

# **Annual Charge Conference**

November 15, 2015



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1050 SE IRELAND STREET  
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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**OHFUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE AGENDA**  
**November 15, 2015**

**WELCOME** *Pastor Vonna*

**OPENING SONG** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #89 (UMC)

**OPENING PRAYER** *Daniel Foster, District Superintendent*

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

- Election of leaders *Jim Palmer, Lay Leader*
- Pastor Compensation for calendar year 2016 *Susan Schopf, SPPR*
- Membership Report *Pastor Vonna*  
*for Peggy Miller-Stephens, Membership Secretary*

(This will include the reading of names and ringing of chimes for those who have died)

- Accountability Questions
  - Have all the church's financial activities been audited for 2014? If not, what year was last complete audit? What is the plan for completion?  
*Kathy Doll, Financial Ministries Team Leader*
  - Are your corporate status and property tax exemptions current?  
*Ken Opdyke, Trustees Chair*
  - Is your insurance current *and paid*?  
*Jim Slowik, Treasurer*
  - Does your church have a current and enforced "Safe Churches" policy? Are you doing national background checks on volunteers and staff?  
*Pastor Vonna for Peggy Miller-Stephens, Background Check Administrator*
  - Is your church current on its apportionments? If not, what is your plan?  
*Kathy Doll, Financial Ministries Team Leader*
  - Local church business items

**STATE OF THE CHURCH CONVERSATION** *Daniel Foster, DS*

**MINISTRY FUND DRIVE** *Daniel Foster, DS*

**PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION** *Daniel Foster, DS*

**BENEDICTION** *Pastor Vonna*

## Building Fund Committee Annual Report 2015

(Bob Wolfe, Jim Slowik, and Ann Oldham, Chair)

The Building Fund is administered by a committee of three members. In 2006, the Administrative Council confirmed that these funds would be maintained separately from the current expense fund, would be audited annually and restated the purpose to be the accumulation of capital reserve resources that church members designate for new building construction and added building or land acquisition.

The Building Fund balance as of October 31, 2014 was \$290,189.86. Currently the Building Fund balance as of October 31, 2015 has increased to **\$300,042.79**. These funds are invested in CDs with various institutions, including the Pacific Northwest Conference, depending upon available interest rates. Fund balances are reflected monthly on the Church Treasurer's Balance Sheet Report.

Committee members are available for questions from Church members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Oldham, Chair

## **EVANGELISM TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

The Evangelism Team was somewhat active. Members: Candy Slowik, Linda Dady, MaryJo Morris, Joy Pearson, Pixie Maylor, Joyce Tighe.

- . Ads were place in 2 directories
- . Ads were placed in WNT and Crosswinds
- . Participated in Holland Happening Parade
- . Greeters were assigned by Candy and we decided we only need 1 greeter per Sunday.
- . Hospitality Hosts for Sunday Morning fellowship hour is working. The congregation was very giving with their sweets and treats.
- . Summer Picnics brought in some new members opening their homes to us. Hoping for more next year.
- . Mothers Day we passed out 100 long stem red roses to all the women in the church.

Submitted by:  
Candy Slowik

## **FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

The Family Ministries Team went through some transition halfway through the year as Jake Howell resigned and our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Erin Tombaugh joined our team. We continue to expand our programs and outreach. Below is an overview of our work in 2015:

### **Lent Activities**

On Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School children participated in the service by holding and waving Palm Branches as they sang a hymn with the congregation. The children had spent three weeks rehearsing the hymn.

On Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, we held a one room school house. After hearing the Easter story, the children made resurrection rolls and completed a craft. After the service we held our annual Easter Egg hunt at Smith Park. Thirty-five children hunted for 500 eggs. This was the most kids we've had at an Easter Sunday School and egg hunt for quite a while!

### **Father's Day**

On June 21<sup>st</sup> we held a picnic after the service. We provided hot dogs, drinks, and chips, and the congregation brought pies and side dishes. We had a racing area set up for remote control cars and a bouncy house set up for the wee ones.

### **Summer Camp**

The Youth attended summer camp as a group this year with Jake Howell. Each youth was awarded a partial scholarship.

### **Vacation Bible School**

Our VBS was held earlier this year (July 27-31<sup>st</sup>). We changed up the curriculum after doing research on the themes available. Group's Everest curriculum provided a backdrop for us to turn the church into a snow filled mountain with adventures with God. We had a huge turnout with close to 90 kids attending (ages 3 through entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and 40 adult/youth volunteers. We even had a local daycare bring their children. Children enjoyed stations with music, a bible story, crafts, and recreational games. This curriculum also supported grouping various ages together during the week, which benefited all ages. The Preschool group (ages 3-5) and Elementary groups (First grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) did separate for everything but the Opening and Closing Assembly each day.

### **Supper Stop**

The rainy weather this year didn't keep our Supper Stop from being a success. Nearly thirty volunteers from our Church participated by helping to prepare and serve food, set-up, and clean-up. We also had six youth volunteer (along with their parents) and spread the word of our outreach on Pioneer Street. We served Grilled Cheese sandwiches along with tomato and chicken noodle soup. Games, the large bouncy house, and a picture taking station were set up for youngsters and their parents to enjoy. We also handed out 100 goodie bags with information about Church services.

