



First Presbyterian Church of SANTA BARBARA

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



*God calls us to worship faithfully
God calls us to serve lovingly
God calls us into community
sharing grace unconditionally
seeing Christ in all people*



First Presbyterian Church Staff Directory

Church

Peter Buehler, Pastor

Erik Wiebe, Associate Pastor

Anne Shelton, Stated Supply Pastor

Gordon Hess, Parish Associate

Erin Bonski-Evans, Minister of Music

Susan Croshaw, Children's Ministries Director

Rich Ellgen, Minister to Youth and Young Adults

Chuck Curtis, CLP, Director of Evangelism and Missions

Denise Rodman, Church Business Administrator

Katie Lukehart, Membership & Communications Coordinator

Derrick Lowe, Praise Team Leader

Sharon Head, Parish Nurse

Paul Tarasick, Facilities Manager

Peter F. Buehler, Asst. Custodian

Early Childhood Center

Beth Hassenplug, Director

Maria Perez, Assistant Director

Liz Zuinga, Assistant Director

Teachers

Maria Arenó

Nikki Ceriale

Yadira Cisneros

Deanna Dallmeyer

Atefeh Fardin

Sidney Jackson

Elia Jimenez-Chavez

Mandy Katje

Colleen Lowe

Martha Manzo

Lizzy Marrodan

Nico Mejia

Laura Muzquiz-Solis

Kaori Otose

Christian Patterson

Elizabeth Pelcastre

Dennise Ramirez

Diana Replogle-Purinton

Eli Ricciardi (formerly Ulloa)

Dany Rodriguez

Gina Rodriguez

Yolanda Velazquez

Peter Buehler, Pastor's Report

the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Using the image of a master builder laying a foundation, Paul reminds the Corinthian congregation how churches are constructed—*with care*—and who their foundation is—*Jesus Christ*. As we approach our 150th anniversary in 2019, we think of the love, faith, and care that generations of worshippers have invested in this ministry. We build today on the foundation they have laid, on their Christian witness.

This past year we've been doing some foundation-laying of our own.

- *Renovation and remodeling of the Christian Education Center.* Raising \$161,000 from the congregation clearly demonstrated our shared commitment to excellent facilities for children, youth, and families. The project received huge help from tireless, skilled volunteers: John Kerman, Fred Marsh, and Stafford Kelly, among others. Erik Wiebe's leadership in this effort was critical to its success. And what a difference Susan Croshaw's ministry with our children is making!
- *Building the Music program, Calling an Organist.* Erin Bonski-Evans has built a marvelous program already as she has added a children's choir and a bell choir to her list of accomplishments. Inviting Yinying Luo to join our staff as Organist was the result of a lengthy and careful search process. How happy we are that Yinying said Yes!
- *Calling Rich Ellgen to lead our youth and young adult ministry.* Erik's leadership, along with a wonderful search committee, resulted in Rich (and wife Pamela's) coming to Santa Barbara. Rich's experience, passion, and faith are a gift to us.
- *Strengthening our connection with the FPC Early Childhood Center.* Erik will say more about this, but our new ECC Director, Beth Hassenplug, along with church programs that extend our hospitality to parents, is helping create just the environment we need for growth.
- *Planning for our 150th anniversary.* Both the 150th Anniversary Task Force and the session have been hard at work to help FPC be ready to *Worship, Welcome, and Serve* for the next 150 years. You'll be hearing more soon.

Balancing needs with resources is always a challenge. Your faithfulness in giving is a partnership in our foundation-building. We are committed to careful stewardship now so that the next generation of Presbyterians can bold in their ministry. As we look to this future, your prayerful consideration of including First Presbyterian Church in your estate plans will be a blessing to all.

It is a pleasure to serve you and to work beside such an outstanding staff. My thanks to Erik, Anne, Chuck, Gordy, Denise, Paul, Susan, Beth, Sharon, Erin, Rich, Katie, Yinying, and Kay. In the Apostle's words, *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus.*

Erik Wiebe, Associate Pastor's Report

The many vibrant ministries going on at First Pres. kept us on our toes for much of 2016. When we're on our toes, it often means we're deepening in our prayer and reliance on God. So, there were many *prayerful* moments as well, and many answers to prayer, and much evidence of God's faithfulness.

It was a privilege to serve on two simultaneous Search Teams that resulted in excellent new leadership for key ministries at our church.

- **Beth Hassenplug** began working alongside Helen Pasley a few weeks before she officially became the new Director for our Early Childhood Center on June 1st. There was never a doubt in anyone's mind that Beth would exercise her strengths and capacities as a leader in such a smooth, seamless fashion, and be accepted immediately as a trusted resource and a caring administrator of the Center's manifold daily responsibilities. Together with a stellar group of teachers, Beth is paving the way for continuing our ministry of care to children and their families. Our search team not only did a wonderful job sifting through many qualified applicants, but also was prayerful and trusted in God to lead us to the right person. God is faithful!

