

Flossmoor Community Church



**2016 - 2017
Annual Reports
of
Boards, Committees & Staff**

In preparation for Annual Meeting
Sunday, July 16, 2017 at 11 am

Governing Board

Shari Sweeney, Chair

“What is God calling FCC to do?”

Last March, approximately 25 of our church’s leaders, including Governing Board, FCC Staff, and Long Range Vision committee members, gathered to take part in a Strategic Planning process, sharing our ideas about what we believe the Lord requires of us as a congregation. We were skillfully led by Jennifer Burns-Lewis, who is a Presbyterian pastor and the Visioning and Connecting Leader for the Presbytery of Wabash Valley in Indiana. Following a variety of thought provoking discussions, we wrote our ideas on post-it notes, guided by our FCC Statements of Identity, Vision, Mission and Core Values, and made a post-it note “parking lot of big ideas” on the wall. And there were a lot of big “ideas”!

Interestingly, most ideas generated by the participants fell into four categories or “themes”: community engagement, welcoming diversity and creating a safe space for all, ministry with children and families, and promotion of our church to the community. The theme of “community engagement” emerged as a focus around which consensus was developed. We wrapped up our strategic planning process in May, during a discussion in which we tackled “how” to achieve greater community engagement; this theme will guide the work of our staff, Governing Board, and Boards and Committees, as well as our Focus Elder for 2017-18. We are now at the point where we are beginning to implement our ideas. As we celebrate our 90th year as a congregation, we have a renewed focus on FCC’s role in our community, as we strive to fulfill our vision, “Inspired by the Risen Christ, to Seek-Connect-Serve”.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our FCC staff for their amazing contributions to our congregation. We welcomed Katelyn Keller in November, as our only new staff member this year! Please remember to thank the staff for their commitment and hard work on our behalf; they work together to move us forward in an inspired and organized fashion!

First Corinthians 12:7 challenges us: *“Now to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good.”* How will we use our gifts to engage with FCC and the greater community during the coming year?

Senior Pastor Fred Lyon

The 2016-2017 program year proved once again that FCC is a congregation where people not only care for one another, but also reach out with concern for others around the world, near and far. This 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.

It is a blessing to be your pastor, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you. As we continue to celebrate FCC's 90 years of ministry and mission, I look forward to discovering what God has in store for our congregation in 2017-1018!

Peace,

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

Pastor Fred

Congregational Enrichment

Betsy Hanzelin

I am thankful for my two years 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Education

- Worked closely with Trina Hayes to plan opportunities for growth and learning on Sunday mornings from September – April.
- Co-led “Confirmation 4 Adults” class in the Fall, Winter & Spring, concluding with an Adult Retreat in late April.
- Received feedback from church survey regarding Adult Education.

Communication

- Maintained the church website.
- eBlast: Trained and supported Brooke LaBreck to take over weekly eblast creation, continued to update subscriber list.
- Worked with Microsoft to utilize the “Sharepoint” site for sharing documents between staff, and trained staff who wish to work with this service.
- Assisted Boards with publicity and signage for their events and opportunities.

Congregational Life

- Assisted Board with planning and publicity for repeat events (Kick-Off treats, Adventure Awaits, potlucks)
- 90th Party: Point person for coordinating very successful casual evening, ‘Cheers to 90 years’. Included dinner, activities, decorations, DJ, snacks.

Lay Ministries

- Continued to tweak Inquirer classes, changing format to a one-day, 2-hour event. Working with new members is a great joy!
- Assisted with Elder and Officer training for Governing Board.
- Survey Project: Assisted with efforts to create and distribute survey (paper and on-line) for the congregation. Broke down data into usable lists and distributed to various Boards, Committees and groups around the church to connect people with areas to serve or be nurtured.

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.
- Assisted with follow-up on several positions.
- Sent follow-up letters to those who agreed to serve.

Worship

- Assisted Pastor Fred in leading worship on average 2x each month.
- Preached and provided worship leadership.
- Assisted filling in and finding laity to fill in for Don Jones during his medical leave.
- Worked with Brooke King-LaBreck to update look of Sanctuary and Communion table for Pentecost.

Governing Board

- Attended meetings of the board, assist in relaying information back to staff, helped publicize decisions and programs.
- Attended 2 Governing Board Strategic Planning Retreats.
- Prepared information distributed and publicized Annual Meeting and Mid-year Meeting.

