



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” ~ Romans 15:13.

PASSION FOR CHRIST † COMPASSION FOR OTHERS
LOVING GOD † LOVING OTHERS
CONNECT † GROW † SERVE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
2018 ANNUAL REPORT
February 17, 2019

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DALE CITY
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

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2019 SESSION

Peter Glycer ('20)	<i>Adult Christian Education</i>	703-590-0856
Mike Gundel ('21)	<i>Building & Grounds</i>	301-767-5030
Rena Thompson ('21)	<i>Children's Ministry</i>	703-878-4384
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
Dave Stokes ('21)	<i>Little Hands Preschool</i>	703-583-9287
Pam Cox ('20)	<i>Mission & Outreach</i>	703-441-6319
Jennifer Casey ('19)	<i>Nominating</i>	703-915-6192
Norman Cobb ('21)	<i>Personnel</i>	703-878-7317
Jon Guest ('21)	<i>Safety & Security</i>	703-491-4006
Lora Nedimyer ('19)	<i>Stewardship</i>	703-680-5526
Marti Hall ('21)	<i>Worship</i>	703-626-2269
Sam Parris ('19)	<i>Youth Ministry</i>	703-730-3920
Rev. Adam Bowling		<i>Moderator</i> 828-448-8914
Sara Porter		<i>Clerk of Session</i> 703-670-8737

2019 BOARD OF DEACONS

A Ministry of Compassion and Service

<i>Class of 2019</i>	<i>Class of 2020</i>	<i>Class of 2021</i>
Gail Cobb	Agnes Fokwa	Liz Goolgasian
Claudia Cunningham	Lisa Fortner	Peggy Heins
Mayra Drayer	Kathy McNeely	Therese Same
Betty Matthews	Carol Schwalm	Bob Thompson
Denise Parris	Celine Sonkwa	Patricia Whitman
Denise Parris, <i>Co-Moderator</i>		703-730-3920
Carol Schwalm, <i>Co-Moderator</i>		703-680-7673

ANNUAL SESSION REPORT

as of January 1, 2019

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 2018 Statistical report follows on the next page.

2018 Church Statistical Report

Church	First United Dale City	PIN	10137
Presbytery	National Capital		
Address	14391 Minnieville Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22193		
Phone	703-670-7834	Fax	
Email	office@fupcdc.org		
Web Site	www.fupcdc.org		



Membership

Prior Active Members	224	Adjusted membership	224
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	0	Certificate	0
Youth Professions	0	Deaths	4
Professions & Reaffirmations	24	Deleted for any Other Reason	4
Total Gains	24	Total Losses	8
Total Ending Active Members	240		

Baptisms		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	192
Presented by Others	5	Female Members	151
At Confirmation	0	Friends of the Congregation	27
All Other	2	Ruling Elders on Session	15
		Do you have Deacons?	Yes

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under	32
26 - 40	27
41 - 55	47
56 - 70	78
Over 70	56
Total Age Distribution	240

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	3
Sight impairment	2
Mobility impairment	8
Other impairment	5

Christian Education

Birth - 3	6	Grade 7	0
Age 4	3	Grade 8	0
Kindergarten	4	Grade 9	2
Grade 1	2	Grade 10	1
Grade 2	3	Grade 11	5
Grade 3	2	Grade 12	2
Grade 4	12	Young Adults	5
Grade 5	4	Over 25	97
Grade 6	0	Teachers/Officers	16
		Total Christian Education	164

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	3	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Black/African American/African	41	White	190
Middle Eastern/North African	2	Multiracial	0
Hispanic/Latino-a	4		
		Total Racial Ethnic	240

Financial Data

Annual Income	523,725	Mission Expenses	39,507
Annual Expenses	470,842	Personnel Expenses	273,253
		Facilities Expenses	83,422

2018 FINANCIAL RESULTS

2018 Financial Results					
Sources of Income					
Offering Pledged		405,079.22			
Offering Unpledged		71,788.40			
Registration, Tuition & Fees		12,982.00			
Rental Income		1,780.00			
Fundraisers		1,334.00			
Grants		1,400.00			
Inkind Contributions		125.00			
Flower Donations		2,155.00			
Memorial Contributions		2,319.00			
Interest Income		3,048.14			
Dividends		20,914.02			
Investment Gain/(Loss)		(32,651.73)			
Misc. Income		800.40			
Total Income		491,073.45			
Distribution of Income					
	Income	Expense	Use of Restricted Funds (+)	Added to Restricted Funds (-)	Net
General	460,177.37	36,346.49	185,184.76	169,375.63	439,640.01
Adult Education	497.00	1,536.18			(1,039.18)
Building & Grounds	1,790.00	89,722.43	9,800.30		(78,132.13)
Children's Ministries	100.00	1,869.20			(1,769.20)
Communication		4,291.33			(4,291.33)
Congregational Connections		718.24			(718.24)
Deacons		1,128.39			(1,128.39)
Finance & Admin		20,847.33			(20,847.33)
IT		6,527.49			(6,527.49)
Little Hands	1,200.00			1,200.00	-
Mission & Outreach	30,388.10	32,636.34	24,535.93	30,263.10	(7,975.41)
Personnel		273,252.98			(273,252.98)
Session		11,277.59			(11,277.59)
Stewardship		489.51			(489.51)
Worship & Music	4,444.00	13,604.83	254.98	2,289.00	(11,194.85)
Youth	3,898.00	4,224.51	2,969.28	3,898.00	(1,255.23)
New Building	(9,355.74)			(9,355.74)	-
Endowment	(2,065.28)			(2,065.28)	-
Total	491,073.45	498,472.84	222,745.25	195,604.71	19,741.15

2019 BUDGET

2019 Budget					
Sources of Income					
Offering Pledged		388,000.00			
Offering Unpledged		40,000.00			
Registration, Tuition & Fees		-			
Rental Income		2,000.00			
Fundraisers		-			
In kind Contributions		-			
Flower Donations		-			
Memorial Contributions		-			
Interest Income		2,500.00			
Dividends		-			
Investment Gain/(Loss)		-			
Misc. Income		-			
Total Income		432,500.00			
Distribution of Income					
	Income	Expense	Use of Restricted Funds (+)	Added to Restricted Funds (-)	Net
General	430,500.00	660.00			429,840.00
Adult Education		1,270.00			(1,270.00)
Building & Grounds	2,000.00	78,768.00			(76,768.00)
Children's Ministries		2,400.00			(2,400.00)
Communication		5,460.00			(5,460.00)
Congregational Connections		750.00			(750.00)
Deacons		2,215.00			(2,215.00)
Finance & Admin		25,684.00			(25,684.00)
IT		6,730.00			(6,730.00)
Little Hands					-
Mission & Outreach		6,400.00			(6,400.00)
Personnel		278,401.00			(278,401.00)
Safety		5,000.00			(5,000.00)
Session		9,698.00			(9,698.00)
Stewardship		650.00			(650.00)
Worship & Music		6,500.00			(6,500.00)
Youth		1,750.00			(1,750.00)
New Building					-
Endowment					-
Total	432,500.00	432,336.00	-	-	164.00

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Statement of Financial Position, December 31, 2018

ASSETS	
Liquid Assets	
Checking/Savings	447,170.49
Mutual Funds	342,040.01
	<u>789,210.50</u>
Fixed Assets	
Building & Land	3,887,600.00
Building Improvements	102,111.92
AV and Music Systems	18,986.00
Furniture	40,800.93
Accumulated Depreciation	-89,969.16
	<u>3,959,529.69</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u><u>4,748,740.19</u></u>
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Current Liabilities	0.00
 Reserve Fund	 75,000.00
Restricted Funds	508,557.53
Building & Land Equity	3,887,600.00
Improvements Equity	71,929.69
Unrestricted Net Assets **	205,652.97
 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	 <u><u>4,748,740.19</u></u>

** Notes: Unrestricted Net Assets Bridge

2017 Unrestricted Net Assets	175,661.82
2018 Net Income	19,741.15
Release from Capital BF	10,000.00
Uncashed 2017 checks	250.00
 2018 Unrestricted Net Assets	 205,652.97

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

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it." ~ 1 Corinthians 12:27

First of all, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside you for 45 months, February 2015 - November 2018, during a time of interim/transitional ministry. What an amazing experience it has been to watch you grow in your faith development and level of discipleship. Expressed gratitude led to increased generosity and infectious joy and enthusiasm for shared ministry. This ultimately led to not only an increase in average attendance, but in membership growth that included four very special adult baptisms, ten baptisms of children/youth, and three baby dedications. Excitedly, there are several regular attendees who have expressed an interest in becoming future members of the church. To God be the glory!