- **Rich Ellgen** began as our Minister to Youth and Young Adults on June 15th. We are very grateful to welcome Rich's leadership, vision, and heart for youth and young adult ministry at First Pres! Rich brings a wealth of experience, a commitment to engaging, fun-filled, Bible-teaching youth ministry, and a hunger for continuing to learn and teach about God's grace and faithfulness. Our search team prayed fervently for God to lead us, and we could not be more pleased that Rich's presence with us is God's outcome. What a gift! And what an amazing step of faith for our church to show its commitment to growing our youth and young adult ministry by bringing Rich on board.

So much work and prayer went into completing the **Christian Education Center**, and what a result! A superb renovation took place that resulted in three state-of-the-art classrooms and a fully functional, welcoming youth room and youth patio. This space will serve the ministry of First Pres for years to come.

We could not be more grateful that \$160,000 was given to the Christian Education Center renovation! This investment in ministry speaks volumes to how we commit ourselves to God's call to welcome, teach, and disciple all ages.

On top of all that, multiple program expansions took place, and successful growth was charted some key areas. Somehow I also managed to graduate on May 13 with my PhD, a milestone that I am grateful to now have behind me. "Life is for learning, and learning is for life," said a favorite professor of mine.

Grace and Peace, Erik

Anne Shelton, Associate Pastor's Report

The ministry of *Adult Spiritual Formation and Education* here at First Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara includes providing opportunities for growth in Christ both personally and in community. Our stated purpose is: "To enable individual growth toward maturity in Christ and to equip the Body of Christ for ministry." (Eph. 4:12)

During the past year, we offered a variety of classes on Sunday morning. We have had leaders and teachers from our congregation and from Westmont College and U.C.S.B. Most all of these classes were held at 9 am. We have also begun to offer classes on Wednesday evenings following the success with *Kerygma*. In the fall this past year we had a series on the topic of "What Presbyterians Believe". This was taught primarily by Peter and Gordy with others assisting. These included Don Montgomery, Anne, and Erik. This was well received.

There are several small groups and Bible Studies that meet regularly in the life of our church. We have two *Life Groups*, a *Lectio Divina* group, two Presbyterian Women's groups for Bible Study and the Men's Bible Study.

We have a good team who work together to facilitate our ministry. The first half of the year we were led by Meryle Gaston. Meryle also coordinates and facilitates our Sunday a.m. classes. She also keeps our Church Library up to date. The second half of the year we were ably led by Elder Don Montgomery. Both Esther Bennett and Kati Buehler have been invaluable members of our team. New members of our team this year are John Harrison and Gordy Hess. We do welcome anyone who would like to meet with us regularly for planning and coordination this ministry!

We look forward to 2017 and new opportunities to grow in Christ. We pray together, and we value your prayers for God's leading in the year ahead. I have been blessed to serve with this team!

Clerk of Session Report

Baptisms

Kelly Jeanette Bold	3-26-16
Kennedy Elizabeth MacLeod	5-1-16
Christianna Blake Reid	5-28-16
Kaitlin Victoria Reeves	7-17-16

New Members

Kelly Bold
 Sean Cottrell
 Diane Dodds
 David Reichert
 Frederica Welch
 Richard Welch
 Jessica Gibbs
 Eileen McMahon McQuade
 Jonathan Sheehan
 Bill Dodson
 Tiare Dodson
 Pamela Ellgen
 Richard Ellgen
 Joan Taylor

Marriages

Joseph Custer & Kristina Chano (non-members)	1-3-16
Tyler Spence & Yoonyoung Kwak (non-members)	6-18-16
David Garwal & Lih Ko (non-members)	8-12-16

Deaths

2016 Annual Report

Dorothy Beverly	6-27-15	Ada Beth Holcombe	9-13-16
Faye Podlesney	7-26-15	Dan Secord	10-22-16
Ruth Minotto	12-20-15	Annabelle Petrucci	11-8-16
Annie McKay (former member)	2015	Richard Freeman	11- 29-16
Virginia Weiser	1-3-16	Louise Morse	1-18-17
Gerry Jones	1-9-16	Juleine Schmidt	1-28-17
Audrey Sharpe (former member)	1-21-18		
Jim Dixon (non-member)	2-5-16		
Suzanne McKay	2-8-16		
Jim Aanerud	2-9-16		
Mary Louise Gee	2-17-16		
Ruth Schnicke (former member)	2-28-16		
Marjorie Allen	3-26-16		
Betty Rupp	5-7-16		
Patti Rogers	7-26-16		
Gerald Thede	8-7-16		
Shirley Varner	8-30-16		
Barbara Jamison (former member)	8-30-16		

Church Active Member Total	357
Total Female Members	220
Average Church Attendance	205*

Guest Preachers

Dan McNerney	1-31-16
Gordon Hess	5-11-16

*This figure is not an accurate reflection of attendance as several services were not counted

Respectfully submitted by, Meryle Gaston Clerk of Session

Worship & Music Ministry

Mission

To facilitate the congregations' encounters with God at public worship services.