Miscellaneous

- Organized and scheduled art displays in Gathering Space.

HOPES

- Continue providing quality Adult Education
- Create system for timely follow-up with Inactive members.
- Explore opportunities for non-Sunday morning worship experiences.
- Move the staff to using cloud storage for all documents, assist more staff in using Sharepoint.
- Pass off the Art Display job to Worship & Arts.

I would like to express my appreciation to the staff and laity for their patience and assistance during my 2-week medical leave in November 2016.

Church Operations

Jennifer Sykes

My second year as the Director of Church Operations has been an exciting and rewarding one. 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 a busy and exciting year with lots of planning for the future of FCC!

HIGHLIGHTS

Properties

- Conducted first reserve study in 12 years with Reserve Advisors to develop long-term building maintenance and funding plan. Worked with Foundation Board to identify and prioritize first several years of projects. Items for 2017-18 include new phone system, Community House renovations and new control system for HVAC
- Major water main break January in Genesis room repaired and covered by insurance
- Contacted several stained glass experts and obtained bids and advice on repairing windows in sanctuary
- Removed several dead trees on property
- Seal-coated parking lots
- Mulched garden beds around front entrance
- Researched new vendors for property insurance and cleaning services, and found we were best off staying with current contracts

Finance

- Assisted budget management and planning
- Conducted quarterly meetings with committee
- With Stewardship, began process of switching fiscal calendar back to calendar year

Personnel

- Hired Katelyn Keller as our new Children's Ministries director
- Conducted performance reviews for remainder of staff that wasn't reviewed last year
- With help from Diaconate, planned and executed many memorials, especially in fall and early winter

HOPES

- Continue to plan for and bid out projects identified in reserve study
- Repair 5 stained glass windows in need of immediate repair; continue to research options for protective coverings for all windows
- Help to smoothly transition budget planning with switch from fiscal to calendar year
- Research alternatives for 360-degree review for future staff performance reviews
- Update landscaping around Church and Community House

Music Ministries

Lori Tozer

HIGHLIGHTS

Guest performances by:

The Rooke Chapel Ringers from Bucknell University

The Wooster Chorus from the College of Wooster

Bel Canto Children's Choir

Viking Choir members from H-F High School

Special Gifts

Praise Director, Leslie Lowry, was able to take a leave of absence in the fall in order to attend to special family celebrations thanks in part to Deborah Williams agreeing to fill in for her. In addition to directing and accompanying, Deborah recruited talented sons Lee and Charlie to play with the group as well!

We got to hear from the exceptionally talented Youth Band in worship not once, but twice this program year! Many thanks to Peter Robertson and Matt Epperson for their guidance and support.

For the first time in our memory, the Chancel Choir Cantata got snowed out! Flexibility was required on the part of many during our busy Advent season to delay the presentation of J.S. Bach's, *For Unto Us a Child is Born*, by one week. While director Michael Rugen and most of the choir members were available the next Sunday; accompanist extraordinaire, Vonda Hardesty, was not. Deborah Williams came to our rescue once again by stepping in as accompanist after one rehearsal. Anyone who knows Bach's compositions knows that was a LOT of notes to learn and play.

Deep Gratitude to the Professionals:

Michael Rugen, Chancel Choir & Ringers Director

Vonda Hardesty, Organist, Chancel Choir and Worship Accompanist

Leslie Lowry, Praise Ensemble Director and Accompanist

Jennifer Wojcikowski, Children's Choir Director

Harri Wojcikowski, Sound Technician

And the Volunteers:

Shari Sweeney, tireless Children's Choir Accompanist

Chancel Choir members

Chancel Ringers members

Children's Choir members (and their parents)

Praise Ensemble members

Sound Team members

Children's Ministries

Katelyn Keller

I have been so blessed to have joined FCC this year and be so welcomed. Thank you to everyone who has helped me in my first year as Director of Children's Ministries! It has been wonderful to learn about the church and everyone who is a part of FCC. I am looking forward to next year!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunday School Attendance: total average was 37 children
 - Preschool- K was 12
 - 1st- 2nd was 6
 - 3rd-4th was 12
 - 5th-6th was 7
- W.O.W. (ages 3-7) attendance average was 11 children
- Blizzard Blast was held in the Community House on January 26, 2017 from 6:30-8 pm we had 61 children in attendance and collected nearly 100 canned goods for Jones Memorial Center
- The Water Project goal of \$12,000 was met and a new well in Western Uganda has been constructed
- Introduced the Praygrounds to the Sanctuary where children can engage in quiet activities during service
- Prepared and served dinner for the PADS guest twice
- Participated in joint Youth Outreach to collect socks for the PADS guests
- 10 third graders completed the Bible Class and received their Bibles during service on March 12, 2017
- 12 sixth graders received their crosses on April 23, 2017
- 3rd Annual Bible Games held on May 7, 2017
- Summer of Service 2017 begins in June with family outreach events throughout the summer

