Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

2018 Annual Report

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

5250 Wolf Road, Western Springs, Illinois | (708) 246-5220 | presbyws.org

Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

and

Meeting of the Corporation

March 17, 2019

Agenda

Moderator: The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian

Clerk of Session/Secretary of the Corporation: Elder Walter W. Kovalick

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Opening Prayer

Opening Remarks – The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian

Presentation of 2018 Financial Summary and 2019 Budget – Elder Peter Weber

Meeting of the Corporation – Peter Weber, President of the Corporation

Celebrating the Completion of the Capital Campaign

Election of Congregational Nominating Committee – Elder Steve Wennerstrum

Terms of Call for The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian – Elder Steve Wennerstrum

Recognition of 50-year Members

Dorothy Andersen
◆ Janet Andersen
Mary Jo Blough
Ron Blough
◆ Sue Cushman
Mary Kae Headland
John Kregg
❖ Evie Meyer
Shirley Pine
Larry Randa
Ruth Riordan
Susan Salak
Jackey Scheibelhut
Joyce Schneiderbauer
George Slezak
Donna Strunk
Betty Toft
Vi Wennerstrum Butler
Mary Anne Wilson

Transfer of Members to the Church Triumphant

Norman Toft • Rich Kanak • Roger Johnson • George A. Petros

Looking Forward – Rev. Khoobyarian

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

◆ Celebrating 50 years of membership in 2018
❖ Charter Member

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The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian – Pastor & Head of Staff

The prophet Micah was direct when writing to the people of Judah nearly 3,000 years ago and his instructions ring as clear to us today as they did to God's people in Jerusalem: "But God's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in people. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously – take God seriously." Micah 6:8 (*The Message*)

As I look back on 2018, you all at PCWS have devoted yourselves and this congregation to living out these ideals. Our journey together began in June when you welcomed me with open arms when I joined you for worship and you extended a call to me. You trusted your nominating committee and even if I didn't match your own image of who or what your next pastor would be, you have welcomed me as your pastor since August.

Even more than welcoming me as your pastor, though, you have welcomed me into your homes and into your lives, and I could not be more honored to walk alongside you all on this journey. As we continue together in 2019, our goals remain the same.

Do what is fair and just to your neighbor.

We are committed to mission in our community and throughout the world. PCWS has a strong history of supporting mission organizations with hands-on efforts and financial support and we will continue to do so. We will also strive to be a neighbor to our local community, welcoming those from our neighborhood and making it clear that all are welcome here.

Be compassionate and loyal in your love.

I have watched you all with much warmth in my heart as you have surrounded those in our community who are struggling. You surround people with love and it is beautiful. Love is a hallmark for this congregation and anyone setting foot in the door knows it quickly.

Don't take yourself too seriously.

I love this instruction! Sometimes the church can be a bit too serious and self-conscious. At PCWS I see a willingness to acknowledge that we don't have all of the answers and a willingness to explore new ways of doing things. While traditions are important, being trapped in the nostalgia of yesterday can keep us from looking forward. So, one challenge for us in 2019 is to continue to be innovative and asking ourselves how we can be more welcoming to new people, new ideas, and a forward-looking vision for our future together.

Take God seriously.

Worship and education are an important part of the faith journey and in 2018 members of the congregation took significant leadership roles in organizing programs in the absence of fulltime ministry staff. You all worked hard to ensure that our young people learned about God and about faith. In 2019, we are working to provide more opportunities for learning, and for taking God seriously, for all ages. Taking God seriously means learning skills, some of which may be new for some people. We'll be talking more about prayer, study of scripture, and other faith practices that can build us up.

Friends, what a wonderful year of ministry in 2018, and prayers for our continued journey in 2019!

Erik

Stephanie Coates – Director of Music Ministry

2018 – what a wonderful year of musical journeys at PCWS!

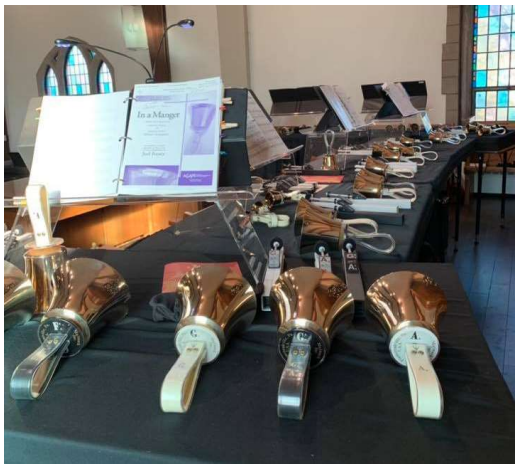
In looking back over the past year, what struck me the most were the incredible musical journeys we took together as a congregation.

Every week our journey is enriched with beautiful music. We are so blessed with many talented members who are so willing to share their gifts with one another in worship. Our No-Name Band, Chancel Choir, and Handbell Choir continue to provide beautiful and meaningful music throughout the seasons of the church year.

Along with the Band, Choir, and Handbells we have the musical gifts of those soloists, both instrumental and vocal who enrich our worship services with their music monthly throughout the year. It is like a beautiful tapestry; the threads of singing and playing interweave with one another in worship every service.

Our 2018 journey was made complete with two new instruments. One, with the gift of the Baldwin grand for the sanctuary, allowing us to have another grand piano for the Jones' room and the Kawai upright in room 202. To support the instruments, two new piano dollies were purchased for each of the instruments. This allows the piano to be easily moved without stress or damage to the instrument.

Secondly was the much needed, purchase of our new, three manual Allen organ. In dedication of the new organ, we were blessed with our wonderful concert featuring the organ, piano, choir, bells, brass and our guest organist, Dr. A. Steven Taranto in September. The new organ, along with the new piano and remodeled worship space, have truly made our worship experience, a musical treasure for all.



On a personal note, I would like to thank all our PCWS musicians who so tirelessly, give of their time and talents to the PCWS family. I could not do what I do without all of you! For the rest of the congregation, come join us! Playing or singing with one of our groups is such an amazing fellowship here at PCWS and we would love for you to be part of our journey.

