



ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017

*Prepared for the Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 25th, 2017*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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**Pilgrimage United Church of Christ
Annual Report
2016-2017**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2016-2017

It's been a very busy time at Pilgrimage since I somewhat apprehensively moved into the President's role back in early March.

Over the past few months, the Executive Committee has met with Pastor Kim to discuss and clarify our collective vision for this congregation and how we can all better work together to energize and grow this ministry. How do we sharpen our focus, improve communications, leverage our talents and make PUCC a more vibrant, welcoming, engaging and spiritually nourishing community for all of our current members . . . as well as those who seek to join us?

In the meantime, we've also worked through an activity-filled period in the course of our spring church calendar. Among other things, we observed Holy Week and celebrated Easter, shared a memorable Seder meal, hosted Family Promise, collected books for school kids, served lunch at MUST, discussed and refined plans for important building improvements, held a couple of work days, threw a hot dog & ice cream social, welcomed several new members, began assembling back-to-school back packs and executed yet another unforgettable week of Pilgrimage VBS!

Sounds like quite a list, doesn't it? And when you consider all of this was accomplished by a congregation of barely over 100 members (plus a few occasional visitors and guests), it makes you realize just how much drive and spirit we have at the heart of our rather small, yet very dedicated, PUCC congregation. And if we could just increase our numbers by a slim margin . . . maybe just 15 or 20 to start . . . imagine what more we might be able to do for our children, our neighbors, our community and our world.

And speaking of dedication, I'd like to thank those who have faithfully served on the Council this past year with special acknowledgement to the Executive Committee members who do so much to keep things running smoothly. Chris Shiver deserves a mention, too, for his tireless efforts as head of Properties. I'd also like to recognize the Growth Planning team for all their hard work in evaluating building plans and improvements and guiding our efforts to ensure our church facility can meet future needs.

Finally, I'd like to thank Clay Roth, who is stepping down from his position as Financial Secretary after several years of service, and my wife, Janet, who is ending her multi-year run as Missions co-chair. I'm hoping we can fill these two key positions with folks who are equally talented and committed. I'm also crossing my fingers that someone will step forward to serve as Council VP as we embark upon the next year of our Pilgrimage journey.

As always, the church greatly appreciates your interest, involvement, and support . . .

Ben Alspach
President

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

The 2016-2017 council year (July 1 to June 30), has been a good financial period for Pilgrimage. Pledging for this period was up from previously and as such we have been working to watch costs and build a small reserve.

This build-up is reflected in the management of stock in our E-trade account. As we have been fortunate to hold onto top tier stock are now seeing dividend payments providing us with added revenue to the annual budget. This should help position the church for the longer term as we continue to develop a solid financial future and existence.

We are also renting space to people and this is providing some additional revenue for the annual budget.

We also have started budgeting for building repairs and that was fortuitist as we had to replace the front doors. As we know some larger expenses might happen due to the age of the facility and we want to be fiscally responsible and make sure we have allocated the funds if needed.

During this period, members additionally donated the following:

\$766	Neighbour's in Need
\$1,721	MUST and Missions
\$5,727	Deacons Fund
\$875	Christmas Fund
\$1,161	Youth Group
\$6,842	Capital Improvement

In addition, cash contributions were given for food for our MUST lunches, and members donated generously to other mission programs and sponsored vacation Bible school volunteers, OGHS, Flowers, Music and for the OCWM.

Geoff Heilhecker, treasurer

Financial Secretary's Report

Fiscal Year 2017

The following is a summary of the pledges and contributions made to Pilgrimage United Church of Christ.

History of General Fund pledges since 2013.

Year:	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pledging Families:	46	48	46	56	51
Pledge Total:	\$164,672.00	\$177,440.00	\$158,874.00	\$171,432.00	\$184,606.00
Total Contributions including non pledges:	\$182,752.00	\$201,684.67	\$222,093.20	\$229,617.30	TBD

The Donarius Organization Management software is still in use for contribution tracking, financial reports and statements. Quarterly statements will continue to be printed, and reports can be requested at any time.

