

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

2017 Annual Report



The Mission of First Presbyterian Church

To glorify God as we share the hope, joy and promise we are given through Jesus Christ.

We believe that God is calling First Presbyterian Church to be a growing spiritual community in Central Nebraska by:

- Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in worship, prayer, education, fellowship, and service; honoring the Presbyterian tradition while seeking new and creative ways to spread the good news,
- Inspiring and renewing people of faith for their individual service and leadership in the church and community,
- Teaching biblical truths that equip people of all ages and diverse circumstances for life in the world,
- Nurturing the spiritual friendships and fellowships that bind people and generations together, and
- Reaching out to our community, nation, and world as a continuation of Jesus Christ's ministry on earth.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings ***Sharing the love of Christ in the heart of Hastings since 1873***

Head of Church: Jesus Christ
Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett
Director of Children & Family Ministries: Stephanie Brader
Organist: Linda Vollweiler
Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady
Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Susan Oliver
Accompanists: Mary Plock and Alice Throckmorton
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

Ministers: Members of the Church
Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Heitmann
Director of Adult Education & Spiritual Formation: Kili Wenburg
Parish Associate: Rev. Don Canady
Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Music Coordinator: Tim Canady
Administrative Specialist: Tarci Matthews
Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

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First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska
2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AGENDA

Sunday, January 28, 2018

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Moderator

Karen Doerr, Clerk

OPENING PRAYER – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

MINUTES

Approval of minutes from congregational meeting held January 29, 2017

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS & PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

-Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor

CLERK’S REPORT – Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session

FINANCIAL REPORT – David Fisher, Chair of Trustees

FOUNDATION REPORT – David Dirks, Chair of Foundation

2017 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Sharon Brooks, Chair of Nominating Committee

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2018 – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Deacons (5)	Session (4)	Trustees (4)
Teresa Canady	Brian Johnson	(Ordinarily 3, but a vacancy needed to be filled)
Linda Hall	Pat Kern	Sue Horton
Marni Soderquist	Erik Nielsen	Ted Schroeder
Peg Thomson	Neil Riley	Roger Sunderman
Lorna Zajack		C.L. Wimer

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2018 – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT, CLOSING PRAYER – Rev. Damen Heitmann, Associate Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Annual Report 2017

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings,

Since joining the staff of First Presbyterian Church in August of 2017 as Associate Pastor, I've spent the majority of my time working with the Senior High Youth. In this capacity I've led Wednesday Night Live Youth Group which has included Bible study, worship, games, service projects, a hayrack ride, and other activities. I've also had the pleasure of working with Justin Miller, who continues to volunteer his time and has been valuable in helping me get oriented and find my footing on Wednesday nights.

Also related to Senior High Youth I've led, assisted with, and planned Sunday School sessions. Sunday School has included Bible study, discussion, forums, Bid Board, and other activities. In this endeavor, I've had the joy of working with Kraig and Laurie Lofquist who have established wonderful relationships with the Senior High Youth and do an amazing job of meeting youth where they are. On Sunday mornings and on Wednesday nights the average attendance has been 15.

In addition to working with the youth, I've also been getting my feet wet with the Global Mission and Local Social Witness Committee. In my capacity there I've served as a staff liaison and participated in discussions related to communion offerings, global missions, service and discovery trips, and other business of the committee.

I've also been involved in Go & Serve endeavors, which has included helping to establish the Go and Serve Committee, assisting in fundraising efforts, assisting in and facilitating youth involvement, and helping to plan the upcoming trip in the summer of 2018. Really I've just been trying to help Tammie Nowka and the rest of the committee as best as I'm able.

On Sunday mornings my duties have ranged from preaching and leading services to serving as a liturgist. I've also led forums and sung with the Celebrate Band. On a couple of occasions I've filled in for Tuesday afternoon Bible study and helped out with other activities around the church as assigned or as was needed.

I also continue to serve as the Chaplain to the College at Hastings College where I lead weekly services, assist with students groups, provide spiritual counseling, and organize a service trip. I'm also in the process of establishing new programming through a combined effort of the Chapel Office and First Presbyterian Church.

Though I've only been working at the church for a little over four months, I must say that it has been a tremendous pleasure to be among you all in the capacity. It is a joy to work with such a talented, thoughtful, and dedicated staff. It is a thrill to hang out with such intelligent, joyous, and curious youth. It is and honor soak in the wisdom and love of a congregation devoted to the work of God.

Peace and all good,

Damen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH
Annual Report 2017

I continue to be “wowed” by the wonderful children and youth here at FPC! I am blessed to be a part of the energy they bring to the life of the church and I will try to highlight a bit of that energy below along with some of the other happenings in my position as Director of Education for Children & Youth.

Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live activities for the 2016/2017 curriculum period were on break over the late part of December 2016 and early January 2017. Activities were back in full force starting January 8 for Sunday School and January 11 for Wednesday Night Live. Teachers and Volunteers (listed in my 2016 Annual Report) from the Fall of 2016 continued to give of their time and energy. I reviewed curriculum for each of the grade levels and talked with teachers and volunteers to check that all was going well. Most of the classes continued as they had been. However, the Pre-K thru 2nd grade classes made a switch to SPARK Classroom curriculum for both Sundays and Wednesdays. The Jr. High WNL class finished the “Faith Commander” study and moved on to “God’s Not Dead” study. The Sr. High youth gathered each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening in January to prepare for Youth Sunday. They prepared an entire service from start to finish for February 5. They chose scripture, hymns, prayers, and wrote a message titled “Jesus Goggles”. After Youth Sunday, the WNL group moved on to a variety of studies covering the topics of Christian relationships, suffering, faith challenges, temptation, other religions, and women of the Bible. The Sr. High Sunday School class talked about different topics using the “We Believe: Faith Questions” study books. I finished distributing items from the 2016 Go & Serve Bid Board to the winning bidders.

On February 18, 23, and 26, a Child Protection Policy Training was held for any volunteers working with FPC children. During the training, the FPC Child Protection Policy was read. In addition, facts about child sexual abuse, steps to keeping kids safe, and interaction guidelines were discussed.

On March 17/18 from 6:30pm to 8:30am, a Jr. High lock-in was held. 12 youth and 4 sponsors were in attendance. Time was spent together gathering donations for the Adams County Food Pantry, playing games, watching movies, and participating in a devotional time with the topic of “temptation”.

On April 8, we invited the community children (up to 3rd grade) to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt in Alexander Park. Special invitations were also given to Pooh Corner families. Approximately 60 children participated. The FPC children paraded into the sanctuary on Palm Sunday, April 9, with their palms waving high. Easter brunch was provided by the CE Committee on Easter Sunday, April 16. On April 23, the FPC high school graduates were recognized at the 10:30am service. Each student was gifted with a bible in contemporary language titled “The Message”. CE Volunteer Recognition was part of the 10:30 am worship service on April 30. A video of FPC children and youth expressing thanks to our Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live teachers and volunteers was offered during the service. Also on April 30, a Sunday School Open House was held from 9:45-10:15. Attendees were

guided through the church classrooms and introduced to the children, youth, and teachers and discovered all they had been learning about throughout the year.

The 8th Grade Confirmation class, mentors, and parents shared a pizza and salad meal with the Session on May 3. On May 7, four youth were Confirmed in Faith. Each confirmand received a Prayer Journal and Confirmation Certificate. A short cake reception in the Memorial Room followed the service. May 7 marked the end of the 2016/2017 Sunday School period. May 10 was the last night of WNL for the 2016/2017 period. Families gathered for a WNL year-end picnic potluck at Libs Park. On May 15, a volunteer orientation was held for all of the Special Needs VBS volunteers. A volunteer orientation for our traditional VBS was held on May 16. The Commissioning of the all of the VBS volunteers was held on May.

21 during the 10:30 am worship service. Our first-ever Special Needs VBS was held from 9:00-11:00am May 22-25 and 5 children attended each day. 64 children attended the traditional VBS that was held from 2:00-5:00pm May 22-26. Family members and members of the congregation were invited to a closing celebration on May 26 at 4:30-5:00. The theme for the week was, "Maker Fun Factory; Created by God, built for a purpose."