Stephanie M. Coates, Director of Music Ministry

Candice Mares – Youth Leader

January was my first month and we started off with a bang. Close to 30 youths and tremendous parent support for an old PCWS favorite – Fast Food Frenzy. Then there was the very low-key ski trip, an overnight with three youths at Cascade Mountain in Wisconsin, special thanks to Scott Banovic who stepped up to chaperone. March was the Spaghetti Dinner, which was a delicious success under the direction of Steve Blough and family. April brought another awesome Youth Sunday thanks to Alison Weber. Also, there was the Baccalaureate Breakfast and blanket ceremony to celebrate our outgoing seniors. In September, Rally Day was a great turn out, followed up with a new life in the youth program. We have played lots of Alien, participated in the CROP Walk, helped with Trunk-and-Treat, went to a haunted house, shared a Sabbath meal (with beautiful music by the Koning Family), and December hosted another fund-tastic cookie walk. We had a blast at Christmas parties (special thanks to the Gertsmeier's for hosting). I couldn't have survived my first year without the guidance (and patience) of Mindy McMahon, Kim Fronk, and Carolyn Bozak.

Candice Mares, Youth Leader

Mission Trip

Spaghetti Dinner

Youth Sunday

Forrest Schroeder – Church Administrator

In February, we said farewell to our long-time Office Administrator, Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig, when she accepted a position as Ministry Coordinator at the Presbytery of Chicago. Kristene remains close to PCWS, working with us from the Presbytery, and maintaining a personal connection to the church. I joined PCWS in May as the new Church Administrator, taking on Kristene's role, as well as many other responsibilities. Many volunteers assisted during the gap and transition between Kristene and I. Special thanks to Laura Fruit, Michelle Hennessy, Judy McAtee, Mindy McMahon, Donna Strunk, Carol Ulreich, and Kathy Wennerstrum for their help during that time.

Our volunteers are a vital part of our church office, serving as receptionists, answering phones and greeting visitors. With their help, we are able to better serve the church and our community, while allowing me to focus on other projects. We are always looking for new volunteers who are interested in helping to answer phones. There are no special skills needed. In fact, we recommend bringing a book, laptop, or other project to keep you busy when it is slow. If you are interested in helping out, email me at forrest@presbyws.org. I want to extend thanks, in addition to those listed above, to Kay Kelly, Amy Malone, and Joyce Rodos for their help this year around the office.

The church is kept clean by a wonderful crew of Sextons. They diligently work, performing custodial tasks, and furniture set-ups for our worship services, special events, fellowships, and committee meetings, as well as providing an inviting environment to outside groups. The Sextons' work is often unseen, but more than appreciated by us all. We welcomed five new Sextons in 2018: Dominic Enrietti, Jack Evans, Will Morgison, Nathan Nichol, and Faith Wyant. We also said goodbye to Erin Sullivan, as she left to Iowa for college. Sarah Blough, Luke Geraghty, Davis McMahon, Salvatore Melilli III, and Colleen Sullivan remained on staff this year, and continue to be excellent examples for their peers of hard work and dedication.

Our members, visitors, and the community are encouraged to reach out to the church office with any questions or concerns relating to the church and its functions. We do our best to solve problems as they arise, and communicate questions to any appropriate individuals.

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who has offered help and guidance during my first seven months at PCWS. Serving as part of the PCWS staff is much easier knowing that I have such incredible support throughout the congregation. Thank you to all of those who stop by throughout the week to lend a hand and serving spirit to all the projects that happen behind-the-scenes.

Forrest Schroeder, Church Administrator

Church Staff

The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian ..... Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Grayson Van Camp & The Rev. Rebecca McClintock ..... Parish Associates
The Rev. David Bebb Jones ..... Pastor Emeritus
Stephanie Coates ..... Director of Music Ministry
Candace Mares ..... Youth Leader
Forrest Schroeder ..... Church Administrator

Church Officers

Elders

Clerk of Session: Walt Kovalick

Class of 2018
Eric Boeckmann
Joyce Rodos
Chad Sellman
Colleen Sullivan
Nate Yates

Class of 2019
Marcia Buell
Natalie Carlisle
Condy Dixon
Loretta Gratias-Bremer
Jim Koning
Mindy McMahon
Sal Melilli, Jr.

Class of 2020
Bob Cushman
Michelle Hennessy
Mike Lobash
Suzie Mosher
Peter Weber
Steve Wennerstrum

Deacons

Class of 2018
Bob Cushman
Theresa Dixon
Julie Kelly
Jessie Fronk
Salvatore Melilli III

Class of 2019
Sheryl Allen
Carly Booth
Ann DeVries
Cindi Karstens
Amy Malone
Laurie Merrifield
Judy McAtee
Kim Yates

Class of 2020
Steve Blough
Laura Cordell
Nancy Glickman
Sue Kovalick
Aileen Pendleton

Nominating Committee

Steve Wennerstrum, Session-designee & Moderator
Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Session-designee
Judy McAtee, Deacon-designee

Natalie Carlisle
Cheryl Hanson
Kevin Hennessy
Sue Kovalick
Jane Melilli
Laurie Petersen

Membership Report

Active members on the church roll as of January 1, 2018 314

Members received during 2018

Youth professions of faith 13

Sam Blough
Carly Booth
Nick Boxell
Gabrielle Cloutier
John Edward Cole
Mark Dold
Jayson Fronk
Abby Gertsmeier
Grace Hughes
Henry Lobash
Olivia Mezan
Katie Pendleton
David Slezak

Professions of faith and reaffirmations 2

Claire Bellamy
Sherri Black

Total additions *15*

Members dismissed in 2018

To another church 4
Deceased 4
Removed for any other reason 1
Total dismissals *9*

Active members on the church roll as of December 31, 2018 319

Transfer of Members to the Church Triumphant

Norman Toft	May 19, 1920 – June 13, 2018	Joined PCWS in 1958
Rich Kanak	June 9, 1927 – October 15, 2018	Joined PCWS in 1971
Roger Johnson	June 19, 1935 – November 2, 2018	Joined PCWS in 1977
George A. Petros	May 19, 1927 – December 3, 2018	Charter Member of PCWS

Ministry Reports

Church Life & Membership

The year began with creating a calendar of events to learn "who does what?" Working with Faith Formation and the Deacons on this information was very helpful as we began to develop a committee.

Trunk-and-Treat

The planning committee of Church Life and Membership includes Val Blough, Nancy Glickman, and Sarah Sullivan. They met to review past events and projects, and plan possibilities for the coming year. Meeting with the Directors of Lay Ministry was informative and hopefully we can begin to be supportive of the ministry that they do.

