

Flossmoor Community Church



2018 - 2019 Annual Reports

In preparation for Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 11 am

Governing Board

Dana Dolan, Chair

It has been my joy and honor to serve as the Governing Board Chair for the 2018-2019 program year. I am thankful for our faith-filled and vibrant Flossmoor Community Church congregation, Pastor Fred's spiritual leadership, our thoughtful Governing Board, and the commitment and creativity of the entire church staff. FCC's worship service, Christian education, music ministries, and community engagement programs continue to connect us and inspire our faith journeys.

I was moved by the congregation's generous response to our stewardship themes of abundance, gratitude, and hospitality. Thank you! I also want to thank the FCC Foundation for their tremendous support of the three-year facilities maintenance and improvement plan for our beautiful church and Community House. Here are just a few of many program year highlights, guided by FCC's four strategic plan priorities:

Ministry to Children, Youth, and Families

- As the new Director of Children's Ministries, Leslie Maxie, (and many volunteers) hosted summer vacation bible school, parent visiting days, and Wednesday programs
- Allison Billings, Director of Youth Ministries, continued to engage our youth with new Sunday night groups, youth retreats, and the Habitat for Humanity Work Trip.

Diversity and Safe Space Initiatives

- Board of Outreach grants were given to The Weekday Preschool, Center for Inclusivity, Mully Children's Family, Project HOOD and Lighthouse.
- Adult Education hosted book discussion series on *The Hate You Give*, *Citizen* and *So You Want to Talk About Race*.
- Members participated in the South Suburban Diversity Dinner.
- FCC was the host site for multiple Community Peaceology Forums.

Community Engagement

- FCC hosted the second annual H-F Show-Off and inaugural Community House Fest, thanks to the leadership of Brooke King-LaBreck, Jamie Ford and many volunteers.
- Pastor Fred and author MaryAnn McKibben Dana hosted a series of discussions on *God*, *Improv*, and *the Art of Living*, attended by members and the community.
- FCC continued to host and serve PADS guests on Sunday evenings.

Sharing the good news about FCC and Jesus

- FCC launched new social media campaigns, thanks to Betsy Hanzelin's leadership.
- FCC continues to invite the community to worship and our programs with social media and H-F Chronicle publicity.
- We introduced "Bring a Friend to Church" Sundays and Welcome Neighbor door hangers.

We are blessed that Pastor Fred will continue his ministry at FCC through April 19, 2020, and I know he will help keep the ministry and mission of FCC moving forward with energy and purpose.

In closing, it's an exciting time of transformation and re-imagining for our church. Let's be open to God's voice and find new ways to Seek, Connect and Serve at FCC in the year ahead.

Blessings,



Senior Pastor Fred Lyon

Throughout 2018-2019, Flossmoor Community Church proved once again to be the congregation where we Seek-Connect-Serve in relation to one another and the world around us. I believe the biggest highlights of the year are:

- the offering of meaningful worship and educational opportunities from Sunday to Sunday and in special events;
- the ongoing nurturing of our commitment to be a welcoming congregation that engages the communities around us through the use of our church building and the Community House as venues not only for enrichment programs and family celebrations, but also important community-wide conversations, especially concerning race relations;
- the 20 new pledging units, and the 75 pledging units who increased their pledge from the previous year. The amount of our average pledge also increased.

On a personal note, I am thankful for the opportunity I had to take a partial sabbatical leave back in January. It was good to rest, renew, and spend time with Jan! I also want to give thanks for the life and ministry of Don Jones. I am glad that he is no longer suffering, but so sad he is no longer among us. All who knew Don will remember him as a good pastor and friend. May he rest in peace and rise in power.

Looking ahead to 2019-2020, it is my hope that FCC will

- grow even bolder in being the church where Christ is central and diversity is cherished;
- see fuller involvement of all members and friends of FCC in our ministries;
- provide even greater financial support of those ministries;
- I believe we are up to all sorts of challenges and encourage everyone to take their 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, 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. I hope to serve you well during this final year as your pastor, and I look forward to discovering what God has in store for FCC in 2019-2020!

Peace,



Congregational Enrichment

Betsy Hanzelin

In this position, I currently 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.

