Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
5250 Wolf Road, Western Springs Illinois 60558-1898 • 708.246.5220 • www.presbyws.org

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

March 5, 2017

AGENDA

Clerk of Session and Secretary of the Corporation:

Walter W. Kovalick

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Discuss and Receive Annual Reports of Officers, Session, Pastors and Organizations of the Church**
- **Discuss and Receive 2017 Budget**
- **Meeting of the Corporation**
- **Adjourn Corporation meeting**
- **Update on the Capital Campaign**
- **Pastoral search process update**
- **New Business (introduced only by an active member)**
- **Recognition of former and current Elders, Deacons, Financial Officers, Nominating Committee, Staff and Volunteers**
- **Moments of Memorial**

✝ **Margaret Miller** ✝ **Norman Duncan** ✝ **Robert Fencl**

- **Closing Prayer**
- **Adjournment**

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The Reverend Jennifer Burns Lewis (End date 7/31/16)	Pastor, Head of Staff
The Reverend Matthew P. Schmidt (End date 11/30/16)	Associate Pastor
The Reverend William J. Ingersoll	Interim Pastor, HOS
The Rev. Dan Lewis (End date 7/31/16)	Parish Associate
The Reverend Donald L. Simmonds	Parish Associate
The Reverend Grayson Van Camp	Parish Associate
The Reverend Rebecca McClintock	Parish Associate
The Reverend David Bebb Jones	Pastor Emeritus
Carolyn Bozek (End date 9/30/16)	Christian Education/Youth Ministry Administrator
The Reverend Tai Zimmerman Cole	Interim Faith Formation Leader/Administrator
Brendon DeBoer	Interim Youth Leader
Patricia Hughes Mangis	Music Team Leader (Music Administration/ Choral Music)
Stephanie M. Coates	Music Team Leader (Organist, Handbell Choir)
Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig	Office Administrator
Cory Hoskins	Nursery Attendant
Kurt Smyers	Director of Operations
Paige Dold (End date 7/31/16)	Sexton
Davis McMahon	Sexton
Salvatore Melilli	Sexton
Alex Rodriguez	Sexton
Katie Sindelar (End date 7/31/16)	Sexton
Mary Smyers	Sexton
Erin Sullivan	Sexton
Dan Wennerstrum	Sexton
Linda Murray (End date 12/31/16)	Director of Lay Ministries
Kay Kelly	Co-Director of Lay Ministries
Jane Melilli	Co-Director of Lay Ministries
Joyce Rodos	Stephen Ministries
Michelle Hennessy	Director of Communications
Hank Vaughan	Technologist

Church Officers

The Session

Walt Kovalick, Clerk of Session

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Paul Banovic	Kathy Boxell	Joyce Rodos
Herb Smyers	Kim Fronk	Chad Sellman
Kathy Wennerstrum	Neil Pendleton	Peter Weber
Stacie Wilson	Lance Smith	Steve Wennerstrum
Jamie Smith		Tanner Booth

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Jill Dold	Bruce Barnes	Laura Cordell
Kay Kelly	Jan Paddock	Bob Cushman
Jane Melilli	Mary Jo Sindelar	Theresa Dixon
Laurie Merrifield	Lisa Wennerstrum	Aileen Pendleton
Katie DeVries	Michelle Hennessy	Julie Kelly
Erin Sullivan		Amy Malone
		Ellie Pendleton

Endowment and Special Gifts Fund Committee

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Larry Randa	Matt Booth	Steve Blough
Julie Kelly, moderator	Mike Lobash	Sal Melilli
		Carol Stoub

Financial Officers

Treasurer: Pat Ravanesi **Associate Treasurer:** John Boxell

Assistant Treasurers: Judy Diebel (end date 12-31-16), Andy Hoskins, Rich Haeske, Scott Sendelar

Officers of the Corporation

Herb Smyers, President Stacie Wilson, Vice-President Walt Kovalick, Secretary

Interim Pastor's Report

Congratulations!! You, the congregation of PCWS, have navigated your way through a number of significant staff changes last year that rarely occur in such a short period of time in the life of a church! In a period of less than four months, your Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Christian Educator were called to serve God in other ways and/or places. In that short time you lost nearly 45 years of staff experience and yet you have persevered in doing Christ's work in this church, this area, and throughout the world. It is an honor during this time to serve as your Interim Pastor. I have enjoyed getting to know you and appreciate working with you - congregation, officers, and staff.

I have viewed my work with you, which began in the middle of October, 2016, as a "call." Despite the fact that an interim pastor position lacks the congregational vote and approval of the whole Presbytery that a "called and installed pastor" position does, I have nonetheless felt your support, prayers, and validation. I thank you.

The call, as I have perceived it, is by God's grace, to work with you in preparing the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs to receive the future pastoral leadership God is leading to this church. This call is to begin to discern, in collaboration with you the congregation, officers, staff, and committees, how God would best use this church's gifts, talents, and potential in God's future mission in this community and the world.

