guide which can be found in Cornell Commons and outside the Chapel.

We continued to participate in Adopt-A-Highway with pick-ups three times from April through November (along SR 161 from Sullivan Drive to Frank Scott Parkway). Many FUPC members helped with the NFR house on Devonshire (now completed and sold) and participated in Belleville Helping Belleville Day on September 30. Bob Samples took donations to Project Compassion to distribute on their Compassion Day (delivering lunches and healthcare items to the homeless) four times during the year.

We again participated in the Summer Lunch Programs in Belleville. Because of the generosity of our congregation in both monetary and material donations and the smart shopping of the committee's purchasers, 75% of all purchases were made with donated funds!

Chuck Thurig chaired the Fourth Annual International Mission Festival (IMF). The festival's purpose is to highlight the countries and areas in which our church supports missions throughout the world. Partners for Just Trade sold crafts from Peru. The program consisted of a video & music presentation and free dinner with ethnic foods from 12 countries coordinated by Faith Community and sponsored by groups and families within our church. Additionally, Andy Morgan updated our 2018 Mission Directory & Prayer Guide.

In October twelve people went to Mound Ridge Retreat Center a Presbyterian center in Cook Station, Mo. to participate in our annual Ron Mordhorst Adult Mission Trip. They installed insulation and drywall and paneling to a new welcome center. They also power washed walkways and blew off leaves and debris from cabins roofs. An electrical light by the dining hall was repaired. On the final day of the trip 50 people came out from FUPC for the church-wide mission trip. On this day rock walls were constructed at the pavilion and rock path ways were repaired. Also small children painted figures on the concrete sidewalk in front of the new welcome center.

Our congregation continued supporting the children at CARITAS St. John Bosco Center by opening our facilities to them and donating time and money to help renovate their facilities. Throughout the year Dwight Lied reported delivering over 700 lbs. of bananas to the Community Interfaith Food Pantry for the Deacons and delivering over 250 GAMAM bags to Catholic Urban Programs' Food Pantry for the PW.

The 2017 Mission Budget was slightly over our congregation's goal, 10% of our church's total spending budget, and was as follows:

1459 Gen. Missions (PCUSA)	16,400
1460 International Missions	24,000
Food For the Poor – 17 countries in the Caribbean & S. America	1,500
Caribbean Christian Ctr. for the Deaf - Jamaica	1,500
Hines Ugandan Ministry	6,000
MTW – Australia	1,500
MTW – Peru	1,500
PWM - China	1,500
PWM - Germany	1,500
PWM - Haiti	1,500
PWM - Peru	1,500
PWM - Malawi	1,500

PWM - Mexico	1,500
PWM - S. Korea	1,500
PWM - Thailand	1,500
1461 Kindercottage	9,000
1462 Presb. Theo. Ed. Fund (split among 11 seminaries)	2,500
1463 Small Congregation Church support	1,000
1464 Youth Mission Trip	1,000
1467 Local Needs	15,750
Beacon of Belleville	4,250
Bethany Place	1,500
Catholic Urban Programs (Food Pantry)	1,500
Community Interfaith Food Pantry	1,500
General Needs	3,000
Neighbors for Renewal	1,000
Project Compassion	1,000
Summer Lunch Program	2,000
1468 Ron Mordhorst Adult Mission Trip	3,000
1469 U-Kirk St. Louis	1,500
1470 International Mission Festival	100
1472 Presb. Children's Services	1,500
1473 2018 GA Support	10,000
1474 Mound Ridge Capital Campaign	2,250
TOTAL MISSION 2017	\$88,000

Mission Committee meetings are open to all who are interested. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted by Dwight Lied and Andy Morgan
For the Mission Committee of FUPC

Personnel Committee

This again has been a relatively busy year for the committee. Early in the year, the committee researched and developed a plan to hire a pastoral intern through a fellowship program to gain more assistance to Pastor Rob in focusing on the goals that First United has established. Although this plan was later scrapped in favor of hiring a fulltime associate pastor, the effort laid some ground work that can be used by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

In April we were notified that Pat Olson, our financial secretary, was retiring to Florida with her husband. After reviewing many resumes and conducting several interviews, we were fortunate to hire Cara Barrett to take her place. Although we miss Pat, Cara has proven to be a great asset and a welcome addition to our office staff. Later in the year, Joslynn Brooks, one of our child care providers, resigned to take another position; but after reviewing more resumes and conducting interviews we were able to hire Shante Elliott. Shante has quickly become a great help to Sue Hall in providing child care support for our Sunday worship services.

In November, we were notified that our beloved organist, Dennis Bergin was going to leave to take another position at a larger church in St Louis. We are currently working with Andy Jensen our Director of Music Ministries to find a suitable replacement and hope that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to find a suitable replacement.

This year the committee also made some minor updates to the Personnel Guide that is provided to all employees. The guide outlines the policies and procedures that have been established for employment at First United.

Our church is blessed to have an outstanding staff that continues to work diligently to provide outstanding support to the congregation. Over the past year, the church continues to grow in terms of new members, of increasing financial support, and of new and exciting ministries and outreach to the local community. Of course, much of the success we have enjoyed is a direct result of the outstanding efforts of our Pastor, Rev Rob Dyer. Under his leadership, we continue to move forward achieving our specific goals and objectives and there continues to be a new vitality and energy sweeping the church, and the Holy Spirit seems to be ever-present. In recognition of their efforts, the committee recommended to the Session and to the congregation a significant increase for Pastor Rob's terms of call and recommended to the Session an increase of 3.0% pay raise for the remaining staff for 2018.

We look forward to the coming year and the opportunity to continue working with the staff and all the many volunteers that help make First United a place that glorifies God.

Jim Nicholas, Dede Farquhar, and Sheila Misselhorn

Stewardship Committee

Members of the committee are Rev. Rob Dyer, Robert Wells and Session Member, Jackie Bainter. The Stewardship Campaign theme was "Thy Will Be Done." Members of the congregation spoke in worship services. They were Peter Dodge, Mary Teague, and Dan Bainter. Letters written to be included in the Stewardship Pledge cards were done by Bob McCammon, Brenda Doll, Ann Hunter, and Rev. Rob Dyer. The focus was on prayer and the positive impact of gratitude on the work of the Church and the spiritual well-being of the donor.

Financial Secretary, Cara Barrett, printed the materials for the campaign and helped with the mailing. Jody Halton designed the pledge cards. Many thanks to the congregation for getting their pledges in promptly so the Finance Committee could prepare the 2018 budget. As of November, 2017, 170 pledges have been received for a total of \$514,880. The gratitude of the congregation was reflected in an average increase of 10 percent by those pledging.

Submitted by Jackie Bainter

Vision Committee

1. Members of the 2017 Vision Committee included: John Mann (Chair), Keely Giles, Marian Morris, and Pastor Rob Dyer.

2. As our first, very successful, three-year Vision drew to a close, many of our Elders, Deacons, Trustees, staff, and lay persons, attended the August 2016 FUPC Visioning Summit. Our purpose was to discern what God revealed to us during that three-year period and to try to understand what He wants us to do next. Knowing our God is an awesome and powerful God, and that there is no limit to what we can achieve in His name, we felt He was calling us to set bigger, some might even say impossible, goals. So, we did. Each of the four major goals we developed are centered on one of the four pillars of the FUPC Mission Statement: Meaningful Worship, Active Discipleship, Faithful Service, and Nurturing Fellowship. Since we will devote one full year to each goal, we are calling it *Vision2020*.
3. The four goals are:
 - 2017: Every member of our church is confident that the church will help them through whatever physical and spiritual challenges they face.
 - 2018: Every church member can confidently speak and/or write about their relationship with God and each church member has shared the Gospel with someone else by bringing them to church or personally witnessing their faith to another person.
 - 2019: Every person in the Belleville area has access to (project to be determined) seven days a week and at least 75% of the average worship attendance participates in this endeavor
 - 2020: Our church provides worship opportunities that engage every learning style, every sense, and every emotional style.
4. Below are the results of our 2017 goal. All the milestones were met, but we need to look beyond these milestones and discover what is far more important: What we learned, how we have grown in our faith together, how we have supported and served each other and our community through this process, and how that has helped us become a better church family. THAT is the path where God is leading us and helping us grow closer to Him.