I am most appreciative for the opportunity this Spring to take a six-week sabbatical. During this time I met regularly with a Spiritual Director, went on a personal retreat, went on vacation, and spent time in personal reflection and devotions. I would recommend that the church be diligent and pro-active in providing these opportunities to staff, encouraging staff to take advantage when eligible. Many thanks to the staff and members who filled in for me!

HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Education

- Worked closely with Trina Hayes to plan opportunities for growth and learning on Sunday mornings from September – April.

Communication

- Maintained the church website, Constant Contact and Social Media accounts.
- Created new Facebook weekly campaign, which increased interactions

Congregational Life

- Assisted Board with planning and publicity for fall events

Lay Ministries

- Coordinated New Member classes in October and April.
- Assisted with Elder and Officer training for Governing Board.
- Updated member database and communications (email, ACS, Constant Contact)

Nominating Committee

- Provided resources and followed up with individuals after call letters.

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 services in January during Pastor Fred's sabbatical. Created bulletins, and coordinated with Guest Preachers/Speakers.
- Preached and provided worship leadership seven 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 two Congregational Meetings.

Staff

- Act as resource and sounding board for staff members.
- Assisted planning two staff planning/dreaming days.
- Provide back-up on bulletin and communication preparation in Brooke's absence.

HOPES

- Continue providing quality Adult Education with new leadership.
- Explore opportunities for non-Sunday morning worship experiences.
- Help new members find their "place" in the congregation and our ministries.
- Assist church in holding things together during upcoming time of transition and search.

Children's Ministries

Leslie Maxie

HIGHLIGHTS

- We have continued to have wigglers for all weeks with the exception of Communion Sundays and holidays. This has been primarily run by Leslie Maxie with an occasional fill in of Tessa Zevallos.
- The Praygrounds have proven to be an invaluable asset to the worship space, allowing children to stay in worship with their parents. The tables have been taken away, leaving only soft things to sit and play with. All new toys have been purchased that are soft, quiet and engaging to kids with sensory concerns. Clipboards with coloring pages have also been added so kids can sit on pillows and color.
- The 3rd grade bible class was re-written to be more in line with our current mission, needs and issues. This was done by Leslie Maxie with the help of Betsy Hanzelin. The class was taught by Jessica Groen and Nils Wickstrom and was a huge success. There were 4 kids who received their bibles this year.
- Parent Observation days were added to Sunday school, allowing the parents to be a part of what's going on. The kids generally do some sort of performance on these days and one day is an appreciation day where the kids made breakfast for the parents.
- The fifth/sixth grade class made and served PADS dinner in February.
- Vacation Bible school was run last year by Leslie Maxie (July 16-19). We had about 70 kids participate and about 1/3 of them performed during worship that following Sunday.
- Children's Ministries hosted multiple fun events this year. We did a community Halloween party in lieu of trunk or treat. We had about 200 people in the Community House, many of them new faces. We also had the Blizzard Blast in January, also heavily attended with our kids and kids from the community.
- We also had a WooHOO Wednesday once per month. These events brought in many kids, mostly kids from the community. Hoping to get them more involved in the church going forward.
- Quest Youth Group taught Sunday School lessons for three weeks in March.
- 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.
- WooHOO 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 15 - Thursday, July 18. The program will be run by Leslie Maxie.
- Children's Ministries will host a back-to-school kick-off event to get families excited and round up volunteers for the program year in August.

HOPES

- Continue to look for more ways to serve the children and families in the community.
- Bring more kids to the program and have them stay for the whole program year.
- Build a strong volunteer base.
- Continue working with the Spark rotation curriculum and personalize it to best suit our Ministry.

Youth Ministries

Allison Billings

This year was a year of change and transition for Youth Ministries, which is why our theme was “Just Roll with It”. We had a great year questioning why our ministry does what it does, what we love about it, and what we can say “goodbye” to. As we continue to figure out the best ways for the church to serve our families, we hope to keep this flexible spirit in mind.

HIGHLIGHTS

Our Leadership Team met Wednesday evenings from 7:30 -9 pm throughout the program year. We alternated weeks between planning for group and study night as we have in the past, choosing to use our study time focusing on brainstorming and vision casting for the future of Youth Ministries at FCC.

Our two Youth Groups met regularly on Sundays at 11 am from September through March. Quest, our high school group followed our previously Sophs curriculum, while Tribes, our junior high group, started their new 2-year rotation.

