

Flossmoor Community Church



**2017 - 2018
Annual Reports
of
Boards, Committees & Staff**

In preparation for Congregational Meeting
Sunday, July 16, 2018 at 11 am

Governing Board

Shari Sweeney, Chair

As we conclude our 2017-2018 program year, we have an opportunity to reflect on our progress. Our work was guided by four strategic planning themes: increasing our community engagement, making FCC a diverse and safe space for all, providing vital ministry for children and families, and sharing the good news about FCC with our community. In addition, our new Welcome Statement, which supplements our Mission, Vision and Core Values, describes the congregation we strive to be, guiding our actions and service. Let's take a few moments to look at some of the achievements of the past year, and thank all those who worked to make them possible.

The updated Community House (CH) is a key component of greater community engagement; there has been an increase in its use by both FCC and the community. The Foundation, FCC staff, and Properties Committee worked together to accomplish needed improvements to FCC and CH facilities. FCC staff, CH Task Force members and church members coordinated successful new CH events: a fall "Show-off" to benefit PADS, a Race Talk on Tap and a Chinese New Year celebration. Last summer, we joined in the first Lighthouse Pride celebration, and look forward to this year's June event. This summer, FCC will host our first Community House Fest - open to the entire H-F community! FCC's participation in Flossmoor Fest last fall, with a booth encouraging donations to hurricane victims, as well as our housing of PADS guests on Sunday, and now, Monday evenings, are continuing aspects of our engagement with our community.

The good news at FCC has also been more visible to our community this year as a result of a focus on increasing publicity. Our staff and a newly formed Publicity Committee are taking action to get the word out regarding worship and special FCC events by utilizing social media, web and traditional newsprint channels.

In order to support efficiency in our church operations, we initiated a change in 2018 to a fiscal year that begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. The Stewardship campaign was shifted to the fall in 2017, to align with the change in fiscal year. Our program year will continue to follow the school calendar, beginning in September and wrapping up in May. Our two Congregational Meetings are now in January, to approve the budget for the coming year, and June, to approve the Nominating Slate and conduct the annual Foundation meeting.

The conclusion of the program year is a time to pause and give thanks for our many blessings...

...For God's presence and work among us

...For meaningful worship, and ongoing opportunities to learn and grow in faith

...For you, the faithful members of our congregation, who give of yourselves in so many ways to support and grow FCC; we are a lay led church, and our well-being as a congregation depends on *your* involvement!

...For our talented, creative and committed staff who work both with us, and on our behalf. We are grateful that Laurel Hamilton joined us as a temporary Assistant to the Pastor for Pastoral Care, as we continue to pray for Don Jones' recovery. As Lori Tozer retired after many years of dedicated and outstanding service to our music program, we welcomed the talented Katie Van Heel as our new Music Ministries Coordinator. We also recognized the committed and faith-filled service of Jennifer Wojcikowski, Director of Cherub Choir, and Leslie Lowry, Praise Choir Director, on their retirement from our music ministry. We are delighted that Deborah Williams has taken over leadership of our Praise Choir. Leslie Maxie is bringing her wonderful energy and enthusiasm to the upcoming Summer Children's Ministries programs, including Vacation Bible School; we thank Katelyn Keller for her service to our program and wish her the best.

In closing, I would like to thank Pastor Fred... I appreciate his thoughtful spiritual leadership of our congregation, and also his guidance during my service as Governing Board Chair. I have truly enjoyed working with Pastor Fred and all of FCC's staff over the past three years, and extend my heartfelt thanks for their help and support. My thanks also to the members of the Governing Board this year for your service; it has been a privilege to work with you all.

How will you serve God at FCC in the coming year? What is God calling you to do?

We look forward, joyfully, to our 92nd program year as a faith-filled community... to *Seek, Connect and Serve* together, guided by God in our midst.

Senior Pastor Fred Lyon

FCC is committed to being a congregation where we Seek-Connect-Serve in relation to one another and the world beyond us, and 2017-2018 was no exception. I believe one highlight of the year has been our overall increase in engaging the communities around us through the use of our Community House as a venue for family celebrations and receptions, special events (such as the Homewood-Flossmoor Showoff to benefit PADS), community conversations (such as Race Talk on Tap), and programs (such as Lighthouse, for LGBT+ youth and their parents).

Looking ahead to 2018-2019, it is my hope that we can continue to build upon this engagement as the church where Christ is central and diversity is cherished. Meanwhile, the two greatest challenges facing us are to nurture fuller involvement of members and friends of FCC in our ministries and to encourage greater financial support of those ministries. I believe we are up to these challenges and urge everyone to take part in the opportunities to follow Jesus that we share together as a community of faith.

Through the past year I worked most directly with the Staff, Governing Board, Adult Ministries, Board of Lay Ministries, Long Range Vision Committee, Board of Outreach Ministries, Personnel Committee, Stewardship Committee, Stephen Ministers, and Board of Worship and the Arts. Please take the time to read through all of this Annual Report, where you will see how much and how well you are served by our staff, boards, and committees.