Members

Calli Marquez, Loyda Marquez, Cheryl Brown, Jaci Trandal, Brian Slattery, Tom Blabey, Erin Bonski, Yinying Luo, Diane Kirkpatrick, Peter Buehler, Derrick Lowe, Lynn Cross, Lee Kirkpatrick (Chair Jan – May) and Susan Slattery (Chair Jun - Dec)

The team leadership transitioned from Lee Kirkpatrick to Susan Slattery in June 2016 as Lee's session term ended and Susan's began. Many thanks to Lee for his years of leadership! The team meets the first Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Slattery's home.

Goals

1. Recruit more volunteer singers and or musicians for both services. Goals 1,3, & 4
2. Find ways to make Communion more personal, intinction at 10:30? Anointing. Goals 1 & 4
3. Form a 9:00 Praise Service team to shape the structure & style of the service. Goals 1, 2, 3, & 4
4. Sponsor a series of concerts. Goals 1, 2, 3, & 4
5. Explore options for a healing service. Goals 1, 3, & 4

2016 Highlights

- Erin has been teaching weekly preschool music classes to the children of the ECC.
- Last spring, we enjoyed two concerts, the Augustana Choir concert and the St. Petersburg men's ensemble. The St. Petersburg men's ensemble will return this spring.
- Pamela, Rich's wife, joined the praise team.
- Erin actively recruited volunteers for the choir. Members of the congregation are reluctant to join, either due to age or health reasons, lack of confidence in their singing voice, or in some instances because interested parties attend the 9 am service for worship and do not want to stay to volunteer for the 10:30 service. This is an established culture that will take time to change.
- The team has been taking time out of our meeting to watch a video seminar "Nurturing Congregational Singing". Out of the video, we discussed the importance of including information about why we selected the hymns in the bulletin and/or from the pulpit, as well as translations in the worship folder.
- Erin taught 2 Adult Ed classes over the summer, one on singing and another on bell ringing. The classes were well attended. A bell choir has been formed as a result of the class and has played and will continue to play during the 10:30 worship service.
- Currently Erin has been teaching music at children's Sunday School during both services. The winter class is exploring the hymnal and talking about individual hymns.
- Erin held multiple "Family Karaoke Night's over the summer.
- A junior high/senior high tech crew is being formed to help Cali with the 10:30 worship service. The crew is being trained by Cali.
- On October 29th we hosted a very successful "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" event for local music students. The program was co-sponsored by the American Guild of Organists. The event was well attended by 15 children (from the community as well as from the church) and was a

Worship & Music Continued

“spooktacular” event, with costumes, wonderful dramatic music and a tour of the organ pipes (yes, way up the ladder, through the trap door, and into the ceiling of the sanctuary!). Each child played our organ, and most played beautiful songs that they knew from the piano. Several parents stayed for the entire event.

- In August, we welcomed our new organist Yinying Luo. She is a wonderful blessing to our church and to our WAM team.
- In September, we reluctantly accepted Lynn Cross’s resignation from the team. Thank you, Lynn, for your many years of faithful service, especially concerning the Lenten and Christmas worship services. Lynn and Dan Cross met with member of the WAM team to hand off Advent/Christmas checklists
- Audio wiring/mixer board in the sanctuary has been repaired. The effort was led by Cali Marquez.
- The organ has been repaired, but still needs some work. Yinying is leading this effort.

Plans for 2017:

In 2016, we ran out of money from a discretionary fund that had been donated by an individual. This money was supporting the section leaders in the Chancel choir. The section leaders are important to the success of the choir at this point in time; without them, there will be no sopranos, and little support in the sections. According to the 2017 budget passed by Session, the WAM team has been tasked with raising \$4,000 to balance the budget for the church’s music program (specifically the Chancel Choir’s paid leadership positions). We will attempt to raise the money through a concert, open to the public.

- The concert will be on March 18, 2017 from 7 to 10 p.m.
- The theme is Latin American, specifically South American. The concert will feature guest artist EDUARDO VILLA, Grammy winning guitarist TONY YBARRA, and the stunning voices of ADELFO ENSEMBLE and FPCSB's CHANCEL CHOIR
- The title is MUSICA PRIMAVERA: An evening of South American Music
- Tickets are \$25 general admission and \$15 for students
- Premier tickets will cost quite a bit more and will include a special catered dinner the night before the concert.
- Erin is concerned about the future of the Chancel Choir due to the lack of volunteer singers and the decrease in the 2017 budget for paid singers and will continue recruitment efforts in 2017.

Early Childhood Center

Members

Beth Hassenplug, Director, Brandon Mowery, Chair, Erik Wiebe, Alice Williams, Denise Rodman, Fred Marsh and Beth Preston.

The First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara demonstrates its commitment to the wellbeing of the young children and their families of our community by providing affordable quality early care and education. As an expression of God's love, the Early Childhood Center(ECC) and Ministry team strives to be responsive to and respectful of the individual needs of each unique child. The Center's program is designed to facilitate the healthy growth of the whole child, which includes emotional, social, cognitive, physical and spiritual development.

This year the center served 75 families and their 88 children from the ages of 3 months to 5 years. These 75 families had a safe, healthy and high-quality educational environment for their children for 50 weeks of the year. The 25 teachers of the center worked tirelessly to provide this quality care and the center finished 2016 financially stable, with a net income of \$8,244. This income was transferred into the ECC Reserve Fund.