- A team of wonderful volunteers provided a Baccalaureate Breakfast for graduating seniors.
- S'mores and Boards – a new event was held in the summer as we coordinated with Faith Formation.
- Rally Day with a taco stand and the band was awesome and enjoyed by all.
- Trunk-and-Treat was wonderful in spite of the weather! A good time by all!
- The Progressive Dinner was coordinated by Michelle Hennessy and Val Blough.
- Gathering Around the Table – PCWS folks sign up for gatherings to enjoy dinner, breakfast, or lunch together. Theresa Dixon organizes this program and it has been wonderful to see different folks come to the event that coordinates with their calendars that month.
- Christmas Caroling – a bus of singers made three stops before coming back for soup and sandwiches at the church.
- Winter Family Camp – an annual event journeyed to Camp Edwards for fellowship and fun.

2019 will be a year of continued evaluation of events that have happened and plan new events by coordinating with other PCWS committees and ministries to reach out into the community. It will also be a year when we work with a new budget that will reflect a realistic view of spending.

A name change for the year of 2019 – the task of membership will be moved to another Session committee. Church Life will concentrate on providing events to meet the needs of our church community, strengthen current relationships and build new ones.

Elder Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Moderator

Rally Day

Faith Formation

The mission of the Faith Formation Committee is to meet the educational and faith development needs of all ages of people in our congregation. Our committee has meaningful discussions together about your input which guides our plans. Thanks to so many valuable volunteers, who completed Safe Space training and have offered their time for numerous opportunities for ministry. Our children, youth, and adults express appreciation and we are grateful to the numerous volunteers and participants who contribute to meaningful activities.

Our nursery continues to provide infants through four-year-olds a safe place to play while parents and grandparents enjoy worship. Volunteers (Kathy Boxell, Jen Cushman, Ann De Vries, Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Andy Hoskins, Lorraine Hoskins, Rogers Malone, Amy Malone, Mindy McMahon, and Shannon Sullivan) have assisted Cory Hoskins and Erin Sullivan, as Childcare Attendants.

We presented precious Bibles to four second-graders who were astounded with unwrapping them and they are often heard in Sunday School talking about reading their Bible stories at bedtime.

Many, many volunteers (Carolyn Bozek, Stephanie Carlisle, Jen Cushman, Sue Cushman, Wendy Davies, Jill Dold, Kim Fronk, Jon Gertsmeier, Cheryl Hanson, Candice Mares, Becka McClintock, Mindy McMahon, Suzie Mosher, Aileen Pendleton, Hank Vaughan, and Kim Yates) teach and assist preschool through second graders, third through fifth graders and sixth through eighth graders. In the winter and spring, we followed the lectionary using the Godly Play format and in the fall we used the PCUSA Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum. Middle students used the Reform curriculum. From January until her departure in May, The Rev. Tai Zimmerman Cole, our staff Faith Formation leader, led our youth Sunday School, adult Bible studies, and intergenerational activities. Students explore stories, read the Bible, watch videos and generate responses that we encourage parents to talk about afterwards. Worship bags are provided for children remaining in Worship so they can be more engaged while there is not a Sunday School class.

Lenten Fair was offered with interactive stations, prayer, labyrinths, JUPYs served a Shrove pancake breakfast and several lunches were facilitated by Pastor Tai.

Confirmation Class 2018

A large confirmation class of 13 seventh and eighth graders completed their monthly study of their faith in May with Pastor Tai and Rogers Malone. The confirmation program also included activities with their mentors. Thank you to the members of the congregation who served as confirmation mentors in 2017-18: Sheryl Allen, Carolyn Bozek, Sue Cushman, Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Scott Karstens, Sue Kovalick, Jorie Pesce, Sal Melilli, Kevin McDermott, Jim McMahon, Amy Seus, Brian Sullivan, and Hank Vaughan. After the completion of their program, the confirmands met with Session

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to share their Faith Statements and be examined and received as members of the congregation. We also celebrated Rogers Malone with the dedication of a tree in honor of his 20 years of service to our confirmation program.

Faith Formation Committee collaborated with the Church Life and Membership Committee to host our first S'mores and Boards fellowship evening during the summer in anticipation of a new pastor. While Pastor Erik was not yet with us, our families and friends enjoyed roasting s'mores over fire pits, playing games, and conversing.

Men's Night Out at Lucca's Restaurant with Pastor Erik, arranged by Eric Boeckmann, allowed more than 25 men to greet Pastor Erik and relax while building relationships with him and each other over delicious dinner.

During our annual Rally Day, families enjoyed an afternoon of joyful music led by Kevin McDermott's band, Ring, Shout and Friends (while dancing and playing instruments), the cookie walk, jumping in the bounce house, and devouring delicious food arranged by Church Life and Membership. Laurie Merrifield entertained children in a scavenger hunt, while youth painted faces. At this time, Pastor Erik joined our committee to help brainstorm Faith Formation activities for all ages.

Spaghetti Dinner

In collaboration with the Mission Committee, we enthusiastically designed the first three of six Mission Sundays during the first Sunday of the month beginning in October. Our goal was to encourage children with mission work and we hope you are hearing their interest in the CROP Walk, Cuba church family, and local donations. Nate Yates, Peter Hanson, Jane Boxell, Kathy Wennerstrum, and Janet Andersen led the first three Sundays.

Candice Mares, our Youth Director, leads the youth with JUPY and UPY lessons and discussions, along with numerous volunteers (Joey Benson, Val Blough, Kathy Boxell, Stephanie Carlisle, Kim Fronk, Loretta Gratias-Bremer, Tricia and Jim Koning, Amy Malone, Marcia Martinaitis, Mindy McMahon, and Sarah Sullivan) who assist, provide snacks, meals and transportation. Youth are invited to sit with Candice during worship, attend her monthly Sunday School discussion, or attend Sunday School led by volunteers the other Sunday of the month.

We also encourage our youth to invite their friends as that brings together youth with a variety of backgrounds and experiences for richer exploration. They laughed together at Fast Food Frenzy, game night, haunted house, Sabbath dinner, holiday parties, broomball, Harry Potter cooking lessons, and lots of games of Alien. There are also age appropriate discussions about life and current or local events.