As I have said many times before, it is a blessing to be your pastor, and I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve you. FCC is a great and faithful church, and I look forward to discovering what God has in store for us in 2018-2019!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred".

Congregational Enrichment

Betsy Hanzelin

Last Fall, I celebrated my 25th anniversary on the staff, and rejoice that the last three years have been spent as Director of Congregational Enrichment. In this position, I offer staff support to Adult Education Committee, Board of Congregational Life, Board of Lay Ministries and Nominating Committee. Additionally, I work in the areas of worship and communications and attend Governing Board.

Many thanks to Dana Dolan, Betty Jo Norby, Shari Sweeney, and Karen Hoag, the Elders I have had the pleasure of working with most directly this year.

HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Education

- Worked closely with Trina Hayes to plan opportunities for growth and learning on Sunday mornings from September – April.
- Received feedback from church survey regarding Adult Education.

Communication

- Maintained the church website, Constant Contact and Social Media accounts.
- Assembled a Publicity Team to increase the community's awareness of our programs and ministries, through ads in the Chronicle, on Facebook and Google.
- Assisted Boards with publicity and signage for their events and opportunities.

Congregational Life

- Assisted Board with planning and publicity for events (Potlucks, Deck the Halls, Wine-Women & Chocolate.)

Lay Ministries

- Coordinated New Member classes in Fall, Winter & Spring.
- Assisted with Elder and Officer training for Governing Board.
- Began postcard reach-out to inactive members.

Nominating Committee

- Assisted in Nominating Retreat to identify gifts and calling in individuals to serve as officers on Boards and Committees.
- Sent letters of call to individuals Nominating invited to serve.
- Sent follow-up letters to those who agreed to serve.

Worship

- Assisted Pastor Fred in leading worship on average 2x each month.
- Assisted Pastor Fred in worship planning for Fall, Spring and Summer, including themes for Advent and Lent.
- Coordinated worship schedule grid with Music Ministries Staff, Pastoral Staff and Worship & Arts Board.
- Preached and provided worship leadership six times.

Governing Board

- Attended meetings of the board, provided institutional memory when needed, assisted in relaying information back to staff, helped publicize decisions and programs.
- Prepared information distributed and publicized for the Annual Meeting and Mid-year Meeting.

HOPES

- Continue providing quality Adult Education and develop new leadership.
- Create system for timely follow-up with Inactive members.
- Explore opportunities for non-Sunday morning worship experiences.
- Help new members find their "place" in the congregation and our ministries.
- Increase efforts in Leadership Training.
- Grow community awareness of our church and its ministries.

Church Operations

Jennifer Sykes

My third year on board as the Director of Church Operations has been an exciting and rewarding one. I feel very blessed to be working with such dedicated staff and volunteers. As the Director of Church Operations, I oversee support staff and work with Finance, Personnel and Properties Committees. Additionally, I am staff representative on Governing Board. It has been another busy year, with each day bringing new challenges and rewards!

HIGHLIGHTS

Properties

- Renovations completed on the Community House included a new roof, renovated bathrooms, renovated entryway, new storage cabinet/counters in the main room, refinished floors, new utility closet, painted and reorganized kitchen with new microwave, and cleaned and fire-proofed stage drapes.
- All interior ceiling-mounted light fixtures in the Sanctuary were upgraded to LED to reduce heat output and energy consumption.
- New carpeting was installed in the Parlor, Family Room, Youth Crossings, and all Preschool classrooms.
- Upgrades to the sound system in the Sanctuary were performed, including recalibration of the sound board, repaired speakers, new stand mics and upgraded cables.
- New gutter extensions and roof repairs were performed on the main Church building, to prevent flooding.
- New snow-blower and floor scrubber were purchased.

Personnel

- Reviewed all job descriptions with staff for updates on responsibilities.
- Hired Leslie Maxie as temporary Director of Children's Ministries, to cover summer activities until a permanent replacement can be hired.
- With help from Diaconate, planned several memorials.

Finance

- Successfully shifted fiscal calendar back to calendar year, in conjunction with Stewardship.
- Built 2018 budget to actual pledge commitments. Total pledge commitments were \$83,000 lower than last year. To meet this reduced budget level, the Finance Committee worked very hard to examine every expense and make necessary cuts.

HOPES

- With Properties Committee, continue to plan for and execute projects to our buildings that have been identified by the Reserve Study for proper maintenance, including painting all exterior trim, soffit and fascia; updating HVAC control panels; repairing 5 stained glass windows most in need of repair.
- Review and update staff performance review procedure and timing, in conjunction with Personnel Committee.
- Hire permanent Director of Children's Ministries, with Search Committee and Personnel.
- Develop monthly budget summary to share with congregation, in conjunction with Finance Committee.

Music Ministries

Katie VanHeel

This year, I have been honored and blessed to take on the role of Coordinator for the Music Department from Lori Tozer, who retired from the position in August. I have truly enjoyed serving my church community and am grateful to be a part of the FCC staff.

HIGHLIGHTS

Chancel Choir & Ringers

The Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers have continued to flourish under the direction of Mike Rugen. In addition to performing every other Sunday, we hosted the South Suburban Church Choir Festival on February 25th, 2018. Eight choirs performed a variety of songs, including three combined group numbers.

