



GENEROSITY

Grounded
in gratitude

Revealed
in prayer

Lived
in faith

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver. -2 Corinthians 9:7*

PASSION FOR CHRIST † COMPASSION FOR OTHERS

LOVING GOD † LOVING OTHERS

CONNECT † GROW † SERVE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

February 18, 2018

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DALE CITY

Rev. Jeri A. Fields, Pastor for Interim Ministry

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

703.670.7834

fupcdc.org

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**You go nowhere by accident.
Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
Christ who dwells in you has something
He wants to do through you, where you are.
Believe this and go in His grace and love and power.**

The late Dr. Richard C. Halverson, Former U. S. Senate Chaplain

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AGENDA

February 18, 2018, 11:00 AM

Special Music	<i>Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord</i>	Beloche
Call to Order		The Rev. Jeri Fields, Moderator
Opening Prayer		
Response		
Statement of Purpose		Elder Sara Porter, Secretary to the Congregation
Declaration of Quorum		
Statistical Report of the Clerk of Session		
2017 Financial Report of the Treasurer		Elder Tim Camus
2018 Church Budget		
Nominating Committee Report		Elder Jennifer Casey
Election of 2018 Nominating Committee		
Pastor's Report		The Rev. Jeri Fields
Pastor Nominating Committee Report		Co-Chairs Bruce Gilbert and Gaylene Guest
Session Committee Reports		Elder Chairs
Board of Deacons Report		Gaylene Guest and Ruth Washburg, Deacon Co-Moderators
Words of Appreciation to Outgoing Elders & Deacons Not Returning		The Rev. Jeri Fields
Elders:	Karen Attreed, Amy Greenslit, Nancy Hummer	
Deacons:	Bob Albrecht, Kathy Cobb, Ashley Emert, Jeanette Gregory, Ruth Washburg	
Questions and Answers		
Adjournment with Prayer		
Response	<i>Prayer Is the Key</i>	Led by Bill Ediage

2018 SESSION

Peter Glycer ('20)	<i>Adult Christian Education</i>	703-590-0856
Jon Guest ('18)	<i>Building & Grounds</i>	703-491-4006
Becky George ('18)	<i>Children's Ministry</i>	571-264-9103
Debbie Boisvert ('19)	<i>Communications</i>	703-489-7091
Betsy Gilbert ('19)	<i>Congregational Connections</i>	703-670-4949
Tim Camus ('20)	<i>Finance & Admin</i>	703-897-5131
Chris Martin ('19)	<i>Information Technology</i>	585-455-8423
Jeff Cobb ('18)	<i>Little Hands Preschool</i>	703-730-2946
Pam Cox ('20)	<i>Mission & Outreach</i>	703-441-6319
Jennifer Casey ('19).....	<i>Nominating</i>	703-915-6192
Norman Cobb ('18)	<i>Personnel</i>	703-878-7317
Lora Nedimyer ('19)	<i>Stewardship</i>	703-680-5526
Cathy Albrecht ('18)	<i>Worship</i>	703-670-8369
Sam Parris ('19)	<i>Youth Ministry</i>	703-730-3920
Rev. Jeri Fields.....		<i>Moderator</i> 703-501-8643
Sara Porter		<i>Clerk of Session</i> 703-670-8737

2018 BOARD OF DEACONS

A Ministry of Compassion and Service

<i>Class of 2018</i>	<i>Class of 2019</i>	<i>Class of 2020</i>
Elizabeth Glycer	Gail Cobb	Agnes Fokwa
Marianna Gooding	Claudia Cunningham	Lisa Fortner
Gaylene Guest	Mayra Drayer	Kathy McNeely
Pat Sheffield	Betty Matthews	Carol Schwalm
Gretchen Snyder	Denise Parris	Celine Sonkwa
Gaylene Guest, <i>Co-Moderator</i>		703-491-4006
Denise Parris, <i>Co-Moderator</i>		703-730-3920

ANNUAL SESSION REPORT

as of January 1, 2018
Sara Porter, Clerk

Among the responsibilities of the Clerk of Session, is keeping the official records of the church Membership and the Session. Part of that responsibility includes the completion of the Annual Statistical Report for Membership, which is submitted to the Presbytery and then to General Assembly. The 2017 Statistical report follows on the next two pages.



Church Report 2017

PIN Number	10137
Presbytery Number	150424
<hr/>	
Church	First United Dale City
Address	14391 Minnieville Rd
City/State	Woodbridge, VA 22193
Phone	703-670-7834
Email	office@fupcdc.org
Web Site	www.fupcdc.org
Fax	

Membership			
Prior Active Members	270		
Gains		Losses	
17 & Under	5	Certificate	2
18 & Over	1	Deaths	0
Certificate	0	Other	55
Other	5		
Total Gains	11	Total Losses	57

Total Active Members	224
Baptized	21
Other Participants	19
Total Adherents	264
Female Members	138

Average Attendance	179
Affiliate Members	3

Baptisms		Officers	
Child Baptisms	1	Male Session	6
Adult Baptisms	1	Female Session	9
		Male Deacons	1
		Female Deacons	14

Age Distribution of Active Members		Male	Female
25 & Under	33	15	18
26 - 45	23	8	15
46 - 55	46	18	28
56 - 65	55	21	34
Over 65	67	24	43
Total Distribution	224	86	138

People with Disabilities

Hearing	3
Sight	2
Mobility	10
Other	3

Christian Education

Birth 3	6	Grade 7	2
Age 4	1	Grade 8	1
Kindergarten	4	Grade 9	0
Grade 1	1	Grade 10	2
Grade 2	7	Grade 11	3
Grade 3	3	Grade 12	2
Grade 4	1	Young Adults	0
Grade 5	2	Over 25	75
Grade 6	0	Teachers/Officers	10
Total	120		

Racial Ethnic	Membership	Elders	Deacons	Male	Female
Asian	3	1	0	2	1
Black	3	0	0	2	1
African American	10	0	0	3	7
African	21	0	0	8	13
Middle Eastern	2	0	0	1	1
Hispanic	5	0	1	1	4
Native American	0	0	0	0	0
White	180	14	14	69	111
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	224	15	15	86	138

Potential Giving Units 138

Budgeted Income 437,300

Budgeted Expense 431,600

Receipts

Regular Contributions	473,641	Bequests	0
Capital Building Fund	0	Other Income	12,569
Investment Income	6,522	Subsidy or Aid	0

Expenditures

Local Program	435,694	Per Capita Apprt	11,741
Local Mission	7,191	Validated Mission	17,604
Capital Expenditures	0	Theological Fund	0
Investment Expenditures	5,402	Other Mission	3,084

2017 FINANCIAL RESULTS

2017 Financial Results					
Sources of Income					
Offering Pledged		399,319.42			
Offering Unpledged		71,372.22			
Registration, Tuition & Fees		2,758.00			
Rental Income		1,825.00			
Fundraisers		1,814.57			
Inkind Contributions		100.00			
Flower Donations		2,625.00			
Memorial Contributions		2,950.00			
Interest Income		4,117.51			
Dividends		2,404.06			
Investment Gain/(Loss)		35,136.23			
Misc. Income		3,447.22			
Total Income		527,869.23			
Distribution of Income					
	Income	Expense	Use of Restricted Funds (+)	Added to Restricted Funds (-)	Net
General	436,061.05	1,409.46	20,290.48	2,944.30	451,997.77
Adult Education	336.00	776.40			(440.40)
Building & Grounds	1,825.00	85,550.71			(83,725.71)
Children's Ministries	10.00	1,715.51			(1,705.51)
Communication		4,451.74			(4,451.74)
Congregational Connections		201.92			(201.92)
Deacons		985.89			(985.89)
Finance & Admin		33,343.77			(33,343.77)
IT		5,072.94		1,068.82	(6,141.76)
Little Hands	4,728.96	3,303.96		1,425.00	-
Mission & Outreach	20,885.00	38,300.34	30,415.92	18,395.00	(5,394.42)
Personnel		240,770.51			(240,770.51)
Session	13,200.00	12,196.64		20,932.71	(19,929.35)
Stewardship		453.15			(453.15)
Worship & Music	2,725.00	13,235.47	750.00		(9,760.47)
Youth	7,909.57	11,657.29	8,404.59	7,909.57	(3,252.70)
New Building	32,921.33			32,921.33	-
Endowment	7,267.32			7,267.32	-
Total	527,869.23	453,425.70	59,860.99	92,864.05	41,440.47

2018 BUDGET

2018 Budget					
Sources of Income					
Offering Pledged		387,300.00			
Offering Unpledged		36,000.00			
Registration, Tuition & Fees		-			
Rental Income		2,000.00			
Fundraisers		-			
Inkind Contributions		-			
Flower Donations		-			
Memorial Contributions		-			
Interest Income		1,200.00			
Dividends		-			
Investment Gain/(Loss)		-			
Misc. Income		-			
Total Income		426,500.00			
Distribution of Income					
	Income	Expense	Use of Restricted Funds (+)	Added to Restricted Funds (-)	Net
General	424,500.00	660.00			423,840.00
Adult Education		900.00			(900.00)
Building & Grounds	2,000.00	81,033.00			(79,033.00)
Children's Ministries		3,600.00			(3,600.00)
Communication		5,154.00			(5,154.00)
Congregational Connections		500.00			(500.00)
Deacons		2,250.00			(2,250.00)
Finance & Admin		30,310.00			(30,310.00)
IT		7,615.00			(7,615.00)
Little Hands					-
Mission & Outreach		9,900.00			(9,900.00)
Personnel		253,241.00			(253,241.00)
Session		11,150.00			(11,150.00)
Stewardship		650.00			(650.00)
Worship & Music		12,100.00			(12,100.00)
Youth		3,600.00			(3,600.00)
New Building					-
Endowment					-
Total	426,500.00	422,663.00	-	-	3,837.00

