# ST. CHARLES AVENUE
# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

Agenda: Sunday, February 5, 2017 ..... 5

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Ministry ..... 6

Congregational Life ..... 7

Congregational Care ..... 8

Finance ..... 9

*Financial Reports* ..... *11-15*

Global Ministries ..... 16

Member Involvement ..... 18

Membership ..... 18

Personnel ..... 19

Property ..... 20

Spiritual Formation ..... 21

Stewardship ..... 23

Worship and Music ..... 24

**THANK YOU ELDER CLASS OF 2016** ..... 26

# AGENDA

Meeting of the Congregation
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
New Orleans, Louisiana

*Sunday, February 5, 2017*

| | |
|---|---|
| CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER | Donald R. Frampton, Moderator |
| PURPOSE OF MEETING/DECLARATION OF QUORUM | Seth Hagler, Clerk |
| DISTRIBUTION OF 2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF SCAPC | Seth Hagler, Clerk |
| REPORT ON 2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN | Ben Tiller, Chair (2016), Stewardship |
| 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET OF SCAPC | Debbie Rees, Chair (2016), Finance |
| REVIEW OF VISIONARY FUND | Debbie Rees, Chair (2016), Finance |
| ELECTION OF CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING CMTE | Mike Pugh, Chair, Member Involvement |
| ELECTION OF ELDER REPLACEMENT, CLASS OF 2019 | Jeanie Clinton, Chair, Nominating |
| CHANGES, TERMS OF CALL, SENIOR PASTOR | John Hope, III, Chair, Personnel |
| REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT | Donald R. Frampton, Moderator |
| CLOSING PRAYER | Sarah Chancellor-Watson, Vice Moderator |

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Chair: Amber Beezley | Vice-Chair: John Hope, IV

The Community Ministries Committee supports agencies and organizations which provide a wide range of critical services to the neediest residents in our city. We provide this support in the form of substantial financial resources, volunteers, and prayer. Our partnerships continue to inspire the congregation, and they provide an immediate opportunity for all members to become involved in our church's ministry outside our walls.

The Committee had an active year in 2016, in which we sought to strengthen collaboration among our partners, expand volunteer opportunities for the congregation, and discern our impact more strategically. We focused our partnerships and outreach on the areas of children, education, neighborhoods and communities, homelessness, women, families, at-risk youth, and senior citizens.

RHINO has continued to provide rebuilding to the greater New Orleans area, and in August, began working in the Baton Rouge and Denim Springs areas that suffered substantial flooding in late summer. RHINO has assisted those rebuilding efforts by sharing information and resources based on years of experience. Camp RHINO for youth was held in the summer, and it is almost fully booked for summer 2017. The Board of RHINO has completed a strategic planning process that focuses the mission, next steps, and opportunities as it continues to grow and be a part of the church's outreach.

Carrollton Camp has continued to expand and recently completed its seventh session in December 2016. Each session has provided campers with enriching activities, unique field trips and special visitors. The program is an unqualified success in large part because of the tremendous leadership we've found in Sean Tate and in our partnerships with Lafayette Charter School, KIPP Believe College Prep and Second Harvest Foodbank.

Finally, as stewards of the congregation's resources, we continued to thoroughly study our existing and proposed partnerships and their role in the church's budget. The committee continues to seek meaningful ways to connect our congregation with our partners for volunteer opportunities, and with our new Associate Pastor on board, the year ahead is very promising.

**Supported Ministries**

Through the Community Ministries budget and committee liaisons, SCAPC supported the following 20 organizations in 2016:

- Café Reconcile New Orleans
- Carrollton United
- Crescent City Café
- DiscoveryFEST
- Eden House
- Liberty's Kitchen
- Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank
- J.W. Johnston Garden
- New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School
- New Orleans Mission
- Program of Hope at First Presbyterian Church
- Raintree Children & Family Services
- Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO)
- St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church Carrollton Camp Program
- St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church White Gift Program
- St. Thomas Community Health Center
- Start the Adventure in Reading (S.T.A.I.R.)
- Uptown Shepherd Center
- Victories in Service
- YAV – Young Adult Volunteers at JW Johnston Garden

Information on these organizations, including a description of their services and their liaison to SCAPC, is available on the church's website.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amber Beezley, 2016 Chair





## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Chair: Price Lanier | Vice-Chair: Pierce Young

**Wednesday Night Out**

The Congregational Life Committee (CL) had a successful 2016. The committee's focus is organizing the programs for Wednesday Night Out (WNO). For 2016, CL put on a variety of programs each geared toward family fun and fellowship. From Bingo, to Trivia Night, to the world-famous Zuchini Race, each week created a great opportunity for members to gather and to have fun. Themes for some of the dinners included Collegiate Night, Saints Night and a Mexican Fiesta. Overall, attendance for WNO is up, and we're excited about the 2017 lineup.

**Celebrations**

The other important task of CL is providing snacks and helping to host celebrations in Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service. This year's special events included the installation of Sarah Chancellor-Watson, Steven Blackmon's 30th anniversary, Scottish Heritage Day, and the ordination of Lindsey Becker. CL also helped organize the Fall Family BBQ and Snow Ball Day. The post-service reception in Fellowship Hall is an important time to reflect upon the sermon with other members, speak to first-time SCAPC attendees and marvel in the sense of community that our church provides. CL is proud to lead this weekly event.

Respectfully Submitted,
Price Lanier, 2016 Chair

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Margo Phelps | Vice-Chair: Barbara Weiser

**Baptismal Cloth Samplers** (This project is under Congregational Care although we are not involved)

The Baptismal Cloth sampler project is headed by Judith Halverson with help from Wendi Adams, Allison Flanagan, Betty Founds, Jennie Steele, and Nancy Borland. The team hand-stitches a sampler cloth for each child baptized at SCAPC under five years of age. The sampler cloth is inscribed with the child's name and date of baptism. The pastors acknowledge the project when presenting the cloth to the family during Sunday morning worship services. Clothes were sewn for 17 babies baptized in 2016.

**Caring for Nursing Home & Home Bound Residents**

Committee members prepared and delivered holiday gift bags to SCAPC members in local retirement homes. Easter and Christmas treat bags were delivered to members residing at Lambeth House and Poydras Home, with a short visit and expression of care. During Christmas, we extended this ministry to several home-bound members. Mayson Buffington continues to deliver flower arrangements after worship services to Poydras Home and Lambeth House. We recently added a namecard giving SCAPC recognition for the flower donation.

