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 4, 2018

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 2018 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**

† Roger Adams † William Dougherty † Mae Love

† Patricia Petros † Lewis Skeels

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

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Church Staff

The Reverend William J. Ingersoll	Interim Pastor, HOS
The Reverend Donald L. Simmonds	Parish Associate
(Joined the Church Triumphant 8-17-17)	
The Reverend Grayson Van Camp	Parish Associate
The Reverend Rebecca McClintock	Parish Associate
The Reverend David Bebb Jones	Pastor Emeritus
The Reverend Tai Zimmerman Cole	Interim Faith Formation Leader/Administrator
Brendon DeBoer (end date 12/15/17)	Interim Youth Leader
Patricia H. Mangis (end date 8-13-17)	Music Team Leader (Music Administration/ Choral Music)
Stephanie M. Coates	Director of Music
Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig	Church Office Administrator
Cory Hoskins	Nursery Attendant
Kurt Smyers	Director of Operations
Davis McMahon	Sexton
Salvatore Melilli	Sexton
Alex Rodriguez (end date 6/30/17)	Sexton
Colleen Sullivan	Sexton
Erin Sullivan	Sexton
Dan Wennerstrum (end date 7/15/17)	Sexton
Luke Geraghty	Sexton
Sarah Blough	Sexton
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

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CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

Walt Kovalick, Clerk of Session

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Kathy Boxell	Eric Boeckmann	Loretta Gratias-Bremer
Kim Fronk	Marcia Buell	Jim Koning
Neil Pendleton	Condy Dixon	Mindy McMahon
Lance Smith	Nate Yates	Sal Melilli
Tanner Booth	Joyce Rodos	
	Chad Sellman	
	Peter Weber	
	Steve Wennerstrum	
	Colleen Sullivan	

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Bruce Barnes	Laura Cordell	Sheryl Allen
Jan Paddock	Bob Cushman	Ann De Vries
Mary Jo Sindelar	Theresa Dixon	Cindy Karstens
Lisa Wennerstrum	Aileen Pendleton	Laurie Merrifield
Michelle Hennessy	Julie Kelly	Kim Yates
Ellie Pendleton	Judy McAtee	
	Amy Malone	
	Jessie Fronk	
	Salvatore Melilli	

Endowment and Special Gifts Fund Committee

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Matt Booth	Steve Blough	Matt Booth
Mike Lobash	Carol Stoub	Mike Lobash
	Condy Dixon	
	Kevin McDermott	
	Kathy Wennerstrum	

Financial Officers for 2018

Treasurer: Pat Ravanesi

Associate Treasurer: John Boxell (end date 10-31-17) Laura Fruit

Assistant Treasurers: Andy Hoskins, Rich Haeske, Scott Sindelar

2018 Officers of the Corporation

Peter Weber, President Condy Dixon, Vice-President Walt Kovalick, Secretary

Interim Pastor's Report

It is an honor to serve as your Interim Pastor during this season of change at the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs. 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. I have enjoyed getting to know you and appreciate working with you- congregation, officers, and staff.

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 that end, this congregation participated in the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey in 2017, which better enabled our church officers to identify our strengths and weaknesses and has provided the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) a profile of the style of pastoral leadership that will best serve this church. Listening sessions with the congregation were held to provide further input to the PNC.

Recently, a Mission and Ministry Exploration Team has begun to meet. Their purpose is to work on a mission study and serve as a "think tank" with regard to how PCWS can continue its walk of discipleship for Jesus Christ. What innovative ideas will come from this group remain to be seen.

Anticipation grows as the Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work. They have a brief report for this congregational meeting but cannot share too much!! Please be patient with their need to protect confidentiality and remember to keep their work in your prayers.

You, the congregation of PCWS, are to be commended for having navigated your way through a number of significant staff changes in the past year and a half! First, 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 the past year you have lost an Office Administrator and Music Leader, both of whom left their part time positions here for full time jobs elsewhere, and an Interim Youth Director who left for what might become a full time job. Yet, despite the changes, our music, youth, and Faith Formation programs remain vital ministries. As this is written, the search for a new Office Administrator has yet to begin but I am convinced God will provide.

