

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

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DEAR FRIENDS:

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church has always made "Benevolences" (money donated to outside groups) a priority, but until recently I had no idea to what extent. Curious about exactly how much money we had given away over the past few years – actual checks the church had written – I pulled annual reports beginning in 2008 and "did the math." The grand total yielded a number that may surprise you.

Over the past decade, our church has given away **\$2,864,744** to worthy groups and agencies, among them RHINO, Eden House, Victories in Service, Carrollton Camps, and the Cuba mission. (See the reports from Community Ministry and Global Ministry for a full listing). Further, this sum represents an impressive 15% of total revenues for each of those years, and doesn't account for various "gifts in kind" we are pleased to provide... space (and, in some cases, administrative support) for STAIR, the Nursery School, and the like.



When it comes to outreach, we as a congregation truly "put our money where our mouth is," concretely demonstrating the gospel of Jesus Christ. The way we see it, a church for whom mission isn't of the highest order, one which basically exists only for itself, isn't much of a church.

Our generous missional presence happens not only because of our philosophy of church, but primarily because you, yourselves, are such good givers, as this year's Stewardship Report reflects. And so, I thank you for being who you are, dedicated disciples of our Lord and Savior, each year faithfully, generously, and tangibly witnessing to his love and justice.

In Christ,

Donald R. Frampton,
Senior Pastor

AGENDA



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

Sunday, February 18, 2018

- CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER Donald R. Frampton, Moderator
- DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND PURPOSE OF MEETING Ken Kneipp, Clerk of Session
- DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL REPORT
- REPORT OF 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN Nathan Adams, 2017 Chair, Stewardship
- PRESENTATION OF 2018 CHURCH BUDGET & REVIEW OF VISIONARY FUND Tom Wright, 2018 Chair, Finance
- APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN PASTORS' TERMS OF CALL Richard Seelman, Chair, Personnel
- MODERATOR'S REPORT Donald R. Frampton, Moderator
- ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER Sarah Chancellor-Watson, Vice Moderator

COMMUNITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Chair: John Hope, IV | Vice-Chair: Brad Stillwagon

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 2017 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.

Day of Service

In late September, Community Ministries hosted a Fall Day of Service. In what we hope will be the start of an annual program, Associate Pastor Sarah Chancellor-Watson designed the day of service with four main objectives in mind:

1. Serve our Community Ministry partners through various work projects.
2. Give our members an opportunity to serve their community.
3. Strengthen our relationships with our CM partners.
4. Cultivate new CM leadership and recruit new CM partner liaisons to fill vacant positions.

The day of service was a great success. It started with a breakfast prepared by volunteers from Crescent City Café, followed by service opportunities with five community ministry partners, including painting the Women's Center at the New Orleans Mission, gardening at Okra Abbey, making outdoor games for the YMCA Corporate Cup, organizing book shelves for STAIR, and creating gift bags for New Orleans Women's and Children's Shelter. In addition, one of our community ministry partners, DiscoveryFEST, assisted SCAPC volunteers with developing children's games for the YMCA Corporate Cup and the Raintree Fall Family Day.

In addition to the SCAPC Day of Service, the Community Ministry committee also played an integral role in the Raintree Fall Family Day in 2017. SCAPC volunteers grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, created 12 playstations, served ice cream, and handed out Mardi Gras throws as prizes for participation. In total, 15 SCAPC members served as volunteers and over 65 members of the Raintree family participated!

RHINO

RHINO continued to provide rebuilding to the greater New Orleans area, Baton Rouge area, and most recently, the Houston area following Hurricane Harvey. RHINO also had a strong year for Camp RHINO and, as usual, bookings are going well for the 2018 summer camp sessions. We welcomed a new Program Director, Tim Shipkin.

Carrollton Camp

Carrollton Camp, for the first time in Summer 2017, experimented with a partnership with New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC). The partnership allowed Carrollton Camp to significantly expand to an average of about 80 campers over a total of 8 weeks. The Summer 2017 camp sessions were held at Lyons Recreation Center, a new venue for Carrollton Camp. In addition to the summer sessions, Carrollton Camp once again hosted a one week session over the Christmas holidays. Each session 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 with Sean Tate.

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

Supported Ministries

Through the Community Ministries budget and committee liaisons, SCAPC supported 20 organizations in 2017. Information on these organizations, including a description of their services and their liaison to SCAPC, is available on the church's website.

The 20 supported organizations are:

- Café Reconcile New Orleans
- Crescent City Café
- DiscoveryFEST
- Eden House
- Liberty's Kitchen
- Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank
- Okra Abbey
- 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 Okra Abbey
- YMCA Educational Services (YES!)

