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 1, 2015

This year, the annual meeting of the congregation will be included in and following Sunday morning worship.

We hope this "worshipful work" concept will allow more people to attend the annual meeting and will permit us to honor and remember with gratitude all of the milestones of our faith community's life in 2014.

Please see the Order of Worship for Sunday, March 1, 2015 for all of the details and agenda for our annual meeting.

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The Reverend Jennifer Burns Lewis	Pastor, Head of Staff
The Reverend Matthew Paul Schmidt	Associate Pastor
The Reverend Grayson Van Camp	Parish Associate
The Reverend H. Daniel Lewis	Parish Associate
The Reverend Donald L. Simmonds	Parish Associate
The Reverend David Bebb Jones	Pastor Emeritus
Patricia Hughes Mangis	Director of Music
Stephanie M. Coates	Organist
Carolyn Bozek	Christian Education/Youth Ministry Administrator
Cory Hoskins	Nursery Attendant
Kurt Smyers	Director of Operations
Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig	Office Administrator
Michael DeVries	Sexton
Paige Dold	Sexton
Hunter Pendleton	Sexton
Erin Sullivan	Sexton
Dan Wennerstrum	Sexton
Tom Wennerstrum	Sexton
Linda Murray	Director of Lay Ministries
Michelle Hennessy	Director of Communications
Hank Vaughan	Technologist

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Church Officers

The Session

Walt Kovalick, Clerk of Session

Class of 2014	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Bruce Geary	Janet Andersen	Paul Banovic
Kevin Hennessy	Stephanie Carlisle	Herb Smyers
Laura Smith	Scott Karstens	Kathy Wennerstrum
Alison Weber	Jim McMahon	Stacie Wilson
Michael DeVries		

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2014	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Carolyn Bozek	Val Blough	Jill Dold
Laura Cordell	Kami Booth	Kay Kelly
Dom Garino	Laura Gertsmeier	Jane Melilli
Aileen Pendleton	Sarah Sullivan	Laurie Merrifield
Paige Dold		
Anna Weber		

Endowment and Special Gifts Fund Committee

Class of 2014	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Ron Blough, Moderator		Mark Burt
Steve Wennerstrum	Barb Vaughan	Larry Randa

Financial Officers

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

Assistant Treasurers: Judy Diebel, Andy Hoskins, Rich Haeske

Officers of the Corporation

Herb Smyers, President Stephanie Carlisle, Vice-President Walt Kovalick, Secretary

Pastor's Report

One of the things that the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s annual questionnaire asked was for each congregation to estimate the involvement of its members and friends in ministry and mission over the past twelve months.

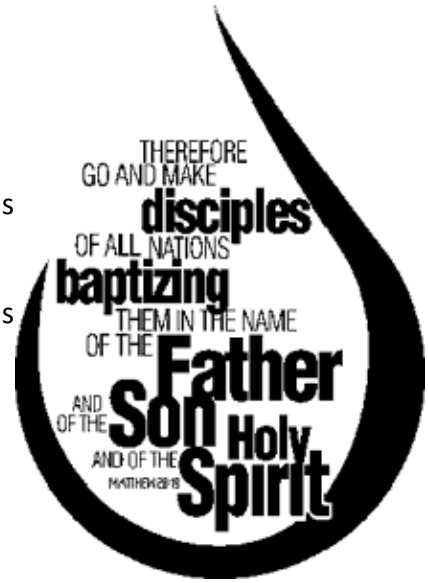
When I counted all people engaged in ministry, formal or informal, within and outside our walls, the number was breathtaking. More than 300 people of all ages participate in so many ways in the vitality and witness of this congregation, from visiting and writing notes to contributing in some way to Maria Shelter, from singing or teaching to volunteering in the office or in the church gardens. Whether people are taking mission trips or being good neighbors, contributing financially or with prayer and elbow grease, PCWS members and friends are engaged in the world around us.

We have joys to celebrate and challenges to address. As our fall financial campaign so wonderfully reminded us, we have an opportunity to be legacy builders. By supporting the work and the witness of our congregation with our time and our contributions of every kind, we position ourselves to meet new opportunities in our neighborhood, our surrounding city and across the globe.

Looking back is great, and having a vision for the future is imperative.

Our friend Jan Edmiston, Associate Executive for Ministry in the Presbytery of Chicago, invites discerning congregations to consider these questions:

"Why does our church exist?
What do you believe our congregation will look like in five years?
How will we live the Great Commission in the coming year? How will we, individually and as a body, make new disciples?
What would you personally be willing to do to expand the ministry of Jesus Christ in this community?"



With grateful hearts for all that has been, let us press on and look ahead as we engage in vibrant ministry.
Thank you for the privilege of serving with you!

Joy to you,
Jennifer

Associate Pastor's Report

I was terrifically nervous to attend my first Winter Family Camp in 2014. That's because it was my first weekend as the Associate Pastor of this church. I began that Monday in January and four days later Hillary and I were driving our trusty Toyota Camry across icy roads, in the pitch dark, somewhere in the hill-country of Wisconsin, wondering what we had gotten ourselves into. Our printed map showed us crossing railroad tracks to enter Camp Edwards and as we drove along, we saw a sign prompting us to turn left towards Runge. We barely scooted up the hill, parked, grabbed our luggage, and poked our heads into someone's bedroom in the Cottage. It was warm and well-lit. We walked further inside and found a balcony overlooking a room with some children running around playing together. Laura Pepol sat on the couch quietly knitting with a face of happiness while Dean read beside her and Steve Blough yawned and stretched out across from them. What wonderful people to welcome us into this community. We joined them and talked for a while and immediately felt more at ease. The weather at Winter Family Camp may be cold, but it is a gathering of warmth and family in the best of ways. My favorite moment of that weekend (and perhaps of 2014) was breaking bread and sharing the cup with families at Camp Edwards because it signified the most holy, loving welcome we all share.