UPYs and JUPYs, have Sunday evening events several times a month and often a shared dinner together. It is our intention to combine the ages and provide meaningful time for them to converse, mentor, explore age related questions, play and laugh together while learning more about their faith. During the annual Souper Bowl of Caring, JUPYs and UPYs collected donations given to Feed My Starving Children. Additionally, there was a summer mission work camp in Jacksonville, Florida for UPYs with several fundraising events, such as the Spaghetti Dinner, Balloon-a-grams, Cookie Walk, and Car/Pet Wash to offset some of their costs. All of these events were promoted by

wonderful volunteers leading the event (Steve Blough, Kay Kelly, Jane Melilli, Aileen Pendleton, Jon Gertsmeier, and Lance Smith), which contributed to fun and fellowship for our congregation. We are grateful to food donations for our Spaghetti Dinner from Western Springs' Fruit Store and Hinsdale's Prime and Tender Meat to offset some costs. Mission trip advisors, Candice Mares and Lance Smith guided six UPYs on a summer mission trip to Jacksonville, Florida. In September they shared about the impact of the mission trip during Worship. You will hear them commenting that "The UPY mission trip is an amazing opportunity to make a tangible positive impact in the lives of others while growing deeper in shared faith together." "You really get to bond with the other kids at church- plus it's fun to go on trips." "We do a lot of cool trips and it's really fun." "UPY mission trips are the best.' You are encouraged to talk with them and invite your high schoolers to participate in this year's Mission trip!

The UPYs celebrated their Youth Sunday tradition, titled "Live Love" with a mix of conversation and music and a message that was well received by those in attendance. Furthermore, Salvatore Melilli brought to us a Communion experience he learned on a mission trip that touched our souls.

High school seniors attended the Baccalaureate Breakfast with their mentors, parents, and Interim Pastor, The Rev. Bill Ingersoll, to relax and talk about their favorite scripture passage, future goals, and hear college and life advice from their mentor. Afterwards, we blanketed the seniors to send them off with our blessings. Thanks to eighth graders for serving breakfast!

Those young at heart have also had a variety of ways to come together and explore, reflect and discuss the meaning of Bible scriptures. Pastors Tai and The Rev. John Cole led several Bible Studies in the spring, and Pastor Erik holds a weekly Pastor's Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons. This drop-in Bible study focuses on the scripture texts for the upcoming Sunday.

Sixteen women gathered for their annual retreat in November at Stronghold Retreat Center arranged by Mindy McMahon, based upon insightful input from many women who previously attended and awesome leadership of The Rev. Diane Slocum, retired pastor from Elmhurst Presbyterian Church. We hope you will join us October 18-20, 2019 for lively conversation, games and spiritual reflection at the next Women's Retreat at Camp Manitoqua in Frankfort, Illinois.

Advent Fair provided children with lots of opportunities to make crafts together, enjoy the photo booth and receive devotionals. Guidance from Kami Booth, Carolyn Bozek, Kim Fronk, Mindy McMahon, Aileen Pendleton, Hank Vaughan, and Kim Yates led to completion of creative projects to take home and converse about.

We are grateful to Christmas party hosts for the JUPYs at the Gertsmeier home after caroling and brunch for UPYs at a local restaurant as planned by Candice Mares.

We excitedly resumed our traditional Christmas Pageant with the leadership of Laurie Merrifield who recruited so many of our youngsters, parents and grandparents to enact the story of Jesus' birth. Our sanctuary was filled with many guests in awe of the performance. Laurie Merrifield and Amy Malone co-directed and numerous volunteers handled costumes (Val Blough, Carolyn Bozek, Erin Merrifield, Diane Ravanesi, and Kim Yates), make up (Sarah Blough), music (Stephanie Coates), sound system (Colleen Sullivan), and pizza and cupcakes party (Kim Fronk and Mindy McMahon).

What might we plan next for you? We look forward to hearing your input and invite you to offer your responses so we can fulfill the needs of all ages: a past/evaluation question (i.e., how was Bible Study, Retreat, Sunday School, etc., meaningful?), a present question (i.e., how do you think we can meet the needs of all ages?), a future/planning question (i.e., what ideas do you have for infants, youth, adults?).

Committee members: Eric Boeckmann, Carolyn Bozek, Kim Fronk, Candice Mares

Elder Mindy McMahon, Moderator

Deacons

The Board of Deacons had another very busy year. Sadly we started the year with three memorial service receptions for Mae Love, Pat Petros, and Bill Dougherty.

We hosted three going and coming receptions. A farewell for our Office Administrator Kristene Hiepler-Hartwig, a farewell for Pastor Tai Zimmerman Cole, a farewell for Interim Pastor Bill Ingersoll, and a welcome for our new Pastor Erik Khoobyarian.

We continued to look after our Link List members and assist with any needs anyone had. Plus, Amy Malone was very faithful in checking on the need for meals and arranging for them when asked.

At the November meeting we packed 30 college boxes of donated Halloween candy plus other goodies like Post It notes, pens, and popcorn bags. Our college student members always love to munch on the goodies plus share them with friends.

We also coordinate Fellowship time after each Sunday's worship service. Deacons sign up church members to set up and bring some goodies for each Sunday. The Deacons often opt to fill the fellowship role some Sundays themselves.

Members also serve as Deacon of the Day arriving by 9:15 a.m. to greet members and particularly new people who are visiting the church. After the service the Deacon of the Day takes care of distributing the flowers to people who are needing a bit of cheering up due to illness or being homebound.

Deacons meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.. There are 12 adult members and one or two

Preparing College Care Packages

Youth Deacons. Thank you to all the members for the support Deacons receive.

Judy McAtee, 2018 Moderator

Stephen Ministries

The Stephen Ministers of PCWS continue their work. There are seven ministers: David Boxell, Dom Garino, Nancy Glickman, Marilyn Hanson, Michelle Hennessy, Lorraine Hoskins, and Joyce Smyers; in October Nancy Glickman asked to become inactive during her service as a Deacon. No additional training class is planned at this time.

Stephen Ministry is at heart service to God's hurting people through listening and journeying alongside. Our Stephen Ministers are dedicated and conscientious and have been care givers for four

individuals this year. In addition they have assisted the head of staff with visitation.

This has been a year of maintaining our ministry without growth. It is invisible to most of the congregation partially because confidentiality is a basic tenet of the ministry. Sometimes this makes it difficult for us to continue to be enthusiastic, yet we continue to meet once a month for continuing education and supervision.

We plan to meet with Pastor Erik and look for new avenues of service. One such ministry might be through distribution of the pamphlets about grieving. Stephen Ministries is well known for this service and it would be helpful to bring this to PCWS. We hope there will be further opportunities as well as we seek to serve our God.

Joyce Rodos, Leader

Leadership & Ministries

It was a busy year for the Leadership and Ministries Committee. We organized and successfully completed two separate financial campaigns.