We held three retreats this year including: the Leadership retreat in August, the Personality Retreat in the fall, and the Sex Retreat in the winter. Our Spring Retreat for Quest was canceled due to lack of availability of our students.

This year, Youth Ministries also offered a new option. We held five Sunday Night Group meetings throughout the year focusing on service and fellowship. Our youth worked the first shift at PADS and served the meal twice, did a service project for SCARCE, had a Minute-to-Win-it game night, and a neighborhood scavenger hunt.

In October, youth were invited to help with World Communion Sunday and to serve communion. Thank you to the congregation and Pastor Fred for letting our youth help in this deeply meaningful way.

Quest worked with Children’s Ministries in February & March to help teach all three age groups for a few weeks. Our youth love getting the chance to work with younger kids and learn along side their younger peers. Thank you to Children’s Ministries for allowing the youth to “take over”!

YM hosted 2 Big Rooms this year. Both Big Rooms this year focused on two important liturgical seasons, Advent & Lent. Our staffers put on a Christmas Pageant (including costumes!) in December, and all youth participated in Lent prayer stations in March.

Traditional Youth Outreach: All youth participated in fundraising for Hurricane Florence relief efforts in the fall through the Hurricane Florence Frontline Recovery Fund. The youth & the congregation raised over \$650 in their efforts to help those effected by the hurricane on the NC Coast. Our Tribes group also raised \$700 for the Souper Bowl of Caring in February that we donated to Respond Now.

Work Trip: Our group of 9 students and 3 adults head to Staunton, VA to work with Habitat for Humanity June 8-15, 2019. If you would like to follow our work, please visit our blog at <https://fccyouthmin.tumblr.com/>

This year would not have been possible without my rock star Leadership Team! Our staffers this year were: 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 (Seniors) and Boaz Epperson, Caleb Hoereth, Lizzie Lipscomb, Tai Shonkwiler, Anna Thompson, & Jack Williams (Juniors). Our adult Lay Advisors were: Marc Billings, Annie Detrick, Josh Grenard, Emma Hanzelin, Marie Maass, & Carly Mayer. A huge “thank you” to them & all they make possible by giving their time to our ministry!

HOPES

We hope to keep doing what we’re doing! Increasing youth participation in worship, and our outreach to the community through more frequent projects throughout the year. We also look forward to another class of confirmands in the fall!

Youth Ministries is still on this “trial & error” journey, figuring out the ways that connect our youth to God, our congregation, and the greater community. We are hopeful for new ideas and models we’re looking forward to trying as we work through the challenges of a changing Church.

Music Ministries

Katie VanHeel

HIGHLIGHTS

Chancel Choir & Ringers

The Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers have continued to flourish under the direction of Mike Rugen. Chancel Choir performed Faure's *Requiem* beautifully on Maundy Thursday. On Sunday, May 26, Chancel Ringers excitedly performed *Joy in the Morning* in front of the congregation, a technically difficult piece they had been rehearsing all year long. Several new members joined both ensembles this year. We love to see our ministry growing!

I would like to include a shout-out to the incomparable Vonda Hardesty. She is such a talent and we are so lucky to have her. I mean, who else would play Ozzy Osbourne on the organ for a Mother's Day church service and have it sound so beautiful?!

Praise Ensemble

Deborah Williams once again did an outstanding job leading our Praise team this year. Praise performed energetic and moving pieces during our worship services two to three times a month. We are sad to see Deborah go, but wish her all the best in her retirement!

Children's Choir

I get such a kick out of working with our talented kiddos. Singing *Jesus Loves Me* with eleven (!!!) kids in the choir on Sunday, March 10, was our favorite moment of the year. Children's Choir Sundays are truly some of the best Sundays!

Sound

The wonderful John Russell, a junior at HF, took over the reigns at the sound board this year. We are SO lucky to have him. Chris Johnson, our professional sound tech for Praise Sundays, left us in December. John stepped right in and took on the task of moving heavy equipment, figuring out what cord gets plugged into where, which switch operates which mic, and has done it all with ease and a smile. He has also covered the many weddings, memorial services, and other events we've hosted in our Sanctuary this year.