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2017

ASSETS

Liquid Assets

Checking/Savings	417,364.69
Mutual Funds	<u>353,443.58</u>
	770,808.27

Fixed Assets

Building & Land	3,887,600.00
Building Improvements	102,111.92
AV and Music Systems	40,800.93
Furniture	18,986.00
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-69,637.68</u>
	3,979,861.17

TOTAL ASSETS **4,750,669.44**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities 0.00

Reserve Fund 75,000.00

Restricted Funds 520,146.45

Building & Land Equity 3,887,600.00

Improvements Equity 92,261.17

Unrestricted Net Assets 175,661.82

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **4,750,669.44**

PASTOR'S REPORT
Rev. Jeri A. Fields, Pastor for Interim Ministry

Dear Members and Friends of FUPCDC,

First of all, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside you these past three years in a time of transitional/interim ministry. Renewal, growth in discipleship, and revitalization as a congregation reflect your faith in God and commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

In this time of preparation for new leadership, you have engaged in times of self-examination discerning who you are as a church. In the process, you identified your strengths and built upon them; all the while, acknowledging and acting upon areas that were holding you back from being the church that God is calling you to be. In this process:

- ✠ You have become more than a friendly church. You are growing into a congregation that shares in biblical hospitality; that is, personally inviting others to be a part of the life of the church.
- ✠ You are intentionally more actively engaged in prayer and are experiencing the power of the Spirit moving in you, around you, and through you. In the process you have recognized and given witness to God's miracles and divine intervention in your personal lives, as well as throughout the church.
- ✠ You are growing in your faith, as evidenced in your participation in Bible study and willingness to move studies beyond the regular Sunday School hour and the Pastor's Wednesday night Bible studies. Larry Greenslit and Bob Porter, along with others, have helped to create a new depth to Bible study.
- ✠ You have been and are a part of inviting and welcoming children into worship, creating meaningful experiences to nurture and help them grow in their faith development, and offering opportunities through music and drama that have led to a significant increase in the number of children engaged in the life of the church. You have quality care in your Nursery. The children are truly excited about being here and are forming lasting relationships.
- ✠ The youth may be small in numbers, but have an amazing passion for hands on ministry and being faithful disciples as they yearn for discussions about Jesus and how to be his faithful disciples.
- ✠ Your music program continues to be outstanding! I hope you realize just how blessed you are with Dana, Justin, Chris and Becca helping to lead worship each and every week. Ike and the bells are a blessing when they ring. The choirs excel week after week.
- ✠ Your deacons continue to do an amazing job in caring for and nurturing the congregation in time of need. Their outreach into the community is a gift.
- ✠ Your generosity with your time, the sharing of your God-given gifts and abilities within the church and beyond, and your commitment to God to share your financial resources to build up God's kingdom are a reflection of how your generosity is grounded in gratitude, revealed to you through prayer, and lived out in your faith in loving and serving our Triune God.

- ✠ You continue to be a mission-minded church, reaching touching lives that range from local community ministries to global communities.
- ✠ You have a building well cared for by Building and Grounds and your Sexton, Homer Detrich, who is an ambassador for the church.
- ✠ Policies that had not been reviewed for over a decade have been revised and will continue to be reviewed and updated as “living documents” that need to reflect issues relevant to the church.
- ✠ You are blessed with a strong Session and Clerk of Session that work together, doing the worshipful work of the church.
- ✠ Financially you are solvent. Thanks to the Finance and Admin Committee, including the Treasurer, your finances are well documented, with financial reviews being completed on an annual basis.
- ✠ You have an excellent staff. After a time of many staff changes, you now have a quality staff that serves as ministry leaders in their areas of expertise. What a joy!
- ✠ Each Session Committee has done an outstanding job in carrying out the mission of their charters: Nancy Hummer, Adult Christian Education; Jon Guest, Building and Grounds; Becky George, Children’s Ministry; Debbie Boisvert, Communications; Betsy Gilbert, Congregational Connections; Tim Camus, Finance and Admin; Chris Martin, Information Technology; Jeff Cobb, Little Hands Preschool; Sam Parris, Mission and Outreach; Jennifer Casey, Nominating; Norman Cobb, Personnel; Karen Attreed, Stewardship; Lora Nedimyer, Stewardship (Time and Talent); Cathy Albrecht, Worship; and Amy Greenslit, Youth Ministry.
- ✠ You have a dedicated Pastor Nominating Committee that is prayerfully discerning the person to recommend to be your next installed pastor.
- ✠ You, the members and friends of the church, are a blessing. Thank you for the time of connecting, growing and service. May you continue to demonstrate the ways you love God and others as you develop and mature into the sacrificial nature of passion for Christ and compassion for others.

And now in this time of waiting for your next installed pastor, remember you are the church. You make a difference. May you continue to thrive and grow in your discipleship.

Grace and peace for the journey!
 In His service,
 ~ *Pastor Jeri*

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
Bruce Gilbert and Gaylene Guest, Committee Chairs

Pastor Nominating Committee Members: Gaylene Guest Co-Chair, Bruce Gilbert Co-Chair, Cathy Albrecht, Jennifer Annan, Emmanuel Dankyi-Ankoma, Bill Ediage, Bob Porter and Linda Wolstenholme

The Pastor Nominating Committee was elected by the congregation on April 30, 2017. The committee was elected to, through prayer, discussion and research to identify and extend a

call to the next Pastor/Head of Staff for FUPCDC. The PNC meets weekly on Sunday afternoons.

From May-July 2017, the committee received training and orientation from Pastor Jeri Fields and Priscilla Andre-Colton, the appointed liaison from the National Capital Presbytery.

The committee worked from August - October on developing a MIF or Ministry Information Form. This form provides information for prospective pastoral candidates about the mission and ministry of FUPCDC, as well as what we are looking for in a pastor. The form also contains data describing our church and geographical area. The MIF was approved by Session on October 17, 2017 and was then posted on the PCUSA website and database for computer matches of potential candidates. The website also enables candidates having interest in FUPCDC to view and self-refer.

As of the end of 2017, the committee had received and reviewed 83 PIFs (Personal Information Form). The PIF is essentially a resume submitted by a candidate.

Please continue to pray for the PNC and the person that God will lead us to call as our next Pastor.

2017 SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Elder Nancy Hummer, Committee Chair*

Committee Members: Jeri Fields, Peter Glycer (incoming Elder), Nancy Hummer (outgoing Elder), Sue Johnson, Dave Markley (moved away), Cathy Smith.

Guiding Scripture: "To prepare God's people for works of service so the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in faith in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." - Ephesians 4:12-13

Purpose: The Adult Ministry provides opportunities for adults to expand their faith by exploring God's word and applying it in their daily lives.

Vision: We envision adults becoming equipped to share their faith in Jesus Christ through their actions.

Mission: To nurture and equip adults in their faith journey as they grow in their relationship to Jesus Christ.

2017 Overview:

The Adult Ministry Committee is grateful for our congregation's growing participation in and support for our Bible study and event offerings. We value your involvement and feedback and invite you to share your ideas by attending our monthly committee meetings. Also, please let us know if you're interested in teaching or would like to suggest a book or topic for a future study.

We would have nothing to offer without our wonderful team of knowledgeable and well-equipped teachers and leaders. We thank them all for their knowledge, energy, and dedication. Their Bible, Book, and Movie study offerings this year included the following:

Wednesday Night Alive:

- **Rev. Jeri Fields (Pastor):**
 - How the Bible Came into Being! - multiple sources
 - The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus by Adam Hamilton
 - Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet by Adam Hamilton
 - Experiencing the Bible in Historical Context: "Walking with Jesus: Being a Disciple in a Broken World" by Ray Vander Laan
 - "That the World May Know: Prophets and Kings" by Ray Vander Laan

Sunday Mornings:

- **Dr. Larry Greenslit:**
 - "They were afraid: A Study of Mark's Gospel"
 - "ACTS: How the Church Began"
- **Dr. Larry Greenslit and Bob Porter: "Our Church, Our Reformation, Our Future"**
- **Gaylene Guest:**
 - "Children of the Day: 1 & 2 Thessalonians" by Beth Moore
 - "War Room" based on the feature-length motion picture

Dave Markley: "The Book of Esther"

Marti Hall: New Member classes

Women's Weekly Evening Book Studies:

Debbie Englewright:

- "Twelve Women of the Bible" by Lysa Terkeurst
- "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs

Women's Monthly New Horizons Study:

Sara Porter:

- "Who Is Jesus?"
- "The Book of Hebrews"

Weekly Summer Evening Study:

Marti Hall: "Children of the Day: 1 & 2 Thessalonians" by Beth Moore

Additional Adult Ministry offerings, events, and small groups included:

- Prayer and Praise small group (Sue Johnson)
- Spreading the Warmth small group (Liz Glyer)
- Devotional Fitness small group (Nancy Hummer)
- Summer Sunday Alpha Seminars (Cathy Smith, Sue Johnson, and Nancy Hummer)
- Movie Nights (Nancy Hummer):
 - "War Room" (adults)
 - "How to Train Your Dragon" (all ages)
 - "The Protestant Reformation - 500 Years" (adults)

- Blessing of the Church (Sue Johnson)
- Advent Festival (Cathy Smith)
- Christmas Caroling (Nancy Hummer)

The Adult Ministry Committee is here to serve and encourage you as you seek to connect with and love Jesus Christ our Lord, the Bible, and one another. You are warmly invited to join us!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS
Elder Jon Guest, Committee Chair

FUPCDC family,

The Buildings and Grounds Committee would again like to thank the entire congregational family for all your service and support through the year. We continue to be blessed by many in this church who have donated their time, money and talents to our church home.