Milestone 1: *Through soliciting "Needs Among Us" four times per year, we will address 100% of the needs expressed.* This goal is complete and we will continue to hold periodic "Needs Among Us" Sunday's through the coming years.

Milestone 2: *There is a welcoming, encouraging and compassionate process in place for church members to express their spiritual and physical challenges.* The Vision Team is proud to report we now have a permanent process in place for church members to express their spiritual and physical needs in many different ways ranging from an innovative Needs Tracking Spreadsheet to auto-directed text messaging. These processes are permanent and will serve our members well for many years.

Milestone 3: *A "Pastoral Assistance Team" will be in place to assist in coordinating responses to the spiritual and physical challenges reported.* This milestone is also complete thanks to the dedicated Deacons who stepped up to fill this critical part of the process. Numerous needs have been met and many more are on-going – including our program to send care packages to our deployed military members and care for their families while they are gone.

5. What we've accomplished this year, with the assistance of our deacons, staff, and many, many others in our church, is lay the ground work to put in place a permanent process that will allow FUPC to identify and respond to the needs of present *and* future members for years to come. This Needs Process we've put in place can also serve another purpose - Showing prospective members how important our member's physical and spiritual needs are to every one of us and what we've done to make sure they are met, this can also be a powerful evangelism tool.

Submitted January 4, 2018
John Mann, Vision Committee Chair

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee plans meaningful services for the congregation. Members of the committee are Terri O'Saben, Dick Palmer, Jackie Bainter, Betty Scherrer, Ed Langen, Jerry Gaskill, Todie Elsea, Sharon Scott, Rev. Rob Dyer, Susy Rybicki, and Amy Abernathy.

The Worship Committee trains and recruits the Ushers, Jr. Ushers, and Acolytes. The committee has prepared and updated a funeral handbook for the use of the volunteer funeral coordinators.

Communion is scheduled for the first Sunday of every month as well as Easter and Christmas Eve. Home Centered Communion is provided, with the help of the Deacons, every 3 months on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December. The Deacons help prepare a list of those people needing to be served. Several times during the year on the first Sunday of other months people were served at home if it was requested.

Worship committee takes care of changing and cleaning the paraments and renewing the candles. They provide the palms on Palm Sunday and the roses on All Saints Sunday.

The committee schedules and sponsors a cleaning day for the Chapel in the fall and one for the Sanctuary in the spring.

This year we organized two special themed Sundays. In June, we honored the First Responders, and in October, we celebrated the gifts of Visual Artist.

The Hanging of the Greens beginning of Advent is directed by the committee as well as the removal of the decorations in January.

The committee collects 4 special offering throughout the year. The 2016 Christmas Joy Offering of \$1679 was disbursed to Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery in January. The One Great Hour of Sharing provided \$1862, also sent to the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. The Pentecost Offering was split between the 17th St. Corridor Neighborhood Association (\$234) and the Presbytery (\$351). The Peace and Global Witness Offering was split between Center for Racial Harmony (\$257) and Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery (\$771).

The young children between the ages of 3 and 8 take part in meaningful worship in Children in Chapel during the sermon and the end of worship each Sunday.

Submitted by Susy Rybicki

Music Report

In November Dennis Bergin submitted his resignation as organist/accompanist after five years of service. We celebrated Dennis' time at FUPC with a reception following his final service on November 19. We are currently receiving applications and conducting interviews for a replacement.

The **Chancel Choir** continued to thrive in 2017. The "Choral Scholars" are now an established part of our choir and over the course of the year we introduced three new voices to our congregation. On December 17, the Chancel Choir presented a Christmas cantata titled, "Reaching With Love," during the 10:30 service. This program included five anthems sung by the choir (which included over 30 singers) and readings written by choir member, Bob Jensen.

Prime Chime & United Bells struggled to find rehearsal and performance dates that work for their full membership. Both groups provided beautiful musical moments, but the lack of consistency made it difficult to plan for the future.

2017 at FUPC was a memorable year filled with beautiful music!
Andy Jensen, Director of Music

Audio/Video Ministry

The goal of the Audio/Video Ministry Team is to enhance the worship of God through the use of up-to-date technology. The team was established in 2003. Audio/Video support is provided to the 10:30am Sunday Worship Services. A/V support can also be provided to the 8:00am Sunday Worship Service and Wednesday Night services.

A/V support is also provided for other church events such as Sunday School, music programs, weddings, funerals, caring programs, and the Youth Ministry. Groups within the church, including the Mission Teams, Presbyterian Women, Helmsmen, and Merry Mates, have been provided A/V support.

Audio and video capabilities are available in the Sanctuary, Chapel, Cornell Commons, Children's Chapel, the Youth rooms and Eversull Hall. Audio and video feeds are available from the sanctuary to Cornell Commons and Children's Chapel. Audio feed is also available to the Crib and Toddler Rooms.

Pre-service graphic announcements are created to inform the congregations of upcoming events and needs of the church. These announcements are viewed in the Sanctuary and Cornell Commons. Audio recordings of sermons are created, edited and made available on the church website.

During 2017, there have been major upgrades to the video equipment in the Chapel & Sanctuary. In the Sanctuary, the speaker system was upgraded. The renovation of Eversull

Hall included new audio/video systems for the fellowship area and the library. Acoustic treatment is in the process of being installed.

Thank you to the Audio/Video Ministry Team volunteers who have given their talents and time to this ministry. With God's help we will continue to find new media ways to bring the timeless message of the Gospel to our church.

Loren Elliott, Director of Audio/Video Ministries

Youth Ministries Committee

2017 has been another busy and spirit-filled year in Youth Ministries. We saw the baptism of a high school youth in the spring, as well as four young men join our church through our confirmation process. Confirmation became an opportunity to really explore what the individual students believe through discussions at home with parents, classes led by the staff, and time meeting with a mentor. Families enjoyed being able to play a larger role in this milestone.

Through a mission trip to Puerto Rico, the high school students were pushed outside their comfort zones and encountered God as they built relationships with the people in the community there. The middle school students experienced God through amazing worships and intense games at The Great Escape. Wednesday night youth group has changed its format, now having more of a worship and small group feel, while still keeping time for fun and fellowship. Some of the topics have included who we are and where we find our value. One of the most powerful nights was a lesson on grace that included a remembrance of baptism.

Youth Ministries continues to grow through the young people's amazing abilities to invite friends. We saw 30 visitors this year with 21 attending multiple times. Young people are not only attending, but they are leading at First United. They were ushers, in the choir, liturgists, led worship on Youth Sunday, led Sharing Faith with Children, volunteered in the Crib and Toddler rooms, volunteered in Children's Chapel, and served on the Nominating Committee.

All the possibilities for our youth would not be possible without the fantastic team of volunteers. The Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, major event coordinators, trip chaperones, confirmation mentors, Youth Ministries Committee and Wednesday meal preparers all provide hospitality and create an environment for the youth to grow in their faith. Youth Ministries would not be what it is without them.