Summer Music

We have a full schedule of music set for this summer. We are looking forward to performances from some pick-up choirs, Shari Sweeney and Dot and Rex Brown, Jane Hindsley, David Rice, 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.

A brass quartet would be a wonderful addition to our Easter services.

More members of the congregation are always welcome to perform during the summer services.

Weekday Preschool

Dallas Collins, Interim Director

HIGHLIGHTS

- An enrollment of 117 children 18 month through 5 year olds in Parent/Toddler and preschool classes. All classes were full.
- Returning staff included – Assistant Director Dallas Collins (10 years), and the teaching staff of Jen Ermshler (7 years), Barb Johnson (10 years), Laura Lilly (24 years), Marji O’Leary (26 years also WPS Director), Julie Snyder (11 years), Amy Simmons (3 years), Wendy Spata (4 years), Darlene Welling (19 years), Nan Wexler (10 years), and Chris Clark (2 years). Nancy Wilson joined the staff as a four year old 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: STEAM, Health Club, Tumble Bears and Weekday Scientists. Monday, Wednesday 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.
- 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. This year a survey was sent to staff to assess their needs, the needs of their classrooms and WPS as a whole.
- 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 most notably collecting more than 200 pounds of recyclable caps for our new buddy bench on the playground. Our playground is entirely volunteer maintained and this group also organizes volunteers for Saturday mornings three times a year to clean, re-furbish and spruce up the beautiful outdoor space.
- A successful fundraising year enabled the preschool to purchase books, toys and equipment.

Many thanks to the church for their support of this ministry, we wouldn’t be able to accomplish everything without you! We are looking forward to a wonderful 2019 – 2020 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

- Book Study of "Slow Church" led by Jessica Groen
- "Abundance, Gratitude and Hospitality" Pastor Fred led this biblical exploration of the themes in the Economy section of our "Slow Church" book study; abundance, gratitude and hospitality
- *Four Gospels, One Jesus* was led by Phil & Rebecca Courington
- A book discussion of "Almost Everything" by Anne Lamott was led by Theresa Gibbons.
- Trina Hayes led a book discussion of "Hum if You Don't Know the Words" by Bianca Marais
- Adult Ed partnered with Youth and Children's Ministries to decorate the church for the holidays and it was a great inter-generational effort and potluck.
- "A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community", Discussion led by Trina Hayes
- One Book One Church discussion of Claudia Rankine's "Citizen".
- Pastor Fred led evening discussions of Mary Ann McKibben Dana's "God, Jesus and the Art of Improv" in preparation for the author joining us.
- Ijeoma Oluo's "So You Want to Talk About Race" was also used in discussions along with The Art of Improv. Discussions were well attended with 30 participants.
- Jessica Groen and Trina Hayes led a Bible Study using Rachel Held Evans's "Inspired". It was well attended with 12-20 participants each week.
- We ended the programming year by assisting the Diaconate presentation with a Flossmoor Fire Department Paramedic who explained usage of File of Life cards

HOPES

Plan to continue to expand program offerings next year.

Thank you to my Sub-committee chairs: Leslie Maxie - Children's Ministries, Marji O'Leary - Weekday Preschool, Allison Billings - Youth Ministries, and Trina Hayes - Adult Education for contributing to a very successful year and providing many exciting offerings for our children, youth, and adults in our church community.

Board of Congregational Life

Betty Jo Norby, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

A Potluck on Sunday September 30 was enjoyed by many. Members brought their favorite dishes to share.

Bring Your Own BOOs was held in the Community House on Friday evening, October 26. Attendees at this themed get-together brought an appetizer or dessert to share. A costume contest, trivia game and dancing to the music of a DJ made for a fun evening.

On December 2nd BCL sponsored Deck the Halls. Members and families decorated the church inside and out for the Christmas season. Crafts were provided for children to enjoy!

HOPES

The combination of the Boards of Congregational Life and Lay Ministries into Congregational Connections will serve to build and strengthen bonds of Christian fellowship.

Women's & Men's Association

Another season of six educational and entertaining presentations has drawn to a close.

With the help of our audiences, we have been able to make contributions to our favorite local charities:
Cancer Support Center, FCC Christmas Angels, FCC Pads, The Jones Community Center,
Respond Now, The South Suburban Family Shelter

With everyone's continued support, we are excited about the next season's programs beginning in October. Our favorite folksinger, Mark Dvorak will be with us.