### **ADVENTure to Christmas**

This event will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to hold the majority of our ADVENTure to Christmas activities during a one room Sunday School on that day. Children will be read the story of Advent and make both an Advent wreath and Nativity blocks that they can use at home to retell the Nativity story.

### **Birthday Party for Jesus**

The party will be held during our Sunday School hour on December 20<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate the Birthday of Jesus with cupcakes, activities, and games. Each family will receive a Nativity Magnet Scene.

### **Sunday School**

This year the Family Ministry Team (thank you Lisa Shoemaker) was tasked with getting Sunday School teachers in place in lieu of not yet having a replacement Director of Children and Youth Ministries for Jake Howell. Sign ups were held and spots were filled for all three classrooms. We currently have 15 rotating teachers and approximately 20 children for the preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Teachers sign up on a three month schedule for dates that work best for their schedules. So far this has proven to be an effective system. We did switch the Sunday School curriculum this year to Group since our VBS was so successful with the same curriculum. We will evaluate the curriculum at the end of the school year. The Youth also continued to have their Sunday School hour.

Our Summer Sunday School schedule consisted of Jake Howell teaching a combined lesson for all school aged children.

### **Small Groups**

The Wednesday night Family Bible Study continues to be well attended with a regular group of both parents and youth. The group has grown from its original members and now includes thirteen "parents" and anywhere from 20-30 youth (from the ages 3-18).

Submitted by:

Candie Rodgers,  
Family Ministry Team Leader

**GOOD SAM TEAM  
Annual Report 2015**

**Members:** Patty Cohick, Mary Williford, Shirley Westefeldt, Barb Saugen, Jan Hayes, Marti Russell, Charlene Dickey, Fred Jung

This report covers only the first 10 months of the year (January through October). During those 10 months, the Team members provided \$11,303 in financial assistance. This number includes funds that went to help church members. Those are handled directly by the Pastor and/or Office Administrator.

We saw 84 clients during this time and the money went to provide some of the following needs:

Rental Assistance, Utilities (electricity, water/sewer/garbage, natural gas), state ID cards, Storage Unit Rental, Thrift Store Gift Certificates, Grocery Gift Certificates, Car Repairs, Tent/RV Camping spaces. Money was disbursed directly to the agency involved – no funds are ever given directly to clients.

We appreciate your ongoing support for this outreach in our community.

Submitted by

Marti Russell  
for Jan Hayes, Team Chair



## Lay Leadership Team Report for 2016 Church Officers

### Church Council

**Pastor**.....Vonna Thomas  
**Lay Leader**.....Jim Palmer  
**Team Leader**.....Bob Wallin  
**Vice Team Leader** .....Janann Roodzant  
**Recording Secretary**.....Margaret Mordhorst  
**Treasurer** .....Jim Slowik

**Director of Children and Youth**.....Erin Tombaugh  
**Director of Music** .....Chet Hansen

**Family Ministries Team Leader**.....Candie Rodgers  
**Missional Outreach Team Leader**.....Julie Palmer  
**Membership/Evangelism Team Leader**.....Linda Dady  
**Staff-Parish Relations Team Leader**.....Susan Schopf  
**Stewardship/Finance Team Leader**.....Kathy Doll  
**Trustees Team Leader**.....Ken Opdyke  
**Worship Team Leader** .....Dea Hansen

**Small Group Team Leaders** .....Dave Williams  
 .....Ginger Opdyke  
**United Methodist Women President**.....Marali Woessner

### Teams and Other Officers

**Family Ministries** – Staff: Erin Tombaugh

<i><b>Class of 2016</b></i>	<i><b>Class of 2017</b></i>	<i><b>Class of 2018</b></i>
Candie Rodgers, <b>Leader</b> Debbie Wallin June Zacharias	Mary Jo Morris Lanida Brophy Kim Osborn	Lisa Shoemaker Kathy Winnenberg Sara Smith

Teams: Teacher Appreciation, Hanging of the Greens, Jesus Birthday, Supper Stop  
 Crews: Summer Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, ADVENTure to Christmas

#### **Missional Outreach**

<i><b>Class of 2016</b></i>	<i><b>Class of 2017</b></i>	<i><b>Class of 2018</b></i>
Teresa O'Blenes Terry Shockey	Nida Paggao Danny Paggao	Nikki Cecka Dave Cecka Julie Palmer, <b>Leader</b>
Auction, Lenten Soup Suppers		

**Membership/Evangelism - Membership Secretary – Peggy Stephens**

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Joy Pearson Pixie Maylor	Mary Jo Morris Linda Dady- <b>Leader</b>	Candy Slowik Joyce Tighe

Teams: Parades, Summer picnics, Cider Press, Stephen Ministry

Crews: Coffee Time, Photography

We Care: Mary Jo Morris Elizabeth Galloway Deborah Hardy  
Pat Wolfe Shirley Westefeldt

Bus: Mark & Rose Vance

**Staff Pastor Parish Relations Team - Staff – Vonna Thomas**  
(To include Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference)

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Linda Jury David Cohick Susan Schopf, <b>Leader</b>	Joy Brent Sandy Freeding Myers Dave Russell	Janann Roodzant Dana Carnes Judy Norton

**Stewardship/Finance Team**  
Jim Slowik, Treasurer  
Jim Palmer, Endowment Fund  
Sandy Shields, Financial Secretary  
\_\_\_\_\_, Asst. Financial Secretary  
Counter Team Leader: Vic Jones