God is alive and doing great things in the Youth Ministry programs at First United and I am so thankful I get to be a part of it! Thank you for all the support and value you place on the faith development of young people!

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

God's Peace,

Kaitie Kautz, Director of Youth Ministries on behalf of the Youth Ministries Committee
Kevin Meder (chair), Natalie Bill, Lorenzo Clayton, and Leah Lankford

BOARD OF DEACONS

It is with deep gratitude that I submit this report with great praise for the Deacons who have made extraordinary efforts to help our congregation care better for one another. The Deacon ministry includes care and attention to those in care facilities or limited to their own homes as well as particular needs that arise.

Each week an assigned Deacon visits those hospitalized or in rehabilitation facilities. They also visit those in the hospital who indicate they are Presbyterian but not necessarily members or our congregation. Monthly a team of Deacons prepares Communion as needed for the services. Deacons also accompany Elders in taking home-served Communion, going to private homes and the care facilities where members reside.

Deacons support the Banana mission, taking bananas to Mercy Care Center and the Interfaith Food Pantry monthly. Supporting the Prayer Shawl ministry has enabled the gifting now of almost 1700 shawls. Deacons also work with Needs Among Us and Pastoral Care support. This year approximately 742 cards were sent, 447 calls were made, and 540 visits to those on our specific care list. Although Loaves and Fishes is on hiatus and regrouping, meals were taken to congregation members as needs were identified.

Importantly, Deacons attended a Mental Health Seminar, had a presentation on effective hospital visitation and also learned much more about Stephen Ministers, all to aid in being better at caring for our congregation.

Upcoming this year will be an effort to reorganize drivers for those needing transportation to medical appointments.

It is our joy to be able to address and facilitate needs among us. Please let us know how we can help!

Betty McRoberts, Moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS: Gigi Cox, Betty Scherrer, Abby Smith, Caryn Meder
Betty Bucknell, Janice Dorris, Marsha Head, Joyce Lied, Phyllis Parrish
Nancy Cahoon, Anne Dulski, Dennis Hubbard, Bob Samples
Tom Cahoon, Rosemary Ehrstein, Kim Hubbard, Marian Morris
Sharon Gaskill, Cyndi Langen, Dave Misselhorn, Jean McCann

Parish Nurse

I continue to make numerous visits to church members and their families in their homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted-living facilities. I go with parishioners to doctor visits and hospital stays as their medical advocate – to help them better understand their illness, med management, treatment if ordered, pain control, etc. I do safety assessments in their homes to prevent falls. If safety is a concern, I try to help them understand why it's no longer safe for them to reside at home. I have taken them to visit assisted-living areas and obtained info for them to consider; but then they and family members make their own decisions. Safety

and prevention are of great concern to me. I have been instrumental in setting up the Safety Program here at FUPC. To help feed the hungry, I deliver a case or more of bananas to the Food Pantry each month. For the Summer Sack Lunch program, I helped with the shopping and delivered lunches to the children. I attend monthly Parish Nurse Meetings and workshops to learn more about new medical/surgical techniques. I am also very involved in faith community nursing. I serve as a Stephen Minister and visit with those assigned to me. My goal is to help those in need to be *healthy and well in body, mind and spirit*.

Submitted by Joyce Lied, Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees addressed numerous projects in 2017, some anticipated and planned, many others which arose throughout the year. Some, but not all of the accomplishments, were as follows:

Administration Committee:

- New phone system to be installed
- Old documents reviewed for storage and scanning or shredded
- Hosted an information gathering dinner for past Trustees
- Purchased a new small bus

Indoor Committee:

- Chapel's stained glass windows replaced
- Chapel pew upholstery and renovation completed
- Replaced sink in Cornell Commons with a new double sink
- Received Fire Inspection approval after numerous upgrades and repairs
- New sound system installed in Sanctuary and new handrails leading up to chancel

Outdoor Committee:

- Outdoor signage planned for 2018
- Issues with the sewer system finally resolved
- Tree trimming, shrub and flower planting, mulching church grounds
- Ballfield leveling
- Shed cleaned

None of what was accomplished would have been possible without the help of each Trustee, the church staff, Session, and numerous volunteers from the congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Reeder, President

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Trustees Committee continued to prepare a quarterly summary of investment funds for reporting to the Trustees by summarizing the financial data received from New Covenant Funds. The information for the third quarter 2017 is complete, with fourth quarter results not available as this report is prepared. On September 30, 2017, the invested fund market balance of all other accounts was \$1,256,119.05, an increase of \$76,392.42 from

December 31, 2016. The change was the result of performance in the overall stock market. Expected changes in the fourth quarter should continue the positive results. The general outlook for 2018 is mixed, with some analysts calling for a correction (the market is at an all-time high) and some calling for additional growth due to recent corporate tax reduction and repatriation regulations. Maintaining a balanced investment portfolio as in the past will help protect against the downside while allowing the portfolio to benefit from gains.

This report has been prepared using actual fund balances as of December 31, 2016 compared to fund balances on September 31, 2017.

New Covenant Funds are invested to utilize a conservative, balanced approach to the market. The Funds are invested in socially responsible securities and stock.

Investment activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 is as follows:

Market Value - 12/31/16	\$1,179,726.63
Contributions	\$ 0.00
Disbursements	(\$ 31,222.05)
Earned Income	\$ 11,607.41
Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$ 96,007.06
Market Value - 9/30/17	\$1,256,119.05

Respectfully submitted, Diane Winland, Investment Trustee

Ambassadors

A faithful Ambassador may be found at the Welcome Table in the Commons area each Sunday prior to the 10:30 am service for the purpose of greeting worshipers. A special effort is made to welcome any visitor and offer information and assistance as is appropriate. Ambassadors are trained to know how to direct visitors to various childcare services, Sunday School classes, rest rooms and other church facilities and how to hand off to other resources if needed, such as Greeters, Ushers, and the Pastor.

Hearing aids and church organization/activity brochures are available. Those presently serving as Ambassadors are: Rosemary Ehrstein, Babs Hill, Brenda & Roger Doll, Sharon & Jerry Gaskill; and Daphne Sumner on the 5th Sunday. Church members interested in becoming an Ambassador should contact the Church Office. You will truly enjoy greeting the worshipers as they enter the sanctuary for the Sunday morning service.

Faith in Fiction

Faith in Fiction has five active members that get together each month on the 2nd Wednesday at 9:00 am. We read and discussed 10 books this year. There are also people in the congregation that follow our list and also read the recommended books.

Submitted by Susy Rybicki

Helmsmen Mariners

The Helmsmen Mariners had a busy and fulfilling year of service in 2017. We began the year with a crew of 57 members and ended with 59. We "Tied On" three new members - Kathy Schmidt and Sandy and Don Rhodes. However, we also experienced the loss of several of our

longest active members including Jan Clinton and Annette Groves. Each will be sorely missed and we will carry their memory with us in our hearts forever.

Speakers at our monthly meetings provided a wide and varying range of interesting topics ranging from a "State of the Church" update from Pastor Rob to a Christian focused puppet show. Although we did not hold regular meetings during the months of May through August, we went on several fun outings and capped off the summer with our annual picnic with the Merry Mates as our special guests.

The Helmsmen were also faithful to our charter to serve and provide Christian outreach by co-hosting the Annual Woodcarver's Dinner in May, the fall Helmsmen Rummage sale in September, and the Woodcarver's Show at the Belleville Fair Grounds in November. We also volunteered to assist the Hospitality Committee by taking our turn serving as Hospitality Hosts on two Sundays.