Our sponsorship of "A Great Little Thrift Shop" The Bargain Box continues and we have done fairly well despite the weather. We are always looking for volunteers to work 'selling' shifts Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm or 1 pm to 4 pm. Lora Blythe is our manager and can be reached by phone at 708-254-1921 if anyone is interested in working with a great group of people.

Our brochure will be published in late summer and available in the Gathering Space.

Looking forward to another great season.

Roberta Sergeant, Pres.

Ellen Davis, Sec.

Kim Sifner, Reservations

Steve Backer, Treas.

Donna Wickstrom, Publicity

Lora Blythe, Bargain Box

Diaconate Board

Phyllis Royster, Chair

Our twelve (12) member board is charged with the provision of emergency aid to church members who are homebound or in need of assistance for a short time. Each of the seven ministries is coordinated by a board member with support from peers and members of the congregation. I appreciate the faithful, generous service of those involved and recipients are grateful and blessed by our efforts.

Ministry Services/ frequency for this reporting period are as follows:

- Transportation to medical and hospital appointments, church services and activities, Eight (8) rides requested and provided- Pat Mucklow, Coordinator
- Flowers were delivered weekly fifty-two (52), at Christmas fifty (50) and Easter thirty-five (35) for a total of 137. Shannon Williams, Coordinator
- Meals were either cooked or purchased and delivered to church members in need due to a recent illness, hospitalization or current need of assistance. Sixty-three (63) meals provided. Di King, coordinator
- Memorial Services- coordination of receptions and related services for grieving families. Twelve (12) memorials completed. Jane Hindsley, coordinator
- Greeting Card Distribution- cards are sent to homebound members and those in need of support and encouragement. Seventy-two (72) cards sent. Royal Klauk, coordinator
- Telephone Contacts -regular monthly calls to 5-9 members. Maurice Page, Coordinator
- Visitation Ministry- one or multiple contacts were made to twenty-one (21) members. Jean Deaver Deaver-Higgins, coordinator
- Shawl distribution- seven (7). Barbara Johnson, Coordinator
- Sis Flor served as recording secretary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Reception/Orientation for new members was held, July 22, 2018. Jane Hindsley hosted the event.
- Visitation workshops conducted by Pastor Fred on two (2) occasions.
- On call/emergency coverage for Pastor Fred was provided by Jeanne Deaver-Higgins on Tuesdays with Diaconate Board members covering on Thursdays.
- Protocols for Phone Ministry Guidelines have been developed and are pending board review and pastoral approval.
- File of Life education was provided May 19, 2019 by Ethan Stratford, Flossmoor Fire Department and coordinated by Bonnie Miller. Fifteen (15) FCC members attended this emergency notification program designed to help Fire Department Paramedics improve services during an emergency and obtain medical/contact information as needed.
- Completed and submitted volunteer needs assessment to Governing Board.

- Ministry job descriptions were reviewed and updated in preparation for on boarding of new board members
- Special thanks and gratitude to Royal Klauk, Di King, and Maurice Page who will be leaving the board at the end of this term.

HOPES

- Additional volunteers are needed for each service area. Those interested may call the church office and your name will be added to the Diaconate Board database. Email notification is sent when a need arises.
- Expansion of the Shawl ministry with distribution to selected area nursing homes.
- Expansion of the phone ministry to include formalizing protocols, increased volunteer and ministerial support.
- Clarification of goals for the coming year.
- Members may contribute to the Meal Fund by writing a check to FCC Diaconate Ministry and noting "meal ministry" on the memo line.

Board of Lay Ministries

Vanessa Richardson, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

Church Leadership Development

- Conducted a leadership session in August for the new Governing Board. Guest speaker, Rev. Lesley Weir explored “discernment” with the Board.

Welcoming and Connecting:

- Bring a Friend Sundays were started in Spring of 2019 on the second Sundays of the month. With assistance from Brooke King-LaBreck we created door tags to invite neighbors to attend church with us on those Sundays (and other times).
- Attempted to recruit more Hosts this year, as several former Hosts have moved or resigned from the post. We continue to seek individuals to welcome all those attending worship and assist with questions that may arise.
- Continued “First Encounter” ministry, which involves contacting visitors who sign the friendship folios during Worship.
- Members of the Board served as the FCC Welcoming Crew at the June Lighthouse Pride event, by greeting participants and providing poster-making supplies. Assistance was also provided at the Community House Fest in July.