Praise Ensemble

Deborah Williams did an outstanding job taking on leadership of our Praise Ensemble this year! Praise provided thoughtful and powerful music during worship two to three Sundays a month, featuring some talented members of our congregation as well as some incredible guests.

Children's Choir

How adorable was the Children's Choir this year? Jen Wojcikowski left some big shoes for me to fill, and I hope I did half as good a job as she. We had around 7 kids (ages Kindergarten through second grade) who met every Thursday afternoon and sang and danced enthusiastically in worship one Sunday a month. As one congregant told me, "Children's Choir Sundays are the best Sundays".

Sound

We had a few changes at the sound board this year. We hired a professional audio technician, Chris Johnson, to run sound on Praise Ensemble Sundays. He made some necessary upgrades to our system, including fixing the speaker above the choir loft so Chancel Choir can hear the sermon better. We were fortunate to have Kristy and Edward Owens, a husband and wife team, who joined our church this year. They took over sound duties for most of the non-Praise Sundays. Unfortunately for us, they are moving to Iowa this summer.

Summer Music

We have a full schedule of music set for this summer. We are looking forward to performances from some pick-up choirs, Rosie Joyce, Shari Sweeney and Dot and Rex Brown, Burke Fry, Scott Kappmeyer, the Men's Quartet, and many more!

HOPES:

- I would like more kids to join Children's Choir.
- I would like more high school students to consider joining Chancel Choir and/or Ringers.
- I hope to have a jazz Christmas service on Sunday, December 23rd.
- A brass quartet would be a wonderful addition to our Easter services.
- More reliable and knowledgeable sound techs are needed for worship, weddings, and memorials.

Children's Ministries

HIGHLIGHTS

- W.O.W. was renamed Worship Wigglers, open to children 2 years through 2nd grade. Worship Wigglers is not offered on Communion Sundays. It was mostly run by Katelyn Keller, with occasional volunteers. April – Current it has been run predominately by Leslie Maxie, and occasionally by Jamie Ford and Tessa Zevallos.
- The **Praygrounds** have proven to be an invaluable asset to the worship space, allowing children to stay in worship with their parents. Rugs have been moved/shifted to better accommodate space issues.
- The former Jesus.net room in Promised Land was transformed into the Lab, and a science rotation was added to the first through fourth grade curriculum.
- A new curriculum was purchased for the preschool and grade school classes. They are now using Spark rotation series, which aligns well with the fifth/sixth grade lessons.
- The fifth/sixth grade class made and served PADS dinner in October and February. 1st – 4th graders participated in Homelessness Awareness the month in October.
- A Worship & Communion class was offered to all children's ministries families in November with Katelyn Keller and Pastor Fred Lyon.
- Children's Ministries Nativity Pageant was created and directed by Katelyn Keller and performed during worship in December.
- Children's Ministries hosted a fun caroling event at the Community House and around the Church residential neighborhood in December.
- A bible drive was held through the winter to purchase new Spark Children's Bibles for the Preschool and grade school classes. \$560 was raised and they were able to purchase 26 bibles. Families also had an opportunity to purchase bibles for their home use.
- Blizzard Blast was held in January at the Community House. This was a community event and about 70 children attended. Many thanks to Jennifer Sykes and the CH Task Force for helping make this a successful event.
- Third grade Bible class was taught during the month of February by Nils Wickstrom, Jess Groen and Katelyn Keller. Four children received Bibles during worship in March.
- Sophs Youth Group taught Sunday School lessons for three weeks.
- Jamie Ford stepped in after Katelyn Keller's resignation to finish out the school year. In May, Leslie Maxie officially came on staff as the Children's Ministries Summer Coordinator.
- Successful Ramp It Up dance party with Preschool families was held in May to share information about FCC and opportunities for Children, during the summer.
- Woo Hoo Wednesday events are planned throughout the summer for children 3 years – sixth grade, to enjoy fun and fellowship.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Monday July 16- Thursday, July 19. The program was created and will be run by Leslie Maxie.
- Children's Ministries and Youth Ministries will be coming together on August 30 to host a back-to-school kick-off event to get families excited and round up volunteers for the program year.

HOPES

- Continue to look for more ways to serve the children and families in the community.
- Build a strong volunteer base.
- Continue working with the Spark rotation curriculum and personalize it to best suit our ministry.
- Get kids and families excited and involved in the upcoming program year.

Youth Ministries

Allison Billings

The focus for YM this year was all about community. We started off our year talking about power of story, and its ability to cross any social divide to foster a connection between groups or people. We shaped our theme for the year around sharing our collective story as a congregation, and as a youth group.