In the last twelve months, I've learned that it is a special gift to serve as the Associate Pastor of this church. I'm so thankful, so blessed, so joyful and so thrilled to a part of this place; especially as I look forward to all the adventures we'll share in 2015.

Grace and Peace,

Matt Schmidt

Church Membership Report

Celebrating Our 59th Year of Ministry

Clerk's Report for Calendar Year 2014

Active members on the church roll as of January 1, 2014	**401**
Members received during 2014:	
Profession of Faith	8
Reaffirmation of Faith	7
By Letter of Transfer	6
Reinstatements	0
Total additions	**+21**
Members dismissed during 2014:	
To another church	1
Removed at their request	4
Deceased	6
Inactive	7
Total dismissals	**-18**
Active Members on the church roll as of December 31, 2014	**404**

We rejoice with those who joined PCWS:

By Profession of Faith

Tanner Russell Booth, Benjamin Flint Boxell, Tyler Allen Fronk, Davis Patrick McMahon, Isabella Jane Melilli, Kevin Robert Remiker, Malcolm Andrew Weber, Pierce Taylor Miller Wilson

By Reaffirmation of Faith

Greg Forst Carsten, Lori Michele Carsten, Dawn Mansfield, John David Mansfield, Candice Lynn Mares, Hillary Christine Schmidt, Tiffany Christine Sellman

Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism of Children

Hannah Rose Boeckmann, September 14, 2014
Max V. Boeckmann, September 14, 2014
Conner William Cushman, November 30, 2014
Alexander Peter Hanson, April 6, 2014
Mitchell Edwin Reed, July 17, 2014
Bennett Joseph Sellman, February 23, 2014
Ethan Dennis Sellman, February 23, 2014
Tyler Erickson Sellman, February 23, 2014

By Letter of Transfer

Eric V. Boeckmann, Lizabeth R. Boeckmann, Condy E. Dixon, Theresa F. Dixon, Laura Jean Fruit, Chad Michael Sellman

Church Membership Report

Celebrating Our 59th Year of Ministry

Clerk's Report for Calendar Year 2014 (cont.)

In Memoriam

✞ John Buehler, May 22, 2014 ✞ Maxine L. Costello, February 2, 2014 ✞ Carol M. Grosshenrich, July 30, 2014
✞ Jack Manning, February 28, 2014 ✞ Minnie Stone, July 8, 2014 ✞ Margot Walsh, January 12, 2014

Celebration of Marriage

(members and friends)

Stacia Hoskins & Kasey Ferrar, October 18, 2014 Jenny Butcher & Brett Kelly, June 14, 2014
Evelyn Diaz & Erik Leslie, October 4, 2014

Stephen Ministry

In late 2013 Session decided to begin a Stephen Ministry at PCWS and I was asked to serve as its first Stephen Leader. After prayerful consideration, I accepted and attended Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in St. Louis in May, 2014 — a wonderful, daunting week of learning and hearing stories of God's work in other congregations.

Throughout the summer, Pastor Lewis and I worked to build knowledge and interest in Stephen Ministry. By the middle of September we had identified, interviewed and selected five individuals to comprise the first training class at PCWS. The fifty hours of training began in late September and was completed by the end of January. The five people who began training have all finished: David Boxell, Dom Garino, Nancy Glickman, Michelle Hennessy, and Lorraine Hoskins. These individuals plus myself were commissioned as Stephen Ministers on January 25.

In summary, 2014 has been a year of preparation and 2015 will be a year of launching ministry. Pray for God's blessings on the individual Stephen Ministers and those to whom they minister. We will faithfully walk beside those who need assistance but only God can provide healing.

Joyce Rodos
Stephen Ministry Leader

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Committee Reports

Board of Deacons

As the hands and heart of the PCWS ministry of compassion, the Board of Deacons was busy in 2014 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 and drivers for those who needed a ride to worship. We hosted - anniversary, memorial and other special receptions. We organized - a spring and fall blood drive, Communion visits for the homebound, and the mass mailing of boxes of goodies for our students who are away at college. And 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. We also implemented a recurring feature, "Getting to Know Your Deacon," in the monthly Glad Tidings newsletter to encourage congregational members to build upon their relationship with their deacon.

Board of Deacons 2014:
Valerie Blough, Kami Booth, Carolyn Bozek, Laura Cordell, Jill Dold, Paige Dold, Dom Garino, Laura Gertsmeier, Kay Kelly, Jane Melilli, Laurie Merrifield, Aileen Pendleton, Anna Weber
Sarah Sullivan, moderator

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee did great work in 2014.
They met again and nominated the following slate of officers to be elected for service beginning in 2015:

Elder: Three year terms-
Kathy Boxell
Kim Fronk
Neil Pendleton
Lance Smith
One year term-
Hunter Pendleton

Deacon: Three year terms-
Bruce Barnes
Jan Paddock
Mary Jo Sindelar
Lisa Wennerstrum
One year term-
Katie DeVries and Erin Sullivan

Endowment and Special Gifts Committee:
Matt Booth
Julie Kelly (filling an unexpired two year term)
Mike Lobash

Nominating Committee for 2015 -from the congregation: Ron Blough, Janet Burt, Paige Dold, Jon Gertsmeier, Linda Murray, Hank Vaughan

2014 Nominating Committee: Betty Banovic, Mark DeVries, Julie Garino, Cindi Karstens, Walt Kovalick, Laurie Hovious-Petersen, Laura Smith (moderator), Anna Weber, Stacie Wilson.