Member Development:

- Hosted two Membership Information sessions in October and April.
- Welcomed seven new members into our faith family!
- Hosted a Newer Member Coffee & Connections event in the fall, to connect members who joined in the past two years with each other and other members.

HOPES

- To continue our efforts in making Flossmoor Community Church a welcoming place for all who walk through our doors.
- Encourage members to use the Door Tags and other invitations to bring visitors into our building.
- Better attendance and engagement at our meetings would assist the Board (and the newly created Board) to increase efforts towards fellowship, member development and relationship building.

Board of Outreach Ministries

Esther Jenkins, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- BOM continues to identify recipients for the church's special offerings and the mission fund.
- The fall World Communion Offering (\$4436) was divided between the Mully Children's Family, a charity for homeless children in Kenya, and the Center for Inclusivity which is a Chicago based group that provides a space for individuals to explore their sexuality and spirituality
- The spring Easter Offering (\$8497) was divided between the Weekday Preschool Scholarship Fund and Project H.O.O.D, a Chicago based program that supports at-risk youth and young adults.
- In January, \$29,000 was given to eight south suburban programs/agencies: Bethel Family Center (5K), Jones Center (4K), Overflow Ministries (5K), Restoration Ministries (1.5K), Respond Now (5K), South Suburban Family Shelter (5K), Cancer Support Center (1.5K), Chicagoland Prison Outreach (2K).
- In September, BOM gave \$500 to the Respond Now 5K-Run/Walk.
- BOM gave \$3500 to the Youth Group Work Trip to Virginia/DC, and \$650 to the Governing Board to help sponsor the Lighthouse Pride Party.
- BOM continues to support the salary of the PADS Coordinator (\$15,000).
- In April, BOM gave \$1,000 to support the South Suburban Diversity Dinner.
- We continue to support KIVA, an international agency that provides micro-loans, primarily in third-world countries.
- In October we sponsored our annual Heartland Blood Drive. A total of 15 people gave blood.
- In an attempt to connect with the community, BOM sponsored a group of church members attendance at the South Suburban Diversity Dinner in April. In the fall, Outreach members visited many of the organizations that we support.
- In April BOM sponsored an adult education program, "What is Your Passion?" to attempt to identify areas in which church members might volunteer.

HOPES

- To increase volunteer opportunities for FCC members.

Board of Worship & the Arts

Stephanie Poole Byrd, Chair

Our activities encompass all aspects of executing our weekly worship service. This includes the coordination of a variety of entities to provide a successful weekly worship service, as well as creating long-term plans to enhance and strengthen our total worship experience. We are continuing to concentrate on strategic visioning for worship service, as well as connecting with our local community through our various worship and arts offerings.

The board has worked closely with the church staff on the tracking, alignment and coordination of the ushers, greeter, liturgists, and communion needs that are required for worship service.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully executed the second year of the adjusted Christmas worship services to 4 pm, 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.
- Provided greeters and liturgists for worship services.
- Organized communion presentation and clean up for worship service
- Coordinated music of Chancel Choir and Praise ensemble.
- Organized ongoing calendar for music, ushers, greeters, liturgists and communion for all services.
- Worked with church staff on best ways to inform members on using technology in service from pulling up the bulletin to tweeting during worship including using a poster which lists all pertinent technology information and how to access it.
- Worked with office staff to coordinate communion and ushers for services.
- Sponsored “Artist Talk” with local artist Kyrin Hobson. This was very well received by church members who asked that she come back again for a small series of art workshops. We plan to do more of these types of workshops in coordination with adult education in the upcoming program year.
- Provided specific sermon feedback to Fred via a written sermon feedback form.

HOPES

- We plan to continue adding paintings and works from church members, and local artists to our monthly art. We have several lined up for the fall. Within the realm of art, we will be displaying a retrospective of the books read by our church in adult education, as well as *One Book One Church* books. This will include over 45 books read by the church since 1995.
- The recent retirement of the Praise Ensemble director means that we will be working with personnel to assist with the hiring of a new Praise director.
- We will continue to work on getting 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 that enables the pastor and staff to continue to deliver worship services that are efficient, effective and inspirational.
- We would like to explore looking at expanding the hymnal.