As you may recall, the role of the interim/transitional period is meant to help you look at yourself in a mirror... to ascertain strengths/weaknesses/challenges and to prayerfully consider where God is leading you as a church to make changes, not for the sake of change but through times of prayer and discernment. And change you did as you successfully moved through the goals of interim/transitional ministry established by your Session; goals that include, but are not limited to:

- ✚ Maintaining/renewing the viability of the church
- ✚ Reinforcing the ministry of the laity; identifying new leadership; equipping the saints (you) for ministry; inviting all to share their God-given gifts, abilities, and talents to be the body of Christ
- ✚ Clarifying the mission of the church and the ways the church serves not just inwardly, but more importantly outwardly into the community and beyond
- ✚ Exploring/implementing ways to strengthen finances and stewardship
- ✚ Identifying/naming/addressing issues of conflict through times of prayer and discernment - doing so with courage, endurance, and faith in God for guidance and wisdom
- ✚ Resolving feelings of grief and/or anger related to the departure of past pastors, former staff members, and those who for various reasons no longer attend FUPCDC
- ✚ Emphasizing fellowship and reconciliation
- ✚ Strengthening denominational ties so as to understand your role in the wider church
- ✚ Hiring quality staff
- ✚ Rebuilding/strengthening the church's "infrastructure"
- ✚ Implementing ways to enhance communication
- ✚ Promoting connectedness and opportunities to encourage growth in interpersonal relationships

The primary focus for any successful transition is faithfulness - both God's complete faithfulness to His people and your unwavering fidelity to your commitment to serve Jesus Christ. What emerged during your times of transition and transformation were many signs of the ways God's Spirit undoubtedly breathed new life into you individually and as a congregation. To God be the glory!

Mike Slaughter recently released a new Bible study, *Made for a Miracle*. In this book, he talks about how miracles occur when God's divine intervention connects with people who are using their God-given gifts and abilities for God's glory. How true! And miracles occurred any number of times over the past 45 months.

You genuinely and authentically care for others...not just the members and friends of this congregation...but also those outside the walls of this church. This is evident through your special ministries of Spread the Bread, National Night Out, Trunk or Treat, Kairos Prison Ministry, and more.

It was inspiring to watch you desire more and more in-depth Bible studies. Hungry and thirsty for God's word, you chose to meet as a class throughout the summer. WOW! And what a blessing it was to have Larry Greenslit, your Parish Associate, lead such classes with Bob Porter. What a dynamic team they turned out to be. I thoroughly enjoyed our times together in Wednesday evening Bible studies. You challenged me and I hope I challenged you. The Monday evening Women's Bible Buddies, and the Monday morning Horizon Bible study grew in numbers as people grew and matured in their faith development. Friendships forged within each group. To God be the glory!

Your newly formed speaker bureau has begun to address social justice issues in faith based conversations that appeal to you and the community. As interest grew, a grant to help cover expenses was requested and received from Presbytery.

You are blessed with an amazing music ministry. Your love for the LORD is evident in the joy singing/ringing/playing during times of worship under the leadership of Dana Van Slyke, Justin Streletz, Chris and Becca Anderson, Ike Evans; as well as the choirs, special vocalists, and instrumentalists providing ways to enhance worship through music. Your Christmas cantata December 2017 was powerful, touching the lives of many. Christmas and Easter services were filled with love and joy. You received and ultimately welcomed the idea of projecting on the screen during the traditional service. The new hymnal *Glory to God* was introduced shortly before I left. The Worship Committee was helpful in so many ways!

An answer to prayer is revealed in the significant increase in the number of children and their involvement in worship and Sunday School/Kidz Church. Joann Paige, your Nursery Supervisor, and the Children's Ministry volunteers warmly welcome each child and family into an atmosphere of love and trust and care in nurturing all aged children in their faith development. May your young ones be nurtured into becoming the next youth group you so long to have.

While the number of youth dwindled as they went off to college, many of them continue to return to church when home. Without a doubt, they represent the finest confirmation class I have ever experienced. Their love for mission continues to outweigh a desire for fun and games and entertainment. What an awesome group of young people!

Mission and outreach are very important to you. You came to understand the difference between charity (giving money) and doing hands-on-ministries such as Rise Against Hunger, going on mission trips, serving meals at the shelters, and more. While both charity and hands-on mission are needed, you discovered how the hands-on ministries were life-changing for you and those you served.

As faith development continued to grow and mature, both a women's and men's retreat were initiated. Your Men's Breakfast moved from being a time of fellowship to a time that included reading scripture, sharing devotions, and engaging in in-depth conversations. Spirit-filled mission trips for youth and adults left you asking for more.

You care for the building and grounds. I thoroughly enjoyed the special care given to the gardens near my office. At times the care and upkeep required for the building and grounds seemed insurmountable, but you persevered. This past year, God blessed you with a new roof, down spouts, and gutters approximating \$148,000. This was mostly paid by the insurance company when it was determined wind and hail from a couple of years ago caused significant damage to the building. Talk about a miracle!

You addressed challenges in the life of any congregation such as serious illnesses, loss of jobs, career changes, retirement, surgeries, death, accidents. Other challenges were unique to you...like bears, foxes, squirrels, bees and wasps, ants, deer, raccoons, possums, cats, and other critters. And don't forget the surprise visit from a flock of flamingos. Oh, the stories you have to accompany each visiting critter.

You made advancements in Information Technology and are prepared to introduce a new Session committee: Safety and Security. Your Personnel Committee prepared several policies for Session approval, ensured staff was cared for and evaluated in a timely fashion, and was involved in interviewing and hiring of replacement staff. Your Preschool welcomed a new Director, Tiffany Ramsey, and is flourishing under her leadership. Beginning this school year, children are learning

a Bible verse each month. Chapel talks with the Pastor are always a very special time with the children.

As you share your amazing stories about the power and presence of God in your lives, you have inspired others to share their stories and the significance of trusting in a loving, sovereign God. The maturing in your faith is also evident in your times of sharing food, fun, and fellowship. After a few months you moved from quickly exiting the sanctuary to leave through the front door as soon as a service was over and to mingle with one another before and after worship. Perhaps unbeknown to you, I was ecstatic and knew you had taken a major step forward in this time of transformation.

You willingly help in times of need, oftentimes appearing at just the right time. The Office Angels continue to be a blessing.

You have observed and experienced the power of prayer. Your *Prayer Warriors* pray without ceasing as they gather each week praying specifically for the church, its preschool staff and each child by name, those on the bulletin prayer list, and those maintained on a confidential list. For over a year this group prayed for increased ethnic diversity and an increase in children. Both prayers were answered! To God be the glory as these and other prayers were answered.

Whenever facing a particular challenge, I could go to the prayer group and tell them special prayers were needed. Not asking them to pray for anything specifically, I experienced God's divine intervention numerous times while I was with you. And how I grew to appreciate the prayers for me before every service. Introducing the *Blessing of the Church* was more of a blessing than many will ever realize.

Your newly designed website, the sign alongside Minnieville Road with its relevant messages, your newsletter and other various forms of communicating are eye appealing and attract visitors all the while keeping the congregation informed of you many ministries. Your Communications Committee brought you into the 21st century...actually to 2018 by following current social media trends that were enhanced by members of the Information Technology Committee.

Your love for God and the ways you intentionally strive to follow Jesus Christ are evident in the ways you easily connect with those who walk through the door of the church for the first time and then return because they sensed they could become part of a congregation that will help them to Connect-Grow-Serve by Loving God-Loving Others ever striving to move into the sacrificial nature and meaning of having Passion for Christ and Compassion for others

Likewise, this is evident in the ways Kim Parker, your Office Manager, Homer Detrich, your 20-year Sexton, and Tiffany Ramsey, your Preschool Director serve as ambassadors for Christ and his church as they greet and meet people entering the church throughout the week, fulfill their responsibilities as a staff with love, joy, enthusiasm, effectively and efficiently as they work closely together with the pastor, elders, deacons, congregants, visitors, and those who regularly use the church facilities throughout the year. Each of you have special gifts for ministry and are such a blessing to me and the church! To God be the glory!