HOPES

- Christmas Pageant! Children's Ministries will be putting on a Nativity Play on December 17 during service
- New curriculum for the 1st-4th grade rotations to better engage and inspire the children
- Update the Promised Land rooms
- Continue to look for more ways for the children to serve our community

Youth Ministries

Allison Billings

Our YM theme this year for our Leadership Team as well as Youth Worship was “Here I Am” from the story of Isaiah’s call (Isaiah 6:1-10). This offered our Leadership Team, and the rest of our youth an opportunity to talk throughout the year about where we felt called, things that spark us, and how we can support and encourage each other in those places.

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 watch a series of TED talks with discussion, and work through some Sticky Faith curriculum.
- Our 3 Youth Groups met regularly on Sundays at 11 am from September through March. Our 7th & 8th grade group, Tribes, is continuing to shine as one class! It’s provided our jr high kids an opportunity for more fellowship outside of just their grade.
- We held 7 retreats this year including the Leadership retreat in August, a fall, winter and spring retreat for Sophs and a winter and spring retreat for Disciples. Our Disciples class had an abbreviated fall retreat here at church.
- Youth Worship! On November 13, 2016, our youth ran all of worship, including the music, and blew us all away. They wanted to bring the rest of our congregation in on what we usually do, and chose to use a portion of the sermon time to talk in small groups. Our youth band was great, and they were kind enough to share their gifts again with us in the Spring. A HUGE thanks to both Peter Robertson & Matt Epperson for all their help and musical talent in bringing the youth band together.
- YM hosted 2 Big Rooms this year. Our first in the fall focused on our theme for Youth Worship. Our youth played games like telephone, learned a little about Isaiah and his calling, and had the opportunity to share and discuss where they see God calling them in their life. During our Spring Big Room, youth competed in their own version of The Amazing Race, where they “raced” around the church and the Community House completing various challenges like putting the events of Jesus’ life in the correct order.
- Traditional Youth Outreach: All three of our classes served meals to our PADS guests this past winter.

Our Tribes class also raised \$692.00 for the Souper Bowl of Caring in February that donated to Respond Now.

- Work Trip: My dream of a work/mission trip further away became a reality, as 14 youth and 4 adults will go to Washington DC with Reach Beyond Mission June 25-July 1. Our group spent the spring fundraising to help with our travel costs. At our Bake Sale in February, we raised \$918, and throughout March and April our sponsorship board heeded raise over \$4200. We are so grateful to all who helped us get to DC!
- I was surrounded by an amazing team of Lay Advisors and staffers who were full of energy and creative ideas. Our staffers this year were: Zion Epperson, Ryan Fitzgerald, Dylan Freund, Nelson Parra, Eva Rubin, Olivia Ryan, Michael Schutz, Lucy Sloan and Alex Wright (Seniors); Ruth McManus, Tori Richardson, Maggie Sullivan, Tara Thrall, and John Weeks (Juniors). Our adult Lay Advisors were: Jimmy Austin, Marc Billings, Annie Detrick, Mackenzie Freund, Maddy Kane, Peter Robertson, & Stephanie Wright. A huge thank you to them & everything they make possible by giving their time to our program!

HOPES

- Our youth will be participating in 30 Hour Famine this July 21-22.
- Work Camp next year – due to the expense, and limited number of students who can participate in the work trip this year, YM will be alternating years between Work Camp at Tower Hill and a larger Work Trip.
- Additional outreach – due to the amount of fundraising for the Youth Work Trip this year, and switching back to work camp, we will be looking for additional outreach opportunities in the upcoming program year.