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 are being considered as this church's next Pastor. As God has guided, graced, and nurtured PCWS through in 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 2017

Active members on the church roll as of January 1, 2017	**391**
Members received during 2017:	
Restoration	1
Reinstatements	1
Total additions	2
Members dismissed during 2016:	
To another church	2
Removed at their request	21
Deceased	5
Inactive	51
Total dismissals	79
Active Members on the church roll as of December 31, 2017	**314**

***We rejoice with those who joined PCWS*:**

By Reaffirmation of Faith

Michael Kozma

By Restoration

Theodore Bunt

Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism of Children

Isabella Bunt, March 12, 2017; Zeke Tester, July 30, 2017; Roxie Kozma, November 19, 2017

In Memoriam

✞Lewis Skeels, July 6, 2017; ✞Roger Adams, November 25, 2017;

✞William Dougherty, December 27, 2017; ✞Patricia Petros December 28, 2017;

✞Mae Love December 29, 2017

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

The 2017 Officer Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers, elected for service beginning January 21, 2018:

Elder: Two year terms-
Loretta Gratias-Bremer
Jim Koning
Mindy McMahon
Sal Melilli

One year term-
Colleen Sullivan

Deacon: Two year terms-
Sheryl Allen
Ann De Vries
Cindy Karstens
Laurie Merrifield
Kim Yates

One year term-
Jessie Fronk
Salvatore Melilli

Endowment and Special Gifts Committee:
Two year terms-
Matt Booth
Mike Lobash

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

Nominating Committee for 2018:

Nominees From the congregation:
Natalie Carlisle, Cheryl Hanson, Kevin Hennessy, Susan Kovalick, Jane Melilli, Laurie Petersen

From the Deacons: Judy McAtee

From the Session: Loretta Gratias-Bremer
Steve Wennerstrum, moderator

Thank You Nominating Committee for 2017:

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

Board of Deacons

As the hands and heart of the PCWS ministry of compassion, the Board of Deacons was busy in 2017 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 organized and staffed a blood drive, arranged for Communion visits for the home-bound, and mailed boxes of goodies to our students who are away at college. 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 2017: Bruce Barnes, Laura Cordell, Bob Cushman, Theresa Dixon, Michelle Hennessy, Julie Kelly, Amy Malone, Judy McAtee, Janet Paddock, Aileen Pendleton, Ellie Pendleton, Mary Jo Sindelar, Lisa Wennerstrum

Janet Paddock, Moderator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship Committee

Pastor Bill Ingersoll has continued to lead us into and through 2017. The Worship Committee consists of : Dom Garino, Sue Eck and Amy Seuss with Marcia Buell as moderating elder. We are happy when Stephanie Coates can join us. Stephanie stepped up and took the reins when Patti Mangis, Director of Music, accepted a new position. Stephanie has done a terrific job and is an integral part of our worship planning.

On Palm Sunday, "Blessing of the Palms" was held on the Tower Green with participation by several churches in the village. Holy Week was once again shared with Highlands Presbyterian Church, with an Ash Wednesday meal in the Jones Room, followed by a service in the Sanctuary, Maundy Thursday meal and service in the Jones Room, and Good Friday service at Highlands. Easter began with the traditional sunrise service, and 9:00 and 10:45 services in the Sanctuary, with Fellowship Time between the latter two services.

We marked our second year of an interactive Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary with a musical service on the first Sunday of Advent, orchestrated by Stephanie Coates, with several families and confirmands participating. Many thanks and much appreciation goes to Sue Kovalik and Sue Eck for their continued behind the scenes efforts at prepping the church for this service.

As Christmas Eve fell on Sunday this year, the Session voted to eliminate the Sunday moring 9:30 a.m. service and only have the Christmas Eve 5:00 family service and 11:00 candlelight service. Battery operated candles were used at both services.

We had three weddings this year: Nikki Rodos, officiated by Rev. Ashley-Anne Masters; Jorie Malone, officiated by Rev. Matt Schmidt; and non-members Olesuk/Digiola, officiated by Rev. Bill Ingersoll. The Worship Committee voted to suspend all non-member weddings for the near future.