**Correspondence**

Roney Morton and select team members continued to write notes to SCAPC members for sympathy, healing, encouragement, congratulations and other occasions. The entire team worked together to send birthday cards to SCAPC's members age 70 and older.

**Pantry Ministry**

The Congregational Care Committee sponsored spring and fall meal drives by providing containers and recipes for members to use in preparing the meals and by collecting them to store in the church freezer. The meals will be delivered by members of the committee to those in need. This fall, we decided to prepare and freeze only soups. We are well-stocked with lots of comfort soups.

**Adult Day Care**

The Congregational Care Committee studied the feasibility of an Adult Day Care Program as requested by the Strategic Plan. A Task Force Committee was formed which included Don Frampton, Wayne Willcox, Brent Butcher (Property), John Hope IV (Community Ministries) and Barry Thompson (Personnel). We visited the JCC and spoke with Allison Freeman, Regan Forrester and the Program Director at Poydras Home. Areas of concern (liability, compliance, insurance, location, regulations, etc.) were researched. Several "caregivers" expressed interest for their loved ones. With the arrival of Sarah Chancellor-Watson, the Adult Day Care program has returned to the forefront. An Advisory Committee has been established: Janet Favrot, Louellen Berger, Sarah, Tom Paine, Catherine Edwards, Anderson Baker, Regan Forrester, Allison Freeman and myself. Our first task is to create a job description and then hire a director.

**Hospital and Home Visits**

We created a small committee to visit SCAPC members who are in the hospital or unable to leave their homes. Reports were made on each visit and kept in a "log."

Respectfully Submitted,
Margo Phelps, 2016 Chair





## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Debbie Rees | Vice-Chair: Laura Avery

Attached are the following reports as of December 31, 2016:

- Operating Income Statement, including the approved Budget for 2017
- Operating Balance Sheet
- Summary of Unbudgeted Operating Expenses
- RHINO Financial Report
- Carrollton Camp and Capital Campaign Benevolence Fund Reports
- Visionary Fund Financial Report

**Operating Budget**

Our net result for the year was a surplus of $29,000. The surplus from budgeted operations was $12,000, and a net wedding surplus of $17,000 gave us our positive total for the year.

Total operating expenses were $40,000 less than budget, primarily due to savings in Personnel expenses because certain additions recommended by the Strategic Plan were deferred until their need could be justified. Therefore, we did not need to draw down the $43,000 in additional money from the Visionary Fund that was budgeted to cover those anticipated Personnel expenses. However, we drew down the $40,000 in additional money from the Visionary Fund that was budgeted to cover anticipated Property expenses. Global Ministries was over budget because the amount of Visionary Fund money available to subsidize missionary support was not as much as anticipated when the budget was approved. Property & Insurance was over budget due to an unanticipated, but needed, upgrade to our security camera system that was approved by Session. Music was over budget due to the hiring of additional outside musicians for special programs during the year; these overages were offset by additional unbudgeted draws from the Music Fund. All other departments remained within budget.

Our cash position continues to be strong and we remain without debt.

**Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO)**

The RHINO program has been able to reach an operating break-even basis in the past few years. This has enabled the program to use its surplus funds for special, charitable projects. In 2016, the program spent a good deal of time, volunteers, and funds on helping with flood relief projects in the Baton Rouge area. Its adult RHINO volunteer program is still attracting many new participants, and the summer program, Camp RHINO, is nearly fully booked.

**Carrollton Camp Program**

Thanks to $33,000 in church member donations, we were able to conduct both summer and Christmas camp programs again in 2016, and still have $17,000 available for camp programs in 2017.

**Capital Campaign Benevolence Fund**

The Benevolence Fund started the year with $281,000 in available funds and distributed $214,000 to various charities after using $22,000 to support various local and Global missions. The remaining $45,000 in the fund consists of committed funds that are being held on a contingent basis until the potential recipients achieve certain stipulated milestones.

**Visionary Fund**

The Visionary Fund assets decreased by only $36,000 despite significant cash withdrawals to cover benevolence fund grants and property maintenance projects. This is primarily due to a prudent and diversified investment management strategy in a rising market. Nevertheless, total Visionary Fund assets have decreased by $1 million over the last two years as we have invested that amount in our facilities waterproofing projects. The ability of our Visionary Fund to support our operations on a regular and meaningful basis in the future will depend on our ability to refrain from using our "rainy day" money for regular operating expenses.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Rees, 2016 Chair