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hope IV, 2017 Chair

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Chair: Pierce Young | Vice-chair: Ebie Strauss

It was another enjoyable, successful year for the Congregational Life (CL) committee. Our mission was to provide opportunities for fun, connection, and community among members of all ages. This year, we primarily achieved this through organizing and executing programming after Wednesday night suppers and arranging many special events during the fellowship hour on Sunday mornings.

Wednesday Night Programming

Some of the Wednesday night programs that CL hosted this year included the annual Zucchini Race, a Lego block party, Harry Potter Potions night, Collegiate Night, Trivia Night and Bingo. Of course, Broadway Night remains a perennial favorite, and a visit by local nursery Urban Roots was also a big hit. Congregational Life enjoyed coordinating with other SCAPC committees to provide great Wednesday night programming. Global Ministries, RHINO and PW all played a role on occasional Wednesday nights with events connected specifically to their efforts. Additionally, CL partnered with the Membership Committee to host two "new member nights" at WNO, encouraging those newest to the SCAPC family to get involved in church life. Another exciting development in 2017 was the addition of both YAF P.I.N.T.S. and the senior high small group to the Wednesday night line-up. Along with P.I.N.T.S. came the addition of child care to WNO, making it easier for families with young children to attend and fully participate. We have experienced an increase in attendance at suppers and post-supper programming, especially by families with children. It has been gratifying to see more members – of all ages and interests – delighting in SCAPC's Wednesday night church experience!

Post-Worship Fellowship

Congregational Life provided snacks after worship every Sunday. We also coordinated a number of special events after Sunday worship, including Snoball Sunday, Heritage Sunday, a pancake brunch and a church-wide picnic. This year's picnic was co-sponsored by CL, Membership, Member Involvement, Spiritual Formation and SCAPC Youth. The event was to be held at Audubon Park Golf Club to coincide with our Match Made in Heaven golf tournament. Unfortunately, both events had to be cancelled due to a hurricane (in October!). While we couldn't reschedule the golf outing, we did have the catered picnic in Frampton Fellowship Hall later that month. Not exactly what was intended (there's no room in FFH for a space walk!), but it was fun all the same.

It was a fabulous year For Congregational Life. Many thanks to the amazing CL team and everyone who partnered with us to foster fun and fellowship at SCAPC!

Respectfully submitted,
Pierce Young, 2017 Chair

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Janet Favrot | Vice-Chair: Sallee Benjamin

Caring for Nursing Home and Home-Bound Residents

Committee members prepared and delivered holiday give bags. We delivered Easter bags and Christmas bags to our members residing in local retirement homes and to those that were homebound. Various members assembled bags and other members of the committee delivered the bags. Mayson Buffington continues to deliver flower arrangements after worship services to Poydras and Lambeth House.

Correspondence

Roney Morton continues to write notes from our group. Each month we have a member assigned to send out birthday cards to SCAPC's members that are 70 and over.

Pantry Ministry

Our group decided not to continue the casserole delivery. Instead, we have had several soup drives to stock our freezer. Soups are delivered to those that are ill and to those with new babies. This is an ongoing mission. Committee members are always encouraged to bring soups to replenish the freezer whenever they can. Anyone in the congregation is encouraged to add to our soup freezer when possible.

Aden Program

The Aden Program is up and running. This was a culmination of a lot of hard work on the parts of several committees. Several members of our committee served on the panels to interview those looking for the director position. An excellent choice was made: Adelle Bergman.

The Aden Program kicked off on June 20, 2017, with two participants. Currently five are enrolled. The participants look forward to coming on Tuesdays and Thursdays and enjoy their time together. The typical day begins with coffee and conversation, trivia and word games, a hot lunch, and then crafts, guest visits, or often card games. There are three church members who enjoy sharing their talents and regularly volunteer: Nevada Barr, Louellen Berger, and Jenny Baldwin.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Favrot, 2017 Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Laura Avery | Vice-Chair: Tom Wright

Attached are the following reports as of December 31, 2017:

- Operating Income Statement, including the approved Budget for 2018
- Operating Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Visionary Fund Financial Report

Operating Budget

Our net result for the year was a surplus of \$12,000. The budgeted operations were brought to a break-even by Property and Personnel draws from the Visionary Fund of \$115,000, which fortunately were less than the \$144,000 that was budgeted. A net wedding surplus of \$12,000 gave us our positive total for the year.

Total operating expenses were \$34,000 less than budget, primarily due to savings in most departments. Property was over budget by \$21,000 because of the need to replace two HVAC systems on the second floor of the Education building that was approved by Session. This expense was also offset by an unbudgeted contribution of \$20,000 by the Nursery School. Music was over budget due to the hiring of more singers than was anticipated by budget. All other departments remained within budget. Our cash position continues to be strong and we remain without debt.