This past year the ECC provided scholarships for 4 families, teachers completed their higher education degrees, a storage area was converted into a teacher work/break room, families attended Soul Food Dinners, older siblings attended PresbyCamp, the parents planned and held a successful fundraiser, and 6 tons of sand was moved into our sandboxes.

We are proud of these accomplishments but two things this past year really stand out. The Early Childhood Center became a nationally accredited center and the Director of the center, Helen Pasley, without whom accreditation would not have been possible, retired after 25years. Helen retired at the end of May and in the summer, we had our accreditation visit. NAEYC Accreditation is a rigorous and transformative quality-improvement system that uses a set of 10 research-based standards to collaborate with early education programs to recognize and drive quality-improvement in high-quality early learning environments. In the 30 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely-recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC—less than 10 percent of all child care centers, preschools, and kindergartens nationally achieve this recognition.

This year the center is providing professional learning opportunities for not only our teachers but also 40 additional teachers in our community during 5 Saturday sessions. Other projects include improving the outdoor storage for the preschool playground, our annual parent fundraiser, which will be at the Carriage Museum on June 3rd, and increasing our scholarship fund.

“.. all children have a real faith, and gifts for ministry;
all children have the right to be children;
and all children are not just tomorrow, they are today.”

Submitted by Beth Hassenplug, Director

From the Minister to Youth and Young Adults

In June of 2016 I came on staff as the minister to youth and young adults. Thank you for the warm reception to my family and I. We are grateful and honored to be here. We started getting our bearings with youth program during Presby Camp. We gathered the high school students for dinner and games after they got done being camp counselors.

Early in the summer we moved into our new facility. It's beautiful, and I recognize that I'm the recipient of many who have worked tirelessly and given generously to make that a reality. Thank you.

In July we took 7 Jr. High students to Calvin Crest. The week served as a great way to get to know each other and spend time together. Camps have a wonderful way of impacting young people's lives, and this had the added bonus of helping to lay the foundation of our Jr. High program in the year ahead.

In the fall our weekly youth programs began. Our Jr. high began meeting on Sundays and our high school group began meeting on Wednesday evenings. These times serve as a time of connecting, games, Bible teaching, and a lot of relationship building. Our group is developing a sense of identity and momentum.

During the Christmas season our youth were involved in a 2 day Presby Camp. It served as a fund raiser and a great way to connect students and little kids. Our youth were also heavily involved our Christmas eve service as readers, wise men, and the Holy family.

We've done several events in addition to our weekly programming. We've gone to the movies, Hurricane Harbor, ice skating, Magic Mountain, and we worked with the missions team and the church to send care packages to Syrian Refugees. All these things have served to connect with students, our church, our community, and their world.

In 2017 my hope is to build off the momentum we spent last year building. I'd like to see our youth programs develop in size and energy. I'd like to see our 8th graders successfully embrace the high school youth program and our incoming 7th graders participate in the Jr. High. I'm planning strategic events that will draw students into relationships with each other, and ultimately to Jesus. Among them are hiking, summer camps, and a retreat at the end of summer.

Thank you for being such a wonderful church to bring Jesus to our youth and young adults in Santa Barbara. It's an honor to serve with you.

Commissioned Lay Pastor for Mission and Evangelism

MISSION TEAM

I continued to serve as staff person for the Mission Team, particularly global mission. Part of this call is administrative support: payments and communications going to about 20 foreign and local mission and outreach workers and with periodic visits and presentations. Denise, Katie, and I work together on the financial and administrative sides of mission support.

MISSION EVENTS

Mission Team hosted several of our missionaries in 2016. Esther Wakeman visited in June. She is with Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Kathy Marsh Baxter visited us in July. Her mission work is based in the London metropolitan area. She now serves in a supervisory role, equipping and empowering missionaries to use language teaching in their ministries. John and Dianne Fowler were with us in late June. Located in their Middle Eastern country, John continues teaching emergency medicine, while Dianne coaches sports for the disabled – and standing in for the pastor of their church! Pastor Ying and Dean Golf were with us in November. WE are thankful to God that our partnership with First Church Chiang Mai is flourishing! Ying is a pastor in that church, and Golf is the dean of Payap's divinity school. Finally, Sansern Sriminipun arrived Dec. 16 to begin a 3 month stay with us. He is sharing in our ministry as well as preparing for a medical licensing exam here in the U.S. He's 25, but he's already earned an M.D. degree! We met his mother during our first trip to Chiang Mai, where we saw her conducting a powerful evangelism ministry.

Elder Jeanette Zinke and her team were prepared to open our Freedom Warming Shelter in November and December, but the weatherman did not give us rain or cold. However, this January they served 4 out of their 7 nights to large gatherings each night. Many blessings!

FRESNO MISSION TRIP

Eight of us from First Pres traveled July 17-23 to Fresno on a short term mission trip. We worked with Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries ("FIRM"), a ministry begun by a Presbyterian pastor decades ago. The need then was ministering to Hmong and other hill tribe people displaced by the Vietnamese War. We were blessed by our visit and appreciative of Zach Darrah, their young Exec. Director and pastor of a nearby church.

