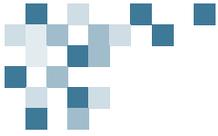


ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Edgebrook Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Gregory Sabetta

Senior Pastor

pastorgreg@edgebrookucc.org

Office Hours by Appointment

Lauren E. Brown

Director of Christian Education

education@edgebrookucc.org

Alan J. Hommerding

Director of Music

music@edgebrookucc.org

Barb Brogan

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Tue, Wed, Thu, 10am-3pm

Edge of the Wood Theatre

Jeanann Power

Janet Rourke

John Chambers

6736 North Loleta Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60646

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CURRENT STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Create meaningful opportunities for teens to engage in the life of the church.
2. Grow the congregation in order to witness to our vision of God's inclusive love.
3. Improve the financial stability of the church in order to continue to live out our mission.

CORE VALUES

1. Worship
2. Learning
3. Service

OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We are an Open and Affirming congregation. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here. We welcome individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities, of all races and ethnicities, of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, and we welcome families of all kinds.

MISSION STATEMENT

Edgebrook Community Church, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, is an open-hearted, open-minded Christian community seeking to know God's word, dedicated to living the faith and making it real in our lives and in our community.

VISION STATEMENT

As members of Edgebrook Community Church, we shall strive to bring together persons of faith to worship God and grow in spirituality while affirming the dignity of all persons. We will endeavor to share our gifts by supporting each other physically, emotionally and spiritually. We shall undertake to renew our spirits to live our faith and to inspire God's presence in our community.



From the Pastor



Sometimes when doubts overwhelm, or circumstances unnerve, or you're not sure what to do today or tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, consider thinking small. Let go of figuring it all out. Think small. Do something small. Try something small. A kind word. A loving gesture. A walk around the block. A little prayer, like "God, help me." Five minutes of quiet. Read a Haiku instead of a novel. Think small.

Jesus once said that the way to greatness is to give someone a cup of cold water. That's small thinking at it's best.

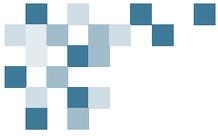
I know what you're thinking – we need to find synergy and have a big vision and create large arcs of social transformation. I like social transformation as much as the next person, but this time of year – for a variety of reasons – I'm thinking small. I'm thinking of what to do in this hour. I'm thinking about how to help this one person in front of me. Right here. Right now. I'm thinking of what I need to do today to live a better life.

We have some opportunities as a congregation to refresh ourselves on our path of growth, revisit our core values of worship, service, and learning, and our strategic goals listed on the previous page.

While this kind of work may seem daunting as we think about the big picture, perhaps thinking small at first will set us on the broader path. In this season of Epiphany, may God cause us to be guided by the light of the star who is our hope, our peace.

Pastor Greg

The Reverend Gregory Sabetta,
Senior Pastor



From the Council President



Our church and many other churches are in the midst of challenging times due to the changing role of religion and worship and the many other aspects of family life, careers, social opportunities and political intrigue that all compete urgently for our time, attention and devotion. It's tempting during these periods to recalibrate our expectations, and it is important to take comfort and satisfaction in the regular rhythm of bonding and sharing fellowship. Connection to and openness with others in our congregation, our neighborhood, our city and our country is affirming and important. These small moments of repeated and consistent connection are how community is built and strengthened. I particularly appreciated and was heartened by our series of constructive conversations around the impact of gun violence and the capable guidance that we received through both our pastoral leadership and prepared materials.

I also suggest that an additional way forward for the church is to explore connecting our real strengths in new and innovative ways that will be compelling to our members and the community. We have a strong Sunday service with compelling music and a gifted pastor celebrating his 10th year in the pulpit with us; we have a remarkable theater celebrating its 20th year; and we have a thriving new music school - how can we better connect and integrate these elements to show a bold, ambitious face to the community and inspire others to join us in celebration and fellowship?

There are no simple answers or easy solutions to growth. It is work, and it may be demanding. But we do all this to help others; to sustain ourselves and our families; and to share the good news we find through worship and connection. I invite you to recommit, to genuinely and authentically relate to others and to be open to both big ideas and everyday association. The work of faith is daily, and while the opportunity to observe tangible achievements can feel rare, it is here and will reward your attention, engagement, faith and belief.