The first one began in mid-April and was called the "Welcome our new Pastor" campaign. As our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was finalizing its selection for our new Pastor, Session felt the need to secure additional funding to aid the PNC in the selection process and to make repairs to the manse. The goal of the campaign was to generate an additional $75,000.

The rough breakdown of the fund distribution was $50,000 for manse improvements; the remaining $25,000 would offset expenses incurred by the PNC in its search for our new Pastor and to defer expenses associated with moving our new Pastor.

We wanted to be proactive in helping to make our new Pastor feel at home and demonstrate our commitment to the Pastor's future by making the needed repairs to the manse. Additionally, we felt it was important to allow our new Pastor to participate in the improvements by picking out the paint colors in his new home.

The campaign ran four weeks, ending on May 20. The great news from the campaign was that we surpassed our goal and secured commitments totaling $78,626 from 49 member families. A great commitment and result!

The second campaign this year was for our annual stewardship drive focusing on contributions to fund the 2019 regular operating budget. Our theme this year was: "Rooted and Built Up in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving."

We made some "razzle dazzle" presentations for several weeks to keep the congregation informed of our progress. We finished with our final "double dazzle" presentation, which included a review of our final numbers and some interesting facts.

We received a total of 91 pledges, totaling $367,694. A breakdown of the pledge range was:

$0 – $1,000	14 pledges
$1,001 – $2,500	28 pledges
$2,501 – $5,200	26 pledges
$5,201 – $10,000	17 pledges
$10,000 – up	6 pledges

The average pledge was $4,040. The median pledge was $3,000, and the most common recurring pledge, or mode, was $3,000. We also realized that if we all committed to replacing one Venti, nonfat,

Continued

caramel macchiato with a regular brewed coffee, and donated those savings to PCWS, that we could increase donations by $30,000 per year.

Compared to the prior year, we had 45 pledge units increase their year-over-year donation. We had an additional 36 keep their donations at the same level.

Although we fell a little short of our $400,000 goal, we still increased donations by more than $22,000 from the previous year. Given that our membership was down slightly from 2017, and the fact that we conducted two financial campaigns during the year, we felt the results were fantastic.

This congregation has shown great leadership this year, both with our Pastors (Bill and Erik) and with our Lay leadership. We've met the adversity these past two years head on, and with God's blessing have overcome all adversity that came our way.

We really are a blessed congregation to have many faithful and caring members.

Thanks everyone for making Chad and my experience so enjoyable in 2018!

Respectfully,
Elder Condy Dixon, Moderator, and Elder Chad Sellman

Mission

This was a busy year for the Mission committee! Having bid farewell to the long-running Food for Life program at the end of last year (December 2017), we continued to look for new ways to share our congregation's time and talents, and treasure with those in need globally, nationally, and in our own backyard.

As in years past, a significant portion of the 2018 Mission budget was allocated to denominational support through gifts to the General Assembly, the Synod, the Presbytery of Chicago and the PCUSA Theological Education Fund. For a congregation of our size, these gifts were substantial.

Mission also continued to financially support a number of global, national and local agencies through traditional budgeted giving, as reflected in Mission budget line items.

PCWS Mission participated in several hands-on mission opportunities throughout the year, including our annual Maria Shelter work day, a group outing to the Greater Chicago Food Depository, an ad-hoc outing to Bernie's Books and the annual west-suburban CROP Walk (supporting several local food pantries) which PCWS organized and hosted in October. Our congregation's aluminum recycling program has grown substantially and now provides significant support to hunger programs in the Chicago area and to our Cuba partnership. Loose change collected during worship continues to provide much-needed funds to both the Pine Avenue Food Pantry in Chicago and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

With regard to our partnership with Nueva Paz, Cuba, we participated in the purchase and installation of a Living Waters for the World water purification system which was installed in April and

now makes clean water available three days a week to the entire community. A new breakfast program for seniors was also initiated this year and has been embraced by the community, thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of its leaders.

Nueva Paz Breakfast Club

Our December Alternative Giving Fair saw over $6,000 in donations and purchases which generously supported the annual stalwarts: Heifer International, Church World Service, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Divine Fair Trade Chocolate, and Walmart gift cards for Margaret's Village. Product sales this year supported PAL Craftaid and Concern America, and our "featured" giving opportunity, themed "No Crib for a Bed," raised over $1,600 in support of Sharing Connections in Downers Grove. As we do every year, Mission also collected and distributed coats, hats, mittens and scarves to Sharing Connections and Margaret's Village and collected and delivered several bags of non-perishable food items to the Pine Avenue Food Pantry.

Mission has also partnered with Faith Formation in a new Mission Sunday program as part of the Sunday School curriculum, with the goal of engaging more children and their families in PCWS' mission activities. Beginning in October 2018, we've set aside the first Sunday of most "school-year" months as Mission Sunday and have thus far focused on the CROP Walk, our Cuba partnership and the Donation Center.

Our goals for the upcoming year include continuing to provide ways in which to broaden our congregation's engagement with Mission from a time and talents standpoint; to continue to partner with Faith Formation to share these opportunities with our kids and their families; to be intentional and knowledgeable in our budgeted giving and to continue to celebrate our congregation's partnerships both near and far.

On behalf of the 2018 Mission committee, which included Janet Andersen, Mary Jo and Ron Blough, Judy McAtee, Kevin McDermott, and Kathy Wennerstrum, many thanks to Joyce Rodos and Nate Yates, retiring Mission Elders, and to our generous and caring congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Andersen & Kathy Wennerstrum, 2019 Co-Moderators, and Elder Loretta Gratias-Bremer

Pastor Nominating Committee

On April 9, 2017, the congregation of the PCWS voted to approve the following members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC): David Boxell, Mark De Vries, Peter Hanson, Kay Kelly, Tricia Koning, Walt Kovalick, Candice Mares, Matt Mosher, and Sarah Sullivan.

Your PNC began meeting on April 25, 2017 and met almost weekly through May 23, 2018. 48 meetings and thousands of emails, in all. The PNC was led by co-chairpersons Walt Kovalick and Kay Kelly, corresponding secretary Tricia Koning and recording secretary Matt Mosher.

The PNC conducted an in-depth review of the two most recent, long-range planning reports as well as

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the results of the congregational CAT survey and notes from multiple listening sessions. Then, with much discussion, the PNC created the Ministry Information Form (MIF) for PCWS, outlining our church, its members, and what we sought in a new pastor. The session approved this form on September 14, 2017 and the Presbytery of Chicago's Committee on Ministry followed suit on October 19.