The success of this position is due to the support and commitment from the counter team.

My sincere thanks to: Greg Kask, Jeff Durkee, Susan Volentine, Sarah Holliday, Dawn Martin, and Bill & Kathleen McNulty.

Respectively submitted,



Clay Roth
Financial Secretary

Clerk's Annual Report
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Total Membership June 30, 2016	113
<i>New Members</i>	11
<i>Inactive Members Now Active</i>	2
 September 2016	
Kimberly Ortiz	
 January 2017	
Keith MacAnn	
Steve Owens	
Gay McCormick	
Rachel Puente	
Adrian Puente	
 June 2017	
Meg du Plooy	
Braam du Plooy	
Victoria Owens	
Jaime Fulsang	
Margaret Conley-Greene	
 Confirmations	 1
 Transfers	 8
Transfer to Inactive (6)	
Transfer to Former Members (2)	
 Deaths	 1
Marriages and Unions (0)	
Baptisms (4)	
 Total Membership June 30, 2017	 118 (Includes Confirmands)

Pastor's Annual Report: June 2017

In our Pilgrimage Mission Statement, we say that we “seek to grow in worship, learning, and service as a faithful people of God.” As I look back on the past 12 months, I’d say our seeking has been successful.

Worship. In response to the fallout from last Fall’s contentious presidential election, a member came to me with the idea of starting a praise worship service. The service would offer a time of singing and prayer, a time simply to come together and remember what unifies us—our love of God. We found gifted and experienced people within the congregation to provide leadership. Thus far, we’ve had two praise services. Responses have been positive.

We’ve also grown in worship this year by means of social media. Thanks to the stellar work of Communications chair, Trudy Stoddert, we’ve been live-streaming sermons on Facebook since last Fall. During a snow/ice storm in January, Allen and I live-streamed an entire service. That was definitely a growth experience in worship this year!

Learning. Adult learning opportunities have grown significantly in the last year. Last summer, Rev. Trish Greeves taught the course she wrote called “Prophetic Faith.” Matthew Alexander taught a class on deepening community. Julie Binney facilitated a discussion of the White Privilege curriculum put out by the UCC. Mid-week Bible Study resumed during Lent. A separate Bible Study group has been meeting since Lent. A class on prayer begins soon. A group also was formed to study and become active in advocating for Climate Change Mitigation.

Service. Our ongoing commitments to service initiatives—Family Promise, MUST lunch, and several projects led by the Missions Committee—have continued. We also have continued to reach out to our friends at Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, doing what we can to build bridges of understanding. One way we have grown in service this year is to commission Pilgrimage member Cathi Cahn for a trip to visit an orphanage in Zambia. Our efforts now are extending internationally.

Our biggest challenge this year has been discerning what to do about badly needed renovations to our current facility and coming up with a plan to replace the Next Generation House. The Growth Planning Team, under the very able leadership of Bill Dischinger and Ric Reitz, has gone above and beyond in doing the meticulous behind-the-scenes work necessary to providing information to the congregation.

It will be a joy this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our congregation’s vote to become Open and Affirming. Pilgrimage’s decision in 1997 to become ONA was brave and prophetic. We were among the first churches in the UCC to become ONA. As we approach the anniversary, our ONA Team—led by Sarah Holliday and Ugena Whitlock—are leading us in updating our ONA Covenant. Plans for other recognitions and celebrations are in the works.

Many thanks to all who have served Pilgrimage in some capacity this year. Pilgrimage depends on its members stepping up to make things happen! A special thanks to Janet Alspach and Clay Roth, who are finishing multi-year terms of service as Missions co-chair and Financial

Secretary, respectively. Each of you has worked tirelessly. How grateful we all are to each of you. Thank you.

It continues to be a joy to serve with you in ministry. I look forward to seeing how we'll grow *this* year!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Kimberleigh Buchanan

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

2016-2017

We owe many thanks to the members of the Christian Education Committee this year –Karen Clark, Paula Roberts, and youth director, Wayne Scott. We welcomed new teachers Lily Appleton and Steve Owens. Also thanks to Trish Greeves and Kim Buchanan for their guidance and support of the many aspects of Christian education at Pilgrimage.