Music Appreciation Sunday was June 11th.

Thank you to all mentioned and those who were not, for the help you gave making each worship service special. Sue Eck, thank you for preparing communion the first Sunday of each month as well as on Christmas Eve, and for recruiting our greeters, communion servers and ushers. Thank you, Kurt, and the sextons, who always see that the sanctuary is ready for us each Sunday and to the Flower Guild who makes our altar beautiful each week. 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

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 2017 the committee, composed of representation from the Session, Board of Deacons, Endowment and Special Gifts Committee, and Pastor Bill, responded to a variety of needs confidentially. 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

Properties Committee

As the out outgoing Properties Moderator, I'd like to welcome Sal Melilli as my successor into this role. It's one that requires quite a bit of time in planning—and then into execution; an amazingly huge thanks to Sal for stepping up! As I've told Sal as well as the various updates given to the church and at Session, a large majority of the efforts that are and will be done as a part of this capital campaign will never actually be seen by most as so many of them are "infrastructure" in nature.

2017 was a year of planning primarily, but towards the end of it, we have started some projects indeed. Outlined below are the projects underway at some level of planning, design and/or implementation:

- **Jones Room lighting upgrades**: Many thanks to Herb and Kurt Smyers for replacing all of the linear light fixtures from very, very old fluorescents to LEDs. These new fixtures consume less than 1/10th of the energy in those they replaced, provide more light (lumens) and have a life expectancy of about 20 years without having to be replaced. This is one of those project that few, if anyone would notice, but excellent for long term goals.
- **Light bulb (lamp) replacements throughout the church**: We have replaced most of the old lamps in sanctuary, balcony and even exit signs from incandescent and/or compact fluorescents to LEDs as well. For exit lights alone, we were replacing lamps at the rate of 2-3 per month at a cost of $8/lamp, never mind the energy consumed. We have a similar life expectancy and energy consumption savings on these lights.
- **Manse**: As we all know, our PNC is currently searching for our next pastor. And whether that pastor is a "manse Pastor" or not will give us direction on how and what we do to the rest of the manse in preparation. Thanks to Walt Kovalick for his efforts in spearheading an estimate of work that we can now use and further formulate with a committee on finalizing scope. He looked at many remaining items that truly need to be done to many areas that are original to this almost 50 year old home, including highlights of:
  - Replacements of windows
  - Garage door replacement
  - Plumbing replacement
  - Bathroom upgrades
- **Sanctuary**: This is a multi-pronged project that will require some committees for design, reinstating the organ committee, and a significant team to provide elbow grease.
- **Carpet**: We have started on initial scope estimates to replace the almost original flooring (which will likely include removing and replacing all of the pews in order to do so) and have engaged a commercial flooring contractor to help us analyze the best solution for the longest duration at the best value. This includes the narthex, all stairs up to the second floor, balcony as well as stairs to the basement off the transept.
- **Organ**: As a part of this scope, we will need to start finalizing the what, when, where and how this is implemented as the wiring, speakers and physical location of the organ and associated parts need to be planned for.
- **Lighting/technology, etc:** All of these will need to be investigated as we proceed here.
- **Water:** Again, a multi-faceted project, recurring water drainage issues we've had in the church for years. We have topographic surveys now complete and have commissioned the same civil engineer to finalize scope drawings that we will soon be able to bid out and then start work. Herb has volunteered to spearhead this which includes:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Gutter repair and replacement.
- Tying the downspouts into new, larger drain lines away from the property.
- Installation of sub-terrainian lines to tie into the storm sewer systeminstallation of new, larger gutter type trench drains on the north and south edges of the concrete pad under the Porte Cochere (the current ones pitch towards the church and are filled with hard mud, effectively making them useless. Replacement of the 20 year asphalt parking area that is at the very least affected by the work above and/or complete replacement of the entire parking lot.

- **HVAC:** This project will come back online early in 2018, but the complete replacement of the Air Conditioning side of the system is due to be complete. It's a very, very large job at a significant cost, but must be completed for the future enjoyment of many years. We are also investigating installation of a supplemental AC system for the Jones Room which currently does not have any access to AC.