Nominating Committee

Theresa Gibbons, Chair

HIGHLIGHT

The Nominating Committee had a challenging year having to fill the next year's slate with 25 members and 5 Board Chairs/Elders. They rose to the challenge and were able to fill the open spots. The committee was also tasked with culling and discerning a group of candidates for the Pastoral Search Committee. Thank you to the congregation for your nominations, which assisted our tasks this Spring.

HOPE

That the new slate and Pastoral Search Committee seek to further the mission of the church in the coming year and for the years beyond.

Stewardship Committee

Rick Hanzelin, Chair

October was our Stewardship Season, and our theme for this year was "Abundance, Gratitude, and Hospitality", based on themes in the book "Slow Church". Jessica Groen led an engaging Adult Education class for four weeks. In worship, Pastor Fred preached four sermons and additional speakers from the congregation shared personal stories in worship, all centered on the themes. Stewardship felt it was important to be factual and informative regarding the state of the church and trends in pledging and giving, as well as celebrate the many gifts and blessings that inspire our giving to the work of Christ in the world through Flossmoor Community Church.

The stewardship season for our 2019 budget year ended with mixed news. Overall, fewer dollars have been pledged this year when compared to 2018. FCC is down around \$10,000 over the previous year's pledges with the total amount pledged around \$626,000. The church will be working over the coming months to plan ways to cover the gap. Additionally, the demographics of the congregation continue to change, as we lost a number of members last year either moving on to the next life, or physically moving away.

But this does not mean that our stewardship season is without good news. We welcomed over 20 new pledging units and over 75 pledging units agreed to increase their pledges this year. Also, our average amount pledge went up as well. These are all amazing trends as we look to the future of the church.

As we continue to evolve as a church, it will be vital that we all are aware, and we all share in the financial future of FCC so that we can continue to do God's work in this world.

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 stepped up in a variety of situations to keep things running during sabbaticals and transitions. The staff's efforts during these times was truly a blessing bestowed upon the 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

- Implemented a new process for staff evaluation and feedback. The intent of the new process is to enable the staff to better define their individual goals, and enlist the proper resources to pursue those goals that are aligned with the mission of Flossmoor Community Church. This will also create a window into the staff's accomplishments.
- Leslie Maxie became the permanent Director of Children's Ministries. Under Leslie's leadership, attendance improved, programs were added and the entire program saw a renewed energy. We are excited to see the ways in which Leslie will continue to improve this important ministry.
- Jenny Sykes stepped down as the Director of Church Operations to pursue an exciting professional opportunity. We thanked Jenny for her leadership, and many contributions that made Flossmoor Community Church a better place.
- Jamie Ford was selected as the new Director of Church Operations. We are excited to see Jamie step into a leadership role and know the tremendous contributions she will make moving the congregation forward.
- The committee is currently looking to fill the part-time Pastoral Care position that is currently open.

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.

Properties Committee

Christian Kneeland, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- Updated HVAC control system
- Painting for exterior trim, soffit and fascia scheduled for July 1, 2019
- Preschool entrance door ordered and will be replaced in the coming weeks
- New mulch around 2218 building
- Trap door at top of Bell Tower was repaired
- Dead trees removed from WPS playground and Community House front area
- Water heater in main building replaced
- Sink and drain repairs in the upstairs women's rest room
- Updated to programmable thermostat at Community House
- Community House gutter repair/shingle replacement completed
- Toilet and sink on the stage area at community house was capped off and removed
- New ejector system with a new pit and pump installed at community house, removing the sewer smell that frequently permeated the space

HOPES

- We are looking at two major projects to increase efficiency and have general proposals from two companies so far:
 - Lighting replacement throughout the entire building to LED fixtures
 - Solar panels on main building
 - Both projects require significant upfront investment. They both also offer rebates and savings to offset some of the costs. We plan to continue to locate suppliers to get additional proposals on each of these projects.
- In process of receiving estimates for the following projects:
 - Flat room repair/replacement over music wing
 - Theatre lighting and dimmer switch repair/replacement in the Sanctuary
 - Stained glass window repair
 - Wood entrance door refurbish/replacement at main entrance and Travers Rd. entrance
 - 2 additional exterior wood door replacements

Foundation Board

Lois Glasgow

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2019

Overview

The Flossmoor Community Church Foundation is dedicated to preserving and enhancing Flossmoor Community Church as a vital institution in the community. All members of Flossmoor Community Church are members of the Foundation. Our mission is to provide financial security for the long-term viability of the church's facilities and support for church outreach activities. The Foundation board is responsible for i) raising funds for the Foundation, ii) deploying the funds in accordance with fund policy and iii) managing the Foundation's assets by taking appropriate risk and protecting principal.