Thank you for being a part of our church and our future.

Warmly,

Christopher Toft, *Council President*



From the Director of Music



As they begin their second full year of working together, the singers continue to become a more musically cohesive group.

A musical highlight of the year was the performance of Mendelssohn's cantata "Aus Tiefer Not" (Out of the Depths) during Lent, with accompaniment by a string quartet assembled by Alin Cernaianu of The Northside Music Academy. Getting to work with and make music with Alin continues to be a gratifying experience, and he was also very accommodating in allowing the church to use the school's electric drum kit for Lessons and Carols in December.

It was likewise rewarding for me to prepare and lead the Sunday services for Trinity Sunday, as well as the July 2nd service "Many, One/One, Many." Tenor Michael Potsic, who also provided music at Rock the Block, joined me in musical leadership for these two Sundays.

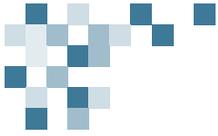
We once again had the Lakeside Pride brass quintet with us for the Lessons and Carols service, "Comfort and Joy," in December. The musical relationship with the quintet is becoming a nice holiday tradition. One item of personal musical gratification this year was to set some of Pastor Greg's Opening Sentences from Sunday worship of years past as choral introits for September/October/November. I enjoyed working with these texts, and look forward to setting some more of them for future Sundays at Edgebrook.



At the end of October, I did find it challenging to re-program music for the three Sundays we devoted to Women in Scripture. Though I usually think of my ability to plan long-range as an asset, I learned that this ability can negatively manifest itself as rigidity. Two of these Sundays were staffed by either the two women or two men singers, so repertoire choices were a bit limited. Even at that, turned out to be a good growth and learning experience for me, and I was pleased with the musical offerings for the Sundays devoted to this worthy topic.

It is sometimes difficult for me to remember or realize that I am in my fifth year of serving the Edgebrook community. The work of music ministry here has been both fulfilling and inspiring, and I continue to be grateful for the music-making I get to do here.

Alan Hommerding, *Director of Music*



From the Director of Christian Education



2018 has brought many bright spots as well as a few challenges for the Sunday School. We have had a consistent weekly group that is eager to build community, gain religious knowledge, and participate in service projects. One might say 2018 was small in numbers but mighty in spirit. Some highlights included: packing food at Feed My Starving Children twice, creating meals for the Night Ministry, crafting blankets to donate to Project Linus, and assisting in Onward Houses holiday gift collection. We have painted, acted, created experiments, and other activities. During Sunday School the group learned about biblical stories in many different cross curricular ways. Our greatest challenge for 2018 was the size of our class. This is now our newest goal, we will have more consistent extra activities and everyone can assist by inviting friends to join us. We also have set more in store for 2019, including service projects, more frequent gatherings for children to come together outside of Sunday, a Touch a Truck event, Easter celebration, and more. I look forward to watching this consistent group of children grow in biblical knowledge and gain more regular attendees.

Lauren E. Brown, *Director of Christian Education*

Committee Reports

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

In addition to regular maintenance, we've addressed various deferred maintenance issues as well as a few emergencies over the past year.

Most notably, the lower roof has been replaced, and the interior ceiling is repaired. The project entailed more work than anticipated due to electrical issues, a leak in a gas line, and the scuppers being beyond repair. The roof was pitched and new gutters were installed. The improvements were successfully completed and all leaks appear to have been fixed. The sloped roof should be less susceptible to leaks into the future.

We are fortunate to have skilled and reputable vendors that we trust to provide great service.

Other repairs this year:

- Sump Pump replacement
- Valve replacement on various radiators
- Leak repairs in School of Music
- Broken window
- Heritage Room AC repair
- Lift repairs
- Organ motor repair
- Various plumbing issues

To address long-term budgeting needs and energy use, Elevate Energy conducted an energy audit (free through and incentive program of ComEd). A walk-through was conducted in September, and the report was received in November. Copies of the report are available through the church office.