There are many, many more constant projects to be completed, but these are the highlights. We appreciate and thank you for your patience, but wanted everyone to understand that there is an immense amount of effort that goes into this and will continue. These projects can get done quicker if we have more volunteers, so as my last note as the former Properties Moderator and on behalf of Sal, **if you are able and have time to take on any portion of this work, we would greatly appreciate it!!**

Here's to a successful 2018!
Property Committee: Herb Smyers, Lance Smith, Brian Sullivan, Neil Pendleton, Out-going Moderator; Sal Malilli, Incoming Moderator, 2018
Kurt Smyers, Staff

Finance Committee

Session's Finance Committee met regularly through 2017.

After approving the 2017 Budget in the first quarter, the committee worked throughout the year identifying opportunities to more efficiently manage the Church's results. Our goal was simply to have revenues and expenses breakeven or better for the year. Teamwork and communication with the staff and session delivered improved results. Happy to report that this was achieved. We also reviewed our fund balances to ensure that they were effectively used and clearly reported. As the 2018 budget is finalized and approved by Session, our work has benefited the church in providing a clear roadmap to maintain financial strength.

As we move into 2018, with much anticipation of searching and naming a new pastor, we will guide the financial results to support our church. We remain confident that our congregation will support our staff and programs to maintain our breakeven goal while supporting the long term health of the church. We welcome your support and recommendations.

A word of thanks to the finance committee members, our volunteers and especially Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig who has given so much to our church and supported the financial administration. While she is leaving the church staff, her work has been greatly appreciated and she will be remembered for her endless smile and energy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Weber, Moderator
Members: Larry Glasscock, Howard Habenicht, Mike Lobash, Pat Ravanesi and Herb Smyers

Committee Reports

Technology Committee

PCWS is very fortunate to a highly qualified group of volunteers that maintain our technology systems. Hank Vaughan continues to diligently update and troubleshoot our computers for the staff and our sound operators provide their expertise to our worship services.

In June of this year, the committee replaced the administrator's computer in the office with a new, more powerful Dell computer. In addition, we replaced a monitor which had failed. To make Kristene's workspace more productive, we mounted 2 monitors off the desk, giving more room on both her desk and her screens. The former administrator computer was upgraded with more memory and moved to the volunteer desk. The old volunteer computer was retired.

In December, we upgraded the remaining monitors on the office and music department computers. In addition, 2 older pc's were given another year of life by adding some extra memory. The Music PC was moved off the Jones Room stage and into the office to provide space on the stage.

2018 Moderator: Jim Koning
Committee Members have been: Bob Cushman, Jim Koning, Mike Lobash, Kurt Smyers,
Sound System Operators: Paul Banovic, Roger Dold, Jim Koning, Kurt Smyers, Colleen Sullivan
Director of IT: Hank Vaughan

Membership/Church Life Committee

Membership and Church Life 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 2017, wonderful teams planned for Family Camp, hosted the Bunny Brunch, Baccalaureate Breakfast, Rally Day (in coordination with Faith Formation), Progressive Dinner, and Christmas Caroling.

In 2018, we would like to return to having an established Church Life Committee rather than just a point person, so that a representative group can evaluate previous events and brainstorm some new ones. The committee can look beyond just strengthening our current relationships, but also expand into the outer community to build new relationships. Loretta Gratias-Bremer will be taking over as Church Life Elder.

Kathy Boxell, Church Life Elder

Get INvolved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Leadership and Ministries Committee

The Leadership and Ministries Committee members for 2017 were Condy Dixon and Chad Sellman.

Gift Card Program

In April of 2016, 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, and the program was discontinued in 2017.