- **Homer Detrich**, our church Sexton, continues to give it all to the care and nurturing of First United Presbyterian Church. Please note that Homer is not full-time staff; he always seems to be available as long as there is activity on the church property. Please be cognizant of this as you proceed in the new year. We truly appreciate all that Homer takes care of including: help during special church activities, cutting and clearing of brush, shoveling / salting of sidewalks and parking areas, helping with gardening crews, and all the other things that are never known except by him.
- **Self-Help Heroes!** We had a significant amount of assistance by self-help crews. Please note that you are always welcome to help your church by inquiring to our committee and finding out how you can help in the life of this church. Here are just a few items that were accomplished by our volunteers.
 - ✓ Garden Guild -- is an exciting way to participate in the life of this church. Debbie Boisvert is leading up the creation of the Gardening Guild. She has several volunteers and is looking for more to take care of certain areas of the church. Once you volunteer, you will be tasked with "loving" on a special piece of the church grounds. Watch for additional information on this in the spring. As always, we notice and truly appreciate the work that all of you have done. Email: garden@fupcdc.org for more information.
 - This group is amazing and has really done a lot to make our church look beautiful every week!
 - Bel-Air Woman's Club, Debbie Boisvert, Gretchen Snyder, Cathy Smith, Denise and Sam Parris, Lee Wautenpaugh, Claudia Cunningham, Charlotte Stultz, Bob Albrecht, and many others.
 - ✓ The Peace Church painted all the hallways.
 - ✓ Little Hands Preschool bathrooms
 - Peace Church painted both rooms including the bathroom dividers.
 - Mike Gundel replaced all the ceiling tiles.
 - Nate Johnson built step stools.
 - Gaylene Guest steamed cleaned the tile.
 - Homer cut and installed plastic guards in the bathrooms.

- ✓ We did not have a cleaning contract the first 6 months of the year. We appreciate the efforts of many during this time including: Little Hands Preschool team, Tim Camus, Scott Camus, Gaylene Guest, Victoria Guest, Gloria Coffield, Eli Coffield, Mike Gundel, Karen Gundel, and the Office Staff.
- ✓ 1/2 dozen Potholes (from the harsh winter) were repaired in the parking lot. (Mike Gundel)
- ✓ Mike Gundel replaced all the ceiling tiles in the youth room. Wow! Thanks!
- ✓ All windows cleaned inside and outside - Kitchen and Triple Room
- ✓ Narthex and Hallway back to the preschool were cleaned from scuff marks and dirt
- ✓ Nate Johnson woodworking - thanks for all you do!
 - Built hanging racks for coats for the preschool
 - Built steps stools and other duties as asked
- **Annual Cleanups**
 - ✓ Our spring cleanup was held in May. We had 40 people come out including some scouts as they completed some very important projects including the area between the church and Dane Ridge. We removed a lot of brush and debris from the site that day. We thank all of those that came out to help on this day. We trimmed around the compressors too. Thanks for your dedication.
 - ✓ Our annual fall cleanup was held in November. We had 20 people come out and help with all the tree trimming around all external light fixtures and lamp poles. We bagged and removed multiple bags of debris and trimmed some trees that were encroaching on the sidewalk areas. The hedges around the compressors were also trimmed. The volunteers that came out worked hard and did a great job. Thanks for all who came out to help!
- **The Buildings and Grounds committee continued to improve items and work with maintenance and normal upkeep of the church to include:**
 - ✓ We secured a contract with our cleaning contractor. His name is Jose' Chicas and he usually cleans on Friday evenings. In December, we locked him in for 1 more year. In August, Jose' was able to strip and wax our floors. It was badly needed. He and his team are doing a great job and we hope to see him for many more years.
 - ✓ We renewed our maintenance contract for our Automated Electronic Defibrillators! This ensures they are up to date, with no issues.
 - Nancy Hummer is helping to look for contractors to provide training to staff and the congregation in the new year. This training will have a nominal fee but allow us to have personnel trained on the AEDs.
 - ✓ Jon Guest attended training for Church Watch. He was trained by Prince William County Police Officers for a day of training.
 - Jon Guest hopes to review the training with others on his committee and the session.
 - Jon Guest and Norman Cobb are working on a disaster preparedness procedure.
 - The committee hopes to prepare a safety and watch procedure for worship and other events held at the facility - sometime in 2018.
 - ✓ As always, we had normal pest control, termites and carpenter bees treatments through the year.
 - ✓ We made some major changes to our property use agreements. The agreements now have a lot of additional language pertaining to child protection policy requirements related to the church liability insurance.

- ✓ During this fall, we have had several repairs to our heating systems.
 - ✓ We have replaced more of the light bulbs using more energy efficient bulbs
 - Norman Cobb is helping us to look at how to improve lighting in our sanctuary and potentially even our church.
 - We have had 3 contractors out to look at lighting and are currently evaluating the 3 proposals. The proposals range from changing light fixtures in the sanctuary to improving the efficiency of every light fixture at the church. The team consisting of: Norman Cobb, Jon Guest, Chris Martin and Cathy Albrecht are looking at the proposals and will bring any recommendations to Session.
 - ✓ We are asking for bids to look at our parking lot. The committee is looking at these proposals as they become available.
 - Long-term solutions
 - Shorter-term solutions include a proposal by a contractor to give us another 10 -15 years out of our current parking lot.
 - ✓ Additionally, our annual maintenance contract for our HVAC was renewed.
 - ✓ We established a liaison with Little Hands Preschool - Dave Stokes is our point of contact.
- We have a lot of things that we would like to work on next year, if you have some hidden talents and would like to help us tackle anything, please let us know. We cannot do what we do without all the wonderful volunteers who give of their time and talent to help beautify and improve our church home. Thanks!

To God be the Glory,
 The Buildings and Grounds Committee - Jon Guest, Elder
 Committee Members: Becky Elliot, Homer Detrich (Sexton), Jim Christie, Gretchen Snyder, Mike Smith, Nate Johnson, Emmanuel Dankyi-Ankoma, Mike Gundel, and Kelsey Gibson.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Elder Becky George, Committee Chair

"Start off children in the way they should go, even when they are old they will not turn from it." ~ Proverbs 22:6 NIV

Children's Ministry Mission Statement

Children's Ministry of FUPCDC exists to communicate the love of Jesus to the children of our community, to help build healthy relationships with others, to teach them to obey God's directions for their lives, to learn the joy of serving Him and surrendering their lives to Him.

There are many opportunities for children to become involved in Children's Ministry.

Nursery:

Nursery is available during worship services (8:30 AM & 11:00 AM), and during the 9:45 AM education hour. Age limit for 8:30 AM service education hour is five years old. This age limit is also in effect when one worship service is held. Age limit for 9:45 AM education hour is four years old. Age limit for 11:00 AM service is up to early-three's (Not potty-trained). Joann

Paige, Nursery Supervisor, provides a warm and welcoming nursery environment.

Preschool: 11:00 AM ONLY

Preschool class is available during the 11:00 AM worship hour for children ages 3 and 4. In order for children age 3 to attend the class they must be potty-trained. Our teachers, Mark and Nancy Feldner provide a warm, welcoming and fun classroom environment.

K-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade:

Our Kidz Church teachers, Sue Johnson (K-2nd) and Cathy Smith (3rd-5th) offer an interactive curriculum that engages children in their spiritual development in a warm and fun classroom environment. Parents are provided a take home page that tells what the children learned and how they can continue the lesson at home.

In 2017 Children's Ministry was able to offer a 9:45 AM class during the education hour. The class is open to children ages 5-10. Class is taught by Becky George, Children's Ministry Elder.

We average 16-20 children per Sunday! We hope that you join us! Registration forms are required for all children who attend. Registration forms are available online and at the check in kiosk.

In compliance with our Child Protection Policy, children Nursery age through 5th grade are REQUIRED to be checked in EVERY Sunday. Our check-in process is computerized. Children will be issued a name tag with a security code. Parents will receive a ticket with children(s) name(s) and security code. Parents are asked to present their ticket when picking up children.

Parent's Night Out: We offer a parent's night out typically the second Saturday in February. This is a time for parents to have a night out for a couple of hours.

Vacation Bible School: Typically the 3rd week of July.

Time with Children: Children are invited to join Pastor Jeri for a time with children at the beginning of the worship services. While the 8:30 AM service is not affected, 11:00 AM Kidz Church is affected. We strive to have the children begin their lessons at 11:15 AM, however, there may be times when children's lessons exceed the 12:15 AM dismissal time. The time is approximate and we do all we can to stay within the planned hour. We ask for your patience when those times occur and the children are released later than expected. There is no Sunday school at 8:30 AM.

Children's Ministry committee is so excited for 2018! Our goal is to bring fun, encouragement and a love for Jesus to the children of FUPCDC. For general information on Children's Ministry, please email us at children@fupcdc.org.

We invite you to "like" us on Facebook. Search for FUPCDC KIDZ CHURCH. We share information, pictures and videos that we hope parents will find helpful.

Children's Ministry Committee:

Becky George, Elder

Mark Feldner
Nancy Feldner
Sue Johnson
Joann Paige
Cathy Smith

Mario Stapleton

We welcome teen helpers (with parent's permission) and adult volunteers.

