



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF GLEN ELLYN

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

#### *The Annual Meeting of the Members*

of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Illinois,  
will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 3, 2018.

The meeting will be called to order following the 9:30 a.m. worship service,  
but no earlier than 10:30 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting will include:

The Congregation will discuss and vote on the following motion:

To adopt the Just Peace Covenant.

The Congregation will discuss and vote on suggested revisions  
to the Bylaws on Committee Structure.

The Congregation will vote on the slate of  
Church Council and Committee members.

The Congregation will discuss and vote on the proposed Church budget.

There will be an update on the results of the Capital Campaign.

Alan Bayert, Clerk

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**ROSTER OF 2017-2018  
CHURCH COUNCIL & STAFF**

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Moderator .....	Nancy Ellis
Moderator Designate .....	John Mammaing
Assistant Moderator .....	Kelley Kalinich
Treasurer .....	Tom Petrich
Assistant Treasurer .....	Tim Landry
Clerk .....	Alan Bayert
Administration & Property Committee Chair .....	Jeannine Kannegiesser
Connections Committee Chair .....	Hope Rodine
Education Committee Chair .....	Cathy Christoff
Service & Worship Committee Chair .....	Laura Anderson

**STAFF**

Senior Minister .....	The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
Associate Minister .....	The Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller
Associate Minister for Pastoral Care .....	The Rev. Melissa McCreery Riley
Director of Christian Education .....	Catherine Curtis
Youth Education Coordinator .....	Cathy Basso
Youth Education Coordinator .....	Karrie Sim
Nursery Care Coordinator .....	Huong Luu
Nursery Care Coordinator .....	Kathleen Page
Director of Music Ministry .....	Michele Hecht
Associate for Music Ministry .....	Jeff Haeger
Organist .....	Paul Doerrfeld
Handbell Director .....	Matthew Prins
Seminary Intern .....	Carolyn Lawrence
Director of Communications.....	Sherry Flugel
Business Administrator .....	Sue Markowski
Administrative Assistant .....	Joyce Driver
Sexton .....	José Beltran

# AGENDA

## ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, June 4, 2018 Sanctuary

Invocation .....	The Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller
Call To Order/Determination of Quorum .....	Nancy Ellis
Approval of Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting .....	Nancy Ellis
Annual Reports	
Moderator's Report .....	Nancy Ellis
Treasurer's Report .....	Tom Petrich
Service & Justice Committee Report .....	Laura Anderson
Administration & Property Committee Report .....	Jeannine Kannegiesser
Education Committee Report .....	Cathy Christoff
Connections Committee Report .....	Hope Rodine
Approval of Bylaws revisions .....	John Mammaing
Capital Campaign Results .....	Dave Mook / Sylvia Rodee
Just Peace Covenant Adoption .....	Laura Anderson
Approval of Fiscal 2018-2019 Operating Budget .....	Tom Petrich
Nomination and Election of Officers and Committee Members .....	Hope Rodine
Opportunity for Comments from the Members .....	Nancy Ellis
Incoming Moderator's Remarks .....	John Mammaing
Closing Prayer .....	The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

### OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

At First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, we rejoice in our community of faith, strengthened by diversity, including: culture, economic status, age, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, and physical or mental abilities. We affirm that God is glorified when we welcome all people to our spiritual community, as Jesus did. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

### GLOBAL MISSION STATEMENT

A Global Mission Church: prays regularly for partners, missionaries and the world; educates its members about global issues from preschool age to adult; seeks justice for the "least of these" in the international community; receives the gifts of the global church; gives to the work of global mission; sends its members into the world to share the Good News; and grows in sharing the story of God's mission with others.

### CHURCH OBJECTIVES

Our objectives for the next year are to continue on our journey toward our purpose (Core Values) as the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn:

- Praise God in fellowship with others, and proclaim and teach the gospel;
- Create and sustain a community of mutual care, support and acceptance;
- Help people find a system of ethical values based on the teachings of Jesus, and to provide a vehicle for applying those values in the community and the wider world;
- Foster spiritual growth, both individual and collective; and
- Enable individuals to recognize and use their talents in the service of God and humanity.

# MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

## First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn Annual Meeting Minutes June 4, 2017

### Attendance:

#### Staff:

The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister  
The Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, Associate Minister  
The Rev. Melissa McCreery Riley, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care

#### Officers:

Rick Mattoon, Moderator  
Nancy Ellis, Moderator Designate  
John Mammaing, Assistant Moderator  
Tom Petrich, Treasurer  
Tim Landry, Assistant Treasurer

#### Committee Chairs:

Jeff Basso, Administration & Property Committee Chair  
Tom Pulver, Connections Committee Chair  
Andy Livingston, Education Committee Chair  
Jerry Schurmeier, Service and Worship Committee Chair

#### Also present:

Members of the Congregation

After an invocation led by the Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, the Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn was called to order on June 4, 2017 at 10:50 a.m. The meeting was held in the church sanctuary with Moderator Rick Mattoon chairing the proceedings and Sara Waterloo (filling in for Clerk Leland Livingston) recording the minutes. A quorum of the congregation was determined by John Mammaing. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of June 5, 2016 were approved as recorded.

The Moderator and the four Committee Chairs each offered their summary report of the past year's highlights with an expression of their joy of service to our church community.

Nancy Ellis introduced and presented for approval that FC CGE become a dues-paying member of DuPage United. A lengthy discussion followed led by Chuck Lukavsky from the Social Justice group.

Nancy Ellis presented and moved for approval changes to the current by-laws for Service and Worship (new title to be: Service and Justice Committee) and the Connections Committee as detailed on page 12 of the Annual Report. A discussion followed.

John Mammaing led a presentation for an upcoming Capital Campaign designed to support the building reserve fund and to fund the projects that will maintain the church building, contribute to our mission and giving and retire any remaining debt. A discussion followed.

Tom Petrich presented for approval the Fiscal 2017-2018 Operating Budget. A discussion followed.

Tom Pulver presented and moved for approval the slate of new officers and committee members.

Rick Mattoon opened the floor to comments.

Nancy Ellis as incoming Moderator spoke to the congregation about her past two years and her hopes for the coming year. She charged the entire congregation to "find something that speaks to you and get involved" and to reach out and invite others to participate.

#### The following motions were moved, seconded and passed unanimously by a voice vote of the congregation:

- The approval of DuPage United Membership
- The approval of the by-laws revisions as stated on page 12 of the Annual Report
- The approval of the 2017-2018 Operating Budget
- The election of officers and committee members for the July 2017 term as listed on page 18 of the 2017 FCCGE Annual Report.

The Rev. Seth Carey closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Waterloo (acting on behalf of Leland Livingston, Clerk)

## REPORTS OF THE PASTORAL STAFF AND CHURCH OFFICERS

**SENIOR MINISTER,** The Reverend Seth Ethan Carey

*“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news...to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Isaiah 61:1-2*



When the prophet Isaiah spoke these words, it was to reassure the people of Israel that a new day had arrived. After decades of exile from Jerusalem, and after its destruction at the hands of the Babylonian Empire, Cyrus of Persia had at last routed the oppressors and allowed them to go home and rebuild their ruined city.

This year, we find ourselves in similarly joyful, albeit less dramatic circumstances. After years of watching our beloved, aging church building suffer the ravages of time, we came together to begin restoring it to its former glory. We were called forward into a new day, and our congregation answered that call without hesitation. Our *Called Forward* capital campaign raised over 2.6 million dollars for our building reserve fund, to care for our home for the foreseeable future. Twenty percent of those funds will be used to renovate Pilgrim Hall into a place that will feel more like home for our homeless PADS guests who sleep there every Sunday night, including enhanced shower and laundry facilities. And with those funds raised, we can now dedicate more of our annual fund dollars towards ministry and mission. For the first time in three years, we’re able to propose a balanced budget that still allows us to pursue our Christian vision without compromise. We have also restructured our bylaws to allow for greater financial oversight and strategic planning, all in the service of a stronger, more sustainable church. And we’re continuing to grow; we’ve been blessed to welcome 33 new members to our community this year, including 15 confirmands.

Of course, dollars and numbers mean nothing without spiritual maturity. I am so proud of this congregation; we have weathered much over the years, but throughout each challenge we persevere and prevail, each of us lending our gifts and talents and treasure to sustain this bastion of radical hospitality, justice, and progressive Christianity. You’ll read all about the many things we’ve done and continue to do in these pages, and I hope you find more than information in them; I hope you find inspiration, just as I do when I see all of you doing our Lord’s work. Thank you, each of you, for making this place what it is.

Our world today, so often, feels like it is drowning in chaos. But here, the bell that our forebears hung in our tower still rises above all that would thwart God’s will; above hatred, above division, above fear. And it calls us forward, towards another year of the Lord’s favor.

*“And where you go I will go, and where you stay, I will stay.  
Your people will be my people and your God my God.”- Ruth 1:16*



Four years ago almost to the day, I sat in PopPops', my grandfather's, old tool shed that my parents had redone as a bunkhouse for when my brother and I visit this sleepy little Virginia town. I sat here four years ago and I finished my paper for ordination. I shared the ways I felt God's call on my life, I shared my hopes and dreams for ministry. By this point, I was already in conversations with the search committee from First Congregational. I was nervous and so excited about what our ministry together would hold.

Four years ago, I met the freshmen in our Senior High program - now seniors - a group that would forever shape me as a pastor. These incredible young people walked with me these first years of ministry. As they discovered who they are, who they are becoming and who they hope to be; I too was discovering who I am as a pastor and who I hope to be. Seeing these seniors walk across graduation stages this year will be bitter sweet. I am so excited for their next great adventures knowing God goes with them. I will also miss the wonderful humans they are.

Four years ago, I was teaching church school most Sundays and solely doing youth ministry, but that changed as I have changed and grown as a pastor and I am so grateful. In the past four years, I have been pushed to explore many facets of ministry moving from a siloed ministry, as the Associate Minister of Youth and Families, to a generalist Associate Minister. I have had the opportunity to learn and grow as a pastor in ways I could never have imagined – preaching, teaching, pastoral care - but also exciting new projects. Inspired by this congregation's stories of faith, I have loved seeing how our Advent Devotional continues to gather your stories as fifth gospels that reflect the movement of God in our midst. I was so touched to work with Mark Lutz and the incredible inspiration team on this capital campaign gathering your stories of gratitude, learning of the ways God's abundance has been a part of all of our lives. I loved gathering in your homes hearing you all talk about what the church means to you and the dreams of who God is calling us to be. I have sat at hospital beds with you holding hands and shedding tears when the cruelty of life seems too much - my heart has broken with you - and thanks be that God knits us and it back together marked by what life has held. This past year I have supervised incredible seminary interns who give me hope and joy for the church. And with Seth's sabbatical last summer, you all allowed me to explore what it meant to truly love our neighbor as the "other" in our midst with a sermon series that invited people, ignored or stigmatized, to reflect how we can be in relationship with all our Muslim neighbors, those struggling with addiction or mental illness, immigrants and refugees. I am so grateful for the ways we have walked and explored our faith, our service, and our God.

This passage from the book of Ruth speaks of two women who needed one another to survive and thrive after the loss of everything they knew. In a world of uncertainty, and as someone who was just setting out on ministry those years ago so uncertain myself, this church has allowed me to survive and really thrive as a pastor. You all have taught me of the love of God and I am so grateful. I cannot wait to see where this road will take us but thanks be we get to walk together.

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” - Ephesians 2:4-5*



The annual report and meeting asks us to reflect and summarize the past year in the church’s life of faith in action. There are many wonderful things that have happened beyond our expectations, and there are may be things that have not met our expectations. This holds true for the entirety of the church, specific committees, relationships and within our own personal spiritual lives.

This meeting also marks our new year; our time to reflect and reboot, to remember and refresh, reminisce and recharge. We thank those who have served and welcome those who will. Those who have served, and will serve, do so as an expression of love for God, each other and the greater good beyond these walls. God is merciful and God is gracious. We too, with the help of God, will be merciful and gracious with each other when we get it right, but even more importantly, when we don’t. A faith community walks with mercy, love and grace to grow the dynamic body of Christ. Serve, give, and love freely in these walls and beyond, even if you don’t get it quite right, know there is mercy and grace.

Blessings on jobs well done, and bless us as we approach the changes and challenges which will be put before us this year. We pray our actions reflect the love of God and our love for one another.

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

“God loves a cheerful giver”, this embodies our congregation. We are cheerful givers and a generous community. We are truly a Community Like No Other.

**W**e are generous with our building, sharing it with a number of organizations that serve our wider community - AA, PADS, One Voice, and Boy Scouts - to name a few.

We are generous with our collective voice. We belong to DuPage United to join together to fight for those who need a choir of voices for their causes to be heard and acted upon.

We are generous with our Open and Affirming pledge. We are a welcoming Christian church in the western suburbs of Chicago. How many youth and adults come at the invitation of a friend, because they “didn’t fit” into their home church, only to find a home here.

We are generous with our time, whether we are part of a community group, committee, or ministry team, or we volunteer or march together. We share our time, faith, and stories as one body of Christ. We support one another through our friendship and prayers in good time and in times of struggle.

I want to thank those who accepted the call to serve on committees this year and in years past. The dedication of each Committee to serve the staff, congregation, and our community is another testimony to the generous spirit of our congregation. Blessings to all of you for your continued service.

We are generous with our treasure. We financially support Walk-In Ministry, PADS, Bridge Communities, Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center, and other organizations.

But most importantly, we are cheerfully generous. We don’t give or our time and treasure “reluctantly,” we do it with joy to serve others through our faith. In this past year, our congregation heard the “Call Forward” to allow us to confidently provide for the needs of our church building, so that we can continue to be generous to the community we serve for years to come. This was done in no small part due to the outstanding staff in which our congregation has great faith. We know they have the right vision to see us forward. We also owe thanks to the Called Forward and Annual Fund campaign team members. This was truly a team effort guided by divine grace.

To make sure that we are good stewards of the generous contributions forthcoming, we are asking the congregation to vote on modifying our By-laws to add a Finance Committee, and to modify the responsibilities of the Administration & Property Committee to solely focus on Property & Grounds. In 2000, there was a necessary consolidation of Committees from 15 to 4. The Administration & Property Committee was born having responsibility for both the maintenance and management of the building and grounds, and also the responsibility for overseeing the financial affairs of the church. Given the ever-increasing time required for the Committee to manage building maintenance, repair and capital activities, the Council saw the need to have a separate committee that would be responsible for Financial oversight in cooperation with the Treasurer. The proposed responsibilities are outlined in this Annual Report. The presence of a fully engaged finance committee is a strong indication that our Church is committed to good stewardship and is actively building and preserving the financial resources necessary to support the accomplishment of our mission, both for the short and the long term.