Toward this end, the Session has approved a process for electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) that includes nominations from you, the congregation. The deadline for receiving nominations for consideration to serve on the PNC is Wednesday, March 8, and I encourage you to submit names if you have not already done so. Not long after that, the Session will call a congregational meeting to elect PCWS's PNC.

Furthermore, the Session authorized the congregation's participation in the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey which will enable PCWS to better identify its strengths and weaknesses as well as provide a profile of the style of pastoral leadership that will best serve this church. The Presbytery of Chicago, which encourages all churches undergoing changes in pastoral leadership to take the CAT, is gracious to pay the cost of both the survey and its interpretation. The Session also appointed a Transition Steering Team, to work with the CAT survey and to plan some listening sessions in order that the congregation can provide further input that will be useful to a future Pastor Nominating Committee. Please keep this process in your prayers.

Let me conclude this report by saying how excited I am when I think about PCWS's future. This is a healthy, mission oriented church, blessed with talented lay leadership and staff, and I have no doubt that exceptionally qualified pastoral candidates will wish to be considered as this church's next Pastor. As God has guided, graced, and nurtured PCWS through years past, we trust God will continue to so in the future. And for this, we give God thanks!

Grace and peace,
Bill

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Celebrating Our 61st Year of Ministry

Clerk's Report for Calendar Year 2016

Active members on the church roll as of January 1, 2016	**386**
Members received during 2016:	
Reaffirmation of Faith	13
Affirmation of Faith	1
By Letter of Transfer	3
Reinstatements	0
Total additions	**+17**
Members dismissed during 2016:	
To another church	1
Removed at their request	8
Deceased	3
Inactive	0
Total dismissals	**-12**
Active Members on the church roll as of December 31, 2016	**391**

We rejoice with those who joined PCWS:

By Reaffirmation of Faith

Rachel Galloway Kevin McDermott Sarah Blough Natalie Carlisle
Christian Cloutier Jessie Fronk Luke Gertsmeier Andrew Hughes Salvatore Melilli
Caroline Murray Elizabeth Pendleton Colleen Sullivan Emma Weber

By Affirmation of Faith

Alexandra Boxell

By Letter of Transfer

Philip Galloway Matthew Mosher Suzanne Mosher

Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism of Children

Nicholas Miller, January 17, 2016; Alexandra Boxell, May 15, 2016; Mollie Galloway, October 2, 2016

In Memoriam

✞Margaret Miller, January 14, 2016 ✞Norman Duncan, March 1, 2016
✞Robert Fencl, December 25, 2016

Celebration of Marriage

Katherine Skeels and Lucas Gacek, September 10, 2016

Committee Reports

Board of Deacons

As the hands and heart of the PCWS ministry of compassion, the Board of Deacons was busy in 2016 providing care to our congregation. We embraced the opportunity to know our fellow church members in a deeper way, serving and praying alongside them, celebrating in their joys and providing support during times of grief, illness or struggle. We delivered meals, jars of soup, cookies, prayer shawls, reach-out cards, and flowers. We recruited fellowship hour hosts, Meal Angel cooks, hosted anniversary celebrations, memorial services, and other special receptions, and drivers for those who needed a ride to worship. We also hosted the farewell receptions for Jennifer and for Matt. We organized and staffed a blood drive, arranged for Communion visits for the homebound, and mailed boxes of goodies to our students who are away at college, and organized and all-church picnic. We nurtured relationships through phone calls, cards and letters, over coffee, via home and hospital visits, and by warm and welcoming interactions at Sunday worship and numerous other church events.

Board of Deacons 2016: Bruce Barnes, Lori Carsten, Katie DeVries, Jill Dold, Michelle Hennessy, Kay Kelly, Judy McAtee, Jane Melilli, Laurie Merrifield, Linda Murray, Janet Paddock, Mary Jo Sindelar, Erin Sullivan, Lisa Wennerstrum

Janet Paddock, moderator

Nominating Committee

The 2016 Officer Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers, elected for service beginning January 22, 2017:

Elder: Two year terms-
- Joyce Rodos
- Chad Sellman
- Peter Weber
- Steve Wennerstrum

Nominating Committee cont.

One year term-
- Tanner Booth

Deacon: Two year terms-
- Laura Cordell
- Bob Cushman
- Theresa Dixon
- Julie Kelly
- Amy Malone
- Aileen Pendleton

One year term-
- Ellie Pendleton
- Michelle Hennessy

Endowment and Special Gifts Committee:
Two year term:
- Condy Dixon
- Kevin McDermott
- Kathy Wennerstrum

Safe Space Committee:
One Year term
- Michelle Hennessy
- Kim Yates

Nominating Committee for 2017:

Nominees From the congregation: Jessie Fronk, Lorraine Hoskins, Cheryl Hanson, Kay Kelly, Joyce Smyers, Hank Vaughan

From the Deacons: Jan Paddock

From the Session: Steve Wennerstrum, Condy Dixon, Moderator

Thanks! Nominating Committee for 2016:

From the congregation: Andy Hoskins, Linda Murray, Aileen Pendleton, Abby Sindelar, Joyce Smyers

From the deacons: Kay Kelly

From the Session: Condy Dixon, Kathy Wennerstrum, Moderator

Committee Reports

Properties Committee

2016 was a fairly productive year as the finance committee worked to rally our church to create the Capital Campaign that's now partially funded. As you may recall, when I stepped into the role on Session in 2015, my question was, "Are we a reactionary or proactive church?" when it comes to properties. Well the campaign reinforced what we as Session believed, which is an overwhelming: Proactive!