Following VBS, I began the process of developing a list of volunteer positions needing filled for the upcoming 2017/2018 curriculum year and the duties and expectations of each. Then I reviewed names of persons in the congregation and contacted each that I felt would be a good fit. After much discernment and prayer, those that accepted a call to teach or volunteer for 2017/2018 curriculum year are as follows:

Sunday School Nursery: Leah Ratzlaff, Abigail Shetler, Erika Nielsen

Pre-K-Kindergarten Teachers: Nancy Grams, Kris Horton, Lois Hafer, Alissa Kidd

1st/2nd Grade Teachers: Irina Belikova-Erickson, Abigail Shetler, Justin Brader, Tom Ratzlaff

3rd/4th Grade Teachers: Jill Kramer, Daveta Brader

5th Grade Teacher: Traci Boeve

6th/7th Grade Teacher: Steph Brader

8th Grade Teacher: Dave Cooke

Confirmation Mentors: Tony Eddleman, Tom Ratzlaff, Chad Murrell, Pamela Lainson,

Kathy Reimer, Richard Johnson, Mary Fisk

9th-12th Grade Teachers: Kraig and Laurie Lofquist

Children's Moment: Nancy Grams, Lauren Canady

Attendance Recorder: Lynne Friedewald

WNL Pre-K-Kindergarten Teachers: Jane Marsh, Susie Graham, Cheryl Schukei

1st/2nd Grade Teachers: Leah Ratzlaff, Kathy Reimer

3rd/4th Grade Teachers: Jessica Allen-Pickett, Courtney Junker

5th Grade Teacher: Ann Koozer

6th-8th Grade Teachers: Erica Brooks, Steph Brader

9th-12th Grade Teacher: Justin Miller

WNL Recreation Leaders: Brady Rhodes, Eric Brader, Eleanor Oliver

WNL Laundry: Carol Grummert

WNL Dinner Dean: Chris Schukei

WNL Table Parents: Abigail Shetler, Richard Brader, Tom Ratzlaff, Leah Ratzlaff,
Mike Meyer, Becky Meyer, Courtney Junker, Damen Heitmann, Sharon Brooks,
Pam Lay, Don Canady, Ben Welsch, Jenni Welsch

In addition to filling the volunteer roles, I prepared fall curriculum schedules for each grade level. The Pre-K through 5th grades are all using SPARK Lectionary based curriculum for both Sunday School and WNL. The 6th and 7th grade groups are using the, "We Believe: Professing Our Faith; A Study of the Old Testament" curriculum for Sunday School. The 8th grade group uses the, "We Believe: Professing Our Faith; A Confirmation Study" curriculum for Sunday School. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade WNL group have discussed the following topics: unity, mission, attitude, identity, friendship, choices, and Christmas. As of August, the Senior High leadership has been covered by our Associate Pastor, Damen Heitmann.

On August 9, we hosted VBS at the YMCA from 8:30-11:30am. The YMCA asked local churches to sponsor one day of their 5-day VBS. Curriculum from day 1 of our traditional VBS was used. We kicked off our 2017/2018 curriculum year on August 20. The kick-off theme was, "Hear, Share, and Live the Story". To start the morning, students and parents had the opportunity to mingle in the Memorial Room with Sunday School and WNL teachers and enjoy breakfast pastries, juice, and coffee. Following this brief time together, students and teachers proceeded to their classrooms, while I held a parent information meeting. The meeting highlighted our Sunday School and WNL programming, schedules, and expectations. During the 10:30 am worship, a commissioning of all the CE volunteers was held. On August 27, an acolyte training was held. The acolyte training for all 4th through 8th graders included discussion on what it means to be an acolyte and the expectations of the youth.

In September, we started a special attendance recognition program. Children who routinely attend Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live get a chance at a worship leadership role. Each month, all children preschool thru 8th grade with 100% Sunday School or Wednesday Night Live attendance are entered into a drawing. Two children are chosen each month. The children get a chance to extend their faith growth to others by choosing to serve in one of the following worship roles: acolyte, usher, liturgist, music soloist, call to worship leader, prayer leader, children's moment leader or helper. On September 10, all the youth in Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 8th grade were presented with a personal bible. Kindergarteners received the SPARK Story Bible. Spark Bibles in NRSV were given to the 3rd graders. The 8th graders were presented with a CEB Student Bible. A communion class was held for the 1st-5th graders and their parents on September 24. Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett led the class. Then, on the following Wednesday, the children made unleavened bread to use for our October communion. On September 25, Kim Bogan, our FPC nursery worker, and I participated in an American

Red Cross class and successfully completed requirements for Adult CPR/AED and Pediatric CPR and First Aid certification which is valid for 2 years.

In October, I resumed the outreach opportunity with the children at Pooh Corner Preschool & Daycare. Every Tuesday morning from 9:00-9:30, I join one of the Pooh Corner classrooms. During our time together, I read a bible story and include an activity or game to enhance the lesson. The Jr. and Sr. High groups enjoyed special fellowship time on October 11. The groups went to Hannon Farms for a hayrack ride and cookout. 13 youth and 4 adults participated in the Jr. High Lock-In held on October 20/21. The schedule included dinner, games, devotion, service project, and breakfast. It was a great, fun night! Also, on October 31, the preschool through elementary aged children continued the annual tradition of Trickor-Treat for UNICEF.

At the beginning of November, the Jr. and Sr. High groups joined other youth groups for a Hearts & Hands Against Hunger packing event. On November 15, the Jr. High group gathered in the Annex gym with youth from the United Methodist Church for a friendly game of dodgeball and fellowship time.

The Jr. High group loaded the FPC van and headed out to shop for giving tree gifts on December 6. On December 10, the preschool through 8th grade children shared the story of why God came to Earth as a baby. The children's musical "Angels Aware" was shared during the 10:30 am worship service. December 17 marked the last Sunday School for 2017. On December 20 (the last WNL for 2017), most of the WNL groups had special fellowship time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Jr. High group met in the youth room for fellowship which included a movie and snacks. The preschool through elementary groups enjoyed popcorn while watching the recording of their Angels Aware program, looked for and counted nativity pieces and Christmas decorations throughout the church, played Christmas BINGO, and enjoyed a meal.

As you have read, many faith building opportunities including recreation play, service projects, meals, and other fellowship activities were incorporated into our Sunday School and WNL programs. It is a true blessing to grow in faith alongside the children and youth here at First Presbyterian Church!

In Christ's Love,

Stephanie Brader

DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL FORMATION
Annual Report 2017

Grace and peace to one and all!

My job continues to evolve, and I appreciate that it is always fresh and challenging!

My two most primary tasks continue to be those of planning/administering and communicating (email, sanctuary screen announcements, *Home Page* articles, flyers, and the “Learn, Grow, Serve!” weekly email).

With some groups and events, my planning/administering role is extensive and obvious; with others, I provide support only on the periphery. Either way, I am deeply indebted to those whose volunteer time or effort are the key ingredients to making many of our FPC ministries possible. I am thinking especially of those who lead classes, Forums, book clubs, and Bible studies, along with those who serve on the committees with which I work (Congregational Life and Adult Education). The Adult Education Committee is actually a new creation, begun mid-October of 2017. I am thrilled to have the support of this wonderful group of individuals who are passionate about lifelong learning!

On-going groups and gatherings which I oversee include the Forum class, the Heirs Apparent class, PW lesson leader briefings, Bible study groups (Tuesday noon, Wednesday morning, and short-term Wednesday evening), summer book club, the “Big Questions” college discernment group, Soup Group (now known simply as “Moms Group,” a sub-group of Mariners), and the now twice-monthly Taize services (8:30 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month).

Special events for which I provided support or leadership include the Sachtleben Observatory family field trip, the Guys’ Night Out, the Busy Person’s Retreat, the Intro to Yoga series, the Blessing of the Pets service, the Reformation celebration lunch, the New Members classes, the Understanding Islam series, and the FPC float in the HC Homecoming parade.