On a personal note, the past 3 years as a member of the moderator team has been an experience like no other. I began during a time of transition and have had the privilege of observing Seth successfully grow and lead us to the next chapter. I was mentored by both Tim Waterloo and Rick Mattoon; they still offer me sage advice today. I could not ask for a better moderator team that follows with John Mamminga and Kelley Kalinich. The beauty of our rotating three-year model is that every moderator has unique gifts that, when combined, offer a wonderful cacophony of wisdom and discernment that provides for a rich dialogue as we gather to make decisions about the workings of this wonderful congregation. In addition to John and Kelley, I have had the pleasure of serving with three terrific Councils, and am very pleased to have had Hope Rodine, Laura Anderson, Cathy Christoff, Jeannine Kannegiesser, Tom Petrich, Tim Landry and Alan Bayert by my side on Council this year. Their generosity with their time, opinions, suggestions, and talents have made us all better. Thank you.

As we enter into FY18-19 I have never felt more confident about the short- and long-term vision of FCCGE. Our staff, leadership, youth programs, justice focus, congregation engagement and generosity are like no other.

**THE CLERK, Alan Bayert**

<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2017</b>	<b>1550</b>
TOTAL MEMBERS ADDED:	+ 40
(27 New, 1 Transfer, 25 Confirmands)	
TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED:	- 1
(Includes transfers and members removed by own request)	
DEATHS:	- 4
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2018</b>	<b>1570</b>
BAPTISMS:	10
(3 Adults & Confirmands, 7 Infants & Children)	
MARRIAGES:	7
(2 Offsite but officiated by FCCGE Clergy)	
<b>AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>287</b>
SPECIAL SERVICES:	
Christmas Eve	969
Ash Wednesday	118
Maundy Thursday	146
Good Friday	89
Easter Sunday	645
<b>AVERAGE CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>86</b>
(61 Nursery - 12th Grade, 25 Volunteers & Staff)	
<b>TOTAL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE (Children &amp; Adults)</b>	<b>373</b>

*(All figures are compiled from data beginning June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018)*

# PROPOSED EXECUTIVE CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS

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## PRIMARY ITEMS

### 1) Establish a Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will provide financial oversight to build and preserve the financial resources necessary to support the mission of this Church, both for the short and the long term.

Specifically, the Finance Committee will:

- Develop an annual operating budget with Staff and Committee chairs to submit to the Treasurer for preparation, Council for review and Congregation for approval.
- Monitor adherence to the budget and bring expenditure requests outside of the budget to Council for approval.
- Set long-range financial goals along with funding strategies to achieve them.
- Develop multi-year operating budgets that integrate strategic plan objectives and initiatives.
- Draft an investment policy detailing the objectives of the investment portfolio, guidelines on the asset allocation of the portfolio based on a predetermined level of risk tolerance, authorizations for executing transactions, and disposition of earned income for Council approval. Review annually and update as needed.
- Create, approve, and update, as necessary, policies that help ensure the assets of the organization are protected.
- Arrange for an annual audit and ensure follow up on any issues mentioned.
- Supervise matters pertaining to insurance.
- Manage record retention (archives).
- Serve as a liaison to the Endowment Team.
- Serve as a liaison to the Annual Fund Team.

### 2) Establish Staff-Directed Ministries

The Staff-Directed Ministries will be teams that are guided by Staff and do not report to a Standing Committee. Members can volunteer for a term of their choice on any of the following teams, provided they complete the appropriate training, if required:

- a. Education
- b. Music
- c. Worship

### 3) Remove Education from the Committee Structure and move to Staff-Directed Ministries

**SECONDARY ITEMS**

- 1) Change the name of Administration and Property Committee to Property & Grounds Committee**
- 2) Remove Worship functions from Connections and Reassign to Worship Ministry**
- 3) Document the responsibilities of the Annual Fund Team**
- 4) Update our Grievances policy**
  - Remove responsibility from Connections Committee
  - Formalize roles for Moderators and Council
  - Increased clarity for staff on process
- 5) Change Church Council minimum number of meetings from 10 to 9**
- 6) Add a Youth Member to Council**

## REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

### ADMINISTRATION & PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Jeannine Kannegiesser, Chair

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The Administration and Property Committee members humbly accepted the responsibility of stewarding our beautiful building over the past year. Of note this year was the successful capital campaign that this church community enthusiastically supported. We are grateful to the leaders of the Called Forward Campaign Committee and every member and friend who pledged support. Members of this committee, who understand many of the unique needs of this beautiful vintage building, eagerly anticipate a new phase in the life of this community over the next ten years. We are looking forward to serving within the context of a fully funded reserve. This will enable our community to invest in the maintenance and improvement of spaces where much of our local mission work happens every week.

I am privileged to share some highlights of the work committee did this year and a summary of ongoing projects. The additional resources that our community has committed will aid this committee in properly executing its charge to maintain and improve our house of worship for our current and future members.

#### **Completed Projects 2017-2018:**

- Hosted two Clean up Your House (of Worship Days), one in fall and one in spring to engage members in work that maintains and improves our house. Projects completed during these days included: boiler room clean out, painting in west entrance and main level bathrooms, deep clean/declutter in nursery and multi-purpose rooms, repair to downspouts, removing accumulated junk from the building, fall garden clean up (in the rain!).
- The fire door between the sanctuary staircase and the Temple of Light hallway was replaced with a new fire door with a window to increase visibility between the hallway and staircase. The PADS volunteer entrance was replaced with a new, sturdy door that features the original stained glass.
- The team engaged a new HVAC maintenance contractor this year – Service Express – and a subcommittee of current committee members took time to develop a strong working relationship with their technicians and managers. The company installed duct insulation to reduce heat loss from the boiler room to the offices, a pre-cursor to eventual floor repairs and re-carpeting in the office area. The new controls they installed for our four existing boilers will help spread wear on this equipment and hopefully extend their lives. They also installed new danfoss valves on radiators in certain areas of the building to enable more local temperature control. The HVAC subcommittee is working with Service Express to plan for ongoing HVAC equipment replacement and maintenance that will, in the long run, increase building energy efficiency and reduce the church's environmental footprint.
- Lighting upgrades this year included replacement of fluorescent tubes with LED tubes throughout the building and upgraded ballasts for fixtures that required it. Thanks to José and a team of volunteers who made the installation possible. This project will save energy and reduce maintenance as LED bulbs have a longer useful life than fluorescent bulbs. The exterior lights that illuminate our beloved bell tower have been replaced with energy saving and long lasting LED fixtures. Some members of the committee also toured a Naperville company to see their Lutron lighting system in operation and to gain knowledge about current technology for lighting design.
- Engaged with Called Forward Campaign to develop informational posters, provide information about reserve study intentions. Interviewed ministry teams that use Pilgrim Hall to solicit input into needs/desires for improvements that will assist with mission work within our building and hired architectural firm to create concept drawing. Spoke at member meetings during the campaign to represent the importance of caring for our beautiful building.

- Installed new handrail on lectern side of altar to match the one on the pulpit side to improve accessibility.
- Completed flooring condition inventory in anticipation of phased flooring improvements.

**Ongoing projects:**

- **Maintenance and Repair:** There is a roof repair scheduled to begin in May 2018 on our part of our clay tile roof above the sanctuary staircase – we hope to correct a leak that has plagued that area of the church. We are vetting roofing companies to replace the chapel roof, with the hope of finding a company that can work with us over the next several years on roof projects that were anticipated by the Reserve Study and necessary due to leaks. Ductwork insulation on roof mounted HVAC units is in need of repair. We are working to develop a plan to repair and/or replace this insulation to halt water infiltration into the building.
- **Approved Reserve Fund Projects:** The Council approved a Stained Glass Restoration project that will take place during the fine weather this year. Council also approved replacement of south entrance doors. We will reuse existing stained glass.
- **Reserve Fund Projects in the Pipeline:** Pilgrim Hall cost estimates are underway to develop a more detailed plan for remodeling that is within the scope of expected capital campaign contributions. Soliciting bids for Chapel Roof Replacement and gutter/downspout replacement for west face of church, with the hope of engaging a new roofing company that could work with us longer term to address our long list of roofing needs. Replacement of fire alarm panel will be needed shortly.
- **Other Issues:** Collecting input on accessibility issues within our building including: need for bathrooms where opposite gender partners can safely assist someone who requires help, automatic door openers on main entrance, altar accessibility, sanctuary seating.

I am grateful to this year's Administration & Property team for their dedicated service and feel that I am leaving this committee in very good hands for next year. Thank you to every member who cares for this building in the course of your work serving the community and through your annual and capital fund gifts. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this community through membership on this committee over the past three years and our Church Council this year.

Jeannine Kannegiesser (chair), Andy Ginger, Joe Lombardo, Eva Schuchardt, Joe Mahr, Ted Harman, Rob Ebl, Bill Schumacher, Don Foster, Rick Hokenson, Steve Baker.

Staff Liaison: Sue Markowski – thank you for your many years of service to this community and particularly for your enthusiastic participation in our monthly meetings and for often serving as the institutional memory we needed to help us understand the context of decisions.

## MINISTRIES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### **Columbarium Ministry - Jack Breeser**

The Columbarium Memorial Center of First Congregational Church is located on the West side of the South wall of the Church Narthex. This "Cherished Memories Memorial Center" was installed in 2004 and dedicated on Sunday October 1, 2004. The center provides 50 individual niches and 16 companion units for the inurnment of the remains of members of our church, a spouse, immediate family, former members and friends of the church.

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn is the owner and manager of the memorial center. The ministry team is responsible for sales, accounting of income and expenditures, processing applications, official record keeping and facility maintenance. In just fourteen years our church families have purchased 13 of the 50 individual niches and 12 of the 16 companion niches.

The columbarium was financed as an investment of our Endowment Committee. Income from the sale of memorial units has been repaid to the Endowment Committee.

By adding cremation memorialization, the church continues the long tradition of burial in the church. Since the time of early Christianity, the church has been the final resting place for members; first in the catacombs beneath the church and later in church cemeteries. The Memorial Columbarium at our church continues this tradition.

On Rally Day, we distributed information on the Columbarium to create greater awareness among our membership. Information regarding purchase of a niche can be obtained from the church office or by contacting Jack Breeser (630-469-9085) or anyone on the ministry team— Susie Temple, Don Foster, Charles Post.

### **Garden Ministry – Ted Harman**

The Garden Ministry cares for the various Church gardens. This includes weeding, laying mulch and adding new plantings. In addition to providing beauty to the Church grounds, we are proud to support Glen Ellyn's efforts to support pollinators.

Nancy Bell joined the Garden Ministry this year and will be integrating new flowers and plants into our gardens. Rob Ebl has continued to help with mulching and other tasks. Rob and Heather Ebl have also stepped up to plant the flowers in the pots in the front of the Church. We thank Karen Ellis for her years of service in maintaining these pots. Lee and Jan Anderson have agreed to maintain the flower boxes on the ramp along the parking lot entrance. We thank Sharon Wussow for her years of service in maintaining these boxes. Gabe Koenig and Leslie Foster have helped with the weeding of the gardens.

We welcome anyone who would like to assist in the care and maintenance of our gardens.

### **Handyperson Ministry – Rick Hokenson**

The Handyperson Ministry has had another busy year adding multiple doorstops, closet poles, coat hooks and deadbolts.

We are very grateful for Sharon Wussow's leadership of a team that replaced 600 plus pew cushion buttons in the sanctuary. We appreciate those who helped build book holders on the pews, replace broken parts on carts and shelving. Jack Miller patched and painted walls for the popular Visual Arts ministry. A new hand railing along the stairs to the altar was hand-crafted to match another and installed.

Finally, like every year, a few plumbing issues surfaced and were handled. Many thanks to Jose for all the help and support he gives us.

During the past year, the Connections Committee continued to develop and implement support of the Church in aiding our Church's goal to be a Community Without Walls. The Connections Committee was formed five years ago to bring focus to the important work of engaging and connecting our members and visitors more fully in the life of the church. This past year, an outstanding group of volunteers have worked to meet the goals of the Committee. These members with whom I have had the pleasure work are: Erin Clark, Anne Gaertner, Stephanie Harman, Melinda Mahr, Kate Roth, Susan Selzer, Jim Springer and Jesse White.

Over the past year, the Connections Committee has worked on several Church-wide initiatives:

- At the start of the Church year, the Committee coordinated Rally Day which serves as the official kick-off of the church's program year, with ministry teams sharing information about their work and securing volunteers and leaders for their teams
- The Committee recognized an opportunity to encourage visitors (e.g. special event guests) to join us for Sunday services by placing signage with Sunday service information near doors and gathering spots. We also wanted to provide special nametags and pamphlets for visitors within the church. We worked with Sherry Flugel to get these visitor / welcome boards created and displayed in the lobby and near doorways within the church.
- Our team coordinated a church-wide event at the Morton Arboretum on February 22 to support the 2018 Capital Campaign. This event provided a fun night out for many of the Church's members and gave the Capital Campaign team an opportunity to share details regarding the funding needed over the next ten years to support our church building and missions.
- The Committee hosted our second annual welcome brunch on April 22 for new members that had joined the church since the previous new member brunch that happened in June 2017. A special and heart-felt thank you to the Kitchen Chix who catered this event with loving and gracious hospitality and delicious food.

The following are initiatives that the team has begun working on for the upcoming year:

- We will be coordinating a church picnic to happen this fall following the second service on Sunday, September 23 at Lake Ellyn Boat House. We encourage all members to attend as this provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and fun for all ages.
- We are managing the effort to update the church directory this fall. An important offering that we want to provide with this directory is the ability of our members to be able to access directory information online.

Further activities of the Connections Committee will include ways in which the Church can better engage members with volunteer opportunities within the church. In doing so we are engaging people with the skills, passion and capacity to make a difference within the church and get back more than they put in. We will also look to take on the development and support of the community group structure within the church. Community groups have been greatly successful in allowing our members to build deeper connections with one another while further exploring their faith.

The Connections Committee is also charged with submitting candidates to serve in leadership positions within the church. We are pleased to submit the nominees for the slate of open positions on committees for the church.

Finally, a thank you to all of the committee members. It has been a blessing and inspiration to work with each of you and to reinforce the idea of how volunteers can make a real difference in our lives.

## NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following are the four committees and church officer positions that form the core of our church government. Each committee lists current members with year their terms expire. The names listed in **bold** designate nominees to serve terms as indicated beginning July 1, 2018.