Sunday School

Seasons of the Spirit curriculum was again used during the year for our children. Our thanks go out to Lily Appleton, Janet Derby, and Paula Roberts for teaching our children and mid-high youth. The confirmation class was taught by Wayne Scott.

We had a variety of adult classes this year, including the weekly discussion surrounding the Scriptures and worship with Kim Buchanan and Anne Mooney as facilitators. Additional Sunday morning classes included, a Prophetic Faith Class led by Trish Greeves, a Community and Spiritual Gifts class led by Matthew Alexander, a White Privilege class led by Julie Binney, and a climate group led by Hugh Lowrey. Other opportunities included the women’s retreat led by Rochelle Lofstrand, an evening spirituality group led by Trish Greeves and a mid-week Lenten Bible Study led by Kim Buchanan. The Lenten Bible Study led to a “trial” for an early Sunday morning Bible from Scratch opportunity led by Steve Owens.

Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS, with the theme of *The Bread of Life*, was held in June of 2017 with 18 students. The children made 60 lunches for the MUST summer lunch program, packed food for MUST’s food pantry, and created altar cloths for new worship tables for the children and youth Sunday school rooms. Thanks go to Morgan Jones for facilitating our missions area this year. Thanks also again go to the congregation for their support and to Kim Buchanan for again composing our theme song. We had 12 youth helpers and 10 adults, along with many sponsors and snack helpers.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Derby, Anne Mooney, co-chairs

Annual Report - Youth Program

JUL 2016 - JUN 2017

Confirmation

We started the year with five confirmation students. Throughout the year, three of those youth stopped attending Pilgrimage UCC for various reasons. Danielle Cahn and Sarah Loche were in mostly regular attendance throughout the entire year. The confirmation mentors, Lynne Buell for Danielle and Janet Derby for Sarah also participated in some of the classes throughout the year. Danielle was confirmed and Sarah received a blessing for her faith journey. *Special thanks to Lynne and Janet for volunteering their time and talent as Confirmation Mentors.*

Worship

The youth continued to perform the worship volunteer responsibilities as greeters, ushers, and scripture readers on the third Sunday of each month. We had a total of 12 youth serve as worship volunteers at some point throughout the year.

The youth were also invited to attend the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Temple Kol Emeth and Jeff Dixon participated in the youth prayer during the service.

Missions/Service

This year the youth were given opportunities to participate in the following mission oriented activities.

- Random Acts of Kindness Challenge - The youth were challenged to do as many random acts of kindness as possible last summer. At the conclusion of the challenge the youth shared all of the different ways they acted “the world into well being.”
- Great Lake Allatoona Cleanup - The youth were invited to help clean up a section of shoreline on Lake Allatoona near Galt’s Ferry Day Use Area.
- Christmas Cards for Shepherd Center - During our youth luncheon in December the youth filled out Christmas Cards to be delivered to the Shepherd Center as part of Holly CothranDrake’s annual Christmas drive. *Special thanks to Holly for supplying the Christmas cards for the youth to fill out.*

Winter Youth Retreat

We had six Pilgrimage youth participate in the UCC Winter Youth Retreat in January. This year’s theme was “Purpose.”. As part of that theme the youth were given a three-step framework for finding their purpose. First, make a list of skills/activities that you enjoy and are good at. Second, make a list of real world problems (local or global) that you are passionate about improving. Last, but certainly not least, think about how you can use items from the first list to help with items on the second list. This process is based on a quote in Frederick Buechner’s book, Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC, “The place God calls you to is the place where

your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." *Special thanks to Lily Appleton and Stephen Williams for chaperoning the trip and to the Kasks for lending us their van for transportation.*

Fellowship

We held a total of nine monthly youth luncheons this past year with an average attendance of four youth per luncheon. At our largest luncheon in October we had 9 youth in attendance!

In addition to the monthly luncheons the youth were given opportunities to participate in the following youth fellowship activities.