COMMUNICATIONS
Elder Debbie Boisvert, Committee Chair

"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." ~Mark 16:1

Elder: Debbie Boisvert

Team Members: Becky Elliott, Becky George, Betsy Gilbert, Elizabeth Glycer, Gaylene Guest, and Ben Hall

1. Members of the Communication Committee kept the congregation informed of various events through several means. Debbie continues to maintain the Power Point Announcements that run in the Narthex, Becky George continues to publish the monthly newsletter, and Betsy Gilbert and Gaylene Guest share the responsibility of changing the message on the sign by the road. Banners were purchased and hung on the outside wall of the building for special events such as Easter, VBS/Drama Camp, Fall Festival, and Christmas.
2. The Communication Committee continued to embrace messaging using sources outside the church. All events were listed on the free calendar on the website *InsideNova.com*, but money was paid for the major events to be pushed to the top of the calendar one week prior to the event. Ads were created for both Easter and Christmas in the printed version of *InsideNOVA*, *The Old Bridge Gazette*, and *The Montclairion*.
3. Using Social Media has also been a focus of the year, and Gaylene Guest and Pastor Jeri have posted many church events on Facebook. Becky George has also posted many updates about Kidz Church and the Children's Choir on Facebook. New this year, the Communication Committee has purchased a monthly subscription to Outreach Inc.'s *Social Reach Daily* which provides daily Biblical and inspirational quotes and photos that can be used on FaceBook to keep our posts fresh.
4. The church's website was in need of a drastic revision and update, and Debbie and Liz spent most of the year looking at other church's websites, talking with a web developer and graphic designer, researching which web provider would match our needs, learning how to use *SquareSpace*, and building the church's new website. The temporary site has been sent to the Session for their input and approval and will hopefully go live in 2018!

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Elder Betsy Gilbert, Committee Chair

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
~ Romans 15:7 ESV

Team Members: Mayra Drayer, Ann Randles, Therese Same, Elder Sam Parris,
Bruce Gilbert (supporting member)

This new Elder position and committee called Congregational Connections was created in late 2016 by Session and was given the following initial tasks:

- Follow-up with new or repeat visitors when a visitor provides contact information.
- Provide a natural relationship with newcomers.
- Strengthen congregational connections.
- Create a formal committee charter to be approved by the Session.

We had our first meeting in February to discuss the purpose of Congregational Connections. Each of us took time to identify a Bible verse that described our committee and would define our charter. We chose Romans 15:7 as our guiding verse. We worked on the charter each meeting and in May it was presented to the Elders for comments. The charter was approved by the Session in June.

In April, the Session approved moving the responsibilities of scheduling greeters from the Communications Committee to Congregational Connections. We now have the responsibility for providing two door greeters and a Welcome Table greeter for each service. In addition to using the Sign-Up Genius, we also personally contact individuals to fill these slots. Current and prospective greeters have been offered training and a handout describing greeting procedures.

First-time visitors who come to the Welcome Table can receive a copy of the monthly newsletter prepared by Becky George and a Welcome Packet containing pamphlets with information from various FUPCDC groups. Becky Elliott, a member of the Communication Committee, has continued to prepare these packets. We really appreciate the work that these ladies do. First-time visitors who stop at the Welcome Table receive a book. This year, it has been The 3:16 Promise by Max Lucado and during December The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel. In December we also gave out sticker nativities for children as well as bookmarks for anyone who wanted one. Nate Johnson donated some wooden magnets with Bible verses that we gave out. If we are given contact information, a handwritten card is sent or call is made within several days of the visit.

We have encouraged the congregation to move from their routine seats so they can more easily have conversations with others they may not know or know well. We've also asked our members to be intentional about seeking out and welcoming visitors before or following the service as Passing the Peace provides little time for conversation.

The committee has also:

- Followed up with Time and Talent sheets that indicate interest in our committee responsibilities.
- Handed out bookmarks at the sanctuary door for Easter.

- Participated in National Night Out in August. We manned a table and were able to hand out information packets and flyers provided by the Prince William County Police Department as well as information about our church. We were able to meet and visit with our guests from the community. If guests showed an interest in our church, we provided information regarding service times, etc.
- Participated in Trunk or Treat in October by setting up a table with mini crosses for the children, prayer request cards for adults, a flyer with the Pumpkin Prayer as well as church information, and candy treats. We were pleased at the number of adults who asked if they could have a cross and by several children who asked if they could fill out a prayer request card.
- Presented an opportunity for the congregation in December to hear three speakers talk about Christmas Traditions Around the World. They represented Europe (England), South America (Bolivia) and Africa (Cameroon). Each talked about traditions from their native countries, several children read Bible verses and our group from Cameroon ended with songs. The purpose was to gain a better understanding of one another and become more connected. After the presentations, many lingered to talk with the presenters, ask questions, and thank them for sharing.

With God's help, we will continue in 2018 to find ways to connect both members and visitors to this church family.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
Elder Tim Camus, Committee Chair

“Each priest was to be responsible for the money brought by those he served, and the money was to be used to repair the Temple as needed.” ~ 2 Kings 12:5

The First United Presbyterian Church started 2017 in a good financial position primarily as a result of generous pledges and donations and continued prudent budget management. As was the case last year, the church's youth programs were delivered by the passion and hard work of the Youth Elder and volunteers which allowed us to increase our reserves. In January 2017, we received the Audit report from the CPA we hired to conduct an external review of the church's finances. The CPA noted minor observations. The CPA's report, along with the Finance and Administration Committee's (F&A Committee) responses to the observations, were filed with the Session. In May, the F&A Committee assembled the Financial Review Committee to conduct our annual internal financial review. Many thanks to Bob Chamberlin, Jeff Cobb and Dennis Dingle who worked an entire Saturday in order to get the review accomplished. The Financial Review Committee report gave the church a passing report, and it made some minor observations. The F&A Committee filed its action plan to address the observations with the Session.

We were also able to complete Financial Reviews of the Boy Scout Troop that is sponsored by our church and the Little Hands Pre School (LHPS). The Boy Scout Troop filed a response to minor recommendations, and the LHPS is working on completing their responses to the financial review's observations and recommendations for their operations. The Cub Scout pack that was sponsored by the church is not currently active.

In October, we held our annual budget retreat and formulated our new asking budget for 2018. The asking budget was passed by the Session in December. The pledges submitted as a result

of the successful 2018 Stewardship campaign, along with our estimates for unpledged giving for 2018, fully funded our asking budget. We will revisit the budget in April and throughout the year to ensure our income and spending projections are tracking as estimated and planned.

The F&A Committee continues to be blessed by the hard work and support of Gary Smith, the Treasurer, and by Karen Attreed, Barbara Wilson, and Jeanette Gregory, our Counters, who make sure the funds are accurately counted and recorded every week.

In summary, we finished the 2017 year with an operating surplus, and the church begins the 2018 Fiscal Year with an approved and balanced budget that will allow us to continue providing an excellent spiritual environment for the congregation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Elder Chris Martin, Committee Chair

Team Members: Jon Guest, Clator Butler, Bruce George, and Robert Porter, Chris Martin, Elder

This year the IT Committee continued the work towards updating the technology used throughout the church to meet our mission. A lot of work has been done, although much of it is behind the scenes and likely not obvious. Some of the updates completed include prep work for larger initiatives that will continue into 2018.

Several of the key accomplishments for 2017 are:

- 1) Network Infrastructure updates to better support the church's computer systems.
- 2) A new phone system was installed, currently alongside the existing system, to allow the 15+ year old system to be retired in early 2018.
- 3) The lobby monitor (TV) was changed to mirror the display in the sanctuary and provide audio during service to lobby area.
- 4) The church Wi-Fi coverage was expanded to provide better overall coverage in the building.
- 5) Little Hands Preschool devices were migrated to be included in the Church network.

Key Focus for 2018:

- 1) Fully change over to new VOIP Phone System (Retire old system).
- 2) Deploy CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) System to enhance security on the property.
- 3) Continue to replace and update the current hardware per the established plan (Computers, Monitors, Printers, Etc.).

The IT committee had a productive year in 2017 and we hope to complete many of these projects in 2018 to continue to improve access, security, and function of our IT network.

MISSION AND OUTREACH
Elder Sam Parris, Committee Chair

2017 Members: Jean Peterman, Ruth Washburg, Pam Cox, Gloria Coffield, Pat Manalio, Akosua Kwakye, Lora Nedimyer, and serving Elder, Sam Parris.

The Mission Committee would like to thank the Congregation for its continued support to this very important aspect of the church. In 2017, we continued our efforts to sustain ongoing missions and develop new opportunities to serve God's Kingdom using our time, talents and resources. Session approved a new Mission Charter (last approved by Session in 2000).

The Mission Committee oversaw mission activities in our Local, National and World communities. Mission work is at the heart of every church and we are always seeking new missionaries and missions.

The church sent contributions to the PCUSA Disaster Relief for Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico to provide aid to those impacted by recent hurricanes. Additionally the congregation supported One Great Hour of Sharing.

LOCAL & NATIONAL MISSIONS

Spread the Bread Ministry

Our Lord and Saviors ministry prepared a hot meal for our friends every Sunday in 2017. We served an average of 30+ meals each week, all 52 Sunday through the year. We estimate that of the nearly 1,800 - 2,000 meals that we served, we met and formed relationships with nearly 200-300 different people through the year. Through this outreach, our friends and all of the servants who help each and every week are being transformed through the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church had more than 40 people support this ministry through their time, through food donations or financially. We have several people that support us by: bringing drink donations, bagging or baking cookies, preparing a hot meal or portions of a meal, preparing and bagging sandwiches, bringing snacks, or dropping off used grocery bags each week to assist us. Please note that while we do not allow those under 18 to go to the site, we have several youth who assist by making a meal, or sandwiches at home or at the church. One of our outstanding youth: Becca helps us each year with a blanket drive at Christmas eve. This year we collected almost 50 blankets and sleeping bags for our friends.

We also appreciate the special campaigns that have supported our friends in this community. The gifts of socks, blankets, and gloves have provided a warm and thankful gift to our friends when they need it the most. Your generosity is so very much appreciated! Many of the folks whom the church serves through Spread the Bread, a ministry for those who are homeless, will be warmly wrapped in your love and kindness. This year we continued to be blessed by a small group formed in our own church which knits special items throughout the year (Spread the Warmth) for distribution to our very special friends. God's ministry has faithful people showing up each week to load tables, supplies and then serve people each and every week. All of these volunteers have contributed more than 1,100 hours of their time by caring for and

supporting the homeless, right here in Dale City. As a part of the ministry's family, they too are seeing the hope of Christ and having their lives changed.