Weekday Preschool

Marji O'Leary

HIGHLIGHTS

- An enrollment of 118 children 18 month through 5 year olds in Parent/Toddler and preschool classes. All classes were full.
- Returning staff included – Assistant Director Dallas Collins (8 years), and the teaching staff of Jen Ermshler (5 years), Fran Flamini (5 years), Janice Gislason (2 years), Barb Johnson (8 years), Laura Lilly (22 years), Marji O'Leary (24 years also WPS Director), Julie Snyder (9 years), Wendy Spata (2 years), Darlene Welling (17 years) and Nan Wexler (8 years). Former preschool parent Amy Simmons joined the staff as the Parent/Toddler 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: Learning with Pete the Cat, Little Picassos, Mixed Media, Tumble Bears, Weekday Explorers and Weekday Scientists. Monday and Friday "Lunch Breaks" also remained popular.
- Community building and Outreach activities included: Pajama Project Pajama drive at both Homewood and Flossmoor libraries, collecting pop tabs to support Ronald McDonald House, hosting a teachers' in-service training for Illinois Action for Children and our 5th Annual Open House in April.
- Marji O'Leary continues to serve on the board of the South Suburban Association for Young Children (SSAAYC) as newsletter co-chair and President elect and has been elected to the board of directors for the Northern Illinois Nature Preschool Association, working to promote connecting children with nature.
- 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 cubbies, library books, a "waterfall" for the water table, "Movin' Sit" pads and weighted lap pads and Timber Builders – a large size Lincoln log set.
- Summer plans last year included disassembling the "spinner" to see if it could be repaired and thanks are due to Dennis Flamini (husband of teacher Fran Flamini), who built new parts and re-fitted the spinner to keep us enjoying it for years to come.

Many thanks to the church for their support of this ministry. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2017 – 2018 school year.

Respectfully submitted,
Marji O'Leary, Director
Dallas Collins, Assistant Director

Board of Christian Education

Linda Gilley, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Ministries

- PADS
- WOW
- Trunk-or-Treat
- Blizzard Blast fundraiser
- Katelyn Keller hired as Children's Ministries Director
- Bible study/presentation of Bibles for Third Graders
- Holy Prayground - Lent program with children in church
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Summer of Service

Youth Ministries

- Weekly youth group meetings during worship hour
- Active retreat schedule
- Youth worship – Story of Isiah's commissioning (Isaiah 6:1-10)
- Big Room continued
- Souper Bowl of Caring
- Disciples World Religions
- Fundraising for Work Trip
- Work Trip to Washington D.C.

Weekday Preschool

- Playground cleanup
- Fundraiser – Fratello's, Portillo's, and Tee and Tote, Butter Braid
- Annual Sock Hop
- Field trips to Windmill Acres/Children's Farm
- Christmas Angels
- Family Fun event
- Open House/Registration for 2017-18

Adult Education

- "The Importance of Financial Planning for Women" led by Janet Bolton
- Understanding Diversity led by Long Range Vision Committee
- "Ho, Ho Horrible: How am I Going to Live in Christ's Love During Challenging Holiday Situations?" led by Dr. Connie Natvig
- "Healing Instead of Curing" led by Trina Hayes
- "The Red Notebook: a Book Discussion" led by Trina Hayes
- Pastors and Parents: Advent & Christmas with our Children
- *Names for the Messiah*, by Walter Brueggemann, led by Trina Hayes
- "Understanding Islam" led by Khalid Mozaffar
- One-Book-One-Church – Waking Up White, led by Trina Hayes and Fred Lyon
- Race Talk on Tap – Community House
- "Claim Your Faith" Adult Retreat

Thank you to the Sub-committee chairs (Katelyn Keller and Nona Riedel, 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

- Welcome Back Reception for Kick-off Sunday was provided by Board. This included morning treats of bagels, cream cheese, fruit and beverages....YUM! - September
- Board members helped to staff the FCC booth at Flossmoor Fest. 'Toss out Hunger' was the name of our game. – September
- Adventure Awaits – the BOCL provided materials for church members to create their own devotional candle & fresh greenery arrangement to use at home during Advent. The creations were stunning! Members also helped decorate the church for the upcoming season. – November
- Mid-year Annual Meeting – the board organized and set-up a buffet of delicious home prepared dishes provided by members of the congregation. We love our Potlucks! With everyone's help, clean-up was a breeze. – January
- Cheers to 90 Years! Board orchestrated the party of the year to celebrate FCC's 90th Anniversary. A casual catered meal in Fellowship Hall was followed by a spirited celebration of music and dance in the Community House. Complete with a champagne toast, superior snacks, photo booth, DJ, & dance leader....this family event was enthusiastically enjoyed by all. – February
- All-Church Picnic Potluck – in front of the church after our 2017 Annual Meeting. Chicken, mac & cheese and beverages provided by BOCL. Food will be set-up in the Community House. Dishes to share provided by members of our congregation. Picnic activities include face painting, egg toss, water balloons and bubble station.