Our Officers for 2018 are Skippers, John and Dee Mann; First Mates, Chuck and Karen Thurig; Log keeper, Amy Brummitt; Pursers, Dwight and Joyce Lied; Cargo, John and Dee Mann; and Chaplain, Amy Brummitt.

The Helmsmen meet the third Saturday of the month, with the exception of May thru August when we participate in different outings in the local area. We begin at 6:00 pm with an invocation followed by a potluck dinner, a presentation by a guest speaker, a short business meeting, and, most importantly, lots of Christian Fellowship. All FUPC members and their friends, whether they are members or not, are eligible to become official Helmsman Mariners. And of course, visitors are always welcome! We invite you to come and visit with us anytime whether you are thinking of becoming a member or not. Of course, we will do our very best to encourage you to join!

Respectfully Submitted,
John and Dee Mann, Skippers

MaryMarthas

The MaryMarthas Life Group has been meeting on a monthly basis. We are a faith-based group of women who are able to talk and enjoy time together. We not only support one another, but we also provide support to our families when needed. We volunteer to host coffee hour on occasion throughout the year. If the need arises, we will provide a meal or baked goods for a variety of different occasions. We are blessed to have one another for emotional, physical and emotional support.

Submitted by Leah Lankford

Merry Mates

Merry Mates is a life group with our primary purpose to provide an opportunity for men and women to participate together in Christian fellowship and in the life of the church. Our meetings were held the second Friday of each month from September through June. We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm. A business meeting and program follow. Programs included "Bingo for Fun;" a talk with Pastor Rob; "Andersonville a Southern Civil War Prison Camp" and one on "Japan – today" by Bruce Reeder. We were also enlightened with

"Story Telling" by Bob and Jan Jensen. We enjoyed a picnic in June with the Helmsmen as our guests. Since we do not meet in July and August; a number went to a Grizzlies' game.

Our fund raisers included the plant sale and the annual Cookie Walk. \$1,000 was given to the Trustees for church projects, and \$1,000 was given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund to help the hurricane victims. We served as Coffee Hour hosts on three occasions.

The officers for 2017 were: Co-Presidents, Bob McCammon and Linda Hangsleben; Co-Vice Presidents, Bruce and Debbie Reeder; Co-Treasurers, Jerry and Sharon Gaskill; Co-Secretaries, Dick and Dee Palmer; and Chaplain, Vicki McAdams.

Merry Mates welcomes anyone who is interested in joining us for food, fun and fellowship.
Submitted by Dick Palmer, Secretary

Potlucks with a Purpose

This Life Group for women was organized by Shirley Samples in October of 2012. Since then the group has met quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. As of January 2018, we begin our sixth year of existence, still going strong. After a year of heading this group, I find it very rewarding and am grateful Shirley entrusted it to my care.

The basic purposes of Potlucks with a Purpose are to enjoy food and fellowship, and to raise funds for a variety of special mission projects. There are no membership fees, no attendance requirements, and no specific qualifications. The women who attend bring a potluck dish to share and then each donates her "Dining-Out Dollars" –any amount she might have spent eating out at a restaurant--for the designated project. The following projects were selected and funded in 2017, for a total of \$1645.

- *Dignity Period*: an organization in St. Louis that provides education and re-usable sanitary supplies so that young women who begin menstruation can continue to attend school. We donated \$335.
- *Blessing Belleville*: a fundraising banquet for several local charities with ongoing missions to serve, protect, and feed the needy in our community. This banquet was organized by Ally Dyer. We donated \$425.
- *Violence Prevention Center*: an emergency domestic shelter for abused women and their children. We donated \$385.
- *The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund*: an organization providing relief and supplies for the victims of hurricanes in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. We donated \$500.

We also hosted two coffee hours this year for the Sunday services, one close to Valentine's Day and one for Mother's Day.

Thanks much to all of our faithful members. We welcome any who would like to join. We will be continuing to meet quarterly in 2018, starting on January 23.

Yours in faith, Sheila Misselhorn

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain received 231 prayer request and 8 thank you/updates. We have 42 members praying for those in need. We thank all of those on the Chain.

Co-Chairpersons, Beth Sheldon and Joy Didier

Prayer Shawl Ministry

It is with great pleasure that I submit this annual report reflecting the efforts of a truly remarkable group of dedicated women. Beginning 11 years ago with an original gathering of 10 women from the Lydia circle, the group now includes members of many different churches as well as friends and neighbors, often with as many as 20 or so at a meeting. To date we are approaching the gifting of 1700 shawls, crocheted or knitted with each stitch a prayer for the comfort and peace of the recipient. We very much appreciate the financial support of the Deacons as well as many private contributions. By the time a shawl is gifted not only does it represent loving hours of effort but, including yarn and supplies the cost is approximately \$15 a shawl.

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, Jim Nicholas and the church bus took us to Godfrey to Josephine's Restaurant for a special outing. While we always enjoy each other's company, this was a lovely treat and a way to say thank you to these remarkable women. Be aware of those around you who may be in need of a special touch of comfort for whatever reason. If you feel that "God nudge", just ask at the church office for a shawl. As always, the door is open for you to join our group. We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9 am at my house.

We will even teach you to knit or crochet! Contact me for information at 235-3197.
Betty McRoberts, Moderator



All women of the church are considered members of Presbyterian Women and are invited to join our circles, attend the monthly Gatherings, take part in social events, and participate in the mission opportunities and fundraising projects. We commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women who strengthen the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witness to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Our officers for the 2017-2018 year are Moderator, Shirley Samples; Vice Moderator, Susy Rybicki; Secretary, Donna Nicholas; and Treasurer, Linda Hangsleben.

Our PW year runs from September through May. Monthly Gatherings were held in March, April, May, September, November, and December on the first Friday of the month at 11:30 am in Eversull Hall. The Circles and CT serve as hostesses and interesting programs are arranged by the Program Chairman. Programs for the year included presentations from Darlene Jones, Executive Director of the Violence Prevention Center, Mardi Mauch, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, Jackie Bainter, a docent at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Barbara Kay portraying

Dolly Madison, Dennis Schutzenhofer, a pitching coach for the St Louis Cardinals, and Bob and Jan Jensen telling delightful Christmas stories. In October a Day Out was taken to 2nd Presbyterian Church in St Louis for a guided tour of the stained glass windows with lunch afterwards at Café Osage in the Central West End.

We support many local and worldwide missions throughout the year. A total of \$2,900 was donated to the following ministries: Presbyterian Preschool, Eden Seminary Student Abbey Croissant, Bethany Place, Call for Help, Church Women United, Community Interfaith Food Pantry, Kindercottage, St. John Bosco Center, SWIC Soup Program, Violence Prevention Center, Farmington Children's Center, and Marion Medical Mission.

\$1,000 was also donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Harvey relief. We also individually collect special offerings which include the Celebration of Giving Pledge, Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Cents-Ability Offering, and Blankets+.

We support the local community by giving caps and mittens at Christmas and small books and toys at Easter to the Uni-Pres. Kindercottage. Also, we collected Christmas gifts for the St. John Bosco Center. Bingo items were collected for Memorial Convalescent Center and headbands and walker bags were made for nursing homes. A care package was sent to a deployed military member.

Our fund raisers were a Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show, Rummage Sale, and a Bakeless Bake Sale. We had a food booth at the Mission Festival and we hosted coffee hour. We continue to serve lunches after the funerals of our church family. PW's Honorary Life membership this year was presented to Pat Hargrove for her devoted service to the church.