PRAYER

Maintaining the congregation's prayer chain is a pleasure. It's wonderful to receive news when specific prayers are answered! I use email to send the prayers. The prayer chain address book has about 40 names.

CONFERENCES

In June I attended the annual meeting of the American Society of Missiology in St. Paul, MN. The ASM conference is stimulating as well as fruitful in terms of knowing today's mission leaders and trends. There is always a sizeable group from PC(USA) mission. ASM leaders frequently come from our denomination.

SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONFERENCE

At this writing the 15th annual Santa Barbara Mission Conference is about to take place. We are looking forward to speeches by Richard Mouw and Juan Martinez, 10 workshops covering the refugee crisis, immigration, illiteracy, homelessness, Christian-Muslim relations, and more. More than two dozen exhibitors will be present, offering a variety of ways folks can be engaged in the work of God's mission in the world. Great volunteers from First Pres and other churches produce this annual conference.

-Chuck Curtis, January 26, 2017

Adult Spiritual Formation & Education Ministry

Members

Esther Bennett, Kati Buehler, Meryle Gaston, Rev. John Harris, ad hoc (guest) Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Gordon Hess, Jim Kreyger, Don Montgomery (chair), Susan Scott, and Rev. Anne Shelton

The Sunday Morning Programs (9 A.M., 10:30 A.M.) continued under the masterful leadership of Meryle Gaston and Esther Bennett. Blessed with speakers from Westmont, UCSB, and our own staff the classes were varied and educationally inspiring. The Lenten series were taught by Rev. Tom Geshay and Rev. Gordy Hess, and Chuck Curtis. Professors Cheri and Chris Hoeckley and Dr. Ahmad Ahmad were guests in April and May. Erin Bonski-Evans led classes in July and August with worshipful hymn singing and handbells. Rich Ellgen and Rev. Dr. Erik Wieb led fall classes. Meryle Gaston and Esther Bennett led the Advent class series Nov. and Dec.

"What Do Presbyterians Believe? Our Thoughtful Faithfulness" was an eight (8) week Bible Study seminar that took place in the Anderson Lounge between September 28th through November 16th. Some 36 church members and guests enrolled. The sessions were led by Rev. Dr. Peter Buehler, Rev. Dr. Gordy Hess, Rev. Anne Shelton, Rev. Dr. Erik Wiebe, and Don Montgomery. It is hoped to revise and recycle such a series every 2 - 3 years.

At the beginning of the year there were four (4) Life Groups successfully functioning. The jurisdiction of the Soul Food fellowship evenings was changed during the year to the Congregational Care Ministry Team.

Goals and Plans for 2017: Daily devotional booklets for personal daily devotions will be offered to every congregational member and guest quarterly. Internet devotional materials will be reviewed, selected, and recommended. We are studying and considering a common format and goal unification of the current Life Groups (eg. Covenant Groups) with hopes of increasing the number of Life Groups. A new congregational Bible Study (a six-week series) is planned for Wednesday evenings from April 19th through May 24th, led by Rev. Dr. Gordy Hess.

Submitted by Don Montgomery

Membership Development and Communications

Mission

The Membership and Communication Team seeks to lead the church

- in offering a warm welcome to church visitors;
- in providing helpful and descriptive information about our ministry;
- in advancing and coordinating the church's print and online communication with members, visitors, and the wider community;
- and in encouraging the commitment of church membership as a vital means of growing in Christian faith.

Members

Joan Pratt, Kath Lavidge, Katie Lukehart, and Peter Buehler

"As the interface between the congregation and the wider community, the Team tells the church's story and inspires participation in the ministry."

In 2016 we welcomed 14 new members into our congregation. We held 2 Inquirers' Luncheons where we shared a delicious meal, prepared by Kath. Elders and Staff outlined their ministries and the importance, meaning and benefits of church membership.

Welcome Bags were assembled and given to visitors at both the 9:00 and 10:30 services. In addition, we distributed bags at a Soul Food Dinner. They have been warmly received.

"Let Everyone Know Your Name" continues as the theme of our emphasis on being a welcoming church through the use of nametags. We facilitate ordering the Church Nametags and encourage everyone to wear one.

The Welcome Brochures in our pews are still used and enjoyed. Thank you, Peter.

The weekly E-News and the monthly Patio News are valuable tools of communication, and Katie is working to upgrade our web site.

As we look forward to 2017, we want to continue to welcome new members into our midst, tell our story and inspire participation in our ministry.

Submitted by Joan Pratt, Chair

Deacons Ministry

Deacons

Pastor Peter Buehler, Parish Nurse Sharon Head, Moderator Wanda Kelley, Esther Bennett, Cheryl Brown, Pete Buehler, MiSuk Chappell, Susan Croshaw, Ellen Duke (Van Ministries), Sandy Hess, Esther Hur, Jodie Hunter, Barbara Kelley, Jennifer Koehly, MaryAnn Lange, Mary Marsh, Yvonne Rambo, Susan Scott, Laura Techentin, Marilyn Torrey, Eleanor Wennberg, Bert Willoughby, Geri Willoughby.