Moderator – John Mamminga	'19
Moderator Designate – Kelley Kalinich	'19
Assistant Moderator – Ted Harman	'19
Treasurer – Tim Landry	'19
Clerk – Jennifer Umlauf	'19

### Connections Committee

Tom Pulver (Chair)	'19
<b>Elaine Metzger (Vice-Chair)</b>	<b>'20</b>
Erin Clark	'19
Anne Gaertner	'19
Melinda Mahr	'19
Stephanie Harman	'20
Susan Selzer	'20
Jim Springer	'20
<b>Maria Metz</b>	<b>'21</b>
<b>Bill Sailor</b>	<b>'21</b>

### Property & Grounds Committee

Andy Ginger (Chair)	'20
Steve Baker	'19
Don Foster	'19
Rick Hokenson	'19
<b>Joe Lombardo</b>	<b>'19</b>
Bill Schumacher	'19
Joe Mahr	'20
<b>Chris Henkel</b>	<b>'21</b>
<b>Mike Metzger</b>	<b>'21</b>
<b>Hugh Walborn</b>	<b>'21</b>
<b>Sharon Wussow</b>	<b>'21</b>

### Finance Committee

Kelley Kalinich (Mod Desig - Chair)	'19
Tom Petrich	'19
Dennis Kalten	'20
Tim Landry (Adjunct)	'20
Dave Mook (Endowment)	'21
Sylvia Rodee (Annual Fund)	'21
Rich Troyer	'21

### Service & Justice Committee

Chuck Lukavsky (Chair)	'20
Carol Fate	'19
Jackie McCarthy	'19
Nancy Bell	'20
Karen Pulver	'20
<b>Toni Arcely</b>	<b>'21</b>
<b>George Douaire</b>	<b>'21</b>
<b>Gina Meyers</b>	<b>'21</b>

### Endowment Committee

Dave Mook (Chair)	'19
Darryl Baltimore	'19
Liz Werth	'19

### Youth Representative to Council

Calla Mahr	'19
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## FCCGE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

*Membership in this congregation is open to any person who requests it, who confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, who agrees to its purpose and covenant, and who agrees to abide by the responsibilities of a member. These responsibilities are determined by the Connections Committee and, according to our Constitution, are to be distributed to all members annually. As a faithful reminder of the promise we made to serve God together and to support each other in our respective journeys of faith; members of this faith community are expected to:*

**Attend Worship.** We come together to be centered on God in community with others. Regular attendance nourishes and renews our spirit. It reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves. We are strengthened to interact within our daily community with an attitude of Christian love and fellowship.

**Volunteer.** Contribute your time and talents to the church on a ministry team or church sponsored event(s). We are the hands and feet of Christ. Enjoy the fellowship of others as you engage in meaningful activities within this faith community.

**Give.** *“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21)* Our church budget is funded entirely by the financial generosity of our members. You are encouraged to contribute a percentage of your resources. By doing so, as your resources change the dollar amount may vary; but your commitment to support the life and work of the church remains constant.

**Pray.** We believe that God is still speaking and that also means that God is listening. During worship we pray in community centered on God, supported by each other. During the week, we pray privately, for each other and to grow and move forward in our own personal faith journey.

**Vote.** As a member of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn you have the right and the responsibility to vote for nominated lay leaders, to approve the annual church budget, and other important matters of the church that require congregational approval. Your involvement making decisions in the life of the church is essential to help our community of faith grow and change centered on God.

## MINISTRIES UNDER THE CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

### Community Groups – Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

Though the church is knit together by various communities—ministry teams, committees, social circles—the obvious manifestation of *intentional* community at FCCGE is undoubtedly our Community Groups. In an effort to nurture more intimate communities and personal connections in our church, we have begun to sow the seeds of a small group ministry. The hope is that this will provide an opportunity for people to connect in a meaningful way, to deepen their faith and their relationships with God and with one another. This past year we have been looking at how we do community groups- how do we invite others to be a part- how do we grow deep while not being exclusive and importantly how do we make sure there is room for all! We hope to have a community group kick off in the fall continuing groups that are thriving and helping to create new ones as well so that all members can be a part of this important way we live into God's beloved community with one another.

### Kitchen Chix – Susie Temple

The busy year for the Kitchen Chix started in September when we served appetizers to 650 people at Rally Day. Sundays with Food (a random Sunday when we serve food after each service) included Cookies after the Children's Cantata and Soup/Chili. Our Easter tradition served up bird's nest cookies and deviled eggs to almost 1000 parishioners. We prepared close to 2000 meals for All Church Dinners, Special Lunches, Brunches, Lunches and Dinners for Visitors, Confirmation Celebration, and other special needs. We cater Ecclesiastical Councils and Ordinations. After Memorial Services, our compassionate care served lunch, savories and thousands of cookies to comfort the bereaved.

Our dedicated Chix number around 50 talented, willing workers who cook, serve, clean and donate both time and food items year round. We accept any challenge and eagerly dish up our culinary treats with a bounty of love and sharing. An emergency email will elicit volunteers who give their time and talents enthusiastically to a variety of requests. Anyone who wants an excellent way of becoming involved is welcome. Many of the best onion choppers, can openers, recyclers, gourmet chefs, table setters and eager workers say the kitchen is where it's at! As we prepare nourishment, we are nurtured; as we serve, we are blessed.

### Men's Retreat - John Helledy

About the second weekend in October, hardy men of FCCGE head for the Men's Retreat at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, Michigan. We arrive on a Friday Afternoon for some outdoor activities. We settle in to our personal lodge, and as the sun sets, we head out for pizza.

On Saturday morning, we enjoy a wonderful camp breakfast (all you can eat), then focus on a morning of theology mixed in with some travels taken by the group. This year, we had some DVD's and discussions on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther – very informative! A great camp lunch is served followed by a walk on the beach of Lake Michigan, a visit to a local winery, golf, etc. The camp staff puts on a fabulous turkey dinner, then we usually return to our lodge for some educational DVD's. After another great breakfast on Sunday morning, we wrap up the weekend with a retreat summary at the lodge, then head back home.

### New Comers Ministry - Clara Hughes

The newcomers' ministry held 4 welcoming sessions with 25 guests attending. 18 newcomers who attended sessions within the last 18 months, chose to become members of our family of faith. During the newcomer session, either a member of the education staff, clergy or a member of the Connections attended the sessions to provide additional focus on the life and faith of our congregation. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we held a new member brunch with scrumptious food made by our very own Kitchen Chix. Childcare was available and welcomed by families and their younger children who wanted to play.

Leaders of the newcomers' ministry include Clara Hughes, Hal Temple and Virginia Highstone. Our ministry would not be successful if it were not for the efforts of our staff. We especially thank Sherry Flugel for communications and Joyce Driver who manages the administrative aspects of the welcoming sessions, joining and membership.

### **Open and Affirming Ministry - Virginia Highstone**

Members: Virginia Highstone, Hal Temple, Penny Andersen, Cathy and Bob Tyler, Mary Ellen and Chuck Lukavsky

The purpose of the Open and Affirming Ministry is to keep the tenets of the Open and Affirming Statement fresh and vital in the eyes of the congregation through education and testimony. We welcome other members to join us in our work to give life to the Open and Affirming Statement.

We continue to maintain a presence with the New Members' Ministry in order that those seeking to join the church are familiar with its commitment as an ONA congregation, and we thank Clara Hughes for her continued support of this commitment.

For the second year, we have focused on issues faced by local transgender youth. We support GVOE (Glenbard Voices of Equity), the advocacy group made up of students and parents at Glenbard high schools. Three members of our ministry regularly attend GVOE meetings, which are held here at FCCGE. In January we celebrated ONA Sunday and used the opportunity to introduce Glenbard Voices of Equity to the congregation both during and after the service. Chuck Lukavsky gave testimony explaining our support of GVOE and its work to stop discrimination against transgender youth. Two members of GVOE, a father and son, were also prepared to give testimony, which turned into the day's sermon. They were warmly welcomed by the congregation, as they explained the complexities and discrimination faced by transgender youth.

After the second service, a panel of GVOE members presented a short program in the chapel to an audience of over forty. The students were able to advocate for their rights and to explain how the four Glenbard schools accommodate (or fail to accommodate) their needs. A question and answer session followed. Thanks to the support of Kathy and Bob Tyler, we were able to provide a light lunch for panelists and audience members.

### **Prime Timers (Senior Ministry) - Jack Breeser**

The Prime Timers was founded in 2002 to develop a Senior Ministry at our church in an effort to provide interesting activities for our retired Church members and their friends.

The planning team meets at the church on the second Tuesday each month during the school year. Members of the team are: Rocki DeVoy (Chair), Jack Breeser, Nancy DJangi, Eunice Green, Linda Hoornbeek, Louise Kolar, Pudge Krick, Fred Nauert, Betty Peaslee, and Jerry Schurmeier. The planning team welcomes any interested church member to join this group.

Our main events are the Brown Bag luncheons held monthly on the third Wednesday at 12:00 noon in Pilgrim Hall during the school year. This past year, we welcomed speakers from the Glen Ellyn Police Department, DuPage United, and Bridge Communities. This summer, we plan to attend a West Suburban Symphony Concert at Cantigny on July 14th. Watch for further details.

Once each month, our Planning team helps prepare and mail The Senior Newsletter to our senior church members. Contact the church office if you wish to receive this mailing.

### **Women's Retreat - Rev. Melissa McCreery Riley**

Another winter's day was made warmer with the love and camaraderie of more than 50 FCCGE women and a few of their friends and family. Held again on the Saturday of Super Bowl Weekend at the Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca, we enjoyed an expansive continental breakfast bar, coffee and conversation. Our opening introductions led to laughter and connections that you just can't make in the bustle of a Sunday morning around coffee at church. Back by popular demand, Dr. Sandra Carrey shared a presentation regarding the correlation of food and mood. There was plenty of time for conversation at lunch and throughout the afternoon break-out sessions. Gentle yoga offered by our own teachers, Kristen Malone and Cathy Christoff, offered quiet time to connect mind, body and spirit.

We are looking for women who want to organize and shape this special day next year, **Saturday, February 2, 2019**; as well as women who would like to coordinate smaller social activities throughout the year. Please contact Rev. Melissa McCreery Riley.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” Colossians 3:16



**Summer** was filled with **soloists** and **special groups** offering music in worship. Thanks to over 30 church members for sharing their musical gifts to enrich our worship experience! During July, we continued the **Campfire Vespers** on the south lawn of the church with singing and guitar-playing around the fire. On **Rally Day** in September, the **Combined Choir** kicked off the year with *Brighter Than the Sun* by Colbie Caillat and a reprise of *Let the River Run* by Carly Simon. Many soloists provided special music to accompany *The Good Life* fall sermon series.

Our two adult choirs provided music throughout the year and came together for **Christmas, Holy Week, Easter** and **Cantata Sunday**. We also had **two additional special events**. Our choir was selected by audition to perform *A Little Jazz Mass* by Bob Chilcott as part of the fall conference of the Illinois chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (**IL-ACDA**) at the **College of DuPage** in October. We ended the concert, which was open to the public, with Jeff Haeger's *Magnify*. In November, our choirs performed special music in worship with a brass sextet, timpani and auxiliary percussion to celebrate the **500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation**. As part of Dan Forrest's arrangement of Luther's *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, the percussionist struck a car's brake drum to invoke the image of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of the religious elders. Later, in the spring, the choir performed **Vivaldi's Gloria**, a masterpiece of the Baroque period, with orchestra and the Doerrfeld family harpsichord for Cantata Sunday in March.

We continued our tradition of a 'choir exchange' with the choir from **Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheaton**. Their director, **Ellen Coman** (Paul Doerrfeld's sister), and I collaborated on three songs that the choirs performed together during worship on one Sunday at each church in April. We all enjoyed experiencing worship in a different setting, fellowship with one another and our common love of music. The singers enjoyed performing an original choral piece by Ellen, and the congregation enjoyed hearing her new organ composition, and watching these talented siblings play a piano duet for four hands. Ellen is also the new accompanist for the **One Voice Outreach choir**. (Housed at FCCGE, One Voice is an interfaith high school choir that provides musical outreach at area senior and assisted living centers.)

**The Joyful Noise children's choir** presented a cantata during Advent called *Beneath a Shining Star*, which included 'Confused Mary', who kept showing up in different costumes (Mary Poppins, Mary Had a Little Lamb, Proud Mary) to audition for the part of Mary. In the spring, Joyful Noise performed an **outreach concert** at Brookdale of Glen Ellyn, sharing their songs from worship and spending time chatting with the residents. The **Angel Choir**, children ages 4-7, sang on Christmas Eve and again in May, while Jeff Haeger directed the **Jr. High Singers** in November and February. Our talented **high school musicians** shared their gifts in worship throughout the year as soloists, choir members and song leaders, as well as in full force on Sr. High Sunday in March. We thank our volunteer leaders Sherry Flugel and Lora Ilhardt for leading the Angel Choir, Dave Mook for serving as Joyful Noise accompanist, Andy Livingston for heading up the **Ad Hocs** (house band), and Alan Bayert for creating a new **Guitar Group**.

The **Handbell Choir**, directed by Matthew Prins, presented musical offerings in worship several times throughout the year, often playing Matthew's own original compositions and arrangements. In April, Matthew premiered his newest handbell composition, *Congregational Festival*, in honor of his upcoming 10th anniversary at FCCGE. The early music **Recorder Ensemble** continues to play two to three times a year in worship at FCCGE and also at their sister church, **First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton**, as two of the players are members there. A few of these musicians also play in the **Taizé Ensemble** that accompanies the beautiful Taizé songs during Communion. Our roster of **Song Leaders**, now at 16 members, helps to lead our congregational singing.

We hosted several guest musicians this year. Folk/jazz songwriting duo **Adler and Hearne** returned to Glen Ellyn to perform in worship and a house concert in September. In March, singer/songwriter **Bobby Jo Valentine** from California returned to perform in worship and an evening concert during his tour of the Midwest. A few weeks later in March, the liturgical group **The Many** from Oak Park led an intimate, creative and meditative Lenten worship service with several original songs. And, in April, Karen Pulver hosted a folk concert by the singer/songwriter **Katie Dahl** from Door County, Wisconsin.

**The Music Makers Ministry** team helped to plan and coordinate all the big music events of the year, including the **Choir Games** retreat in September. After a year off, the **Staff Recital** returned in May, and included most of the music staff, volunteer music leaders and other staff members as soloists and together for a group finale. The **Men's Chorus** sang on Mother's Day and the **Women's Chorus** will perform in worship on Father's Day.

I continue to serve on the national board of directors for the **United Church of Christ Musicians Association**, meeting on monthly conference calls to provide support and enrichment for UCC musicians and churches across the US and Canada. In addition to my involvement with the UCCMA, I serve as Music in Worship chair on the board of the **Illinois American Choral Directors Association**, and organized a Church/Community Honor Choir at the fall conference at the College of DuPage back in October. As part of an organization called **Music that Makes Community**, which offers support and instruction for 'paperless singing', I joined a local practice group consisting of church musicians and pastors who meet quarterly to teach and learn new songs. We hosted one of these practice groups at FCCGE in February, and I have incorporated a few of these songs into our regular worship repertoire.

May our music ministry continue to glorify the Lord, lift our hearts in His praise, and bring our congregation closer to God through the beauty and majesty that is music.

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### Worship Ministry - Maggie Fredricks

The Worship Ministry team, led by our music director Michele Hecht, was created to assist in the preparation and coordination of regular worship and special worship services throughout the year. Some of the routine functions include changing of the paraments according to the liturgical colors calendar; training and scheduling communion servers and preparation of communion; coordinate the scheduling of ushers and greeters; coordinate the scheduling of the tech team for A-V support; coordinate the placement of banners and other displays through the Visual Arts Ministry.