By mid-last year, we started utilizing some of the capital funds that have been received for some immediate needs at the Manse, parking lot and concrete repair. As the church started our leadership transition, the Manse needed some fairly significant repairs and "TLC" before Pastor Bill and Pastor Matt prepared to utilize it part time. (You may recall the "temporary" manse sitting in the parking lot for a few weeks, utilized by Pastor Matt as his part time village camping trailer/home).

Well, thanks to a great crew of about 11 people over a couple weeks, as well as some significant painting, deep cleaning, carpet replacement and plumbing repairs, the Manse was back up and ready for service. Depending on our next pastor, there will be more significant work that will need to be completed, but for now, we're good to go!

As for the rest of the Property, we stabilized the parking lot, with some specific patches, re-seal, and re-striping to allow a short-term fix for a longer term repair in re-surfacing the lot. We also repaired some sinking concrete pads and slabs around the property that had become significant trip hazards. While the parking lot was repaired towards the end of the fall, we also engaged an engineer to address some parking area drainage issues that will require much more extensive repairs, planned for this summer. We will likely then re-surface the 25 year old asphalt lot.

There are a few other projects in the works this year as we continue to collect funding, including lighting upgrades, air conditioning replacement to the original system installed over 20 years ago as well as a potential replacement of the double doors from the Jones Room to the exterior (they've not worked for more than 10 years!). Further down the road are bigger projects for the sanctuary in replacing the original carpet as well as the organ.

We've got a lot going on and while it may not look like it, progress is being made and very much in thanks to all of you! Here's to a great 2017!

Property Committee: Herb Smyers, Lance Smith, Brian Sullivan, Neil Pendleton, Moderator; Kurt Smyers, Staff

Benevolence Fund Committee

The Benevolence Fund and its oversight committee were established at PCWS in the 1990's in response to a health emergency in the life of a self-employed member of the congregation. Since then, many members and close friends of the congregation have received financial grants and loans for unforeseen needs. In 2016 the committee, composed of representation from the Session, the Board of Deacons, the Endowment and Special Gifts Committee, Pastor Jennifer and Pastor Bill (after Pastor Jennifer left), responded confidentially to a variety of needs. The congregation's generous response to the Benevolence Fund takes place through special gifts and a percentage of the receipts from the Christmas Joy offering each year.

Thank you for your generosity in helping friends and neighbors in need.

Committee Reports

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee provides technology solutions and tools to the staff and many programs within the church while prudently managing funds consistent with church budget goals. In 2016, the committee had no moderator from session and Matt Schmidt filled in as acting moderator. Although the committee did not meet in 2016, its members communicated needs and negotiated budget usage through emails.

This year the committee delayed the scheduled pc replacement in order to replace several monitors, keyboards, and mice. Hank Vaughan consulted with the Finance committee and office staff to review copier quotations and make a recommendation. The office email host was changed to Google, providing better access to emails, shared calendars, and online collaboration.

In October, the sound system in the sanctuary received a major upgrade. Our committee of sound operators, Paul Banovic, Roger Dold, Jim Koning and Mike Lobash, replaced our analog mixer with a new digital mixing board. The new mixer has a very user friendly approach to sound operating that opens up many new possibilities for digital recording, signal processing and varying complexities of operation based on the operator's preferences. One helpful option that is now available is the remote control of the mixer from an iPad. Our sound operators can now move around the sanctuary or sit with their family and still have complete control of the sound mix. If you would like to learn more about it or would like the power to literally silence our pastor, feel free to contact Jim Koning at jkoning@mac.com.

2017 Moderator: Lance Smith
Committee Members have been: Bob Cushman, Jim Koning, Mike Lobash, Kurt Smyers, Tanner Booth (new member)

Sound System Operators: Paul Banovic, Roger Dold, Jim Koning, Kurt Smyers, Coleen Sullivan
Director of IT: Hank Vaughan

Membership/Church Life Committee

The Membership and Church Life Committee has two roles. First, it's charged with taking care of the administrative portion of our life of faith, keeping the rolls of the church organized and our database accurate.

The Church Life part of the task is about fellowship and fun. Our goal is to strengthen our church community and relationships through fun events. For the past several years, teams of individuals have come together to host various family-friendly activities.

