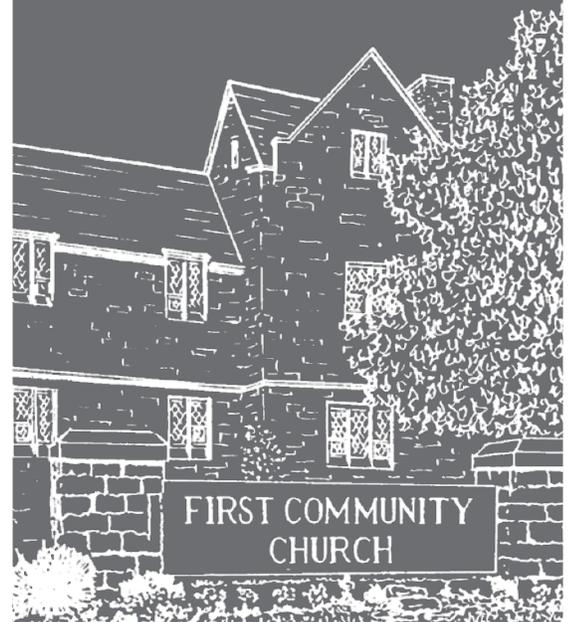




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ANNUAL  
REPORT

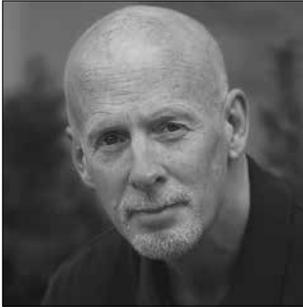


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## SENIOR MINISTER ANNUAL REPORT 2017

■ By Dr. R. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*



*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear,  
but of power and of love..."*

2 Timothy 1:7

I firmly believe that we the members and friends of First Community Church have been filled with the power of love during this first year of shared ministry. Timothy's words from 2000 years ago are a strong reminder that God's Spirit is inviting us to leave fear behind as we embrace the marvelous future that is before us.

I am continually amazed by the variety of ministries and the excellence with which they are performed in this congregation. The transformative beauty of our music ministry is matched by the welcoming and caring love displayed by our mission work both here and around the world. Camp Akita saw increased attendance and registration is up for the 2018 camping season, but more important than that is the ongoing ministry of grace our camp provides to 2000 children, youth and adults every summer. Our children and youth programs are showing signs of renewed energy and growth too. The Burkhardt Center is becoming well known as a place where minds are opened and lives are enriched.

One of the most inspiring activities to witness is the successful beginnings of the capital improvements and projects. The new Robert S. Crane Jr. Welcome Center is a beautiful new addition to our South Campus. Our differently abled members and friends no longer have to go to the alley to enter for worship or other events. All are now able to find their way through this beautiful new addition for church services and programs. I love that it is an architectural representation of our open and welcoming theology.

The construction of the new sanctuary on our North Campus is progressing nicely. This beautiful structure will be both a state of the art space for worship and a marvelously sacred place for prayer and praise. Just a few days ago I joined with several leaders of our church to visit a local congregation here in the Columbus area to see the flooring they have installed. It is very similar to the flooring we will be using. I was in awe as I imagined how lovely our new sanctuary will be when it is complete.

There is much, much more, of course, that I could name. The report before you provides a wellspring of information on all of the ministries and programs, Governing Board work and financial efforts and all of the rest that is happening at our three campus church. As the old saying goes, "Our future is so bright we're gonna need shades!"

Finally, a word of gratitude. Julie and I have been overwhelmed during the last twelve months by your gracious welcome, your loving hearts and your willingness to open wide your arms to us as we began this new work together. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

## GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

■ By Connie Johnston, *Governing Board Chair*

2017 was an exciting and productive year for the Governing Board of First Community Church! This dedicated group of volunteers have given countless hours of their time to ensure sound governance for this amazing faith community. We began the year in transition, celebrating the many years of service of The Reverend Dr. Richard Wing followed by welcoming The Reverend Dr. R. Glen Miles as our Senior Minister.

In April, we hit the ground running!

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, we have been able to make major decisions concerning the capital projects and other projects important to the life of the church. This overwhelming support of and love for the church will expand our capacity to embrace the future and provide a variety of worship opportunities as well as service to the community. The list of decisions and accomplishments includes but is not limited to:

- Construction of the Robert S. Crane Welcome Center at South Campus, which is near completion.
- Installation of a security gate at the entrance to Camp Akita
- Purchase of 16.4 acres of land adjacent to Camp Akita, offering additional safety and security for the camp.
- Construction of the sanctuary at North Campus, fulfilling the dream to have a sacred space there.
- Purchase of a Klais organ for the new sanctuary, providing a full range of music ministry for the future.

In August, the Governing Board members attended a half day weekend retreat to reflect and to vision the future. Paul Anderson and GBQ provided the retreat space and Kathy Cleveland Bull volunteered her time to facilitate the creation of a list of open questions about the congregation's future. After several sessions of narrowing and refining, three work groups were formed to research the following questions:

- How do we cultivate a (our) thriving spiritual community?
- How do we engage and minister to our current members and friends?
- How will we offer our ministry to those who don't know us?

Our December meeting time was devoted for these groups to do their work, in preparation for reports in January. A vision and focus for our time and resources for the coming year will be a direct result of this project.

Dr. Miles has been a tireless partner. His deep spirit, his collaborative nature, his commitment to the congregation, and his wisdom in leadership have been part of every step the Board has made. All of this work and more has been done with the support and hard work of The Reverend Dr. Deborah Lindsay. Her calm presence has been a guiding light for us all and we are so very appreciative of the blessings she has brought to First Community Church and to the Governing Board.

Thank you for allowing me to serve First Community Church.

## STEWARDSHIP

■ By Jason Milligan, *Stewardship Council Chairman*

### STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Lay leadership played an integral role in our stewardship efforts throughout the year. In their third full year as a fully sanctioned Council of the Governing Board, significant progress has been achieved. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Stewardship Council members for their hard work and devotion: Dianne Albrecht, Susan Brooks, John Hoberg, Mary Ann Krauss, Judy Reinhard (Gov Brd Liaison), Bob Wandel, Rebecca Wolfe, Brad Briggs, and Jason Milligan (Chair). Staff support: Dr. Deborah Lindsay, Maggie Perkins, and Bruce Pontious, (Campaign Director & Stewardship Consultant)

### ANNUAL OPERATING CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Council was happy this summer to announce Jason and Amy Barger as our 2018 annual operating campaign chairs. Jason and Amy gave both energy and example to the campaign, and through their leadership, they showed us all a new path to engage and energize our church. They revealed the bigger picture of what First Community means to us and our community. The Council assumed responsibility for much of the support work of the campaign. The campaign received enthusiastic responses, and the call to support our many missions, programs, clergy, staff, and ministries was well received. With energetic leadership, the 2018 *All Good Gifts* campaign achieved growth in both number of donors and pledged dollars. (See results below) The Council members staffed information tables before and after services. Pledge Card Sunday reminded us to act on our prayerful considerations. Judy Reinhard and Bruce Pontius organized our annual Celebration of Giving event, and written communications were regularly provided through our weekly *Firstnews Sunday* and monthly *Firstnews* publications.

As with past campaigns, the Council placed a heavy emphasis on personal messages and contact. Several church members were enlisted by the Bargers to share their testimony during worship services. Powerful testimonies were offered about the importance of supporting the vital ministries, staff, and programs of the church. Dr. Miles set forth a Stewardship sermon series in which he gave witness to the power of giving, in all its forms. Keeping with the personalized theme, a follow-up phone-a-thon initiative was conducted shortly after the pledge/gift packets had been mailed. Susan Brooks and Julie Osborn helped organize the event during which volunteers placed hundreds of calls, and wrote thank you notes to all who pledged over the past several months.

As of January 17, 2018, the *All Good Gifts* Campaign has raised \$1,833,252 in pledges toward the 2018 Operating Budget. Seven hundred seventy (770) giving units have been received, and both the total number of givers and total funds pledged were both greater than the previous year. Compared to the previous year, a 6% increase in number of confirmed pledges, and in terms of funds, the 2018 campaign achieved an 14% increase. We also know as history shows, that we will continue to receive more pledges throughout the year. There's still time to let us know what your financial support might be for 2018. Feel free to contact the church office or any member of the Stewardship Council with your intent. We all rejoice in the godly work that happens each and every day through the ministries and missions of First Community Church. The Stewardship Council is so very grateful for all those to supported this campaign and it appreciates everyone who gives of their time, their talent, and their treasure to support the many missions, programs, and ministries of First Community Church.