Some of the special services that need props or rearrangement of the chancel area of the sanctuary to create the proper worship environment include: Vespers Service, Advent, Christmas Eve Services, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter. Michele Hecht has created wonderfully detailed checklists for these services and the Worship Ministry Team is there to make sure it is executed according to the plan.

Sharon Wussow, along with clergy, led two communion trainings which added a few new volunteers to our team of over 20 communion servers. Sharon also organized a team of volunteers to hang the 'cloud of witnesses' banner, which bears the names of all of our members in our 150+ year history in the sanctuary for our capital campaign. New stabilizers were purchased for the oil candles. All the paraments were cleaned and the sacristy was reorganized to better store the worship supplies and paraments. The team is working on creating a reference binder for ushers and developing a coordinator position for funeral support.

Team: Michele Hecht (leader), Maggie Fredricks (lay leader), Randy Briasco, Jeff Edwards, Mark Healy, Steve Jungling, Karen Koenig, Leland Livingston, Sharon Wussow.

### Flower Ministry - Jennifer Darnall

The Flower Ministry provides flowers to decorate the altar for Sunday services. The ministry conducts a sign-up at Rally Day (and until all spaces are filled) for families/individuals to select dates to sponsor flowers. A reminder is sent the month prior to the date – individuals are able to specify types and colors of flowers, and to indicate what is to be printed in the bulletin. This information is then e-mailed to Joyce Driver and the florist (The Green Branch in Glen Ellyn). Special orders are done at Christmas and Easter.

### Name Tags - Marge Kovatch

FCCGE provides permanent, engraved, name tags for their members. This makes it easier for people to put names and faces together and helps us get to know one another. This year, name tags were made for all new members and confirmands. There were also a number of replacement name tags made for those who had either lost or broken theirs. If you need a new name tag, please contact the church office.

## Tech Team Ministry – Mark Healy

The Tech Team Ministry is in its twelfth year handling Worship lighting, sound and video in the Sanctuary. Active Ministry Team members this year have been: Christian Basso, Joe Chapski, Lisa Crank, Paul Flugel, Mark Healy, Gabriel Koenig, Andy Livingston, Tim Loversky, Greg Martin, Tom Melms, Dan Olson, Greg Paulus, Robb Sackett, Matt Stout, Jenny Ziegler, Sharon Wussow – and our technical leader, David Hecht.

This past program year, the team provided worship services with sound reinforcement and recording, and video support. Each Sunday, the team sets up microphones for sound enhancement and recording, and mixes the vocals/instruments live during the service. We provide a video feed into the main lobby during services – as a refuge for parents of fussy babies and for Christmas and Easter overflow. Also, First Congregational sermons continue to be available in video on our website (at <https://fccge.org/content/sermons>) thanks to the support of Sherry Flugel, and Joyce Driver, and in audio Podcasts also accessible via our website (<https://soundcloud.com/fccge>) thanks to Sherry Flugel and Dan Olson.

As in the past, some of the specialty work in 2017-18 included producing the Joyful Noise Cantata DVD (once again a big thanks to editor/producer Matt Stout!) and maintaining the HDTV events calendar in the Lobby. Sharon Wussow continues to support both the Music Program and Tech Team by producing CD/DVD copies of sermons and musical performances.

In 2018-2019, the Tech Team will continue providing these technical services to the church. We also continue to keep our eyes open to enhance FCCGE's worship (e.g., Sanctuary video upgrade to HD and communications (e.g., Lobby HDTV offerings, other Worship technology improvements).

FCCGE relies heavily on the talents and dedication of many volunteers to enhance our worship experience. These volunteers are often unnoticed and unacknowledged. Please join me in thanking them for their service!

**We are always looking for new Tech Team members – so come join the team!**

## Ushers – Tom Pulver

The primary purpose of the members of the usher ministry is to greet worshipers as they enter the sanctuary, provide them with bulletins and other information and help everyone feel comfortable as they find the place where they will worship.

The Usher Ministry is made up of many dedicated members. There are too many to list here but they are recognized in the bulletin every Sunday. In addition, there is a group of members that have made themselves available as substitutes and there are always worshipers that say yes to fill in at the last minute for any special usher needs.

The duties of the ushers are to:

- do the final preparation of the Sanctuary for each service; such as: candles, flowers, baptismal font set up, tidy the pews, and reserve pews as necessary;
- meet and greet Church members and visitors for every service on Sundays and other special events such as Holy Week, Christmas and remembrance services;
- hand out bulletins;
- assist anyone who wishes or needs help to find a place to sit in the sanctuary;
- ring the Church bell to call us to worship;
- adjust the lights during the service;
- collect the offering and try to be as invisible as possible to allow the congregation to appreciate the music;
- count the worshipers in the service;
- react to any unexpected events or emergencies;
- clean up the Sanctuary after services;
- place the offering in the safe.

The joy of sharing a smile and greeting worshipers as they arrive at a service is the reward of ushering. We do whatever we can to help worshipers, members, and visitors feel comfortable.

There is always a need for more ushers so we invite others to join – the work is easy, fun and appreciated.

## Visual Arts Ministry – Deb Giampoli

The mission of the Visual Arts Ministry is to “Enhance the worship experience through visual art”. The ministry is an expansion and reinvention of the previous Paraments and Church Decorating team, and is, under the new governance structure, aligned with the Connections Committee.

This year, we installed exhibits in the Sanctuary for Advent, Christmas, and Holy Week; decorated the sanctuary with the Christmas Tree and wreaths for Advent and Christmas and potted palms for Palm Sunday.

In addition, we had rotating art exhibits in the main gallery throughout the year, with themes consistent with the Liturgical Seasons. Among the exhibits in the main gallery were the following:

- The Good Life – A community art project, supporting the sermon series by the same name. Art supplies were available in the Welcome Center and members of the Congregation (individuals, children and families) were encouraged to trace their hand on a piece of paper and using colorful paper, paints, photos, drawings, and other materials, create a piece of original art by decorating the hand print with words and visuals that represent what “the good life” means to them. More than 50 beautiful pieces of art were included in the exhibit.
- Beyond Bridges – An exhibit of 21 works of art created by artists from Muslim, Christian, and Jewish faith backgrounds, making the case for using that which we have in common as the foundation for the future of our world. A reception, open to the public, was held in celebration of the work. Guest speakers included our own Reverend Seth Carey, Imam Mohammed Zafarullah, and Rabbi Stephen Bob, and Paul-Gordon Chandler, CEO of Caravan, an international peace-building arts nonprofit organization.
- Jeremy Botts – An exhibit for Lent, which grew and evolved throughout the season, made of simple repurposed materials (cotton thread and scavenged wooden lath). Jeremy used the materials, and the evolving work, as a way of inviting viewers to consider the evolution of the work over time, and think about not just the finished work, but the process involved in the work.
- Gregory Deddo – Poignant paintings by Wheaton College Studio Associate and Gallery Manager that explore themes of human relationships, family history and memory.

We also launched the Artists in Residence Gallery, thanks to VAM team member (now “emeritus”), Jeff Edwards, an item that had been on the VAM’s “wish list” for several years. This gallery provides members and friends of FCCGE who have been given the gift of visual art the opportunity to share that gift with others. In so doing, our sense of community is deepened, those who see the work are delighted and enlightened, and God, from whom all such gifts are given is glorified and celebrated. Artists whose work has been featured in the gallery this year include Jeff Edwards (photography), Matt Wright (art/calligraphy), Debbie Helledy (folk art), Jan Rajeck (quilt art), Ed Kolar (painting), and Haruo Kurokawa (painting). Thanks to all the artists for being so generous with your work.

It’s been a blessing to have worked with members of this year’s team - Lisa Crank, Bill Fairbanks, Steve Rochelle, Greg Schreck, David Schumacher, William Schumacher, Jeff Edwards, and Ernie Wright - extended team members Roy Giampoli, Teo Schreck, Magdalena Schreck, Karen Schreck, and Betsy Edwards - and cheerleaders (and alumni) George Allen and Marilyn Peretti.

Special thanks also to the Handyman Ministry, who helped us repair walls and paint after every exhibit; to William and David Schumacher who refitted our storage room, and Sherry Flugel who patiently wrote and rewrote so many updates and announcements and signs and banners about our activities. We couldn’t have done it without all of you!

## Wedding Coordinators - Vicki Lafontaine

The purpose of the wedding ministry is to help wedding couples make their wedding ceremony as meaningful as possible in accordance with church policy.

Coordinators meet with couples about two months before their wedding day to help plan their church wedding. Coordinators assist wedding parties, family and clergy at the rehearsal and at the ceremony. Two coordinators work with each bridal couple.

We currently have fourteen dedicated coordinators. By July 1st, the end of this church year 2017-2018, we will have had three wedding ceremonies held in our church.

### Worship Leaders – Susie Temple

Over twenty-five narrators share their reading talents with the congregation on Sunday mornings. One leader speaks at both services. On Christmas Eve, ten of those readers serve the later two services. From dramatic to stoic to sometimes humorous, these readers continue the ancient tradition of storytelling, bringing the Holy Scriptures to life.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Cathy Christoff, Chair

The Education Committee creates and promotes congregational awareness of educational opportunities for both children and adults. It works closely with staff to develop and execute youth programs, provides guidance and support to Christian Education staff, and oversees the church's archives.

The 2017-18 Education Committee had a primary focus of Volunteer Appreciation; College Ministry Outreach; and Special Needs Education Curriculum. The **Volunteer Appreciation subcommittee** planned and organized a "thank you note" writing session. Hand written notes were mailed to all Christian Education volunteers. The committee also planned a cake and coffee reception. The **College Ministry committee** collaborated with Kendra to send and create college care packages for youth group alumni. The team also organized reunion social gatherings. The **Special needs curriculum committee** reviewed articles written by educators throughout the country to assist in developing classroom strategies that helped engage students specifically at the middle school level. A "rules of conduct" covenant was reviewed and agreed to by the students. Posters were created to remind students of appropriate classroom behavior.

The Safe Sanctuary policy was in place and Education Committee members followed through on the compliance of all Children's ministry volunteers.

In April it was determined by Church Council and the Education Committee to transition from "Committee" to "Ministry". This change is viewed by all members as a more efficient way to utilize and accomplish Christian Education duties. Our tasks do not require monthly specific meeting times but rather "as needed". Also, the purpose and objectives of this Committee are no longer aligned with the description in the bylaws. Existing committee members will continue to serve on the education ministry as well as recruit individuals who will provide support to the ministries of our church concerning Education, Youth and Seminarian/Interns. The ministry will also promote awareness of opportunities for Volunteer recruitment, publicity and logistical execution of various programs within education.



### **Summer Church School – June - July**

Preschool - 5th graders were combined for summer church school in Temple of Light for the curriculum "An Illustrated Compassion: Learning to Love Like God." Nursery care continued year-round through the summer. During the month of August we did not have church school so that the staff could plan and prepare for the upcoming program year. Children from infant - kindergarten were provided child care in the nursery or activity tote bags in worship. It is difficult to secure volunteers to teach on summer Sundays. Summer interns were available for 3 of the Sundays in July.

### **Vacation Bible School (VBS) - June 19 - 22, 2017**

Catherine Curtis created curriculum "Community of Believers: Showing God's Goodness to Everyone" a week of invitation, celebration and welcome. We sought together how to be apostles ourselves anchored by the scripture: "A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles." ~ Acts 2:43. We focused on the following: God opens our hearts so we can open our doors, We can give life to others as God gives life to us, Let us not be afraid of breaking out of our shells to share God's goodness, and We need each other's help to understand God's Word. Music, dramas, crafts, games and bible stories supported this, as well as projects with GE Food Pantry and Blessings in a Backpack. We had 76 participants, 36 middle-school "Volunteers-in-Training," 22 Sr Hi Volunteers who were there every day of VBS, 4 college/adult volunteers there every day, and 16 Adult/Sr Hi Volunteers there 2 to 3 days and 10 Adult/Sr Hi Volunteers there 1 day. VBS uses most of the indoor & outdoor FCCGE spaces and is self-funded.

### **Tower Hill Camping Weekend**

Cathy Basso & David Crane Co-led a family weekend on July 14-17th 2017. About half the families camped in their tents, and the other half stayed at Schrag Hall sleeping accommodations. The weekend consisted of community time at Schrag lodge, the beach, dunes and the tent area for campfire, songs and s'mores. On Sunday morning, our Summer Intern, Tyler Spellious led the outside worship service atop the hill. Alan Bayert led hymns with his guitar and led song along with Michelle Wright. Tyler had us write personal spiritual words on smooth stones that we shared on top of the hill. It was a beautiful worship, filled with sermon, prayers and confession. Monday we cleaned up and packed our cars and headed home, or spent one last afternoon at the beach.

### **Program Year: Nursery Care for infants and toddlers**

We continue to be blessed by our nursery staff, Kathleen Page and Huong Luu, who welcome families and maintain a safe and comfortable atmosphere that includes use our paging system and of notification stickers for diaper changes and allergies. The average Nursery attendance increased again slightly this year.

### **Program Year: Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds**

Missy Carlson along with her high school daughter led Sunday morning with a big warm welcome, playtime, games, and introducing the simple fundamental lessons from the Bible.

### **Program Year: Young Children and Worship – Temple of Light - Kindergarten -2nd Grades Church School**

Our 7th year that the Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders used the "Young Children in Worship" model. We tell many of the foundational faith stories each year; however, we do echo some stories related to sermon series or what the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades are learning and the liturgical calendar. We were down Storyteller volunteers this year.

### **Program Year: Lighting the Way - Rotation Model Church School for 3rd through 5th Grades**

For our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders, we continue to teach via the model based on the theory of multiple intelligences –a teaching approach that utilizes teaching the same Bible story by rotating through our 7 workshops. We began our 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation of "Year C" of our third year of our three-year Scope and Sequence which included: Sarah/Abraham/Hagar, Advent, Miracles of Jesus, Lent, & Paul Spreads the Good News (post-resurrection stories). Kids begin in worship, then multi-age Gathering Time delving into bible stories followed by response time in the workshops.

### **6th Grade Confirmation Class: Year 1**

Teaching team of Beth Dent and Kate Roth led the class through an overview of the entire Bible – to learn the different sections, what types of writing each section consists of and how it should be read, and the importance to our faith tradition interspersed with learning about the types of myths and how to study myth from a faith perspective, and learning about other faith traditions. The curriculum was created using a variety of resources with a strong focus on updating the curriculum to make it even more accessible to youth with differing learning styles by translating the majority of lessons into more engaging slideshows to accompany the oral presentations and adding interactive cooperative activities. Special emphasis was given to creating a respectful and welcoming classroom environment.