Due to increased pledges received for 2018, our 2018 Operating Budget did not need to rely on additional funds from The Visionary Fund in order to make the Operating Budget balanced.

Visionary Fund

The Visionary Fund net assets increased by just over \$400,000 to \$5.8 million, even after the transfer of \$200,000 in cash to the Operating Fund to cover cash flow needs. The portfolio has remained within our investment policy objectives of a balance between fixed income and equity investments. The general rise in asset values, coupled with prudent spending habits, have allowed for additional funds to be available to support church operations in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura M. Avery, 2017 Finance Chair

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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| OPERATING ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS | 2016 ACTUAL | 2017 ACTUAL | 2017 BUDGET | 2017 VARIANCE | 2018 BUDGET |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | | | |
| Pledge Payments | \$1,373,085 | \$1,367,175 | \$1,473,011 | (\$65,736) | \$1,672,385 |
| First Year Pledge Payments | 53,550 | 47,231 | 40,000 | \$7,231 | 40,000 |
| Members without Pledge | 154,219 | 153,245 | 115,000 | \$38,245 | 140,000 |
| Lodge Plate Collections | 34,562 | 28,125 | 30,000 | (\$11,872) | 35,000 |
| Special-Donation Revenue | \$1,015,721 | \$1,058,564 | \$1,057,911 | (\$11,322) | \$1,787,385 |
| Ministry Fund Operating Draw | 215,000 | 205,000 | 205,000 | 0 | 210,000 |
| Ministry Fund Pastoral Housing Draw | 35,565 | 29,896 | 29,896 | 0 | 34,175 |
| Ministry Fund Property Draw | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Redacted: church members, please see church office for printed copy of these reports. | | | | | |
| Ministry Fund Other | 10,000 | 24,875 | 23,000 | 1,875 | 23,000 |
| Gifts & Memorials | 1,150 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | 30,399 |
| Wedding Revenue (Net) | 15,815 | 12,317 | 15,000 | (\$2,683) | 15,000 |
| Nursery School Contribution | 0 | 20,000 | 0 | 20,000 | 0 |
| Other Budgeted Misc. Revenue (Net) | 1,505 | 440 | 0 | 440 | 0 |
| Campus Ministry Revenue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Interest Income (Net of Fees) | (5,754) | (3,846) | (3,000) | (\$46) | (3,000) |
| Total Receipts | \$1,976,075 | \$2,065,256 | \$2,086,368 | (\$21,070) | \$2,134,959 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | | | |
| Beneficence | | | | | |
| Presbytery Tax (per capita) | (31,011) | (32,128) | (32,128) | 0 | (32,755) |
| Greater Church | (41,077) | (41,075) | (41,074) | 1 | (41,890) |
| Seminary Support | 0 | (2,300) | (2,300) | 0 | (2,300) |
| Local Projects-Community Ministry | (101,076) | (100,852) | (100,016) | 834 | (170,300) |
| Global Ministries | (26,341) | (32,822) | (34,500) | 1,678 | (42,500) |
| Total Beneficence | (\$99,405) | (\$108,775) | (\$109,018) | \$1,042 | (\$198,750) |
| Adult Spiritual Formation | (1,308) | (1,320) | (4,400) | 2,812 | (4,800) |
| Children's Spiritual Formation | (15,227) | (16,021) | (17,950) | 1,929 | (17,950) |
| Youth & Young Adults Spiritual Formation | (34,523) | (28,717) | (38,520) | 9,803 | (38,520) |
| Speaker Series | (1,236) | 0 | (2,500) | 2,500 | (2,500) |
| Congregational Care | (89) | (487) | (4,105) | 3,893 | (21,463) |
| Congregational Life | (19,877) | (19,887) | (25,958) | 6,071 | (25,750) |
| Property | (315,936) | (340,312) | (319,113) | (\$21,199) | (335,094) |
| Membership | (105) | (256) | (1,250) | 949 | (500) |
| Music | (106,076) | (102,405) | (98,550) | (\$3,845) | (100,361) |
| Personnel | (1,080,593) | (1,174,161) | (1,185,000) | 10,819 | (1,212,000) |
| Member Involvement | (658) | (2,254) | (3,200) | 942 | (1,800) |
| Stewardship | (435) | (232) | (800) | 365 | (800) |
| Worship | (3,795) | (3,822) | (5,400) | 1,605 | (5,400) |
| Office | (65,310) | (64,827) | (70,355) | 5,028 | (69,200) |
| Total Expenses | (\$1,947,527) | (\$2,052,941) | (\$2,086,968) | \$33,967 | (\$2,134,959) |
| Net Surplus (Deficit) | \$28,548 | \$12,315 | 0 | \$12,315 | 0 |