HOPES

- To continue to create opportunities for members to engage in activities that strengthen bonds of Christian fellowship.

Diaconate Board

Sue Durkin, Chair

In living out our motto “Inspired by the Risen Christ, we seek-connect-serve,” the Diaconate Board seeks to represent the hands of Christ by serving and ministering to the many needs of our own church family. I am grateful to the members of the Diaconate who have so graciously given of their time and talents to serve our congregation this past year.

Our service this past year have included:

- Transportation of church members to church services and church activities, doctors’ appointments, physical therapy appointments and to the hospital.
- Meals were cooked and delivered by many volunteers to church members who were ill, recently hospitalized, or simply needing some assistance.
- Altar flowers were delivered each Sunday to church members experiencing difficulties or in need of encouragement.
- Cards were sent to church members who were ill, hospitalized, grieving or just needed to know someone cares.
- Receptions after Memorials or Funerals were provided for grieving families by the Diaconate.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our phone ministry which was implemented last year to connect with those unable to attend church regularly continues to be a blessing to those receiving the calls and allows the pastors to be informed of possible needs.
- Our Meal Fund, which was established at the end of last year, continues to assist those in need. Any one can make a monetary contribution by writing a check to FCC Diaconate with “meal ministry” on the memo line. This allows a Diaconate member to purchase a needed meal and deliver it to a church member.

HOPES

- That additional church members will volunteer to serve the congregation by adding their names to the Diaconate Database for providing meals, transportation and assistance at receptions for memorials. When a need arises, an email is sent out to allow a church member to respond when available. This is a rewarding way to serve others in the church. Please call the church office to add your name to our list.
- That additional church members will feel called to contribute to the Meal Fund as outlined above.
- That a workshop be offered in the fall to better equip Diaconate members to assist the pastor in visiting hospitalized and homebound church members.

Board of Lay Ministries

Dana Dolan, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted a leadership training session and dinner in July for the new Governing Board.
- Continued “First Encounter” ministry, which involves contacting visitors who sign the Welcome Pads during Worship.
- Held three Inquirers sessions in September, February and April and welcomed 12 new members into our faith family. Each new member is matched with a “shepherd” from the congregation.
- More than 40 members of the congregation served as FCC Hosts this year, by welcoming all those attending worship each Sunday and assisting with questions that may arise.
- A congregation survey was completed by 100 members and visitors in January, to capture input on interests, ideas and needs in the areas of “Seek, Connect, and Serve” within the life of the church.
- Five key themes and broad areas of interest from the congregation survey were identified and shared with the Governing Board:
 - 1) Small group connection opportunities,
 - 2) Keeping our momentum going dealing with racism and other social justice issues,
 - 3) More local outreach opportunities with direct impact,
 - 4) Progressive Bible studies, helping us deal with current political and social issues, and
 - 5) Easy ways to invite the Community to our events.
- As a result of the survey the online FCC member directory was updated and all boards, committees and program heads received lists of those interested in their areas, to call upon when service needs and participation opportunities arise.
- A new member party was hosted in June, to connect new members from the past two years with each other and others in the congregation.

HOPES

- To continue our efforts in making Flossmoor Community Church a welcoming and inclusive 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 an outreach plan to reconnect with those who haven’t been at church for a while to let them know we miss them.
- Develop a program for welcoming new neighbors in the community that the entire congregation can participate in.
- Host an FCC Host and Shepherd training and fellowship event, for both current and new participants.
- Collaborate with Worship & Arts to explore ways to create an even more welcoming worship experience.