New Activities in 2016

- Quarterly Home Communion (organized by Esther Hur and Cheryl Brown)
- Deacon meeting restructure to include 3 types of meetings:
 - Quarterly sub-committee meetings (description below)
 - Quarterly Training meetings focus on specific skills for deacon visits (prayer, reading scripture, visiting those with memory loss)
 - Traditional deacon meetings (with devotional, business, reports)
- Deacon sub-committees to meet quarterly in smaller groups led by:
 - Leadership – Wanda Kelley
 - Memorials – Laura Techentin
 - Home Communion – Esther Hur
 - Finances – Susan Croshaw
- Eleanor Wennberg and Esther Bennett are the deacon members on the FPC Scholarship Committee
- Meal Train (online website) used to organize meals for church members

Continued Activities:

- Regular Deacon visits to over 70 members and friends
- Memorial Services
- Delivery of flowers at Easter and Christmas
- Birthday cards sent to over 100 church members and friends over the age of 80 (Hassenger Fund)
- Annual Session and Deacon dinner and meeting in December

Global Mission

Mission

To prepare and inspire the congregation to answer the command to share the Good News in our church community and around the world.

Members

Gil Ashor, Yvonne Bazinet, Chuck Curtis, Mary Howland, Bob Kates, Mike Porter, Marilyn Torrey, Erik Weibe, and Jeanette Zinke all of whom are grateful to be involved in the ongoing work of outreach to both local and global missions.

The Mission Team continues to rely on God's grace and strength in fulfilling our mission. The year continued to challenge the missionaries in the field. Many changes in governments and circumstances has made them learn to rely more and more on God's grace and safety. The increase in their outreach is truly a witness that God has His hand on their work.

Our global connections were enhanced and renewed by the visitation of missionaries to our congregations. In June, we received Esther Wakeman from Chaing Mai Payap University. She gave a moment for mission and the mission team joined her and her husband for a meal. She is making inroads into the University with many new Christian outreach opportunities and is seeing an increase in Christ's work in Thailand. Kathy Baxter came in July from England. She presented what changes have occurred in her missionary work. She is now working with others in a training capacity. John & Diane Fowler came on June 29th. In spite of the challenges in the area where they are missionaries they have seen an increase in persons interested in learning more about Christ. In November, we were blessed with a visit from Pastor Ying and Dean Golf of Chaing Mai. They presented a video presentation of their work and ongoing ministry in Chaing Mai, Thailand.

In July, Chuck Curtis, Laura Techentin, Dave & Yvonne Bazinet, Yvonne Rambo, Leona Marie and Jeanette Zinke went on a short mission trip to Fresno to learn more and work with the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministry (F.I.R.M.). We stayed at Fresno State College and were welcomed by the staff at F.I.R.M and given an in-depth introduction into the life of the Hmong, Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in Fresno. F.I.R.M. took our team to restaurants to experience the various cultural foods. We got to visit some of the refugees in their homes and at F.I.R.M. and learn about their history and challenges they have had in coming to the US. F.I.R.M. has provided the refugees with community gardens at no charge. Gardening is an important part of their community and helps to make the transition to the US easier. F.I.R.M. also provides mental health care, advocacy assistance with various government agencies, pre-school childcare and after school tutoring for older children. F.I.R.M. also provides these services for Ukrainian refugees and African refugees. At the end of the week F.I.R.M. had their annual summer celebration. They provided back packs to students with a bible in each backpack signed by members of the mission team. The people were also offered haircuts, clothing and food, all at no charge. There was a booth for Second Birthdays where 6 people accepted Christ, thereby having a Second Birthday. In December, Dave & Yvonne Bazinet and Richard & Jeanette Zinke returned to F.I.R.M to help with their annual Holiday Celebration. Again, the community was treated to hair-cuts; back packs, clothing, toys for the children, food, flu shots and dental exams. The highlight was that Santa & Mrs. Claus (AKA Dave & Yvonne Bazinet) were on hand for a photo op for all who wanted it. Each person walked away with a photo in their hand instantly. F.I.R.M is now working with Syrian refugees as well and they have found that this has a whole new set of challenges.

Global Mission continued

We regretfully accepted the resignation of Lois Okerstrom and have been truly blessed by her many years of outstanding dedication to not only our team but in her own missionary work.

Jeanette Zinke is heading up the Warming Shelter and continues to do the prep and planning even if there is little or no rain. She also has been very creative in updating the Mission Board in the Fireplace Lounge keeping the congregation informed on our missionaries.

In December, we welcomed Praise Sriminipun from First Church Chaing Mai as he begins a 3-month church-church exchange and pursue residency as a medical doctor here in the US. He is already a doctor in Thailand.

Submitted by: Yvonne Bazinet

Congregational Care

Mission

To develop communication and facilitate the care, nurture and spiritual fellowship of Church members and friends.

Members

Erik Weibe, Pastor; Mavis Mayne, Chair; Sandy Hess; Leneta Weibe; Frederica Welch and support member, Sharon Troll, Parish Nurse.