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Kathy Doll, Leader Donna Grate	Jason Brent Ron Tarrant	Bruce Hartley

**Permanent Endowment Fund Team**

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Jim Palmer Bruce Hartley	Jim Slowik Kathy Doll	Dan Wright, <b>Leader</b> Bob Wolfe

**Building Fund Team**

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Ann Oldham – <b>Leader</b>	Bob Wolfe	David Cohick

**Memorials - Peg Johnson**

**Trustees Team - Staff – Betty Jo Shaddy-Brown**

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Ken Opdyke, <b>Leader</b> Marti Russell	Rob Sebo Ross Mordhorst Kurt Westefeldt	Jerry Schopf

Teams: Spring Clean-up, painting

Crews:	Kitchen:	Patty Encinas	Candy Slowik
	Tuesday Work:	Larry DeWald	Dave Russell
		Art Morris	
	Vehicle Maintenance:	Mark Vance, Crew Chief	

**Worship – Staff: Chet Hansen (CH) (BE)**

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Dea Hansen, <b>Leader</b> Dean Faris (US) Jeff Opdyke (A/V) in absentia	Dave Russell (CO) Joyce Atkinson (AG)	Mary Williford (LI)

BE=Bells CH=Choir CO=Communion  
A/V=Audio/Visual US=Ushers LI=Liturgists AG=Altar Guild

**Lay Leadership Team – Staff – Vonna Thomas – Leader**

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Caroline Williams Mary Jo Morris	Vic Jones Bruce Hartley	Jan Hayes Tom Luehr

**Lay Members to Annual Conference** Joyce Atkinson

**Good Samaritan Team**

<b><i>Class of 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2018</i></b>
Barb Saugen Charlene Dickey Mary Williford	Shirley Westefeldt Fred Jung	Jan Hayes – <b>Leader</b> Marti Russell Patti Cohick

**Stephen Ministry** Sandy Shields, Linda Rider, Co-leaders

**Motion for presentation at the Charge Conference:** That the Church Council be authorized to approve additions, changes, or deletions to the ministry leadership of the church throughout the year.

**MEMBERSHIP  
2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

Received by PROFESSION OF FAITH		TRANSFERRED IN FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION <i>None</i>
Dave Cecka	Aaron Shoemaker	TRANSFERRED IN FROM ANOTHER METHODIST CHURCH Dana & Larry David Carnes
Nikki Cecka	Lisa Shoemaker	
David Hartley	Marc Smith	
Arlene Hoppe	Sara Smith	
Dale Hoppe	Betty Wheeler	

CONFIRMATION  
*None*

Those removed from membership in 2015

TRANSFERRED OUT TO ANOTHER METHODIST CHURCH  <i>Jim Smith Gwynne &amp; Steve Gulliford</i>	TRANSFERRED OUT TO ANOTHER DENOMINATION  <i>Roger Zylstra Suzanne Boyer</i>
WITHDRAWN BY REQUEST <i>None</i>	REMOVED BY DEATH  Sue Barley                      Betty Freund Edna Blackwood              Phyllis Hynson Don Boyer                        Shirley Moyers Trevva Carter                    Loretta Vogt Jane Ditton                        Myrtle Whitehead Doris Dykers

MEMBERSHIP LETTERS SENT 2015  
*None*

THOSE TO BE REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY THE CHARGE CONFERENCE  
  
*None*

Respectfully submitted by:  
Peggy Miller-Stephens, Administrative Assistant

## MEMORIAL FUND 2015

The Memorial Fund balance on October 31, 2014 was \$5,047.04. There were only four donations in 2015 and 3 withdrawals. This fund was created many years ago as a way to honor members, both living and deceased. The monies were to be used to provide items not covered by the general operating budget. When that budget became tight the Memorial Fund was used. Purchases totaling \$1,533.03 were made from this fund. Most of the purchases were for electronic equipment.

The gifts received this year were given in memory of Elaine Phillips, Don Boyer , Myrtle Whitehead and Lenore Holloway. The latter was designated to go to UMCOR.

The total remaining in the Memorial Fund as of 31 October 2015 is \$3,564.01.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Johnson, Chairman Memorials

## **MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

We were blessed to have Dave & Nikki Cecka and Judy Wilson join our committee during 2015. Theresa O'Blenes had to withdraw due to personal reasons. Once again committee members focused our giving to those local organizations which benefit our community or are in accord with United Methodist concerns, including a \$7,000 donation to the Pacific Northwest Conference which went to the fire disaster relief.

Organizations receiving donations:

U.M.C.O.R. International - \$2,000

The Spin Café - \$3,000

Opportunity Council - \$2,000

Help House Food Items

Help House Thanksgiving & Christmas Meals - \$1,000

Habitat for Humanity - \$750

Medical Safety Net of North Whidbey - \$500

"Imagine No Malaria" Campaign - \$500

OHFUMC Family Ministries Committee - \$1,562 (\$562 from Soup Supper Donations)

Pacific Northwest Conference - \$7,000

Giving Tree – Christmas Gifts for Children

Pacific Northwest Harvest (Thanksgiving Day Dinner) - \$200

Committee members prepared and served the Farewell Dinner for Pastor Dave & Mary Johnson in June and the Lasagna Dinner in October. The October auction was also a result of the committee's commitment, with total proceeds for the dinner & auction \$7,089.