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

This past year will be remembered for decades to come as the year we put a down payment on our future as a Church. With the dedication and hard work of Campaign Co-Chairs: Buss & Lou Ann Ransom; Diana & Bill Arthur, Don & Karen Gardiner; supported by Bruce Pontious, Paul Anderson, Mary Ann-Krauss, Clergy, Staff, and many many volunteers involved with the Capital Campaign, we are closing in on our goal. The campaign had raised to date in gifts and pledges over \$16 million toward the capital improvement projects (CIP) across our three campuses, changing forever the footprint of First Community Church.

The “Robert S. Crane, Jr. Welcome Center” welcomed our congregation to the South Campus Christmas Eve services, and a grand opening is soon planned. The North Campus sanctuary construction was authorized by the Governing Board in late summer, spurred on by a \$4 Million gift from a generous anonymous family. That gift, including the previously raised \$10.7 Million raised through the REALIZE Campaign pledges, allowed the Board to move forward. Construction is now fully underway at the North Campus. In addition, the Klais Organ campaign continues, initial seed monies coming from a decades-old Foundation gift, and along with more recent fundraising, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a contract to install the instrument in the new North Campus sanctuary shortly after construction of the Sanctuary has been completed.

## **DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT**

In the culmination of a nearly two year long process, the search committee is pleased to announce that Linda Silva will be joining the First Community Church staff as our new Director of Stewardship and Development. She is tasked with growing the Foundation development efforts and leading our Annual Operating Campaign. We welcome her and look forward to her leadership.

**FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH  
BUDGET COMPARISON**

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2017 Actual</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledge Revenue	\$ 2,227,117	\$ 1,904,000	\$ 1,927,590
Sanctuary Offering	230,926	148,362	269,927
Supplemental Gifts	50,000	200,000	90,506
Foundation Gifts	5,439	274,104	276,104
<b>Total Pledges and Gifts</b>	<b>2,513,482</b>	<b>2,526,466</b>	<b>2,564,127</b>
Fee Supported Ministries	1,912,957	1,987,363	1,906,919
Education Ministries	59,676	75,200	71,503
Facilities & Administration	52,005	1,726	27,397
Other Ministries	134,381	124,060	123,208
Other Revenue	24,000	33,037	60,731
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>2,183,019</b>	<b>2,221,386</b>	<b>2,189,758</b>
<b>Grand Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,696,501</b>	<b>4,747,852</b>	<b>4,753,885</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Fee Supported Ministries	1,705,629	1,708,755	1,748,216
Education Ministries	79,583	83,330	82,889
Facilities & Administration	1,069,704	887,574	971,869
Other Ministries	397,045	418,262	455,585
Program Salaries & Benefits	1,444,540	1,649,931	1,555,442
<b>Grand Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,696,501</b>	<b>4,747,852</b>	<b>4,814,001</b>
<b>Net Revenue &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (60,115.30)</b>

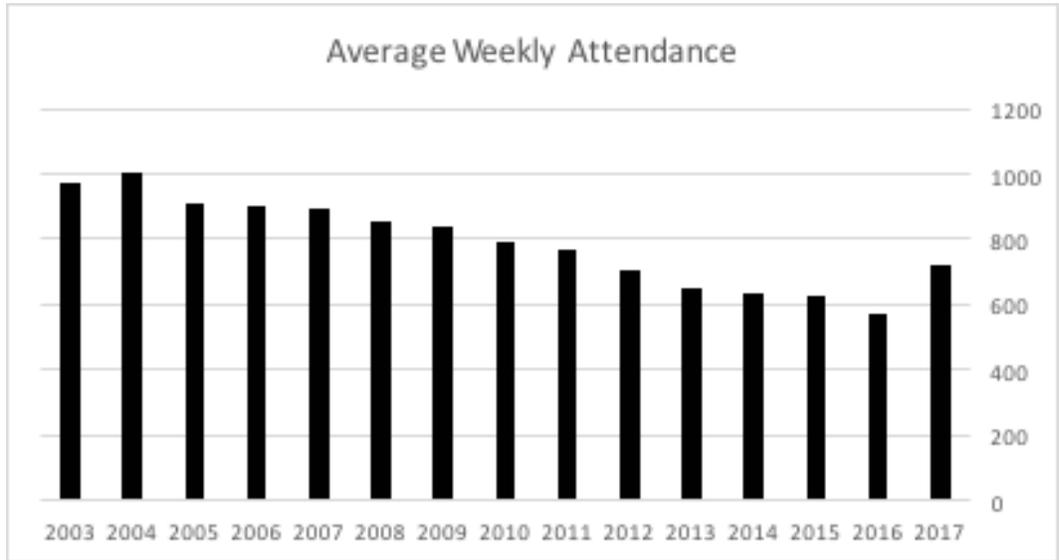
**2007 - 2017  
HISTORICAL PLEDGING**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	<b>Pledging Units</b>
2017	\$ 1,927,590	\$ 1,904,000	101.2%	851
2016	2,009,938	2,118,000	94.9%	989
2015	2,059,129	2,118,000	97.2%	1064
2014	2,021,805	2,218,000	91.2%	1117
2013	2,066,761	2,318,000	89.2%	1162
2012	2,142,545	2,204,000	97.2%	1259
2011	2,092,482	2,097,000	99.8%	1337
2010	1,957,163	2,148,510	91.1%	1263
2009	2,020,730	2,214,000	91.3%	1333
2008	2,154,500	2,224,500	96.9%	1387
2007	2,112,606	2,173,058	97.2%	1452

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

**Average Weekly Attendance:**

Average weekly attendance was 723, a 26% increase from 2016. This was our first positive increase in average weekly attendance since a slight increase in 2004.



**Additional summary statistics for 2017:**

- The five Christmas Eve services brought in 3,116 worshipers, which was an 8% increase from 2016. There were also two morning services that day, adding 463 worshipers for a total of 3,579 attending First Community Church throughout the day on Christmas Eve.
- Easter services saw 2,321 in total attendance at the five Sunday services.
- Excluding Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday services, two special services brought in the highest attendance weekends. The trial sermons of Dr. Glen Miles in January had 1,220 in attendance and the final sermons for Dr. Richard Wing had 1,153 worshipers in March, for a combined total of 2,373 worshipers.
- Both North and South Campus had a service every Sunday this summer, which increased summer attendance by 91% over 2016. Previously, only one service was held each Sunday at one of the campuses.
- North Campus saw a total attendance increase of 36% over 2016, while South Campus increased total attendance by 47% from 2016 attendance.

## CAMP AKITA

■ By Scot Nicoll, *Executive Director*

2017 was another successful summer of ministry at Camp Akita. Our overall camper numbers were almost exactly the same as 2016, we ended the summer filling 92% of our capacity with 129 campers on our waitlists. The year on year retention rate was up to 64%. For comparison, between 2013 and 2014 the retention rate was 56%. Camp Akita welcomed campers from 12 different states in 2017, up from 9 states in 2016. We also awarded \$2,350 more dollars in scholarships in 2017.

Camp Akita Programs	
Summer Camp	1,507
L.I.F.E. Guard	91
Backcountry	59
1, 2, 3... Akita!	79
Family Camp	136
<i>Total:</i>	<b>1,872</b>

*"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened"*

— Dr. Seuss

During a late July session, a 6th grader stood up at our closing ceremony (the "Say So") and told the group the Dr. Seuss quote above. She talked about how incredible her camp session was, how much she valued the friendships she formed in her cabin and the new friends she met. She talked about the sadness in her cabin that the session was coming to an end, but also the joy in having experienced such a wonderful experience together. Her message resonated with all of us and reaffirmed how magical Camp Akita truly is.

Operationally, 2017 was the smoothest season many of us can remember. We had an incredible staff of talented young people who took our message of a loving God and showed their campers that love through action.

Our summer message was "Mosaic". We focused on how we are all mosaics. As we walk through life, our individual journey shapes who we become. We asked our campers to share the pieces that make their mosaic, while we affirmed and shared our message of a God who loves them just the way they are.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

■ By Leigh Anne Easterling, *Director of Early Childhood Ministries & Mary Evans Child Development Center*

A unique aspect of the Early Childhood Department is that it includes both fee supported ministries that benefit members and the community and outreach ministries to parents and families. The family is a child's first and most important community of faith and we believe that in supporting parents we begin a child's faith formation through them.

### FEE SUPPORTED MINISTRIES

Salaries and supplies for these programs are entirely supported by tuition fees and make a contribution to the church Operating Fund.

### MARY EVANS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Mary Evans Child Development Center opened at the North Campus in 1991. It continues to serve families looking for quality full time child care. Our excellent, highly qualified teachers have degrees in Early Childhood and many have been with the program for over 10 years. We have 4 staff members that have over 20 years with the center.

Our goal continues to be to provide a place where children from 6 weeks through kindergarten experience daily care and education in a beautiful and stimulating setting, engaged with adults that have the education and background to support their growth and development in all domains, physical, social, emotional and cognitive.