Highlights:

- Our Leadership Team met Wednesday evenings from 7:30 -9pm throughout the program year. We alternated weeks between planning for group and study night as we have in the past, choosing this year to explore different ways of prayer in the Fall semester. In the Spring, we worked through Bob Goff's study of his book "Love Does".
- Our three Youth Groups met regularly on Sundays at 11am from September through March. Our 7th & 8th graders had game night this Winter, which was a blast, and a great fellowship opportunity for them.
- We held six retreats this year including the Leadership retreat in August, three retreats for Disciples, and two for Sophs. Our Spring Retreat for Sophs was cancelled due to lack of availability of our students.
- In November, we held Youth Worship. Our youth spent 4 weeks prior prepping for this, including interviewing members of the congregation, and talking about how we connect with other generations. We had several interactive stations that helped us think about being the Body of Christ. Thank you to Peter Robertson & Chris Riedel for their help with the Youth Band, as well as the rest of our talented and musical youth.
- YM hosted 2 Big Rooms this year. Big Room is a gathering of all youth, and we focused on our theme for Youth Worship in the Fall, and invited Peer Jury to come in the Spring to teach us about restorative justice.
- I organized a group of parents to meet twice this Spring to intentionally discuss the future of Youth Ministries. These conversations centered around what our program can be doing for their families, and struggles families face with the program. The results of these conversations will be explained below in the "Hopes" portion.
- Traditional Youth Outreach: All three of our classes served meals to our PADS guests this past winter. Our Tribes class also raised \$700 for the Souper Bowl of Caring in February that we donated to Respond Now.

- Work Trip: Unfortunately, this year we had to cancel our Work Trip to Tower Hill in June, due to lack of interest.
- This year would not have been possible without my rock star Leadership Team! Our staffers this year were: Ruth McManus, Tori Richardson, Maggie Sullivan, Tara Thrall, & John Weeks (Seniors); Lily Callen, Judah Epperson, Madelyn Fitzgerald, Camille Hobson, Patrick Homrich, Nick Lundstrom, Shallon Malfeo, Nora Ryan, Callie Stilts, Henry Thiros, Lexie Van Voorhees, & Danny Wojslaw (Juniors). Our adult Lay Advisors were: Marc Billings, Annie Detrick, Mackenzie Freund, Marie Maass, Carly Mayer, & Peter Robertson. A huge "thank you" to them & all they make possible by giving their time to our ministry!

Hopes:

- Next year we will be combining Sophs & Disciples to make one High School Youth Group. Because our classes are getting smaller, and our continued commitment to building a community and safe space for our youth, this seems like a great option. Youth Ministries will also only be offering confirmation every other year.
- Once a month, YM will be offering a Sunday Night Group for all ages. This will be a combination of fellowship activities and outreach activities.
- Our goal is to have more youth participating in worship on a regular basis. For next year we will not be having Youth Worship. Instead, we will be intentionally participating and contributing to worship more frequently throughout the year.
- Work Trip: While our plans for the Work Trip did not work out this year, our goal is to go on another, further distance trip Summer 2019.
- As our church continues to change, and we see changes in our attendance, I would hope that we are continually open to making changes and shifting in a way that makes sense for our families and continues to engage youth in new and creative models of youth ministries. Please keep our program in your prayers as we continue try new things and find out what works best for our families.

Weekday Preschool

Marji O'Leary

HIGHLIGHTS

- An enrollment of 120 children 18 month through 5 year olds in Parent/Toddler and preschool classes. All classes were full.
- Returning staff included – Assistant Director Dallas Collins (9 years), and the teaching staff of Jen Ermshler (6 years), Fran Flamini (6 years), Barb Johnson (9 years), Laura Lilly (23 years), Marji O'Leary (25 years also WPS Director), Julie Snyder (10 years), Amy Simmons (2 years), Wendy Spata (3 years), Darlene Welling (18 years) and Nan Wexler (9 years). Chris Clark joined the staff as a three year old teacher after being on the sub list, replacing Janice Gislason who is remaining on staff as a substitute teacher.
- The Language and Literacy Circle Time program for the 2 and 3 year old classes under the direction of Erin Keigher, M.S., CCC-SLP continued. Mrs. Keigher also offered free speech and language screenings for the 3, 4 and 5 year old children in the fall.
- Enrichment programs offered an extended day option and included: Lights, Camera, Action drama group, STEAM, Tumble Bears, Weekday Explorers and Weekday Scientists. Monday and Friday “Lunch Breaks” also remained popular.
- Community building and Outreach activities included: Flossmoor Fest booth in September with fliers and bubbles for children, Pajama Project Pajama drive at both Homewood and Flossmoor libraries, collecting pop tabs to support Ronald McDonald House and collaborating with School Districts 153 and 161 on their screening process and kindergarten readiness at teachers’ meetings.
- Marji O'Leary continues to serve on the board of the South Suburban Association for Young Children (SSAEYC) as newsletter co-chair and President elect. She also serves on the board of directors for the Northern Illinois Nature Preschool Association (NINPA), working to promote connecting children with nature. NINPA is co-sponsoring an International conference August 1 – 4 at Brookfield Zoo’s early childhood program with a “sold out” group of 400 educators from around the world!
- Thanks are due to the church members who volunteer their time on the WPS Directing Committee under the leadership of Sally Gregory. This group helps strengthen ties between the church and preschool and assists with the preschool budget, staffing issues and longer range planning decisions.
- Many thanks to the Weekday Preschool Parents’ Auxiliary (WPPA) and the many hours volunteering on behalf of the preschool programs including: Preschool gear & Scholastic Books sales, staffing and maintaining the Children’s Library, fundraising drives and Dine Out for Weekday events, publishing the “Word at Weekday”, the Teddy Bear Picnic, and organizing social events - Popsicle Social, Fall Sock Hop, Winter Family Fun Event, and Parents’ Night Out. Our playground is entirely volunteer maintained and this group also organizes volunteers for Saturday mornings several times a year to clean, re-furbish and spruce up the beautiful outdoor space.
- A successful fundraising year enabled the preschool to purchase toys and equipment including: new child sized wheelbarrows, additional panels for the “Mag-Wall” on the playground, new children’s books for our library, and additional classroom toys. We hope to purchase new preschool chairs to continue to replace some of the older ones in the classrooms.