Stewardship Campaign

The fall financial campaign kicked off in October. Since PCWS was still in an interim Pastor situation with uncertainties in personnel and expenses, we kept the goal at $400,000. The campaign's slogan was "Generations of Generosity". Four long-time families of PCWS presented videos of their experiences relative to their history at PCWS. These videos were shown to the congregation in successive Sunday's up to commitment Sunday. We feel the videos were well received and helped to inform and engage the congregation. Pledges received in 2017 amounted to $317,448, with 87 pledges received. To date, pledges received for the 2018 fiscal year total $344,486, with 102 pledges received. Below is a breakdown:

Range	Pledge Units
$1 - $2600	61
$2601 - $5,200	20
$5,201 - $10,400	14
$10,400 +	7

While we have an increase of $26,039 over the previous year, with an associated increase of 15 units pledging, Session is still planning to approach the congregation in February/March to appeal for additional and/or increased pledges in an attempt to firm up the budget. A solid budget will help our PNC attract a strong candidate for our new pastor. Factors in the 2017 decrease included a reduction in pledging members (moved, deceased, etc.), and uncertainty as the Church began the pastoral search process. In addition, a capital campaign for improvements in our building generated approximately $480,000 and competed with our "normal operating budget". The Capital campaign was a three year campaign and ends in 2018. In 2018, we experienced an increase in the number of pledging members as well as an increase in total dollars. However, we didn't reach our stated goal of $400,000.

Respectfully submitted by Condy Dixon, moderator and Chad Sellman.

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.

2017 Committee Members: Julie Kelly, Moderator; Matt Booth, Steve Blough, Mike Lobash, Sal Melilli, Carol Stoub, Pat Ravanesi, and Pastor Bill Ingersoll.

Endowment and Special Gifts Fund Activity

2017 Memorials Received in Memory of

Lewis Skeels Rev. Don Simmonds C. McClintock Roger Adams Bill Dougherty Mae Love

2017 Gifts Funded by Memorial Funds

Gift or Program	In Memory of
Memorial Garden Landscaping	Hank Strunk Memorial
Tai Zimmerman Cole - Conference	R. Cushman Memorial

Gifts Funded by Endowment Funds

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee

Many thanks to our wonderful PCWS staff. We are blessed to have a tremendous team! Please join the Personnel Committee in thanking our team for their many contributions.

- **Rev. Bill Ingersoll**, Interim Pastor/Head of Staff: Bill continues to provide strong leadership during this transitionary time. His sermons are both thoughtful and thought provoking. He encourages us to hold onto the things that make PCWS so special while challenging us to try new and different approaches.
- **Tai Zimmerman Cole**, Interim Faith Formation Leader: Tai has brought tremendous creativity to faith formation. She has introduced a new and highly-tailored Sunday School curriculum – Godly Play. She has created new opportunities for all of us to continue to learn and strengthen our faiths. Like Bill, she seeks to carry forward the best of the old and blend it with the best of the new.
- **Stephanie Coates**, Music Team Leader: Stephanie began the year as our talented organist. When Patti Mangis (Choir Director) left mid-year, Stephanie stepped up to assume combined responsibilities of Choir Director and Organist. Stephanie has brought new ideas and a new energy level to our music program and has already made meaningful improvements. She and our many talented musicians enhance our worship experience in so many ways and for this we are all grateful.
- **Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig**, Office Administrator: Kristene is our unofficial "Church Ambassador." She never fails to greet visitors with a warm smile. She keeps the office humming – ensuring the bulletins are printed, papers are filed, phone calls are returned, newsletters are sent, etc. In her role, Kristene works with many of our office volunteers, including Michelle Hennessy, Director of Communication, Hank Vaughan, Director of IT, and Co-Director of Lay Ministries – Kay Kelly and Jane Melilli.
- **Kurt Smyers**, Director of Operations: Kurt and his team of Sextons keep our building in working order, our grounds in top shape and deals with many emergencies over the course of the year. Kurt is responsible for hiring, managing and mentoring our Sextons. Many PCWS youth have had their first real work experience under Kurt and Kurt is a strong advocate for the Sextons. He knows the building like no one else. Caring for a building the size and age of our church home is not easy. We are fortunate to have someone with Kurt's knowledge and commitment.
- **Candice Mares**, Youth Leader: When Brendon De Boer left PCWS in late 2017, we were blessed that Candice Mares agreed to assume the Youth Leader responsibilities. Candice brings a high degree of energy and enthusiasm to the role. Candice has passion for youth and their personal and faith development. We look forward to seeing great things in our youth program under Candice's leadership.