#### Highlights

We have a history and reputation of engaging children with nature. Our outdoor space is recognized as a model natural playscape and we often host visitors that want ideas for how to incorporate natural play experiences for children. The focus on nature has been continued in our full day kindergarten. In addition to daily outdoor experiences the kindergarten travels monthly for nature inspired field trips. Other highlights include:

- Kindergarten class connects with Heart to Heart through annual food drive
- January Open House for current and prospective families
- Participation in International Mud day for the 6th year in a row
- Fully attended family events including the Pancake Dinner and family picnics in the fall and the spring.
- Increased teacher and family attendance at Down on the Farm
- Children and teachers watched the demolition of the original two classrooms. (A 20-year-old time capsule was discovered in the process). Children cheered as the digger went to work. We enjoy frequent observations as construction on the new sanctuary progresses.
- Infant classroom moves into Rose Wing after making modifications to existing space
- Security system installed so school wing is secure at all times

## FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH PRESCHOOL

Our mission is to nourish the curiosity and self-discovery of young children in a rich classroom environment, valuing their individual patterns of growth and partnering with families to understand each child's unique gifts.

The preschool, housed at South Campus for almost 70 years, is a part-time program for children 3-5 and the unique Twogether class for parent and child together. Our spacious classrooms are a rich environment for hands-on learning. Our low teacher – child ratios assure that children have support and guidance in their social interactions and learning experiences. The preschool offers 6 different classes that meet September – May.

### Highlights

- Director, Alayna Pierce—begins her second year as the Fourth Director in the long history of the program
- Teachers collaborated with Urban Wild Ltd. to design a new natural playground on the north end of South Campus and was successfully installed Fall of 2017
- New windows and doors were installed in the downstairs classrooms
- Fall Family Gathering and Picnic which gives parents an opportunity to get to know their teachers and meet other families attending the Preschool
- Saturday morning Open House for current and prospective families
- Teacher and Parent education programs with a focus on child development and parenting.
- Family and staff participation in Harvest Hullabaloo and Down on the Farm, Early Childhood Council events
- End of the year Family Picnic at Wyman Woods
- Continued strong enrollment with enthusiastic parents

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

### Parent Groups

Parent Growth is led by Alayna Pierce. They focus on understanding child development, positive parenting strategies and balancing self-care with the demands of parenting. Each session has a particular topic, but parents are welcome to bring any concerns or questions.

- Parent Growth meets weekly through the school year on Monday mornings with child care available, and average attendance 10-15.
- Parent Education opportunities are offered throughout the year with input from the Early Childhood Council Education Committee.

### Sunday Morning Childcare

We offer childcare for infants through 5-year-olds (not in kindergarten) at the 9:15 and 10:30 am services North and 11 am service South, except between Christmas and New Year's. Space for child care on Sundays is shared with and equipped by the Mary Evans Center at North Campus and the Preschool at South Campus.

**Early Childhood Council**

The Early Childhood Council has focused on providing experiences for families with young children, in our church family and beyond, that are particularly suited to the needs and schedules of young families.

Annual events include:

- Pajama Story Time – an event in February, tied to pajama and storybook donations for children who are in homeless shelters or domestic violence shelters
- Down on the Farm – an event in April, with farm animals, wagon rides, activities, and dinner
- Harvest Hullabaloo – an event in October, a costume-optional event that allows children to enjoy the fun of the Halloween season without the risk of being overwhelmed or frightened; activities, snack, story and parade
- For the first time, the council held a scarf, hat and mitten collection during the children’s service on Christmas eve

## FACILITIES MINISTRY

■ By Pam Jameson, *Director of Facilities Ministry*

Understanding we are One Church with multiple locations and called upon to serve others in our faith journey, the Facilities Ministry is focused on best practices to increase an environment of hospitality, community, daily operations and demands, short and long-term maintenance needs and improvements, to carry forth Our Vision, our missions and our ministries.

**Building Community.** Warmly greet and acknowledge those who gather within and outside our walls, place names with faces to build relationships, provide opportunities to connect with our local community and create awareness of opportunities to increase ownership and stewardship for the gifts we have been entrusted.

From the Guild Groups who help clean, organize, furnish and stock supplies for our common areas, private donors who provide material needs, new tables, chairs, organizational materials, those that see a need and do it, to those that share their knowledge, talents, skills, expertise and physical support,

To those that provide American flags, the group preparing garden beds in the MECDC playground for produce in support of Heart to Heart Food Pantry, sharing our parking lot with the local community and in turn donates back to the church, children participating in Mid-Week Missions helping to weed beds, and to those who have adopted beds to provide beautiful color throughout the growing season.

To those who weed, mulch, remove debris, trim, water our plants, fertilize trees and remove shrubs/bushes to improve upon our appearance, and to those that help clean windows, replace pavers/stones, children from local elementary schools bringing food for Heart to Heart, who stay and help with weeding and mulching and college students involved in the OSU "Pay it Forward Community Outreach Program" that have provided hours of weeding and mulching around the South Campus, we are most grateful.

We thank you for your continued support.

### 2017 IMPROVEMENTS

With the support of our congregation and those that oversee the funds within the Foundation, the following improvements are forthcoming and/or completed.

- Safety and Security Improvements for our preschool and childcare programs were reviewed with the local police safety departments at both campuses resulting in improved lockdown procedures and increased security awareness. The new Welcome Center will increase security at the south campus as the main entrance into our building. A keyless system is fully operational at the north campus with the financial support from the Foundation. The MECDC Infant Program moved into the Rose Wing for increased security. The move was financially support by the expansion project. Safety and security improvements for both campuses will continue in 2018.
- Needs found and repaired as the result of the south campus expansion project: exhaust fans, wiring, condensate and drain lines, exterior ground clearing, new panic hardware on gate for playground area to the north, occupancy code improvements and roofing repairs. Plus improvements in coordination with the project: ground improvements along the north property line, new toilets/urinals, counter, sinks faucets and drywall and ceiling replacements.

- New exterior lighting by the sidewalk in front of the sanctuary.
- Trees and shrubs were trimmed and/or removed at both campuses for safety and aesthetics.
- The Sanctuary cooling system was replaced with the financial support from the Foundation including new insulation on all exterior chilled water piping. The improvement was part one of a two-part grant. Part two will improve distribution and airflow within the Sanctuary.
- HVAC improvements and general maintenance continued, as needed, for both locations.
- Fire alarm system cables were replaced under the modular units at the north campus, including surrounding the cables in PVC conduit to avoid future deterioration.
- Clean up day at the north campus to improve the esthetics surrounding the modular units including the grounds around the parking lot to the north.

Financial Support from the Foundation is important and necessary for us to continue caring for our property.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

The start and completion of the new Robert S. Crane Jr., Welcome Center to our South Campus 1320 Cambridge Blvd address.

Completion of the Sanctuary design and surrounding spaces and the start of construction at the North Campus, 3777 Dublin Road address.

Over 1,600 Meetings were scheduled on our campuses during nine months, which does not include:

- Sunday Worship Services and Sunday Events
- Preschool at the South Campus, Parent Teacher Conferences, Teacher Meetings and the spaces they occupy and use
- Mary Evans Childcare Development Center, Parent Teacher Conferences, Teacher Meetings, Special Event Programming and Testing, plus the spaces they occupy and use
- Open hours, staff schedules, gatherings prior to off-site events and drop in gatherings
- Mission Garage Sale
- Akita Check In's and Returns from June-August.
- Annex - Heart to Heart Food Pantry, Prayers and Squares Ministry, Trading Post and Spiritual Guidance Room
- 10 Weddings
- 31 Memorial Services and 5 Memorial Garden Services
- Organ and Piano Rehearsals
- Monday Night Meals and Rebecca House

We are excited about our future and blessed to serve in so many ways. The Facilities Ministry strives to care for our gifts, understanding we are only able to do so with your continued involvement and support.

## FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

■ By Cindy Sue Gepfert, *Foundation Administrator*

### SOME NUMBERS FOR YOU TO KNOW

**\$620,739:** The grand total of the Foundation's grant funding in 2017. A substantial portion of this amount was granted for a request from First Community Church to meet extenuating circumstances occurring in 2017.

**48:** The Foundation's Board of Trustees approved 48 grants in support of the ministries of the church and its outreach. All applications are carefully considered by the Foundation's Grants Committee

**>100:** The number of meetings the Foundation's Board of Trustees and its six committees conducted to responsibly manage the Foundation and the Foundation's investment portfolio in concert with its professional investment manager, Johnson Investment Counsel.

**300:** Donors contributed more than 300 gifts to the Foundation totaling more than \$300,000.

**\$7.1 million:** The year-end balance of the Foundation's assets.

**\$932,000:** The amount of donor-designated funding in the Foundation provided for the down payment of the new Klais organ for North Campus was \$932,000.