I greatly appreciate the way each Session during the years 2015-2018 worked together doing the worshipful work of the church. Over time your elders moved from working as independent silos, thinking primarily of their own committees, to working together, supporting one another, and together governing the work of the church. Many difficult decisions were made through prayer and discernment. Some of your challenges prior to my arrival were due to conflict avoidance. While addressing issues that need to be addressed is never easy, it was necessary for your health and well-being as a congregation. I pray these are valuable lessons learned and that you do not revert back to old ways of silo-ing and conflict avoidance.

I am thankful for the Session's leadership and on-going support, for rebuilding and stabilizing the infrastructure of the church by developing policies and procedures to do things *decently and in order*; for their insights and ability to work through difficult situations; for their commitment and faithfulness in fulfilling their promises made to God, the congregation, and each other at the time of ordination/installation. You are blessed to have a Clerk of Session, Sara Porter, who is a cradle born Presbyterian who is one of the best Clerks I have ever had the privilege to work with. I was truly blessed to serve alongside each Session.

You developed an appreciation for what it means to be a Presbyterian and reconnected in new ways with National Capital Presbytery and the denomination.

Your deacons are a vital part of providing care and nurture for members and friends of the congregation by loving God and loving others. In addition to providing a time of fellowship after each service, they assisted with at least 15 funerals over the last 45 months. Special ministries such as serving meals at the shelter, Trunk or Treat, and the annual picnic.

You participated in the Holy Cow CAT-SCAN. The results were shared, explored and validated in small groups and with your church leaders. The focus through our time of transition together was to increase your already high energy and high levels of satisfaction in a more northeasterly direction. When participants were asked where they wanted additional energy placed in the life of the church, the following first five priorities were addressed, and I believe you are experiencing steady progress in each of them: 1) Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church, 2) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church, 3) Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership, 4) Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances, and 5) Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.

A new ministry, Holy Fitness, evolved from GMU's POISED class that was offered at the church to promote better balance, strength, and flexibility for seniors. Holy Fitness, under the leadership of Fred Menke and the Albrechts, welcomed members of the congregation and the community to continue with many of the exercises introduced in POISED. During this time, they exercise to Christian music and engage in times set aside for devotions and prayers.

I am grateful for your willingness to engage in change, your openness and willingness to explore new ways and new ideas; for the decisions to let a ministry go so another ministry could be cultivated, blossom, and bloom; for faithfulness in carrying out responsibilities and equipping others to be engaged in ministry. I am most appreciative of the advancements made in informational technology and safety and security, for your treasurers past and present; your counters, ushers, greeters, communion servers, liturgists, and beautiful banners and special times of decorating the sanctuary for Christmas and Easter. I give thanks to God for new members and visitors and for the ever growing number of children, their energy, and their quest to know more about what it means to follow Jesus. Your generosity of time, talents, and resources continues to grow and you are reaping the benefits of sharing with loving, generous, and joyful hearts. Stu Bear is glad he could accompany you during these times. Stu Bear worked hard while with you and has gone into hibernation for a short time.

I give thanks for each and every one of you. Each of you has touched my life and I am so very thankful that we walked this journey of transition and transformation together! I thank you for the reception as we said farewell. I cherish your special notes, your gifts, the signed Bible, and the wonderful scrapbook of memories. In many ways, you were for me the congregation that pastors hope to serve someday. I am blessed! Thank you!

May you remember your past, live in the present, and move forward into the future trusting God, following Jesus, being empowered by the Spirit as you continue to explore and discern where God continues to call and lead you!

May you welcome and support Pastor Adam and his family. Pray for them and love them as you did for me. Behold! God is doing something new. I am excited for you. With love and a grateful heart, God's blessing, grace and peace for the journey set before each of you, individually and as the church.

Rev. Jeri A. Fields, aka Pastor Jeri, your former Pastor for Interim/Transitional Ministry

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

"Prayer is the Key"

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in the place" ~Genesis 28:16b

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

After 17-months in which we reviewed 95 Personal Information Files, your PNC presented Rev. Adam C. Bowling to our congregation on September 30, 2018 as our unanimous #1 choice to lead First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. At a congregational meeting that day, our congregation overwhelmingly approved Pastor Adam's terms of call.

Pastor Adam officially began serving as our new pastor on December 1, 2018. We are delighted at the warm reception that each of you have extended to Pastor Adam and his family. Two significant PNC actions remain. First, the Bowling's need to sell their home in North Carolina before his family can join him here in Dale City. Please pray that their home sells very soon. Second, an Installation Service for Pastor Adam will be scheduled in the near future when he will be officially installed as our Pastor/Head of Staff by National Capital Presbytery in cooperation with our congregation. The PNC will finalize our report after the Installation Service and after the Bowling's move to Northern Virginia is complete.

The PNC thanks FUPCDC members and friends for your patience, prayers, and overwhelming support as we worked through this process. We truly believe that the Holy Spirit led us to Pastor Adam and led him to FUPCDC. Thanks be to God.

2018 SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Elder Peter Glycer, Committee Chair

"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

Committee Members: Jeri Fields (Interim Pastor), Adam Bowling (Pastor), Peter Glycer (Elder), Nancy Hummer, Cathy Smith, and Ross Schwalm

Purpose: The Adult Christian Education (ACE) Committee provides opportunities for adults to expand their faith by exploring God's word and applying it in their daily lives.

Sunday Mornings: During the 9:45 AM Education Hour we enjoyed a comprehensive study of the *Gospel of Romans* in the spring, followed by a look into the *Nicene Creed* in the summer. In the fall we began a study of the *Gospel of Luke*. These were led by the team of Larry Greenslit and Bob Porter. Concurrent with this in the fall was a class on *Christian Caregiving* by Pat Manalio.

Monday Mornings and Evenings: The second Monday each month a group of women, the Horizons women's bible study, meet to explore *God's Promise: I Am with You Always* led by Sara Porter. Each Monday evening the Bible Buddies, another group of women meet to study *Who is Jesus?* led by Betty Matthews.

Wednesday Night Alive Bible Study: Numerous studies were conducted by Pastor Jeri following the Wednesday Night Alive meal. This tradition is continued by Pastor Adam.

Lenten Trio: *Final Words from the Cross* by Pastor Jeri, *Breathe* by Gaylene Guest, and *Forgiveness* by Cathy Smith.

Women's Retreat: A church wide Women's Retreat was held in May with 45 attending. The theme was 'Learning to Hear God Speak'.

Men's Retreat: A church wide Men's Retreat was held in September with 24 men participating. The theme was "*Grow Your Faith*".

New Member Classes: Three new member classes were conducted by Marti Hall.

Fair Share Community Speaker Series: We have added an exciting new speaker series held on selected Saturday evenings where we explore Christ's work across our greater community. The speaker program is committed to the ongoing outreach of our congregation to the local and surrounding communities. The intent is to bring together people of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities so as to celebrate our differences, while finding common ground to share Christ's love.

Our first speaker in October looked at the topic of homelessness in Woodbridge. It was presented by Executive Director Rose Powers, Streetlight Community Outreach, and volunteer extraordinaire, Joyce Entremont. The second speaker in November was Dr. Michael Otaigbe who presented *Obstacles to Inclusion*, a look at racism and how it impacts our daily interpersonal relations. The next speaker on Saturday 9 February, will be ACTS speaker, Victoria Graham, who will present "I Hear What You're Not Saying."