### **7th Grade Confirmation Class: Year 2**

Teaching team of Russ Graunke and Lowell Lindstrom led the class in re-visiting how to read the bible as a way of understanding the "truths" of our faith that are beyond literal interpretations and visited the same houses of worship as the 6th graders. The main focus of the year was delving into the stories of the "characters" of the Hebrew Scriptures using the Re:form Ancestors curriculum

which explores the unlikely people called by God to do amazing things and to encourage youth to see the similarities between themselves and their faith ancestors. In conjunction with the 6th grade Confirmation class and Jr Hi Youth Fellowship they visited the Islamic Center of Wheaton, Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard, and the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett. The year was capped off with the creation and presentation of Myth Projects.

### **8th Grade Confirmation Class: Year 3**

16 Confirmands and their parents and sponsors began the year learning about the history and theology of confirmation in class and in a dinner and orientation. 8th graders joined the 7th and 6th graders in a fall work retreat at Tower Hill. The curriculum continued with the exploration of the New Testament, reading the Bible seriously but not literally, understanding that faith and doubt may reside side-by-side, and that the class is at a point in their lives where they need to be examining, articulating, and living out their faith. Classes were taught by Chris Henkel with guests Pastors Kendra and Seth, and Dan Hitzemann. A special thank you to Seminary Intern Carolyn Lawrence who taught many classes this year. Planned visits to Ascension Catholic church, Oak Park; St. Joseph Orthodox church, Wheaton; and Trinity UCC, Chicago were cancelled because the minimum number of participants did not register. Our clergy answered questions from the class and students and sponsors after class one Sunday. The 6th, 7th & 8th graders are expected to work 40 service hours over the 3-year course of confirmation. Each 8th grader wrote a Faith Paper and created a Faith Project and met with Pastor Kendra individually to discuss their faith journey. Sponsors are expected to nurture faith discussions and build relationships that will last beyond the 8th grade year with their Confirmand. 15 of the 16 Confirmands will be confirmed May 20th.

### **Program Year: Sr Hi Sunday Discussion Group**

Year six of this ministry saw an increase in participation of regular attendees led by Jim Ellis, Jon Berry, Sara Waterloo, Dan Hitzemann, and Sr Hi Youth Annabel Pottebaum and Maggie Sim. This ministry provides a welcoming and engaging space that allows the students to feel comfortable with faith discussion in a challenging and transformative way in a relaxed atmosphere. This year's discussion used the new resources [www.TheBibleProject.com](http://www.TheBibleProject.com) which was well-received by the youth.

### **Our Whole Lives**

Our Whole Lives offers a profound opportunity: to deepen faith, put values into practice, promote sexual and emotional health in communities and foster meaningful dialogue between peers, partners, families, and friends. It is comprehensive sexuality education; more than anatomy and health, but also values, respect, emotions and justice - the sacred aspects of sexuality. We were especially excited to train three new leaders this year: Kathy Bayert, Damon Holst, and Ally Vertigan. In our 6th year of this ministry, our Jr Hi leaders were: Tracy & Phil Gliori, Tim Landry, Kristin Rendina, and Gwen Miller. Sr Hi leaders: Kelley Kalinich, Andy Livingston, Damon Holst and Kathy Bayert with Ally Vertigan and Rev Kendra Joyner Miller at Tower Hill. Jr Hi was cancelled due to too few participants to meet the ideal minimum for an effective retreat. The Sr Hi retreat had 27 youth register.

### **Heifer Market**

The annual Heifer Market Sunday excites and educates our preschool – 5th graders about social justice issues related to hunger and creation care. With help from teachers and Keepers, our kids raised funds \$1485.00 on October 21, 2018. By waiting to donate until "Giving Tuesday" we have doubled our donation to Heifer International! By doubling our gift, the children and youth of our congregation have given the gift of the following: 2 heifers, 2 water buffalo, 2 goats, 2 sheep, 2 pigs, 2 llamas, 2 hives of bees, 2 schools of fish, 2 trios of rabbits, 4 flocks of chicks, and 4 flocks of ducks!

### **Christmas Eve Pageant**

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year we moved our pageant to a single 9:30 am worship service. It was well-received by adults and children alike. More families were able to participate with the morning scheduled. Approximately 43 children and youth in grades K-12 participate in the Christmas Eve Pageant each year as we told the story of Jesus' birth. Participation was down this year. The text from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew are used each year. Children take on more responsibilities in new roles as they get older. We were grateful Caroline Andres continued to direct the pageant as a volunteer and this year volunteer Kristin Rendina joined her as co-director.

### **4th Grade Bibles**

April 29th we presented 15 4th graders with the gift of a Bible along with a Bible Overview Pamphlet that includes themes, facts, and key verses at-a-glance. The Wednesday evening before found 4th graders and their families, sharing a meal, rehearsing and testing their Bible knowledge in games of "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune" created and led by Kathy and Cori Elsesser. For the second time we combined the Bible Bash with the 345 Fellowship End-of-Year party.

### **Education Ministry**

In the early months of 2018 the Moderators and Clergy began investigating adding a new committee to the organizational structure of FCCGE. Through this process, it was determined that the Education Committee's role was better aligned as a ministry due to its nature of task-oriented responsibilities and alignment with staff. During this process Catherine Curtis and Pastor Kendra met together to outline the mission, transition, and sub-groups of this new Education Ministry. It is an ongoing process of communication and recruitment that will be taking place with the assistance of former Education Committee members and has been greatly assisted by Moderator Kelley Kalinich and Education Chairperson Cathy Christoff.

**345 Youth Fellowship** - Grades 3rd, 4th & 5th gather twice a month from Oct - April for 90 min. This year there was a constant 3rd grade attendance. Our gatherings began with youth warming up with one another with volleyball or keep away. Then we discussed as a theme from the Bible and incorporated an activity relating to that theme. We made bread, made cards for senior church members, created a prayer kit, etc. Then we played a group game. Sardines in the church was the favorite. We finalized the evening with a group prayer and shared joys and concerns. The youth loved lighting their own slim candle from the one Christ candle and placed in the urn of sand.

## **YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS - Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller**

### **3-4-5 Fellowship 2016-2017**

This year 3-4-5 Fellowship (formerly TF2) grew as a vibrant and thriving ministry. Meeting bi-monthly 3-4-5 Fellowship served an average of seventeen- third, fourth and fifth grade youth. 3-4-5 Fellowship was led by Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller and Cathy Basso with the legendary volunteer help from our youth volunteer Jaime Harman and many parents. This year 3-4-5 Fellowship's curriculum was often modeled to be in rhythm with that of the other youth programs so that siblings would be experiencing similar but age appropriate lessons. 3-4-5 provides multi-sensory experiential learning for our youngest Fellowshipers that allows their creativity- their excitement- their love- and passion shine forth. As with all the fellowships these young people are a reminder that they are not just the future of the church- they are church and God's light shines brightly in each one!

### **Junior High Youth Fellowship 2017-2018**

Junior High Youth Fellowship is a ministry of the church that meets weekly focusing on the building of beloved community- service of neighbor- and worship of God. We have been focusing specifically how these values and focus builds upon the incredible confirmation program led by Catherine Curtis. Jr High Youth Fellowship was overseen by Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller and led by our wonderful seminarian Carolyn Lawrence and volunteer Clara Hughes. We talked about serving those in need on our two Feed My Starving Children events. We also had a number of youth on fun nights where youth experiences the joy of being silly with one another at Extreme Trampoline! We also had more intimate nights- as we burned the palms from Palm Sunday for Ash Wednesday, as we shared a Thanksgiving Meal reflecting on our gratitude God's beloved Community was felt, as we watched Selma on Martin Luther King Jr Day talking about the importance of watching hard things and learning from the past, or making pizza and talking about what ingredients make up our faith. Our hope for next year is to really explore how we can continue to have Jr High Youth Fellowship compliment Confirmation providing meaningful experiential programming.

### **Senior High Youth Fellowship 2017-2018**

Senior High Youth Fellowship is an embodiment of Christ's love. As with the other youth fellowships Sr High also revolves around three core Christian principles: building of beloved community- in large and small groups, service of neighbor, and worship of God. Our Adult Small Group leaders created a truly sacred place this year where youth would cook together, sharing a meal, and sharing their lives with all of the joys and frustrations. I am so appreciative of the ways that these Adult Small Group Leaders invite youth into their homes monthly and truly minister to our young people. Our Youth Leaders were amazing- reflecting and building on a program they love as they also took on outreach making sure youth within our church and friends from school felt welcome. 42 youth and adults attended Work Camp last summer in the summer heat of St Louis Missouri exploring the nuances of urban poverty and racism. In a few weeks, 64 youth and adults will explore the dynamics and systems of rural poverty. We will be working with Appalachia Service Project to make homes warmer, safer, and dryer. The youth of this church are continually blessed by the ways our church embodies God's ministry in our faith community and our in the world and because of the love and energy this church has given its high school youth the program has double in the last four years! Sr High Youth Fellowship is led by Rev Kendra Joyner Miller but would not be possible without the volunteers who served and ministered to our youth, all of you were part of that so Thank you! We were blessed this year with an incredible group of volunteers- Naomi Hirsh, Steve Jungling, David Schowalter, Jen Mertz, Leland Livingston, John Pottebaum, Joe Mahr, Damon Holst, Jen Frazer, DJ LaChapelle. In this space God's Spirit was present and our faith formed and grew!

## MINISTRIES UNDER THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Intern Support Ministry - Bob Stout

The *Intern Support Ministry Team* (ISMT) is one element of our congregation's broader Education Ministry. The ISMT has a double focus, relating to the seminary interns during the academic year as well as offering a supportive relationship to our own summer youth interns.

We recently bid farewell to Carolyn Lawrence, the 2017-2018 seminary intern, who is completing her first year at The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The ISMT welcomes our seminary interns as they enter into the life of the congregation and provides an on-going performance reflection through sermon workshops facilitated by the FCCGE clergy staff.

ISMT also relates to our Summer Youth Interns, four youth members of our congregation that are selected from a pool of written applications. We are pleased to announce the 2018 class of Summer Youth Interns: Anna Ebl, Calla Mahr, Maggie Sim, Bennett Fate. All four are entering Seniors representing three schools: Glenbard West, Glenbard South, and Wheaton North.

The six week program follows an experience-based curriculum that seeks to broaden their understanding of how local congregational life and ministry happens. The program commences after school is out and runs from late June until mid-August.

#### **SUMMER YOUTH INTERN PROGRAM OUTLINE**

##### **Book Discussion**

- Participate in the reading and discussion of Nadia Boltz Weber's [Pastorix](#)

##### **Congregational Context**

Learn about Leading within a parish setting by

- Attending staff meetings
- Helping lead worship
- Preaching
- Planning a lesson + Leading a Church School Class
- Meeting with one member a week to hear their story
- Learning about relationship building and outreach

##### **Ministry in other contexts**

- Elmhurst Memorial Hospital
- Elmhurst College
- Chicago Theological Seminary + Univ of Chicago Divinity School
- Root and Branch Church
- Chicago inner-city Night Ministry

#### **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH**

##### **Tower Hill Weekend**

On the weekend you would be expected to help facilitate community through games - socializing/ outreach to members + planning Sunday Morning Worship

##### **Summer Campfire Vespers**

Help in the advertising - logistics/program planning + execution/leading of the evening.

All of us on the ISMT feel honored to serve in this capacity. It is inspiring to work with both the seminarians and our own youth as they explore a deeper involvement in Christian service. While the summer interns are not all necessarily headed for ordained ministry, they are all given a wonderful opportunity to better understand the broader life of the community of faith that is FCCGE and are thus preparing themselves to be more fully engaged lay people and leaders in their respective futures.

Currently facilitated by Bob Stout under the staff supervision of Associate Minister, The Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller; plus members, Nancy and Jim Ellis, Bill Fairbank, Debbie and John Helledy, Virginia and Ward Highstone, Ed and Louise Kolar, Marge Kovatch, Ginny Miller, Karen Pulver, Bill and Sharon Sailor, Jerry and Susan Schurmeier, Bob and Anne Stout, Hal Temple, and Ernie Wright.

### Library/Resources

Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education and Karrie Sim, Youth Education Coordinator

Our goal this year was to get more books out on the shelves where our members could access them. Approximately 100 books have been labelled and prepared for use. We have introduced newer books such as *The Hate U Give* and the graphic novel series, *March*. Topical displays have been created on themes including LGBTQ+ awareness, civil rights, C.S. Lewis and The Nature of Woman. These displays have brought new users into the library and have helped to increase the number of items that have been checked out. We continue to review and update our digital subscriptions for the congregation which include [www.theworkofthepeople.org](http://www.theworkofthepeople.org) and [www.queertheology.com](http://www.queertheology.com). These subscriptions are available for use by staff, volunteers, and congregation members and are most heavily used by staff for Confirmation and Sr Hi classes and by our Adult Community Groups.

The Service and Justice committee had a good inaugural year. We focused on mainly three areas this year, DuPage United, becoming a Just Peace church and forming a partnership with Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in the Back of the Yards neighborhood of Chicago.

We have supported the core teams of DuPage United by keeping the congregation aware of what DuPage United has been doing via regular articles in the e-blast and the bulletin. We helped to organize a group of members of the congregation to attend the assembly with the Attorney General candidates prior to the March primary.

We have created a Just Peace Church covenant that will be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting for a vote. A Just Peace Church is a designation within the UCC that publicly proclaims we are a justice doing and peace seeking church. We discussed having a peace pole for the church, and that will be left to the 2018-2019 committee to work on.

We have also partnered with Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Back of the Yards. This organization serves many people that have been affected by violence and incarceration. It works hard to help those in need to heal and to rebuild their lives. The committee had a visit from Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation early in the year. We were so intrigued by what they had to say that we visited their center. We also participated with members of the congregation in The Mothers Peace March in May. The committee will keep up the communication and activities with PBMR in hopes of building real and lasting relationships.

The members of the 2017-2018 Service and Justice Committee were: Laura Anderson, Chuck Lukavsky, Jackie McCarthy, Jennifer Sellers, Carol Montgomery Fate, Norm Adams, Nancy Bell and Karen Pulver.

### **Just Peace Covenant**

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? — Micah 6:8*

#### **Our Beliefs**

Just Peace invites all of us to testify with our actions and lives. As a Just Peace Church, it is our commitment to act in love, faith and spirit as we live and work toward:

#### **Just Peace in the community – so that all may live free from fear**

We pledge to recognize everyone as a child of God, celebrate diversity to promote peaceful resolutions to conflict, and engage in non-violent resistance to evil.

#### **Just Peace with the environment – so that life is sustained**

We pledge to respect and preserve God's earth and to accept responsibility for loving our planet and its living creatures through care and conservation; and recognize that the environmental crisis is profoundly an ethical and spiritual crisis that disparately impacts the marginalized.

#### **Just Peace in society – so that all may live with dignity**

We pledge to be in kinship with people of limited economic, health and social resources and to collaborate with other organizations who advocate for justice and peace, working to bring about systemic change in societal ills and issues.

#### **Just Peace among the nations – so that human lives are protected**

We pledge to be a voice in the world, use our resources to disrupt inequality and injustice, and provide opportunities for education, engagement, and public witness on issues of social reform and public policy.