In 2016, wonderful teams planned for Family Camp and hosted the Easter Egg Hunt, Baccalaureate Breakfast, Ice Cream Social, Bingo Night, Rally Day (in coordination with Faith Formation), Progressive Dinner, and Christmas Caroling.

Have ideas for another fun event? Please contact Elder Kathy Boxell in 2017. We'll put a team together and have a great time!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Leadership and Ministries Committee

The Leadership and Ministries Committee members for 2016 were Stacie Wilson, Condy Dixon and Jamie Smith (youth).

Earth Day

In honor of Earth Day, the committee distributed PCWS personalized shopping bags to the entire congregation. Additionally, recycling bins were installed in every meeting room in the building with instructions for proper use. Both these items were made possible by donations from the congregation.

Gift Card Program

In April, a gift card program was introduced, through which people could purchase gift cards for everyday things (groceries, gas, coffee, Amazon, shopping, movies, etc.). PCWS received a percentage from the merchants in the program. The hope was that it would raise funds to support the church's annual budget and offset the budget deficit. Proceeds generated did not meet expectations.

Stewardship Campaign

The fall financial campaign kicked off in October. With uncertainties in personnel and expenses, the goal was increased slightly to $400,000. Pledges received in 2016 amounted to $376,612, with 110 pledges received. To date, pledges received for the 2017 fiscal year total $293,108, with 80 pledges received. Below is a breakdown:

Range	Pledge Units	Total Commitment Amount
$1 - $1040	11	$6,573
$1,040 - $5,200	52	$129,715
$5,200 - $10,400	14	$116,320
$10,400 +	3	$40,500

Additional pledges are expected to come in, as has historically been the case. As a comparison, for the 2016 financial campaign, at the time the Annual Report was written, total committed funds were $353,422. Session re-approached the congregation in January to appeal for additional and/or increased pledges, which resulted in approximately $23,000, bringing the total for 2016 to $376,612. Factors in the 2017 decrease include a reduction in pledging members (moved, deceased, etc.), a reduction in the average pledged amount, and uncertainty as the Church begins the pastoral search process.

Respectfully submitted by Stacie Wilson and Condy Dixon

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endowment and Special Gifts Committee

The church receives gifts beyond those received via annual contributions in the form of bequests, annuities, transfer of property, memorials, endowments and special gifts. This committee is responsible for monitoring, investing and dispersing these funds with the approval of Session. We take appropriate time reviewing the performance of our funds that are invested in mutual funds created by the Presbyterian Foundation. These funds abide by the General Assembly criteria for socially responsible investing. A summary of our fund activities is reported on another page in this Annual Report.

2016 Committee Members: Julie Kelly, Moderator; Matt Booth, Steve Blough, Mike Lobash, Sal Melilli, Carol Stoub, Pat Ravanesi, and Pastor Jennifer Lewis.

Endowment and Special Gifts Fund Activity

2016 Memorials Received in Memory of

Donna Bast Joan Anderson Norman Duncan Margaret Miller Lynn Sellers Robert Fencl

2016 Gifts Funded by Memorial Funds

Gift or Program	In Memory of	Gift or Program	In Memory of
Capital Campaign 2016	Mary Randa Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Marge Bunt Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Paul Seus Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Ada Young Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Neil Stark Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Carol Morrison Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Frank Walsh Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Tom Watts Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Joan Anderson Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Cutler Humiston Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Norman Duncan Memorial	Nursery/201 Decorating	Eleanor Kanak Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Margaret Miller Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	George Dvorak Memorial
Children's Bibles	R. Cushman Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	R. Anderson Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Susan Eichler Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Dave Tice Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Chris Trinche Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Margot Walsh Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Betsy Hennessy Memorial	Nursery/201 Decorating	Jack Manning Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Joyce Anderson Memorial	Capital Campaign 2016	Will Bacik Memorial
Capital Campaign 2016	Sharon Sheridan Memorial		

Gifts Funded by Endowment Funds

McCormick Seminary	Boxell McCormick Gift
Snacks for Sunday School	Costello Designated Gift

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee

You may have heard the saying *"May you live in interesting times",* attributed by many to be an old Chinese proverb. Well, that certainly describes the year of 2016 for the personnel of PCWS. Within just a few months, we had to say goodbye to three key leaders in our church, Rev. Jennifer Lewis, Pastor and Head of Staff, Rev. Matthew Schmidt, Associate Pastor, and Carolyn Bozek, Christian Education Administrator and Youth Ministry Assistant. We celebrated each of them with tearful goodbyes and thanks for their beloved service with us. But the many thanks did not seem to be nearly sufficient to recognize their countless hours of dedicated service to worship, mission, outreach, youth, education, etc., etc., etc., …….

The remaining staff had to really step up to fill the void left by these departures, and WOW DID THEY EVER! We have been so blessed to have this incredible team!

Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig, Office Administrator, is our unofficial church ambassador. She never fails to greet visitors with a friendly smile or callers with a warm greeting during the week. And despite all the turmoil thrown her way this year, she and the many faithful office volunteers she supervises, have kept everything humming, which includes answering our church phones, bulletins printed, emails communicated, new members recruited, weekly and monthly newsletters distributed, updating our website, Facebook updated, acknowledgements sent, letters written, etc. Other staff volunteers, like Hank Vaughan, Director of IT; Linda Murray, Director of Lay Ministries; and Michelle Hennessy, Director of Communications, have also enhanced church administration immensely.

Music is so integral in the life of the PCWS congregation, in worship as well as in other areas of activity in the life of our church. Our Music Team Leaders, Patti Mangis and Stephanie Coates, make an amazing team that enhances our worship experience in so many ways through directing and supporting the adult, youth and handbell choirs in addition to our various instrumentalists.

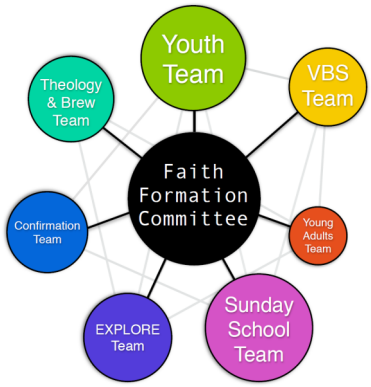
Kurt Smyers, Director of Operations, keeps our building in working order, our grounds in top shape and deals with many emergencies over the course of the year that most of us are unaware of. He faithfully recruits, trains and supervises our corps of sextons, including for 2016: Paige Dold, Brian Kral, Alex Rodriguez, Katie Sindelar, Mary Smyers, Erin Sullivan and Dan Wennerstrum. Kurt deserves our special thanks for his hard work and dedication in keeping us all comfortable in church and making the church building feel like home.

Many thanks go out to Cory Hoskins who is our Nursery Care Attendant every Sunday. This is a special ministry much appreciated by our parents and visitors. And to Joyce Rodos for her Stephen Ministry leadership and training of volunteers to help provide care and support for those of our congregation in need.

Finally, we extended warm welcomes to our new staff members: Rev. William Ingersoll, Interim Pastor/ Head of Staff; Rev. Tai Zimmerman Cole, Interim Faith Formation Leader and Administrator; and Brendon DeBoer, Interim Youth Leader. We have already begun to experience and enjoy the many gifts and talents they bring.

Respectfully submitted by the Personnel Committee: David Boxell, Julie Kelly, Paul Banovic and Steve Wennerstrum, Moderator.

Committee Reports



Faith Formation Committee

Faith Formation, formerly known as Christian Education, oversees seven sub-committees; Confirmation, EXPLORE, Sunday School, Theology and Brew, VBS, Young Adults and Youth. Faith Formation 2016 members included Kim Fronk (Elder), Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Kim Yates, Candice Mares, Carolyn Bozek and Pastor Matt Schmidt.

This year brought many transitions to our Faith Formation staff, we said a sad good-bye to Carolyn Bozek (26 years) and Pastor Matt Schmidt (3 years). We are thankful for their service and dedication to the faith formation of our PCWS family. These staff changes brought two new positions to PCWS: an interim Faith Formation Leader and InterimYouth Leader. We welcome Rev. Tai Zimmerman Cole and Brendon DeBoer to PCWS and look forward to the gifts they will share with all ages of our congregation.

Our Sunday School program's curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude, encourages our children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace. In 2016 we have offered weekly nursery care and Sunday School for ages preschool - fifth grade. Our middle school and high school youth meet every other week. Youth Worship was the first Sunday of each month in which children were invited back to the sanctuary for Communion with their families. During the summer, children sat with their families but were given thematic activity bags to use during the service. We continue to update our youth spaces and have redecorated Room 301, Room 201 and the nursery bathroom.

We are so thankful for our Sunday School teachers for sharing their faith, kindness and time with our youth. Thank you Cory Hoskins, Liz Boeckmann, Kim Fronk, Aileen Pendleton, Joyce Rodos, Hank Vaughan, Kim Yates, Laura Gertsmeier, Lorraine Hoskins, Becca McClintock, Tai Zimmerman Cole, Steve & Val Blough, Stephanie Carlisle, Deb Matthews, Liz Slezak, Brendon DeBoer, Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Tom Kelly, Sarah Sullivan, Steve Wennerstrum and Nate Yates!

In 2016, Theology and Brew continued to provide a unique off-site opportunity for members and friends to "dine and discuss" issues and topics of interest and concern to people of faith from PCWS and beyond. Discussion topics were drawn from blogs and newspaper articles, op eds, as well as related to Biblical passages. Pastor Matt planned and hosted both daytime and evening editions which met the needs of members and friends who preferred daylight gatherings as well as those whose schedules connected better with the evening meal and refreshments after a busy day. Both editions frequented a variety of area restaurants.