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Elder Jon Guest, Committee Chair

"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." ~ Mark 12:28-31

Committee Members: Jon Guest (Elder), Becky Elliot, Homer Detrich (Sexton), Jim Christie, Gretchen Snyder, Mike Smith, Nate Johnson, Emmanuel Dankyi-Ankoma, Mike Gundel, David Stokes, Mark Feldner and Kelsey Gibson

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** always gives 150% as he nurtures and takes care of the building and grounds of the church. This committee and the congregation is forever indebted to his outstanding contributions to this church family. We continue to thank our Lord and Savior for blessing us with Mr. Homer.
- **Self-Help!** 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 -- Debbie Boisvert leads the gardening guild. Once you volunteer, you will be tasked with "loving" on a specific piece of the church grounds. Email: garden@fupcdc.org for more info.
 - ✓ Mark Feldner painted room 22.
 - ✓ Nate Johnson built some shelves for Little Hands Preschool and Mark Feldner painted them.
 - ✓ 1/2 dozen parking lot potholes (from the harsh winter) were repaired in the parking lot by Mike Gundel.
 - ✓ Mike G. replaced several ceiling tiles throughout the church while we waited for roof repairs
 - ✓ Peter Glycer and team improved drainage by our front door - great job!
- **Annual cleanups.**
 - ✓ Our spring cleanup was held in May. We had 30 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 trimmed around the compressors, too. We would love to thank all of those that came out to help on this day. Thanks to all.
 - ✓ Our annual fall cleanup was cancelled in November.
- **The Buildings and Grounds committee continued to improve items and work with maintenance and normal upkeep of the church to include:**
 - ✓ Tim Camus - led our project to get the roof fixed and repaired - Incredible job and effort!! We received 3 bids, session selected a contractor. The roof construction began in October and they were complete in November. We now have a 50-year warranty for the entire roof. This was an incredible effort - the process took nearly 1.5+ years but through prayer God found the right contractor and the right person to lead it - thanks Tim Camus (leadership) and Homer, Mike Gundel and Sam Parris for their time and energy.
 - ✓ We locked in our cleaning crew for another year - Jose Chicas: note: he cleans on Friday evenings.
 - ✓ We renewed our maintenance contract for our Automated Electronic Defibrillators! This ensures they are up to date, with no issues.
 - ✓ As always, we had normal pest control, termite and carpenter bee treatments through the year.
 - ✓ During this fall, we have had several repairs to our heating and cooling systems.
 - ✓ Additionally, our annual maintenance contract for our HVAC was renewed.
- **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!

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

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.

Nursery:

Nursery is available during worship services (8:30 AM & 11:00 AM), and during the 9:45 AM education hour. Nursery is open to children infant through four years old. Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor, provides a warm and welcoming nursery environment.

9:45 AM: Education Hour; Kidz Church: The class is open to children ages 5-10. Class is taught by Elder Becky George.

K-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade: 11:00 AM

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.

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: The 2018 theme was Hero Central! Twenty-seven children discovered that they can be heroes for God. Look for a date change in 2019.

Time with Children: Children were invited to join Pastor Jeri and Pastor Adam for a time with children at the beginning of the worship services.

Children's Ministry committee is so excited for 2019! We welcome Rena Thompson as our Elder! 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.

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

Committee Members: Debbie Boisvert (Elder), Becky Elliott, Lisa Fortner, Becky George, Betsy Gilbert, Elizabeth Glycer, and Gaylene Guest

1. Members of the Communications Committee kept the congregation informed of various events through several means. Debbie Boisvert continued to maintain the Power Point

Announcements that run in the Narthex Welcome Center, Becky George continued to publish the monthly newsletter, and Betsy Gilbert and Gaylene Guest shared the responsibility of changing the message on the sign by the road. Becky Elliott maintained the Welcome Packets. Banners were purchased and hung on the outside wall of the building for special events such as the speaker series, Easter, VBS/Drama Camp, Fall Festival, and Christmas. The Welcome feather flag was replaced, and a Little Hands Preschool feather flag was purchased.

2. The Communications 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 Observer*, 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, and Debbie Boisvert is still learning how to do this. Becky George has also posted many updates about KIDZ Church and the Children's Choir on Facebook. The Communications Committee decided to continue to use the Social Reach Daily which provides inspirational quotes from the Bible and about life.
4. The church's website was unveiled at the beginning of 2018 and has been deemed a success by those who have used it. Debbie Boisvert and Liz Glycer have updated it on a regular basis to keep it fresh and to showcase current events. The committee was told that several Pastoral Candidates used it as a reference to see what our church was like and what we were doing. ☺ Kim Parker, the Office Manager, was trained to be able to insert the weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletters. Tiffany Ramsey, the Little Hands Preschool Director, was trained to be able to insert the monthly LHPS newsletters and will one day be trained to update the photo gallery for special LHPS events. We will continue to use SquareSpace.com as our web host.
5. Initial steps are being researched with the county and various sign companies to have our roadside sign updated with an LED sign. This request was presented at the Session Budget Meeting in October and has been placed as an item on the Capital Improvement Plan, but it has not been approved or funded at this time.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS
Elder Betsy Gilbert, Committee Chair

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

~ Romans 15:7

Committee Members: Sandy Chamberlin, Mayra Drayer, Ann Randles, Therese Same

Supporting Members: Rita Clager, Becky Elliott, Bruce Gilbert.

Romans 15:7 is the verse that guides Congregational Connections. This committee schedules, for each service, two door greeters to welcome all who enter our doors for worship and one person to greet at the Welcome Table. Sign-Up Genius and personal contact are used to schedule volunteers in this greeting ministry. This year, we used a church logo designed by

Megan Glycer Moore, to be used on a water bottle which is our gift to first-time visitors. If contact information is provided, a handwritten card or email is sent or a call made within several days of the visit.

Congregational Connections started the year with a goal of having a Women's Retreat in the spring. Our plans came to fruition on May 19, 2018. The focus was on "Learning to Hear God Speak." Therese Same was the keynote speaker. Nancy Hummer was our facilitator and kept us on track with eating, singing, multi-discussion groups breakout and devotional fitness. The retreat concluded with a circle of 45 sisters-in-Christ singing and praying. We give thanks to all who led and participated in this life of the church event and look forward to having another Women's retreat in 2019.

We were thrilled this year to receive Session approval for the addition of three small groups. These group gatherings include a time for prayer and/or devotion which incorporates the mission statement of FUPCDC. Holy Fitness is an adult exercise group that started with a research program spear-headed by George Mason University. After this program ended, the group wanted to continue meeting; Holy Fitness was formed and currently meets three times per week. The group is led by Fred Menke, and Bob and Cathy Albrecht. As an avid mountain bike rider, Bob Thompson was interested in sharing his love of biking with others of all riding abilities and a Cycling Group was formed. Patricia Whitman saw a need to help adults going through difficult times and has started an Adult Support Group. We are so thankful that the formation of these groups has provided more opportunities to connect to one another.

This committee has also:

- Continued to follow up with Time and Talent sheets to identify individuals who are interested in supporting tasks for which our committee is responsible.
- Participated in National Night Out in August. We enjoyed meeting and greeting guests from the community, gave out gifts for children, provided a flier that had a prayer for our police as well as information regarding FUPCDC. We also provided an opportunity for individuals to submit prayer requests and were available to pray right then or pass the prayer request on to the Thursday Prayer and Praise Group.
- Participated in Trunk or Treat. Children were given candy as well as a mini cross. We also happily gave a cross to the adults who asked for one. A basket for prayer requests was also available at this event.
- For the past several years caroling in the Dane Ridge community has become a December tradition. We have people of all ages from our church family who sing, hand out candy canes—or leave one on the door knob—and visit with those who come out to welcome us. Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions, we were unable to carol this year but look forward to carrying on this tradition next year.
- Shared Christmas food traditions and recipes with one another. No baking was required at this event:-) It was a time for attendees from both services to come together, have a chance to connect with one another, and share delicious recipes.

Our hope for 2019 has not changed with time—with God's help we will continue to find ways to connect members and visitors to our 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

Committee Members: Karen Attreed, Norman Cobb, Jon Guest, Pat Manalio, and Chris Martin
Supporting Members: Jeanette Gregory and Skip Wenzel
Treasurer: Gary Smith

The First United Presbyterian Church started 2018 in a good financial position primarily as a result of good stewardship and the continued prudent budget management by the Session. In May 2018, the church underwent its annual Financial Review by the Financial Review Committee. Many thanks to Bob Chamberlin, Jeff Cobb and Dennis Dingle who worked hard in order to get the review accomplished. The Financial Review Committee report gave the church a passing report, and it made some minor observations and recommendations. The F&A Committee filed its action plan to address the recommendations with the Session.