One interesting aspect of this ministry is that over the years we have met several people that live in areas as far away as Aldie, Virginia that meet us to serve on Sunday. Each week we have no less than 10 people working to serve the homeless in our community. In addition, on the 3rd weekend of every month, we meet a group that helps to distribute clothes. It is great how God's ministry weaves us all together.

This ministry could not be accomplished without the outpouring of love and gifts from each and every one of you here at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. We appreciate your efforts and our friends appreciate it and tell us every week.

To God be the Glory!

Action Community Through Service (ACTS) - In April the church sponsored an ACTS membership drive that included a guest speaker at FUPCDC.

ACTS is always in need of non-perishable food items no matter the time of year. FUPCD provides a cabinet in the cloak area of the Narthex for food donations. If you are interested in volunteering fill out a volunteer application online at www.actspwc.org. FUPCDC also provides funding to ACTS throughout the year and during emergency situations.

Through the generosity of our congregation - we were able to provide ACTS with quarterly donations of \$500 for the calendar year 2017.

During the month of the Mission & Outreach Committee ministered to the Safe House providing towels and wash cloths for the shelter a total of 18 each.

For the month of December, the church provided 40 gift cards \$25 each to the women's shelter as part of ACTS. These gift cards went to the women and children that live in the safe houses.

Local Activities -

- 1) The committee supported local drives for homeless providing blankets and sleeping bags.
- 2) There was a separate drive for collecting baby items for the month of December.
- 3) The committee initiated an Acts of Love campaign during the month of November. More than 150 acts of love were reported by the congregation. Examples include: helping a neighbor, purchasing a meal for a stranger, picking up the tab at Starbucks...

English as a Second Language - Mayra Drayer conducted ESL classes throughout the Spring and Summer of 2017; classes took place at FUPCDC.

Empowering Women in Transition (EWIT) shelter - FUPCDC provided meals to the EWIT shelter. This shelter is designated for single mothers and their children.

Wellness to Wheels - FUPCDC provided a donation of \$500 per quarter for this local mission. The service provides transportation to access medical services to qualified individuals who reside in the southeastern portion of Prince William County. To qualify individuals must meet one of the following criteria:

- 80 years old or older
- Disabled as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Have income that is no greater than 1.9 times the federal poverty level, and not be eligible for Medicaid

Prince William County Project Lifesaver - The committee provided a donation of \$2000 towards this Lifesaver project. Project Lifesaver's mission is to use state of the art technology in assisting those who care for victims of Alzheimer's and other Related Mental Dysfunction Disorders (ARMD) and victims who become lost. These victims include the elderly and even the youngest in our community who are afflicted with Down Syndrome and Autism. Clients of ARMD tend to wander from their homes. Project Lifesaver places personalized radio transmitters on identified persons with ARMD. These transmitters assist caregivers and local emergency agencies in locating those who cannot help themselves.

Dale City Elementary School (DCES) Partnership - Session approved the DCES partnership agreement in 2016 and a contract was put into place and signed. The program was implemented beginning 1st Quarter 2017. The top priority for this partnership was for our volunteers to interact with the children in grades K - 2, especially listening to them read.

National Night Out, August 1st - The church sponsored its 2nd National Night Out inviting the local community to show our appreciation for our Prince William County Police and to focus on national crime prevention. The church provided hot dogs, snacks, music, moon bounce, and other games. This was a highly successful event that was attended by PWC leadership.

National Peace Officers Week (May) - In observance of National Peace Officers Week the church provided a care package to the Garfield Police station to show our appreciation. Included were fruit, snacks, power bars, water, and Gatorade and a signed banner from our congregation.

Un-Trim-A-Tree - FUPCDC sponsored 50 children this year for the Prince William County program. Since 1989, Prince William has supported thousands of families throughout the county with donations of Christmas gifts to those in need. Last year, this program served over 5,500 children. The program provides gifts along with wrapping paper/gift bags, gift tags, ribbons, and bows to the family; the parents have the joy of wrapping gifts for their children and placing them under the tree. The children have the joy of gifts to open on that beautiful morning. This was a perfect opportunity for our church to reach out to our community and those in need.

Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center - The Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center is a place where individuals with special challenges receive assisted therapy. This approach uses horses to achieve a variety of therapeutic goals on an individualistic basis. The church generously provided an anonymous scholarship of \$240 to a local person that resides in Dumfries.

4th Day Community Support - The mission and outreach committee supported KAIROS prison, Emmaus adult and Chrysalis youth ministries. We had several adult and youth members participate in each of these vital spiritual growth and outreach ministries.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Rise Against Hunger - The church hosted a *Rise Against Hunger* meal packaging event in May 2017. The event was complete in less than 90 minutes the group of about 80 volunteers of all ages. They packaged 10,000 meals of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and flavoring with essential vitamins and minerals. The meals were prepared for shipment throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages, and crisis relief. Specifically, the meals we prepared went to the Dominican Republic.

Liberia - The church sent several barrels of educational material to Liberia. The children of Liberia were in need of assistance in helping them prepare their minds for the future. Liberia was a country that was heavily impacted with the Ebola crisis which resulted in thousands of the children that are now orphans. We donated the following items: Easy Readers, How to Read Books: from kindergarten to 6th grade, How to write Books, Easy Grammar books, Easy Arithmetic Books, story books, novels, dictionaries, coloring books and crayons, Game books: crossword puzzles and riddles, pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, note books, drawing paper, markers, chalk, science books, and art books. By supporting this effort, we made a huge impact by the generosity of our church members.

Yucatan Mission Team

In January 2017 the Congregation supported two of the mission leadership to conduct a visit to our Yucatan mission sites. The purpose was to maintain relationships while checking out the water systems installed in previous years.

Our mission over the years was to provide clean water to the people of the Yucatan Peninsula. The Yucatan Mission is a program focused primarily on providing clean drinking water systems and Christian education for impoverished villages in the Yucatan peninsula. The water and education program follows the model created by Living Waters for the World, a part of the Synod of Living Waters, Presbyterian Church (USA). The congregation has been heavily involved in the fund raising for the construction of three water plants so far. The money is raised to construct cement block buildings and purchase the components of the clean water system.

A mission effort of this magnitude would not be possible without a network of prayer partners and support personnel, and others who helped with logistics, fund raising activities, and provided financial support.

Thanks to all of you supported the missions of this church through your donations, time, talents, and prayers. We are prayerfully faithful that, with your continued support and prayers, 2018 will be as successful as 2017.

Sam Parris will be transitioning off as the Elder for Mission and Outreach. Pam Cox will be ordained as Elder of the Mission and Outreach committee beginning January 2018.

NOMINATING

Elder Jennifer Casey, Committee Chair; Elder Jeff Cobb, Session Representative

The Committee presented the following members to the congregation to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee. They were elected by the congregation.

Jennifer Annan	Emmanual Dankyi-Ankoma
Bill Ediage	Bruce Gilbert
Gaylene Guest	Bob Porter
Linda Wolstenholme	Cathy Albrecht

The Committee presented the following members to the congregation for the office of Ruling Elder. They were elected by the congregation.

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Cathlene Albrecht	Lora Nedimyer	Tim Camus
		Pam Cox
		Peter Glycer

The Committee presented the following members to the congregation for the office of Deacon. They were elected by the congregation.

Class of 2020
Lisa Fortner
Agnes Fokwa
Kathy McNeely
Carol Schwam
Celine Sonkwa

Committee Members:

Jennifer Casey, chair
Jeff Cobb, Elder Representative
Jeanette Gregory, Deacon Representative

Martin Andrews
Charles Fokwa
Bruce Gilbert
Ann Randles
Charlotte Stultz
Linda Wolstenholme

PERSONNEL

Elder Norman Cobb, Committee Chair

Committee Members: Norman Cobb (Chairperson and Session Liaison), Gary Smith, Dolly Cox, Bob Chamberlin, Amy Greenslit, Pam Emert, Dave Stokes, and in conjunction with the head of staff (Pastor Jeri Fields)

Mission Statement: The Personnel Committee supports and advocates for the staff through ensuring a structured personnel process is in place that is consistent with the long-term viability and well-being of FUPCDC.

Summary of 2017 Activities:

- Conducted monthly committee meetings as required
- Reviewed and resolved personnel issues as required
- Reviewed and updated employee employment agreements
- Standardized Little Hands Preschool contracts with church contract format
- Updated Personnel Policy
- Participated in Little Hands Preschool Director Search Committee
- Provided recommendations to the Finance & Administration Committee for the Personnel Committee portion of the 2018 budget; communicated with staff regarding budget changes as required
- Coordinated with other Session committees as necessary

Terms of Call of Interim Pastor are approved by the session. Interim Pastor's Terms of Call were approved as part of the church's budget at the December 2017 meeting.

PRECHOOL

Elder Jeff Cobb, Committee Chair for Little Hands Preschool

Little Hands Preschool continued to be a strong presence in our community again in 2017. At the end of 2017 we offered six classes:

- Monday through Friday mornings (one Pre-K 4 and one Pre-K 5 class).
- Monday through Thursday mornings (Pre-K 4 class),
- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings (one 3-year old class),
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings (2 Early 3-year old classes).

Enrollment at the end of December 2017 was 68 children and we have an educational staff of eleven. While Little Hands continues to grow, the commitment to its foundation remains strong and unchanged. It is a Christian and developmental program with uniquely small student teacher ratios.

Little Hands experienced a turnover of the long-time Director, Lucia Jarbe, who resigned in September, Leah Charalambous: teacher and Elizabeth Allen: Teacher. All staff members are greatly missed.