Committee Reports

Properties Committee

2014 was a challenging year for the Properties Committee. The record snow and cold weather put a stress on the budget for snow removal and heating as well as delaying the scheduling of the engineer's review of the structural damage to the porte cochere.

The spring thaw and several rain storms resulted in water seepage into several areas of the church. Thanks to staff, sextons and volunteers for keeping on top of the problem.

The spring work day was held on May 17th. A variety of chores were accomplished thanks to the skill and dedication of the volunteers.

In June a large branch of a healthy looking tree near the sidewalk in the front of the church fell near the sidewalk. The tree removal service company indicated that the tree was not as healthy as it looked and should be taken down. Once the tree was removed the stump revealed that the tree was indeed dying.

Later in June, the insurance company adjustor completed his report for repairs on the porte cochere. The roofing company that quoted the job for the amount by the adjustor was contracted to do the repairs. The work was scheduled for August and would start on a Monday and be completed by Friday of the same week. Unfortunately, the work was pushed back and didn't start until late September. There were several delays between the different phases of work. The cold December temperatures prevented the final painting of the ceiling.

Although the problems faced by the Properties Committee were not overwhelming in 2014, other potential problems were discovered. As mentioned above, the water seepage issue will need to be addressed to determine how to correct the problem. During the porte cochere repair, we used other doors for entry into the church. The doors on the north side of the building need to be repaired or replaced. Along with the exterior doors, the issue with door stops and fire code compliance still needs to be resolved.

Other items to consider for replacement and/or repair are as follows: carpeting in the sanctuary, tile in the lower level, stained glass windows in the sanctuary, evaluating windows in the manse for thermal function, the sloped sidewalk to the main entrance and the concrete slab under the porte cochere have problems that may need mud jacking to repair, the kitchen stove should be replaced with an automatic ignition stove to eliminate the waste of natural gas and safety, evaluate lighting for energy efficiency, continue landscaping for Memorial Garden and repave parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Karstens, Moderator of Properties Committee

Committee Reports

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee strives to provide technology solutions and tools to support the staff and many programs within the church while prudently managing funds consistent with church budget goals.

The Technology Committee's mission is executed by a very dedicated and highly qualified team of volunteers who support and maintain the church computers, sound system, networks and other technology-based pieces of equipment. The committee actively participates in hands-on support and training of staff and program leaders in their creative efforts requiring electronic solutions. Below, please find a list of the accomplishments in 2014:

- Rebuilt case for sound system to enable more efficient access to connections and other ancillary equipment
- Worked with Communication team to migrate website to new host and more flexible editing software
- Migrated broadband connection to Comcast, resulting in a 3x improvement in speed and better cost efficiencies
- Added new wireless microphone to sanctuary
- Upgraded Director of Operations' computer
- Added a private network for pastors to enable more private and secure data filing

In addition to project activities, the committee and a number of key volunteers operate the sound system each Sunday and for special activities. This effort includes sound checks, proper placement of microphones and recording of the event when requested. The Committee has been looking for additional volunteers to assist with the sound system. Any support here would be welcome.

Hank Vaughan has become the church Technologist, replacing the need for outside troubleshooting support. He handles IT issues on an as-called basis. His support has greatly improved the timing of office related computer and network issues.

Committee Members:
Bob Cushman, Rev. Matt Schmidt, Jim Koning, Mike Lobash, Kurt Smyers, Jim McMahon, Moderator

Sound System Operators:
Paul Banovic, Roger Dold, Jim Koning, Kurt Smyers, Hank Vaughan

Technologist: 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 data base accurate.

The Church Life part of the task is about fellowship and fun. For the past several years, teams of individuals have rallied (pun intended) to host events that are great fun, and, after all, great fun is a part of what it means to be Presbyterian. *(What is the chief pursuit of humanity? To glorify God and enjoy God forever!)*

In 2014, wonderful teams hosted the Bunny Brunch and the Easter Sunrise Service breakfast, the Hanging of the Greens breakfast, and Christmas caroling.

Have a notion about a fun event? Please contact Elder Kathy Boxell in 2015. We'll put a team together and have a great time!

Committee Reports

Create the Legacy God Imagines
2015 Fall Financial Campaign

Leadership and Ministries Committee

The Leadership and Ministries Committee members for 2014 were Stephanie Carlisle, Stacie Wilson and staff member Jennifer Lewis. In 2014 the committee focused on the following:

2015 Fall Financial Campaign
The theme of the 2015 Fall Financial Campaign was "Create the Legacy You Imagine". We encouraged members and friends of the congregation to show their commitment to the worship, programming and mission opportunities that keep PCWS vital and growing. During the five week campaign, several church members provided a "Minute for Legacy" during Sunday worship. We invited those who had submitted pledges to sign a large signboard as a symbol of their commitment. The committee members sent a mailing to all PCWS members and as of January 11th, we have received 116 pledge commitments totaling $390,000.