Three circles meet monthly from September through May for Bible study and fellowship. All the circles have Outreach Members whom they contact with cards and gifts during the year. Lydia Circle meets the 1st Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. Lamplighters Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm in Eversull Hall. Hannah Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday at 11:30 am in Eversull Hall

Come join us at any of the Gatherings or Circle Meetings.
Shirley Samples, Moderator
Donna Nicholas, Secretary

Quilters

The quilters have 9 regular members. We meet every week on Tuesday from 9-2 with a lunch break. We bring our own lunch and sometimes add a special snack for everyone. A small group of us meet on Thursday morning from 10:00-12:00 to make other quilt projects for charity.

In 2017, we hand quilted at least 3 queen sized quilts for other people and one raffle quilt that benefitted the Professional Vocational Fund. We hosted a week long quilt camp in June. We had 10 participants. Some were new to quilting as well as people from outside our church. Most people finished at least one quilt. In early August 4 of us attended a retreat in Danville, Illinois. This is always a productive time for those who attend. We each completed multiple quilts. In September we sponsored a sit and sew at Jackman's to benefit the hurricane victims

in Houston. We had 8 people sewing and completed 7 tops that we donated to a guild in Houston that had lost everything in the flooding. 10 Quilts of Valor were made and donated by the quilters. These were some of the quilts presented at church to honor Veterans and active military members. We hosted coffee hour 3 times. We made and donated 7 Baptismal Quilts. We also donated 3 quilts to the flood victims in West Virginia. There were two quilts and pillowcases made and presented to confirmands who had not previously received a prayer quilt. In December we held a Holiday workshop on a Saturday. We had 14 participants, most of whom completed a project. A farewell quilt for Dennis Bergen was made and presented. We provided 2 quilts for Abby Croissant for a sermon. We also added new cabinets to our work space during the renovation of Eversull Hall.

Submitted by Susy Rybicki

Sand Dollars

The Sand Dollars of First United Presbyterian Church meet the first Friday in January-May and September–November in Eversull Hall for food and fellowship. Summer months are social activities and December is our Christmas Party at a local venue. A variety of social events are held throughout the year.

Our group has participated in many of the church's events and opportunities such as serving as church officers, Committees, coffee hour hosts, Potluck with a Purpose, church maintenance projects, Adult mission trips, Youth events, Sunday school, VBS, and more.

The Sand Dollars were formed 35 years ago. The following officers served in 2017: Skippers, Mike and Karen Cassano; Pursers, Bob and Nancy Lonsdale; and Log Keepers, Jeff and Kay Schanuel.

The group's major fundraiser was working at the annual Woodcarvers' Show held at the St. Clair County Fairgrounds in November and helping to clean-up after the Woodcarvers' yearly dinner in May. Money raised by working these events was contributed to various organizations and projects within the church and the community:

- ✝ \$750 to Needs Among Us Fund at FUPC
- ✝ \$750 to Presbyterian Disaster Relief
- ✝ \$100 Presbyterian Trivia Night
- ✝ \$100 Project Compassion

Social and service activities this past year included:

- ✝ In February, the Annual Super Bowl Party was held at the Nicholsons' home; hosted a coffee hour, and supported Youth Ministries Trivia Night through donations and participated at three tables.
- ✝ In March, we hosted a Coffee Hour.
- ✝ In April, we supported the local fish fries in the community every Friday during Lent and hosted the 34th Annual Easter Bunny Breakfast.
- ✝ In May, we assisted the Woodcarvers with their annual awards dinner.
- ✝ In June, we went to Fairmont for the horse races; delivered lunches for the Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program through August.

- † In July, we hosted a coffee hour; several members participated in the Beacon 5K Run/Walk
- † In August, we had a swim party at the Geigers' home.
- † In September, our annual fall picnic was held at the Church pavilion.
- † In October, a bonfire meeting was held at the Misselhorn home; several members participated in the Golf for Youth Tournament as well as The Intergenerational Mission Project at Mound Ridge; we hosted a coffee hour.,
- † In November, we sponsored a table with dishes from China, Peru, and Jamaica during the International Mission Festival; we worked and supported the 46th Midwestern Woodcarvers' Show Friday-Sunday.
- † In December, we set up and decorated the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary and had our annual Christmas dinner and party.

Visitors and new members of First United are welcome to come to our monthly potluck and fellowship, including children. It is best to contact one of the officers to advise them of your attendance, especially if child-care is needed.

The Sand Dollar officers elected for 2018 are Co-Skippers, Brenda & Joe Fedak and Jan & Dennis Nevois; Pursers, Nancy and Bob Lonsdale; Log Keepers, Kay and Jeff Schanuel.

We would like to thank the members of Sand Dollars for their active support in 2017. In addition, we'd like to thank our Church community for its commitment to our group. We wish the new Co-Skippers in the upcoming year and officers much success in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike and Karen Cassano, 2017 Skippers

Veterans' Group

In February, we announced a Special Program for our Church Veterans and Active Duty Members. Called "Quilts of Honor", we set a very aggressive goal to provide a Patriotic Quilt to each Active Duty member and Veteran in our Church. This was Diane Richardson's idea patterned after the National "Quilts of Valor" program. We had no idea of the work required or the total number of quilts that would be needed . . . but we committed our group to this endeavor.

We announced our First Annual Memorial Day BBQ on Saturday May 27th. Donations were made at the door. We encouraged our Veteran and Active Duty Families to bring a PICTURE of your loved one so it could be displayed at our "Table of Honor". The event was very successful with proceeds going towards other Church activities throughout the year.

Because of the popularity of our Fellowship Breakfasts, we decided to have two each month for the convenience of our Church family. They are as follows:

The second Thursday of each Month: 7:30 am, Denny's in Belleville
The second Saturday of each Month: 7:30 am, Denny's in O'Fallon

This same schedule will be followed for 2018 so please put these dates on your calendar. This fellowship is open to all Church members. We hope to see you there.

There was interest in having NAME TAGS to help us better serve and coordinate our Church Veteran activities, and more importantly, for Community outreach programs in which we participate. We created a design of Red Name Tags with our Church Logo. If you see one of us wearing our NAME TAG at Church or volunteering in the Community, ask about our services or join us for Fellowship Breakfasts.

Several times this year we attended Military funerals....this was one of our initial objectives for our Veterans Life Group. None was more reverent or humbling than this one. Your Veterans Life Group attended this special service to honor Seaman Temple:

The BND paper announced the Remains Recovery of World War II Navy Seaman First Class Robert Monroe Temple. Seaman Temple lost his life on the USS Oklahoma during the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor. After 75 years and many attempts to recover Seaman Temple, the JPAC (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command) team was able to match the families DNA to that of Temple and he was returned to his family. After 75 years of uncertainty they finally have closure and peace.

We volunteered at the Missouri Veterans Home celebration for their Annual Family Day Picnic. This was an excellent opportunity to speak with veterans who may not have local family and would just appreciate someone to show interest in their service and lifetime contributions. In addition to serving food, there were carnival games and fireworks for the resident Veterans. For 2018, we are committed to participating in more local Veteran Home support and service.

We conducted several Sunday Survey "inserts" to identify ALL of the Active Duty military and Veterans we have in our Church. We started with approximately 45 names at the beginning of the year. At the end of 2017, we now have identified over 60 names. This survey helps us know who these members are and offer any special services we can provide in the new year. The survey was also used to insure we captured all those who would be receiving "Quilts of Honor" on Veterans Day.

Our 2nd Annual Veteran Life Group Pancake Breakfast was held right before Veterans' Day and was another big success. Military Flags were displayed along with other veteran related items. We continue to receive great support for this breakfast by our Church members with the proceeds going towards more veteran related service activities in 2018.