It has been a joy to work with members of the Mission Outreach Committee over the past three years and I leave the committee knowing it has a strong base for the coming year. And, as always, our congregation opened their hearts and pocketbooks for the Soup Suppers, the Christmas gift giving to needy children, and any other worthy cause they were asked to support. What wonderful members we have!!!

Blessings,

Shirley A. LeBlanc  
Mission Outreach Team Leader

**Rev. Dr. Vonna Thomas**  
**Charge Conference**  
**Oak Harbor First United Methodist Church**  
**November 15, 2015**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe it's been four and a half months since I first started this journey with you. The time has passed by so quickly. It is my honor and privilege to walk along side you as we follow Jesus together.

I have met with many of you through the small group meetings in which you all shared stories of your life and comments based on the "Getting to know you" questionnaire. I've also met with a number of you who have taken advantage of my offer for free "coffee and conversation" with the pastor. These meetings were all a joy!

You might have wondered about the answers to the questions. In summary, folks here believe the following are strengths of OHFUMC:

- The people/members of OHFUMC
- The sense of community here at OHFUMC
- The generosity of the congregation
- The music program and Chet Hansen, specifically
- The small groups
- Missions

The hopes, dreams and areas of potential improvement listed are:

- More growth in numbers (young families and young people were often specifically noted, along with a desire to reach out to more military families)
- Growth spiritually
- Clarity of mission and focus, doing a few things well rather than too many
- Ministry to men
- Outward focus

From my time with you so far, I would add that a strength of the congregation I see is the vast number of people who have participated in the Walk to Emmaus program. I would imagine that has contributed to the success of the small groups.

In the past few months we have seen attendance increase and many wonderful things are happening. I was blessed by the great participation in our congregation wide book study this fall. In the spring we will share together in another congregational study for Lent. I look forward to a rewarding study!

We've also had four new members join the congregation and one baptism. And recently a new confirmation class has started with five confirmands (Cameron Cecka, Ashley Shoemaker, Gabe Smith, Caroline Winnenberg and Joseph Winnenberg), five mentors



(Chet Hansen, Erin Tombaugh, Aaron Shoemaker, Bob Wallin and myself) and one jack-of-all-trades helper (Laurie Hansen).

It has been a joy to be part of the parent's small group on Wednesday nights. They, along with other small group participants, have shared stories of the way in which you all study together, pray for one another and support each other - a wonderful example of loving one another as Christ has commanded us to do!

I thank God for you all. Gary and I love being part of this grand adventure of following Jesus with you all as we continue to seek to grow in our faith, sharing Christ and serving others!

Blessings to you!

*Pastor Vonna*

## PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Annual Report – November 15, 2015



Committee Members: Kathy Doll, Don Grate, Bruce Hartley, Jim Palmer, Jim Slowik, Bob Wolfe, Dan Wright

The Endowment Fund began with a generous gift from Helen McNab upon her death in 1993. The Fund is managed by a committee that has been tasked by the Administrative Council to receive and administer all bequests, trusts and endowment fund gifts. It is the objective of this committee to achieve a moderate level of current income with opportunities for long-term capital appreciation through low risk investments. The Permanent Endowment Fund Committee meets at least semiannually to review the investment portfolio, make changes when appropriate, and to manage the distribution of investment earnings.

The principal will remain intact forever. Investment income is distributed annually supporting God's work through our church ministries. Gifts to this fund may be given any time during your lifetime or by bequest. Donors are recognized on the "Tithe to Eternity" plaque located in the Narthex. The Endowment Fund is a unique opportunity to invest in the future of this church beyond one's lifetime.

In spring of 2015, \$18,649.70 representing 2014 investment earnings was distributed in accordance with the Administrative Council approved distribution plan. As of September 30, 2015 Net Worth of the Permanent Endowment Fund is an estimated \$420,053.

Bruce and Gloria Hartley and Don and Donna Grate again have graced the Endowment Fund with their annual donation. Other generous gifts were also donated. Thanks to everyone.

Those who choose to "Tithe to Eternity" with gifts to the Permanent Endowment Fund enhance God's work. The funds approved by the Church Council for distribution are as follows:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Tithe to Current Expense                    | 10% |
| • Worship Committee Special Projects          | 10% |
| • Youth Program Scholarships                  | 10% |
| • Capital Development/Major Maintenance       | 30% |
| • Mission Support                             | 30% |
| • Remain Invested in Permanent Endowment Fund | 10% |

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Palmer  
Chairman

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**  
**Report to charge conference 2015**

***For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.***  
***-Matthew 18:20 (ESV)***

The VISION of the OHFUMC Small Group Ministry: OHFUMC will become a church of small groups, instead of a church with small groups; a church wherein every person is connected in a healthy small group.

The MISSION of the OHFUMC Small Group Ministry: To help those seeking God to GROW in their faith, becoming transformed Disciples of Jesus who model purpose driven lives, and who motivate others to do the same.