Perhaps my greatest joy is in the one-on-one work that I do as I line up courageous folks to give their reflections in worship, or chat with curious, growing individuals in the context of spiritual direction. I am blessed to be able to offer free spiritual direction sessions to those in our congregation, and I am glad to make myself available to those desiring accountability, support, assistance, or guidance in all things spiritual (which is actually all things, period).

This fall, it has been especially fun to work within the congregation-wide theme of “Hear the Story, Share the Story, Live the Story!” Many amazing stories have been heard and shared, and I hope that each of us is improving each day in our ability to *live* the story of faith.

Your sister in faith,

Kili

REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION

The following congregational data, which is also reported to Presbyterian Church USA, provides a brief snapshot of First Presbyterian Church in 2017.

Membership, December 31, 2016	644
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During the year, we received:

Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration	23
Certificate of Transfer	14
Confirmation	4

Losses:

Certificate	1
Death	7

Membership, December 31, 2017	677
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Young Adult/Adult Baptisms	0
Infant Baptisms	7
Weddings	1
Funerals	7

Age Distribution of Membership	Male	Female
25 & Under	44	48
26 – 45	54	78
46 – 55	32	42
56 – 65	53	72
66 – 75	58	78
Over 76	36	82

Average worship attendance:

8:30 Celebrate Band / Taize service	41 (23 Sundays)
10:30 Traditional Service	211 (52 Sundays)

Average weekly Sunday School attendance:

Youth (Nursery to grade 12)	42
Teachers	12
Adult Education – Bible Study	20
Adult Education – Heirs Apparent	10 – 15
Adult Education – Forums	20 - 30

Average Wednesday Night Live attendance:

Youth	54
Teachers	13

Active Officers:

Elders	13
Deacons	15
Trustees	9

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2017

It was a great year for the Congregational Life Committee. The committee membership refocused its efforts on some roles and responsibilities that had insidiously fallen by the wayside. The team “synergized” over the course of the year and also grew its membership.

The committee demonstrated a concerted effort over the course of the year to increase church membership. One strategy included reviewing the entire church membership and writing personalized letters to those whose attendance had tapered. This proved to be effective.

Other strategies to increase church membership included the use of “name tags.” The impetus for this strategy is that parishioners oftentimes don’t know the people sitting in the pews next to them. Moreover, we may not know our brothers and sisters in Christ that we regularly pass in the hallways. This “name tag” strategy was discussed over the course of the year, and will be implemented in the near future to bring us all closer as an organization that praises God.

This past year, the world experienced the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. A celebration was held at First Presbyterian Church to commemorate the event. A “Reformation Sunday Meal” was a part of that celebration. Chef Eron, from Hastings College catered the event with menu items from the Reformation era. The congregation brought other German dishes or a traditional family dish to share at the event. Martin Luther’s 95 Theses were placed on the dining tables for discussion. A great time was had by all.

The Congregational Life Committee also entered a float in the Hastings College Homecoming Parade. The kids that rode the float had a great time moving through the crowds who came out to watch the event. The 2017 parade motivated the committee to take next year’s float to the next level.

There were two other bonus events that were particularly successful during 2017. Specifically, an event was held at the Sachtleben Observatory in September. The number of church members that attended the event exceeded all expectations. The same was true for a Presbyterian “Guys’ Night Out” that was held at Hastings College on November 9th.

Finally, the committee also helped with numerous other special events over the course of the year, including, but not limited to: the installation of our new pastor, fifth Sunday events, Memorial Day Weekend, Mother’s Day, New Membership Reception, Church in the Park and Father’s Day.

We look forward to a fantastic 2018.

Respectfully,

The Congregational Life Committee

BOARD OF DEACONS

Annual Report 2017

The Board of Deacons is a ministry of caring and compassion for the members of our congregation. Just as a family needs care and nurturing, so does the Church family.

According to the Deacon Parish Plan, the members of the congregation are divided into 15 parishes with one deacon assigned to each parish. The goal of the plan is to ensure that all members of the church family stay connected to the life of the church.

Deacons have visited and kept in touch with members who are hospitalized, experiencing a serious illness or have lost a loved one. They have also celebrated the joyful times in life of our members recognizing the birth of babies, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, confirmation and graduations.

With the help of members of our congregation, we have coordinated and served lunch at funerals held at our church. Families experiencing a loss of a loved one have expressed appreciation to us for helping their families in this way. We hope to have as many members of the church as possible help in this important ministry.

Each Deacon is assigned one or two members (VIPs) of our church to visit each month. Our VIPs (Very Important People) are members who reside in nursing homes or retirement centers or are unable to get out of their homes easily. The Deacons are responsible, with the pastoral staff, for taking communion to the nursing home following each monthly communion service.

Each month the Deacons collect and deliver the donated food to the food pantry. They also deliver the flowers that are on the altar to members of our church who are hospitalized, sick or unable to attend the church service. We also provide transportation to those who need a ride to Sunday worship.

Being a Deacon is about "The loving and caring concern for each other". If all members of the congregation work with us towards this end we will develop a strong community of faith. It takes all of us to do the work of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Love,

Jeanne Hastings, 2017 Moderator

2017 BUDGET AND ACTUALS

2018 BUDGET

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Offerings and Income	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018
General Fund estimates - Current yr	\$ 444,950	\$ 444,950	\$ 516,576
General Fund unestimated giving	\$ 10,000	\$ 82,675	\$ 10,000
Other Miscellaneous Income	\$ 7,930	\$ 9,772	\$ 9,600
Per capita receipts	\$ 4,712	\$ 3,883	\$ 5,625
Pooh Corner/Annex Rental/Building Use	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,328	\$ 14,700
Transfer In - General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Total Offerings and Income	\$ 481,092	\$ 554,607	\$ 586,501
(Note that we had \$444,950 in pledges in 2017 and received \$82,675 or 18% more)			
The Mission - Local and Global Community Outreach			
Seminary Student Support	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Mission Co-Workers	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,500
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Hastings College Chapel Fund	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Adult Mission	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 2,000
Open Table			\$ 500
Omaha Presby Sem Found-Kessler Scholarship	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Refugee Resettlement 2013&2015 /Special Offerings - OGHS, communion, etc. 2014	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Local Mission - Discretionary	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,344	\$ 3,000
Youth Outreach	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700
Pooh Corner Utilities	\$ 6,700	\$ 8,376	\$ 8,380
Subtotal-Community Outreach	\$ 17,700	\$ 18,520	\$ 21,180
The Mission - Gathering to Worship			
Chancel Choir Director - Salary	\$ 6,130	\$ 6,130	\$ 6,130
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director - Salary	\$ 6,130	\$ 6,130	\$ 6,130
Chancel and Calvin/Westminster Bell Director	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Children's Bell Choir Director - Salary	\$ 3,400	\$ -	\$ 3,400
Children's Choir Director - Salary	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800
Organist - Salary	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500
Accompanists - Salaries	\$ 3,211	\$ 3,211	\$ 3,211
Music Coordinator	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Pulpit Supply	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
Special Worship Services	\$ -	\$ 528	\$ 350
Communion Supplies	\$ 250	\$ 123	\$ 250
Seasonal/Liturgical Décor	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 350
Copyright License Fees	\$ -	\$ 966	\$ -
Worship Enhancement - Flowers	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
Worship Services - Radio Broadcast	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Worship Services - Video Supplies	\$ 200	\$ 43	\$ 100
Cleaning - Choir robes, etc.	\$ 700	\$ 1,317	\$ 700
Books/Subscriptions - Worship & Music	\$ 100	\$ 109	\$ 100
Misc Committee Expense - Wor & Music	\$ 100	\$ 153	\$ 250
Subtotal - Gathering to Worship	\$ 54,211	\$ 52,611	\$ 55,871