Our Team continues to oversee the following special groups: Adventurers, Senior Fridays, Chariot of Friends, Presbyfolks; Summer Potlucks and with the addition of Soul Food. We express our appreciation to our dedicated Deacon, Ellen Duke, who is coordinating the Van Ministry.

Some of our major accomplishments in 2016 include:

- Coordinated the new updated Pictorial Member and Friends Directory to include our 7 new FPC staff members.
- Organized Summer Potlucks in several member's homes.
- Researched how we may provide a *Bless the Animals Service*.
- Reviewed and improved the distribution of the visitor Welcome Bags for both services.
- Researched the content and possible format of a Connect Card to replace the green fellowship pads.

The Team will further explore:

- The Bless the Animals Service and the Connect Card which will be included in the Sunday bulletin.
- Participating in All Saints Sunday honoring loved ones who have passed away.

The Parish Nurse serves as a support member on the following committees: Congregational Care, Deacons and First Presbyterian Church Weekly Staff Meetings. The Parish Nurse serves to support the pastors in hospital visitation, nursing home visitation and home visitation. The Parish Nurse has onsite office hours every Tuesday where parishioners are able to receive support and advice on health issues, as well as personal health counseling.

Our Team seeks to continue to be open to new opportunities to care, nurture and facilitate spiritual fellowship for our congregation. Our Team welcomes new members, suggestions for our ministry, and your prayerful support. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 PM.

Submitted by Mavis Mayne

Craft Group

The Craft Group is comprised of 7 active members including Chairpersons Kay Kramer and Laura Techentin and Treasurers Nancy Williams and Eleanore Wennberg. The meetings were held weekly on Monday mornings in the Garden Room from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, with snack and tea shared at each meeting. There was a 4-week hiatus for the months of August and December.

This year our focus was on philanthropic endeavors: Pillows for breast cancer survivors, turtle pillows for children with life-threatening diseases, and blankets for the Linus Project, which provides a blanket for each child admitted to the hospital. We completed 120 pillows for breast cancer, 98 turtle pillows, and 2 quilts and 11 other assorted-sized blankets for the Linus Project. Materials for the projects were donated, already on hand, or purchased from our treasury.

While we were saddened not to sponsor the Christmas Boutique, we experienced great satisfaction in the completion of so many items for those in need and dedicated to the glory of God.

Submitted by Kay Kramer

Presbyterian Women

Even though our numbers are small, Presbyterian Women have managed to make a difference with our mission giving thanks mainly to two women who remembered PW in their wills — Esther Martin and Evelyn Hoffman. In 2016 we gave \$10,759.61 to various mission causes and \$14,000 to the youth building upgrade in addition to Least Coin and Hunger Fund. We have supported PW at the Presbytery, Synod and National levels. Our remaining circle, Charistans uses the PW Bible Study each month and supports members with prayer and fellowship. I feel badly that the younger women have not joined us, except for the Christmas Tea and a few of our monthly meetings, but hope that they are finding support and Bible Study by other means. This may very well mean the end of Presbyterian Women as we have known it at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara.

Submitted by Laura Techentin, moderator

Finance & Facilities

Mission

The role of the Finance and Facilities Team is to support the overall mission of FPC through financial planning, maintaining church facilities, and encouraging growth in the grace of giving while maintaining the balance between long term sustainability of financial and physical resources, and the immediate financial needs of church programs.

Members

Dave Ardell, Peter Buehler, Dan Cross, Melinda Gerow, John Kerman, Elaine Laustsen, John Lofthus, Fred Marsh, Frank Mateo, Bob Pratt, Tristin Sherman, Tamara Skov (Chair), and Denise Rodman.

Overall Duties

One of our major responsibilities each year is the preparation of an annual budget, in consultation with the other teams, which is then carefully reviewed and approved by Session. Throughout the year, the Finance & Facilities (F&F) Team reviews monthly financial statements prepared by the Business Administrator, Denise Rodman, and monitors organizational finances, making adjustments as necessary.

Additionally, F&F reviews and forwards to Session for approval unbudgeted expenditures, fundraising request, audit results, outside contracts, and other matters related to the financial operation and facility maintenance.

We use transparency as our guiding principle in all of our actions and welcome your insight, questions and comments.

2016 Highlights

The 2016 budget vs actual numbers are included following this summary. Of note, the pledge, non-pledge and loose plate income in 2016 was significantly less than the amount budgeted causing a \$62,877 income deficit at the end of 2016. When we have received the final pledge information for 2017, we will review and revise the 2017 annual operating budget and recommend its approval to Session.

A particular high note in 2016 was the generous support of the Congregation for the renovation to the Christian Education Facility. A total of \$160,865 was received in donations to accomplish the renovation. Thank you to all those who made this work possible.

F&F has committees that work on different areas including the Planned Giving, Investment, and Facilities.

The **Planned Giving Committee**, Elaine Laustsen, Chair, is responsible for education of, and invitation to join, the 1869 Society. The 1869 Society is comprised of people who have included First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara in their will or estate plan. Named for the year of the church's founding, Society members are helping to ensure that our church will continue to thrive. Their future gifts ensure the long-term financial stability of First Presbyterian Church.