We were now ready to receive Personal Information Forms (PIF) generated by matches in the PCUSA system. We also began publicizing our position through ads placed in: Indeed.com, Christian Century, Presbyterian Outlook, and all seven Presbyterian seminaries.

In total, we received 235 PIFs – and each of us read and evaluated each one. We also listened to hours upon hours of sermons from audio and video files. Throughout the process, we prayed for guidance and open hearts. We laughed and cried, and shared our joys and frustrations. We learned to trust one another so that we could be open and honest in our discussions. We ate wonderful treats – we're Presbyterians after all – and prayed that God would help us choose the right candidate to lead PCWS into the future.

After months of review, including interviewing candidates by phone, traveling to hear candidates preach, checking references and reviewing candidates through Presbytery, we invited our final candidates to visit PCWS.

It culminated on the weekend of June 1-3, 2018. After a whirlwind of events with members, Erik P. Khoobyarian preached his candidating sermon on Sunday morning. The congregation quickly voted to call Erik as our pastor at the Congregational meeting, and then officially dissolved the PNC.

Erik went home to Los Gatos, California, to prepare for a move to Chicago and we shifted into high gear to prepare the manse and the congregation for him. Walt and Sue Kovalick and Kay Kelly represented PCWS at Erik's July 14 ordination in his hometown. Erik arrived in Western Springs on July 29 and was officially installed as pastor by the Presbytery of Chicago on October 14. The rest is history in the making.

We have been humbled by this opportunity to serve all of you.

Prayerfully submitted,
Kay Kelly, for the PNC

Personnel

The role of the Personnel Committee is to ensure our staff is well-positioned to support the overall mission and goals of PCWS and to assist with all matters related to employed personnel. Specifically, the Committee is responsible for developing and maintaining personnel policies, working with the Pastor and Session to understand the needs of the church, preparing and revising position descriptions, ensuring employee agreements are up to date, overseeing employee performance management, recommending compensation to Session, facilitating the process to recruit, interview and recommend and onboard new employees, coordinating with the Presbytery as needed, and serve as advocates of the PCWS staff.

The Personnel Committee is made up of the following members: Elder Steve Wennerstrum, Paul Banovic, David Boxell, and Julie Kelly.

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

Rev. Erik Khoobyarian, Pastor and Head of Staff: We are blessed to have welcomed Erik to PCWS this past August. Erik brings new energy, insights and perspectives to PCWS. Thanks to the Pastor Nominating Committee for identifying and attracting such a vibrant leader and thanks to everyone who provided such a warm welcome. We look forward to deepening our relationships as we share our faith journeys with Erik.

Stephanie Coates, Director of Music Ministry: Stephanie's creativity, talent and devotion are on display each and every time our choir sings and our musicians perform. Anyone watching and listening to the choir clearly see they are enjoying what they do and bring joy to their performance. This is a reflection of Stephanie's leadership. Stephanie continues to bring new ideas and a new energy level to our music program. She and our many talented musicians enhance our worship experience in so many ways and for this we are all grateful.

Forrest Schroeder, Church Administrator: Forrest joined the PCWS staff in May as Church Administrator. She quickly has learned our processes, practices and facilities and has not missed a beat. She has offered a number of meaningful suggestions and is always willing to lend a hand. She greets visitors and members warmly and ensures everything runs smoothly. We are fortunate to have Forrest on the team. In her role, Forrest works with many of our office volunteers, including Michelle Hennessy, Director of Communication, Hank Vaughan, Director of IT, and Co-Directors of Lay Ministries, Kay Kelly and Jane Melilli.

Candice Mares, Youth Leader: We were blessed that Candice Mares agreed to assume the Youth Leader responsibilities when Brendon De Boer departed at the end of 2017. Candice brings a high degree of energy and enthusiasm to the role. She has a real knack for connecting with our youth and building strong relationships. Candice has passion for youth and their personal and faith development. Thanks to Candice for all she does for our youth programs.

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 ensure our church home is clean and orderly. In 2018, our Sextons were: Davis McMahon, Salvatore Melilli, Colleen Sullivan, Erin Sullivan, Sarah Blough, Luke Geraghty, Dominic Enrietti, Jack Evans, William Morgison, Faith Wyant, and Nathan Nichol.

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.

Elder Steve Wennerstrum, Moderator

Properties Committee

What a year it has been. When preparing annual reports such as this, it provides a unique, timely opportunity to not only look back and see what was accomplished but also to review what is being worked on as well as what is on the future horizon. I am happy to report PCWS has certainly upgraded and improved many parts of its property and has much to look forward to. This could not be achieved without many dedicated volunteers and staff that oversaw many projects all happening at similar times.

Our Sanctuary Before Renovation

That said, let's look at what was accomplished. It was certainly a busy year. Some of these items are very visible while others may not be. As follows:

- Brand new organ and upgraded sound system.
- Newly designed and installed high efficiency HVAC system.
- Complete renovated sanctuary and chancel.
- Repaired and improved gutter and drainage system.
- Major remodel and upgrade to the manse.
- Remodeled and organized Tower Room.
- New installation of massive underground water runoff and drainage system.
- Removal of six dead trees around the property.
- New south parking lot.

In addition to the above, we are currently looking at several more immediate projects, as follows:

- Repairing/replacing the doors off the back of the Graham Charter Room to the outside.
- Technology looking to upgrade VoIP phone system and door entry system.

And finally, some additional projects as we look later in the year:

- The design and installation of a new playground for the north yard.
- Total redesign of the landscape plan now that the exterior building work and underground drainage work has been completed. This will have many moving parts as there are several areas around the church and manse that will now be addressed and greatly enhanced.

Lastly, there is a forever ongoing list of regular tasks. These tasks would not be possible without the coordination and execution by Forrest Schroeder. She has done an amazing job of coordinating vendors, reviewing ongoing service contracts, analyzing bid proposals, managing

preventative maintenance plans, reducing and consolidating required inspections, responding to emergencies and last but not least leading and directing the Sextons. These items and her role are critical to the success of the ongoing, ever changing properties team.

As you can see, we have a much-improved and beautiful new church and manse we can all be proud of as PCWS members. This could not be accomplished if were not for all of you as members who provided time, talent and treasures to your church in order to make all of this happen. I thank you all for your effort and contributions.

Elder Sal Melilli, Moderator

Technology Committee

During 2018, the Technology Committee worked to ensure that our systems continued to provide the necessary tools for our church. This work included maintaining our server, public website, WiFi network, office computers and printers in addition to our sound systems, projectors, and televisions.