Many thanks to the church for their support of this ministry. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2018 – 2019 school year.

Board of Christian Education

Linda Gilley, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Ministries

- See full report under Children's Ministries

Youth Ministries

- See full report under Youth Ministries

Weekday Preschool

- See full report under Weekday Preschool

Adult Education

- Bible Study with Phil and Rebecca Courington
- Presentation on Stewardship
- Val Litchfield's personal journey to Lighthouse
- Shari Sweeney and Rebecca Courington led "Continue the Conversation on Diversity and Special Needs" in our Understanding Diversity series.
- Dr. Phil Royster - Most Precious Dream for a Better World program.
- No Divisions Among You: A Consideration of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians led by Pastor Fred Lyon.
- Continued study/discussion of John Pavlovitz' *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community* led by Trina Hayes.
- Lauren Shields, an author and H-F grad discussion of her book, *The Beauty Suit*.
- Lenten classes included Bible Study with Phil and Rebecca Courington, a continuation of the study and discussion of *A Bigger Table, Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*.
- Discussion on Toxic Charity.
- Inter-generational field trip to the Chicago History Museum visit the "Race: Are We So Different?" and "Amplified: the Chicago Blues" exhibits.
- Discussion/study of Kate Bowler's *Everything Happens for a Reason: and Other Lies I've Loved*, led by Pastor Fred on Wednesday evenings.
- *Sweet Bean Paste* by Durian Sukegawa and its approach to the meaning of life and redemption.
- Camp SAD: Children's Bereavement Camp by Lizz Molina.

HOPES

The committee placed a survey of the Adult Education year that included a request for ideas for the coming year in the bulletin and on the church website. Adult Education Committee is reviewing the results and will use them to assist in planning for next year's offerings.

Thank you to the Sub-committee chairs (Katelyn Keller/Leslie Maxie Children's Ministries, Marji O'Leary, Weekday Preschool, Allison Billings, Youth, and Trina Hayes, Adult Education) for contributing to a very successful year and providing many varied opportunities for our children, youth, and adults in our church community. We look forward to continuing and expanding our offerings in the upcoming year.

Board of Congregational Life

Betty Jo Norby, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- All-Church Picnic Potluck in July, following Annual Meeting. Hosted event, provided games and Fire Truck from village.
- Welcome Back Reception for Kick-off Sunday was provided by Board. This included morning treats of bagels, cream cheese, Krispy Kreme, fruit and beverages! - September
- On December 3rd BOCL sponsored Deck the Halls. A pizza lunch was provided to members and families as we decorated the church for the Christmas season. Crafts were provided for children to enjoy!
- January 28 Mid-year Annual Meeting – the board organized and set-up a buffet of delicious home prepared dishes provided by members of the congregation. (NOTE: because of the length of our congregational meetings, we will not sponsor potlucks on the same day going forward. Having meetings & potlucks on the same day discourages families with children from attending the potluck.)
- On the evening of March 23 women of the church and invited guests gathered in the Community House for Wine, Women & Chocolate. It was BYOB & BYOC with music, informal games, and good conversation, and of course.....CHOCOLATE!
- May 6 was our end of year potluck. The tables in Fellowship Hall were filled with members and families that enjoyed the delicious dishes provided. Many lingered with good desserts and conversation. A great turnout.

HOPES

- To continue to create opportunities for members to engage in activities that strengthen bonds of Christian fellowship. We sure do love our potlucks!!!

The Women and Men's Association at FCC

WMA is under the activities of the Board of Congregational Life

Under the leadership of board members Roberta Sergeant, Steve Baker, Donna Wickstrom, Kim Sifner and Ellen Davis, we have completed a successful 2017-2018 season. Our programs have been musical, educational and historical. We are planning another season for 2018-2019 along those same themes.

The extra funds from our events and sales from our FCC sponsored Bargain Box Thrift Shop are in the process of being donated to several local charities:

- The Cancer Support Center
- Jones Memorial Community Center
- Respond Now
- South Suburban Family Shelter
- WMA funds also help the FCC General Budget and Pastor Fred's Discretionary fund
- At Christmas 2017 we also supported Christmas Angels

Looking forward to another great season for 2018-2019 beginning on October 10th with Terry Lynch portraying Mark Twain. Be on the lookout for our new season's brochure due out in late August or early September 2018.