As a special incentive, an anonymous individual offered to donate a tree for the south entrance if we received 80% of total pledge commitments by Pledge Sunday. We are excited to report that this goal was achieved! Thank you to all members and friends for your generous support of PCWS as we "Create the Legacy You Imagine".

Volunteer Opportunities
The committee coordinated a volunteer sign-up drive on Rally Day, September 7th. The purpose of this was to introduce various volunteer opportunities to church members and friends. Several representatives of different committees prepared exhibits to showcase their mission and volunteer opportunities for Rally Day.

Earth Day
In support of Earth Day and the PCWS "green" initiative, the committee posted an article summarizing the items collected at the church to reduce, reuse and recycle, as well as resources within the surrounding communities to recycle or properly dispose of hazardous materials. There is a reference pamphlet with this information available at the church.

Benevolence Fund Committee

The Benevolence Fund and its oversight committee were established at PCWS in the 1990s 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 2014, the committee, composed of representation from the Session, the Board of Deacons, the Endowment and Special Gifts Committee and Pastor Jennifer, 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.

Kevin Hennessy (Session)
Sarah Sullivan (Deacons)
Ron Blough (Endowment and Special Gifts)
Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee

We were blessed with stability and continuity with our staff in 2014. The Rev. Matthew Schmidt is fully immersed in faith formation for all ages and youth ministry and has brought wonderful new ideas and opportunities for study and reflection for youth and adults alike. He is ably assisted by Carolyn Bozek and a host of energetic volunteers.

Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig is our hard working office administrator who is also our unofficial church ambassador—the friendly face whom visitors first meet at the church during the week. Kristene also supervises many faithful office volunteers. Other staff volunteers, like Hank Vaughan, IT troubleshooter; Linda Murray, Director of Lay Ministries; and Michelle Hennessy, Director of Communications, also enhance church administration. Without Kristene and all these volunteers, we would not get our church phones answered, bulletins printed, emails communicated, new members recruited, weekly and monthly newsletters distributed, website redesigned, Facebook updated, acknowledgements sent, letters written and--well--you get the point.

Patti Mangis, Director of Music, continues her ministry of music with us in directing the adult, JAM, Bethlehem and handbell choirs. Our very talented and faithful church organist, Stephanie Coates, enhances our worship experience in so many special ways. What would worship be without our sacred music?

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. Speaking of special ministries, Joyce Rodos is completing her training of several Stephen Minister volunteers to help provide care and support for those in need in our congregation.

Kurt Smyers, Director of Operations, keeps our building and grounds in working order 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 2014 sextons, including:

Tyler Allen
Paige Dold
Cheryl Kroon
Mary Smyers
Charlie Wennerstrum
Jack Wennerstrum
Kurt Smyers
Michael De Vries
Austin Goetz
Hunter Pendleton
Erin Sullivan
Dan Wennerstrum
Tom Wennerstrum

Please take every opportunity to thank Kurt for his hard work and dedication in keeping us all comfortable in church and making the church building feel like home.

Mere thanks do not seem to be nearly sufficient to recognize what Pastor and Head of Staff Jennifer Lewis means to PCWS. She not only leads worship and resources several of our Church Committees, she also supports mission, outreach, personnel, and spends many hours—night and day—in pastoral care to those in need. We are also rightfully proud of her serving the larger Church in important roles and meaningful ways. Bundle it all together and this is a commitment not merely of hours but of love and faithful dedication to her ministry among us.

Respectfully submitted by the Personnel Committee: David Boxell, Paul Banovic, Julie Kelly, the Rev. Jennifer Lewis, Elaine Wood, and Kevin Hennessy, Moderator

Committee Reports

Endowment and Special Gifts Committee

There are many ways the church receives gifts beyond the annual budget contributions such as bequests, annuities, transfers of property, memorials, endowments, and special gifts. The 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.

In October our committee and the Deacons held an event called, Getting Our Ducks in a Row. Lisa Longo from the Presbyterian Foundation spoke on giving legacy gifts to the church. Aileen Pendleton from Interfaith Community Partners discussed the services provided to older adults by ICP. Rev. Lavender Kelley, a chaplain at Lurie Children's Hospital, talked on issues concerning our health care decisions as covered in the book, "Five Wishes."

2014 Committee: Ron Blough, Moderator, Steve Wennerstrum, Barb Vaughan, Mark Burt, Larry Randa, Pat Ravanesi, Dan Lewis, and Pastor Jennifer Lewis.

Endowment Fund and Memorial Gifts

We are grateful to those who donated to the PCWS Memorial Fund in memory of the people listed below. Funds were disbursed in the past year for 2nd grade Bibles, Stephen Ministry training, support of our sister congregation in Cuba, and Deacons' receptions. Gifts funded from endowment funds included Bunny Brunch banners, snacks for Sunday School, offset costs for 2014 UPY Mission Trip and McCormick Seminary.

Will Bacik

Jane Bicek

John Buehler

Maxine Costello

Robert Cushman

Joan Dougherty

Betsy Hennessy

Miriam Hubbard

Jack Manning

Brian Neal

Fred Sammons

Richard Sheridan

Minnie Stone

Dave Tice

Chris Trinché

Margot Walsh

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

The committee began its work for 2014 by assisting the Personnel Committee to resolve a Payroll adjustment matter. In January, the Committee presented to Session its 2014 budget, receiving approval.