OPERATING ACCOUNT

| OPERATING ACCOUNT | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| BALANCE SHEET | | | | | |
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Cash & Equivalents | \$71,823 | \$33,117 | \$76,341 | \$51,899 | \$16,079 |
| Deposits in Transit and Acc. Receivable | \$71,155 | \$10,000 | \$4,217 | \$20,894 | \$10,000 |
| Due from Ministry Fund | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$19,750 | \$20,000 |
| Retention Project Assets | \$20,214 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Assets | \$12,502 | \$1,774 | \$12,302 | \$12,302 | \$12,302 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$195,704 | \$65,101 | \$112,860 | \$104,845 | \$58,381 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$5,775 | \$10,335 | \$5,375 | \$4,705 | \$2,835 |
| Accrued Liabilities | \$17,301 | \$21,162 | \$27,552 | \$18,325 | \$22,341 |
| Deferred unpaid pledges received | \$180,912 | \$180,937 | \$247,188 | \$276,677 | \$312,746 |
| Other Deposits received | \$11,230 | \$10,000 | \$8,800 | \$8,000 | \$12,200 |
| Temporary Gifts & Memorials | \$2,075 | \$10,004 | \$3,492 | \$1,750 | \$2,000 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$219,293 | \$234,438 | \$292,507 | \$269,457 | \$315,121 |
| Gifts & Memorials | | | | | |
| Unrestricted Gifts & Memorials | \$25,125 | \$28,701 | \$40,315 | \$25,345 | \$9,345 |
| Restricted Gifts & Memorials | \$65,255 | \$63,361 | \$55,660 | \$55,367 | \$172,919 |
| RRMG Fund | \$100,000 | \$105,255 | \$150,000 | \$125,707 | \$101,665 |
| Total Gifts & Memorials | \$190,380 | \$197,317 | \$245,975 | \$206,419 | \$283,929 |
| Other Liabilities | | | | | |
| Retention Fund-Beneficence Fund | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$40,000 | \$20,000 |
| Reserve for Major Maintenance (PPFMM) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bank Loans Payable | \$20,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Other Liabilities | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$40,000 | \$20,000 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$429,673 | \$451,775 | \$558,482 | \$515,876 | \$619,050 |
| CAPITAL | | | | | |
| First Year Surplus | \$19,000 | \$10,000 | \$17,400 | \$19,207 | \$19,000 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL | \$448,673 | \$461,775 | \$575,882 | \$535,083 | \$638,050 |

GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Patti Pannell and Ann Maier

Our focus in 2017 was to strengthen our outreach and bring greater awareness to the congregation of our mission projects and supported mission co-workers. Our efforts included:

Continued Cuba Partnerships

Our support of the two covenant agreements continued with El Fuerte and Juan G. Hall for year 2 of a 3-year commitment of \$10,000 per year to fund Living Waters, the pure-water systems maintenance and distribution at each church. The Committee learned that El Fuerte will reach their one millionth gallon of water in 2018. We also continued our support of periodic mission trips to visit with the Cardenas churches to maintain our historic relationships. Mission trips were made in April (during which the dedication of the new kitchen that was built with a grant from the SCAPC Renovation Benevolence Fund was accomplished) and in October.

Continued Partnerships with Mission Co-workers

Our financial support of our six mission co-workers continued with contributions of \$2,000 each to: Dennis and Maribel Smith (Argentina); Bob Gamble (Ukraine); Cindy and Leslie Morgan (Bangladesh); Larry and Inge Sthreshley (Congo); JoElla Hollman (the Caribbean); and Josh Heikkila (Ghana). The committee also provided financial assistance to the Senchi-Ferry church in Ghana for building a sanctuary. A church member has committed a large donation to go specifically toward this project and the Committee will send representatives to facilitate a covenant agreement with the church elders at Gethsemane Presbyterian to ensure the funds are properly utilized for their intended purpose. This covenant will be overseen by Mission Co-Worker Josh Heikkila.

Renewed Global Mission Partner Relationships

The committee renewed financial support of \$2,500 each to four programs established in 2016: (1) the Ghana Scholarship Fund, providing tuition for young people to attend 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 reusable sanitary supplies to school-aged girls; and (4) the Kanjira Water Project via the local non-profit Mama Maji, creating clean water sourcing to villages in Kenya. We continued to find ways to create synergy with and between these various groups. For example, 25 kits from Days for Girls were taken to the Dominican Republic with the group from SCAPC in June. Brian Manning, Director of Mama Maji, visited with the Committee on October 2 to discuss their work on clean water initiatives in Kenya (and also partnered with Days for Girls).