Projects for 2019:

- Plant pollinator/prairie garden/touch garden in former play lot
- Analyze energy assessment to determine best replacement solutions for boiler/chimney/radiators and budgeting needs
- Prepare Request for Proposals for boiler and accompanying work to better define expected cost and complexity

Vince Mosca (chair), Pat McCormack

■ COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION AND MISSION COMMITTEE

2018 was once again an exciting and fun year of Education and Mission at Edgebrook Community Church. Highlights Include:

Youth Group

Our Youth Group continues to meet several times a year for fellowship and fun. Youth Nights occur regularly and our youth continue to participate in worship and service opportunities. In the first half of 2018 we had some "Youth Sundays" and in the fall, we had "Bring a Friend Nights" including a small Christmas time gathering.

Service Collections & Hands-On Service Activities

We continue to participate in many mission collections & activities. In 2018, these included collecting food and supplies for Lakeview Pantry and working with A Just Harvest, where families and youth served meals at their community kitchen.

Congregational Events

Rock the Block was once again a great event to visit together and kick off fall and the new school year.

Crissy Schoeff (chair)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Life Committee aligned with the church's core mission of worship, service, and learning. At the center of our work was a commitment to respectful interaction and communication within our church community. The committee's main focus was attracting new membership and nurturing an environment that people want to join. The committee actively participated in weekly functions for the church service as well as organized special events around holidays. We co-hosted "Rock the Block" at the start of the new school year, and put together additional advertising for activities at the church during the Christmas season. These efforts were put forth to attract new membership for the church.

Nancy Huysman (chair), Judy Sachs, David Murphy, Doug Power

EDGE OF THE WOOD THEATRE

In March of 2000, The Broadcaster, a newsletter of the Edgebrook Community Church, announced: "The Council called for a special Congregational meeting on March 5th to explore the idea of creating a Drama school here at the church. . . .There is much excitement in the air as we begin this new avenue of outreach to the community. Break a leg!" As Edge of the Wood Theatre looks forward to beginning its 20th year in 2019, and as we prepare to celebrate 20 years of providing an excellent theatre arts education to young people of the area and quality productions to varied audiences at Edge of the Wood Theatre, we wish to express our gratitude to Edgebrook Community Church for partnering with us in this amazing journey.

Classes and Performances

- The 2017 Fall Term finished with performances of Curtains in February 2018.
- For Spring 2018, in May the 6-8-year-old classes performed a version of Aladdin and the 8-12-year-old classes performed The Wizard of Oz. The 11-18-year-old classes performed Spamalot in June.
- The 2018 summer theatre camp began in July, with a solid class of students appearing in performances of a scene-and-musical revue entitled: Something to Take the Edge Off. We graduated twelve (12) seniors.
- For the Fall Term, in December the one-hour classes performed Peter Pan and the 90-minute class performed A Christmas Carol. The two-hour class will perform The Music Man in February of 2019.

We are happy to note the continued participation of children from a number of our church families and friends. The School offers discounted tuition to members and active friends.

In 2017, our first targeted direct mail and email Holiday Fundraising Campaign ultimately netted \$857, which was applied to 2018 operating costs.

The Theatre Committee was very sorry to lose Karen Bump, a valued Committee member who was a long-time advocate for, and supporter of, the Theatre and Edgebrook Community Church. Fortunately, Donna Oberhardt, parent of a former Edge student and former Principal of Edison Gifted School, stepped up and has provided a great deal of assistance to the Committee in 2018, along with ongoing members Jim Bittman and Jenny Gatesman. In 2018, the Committee has been very active in investigating issues of budget, fundraising, additional sources of revenue and volunteer support, and improved communication between the theatre and the church. This effort has been greatly assisted and supported by Chris Toft, who met frequently with the Committee and gave generously of his expertise, to enhance their efforts and expand their fundraising knowledge base; and by Kelli Sorkin, who also advised on a 2018 Fall Fundraising campaign that is still in progress.