Special thanks to Cory Hoskins for his work in the Nursery. Cory graciously devotes his time so parents can participate in worship and other Church activities.

Thanks also to our Sextons, who work closely with Kurt to ensure our Church Home is clean and orderly. Our Sextons are: Davis McMahon, Salvatore Melilli, Colleen Sullivan, Erin Sullivan, Sarah Blough and Luke Geraghty.

Continued on next page

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee, Continued

We also thank Joyce Rodos for her Stephens Ministry leadership and training of volunteers to help provide care and support for those of our congregation in need.

Finally, we thank the many volunteers that work with our Staff to make everything happen. While too many to name, our volunteers work hand in hand with our staff and are instrumental to carrying out our Church mission.

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

Faith Formation Committee

Statement of Faith: Faith Formation at the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs seeks to nurture all children of God in their identity of who they are and prepare them as disciples by equipping them with Biblical knowledge and spiritual practices useful in daily life.

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 2017 members included Kim Fronk (Elder), Eric Boeckman (Elder), Kim Yates, Candice Mares, Brendon DeBoer and Tai Zimmerman Cole.

At the end of 2016, we welcomed Rev. Tai Zimmerman Cole as Faith Formation Leader and Brendon DeBoer as Youth Leader to PCWS. We appreciate their leadership and commitment to Faith Formation in 2017. As PCWS continues to be in transition, we said good-bye to Brendon as he went on to other opportunities and welcome our new youth leader, Candice Mares. We are thrilled to have Candice lead our JUPY and UPY programs and know she will do so with creativity, enthusiasm and God's love.

Our Sunday School program follows a new format, Godly Play, while incorporating stories from the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum and the stories of the Jesse Tree. Godly Play allows kids to explore their faith through story; following a worship style format incorporating music, prayer, story-telling and activities. In 2017 we have offered weekly nursery care and Sunday School for ages preschool - sixth grade. During the summer, children sat with their families but were given thematic activity bags to use during the service.

This year's confirmation class includes thirteen seventh and eighth graders under the leadership of Rogers Malone and Tai Zimmerman Cole. Confirmation began in the fall with each confirmand being paired up with a mentor and attending monthly activities to begin their faith walk and what it means to be a Presbyterian. Confirmands include Sam Blough, Carly Booth, Nicholas Boxell, Gabi Cloutier, Mark Dold, Jayson Fronk, Abby Gertsmeier, Grace Hughes, Henry Lobash, Olivia Mezan, Katie Pendleton, David Slezak, John Edward Cole.

We are so thankful for our Sunday School teachers who share 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, Liz Slezak, Tai Zimmerman Cole, Steve & Val Blough, Stephanie Carlisle, Deb Matthews, Brendon DeBoer, Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Tom Kelly, Sarah Sullivan, Steve Wennerstrum and Nate Yates.

(Continued on next page)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faith Formation programming, cont.

In 2017, 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. Tai Zimmerman Cole 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 Camp at Camp Edwards had thirty-five people attend, which included eleven families. Tai Zimmerman Cole led worship contemplating Jesus' baptism and communion by intinction.

* Lenten activities included "Journey We Take" devotionals, adult Bible Study, Lenten Lunches for the Community and a Lenten Fair exploring a variety of spiritual practices.

* Celebrating the youth Souper Bowl of Caring mission, church members enjoyed a Chili Cook-off during fellowship. Congratulations to Sal Melilli, Shannon Sullivan and Owen Cole for award winning bowls of chili!

* The Bunny Brunch was enjoyed by toddlers through fifth graders with crafts, food and even a visit from the bunny himself!

* A Baccalaureate Breakfast celebrated ten of our graduating seniors in May.

* The Wonders of Water Vacation Bible School was held in the evenings this year led by Tai Zimmerman Cole. VBS was accompanied by an adult Bible study, Primeval History, with Bill Ingersoll and a dinner which included youth and adults.