Intergenerational Trip To Dominican Republic

A trip was planned with the assistance of Mission Co-worker JoElla Hollman and launched on June 10-17 to the Dominican Republic. Several youth and adults (eight total) traveled to Santo Domingo in part to renew relationships with the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana church. The Youth of the church held fundraisers and the Committee sponsored a breakfast to assist with travel expenses. The trip included construction as well as participation in a Community Health Survey. Kits from Days for Girls were also provided to the church leadership who will oversee their distribution.

100-Year Anniversary Celebration

Session approval was received to include a fundraising component to the Committee's observance of 100 years of mission by SCAPC. A subcommittee was formed and led by Henrietta Harris and John Geiser, who spent many hours researching SCAPC's missions history utilizing resources from the New Orleans Historical Society and PCUSA. Photographs were solicited from the congregation and past mission trip participants. A booklet was created highlighting SCAPC's 100 years and was distributed to the congregation.

Several events were held throughout the year, with the culmination of the celebration in the month of September. Sarah Chancellor-Watson led a series of Sunday School sessions focused on mission; publications were produced and distributed to the congregation; an exhibit was created with the assistance of the Presbyterian Historical Society; a brunch was held in Frampton Fellowship Hall on September 10; the Thursday Bible Study Group read and discussed "Better Together: The Future of Presbyterian Mission" by Sherran Kay George; Sarah Chancellor-Watson preached on September 24 on a mission theme; and a WNO dinner was held September 27 with a Brazilian themed meal in honor of SCAPC's first missionary who was commissioned to Brazil.

Conclusion

Our busy year concluded with a dinner in Frampton Fellowship Hall on December 4. All church members interested in mission were invited. Global Mission Partner Mama Maji was represented by Director Brian Manning.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Pannell, 2017 Co-Chair

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Jeannie Clinton | Vice-Chair: John Morton, Jr.

During the calendar year 2017, in accordance with our charge, the Member Involvement committee accomplished the following:

- Coordinated and led the annual Session Retreat, held in January 2017.
- Recruited Elders to serve as commissioners for stated Presbytery meetings.
- Worked with the Pastor to select chairs and vice-chairs for all Session committees. Chaired the nominating committee.
- Assigned new Elders to committees.
- Encouraged all Elders to be mentors and friends to new members, by inviting them to small groups, Wednesday night dinners, church services, social activities, Bible studies and other programs of the church
- Helped to recruit volunteers for both Carrollton Summer Camp and Carrollton Christmas Camp.
- Worked with Associate Pastor Sarah Chancellor-Watson to revive dinner parties and Mes Amies programs to help with the integration of new members into the congregation.
- Recruited church members to join our committee and work intentionally to help new members join-in the activities of the church.
- Worked with the Membership and Stewardship committees to further the advancement of efforts to help new members feel welcome and a part of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanie Clinton, 2017 Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Julie Nice | Vice-Chair: Judith Luchsinger

The Membership Committee is active throughout the entire year, with key responsibilities being:

- Welcoming visitors, as an enhancement of the work of the pastors and staff;
- Accepting new members into the church after the main Sunday service, via a special meeting of the Session (requiring at least three Elders to be present);
- Encouraging new members to attend the New Member Orientation class as it is occasionally presented by the Associate Pastor; and
- Inviting new members to special events, such as New Member Night at Wednesday Night Out, in collaboration with other committees, such as Congregational Life.

We started 2017 with 1,092 members and ended with 1,139 as of 12/31/17.

New in 2017 was Hospitality Month, held during April, when current members were encouraged to invite their friends who seem interested in having a church home to attend one or more Sunday services. Special music at Palm Sunday and Easter were an added attraction, as were two Sundays of additional refreshments at coffee hour, with approximately 40 members recruited as special greeters during the month. The outcome was very beneficial: a survey demonstrated that several members invited people to attend church with them, and many current members reported that they made a special effort to speak to more people at church and at coffee hour. Welcome signs designed by Kim Bauer on the staff are still evident in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, where a special table of information for visitors was established.

Of special note is the extraordinary service performed every week by Vice Chair Judith Luchsinger, who contacts new visitors and does appropriate follow-up after subsequent visits. The Membership Committee is grateful for help from everyone on the church staff and from many other committees of the Session. Ebie Strauss and Pierce Young were particularly helpful during Hospitality Month and at the WNO New Member Nights.