The year 2015 has proven to be a year we can say echo the words of the psalmist and say, "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy." Psalms 126:3

Church-wide Study: "Grace" by Max Lucado

- As our Lenten church-wide study for 2015, Max Lucado's "Grace", consisting of seven sessions supported by a participant's guide, an accompanying book, and a coordinated sermon series.
- Study participants consisted of eleven small groups and 102 participants.
- Of particular note, the Wednesday parents group, under the leadership of Lisa Shoemaker, Pastor Dave and Kids' small group under Ginger Opdyke, continued to grow. This group elected to begin the study following Easter, so that they could participate in the Lenten soup suppers which also occurred on Wednesday evenings.
- All groups found this study to be most worthwhile, in that it fostered in most participants an in-depth discussion and understanding of the true meaning of God's grace. However, many felt that the participant's guide was inferior to the discussion questions following each chapter in the book. There was also dissatisfaction that the accompanying DVD sessions were essentially word-for-word repeats of the material in the book.

Church-wide study: 40 Days of Community: Better Together by Rick Warren

- As our fall study "Better Together", consisted of 6 sessions. We had a large donation of books so with the used books purchased we were able to offer the study for \$3 a participant
- Study consisted of 12 small groups and 115 participants, including several participants who were traveling or who elected to do individual study. Two of these groups were formed just for that study.
- The Wednesday night kids group had lessons that complimented the book study.
- Response to the study was positive. As encouraged by the study many groups took on group projects both benefited the congregation and the community. Some of the projects continued past the study time frame.

## Summary

Based on the results of our two years as a formal small group team, we believe that the real celebration is in the promise of things to come.

- We see increased interest in small group participation.
- We have seen an increase in the number of young families and their children who participate in all of our church activities, including small groups.
- We see new members in our small groups.
- New groups have been formed for our church-wide studies, some of which are continuing.
- New leaders have stepped forward.
- We have grown in knowledge and are closer as a church community.
- Groups are taking on projects in the church and in the community.
- The strong support that our fall study received from Pastor Vonna, and her emphasis on the importance of small groups in all aspects of her ministry, have given our small group program a real shot in the arm, for which we are most grateful.

## Goals / Action Plan

- We plan is to continue the tradition of conducting two church-wide studies each year, one during Lent and another in the fall (prior to the Holidays).
- Conduct a review of possible/proposed studies prior to the decision to implement, in order to provide improved quality control and ensure the best "fit" for our congregation.
- Improve follow-up of those new to our congregation, to ensure that they have every opportunity and encouragement to affiliate with a small group.
- Continue to encourage formation of new small groups, and development of leaders for same.
- Continue to pursue our overall objective of ensuring that every member of the congregation is somehow connected to the body of the church, in a way or ways that extend beyond merely attending Sunday services, whether it be as a member of a small group or of a ministry group (SPPRC, choir, trustees, etc.).

The OHFUMC Small Group Team looks forward to working with church members to expand and improve our church's small group ministry, and to assist in the faith journeys of individuals in our congregation and in our community for the greater glory of God.

Co- leaders    Dave Williams    Ginger Opdyke

STAFF-PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS TEAM  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The SPPR Team has endeavored to support, encourage and assist the pastor, staff and congregation of our church as we seek to fulfill the mission of our church.

**We worked on the following routine items such as:**

- acted as liaisons with staff members
- reviewed and updated job descriptions
- conducted annual job performance evaluations
- proposed a 2% pay increase for staff members which will take effect Jan 1, 2016
- conducted the annual tour and inspection of the parsonage

**In addition we:**

- recognized and expressed appreciation for the efforts of each staff member by presenting them with a card and monetary gift
- hired new child care workers for the church nursery to replace those who left
- created new church security position and hired Jim Palmer for that responsibility
- accepted the resignation of Jake Howell and recognized his contributions to children and youth programs.
- conducted a search for new Director of Children and Youth Ministries (DCYM), hired Erin Tombaugh and welcomed her into our church family.
- worked together with other teams and church members to prepare both the parsonage and the Scott house for new occupants.

**To prepare for the pastoral transition we:**

- continued working to prepare the church for a pastoral transition and participated in a Pastoral Transition Workshop
- supported Pastor Dave Johnson to help ensure the successful completion of his tenure. We worked with a team of church members to celebrate his many years in ministry and to offer appreciation and gratitude to Dave, Mary and Katie for their ministry to our church.
- welcomed Pastor Vonna Thomas as interim pastor for twelve months and offered assistance, encouragement and support to her and her spouse Gary.
- appreciated the continuing guidance and help of District Superintendent Daniel Foster with the appointment of the next pastor

**Priorities for the coming year will be:**

- continuing to work with Pastor Vonna for a successful completion of her interim pastorship
- celebrating our time with Pastor Vonna and thanking her for her many contributions to our church programs and ministries as we say goodbye
- helping to prepare the congregation and staff for the pastoral transition on July 1, 2016
- welcoming a new pastor into our church family and our community and offering our love and support
- working to help ensure a strong relationship with the congregation and the staff
- working with Trustees to assure proper maintenance and repairs of the parsonage are completed in a timely manner to make it ready for new occupants.

Submitted by Susan Schopf  
Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Team Leader

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON

The end of year 2014 left us in a much better position than we had planned at the beginning of the year. For 2014 we projected we would be in the negative by over \$30,000.00. By the grace of God that shortfall did not happen, but instead we ended the year with a \$2,135.02 gain. Because of this blessing the committee and council felt that we could move forward with another budget that showed a negative balance for the year, for we did not use any of our reserves in 2014.