- Youth Family Picnic - We had five youth families (nine youth & six adults) represented at the family picnic at Galt's Ferry Day Use area on Lake Allatoona.
- Youth Fireside Chat - Deb Loche hosted an evening of spiritual learning and fellowship at her home in October. She facilitated a discussion with the youth in which they were encouraged to look up Bible verses/stories that could help them with their own personal challenges. We also shared in a meal together and the youth had free time to just have fun together. *Thank you, Deb, for coming up with the idea and for hosting the event!*
- Good Friday Movie Viewing - Wayne Scott & Stephen Williams hosted a viewing of the movie, Killing Jesus, on Good Friday. Pastor Kim joined us for this event as well. We paused half way through the movie to share in a meal together and concluded the evening with a discussion about the movie. *Thank you, Pastor Kim, for helping the youth process this movie through discussion.*
- Six Flags Field Trip - The youth were invited to spend a day together having fun at Six Flags Over Georgia. The rain cut our day a little short at the park and we ended up eating dinner together at a Waffle House on the way back. Even with the rain the youth were not ready for the day to come to an end!

Deacon Annual Report for 2016-2017

Over the past year, the deacons have provided communion weekly for the 8:30 service, monthly for the 10am service, and have participated in all extra worship services, providing communion as needed. This year we added a special communion wafer that has no known allergens for those in our community with health issues. Thanks to Carol Reed for providing our first supply of these wafers. We met in September, February, and June. We had one deacon, Kathleen McNulty, retire and welcomed a new deacon, June Adams.

The deacons had good participation for the MUST Thanksgiving collection. We had Trivia Night in February. The theme was UCC history. It was a smaller group, but very intense and lots of fun.

We will be working with Missions to have the Betty Roth Memorial Backpack and School Supply drive. This will take place in June and July.

Staff review forms were handed out in April, and the data collated, typed, and given to Council in May. Dr. of Friendship forms are going out in June and we hope to make that award at the first of July.

The deacons continued to receive support through the 5th Sunday Deacon Fund collection. These funds have gone to members of the congregation in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Shiver
Chair of Deacons

MISSIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

The Missions Committee began the year with the backpack drive. We collected sixteen complete backpacks for underprivileged children. This was Betty Roth's treasured project, and the committee has decided to dedicate this endeavour to her memory in the future. We are resuming this project along with the Deacons this month.

Rita Mehlan agreed to lead the MUST lunch program and has continued to do so every 5th Tuesday. We are grateful for her hard work as well as everyone who bakes chicken or helps serve.

In the fall, the missions committee held a bake sale. We raised \$356 to buy space heaters for MUST ministries. We also worked with the Deacons to provide Thanksgiving baskets. We collected the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund.

Gifts were collected for the Lost and Found ministry and the missions committee used funds from Betty Roth's memorial fund to purchase gifts for a family in need at Argyle Elementary.

In February, we held "Undie Sundays" to collect personal items for MUST Ministries. Hugh Lowrey also shared needs for a "climate change" group, and this has taken off. Cathi Cahn shared information on an international project, and there will be more to come on that front.

The Neva Reitz Memorial Book Drive was a booming success. We delivered over 700 books to Argyle Elementary. Thanks to the church's generosity, each child took two books home for the summer. A big thank you to Sally Prah! who did all of our shopping.

In addition to all of these projects, Missions hosted Family Promise in September, December, March and April. We saw several families leave us for their permanent home and were blessed to have been part of their lives.

The missions committee would like to thank Janet Alspach for her years of service in making our church and the world a better place. She has been the epitome of grace and compassion and led us with integrity and selfless devotion to the greater good.

Christy Stanley
Co-Chair

Communications Committee 2016 – 2017

July 2016

With the assistance of Lynne Buell, we rolled out the online PUCC Directory using Google Documents. Feedback has been positive from the congregation.

Initiated our FB live streaming of the 10am service on July 24. After figuring out some initial hiccups, it has gone smoothly, viewership has increased, and feedback has been positive from the congregation. See below for monthly viewership numbers.