SPONSORED PROGRAM REPORT

Edge of the Wood Theatre Report Cont'd

In Fall of 2018, we experienced a not-unexpected enrollment decline in the school, in part as the natural ebb and flow of attendance which has happened in the past, and also because we had two large graduating classes of students who left Edge to go on to college - 8 in 2017 and 12 in 2018. While we expect this decline to be reversed, in response, the theatre has taken or will be taking the following steps:

- Raising some tuition costs
- Consideration of raising ticket prices for student shows
- Offering a referral discount to current students
- Reduced faculty salaries
- Reduced use of musicians, reduced production budgets and other support
- Reached out to our families for more volunteer support
- Investigating multiple methods for increased publicity, including around our 20th anniversary in July of 2019

The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood produces family-friendly shows across genres, bringing professional-caliber theatre to the Edgebrook community, and engaging and inspiring young people as performers and theatregoers. In March, the Resident Theatre mounted a production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, directed by John Chambers and featuring Chris Toft, Jeanann Power and Janet Rourke. The Fall presentation was the musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*, directed by John Chambers and featuring Chris Toft and Janet Rourke.

Auditions were held in the Fall for the Spring 2019 production of *The Beautiful People* by William Saroyan in March, which will feature Janet Rourke. Edge of the Wood is thrilled to welcome Director Shawn Douglass this season. He is an Artistic Associate with Remy Bumpoppo Theatre Company and an acting professor at Northwestern University. We are excited that Mr. Douglass has chosen Edge to share his vision and love for this quirky, lovely and lyrical play. Also in Spring, there will be a production of *The Belle of Amherst* by William Luce, directed by Stacey Lind and featuring Jeanann Power. *Belle* is a journey into the life and poetry of one of America's greatest poets, Emily Dickinson. Time magazine called the play, "An intrepid exploration of the heart, the mind, and the soul."

The Theatre is proud that it continues to draw people from the community and surroundings into an experience within Edgebrook Community Church that they might otherwise not have had, as parents of students, and in attendance at the student performances and Resident Theatre shows. We believe this continues to raise and enhance the profile of the Church in the larger community - a founding objective of the Theatre School.

Jeanann Power and Janet Rourke, Co-Directors, Edge of the Wood Theatre School, Producers, The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood

John Chambers, Edge of the Wood Theatre School Instructor, Artistic Director, The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood

Jim Bittman, Karen Bump (emeritus), Donna Oberhardt, Jenny Gatesman - Theatre Advisory Committee

SPONSORED PROGRAM REPORT



Edge of the Wood Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Expense Reimbursement	1,567.44
Checking/Savings	
EWT, Edgebrook Community Church	13,545.31
Paypal	3,126.59
Total Checking/Savings	<u>18,239.34</u>

Total Current Assets

18,239.34

TOTAL ASSETS

19,274.86

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Resident Theatre Trust	-5,203.00
Facilities Improvement Trust	-2,800.00
Donation Trust	-1,750.00
Committee Donation Trust	-1,460.00
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	<u>-1,267.50</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-12,489.50</u>

Total Current Liabilities

-12,489.50

Total Liabilities

-12,489.50

Equity

Retained Earnings	0.00
Net Income	

Total Equity

0.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

-12,489.50

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE AND TREASURER

2018 Budget v Actual Results & 2018 Budget - GENERAL FUND

	2018			2019
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledges & Plate	42,319	44,600	(2,281)	33,600
Facilities Use	30,635	31,200	(565)	31,600
Interest	19,560	19,200	360	19,000
Total Receipts before funding	92,514	95,000	(2,486)	84,200
Swanson Funds	124,973	120,000	4,973	120,000
Investment Transfer	99,597	50,875	48,722	84,200
TOTAL RECEIPTS	317,084	265,875	51,209	288,400
Staff	148,183	145,675	2,508	153,800
Facilities	129,000	77,200	51,800	86,800
Other ministries	29,140	30,100	(960)	33,900
Administrative	10,761	12,900	(2,139)	13,900
TOTAL EXPENSES	317,084	265,875	51,209	288,400

* 2018 Budget was used; amount has not been confirmed by the Trustee

2018 Overview

Actual receipts before funding and mission were approximately \$2,000 favorable to budgeted amounts due primarily to Swanson Fund deposits. Actual expenses, excluding mission, were approximately \$51,000 unfavorable to budget primarily due to extraordinary roof repairs during 2018, approved during the 2017 Annual Meeting. The overall result required an investment transfer to close the deficit ("gap") that was approximately \$48,000 higher than budgeted. Aside from the roof repairs previously mentioned, there were no significant capital expenditures in 2018, therefore, the investment transfer was primarily used for operations, after considering said repairs.