2017 BUDGET AND ACTUALS

2018 BUDGET

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	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018
The Mission - Teaching the Word to our children, youth and adults			
Director of Child & Youth Education	\$ 25,000	\$ 23,623	\$ 26,250
Director of Adult Ed & Spiritual Formation	\$ 17,200	\$ 17,815	\$ 18,060
Dir. Of Child and Youth Education - Cont Ed	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Adult Ed & Spiritual Formation - Cont Ed	\$ 1,000	\$ 681	\$ 1,000
Curriculum and Supplies	\$ 7,200	\$ 5,190	\$ 7,450
Background Checks		\$ 469	\$ 500
Middle School and High School Youth Group	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,376	\$ 2,000
Wednesday Night Live	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,385	\$ 5,000
Library Books, Subscriptions and Supplies	\$ 1,400	\$ 909	\$ 1,400
Nursery Workers	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,448	\$ 1,500
Campus Ministry	\$ 200	\$ (14)	\$ 200
Retreats & conferences	\$ 500	\$ (50)	\$ 500
Church Officer Training	\$ 800	\$ 273	\$ 800
Camp Scholarships	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Adult Education Materials and Speakers	\$ 1,950	\$ 966	\$ 1,450
Subtotal - Teaching the Word	\$ 66,250	\$ 56,070	\$ 68,610
The Mission - Caring for our Congregation			
Parish Associate Wages		\$ 1,190	\$ 2,500
Parish Associate Mileage Reimburse		\$ 145	\$ 500
Deacon's Flower Fund	\$ 500	\$ 50	\$ 500
Deacon's Card/Postage Fund	\$ 100	\$ 146	\$ 100
Parish Nurse expenses	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Name Tags	\$ -	\$ 1,488	\$ 100
Special Events/Membership Recognitions	\$ 250	\$ 598	\$ 750
Adult New Member gifts		\$ -	\$ 50
Baptismal gifts	\$ 50	\$ 46	\$ 200
Outreach/Marketing and Welcome Brochures	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,034	\$ 1,200
Friendship Pads/Pew Cards	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
Subtotal - Caring for our Congregation	\$ 3,625	\$ 4,650	\$ 6,350
The Mission - Stewarding Church Facilities			
Custodian - Salary	\$ 19,500	\$ 12,051	\$ 32,240
Custodian - Health Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,484
Utilities - Gas, Electric, Water, Annex Utilities	\$ 37,000	\$ 36,162	\$ 37,000
Telephone and Internet	\$ 8,040	\$ 8,470	\$ 7,795
Maintenance & Repairs, landscaping, sprinkler	\$ 20,000	\$ 28,673	\$ 23,100
Custodial Supplies	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,607	\$ 2,500
Contract Svcs - Exterm, Trash, Lawn, etc	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,551	\$ 15,000
Kitchen supplies	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,828	\$ 3,000
Property/Liability Insurance	\$ 22,000	\$ 25,793	\$ 27,000
Copier Lease Expense	\$ 12,500	\$ 13,398	\$ 13,500
Van - Gas, Maintenance, Insur, Fees	\$ 100	\$ 231	\$ 200
Annex Maint., Repair, Contract Services	\$ 13,500	\$ 9,058	\$ 11,000
Subtotal - Caring for Church Property	\$ 158,840	\$ 160,020	\$ 181,869

2017 BUDGET AND ACTUALS

2018 BUDGET

PAGE 3 OF 3

	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018
The Mission - Proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Deed			
Head of Staff - Cash Salary	\$ 53,333	\$ 48,194	\$ 54,400
Head of Staff - Housing Allowance	\$ 26,667	\$ 22,222	\$ 27,200
Head of Staff - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 30,400	\$ 26,934	\$ 32,325
Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$ 5,400	\$ 4,365	\$ 5,400
Associate Pastor - Salary	\$ -	\$ 10,312	\$ 27,500
Misc Expense - Personnel Committee	\$ 500	\$ 200	\$ -
Pastor Nom Committee	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,838	\$ -
Subtotal - Proclaiming the Gospel	\$ 124,380	\$ 117,466	\$ 150,987
The Mission - Congregational Administration			
Administrative Specialist - Salary	\$ 34,840	\$ 34,840	\$ 36,582
Administrative Specialist - Pension/Health Ins	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,372	\$ 20,272
Office Staff Professional Development	\$ 1,000	\$ 940	\$ 1,000
Stewardship Expenses	\$ 700	\$ 759	\$ 700
Office supplies	\$ 5,300	\$ 4,013	\$ 5,000
Computer software/support	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Office New Equipment	\$ 500	\$ 560	\$ 500
Postage - Gen & Admin	\$ 500	\$ 507	\$ 800
Newsletter postage	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,596	\$ 1,800
Office Expense - Fees, etc.	\$ 800	\$ 462	\$ 60
Online Payment Fees		\$ 136	\$ 100
Professional Services - Audit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,100
Over/under	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal withholdings matching/SECA	\$ 14,875	\$ 14,751	\$ 17,612
Website Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 1,255	\$ 1,500
Subtotal - Congregational Administration	\$ 75,635	\$ 76,391	\$ 85,464
The Mission - Joining with Partner Churches, Supporting the work of the Presbyterian Church			
PC(USA) Per Capita	\$ 19,920	\$ 19,920	\$ 21,600
General Assembly Mission	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -
Synod Benevolence	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200
Presbytery Benevolence	\$ 35,350	\$ 35,350	\$ 35,350
Theological Education Fund (PCUSA)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Subtotal-Joining with Partner Churches	\$ 64,970	\$ 64,970	\$ 63,150
Total Expenses	\$ 568,231	\$ 551,280	\$ 634,881
Total Offerings and Income	\$ 481,092	\$ 554,607	\$ 586,501
Difference	\$ (87,139)	\$ 3,327	\$ (48,381)

ENDOWMENT FUND ACTIVITY REPORT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HELD ENDOWMENT FUNDS ACTIVITY 2017

	Beginning balance	Deposits/ Transfers	Withdrawals	Ending balance	Description Who can authorize
ADULT MISSION FUND	0.00	2,100.00	0.00	2,100.00	Fund started in 2017 for Adult Mission trips. Administered by Mission Committee.
BEREAVED FAMILY	2619.46	3100	2322.03	3397.43	"Slush" fund for funeral expenses, including meals, can be used to assist families. Authorized by Pastor.
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	42346.73	11592	4197.18	49741.55	To enhance Christian education activities of the church for such things as special projects, enhanced curriculum and supplies, camp scholarships, work study stipends to students. Administered by Christian Ed Committee
FOOD PANTRY	2845.04	2381.96	5018.77	208.23	Open Table bal \$2,741.04 was moved this year to start a new fund. This account is now solely Special offerings. Administered by Mission Committee.
GO & SERVE	62377.45	15383.32	22587.42	55173.35	Earnings available for annual Go & Serve trip. By approval of Session.
LANGENBERG LEGACY	27,055.53	57,960.00	24,194.21	60,821.32	For special needs in the church's music program as approved by Director of Music, Organist, and Session.
MEMORIALS	41,140.66	9,970.68	4,010.25	47,101.09	Fund for gifts awaiting designation. Administered by Memorial Gifts Committee.
MINISTERS' DESIGNATION	5,378.24	7,838.09	3,943.84	9,272.49	For support of needy persons or special opportunities within the church. At Pastor's discretion.
OPEN TABLE	0.00	5,029.04	4,727.40	301.64	For the Open Table Sack Lunch Mission, feeding local men, women and children with a free lunch thru Catholic Social Services. Administered by Mission Committee.
OUTREACH	3,747.33	903.00	1,364.93	3,285.40	For ministries beyond the walls of the church, earnings only. By approval of Session upon recommendation of Deacons, Pastor, or Mission Committee.
PROGRAM & LEADERSHIP	39,552.45	0.00	3,836.69	35,715.76	For special resource leaders & training opportunities for lay leaders. By approval of Session.
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT	10,042.64	28,663.38	38,706.02	0.00	For capital improvements, special programs and/or projects. By approval of Trustees.
SCHOLARSHIP	1,234.60	10,815.40	11,800.00	250.00	Provides assistance to eligible students at Presbyterian colleges. Administered by Scholarship Committee.
SEMINARY STUDENT SCHOOL	15,599.83	1,851.17	11,465.00	5,986.00	Provides assistance to eligible students attending seminary school. May be accessed by multiple committees.
SESSION DISCRETIONARY	-2.69	11,045.92	11,043.23	0.00	Principal & interest available for needs/opportunities within the church. By approval of Session.
TRUSTEES' DISCRETIONARY	63,814.58	109,239.32	61,918.13	111,135.77	Fund to set aside money to be used by Trustees. Expenses authorized by Trustees.
WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT	30,550.35	4,248.80	1,210.74	33,588.41	For flowers/radio/music ministry/library. Earnings used according to donor designation. Administered by Memorial Committee.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS FOUNDATION
Annual Report 2017