Respectfully submitted,
Julianne Nice, 2017 Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair: John Hope, III | Vice-Chair: Richard Seelman

Search Committee for new Director of Administration

The Personnel Committee met regularly in 2017 continuing to work with the Pastors and Director of Administration. The first major project of the year was to establish a Search Committee to identify and hire a replacement for the retiring Director of Administration, Wayne Wilcox. Wayne will retire in January, 2018, after 20 years of outstanding service to SCAPC. The Search Committee solicited applications from several different sources. All applications were reviewed and that committee settled on a group of three finalists. Evelyn Audler was the Search Committee's choice to fill the position. She began working on Nov. 1, 2017. Wayne will work with her through an orientation period.

Nursery School Handbook

The Personal Committee also completed a review, with counsel, of the Nursery School's Employee Handbook. This was a project initiated during 2016 under the leadership of David Mize.

Maternity Leave Policies for Ordained Personnel

At the request of the Associate Pastor, the Committee reviewed her Terms of Call and, more specifically, maternity leave. After review with counsel, updated market research, and discussion by the Committee, it was decided that the terms of call and the Ordained Employees Personnel Policy would be amended. There are two aspects of these changes: coordination in terms of the various types of leave and lengthening the duration of maternity and family leave.

The Committee, as is the custom, met with individual staff members in the fall. Feedback was excellent, and morale continues to be good.

Thirdly, under the leadership of incoming Committee Chair, Richard Seelman, the Personnel Budget for 2018 was approved with funds identified which will allow cost of living increases for the staff.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hope, III, 2017 Chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chair: Leigh Ferguson

Most of the Property Committee's activities in 2017 focused on heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC). We engaged a consulting engineer (Infinity Engineering) to review all our HVAC units with an eye toward identifying units that would need replacement in the near future, whether due to wear-and-tear, obsolete coolant, or both. The Sanctuary chiller was identified as the unit in most need of replacement, and it did not fail to live up to its expectations: it failed in November, and we obtained Session approval to replace it in the first quarter of 2018. We also replaced the two remaining old HVAC units that service the second floor of the Education Building (the Pastors' office area and the East wing of classrooms), and one of the compressors for the Land Building. These upgrades have addressed most of our major priorities, but there will be a few more systems to upgrade in the next few years.

We completed the painting of the interior walls of the Sanctuary where there was water damage, which was the final task for the recent waterproofing project. In total, we have spent just over \$1 million for waterproofing, roofing, gutters, drainage, painting and outdoor lighting for the Sanctuary in the past three years. The building has never looked better.

Other General Property matters addressed during 2017

- The Sanctuary chandelier light bulbs were replaced (we change all these bulbs every three years).
- The audio/visual controls in the Frampton Fellowship Hall were replaced.
- A new, high-speed color copier was purchased for the office.
- Landscaping upgrades for the Sanctuary, Education and Land Buildings.
- Gutter repairs for the Nursery School yard canopy.
- Roof repairs for the Education Building.
- A new "Little Giant" ladder for installing banners in the Sanctuary.
- The special glass in the Land Building front door was repaired.
- A new washing machine for the laundry room.
- A commemorative plaque was installed at the Land Building.

Financials and Budget

We ended up spending more than budget for property maintenance due to the need to replace the second floor HVAC units. However, this expense was offset by an unbudgeted contribution from the Nursery School to the church's operating budget.

Looking Ahead

Our plans for 2018 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, one more system 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.

Thanks to all property team members for their input and participation in another active year, and special thanks to J. Pegues for his dedicated committee leadership and again to Wayne Willcox for his extraordinary efforts towards the stewardship of the Church's property.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh M. Ferguson, 2017 Chair

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Catherine Karas | Vice-Chair: Becka Curry

Bible Adventures

The Children's Sunday School Classes (3 year olds-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, which was helpful for parents in weekly discussions at home. Each age group has 6-8 adult volunteers and attendance this year was strong. Throughout the year we had several group projects. The students had a Pentecost workshop where they explored Acts 2. Our first Sunday School class in September had 75 students in attendance and a group picture was made to be brought to our sister church in Cuba.

Challenger Class

The Challenger Class (4th & 5th Grades), has a strong program. We started the year studying the Book of James and then followed the adult class, *The Creed* by Adam Hamilton, which allowed students and parents to study the same curriculum. We ended the semester studying what it means to be a Reformed Presbyterian. The second semester we studied John Calvin and the seasons of the church. The class helped raise money and work on a picnic table for the Unity Build homeowner. Parents and students cut, sanded, and painted the table and benches, and we delivered it to the homeowner while church members were helping to build her house. In October, 11 students attended a weekend retreat in Bayou Segnette State Park with the theme "Building Christian Character." The class then presented the Children's Message in the 10:30 service teaching the children what they had learned on the retreat. We finished the year with an in-depth study of King David and an Advent class.