Therefore, we resolve to grow in love of God and neighbor as a Just Peace congregation and faithfully live out our vision to be grounded in tradition, centered in worship, called to serve, fortified by justice, sustained by peace, and free to dream.

## MINISTRIES UNDER THE SERVICE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### Angola Partnership Ministry - Ernie Wright

Angola is a country situated on the west Coast of Africa and is a country struggling greatly to recover from 500 years of oppressive colonial rule followed by 27 years of violent civil war (1975 - 2002). In 2005, the Angola Partnership was formed between the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola and the Illinois Conference—UCC. The goal is working together to build the one body of Christ in two different places.

Our FCCGE Angola Ministry provides volunteer leadership on the Illinois Conference Angola Team as well as a meeting place for bi-monthly team meetings, since team members come from Northern Illinois churches near and far. Over the years we have supported the church in Angola in rebuilding hospitals, churches and schools. We have provided hospital equipment, donated 157 bibles for a bible drive, and helped establish a seminary school. We have hosted several Angolan guests and supported missionaries.

1. For six months of 2017, Dr. Antonia Mendes Sambalundo of the Angolan church lived with members of various UCC churches in Northern Illinois. He is studied English and university administration with the intent that he and his colleagues in Angola will found a UCC university in Angola (similar to Elmhurst College in the USA). The new university is expected to receive government approval to open in March 2019. Initially, five fields of study will be offered; nursing, agriculture, theology, dentistry, and law. As this will be a small university with only several hundred students, we all pray that one day it may be as successful as Elmhurst College.
2. A delegation of four individuals from Illinois Conference UCC churches is departing for Angola on May 25th. During two weeks visiting provincial churches in Angola, the delegation will attend a countrywide Synod meeting and the 100th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Angolan Evangelical Congregational Church.

Other ministry activities include the following:

1. Raise awareness of this global partnership with outreach contacts to congregations, associations, and conference-wide annual meetings.
2. Continue to develop church-to-church partnerships that join an Angolan congregation and an Illinois congregation in partnership activities that include:
  - regular prayer for each other both private and corporate
  - ongoing communication with one another to know each other better
  - mutual education as to the evangelism and social witness work of each church

Thank you FCCGE for your continued support of this global ministry. For more information, feel free to contact Beverly Porzelt or Ernie Wright.

### DuPage United – Chuck Lukavsky

This was our first year as a member of DuPage United. One of our first acts was to form a core team consisting of Chuck Lukavsky, Roger Hughes, Clara Hughes, Jeff Edwards, Jackie McCarthy and Kristin Rendina. Recently, Jeff and Kristin have left the team and they have been replaced by Deb Wenninger and Tricia Kerns.

DuPage United's mental health program has made great strides this year. They have succeeded in getting many police officers trained in Crisis Intervention Training. This teaches officers to recognize mental illness and take appropriate action. Also, they have secured commitments from two hospitals to build crises centers that would be able to treat the patients who are brought there by the police. Jackie McCarthy is our representative on this program.

The Prepared and Rapid Response Team deals with issues regarding racial, ethnic, and cultural bias. During this year, the team has put together a procedure to be followed in case of an incident of bias or hate occurs. By having this procedure in place, the team can rapidly respond to any incident. This year the team has responded twice - once at Glenbard West High School and once at the Aurora Public Library. The team is also working to provide diversity training for schools, churches, etc. Chuck Lukavsky, Deb Wenninger and Tricia Kerns are our representatives on this program.

During this year, DuPage United has also formed an affordable housing team. Currently they are working with developers and officials to identify needs and possible sites for affordable housing in DuPage County. Roger and Clara Hughes are working on this program.

In March, DuPage United, along with three of its brother organizations, put together an action in which almost 1400 people met to hear all the candidates for Illinois Attorney General speak about the issues.

In May, we joined other DuPage United member organizations in celebrating Mental Health awareness month.

### **Environmental Ministry Team – Catherine Curtis**

- 1) Worked with Administration/Property Committee & Garden Ministry to maintain rather than destroy milkweed on property for use by monarch butterfly caterpillars.
- 2) On-going work with Administration/Property Committee on energy conservation in the building:
  - A) Upgraded interior ceiling fixtures with LED bulbs and replaced bell tower exterior lighting with LED.
  - B) New HVAC service provider is working with the Admin committee to find ways to save energy for our building.
- 3) On-going dishwashing for Wednesday All Church Dinners.
- 4) Faith in Place Green Team Summit attended by Eva Schuchardt and Deirdre Winkelhake in fall 2017.
- 5) Other events that members have attended.
- 6) Sunday morning coffee with real cups thanks to the Post family.
- 7) Hosted the Winter Indoor Farmers Market in December with Faith in Place, attended by church members and community members. We were a successful location and hope to repeat this event this winter.
- 7) Led a session of Jr Hi Youth Fellowship about Resource Scarcity related to Social and Environmental Justice Issues in April.
- 8) When church members volunteered to repaint some interior spaces this spring, they used no-VOC paint to minimize indoor air pollution.

### **Ministry of Meals - Jenny Fischer**

The Ministry of Meals continues to be a thriving ministry, delivering meals to church members during times of illness or crisis. The volunteer roster includes 90 cooks and 6 “shepherds” who coordinate and schedule meal delivery. During the past year, approximately 30 phone contacts were made and 70 meals prepared and delivered to our church families. The number of meals delivered was significantly up from last year. We no longer provide meals for the young adults participating in the WDSRA program. The Ackerman location was eliminated by WDSRA. We use [foodtidings.com](http://foodtidings.com) to organize the meals online.

### **One Voice Outreach Choir Director - Vicki Steevensz**

One Voice Outreach Choir was established in 1982 by Ruth Hoffman, then music director here at the church, and her daughter and her daughter’s friends. They wanted to create a group of teens of all faiths who would minister to the community at large, specifically residents confined due to age or ill health. Thus the choir was created with the mission of performing at local nursing homes and convalescent centers and then visiting afterward with the residents. We give about ten outreach concerts a year as well as three public concerts - one at the library as part of the holiday celebration, and two public concerts at area churches. OV also has a social aspect, holding fall and spring events, and overall creating a safe place in which to make great friendships. We are currently 30 members strong.

One Voice just completed our performance year on Sunday, May 6, with a public concert here at the church. We hear from the nursing homes we perform at that our visits are different from most of groups they receive, both in the quality of the performances and also that the kids visit with the residents, sharing stories and holding hands, for about 30 minutes.

One Voice is richly appreciated by its members and they often count it as one of the most important parts of their often over-busy lives — and a soft place to fall. We have a strong and creative parent board, a resourceful student board learning to lead, and magnificently helpful, supportive parents who drive our members to outreaches and who chaperone all of our events. This year’s parent board members were: Kristy Bockelman (President), Renie Atchison, Chrissy Dougherty, Jeff Laird, Kim Laird, Margo Matthew, and Jean Slevin. Our student board members were: Brennan Dougherty, Katie Laird, Grace Larrabee, Robbie Matthew, Julia Norvid, Emma Raczka, Jack Slevin, and Matt Yaniz.

Church member, Jean Slevin, was our efficient and hospitable liaison between the choir and the church this year. This year our accompanist had to depart at Christmas time for a move to Colorado, and we were incredibly fortunate to hire Ellen Coman as our enthusiastic and skilled new accompanist. Ellen is the music director at Holy Cross in Wheaton and the sister of Paul Dorrfield, organist here at the church!

Our membership really flagged this year. We typically lose about 10% of our members each year because of busy schedules, but this year we lost 30%. In almost every case, it was because of the teen’s schedule being overly full. Recruiting new members is also challenging for the same reason. I hope One Voice will survive this period of über busy teens.

We of One Voice are so grateful to our church home, First Congregational Church, for lending us space to rehearse and to keep our music, and for being so wonderful to our members and leadership. Although we are a financially independent group, we feel a strong kinship with the church and its members. Thank you ever so much, FCCGE.

### **One Voice Outreach Choir Church Liaison - Jean Slevin**

We just wrapped up the One Voice Choir for the year 2017-2018 year. This was my first year as the One Voice liaison with FCCGE and it's been a pleasure working with Sue and Joyce. Our choir is grateful to FCCGE for continuing to provide us with the space to rehearse and perform and also the ongoing support and interest in our group and what we do. One Voice not only provides a wonderful outreach to senior citizens but it also provides concerts to the public and brings together 30 teenagers of different schools and faiths for a good cause.

Gratefully, Vicki Steevensz returned this year and has resumed her director role working with the Choir, Student Board, Parent Board and the Accompanist to fulfill the One Voice Mission.

One Voice did 9 outreaches to retirement homes this year bringing joy and entertainment to many senior citizens. Not only do the teens sing for the elderly, they also spend time talking with the residents after every outreach. Looking at the residents you could see the delight that talking to the kids and sharing some of their life stories brings them. And it's wonderful to see the teens engaged and sharing their gifts and bringing joy to others.

We rehearsed at FCCGE every Tuesday night, held an Overnight Retreat, and held the Spring Concert there. Our traditional pre-holiday concert was held in November at the GE Public Library again and the Winter Concert at Grace Lutheran Church.

We are currently holding auditions for new members to fill the spots that will open up with the graduating seniors. We appreciate how accommodating and efficient FCCGE is with organizing and planning our events there.

#### **Onward House / Bridge Family Christmas Gifts** Marge Kovatch

Onward House is an outreach facility in the Belmont Cragin area of Chicago which provides day care, head start programs, after-school tutoring, social clubs, a computer lab, and food bank (among other services) to low income families from the surrounding neighborhood. Our congregation has, for many years, provided Christmas gifts for many of the children involved in these programs. This year, we delivered 202 Christmas gifts to Onward House.

Marge Kovatch coordinated the project with help from a number of people. Many members bought gifts. Karen Ellis, Sandi Wroblewski, Cori and Kathy Elsesser, Leslie Foster, and many others helped with organizing, wrapping, sorting, carrying, loading, and delivery of the gifts to the site.

We did not provide gifts for our transitional housing family (Bridge Communities) because we were not mentoring a family in that program at the time.

#### **PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)** Linda Davenport

This year, saw a continued partnership with St. Mark's to cover 52 Sunday nights per year. Volunteers provided food, supplies and their time to help others feel remembered and cared for in a world where they are mostly forgotten. The choir caroled the guests at Christmas and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops made lunches. The children from St. Petronelle's held a fundraiser which resulted in \$750.00 worth of gift cards for Christmas.

Elizabeth Thorsell continues to be a huge help as she assumed even more responsibilities for coordinating food and supplies. I thank God for her and every one of my volunteers who give so much of their hearts to Pads.

Staffing for the summer is always a challenge and I encourage everyone to sign up for at least one shift. Allie Beyer is coordinating supplies and collecting food donations. Three other participating churches also take one Sunday a month to provide for meals throughout the summer.

### **Rebuilding Together – Randy Briasco**

For the 21<sup>st</sup> straight year, dedicated members and youths of the church volunteered the day to improve the homes of people in need. It started in January when team captains, Bill Taylor and Randy Briasco, visited our recipient - Ms. Sharon Hooker - and began planning our one day blitz to make Ms. Hooker's house a little more comfortable and safe. For eight hours on April 28th with blue skies, the team painted the living and dining rooms, replaced the house address numbers, side fence gate latch, a broken basement window, dryer vent, smoke detectors, and kitchen counter. With the help of local union plumber and electricians, we replaced several light fixtures, kitchen sink drain and upstairs bath toilet and tub hardware. We excavated and repaired a leaky front foundation wall and regraded the outside while replacing the drywall in the basement closet ceiling. We replaced the stove, backsplash and cleaned the kitchen cabinetry. We painted the front entrance railings and assorted other tasks. Our sincerest thanks to Catherine Curtis and Kendra Joyner-Miller who helped coordinate our teen volunteers. Many hands make light work!

Our thanks to the many dedicated adults and teens who participated in the success of the project including Bill Taylor, John Pottebaum, Ted Harman, Doug Robson, Randy Briasco, David Hecht, Sydney Melms, Amy Thompson, Tom Rausch, Carl Bartholomay, Grant Bell, Steve Yost, Malcolm Mehr, Gabe Koenig, Annabel Pottebaum and many volunteers from IBEW 134 and Plumbers Local 150.

### **Stephen Ministry - Rev. Melissa McCreery Riley**

Stephen Ministry is a special program for trained laity to walk beside fellow congregants who are experiencing difficulties in their lives: divorce, job loss, grief, transitions, the events and illnesses we encounter in life. Stephen Ministry is not a substitution for counseling but rather a safe, confidential relationship in which to share the weights of life with someone who listens objectively, once a week for an hour.

Every other year, we offer training to become a Stephen Minister. In November 2017, we trained and commissioned two new ministers: Amy Kalten and Kristin Rendina. The following are currently serving as Stephen Ministers: Becky Gadowski, Kristin Malone, Leland Livingston, Lise Lutz, Steve Jungling, and Paul Wussow. Our Stephen Leaders are Virginia Highstone, and Maggie Fredricks.

All conversation and contact with any of these people, even an inquiry about the program is strictly confidential. The Stephen Ministry program has been in practice for 10 years at FCCGE and served over 50 members of our church. We honor your privacy and hold all interactions with the confidentiality and trust you place in us. If you need a Stephen Minister, or know someone who may benefit from one, please contact Rev. Melissa McCreery Riley.

## REPORTS OF FCCGE'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP #41 – Jennifer Solak, Treasurer**

Boy Scout Troop 41 operates with a single bank account at US Bank. The current balance as of April 30, 2018 was approximately \$31,520.

The bank account is comprised of **four** distinct “buckets” (which I keep track of in a separate ledger):

1. Troop Money
2. Scout Account Funds
3. Markham Fund
4. Trailer Fund

#### Troop Money

There are two primary sources of revenue for the Troop each year - a Pancake Breakfast in the Spring and Popcorn/Wreath Sales in the Fall. Last year, the Pancake Breakfast brought in approximately \$2,300 in net profit to the troop and the Popcorn/Wreath Sales brought in approximately \$3,000 in net profit to the troop.

Offsetting this revenue each year are the following major expenses which the Troop pays for or subsidizes:

- Annual registration and insurance ~\$2,000
- Owasippe Summer Camp - ~\$1,000-\$1,500 (subsidy)
- 12 campouts (varying subsidy for each campout)
- Food for 12 campouts (~\$200-\$300 per campout)
- Eagle Scout Court of Honors (subsidy, depends on the number of scouts reaching Eagle rank in that year)
- Annual Court of Honor Dinner (~\$500)
- Trailer Storage of ~\$90/month
- Scout Store purchases (merit badges, neckerchiefs, patches, etc.) ~ \$1,000/year
- Every year the Troop also gives 10% of the net profits from the pancake breakfast to the First Congregational Church for use of their facility (last year's check was for \$232.35)

#### Scout Account Funds

Boys earn money in their scout accounts from popcorn/wreath sales as well as pancake breakfast ticket sales. Scout accounts may be used to pay for campouts, annual registration fees, troop gear, etc. The current balance of this portion of the overall account is approximately \$3,100 (comprised of varying earned amounts available to each of the approximately 50 scouts for these activities).