Beginning in March with the direction of the Committee, summary financial statements were developed and presented to Session. Session received these new reports and approved their regular use.

Through November and December work was done to analyze the over-budget areas of the 2014 budget; namely Office and General, and Properties expenses.

From October to year-end, the committee worked to summarize the Session Committee's budgets and present the summary of the 2015 Budget to Session for approval.

Herb Smyers, moderator; Chris Bone, Larry Glasscock, Howard Habenicht, Pat Ravanesi, Reverend Jennifer Lewis, staff.

Christian Education Committee

CE Elder: Laura Smith Members: David Boxell, Kathy Boxell, Carolyn Bozek, Kim Fronk, Lorraine Hoskins, Diane Ravanesi, Loretta Gratias-Bremer

By the numbers:

66 - children(infant-8th) enrolled in the **church school program**
36 - high schoolers
55 - children attended Vacation Bible School in July
65 - members attended **Winter Family Camp** in January
34 - children participated in the **Christmas pageant**
9 - faithful **teachers** on Sunday morning
8 - New International Bibles presented to **2nd and 3rd graders**
4 - graduating high school seniors honored at **Baccalaureate Breakfast**
1 - **Advent Fair**
1 - Lenten Fair on Mission Projects
Sunday School curriculum - Augsburg - Spark

New in 2014
New associate Pastor Matt Schmidt came on board this year to help serve the Christian Education Committee. In the fall of 2014, Loretta Gratias-Bremer joined our team as well. We also began a comprehensive review of our Safe Space policy.

Committee Reports

Mission Committee

2014 was another active year for mission in and around PCWS with contributors of all ages sharing in a wide range of events and activities.

Our ongoing mission outreach continued providing food each fourth Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago's Food for Life program. Through your weekly donations we provide delivery of non-perishable and fresh produce items to the LaGrange Second Baptist Food Pantry each Monday. The various bins at the Donation Center (outside the pastors' offices) collect soup labels & box tops benefiting Menaul School in New Mexico while travel size toiletries are provided to BEDS and Sharing Connections. Stop by to see what's being collected in our 12 bins!

The Aluminum Collection fund in 2014 shared the monies raised between Bernie's Books (providing books to Chicago area children without books) and Greater Chicago Food Depository. Donations of used clothing and household items placed in the parking lot Collection box provided a source of funds for PCWS Mission.

PCWS remains a strong supporter of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denominational offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter ($2,492); the Pentecost Offering in May ($1,312), which included local funding to Umoja Student Development in Chicago; Peacemaking offering in October ($1,374), which donated to and included support to Hands of Peace; and the Christmas Joy offering/PCWS Benevolence fund ($3,602).

During the year, 40 children, youth and adults participated in work sessions at the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD). Our teams helped GCFD toward their goal of providing over 67 million pounds to more than 600 agencies and pantries across Cook County. We also earned credit toward the Maria Shelter GCFD food account allowing them to stretch their food dollars. A group working at Feed My Starving Children packaged enough food to feed 76 children for an entire year!

Viva Cuba was a lovely evening event celebrating the relationship between Cuban and Chicago area Presbyterian churches. Money raised from our ticket sales helped our sister church, Nueva Paz. We were most fortunate that Pastor Maricela Rubio came to visit PCWS in October. She has been the Pastor at Nueva Paz and a friend to PCWS.

21 PCWS participants walked in the annual October CROP Walk. Through pledges raised for this 3-mile walk we raised $1,600. These dollars joined funds raised by other area churches to aid five local food pantries and support the efforts of Church World Service worldwide.

Lance Smith and Brian Sullivan led another dynamic work day for Maria Shelter in early October. This enthusiastic group sprang into action and accomplished much at the shelter for women and children who are working to overcome homelessness. Thank you for another wonderful day of sharing talents!

The Advent Fair's Alternative Giving event was exciting and raised over $5000. Funds will be sent to Heifer Project International, PC(USA) Mission and Church World Service who aid people around the globe. We donated 60 Target gift cards to Maria Shelter. The Pal Craftaid olivewood and delicious Fair Trade chocolate sales helped workers earn fair wages and respect for their labors. Sales of Motown Soup products, a new merchant this year, raised funds helping to fight hunger.

(continued on next page)

Committee Reports

Through diligent collection of 3,151 'super saver' stamps from the Jewel store, we were able to exchange them for 26 brand new cookware items to be provided to Maria Shelter & Believe Family Shelter in Chicago. Helping people to move from the shelter to a place of their own is always rewarding. Providing some new cookware is a wonderful treat and helps in healthy meal preparation. Sharing Connections in Downers Grove, per their request, received stickers for their use in selecting cookware items. Thank you for your diligence sticker savings!

Thanks to the faithful Mission Committee members: Mary Jo and Ron Blough, Jan Fortina, Becky Glasscock, Marilyn Hanson, Judy McAtee and Laurie Petersen. Thank you, too, for guidance and support of mission from Pastors Jennifer & Matt.

A big **THANK YOU** to each of you who participated in these, and other, mission opportunities in 2014! You are an amazing and generous community.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Andersen & Kathy Wennerstrum, Mission Elders

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee, working with Pastor Jennifer, is responsible for the Sunday morning worship service and special worship opportunities. This involves providing greeters, ushers, communion preparation, communion servers and chancel beautification. The Worship Committee also coordinates the Ash Wednesday Bowl and a Roll supper, Maundy Thursday supper and the Hanging of the Greens.