Balances in the 6 endowed funds managed by the foundation as of December 31, 2017:

Essex Scholarship Fund	\$2,282
Music Fund	1,586,983
Property Development Fund	413,734
Christian Education Fund	314,790
Scholarship Fund	264,393
Designated Uses	55,670
Total	\$2,637,852

These funds earned 13.96% for the year before fees of \$11,172.47 (43 basis points.)

At its January 22nd, 2018 quarterly meeting, the Foundation Board members finalized the distribution to the church's 2018 operating fund based on the 2017 results. Based on the 5% distribution formula used, a total of \$111,400 would be distributed for 2018 from the above endowed accounts to the church. (Music, \$79,500; Christian Education, \$15,800; Scholarships, \$13,300; Designated Uses, \$2,800.)

The Foundation paid \$350 for the preparation of its 990 Tax Form to the IRS.

The Foundation also manages on an Agency basis funds for the Session/Trustees. The December 31, 2017 balance in that account was: \$1,043,093. This fund earned 4.87% for the year before fees of \$4,724 (45 basis points.)

Dave Dirks , 2017 Moderator

GLOBAL MISSION & LOCAL WITNESS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2017

The committee meets the second Tuesday of the month and is responsible for developing our congregation's relationship to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly's state, regional, national and international mission initiatives and those for our Ecumenical Partners in correspondence with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by supporting, interpreting, and communicating the story of their work to our congregation.

This committee is also responsible for developing our congregation's relationship to the local ecumenical ministries and to develop, promote, and oversee our own concrete programs of Christian social witness in Hastings, Adams County and the surrounding areas with special attention to the areas of justice, peacemaking, ecology, hunger, housing, refugees, immigration and social services both religious and secular.

Four Session representatives participated on the committee with one serving as moderator.

Responsibilities and Activities this year:

- Partnered with the First United Methodist Church to coordinate the United Harvest Food Pantry. This year, the program involved more than 150 volunteers from the Hastings Community in setting up the operation in the Annex, serving an average of 410 family units with 30-40 food items and coordinating the delivery of items to shut-ins in an average of 25 homes per month.
- For the 14th year, members of the Open Table team, Jeni Howard, Meg Stewart-Magee and Katey Kingsley, gathered food donations, skillfully shopped for food items, set up the Fellowship Hall, and coordinated members of the congregation after Sunday late services to pack and deliver approximately 4800 lunches during July. Many of those lunches included hot entrees and salads offered at Catholic Social Services during the week.
- Worked with the Oversight Committee for Pooh Corner to organize space, renovations, and operations in the FPC educational wing.
- Partnered with the YMCA to provide healthy foods for young people once a month.
- Partnered with Crossroads to provide child care during parenting classes.
- Partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to collect suitcases and duffels for children going into foster care.
- Helped folks at Hastings College promote the showing of the documentary film, *Sober Indian/Dangerous Indian* about the problems with alcohol sales on the Nebraska border of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.
- Initiated Thursday night classes in Spanish language and culture.
- Welcomed migrant workers at an outdoor reception in July and provided Proteus Office with 150 long-sleeved shirts.
- Welcomed the Hastings Food Pantry to use the Annex.
- Coordinated with the Hastings Public Schools summer band program to provide scholarships for student participation.
- Helped promote the presentations by Jim and Joni McGill about their mission work on behalf of water/sanitation and health in Niger, South Sudan and Malawi.

- ## Communion Offerings--2017

February: FPC Youth sponsored the Souper Bowl of Caring (Hastings High School Food Bank)	\$911.00
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March 27/April: Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,978.00
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Pentecost Sunday (Helping Children 60% to PCUSA--\$639 and 40% to CASA-\$426)
\$1,065.00

August: Rite Care \$430.00

October: World Communion Sunday: Peace and Global Mission Offering (25% to Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings, formerly Kids Against Hunger) \$1,070.50

December 4: Mary Land Living Center	\$1,158.00
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Christmas Eve, December 24, Christmas Joy Offering	\$1,437.00
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The recipients of these offerings are determined by the committee and presented to the Session at their November meeting of each year. This committee is charged with the responsibility of keeping the congregation informed and involved in the work of both religious and secular organizations providing services and ministries of compassion and justice in our community and commending them for special financial and volunteer support.

- Managed the Hands Around the World Mission Store housed in Memorial Room.
- Participated in special offerings or drives for such ministries as Giving Tree, Hearts & Hands Against Hunger (formerly Kids Against Hunger), Happy Nappies, Open Table, Proteus (more than 60 items of clothing delivered), etc.
- Developed the annual mission budget and presented the committee's budget to the Budget Committee.
- Explored and promoted adult mission trips. Plans are in the works for a cooperative trip to Houston, Texas with Hastings College for hurricane relief. Next October, FPC will host a mission of discovery trip to Frontera de Cristo in Arizona. FPC has a connection with folks at Café Justo to supply coffee sold in the Hands Around the World Shop.
- Made our church welcoming via mission, such baking cookies with our neighbors at the Maryland Living Center.

Members of the Committee are: Chuck Bauer, Sharon Brooks, Anne Bohlke, Mary Fisk, Jan Ham, Damen Heitmann, Susan Hoff, Jeni Howard, Pamela Lainson, Pam Lay, Constance Malloy, Jane Marsh, Phil Odom, and Meg Stewart-Magee, Denny Storer.



HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

Annual Report 2017

Against Hunger

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger reached an amazing milestone this year by providing over 5 million meals to hungry children and families. We have now been in operation for nine years and without the help of 17,000 volunteers packing meals, monetary donations from people in the community and for First Presbyterian Church's support in letting us use the Church Annex this would not have been possible. Thank you for making a difference in the world.

We know our work is not done as long as there are children suffering hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. Last year our meals were sent to Haiti, the Philippines, Liberia, Kenya, Romania, India, Zambia, Nicaragua, Texas, New Mexico and our local food pantry.

We have found that not only is the food life changing for those who receive it but for many people the experience of helping others is also life changing. Young people realize they can make a difference in the world by participating in a mission project in Hastings, NE.

It is our hope and intention that the combination of feeding the hungry and encouraging participation in community service will spark a life-long desire in our volunteers to continue engaging in service activities that help provide for the needs of others.