#### Markham Fund

This fund was established many years ago in honor of a former scoutmaster. It is used to assist boys who need financial help in paying for campouts and/or to help support boys going High Adventure campouts (\$50/scout). The Fund has a current balance of approximately \$2,100. Proceeds, averaging around \$250 per year, from the bake sale at the pancake breakfast are added to this fund.

#### Trailer Fund

In 2015, Troop 41 purchased its first new trailer in approximately 20 years using the funds set aside in the Trailer Fund. The cost of the trailer was approximately \$4,500. The current balance in the Trailer Fund is approximately \$800. Money comes into the Trailer Fund in one of two ways, either as a donation (usually from a former troop member) or upon a boy's exit from the troop. When a scout leaves the troop (either by quitting boy scouts or graduating to Eagle rank), any leftover funds in his Scout Account are transferred to the trailer fund.

**BRIDGE COMMUNITIES – Karen Pulver**

Our interactions with Bridge Communities were highlighted by two major events:

Angie Marquez completed the two-year program and was able to buy a house with her mother. She and her three boys have a new home of their own. This is a major success story, possible due to Angie’s determination and the diligence of mentors Hope Rodine and Leslie Dodge.

Just a few days before Christmas we were made aware of a qualified family who had been living in temporary shelters and hotels for more than a year. Robert and Alba Reimer and their son Robert were able to move into a Bridge residence by Christmas. Thanks to Kristin Rendina, they had gifts for the holiday. They are now being mentored by Leslie Dodge, John McRitchie and Chris Roth.

**GLEN ELLYN FOOD PANTRY - Jennifer Darnall**

The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Ministry fills one spot on the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Board. Meetings are held on the third Monday six times a year at Grace Lutheran Church. The Board is made up of representatives from 18 area churches.

Each of the churches with a board representative are assigned a month to collect food for the Pantry. The month of September is the church’s month to conduct a food collection. Recent years have seen a decline in food donations and an increase in clients. We will work hard to collect more food in September.

Appointments are taken for clients to come in and shop for food. There is also a walk-in area that clients can visit to pick up food. Over the past few years, local stores have been donating food that would otherwise be thrown away (Food Recovery). Volunteers are always needed to pick up this food from the stores. Cash donations are always welcome to purchase other needed items. The Pantry website has a list of much-needed items ([www.glenellynfoodpantry.org](http://www.glenellynfoodpantry.org)).

**GLEN ELLYN WALK-IN MINISTRY - Lyn Whiston**

The Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry [WIM] provides help to Glen Ellyn residents, PADS participants and members of Glen Ellyn churches who need assistance. Aid provided includes assistance with utilities, car and bike repairs, prescriptions, shoes, gasoline and similar services. In addition, WIM refers clients to other sources of assistance such as DuPage County Human Services, Milton Township, Peoples Resource Center and various food pantries in DuPage County. WIM has no paid workers, only volunteers.

FCCGE provides significant support to WIM, both financially and with volunteers. In 2017, WIM served many clients with 1,546 individual forms of assistance. Current FCCGE volunteers include Jack Breeser, Lora Ilhardt, Bob Knobbe, Ann Van Setters and Lyn Whiston. WIM is always looking for additional volunteers who are willing to serve a two-hour shift once or twice a month. Contact Lyn Whiston for further information.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### THE ANNUAL FUND TEAM - Pete Wroblewski

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The Annual Fund team is pleased to announce that the fiscal year 2019 campaign exceeded last year's campaign total. Congratulations to all! The details will follow, but first I thought I would provide some other highlights.

This year's effort was part of the Called Forward campaign that asked members to contribute in two ways: 1) The Annual Fund - to support our operating expenses, day-to-day ministry, and outreach; 2) The capital campaign - a gift over and above the annual commitment (paid out over a three-year period) that will be used to care for our facility and better equip it for mission, welcome and worship now and for the years ahead. The overall campaign has been successful not only in terms of meeting our financial objectives, but also in reminding us that we are a caring and generous community and that we are all called forward as individuals and as a church.

Other highlights include the addition of Joe Seltzer who joined Sylvia Rodee, Elaine Metzger, Rick Mattoon, Nate Ulery, Mark Lutz and me as part of the Annual Fund team. Thank you, Joe, and all the team members for your hard work and countless contributions to this successful effort. We also added, for the first time, additional team volunteers who helped with outreach and scheduling personal visits. Thank you to all of the additional volunteers as well.

As of May 20, 2018, here's where we're at with the numbers:

- Our pledge total for this year's campaign is \$1,031,575 a \$2,623 increase from last year's pledge total of \$1,028,952.
- We are up \$102k from new (18) and increased pledges. This is off-set by \$66k in reduced and confirmed lost pledges.
- There are approximately 28 people who pledged last year and have not pledged this year. We are hoping to still hear from you....it's not too late!!!! This group pledged \$30k last year.
- Our median and average pledges increased 15.3% and 11.5%, respectively to \$2,400 and \$4,143.
- 67 donors pledged more than \$5,000 and 129 pledged between \$1,000 and \$5,000.
- 42% of our donors increased their pledge for the next fiscal year.
- 88% of our annual fund donors also pledged to the capital campaign.
- Approximately \$10,000 additional budget will be directed to mission.

We are very encouraged by the enthusiastic support we received from all of you and the overall financial results given the double ask. And, coming off a few years in a row of lower pledge totals, it is very encouraging to see the strong fundamentals of this year's pledges.

If you participated in this year's campaign – thank you! All of your gifts and contributions are appreciated, valued and yet another example of how we are a community like no other.

Thank you again for your support.

## **CALLED FORWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – Dave Mook & Sylvia Rodee**

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*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:21*

One of the first Capital Campaigns for our church was organized by a group of seven women who thought the church needed a bell. And not just any bell – a Mighty Bell for the Ages – a bell that was too large for the small building that housed the church. Those women believed that they were called to leave a legacy for future generations. And so they did, as that bell rings in our tower today.

The bar was high for our Called Forward Capital Campaign – to inspire our community to pledge towards the future of our wonderful church building. The campaign kicked-off in January 2018 – and its focus was on our spirit of generosity. Pastor Seth and Pastor Kendra inspired us through sermons, several members shared their personal generosity stories through testimonies in worship and in the Our Stories Devotional booklet (a collection of generosity stories to which more than 30 members contributed). On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we invited the entire congregation to gather at the Morton Arboretum for an evening of fellowship and discussion. And there were other congregation gatherings and home visits as we shared what it means to be generous and to be grateful.

Our congregation responded with immense generosity, ensuring that our community of faith will continue to be a progressive voice for justice, mercy and peace for many years to come. Here are the statistics of our Called Forward Capital Campaign:

As of May 2018:	239 pledges
	\$2.65MM vs. our base goal of \$2.25MM

Contributions will be made over 3 years, through June 2021 and will support repair, replacement and maintenance needs within our facility for the next 10 years as well as improvements and upgrades in Pilgrim Hall (to better serve our PADS guests), the sanctuary and entryways.

Like those few women who came together to buy our bell – our faith community came together to build something that will be a gift to future generations.

Leadership was provided by Deb Giampoli, Mark Lutz, Kathleen Hokenson, Hope Rodine, Celia Rodee, Pete Wroblewski, Sylvia Rodee (Co-Chair) and Dave Mook (Co-Chair).

## ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dave Mook

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The value of the Endowment Fund as of 12/31/17 was as follows:

	<u>12/31/17</u>	<u>12/31/16</u>	<u>Change</u>
Vanguard Wellesley Fund	\$521,155	\$493,550	\$ 27,605
Vanguard Wellington Fund	158,970	114,367	44,603
Outstanding Church Loan	<u>101,795</u>	<u>120,397</u>	<u>(18,602)</u>
Total	\$ 781,920	\$ 728,314	\$ 53,606

As of March 31, 2018, the total value of the Endowment Fund (made up of the three categories above) is \$670,869 (+\$96,960).

Vanguard Wellesley – primary investment fund with a conservative mix of 35% equities / 65% fixed income. This is the fund into which any contributions received are placed. In calendar 2017, contributions were \$155.

Vanguard Wellington – moderate mix of 65% equities / 35% fixed income. This is the fund that receives monthly church loan payments (\$2,133.32).

Church Loan – Original balance was \$190,000. Loan was made in 2012 for church office and kitchen renovations. It is amortized monthly on a 10-year schedule.

In December 2017, a payment of \$23,056.00 was made from the Endowment Fund to the Church Operating Fund. This represented dividends / income for 2016. It includes salary augmentation of \$2,247.98 for church staff as stipulated by the donor.

Endowment Committee members: Darryl Baltimore, Liz Werth and Dave Mook (Chair).

The Treasurer’s Report contains two sections. The first is a report on the financial activities of the current fiscal year to-date and the second being comments regarding the 2018-19 budget that was passed by Council.

The fiscal year of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30, 2018. This allows for our fiscal year to match our program year. But since our annual meeting is prior to our fiscal year-end, year-end financial statements are not available. The fiscal-year-end financial statements should be available and published on the church website by August 31, 2018.

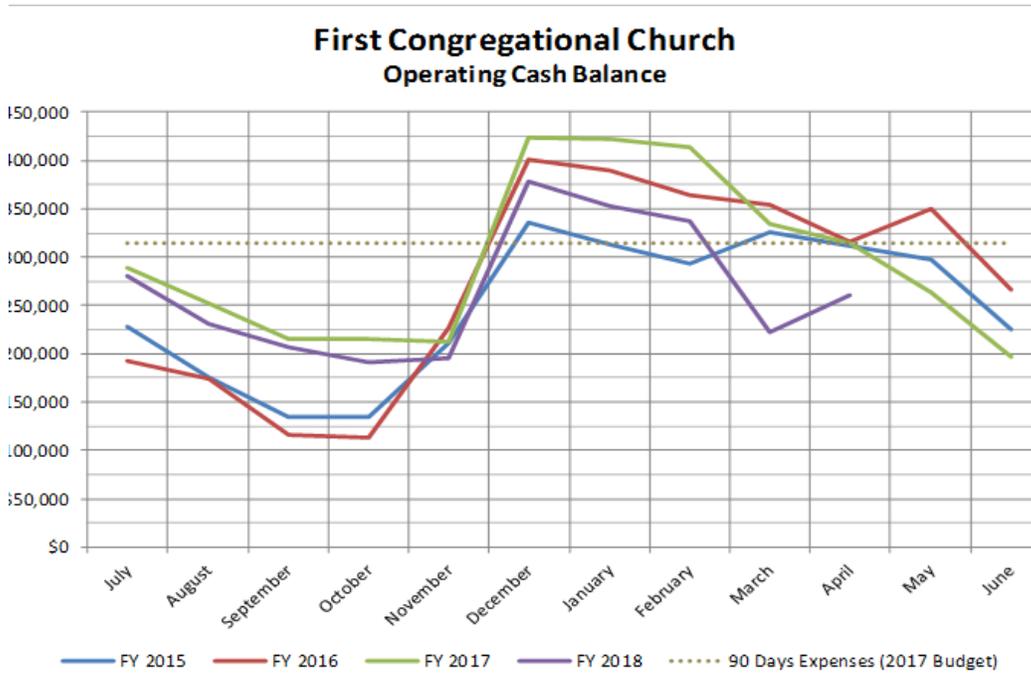
Financial Position

The financial position of the church is defined by our balance sheet. It shows where we are at a point in time identifying all cash on hand (operating fund, endowment fund, and restricted donations and council designated funds), historical investment in our building, debt, and equity. We use the cash basis of accounting so there are no payables listed such as payroll or other liabilities. We also don’t record depreciation on our building and equipment. The following is our most recent balance sheet as of April 30, 2018.

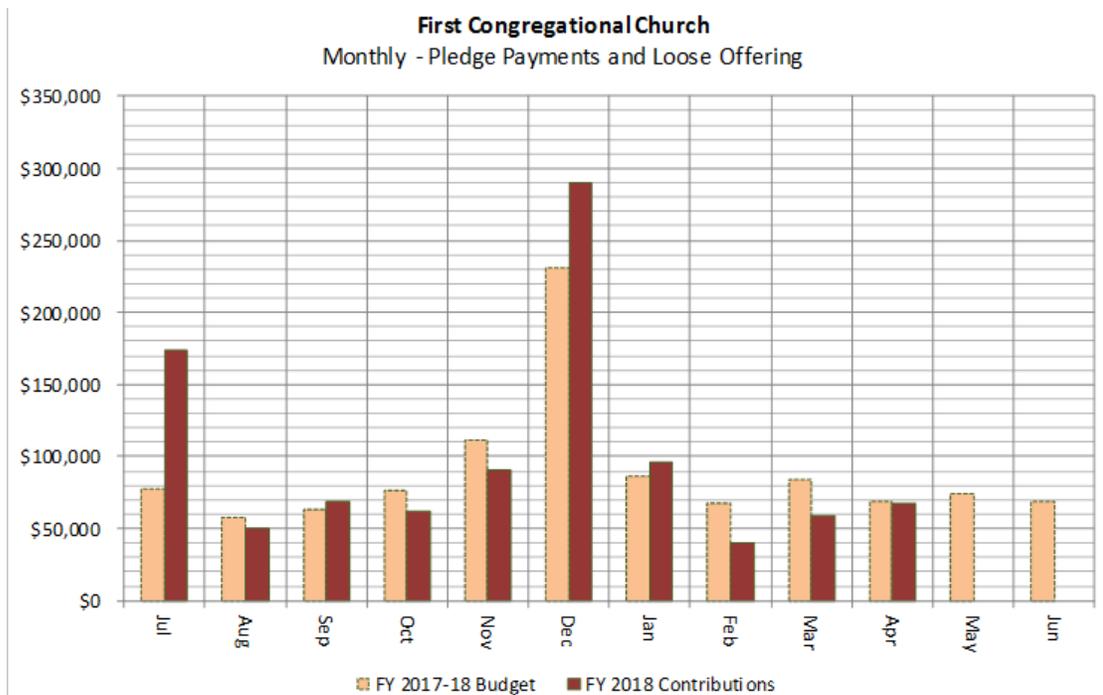
<b>First Congregational Church</b>			
<b>Financial Position as of April 30, 2018</b>			
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		<b><u>Liabilities and Equity</u></b>	
Operating Fund Cash	\$260,101	Debt	
		Endowment Note Payable	\$95,332
Restricted Donations & Council Designated		Community Bank Payable	5,376
Building Reserve Fund	\$115,227	Total Debt	\$100,708
Buiding Reserve Council Designated	\$117,354		
Music	2,500		
PADS	48,624	Equity	8,135,617
Youth Work Camp	4,000		
Seminary Scholarships	5,311	Total Liabilities and Equity	\$8,236,325
General Education	1,520		
Property and Grounds	1,875		
Charitable Crisis	391		
Ensuing Year Pledge	41,710		
Capital Campaign	112,459		
Total Restricted and Designated	\$450,971		
Endowment Fund			
Investments	\$678,504		
Receivable from Operating Fund	95,332		
Total Endowment Fund	\$773,836		
Fixed Assets	\$6,751,417		
Total Assets	\$8,236,325		

## Cash Position

Many activities of the church are very seasonal in nature. For example, the programs of the church are limited during the summer and in contrast, the donations to the church are very high at the end of the calendar year. However, our biggest expenditure, personnel, does not decrease during the summer. Therefore, our operating cash balance peaks in December and then decreases throughout the year. Our historic monthly cash balances and a line showing the recommended 90 days cash we should be maintaining are shown below.