| OPERATING ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS | 2015 ACTUAL | 2016 ACTUAL | 2016 BUDGET | 2016 VARIANCE | 2017 BUDGET |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECEIPTS** | | | | | |
| Pledge Payments | $1,357,361 | $1,373,090 | $1,422,063 | ($48,973) | $1,472,911 |
| Prior Year Pledge Payments | 56,651 | 53,550 | 30,000 | $23,550 | 40,000 |
| Members without Pledges | 111,574 | 154,219 | 70,000 | $84,219 | 115,000 |
| Visitor and Loose Plate Collections | 59,856 | 34,862 | 65,000 | ($30,138) | 40,000 |
| Subtotal--Donation Revenues | $1,585,443 | $1,615,721 | $1,587,063 | $28,658 | $1,667,911 |
| Visionary Fund Operating Draw | 197,000 | 215,000 | 215,000 | 0 | 206,000 |
| Visionary Fund Pastoral Housing Draw | 43,660 | 35,385 | 35,385 | 0 | 29,096 |
| Visionary Fund Property Draw | 15,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 | 45,000 |
| Benevolence Fund (Capital Campaign) | 23,606 | 21,950 | 22,000 | (50) | 0 |
| Visionary Fund Special Draw | | | 43,000 | (43,000) | 98,961 |
| Music Fund Draw | | 29,330 | 23,000 | 6,330 | 23,000 |
| Gifts & Memorials Draw | | 4,000 | 4,000 | 0 | 5,000 |
| Wedding Revenues (Net) | 18,187 | 16,919 | 15,000 | 1,919 | 15,000 |
| Other Budgeted Misc. Revenue (Net) | 6,653 | 1,565 | | 1,565 | 0 |
| Campus Ministry Revenue | 2,059 | 0 | 6,000 | (6,000) | 0 |
| Interest Income (Net of Fees) | (4,520) | (3,794) | (3,000) | (794) | (3,000) |
| Total Receipts | $1,887,087 | $1,976,076 | $1,987,448 | ($11,372) | $2,086,968 |
| **DISBURSEMENTS** | | | | | |
| Benevolences: | | | | | |
| Presbytery Tax | (31,011) | (31,011) | (31,011) | 0 | (32,128) |
| Greater Church | (38,567) | (41,577) | (41,577) | 0 | (41,074) |
| Seminary Support | (2,300) | 0 | | 0 | (2,300) |
| Local Projects-Community Ministry | (194,621) | (191,076) | (193,142) | 2,066 | (198,816) |
| Missions | (2,760) | (28,381) | (21,500) | (6,881) | (34,500) |
| Total Benevolences | ($269,259) | ($292,046) | ($287,230) | ($4,816) | ($308,818) |
| Adult Christian Ed | (1,366) | (1,908) | (3,000) | 1,092 | (4,400) |
| Children's Christian Ed | (16,181) | (15,227) | (17,989) | 2,762 | (17,989) |
| Youth & Young Adults Christian Ed | (27,716) | (34,523) | (34,559) | 36 | (38,520) |
| Speaker Series | (1,929) | (1,236) | (2,500) | 1,264 | (2,500) |
| Congregational Care | (853) | (689) | (3,750) | 3,061 | (4,105) |
| Congregational Life | (18,171) | (19,877) | (25,958) | 6,081 | (25,958) |
| Property | (304,540) | (315,936) | (308,465) | (7,471) | (319,113) |
| Membership | (222) | (105) | (1,000) | 896 | (1,250) |
| Music | (87,445) | (106,076) | (99,542) | (6,534) | (99,560) |
| Personnel | (1,057,743) | (1,089,693) | (1,120,000) | 30,307 | (1,185,000) |
| Member Involvement | (1,351) | (658) | (3,200) | 2,543 | (3,200) |
| Stewardship | (772) | (439) | (800) | 361 | (800) |
| Worship | (2,268) | (3,796) | (5,350) | 1,554 | (5,400) |
| Office | (57,996) | (65,319) | (74,105) | 8,786 | (70,355) |
| Total Expenses | ($1,847,811) | ($1,947,527) | ($1,987,448) | $39,921 | ($2,086,968) |
| **Net Surplus (Deficit)** | **$39,276** | **$28,549** | **$0** | **$28,549** | **$0** |

| OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | | | | |
| Cash & Equivalents | $620,565 | $471,923 | $433,117 | $276,341 | $357,056 |
| Deposits in Transit and Acc Receivable | $184,049 | $71,195 | $118,301 | $84,217 | $246,954 |
| Due from Visionary Fund | $612,116 | $218,006 | $316,581 | $610,911 | $199,700 |
| Renovation Project Assets | $501,022 | $321,214 | $0 | | |
| Other Assets | $12,382 | $12,382 | $13,774 | $12,382 | $12,382 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | $1,930,134 | $1,094,719 | $881,773 | $983,851 | $816,092 |
| **LIABILITIES** | | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | $8,140 | $5,776 | $16,336 | $5,378 | $4,706 |
| Accrued Liabilities | $20,940 | $17,931 | $20,162 | $27,502 | $18,328 |
| Deferred prepaid pledges received | $174,877 | $190,912 | $180,637 | $247,188 | $276,677 |
| Other Deposits received | $32,850 | $11,500 | $10,000 | $6,500 | $8,000 |
| Temporary Gifts & Memorials | $3,920 | $2,676 | $19,014 | $3,468 | $1,763 |
| Total Current Liabilities | $240,728 | $228,795 | $246,148 | $290,036 | $309,474 |
| Gifts & Memorials | | | | | |
| Unrestricted Gifts & Memorials | $29,766 | $25,123 | $36,701 | $48,818 | $55,845 |
| Restricted Gifts & Memorials | $61,936 | $65,255 | $63,581 | $55,693 | $93,807 |
| RHINO Fund | $151,450 | $130,983 | $155,295 | $150,920 | $125,707 |
| Total Gifts & Memorials | $243,152 | $221,361 | $255,577 | $255,430 | $275,358 |
| Other Liabilities | | | | | |
| Renovation Fund/Benevolence Fund | $402,759 | $320,028 | $261,666 | $280,727 | $45,053 |
| Reserve for Major Maintenance (PPRSM) | $15,000 | $0 | | | |
| Bank Loans Payable | $810,000 | $200,000 | | | |
| Total Other Liabilities | $1,227,759 | $520,028 | $261,666 | $280,727 | $45,053 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | $1,711,639 | $970,184 | $763,392 | $826,193 | $629,885 |
| **CAPITAL** | | | | | |
| Prior Year Surplus | $218,495 | $124,536 | $118,382 | $157,658 | $186,207 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL | $1,930,134 | $1,094,719 | $881,773 | $983,851 | $816,092 |





| SUMMARY OF UNBUDGETED EXPENSES | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sources of Unbudgeted Funds** | | | | | |
| Funds from Gifts & Memorials | 33,969 | 29,301 | 81,913 | 179,508 | 259,373 |
| Funds from RHINO Fund | 172,479 | 198,609 | 181,668 | 213,595 | 201,305 |
| Funds from Property Maintenance Reserve | 0 | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Funds from Prior Year Surplus | 6,000 | 77,134 | 7,050 | 0 | 0 |
| Funds from Capital Campaign Pledges | 2,317,454 | 719,277 | 276,262 | 87,983 | 235,674 |
| Funds from Bank Loans | 810,000 | | | 0 | 0 |
| Funds from Nursery School | | | | 251,313 | 0 |
| Funds from Visionary Fund | | 791,017 | 27,316 | 808,051 | 183,504 |
| Total Sources of Unbudgeted Funds | $3,339,902 | $1,830,339 | $574,209 | $1,540,449 | $879,856 |
| **Uses of Unbudgeted Funds** | | | | | |
| Gifts & Memorials Expenses | (33,969) | (127,479) | (179,970) | (304,362) | (274,414) |
| RHINO expenses | (172,479) | (198,609) | (181,668) | (213,595) | (201,305) |
| Renovation Expenses | (3,133,454) | (879,250) | 0 | (907,047) | (168,463) |
| Repayment of Bank Loans | | (610,000) | (200,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Benevolence Fund Grants | | | | (83,606) | (235,674) |
| Other Capital Expenditures | 0 | (15,000) | (12,571) | (31,840) | |
| Total Uses of Unbudgeted Funds | ($3,339,902) | ($1,830,339) | ($574,209) | ($1,540,449) | ($879,856) |

| RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans) | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning RHINO Fund | $132,439 | $151,450 | $130,983 | $155,295 | $150,920 |
| RHINO Receipts--Currrent Year Fees | $127,746 | $116,790 | $140,699 | $146,834 | $90,022 |
| RHINO Receipts--Donations | $38,526 | $37,487 | $48,356 | $48,976 | $72,664 |
| Total RHINO Receipts--Current Year | $166,272 | $154,277 | $189,055 | $195,810 | $162,686 |
| RHINO Expenses--Lodging | ($103,175) | ($112,707) | ($96,635) | ($113,704) | ($53,117) |
| RHINO Expenses--Projects | | | | | ($9,976) |
| RHINO Expenses--Staff | ($48,067) | ($57,433) | ($59,941) | ($65,949) | ($70,720) |
| RHINO Expenses--Food, Supplies | ($21,238) | ($28,469) | ($25,092) | ($33,941) | ($67,491) |
| Total RHINO Expenses--Current Year | ($172,479) | ($198,609) | ($181,668) | ($213,595) | ($201,305) |
| Net Surplus (Deficit)--Current Year | ($6,208) | ($44,332) | $7,387 | ($17,785) | ($38,619) |
| RHINO Receipts--Future Year Bookings | $25,219 | $23,865 | $16,925 | $13,409 | $13,406 |
| Ending RHINO Fund | $151,450 | $130,983 | $155,295 | $150,920 | $125,707 |

| CARROLLTON CAMP PROGRAM | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning CCamp Fund Balance | $0 | $20,946 | $12,365 | $329 |
| Donations Received | $29,350 | $16,180 | $3,375 | $32,856 |
| Subsidy from Community Ministry Budget | $6,500 | $10,806 | | $22,051 |
| Subsidy from Benevolence Fund | | | $23,606 | |
| Total Available Funds | $35,850 | $47,932 | $39,346 | $55,236 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Payroll & Payroll Taxes | ($9,568) | ($24,577) | ($23,601) | ($19,473) |
| Food | ($2,958) | ($6,269) | ($10,650) | ($11,431) |
| Activity Supplies | ($798) | ($815) | ($2,392) | ($3,770) |
| Program Expenses | ($1,580) | ($3,907) | ($2,375) | ($4,041) |
| Total Expenses | ($14,904) | ($35,567) | ($39,018) | ($38,715) |
| Ending CCamp Fund Balance | $20,946 | $12,365 | $329 | $16,520 |

| BENEVOLENCE FUND | 2012-2014 Cumulative | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning Benevolence Fund Balance | $159,747 | $261,666 | $280,727 |
| Donations Received | $101,919 | $102,668 | $0 |
| Total Available Funds | $261,666 | $364,333 | $280,727 |
| **Benevolence Fund Disbursements** | | | |
| Austin Theological Seminary | | ($50,000) | |
| Louisville Theological Seminary | | ($10,000) | |
| Draw to support Carrollton Camp Program | | (23,606) | |
| Draw to support Local & Global Ministries | | | ($21,950) |
| Payments to various charities | | | ($213,724) |
| Total Disbursements | $0 | ($83,606) | ($235,674) |
| Ending Benevolence Fund Balance | $261,666 | $280,727 | $45,053 |



**VISIONARY FUND**

| EARNINGS--YEAR TO DATE | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning Asset Balances | $4,362,039 | $4,756,004 | $5,173,153 | $6,426,551 | $5,435,625 |
| Realized Investment Income | 87,421 | 100,009 | 77,049 | 168,928 | 151,679 |
| Realized Capital Gains (Losses) | 89,297 | 363,965 | 215,780 | 258,252 | 189,632 |
| Contributions Received | 107,114 | 99,164 | 1,204,611 | 101,306 | 48,706 |
| Draw for Church Operations | (160,000) | (165,000) | (170,000) | (197,000) | (215,000) |
| Draw for Pastoral Housing | (31,843) | (32,152) | (34,342) | (43,660) | (35,385) |
| Draw for Property Maintenance | | | | (770,906) | (168,463) |
| Draw for Scholarships | | | | (14,552) | (9,719) |
| Draw for Employee Benefits & Pension | (46,170) | 0 | 0 | (869) | |
| Draw for Missions | | | | (10,000) | (3,605) |
| Transfer Other Cash to Operating Fund | (104,000) | (650,000) | | 0 | |
| Other Distributions Made | (22,815) | (157,902) | (27,316) | (21,725) | (5,321) |
| Unrealized Gains (Losses) | 474,961 | 859,064 | (12,385) | (460,700) | 12,126 |
| Ending Asset Balances | $4,756,004 | $5,173,153 | $6,426,551 | $5,435,625 | $5,400,274 |

| NET ASSETS | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cash--Money Market Fund | 4,356 | 4,356 | 4,356 | 101,303 | 1,309 |
| Investments at Market Value | 5,363,764 | 5,386,802 | 6,738,775 | 5,945,234 | 5,598,665 |
| Due From (To) Church Operating Acct | (612,116) | (218,006) | (316,581) | (610,911) | (199,700) |
| Net Fund Assets | $4,756,004 | $5,173,153 | $6,426,551 | $5,435,626 | $5,400,274 |