Board of Outreach Ministries

Esther Jenkins, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted Community Drives
 - In October, 2016 we held our annual blood drive in which 19 individuals donated blood.
 - In May, 2017 we held our annual food drive in which 50+ bags of food were collected and donated to Respond Now, a food pantry in Chicago Heights
- Outreach Fair. In November, eight agencies that received funding from us the previous year set up displays in the Narthex, engaged with church members, and attempted to recruit volunteers.
- Movie and discussion. In February, we hosted a showing of the Netflix film “13th”, a documentary focusing on the historical underpinnings of the mass incarceration of African American men. Approximately 90 individuals attended, many from the community.
- Continued to identify recipients for special offerings and the church’s mission fund.
 - World Communion Sunday Offering (\$4860). We identified two organizations to receive this offering: KIVA, an international agency that provides small micro-loans, and Chicago Youth Programs, a local program that works with at-risk youth.
 - Easter Offering (\$8542). We divided this offering between the church’s pre-school scholarship program and Equal Justice Initiative, a not-for-profit agency located in Montgomery AL that works to end injustices in the criminal justice system.
 - Six local agencies, located in the south suburbs, were awarded grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to continue their work on behalf of at-risk children and adults. The programs, all of which had received funding in the past, were: Jones Center, Overflow Ministries, Restoration Ministries, Respond Now, Bethel Family Center, and South Suburban Family Shelter. In addition, we continue to support the coordinator of our PADS program.
 - We donated \$4,050 to the youth program to help cover the cost of their June mission trip to DC.
 - For the first time, we made a contribution to an individual. A PADS guest will be moved into a permanent residence, and receive support with the goal of helping him to become self-sufficient,

HOPES

- That we will have more activities like the “13th” showing – events that engage the community and address one of our three focus areas: mass incarceration, resettlement, and homelessness.
- That we will have more activity of various types in our focus areas.
- That we will be able to identify more volunteer opportunities for FCC members.

Board of Worship & the Arts

Rick Hanzelin, Chair

The Board of Worship and Arts continues to be quite active. Traditionally, activities of the Board are a mix of providing tactical weekly assistance in worship, as well as visioning long-term ways to enhance and strengthen our worship experience to better express our love and relationships with God. The board will be moving to concentrate more on strategic visioning for worship and connecting with our community through the arts, and less on the tactical items.

As we look to the future of FCC, the board has been working with the church staff to better define who tends to the tactical needs of worship on a weekly basis. With that in mind, the church staff is going to be taking on the tracking, alignment and coordination of the ushers required for each worship service. The pastoral staff will also be working to gather liturgists during the summer months. The board will continue to provide greeters.

The board still greatly hopes to revamp and enhance the audio / video capabilities in worship to better connect members of the congregation to God through worship. The existing technology in the sanctuary is 10 years old and is in great need of an update. Additionally, we would like to add more monitors to the sanctuary for better visibility for more congregation members.

Listed here are just a few of the activities from the past year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided greeters for worship services
- Provided liturgists for each service, and worked with the liturgists to ensure a cohesive and consistent worship experience each week. Additionally, provided a comprehensive packet designed to equip each liturgist with elements which can assure confidence in sharing the Word with the congregation
- Provided sound technicians in the balcony to record services and monitor audio and visual transmission
- Continued to address technical challenges inherent in the sound system we are currently using
- Explored worship outside of FCC to see if there are ideas and activities that other churches are doing in worship to see if we can incorporate those into OUR worship
- Studied ways to visually enhance worship
- Provided open and honest feedback to Pastor Fred on weekly worship experience

HOPES

- Continue to find ways of bringing the various art options to broaden the scope of worship
- Continue to be the “behind the scenes” support enabling Pastor Fred and his staff to provide inspirational worship and guidance throughout the year

Focus Elder - Resettlement

Denise Morris

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Co-Sponsored the Mahbani family with RefugeeOne organization

A very dedicated group of volunteers worked together to fulfill the essential requirements of co-sponsorship. Even though the first arrival date was cancelled, they rallied on November 9, 2016 with very little notice to welcome the family.

- Organized donations of household goods, furnishings and other needed items for the family.
- Delivered and set up apartment prior to the family's arrival.
- Picked the family up at the airport and transported to their new home.
- Provided them with a warm meal and fully stocked pantry and refrigerator.

Financial support included fundraising from members and friends of nearly \$5,000.00 along with the \$10,000 set aside from Outreach Board. As many items were donated, the expenses to settle the family were less than expected. FCC provided Refugee One with \$8025.00 which was enough to cover the family's rent for 6 months. There are funds remaining in the account.