Submitted by,
Roberta Sergeant, WMA President

Diaconate Board

Phyliss Royster, Chair

My first year as chairperson of the Diaconate Board has been informative and insightful. I have gained an in-depth understanding of how the Board functions and how I can support our goals. I appreciate the dedicated, faithful service of Board members and our congregation as we strived to connect and serve. Recipients are grateful and blessed by these services.

Our twelve (12) member board is charged with the provision of emergency aid to church members. As a rule, this includes those who are homebound and/or in need of assistance for a period of time. We support seven (7) areas of ministry which are listed below. Board members taking responsibility for the coordination and service delivery of a specific area are listed in the section that lists frequency of services during this reporting period.

Ministry Services areas are as follows:

- **Transportation** to medical appointments and hospital, church services and activities
- **Weekly floral delivery** of altar/special occasion flowers and participation in the delivery of flowers for Christmas and Easter
- **Meals** were either cooked or purchased and delivered to church members in need due to a recent illness, hospitalization or simply in need of assistance
- **Memorial Services**- Coordination of receptions, greeters and ushers for grieving families
- **Greeting Card Distribution**-special occasion cards were sent to homebound members or those in need of support and encouragement
- **Telephone Ministry**-Initiated in 2016, Periodic calls were made to homebound members. These check-in visits are an opportunity to provide support, socialization, identify special needs and inform the pastor of members status
- **Visitation Ministry**- Homebound members are visited by Pastor, Laurel Hamilton, Temporary Assistant to the Pastor for Pastoral Care, and Diaconate board members

The frequency of services provided during the Fall, 2017 – June, 2018 time period along with the name of Board member coordinating the service is listed below:

- Transportation- eight (8) rides requested and provided (Pat Mucklow)
- Floral deliveries-fifty-two (52) and additional thirty (30) each for Christmas and Easter for a total of one-hundred (112) arrangements (Shannon Williams)
- Meals- one- hundred and forty one (141) meals were cooked or purchased and delivered (Di King)
- Memorial services- eight (8) Lois Toolan
- Greeting Card Distribution- one- hundred and seventy-five(175) cards were sent to those who were ill, bereaved, etc.(Pat Princehorn)
- Telephone Contacts-regular monthly calls to nine (9) members (Maurice Page)
- Visitation- fourteen (14) contacts made in order to schedule visits and support Pastor Fred and Laurel with May visitations. (Jeanne Deaver-Higgins)
- Jane Hindsley served as Recording Secretary

Additional HIGHLIGHTS for this reporting period include:

- Expansion of the visitation ministry. Pastor Fred requested Jeanne Deaver-Higgins to join Laurel Hamilton and others in conducting visitation during his absence earlier this year. Review of this area continues with an eye toward process improvement and joining with volunteers from the Stephen Ministry to provide services
- Pastor Fred provided Visitation In-service Education to Board members in March, 2018. Written guidelines were provided and will be a useful resource as we move forward in this area.
- Diaconate Board Members participated in the October 22, 2017 educational session sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. Also present were Stephen Ministers. This experience was designed to increase awareness of Board functions, recruit volunteers, and identify new service opportunities. Next steps are pending.
- Bonnie Miller initiated the process for coordinating a presentation on the File of Life System, an emergency notification system designed to help Fire Department Paramedics obtain your necessary medical history and emergency contact information in an emergency.

HOPES

- Additional volunteers to support our ministry areas. Those interested in preparing, purchasing, or delivering a meal to a homebound church member, assisting at Memorial Receptions, or providing transportation add their names to the Diaconate Board Database. Email notification is sent when a need arises. Please call the church office to add your name to the list.
- Members are welcome to contribute to the Meal Fund by writing a check to FCC Diaconate with “meal ministry” listed on the memo line.
- Members interested in participating in the floral delivery at Easter and Christmas may notify the church office.

Board of Lay Ministries

Dana Dolan, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Church Leadership Development**
 - Conducted a leadership session and dinner in July for the new Governing Board.
- **Welcoming and Connecting:**
 - Encouraged all attending worship to sign red friendship folios as a way to facilitate connections and caring for each other.
 - More than 30 members served as FCC Hosts this year, welcoming all those attending worship and assisting with questions that may arise.
 - Hosted an FCC Host fellowship and training session in November.
 - Continued “First Encounter” ministry, which involves contacting visitors who sign the friendship folios during Worship.
 - The Board will serve as the FCC Welcoming Crew at the June Lighthouse Pride event, by greeting participants and providing poster-making supplies.
 - The Board will serve as the FCC Welcoming Crew at the July Community House fest and help greet community attendees.
- **Member Development:**
 - Hosted 3 Membership Information sessions in September, January and April.
 - Welcomed 18 new members into our faith family!
 - Board of Lay Ministries served as the FCC Welcoming Crew for new members.
 - Hosted a Newer Member Coffee & Connections event in March, to connect members who joined in the past two years with each other and other members.
 - Sent two rounds of postcards to church members who haven’t been to worship for a while with a personal note and special blessing for each person.