August 2016

In addition to continued FB streaming, we had an ONA booth at the Pride Atlanta School. Made a connection with an author on the science of being transgender and spoke to the book club about the possibility of a speaking event.

September 2016

Continued FB streaming of sermons. Started redesign of the PUCC brochure.

October 2016

FB streaming continued.

PUCC was offered the opportunity to march in the Pride Parade with Pride Atlanta School. Had 5 folks interested in participating. Unsure of the PUCC turnout.

Brochure was completed.

November 2016

While we have less than 10 viewers during the live stream, our post-event viewership numbers have been increasing.

October 30: 68

October 23: 62

October 16: 67

October 9: 127

October 2: 78

As this has turned out to be a valued resource for our church community, we put out a call to train others in FB live streaming so that we could have continued broadcast coverage during absences of regular live streamer.

December 2016

Nothing to report besides continued FB live streaming.

January 2017

FB Live streaming services:

- Christmas service was split into 3 videos, with 82 views, 49 views, and 146 views, respectively.
- Ice-weekend entire service from Kim and Allen's home. We had about 30 people attend the stream live but have had 347 views total (as of 11:30 on 1/12/17).

Was still looking for helpers to learn how to live stream.

February 2017

- Dick Mehlan (and Kim) has been trained on live streaming so now we have coverage if Trudy is unable to attend Sunday service.
- While we are only getting around 3-6 Facebook live viewers during the sermon, we are currently averaging 70-90 total views per sermon.
- Looked into streaming entire service. Determined it was not feasible with our current copyright licensing.
- Putting together a timeline/budget for Facebook ads for this year. Focusing on big Christian holidays, Georgia Pride event, and VBS. Should have this finished in the next week or so.

March 2017

FB live streaming: We have one consistent live viewer that watches every week during the service, and most other live viewers are members that, for whatever reason, are not able to attend that week in person.

March 19 - 59 views

March 12 - 61 views

March 5 - 93 views

February 26 - 141 views

Made an announcement in the tidings and at church that everyone that is "friends" with PUCC on Facebook "like" our weekly videos. That way they will get more exposure and possibly more views.

Investigated Facebook ads – turned out that all of the social media resources provided by the UCC do not meet the specifications for Facebook sponsored posts/ads. They contain too much text. Needed to investigate if we had access to a graphic designer to create graphics for our ads, we could share a photo of some members, or could create a short video to use as our ad. Which leads to the video idea of “The importance of one word” PUCC video.

April 2017

Facebook Live Stream live and archive views:

- April 16 Easter Service - 82
- April 9 - 91
- April 2 - 281 (this was our sponsored/boosted post...more about that below. had 8 likes, 3 comments, 3 shares)
- March 26 - 205

Our March for Science sign making post on the organization FB page (with the hashtag #MarchforScienceATL) reached 378 people (typically our photo posts reach between 20-170 people).

We did our first paid/sponsored/boosted FB post (FB ad). We used the sermon Kim gave on the theological importance of caring for the Earth as the post to boost. We ran the ad for 3 days at a rate of \$5 per day (\$15 total) We reached 2273 people within 50 miles of Marietta, which led to 142 engagements (137 video views and 5 likes).

Had anticipated to run another boosted post for the 3 days before Easter (with the video that we were going to create regarding "The importance of one word" to emphasize that we are the UNITED Church of Christ), however, due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to complete the video in time for the Easter promotion.

May 2017

Facebook live stream viewers:

- April 23 – 142
- April 30 – 84
- May 7 – 76
- May 14 – 85
- May 21 – 57

We have promoted VBS on our organization FB page twice and have promoted it on our community FB page once, we will continue to share it every week until the start of VBS.

Got a phone message regarding our marquee out front that I think it important to share. The caller "left a message to thank us after seeing our message on our sign about the viewing of "13th". She said many churches state that they welcome all, but she feels that Pilgrimage truly DOES welcome all, especially when she saw the invitation to view the documentary last week. She said that Jesus is very proud of us; and, most importantly, she wanted us to know that we make a big and positive impact in this community whether we know it or not."