We would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for supporting this project with their monetary donations, volunteering at events and by allowing Hearts & Hands to use the First Presbyterian Annex. We really appreciate everything First Presbyterian Church does to make this mission project possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Hastings
HHAH Committee Member

Groups that packed meals at Hearts & Hands Against Hunger During 2017

Faith Lutheran Church Hastings -24
Red Tide Home School Basketball Team & families - 39
Trinity Lutheran School Grand Island 5th & 6th Grades -41
Heartland Run About Camping Group -12
Hastings High Honor Society -42
Hastings High Key Club – 6
St Michael's Catholic School 4th & 5th Grades – 77
Sacred Heart Assumption Church Youth Group Roseland – 26
Bristol Station – 4
Adams Central Future Business Leaders of America – 32
Christ Lutheran Youth Group Juniata – 8
First Christian Church Hastings – 39
St Paul Lutheran Church, Blue Hill - 29

St Paul Lutheran Church, Holstein - 41
 Emily Greenquist's Birthday Party – 48
 Evangelical Free Church Grand Island 5th graders – 24
 Adams, Clay and Webster County 4-H Junior Leaders - 20
 St Cecilia 6th, 7th & 8th Graders – 109
 St. Paul Lutheran Church of Minden Youth Group – 37
 First Presbyterian Church Hastings Youth Group – 20
 Evangelical Free Church Hastings - 45
 Bladen United Methodist Church -29
 YMCA Teen Volunteers and YMCA Fun Club Kids - 60
 First Presbyterian Ministers – 10
 Sertoma 8-man Football Camp - 60 players & coaches
 First United Methodist Church of Columbus Youth Mission Group – 14
 First St. Paul's Lutheran Church Confirmation Class – 38
 Hastings College Scholars Academy, 7th and 8th grade students – 19
 Lakeside Nazarene Church – 10
 Knights of Columbus -30
 Goodwill Employees and Workers – 10
 Glenvil Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran Hastings, Lutheran Church of the Good Shephard – 45
 Zion Lutheran Clay Center – 10
 Major's Youth Council – 11
 Young at Heart Club -18
 Hastings High School Science Club – 21
 Catholic Youth and God Parents - 26
 Hastings Middle School 8th Graders – 136
 Girls on the Run – 26
 First St. Paul's Lutheran Youth Hastings – 76
 Unity House – 10
 Vader Family -9
 Mary Lanning Healthcare Employees- 20
 Blue Valley Blazers 4-H Club – 18
 St. Michael's Students – 20
 First Christian Church – 28
 Evangelical Free, First United Methodist, First Presbyterian Youth Groups – 147
 Peace Lutheran Youth Group - 20
 St Ann's Youth Group – 28
 St Cecilia High School – 85
 Christ Lutheran Juniata Youth & Zion Lutheran Youth – 31
 Blue River Coating – 30
 Silver Lake High School – 92
 ESU 9 Staff - 38
 Southern Valley FFA Chapter Oxford - 31
 YWCA High School Leadership Program - 10
 Trinity Lutheran School Grand Island 5th & 6th Grades - 38
 Hastings College Hunger Awareness Group Packing Event (Local/Global) – 425
 Mary Lanning Diabetes Hispanic Education Group - 59

LIBRARY YEAR END Annual Report 2017

The First Presbyterian Church library has over 5,000 volumes of fiction and nonfiction. These include major holdings in religion and theology, as well as collections of fiction, biography, large print and juvenile titles. In 2017, circulation was 310 items, down from 401 in 2016. Suggestions for increasing the usage of the library and for additions to the collection are always welcome.

Fifty-five books were added to the collection in 2017. Of these, 10 were gifts or donations and the rest were purchased with income from the Ann Binfield and C. G. & Idilla Jeffrey Wallace memorial funds. Of the 55 books, 14 were fiction, 31 were nonfiction and 10 were children's or young adult books.

The library also subscribes to 4 journals. They are Christian Century, Horizons Magazine, Presbyterian Outlook, and Presbyterians Today. Back issues are kept for 2 years.

Library use is open to all church members and friends, and is on the honors system. The checkout period is two weeks and books are always due on a Sunday, since that is the day the majority of members come to the church. Fines are not collected for overdue books. However, if you fail to return a book in a timely fashion, you will receive a notice.

Donations of items to the library are always accepted, with the understanding that if the librarian deems that they are not useful or appropriate for our library they will be donated to the Hastings Public Library book sale. Suggestions of items for purchase are always welcome.

The library is a member of the Church and Synagogue Library Association and receives a quarterly newsletter from this organization. Copies are available on the CSLA website.

We are preparing to automate the library catalog and check out system. This will likely be a long term project, possibly taking up to a year to complete. The current card catalog will be available until the switch is complete. Volunteers will be needed to input the data on each book in the library collection. The computer on which to store the catalog has been purchased, so we will begin inputting the data on the collection in the near future. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please contact me.

Sue Medsker-Nedderman

Librarian

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2017

The Memorial and Gifts Committee has been working very diligently to administer memorial funds for approved requests. The following requests were approved:

Funding Special Guest Speaker for Adult Education
Bookcases for Archival Room and Archival Annex Closet
Roses for Newborns (8 this year)
Library Book

Monies from the following funds were used:

Jon Bohlke
Dorothy Friedewald
Carl Throckmorton
Robert Foote
Eileen Robinson
Joan Swan
Interest

A total of \$1,404.93 was expensed in 2017. Of the amount, \$1,176.80 was from specific memorial funds and \$228.13 was from the Interest fund. The following transfers out were made: Greg Dielman - \$275.00 to Foundation Scholarship; Bob Dirks - \$1,270.00 to Foundation Scholarship; Stan Copley - \$25.00 to Go & Serve; Dixie Kerr - \$400.00 to Go & Serve; Nancy Smith - \$500.00 to W.A.M.'s worship enhancement (radio); and Edith Wilcock - \$150.00 to Go & Serve. Transfers out totaled \$2,620.00. A "Stained Glass" designated fund was established. Of the \$47,101.09 total at year end, \$22,201.17 has been designated and \$24,899.92 are undesignated.

The Committee gratefully acknowledges gifts received in loving memory of:

Lillian Baumann
Greg Dielman
Bob Dirks
Mary Jo Emmons
Arthur Langvardt, Jr.
Betty Payne
Wayne Specht
Joan Swan

A gift to the Interest fund was also received.

Throughout the year, memorials and gifts are thankfully accepted for designated and non-designated areas.

Moderator: Mary L. Olsen (Session)
Session Representative: Kay Georgiana
Trustee Representative: Kathy Utter
Tammie Nowka
Wihlma Price
Katherine Sachtleben

MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, Nebraska
January 22, 2017

The annual meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska was held on January 22, 2017 in the sanctuary. Moderator, Rev. Don Canady confirmed that a quorum was present and opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES: The minutes from congregational meetings on January 31, 2016, April 3, 2016, June 19, 2016 and October 30, 2016 were reviewed. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.
The retiring officers were thanked for their work and dedication over the terms of their service.

CLERK'S REPORT: The annual report of the Clerk was reviewed.

Membership, December 31, 2015	633
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During the year, we received:

Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration	11
Certificate of Transfer	13

Losses:

Certificate	3
Death	10
Other (declared inactive, affiliate)	0

Membership, December 31, 2016	644
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Young Adult/Adult Baptisms	2
Infant Baptisms	4
Weddings	3
Funerals	10

Special Offerings approved by the Session include:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Joy Offering
- Peacemaking
- Pentecost Offering
- Bible School Offering
- Monthly Communion Offerings

Average worship attendance:	
8:30 service	40
10:30 service	189
Average weekly Sunday School attendance:	
Youth (Nursery to grade 12)	52
Teachers	12
Average Wednesday Night Live attendance	51
Active Officers:	
Elders	13
Deacons	16
Trustees	9

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Clerk's Report as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

Necrology Report. The names of all members who passed away during 2016 were read and a prayer was offered.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Trustee Dave Fisher presented the 2016 year end budget review and the budget for 2017.

FOUNDATION BOARD: The Foundation report is printed in the annual meeting report booklet. A brief explanation was provided by moderator, Roger Doerr.

BYLAWS: Motion and a second to approve the bylaws of First Presbyterian Church as amended and reviewed by Session. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

For the Congregational Nominating Committee, the following slate is recommended: Member appointed from each board: Session, Deacon and Trustees.

Representing the congregation: Al Meyer, Richard Johnson, Tammie Nowka, Sally Smith and Vonda Essex. Motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of committee members as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Karen G. Doerr, Clerk of Session

MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
First Presbyterian Church
January 29, 2017

Moderator Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams called the meeting to order following the 10:30 a.m. worship service and opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was declared.

This congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian Church has been duly called and announced by the Session, to be held today, Sunday, January 29, 2017, for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the final report of the Pastor Nominating Committee and to elect the Reverend Gregory Allen-Pickett as Pastor.