Of course our BIGGEST Event in 2017, and possibly the most rewarding, was our Veterans' Day "Quilts of Honor" Sunday. We rewarded over 60 quilts to Active Duty and Veteran Church Members. This was the brainchild of Diane Richardson, and she put in hundreds of hours making quilt after quilt after quilt. Diane, you are a very special and loving person. A special thanks also to our Church Quilter group, and others (you know who you are) who made tops or completed quilts to help us get to the 60+ that we needed. And to all those who contributed dollars for materials and supplies . . . all of it was appreciated! That Sunday was very special. The tears were real, and the "Thank You" that were received were priceless.

Submitted by Ken Stange

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry program has been a part of First United's ministry since 1987. One of the defining mottos of this church is "We are a Stephen Ministry congregation".

What is Stephen Ministry and what does this mean for the church?

Stephen Ministry is a resource for both the pastor and the congregation. The program deepens, expands, and extends the caregiving capacity to the congregation relieving some of the burden from the pastor while still ensuring that those in need receive the best Christian care possible. A team of Stephen Ministers, together with a pastor, can provide *ongoing care* to *more people* than the pastor could alone. This also frees pastors to invest more time in other important ministry areas. Stephen Ministry also extends to caregiving beyond the church's walls. Stephen Ministers often provide care for people in the broader community—relatives, friends, and coworkers of congregation members; nonmembers whom the congregation serves; as well as military personnel and their families. This is a powerful way that Stephen Ministry can enhance and expand a congregation's outreach. *The Stephen Ministry Program directly supports the FUPC Vision 2020 Goal of Nurturing Fellowship.*

What are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are laypeople — Christian men and women — trained to provide one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Every Stephen Minister receives 50 hours of classroom training led by a specially trained Stephen Leader. In addition to classroom work, Stephen Ministers also devote many hours to outside reading assignments to learn how to relate to others in trouble. This enables them to empathize with those who may need a caring relationship. After this initial training, Stephen Ministers also meet monthly to support each other and conduct refresher training to make sure they are prepared to provide the best Christian care possible. Stephen Ministers are not substitute pastors, psychologists, or counselors. They are Lay Christians who work one-on-one with a person in need in order that God may work through them to bring healing to the care receiver. It goes without saying that spiritual discipleship must be an important aspect of each Stephen Minister's character. A Stephen Minister begins a caring relationship when he or she is matched with a person experiencing a life crisis. The Stephen Minister then meets with that person on a regular basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the person is in need of care.

What is the current state of Stephen Ministry in our Church?

The Stephen Ministry program at FUPC is at a crossroad and faces two major issues.

1. While we have a total of 18 trained Stephen Ministers, including one Stephen Leader, only seven elected to remain active as of the end of this year. Over the course of 2017, we provided care to several care receivers, but could have done more with more active care givers.
2. Another issue we face is an insufficient number of trained Stephen Leaders to meet the demand. For the past four years, we have had only one, making it increasingly difficult to do quality monthly training, monitor on-going Care Giver relationships, recruit new Stephen Ministers, and conduct the three-month training necessary to qualify new

Stephen Ministers. *We need to make it a priority to recruit and train at least one female Stephen Leader in addition to the current male Stephen Leader and then conduct an aggressive recruiting effort to identify and train new Stephen Ministers to build our core group and enable us to meet the needs of our congregation.*

FUPC STEPHEN MINISTER ACTIVE CORE GROUP:

John Mann (Stephen Leader)
Abbey Croissant Joyce Lied
Amy Brummitt Andy Morgan
Brenda Fedak Marian Morris
Dwight Lied

Respectfully Submitted, John Mann, Stephen Leader

Transportation Ministry

The Transportation Ministry at First United is made up of two separate but related entities: Bus Ministry and Car Ministry. The purpose of each is to arrange for and provide transportation to those members who are unable to drive but need a ride to Sunday morning church services (bus transportation), Wednesday night youth events (bus transportation), or to doctor appointments, hospital visits or other necessary local appointments (car transportation.) This special ministry welcomes adult drivers who are looking for a needed and rewarding experience in helping with transportation needs within our congregation. Thank you to all the drivers who participated in 2017.

Dennis Hubbard, Bus Ministry Coordinator
Bob Samples, Car Ministry Coordinator

2017 STATISTICS

Active Membership as of 12/31/16: 471

Gains:

Confirmation	4
New Members	22
Restored	0
Total Gains:	26

Losses:

Deaths	19
Transfers	2
Removed	12
Total Losses:	33

Active Membership as of 12/31/17: 464

First United Presbyterian Church

Checkbook Summary

12/31/2017

Account Name	12/1/2017 Beginning Balance	Monthly Receipts	Monthly Disbursements	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Year to Date Receipts	Year to Date Disbursements	12/31/2017 Ending Balance
GENERAL FUND	(48,836.13)	72,792.52	79,823.12			714,503.71	739,417.13	(55,866.73)
NEW CREATION CHAPEL MDC FUND	135,785.69					-	-	135,785.69
NEW CREATION FUND	21,919.05					-	5,617.48	21,919.05
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 3	35,846.98	51,164.00	6,714.61			295,612.81	264,314.27	80,296.37
TRANSITIONAL FUND	7,974.37	55.00				9,832.69	4,721.74	8,029.37
DESIGNATED GIFTS	57,717.24	5,405.00	5,710.63			37,141.49	50,367.82	57,411.61
UNDESIGNATED GIFTS	55.00					-	-	55.00
MEMORIALS	330,511.33	260.00	49,197.31			333,890.99	179,002.61	281,574.02
TIETZE IRREVOCABLE FUND	7,281.17					7,281.17	-	7,281.17
FOULON IRREVOCABLE FUND	546.30					546.30	-	546.30
BUS FUND	13,951.05	150.00	13,951.05			655.00	13,951.05	150.00
BELL RELOCATION	-					-	10,078.00	-
BELL MAINTENANCE	341.00					-	-	341.00
LOUISE STREIFF FUND	-					25,335.83	25,335.83	-
DEACON'S FUND	1,134.08					-	-	1,134.08
DENTAL GRANTS	11,325.05					110.00	793.00	11,325.05
ONE GREAT HOUR/JOY	30.00	2,668.00				4,630.00	3,541.00	2,698.00
PEACEMAKING	45.00	(45.00)				(45.00)	-	-
RAY ANGERER SCHOLARSHIP FUND	-					57.00	57.00	-
CORNELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND	2,723.23					-	561.00	2,723.23
LOUISE ERWIN FUND	12.89					1,292.00	1,292.00	12.89
PRESBYTERIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND	-					867.00	867.00	-
PRESBYTERIAN TRUST FUND	-					-	-	-
WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND	2,531.54					-	-	2,531.54
HOWARD DEWING FUND	3,775.81					-	-	3,775.81
A. NOWLAND FUND	304.98					-	10,474.53	304.98
BAKER LIBRARY FUND	1,678.22					-	-	1,678.22
ALICE EHRET FUND	471.68					-	-	471.68
BLANKETS	-					1,256.50	1,276.50	-
CHECKBOOK BALANCE	\$ 587,125.53	\$ 132,449.52	\$ 155,396.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,432,967.49	\$ 1,311,667.96	\$ 564,178.33

*Balance includes

\$479.70	in Petty Cash
\$404,244.35	in Regular Checking Account-Bank of Belleville 0206
\$137,223.53	in Bank of Belleville 2192
\$22,230.75	in Bank of Belleville 2202
<u>\$564,178.33</u>	