**Two Firsts:** New Foundation Board of Trustee member orientation was conducted, and a fund advisor reception was held to engage donors and/or fund advisors about the use of their funds.

#### How was the money spent?

As illustrated by the pie chart, the Foundation funds supported the essential programs of our church's missions and ministries, including: Camp Akita, local and international missions. First Community Village, the Trading Post, special music events, Heart to Heart, children's and youth ministries, older adult assistance, Center for Spiritual Search programs, and the general operations and facility maintenance of the church.

#### Some of the specific programs and initiatives the Foundation funded:

**For Camp Akita:** The Camp received more than \$49,000 of donor-designated funds from approved grants from the Foundation including,

- Replacement of roofs at Sky Valley and Dogwood cabins
- Replacement of furnace in Toad Hall
- Installation of high-speed internet access to the entire camp
- Purchase of high-powered floor cleaner, a new projector, couches and chairs for the Lodge
- Purchase of new back country tents
- Support for camper and counselor scholarships

#### For Missions:

- Support of administrative expenses of the annual FCC Garage Sale
- A pilot program for Furniture Bank of Central Ohio to bring furniture into low income public housing

- Heart to Heart to purchase 3 months’ worth of food in the summer
- An update and refresh to the Trading Post sales floor
- Homeport Homeless Prevention Program to provide case management and direct services to low income families to promote housing stability
- Leader and student support for annual mission trip to Mexico
- New industrial stove for Dominica School and Orphanage in the Dominican Republic to feed more than 400 children daily
- Support of Dominica’s teacher salaries and equipment

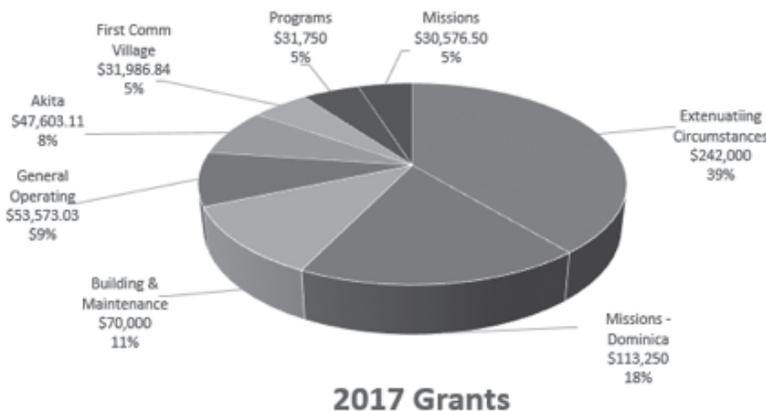
**For Older Adults:**

- Purchase of new hearing loop system to improve the quality of services for those with disabilities

**For Facilities and Church Maintenance:**

- Augmentation of funds available for South Campus Crane Welcome Center addition and pre-school program’s new Nature Center Playground
- Replacement of furnace and condensing units in Lincoln Road chapel
- Installation of key-card access for parents and staff of North Campus Early Childhood Program space for increased safety and security

Number of Grants	Approved Grant Amount	Category	%
4	242,000.00	Extenuating Circumstances	39%
5	113,250.00	Missions - Dominica	18%
5	70,000.00	Building & Maintenance	11%
3	53,573.03	General Operating	9%
11	47,603.11	Akita	8%
2	31,986.84	First Community Village	5%
8	31,750.00	Programs	5%
10	30,576.50	Missions	5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>620,739.48</b>	<b>100%</b>



## HEART TO HEART

■ By Lamar Graham

Heart to Heart served over 16,000 individuals in 2016 and provided almost 150,000 meals. Heart to Heart has seen a steady growth in volunteers which now includes every school in Grandview, 2 elementary schools and 1 middle school in Upper Arlington, OSU students and many more. This year, Heart to Heart participated in the greater Columbus' Service Learning Network's Growing Together gathering at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. This allowed Heart to Heart to collaborate with schools from all over greater Columbus in finding meaningful solutions to the hunger problems in our community. Heart to Heart also was able to enroll many clients for insurance in collaboration with our local Health and Human services agency and introduced healthy eating cooking classes once a month in the kitchen at South Campus.

Heart to Heart served over 17,000 individuals in 2017 and provided over 150,000 meals. Also, in 2017 Heart to Heart served 59 zip codes with over 3,800 new families. Heart to Heart has strengthened its relationship with numerous of schools in the local area as well as businesses and local organizations to provide a firm volunteer base. This year Heart to Heart has added an Ohio State University Master of Social Work Intern to assist with various events such as Christmas Presence where we adopted 30 families and our annual square-dancing event (Hunger Hoedown) amongst other tasks in around the pantry.

In the past year, Heart to Heart has added the following to provide its clients a more pleasant environment:

- Prayer Request Box. *This gives clients an opportunity to express their prayer concerns and needs*
- Creation of quilting. *This gives clients an opportunity to learn a new skill while providing warmth for a family*
- Children's Learning Center. *In the children's learning center there are educational games as well as books for the enjoyment of children while their parents are shopping in the pantry*
- Open Interviews from Kroger. *Gives clients an opportunity to find employment as well as a career*
- OSU Intern to assist with resources for example (Rent, Utility, Furniture, Housing, etc.)

Heart to Heart cooking classes are growing stronger and are now being led by clients.

## HISTORY AND CHURCH ARCHIVES

■ By Jackie Cherry, *Church Historian*

As the church historian my most satisfying task during this past year has been delving into church records and archives, my interview notes and personal memories in an attempt to introduce current members of our congregation to some of our symbols, organizations and interesting people who played an important role in our past. Through my monthly articles in first news I have tried to make our history come alive. I have always believed that one of the things that sets our church apart is not just the clergy, but also the people who have assumed a day to day leadership role....those who have been Christ's hands and feet in serving our people, our community and in the world beyond our walls. Upcoming topics on the horizon include a history of our bell choirs and Cambridge Club, the first singles group in the country. I would love to hear from any readers who have other suggestions or topics they would like to learn more about.

Some of the most significant archival work during 2017 has been accomplished by Ron Gardner who has generously shared his skills and his time in permanently preserving some of our most precious historical documents. Since his retirement from OCLC, Ron has brought his scanner to the church library where we are in the process of scanning our founding documents, annual meeting records, letters and photos in an effort to preserve our church archives in digital format for future generations and to provide access to search these historical materials. We have worked with the Columbus Metropolitan Library so that we may add our materials to their digital collections. Anyone may go to the Columbus Metropolitan Library web address site for First Community Church digital resources: <http://tinyurl.com/y9c34gah>.

*Reflections on Our Heritage*, my history of First Community Church, is now out of print, but Walter Watkins has informed me that there are two copies in the church library at South Campus which can be read on site, but cannot be circulated. However It is also now possible to access it by going to the First Community Church web site. Scroll down from the "Welcome" tab to find the heading "History" and it can either be read online or downloaded.

I continue to enjoy meeting with Guild Groups, circles or other groups within the church to share the fascinating story that is our history and heritage. I am still searching for an assistant, someone who has organizational skills, but more importantly someone with a passion and love for this church.

Just a reminder that I am always happy to receive papers, letters, articles, worship bulletins or other items that may have historical value. Please call ahead of time and be sure the items are clearly marked with my name if they are left at the South Campus reception desk.

## K-12 MINISTRY

■ By Julie Richards, *Director K-12 Ministry*

The goal for our Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and Youth Ministries is to help kindergarten through twelfth-grade youth develop a sustainable faith and personal resilience that will guide them as they grow, mature and move out into the world.

Our relational ministries provide programs and activities for children and youth to encounter God's unconditional love and grace while gaining awareness of our responsibility to care for one another.

We help provide the tools for youth to develop a solid rock on which to stand. To this end, we offer multiple opportunities for youth to connect and grow spiritually, develop a strong sense of community with one another and become vital members of our church and the world. By providing a wide range of church-sponsored events and involvement throughout the week, we are able to furnish touch points for youth to connect with God, the church and others beyond Sunday mornings. Some highlights from 2017 follow.

### KINDERGARTEN THROUGH FIFTH GRADE MINISTRY

**Sunday Mornings:** Sunday morning classes provide K-5 children with the opportunity for Christian education, faith exploration and fostering community with their peers and adult leaders. Curriculum is designed to be developmentally appropriate for each stage of spiritual and emotional growth. Overall K-5 attendance was 2,275, with an average weekly attendance of 47 children.

**Missions:** The Midweek Missions program is a wonderful way for young children to put their faith into action. This year, the children collected food for 30 Thanksgiving baskets, wrote letters and made prayer flags for the Mexico Mission trip participants, and provided gifts for our new members, among other things. The overall attendance was 886, with an average weekly attendance of 38 participants.