Hank Vaughan provided much of the support for our office systems and users, faithfully stopping by church to work with staff. Each and every Sunday our team of sound operators provided assistance during worship. This helpful sound crew included Paul Banovic, Roger Dold, Jim Koning, Mike Lobash, Kevin McDermott, and Colleen Sullivan.

In addition, we had several special projects to keep moving us forward:

Through the generosity of the Welcome the Pastor campaign, we were able to set up a brand new computer for Pastor Erik.

We worked together to create an official mission statement for our committee.

We extended the church network to provide WiFi service over to the manse.

We recalibrated the sound system to accommodate the acoustical change within the sanctuary.

We responded to the email phishing attack against Pastor Erik and worked to research, educate, communicate, secure and support the individuals and related systems adversely affected by the deception.

We cleared out our technology closets and recycled several large pieces of equipment that were no longer needed by our church.

We streamlined the process of consistently offering sermons online via our public website.

Elder Jim Koning, Moderator

Worship Committee

Worship at PCWS was a joyful time of engagement with the congregation, musicians and pastoral leadership. 2018 was a time of change for us, with our Interim Pastor Bill Ingersoll leading us in January through mid-July. Pastor Bill prepared us for our new pastor by helping revise the church's wedding and funeral policies as well as guiding our committee mission statement. The Music Task Force, created by Pastor Bill and others, gave us perspective as to the musical aspect, both vocal and instrumental, of the worship service. Their guidance gave crucial input toward the purchase of our new organ which was part of our capital campaign and a new grand piano for the sanctuary, generously donated by a member of our church. Also, their recommendation to name Stephanie Coates as Director of Music Ministry was accepted and applauded.

Our Lenten services were shared by Highlands Presbyterian Church and included Ash Wednesday "Bowl and a Roll" dinner, followed by worship, Maundy Thursday meal and service, and Good Friday service. There was a village wide "blessing of

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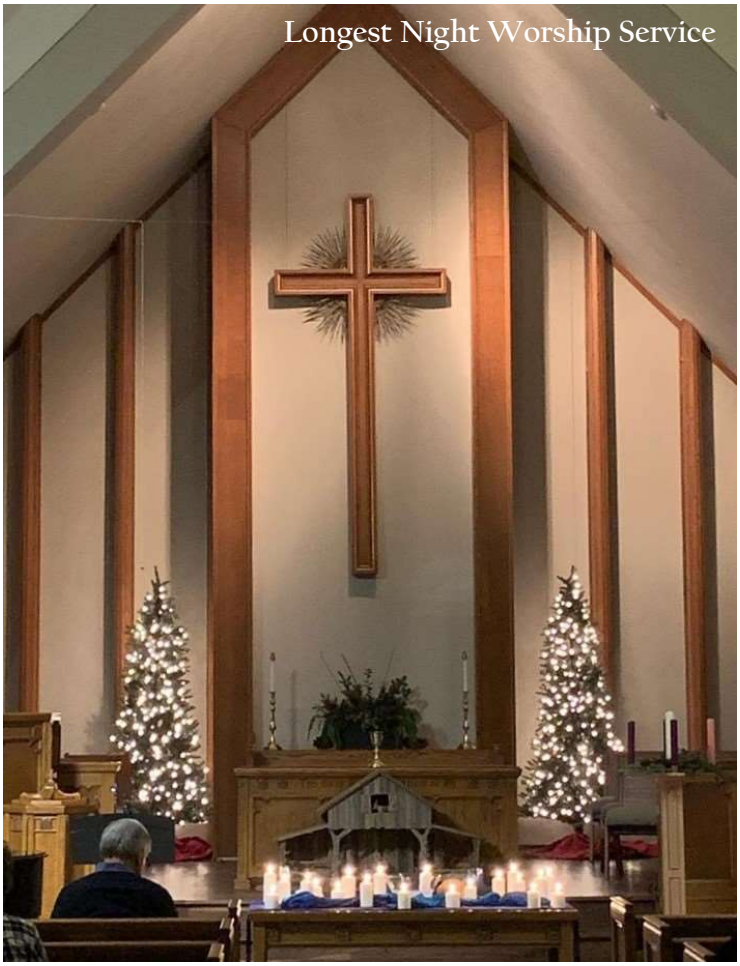
Longest Night Worship Service

the palms" at the Tower Green on Palm Sunday. Easter Sunday was celebrated at a sunrise service as well as a 9:30 a.m. service.

We said a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Pastor Bill in July, after his nearly two years with us, and welcomed our new pastor, The Rev. Erik Khoobyarian in August. September was a month of aesthetic and functional changes to our sanctuary. It was transformed to maximize the beautiful sounds of our instruments and voices and, also, be more accommodating to the congregation's needs. We dedicated our new organ on September 9 with a concert by Dr. A Steven Taranto, which included a piano-organ duet, handbells, and the voices of our Chancel Choir. A reception followed the concert. In October, Pastor Erik was installed as our pastor during a beautiful service with his family, friends and contemporaries present. All were welcomed at a reception following the service.

Advent arrived with a service of Hanging of the Greens. Activities during advent included four Sundays, a Longest Night service, and two Christmas Eve services, a 5 p.m. family service and an 11 p.m. candlelight communion service.

It was a year of anticipation in so many ways, with expectations met and surpassed as we worshiped together. Thank you to the Worship Committee members: Sue Eck, Dom Garino, Amy Seus, Amy Malone, and Stephanie Coates. Along with Pastor Erik, we look forward to worshipping together in 2019.

Elder Marcia Buell, Moderator

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 23 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 pussy willows for Lent, palms for Palm Sunday, lilies and other annuals for Easter, and poinsettias for Christmas. Flowers are either taken home by the individuals who sponsored them or taken by the Deacons to members of the congregation who are not able to attend worship.

For Advent 2019, we continued the new design for Hanging of the Greens including the two 7.5-foot lighted Christmas trees. Eight artificial boxwood wreaths were again hung with red ribbons in the sanctuary windows during worship and additional wreaths were added in the narthex. This year the newly donated Advent candle stand displayed another wreath and enhanced the ceremony of lighting the candles. Poinsettias were added in the chancel area in anticipation of Christmas. Following the Christmas Eve service, more

poinsettias than in the past were delivered to or taken home by members.

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.

Our Chancel Decorated for Christmas Eve

Communications

Michelle Hennessy, Director of Communications, continued to post news of events happening at or sponsored by PCWS.