Walter and Gertrude Swanson Foundation

The Church receives funding each year per the wishes of Walter and Gertrude Swanson. 100% of amounts received in the current year are used to fund operations in the following year.

Receipts

Actual pledges/plate finished below budget. 90% of pledge/plate fund operations, the remaining are used to fund mission.

2019 Budget

The Church anticipates expenses exceeding receipts, requiring a transfer from investment balances, of \$84,200. This is unfavorable to 2018 budget due primarily to lower membership pledges as well as increases in repairs and maintenance, pastor insurance and pension, cost of living adjustment for Church staff, singers and other worship and meditation related costs. Wherever possible, expenses were held or reduced from 2018 levels. Mission has been budgeted at \$6,500, which is consistent with the past several years.

Investments

Year-End Asset Statement

On December 31, 2018, the total value of all Church investments is still at a healthy level of approximately \$542,000, despite another year with a significant operations gap to cover, down from approximately \$673,000 from last year, excluding all cash and restricted investment funds. These Investment Funds are the source of the investment transfer required to close the operations "gap" the past several years. The restricted investment funds are the Vanguard Dividend Growth fund (Billington), and its interest is used exclusively for mission, consistent with the bequest of Dorothy Billington. A Summary of all funds is enclosed below:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
T. Rowe Price New Income	269,010	374,790	370,051
Vanguard Total Stock	130,185	139,892	117,584
Checking account	102,345	85,156	118,031
Vanguard Dividend Growth (Billington)	98,042	99,819	85,285
Vanguard Small Cap	73,766	82,574	72,062
T. Rowe Price High Yield	<u>68,695</u>	<u>75,386</u>	<u>123,056</u>
TOTAL - All Cash & Investments	742,043	857,617	886,069
LESS: Restricted Funds			
Vanguard Dividend Growth (Billington)	98,042	99,819	85,285
Trust funds in checking account	<u>12,789</u>	<u>12,038</u>	<u>11,345</u>
TOTAL - Unrestricted Cash & Investments	631,212	745,760	789,439

Unrestricted Investment Account Performance

The unrestricted investment funds experienced capital losses of approximately \$39,000 in 2018, reversing the performance of the past two years. These losses were exacerbated by an increase in transfer out for operations due to overall financial performance noted previously.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Beginning balance, January 1	672,642	682,753	738,264
Capital (losses) gains	(38,986)	39,889	29,876
Less: Transfers out for operations	<u>92,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>85,387</u>
<i>Net decrease increase in investments *</i>	<i>(130,986)</i>	<i>(10,111)</i>	<i>(55,511)</i>
Ending balance, December 31	<u>\$ 541,656</u>	<u>\$ 672,642</u>	<u>\$ 682,753</u>

* 100% of dividends and interest are used for operations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Treasurer Report Cont'd

Fundraising and Trust Funds

In addition to Church Member contributions for operations and mission support, our Congregation has successful fundraisers for general and specific purposes. In 2018, these collective fundraisers generated, net of related expenses, \$751 for various groups in addition to the many donations we made. The Church manages these funds as if in separate Trust accounts. Balances for all Trust Funds at December 31 are as follows:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Memorials	4,369	4,119	4,119
Friends of Music	2,727	2,011	1,639
Pastor's Fundraising	2,122	1,480	1,232
General Fundraising	1,585	2,404	515
Youth Group/School	1,093	1,093	1,093
Ladies of the Night	502	502	502
Flower Fund	391	429	397
Mission *	-	-	1,417
Miscellaneous *	-	-	431
Total Trust Funds	12,789	12,038	11,345

* Transferred to Checking Account (General Fund) in 2017.