**1, 2, 3...Akita!** Service is an essential part of our mission at First Community Church. This year, we shifted the focus of 1, 2, 3...Akita! to learning about countries our congregation serves through missions around the world. In the summer of 2017, we explored the Dominican Republic through food, games, movement and art. We had 79 first, second and third graders participate, and 30 youth and adult volunteers helped. Our volunteers ranged in age from early teen to older adult. Next summer we will explore Kenya and the following year, Mexico.

**Christmas Workshop:** Christmas Craft Shop has been an FCC tradition for more than 60 years. In 2016 we lovingly updated the event by holding it on a Sunday morning, while parents were in worship, rather than on a Saturday morning. The name was changed from "craft shop" to "workshop" in hopes of attracting non-crafty kids, and the children made items they could give as gifts. We had an increase in participation and got positive feedback from parents. In 2017 we decided to take the adaptation a step further by holding the event on a Wednesday evening at the same time we normally offer Midweek Missions. We had a wonderful response, more than doubling last year's attendance with a total of 71 children participating and 15 youth and adult volunteers.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Crossroads

**Sunday Evening:** In January of 2016, we changed the primary middle and high school program from Sunday morning to Sunday evening. The switch allows all of the students in grades 6 through 12 to participate in a youth-centered worship service with everyone hearing the same message followed by time for small-group, grade-level discussion. The length of the program went from one hour, to one-and-a-half hours making it possible to have a meaningful discussion of the lesson as well as time to check in with each young person. There has been a notable rise in participation since the change. Overall Crossroads attendance was 1,976, with an average attendance of 71 each Sunday.

**Units of Study:** In the fall of 2016, we began presenting Crossroads messages in units so students are able to discuss and process different aspects of a theme over a longer period of time. This year we explored units about First Community's Seven Keys, Jesus as an historical and spiritual figure, and the parables of Jesus.

**Curriculum:** The youth team received a grant to update the Crossroads curriculum. Funding is being used to pay past K-12 Director Dawn Costin to organize all of our old and new middle- and high-school curriculum resources into an in-depth, up-to-date three-year curriculum cycle formatted specifically for the way our Crossroads program is organized. The curriculum will be designed as a resource for the weekly speaker, providing background information about the topic, connections to the Bible and present day life, questions for small group discussion, and activities that allow students to reflect and respond in ways beyond discussion.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Sunday Morning:** Although our main worship opportunity for middle school youth is on Sunday evening, we continue to provide Sunday morning Sunday school at North and South Campuses for middle school youth. K-5 lessons are adapted to developmentally meet the needs of sixth through eighth-grade students. This program had an overall attendance of 254 with an average weekly attendance of 13 middle school students.

**Missions:** This fall we began offering consistent opportunities for middle school service on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. During this time, students meet at Heart to Heart to help in whatever way is needed, including stocking shelves, packaging diapers, managing the wrapping station at the Christmas Presence event, and making thank you posters for businesses who support Heart to Heart. We have had a small but consistent group of middle schoolers involved in this program.

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Impact:** In order to keep high-school youth consistently involved in missions, we decided to shift the focus of Wednesday night's Impact program to themes grouped into units with some type of integrated service. In December the youth put together wrapping kits for the families who participated in the Heart to Heart Christmas Presence program; they also caroled at First Community Village. We are planning to set a consistent time each month for Impact to meet at First Community Village.

## K-12

**Sustainability:** The K-12 team has been working to put together and organize the foundational documents suggested in the book *Sustainable Youth Ministry* by Mark DeVries. These documents include a mission statement, values statement, master recruiting list, yearly events calendar, directory of all participants by grade level, directory of all adult volunteers, curriculum outline, job description for each member of the team and job description for each volunteer position. It is our intention that this work will lead to long-term programmatic consistency.

**Volunteer Training and Appreciation:** All K-12 volunteers were asked to participate in "Darkness to Light," a two-hour training about sexual abuse prevention. Forty-two of the primary K-12 volunteers have completed the program. Training opportunities for those unable to participate in the fall will be presented in the new year.

Twice a year the department holds a party for all the staff and volunteers involved in the K-12 Ministry. The intention is to build relationships among sub-department volunteers and among staff and volunteers, as well as to demonstrate our appreciation of the volunteers. The gatherings have been well attended and well received.

## K-12 COUNCIL

The mission of the K-12 Council is to provide support and feedback to staff as they implement programs and continue to bring the Christian faith into closer focus for our young people. The council addresses the overall needs of the K-5, Middle School and High School Ministries through task-driven projects that positively impact the key areas of the K-12 programs, which are fundraising, promotion, event support, volunteer recruitment and missions. Council members also serve as advocates for the growth and health of the K-12 ministries.

## MARKETING AND MEDIA

- By Michael Barber, *Former Director of Marketing*  
(edited by Emily Rogers and Tabitha McCleery)

Comprised of Tabitha McCleery (Graphics), Emily Rogers (Admin.) and myself, the Marketing Department is tasked with the mission to spread the good news of First Community Church to its congregation, the larger community and the world.

Our team works closely with all Program areas to understand and help realize their goals. Our efforts help raise revenue and awareness of all ministries.

### MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS

*Firstnews*, our flagship publication, celebrates 64 years of service to the congregation. *Firstnews* is delivered by direct mail to 2,086 homes and delivered to more than 70 distribution points around central Ohio for a total circulation of 4,300 each month.

Our newspaper currently enjoys a penetration rate of 90% for an estimated 46,440 annual reads.

Finally, *firstnews* has reduced printing and postage costs while increasing distribution and advertising revenue.

*Firstnews Sunday*, our weekly bulletin insert, was delivered to congregants in worship each week in 2017. Additionally, *Sunday* is available for download from our website.

Our primary website, **FCchurch.com**, along with our additional websites, **Firstnews-Extra.com** and **FCchurch.TV** are also strong elements of communication.

Our team continued to work closely with members of the Capital Projects Committee to inform the congregation of the many aspects of the projects. These efforts include regular updates on Governing Board activities in *firstnews* and online, reporting on financial commitments from donors, approval for the North Campus expansion project, groundbreaking ceremony and the maintenance of a CPC blog on FCchurch.com and frequent meetings with a CPC Communications Committee.

Additionally, we helped develop and coordinate the **All Good Gifts Campaign**, the all-church fundraising effort that kicked off with a special worship service October 1. We produced special videos for in-worship and online viewing and helped to coordinate the Sunday morning event.

The **First Edition** television program has maintained high quality due to the installation and implementation of High Definition camera equipment. Technical Director Joe Martin guides a host of volunteers through the weekly process of producing the program.

**Friends of Media** program continues to provide strong support from church members and non-members alike. The effort focuses on maintaining quality relationships with our 'friends', which has successfully helped offset Media Ministry costs.

**Facebook** continues to be an integral part of our marketing strategy for many events. Our total audience has grown 96% in 2017, from 1,161 to 2,275. Their inexpensive promotion structure allows us access to thousands with a small investment.

## MEMBERSHIP

■ By Kristy Glaser, *Coordinator of New Member Engagement*

In 2017, First Community Church saw a 25% increase in membership. 110 new members were received into the congregation including 34 youth confirmed through our Block of Wood program. Exemplifying our church's theme of "A Place for All," new members came from a diverse background of religious faiths and various communities from all over central Ohio. First Community's exceptional music and the strong children's programming were noted as reasons for joining the church, but the inclusive theology and the welcoming of all people was overwhelmingly the biggest draw for new members this year.

### THE PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

The arrival of our new Senior Minister brought some revisions to the membership process in 2017. Individual meetings with the New Member Engagement Coordinator were replaced with *Coffee with Glen*. An event held 4-6 times a year, this coffee provides an opportunity for prospective members to learn about the theology and vision of First Community Church while sharing casual conversation with the Senior Minister. Prospective members are encouraged to ask questions so they may determine whether they'd like to move forward with membership. In addition, Membership Sunday receptions were replaced with New Member Champagne Desserts. This event takes place within a week or two after each Membership Sunday. It's hosted by Glen and Julie Miles, and homemade desserts are provided by the Membership Council. This is a wonderful opportunity for our newest members to meet one another and to personally connect with Glen and Julie. Both of these events have been met with an overwhelmingly positive response. More changes can be expected in 2018 as the Membership Council continues to look for ways to more effectively welcome and engage our new members.

### MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

The Membership Council's main objectives are to foster a spirit of hospitality and to welcome and assist our new members in becoming engaged in the life and ministries of First Community Church. The council launched a new initiative in 2017 called The Open Door Ministry. After hosting an orientation in September, over 80 volunteers signed up to be a part of the Open Door Team. At least two team members are present at every church entrance before each service to welcome and extend hospitality to everyone who walks through our doors. With friendly faces and a desire to serve, the Open Door Team demonstrates that FCC is a place for all. The council welcomes our newest members at *Coffee with Glen* and the New Member Champagne Desserts by rolling out the red carpet with delicious food and engaging conversation. Council members aim to help our newest members feel at home and connected to their new faith community.

## MISSIONS

■ By Rev. Kate Shaner, *Minister of Mission*

As followers of Jesus, we're commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves, and through a combination opportunities and the passions of both young and old, FCC does her best to live out Christ's command. I'm humbled to present a snapshot of our 2017 work together, and thankful for all the hands and hearts committed to serve the world in love.

### Mission Council

- The 2017 Mission Council was comprised of 11 FCC members and 11 liaisons, representing various outreach ministries.
- 2017 Special Mission Offerings collected over \$40,000 to provide the following mission partners with financial support: Heart to Heart, Mexico Mission Trip, Refugee Task Force, Habitat for Humanity, Friends of the Homeless, Back Bay Mission, Deep Griha, Rafiki and Tandana.
- Revenues from 2017 Garage Sale allowed the Mission Council to approve approximately \$46,000 in grant requests, from local and international organizations, as well as two mission experiences provided by FCC:
  - \$4,000 -The Tandana Foundation with Olouguelemo, an environmental association of 15 villages in Mali, for the creation of 2 tree nurseries. These trees will both contribute to reforestation and help the villages work towards food security by providing nutritional and economic opportunities.
  - \$10,000- Mexico Mission Trip with Amor
  - \$5,000- Dominican Republic Mission Trip
  - \$10,000- Healing Arts Mission, Haiti for to purchase of equipment and improvement of the clinic operating room with solid glass windows (replacing the louvres), a scrub sink, stainless shelving, LED lighting, and anesthesia equipment.
  - \$2,000 – Rafiki, Kenya for new playground equipment
  - \$5,000 – Freedom Al a Carte, Columbus, Ohio for a new supportive housing program for 20 survivors of human trafficking.
  - \$1,500 - Ministry of Presence, Columbus, Ohio to provide comfort foods for the palliative care residents of the Franklin Medical Center and supplies for other programs including our Death Row visitation.
  - \$1,500 - Share and Learn Garden, North Campus for a new bed and updated watering system.
  - \$1,500 - Friends of the Homeless, Columbus, Ohio to support the needs of the program.
  - \$2,500 – Global Aids Interfaith Alliance, Malawi to provide a third-year nursing scholarship for Triphonia Masala at Kamuzu College of Nursing. GAIA's Nursng Scholarship program helps to fill severe gaps in healthcare staffing and improves the healthcare system's capacity to respond to the country's severe HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Mission Council sponsored the following events in 2017:
  - **Garage Sale**
    - The 2017 sale was our highest earning event ever. We grossed \$57,242 and netted \$47,881. Expenses increase annually and this year grew to 16.3%. (Since 1996 we have grossed \$800,024, netting \$717,281.)
    - Over 300 volunteers and staff participated in this event. (This included church members and non-church members.
    - This year, alumni of the Dominica trip and other youth volunteers, staffed two trucks which provided home delivery of furniture purchased at the sale.
    - At the time of this publication, our donated 1,700 sq. ft. storage facility is full and we're attempting to secure more storage space.

- **Farmer's Market** - Late summer produce from the Share and Learn garden, homemade baked goods, knitted items (Warm Welcome Knitting Group), a beautiful quilt and Haitian art (Healing Art Mission) was on sale outside the North Campus and generated over \$1,000 for Heart to Heart.
- **Shrimp Boil** - This annual event benefits our partner, Back Bay Mission, in Biloxi, MS. Over 150 people gathered in Grace Hall to dine on all-you-can-eat shrimp, red beans and rice and peach cobbler. The Reverend Alice Graham, PhD, Back Bay's Executive Director, provided the evening's remarks. Our young attendees presented Dr. Graham with homemade cards of blessings to take back with her to Back Bay. FCC member Crystal Ward Allen is a current board member of Back Bay Mission.

## The Refugee Task Force

- RTF gained 16 new members last January, bringing the current membership to over thirty members. The RTF receives half of the Easter offering to support their work. The 2017 amount was just over \$8,000.
- 11 RTF members are currently in-home ESL language tutors for 15 local refugees. The RTF supplies textbooks, workbooks and picture dictionaries for these lessons as well as much needed companionship and presence to those who may feel isolated and alone.
- In 2017, the RTF helped to resettle and support an Iraqi extended family (parents and adult son who arrived in 2016 and another adult son and his family of 5 who arrived the summer of 2017) and a Syrian family of seven. This support consisted of furnishing apartments, financial assistance, and assistance with job placements, obtaining drivers licenses and English lessons. A reception was held at SC in April to welcome our new neighbors to Columbus!
- RTF sold 40 "Welcome Your Neighbors" yard signs before and after worship at both the NC and SC. These colorful signs say: "No matter, where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor," in Spanish, English, and Arabic. If you missed the sale but wish to obtain a sign, please go to [www.welcomeyourneighbors.org](http://www.welcomeyourneighbors.org)
- The RTF continues to be the only Columbus distributor of the Burlington Coat Factory's Burlington Stores Warm Coats Warm Hearts program. (They delivered over 2,000 coats in 2016) From late November to late January, RTF members collect coats weekly from two Burlington stores and partner with ETSS (Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services) to pick up coats at a third Reynoldsburg store. The coats are distributed to local refugee organizations and refugee families.
- The RTF received multiple in-kind donations from members of the congregation to support our refugee neighbors. Some of these donations include: a 2008 Mini-van, household goods, an entire estate of furniture, a sewing machine and over \$800 dollars in gift cards for CRIS.
- The RTF provided financial assistance, to families referred by CRIS, for emergency needs. These requests are most commonly rent and utility assistance.

## Small group missions

- **Warm Welcome Knitters**
  - Feb 2018 marks the two-year anniversary for the 12-14 knitters, beginners to a fabric artist, who began their ministry to benefit the Refugee Task Force.
  - To date, over 500 items have been donated (hats, scarves and mittens) to not only the RTF but Heart to Heart, CRIS, and the Gladden Community House.
  - Warm Welcome participated in this year's Farm Market, where they raised \$540 to benefit the RTF by selling more elegant items.
  - Knitters always welcome!

- **Monday Night Meals/ Friends of the Homeless**
  - Volunteers provided meals for approximately 130 men (summer) and 150 men (winter) every week in 2017.
  - As well as providing ingredients, cooking the food, and serving the meals, Friends volunteers also provided the following:
    - First Monday group- 100 blankets and sheets
    - Second Monday group-150 pair of hats and gloves
    - Fourth Monday group- hygiene items and items for the men to heat leftover food.
  - Friends of the Homeless used the money they received from their portion of the 2017 Christmas Special offering to replace the mattresses on the beds in their dormitory.
- **Ministry of Presence**
  - Established in 2013 to offer visitation and friendship to prisoners on Death Row at the Chillicothe Correctional Institute and Franklin Medical Center in Columbus, the mission has been expanded to include a Pen Pal program for those who cannot visit the prison in person. While the program began on Death Row, the mission has expanded to other Ohio prisons as some of the death row inmates' cases have moved them off death row or we have become aware of inmates in other prisons requesting pen pals.
  - Death Row Inmates Receiving Visitors
    - Currently 15 death row inmates participate in the program with 5 inmates on a list awaiting volunteer visitors.
    - There are currently 14 FCC volunteer visitors either actively visiting or seriously considering Death Row visitation.
  - Pen Pals
    - Currently 6 inmates interacting with Pen Pals; 2 Death Row inmates, 2 at Madison Correctional Institute, 1 woman in Dayton and 1 at FMC.
    - Of our 6 volunteer pen pals, one is a woman from Pennsylvania who read about the program in the August First News and asked how she could become involved.
  - Visitation to Franklin Medical Center (State of Ohio prison hospital)
    - Mondays: Threshold Choir sings to 2N (men's nursing home area) and 3N (where inmates, both male & female, are recuperating from medical procedures before being returned to their home institutions, including some death row inmates)
    - Tuesdays: Volunteers visit women on 3N and men on 2N where they are present with them through music, crafts, book reading, games, etc.
    - Wednesday Evenings: Volunteers visit 2N and are present with men through games, discussions, etc.
    - The men at FMC have knitted and sold many hats and scarves. The proceeds will be used to purchase yarn in the color of the Mexican flag to knit hats for participants of the Mexico Mission trip to take for the families in Mexico.
    - Many of the men on death row watch the FCC Sunday morning broadcast on TV. Three of those men have joined First Community
    - Ministry of Presence hosted a discussion entitled "Conversations from Death Row," with Tony Apanovitch, former death row member, and Abe Bonowitz, death row abolitionist, at North Campus. The discussion centered on what it was like to serve over 20 years on death row, wrongly, and how we can help end the death penalty in Ohio.
- **Eyeglass Collections**
  - 168 reader glasses and 67 pair of sunglasses were collected
  - 172 eyeglass cases were donated to the Trading Post