At the first Church Council meeting of the year the budget was passed reflecting a shortfall of \$20,904.00, but we also knew we were not done adjusting the budget. The budget reflected a 44% reduction in the apportionment expense, which had not been approved by the conference. In January we did apply for a Grade Point Adjustment from the PNW Conference for the 44%. In February we received word that we were granted a Grade Point adjustment of 30%, so we had to adjusted the budget to reflect this change, which added another \$7,216 to our shortfall.

The 2014 year was a good year for the endowment funds earnings. These earnings help fund many of the committees once approved for distribution by the council, which allowed us not to have to include those expenses in the budget.

The debt to the Building Fund is being reduced by the special giving for the reduction. The budget continues for pay for the interest due the Fund.

The committee and council have been watching the financials very closely and what a rollercoaster it has been for income received, but in the end it has all evened out.

Electronic Giving is still being used, we but have not had a great deal of growth in users. This would be an area that could be improved upon.

Pastor Vonna lead the Stewardship drive and we so appreciate all her hard work and devotion to our church. I believe the way it was handled this year was appreciated by all.

The 2016 budget is currently being worked on and the first draft budget will be presented to the Council at the next meeting for their review and direction. The 2016 final budget will be presented to the Council at the January 2016 Council meeting for approval, if not before.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Doll, Team Leader  
Stewardship/Finance Committee

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015**

**Completed Projects**

**Church Building:**

- Janitorial activities properly attended to .
- Audiovisual systems maintained and repaired as needed. The computer was replaced and a DVD duplicator acquired.
- The church owned vehicles have been maintained, licensed and insured.
- Attended to annual requirements, e.g. property tax exemptions, report to charge conference, non-profit corporation annual report, documentation of drivers, and insurance.
- Conducted annual life safety inspections of all church property.
  - Fire extinguishers
  - Smoke Detectors
  - Fire suppression system-Kitchen
  - Fire alarm/monitoring system
  - Fire suppression system backflow device
  - Hot Water Heater
- Coordinated Spring Cleanup
- Prepared annual trustees budget for finance team
- Maintained church grounds and gardens, with the guidance of Mary Williford
- Cleaned carpeting in God's Hall, Centennial Hall and Narthex
- Annual maintenance to organ and piano
- Continued contract for Guardian services
- Had trees trimmed to remove branches at risk to fall
- Accessibility enhancements: Handrails on Stairs – adjusted to correct elevations, installed auto door operators on the upstairs bathrooms.
- Refinished the ramp leading up to the front doors.

**Parsonage:**

This year the parsonage was made ready for a new pastor. In preparation of the new pastor the property and house was thoroughly including a thorough deep cleaning, a new roof, and many minor maintenance tasks were completed by many members. In addition a new range was installed in the kitchen.

**Scott House:** This year the renters of the house moved out in April and the Youth Ministries staff member moved in May. In preparation for the move like the Parsonage deep cleaning, some painting, a new dishwasher, range were installed. A member also donated a used washer and dryer for the house.

**Vehicles:**

Bus: The bus continues to serve to transport members to and from their homes to church on Sundays. The bus required new batteries and alternator this year.

**On-going Projects:**

- Projected annual spending is within budget.
- Volunteer-based landscape care of church property continues.

**Use of Church Facilities by Outside Groups:**

- |                         |                              |                                |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Blue Box Group (AA)   | - DP Power & Sail Squad      | - OHHS Drama Club              |
| - Boy Scouts of America | - Island County Health Dept. | - OH Women's Group (AA)        |
| - Brownie Troop #44523  | - North Whidbey Help House   | - Polly Harpole Hospital Guild |
| - CADA                  | - OH Garden Club             | - Whidbey Community Chorus     |

## Goals for 2015

- Begin Phased replacement of single-paned windows within first floor rooms with double paned energy efficient windows.
- Evaluate front ramp for possible new coating.
- Continue to manage Scott House property under the direction of the Admin Council and rented through Tara. Property was removed from rental. House is now in use for the Family and youth ministries staff member.
- Replace carpet downstairs hallways and nursery. On hold due to church finances.
- Conduct all life safety inspections.

## Report on Goals for 2015

-Phased replacement of single-paned windows were not acted on in 2015 due to funding.  
-The front ramp to the church was recoated  
-For many years the Parsonage was used by several staff members Director of Children and Youth Ministries. To provide the parsonage to our new interim pastor the decision was made to move the Director of Children and Youth Ministries into the Scott House allowing the new pastor to utilize the Parsonage. Both the parsonage and Scott house received through cleanings and ne appliances. The parsonage also received a new roof.

## Goals for 2016

- Continue to improve the accessibility to the facilities
- Replace Carpet in the downstairs areas
- Continue to revise the exterior and interior lighting systems to enhance visibility to improve safety and to reduce the power consumption.
- Perform all needed routine and emergency maintenance tasks to keep the facilities accessible, safe and operable.