Finance & Facilities continued

Gifts from members are added to the 1869 Memorial Fund. This Fund is invested and carefully managed. Each year a percentage of the fund is used to help support the church's annual budget making it possible to sustain and enhance the many activities in the life of our church. Some members use their gift to create an endowment to support an aspect of the church that is most important to them.

Revenue from the Fund helps ensure our ministry remains strong. In times of economic stress, the Fund is there to serve as the foundation of the annual budget. As the Fund grows, we can be secure knowing that we will have the resources to continue God's work in our church, our community and the world.

Schedule of Bequests for 2016

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Deposit to:</u>
Estate of Laretta Cole	\$10,000	1869 Fund
Estate of Anne McKay	\$ 1,000	1869 Fund
Estate of Edythe Kirchmaier	\$ 5,000	Rstr'd - 793 Vans
Estate of Bruce O'Neal	<u>\$ 2,463</u>	1869 Fund
Total Bequests	\$18,463	

Schedule of Non-Estate Donations to the 1869 Memorial Fund for 2016

1 Gift in the amount of \$2,000

The **Investment Committee**, John Kerman, Chair, is responsible for the stewardship of the 1869 Memorial Fund and other investments to benefit the church. The return on the 1869 Fund at the end of the year 2016 was 9.73% beating the benchmarks set for performance.

2017 Challenges and Opportunities

We move in to 2017 in an overall favorable financial position. With more than \$3.3 million in the 1869 Fund, we have both a means of annual operating support and an investment for the future.

However, in order to ensure the sustainability of the 1869 Fund into the future, our goal is to use no more than 5% annually to support the operating budget. In 2017, after much deliberation and careful review, the Session approved a budget using 5.2% of the 1869 Fund. We took this action to maintain the balance between immediate needs and programs and long-term financial sustainability.

As of the publication of this report, we are significantly below the amount budgeted for pledge income in 2017. If you have not yet made your 2017 pledge, we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so. If you have made already made your pledge, thank you.

While there are challenges ahead, we remain faithful that our church is moving in the right direction to fulfil our vision of faithful worship and loving service, sharing grace unconditionally and seeing Christ in all people.

Submitted by Tamara Skov

First Presbyterian Church Santa Barbara

2017 Budget

Approved by Session 12/13/16

	Actual for 2016	Budget 2016*	Budget 2017	
Church Income/Receipts				
Member and Non-Member Contributions	549,845	623,495	604,309	
Endowment and Investment Income	33,287	34,560	37,994	
Facilities Use/Misc Income	61,312	61,000	68,380	
1869 Memorial Fund	122,264	122,264	160,870	
Planned Use of Restricted Funds/Program Support	107,632	115,050	75,412	
Total Church Income	874,340	956,369	946,965	
Early Childhood Center Income	1,079,487	1,100,690	1,119,448	
Total Income	1,953,827	2,057,059	2,066,413	
Church Expenses				
Congregational Care Ministry	13,390	14,175	14,375	
Children, Youth & Families	19,162	22,800	20,350	
Adult Ed & Spiritual Formation	5,508	6,250	3,000	
Human Resources	587,632	594,604	608,251	
Membership Development	2,465	2,058	825	
Missions (Local and Global)	88,984	88,500	87,150	
Worship & Music	48,881	56,450	58,707	
Support Ministries	171,195	172,453	154,307	
Total Church expenses	937,217	957,290	946,965	
Early Childhood Center	1,071,243	1,100,691	1,119,448	
Total Expenses	2,008,460	2,057,981	2,066,413	
<i>2016 Church Operating Fund Income-Expenses</i>	<i>(62,877)</i>			
*Revised budget approved March, 2016				

	Peter Buehler		Erik Wiebe		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	
Compensation					
Salary	53,840.0	46,824.0	35,179.0	35,892.0	
Housing Allowance	42,000.0	50,000.0	35,000.0	35,000.0	
Medical WrapAround	2,500.0	2,500.0	1,200.0	1,200.0	
Auto Allowance	2,400.0	2,400.0	2,400.0	2,400.0	
Total Compensation (Effective Salary)	100,740.0	101,724.0	73,779.0	74,492.0	
Benefits					
Pension	11,081.0	11,189.6	8,116.0	8,194.2	
Medical Insurance	23,170.0	24,922.4	18,076.0	18,250.6	
Dental Insurance	905.0	905.0	1,632.0	1,632.0	
Death & Disability (Including Optional Death Benefit)	1,799.0	1,809.0	738.0	744.9	
403(b) Church Contribution	-	-	-	-	
Total Benefits	36,955.0	38,826.0	28,562.0	28,821.7	
Reimbursable Expenses					
Study Leave	2,500.0	2,500.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	
Cell phone	1,200.0	1,200.0	1,200.0	1,200.0	
Book Allowance	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	
Community Involvement	2,200.0	1,800.0			
Pastoral Care	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	
Total Reimbursable Expenses	7,500.0	7,100.0	4,800.0	4,800.0	
Total*	145,195.0	147,650.0	107,141.0	108,113.7	
* Sabbatical accruals not included					