The changes for Fiscal Year 2019 from January 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019, are reported in this Annual Report. As of May 31, 2019 total assets were \$2,569,438 including \$239,000 in a residence, a cash reserve and designated cash for facilities investment of \$307,432*. The residence, cash reserve and designated cash were not available for investment. \$2,023,006 was invested with professional managers in a variety of funds. Investment decisions are made by the Foundation Investment Committee, which is advised by Morgan Stanley. These funds were invested as follows:

Investment	2019 Asset Value	% of Assets	2018 Asset Value	% of Assets
Restricted Cash*	\$ 307,432	13%	\$ 177,275	8%
Fixed Income	597,272	26%	577,263	26%
Equities	1,200,824	51%	1,308,256	57%
Alternatives	224,911	10%	204,800	9%
Totals	\$2,330,439	100%	\$2,267,594	100%

Total Investment and Cash Assets increased from \$2,267,594 as of December 31, 2018, to \$2,330,439 as of May 31, 2019, an increase of \$62,845 or 2.8%.

Portfolio Performance and Accomplishments

The Total Fund Balance increased from \$2,517,594 to \$2,569,438 an increase of \$51,845 or 2.1%. At the end of December 2018, market value was depressed substantially. In 2019 the market recovered through April when Foundation investments regained value. In order to provide the required cash reserves and take advantage of the strong market, equity stocks were sold and the funds were deposited in the restricted cash account.

The Flossmoor Community Church Foundation is chartered to support Flossmoor Community Church Facilities with 90% of the contributions and outreach with 10% of the contributions. Annually the Foundation reserves 5% of the unrestricted fund balance and contributes approximately \$62,000 for facilities operations and for outreach.

In 2016, the Foundation Board requested a new facilities plan in order to more proactively and cost effectively address the facilities needs before becoming costly emergencies. Reserve Advisors were retained and updated the 2004 Plan. In July 2017 the FCC Foundation Members approved the recommendations.

In Fiscal Year 2018, FCCF reimbursed FCC for several projects including: phone system, community house stairs renovation and floor refinishing, HVAC control system, LED lights for a totaling costs of \$42,508. FCCF has reimbursed FCC for all these costs as the projects were within the scope of the Facilities Plan expenditures.

The 2019 facilities project budget includes these projects: fragile stain glass windows repairs; exterior trim, soffit and fascia painting; masonry repairs; window and door repairs and sealants; remainder of the second floor improvements. The total cost estimate from the Plan is \$96,664.

Thilenius Property Donation

Otto and Elsbeth Thilenius donated their property at 2638 Gordon Drive in Flossmoor to the FCC Foundation. This year the Foundation assumed all ownership of the property. After consultation with FCC leadership and deliberations by the Foundation Board, the decision was made to improve the property in order to offer it for public sale. The improvements have been completed and the property is listed through Baird & Warner Realty for the current sale price of \$239,000. The significant costs of the improvements and the significant costs of the sales transactions are being paid by the Foundation until proceeds from the public sale are available. Net proceeds from the sale will be used as required by the bylaws of the Foundation for the benefit of FCC. FCC members interested in the property may contact Baird & Warner Realty for additional information about the sale of the property.

Focus Elder - Community Engagement Rosanne Schutz

HIGHLIGHTS

Women were invited to come together to be educated in a female-friendly environment. Over the past year we have had women educate us on: financial planning, funeral arrangements and end of life documents as well as updates to the new tax laws and how the changes were going to affect us. Each meeting had at least one non-member attending.

HOPES

My goal was to invite as many women in the community to learn about a topic that they were interested in.

I was trying to capture attention of non-members by using the church Facebook page and posting invitations around the neighborhood.