We estimate and budget our receipts based on the historical seasonality of collections. The chart below reflects our current fiscal year actual receipts vs. budget.



## Long-term Debt

Church Mortgage – In May 2008, FCCGE obtained a 10-year mortgage with Community Bank of Wheaton/Glen Ellyn of \$543,325 with a rate of 3.4%. As of April 30, 2018, the balance on the loan is \$5,375. This loan will be retired during the current fiscal year with the last payment in May 2018.

Endowment Fund Loan – In July 2012, FCCGE obtained a note with the FCCGE Endowment Fund for \$190,000 amortized over 10 years at a twice annually adjusted lending rate plus 3 points. As of April 30, 2018, the debt owed to the Endowment Fund is \$95,331. The annual payments of principal and interest total \$25,600.

Line of Credit – In February 2008, the Church Council approved a line of credit in the amount of \$200,000, secured by a mortgage on our building and carries an interest rate of prime. This loan has been renewed annually. The line of credit has never been used and as such has no outstanding balance.

## Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget – Comments

Over the past few years, we have weathered through some challenging financial times resulting in uncertainty as to how to preserve our historic church building, deficit operating budgets and significant cuts to our mission support. It is truly a blessing that we have not only weathered the storm but emerge more hopeful than ever.

With gratitude to the support of our congregation through a successful capital campaign and increased annual fund support along with the strong fiscal stewardship by our committees, the Church Council is proposing the balanced budget outlined below for approval to the congregation at the annual meeting.

### Key Highlights:

- Mission Support
  - ◇ The proposed budget provides for an increase in our mission support of \$10,000.
  - ◇ During the upcoming year, we will task the Service and Justice Committee to discern the best way to utilize these additional funds.
  
- Staff Support
  - ◇ As a responsible employer, the budget provides for a 3% salary increase to all clergy and staff.
  - ◇ At Pastor Seth's request, we are increasing Rev. Melissa Riley's hours to provide additional clergy support.
  - ◇ We have budgeted for a part time facility manager and anticipate bringing this person on as soon as July 1st. Our expectation is that the facility manager will spend half of his/her time supporting maintenance related projects and half of his/her time engaged in overseeing and supporting the multitude of upcoming capital campaign projects. Therefore, we believe it is both responsible and appropriate to allocate 50% of the facility manager's salary to the operating budget (Annual Fund) and 50% to be paid by Capital Campaign proceeds.
  
- Debt Service
  - ◇ Endowment Loan -- We have a remaining balance of approximately \$95,000 on a loan provided by the Endowment Fund to cover previous Capital related projects. We have been making payments of approximately \$25,000 a year through our operating funds to repay this loan. We believe that given the nature of the loan (for capital projects) it is appropriate that going forward these payments should be made with Capital Campaign proceeds.
  - ◇ Mortgage – The mortgage loan has now been paid in full as of May 2018 thus retiring this debt.
  
- Reserve Fund
  - ◇ Over the past several years, we have made payments from the operating fund to support the building reserve fund. In light of our successful capital campaign, which we anticipate will cover the next 10 years of needed building projects, we are discontinuing these payments from the operating budget.

Our primary goal is to be good stewards of your generous contributions. This means investing in staff, programs and facilities to provide a community without walls that is welcoming to all.

**PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2019 WITH PRIOR YEAR COMPARISONS**

**First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn  
Budget**

	Year-End	YTD	Budget	
	June 2017	April 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge & Loose Offering	\$1,010,551	\$985,892	\$1,064,000	\$1,057,000
Endowment Distributions	23,241	23,056	25,000	25,000
Building Usage Fees	28,111	6,717	7,100	3,000
Church Fundraiser	13,820	120	0	0
Misc. Income	1,382	580	36,200	33,320
	<u>1,077,105</u>	<u>1,016,365</u>	<u>1,132,300</u>	<u>1,118,320</u>
Connections	11,896	8,999	7,900	7,900
Worship & Music	31,001	4,630	0	4,450
Total Connections/Worship & Music	<u>42,897</u>	<u>13,629</u>	<u>7,900</u>	<u>12,350</u>
Education	40,416	27,743	32,700	36,475
Service & Justice	6,110	3,216	6,950	2,800
Columbarium	775	500		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$1,167,303</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,061,453</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,179,850</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,169,945</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Admin & Property				
Gas	18,390	15,384	18,000	17,500
Electric	27,611	26,059	30,000	30,000
Repair & Maintenance	27,437	29,470	39,000	33,000
Maintenance Contracts	19,821	12,808	19,725	19,725
Copier & Equipment Maintenance	19,966	16,470	19,730	16,000
Insurance	21,801	17,150	22,480	22,480
Accounting & Financials	10,242	10,443	13,130	4,376
All Other	55,862	44,233	61,293	54,427
Total Admin & Property	<u>201,130</u>	<u>172,017</u>	<u>223,358</u>	<u>197,508</u>
Connections	10,994	10,042	11,731	12,025
Worship & Music				
Music Ministry	44,333	18,968	0	15,850
All Other	8,115	6,214	24,700	10,600
Total Worship & Music	<u>52,448</u>	<u>25,182</u>	<u>24,700</u>	<u>26,450</u>
Total Connections/Worship & Music	<u>63,442</u>	<u>35,224</u>	<u>36,431</u>	<u>38,475</u>

	Year-End June 2017	YTD April 2018	Budget FY 2018	Budget FY 2019
<b>Council</b>				
Mortgage Payments	64,649	53,874	59,263	0
Endowment Loan Payments	25,600	21,333	25,600	25,000
Transfer to Reserve Fund	50,000	41,666	50,000	0
All Other	70	273	38,200	1,500
<b>Total Council</b>	<b>140,319</b>	<b>117,147</b>	<b>173,063</b>	<b>26,500</b>
<b>Education</b>				
Senior High Work Camp	17,920	11,570	22,000	18,000
All Other	44,172	31,622	46,210	61,185
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>62,092</b>	<b>43,192</b>	<b>68,210</b>	<b>79,185</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>684,623</b>	<b>576,039</b>	<b>701,254</b>	<b>748,767</b>
<b>Service &amp; Justice</b>				
Bridge Communities	11,810	9,650	10,500	10,500
Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry	11,000	5,500	11,000	11,000
Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM)	42,250	24,187	32,250	32,250
Other Mission Requests	2,000	0	0	11,000
All Others	42,340	28,935	12,000	13,000
Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling				1,500
GE Children's Resource Center				1,000
Rebuilding Together				500
Root and Branch Church				1,500
UCC Outdoor Ministries				500
DuPage United				6,000
Stephen Ministry				500
Environmental Ministry				1,500
PADS - FCCGE				6,000
USE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS - PADS				(6,000)
<b>Total Service &amp; Justice</b>	<b>86,590</b>	<b>53,122</b>	<b>65,750</b>	<b>77,750</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,238,196</b>	<b>\$996,741</b>	<b>\$1,268,066</b>	<b>\$1,168,185</b>
<b>Excess (Deficit) of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<b>(\$70,893)</b>	<b>\$64,712</b>	<b>(\$88,216)</b>	<b>\$1,760</b>

## APPENDIX

### SUMMARY OF RESERVE STUDY REPORT FINDINGS

#### Background:

Our beautiful church facility is large and old. It requires continuous maintenance and upkeep. Our staff and committee members manage its maintenance with a budget of approximately \$46,000 per year. This repair budget does not leave room for end-of-life equipment replacements or major renovations.

It is difficult to do long term planning for equipment and building infrastructure replacements due to the revolving nature of our church committee structure. Consequently, we have under invested in our facility's maintenance/refurbishment for several years. This puts the church in a potentially risky position if an infrastructure item suddenly fails (e.g. heating system, cooling system, roof, etc.).

#### The Approach:

Church leadership desired an accurate long term plan for our facility. In December 2014 the Council engaged Reserve Advisors, Inc. to perform an assessment of our church facility and prepare a *Full Reserve Study*. The *Full Reserve Study* provides a professional long term plan for our infrastructure investments for the next 30 years. The church is thankful for a special donation from Dean and Jenny Fischer who underwrote the significant cost of the *Full Reserve Study*. You can view the *Full Reserve Study* when you go to the front page of our website (fccge.org) under *Community*, then click on *Documents*.

#### The Findings:

The *Full Reserve Study* reviewed 48 major components including doors, entrances, gutters, light fixtures, roofs, masonry, windows, floor coverings, ceilings, kitchen, organ restoration, pew restoration, rest rooms, air handling units, heating and cooling systems, boilers, electrical system, elevator, life safety system, parking lot pavement and fences.

A key takeaway- we are facing **\$1,100,000** of building investments in the next five years; the ten year total investment anticipated is **\$2,100,000**.

How will these infrastructure investments be funded? Reserve Advisors recommends the church adopt a Reserve Fund budget of \$207,000 in 2016. Afterwards, the church should budget gradual annual increases in reserve funding through 2020. It is recommended the church fund stable contributions of \$230,300 from 2021 through 2025. By 2026, the church will have fully funded for the replacement of roofs and air handling units. These contributions will maintain a Reserve Fund for the major expenditures. The following table summarizes the first ten years of the Reserve Fund activity:

## Building Reserve Fund Study - Ten Year Summary

Year	Contributions	Expenditures	End of Year Building Reserve Fund Balance
1	\$ 207,000	\$ (83,187)	\$ 124,494
2	\$ 212,600	\$ (197,446)	\$ 141,101
3	\$ 218,300	\$ (180,202)	\$ 180,961
4	\$ 224,200	\$ (222,240)	\$ 184,922
5	\$ 230,300	\$ (375,810)	\$ 40,646
6	\$ 230,300	\$ (168,960)	\$ 102,770
7	\$ 230,300	\$ (54,226)	\$ 280,943
8	\$ 230,300	\$ (321,887)	\$ 191,943
9	\$ 230,300	\$ (224,822)	\$ 199,563
10	\$ 230,300	\$ (312,485)	\$ 119,121
	\$2,243,900	\$(2,141,265)	

Total expenditures in the first five years	\$ 1,058,885
Total expenditures in the first ten years	\$ 2,141,265

The game plan to fund these infrastructure projects will be a major initiative for the congregation during the 2017 fiscal year. The table below and on the following pages illustrates the recommended infrastructure improvements for the next ten years.

### Progress to Date

We continue to communicate the results of the *Full Reserve Study* with our members to provide education of this important issue. Our Administration & Property Committee is evaluating which projects to undertake first based on our most pressing needs. During FY2016 our members made voluntary gifts of \$156,000 to the Reserve Fund. This total included a very special gift of \$150,000 by one of our generous member families.

Next, we need to organize the fund raising efforts. These steps will be key initiatives during the 2017 program year.

### How Can You Help?

Please take time to read the *Full Reserve Study*. (Reader tip: there is a two page Executive Summary, colorful graphs and photos illustrating the worn condition of many components.) Printed copies of the report are also available in the church office. Spread the word to other church members about this important need for the future of our church. Participate at a coming information session about this topic. Respond through your annual giving.

If you have questions or would like to participate on the Reserve Fund team please contact Nancy Ellis, Assistant Moderator, [ellis704@aol.com](mailto:ellis704@aol.com).

### Building Reserve Study - The First Ten Years of Projects

2016

Windows, stained glass, refurbishment, phased	30,810
Asphalt Pavement, total replacement	52,377
Annual total	83,187

2017		
	Roof, Asphalt Shingles, Original Chapel (incl. gutters and downspouts)	17,087
	Roofs, Asphalt Shingles, Dormers at Clay Tile Roofs	8,227
	Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs	52,315
	Floor Coverings, carpet, common areas, phased	74,253
	Kitchen Equipment, phased	26,368
	Air Handling and Condensing Units, split systems, phased	12,446
	Reserve study update with site visit	6,750
		<u>197,446</u>
2018		
	Light Fixtures, bell tower and mounted	10,832
	Walls, wood trim, paint finishes (includes sealants)	32,496
	Windows, stained glass, refurbishment, phased	32,496
	Floor Coverings, carpet, common areas, phased	76,258
	Floor Coverings, vinyl tile, common areas	12,955
	Pew Restoration	15,165
		<u>180,202</u>
2019		
	Ceilings, acoustical tiles and grid, phased	55,567
	Floor coverings, carpet, sanctuary and narthex	32,539
	Light Fixtures, can and pendant, atrium and chapel	6,424
	Light Fixtures, sanctuary, narthex and stairs, dome	3,115
	Boilers, building heat	124,595
		<u>222,240</u>
2020		
	Windows, stained glass, refurbishment, phased	34,275
	Windows, wood frames, phased	13,824
	Ceilings, acoustical tiles and grid, phased	57,067
	Elevator cab finishes	7,997
	Air Handling Units, rooftop heating and cooling units	93,684
	Energy recovery and condensing units, systems	165,661
	Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	3,302
		<u>375,810</u>

**Five year total**

**1,058,885**

2021		
	Doors, entrances	18,773
	Roofs, thermoplastic, CPE, 2001	103,254
	Skylights	46,933
		<u>168,960</u>
2022		
	Windows, stained glass, refurbishment, phased	36,151
	Audio Visual Equipment, phased	18,075
		<u>54,226</u>
2023		
	Gutters and downspouts, copper	23,018
	Roofs, clay tiles, underlayment and partial tile replacement	298,869
		<u>321,887</u>
2024		
	Roofs, thermoplastic, TPO, 2007	118,200
	Walls, wood trim, paint finishes (includes sealants)	38,129
	Windows, stained glass, refurbishment, phased	38,129
	Light Fixtures, sanctuary, refurbishment	12,710
	Air Handling Unit, make-up air	13,981
	Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	3,673
		<u>224,822</u>
2025		
	Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs	64,742
	Windows, wood frames, phased	15,794
	Floor Coverings, tile, common areas	9,398
	Organ restoration, electrical	71,791
	Rest Rooms, multiple stalls, renovations	66,569
	Rest Rooms, single stall and shower rooms,	16,316
	Life Safety System, (control panel and emergency devices)	67,875
		<u>312,485</u>
	<b>Ten year total</b>	<b>2,141,265</b>

535 Forest Ave  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
630-469-3096 630-469-4195 (fax)  
[www.fccge.org](http://www.fccge.org)