* Rally Day was a huge success with a delicious barbecue, games for kids of all ages, information tables about PCWS programming and fellowship! At this time, the book We Make the Road By Walking was introduced and the congregation was encouraged to read and share in the journey together of One Church, One Book.

* NIV Adventure Bibles by Zondervon were presented to six second graders in September.

* Trunk or Treat was a great community event, the congregation passed out treats from decorated car trunks in the parking lot for a spooktacular time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faith Formation programming, cont.

* The Women's Retreat was held in October at Camp Edwards under the leadership of Lorraine Hoskins and spiritual leadership of Rev. Grayson VanCamp.

* Advent Fair was a huge success with family craft tables, mission opportunities and even a photo booth. Jesse Tree devotionals were shared to prepare for Christmas during the Advent Season, written and illustrated by members of the congregation of all ages.

* A donation of $1000 was given to support Cuba's Water for the World Project from the Sunday School offerings collected each week.

* The Christmas Pageant in December was a faithful celebration of the birth of Jesus with seventeen children participating, followed by a pizza birthday party.

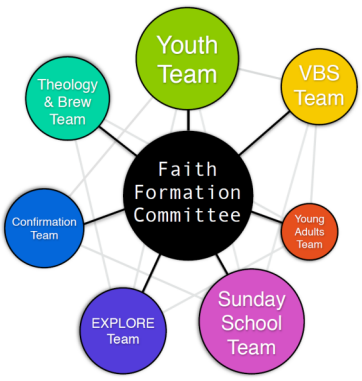
Youth Annual Report

2017 was another great year for youth! The UPYs celebrated their Youth Sunday tradition, titled "Youth Unday" with a mix of conversation 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 and the Cookie Walk, all of which were a great success. The proceeds from the fundraisers will be used to help subsidize the cost of the 2018 Mission Trip to Jacksonville, Florida in July.

The JUPYs also had a great year. We played and laughed together at Extreme Trampoline, made the world's largest Ice Cream Sundae at Pack the Place, played dodgeball together, holiday parties and played lots of games of Alien. 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, Linda Merrifield and Michael DeVries
JUPY Advisors: Candice Mares, Ashley Glickman and Valerie Blough
Special Thanks to the Melillis and the Gertsmeiers for hosting the Christmas Parties!



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 2017, 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. Unfortunately, in October the program ended after many years. This mission has been a key program for our congregation to give both monetarily and physically. 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, hand-knit winter hats and gloves – all the result of generous holiday donations. Also part of our Christmas giving campaign is **Sharing Connections**, which receives donated coats, mittens and hats and a portion of the holiday donations. PCWS fundraising for the annual **CROP Walk** supported several local food pantries.

Other local agencies we have provided financial support to include: **Night Ministry, the Boulevard, DOOR, Facing Forward to End Homelessness, the LeaderShop, Community Support Services, Interfaith Community Partners, LATH, Community Nurses Health Association** (which recently merged with Pillars/LATH) and **Greater Chicago Food Depository. 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.** This year we supported an adult mission trip to Cuba to repair the Nueva Paz Church and continue to extend our fellowship. The Alternative Giving Fair and our discretionary funds made it possible to donate to **Heifer International, Church World Service, Compassion International** and **Divine Fair Trade Chocolate**.

The mission committee has also provided support to the **Living Waters** initiative for the **Nueva Paz Church**. Funds for Living Waters will go to purchase and install a water filtration unit to ensure Nueva Paz Church and their surrounding community will have safe and clean drinking water. The congregation has strongly supported this initiative through direct giving and fundraising such as the Alternative Giving Fair.

Lastly, as in the past, over 60% 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: Kathy Wennerstrum, Mary Jo and Ron Blough, Judy McAtee, and Kevin McDermott.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Nate Yates and Joyce Rodos, Mission Elders

CHURCH MINISTRY

Music Ministry at PCWS

PCWS is blessed to be a richly, musical congregation - look at all the ways so many have shared their musical talents:

Family Band - 2017 was the second year of Family Band at PCWS. We are so blessed to have Kami Booth's continued leadership! The Band shared their musical gifts in leading music twice in 2017 and we hope to increase that to three times in 2018. Look for them on Sunday, March 18th!