We were also able to complete a Financial Review of the Boy Scout Troop that is sponsored by our church, as well as the Little Hands Pre School (LHPS). The Boy Scout Troop review resulted in no recommendations and the LHPS review resulted in two minor recommendations. The LHPS is working on completing their responses to the financial review’s recommendations. In October we held our annual budget retreat and formulated our new asking budget for 2019. The asking budget was passed by the Session in December. We estimate that the pledges received and anticipated as a result of the successful 2019 Stewardship campaign, along with our estimates for unpledged giving for 2019 will fully fund 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.

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 and Skip Wenzel, our Counters, who make sure the funds are accurately counted and recorded every week. The F&A Committee in conjunction with the Buildings and Grounds Committee filed a claim for our wind and hail damaged roof. In November, as a result of our insurance claim, our roof was replaced and we received new gutters and downspouts as well. At the end of the project, we had \$415.00 in out of pocket costs for the entire roof and gutter replacement. The new roof has a 50-year warranty on materials and workmanship. In summary, we finished 2018 with an operating surplus and the church begins the 2019 Fiscal Year with an approved and balanced budget that will allow us to continue providing an excellent worship environment for the congregation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Elder Chris Martin, Committee Chair

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

Over the last several years the IT Committee has established, updated and implemented a plan to provide the information and technology resources needed to meet our mission. A lot of the work, as is normal for IT, has been done behind the scenes.

Several of the key accomplishments for 2018 are:

1. Network Infrastructure updates to better support the church's computer systems.
2. The New AT&T Voice Over IP (VOIP) system is now in use & the old phone system has been retired.
3. The initial cameras of the CCTV System are installed and online.
4. New Copier has been provided for the LHPS side of the building.
5. Continue to replace and update the current hardware per the established plan (Computers, Monitors, Printers, Etc.).

The IT committee had a productive year in 2018 and we have a full schedule of items for this year.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Elder Pam Cox, Committee Chair

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." ~ John 12:26

Committee Members: Gloria Coffield, Pat Manalio, Lora Nedimyer, Jean Peterman, Ruth Washburg, and serving Elder, Pam Cox. Mid-year Jean and Gloria decided to step down from the Committee. We appreciate their hard work and dedication over the years.

In 2018, the Mission and Outreach Committee continued efforts to sustain ongoing missions and develop new opportunities to serve God's Kingdom using our time, talents and resources. At the beginning of the year, the Committee carefully reviewed, evaluated and prioritized all current ministries before determining which to support in 2018 as well as discussed new ministries. The 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.

Contributions were made to the PCUSA Disaster Relief to provide aid to those impacted by recent disasters. Additionally, the congregation supported both One Great Hour of Sharing and the Christmas Joy Offering.

Session approved the Mission and Outreach Committee Charter on April 17, 2018.

LOCAL & NATIONAL MINISTRIES

Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) - The Committee met with Steve Liga, CEO of ACTS and Dottie Larson, Director of the ACTS Domestic Violence program to learn more about the organization, current needs, and how FUPCDC might be able to better support them.

It was suggested one of the ways we could help was to not participate in Operation Turkey at Thanksgiving. There are so many donations of food at that time of year and many of them are specific to the holiday. They would prefer that we have a food drive in the winter months when donations are at a lower level and they emphasized the need for quality foods (low sodium, etc.). We complied and plan to have a food drive in February 2019. Thank you for your generous donations throughout 2018!

FUPCDC also provides funding to ACTS throughout the year and during emergency situations. In November, the Mission & Outreach Committee ministered to the Safe House providing bath sheets, towels, wash cloths, and cleaning supplies for the shelter.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - FUPCDC sponsors an AA group, which meets at the church at 7:30 PM on Tuesdays and 8:00 PM on Thursdays. (AI-Anon also meets at the church at 1:00 PM on Tuesdays.)

Bill Mehr Drop In Center - The Committee provided a donation of \$2,000 to support needs of the Drop-In Center. The Center is operated by the Prince William County Department of Social Services in partnership with the Cooperative Council of Ministries. It operates six days a week and provides meals, showers, clothing, opportunities for spiritual/social interaction as well as assistance in meeting health, employment, education, and housing needs through referrals.

Boy Scouts - FUPCDC sponsors Troop 964 - please refer to the Boy Scout Annual Report. We are in discussions with Scout leadership about sponsoring a Cub Scout Troop.

Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center - We supported the Deacons with funding for some meals provided to the Hilda Barg shelter. This center provides emergency shelter, food assistance, housing assistance, and early childhood education to our community and throughout the Greater Prince William Area.

Karios Prison Ministries - 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.

Lumberton, NC Mission Trip - The Mission and Outreach Committee supported two mission trips to Lumberton, NC, in May and November to assist with Hurricanes Matthew and Florence disaster relief efforts. The trips were coordinated through the Presbytery Disaster Assistance program. Although it has been two years since Hurricane Matthew hit the area, they were in great need of help. The team removed damaged floors, sprayed for mold, installed siding, and most importantly, prayed with the homeowner and her daughter. FUPCDC also provided \$200 to assist with immediate relief needs.

National Night Out August 7th - The church sponsored its 3rd National Night Out on the evening of August 7th 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. The Prince William County Police members joined us to discuss how to keep safe in our homes, job, or everyday events. This was a highly successful event that was attended by PWC leadership. This event was generously supported by Wegmans, Sam's Club, Chick-fil-A (Prince William Parkway), Giant (Mapledale Plaza), Costco, Bon Chon Chicken, Giant (Dale City), Safeway (Merchant Plaza) and Safeway (Cheshire Station).

Prince William County Project Lifesaver project - The committee provided a donation of \$2,500 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's 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. Our contribution will fund approximately seven devices.

Spread the Bread Ministry - Our Lord and Savior's ministry prepared a hot meal for our friends every Sunday in 2018. We served an average of 40+ meals each week, all 52 Sundays. We estimate that of the nearly 2,000 plus meals that we served, we met and formed relationships with nearly 200-300 different people. Through this outreach, our friends and all of the servants who help each week are being transformed through the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

More than 40 people support this ministry through their time, through food donations or financially. While we do not allow those under 18 to go to the site, they may participate by making a meal, or sandwiches at home or at the church. One of our outstanding youth: Becca Washburg helps us each year with a blanket drive at Christmas Eve. This year we collected blankets and sleeping bags for our friends.

Sweatshirts, backpacks, socks, blankets, and gloves have provided a warm and thankful gift to the folks whom the church serves through Spread the Bread, a ministry for those who are homeless and 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 that knits special items throughout the year (Spread the Warmth) for distribution. God's ministry has faithful people showing up each week to load tables, supplies and then serve. 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.

This ministry could not be accomplished without the outpouring of love and gifts from each of you here at FUPCDC. We appreciate your efforts and are told of the gratitude for this ministry.

Un-Trim-A-Tree - We thank the deacons for organizing this year's Un-Trim-A-Tree event. FUPCDC sponsored 50 children this year for the Prince William County program that supports families in need throughout the county with donations of Christmas gifts.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Liberia Agricultural Program (NEW) - In July the congregation supported an agricultural program that encourages young adults in Liberia, West Africa to become self-sufficient farmers, learn how to become entrepreneurs, and become empowered by growing and maintaining their own farm to the table project. We thank you for your generous donations of gardening tools, gardening apparel and fruit and vegetable seeds. We will notify you when the items are received in Liberia and will keep you posted on the progress of the program.

Rise Against Hunger - The church conducted a *Rise Against Hunger* meal packaging event in April. Along with members of the Covenant Presbyterian Church we packaged 20,000 meals of soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix with essential vitamins and minerals. The meals were shipped to Haiti in June. Thank you to all that joined us to help with this very special event...it was an amazing opportunity for us to connect, grow and serve together!

PLANNING FOR JANUARY 2019

Yucatán Mission Team

In January 2019, members of the congregation will embark on a mission trip to the village of Cinco de Mayo in the Yucatán. Cinco de Mayo is the village where we worked for several years installing one of our three water purification plants. On this trip, the team will help our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Cinco de Mayo build their new church (primarily focusing on installing a cement floor) and will provide a bible study for the adults and a bible school for the children. We thank you for your continued prayers and your support of our mission work in the Yucatán.