| NET FUNDS | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted Fund | $814,315 | $785,250 | $835,889 | $780,234 | $790,405 |
| Benevolences Fund | $790,803 | $866,650 | $865,441 | $825,779 | $836,515 |
| Missions Fund | $116,075 | $127,207 | $127,030 | $121,208 | $122,784 |
| Seminary Support Fund | $43,608 | $47,790 | $47,723 | $45,536 | $46,128 |
| Counseling Fund | $11,038 | $12,096 | $12,079 | $11,526 | $11,676 |
| Favrot Fund | $210,518 | $230,709 | $230,387 | $219,828 | $222,686 |
| Christian Education Fund | $68,418 | $74,980 | $74,876 | $71,743 | $72,675 |
| Flowers Fund | $16,815 | $18,428 | $18,402 | $17,559 | $17,787 |
| Music Fund | $42,551 | $46,632 | $46,567 | $44,433 | $45,011 |
| Speakers Fund | $42,594 | $46,679 | $46,614 | $44,478 | $45,216 |
| Property Fund | $188,316 | $286,476 | $344,093 | $342,241 | $368,034 |
| Meier Campus Ministry Fund | $54,623 | $59,862 | $59,779 | $57,039 | $57,781 |
| Maddox Property Maintenance Fund | $1,012,223 | $1,109,306 | $1,107,759 | $290,646 | $114,645 |
| Riess Fund | | | $1,119,106 | $1,096,837 | $1,111,097 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | $119,053 | $133,940 | $142,498 | $140,525 | $146,711 |
| Trustees' Discretionary Fund | $41,734 | $47,754 | $49,875 | $49,580 | $52,910 |
| Reddoch Scholarship Fund | $28,332 | $32,420 | $30,204 | $23,483 | $25,060 |
| Turfitt Scholarship Fund | $132,509 | $157,461 | $155,610 | $147,015 | $150,188 |
| Phifer Library Fund | $28,796 | $29,146 | $27,860 | $27,526 | $29,117 |
| Employee Benefits Fund (Scholarships) | $21,444 | $21,804 | $22,773 | $21,774 | $20,335 |
| Pastoral Housing Fund | $802,391 | $881,362 | $884,629 | $835,994 | $854,386 |
| Lupberger Theological Fund | $49,698 | $53,811 | $52,704 | $49,526 | $50,685 |
| Peirce-Geiser Fund | $74,601 | $91,945 | $87,638 | $80,738 | $86,380 |
| Evans Property Maintenance Fund | $45,549 | $0 | $0 | $0 | ($0) |
| Lindsey Fund | | $11,443 | $37,016 | $55,586 | $84,931 |
| Presbyterian Women Fund (Maddox) | | | | $34,793 | $37,130 |
| Total All Funds | $4,756,004 | $5,173,153 | $6,426,551 | $5,435,627 | $5,400,274 |



FINANCIAL REPORTS

# GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Chair: Patti Pannell | Vice-Chair: Henrietta Harris

Our focus in 2016 was to evaluate current mission projects and broaden the scope of our global mission outreach. We explored ways of better encouraging church-wide interest in global mission activities as recommended by the Strategic Plan. Our 2016 efforts included:

**Rebranding for Greater Outreach**

We rebranded our mission focus to "Global Ministries" to reflect an intention to include more regional and national activities and to increase the diversity of our international service projects. By expanding our outreach, we will create more participation opportunities for youth, younger adults, and Presbyterian Women in particular.

**Continued Cuba Partnerships**

Two covenant agreements were established with El Fuerte and Juan G. Hall for a three-year commitment of $10,000 per year to fund Living Waters, the pure-water systems maintenance and distribution at each church. We also continued our support of periodic mission trips to visit with the Cardenas churches to maintain our historic relationships.

**Continued and New Partnerships with Mission Co-Workers**

The committee conducted a survey of our five mission partners. The results gave us a better understanding of their current issues and needs. The committee appointed a liaison for each mission co-worker to better foster on-going personal communication.

The committee also added support for Josh Heikkila, a mission co-worker in Ghana. We provided financial assistance to the Senchi-Ferry church in Ghana for building a sanctuary, and we assisted in providing funding toward educational supplies for the congregants.

In 2016 we also supplied funding to a church via PC(USA) in Haiti for disaster relief in the wake of a devastating hurricane.

We also provided a gift to Hunter Farrell, who is retiring from Presbyterian World Mission, to help fund his "second mile" of service.

**Established New Global Partner Relationships**

We submitted a call for proposals to the congregation to create new global partner relationships that would meet the three strategic goals of PC(USA) for World Mission: (1)the alleviation of world poverty, (2)the promotion of evangelism, and (3)reconciliation. Our committee specifically sought proposals that would emphasize education, particularly the education of girls. As a result, four programs were added to our operations support: (1) the Ghana Scholarship Fund, providing tuition for four girls for three years of high school; (2) the Muliko Literacy Project, providing a Bible-based literacy program in Malawi; (3) the New Orleans Chapter of Days for Girls, providing hundreds of reusable sanitary supplies to girls so that they can remain in school; and (4) the Kanjira Water Project via the local non-profit Mama Maji, creating clean water sourcing to a village so that girls can remain in school and women can be gainfully employed.

**Greater Congregational Outreach**

Our initiatives in 2016 touched many of our congregants. The Middle School Girls Small Group and PW have been actively involved with Days for Girls; committee member John Geiser will be traveling to Ghana in January 2017 to visit with the Director of the Ghana Scholarship Fund and to visit the Senchi-Ferry Church and our new mission co-worker there. Committee member (and incoming co-chair) Ann Maier frequently communicates with Chancy Gondwe, Director of the Muliko Literacy Project, and the committee has also been closely in touch with Brian Manning, Director of Mama Maji, concerning potential co-mission trips to Kenya.

Presbyterian Women also provide funding to our supported missionaries as well as Living Waters program in Cuba and many of its members have also been on Cuba mission trips in 2016.

The committee, particularly Greg Beuerman, is in the early stages of planning an inter-generational trip to the Dominican Republic for June 2017 and are in discussions with PW on the possibility of providing partial scholarships for interested youth.

Finally, 2017 will see the celebration of 100 years of mission work by St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church. The committee, with leadership of Henrietta Harris and John Geiser, is also actively planning the commemoration of this event in September 2017 with many fun and informative activities leading up to it.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Pannell, Chair 2016





COMMITTEE REPORTS

## MEMBER INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Mike Pugh | Vice-Chair: Jeanie Clinton

During the calendar year 2016, in accordance with our charge, we accomplished the following:

- Coordinated and led the annual Session Retreat, held in January 2016.
- Recruited Elders to serve as commissioners for stated Presbytery meetings.
- Worked with the Pastor to select chairs and vice-chairs for all Session committees.
- Assigned new Elders to committees.
- Recruited volunteers for Carrollton Summer Camp.
- Worked with Membership Coordinator Camille Zander, Michelle Murphy, Andy Fox and Associate Pastor Sarah Chancellor-Watson to update the SACPC data base of members. This database serves as the basis for volunteer coordination and member involvement.
- Helped in the recruitment of volunteers for Carrollton Christmas Camp.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Pugh, 2016 Chair

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Tripp Edwards | Vice-Chair: Julie Nice

In 2016, we welcomed 29 new members through a Transfer of Membership, 26 through a Reaffirmation or Profession of Faith, and 8 confirmations for a total of 63 new members, well over the 50 we set as a goal. In 2015, 41 new members were added to the rolls. Overwhelmingly, the new members have consistently asked about ways to get involved. Our team on Sundays is excellent in informing prospective members about the happenings in the church.