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
For the 1 Month and 12 Months Ended December 31, 2017

General Fund

	Current Month Actual	Year To Date Actual	Total Budget	Balance Remaining	Expended Percentage
PLEDGES & CONTRIBUTIONS					
1301 Estimates of Giving - Belleville	\$ 51,671.27	522,370.82	605,800.00	83,429.18	86.23%
1302 Estimates of Giving - New Creation	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	(1,000.00)	0.00%
1303 Unpledged Receipts - Belleville	17,221.75	113,407.65	79,500.00	(33,907.65)	142.65%
1305 Miscellaneous Loose Offerings	1,156.43	8,416.53	11,000.00	2,583.47	76.51%
1306 Interest Received	125.07	1,154.12	0.00	(1,154.12)	0.00%
1307 Deacons' Income	1,545.00	5,827.00	7,000.00	1,173.00	83.24%
1308 Per Capita Receipts	254.00	4,975.00	8,000.00	3,025.00	62.19%
1309 Seasonal Offering	(958.00)	2,930.00	4,000.00	1,070.00	73.25%
1310 Sunday School	0.00	14.50	0.00	(14.50)	0.00%
1312 Use of Building Receipts	100.00	2,300.00	5,000.00	2,700.00	46.00%
1314 Earned Income - Investments	0.00	8,525.63	33,000.00	24,474.37	25.84%
1317 Undesignated Gifts	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00%
1318 Special Offerings	1,677.00	2,508.00	0.00	(2,508.00)	0.00%
1321 Golf Tournament	0.00	2,636.15	3,000.00	363.85	87.87%
1322 Trivia Night	0.00	4,605.00	4,000.00	(605.00)	115.13%
1323 Nowland Fund Transfer	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00%
1324 New Creation Fund	0.00	0.00	13,700.00	13,700.00	0.00%
Total Pledges & Contributions	<u>72,792.52</u>	<u>680,670.40</u>	<u>782,000.00</u>	<u>101,329.60</u>	<u>87.04%</u>
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION					
1401 Adult Discipleship	77.04	1,763.55	1,400.00	(363.55)	125.97%
1402 Library	181.80	412.48	500.00	87.52	82.50%
1403 Sunday School	208.69	1,877.97	2,000.00	122.03	93.90%
1404 Confirmation	9.98	683.53	700.00	16.47	97.65%
1405 CE Training	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00%
1406 Summer Programming	0.00	1,009.14	1,500.00	490.86	67.28%
1407 Crib & Toddler Room	24.48	292.20	500.00	207.80	58.44%
1409 PYC	0.00	1,056.61	1,000.00	(56.61)	105.66%
Total Christian Education	<u>501.99</u>	<u>7,095.48</u>	<u>7,800.00</u>	<u>704.52</u>	<u>90.97%</u>
YOUTH MINISTRIES					
1410 KIX	30.75	3,096.84	3,950.00	853.16	78.40%
1411 TIM	34.16	3,078.24	4,200.00	1,121.76	73.29%
1414 Other	306.20	2,728.79	3,100.00	371.21	88.03%
Total Youth Ministries	<u>371.11</u>	<u>8,903.87</u>	<u>11,250.00</u>	<u>2,346.13</u>	<u>79.15%</u>
EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP					
1415 Website Maintenance	0.00	300.00	500.00	200.00	60.00%
1416 Membership / Connection	28.32	154.02	500.00	345.98	30.80%
1417 Evangelism	122.96	427.56	1,000.00	572.44	42.76%
1418 Advertising	182.91	3,457.55	4,500.00	1,042.45	76.83%
1421 The Steeple	0.00	430.83	1,000.00	569.17	43.08%
Total Evangelism and Membership	<u>334.19</u>	<u>4,769.96</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>2,730.04</u>	<u>63.60%</u>

Prepared without audit from information submitted by the client

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
For the 1 Month and 12 Months Ended December 31, 2017

General Fund

	Current Month Actual	Year To Date Actual	Total Budget	Balance Remaining	Expended Percentage
FAITH COMMUNITY					
1422 Receptions / Special Occasions	0.00	879.98	1,500.00	620.02	58.67%
1426 Paper and Consumables	195.01	1,301.45	1,600.00	298.55	81.34%
1427 Coffee Hour	<u>(232.43)</u>	<u>734.33</u>	<u>1,300.00</u>	<u>565.67</u>	<u>56.49%</u>
Total Faith Community	(37.42)	2,915.76	4,400.00	1,484.24	66.27%
LEADERSHIP AND EQUIPPING					
1432 Training	<u>86.40</u>	<u>178.40</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>821.60</u>	<u>17.84%</u>
Total Leadership and Equipping	86.40	178.40	1,000.00	821.60	17.84%
PER CAPITA					
1453 Per Capita	<u>1,271.25</u>	<u>15,255.00</u>	<u>15,255.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Total Per Capita	1,271.25	15,255.00	15,255.00	0.00	100.00%
MISSIONS					
1459 General Missions	1,366.67	16,400.04	16,400.00	(0.04)	100.00%
1460 International Missions	2,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00	100.00%
1461 Kindercottage	750.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	100.00%
1462 Presbyterian Fund/Theological Educ	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	100.00%
1463 Westminster PC (USA)	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00%
1464 Youth Mission Trip	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%
1467 Local Needs	3,500.00	15,189.78	15,750.00	560.22	96.44%
1468 Mordhorst Adult Mission Trip	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	100.00%
1469 U-Kirk St Louis	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.00%
1470 International Mission Festival	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%
1472 Presbyterian Children's Services	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.00%
1473 2018 GA Support	2,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.00%
1474 Mound Ridge Capital Campaign	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,250.00</u>	<u>2,250.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Total Missions	10,116.67	86,339.82	88,000.00	1,660.18	98.11%
MUSIC					
1475 Literature-Music	91.70	277.35	500.00	222.65	55.47%
1476 Organ Maintenance	690.00	1,230.00	1,000.00	(230.00)	123.00%
1477 Piano Maintenance	344.00	648.00	900.00	252.00	72.00%
1478 Miscellaneous/Supplies	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00%
1479 Substitutes / Additional Music	0.00	150.00	600.00	450.00	25.00%
1480 Additional Musicians	2,560.00	10,020.00	8,100.00	(1,920.00)	123.70%
1481 Handbells	48.49	48.49	100.00	51.51	48.49%
1483 Copyright Release	<u>0.00</u>	<u>685.00</u>	<u>625.00</u>	<u>(60.00)</u>	<u>109.60%</u>
Total Music	3,734.19	13,058.84	12,025.00	(1,033.84)	108.60%
STEWARDSHIP					
1484 Offering Envelopes	1,189.28	1,189.28	1,100.00	(89.28)	108.12%
1485 Resource Materials	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%
1486 Fall Campaign Materials	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(450.28)</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,950.28</u>	<u>(30.02)%</u>
Total Stewardship	1,189.28	739.00	3,100.00	2,361.00	23.84%

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FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
For the 1 Month and 12 Months Ended December 31, 2017