- **Deep Griha USA**
  - Members of Dublin Community Church, First Congregational Church, First Community Church and St. Timothy of the Valley, made up the 2017 board of Deep Griha USA.
  - Sponsored Joy Converse, a FCC member, to volunteer for two months in Deep Griha, Pune, India, where she reorganized the library at the rural school and worked and lived with the children in City of Child.
  - Celebrated the completion of the Deep Griha rural school expansion project. (Many FCC members contributed to the development of new high school classrooms)
  - Hosted an informational and fundraising dinner with the help of the FCC Mission Council. The Rev. Tim Ahrens from First Congregational church gave the keynote address. One hundred and thirty people representing each of the supporting churches attended this event.
  - Processed \$32,197 in donations for Deep Griha's work thru the Deep Griha USA website (<http://www.deepgrihausa.org/>). The website has become a powerful tool as a major source of information for people around the world and a major part in the financial support of Deep Griha, accepting donations from around the world. The website processes all donations given through the original Deep Griha Society website. It has become the prime location through which people and organizations sponsor children in the Aadhar Kendra Program.
- **Share and Learn Garden**
  - Over 30 volunteer gardeners lovingly tend the Share and Learn garden, located behind the North Campus building, with the help of the Mary Evans Child Development Center family. The garden not only provides a beautiful opportunity for both members and non-members of FCC to feed our hungry neighbors, it also fosters beautiful intergenerational relationships between the gardeners and young children. Gardeners also routinely weed and mulch the MECDC playground.
  - The garden provided *hundreds* of pounds of fresh produce to Heart to Heart this year including; cucumbers, potatoes, collard greens, lettuce, tomatoes, green beans and much more. The gardeners also planted sunflowers and other color for the Mary Evans children to enjoy.
  - Gardeners remain consistently present at Heart to Heart during pantry hours to assist our Heart to Heart family (clients AND volunteers) in identifying vegetables and providing recipes to help incorporate those vegetables into everyone's diet.
  - In 2017, gardeners created garden boxes for the MECDC students and, with the help of the children, planted "finger food" vegetables. The children were excited to be able to taste their vegetables right out of the garden!
  - In November of 2016, the garden received a ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Academy Grant to install a new continual irrigation system for the garden. Research has shown this type of system not only increases crop yields but saves money in water. The system was installed at a discount by a local irrigation company system and is now fully operational!
  - The Share and Learn Garden was a nominee for the 2017 Bowden Community Impact award from the Growing to Green Program. Growing to Green is Columbus' largest organized effort to promote and provide free community resources for community gardening and city beautification. Share and Learn volunteers joined other nominees at the annual Harvest Banquet at the Franklin Park Conservatory in September.

- Share and Learn gardeners transplanted 22 beautiful rose bushes which surrounded the portion of North Campus scheduled for demolition in the North Campus expansion. Those roses will now grace the Share and Learn garden!
- Gardners are currently working on plans to expand the garden space at North Campus to include community garden plots.

### **Dominica School**

- The First Community Foundation continued to provide the majority of the operating funds for the Dominica School and Orphanage (DSO) in 2017 with \$93,250 in grants from the Dominica School and Orphanage Support Fund (DSOSF) and a 20,000 grant from the Lorena C. Hawley Memorial Fund, for a total of \$113,250 in grants. The Mission Council of FCC also contributed \$7,000 to the DSO for hurricane relief and to help cover Christmas expenses including bonuses for the teachers.
- The DSO has 500 students in grades preschool through the 9th grade. Of these students, 350 receive their meals and their education for free. Approximately 60 of the children live in foster homes and nine of the students live in the school's dormitory.
- One of the DSOSF grants allowed Dominica Rosario, the director and founder of the school, to bring seven certified teachers from Venezuela to the Dominican Republic to join the DSO faculty. This allowed the school to reopen ninth grade classes, which had been cancelled for two years due to financial restraints.
- A \$11,650 grant from the DSOSF provided funds for the purchase of two industrial stoves, replacing a four burner stove which was releasing harmful fumes into the school's kitchen.
- Twenty-one high school seniors from FCC visited the DSO for a week in October with three advisors. The trip was a huge success, with the seniors teaching various academic classes, and they interacted with the DSO students through dancing, singing, and art projects. They also assisted the advisors with several important infrastructure repair projects.
- The DSOSF had another successful fundraising year, raising over \$100,000 from over sixty donors.

## OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

■ By Missy Obergefell, *Director of Older Adult Ministry*

Older Adult Ministry had an active and innovative year in 2017. In addition to the ongoing efforts to provide pastoral care through hospital and care center visits, making home visits and office appointments as scheduled with those who request them, and maintaining a base of resources for in home care, later life living arrangements and caregiver support to share as needed, this ministry focused on a few special projects this year.

Joe Ray, a first year member of the Older Adult Council, spearheaded an effort to obtain the funding necessary to install a hearing loop system in the South Campus sanctuary. This will help those who have hearing aids to be able to connect directly to the sound system we use. Joe and I teamed with Pam Jameson to interview companies who install systems like these. We chose Brown Audio Services. The First Community Foundation approved our grant request for 10,000. This system will likely be installed in February. Congregational informational sessions will be offered following the installation.

Third year Older Adult Council member Bobbie Celeste joined with Burkhart Center, Older Adult Ministry, and Jung Association leadership in multiple planning meetings to develop a 2018 “Aging with Intention” series. This effort will produce a variety of offerings that support participants in walking a graceful, conscious path through their later years. It begins on March 3, 2018 with an expert panel discussion that will explore psychological and spiritual aspects of aging, which will be followed by ongoing discussion groups that take place at First Community Church and also at the Jung House.

In May, the Older Adult Council teamed with the Service Board to produce the 76<sup>th</sup> annual Burkhart Luncheon (formerly the Sweetheart Luncheon)—an event inspired by Dr. Burkhart that honors the women of our community who are 70 years old or older. This year’s theme was “Good to Meet You”, designed to introduce our new senior minister to Dr. Burkhart and to allow Dr. Miles to introduce himself to the invited guests.

The Older Adult Council continues to focus on its engagement plan: Three Coffees with Clergy were offered in 2017 in area Senior Living Communities. These events allow an opportunity for our members who live in those communities to commune with clergy, staff, and congregants with whom they may not otherwise see in person.

Each month, each of our 15 council members writes at least two personal notes on church stationery to older members of their choice. These notes can be of various natures—celebration, condolence, thank you, thinking of you, etc.

**PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY**

The Pastoral Care Department includes Rev. Jim Long, Minister of Pastoral Care; Missy Obergefell, Director of Older Adult Ministry; Paula Russell, Director of Congregational Care and Robin Hood, Pastoral Care Assistant.

The Pastoral Care Ministries continue to pay close attention to the pastoral and spiritual needs of the church. As such, clergy, staff and laity were involved in a number of areas in the life of our community of faith.

**HIGHLIGHTS for 2017**

**Comfort Blankies**

In June of 2016, Congregational Care introduced a new way to engage young families by presenting babies of church members with a Comfort Blankie made by Barb Davis and Sally Wandel, members of the Prayers & Squares ministry. The blankies are made of soft fabric with silky loops of ribbon lining the edges. The First Community rose emblem graces one side connecting the recipient to their church family. In 2017, 1 baby of church members received a blankie.

**Membership Mailing**

An all-member mailing, including a letter with an inspirational card, was mailed to members in February and August in 2017. Recipients continue to express their appreciation for these mailings confirming their significance.

**The Prayer Chain**

This year, the Director of Pastoral Care, Director of Congregational Care and the Director of Older Adult Ministry recognized the members of the Prayer Chain by holding a Service of Commissioning in Burkhart Chapel followed by a dessert reception.

**ONGOING PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES**

**Communion**

The pastoral care office worked with the clergy, Board of Deacons and Service Board to celebrate the sacrament of communion in public worship at the beginning of liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent, and on special days such as Maundy Thursday and Pentecost. Communion was served in the Burkhart Chapel each Sunday when services were held. Upon request, clergy took communion to people who were unable to come to church due to health issues or other reasons.

**Baptisms**

The Congregational Care office arranged for public and private baptisms. There were a total of 53 infant, child and adult baptisms during the year.

**Weddings and Commitment Ceremonies**

Clergy officiated at 15 wedding ceremonies both inside and outside the church during the year.