HOPES

- To continue our efforts in making Flossmoor Community Church a welcoming place for all who walk through our doors.
- Start a “Share What You Love about FCC” personal invitation campaign, encouraging the congregation to invite friends and neighbors to FCC programs that they enjoy.
- Develop a program for welcoming new neighbors in the community that the entire congregation can participate in.
- Continue to find meaningful ways to shepherd and assist new members.
- Continue to develop meaningful ways to connect and reengage with members who may not have been to worship for awhile.

Board of Outreach Ministries

Esther Jenkins, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

BOM sponsored two adult education presentations and a church/community forum.

- On February 18, Outreach hosted a discussion of the Black Lives Matters Movement, featuring the documentary, *Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matters Movement*, and a discussion by the film's L.A.-based producer and director, Laurens Grant, and a local activist. Over 100 people attended the event.
- On March 11, Outreach sponsored an adult education presentation on the unintended negative side effects of helping, based on the book, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (and How to Reverse It)*. Speakers were Anna Carvalho, former chair of Outreach and Kerry Hill, Community Education Manager at South Suburban Family Shelter (SSFS).
- On April 29, we sponsored an adult education hour describing the work of the Sheilah A Doyle (SAD) grief camp in Frankfort. The goal was to help SAD recruit volunteers for the camp. Presenters were FCC church member Lizz Molina, and a representative from the foundation.

In May we conducted our annual food drive, collecting food for Respond Now.

We continue to identify recipients for special offerings and the church's mission fund.

- The spring Easter Offering (\$6393) was divided between the Chicago Community Bond Fund which provides bail to indigent detainees, and SAVE Promise Clubs, a national program working with students to prevent school violence.
- The fall World Communion Sunday offering (\$5060) was divided between the Sheilah A. Doyle (SAD) Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that provides support and assistance to children whose parent or sibling has been killed in a homicide, and Florida-based Second Harvest Food Bank, an emergency food supplier in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.
- We continue to support KIVA, an international agency that provides micro-loans, primarily in third-world countries. It's a one-time investment and we re-invest the reimbursements.
- We provided grants, ranging from \$1000 to \$10,000, to the following local agencies or programs: South Suburban Family Shelter, Bethel Family Center, Jones Community Center, Restoration Ministries, Respond Now, Overflow Ministries, and Diversity Dinners.
- We provided a grant to Weekday Pre-School Scholarships, and to Lighthouse.
- We continue to support the FCC PADS staff person.

Beginning in January, BOM funds will go into a restricted account and will be made available for disbursement on a quarterly basis, after those funds have actually been collected.

HOPES

- To increase volunteer opportunities for FCC members
- Review and revise our focus areas
- Continue to have presentations/events on social justice issues of interest to the community.

Board of Worship & the Arts

Stephanie Poole Byrd, Chair

The Board of Worship and Arts has had a busy year. Our activities entail specific tactical assistance with weekly worship which includes all aspects of executing a successful worship service, to creating long-term plans to enhance and strengthen our total worship experience. Last year the board planned to concentrate more on strategic visioning for worship, and connecting with our community through the arts, and less on the tactical items. We have continued that long term focus with a few adjustments to our weekly tactical activities including holidays. This year because Christmas fell on a Sunday we changed the times of the services to accommodate worshippers and worship service needs.

The board has worked closely with the church staff on the tracking, alignment and coordination of the ushers required for each worship service. The board members will continue to work with pastoral staff to gather liturgists during the summer months. The board will continue to provide greeters, liturgists, and communion coordination and work with the staff where needed in these areas. The board has worked closely with the sound technicians and is very appreciative of the knowledge and assistance from Chris Johnson whose professional sound experience has helped us to greatly enhance our sound capabilities, and understand scope of our both our audio and visual needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully changed the times of the three Christmas worship services to 10 a.m., 8:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.
- Provided greeters for worship services
- Provided liturgists for each service, and worked with the liturgists to ensure a cohesive worship service.
- Work with office staff to coordinate communion and ushers for services.
- Met with all usher captains for a refresher gathering to share best practices and discuss their needs.
- Hired a professional sound technician, Chris Johnson for Praise Ensemble Sundays. Because of his vast experience and knowledge, Chris has helped us to maximize the capabilities of our current sound board. He is also helping to train other sound technicians.
- Members of the Worship and Arts team, Music Ministry and Fred met with Chris to discuss and analyze all aspects of audio and visual needs for worship. A needs analysis was created which helped us to find cost-effective ways to both enhance our current system, and add upgrades which would better the worship experience for the total congregation.
- We are working with church operations and are in the process of receiving quotes on a variety of audio and visual systems to compliment our current system, and upgrade problem areas identified in the needs analysis.
- Provided specific sermon feedback to Fred via a written sermon feedback form.

HOPES

- We would like to add paintings and works from church member artists and local artists to our monthly art. We are working on ways to provide enhanced security to do this.
- We want complete the final quotes on the audio/visual systems and make a determination on what we will be able to implement to further improve the worship experience. We would then present those findings to the Governing Board.
- Explore and visit other worship services to determine if there are any practices that might be beneficial to our worship service experience.
- Continue to be the “behind the scenes” support enabling Pastor Fred and his staff to continue to deliver worship services that are technically effective, in addition to being inspirational.