June 2017

Facebook live stream viewers:

- May 28 – No stream, internet connectivity difficulties
- June 4 – 65/70
- June 11 – 35

Feedback about live streaming continues to be positive. Congregants appreciate being able to view the sermon when they are not able to attend.

"Importance of one word" video still in progress.

Started another Facebook sponsored ad. This time it included the Climate Change Lobby speaker event. The campaign is still in progress (we are on day 1 of 7) as this report is being generated, but current numbers are as follows:

287 people reached

5 event responses and 8 post engagements (1 man aged 13-17, 2 men aged 18-24, 2 women aged 25-34, 1 man aged 25-34, 1 man aged 35-44, and 1 man aged 45-54)

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Stoddert, Communications Chair

Good News Team
Report Not Available.

Parish Life Committee 2016 – 2017

No one seemed to mind the rain at our September Hot Dog Social. We moved the party inside and enjoyed all kinds of salads and sides at this pot luck festival. October's Trunk or Treat was well attended with all kinds of new costumes and trunk decorations. Some very clever people made some outstanding trunk / costume themes. November brought the traditional Thanksgiving Pot Luck. This is always a special time to celebrate and give thanks with our Pilgrimage families. It's a time when people get to know each other in community through sharing a common meal. After Deacon's Trivia Night in February, our new year moved on with that wonderful celebration of Easter complete with the Easter Egg Hunt and a special photo op with the Easter Bunny and a chance for pictures of families in their Sunday bests. We finished the year up with an Ice Cream / Hot Dog Pot Luck and once again... it rained. No worries – we cooked hot dogs in the rain and shared some homemade ice cream. The youth even helped to churn the old fashion crank – style maker (in the rain!) creating a wonderful treat to share.

A Hospitality Team formed as a sub-group of Parish Life. This group is designed to help out when small committees are pressed for help especially coffee time and special events like welcoming new members. They have been called upon on several occasions and have made a wonderful difference in work load.

Jamie Durkee
Chair of Parish Life

PROPERTIES ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017

By Chris Shiver

Summarized below are significant activities or projects by Property Team members in the past year:

- The Growth Task Force lead by Bill Dischinger & Ric Reitz has made significant progress since they were formed in February 2016. The group has been focused lately on prioritizing church needs such as replacement of the sanctuary HVAC system, refurbishment of main building exterior claddings, renovation of the main building bathrooms, and ultimately replacement of the NGH. The major focus lately has been on a realistic financial approach to accomplishing those goals and the Church Council recently approved their plan to begin fundraising for the HVAC and exterior claddings project, subject to approval in a congregational meeting, with work to begin only once sufficient funds have been raised to fully pay for those efforts.
- In that past year the Properties Team has conducted two work days (fall and spring) devoted to landscaping and building maintenance activities, and has also participated in a recent work day lead by the Worship Team. Major tasks accomplished included significant pruning of trees and shrubs, removal of some dead or dying larger trees (including one that fell into a neighbor's yard), cleanout of storm water drains and swales, significant cleaning of gutters and minor gutter and roof repairs, spreading of large quantities of tree mulch in areas without grass, cleaning of the front entry glass and repairs of damaged paving in the parking lot and driveway. I am grateful for the hard work of many members of our congregation working together in these efforts.
- Identified during the most recent work day is that the largest and oldest of our spreading cherry trees along the front walk (the one closest to the parking lot, and on the right as you exit the church) has significant core deterioration. While we strongly recommend that parents keep children from climbing any of our trees, this tree should definitely be off limits. We will probably remove this tree before the year is out and will want to consider a replacement.
- The church entry exterior door locks were professionally refurbished this spring to provide for long term function of the front main entry lock, and emergency use of the side (toward the NGH) door entry lock which previously did not function.
- The front entry outer glass doors were professionally replaced just before Easter due to operational failure of one door & degraded condition of the other. The new doors are a tremendous aesthetic, functional and safety improvement to this key portion of the church.
- We suffered a significant leak of the incoming water service pipe near the street just before Christmas, and that was repaired by a plumber, after Bill Dischinger used his professional expertise to locate and expose the leaking fitting.
- We are having chronic issues of variable cleaning quality from our current professional cleaning service. They tend to respond to our complaints and requests with improved

service that then deteriorates over time. I have been seeking out a potential replacement, but have had difficulty identifying a new vendor that I have confidence in that will provide the services we need at a cost close to what we are paying. Congregational input on possible new sources for these services is welcomed.