Vacation Bible School

VBS was held the first week in June with the theme, "Hero Central." There were 90 participants, 25 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.

Youth

In 2017, the youth ministry continued to serve around 30 students weekly. Caitlin Vanderwolf continued to serve as the youth ministry intern from January through August. She continued her great work with the youth leading Sunday School, helping with Sunday night youth group and stepping into a larger role by covering for Andy Fox, while he was away on sabbatical.

The 2017 Confirmation class included 13 students that joined the church. There was a continued effort to reach out to, and include parents in more of the ministry offerings.

This year we were able to participate in three summer trips with the youth group, the middle school beach retreat (12 students and leaders), an intergenerational mission trip to the Dominican Republic (12 students and leaders), rekindling the relationship with our partner churches in the DR. We also spent another wonderful week at Montreat Youth Conference (15 students and leaders).

Fall 2017 saw a great new class of sixth graders join the youth program and will continue to provide a strong base of leadership for years to come. We made many efforts to replace Caitlin Vanderwolf as youth ministry intern, but it seems that finding another Caitlin is comparable to finding a unicorn. Andy successfully recruited several new youth volunteers to replace the outgoing college graduates and adults who could no

longer serve because of having their own kids.

Young Adults and Families:

2017 was another successful year for the ministry to Young Adults and Families. We have better served our congregation by offering many of our main events on Sunday after church, which has added numbers to our already well-attended programs. This will continue in 2018. Genny Hagler continued in her leadership role as the YAF Coordinator. Sadly, Genny and her husband moved to Asheville, NC, in December 2017. It was wonderful to send them off at our annual Christmas Party, surrounded by friends that in many ways had become more like family. One of the best things about our YAF group is that it has helped families come together to form tight bonds and friendships. One of the biggest highlights in the YAF ministry is that, in 2017, we made a commitment to join with the WNO dinners followed by a weekly, PINTS bible/book study. This has provided some reinforcement that this ministry is not just about fun, social events. Also, our monthly post-church lunches continued to be a great place to meet new folks looking for connection in our church.

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 you find the group that works best for your interests and schedule.

Adult Christian Education

2017 the church embarked on A Year of the Bible. It has been 13 years since we as a church read the Bible in a year. We had several events throughout the year to encourage our readers and scheduled a wrap up party in January 2018. Hallie Boh sent out daily reading with links to audio versions and listed the weekly reading in the E-news letters with Trivia Questions. Kim Bauer printed up a study guide with daily reading and synopsis of each of the books of the Bible.

Throughout the year, Michael O'Keefe led Feasting on the Word, a class that takes an in depth look at the Sunday sermon reading. We started the semester with Three Courageous Talks on suicide, divorce, and grief, led by Lou Irvin, MSW, M.Div. During Lent, the curriculum was *The Creed* by Adam Hamilton which the Challenger Class participated in also. We also did another Adam Hamilton book, *The Call*, about Paul's journeys and ended the semester with Einstein's *Spinoza's God*. We also offered classes geared towards parents, Child Spirituality, Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers and Children and Materialism. Second semester we celebrated 100 years of world mission with a class, had a History of the Early Church, a study of Kierkegaard and study of Richard Rohr *Divine Dance*.

* * *

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Nathan Adams | Vice-Chair: Parke Ellis

Called to Give

“You are to give ... and not reluctantly ... for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:7

Being charged to put together a Stewardship campaign, especially in a church with the size and breadth of programming as SCAPC, is many things – a huge challenge, a lot of work, intimidating, humbling, just to name a few. Fortunately, it is not an effort that we make alone. SCAPC is blessed to have great leadership, both ordained and lay. When approaching the planning process, we were able to stand on the shoulders of the committees who have come before, using their learnings as guidance. For inspiration we looked to Don Frampton for help in locating scriptural references to support our efforts. And most of all, we looked to the Holy Spirit because only with God’s help can any of our efforts be successful.

In the spring we chose as our theme “Called to Give.” In a few words it sums up what the core of what stewardship is. We, as Christians, are called to live together in community and to support one another. There are many ways to do this, but one important one is to give to the church in support of its programs and outreach. Indeed, stewardship is all about responding to God’s call.

In June we developed the materials for the campaign. Special thanks to Kim Bauer, SCAPC’s Special Publications Coordinator. With input from the committee, Kim pulled together a four-page brochure that illustrates the many activities that go on within SCAPC and out in the world.