Most of our time over the past two years has been spent trying to determine the best way to become all inclusive in serving communion. We became aware that some people were not able to participate in communion because they were gluten intolerant so we worked to use only gluten-free bread. After using gluten-free bread for several months, we became aware that there were also people who could not tolerate the gluten-free bread for health reasons. The Committee is now providing both gluten-free and regular bread options so everyone can participate.

We are especially grateful to Shirley Pine who has continued to schedule communion servers and coordinate the actual serving of the elements. We also want to thank the women of the Flower Guild for the beautiful floral arrangements on Sunday mornings and special occasions. (Please see their report on page 17.)

The Worship Committee wants to recognize and thank all of the many members of the congregation who have given of their time and talent to assist us by serving as greeters, ushers, communion servers and volunteers on special occasions. Without you, the Committee would not be able to function. Also, my sincere thanks to Jennifer Lewis for all of her help, Sue Eck and Harriett Potenza for always volunteering to do communion preparation and to Dom Garino for his thoughtful insights during our discussions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce W. Geary, Moderator
Members: Sue Eck, Dom Garino and Harriett Potenza

CHURCH MINISTRY

Flower Guild

The Guild is a small but dedicated group. Our goal is to provide flowers for the chancel area every Sunday. Members may sponsor flowers for special occasions and memorials. This year flowers were sponsored on 46 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.

In 2013, Herb Smyers redesigned and built new flower stands that are used during Advent, Christmas and Easter. The new stands are designed to fit on either side of the cross, are lower profile, accommodate the same number of flowers (36), and make it easier to arrange and water the flowers. An added plus is that it has increased the useable space for various events in the chancel.

To increase awareness of the committee , we had demonstrations at Rally Day, one-on-one workshops, and a small group workshop. In addition, this year we sponsored a table at the Advent Fair and had many families and children create advent wreaths. The hands-on workshops have been well received and have encouraged a few new members.

Current members are Sue Kovalick, Sue Eck, Nancy Glickman, Jan Fortina, and our mother/daughter team, Val and Sarah Blough. We are fortunate to have several past members who gave many years to our committee: Harriet Potenza, Meg Hartmann, Joyce Smyers and Laura Pepol. We continue to welcome others to join us. Please call or email Sue Kovalick if you have any interest.

Sue Kovalick

Confirmation

Confirmation was held this year on May 18th, as youth made their vows and took their names off the baptism wall. The following youth were confirmed:

Tanner Russell Booth
Tyler Allen Fronk
Isabella Jane Melilli
Malcolm Andrew Weber
Benjamin Flint Boxell
Davis Patrick McMahon
Kevin Robert Remiker
Pierce Taylor Miller Wilson

Class requirements included faithful participation in class meetings which were held at PCWS, completing two mission projects, ushering, attending worship and Sunday School, meeting with mentors, writing a statement of faith, and a final meeting and examination by the Session. In lieu of the fall and spring retreats, field trips were taken to a synagogue and a mosque for tours, discussions and interviews with congregational leaders. We also had two very special meals out in the world as a confirmation class, and many wonderful lunches provided by parents of confirmands.

Mentors were Betty Banovic, Steve Blough, Bob Cushman, Mark DeVries, Dan Lewis, Dean Pepol, Brian Sullivan, and Steve Wennerstrum.

The class was led by Rogers Malone and Pastor Jennifer.

Confirmation Class 2014

CHURCH MINISTRY

Music Ministry

By the numbers --

Chancel Choir -- led worship 27 times
Handbell Choir -- 9 times
Bethlehem Choir -- 11 times
No-Name Band -- 3 times
PCWS instrumentalists played -- trumpets, horn, oboe, native flute
Guest musicians played -- clarinet, horn, trumpet

Special ensembles:
Women's Choir in June
Family Choir in July
Summer Children's Choir in August
Summer Handbell Choir in August
Men's Choir in September

New ventures

- No-Name Band worship team with 12 members led by Kami Booth led worship 3 times
- JAM (Jesus and Me) 2nd children's choir for 3rd -8th grade has 6 members; original children's choir grades K-2nd Bethlehem has 6 members
- Sunday morning choir exchange with Highlands, the joint choir singing one Sunday at PCWS and the following week at Highlands

Total number of PCWS members led worship through music this year: 64

Thanks for the memories --

- "In the Mouth: the story of Jonah" created by Natalie Carlisle and Caroline Murray
- "Malice in the Palace" MAD Camp -- involved 25 people ages K thru adult including 6 guests
- "Psalm 150" -- Music Appreciation Sunday anthem featuring Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, youth playing flute, cello, cymbals, and dance
- "Arky, Arky" anthem with Handbell Choir collaborating with our new, younger Bethlehem Choir
- "Merry Morning of Music" No-Name Band, Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir joining together for one splendid morning of worship moving us from Advent toward Christmas

With gratitude for serving in this community of faith,
Patricia Hughes Mangis, Director of Music

InterFaith Book Group

The Interfaith Book Group has become interfaith and ecumenical. We began 5 years ago with women from the Bridgeview Foundation Mosque and ladies from PCWS. We now have participants who are Methodists, Episcopalians, United Church of Christ, Buddhist and members at First Presbyterian of La Grange. Our purpose is to build bridges to understanding through reading and becoming acquainted with one another as women of faith from many traditions.
We choose books together and share the discussion leadership. We alternate between the Mosque Foundation and PCWS the third Wednesday of the month from September to May. We read a variety of books and authors and always have lively discussions.