The other major attractions to the church are the weekly sermons by Don and Sarah, as well as Steven Blackmon's outstanding music program.

The Membership Committee is tasked to recruit, orient and embrace new members into the life of the church. This process begins after each Sunday service, where the committee seeks out visitors and meets with them to discuss the many facets of the church and how they might become involved. Each Sunday an announcement is made by the ministers about meeting in the library to meet a team of members. First-time visitors receive letters, emails and phone calls from members of the committee, and new member packets are provided, which offer details about the many activities of the church and provide new members with ideas on how to become personally involved.

Orientation sessions were conducted twice in 2016 with one class accommodating 20+ new members. These sessions are designed to introduce new members to opportunities for involvement, as well as provide a history of our church. Presbyterian 101 is a one-hour course, presented by a pastor, which covers the history of the Reformed tradition in general and of the Presbyterian Church.

It was a successful year in many regards.

Respectfully submitted,
Tripp Edwards, 2016 Chair





## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair: Dave Mize | Vice-Chair: Barry Thompson / John Hope, III

SCAPC had a good year relative to its personnel. By many accounts this is the most talented, effective, and cohesive staff the church has had; 2016 saw the church hiring its long-awaited Associate Pastor, Sarah Chancellor-Watson. During the year, our part-time accountant (Carol Pointer) retired and Emily Fleshman, formerly the assistant to the Pastors, moved into the accounting role. We then hired a full-time replacement for the Pastor's assistant (Bonnie Shoemaker). Web and communications coordinator (Caitlin Rowland) went back to school, but we were able to replace her full-time position with two, part-time employees (Hallie Boh and Kim Bauer). As we went through these hires, the Committee refined the role of the Committee, the Director of Administration, and the Senior Pastor in the hiring process.

During the year, the Committee revised the Employee Handbook. It is important to update the Handbook periodically to ensure that it delineates the personnel practices that we are actually using and to keep up with the legal changes that are always happening in the human resources field.

As part of the ongoing effort to fully include the SCAPC Nursery School in the management, supervision and support of the church, the Personnel Committee is developing a separate Employee Handbook for Nursery School employees. There are many unique things involved in educating and managing small children, and a specialized Handbook is required to cover these requirements. This Handbook is being developed with the help of church member Ben Banta, who is a human resources lawyer. The Handbook should be finished in 2017.

The Committee also worked to develop job descriptions for each significant personnel position at SCAPC. Employees participated in developing these job descriptions. Now that we have these position descriptions: (1) employees can clearly know their responsibilities, (2)it will be easier to advertise jobs to future new hires, and (3) it will be easier to resolve any future problems in the work place, if job duties are clearly spelled out.

A part-time Parish Associate, Rev Tom Paine, was hired late in the year to assist in pastoral care and the start up of a new, Adult Day-Care program. Feedback has been great about what a wonderful job Tom is doing in his work. Potential new personnel hires in the Strategic Plan for the areas of Christian Education and community outreach were deferred by the Spiritual Formation and Community Ministries Committee for 2017 and will be the subject of future discussion. Per the recommendation in the Strategic Plan, the Director of Administration completed the organizational chart for personnel at SCAPC.

The Director of Administration was also able this year to complete a formal, nominal lease with the STAIR program for their office in the Land Building which was designed to protect both parties.

The Personnel Committee was a part of developing the celebration for Steven Blackmon's 30-year anniversary at SCAPC. We were able to help generate and present a nice "love gift" to Steven for his years of dedicated and great service to SCAPC.

The Personnel Budget for 2017 was approved by the Budget Committee. It is a good budget and fully covers all SCAPC employees.

In November, the Committee completed its annual individual interviews with the SCAPC staff, which reinforced the conviction that SCAPC currently has a wonderful, compatible, and generally very happy staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Mize, 2016 chair

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chair: Brent Butcher | Vice-Chair: J. Pegues

**Sanctuary Waterproofing**

The second and third phases of the Sanctuary Waterproofing project were completed through additional drawdowns of $130,000 from the Maddox Property Maintenance Fund of the Visionary Fund (the total two-year cost of all three phases of the waterproofing project was $700,000, all of which was paid by the Maddox Fund). The 2016 elements of the project included the following:

- Hiring an architect who specialized in roofing systems to design our new roofs
- Adding new downspouts to accommodate the high volume of water coming off the roof
- Repairing, re-grading and replacing the flat roofs on either side of the Sanctuary
- Repairing and re-painting the interior walls of the Sanctuary with water damage
- Improving the water drainage system around the perimeter of the Sanctuary
- Adding low-voltage lights to the side flat roofs of the Sanctuary

**Other General Property matters addressed during 2016**

- The blower and air conditioning system was replaced for the second floor office and Learning Center rooms.
- Safety upgrades for the freight elevator
- Oak tree trimming in the Nursery School play yard and on the State Street side of the church.
- Removing squirrels from and repainting the front porch area of the Land Building.
- Replacement of the concrete front sidewalk and a section of the rear driveway at the Land Building
- Replacing old wiring from the basement to the outside roofs and Sanctuary choir loft
- Upgrading the security camera system
- Continued efforts to get Metairie Cemetery to perform repairs on the Bloomfield and Affleck tombs

**Financials and Budget**

We finished the year essentially at budget, thanks to an additional draw of $40,000 from the Maddox Property Maintenance Fund in the Visionary Fund. The total amount drawn from the Maddox Fund for major maintenance over the past two years has been $1 million, leaving only about $100,000 remaining.