September 27 saw the formal kick-off of the campaign. We introduced 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. Each week featured different Minutes for Mission, spotlighting programs that directly benefit from congregational stewardship. And each week also heard members speak about why supporting the church is personally important to them. On October 22, Dedication Sunday, we wrapped up the first stage of the campaign.

In November, we recruited a team of volunteers to follow-up with members who had not yet pledged—16 people, including one youth elder, made calls and sent text messages and emails. The group did a great job reaching out to those members who needed an extra reminder or just a little additional encouragement.

By the end of December the church had received pledges totaling \$1,480,000. However there are still pledges coming in, and so for budgeting purposes we estimate that the final pledge totals will be about \$1,570,000. The Stewardship Committee will continue to encourage members to support the mission and ministries of the church.

In comparing 2017 to the prior year, there are two encouraging trends. First, in the prior year SCAPC received pledges totaling \$1,442,000. Anticipated pledges during the current campaign represent a \$128,000 increase, or about 9%. Secondly, the 2017 campaign saw 38 new pledges from new members as well as existing members who chose to make a financial commitment to the church. Together, these trends demonstrate that SCAPC is indeed a generous church that understands and feels the Call to Give.

The 2018 Stewardship Committee will be chaired by Parke Ellis, who is already at work planning for next year’s campaign.

Respectfully submitted,
 Nathan P. Adams III, 2017 Chair

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair: Casey Morriss | Vice Chair: Robert Weaver

The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee is to coordinate and promote 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. The committee has responsibility for the following important elements of the worship experience.

Communion

Communion is now typically served by intinction. It is served every Sunday at the 8:30 service and on a regular basis at the 10:30 service. The pastors work through Bonnie Shoemaker early in the year to publish a communion schedule for the year. Our committee is extraordinarily grateful for Mayson Buffington, who faithfully arranges 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. Four or five Elders are asked to volunteer their service to assist the Pastors in serving communion. The committee is thankful for all of the Elders who served communion this year.

Baptisms

The Worship and Music committee is responsible for requesting Session approval of any scheduled baptism. Twenty baptisms were approved and performed in 2017! The committee is very grateful to Bonnie Shoemaker, who plays an important role in organizing each baptism, communicating to our committee the need for Session approval, and working with Judith Halverson to prepare the special cloth given as a gift and remembrance of this special day. Bonnie also works with Hallie Boh to have the baptism certificate printed and with Pierce Young to put each baptism on the calendar and notify the Sextons. Bonnie prepared the gift of the cloth and 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. She arranges for 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. This year we had a garland draped across the cross for the 8:30 service, and continued the tradition of having children decorate the cross during the processional of the 10:30 service. For next year the committee may consider keeping the garland in the 10:30 service and having the children decorate the BASE of the cross as part of the time with children.

Banners

The banners for festival Sundays continue to be a much appreciated part of worship. Banners adorn the sanctuary on Palm Sunday, Heritage Sunday, and during Advent and Christmas.

Pentecost Sunday

In 2017 the committee continued the tradition (begun in 2015) of starting the services in a special way, with members speaking in tongues other than English to welcome the Holy Spirit at the beginning of both services. We also incorporated a children’s processional with special wands as visual metaphor for flames. The committee is extremely appreciative of Nell Lanier’s efforts to obtain the wands. As Pentecost fell during Summer Sundays in 2017, there was no Children’s Message to feature the excellent leadership and poetry that Jim Rumsfeld provided in 2016. The committee looks forward to a repeat recital of Jim’s poem in future years where the calendar permits. 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.

Scottish Heritage Sunday

One of the bigger items in the Worship and Music budget (a total of \$900) is the special music that is part of Scottish Heritage Sunday. The committee is extraordinarily grateful to Dave Grissett for coordinating many of the aspects of this special service that is enjoyed by so many in the congregation.

All Saints / Remembrance Service

The committee would like to work with the pastoral staff in 2018 to reinstitute a service dedicated to remembering loved ones that have passed away. This could be on All-Saints Sunday or a Remembrance Service scheduled at another time of the year. The committee feels that this type of service is very meaningful to a large portion of the congregation.

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 of our ushers. They serve such an important service in helping the service run smoothly and guiding members and visitors find their way through the church on Sunday mornings.

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,
Casey Morriss, 2017 Chair

A special thanks to our Elder Class of 2017 for three years of hard work!

Nathan Adams
Laura Avery
Anderson Baker
Jeanie Clinton
Seth Hagler

John Hope, III
John Hope, IV
Catherine Karas
John Martin
Casey Morriss

John Morton, Jr.
Julie Nice
Patti Pannell
Barbara Weiser
Pierce Young

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