- Last summer one of the two NGH HVAC units malfunctioned, but the service professional we have been utilizing was able to respond promptly with his usual good economical service.
- We recently upgraded our trash pickup service with a second container to accommodate the overflow amounts that are frequently generated during Family Promise weeks, pot-luck dinners, and work days. This proved valuable during a very recent spring weekend where there was work day on Saturday and a social meal on Sunday – both containers were fully needed.
- Based on the recommendations of Laurie Spencer we will consider doing some fall planting and at least a partial restoration of our currently extensive but inoperable irrigation system. This will likely involve Church Council decision making regarding the costs.
- After the kitchen sink garbage grinder failed this spring and a replacement unit was donated by a member.
- The NGH required emergency repair of front end trim that fell off partially during a mild storm just before Palm Sunday. The underlying cause was rotting of that low quality wood trim. This further emphasizes the need for NGH replacement within the next year or so.
- Fire ant mound building is a chronic problem all around our yards in the spring, summer and fall, and the playground region is one area they really like. Frequent granular bait/poison applications are keeping them regulated but parents need to monitor small children outside to both keep them out of the poisons and any active nests.

Stewardship Committee Report

2016-2017

The Stewardship Committee has been without a chair for most of the year therefore, the activities of the committee have been limited. In effort to strengthen the Stewardship committee in the future, stewardship was divided into co-chairs. The co-chairs, while supporting one another, will have one of the co-chairs focus on the financial gift giving of the congregation while the other co-chair will focus on the spiritual gifts of the members and how those gifts can be used to serve the community. With the combined efforts of the co-chairs, the stewardship committee will help the congregation understand how their gifts both financially and spiritually can be used to help the Pilgrimage community grow.

Since April 2017, I have been co-chair to help the congregation focus on their spiritual gifts. Since this position has never been fully established, challenges have risen. In the future, hopefully these challenges will be addressed and the community will understand better their spiritual gifts and how they can be used to help themselves grow as well as the congregation.

Some opportunities that will help congregation understand their spiritual gifts include but are not limited to will be the use of the time and talent survey and education opportunities throughout the coming year. Stewardship is on track to becoming a life-giving committee to this community in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Alexander, Stewardship Co-Chair

Worship Committee Report 2016—2017

Duties of the Committee

The Worship Committee is responsible for the following:

- 3.1 Schedule acolytes, greeters, ushers, scripture readers, and activity time volunteers.
- 3.2 Decorate church for the holidays.
- 3.3 Maintain religious supplies (i.e. candles, hymnals, pew pads, visitor name tags).
- 3.4 Rotate banners and change altar cloths to those appropriate for the worship service.
- 3.5 Provide for supply of the pulpit in the temporary absence of the ministers.
- 3.6 Be responsible for the music program of the church.
 1. Provide for interim coverage in the absence of the music director.
 2. Act as search committee to select and recommend to the Council a candidate for filling vacancies in a music staff position.
- 3.7 The worship committee chair will serve on the review committee for the music staff * in the most recent edition of the by-laws, Worship will also review the Senior Pastor.
- 3.8 Support the ministerial staff as needed in worship planning.

Membership of the Committee

Ugena Whitlock was chair until November of 2016, and then Sarah Holliday stepped up and was joined by Diane Reese in February 2017.

The worship committee as a whole had one meeting in January to set some goals:

1. Rochelle Lofstrand is going to review the instructions for the greeters and ushers and prepare those into a training before the end of February.
2. Duke Yaguchi will be spearheading the Hymnal drive
3. Monty Wyne et al are writing a mission statement for the music ministry

Schedule acolytes, greeters, ushers, scripture readers, and activity time volunteers.