Our Faith Formation programming included:

* Family BINGO in February raised money for UMOJA, Maria Shelter and our Butterfly Garden
* Children hosted fellowship during our Lenten Fair in March
* EXPLORE adult education program followed worship in the Spring
* In April, children's Activity Center studied monarch butterflies for a 4 week unit in preparation for our butterfly garden near the porte cochere. Local expert, Lori Harris, helped us with this project and we raised butterflies for release on Rally Day. A huge thank you to Jane Melilli and Mary Jo Long for helping plant the butterfly garden.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FAITH FORMATION CONT.

Faith Formation programming, cont.

* Cavequest Vacation Bible School shared the love of Jesus with 39 children and 22 adult and youth volunteers in July
* Rally Day was a huge success with live music, a delicious barbecue, a dedication to our new Butterfly Garden and the releasing of monarch butterflies in September
* New International Bibles were presented to five second graders in September
* Advent Fair was a huge success with eight fun family craft tables and a photo booth in December
* Christmas Pageant was a faithful celebration of the birth of Jesus with huge thanks to Laurie Merrifield, Amy Malone and Kay Kelly followed by a pizza birthday party in December

Youth Annual Report

2016 was another great year for youth! The UPYs celebrated their Youth Sunday tradition with a mix of skits and music with a message that was well received by those in attendance. The UPYs held their traditional fund raising events: Balloon-a-grams, Spaghetti Dinner, Car Wash/Bake Sale and Cookie Walk, all of which were a great success. The proceeds from the fund raisers were used to help subsidize the cost of the 2016 Mission Trip to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in a blitz build of three homes. During the week we helped erect the exterior and interior walls, put up the exterior wall and roof sheeting and wrapped the outside of the house in plastic wrap for one of the three houses. The trip included 17 youth and five adult advisors and there was even time for a fun day at Six Flags over Georgia. We also had tons of fun doing a variety of wacky activities together, like a scavenger hunt, whirly ball, and more.

The JUPYs also had a great year. We gathered for thoughtful Sync discussions, we played and laughed together often at various parties for Valentine's Day, Halloween and Christmas! We made the world's largest Ice Cream Sunday at Pack the Place, we played dodgeball together, and in short we had SO much fun!

We encourage participation in UPY or JUPY activities of all youth within our church home. We also encourage our youth to invite their friends. We have found that brings together youth with various backgrounds and provides a richer more rounded experience.

Youth programs cannot be successful without the support of adult leadership. We would like to thank the following volunteers:

UPY Advisors: Eric Boeckmann, Zach Karstens, Jackie Karstens, Linda Merrifield and Michael DeVries
JUPY Advisors: Candice Mares, Ashley Glickman and Valerie Blough

Special Thanks to Christmas Party hosts:
The Melilli home and the Gertsmeier home.

Mission Trip Advisors: Lisa Wennerstrum, Candice Mares, Matt Schmidt, Scott Wennerstrum, and Lance Smith

Youth Committee: Carolyn Bozek, Tom Kelly, Matt Schmidt, Eric Boekmann and Lance Smith, Moderator
Youth Representatives: Abby and Megan Sindelar and Dan Wennerstrum

Worship Committee

This has been a year of transition for the Worship Committee. Jennifer leaving the end of July, and Matt in November, left us with the challenge of how we worshipped the second half of 2016. Pastor Bill Ingersoll has been our guiding light these past months and supported and suggested changes you have seen. Also, Patti Mangis has been an integral part of our committee with her creativity and experience benefitting us all.

On Palm Sunday, "Blessing of the Palms" was held on the Tower Green which included participation by several churches in the village. Holy Week was once again shared with Highlands Presbyterian Church, with Maundy Thursday in the Jones Room, and Good Friday at Highlands. Due to Easter Sunday falling during spring break, we had just two services: Sunrise at 6:41 a.m. and a 9:30 service in the Sanctuary.

During the months of August, September and part of October, our congregation was served on Sunday mornings by invited pastors from the Presbytery, as well as our own Parish Associates, to cover the vacancy left by Jennifer. Bill Ingersoll joined us mid-October, becoming our Interim Head of Staff and Pastor.

Advent devotionals were provided by Rev. Tai Zimmerman Cole, our interim Faith Formation leader. We saw new greens hung in the sanctuary during a musical service orchestrated by Patti Mangis. The participation and meaningful music during the service was greeted positively by the congregation.

Two worship services were held on Christmas Eve: 5:00 family service and 11:00 candlelight service. Battery operated candles were used at both services. Christmas Day fell on Sunday this year and approximately 40 people attended the 9:30 service.

Many thanks and much appreciation go to Sue Kovalick and Sue Eck for their procurement and design of the new advent greenery and to Patti Mangis for her assistance in creating a meaningful and musical way to have it displayed during the service. Thank you, also, Sue and Sue and the Flower Guild for providing flowers for the altar each week.