Edge of the Woods Theatre

	2018			2019
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Budget</u>
2018 Overview				
Tuition	97,977	103,683	(5,706)	87,014
Production & Concession	8,328	8,300	28	8,000
Donations	1,957	500	1,457	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	108,262	112,483	(4,221)	95,014
Staff and Contractors	68,862	76,500	(7,638)	69,700
Production Costs	18,883	21,500	(2,617)	21,500
Facilities Rent	16,067	11,500	4,567	15,528
Administrative	3,417	2,983	434	2,802
TOTAL EXPENSES	107,229	112,483	(5,254)	109,530
Operations Windfall (Shortfall)	1,033	-	1,033	(14,516)

Actual receipts unfavorable to budgeted amounts due primarily to lower tuition, driving actual expenses lower than budget, as budgetary shortfalls are funded through staff payroll. The overall result was a windfall of approximately \$1,000, which will be used to fund future operations.

Jeff Brown (Treasurer), Lisa Bakker (Chair), Jim Bittman

Church Statistics and Membership



44 Current Members (voice and vote)

Ann Adams, Doug Bakker, Lisa Bakker, James Bittman, Laura Bittman, Grace Bittman*, Lauren E. Brown, Jeffery Brown, Susan Ford, Robbin Frey, Nancy Huysman, Alex Gaski, Steve Gaski, Robert Geib, Kerry Hamill, Andy James, Tiffany James, Rebecca James*, Charles (Pat) McCormack, Claire Marie McCormack, John McDonald, Vince Mosca, David Murphy George, Richard Neuhaus, Emily Patzke, Lisa Patzke, Alessandra Power, Jeanann Power, Douglas G. Power, Aude Raymond, Judith Sachs, Gregory Sabetta, Crissy Schoeff, Madeline Schoeff *, Curtis Simonson, Barbara Simonson, Nicole Toft, Christopher Toft, Jane Toft*, Anna Zaczek, Ben Zaczek*, Brenda Zaczek, Philip Zaczek

* under age 18

Friends of the Congregation (voice, no vote)

John Bump, Karen Bump, Katie Bump, Michael Bump, Rebecca DeSalvo, Jenny Gatesman, Mike Hamill, Rev. Ann James, Jeanne James, Crystal Guerrero, Deb Phillips, Jenny and Matt Rhoades, Kristen Kenefick/Jon Ross, Robin Kessler, Kirsten Therese Leslie, Matthew Thurman, Bob Personett, Jayne DeVol, Elise Renee DeVol, Christy Anne DeVol, Carolyn Zafiris, Galo Gutierrez, Holly Gutierrez, Diana Servatius, John Servatius, Allan Swaringen, Alana Swaringen, Chase Swaringen, Sue Swaringen, Glenn Gardner, Amanda Bernett, Clarice Amy Bernett, Natasha Bernett, Julia Gudas, Maya Gudas, Frank Patzke, Edwin Puente, Romana Puente, Olyvia Puente, Matt Somers, Liz Somers, Katie Swindler, Jacob Swindler, Isaiah Elhamti

We gratefully acknowledge those who have pledged their support for 2019

Ann Adams, Doug and Lisa Bakker, Jim and Laura Bittman, Jeff and Lauren Brown, Jennifer Gatesman, Robert Geib, Kerry and Michael Hamill, Alan Hommerding, Nancy Huysman, Andrew and Tiffany James, Vera Jeanne James, Charles McCormick, Richard Neuhaus, Doug and Jeanann Power, Chris and NicoleToft, Judy Sachs, Christine Schoeff, Curtis and Barbara Simonson, Brenda and Phil Zaczek.

Additional Church Information

Rock the Block

Our annual block party was great fun again this year. Our thanks to everyone who participated and brought games and supervised the Bounce House. Thanks to everyone for pitching in and making it a success!



Barn Dance

Chicago weather prevented us from kicking up our heels last year, but we're back this year on Friday, Feb 22.



Northside Music Academy

Our wonderful tenants, The Northside Music Academy, owned and operated by Alin and Natalia Cernaianu is in full swing and making great connections in our community and beyond. Their offering of lessons has significantly expanded along with A Musical Storytime for ages 0-6. On March 23 at 4pm, Chicago Symphony Orchestra will send an ensemble to perform in our sanctuary as part of their educational outreach. Everybody is welcome!

Chicago Chamber Choir

Chicago Chamber Choir performed their Christmas concert in our sanctuary in mid-December to an audience of approximately 200. The music was glorious, and they were appreciative of using our beautiful space.