We hired two new staff member for the 2017-18 school year. We welcomed two assistants: Gail Scalzo and Denielle Velasquez. Also, two assistants moved to a teacher position: Jennifer Caiozzo and Pat Sinclair. We are in the process of hiring a new Director and expect her to begin in early January 2018.

Some members of our staff have attended training in First Aid and CPR, Recognizing Signs of Child Abuse, Daily Health Screening & Handwashing, Medicine Administration Training, and Kindergarten Readiness.

The Advisory Board took on the challenge of establishing a "zero balance" budget for the 2017-18 school year as well as ending the 2016-17 year with a surplus. We are happy to report that both were accomplished. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the staff and volunteers for assisting in these efforts to make the school a better steward of its resources. The school

finished the 2016-17 year with a surplus of \$830 and is expected to increase that surplus in 2017-18.

The school, based upon guidance from the FUPCDC Session, established five committees as part of a "Get Well" plan for the school. These committees are: Budget and Finance, Policies and Procedures, Fundraising, Playground, and Marketing. All of the committees are up and running and making progress towards improving the school. Many thanks to those who stepped up to take on this challenge.

The Session funded a financial review for the school. This type of review has not been executed in over nine years and was very much needed and appreciated. There were many findings, most of which focused on policies and procedures, but the overall financial standing of the school was above board. The findings were not unexpected and the Elder and Treasurer are in the process of correcting the discrepancies noted by the reviewer.

During the summer the Preschool Parent Handbook was revised and updated and now contains much more information for parents. A huge thank you to Betty Matthews, Susan Matthews, Kathy McNeely, and Sue Lickiss for the many hours spent helping pull this project together.

The preschool planted a garden in the spring. It was very successful and we thank the FUPCDC Garden Club for their assistance.

We completed the necessary upgrades to the playground including a complete redesign and upgrade of the bed, removal of outdated and dangerous equipment, upgrades to current equipment, new fencing and signage. Many thanks to Dave Stokes for his tireless efforts.

This year the Parent Representatives, Amanda Miller (SY 16-17), Andie Baker (SY 16-17 and 17-18) and Hope McDonald (SY 17-18), worked hard putting together fundraisers to raise money for the playground renovations. Their fundraising efforts, including Spirit Nights at local eateries and a Savers donation drive greatly assisted in helping to school to meet its budget goals for the year. These parents' efforts are greatly appreciated and necessary for the Advisory Board to execute its role in administering the well-being and operations of the school.

The preschool collected cans of food throughout the months of November and December. Food is then taken to ACTS after the Parade of the Magi in December. In addition to collecting cans of food for ACTS, our preschool families donated 79 pairs of pajamas for the Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. All pajama donations were matched with a book from Scholastic Books. Donations will be distributed in Prince William County.

In addition to our routine daily activities we have special activities for the children. Here is a breakdown of activities the children participated in by month since the last Annual Report:

February

Dad's Night
Valentine's Day parties
Beach Day

March

PJ & Pancake Day
Easter Egg Hunt

April

Transportation Day

May

Mother's Day Tea
School-wide Family Picnic
Graduation

September

Painting Preschool Tee Shirts

October

Field trip to Cows-n-Corn (a working dairy farm)
Halloween Parties & Parade

November

Day of Sharing Feast
Thanksgiving Program
Tiny Tots Concert at Forest Park High School

December

St. Nicholas Day
Parade of the Magi
Christmas Parties

As you can see, we had a busy year. Each activity takes much planning and preparation and is done by a loving and caring preschool staff.

Little Hands Preschool would like to extend a thank you to everyone who has helped the preschool during the past year.

Preschool Advisory Board

Jeri Fields, Pastor
Jeff Cobb, Preschool Elder
Sue Lickiss, Treasurer
Betty Matthews, Preschool Deacon
Carole Hughes, Secretary
Kathy McNeely, Congregational Representative
Dave Stokes, Building and Grounds
Amy Chambers, Teacher Representative
Amanda Miller, Parent Representative (2016-1017)
Andie Baker, Parent Representative (2016-2017 and 2017-2018)
Hope McDonald, Parent Representative (2017-2018)
Vacant, Preschool Director (Director resigned in September 2017)

STEWARDSHIP

Elder Karen Attreed, Committee Chair

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank members and friends of First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City for their continuing commitment of Time, Talent and Treasure to God's mission. Members of the Stewardship Committee this year were Bruce Gilbert, Dennis Dingle, and Jeff Cobb. Lora Nedimeyer assisted when able; Jean Peterman was an inactive member.

Projects and Requests completed for the year included:

1. Revising the Time & Talent Sheet
2. Approving several requests for fund raising and donations
3. Designing and implementing the 2018 Stewardship Campaign

The Time and Talent Sheet was reviewed, edited and published. Members and friends were requested to complete the forms and return them to the Committee or the church office. The Sheets were reviewed, divided by Elder Committee, and two notebooks were organized. One notebook was placed with the office manager and the other available for Elders' reference in the church office. Each Elder received copies of the Time and Talent sheets pertaining to interest of church members. Elders were requested to contact interested members and friends.

The 2017 Stewardship Campaign was closed with thank you letters sent to members and friends who pledged. After reviewing the results of the Campaign and responses to personal contact, suggestions were made for the ensuing 2018 Campaign. Church envelopes for the 2018 Campaign (with dates) and Special *Welcome Envelopes* were reviewed and ordered. The *Welcome Envelopes* were placed in the Friendship Registers encouraging use by visitors.

Current information on Stewardship from Presbytery was distributed to committee members in a timely fashion. New campaign approaches were discussed. Many requests for fundraising and donation solicitations for the year were reviewed and approved. Requests by the Little Hands Preschool were also reviewed and approved. These were forwarded to Session with a motion for final approval and placement on the yearly calendar.

Several 2018 Campaign Themes were reviewed. One member volunteered to design a symbol. After reviewing several suggested symbols and themes, the 2018 selection was *Generosity Enhances Growth* with a tree as the growing symbol. The Committee's goal was to have 100% of members and significant friends pledge a financial commitment to the work of God at First United Presbyterian and in the surrounding communities. The Bible verse for the campaign was: *2 Cor. 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* A power point presentation was prepared and presented each Sunday in October enhanced by a speaking member of the committee encouraging the value of pledging. As a member of the committee spoke, leaves containing pertinent words in the verbal presentation fell from the tree signifying growth and enhancement.

A banner with the slogan/symbol was ordered and located in the Narthex for members to see each Sunday morning. A letter with pledge cards was prepared and revised. A mailing to the congregation was sent October 23. On Dedication Sunday, pledges were brought forward at Communion. A special thank you card was distributed as the congregation left the sanctuary. Special refreshments were provided by the committee as a thank you for the financial commitment of the congregation.

The 2018 Stewardship budget was drafted, reviewed and submitted to the Finance Committee containing funds for the next year's pledge envelopes, materials for the 2019 campaign and postage.

The Stewardship Committee reports a successful campaign for 2018 with 102 pledges amounting to \$386,800 exceeding the requested budget of \$344,000.

STEWARDSHIP (TIME & TALENT)
Lora Nedimyer, Committee Chair

"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace." ~1 Peter 4:10-11

The Time & Talent Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of our church families and friends for their continuing commitment of their time and talent to God's mission at FUPCDC. Our small but mighty team is made up of Karen Attreed, Bruce Gilbert, Jeff Cobb, Dennis Dingle, and Jean Peterman

The committee introduced the 2017 Time and Talent Form to both congregations during the month of March. Thanks to many of you for filling out the form and offering your time and talent. The forms were collected and separated by Elder committees, Deacons, and other activity church leaders and provided to the appropriate leader. The Elders were asked to contact each person to thank them for their interest in their committee. The other leaders were advised of which congregants were interested in helping with their events or activities and the leaders were asked to contact the volunteers. The volunteers may be contacted to give of their time and talent throughout the upcoming year. If an opportunity should arise that peaks your interest, please contact the event leader and offer your time and/or talents.

The Time & Talent Forms are located in the Narthex in the plastic bin just to the right of the entry doors leading into the office hallway. If you did not have an opportunity to fill out a form or would like to update your service, please do so. Place your updated form either in the basket on the table below or slip in the office window slot.

The Session decision has been made to combine the Stewardship and Time and Talent Stewardship committees in 2018. Should you feel that you would like to join or be part of the Stewardship Committee, please contact the office or check the bulletin to find out the day and time of the committee meeting.

FUPCDC is Blessed with so much talent and your Stewardship Committee is looking to identify more in 2018. Thank you again for being part of our church family.

WORSHIP

Cathlene Albrecht, Committee Chair

"Sing to the Lord, bless His Name, tell of His salvation from day to day!" -Psalm 96:2

Our Motto is **Passion for Christ and Compassion for others. Through loving God and loving others... we seek to connect, grow and serve.**

The worship committee, along with the choir directors, are working to continue to ensure a quality worship experience, one that is above all pleasing to God, and uplifting to the congregation. Pastor Jeri oversees the entire process of preparation for Worship. It is essential that our Lord be praised through music, prayer, the reading of the word, and the interpretation of the word. The Worship Committee tends to the details of worship, such as: flowers, banners, music, and the physical arrangement of the sanctuary and organization and appointment of persons helping in worship.

Our congregation worships weekly at 8:30 AM in our Traditional service offering and/or our 11:00 AM Contemporary Service offering. We continue to have "one" services on special occasions. These services allow all members to come together in worship at 10:00 AM. Ensuring the Sacrament of Holy Communion is distributed smoothly and reverently is a primary goal each month. Preparation of the Elements, coordinating the Elders and Deacons to serve, and bringing it all together on a Sunday morning is a major undertaking. Fortunately, many hands make light work. We always welcome additional volunteers in this area.

A special thanks to the members of the Worship Committee. The following are members of this committee: Gail Cobb, Claudia Cunningham, Peter Glyer, Charlotte Stultz, Pat Sheffield, Sue Johnson, Mark Feldner, and Carol Miller.