Thank you to all mentioned and those who were not, for the help you gave making each worship service special and seeing that communion was provided the first Sunday of each month as well as on Christmas Eve. Thank you, Kurt, and the sextons, who always see that the sanctuary is ready for us each Sunday. And thank you, Pastor Bill, for stepping in and stepping up to keep continuity in our church life. We so appreciate having you with us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Buell, Moderator

Sue Eck, Dom Garino, and Amy Seuss (committee members)

Committee Reports

Mission Committee

The Mission committee continued to support many agencies and communities locally, nationally and globally again this year through budgeted mission giving, fundraising activities, denominational offerings and active participation by members of the congregation. Aiming to further educate and engage the congregation, Mission focused on one specific agency or activity each month of 2016, offered several "Minutes for Mission" during worship and worked with Faith Formation to include these Mission agencies and events in the Sunday School curriculum.

Locally, we continued to support the **Food for Life** program at First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. On a monthly basis, Mission volunteers prepared, delivered and served a complete meal to the hungry and homeless in the Englewood neighborhood. We also continued our generous support of **Maria Shelter** (now called Margaret's Garden) through dedicated budget funds, an annual workday and Walmart cards, winter clothing, an astonishing number of hand-knit winter hats and even two turkeys – all the result of generous holiday donations. Also, PCWS fundraising for the annual **CROP Walk** supported several local food pantries.

Night Ministry, the Boulevard, DOOR, Facing Forward to End Homelessness, the LeaderShop, Community Support Services, Interfaith Community Partners, LATH, Community Nurses Health Association and **Greater Chicago Food Depository** are local agencies supported via the mission budget. **Umoja Student Development Corporation, Teamwork of Englewood**, the **Pine Avenue Food Pantry** and **Bright Endeavors** are Chicago-area agencies supported this year by funds raised via loose change, the aluminum-recycling program, denominational special offerings and congregational donations.

Nationally, Mission supported **the Shine Project** of Arizona through sales of their products at the Alternative Giving Fair and our budget funded a portion of the **PCWS Youth Mission Trip** to Atlanta.

And **Globally,** Mission's budget supported **Opportunity International, Nueva Paz Church in Cuba, Concern America, Craftaid, Feed My Starving Children** and **Amka Afrika.** Jane Boxell led a self-funded mission visit to our partner church, **Nueva Paz** and the Alternative Giving Fair and our discretionary funds made it possible to donate to **Heifer International, Church World Service, Compassion International, Divine Fair Trade Chocolate** and to provide a secondary school scholarship for one **Amka Afrika** student.

Lastly, as in the past, over half of our budget was allocated to denominational support, including the **General Assembly**, our **Synod**, our **Presbytery** and the **Theological Education Fund of the PCUSA**.

Many thanks to the members of this year's Mission committee: Mary Jo and Ron Blough, Becky Glasscock, Judy McAtee and Liz Boeckmann.

Thanks, also, to our generous congregation for participating in and providing financial support to the vibrant Mission tradition of PCWS.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wennerstrum and Nate Yates, Mission Elders

CHURCH MINISTRY

Music Ministry

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. . . . I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. . . . Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord! (from Psalm 104)

PCWS blesses our Lord in rich musical variety all year long.

- Brand new voices like ***Coro Piccolo*** ("little choir"), our multigenerational choir begun fall 2016
- Fresh styles in ***Family Band***, another multigenerational group started in Fall 2015
- Up-to-date blessings through the ***No-Name Band***, led by Kami Booth since 2013
- Reinvigorated ringers in the multigenerational ***Handbell Choir***, ministering over 25 years
- Stalwart servants ("faithful, constant, unwavering, committed") in the ***Chancel Choir***
- 20+ solo singers and instrumentalists playing a wide range of instruments

PCWS witnesses God's glory in worship and responds with praise.

- New experiences like the **Hanging of the Greens** on the first Sunday in Advent
- Creative interpretations of traditions such as this year's Merry Morning of Music's **Savior of the Nations, Come** led by 28 musicians singing in Chancel Choir, playing brass, native flute, saxophone, oboe, percussion, organ, piano
- 2 beautiful **Christmas Eve** services with our wonderful PCWS custom of solo preludes by 4 children and 6 adults. Not to mention Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- **MAD Camp**'s (now almost 10 years old) production of "*Life of the Party*," music and drama by 20 kids from 6 area churches
- **6 Lenten/Easter** times of worship, joined by our friends from Highlands for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, ending in glorious brass, organ and choral praise on Palm Sunday and 2 Easter morning services

During 2016, 108 musicians (numbering 73 multi-talented people) made music for the Lord at PCWS--a stunning 20% of our membership! We are indeed richly blessed through these faithful musical servants.

Aside from this special music, PCWS is very much a singing church. As ministers of music, we are so grateful for this! Music is a vital part of our life together, and will help sustain and strengthen us during this year of transition. The songs we share become part of our shared memory and foster a greater sense of shared identity.

Our thanks to God who gives the gift of music,

Patricia Hughes Mangis
Stephanie Coates
Music Team Leaders

InterFaith Book Group

An ecumenical group of women meet as the Interfaith Book Group to share with one another by discussing a large variety of books which the group chooses. We meet from September to May, excluding December and alternate between PCWS and the Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview.