Rise Against Hunger

We will host the fifth Rise Against Hunger (STOP HUNGER NOW) meal packaging event at our church on Saturday, April 27th.

Lumberton Mission Team

May 5th - 9th, 2019, members of the congregation will return to Lumberton, NC to assist with Hurricanes Matthew and Florence disaster relief efforts. The trip will be coordinated through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

The Mission & Outreach Committee would like to thank all of you who supported the various FUPCDC ministries through your donations, time, talents and prayers. Whether you served at an event, provided financial support or gave to a ministry, your passion for Christ and compassion for others shone brightly! We are prayerfully faithful that, with your continued support and prayers, 2019 will be as successful as 2018.

If you would like to be part of this exciting committee, please contact Pam Cox at imapoohfreak@yahoo.com for details.

NOMINATING

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

"There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good."
~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Committee Members: Jennifer Casey (Chair), Jeff Cobb (Elder Representative), Liz Glycer (Deacon Representative), Bruce Gilbert, Mike Gundel, Sue Johnson, Ann Randles, Afton Schwalm, Charlotte Stultz

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

Class of 2020
Norm Cobb

Class of 2021
Jon Guest
Mike Gundel
Rena Thompson
Marti Hall
Dave Stokes

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

Class of 2021
Elizabeth Goolgasian
Margaret (Peggy) Heins
Therese Same
Robert (Bob) Thompson
Patricia Whitman

PERSONNEL

Elder Norman Cobb, Committee Chair

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” ~ Colossians 3:23

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

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

Summary of 2018 Activities:

- Conducted monthly committee meetings as required
- Reviewed and resolved personnel issues as required
- Updated Personnel Policy
- Updated Child Protection Policy
- Reviewed and updated employee employment agreements
- Updated Little Hands Preschool contracts
- 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 for Pastor Adam Bowling were approved by the congregation on 30 September 2018. The Pastor’s Terms of Call were approved as part of the church’s budget at the December 2018 Session meeting.

PRESCHOOL

Elder Jeff Cobb, Committee Chair for Little Hands Preschool

“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.” ~ Psalms 127:3

Little Hands Preschool continued to be a strong presence in our community again in 2018. At the end of 2018 we offered four classes:

- Monday through Friday mornings (nine four-year-olds and four five-year-olds).
- Monday through Thursday mornings (thirteen four-year-olds),
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings (twelve three-year-olds),
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings (two early three-year-olds and ten three-year-olds).

Enrollment at the end of December 2018 was 50 children and we have an educational staff of seven Vanessa Blum, Marci Fox, Patricia Sinclair, Sandra Fuertes, Jennifer Caiozzo, Denielle Velasquez and Kathy Ritter and two substitutes Terry Sekhon and Amber Nofziger. 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.

LHPS hired Tiffany Ramsey as the new Director. She began her tenure on 1 January 2018 and has been a dynamic presence in the school.

LHPS hired one new staff member for the 2018-19 school year. We welcomed Diana Colcombe as a substitute.

Little Hands experienced some turnover (Amy Chambers, Meagan Stokes and Kristen Loggins) at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. All staff members are greatly missed.

The staff attended many training sessions this year. In addition to all the other training mentioned, our staff has 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 continued the challenge of operating with a “zero balance” budget for the 2017-18 school year and 2018-2019 school year. The school ended the 2017-18 year with a surplus of \$23,886. 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, based upon guidance from the FUPCDC Session, established five committees as part of a “Get Well” plan for the school. These committees were: 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 for the second year in a row. The findings were informative and the recommended changes were minor. Many thanks to Sue Lickiss and Tiffany Ramsey for their outstanding work. Also thanks to the Finance and Administration Elder, Tim Camus, and his review team for their time and efforts.

During the summer the Preschool Parent Handbook was revised and updated and now contains much more information for parents. The team also updated the Staff Manual. A huge thank you to Betty Matthews, Kathy McNeely, Sue Lickiss, and Tiffany Ramsey for the many hours spent helping pull these projects together.

The School continued to make upgrades to the playground. Many thanks to Dave Stokes for his tireless efforts.

The School replaced all of the carpeting in the classrooms using surplus funds from the 2017-2018 school budget. This was a much needed upgrade and made the School a better place for the students and staff.

This year the Parent Representatives Andie Baker and Hope McDonald (17-18) and Therese Same Yakala and Mallorie Marino 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 and members of the Congregation donated 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 normal every day activities we have special activities for the children. Here is a breakdown of activities the children participated in by month:

September

Welcome Back to School Parent Coffee
Master Garden Visit

October

Picture Days
Painting Preschool Tee Shirts
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

January

Open registration for the preschool and community
Beach Day
Parent Teacher Conferences

February

Valentine's Day parties

March

Dr. Seuss Day

Dad's Night

PJ & Pancake Day

Easter Egg Hunt

April

Fire Department School Visit

Transportation Day

May

Mother's Day Tea

Police Department School Visit

School-wide Family Picnic

Graduation

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

Adam C. Bowling, Pastor

Tiffany Ramsey, Preschool Director

Jeff Cobb, Preschool Elder

Sue Lickiss, Preschool Treasurer

Betty Matthews, Preschool Deacon

Carole Hughes, Secretary

Kathy McNeely, Church Member

Dave Stokes, Building and Grounds

Vanessa Blum, Teacher Representative

Andie Baker, Parent Representative (2017-2018)

Hope McDonald, Parent Representative (2017-2018)

Therese Same Yakala, Parent Representative (2018-2019)

Mallorie Marino, Parent Representative (2018-2019)

STEWARDSHIP

Elder Lora Nedimyer, Committee Chair

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." ~ Romans 15:13

Committee Members: Lora Nedimyer (Chair), Jeff Cobb, Dennis Dingle, Bruce Gilbert, Rick Mitchell, Jean Peterman (left the committee in July after many years)

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 Treasures to God's ministries.

The Committee's activities for 2018 included:

1. Revised the Committee Charter
2. Revised the Time & Talent Sheet
3. Handled and filed Time & Talent Sheets
4. Revised the Fundraising & Donation Policy;
5. Reviewed and accepted Fundraising & Donation Requests
6. Revised the 2012 Endowment Policy
7. Planned and implemented the 2019 Stewardship Campaign

The revised Stewardship Charter was approved by the Session in April.

The Time & Talent form was handed out to the congregation in February. The forms were received, processed and filed by the committee. Throughout the year, the committee received Time & Talent forms from new members; all forms received were processed and filed by the committee. In October the form was shared with Session to provide their committee's changes/revisions. All suggested changes/revisions were shared with the Stewardship Committee. In December, the revised form was available.

The committee reviewed the 2016 Fundraising & Donation Policy and several changes/revisions were made. The revised policy was shared with the Session and approved during the August meeting. During the year, the committee received over 45 fundraising and donation requests for review, discussion and revisions/acceptance to move forward to Session.

The Stewardship committee submitted the motion to Session to create an endowment sub-committee which would include two members from Stewardship and two members from the Finance & Administration Committee. It was agreed that the sub-committee would present all their works to the Stewardship Committee for their approval on all activities. In addition, allowing the Stewardship Committee to suggest revisions/updates. The sub-committee's first action was to review, discuss and revise/change the 2012 Endowment Policy. Using endowment material from early 2000 up to 2012, the sub-committee created the 2018 Endowment Policy which was approved by the October Session. The sub-committee is currently reviewing the current endowment funds to decide how or if they may be used.

The 2019 Stewardship campaign theme was Joyful with the Bible verse Romans 15:13. The Joyful campaign started off in August going through September asking our church brothers and sisters to write down what ministries/events/activities provided by FUPCDC in 2018 that made them joyful. The outcome was provided in pictures and quotes which were posted throughout the church, a Joyful power-point and several Moment for Ministry in Action messages. Dedication Sunday was on November 4th during both services. At this time, we have received 109 joyful pledges, totaling \$388,000. The Joyful campaign is a year long campaign and all pledges are welcomed throughout the year.