The family has settled in well. English classes and school are helping with communication but there are still frequent misunderstandings. Dad found a job working with furniture, it seems like upholstery. He is studying for his driver's license exam. The oldest two are enjoying school and learning quickly.

RefugeeOne is no longer supporting the family financially. Syrian Community Network is working with the family to help them find a cheaper apartment and learn to live within their financial means. I try to visit every 2-4 weeks to help with school papers, answer questions about living in Chicago, explain the weather, identify needs, but mostly drink tea, talk about family, laugh at the kids and visit.

2. Educational programs: Coordinated two well attended programs during Adult Ed.

Ted Talk video regarding UN involvement in Syrian refugee crisis

Understanding Syria Culture and History and Taste of Syria. Dr. Khalil Marrar presented an overview of the history of the political turmoil in Syria. Sponsored a sampling of Syrian food for attendees.

3. Community outreach

Reached out to community through direct invitation and articles in the HF Chronicle regarding our educational programs and resettlement work.

HOPES

- To continue contact with the Mahbani family and help them assimilate into American culture.
- Have the family visit FCC.
- Provide an educational program on what life is like for refugee families 2-5 years after resettlement.
- Possibly provide resources for others through an online library of information on refugee status and ways to help.
- Provide opportunities for further education or involvement of youth and children to assure they have understood the significance of what FCC has done.
- Be alert to other ways we could be God's hands to provide comfort to those displaced from their homes.

Thanks go out to so many members of the congregation who so generously gave of their time, money and prayers to make this endeavor successful.

Nominating Committee

Karen Hoag, Chair

HIGHLIGHT

2016-2017 was a busy year for the Nominating Committee. Due to the busy and changing lives of our congregants, the Nominating Committee was called to fill open board/committee positions throughout the year, not just at the end of the church year. We are happy to report that all calls to serve our Church were met with excitement and enthusiasm to do God's work.

HOPE

The added energy from the new board and committee members will make 2017-2018 a notable year for Flossmoor Community Church.

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 all of the Personnel Committee members who so faithfully gave of their time in support of the staff, and the congregation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted a search for a new Director of Children's Ministries. In addition to the Personnel Committee, three members of the Children's Ministry committee (Linda Gilley, Kimberly Mitchell and Nona Reidel) volunteered to participate in the process. After interviewing a number of candidates, the team decided to offer the position to Katelyn Keller. Katelyn accepted and she hit the ground running as the program year had begun by the time she accepted the position.
- Participated in the bi-annual review process for staff members. Reviewed the Survey Monkey results with Pastor Fred, and offered feedback based on the results.
- Continued ongoing discussions regarding better ways to evaluate the staff, and enhance their professional development through more regular feedback and growth opportunities.

HOPES

- Find better, and more effective ways to support the staff as they pursue their daily activities.
- Continue to evaluate ways to enhance the staff's professional development and provide professional growth opportunities.
- Evaluate congregational needs and provide recommendations regarding staffing requirements.

Properties Committee

Sue Detrick, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- Had new keys made for exterior doors in the main building and Community House.
- Seal-coated and striped parking lots of main building and Community House.
- Organized fall clean-up of landscaping around main building.
- Put up Christmas crazy lights in December, with take-down in January.
- Repaired burst heating pipe in Genesis Room. Clean-up involved water removal, asbestos abatement for damaged tile floor, carpet replacement, and paint touch-up in Genesis room and part of Youth Crossings. All work was covered by insurance after deductible was met.
- Remainder of Youth Crossings carpet was replaced, and entire area was painted.
- New telephone system was installed in the main Church building office and education wings.
- Community House bathrooms were updated. Work included new toilets and sink/vanities, new flooring, new light fixtures, and paint in men's and women's rooms.
- Community House foyer was also refreshed with new paint, removal of defunct drinking fountain, new wall-mounted coat racks, and new carpet.
- New walk-behind floor scrubber was purchased for use by our maintenance team and the cleaning service.
- Obtained bids for stained glass repair and protective covering replacement from several restoration companies.

HOPES

- Replace main building HVAC control system.
- Continue updates in Community House, including building storage for tables and chairs, painting and re-organizing kitchen, building new storage closet for janitorial supplies.
- Replace roof on Community House.
- New carpet for family room, parlor and education wing on first and second floor.
- Begin repairs on five stained glass windows with most urgent needs.
- Exterior trim, soffit and fascia painting of main Church building to prevent further wood deterioration.