General Fund

	Current Month Actual	Year To Date Actual	Total Budget	Balance Remaining	Expended Percentage
WORSHIP					
1490 Communion Elements	0.00	392.74	300.00	(92.74)	130.91%
1491 Special Services	0.00	234.62	700.00	465.38	33.52%
1492 Ushers & Miscellaneous	0.00	11.49	150.00	138.51	7.66%
1493 Creative Worship	154.70	154.70	500.00	345.30	30.94%
1494 Sanctuary & Chapel Needs	(106.20)	375.83	500.00	124.17	75.17%
1495 Guest Preachers	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	100.00%
1496 A/V Systems	<u>0.00</u>	<u>897.59</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>852.41</u>	<u>51.29%</u>
Total Worship	48.50	2,316.97	4,150.00	1,833.03	55.83%
STAFF COMPENSATION					
1500 Salaries Sr Pastoral Staff	7,730.76	66,999.92	67,000.00	0.08	100.00%
1501 Pensions - Pastoral Staff	834.17	10,010.04	10,010.00	(0.04)	100.00%
1502 Medical - Pastoral Staff	2,069.78	24,837.36	24,837.36	0.00	100.00%
1503 Housing/Utilities - Pastoral Staff	2,769.21	23,999.82	24,000.00	0.18	100.00%
1504 Professional Expense - Sr. Pastor	191.80	2,598.96	4,500.00	1,901.04	57.75%
1505 Deferred Comp - Pastoral Staff	803.25	6,961.59	6,961.50	(0.09)	100.00%
1506 Christian Ed. Staff Salaries	6,862.32	59,473.44	59,473.31	(0.13)	100.00%
1507 SS / Deferred Comp - CE Staff	1,007.29	10,337.80	10,349.71	11.91	99.88%
1508 Professional Expense - CE	1,018.01	1,298.66	2,500.00	1,201.34	51.95%
1509 Music Staff Salaries	5,407.27	42,956.84	42,447.37	(509.47)	101.20%
1511 SS / Pension - Music Staff	260.67	3,133.22	3,247.22	114.00	96.49%
1512 Continuing Education-Music	0.00	223.54	1,800.00	1,576.46	12.42%
1513 Youth Director Salary	4,529.52	39,255.84	39,255.96	0.12	100.00%
1514 Medical - Youth Director	760.46	9,125.52	9,114.00	(11.52)	100.13%
1515 SS - Youth Director	346.52	3,003.07	3,003.08	0.01	100.00%
1516 Professional Expense - Youth Direct	419.03	1,728.72	2,000.00	271.28	86.44%
1517 Salaries - Custodial	2,654.11	25,651.01	23,708.26	(1,942.75)	108.19%
1518 Pension - Youth Director	359.85	4,318.20	4,192.00	(126.20)	103.01%
1519 SS/Pension - Custodial	203.06	1,962.31	1,813.68	(148.63)	108.19%
1522 Child Care	392.87	6,176.97	11,288.20	5,111.23	54.72%
1523 Salaries - Office Staff	5,563.81	41,773.64	46,435.86	4,662.22	89.96%
1524 Office Deferred Comp / Cont Ed	108.00	212.00	1,000.00	788.00	21.20%
1525 SS Office	425.61	3,195.69	3,552.34	356.65	89.96%
1528 Misc. Committee Expense	90.00	773.22	3,100.00	2,326.78	24.94%
1529 Workman's Compensation Insurance	<u>3,527.00</u>	<u>2,985.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>2,015.00</u>	<u>59.70%</u>
Total Staff Compensation	48,334.37	392,992.38	410,589.85	17,597.47	95.71%

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FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
For the 1 Month and 12 Months Ended December 31, 2017

General Fund

	Current Month Actual	Year To Date Actual	Total Budget	Balance Remaining	Expended Percentage
B of T ADMINISTRATION					
1530 Utilities	4,693.94	52,831.05	49,000.00	(3,831.05)	107.82%
1531 Safety Team	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00%
1532 Communications	409.94	4,443.39	4,500.00	56.61	98.74%
1534 Leases & Contracts	1,907.19	20,911.19	20,500.00	(411.19)	102.01%
1536 Insurance	0.00	26,961.70	27,500.00	538.30	98.04%
1538 Postage	158.99	2,477.30	3,000.00	522.70	82.58%
1540 Office Supplies	330.07	3,534.46	5,000.00	1,465.54	70.69%
1544 Technology Maintenance	1,500.00	2,120.81	4,000.00	1,879.19	53.02%
1546 Administrative/Accounting Fees	1,343.46	16,503.06	16,500.00	(3.06)	100.02%
Total Administration	10,343.59	129,782.96	130,600.00	817.04	99.37%
B of T INSIDE					
1550 Mechanical Systems - Indoor	2,127.99	28,583.52	25,000.00	(3,583.52)	114.33%
1552 Elevators	0.00	4,693.16	5,000.00	306.84	93.86%
1554 Fire Systems	116.93	4,542.77	5,000.00	457.23	90.86%
1556 Fixtures / Consumables	35.54	4,600.15	5,000.00	399.85	92.00%
1558 Cleaning Supplies	484.92	2,686.53	5,000.00	2,313.47	53.73%
1560 Interior Decor	0.00	92.48	1,000.00	907.52	9.25%
Total Building and Mechanical	2,765.38	45,198.61	46,000.00	801.39	98.26%
B of T OUTSIDE					
1570 Mechanical Systems - Outdoor	0.00	3,957.65	5,000.00	1,042.35	79.15%
1572 Grounds	340.00	5,148.98	3,000.00	(2,148.98)	171.63%
1574 Pavement Repairs	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00%
1576 Lawn Care / Snow Removal	0.00	10,611.72	12,000.00	1,388.28	88.43%
1580 Fuel	103.18	1,099.05	2,000.00	900.95	54.95%
1582 Vehicle Repairs	20.00	2,987.58	4,000.00	1,012.42	74.69%
1584 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	246.50	1,300.00	1,053.50	18.96%
Total Transportation / Grounds	463.18	24,051.48	30,300.00	6,248.52	79.38%

**FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
For the 1 Month and 12 Months Ended December 31, 2017**

General Fund

	Current Month Actual	Year To Date Actual	Total Budget	Balance Remaining	Expended Percentage
College / Young Adult Ministries					
1590 Back to School Packages	0.00	798.22	650.00	(148.22)	122.80%
1591 Care Packages for College Students	258.44	461.77	750.00	288.23	61.57%
1592 Events for Groups	0.00	189.01	400.00	210.99	47.25%
1593 Tapping Into Faith	0.00	129.13	600.00	470.87	21.52%
1594 Ministry Architects Extension	<u>0.00</u>	<u>960.30</u>	<u>1,530.00</u>	<u>569.70</u>	<u>62.76%</u>
Total C/YA Ministries	258.44	2,538.43	3,930.00	1,391.57	64.59%
DEACONS BUDGET					
1612 Direct Benevolence	42.00	156.22	2,500.00	2,343.78	6.25%
1616 Parish Nurse Ministry	0.00	297.79	500.00	202.21	59.56%
1618 Banana Ministry	0.00	312.00	600.00	288.00	52.00%
1619 Loaves & Fishes	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00%
1620 Prayer Shawl Ministry	0.00	521.45	600.00	78.55	86.91%
1621 Administrative Expenses	0.00	52.03	100.00	47.97	52.03%
1622 Grief Share and Stephen Ministers	<u>0.00</u>	<u>940.68</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>59.32</u>	<u>94.07%</u>
Total DEACONS	42.00	2,280.17	6,100.00	3,819.83	37.38%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	79,823.12	738,417.13	781,999.85	43,582.72	94.43%
1601 Beginning Fund Balance	(48,836.13)	(30,953.31)	0.00	30,953.31	0.00%
1901 Transfer From Other Fund	0.00	33,833.31	0.00	(33,833.31)	0.00%
1902 Transfer To Other Fund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,000.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	<u>(55,866.73)</u>	<u>(55,866.73)</u>	<u>0.15</u>	<u>(55,866.88)</u>	<u>7.39%</u>