Like previous years, the Stewardship Committee is asking all pledging units to prayerfully consider making their \$41.73 per capita pledge. This one-time pledge to the per capita to National Capital Presbytery to "free up" additional funds to support FUPCDC ministries.

WORSHIP

Elder Cathlene Albrecht, Committee Chair

“Sing to the Lord, bless His Name, tell of His salvation from day to day!” ~Psalm 96:2

Committee Members: Cathy Albrecht (Elder),

The worship committee, along with the choir directors, is working to continue to ensure a quality worship experience, one that is above all pleasing to God, and uplifting to the congregation. 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. This year we purchased 225 copies of Glory to God Hymnal. Thanks to the special donation of the Enhanced Ministry Fund.

The past year has been a blessing of music at FUPCDC. We have grown in our numbers who are participating across the music program and have rejoiced in it! The program continues to share music through our Chancel Choir, directed by Dana Van Slyke, Contemporary Praise singers and Children’s Choir, directed by Rebecca and Chris Anderson, Jubilation Bells, directed by Ike Evans, brass ensemble, flute, violin and trumpet soloists. Our accompanist, Justin Streletz, also continues to add the highest caliber special music throughout each service on piano and organ.

Many soloists and small ensembles shared their music over the summer months for which we are very grateful. The Andersons and Justin traveled to Montreat to the Music Conference in June. Dana traveled to the Virginia Music Educators conference in November. Both experiences added to our professional development. We also had special brass music at Easter. The Jubilation Bells were featured as the introit once a month throughout the year. They also participated in their annual bell festival in November. We hope to grow the bell program in the coming year. Perhaps by offering a workshop in ringing.

We took the plunge and adopted the new hymnal, Glory to God as our primary hymnal. This brought FUPCDC up to date with the current music used throughout the presbytery. We are still learning the new hymns and enjoying the older hymns that are also included in the new hymnal.

The highlight of our year was the Christmas Cantata, *All is Well*. Once again this piece, presented to the Glory of God, represented the interests of those of a traditional mindset combined with the novelty of the contemporary liturgical feel. We collaborated with the Children’s Choir to add liturgical dance elements as well. We were also able to introduce Pastor Adam as our Narrator.

The music ministry of FUPCDC continues to enhance the worship services on a weekly basis. We hope to continue to grow in the coming year and to remain a constant support for our new pastor.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Elder Sam Parris, Committee Chair

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”
~ Proverbs 22:6

Committee Members: Sam Parris (Chairperson and Session Liaison), 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 2018 Activities:

- Conducted committee meetings
- Organized church youth and adult volunteer participation for the World Vision 30 Hour Famine at Bethel United Methodist Church
- Organized Souper Bowl Sunday food collection
- Organized youth participation in the Planet Wisdom weekend conference
- Organized youth participation in a Wednesday Night Alive fundraiser during lent for the summer youth mission trip
- Provided devotional books to high school graduates on Graduation Sunday
- Organized Summer Youth Mission Trip to Raleigh, North Carolina (RYM)
- Sponsored Youth Sunday worship service
- Sponsored Youth Sunday school class during Wednesday Night Alive (WNA)
- Supported God and Country program
- Sponsored College age gathering during summer (bowling and evening message)
- Coordinated with other Session committees as needed

BOARD OF DEACONS
Gaylene Guest and Denise Parris, Co-Moderators

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
~ Matthew 25:35-36,40

In 2018, the Board of Deacons worked to be the heart and hands of the church in serving and caring for the congregation.

Co-Moderators: Gaylene Guest and Denise Parris

Deacons: Gail Cobb, Claudia Cunningham, Mayra Drayer, Agnes Fokwa, Lisa Fortner, Elizabeth Glycer, Marianna Gooding, Betty Matthews, Kathy McNeely, Carol Schwalm, Pat Sheffield, Celine Sonkwa, and Gretchen Snyder.

1. We met on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:45 p.m.
2. The Deacons worked to contact their assigned families regularly to keep them informed of the activities of the church and to establish relationships.
 - a. Past and new deacons received specific deacon training from Pastor Jeri. This was aside from the formal training given prior to examination.
 - b. Deacons continued to partner with each other each Sunday morning to provide and serve coffee and snacks after all services, and chat with the congregation members and guests. The cost of the snacks was borne by the deacon.
 - c. Welcomed 15 new members. Each deacon has about 14 families to care for and support.
 - d. Supported five celebrations of life in conjunction with the bereavement committee. In most cases, we were able to solicit a fragment of the congregation for food and drink donations.
 - i. Gwen Engleright
 - ii. Ron Hall
 - iii. Lee Lawrence
 - iv. Glea Kreider
 - v. Stephen Addo
3. The Deacons sponsored several activities throughout the year. The activities allowed for fun, fellowship, and service for our *congregation*.
 - a. On February 3rd, we had Souper Bowl Sunday with over a dozen varieties of soup the congregation could take to go.
 - b. On Easter Sunday between services, the Deacons sponsored and conducted an event consisting of games and crafts for the children of the congregation. Instead of the traditional outside egg hunt, deacons only filled plastic eggs which were given as prizes. We had 26 children that participated.
 - c. Hosted the Birthday/Talent Show in May with nearly 100 of the congregation participating. Great success.
 - d. The "End of Summer" church picnic in September was held indoors because of the rain. In spite of the weather, we had nearly 100 of the congregation participate.
 - e. Provided support and donations of food for Blessings of the Church on 9/22.
 - f. Provided donations of food for Men's Retreat on 9/29.
 - g. Sponsored a Pie Sunday on 12/2 and served 15 delicious varieties after both services. The cost of the pies was covered by the deacon budget.
 - h. Sponsored 4 potlucks and 2 pancake breakfasts on combined service Sundays to promote fellowship.
 - i. The flower ministry was led once again by Pat Sheffield. Special thanks to Gail Cobb for picking up flowers throughout the year, and Kathy McNeely and Denise Parris for preparing flowers for delivery the later part of the year. Assigned Deacons to deliver the bouquets to members who are grieving, celebrating or recovering.
4. The Deacons sponsored or supported several activities throughout the year. The activities allowed for fun, fellowship, and service within our local and national community.
 - a. From April 1st to 7th, the Deacons worked within our group and with members of the congregation to host and feed the Urban Promise group from Wilmington, DE. The group was led by Josh and Bethany Gregor. This year we were requested to provide meals for the staff and children that came to the DC area for their spring break. The entire congregation came together to provide breakfast, a sack lunch, and a hot dinner each day as well as provide housing for the group as they toured the area.

- b. In May, we supported Relay for Life efforts and our church team. We were also involved by hosting the Remembrance Ceremony held at the church at the end of the month.
- c. In July, we met an urgent need for the Hilda Barg Shelter run by Action in Community through Service (ACTS) of Prince William County. Led by the deacons, the congregation provided and served 9 meals.
- d. The Deacons supported the Mission Committee's "National Night Out" event in August.
- e. The Deacons sponsored the Trunk or Treat event in the church parking lot again this year on 10/28. Over 200 from our community attended. Lots of happy children and parents. Had 14 participate in trunk portion (Deacons/congregation members and friends/Little Hands/Scout parents). Scouts, church prayer table, and Little Hands Preschool were ever present. Church served hot dogs, chips, and water (purchased enough for 240) from the deacon budget. Thanks to Sam Parris, Jon Guest, Celine Sonkwa, and Liz Glycer for working the grill goodies. Leftover chips (50 bags) and one case of water went to Lumberton with the Mission Team. Leftover hot dogs (40) went to Spread the Bread on 12/9.
- f. The Deacons sponsored the Un-Trim-A-Tree event when kicked off on 11/24 and ran through 12/16. We covered 2 gifts for 50 children in the local community.
- g. The Deacons provided 12 meals and supplies for two shelters ran by ACTS.

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. We welcome incoming deacons Elizabeth Goolgosian, Therese Same, Peggy Heins, Bob Thompson, and Patricia Whitman, and wish a very fond farewell to Gaylene Guest, Elizabeth Glycer, Gail Cobb, Marianna Gooding, and Gretchen Snyder.