**Looking Ahead**

Our plans for 2017 include identifying the major maintenance still required—and setting aside the funding needed—to replace all remaining air conditioning systems still using the obsolete R-22 coolant (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, three more systems on the second floor, the third floor, and one more system at the Land Building), and to replace the second and third floor flat roofs. Finally, we will be assisting with respect to managing church facilities needed for the proposed Adult Day Care Program.

Thanks to all property team members for their input and participation in another active year and thanks again to Wayne for his extraordinary efforts towards the stewardship of the Church's property.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Brent Butcher, II, chair 2016



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Michael O'Keefe | Vice-Chair: Catherine Karas

In 2015, the Session approved the combination of Christian Education and Youth and Youth Adults into the Spiritual Formation Team with focus on three components: Children & Young Families; Youth and Young Adults; and Adult Christian Education. This marked the first full year of this reorganization. In addition to the programs described below, the Spiritual Formation Team worked on the goals of the Strategic Plan.

**Bible Adventures**

The Children's Sunday School Classes (3 years-3rd grade) uses the Deep Blue Kids curricula. The students learned about the Bible through fun activities, stories and projects. Each week they watched an animated video that tells the Bible story in a contemporary way. Students in all classes learned the same story each week, which is helpful for parents in weekly discussions at home. Each age group has 6-8 adult volunteers and attendance this year was strong.

**Challenger Class**

The Challenger Class (4th & 5th Grades), has a strong program. In October, 16 students attended a weekend retreat in Covington with the theme "Building Christian Character." This year it focused on Jesus' parables, the 12 disciples, Lent, the Ten Commandments and held a two-session Communion Workshop that was attended by 60 students and their parents. In the spring, 17 fourth graders received Bibles from the church.

**Vacation Bible School**

VBS was held the first week in June with the theme, "Surf Shack." There were 95 participants, 28 youth counselors and numerous adult volunteers.

**Nursery School**

The Nursery School offered weekday programs for approximately 100 children (full capacity) plus summer and holiday camps under the leadership of Keflyn Fransen. Weekly Chapel services were led by Genny Hagler. Spiritual Formation has worked to strengthen the relationship between the church and the Nursery School.

**Youth**

The youth group serves around 30 youth each Sunday. The addition of Caitlin Vanderwolf as a part-time youth intern has allowed us to expand and enrich our offering to the youth of our church. We had eight students participate in Confirmation this year. We provided programming on Sundays that helped enrich our students' faith life while providing them with a fun church community. Our family outreach was well-received with a Crawfish Boil that brought the families of our youth together. We had over 10 families participate. Our Summer Trips were a success with 15 participants in our Junior High Retreat, 20 participants in our Senior High mission trip, and 18 participants at our Montreat Retreat. Our fall family BBQ continued the success of our reaching out to families as we saw over 30 families participate. We had over 30 students and adults attend our Fall Retreat and our Youth Sunday was once again very impactful. We had 25 students participate. Caitlin Vanderwolf provides music to our Sunday worship and administrative support to Andy. This has given us double the ability to connect with kids and families. Caitlin also leads a middle school girls group.

There is a Youth and Young Adults subcommittee comprised of Session Members (Becka Curry and Catherine Karas) and staff members (Andy Fox and Genny Hagler). Throughout the year, it held leadership meetings with representatives and active members of both the 20/30s group and the youth group. The committee served as the voice of those leadership teams at session meetings. The committee itself is more of a medium to speak to the Session should either group need a voice. This structure provides a strong voice within the Session for both young adults and youth.

**20/30s**

Programming continues to be driven by the 20/30s leadership committee made up of various members of the church in this age range. Genny Hagler leads the 20/30 leadership team through review of the events of the previous year, and the committee decides what to keep and add. Popular social events, such as our oyster roast, golf tournament, and Thanksgiving Potluck continue to be big successes. We host a theology group that met every other Tuesday at NOLA brewery. These have been instrumental in building not just a social community, but a true community of faith. There have also been many service/volunteer opportunities this year in which our members through mailings and Facebook which have been a successful means of both advertisement and communication. We have been able to maintain our core group of members this year while also bringing in many new faces, so this is a growing and thriving party of the SCAPC ministry. We continue to look forward and place an even greater emphasis in future programming and outreach toward young families in the church.

**Mom Group**s

This demographic flourished with two monthly groups offered - a MOMs for children 5 and under and MOMsy (Mothers of school-aged children) for children grades K-12. The classes worked through the study "Keep it Shut."

**Small Groups**

There are 15 small groups. The Sunday Bulletin and SCAPC website provide descriptions of each group and contact information for each leader, which can help members find the group that works best for their interests and schedule.

**Adult Christian Education**

January 2016 began with a well-received class on Pope Francis' second encyclical, *Laudato si'*. In the Spring there also were classes on the Confession of Belhar which was adopted by the PC(USA) General Assembly in 2016 and Williams James' *Varieties of Religious Experience*. In the Fall, the offerings included classes on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship in Difficult Times*, and on *Political Elections, Christianity and You*. Throughout the year, Feasting on the Word has continued to look at the day's sermon text to better understand its meaning.

* * *

Many thanks to all the lay leadership who volunteered their time to help make these programs at SCAPC for all ages so wonderful!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael O'Keefe, 2016 Chair
and Catherine Karas, Vice-Chair



# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Ben Tiller | Vice-Chair: Nathan Adams

## Growing Gratitude from the Heart

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*Matthew 6:21*

Don Frampton, Lee Randall and I attended the 2016 Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in San Antonio, TX, in late February. Stewardship Kaleidoscope is an annual conference offering plenary speakers, informative workshop leaders, provocative worship experiences, and networking opportunities for all who are passionate about stewardship and generosity. Drawing leaders from across the PC(USA) and beyond, Stewardship Kaleidoscope is designed to help participants explore stewardship in its many colorful dimensions.

The conference informed us about the high-level trends in stewardship nationwide and stimulated our thinking on ways to more effectively communicate stewardship to our congregation. We came away enthusiastic and armed with helpful tools to incorporate into the SCAPC stewardship philosophy.

One thought stimulated by the conference was to host an appreciation event, to be held each spring. On May 26, 2016, the stewardship committee hosted a "Celebration of Stewardship" at Darryl and Louellen Berger's home at 6000 St. Charles Ave. The invitees were a group of members who have consistently contributed on an increasing basis to SCAPC over the years. The event was well attended and those attending appreciated the message delivered by Don and the stewardship committee. In future years, we would like to encompass more of the congregation at this event.