We offered four opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve. We began with a 10 AM service celebrating Advent 4. A children's service under the direction of Chris and Becca Anderson began at 4:00 PM. Special music was offered at 7:00 PM with a candlelight service following. At 9:00 PM a contemplative service was offered accompanied by our pianist Justin Stretetz and our visiting flutist, Keith Wright. Blessings abound on Christmas Eve with One Great Hour of Sharing collection and a collection of blankets for the homeless population in Prince William County.

The Banner committee continues to use existing banners, but added to the collection with an Advent series, purchased to supplement our current collection. These banners were well received by the congregation and will be a welcomed addition to First United Presbyterian's collection of unique handmade banners.

Fresh flowers are a part of worship with the exception of Lent when we forego too much decoration. Communion Sunday, also a time there are not fresh flowers, as we use the Peace lilies. Poinsettias during the Christmas season and lilies, hydrangeas, and other plants during the Easter time are given in memory or honor, or to God's Glory.

This year has been a year of cleaning up, as represented by the cleaning of the banner closet and audio closet. The Worship Committee came together to do this work gleaning through banners, organizing in a picture album and on the racks. It is indicative of our focus, using

what we have, adding to supplement, and embellish were needed. All of this is for God's Glory. It is our pleasure to do this work of the church.

From Dana Van Slyke: Music Director at FUPCDC - 2017 has been another blessed year for the Music Ministry of FUPCDC. Our Chancel Choir members continue to be inspirational leaders by providing their music to the glory of God during our Wednesday night rehearsals and at the 8:30 AM traditional worship service. We celebrated Easter with special anthems and a brass ensemble. We continue to collaborate with the contemporary music group as well. Great planning and effort was put into a unified musical presence in the intermittent 10:00 AM combined services. This combination of styles seems to be greatly appreciated by the whole church family. Our Bell Choir, Jubilation Bells, continued to play regularly throughout the year. Adding their sound at Easter and Christmas especially added to the sound of the season. They continued to play about once a month. They also once again participated in the fall Bell Choir festival. Our magnificent accompanist, Justin Streletz continued to be a perfect fit. He has grown even more in his music ministry in his second year with us. Justin has done much research into interesting and applicable preludes, offertories, and postludes. He even organized a recital to support hurricane relief. We have been blessed with his professionalism and musicianship. Our Chancel Choir year ended with Music Sunday, at the beginning of June. This was the last Sunday the Chancel Choir sang prior to the summer hiatus for this group. The message of that service was almost exclusively delivered through song. It was a joyous reflection of the year's work.

Our special music during the summer featured the talents of many soloists both vocal and instrumental. It also included small ensembles of singers. These duets and trios were formed by members of the Chancel Choir who happened to be around during the summer and wanted to continue to sing. This was a wonderful addition to our summer music offerings.

We once again started off the new year with a rousing Gospel Sunday the last week in August. This combined service featured the energy of the traditional gospel songs and instrumentation from the musicians of both services.

We featured many new anthems this fall. These came out of a reading session in July, sponsored by Foxes Music in Falls Church. Our year culminated with our Christmas Cantata, *Darkness into Light*, by Mary McDonald. This was truly one of the most inspirational cantatas to date for FUPCDC. The feedback from the congregation was overwhelmingly positive. We had the budget to employ a string ensemble which included a harpist. We also featured a lyrical dancer, the Children's Choir, and dramatic lighting. It was a celebration of Christmas as we have not seen before here at FUPCDC.

From Rebecca Anderson, Co-Leader of Contemporary Worship along with Chris Anderson -From the perspective of Contemporary Worship Music, our year was one of glory to God, growth in our sound, selections, and members, and communication/clarification in Standard Operating Procedures for the group. In terms of our sound, we have made a conscious choice to move away from hand-held microphones in favor of a more blended sound. The change in our microphones has resulted in better hearing, better intonation, and being able to lead worship with our hands, eyes, and faces more effectively. In August, we had the opportunity to facilitate a group discussion that led to our Attendance Policy.

At the beginning of 2017, Chris and I had a goal of including more diverse music (both in style and in origin). I catalogued the entire Glory to God Hymnal into a spreadsheet that is searchable by genre, key, subject, and country of origin, and although tedious, it has been an invaluable document for planning worship. Going to Montreat Music Conference was a very

helpful tool in exposing us to resources and processes that we might have never utilized before. We still continue to program familiar music and CCLI top 100 songs, but we feel strongly about our selections being as liturgically sound as possible. We also program selections that represent and include the global citizens that make up our congregation.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Elder Amy Greenslit, Committee Chair

Committee Members: Amy Greenslit (Chairperson and Session Liaison), Debbie Boisvert, Clator Butler, Ross Schwalm, Mike Smith

Mission Statement: The Youth Committee provides nurture and training for students in grades 6 through 12 so that they may cultivate vital and growing relationships with Jesus Christ, connect with others and serve.

Summary of 2017 Activities:

- Conducted bimonthly committee meetings
- Organized church youth and adult volunteer participation for the World Vision 30 Hour Famine at Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Organized "Soup-er" Bowl Sunday food collection
- Organized Blessing Bags for the Homeless mission project in conjunction with God and County program
- Organized youth participation in the Planet Wisdom weekend conference
- Organized youth participation in a Wednesday Night Alive fundraiser for the summer youth mission trip during Lent
- Provided devotional books to high school graduates on Graduation Sunday
- Organized Summer Youth Mission Trip to Lexington, KY
- Sponsored Youth Sunday worship service
- Sponsored youth Sunday school class
- Supported God and Country program
- Organized Fall Kick Off breakfast and program for youth and their parents
- Provided devotional books to youth at Fall Kick Off
- Organized Election Day Bake Sale fundraiser for 2018 youth mission trip
- Organized Fall Pie Sale fundraiser for 2018 youth mission trip
- Coordinated with other Session committees as needed

BOARD OF DEACONS
Gaylene Guest and Ruth Washburg, Co-Moderators

In 2017, the Board of Deacons continued to work to be the heart and hands of the Jesus in serving the church and caring for the congregation.

Co-Moderators: Gaylene Guest and Ruth Washburg

Deacons: Robert Albrecht, Gail Cobb, Kathy Cobb, Claudia Cunningham, Mayra Drayer, Ashley Emert, Marianna Gooding, Elizabeth Glycer, Betty Matthews, Denise Parris, Jeanette Gregory, Pat Sheffield and Gretchen Snyder.

1. In an effort to be a good steward of the deacon's time, the Board of Deacons made a decision to meet every other month in 2017 instead of every month as in previous years. Much of our communication can be accomplished by email in between the regularly scheduled meetings. On the months that we meet, our meetings are held on the third Tuesday. Pastor Jeri Fields spends time at each of our meeting to provide support and share information with the Deacons. She is a great source in preparing the Deacons to provide support and caring to members of the congregation. At our meetings, we also discuss and plan upcoming events and services provided to the congregation and community.
2. The Deacons worked again this year to build relationships with our families. The board lost 3 deacons at the end of 2016 and gained only one in 2017. This meant that some Deacons took on an increased number of families and all served with love and devotion. Throughout the year as our meeting opening devotions, each Deacon spent time praying for their assigned families. By our November meeting, each family in the congregation had been prayed for at a meeting. It was a special time to be able, as a group, to spend this time in prayer. With the support of Jeri Fields, our deacons were encouraged to contact their assigned families regularly to keep them informed of the activities of the church and to establish relationships. Deacons continued to partner each Sunday morning to serve coffee and treats and chat with the congregation members and guests.
3. The Deacons sponsored several activities throughout the year. These activities allowed for fun, fellowship and service for our congregation and community.
 - a. For the first time, we sponsored a "Soup-er" event on Super Bowl Sunday. The Deacons brought in homemade soup and the congregation was able to take home a serving of hot soup for lunch on a cold February day. It was a lot of fun and appreciated by all!
 - b. We sponsored potluck and pancake breakfasts on some one service Sundays to promote fellowship.
 - c. On Easter Sunday, the Deacons sponsored and conducted an event consisting of games and crafts for the children of the congregation. We had a great turnout with many children participating and an opportunity for the parents to spend time in fellowship as the children played the games. Instead of the traditional outside egg hunt, filled plastic eggs were given as prizes.
 - d. The "End of Summer" church picnic was held in the church parking lot again this year. The Deacons provided burgers and hot dogs and "fixings" and the congregation brought side dishes and desserts. In an effort to celebrate the wonderful diversity of our congregation, we asked for participants to bring some dishes native to their home country. This resulted in some amazing dishes and a sense of the world community that we are all a part of. We moved the event to another area of the parking lot in order to be more visible to the

- community and to allow for more visibility of the activities while people were enjoying their burgers and hot dogs. Informal games and activities were provided for the children.
- e. We once again hosted a Trunk or Treat event in the church parking lot. Volunteers decorated their trunks for Halloween and passed out candy to the children who attended the activity. Again this year the Boy Scouts conducted a carnival in conjunction with the Trunk or Treat making it a bigger event with much to offer the community. The church Mission committee provided hot dogs, chips and water at no charge to those attending. This was a great addition and very much appreciated. Other session committees contributed to make this truly a church-wide event.
4. The Deacons again provided monthly meals for the residents of the Women in Transition shelter in Triangle. The Deacons provide a complete meal as well as paper goods and cleaning supplies. This ministry is somewhat in a state of flux as some changes occurred in the management of the shelter. We will work in the next year to work out this ministry or find another place in which to serve.
 5. The flower ministry was led once again by Pat Sheffield. Assigned Deacons deliver the bouquets to members who are grieving, celebrating, or recovering.

We have been blessed with a wonderful group of Deacons with which to serve. They work hard to meet the needs of our church family.