Appointed as tellers are Curtis Reimer, Tammie Nowka, Ira Wierenga, Harvey Freetly and Mary Golgert.

Moderator of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Chris Junker reviewed the process followed by the PNC and presented the terms of call. The Rev. Allen-Pickett was introduced and invited to speak and answer any questions.

Motion by the PNC that the congregation elect the Reverend Gregory Allen-Pickett to serve as Pastor effective March 12, 2017 and that the congregation ask the Presbytery to concur with the call. A second was offered.

A vote was taken by all confirmed members of the church.

240 members voted, 237 voted yes and 3 ballots were unmarked; there were no negative votes.

The Reverend Allen-Pickett accepted the call.

Motion and a second to accept the terms of call as presented by the PNC.

Annual Salary	\$53,333	
Housing	\$26,667	
Total Effective Salary		\$80,000
Pension	\$29,200	
Social Security	\$4,080	
Total		\$33,280
Professional Expenses	\$3,000	
Travel Expenses	\$2,400	
Vouchered at IRS rate per mile		
Optional Dental, Vision	\$1,200	
Additional Expenses		\$6,600
Total Package		\$119,980

Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Motion and a second to release the Pastor Nominating Committee with grateful hearts and thanks.

Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

There being no further business, there was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting; upon a voice vote, motion carried. The Rev. Allen-Pickett provided the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen G. Doerr, Clerk of Session

MUSIC

Annual Report 2017

Music at First Presbyterian Church for 2017 was extremely active and extensive. The music staff included organist, Linda Vollweiler, Robin Koozer, Byron Jensen, Linda Johnson Tim and Teresa Canady, Susan Oliver, Mary Plock & Alice Throckmorton. Our music ensembles include: Praise Choir, Alleluia Choir, Praise and Alleluia Ringers, Calvin/Westminster Choir, Calvin/Westminster Ringers, Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, and the Celebrate Band. The latter group leads our contemporary worship which occurs primarily at 8:30 services, with input from: Erik Nielsen, Peter Lainson, Sue Medsker-Nedderman, Tim Redline, Hannah Hafer, Lucy Nielson, Mary Fisk & Phil Parker.

Without question, all music directors and musicians strive to provide music for meaningful and worshipful experiences.

With the addition of Pastor Greg Alan-Pickett and the increasing numbers attending services at First Presbyterian Church we hope to see growth in the musical ensembles as well. The Chancel Choir consists of about twenty-five to thirty members who regularly participate in choir. It would be great to see those numbers increase to consistently fill the choir loft. Please consider joining our outstanding music program even if you do not read music well. Music is a life-long activity that can be enjoyed by both young and old. We welcome new participants of all ages, backgrounds and experience levels.

In 2017, the choir and bells participated in more than 50 services (including Celebrate services), with summer music offerings from participants of the Langenberg Lesson Program providing music for services beginning Memorial Day Weekend. Additionally, the Chancel Choir participated in a community-wide Christmas program sponsored by Chorus of the Plains. The addition of our new church organist, Linda Vollweiler has truly been a blessing to our church family. Her constant presence has added a fantastic level of consistency and musicianship to worship for all who attend. All in all, I think the dedication of all our musicians represents an amazing presence and commitment to the life of First Presbyterian Church.

Monies from the Langenberg Legacy Program provided substantial support for the FPC music program in many ways. Hastings College students continue to serve as Langenberg Section leaders in Chancel Choir; altogether 13 students participated. Langenberg monies also supplemented worship services for additional instrumentalist for Easter and other services. Ongoing efforts to maintain the organ have resulted in improved mechanics within the organ chamber itself. Additionally, Langenberg monies were utilized to purchase a new set of bells for the Chancel Bell Choir.

Finally, the Langenberg Lesson Program reimbursed sixteen families and twenty-eight students for private lessons. These students also contributed their talents to the youth ensembles at First Presbyterian Church. In addition, representatives of this group provided musical leadership for twelve worship services during the summer months, by playing and or singing solos during worship. Please know that the Langenberg Lesson Program reimburses families \$250 per child per semester for private lessons, so please encourage your children to participate in this amazing program.

With thanks to everyone who participates in a music ensemble, directs a choir, or provides accompaniment, this music report is submitted to the congregation at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska. Collectively, all of us thank you and ask for your continued support and prayers.

In Christ's Name,

Tim Canady, Coordinator of Music

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS **Annual Report 2017**

Elders 2017: Chris Junker, Erik Nielsen, Tim Redline, Mary Olsen

2018	2019	2020
Sharon Behl Brooks	Chuck Bauer	
Karen Doerr	Anne Bohlke	
Kay Georgiana	Mary Fisk	
Harold Korb	Jessica Meeske	
Kraig Lofquist		

Clerk of Session: Karen Doerr

Deacons 2017: Mary Kay LaMaster, Chad Murrell, Kathleen Nelson, Chris Schukei, Rogene Wenburg

2018	2019	2020
Kim Creech	Dana Odom	
Jeanne Hastings	Lori Schroeder	
Jeff Howard	Joan Shaw	
Kenton Grams	Lindsey Stout	
Scott Kummer	Dawna Whitcomb	

Trustees 2017: Dave Fisher, John Harrington, Paul Krieger

2018	2019	2020
Dianne Christiansen	Neal Hoff	
Paula Crozier	Ted Schroeder	
Kathy Utter	Ken Stein	

Congregational Nominating Committee

2017

Moderator: Kim Creech	At-Large Member _____
Trustee Rep: Paula Crozier	_____
Deacon Rep: Mark Hemje	_____
Session Rep: Sharon Brooks	_____

At-Large Members: Vonda Essex, Richard Johnson, Al Meyer, Tammie Nowka, Sally Smith

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2017

The Personnel Committee met four times in 2017 to take care of routine staffing matters. The arrival of Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett in March filled our Head of Staff position, which took the pressure off the committee for day-to-day oversight. We believe that we are blessed with an unusually strong staff at this time -- in Christian Education, administration and music – and permanent ministerial leadership has only made the church's program and mission stronger.

At Pastor Greg's request, Personnel recommended and Session approved the hiring of Rev. Damen Heitmann on a half-time annual contract as Associate Pastor. Rev. Don Canady also was retained as a Parish Associate for 5 hrs. per week to assist with visitation. These positions have been created initially for a period of two years with financial support from the FPC Foundation, with the intent to review the need and congregational support at the end of that time.

Staff evaluations were completed in November by Pastor Greg. The committee deferred the annual Senior Pastor review until April or May of 2018 (returning to August in 2019), due to Pastor Greg's date of arrival.

Finally, as the year came to a close, Tony Calhoun was hired in late December as Facilities Manager/Custodian to replace Kurt Gibson, who wished to retire.

The Personnel Committee expresses its appreciation to all of our excellent staff members for carrying on the important work of the church during the long transition to our new Senior Pastor. The burden was great, but they carried it with grace and good humor. Thank you on behalf of the congregation.

Lynne Friedewald – Moderator
Susan Oliver
Tom Ratzlaff
Tim Redline
Rich McKenzie
Karen Doerr – Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Annual Report 2017

Presbyterian Women met the first Wednesday of the months of February, March, April, May, September, October, November, and December. As it is stated in the "Presbyterian Women's Purpose", we meet to nurture our faith, to support the mission of the church worldwide, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women. All women of the church are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

In 2017 PW contributed financially to church mission projects including the PW Thank Offering, the PW Birthday Offering, the Least Coin Offering, the Healthy Families/Healthy Women Project, the Jim Magill Water Wells Project in Malawi and Niger, the Hunger Fund, and the CROP Walk. In addition members donated to "Save the Girls", Presbyterian Disaster – Hygiene Kits, and sleeping mats for local homeless shelters.

Women's Sunday was March 5. Pastor Don gave the sermon. Members of PW read the scriptures, and served as ushers and greeters. May Wierenga and Mary Lewis were recognized, and honored with PW Life Time Pins for their service to the church.