Focus Elder - Community Engagement

Rosanne Schutz

HIGHLIGHTS

To assist in the planning of seminars to be held By Women For Women

Even before the “Me Too” movement was coined, women have been leery of asking for men to assist them in regards to many issues.

We’ve seen women fire lawyers, doctors, accountants and many other men in their lives after the death of their spouse/significant other because they did not agree with them, but continued to work with them while their spouse was alive to “keep peace in the family.” Younger single women do not always agree with a man’s advice, but did not know there are other options or women in their area of interest to assist them.

On May 20, 7 women from our congregation took time out of their day to meet with me (and one additional contribution after) and we collectively started a list of what areas in our lives we would like other women to assist us:

Living Alone

Widows / Singles Support Groups

Self Care

Negotiating Medicare / Medicaid and other Insurance Issues

Book Group - “Before It’s Too Late” “5 Wishes” or other books geared towards life-changing events geared towards being alone

End of Life Documents / Funeral Planning / Final Wishes

Division of Property

Taking Care of Elderly Parents “The Sandwich Generation”

HOPES

To be able to conduct (possibly) quarterly meetings covering topics that women in the congregation have expressed an interest.

NEXT STEPS

Begin the search for women in the above-mentioned areas who would be willing to meet (preferably) after service on a Sunday. The ideal candidate would be a woman in our own congregation who would be willing to give an hour (or two) of her time and share experiences and knowledge. We would seek outside the congregation when needed.

I am in communication with Janet Bolton regarding all of the topics for her to express interest where she sees fit and maybe provide a referral. I have inquired the assistance of two women who work locally in the role of funeral planning - Lain Sullivan - Park Forest. I would also like to submit a piece for the Faith Family Matters & Narthax asking women to volunteer themselves or provide a referral to me for future meetings.

Nominating Committee

Karen Hoag, Chair

HIGHLIGHT

The nominating calls to serve our Church were met with joy and enthusiasm. We were thrilled with the level of excitement we felt from this year's nominees.

HOPE

The combination of fresh faces and seasoned veterans on the boards and committees of FCC will faithfully guide our congregation as we seek, connect and serve God, our world and our community.

Personnel Committee

Tim Sullivan, Chair

The Personnel Committee seeks to support the church's staff development and to ensure that the staff is comprised of people who are vested in helping the congregation pursue the mission of Flossmoor Community Church. Many thanks to the staff who continue to respond to the changing needs of the Flossmoor Community Church congregation. Many thanks to the Personnel Committee members who so faithfully continue to give of their time in support of the staff, and the congregation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Defined a new process for staff evaluation and feedback. Created a cadence of three short meetings for each staff member with their supervisor. The first meeting will establish three to five goals or objectives, with at least one being an aspirational goal. The second meeting will occur mid-program year to review progress and make adjustments. The third meeting will be a closeout at the end of the program year. Staff members will be sharing these goals with their committees as is appropriate, and enlisting congregational resources to support their efforts.
- Worked with Senior Pastor and staff on a variety of staffing issues and staffing opportunities.

HOPES

- Find better, and more effective ways to support the staff as they pursue their goals and objectives.
- Continue to evaluate ways to enhance the staff's professional development and provide professional growth opportunities.
- As the needs of the congregation continue to evolve, explore opportunities to match staff member's skills, and talents, to meet evolving congregational needs.
- Find permanent replacement for Director of Children's Ministries.

Properties Committee

Sue Detrick, Chair

My term as Chair of Properties is coming to an end this July. I want to say 'Thank You' to the Foundation for the financial support, to the Membership for their approval, for my Committee & FCC Staff for their support and Jenny Sykes for being who she is; it has been a true pleasure working with all of you.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Community House Renovations – new roof, gutters and downspouts, updated bathrooms, carpet and paint in entryway, freshened up kitchen, new microwave, new storage cabinet created from kitchen space, storage cabinets/counters in main room, floors refinished and stage drapery cleaned and fire proofed
- Sanctuary lighting and Gathering Space lighting has been upgraded to LED
- New carpeting has been installed in the Parlor, Family Room, Youth Crossings, and all Preschool classrooms
- Sound System in the Sanctuary has been upgraded, sound board calibrated, repaired speakers, new mics and upgraded cables
- New gutter extensions and roof repairs were done on the main Church building to prevent flooding
- New floor scrubber and snow blower were purchased
- Painting of office wing hallway, stairs and ladies room
- Washed windows in Church and Community House
- Trimmed and removed trees on property
- Stripped and waxed in Fellowship Hall and Preschool
- Purchased two new vacuums
- Purchased a new floor scrubber
- Deep cleaned Sanctuary
- Fall weeding and clean-up in all gardens

HOPES

We hope continue to follow the schedule identified by the Reserve Study for our property maintenance

- Update HVAC control system
- Paint exterior trim, soffit and fascia
- Begin the process of repairing 5 stained glass windows most in need