This group is open to any woman who wishes to enrich her life with reading, friendship and riotous laughter. We have fun, eat well and feel that we are all blessed by knowing one another.
Carol Stoub—PCWS

ADULT EDUCATION/EXPLORƎ

Adults had a wide variety of faith formation and educational experiences in 2014. Morning Edition, the weekly adult Sunday School offering, continued in the winter and springtime with a potpourri of learning opportunities. Throughout Lent, adults and people of all ages gathered together for Jonah@Night, a series of Bible teachings delving into the satirically successful prophet, Jonah. The wintertime also featured a new opportunity called Rx for Cabin Fever: A Binge TV Sampler, where adults cozied up together on the couches of the youth room, munched on popcorn and other snacks and enjoyed a sampling of church member's favorite television shows.

For the first four months of 2014, we followed our traditional Sunday format of first Sunday extended fellowship, while second Sundays were a potpourri of learning (Second Sunday Serendipity), third Sundays were OMG (our monthly gathering of topics of special interest to families with children), and fourth Sundays were reserved for mission moments. We had one fifth Sunday, which was a Bible Basics Sunday. It looked like this:

January Second Sunday Serendipity: Memory Study from Rush Medical Center
OMG- You're going where and doing what?
(Parents talk about their young adults' call to mission and service work)
Mission Moments-Opportunity International

February Second Sunday Serendipity: Garnett Foster on the Middle East
OMG: love songs by the Beatles (filler for last minute cancellation)
Mission Moments- Buddy's Place

March Second Sunday Serendipity: Try Your Hand at Handbells!
OMG: Andrea Denney on adoption and transracial families
Matt: Listening and Serving: Stories from Greenpeace
Bible 101:Putting the Biblical story in historical context-Joyce

April Amka Afrika
Mission Moments- Lynda Wygant- Grace Seeds Ministry

So many other wonderful and classic adult opportunities continued in 2014 like Presbyterian Women and their circles, the Interfaith Book Group where a mixture of Christian and Muslim women gather in such an important fashion, in addition to the Tuesday Bible Study, the Thursday Evening Book Study, and Book Club. Adults also gathered together for a very special flower arranging workshop organized by the Flower Committee, young adults began gathering for a new monthly event called Supper Club, and the intergenerational Knit & Crochet group met in the spring and the summer.

In the Fall of 2014, a new Sunday morning second-hour opportunity called EXPLORE kicked off with a series on food. Explore featured workshops for all age groups: kids, teens, and adults, and couldn't have been planned without the time and creative brainpower of Rogers Malone, Janet Anderson, the church staff, and all the volunteer workshop leaders (Carol Stoub, Kim Fronk, Sarah Sullivan, Kami Booth, Kathy Wennerstrum, Hillary Schmidt, and the crew of readers theater actors: Walt Kovalick, Sue Kovalick, Dan Lewis, Hank Strunk, David Boxell, and Whit Carlisle). And in December, we had so many helpful people lead another great Advent Fair in 2014!

Finally, the monthly evening gathering that features thoughtful conversation surrounding a timely blog or article called Theology & Brew grew this past year to offer an additional monthly daytime edition. We're thankful for the Brew Team who makes such great conversation possible: Sue and Walt Kovalick and Julie and Dom Garino, and all the participants who make the conversations more colorful.

Submitted by Jennifer Burns Lewis and Matt Schmidt

YOUTH COMMITTEE and MINISTRY

The Youth Committee, led by Elder Moderator Alison Weber, members Tom Kelly, Cindi Karstens, Lauren De Vries, and Elder Michael De Vries, continued to help lead youth faith formation in the winter and spring of 2014. Together we planned a great Youth Sunday with a theme of "agape", a New Testament Greek word for love. Elder Alison Weber and the four seniors (Jack Wennerstrum, Jack Slezak, Julianne Thompson, and Lauren De Vries) did a great job helping to lead that Sunday experience. Betty and Paul Banovic continued helping the UPYs serve at Manna Ministries in East Garfield Park where we cook and serve dinner to residents at a men's shelter. We also continued the tradition of adding to our youth's Keep Faith Boxes and Faith Stepping Stones.

In the fall, the Christian Education committee absorbed responsibility for the leadership of all youth faith formation. In December, Session voted to change the names of both the Youth Committee and the Christian Education Committee into one large committee called Faith Formation, that will features 2015 teams focused on specific areas of ministry: Sunday School, VBS, Youth, Theology & Brew, Young Adults, Explore,

JUPYs (Grades 6-8)

JUPYs meet on Sundays for games, dinner and discussion. We're very thankful for parents who help provide food for us and for our helpful JUPY Advisors: Nate and Kim Yates, Andrea Claeys, and Val Blough.