**If you have questions concerning any of these items, please ask one of these people who were members of the trustees during 2015: Ross Mordhorst, Don Grate, Jerry Schopf, Rob Sebo, Marti Russell or Betty Jo Shaddy-Brown (Custodian).**

Sincerely,

Kenneth Opdyke  
Team Leader  
[Ken-Ginger-Opdyke@comcast.net](mailto:Ken-Ginger-Opdyke@comcast.net)  
360-679-9071





## 2015 Oak Harbor UMW Annual Report

**January:** The beginning of the year brought some changes on the board's officers' roster. A letter of regret and resignation from Mary Williford was read.

DJ Ransdell agreed to fill in as the Vice President vacated by Mary Williford. Jan Hayes took over as the new secretary since Daisy Sapida became the treasurer beginning in October of the previous year, a position held by Sandy Shields for a year and a half. Sandy will be co-membership coordinator with Gloria Hartley. Mary Jo Morris agreed to take over Margaret Mordhorst's position as historian/photographer. No ceremony for the installation of officers took place and the rest of the board officers remained in their positions. Old businesses were discussed including the September Victorian Tea, November bazaar, December wreath making, cookie walk, and Christmas social.

**An All-Church Appreciation luncheon** on January 25<sup>th</sup> was held. Baked potatoes and all its trimmings including some chili and some macaroni 'n cheese for the young ones were provided in appreciation of the congregation's support of the UMW's functions and fundraising events in the past years.

**February:** An All-Church potluck was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Jan Hayes requested for \$400 to pay for the 2016<sup>th</sup> team registration to UMCOR Sager Brown mission trip and then an additional \$100 was also sent later due to an increase in registration fee from \$20 to \$25. Jan will reimburse UMW when participants have paid their registration fees.

**March:** The UMW Leadership Development seminar/luncheon was held at Mt. Vernon UMC in Mt. Vernon on Saturday, March 7. All Oak Harbor officers were in attendance and the key officers received their information packets.

**April:** The Victorian Tea was held on a Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, with about 50 plus in attendance including the two male guests. It was a move from the usual September gathering so as to relieve guests of the late summer heat in the Centennial Hall which has become very uncomfortable. DJ Ransdell has again chaired this year's event. The Soroptimist International of Oak Harbor sponsored a fashion event showcasing a variety of apparel, shoes, and accessories from their Upscale Resale store and modeled by several ladies from our church. A lab-rottweiler mixed dog named Maggie donning a tutu and colorful accessories added to the fun event. The proceeds of \$500 from the ticket sales were donated to the Soroptimist education-college scholarship program.

Various budgeted donations were also disbursed to the following agencies and organizations: Spin Café, \$1,000; Habitat for Humanity, \$500; Seattle Atlantic Street Center, \$500; and Imagine Permaculture Food Forest, \$250.

**May:** Coupeville UMW Annual Salad Luncheon was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Their guest presenter, Carol Decker, talked about "Tole Painting" and showcased some of her handiworks. A variety of salads of many kinds were served. Twenty of us were in attendance representing the Oak Harbor UMW.

An evening of a game of Bunko was held on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in lieu of our regular general meeting. This particular event was planned in hopes of attracting the young women from our congregation but only 14 regular members and 1 guest attended.

Donations to local organizations were also disbursed such as CADA, \$500; Marjie's House, \$750; Opportunity Council, \$500; and Medical Safety Net, \$500.

**June:** A check for \$2,000 was sent by mail to the Pacific NW Conference for UMW's annual mission projects.

A bus load of us was driven by Tom Luehr to attend the Port Angeles UMW Annual Salad Luncheon on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two of Coupeville UMW members joined us on this trip. Their guest speaker/presenter educated us on 'vertical and container planting' using wood pallets, fences, lattices, etc.

The Youth Ministry led by Jake Howell received the \$1,300 allocated for the youth's mission trip. The amount was half of the proceeds from the previous year's garage-yard sale held at the parsonage.

The summer potluck picnic and social was held at Lamm's Link mini-golf course near Deception Park on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Despite a gorgeous day, attendance was poor due to summer commitments by most members.

**July:** The North Whidbey Help House and the Toddler Learning Center received our donations for \$1,000 and \$800 respectively.

**August:** Sue Eloph spearheaded a book sale at God's Hall. Proceed from the sale was \$590 and was allocated for the defibrillator that the church admin wanted to acquire.

**September:** A check for \$360 was sent to Haitian Mission Project that has been supported for many years by the members of Alice Jensen Circle. Their donations to HMP are handled by the UMW treasury.

A Chili cook-off was held on Sept. 27 in Centennial Hall with about 14 pots of chili that were entered for the contest. The event was well attended. Dale & Arlene Hoppe's chili took the most votes and the winning prize.

**October:** The board reconvened for their October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and discussed the upcoming bazaar, cone tying, wreath-making, and cookie walk schedules. Barb Wright has again agreed to chair this year's bazaar. Some members signed up to donate food items for the October 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween Supper Stop. Gloria Hartley withdrew from her position as co-membership coordinator.

The PNW UMW Conference meeting was held on October 9 and 10 at Marysville UMC. Sue Eloph volunteered to deliver the cheese trays. Janann Roodzant and Joyce Atkinson made it back from their NOMADS trip in time to attend this conference but the majority of the board members were unable to attend due to our church annual Auction & Lasagna Dinner held on the same weekend.

**November:** It was discussed and approved by all present at our Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to increase the giving to UMCOR Sager Brown from \$500 to \$1,000 in response to Kathy Kraiza's plea for more donations to replenish their dwindling supply kits, specifically for the health and school kits. It was also approved to send \$500 to UMCOR West in Salt Lake City, Utah. Daisy Sapida will disburse the checks allocated for these two supply depots.