These groups of Christian and Muslim women have formed bonds of trust and friendship and we all cherish these relationships.

If you would like to join us please contact Carol Stoub and you will be warmly welcomed.

Carol Stoub, PCWS

CHURCH MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry team increased from five members to seven in 2016 after Marilyn Hanson and Joyce Smyers completed 50 hours of training. They joined David Boxell, Dom Garino, Nancy Glickman, Michelle Hennessy and Lorraine Hoskins in the ministry of caregiving. Four members provided continuing caregiving assignments to individuals during the year.

Of special note during 2016 was the team's assignment to assist the limited staff with the visitation and communication with church members during periods of illness, personal loss, or troubling transitions. This ministry was provided to the congregation by the team during the period between when Rev. Jennifer Lewis left until Rev. Bill Ingersoll was well situated in the Head of Staff position.

In addition to providing service to others, this group met every three weeks for the purpose of continuing education as well as providing supervision to each other. Joyce Rodos continued to provide loving leadership in the training and team activities during the year.

David Boxell
Stephen Ministry Team Member

Flower Guild

The goal of the Flower Guild is to contribute to the worship experience by providing flowers for the chancel area every Sunday. Members may sponsor flowers for special occasions and memorials. This year flowers were sponsored on 28 Sundays by members and friends of the church.
We provide roses to celebrate new babies and arrangements for memorial services, when requested. The committee orders special flowers for Lent (pussy willows), Palm Sunday (palms from Eco Palms), Easter (lilies combined with annuals to be planted in the church gardens) and Christmas (poinsettias). Flowers are either taken home by the individuals who sponsored them or taken by the Deacons to members of the congregation not able to attend worship.

For Advent 2016, a new design was created for Hanging of the Greens. Plant stands designed by Herb Smyers were repurposed to hold two new 7 ½ foot lighted Christmas trees. In addition, eight artificial boxwood wreaths were hung with red ribbons on the Sanctuary windows and in the narthex. Over twenty-five poinsettias were added in the chancel area in anticipation of Christmas.
Current members are Sue Kovalick, Sue Eck, Nancy Glickman, Jan Fortina, Laurie Merrifield, and Carol Coughlin. We continue to welcome others to join us.

Please call or email Sue Kovalick if you have any interest.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women at PCWS

continued to seek peace, justice and study with one another in 2016. We participated in Church Women United and hosted them for the World Day of Prayer as well as their other celebrations. The Circles continue to thrive. The afternoon circle led by Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis was insightful as we studied water and its spiritual significance. The ladies from First La Grange were a vibrant part of the group. The evening circle met and shared the book Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton.

The Women's Association shared social times, a mission program by Nikki Rodos and her room-mate, took the Thank Offering, annual book review and enjoyed the Christmas and May program with the women at First La Grange. The women of PW hosted a party for Jennifer when she was called to Wabash Valley. The program year was one of learning and fellowship.

The new officers were elected and installed in June and the torch passed to Joyce Rodos and her board.

I wish to thank everyone who shared their ideas, passions and vision for the future of Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs. A special thanks go to everyone who sup-ported and helped me during the months when I had limited use of my hands and arms. The women of this church are strong, faithful and forward look-ing.

Carol Stoub
Aileen Pendleton

Jan Paddock has remained on as our faithful treasurer. Below please find our 2016 budget.

PW Annual Report 2016	
Beginning Balance 1/1/2016	2885
Receipts	
Pledges	775
Monthly Events	500
Thank Offering	155
Least Coin Offering	11
Misc Receipts	355
Total Receipts	**1796**
Disbursements	
Programs	295
Luncheons	92
Study Guides	153
Supplies, Misc	50
Church World United Dues	70
Mission	
PW General Mission	300
UPY Mission Trip	300
Pastor Discretionary Fund	300
Total Disbursements	**1560**
Ending Balance 12/31/2016	3121

Communications Team Report

2016 was a fairly quiet year for the Communications Team:

- Michelle Hennessy continued to post news of events happening at or sponsored by PCWS. She is always looking for new avenues – if anyone knows of websites to post events, please let her know.
- Michelle updates the church website at least monthly and works with the Technology team to look for new ways to update and refresh the site.
- We continue to look at Social Media sites and assess the viability of using various sites. We continue to use Facebook as a way to showcase PCWS, especially through pictures. Our Twitter account is linked to Facebook so we have a presence there. We are seeing activity on Yelp – actually having people visit our webpage from our page on Yelp.
- In this interim time, we are updating the General PCWS Brochure, and will work with our Interim Faith Formation Leader and Interim Youth Leader to update the Children/Youth Brochure. Both brochures highlight the programs and activities that we offer here at PCWS.
- We continue to explore, with the Technology team, ideas for easy ways to store pictures of PCWS events and for members to share pictures with PCWS for use in publicity and on our website.

Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Hennessy, Director of Communications

Team: Alison Weber, Roger Dold, Linda Murray, Walt Kovalick