OTHER MINISTRIES

NEW MEMBERS

Marti Hall, New Member Coordinator

The first New Member Class for 2018 was held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour beginning January 21, 2018 through March 11, 2018. Due to the church schedule, we had to skip February 18th. New member candidates met with Session on Sunday, February 25th for examination and Session voted to accept their memberships. Time and Talent Surveys were collected, as well as pledge cards and class photos were taken on the same day. New members were introduced on Sunday, March 11th, given their name tags (\$58.25) and attended a pot luck lunch at the church, along with their families, their Deacons, the Pastor, and Members of Session. The 6 new members and their Deacons are as follows:

Blessing Akua Adomako	Reaffirmation of Faith	Gail Cobb
Kwabena (Kobby) Adomako	Reaffirmation of Faith	Gail Cobb
Emily Schick	Reaffirmation of Faith	Claudia Cunningham
Robert (Rob) Schick	Reaffirmation of Faith	Claudia Cunningham
Rena Thompson	Letter of Transfer	Pat Sheffield
Robert (Bob) Thompson	Letter of Transfer	Pat Sheffield

The second New Member Class for 2018 was held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour from April 8 through May 6, 2018. New member candidates met with Session on Sunday, May 6th for examination and Session voted to accept their memberships. Time and Talent

Surveys were collected, as well as pledge cards and class photos were taken on the same day. The New Members were introduced at the services on May 20, 2018, with their deacons presenting their name tags (\$77.25). A Pot Luck Brunch followed the 11:00 worship service. Families, Deacons, Session and Staff provided an abundant supply of food!! The New Members and their Deacons are:

Karen Elliott	Reaffirmation of Faith	Carol Schwalm
Tom Elliott, Jr.	Reaffirmation of Faith	Carol Schwalm
Nathan Johnson	Reaffirmation of Faith	Elizabeth Glycer
Craig Layton	Reaffirmation of Faith	Lisa C. Fortner
Bashitizi Jerry Matali	Reaffirmation of Faith	Agnes Fokwa
Patricia Whitman	Baptism & Reaffirmation of Faith	Betty Matthews
Mark Wiest	Reaffirmation of Faith	Celine Sonkwa
Melanie Wiest	Reaffirmation of Faith	Celine Sonkwa

The third New Member Class for 2018 was held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour from August 26th through October 7, 2018. New member candidates met with Session on Sunday, October 7th for examination and Session voted to accept their memberships. Time and Talent Surveys were collected, as well as pledge cards and class photos were taken on the same day. After baptizing Tracy Stevens and her son, Ryan Stevens, the New Members were introduced at the 11:00 service on October 14, 2018, with their deacons presenting their name tags (\$43). A Pot Luck lunch followed the 11:00 worship service. Families, Deacons, Session and Staff provided an abundant supply of food! The New Members and their Deacons are:

Sheena Gray	Reaffirmation of Faith	Kathy McNeely
Tracy Stevens	Baptism and Profession of Faith	Carol Schwalm
Juanita Toatley	Reaffirmation of Faith	Celine Sonkwa
Alberta Wright	Reaffirmation of Faith	Claudia Cunningham

New member photos were placed on display on the New Member Bulletin Board.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE
Jon and Gaylene Guest, Coordinators

The Wednesday Night Alive (WNA) 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 gathers 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 2018 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 and ministries 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
Jennifer Coleman

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 2018. The Troop meets at the Church regularly and is generously supported by the congregation as part of its Youth and Outreach Ministries.

2018 was Mr. Daniel Getwright's first full year as Scoutmaster and he has led the Troop with enthusiasm and determination, emphasizing leadership training, advancement and incorporation of new scouts. Troop 964 has long been blessed with our adult volunteers and all of our Scoutmasters have been of high caliber. Mr. Getwright has been a tireless worker and committed leader. This year was a major growth year for the Troop, building on the solid foundation established over the last few years. The Troop welcomed thirteen new scouts, eleven of them coming from local cub scout packs through the Webelos program.

Once again, we achieved Gold status in the Journey to Excellence program, a measure of the efforts of both our boys and our adult leaders. The troop retains and recruits members through a well-planned program of boy-led rank advancements, outdoor activities and camping, and service projects. The troop was mentioned in the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation Newsletter for holding two stream clean-ups where over one ton of trash was collected. Scout families are involved and informed and volunteer leaders are well-trained to ably guide the scouts. The recharter process has been completed, setting the troop up for another positive year of relationship with the church. Scout and adult registrations are strong and we anticipate another good intake early in 2019 because once again, our main recruiting event, our annual Pumpkin Chuckin' campout, was a great success.

Our adult leadership has stayed strong and the ratio of registered adults to boys remains high. As always, your Committee continues to adhere to troop and BSA policies. As a committee, we

continued to improve our financial policies based on last year's feedback from the Church's financial review. We remain mindful of and committed to our financial accountability and responsibilities. The books from our 2017-2018 financial year have been submitted for review. A new sub-committee was set up in the last few months to review the Troop's policies and bylaws, and a report with recommendations is expected early in the new year. 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. We continue to inventory our equipment and submit it to the church for information and insurance purposes. The committee has also been working with our COR, Mr. Dave Stokes, to plan to support efforts to purchase a new storage facility.

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. Our campouts over the past year included enhancing Paul Bunyan ax skills, Iron Chef cooking challenges, hiking Old Rag Mountain in Shenandoah National Park, canoeing and kayaking, and many other exciting activities. 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 weekly meetings, monthly outings and occasional service projects includes a large percentage of the scouts and their parents.

The high intake of new scouts proved an exciting challenge for us this year. Our adult and youth leadership rose to the challenge and we made a special effort to welcome new parents and brief them on the journey ahead. Our older boys, who not so long ago were new themselves, grew into their roles as boy leaders, challenging themselves with their new responsibilities. In August the Troop held a special Planning Meeting for parents and youth, which we plan to make an annual event. We were able to fill several volunteer positions and to have new adult leaders help plan and coordinate future events. This in turn allowed existing leaders to better concentrate on their primary roles, greatly advancing the productivity of the Troop.

As part of this effort the Troop considered new fundraising opportunities to support Scouting as self-sufficient. New initiatives include the recent election day bake sale. Many fundraising initiatives are planned for 2019 and 2020 to support a group of scouts who are planning on a Philmont Scout Ranch adventure in summer 2020.

Our annual Train Show has traditionally been our major fundraiser for the year. This was our 20th year, a major landmark. It was also Mrs. Andi Boyles' third year as Train Show Chair. Mrs. Boyles was awarded the Baden-Powell award last year on the recommendation of the Troop for her outstanding contribution to scouting and train show leadership. Once 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 over 150 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 fifth year. The troop is looking forward to attending a new camp, Camp T. Brady Saunders in July 2019. We had over 30 boys attending and seven adult volunteers. Four of the adults stayed the whole week, including our Scoutmaster, Mr. Getwright. 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 four boys participate in the first year Trail to Eagle program. For the remainder, the

ability to earn merit badges is a core summer camp attraction and over 100 merit badges were earned. 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 many of our senior boys signed up and completed the course. Our Troop came in first in the Scout Skills Gauntlet competition to include knot tying, first aid and fire building.

For the remainder of the year there was strong participation in our monthly campouts. 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 skill set, 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.

We had four boys earn the rank of Eagle this year and there are a few scouts expected to complete their Eagle ranks early next year. Every other scout either advanced in rank or earned a merit badge to increase his set of skills and knowledge. Some of the boys attended leadership training and outdoor conservation training which they brought back to the troop to help all the boys grow in their leadership and citizenship.

Finally, by way of a supplement to this report I would recommend a visit to the Troop's website (<http://www.troop964.org/>). The website is now being regularly updated by our capable webmaster, Mr. Tim Kilpatrick. The site includes photographic records and more detailed information on current and past activities. More use is also being made of our Facebook page which we would invite you to visit. With support from our chartering organization, the troop also updated to Google Suites for ease of communication and document storage.

This report is my first to the Church as I have just taken on the role of Committee Chair, following Mr. Vincent Murphy who served in this role for the last five years. I am grateful to all who have gone before and hope to build on 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.

Rev. Adam C. Bowling
Pastor

Becca & Chris Anderson..... Contemporary Worship Directors
Children's Choir 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