OTHER MINISTRIES

NEW MEMBERS

Marti Hall, New Member Coordinator

The first New Member Class for 2017 was held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour beginning February 26 through March 19, 2016. It was determined that four weeks is too short of a time period and with the next class, we will experiment with five weeks. New member candidates met with Session on Sunday, March 19th for examination and Session voted to accept their memberships. Time and Talent Surveys were collected on March 19th and the new members were asked to bring their pledge cards on Sunday, March 26th. New members were introduced on Sunday, March 26th, were given their name tags and attended a pot luck lunch at the church, along with their families, their Deacons, the Pastor, and Members of Session. Gaylene Guest stood in for Gail Cobb who was unable to attend.

The 3 new members and their Deacons are as follows:

Angoh Leyah Amban	Re-affirmation of Faith	Gretchen Snyder
Kenedi Amban	Re-affirmation of Faith	Gretchen Snyder
Donnette Tyrell	Re-affirmation of Faith	Gail Cobb

The second New Member Class for 2017 was held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour from September 10 through October 15, 2017. It was determined that four weeks was not enough time for all that needs to be shared and we went to a five-week plan. New member candidates met with Session on Sunday, October 15th for examination and Session voted to accept their memberships. Steve Loke's membership becomes official when he is baptized. Time and Talent Surveys were collected and given to the appropriate Elder. Since the timing is so close to the new Stewardship Campaign, it was determined to allow the new members to

pledge at that time. The New Members were introduced at the services on October 15, 2017 and Steve Loke was baptized at the 11:00 AM service. A Pot Luck Brunch followed the 11:00 AM worship service. Families, Deacons, Session and Staff provided an abundant supply of food!

The New Members and their Deacons are:

Kelsey Gibson	Affiliate Member	Gretchen Snyder
Ben Hall	Profession of Faith	Gretchen Snyder
Steve Loke	Profession of Faith and Baptism	Pat Sheffield
Lanny Tuthill	Re-affirmation of Faith	Gail Cobb

New member photos were placed on display on the New Member Bulletin Board. Each new member has received a name tag. The cost of the name tags for the first session was \$29.75 and for the second it was \$38.

STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Becky George and Sue Johnson, Stephen Leaders

In early 2017 Stephen Leaders met with Stephen Ministers to discuss placing the Stephen Ministry on a hiatus status for a period of six months. The reasoning behind this decision was hard and not taken lightly. During this period, Stephen leaders and ministers were in prayer as to what next steps should be taken. In November 2017, Stephen Ministers met and made the very painful decision of discontinuing the ministry. Please know that this does not mean Stephen Ministry will not return at some point in the future when the need arises. We know God is in charge and all things work in His time. At this time, Stephen Leaders, Becky George and Sue Johnson would like to thank: Gail Cobb, Claudia Cunningham, Bruce George, Bruce Gilbert, Sara Porter, Cathy Smith, and Charlotte Stultz for their service as Stephen Ministers. We would be remiss in not thanking all those at one time have served in Stephen Ministry. Thank you and God Bless.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Jon and Gaylene Guest, Coordinators

The Wednesday Night Alive Program continues to thrive as an opportunity for friends and family to gather for "Fellowship, Food and Faith". Each Wednesday, from September through May at 6 PM, an average of 35 members of our church family gather to connect, grow and serve and we have been blessed by growing relationships, conversations and friendships over the past year. We have been told how much people appreciate enjoying a homemade meal, and fellowship with other brothers and sisters in this church family.

The first Wednesday of each month is "Birthday Night" which gives us an opportunity to celebrate those in attendance that will be having a birthday during that month. We also have continued a "themed" potluck on the first Wednesday of each month, which gives everyone an opportunity to share a special dish with others. We have been blessed once again in 2017 to enjoy homemade meals, lovingly created by Nancy Feldner for the remaining Wednesday nights of each month.

Again this year, during the Lenten season, the WNA meals were served by the Youth committee as a fundraiser for their Summer Youth Mission trip. We were pleased that they were able to use the meals as a team building experience and to be able to raise funds to defray the costs of the trip.

In addition to sharing a meal and conversation, there are multiple opportunities for our church family including:

- Pastor Bible study held at 7 PM following dinner
- Our Chancel choir meets directly after our meal each Wednesday.
- During the Lenten season, an opportunity to share a meal before the church service
- Some elders have used this night as a time to hold their committee meetings.

We would like to thank all who assist with all aspects of the Wednesday Night Alive program in a variety of ways from providing desserts, helping to set up and clean up, as well as preparation and serving. Many hands continue to bless us in this ministry.

We welcome each and every one of you to join us!

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA - TROOP 964
Vincent Murphy

This report is submitted to provide the Pastor, lay leaders, and the congregation of the First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, the BSA Troop 964 chartering organization, an overview of the activities of the Troop in 2017. The Troop meets at the Church monthly and is generously supported by the congregation as part of its youth ministry.

Our Scoutmaster for the first half of the year was Mr. Robert Palisin. Following a change in work commitments, Mr. Palisin thought he was unable to continue giving the Troop the time it deserved. We were fortunate in finding an immediate replacement in Mr. Daniel Getwright. In my time with the Troop at least, we have always been blessed with our adult volunteers and all of our Scoutmasters have been of high caliber. Mr. Getwright hit the ground running and has brought fresh energy to the Troop. I believe both parents and boys are pleased with his efforts to date. We remain grateful for Mr. Palisin's almost three years in the position, for his commitment throughout, and the continuity he provided.

We achieved Gold status again in the Journey to Excellence program this year, a measure of the efforts of both our boys and our adult leaders. As the completion of the re-charter process for the new scouting year, almost all of our eligible boys renewed their membership with the troop. Numbers are down slightly on previous years but we are hopeful that our next intake will make up for those who aged out, or who chose to discontinue scouting. We had a very good response from Webelos cub scouts at our recent Pumpkin Chuckin' campout, our main recruitment event for the year.

Our adult leadership has stayed strong and the number of registered adults has remained more or less constant. As always, your Committee has made an effort to adhere to troop and BSA policies. Last year's feedback from the Church's financial review was taken on board and we remain mindful of our financial accountability. The accounts from our last financial year have since been submitted for review. We continued to monitor our inventory, discarding damaged or obsolete items of equipment, restocking, upgrading, and properly storing all items. This included the recent purchase of new tents. As promised, we ensured our inventory was properly recorded, and submitted to the church for information and insurance purposes.

As you are aware Troop 964, like all Boy Scout troops, is boy-led. Our youth leadership draws up a plan for the year at the end of each summer break. We aim to hold a campout almost

every month, volunteers and weather permitting. Youth leaders also plan meetings monthly and conduct each meeting in accordance with the plan. Senior scouts are encouraged to do all they can to help younger scouts advance in rank through the year. Attendance at regular monthly meetings remained consistent throughout the year.

Last year we had a record six boys earn the rank of Eagle. This year there was only one, but we have another Eagle project just completed and two more in the pipeline for early next year. There are also other boys now with the Life rank, ready to move to the highest level. A majority of boys stepped up at least one rank during the year and all earned at least one merit badge. Some earned quite a few.

Our annual Train Show has traditionally been our major fundraiser for the year. This was our 19th year and it was Mrs. Andi Boyles' second year as Train Show Chair. Again she was ably assisted by Mr. Bill Sydow and a hard working train show committee. The show requires hundreds of volunteer hours, contributed by the boys of Troop 964 and their families. It is an opportunity for our boys to help pay for Summer Camp, as well as a general benefit to scouting. Once again we hosted a large numbers of boys from other troops, who were able to earn the railroading merit badge.

Our annual Summer Camp is the other major highlight of our scouting year. The boys voted overwhelmingly to return to Camp Karoondinha in Pennsylvania, for the fourth year running. We had 19 boys attending and five parent volunteers. The camp's high standard of amenities has been a major attraction and each year new amenities have been added and facilities upgraded. We had three boys do the first year Trail to Eagle program. For the remainder, the ability to earn merit badges is a core summer camp attraction. For the older boys, who already have most of the badges on offer, the camp offers a challenging outdoor skills program. The camp boasts several excellent instructors and a couple of our senior boys signed up and completed the course. Once again the Troop earned the Camp Unit Honor Award, though this year we were not alone. This is the highest award the troop could earn, and we have managed to earn it every year we have attended.

For the remainder of the year there was good participation in our monthly campouts, though one or two had to be cancelled for lack of parent volunteers. The youth leadership identified a theme for each, providing further opportunities to earn merit badges and advance in rank. All boys are able to expand their skillset, and pass on what they know to younger scouts. Camping is at the heart of the scouting experience and builds character and friendship, as well as enhancing life and outdoor skills.

Finally, by way of a supplement to this report I would commend a visit to the Troop's website (<http://www.troop964.org/>). The website has just undergone a major upgrade and includes photographic records and more detailed information on current and past activities.

This report marks the end of my fourth year as Committee Chair. It was also the year my son earned the Eagle rank and transitioned to an adult volunteer with the Troop. I am personally grateful for what scouting has given back to us and proud of all the Troop's past achievements. I feel confident your Boy Scout Troop will renew its efforts in the year ahead and continue to strive for excellence.

THANK YOU
for being a part of First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City!
You are a truly an amazing congregation that loves and serves the Lord!

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Blessings for the journey!

Rev. Jeri Fields
Pastor for Interim Ministry

Rev. Dr. Larry Greenslit
Parish Associate

Becca & Chris Anderson..... Children's Choir
Interim Contemporary Worship Co-Directors
Homer Detrich..... Sexton
Ike Evans..... Jubilation Handbell Director
Joann Paige..... Nursery Supervisor
Kim Parker..... Office Manager
Tiffany Ramsey..... Little Hands Preschool Director
Justin Streletz..... Accompanist
Dana Van Slyke..... Music Director