In the early summer, we developed core materials for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign, which included the brochure, pledge card and accompanying verbiage. With input from the committee, Caitlin Rowland, SCAPC's Web and Publications Coordinator, did a fantastic job putting the stewardship materials together.

September 25 was Stewardship Kickoff Sunday. We introduced the 2017 campaign and its theme with brief remarks at the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services. The following Monday, SCAPC staff mailed the Stewardship Brochures and pledge cards.

During the month-long campaign, the Minute for Mission was reserved to showcase programs that directly benefit from congregational stewardship. Andy Fox highlighted the Youth and Young Adult Program. Amber Beazley discussed Community Ministry's efforts and invited partner organizations to attend Sunday worship so they could be recognized. Lastly, Steven Blackmon entertained the congregation with a special act by the Choir.

On October 23, Dedication Sunday, we wrapped up the stewardship campaign with brief comments at the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services. We had a special guest "Soul Searching" roll in from 6000 St. Charles Ave. to encourage the congregation to make a pledge.

In November, we recruited a team of volunteers to follow-up with members who had not yet pledged. The group consisted of Julie Nice, John Morton IV, Seth Hagler, Tripp Edwards, Parke Ellis, Nathan Adams, Michael O'Keefe and Richard Seelman. The group did a great job reaching out to those members who needed a little additional encouragement.

By December most pledges had been received, but a few were still trickling into the SCAPC office. For 2017 budgeting purposes, we estimated the 2017 Pledge receipts would total $1,473,000. At the time of this report, total pledges received were approximately $1,440,000. The remainder is expected to come in with a little more



COMMITTEE REPORTS

encouragement from the Stewardship Committee.

As a general comparison, in 2016 SCAPC received approximately $1,375,000 from pledging members. For 2017 SCAPC is anticipating a $95,000 increase in pledged giving. This represents about a 7% increase year over year. This growth can be attributed to new member pledges and existing members increasing their pledges, but it is also offset by members reducing pledges, choosing not to pledge, or members removed from the roll (relocation, death, or other circumstances). As a church, our challenge is to grow stewardship by broadening the base of our congregation who consistently gives.

The 2018 Stewardship Campaign will be chaired by Nathan Adams, who is already off and running toward another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin B. Tiller, 2016 Chair

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair: Donna Lupberger | Vice-Chair: Casey Morriss

The Worship and Music Committee coordinates and promotes the worship life of the congregation, working with the Pastors and the Director of Music. The committee also promotes the music ministry of the church. This report is grateful for the excellent input of Judith Halverson, who chaired the committee in 2015.

The committee has responsibility for the following important elements of the worship experience.

**Communion**

Communion is now served by intinction every Sunday at the 8:30 service and on a regular basis at the 10:30 service. Our committee is indebted to Mayson Buffington for faithfully arranging for all elements for communion at both services. In addition to preparing the elements, Mayson ensures that we have gluten-free bread in the bread tray (4-5 Elders are asked to volunteer their service to assist the Pastors in serving communion). The committee is thankful for all the Elders who served communion this year.

**Baptisms**

The Worship and Music committee is responsible for requesting Session approval of any scheduled baptism; 26 baptisms were approved and performed in 2016! Emily Fleshman (until June) and Bonnie Shoemaker (after June 1) have played an important role in organizing each baptism, communicating to our committee the need for Session approval and working with the SCAPC member who stitches the special cloth given as a gift and remembrance of this special day. Emily/Bonnie prepared the books for the parents of the baby and ensures that it is ready for the Pastor to give to the family immediately following the baptism.

**Flowers**

We are so very thankful for Jennie Steele, who arranges all our floral needs through the year. She coordinates and ensures that the flowers for the Sunday service are in place. They are always beautiful. She also takes care of the palms for Palm Sunday and the flowers for the cross on Easter Sunday. The new cross has required creativity in making sure the flowers can fit in the holes, and Jennie used her talents to make it beautiful. Now that both Easter services are identical, Jennie has to be sure the cross is cleared of the flowers after the 8:30 service so that they can be used again for the 10:30 service. This is quite a feat, and we are grateful for Jennie's efforts.





**Banners**

The banners for festival Sundays are a noticeable and welcome addition to worship. Banners adorn the sanctuary on Palm Sunday, Heritage Sunday and during Advent and Christmas. In 2016 the Worship Committee approved the purchase of Louisiana Tartan banners (~$600).

**Pentecost Sunday**

Building on the 2015 experience where we started the services in a special way, with members speaking in languages other than English to welcome the Holy Spirit, we added special wands as visual metaphor for flames in 2016. These were incorporated into the Children's Message which included the excellent poetry of Jim Rumsfield. Thanks to Jim for this service and to Nell Lanier for obtaining the wands. Thanks to everyone who participated in this special start to both services. We expect this tradition to be an annual part of the Pentecost service.

**Special Collection for Choir**

A special collection was started in 2014 and continues. This special collection is made on Palm Sunday and the Sunday of the Celebration of Carols at Christmas time. We are thankful for all who support the choir and music programs our church provides.

**Ushers**

We are so very grateful for Geoff Snodgrass and all our ushers. They help the service run smoothly and guide members and visitors through the church on Sunday mornings.

**Other Items**

The Worship and Music committee reviewed the new bulletin format at their meetings. The new bulletin has taken some adjustment and was discussed at several committee meetings. It was suggested that new Session members be acknowledged in a supplemental insert and that the book title be included in the announcement of the book discussion group. There was discussion of Directory Spot which was very well received and highly applauded. More advertisement about this excellent app should be done.

The Worship and Music Committee is a dedicated group of SCAPC members who work quietly behind the scenes to ensure that the worship experience is rich and meaningful. We welcome feedback from members on how we can enhance the worship life of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Lupberger, chair 2016

***A special thanks to our Elder Class of 2016 for three years of hard work!***

Amber Beezley
Rasch Brown
Brent Butcher
Tripp Edwards
John Geiser, III
Henrietta Harris
Price Lanier
Donna Ryan Lupberger
Dave Mize
Michael O'Keefe
Margo Phelps
Mike Pugh
Debbie Rees
Jean Stickney
Ben Tiller

**St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church**
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