Our Annual Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 14. Lunch begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m., in which the guests will get a choice of chicken casserole or chili including some green salad, rolls, a slice of pie and beverage of choice. Cone tying is again undertaken by Mary Jo Morris and is scheduled for Nov. 16 thru the 18<sup>th</sup>. Greens-cutting will take place on Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

UMW is co-sponsoring the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Ministry project which has been under the leadership of Karen Pasewark. Shoe boxes assembly will take place on Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m.

**December:** Wreath making will take place from Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> thru Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cookie Walk will again be chaired by Janann Roodzant and is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> of December from 9 to 11 a.m. A Christmas social may be planned at a later date and yet to be determined.

Report Submitted by **Daisy Sapida** (November 4, 2015)

## **WORSHIP TEAM 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

Worship Team members for 2015 were: Joyce Atkinson (member at large); Dean Faris (Ushers); Chet Hansen (Staff Representative and Music Director); Dea Hansen (Team Leader); Jeff Opdyke (AV Scheduler); Dave Russell (Communion) and Mary Williford (Liturgists and Communion Stewards). We do not currently have one person responsible for AV. A number of people collaborate to resolve any AV issues. Some of these people are Dean Faris, Kent Peckinpaugh, Bob Wallin and Dave Williams.

In January the Team was responsible for making sure all of the Advent and Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary were taken down and stored for another year. The Good Sam committee continues to straighten and replenish the information in the pews as they have time.

Handicap accessibility was further addressed this year with the rearrangement of some back pews and the addition of handicapped signs designating the specified area.

This year our endowment funds purchased new offering plates to replace the old ones which are looking worn. We continue to seek a way to re-plate the previous offering plates. After last year's report was submitted six Christmas banners were ordered. Two additional Christmas banners were ordered at Pastor Vonna's request. Some time during the spring our reserved signs for weddings and funerals disappeared. After searching for them and advertising in the Twin Flames for information of their whereabouts it was decided to replace them. Dean Faris ordered and received several new reserved signs. Someone is making new ropes. Out of the regular budget, we paid for licenses and dues for our Chancel and Bell choirs. In addition such items as palm fronds for Palm Sunday, the 2016 Flower Calendar, Advent Candles and assorted supplies for communion and the sanctuary were purchased.

In conjunction with AV, the worship committee continues to offer DVD recordings of services. They are available on the Worship bulletin board along with the Sunday bulletin.

We worked with Pastor Vonna to implement changes in the worship service.

The sanctuary tree will be put up before the first Sunday in Advent and the Narthex tree will be put up and decorated as soon as the Giving Tree comes down.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dea Hansen, Team Leader

## **YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT FOR 2015**

This year has been one of change for the whole church, as well as the youth program specifically. After serving as Director of Children and Youth Ministries for two years, Jake Howell departed OHFUMC to take on his next call. From what I understand of the history of the youth program, he saw some positive growth during his time here, and I hope to see that trend continue. It is obvious that he developed great relationships with the youth and his presence is missed. However, they have been very welcoming to me since my arrival and I feel my time at OHFUMC is off to a good start.

In the summer before I arrived, the youth took a mission trip to Twinlow Camp for the Idaho Missions Project. Six people from OHFUMC attended and connected with the United Methodist youth from Walla Walla. Jake shared that it was an amazing experience for the kids, and I look forward to involving them with more mission projects in the future.

We continue to have combined middle and high school Youth Group as part of Wednesday Family Night activities, with dinner for all and separate group activities for children, youth, and parents. Since the start of this school year we have typically had between 10 and 15 youth attend each Wednesday night. After eating together and catching up on what's going on with each other, we take some time for a lesson. I'm currently utilizing the Cokesbury curriculum called LinC (Living in Christ), which ties in current events to the weekly lessons. Then we end our sessions with some games, which are also an important part of our time together for these very active teens.

We've had a couple of events so far this fall to kick off the school year. In October we had a Homecoming Dinner at the church for our youth prior to the high school Homecoming Dance, which seven youth attended. Then a few weeks later we had a Fall Fun Night, which included a trip to Dugwalla Bay Farms for a hay ride, pumpkin picking, and flashlight corn maze, and ended the night with a bonfire and s'mores at my house. Nine youth attended that night. The next event on our calendar is a Lock-In on November 20.

In early November one of our Youth Group sessions was focused on creating a Behavior Covenant to outline the group's expectations of each other when we are together. While Pastor Vonna and I facilitated the discussion, the youth ultimately determined the list of expectations to which the group will hold each other accountable. Some values on which they focused include respect, responsibility, restraint, kindness, and truthfulness.

Also in November Pastor Vonna started a Confirmation class with five of our youth, ranging from 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades. Four other adults from the church and I are serving as mentors to these young people. The class will include six total sessions. Already the youth are gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to be a part of the church, and exploring questions of their personal faith.

As we continue getting to know each other, I see maturity and leadership developing within many of our youth. I'm excited to be a part of their faith journey at a time when they are trying to figure out who they are and who they will become as adults, and eager to see what the future holds for these young people.

Submitted by:

Erin Tombaugh  
Director of Children and Youth Ministry