Here are some highlights from 2014:

- Souper Bowl of Caring – asking for $1 toward hunger for Feed My Starving Children
- Serving at Feed My Starving Children
- The Fast Food Frenzy
- Ice Skating
- Valentines RED games
- JUPY Sync – Wednesday Bible Study
- Pack The Place: World's Largest Ice-Cream Sundae
- A Halloween Costume Party with an apple bobbing competition
- Christmas Toy Shopping
- The Christmas Party and White Elephant exchange

UPYs (Grades 9-12)

Summer Mission Trip – Lapwai, ID – 27 youth and adult advisors flew to Washington and drove into Idaho to help the people of the Nez Perce Reservation. We helped lead a kid's day camp and do various work projects around town. We created a blog about our trip for families and church members to see what we were up to. In preparation for the trip, we learned about Native American music and we were able to fund a portion of the Mission Trip through the generous donations given to our fundraisers: Balloon-a-grams, Spaghetti Dinner, Car Wash/Pet Wash, and the Cookie Walk. Thanks to all who helped support us!

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

This year, the Communications Team:

⇒ updated the General PCWS brochure and the Adult Brochure to reflect our Associate Pastor's arrival and Explore.

⇒ created a QR code to be included in publications. This allows anyone with a smartphone to scan the code and be directed to our website.

worked on a new website to be launched in January 2015.

⇒ In October, Michelle Hennessy met with Session and reviewed Publicity goals and the timeline for publicizing PCWS events to local communities.

On the horizon for 2015:

⇒ developing a Children/Youth Brochure.

⇒ creating a way to host a Blog on our website – hopefully with guest "Bloggers" from the membership.

⇒ working with Technology on an easy way to store pictures of PCWS events and for members to share pictures with PCWS for use in publicity and on our website.

⇒ continue to look at different ways to communicate with our members and friends.

Each of the team members is available to attend committee meetings to discuss ways we can possibly help them promote events. We would like to remind members of the following observations and suggestions:

Every committee should keep in mind the concept of "dual use" as existing or new programs/events are considered.

The "metric" for measuring the success of an event/program should generally not be an attendance count.

In considering new ideas and approaches, one criterion that should be avoided as the litmus test is: "Will I attend/participate in the event?"

Experimentation with new events/programs should recognize the possibility of "failure" or lack of "ignition" of a new spark. Remember the phrase: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Welcoming Guests

We would also ask each committee to recognize that as an activity/program/event is developed, there should be a commitment to identify and welcome guests. The PCWS general brochure was developed with this use in mind. Identify someone in the group, or a deacon, whose sole responsibility is to watch for someone who may not be familiar with PCWS and help them feel welcome.

Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Hennessy, Director of Communications
Alison Weber, Roger Dold, Linda Murray, Walt Kovalick

Presbyterian Women

In 2014, Presbyterian Women continued to explore new program options with the task force which included Carol Stoub, Aileen Pendleton, Carolyn Bozek and Joyce Rodos, planning the 2014-year.

Monthly programs/meetings began with the much loved book review luncheon. Nancy Pipal made us all fashionistas in February. In March we enjoyed fellowship. April was also a social meeting as our scheduled trip to Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago was canceled due to weather. In May the task force report was received.
In the fall of 2014, monthly meetings continued but were moved to the second Thursday of the month in order to allow us to participate in the Presbyterian Church of LaGrange programs. Our programming began in September with Sally Miller making us laughing and think about 'The Bible is a Girl's Best Friend?' October was an educational meeting with Hank Vaughan enlightening us on the basics of computers. In November, we celebrated Gratefulness with Rev. Grayson Van Camp. We ended 2014 with a wonderful music program at The Presbyterian Church of LaGrange.

Traditional circles continued for the first half of 2014. Lorraine Hoskins & Carolyn Bozek led one of the Thursday afternoon groups. Joyce Rodos led the other Thursday afternoon group. Jane Boxell and Marilyn Hanson led the Tuesday Evening Circle and Julie Garino continued to lead the Tuesday Bible Study. In the fall of 2014 PW tried a new format. The Thursday afternoon groups combined for fellowship at the church and then broke into two different gathering groups. The first, led by Joyce Rodos is an in-depth Bible study. The second group is a "TED-Talk" video discussion group. The Tuesday evening group, led by Sue Eck and Sue Kovalick, is studying and discussing Sherlock Homes & the Needle's Eye. The Tuesday evening Bible study continues to meet and discuss various book options.

Jan Paddock has remained on as our treasurer. PW voted to distribute $2,650 to mission from the current budget. $1,300 was sent to the general mission fund of Presbyterian Women. U.S.A. $225 was given to Amka, a school in Tanzania. Local mission giving was given to the following: Top Box - $225, PCWS Pastors' Discretionary Fund-$300, PCWS Youth Mission Trip - $300.

Women in PCWS continue to strive to be inclusive and work together within our church and sister churches of La Grange Presbyterian and Highlands. Our goal is to nurture our faith, support the mission of the church and work for peace and justice.
We have tried a few new ideas this year and are open to any suggestions you may have. PW is open to all women of the church and we encourage you to participate in any capacity for which you have time.

PW Annual Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/2014	**3529**
	2014 Actual
Receipts	
Pledges	930
Monthly Events	562
Cookbooks	40
Thank Offering	250
Least Coin	
Retreat	
Total Receipts	1,782
Disbursements	
Programs	275
Luncheons	17
Childcare	
Study Guides	
Thank Offering	146
Supplies, Misc.	70
Church Women United Dues	35
Retreat	
Mission	
PW General Mission	1300
Top Box Foods	225
PW Mission - Rantoul Project	300
PCWS Pastor Discretionary Fund	300
PCWS UPY Mission Trip	300
Amka Afrika School Foundation	225
Total Disbursements	3193
Ending Balance 12/31/2014	**2,118**