During their May Salad Luncheon, Church Women United honored Tammie Nowka as the Outstanding Young Woman for 2017,

PW programs for 2017 were: February: "Finding Balance" presented by Dr. Jen Ramaekers; March: "Sermons a la Carte" at St. Mark's Episcopal Church; April: "Recycling in Hastings" presented by Jeff McCoy; May: Campbell Spring Tea and Church Women United Salad Luncheon; September: "Introduction to the 2017-2018 Bible Study" presented by Kili Wenburg; October: Annual Guest Salad Luncheon, "Presbyterian Women and Missions" presented by Pastor Greg; November: "Reading opportunities" presented by Mary Fisk, and "Sleeping Mats mission project" led by Nancy Grams; December: "Christmas Music" performed by Linda Vollweiler.

Revised PW By-Laws were accepted in September after being presented by committee and reviewed at the April meeting. A copy is available in the church office and in the supplies of each PW officer.

Money given to PW in memory of Jean Boeve was used to purchase a rolling coat rack for the Fellowship Hall, and to augment the Christmas Joy Offering. Thank you to the Boeve Family.

Circles met for Bible study and fellowship on the third Wednesday of each month, January through May and September through December. Kili met with lesson leaders each month, giving suggestions and methods for presenting the lesson. The Horizon Study Lessons for this year were: "Who is Jesus" and "A Cloud of Witnesses".

The Quilter's Group met each Tuesday at 1:00 pm in the Annex. They worked on several quilts including one for the Go and Serve Bid Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogene Wenburg, Moderator

General checking account

Balance forward December 31, 2016		<u>\$1,790.85</u>
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Receipts:	Apportionments from circles	\$2,400.00
	Birthday Offering	\$455.00
	cancelled check	\$30.00
	Least Coin	\$43.60
	Luncheon	
	receipts	\$555.00
	Collections	\$570.00
	PCUSA Hunger Fund	\$89.46
	Thank Offering	<u>\$395.00</u>
	Total income	\$4,538.06

Expenses:	Birthday Offering	455.00
	Church Women United - dues	\$40.00
	Collections remitted - Mother's	
	Day	\$460.00
	FPC for postage, copies	\$100.00
	Gifts for	
	speakers	\$77.50
	Honoraria	\$250.00
	Honorary memberships	\$190.00
	Horizons Magazine subscriptions	\$75.80
	J Boeve memorial funds - FPC for coat rack	\$340.57
	Least Coin	\$43.60
	Library books	\$100.00
	PCUSA Hunger Fund	\$89.46
	Pres. Central NE - mission pledge	\$1,500.00
	Pres. Central NE - presbytery/synod support	\$225.00
	Thank Offering	<u>\$395.00</u>
	Total expenses	\$4,341.93

Balance on hand December 31, 2017		<u>1,986.98</u>
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Regular savings account	937.41	
Interest	<u>0.94</u>	
total	938.35	<u>938.35</u>

Frances Anderson Memorial Fund	2,108.91	
Interest	<u>1.38</u>	
Total	2,110.29	<u>2,110.29</u>

Total assets on December 31, 2017		<u>5,035.62</u>
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Annual Report 2017

The Board of Trustees' primary responsibility and endeavor is to maintain, protect, enhance and preserve the Church physical facilities to promote and support the mission of First Presbyterian Church to its congregation, the Hastings community and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

In fulfilling such mission, the Trustees (1) implemented and facilitated use of the Annex by FPC groups, members and by community charitable and religious organizations, keeping it heated, repaired and functional; (2) approved and facilitated the remodeling and refurnishing of five Christian Education rooms; (3) continued to work with Pooh Corner concerning facility use and repair; (4) replaced the air conditioner serving the sanctuary in the midst of the summer heat; (5) facilitated and instituted (with Langenberg fund support) funding of music scholarships, hand bell repair and replacements, piano tuning and maintenance, and organ tuning and repairs; (6) kept our multi-million dollar facilities properly insured; and perhaps most important, for year 2017, (7) facilitated the relocation of Pastor Greg and his family to Hastings.

The Trustees can successfully perform only with the contribution of time, talents and money by our members. FPC has the most beautiful church in Hastings which is forever in need of improvement, preservation and maintenance. The Trustees again thank the congregation for its prayers, personal involvement and what is shaping up to be a successful 2018 stewardship campaign.

Thanks be to God for the blessings bestowed on this church and each of us individually.

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Fisher, 2017 Moderator

WORSHIP, ARTS AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2017

The Worship, Arts and Music Committee is one of the main committees overseen by the Session. Our duties are to watch over and direct the worship and music life of the church, in accord with the Presbyterian Directory of Worship; to maintain the instruments owned by the church; and to carefully utilize the Langenberg funds in conjunction with the Trustees and Session.

The music staff consisting of Tim Canady, Music Coordinator and Praise/Alleluia Choir Director; Linda Vollweiler, Church Organist; Dr. Robin Koozer, Chancel Choir Director; Dr. Byron Jensen, Chancel and Calvin/Westminster Handbell Director; Linda Johnson, Calvin/Westminster Choirs; Mary Plock Calvin/Westminster Accompanist; Alice Throckmorton, Praise/Alleluia Accompanist worked very hard to provide a year of wonderful music for First Presbyterian Church.

This year we welcomed our new Pastor, the Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett who was installed on Sunday, May 7th. It has been an exciting year with Greg and we look forward to working with him for many years to come!

Starting in August, the services were arranged so there was always an 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service every Sunday held in the Sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service remains the Traditional Service. Taize services will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, while the Celebrate Service will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays. If there is a 5th Sunday, the 8:30 a.m. will be a Traditional Service as well. Both the Taize and Celebrate Service continue to provide an alternative to the traditional services and we would like to thank the organizers of both services for their dedication and hard work.

This year we received a generous donation from First Presbyterian Church in Lexington. The church in Lexington no longer has a choir and has given all their choral music to First Presbyterian Church Hastings. Any duplicates that we already had were passed on to various churches. We thank the Lexington Church for their generous gift.

On September 17th, we had our first "Blessing of the Pets" service at Alexander Park. A wide variety of pets were blessed in this outdoor service!

October 29th we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The bible readings were read in French and German, an accordion helped with the music performance and even two members of the church were dressed in full German attire!

On December 24th, we celebrated five Church Services. At 10:30 a.m. we held a "Lessons and Carols" service. At 3:30 p.m., we held a special ecumenical service at College View. At 5:30 p.m., we held our Christmas Eve Family service, 7:30 p.m. our Communion and Candlelight service, and at 11:00 p.m., a Contemplative service.

This has been an exciting year of worship and our attendance numbers have increased this year. We hope to continue this trend and continue our continued service to Worship, Arts, and Music.

Members of Worship, Arts and Music:

Moderator – Erik Nielsen (Session); Session Representatives – Mary Olsen, Mary Fisk; and members: Ginny Locke, Becky Meyer, Lydia Meyer, and Alice Throckmorton.

What's Happening at the Annex

Mondays

3:30 – 5:30	RedTide Homeschool Girls Basketball
6:30 – 8:30	RedTide Homeschool Boys Basketball

Tuesdays

1:00 – 3:00	Quilters
5:30 – 6:30	Life Source Dance Class
7:00 – 8:00	CCC Dog Obedience Class – NE Room

Wednesdays

1:00 – 3:00	RedTide Homeschool Girls Basketball
4:00 & 6:30	Jr. & Sr. WNL (during school year)

Thursdays

6:30 – 7:30	Spanish Class
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Other Activities at the Annex throughout the Year

FPC Walking Group – Monday thru Friday
Basketball Tournaments & Games
Boy Scouts Troop 200 Overnights/Pine Wood Derby/Conditioning
Family Birthday Celebrations
Family Dinners
Family Reunions
Go & Serve Craft Fair
Volleyball Tournaments & Games

Feeding Ministries at the Annex

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger – Food packing (see report on pages 21-22)
United Harvest – Monthly Mobile Food Pantry serving 400+ Families
Hastings Food Pantry – Storage and Sorting Facility