Website – 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.

Social Media – We continue to use Facebook as a way to advertise events and showcase PCWS through pictures. Our Twitter account is linked to Facebook so we have a presence there.

Instagram – We tell our story through pictures.

Yelp – We continue to see people find us through this app and are having people visit our webpage from our Yelp page

Looking forward to 2019:

Communications is a great way to let members, friends, and the communities around us know who we are and about ways we are active in those communities, nationally and globally. Back in 2012, a study group read Presbyterian pastor Henry Brinton's book, *The Welcoming Congregation*, which seemed to tie right in to the long-range planning reports – words about us seeking to become an even more welcoming congregation than we already were. Every congregation can improve and grow and deepen its commitment to Christ and hospitality, and PCWS is no exception. We added Words of Welcome at the beginning of each worship service, installed new interior and exterior signs, a commitment to interpreting our logo Believing, Belonging, Becoming so that it becomes a rich and meaningful symbol of our community was just the beginning.

It's time to take PCWS to the next level. Session will be creating a new committee – Welcoming. The elder responsible for this ministry area will work closely with Pastor Erik and the Co-directors of Lay Ministry, ushers, and greeters to help PCWS become even more welcoming. Watch for more details in Glad Tidings and Sunday Bulletins and find out how you can serve the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Elder Michelle Hennessy

Finance Committee

I am excited to share and represent our 2018 activities for the Finance Committee and related noteworthy events. In retrospect, it was a fantastic year. We approved our 2018 budget in the first quarter amidst a transitional point for our church with Pastor Bill in his interim role, while our PNC was in full fear gear identifying our new pastor. Thank you to the PNC and simply said, you nailed it. We were also hard at work with our capital projects and raising new funds for the "Welcome the Pastor" campaign to prepare ourselves for the next chapter. With all this activity, we also faithfully created a budget to guide our finances knowing that it was unlikely that our budget was going to match what was actually going to happen through the year.

Our goal remains consistent which is to have revenues and expenses breakeven or better for the year. We have an eye towards the opportunity to ensure that we are funded for our longer term goals and we are prepared in case we have a surprise. The overall teamwork and communication with the staff, the session and the congregation delivered solid results this year. I humbly thank you for your donations, pledges and contributions to our church which has allowed for thoughtful investment and several projects that were important to the health of our physical plant. Similarly, we have created a 2019 budget that has been approved by Session and provides a clear roadmap and maintains our financial strength.

As we move into 2019, with an inspired vision of Pastor Erik we will remain committed and thoughtful to ensure our financial results support our church. Pastor Erik and the Session have explored the near and longer term priorities. Our current 2019 operating budget includes each discipline's budget that were approved as submitted and funded by our current pledge commitments. This is another great sign to not require reductions to the requested funds. We remain confident that our congregation will support our staff and programs. We welcome your support and recommendations.

One more celebration to share for 2018. Forrest Schroeder joined the PCWS staff and has been absolute breath of fresh air and is characterized by her absolute commitment and gracious approach. We are lucky to have her. A word of thanks to the finance committee members, our volunteers and especially Laura Fruit and Forrest Schroeder. As Mike Lobash transitioned to an Elder on Session this year, we will be looking to bring new faces to the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elder Peter Weber, Moderator

Members: Larry Glasscock, Howard Habenicht, Mike Lobash, Pat Ravanesi, and Herb Smyers

Interfaith Book Group

The words which describe the Interfaith Book Group are hospitality, friendship, interchange of ideas, equal sharing of responsibility, learning about different faith practices and beliefs, and lots of hearty laughter.

The women of the group choose the books we read each year, and lead discussion of those books. We alternate between PCWS and the Mosque Foundation. We are an ecumenical group and welcome anyone who wishes to participate.

As we enter the ninth year together, it can be said that this group is a blessing, we are all touched by one another, and we have grown in faith, understanding, and friendship.

Current organizers: Carol Stoub of PCWS, and Carol Lambert of Mosque Foundation

Presbyterian Women

2018 was another year of growth in faith and mission for the Women of PCWS. All women of PCWS are considered members of PW and are welcome to participate.

These past few years, PW's from two neighboring communities (First Presbyterian Church of La Grange and Highlands Presbyterian Church) have joined PCWS in coordinating and co-sponsoring monthly meetings. Each has a program director that looks for ideas of interest to our memberships, often encouraging mission giving and growth opportunities.

These meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, at 12:30 p.m., September through December, and February through May. Each group hosts two to three meetings a season providing a program as well as a luncheon/brunch.

PW offers a study group which is Bible-centered. They are using the publication *Horizons*. This publication is offered by Presbyterian Women USA. The study group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Graham Charter Room.

PW also offers a study group that chooses current books that provoke discussion about current issues. Their most recent choice has been Robert Reich's book *The Common Good*. This group has viewed the movie "Green Book" and invited speakers from an area high school and participants from community programs to enhance their study on racism.This study group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Graham Charter Room. Some of the group enjoy going out to dinner after the meeting.

PW of PCWS has a special interest in mission giving through the Presbytery of Chicago as well as mission opportunities offered through outreach within our community.

Our budget is supported through membership donations in addition to funds raised through the sale of luncheon tickets.

PW looks forward to 2019, another year in which growth in membership and continued support of our alliance with First Presbyterian Church of La Grange and Highlands Presbyterian Church continues to provide opportunities to grow in faith and mission.

PW Annual Financial Report		
Beginning Balance	**1/11/2018**	$3,539.55
Receipts		
Pledges		0
Monthly Events		1,165.70
Thank Offering		65.00
Least Coin Offering		0
Misc. Receipts		160.00
Total Receipts		**$1,390.70**
Disbursements		
Programs		225.00
Luncheons		362.42
Study Guides/DVD		45.91
Supplies, misc.		178.58
Church World United Dues		35.00
Mission		
EMP Care & Counselling		150.00
PW General Mission		0
UPY Mission Trip		0
Pastor Discretionary Fund		0
Total Disbursements		**$996.91**
Ending Balance	**12/31/2018**	**$3,933.34**

The PW Purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study.
- To support the mission of the church worldwide.
- To work for justice and peace; And to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Marilyn Hanson, PW Moderator

PCWS is a welcoming, intergenerational and mission-focused community seeking to reflect God's inclusive love. We are a vibrant, joyful congregation of people of all ages. We have members from all over the Western Suburbs of Chicago and visitors are always welcome.