We send the list to Lynne Buell who applies it in rotation. She notifies volunteers in advance of the order of service for this week and next week. She notifies in the e-tidings for two weeks ahead. She notifies by email for two weeks ahead. She includes the schedule in the monthly newsletter. We still have people missing their dates.

Rochelle held a training for ushers and greeters so that they would understand the import of arriving early and being a friendly first face for all visitors and members.

Acolytes and Little Lambs time are generally scheduled by CE.

Readers are mostly according to the list, but occasionally will be swapped out for dramatic readings.

New volunteers are added to the list and old volunteers are removed from the list as members make direct requests to Lynne or Sarah.

Decorate the church for the holidays

Christmas – we got the tree up and missed the new angel, but we'll fix that next time.

Lois Dischinger made us new cross drapes for the seasons.

Lynne and Diane decorated with the flowers which were ordered for Easter

Bill Dischinger has been rotating banners each week.

Jaime Fulsang & Sam Heilhecker decorated very creatively for Pentecost. (In addition to this decorating, many folks helped prepare, polish and clean items in the sanctuary for Pentecost.)

The decorations for various liturgical seasons are pretty well organized and stored in the attached shed.

Maintain religious supplies (i.e. candles, hymnals, pew pads, visitor name tags).

Lynne does most of the ordering, with very little prompting from us. We had a small issue with wax from the advent candles melting on the carpet, but we'll switch to no drip candles from here out.

Provide for supply of the pulpit in the temporary absence of the ministers.

Pastor Kim Buchanan does this herself, and thanks to Rochelle, Trish Greeves and Matthew Alexander for stepping up!

Be responsible for the music program of the church.

Allen Mullinax takes care of most everything. We need to get the robes dry cleaned soon and are in process of researching this task. Thanks to all the choir members who donated new music this year.

The worship committee chair will serve on the review committee for the music staff * in the most recent edition of the by-laws, Worship will also review the Senior Pastor.

Support the ministerial staff as needed in worship planning.

We met with the Pastor and music in September 2016 and again in May 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Holliday and Diane Reese, co-chairs

Music Ministry Addendum to the Worship Committee Annual Report

2016-2017

By Allen Mullinax

2016 – 2017 has been a very good year for the Pilgrimage UCC music ministry. The size of the choir has grown from previous years and the quality of the sound has also improved considerably. I also expect more new members to join the choir when we resume rehearsals in the Fall.

The choir has also decided to sing most Sundays during the 2017 Summer. There will be some Sundays this summer when the choir doesn't sing, such as holiday weekends, VBS Sunday, etc. most Sundays the choir will sing. The choir does work hard and needs some time off but it's important that we sing when we can because it makes a good impression on visitors who might be looking for a church, especially if music is important to them.

We have also formed a Praise Band that is leading a weeknight Praise and Worship Service once per quarter. We've had two services so far with approximately 30-40 attendees. This service is filling a need in our church.

The Wind Ensemble was disbanded a couple of years ago because several of the musicians moved to other states but we are looking at reforming it now or at least forming several smaller instrumental ensembles because we have had new people join the church who play wind instruments. We've also resumed rehearsal of the Recorder Ensemble with some new members participating.

The primary concern at this point is the Handbell Choir. We have lost some members there and have had difficulty filling the positions. The Handbell Choir requires a minimum number of ringers who read music. It also requires a higher level of commitment from the players than most music groups, which has made it hard to find players. The late time of rehearsals, after choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, is also difficult but we have not been able to find another time to rehearse that seems to work. I do expect one new church member to join the group in the Fall. I am happy to report that we have rearranged the choir loft area and made it to where the tables can be set up at all times, saving considerable time and work on Wednesdays and on the Sundays we play. Thanks to Bill Dischinger for building the new risers and thanks to members of the Facilities and the Worship Committees for their work in reorganizing the choir loft.