During Lent, the Chancel Choir combined with the Highlands Presbyterian choir for services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday - held at PCWS. On Good Friday, the choirs sang together again at Highlands Presbyterian Church. We will be doing so again this coming Lent.

For Easter, we had brass, organ, and choir to celebrate our risen Christ.

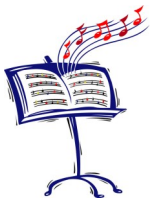
The summer months brought us MAD Camp's production of *What's Up Zak* and Vacation Bible School.

The Bell Choir played in church in May and November. In May, the congregation had the chance to play hand chimes with a congregational song and in November, we featured both "brass and bells" as a musical theme.

The fall brought in new changes with the music staff going from 2 positions to one combined position with the resignation of Patti Mangis who took a full time music position in Barrington.

Throughout 2017, we have not only had the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir in worship but many instrumentalists, soloists, and small ensembles. As we move into 2018, you will see this rich variety of musicians as well as varied musical songs/pieces continue.

The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Chronicles 5:13

Director of Music,
Stephanie M. Coates

Interfaith Book Group

The Inter-faith Book Group is in the eighth year of reading together as friends in several faith groups. We choose the books we will read and leaders for each book at our May meeting. We read broadly and our discussions are far-ranging and interactive. We continue to meet alternating between PCWS and The Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview. The Interfaith Book Group is comprised of Presbyterians, First La Grange and PCWS, Methodists, Muslims, Episcopalians, Baptists and we welcome our first Jewish reader in February.

Our goal is to build bridges of acceptance, friendship and understanding of one another in this diverse world. All women are welcome.

Carol Stoub, PCWS
Carol Lambert Akhers, Mosque Foundation

CHURCH MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry continues in our congregation. We have trained seven ministers, five women and two men. All of the women have been actively engaged in Ministry; unfortunately neither of the men have been involved in formal Ministry but both feel that the training has helped them in their daily interactions. We have not begun a new class because there has not been a need, but we will need to do this to relieve our current ministers who have been active for four years now. We meet monthly for supervision and continuing education.

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 25 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 2017, we continued the new design for Hanging of the Greens including the two 7 ½ foot lighted Christmas trees. Eight artificial boxwood wreaths were again hung with red ribbons in the Sanctuary windows during worship and in the narthex. Poinsettias were added in the chancel area in anticipation of Christmas. Following the Christmas season, more poinsettias were delivered to members of the church than in the past. Many thanks to Mary Jo Blough and Nancy Glickman for this outreach.

Current members are Sue Kovalick, Sue Eck, Nancy Glickman, Jan Fortina, and Laurie Merrifield. We continue to welcome others to join us.

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

Presbyterian Women and Communications

The Presbyterian Women at PCWS

Presbyterian Women (PW) continues to meet monthly during the academic year. We share meetings with PW of LaGrange almost exclusively. Attendance at the meetings runs about 20-25 with about equal numbers from each church. Highlands Presbyterian Church has been invited to join with us and do so occasionally. The two Circles continue; the afternoon Circle is studying Hebrews this year led by Tai Zimmerman Cole and the evening circle chose to study racism this year.

Joyce Rodos
Moderator

Laura Fruit has graciously agreed to be our treasurer. Below please find our 2016 financial report.

PW Annual Report 2017	
Beginning Balance 1/1/2017	3,120.85
Receipts	
Pledges	370.00
Monthly Events	638.00
Study Books	88.00
Thank Offering	100.00
Misc. Receipts	20.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**1,216.00**
Disbursements	
Programs	175.00
Luncheons	210.45
Study Books	278.10
Thank Offering	100.00
Misc. Supplies	33.75
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	**797.30**
Ending Balance 12/31/2017	3,539.55

Communications Team Report

2017 was another 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. New this year - a BLOG! Members and staff are writing 500-600 word entries on the topic "Where do I see God in My Everyday Life."
- 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 2017, we established a presence on Instagram. If anyone would like to help provide content, please contact Michelle Hennessy.
- 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