**Funerals and Services of Memory**

There were 42 funerals or Services of Memory conducted in the church, at funeral homes and at gravesides.

**Memorial Garden**

The church has a memorial garden at the South Campus for the burial or scattering of ashes of deceased loved ones who have been cremated, with 42 total services conducted. The names of the people memorialized were engraved on the arch at the entrance to the memorial garden. There has been a total of 5 services held at the memorial garden in 2017.

**Hospital Calling and Visitation**

The pastoral care staff made calls on people in the hospital and other healthcare facilities throughout the year. The pastoral care staff also visited parishioners and others in homes, retirement centers, and other living units upon request to provide pastoral care. This included visiting people who were unable to attend church for health or other reasons.

**Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction**

The clergy and pastoral care staff provided pastoral counseling upon request. The clergy or staff counselor referred counselees to a licensed therapist in appropriate cases. Clergy and lay people trained in spiritual direction provided individual or group spiritual guidance to those wishing to have spiritual companionship as they intentionally were attentive to the movement of the spirit in their lives.

**The Prayer Chain**

Requests for prayer made to the pastoral care office were sent to the Prayer Chain, which consists of individuals who agree to maintain confidentiality and pray for the needs of parishioners, their loved ones, and others. There were 194 prayer requests for families and individuals from Heart to Heart, and 187 prayer requests from members of the congregation sent to the Prayer Chain.

**Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry**

The group is comprised of master quilt makers and artists who share their passion - and the power of prayer - with their faith community. Church member Barb Davis brought the concept to First Community Church 12 years ago after learning of the nationwide ministry while attending a quilting retreat in Hocking Hills. She and a handful of others formed Prayers and Squares #62. Today, the ministry has grown to more than 1,000 circles internationally. Quilts are requested by the pastoral team; however, it must also be approved by the recipient. Each unique masterpiece (typically 40" by 60") is dotted with loose strings, ready to be tied into knots by those who will say a prayer on their behalf. Quilts are present during church events and worship services, providing an opportunity for the congregation to participate and to sign an accompanying booklet. This year, there were 33 quilts available after worship services for the tying of knots. More than 600 quilts have been created, prayed over and delivered – each taking as long as 1 to 3 weeks to complete. Quilt squares are also presented to church staff upon retirement.

**Red Cross Blood Drives**

First Community Church continues to be recognized by the Red Cross as one of the top churches for blood donations.

**Sweetheart Christmas Roses**

Members of the Program Staff and the Deaconate delivered Christmas roses to our "sweethearts" during the month of December. Eighty-two women and one man of our church family are included in this list. Two women who live out of the area received a letter.

**All-Saints Day**

Names of members deceased within a twelve-month period were provided to the Worship & Arts staff for All Saints Day. A moving tribute of candle lighting was offered to family and friends as names of the 39 deceased members were read during worship on this special Sunday.

**Heritage Sunday**

We celebrated in worship 144 members of 40 years or more on Heritage Sunday with special recognition of 18 new 40-year members. Following worship there was a Reunion Celebration in Brownlee Hall with archives available for viewing in the Library.

**Board of Deacons**

The Board of Deacons assisted with the sacraments of communion and baptisms and bereavement calls on those who have experienced the death of a loved one. They also assisted with vespers at First Community Village and delivered Sweetheart Roses to older women in the church during the Christmas season. They provided support and assistance to candidates for ministry from the church.

**Service Board**

The Service Board prepared the elements for communion services and assisted with communion. They also delivered roses to those who were in the hospital and, in 2016, added rose deliveries to rehabilitation facilities. They continued to provide hospitality after church services and for certain special events.

**Lay Chairs:**

David Nickel, chair, The Adult Learning Council  
 David Quelette, chair, Spiritual Searcher Committee  
 Price Finley, chair, The Burkhart Center Steering Committee

**Staff:**

Rev. David Hett, Clergy Staff  
 Natalia Jones, Administrative Staff January – July  
 Christy Caine, Burkhart Center Administrator July - December  
 Walter Watkins, Adult Education Coordinator  
 Kirsten Dove, Adult Education Specialist

**OVERVIEW**

- By Rev. David Hett, *Minister of Religious Life & Learning, Spiritual Director of The Burkhart Center*

As you'll see by the reports below, this has been a wonderful year of programming in all the areas of religious life and learning, now overseen by The Burkhart Center steering committee. The Burkhart Center itself is becoming a wonderful adjunct to spiritual growth to metropolitan Columbus and the Midwest, as well as to church participation growth here at home base. At our current series on Transformation, at a lecture by Father Richard Rohr, one young woman said that while she would not be involved in any church activities, she is enjoying attending Burkhart Center events—and she said this while talking with one of our more active members, who serves on our Adult Learning Council! This is the kind of impact outside the community of faith we hope to make. And that is just one small, recent example. Meanwhile, many church members also are benefitting by this series and by interacting with non-members as well.

A couple of things that may not be mentioned below include Walter Watkins' very successful series of classes as our Adult Education Coordinator, and just to mention his summer evening classes on "Remedial Christianity" that warranted an article in The Columbus Dispatch and 50 attendees through its numerous weeks. Kirsten Dove, our part time adult education teacher, also has provided a north campus class, Christianity 101, that's been very active, meeting simultaneously with the Sunday evening Crossroads' youth programming. I appreciate them greatly.

Speaking of our youth (and children's) programs, it has been a delight to be working with Julie Richards, our K12 Director and Leigh Anne Easterling, our Director of Early Childhood Ministry and of the Mary Evans Center for Child Development. What riches they bring to our children, youth and teachers, not to mention parents, staff and other congregants.

We were also quite a bit concerned when Natalia Jones left us for a full-time position as Director of Human Resources for the church, a position for which she is eminently suited. But at Natalia's suggestion, we approached Christy Caine, who has served as our Adult Learning Council chair and on The Burkhart Center steering committee, and Christy agreed to become the first Administrator of The Burkhart Center. She has done a fabulous job in our social media presence, but also in learning the various registration procedures, the monthly tasks, promotion of events and especially in compassionately interacting with all our members, friends and guests.

There are so many things I am proud of this year that you'll read about below, including our first Burkhart Center Spiritual Retreat at Akita with seven wonderful presenters and me facilitating. I continue to be pleased with our monthly "Progressing Spirit" community (originally a group responding to John Shelby Spong's visit a couple of years ago as a Spiritual Searcher), as well as our weekly

Contemplative Way Group that has become a rich, supportive community engaging in spiritual practice. We also helped to facilitate (with great cooperation from Pam Jameson and our facilities staff) hosting our first Interfaith Association of Central Ohio’s “main event,” their 25<sup>th</sup> annual dinner/seminar in August. A couple hundred people from all the faith communities gathered in our church for important relationship building and interspiritual cooperation.

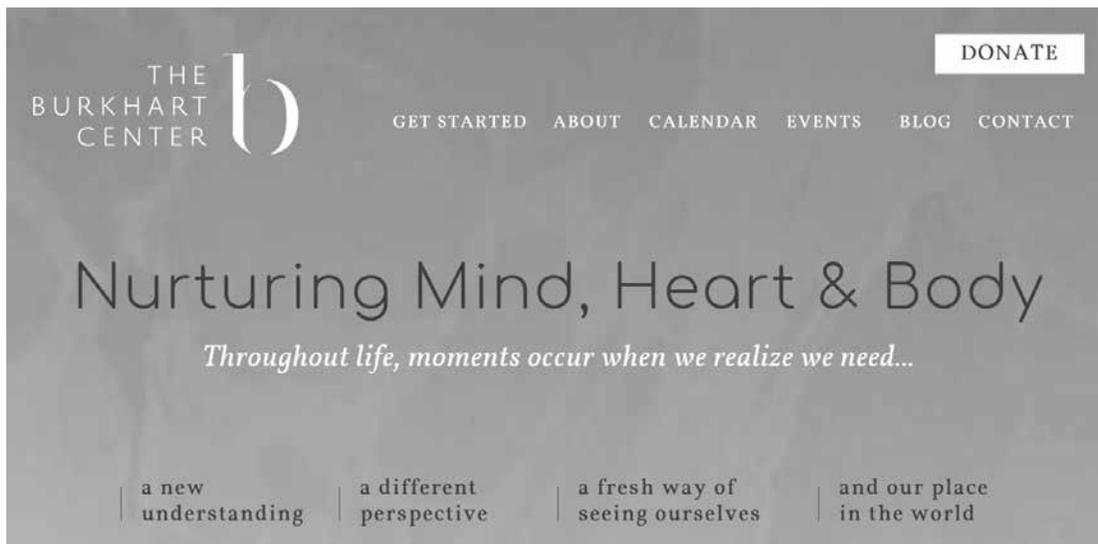
Finally, in August I was named a Teacher of the Diamond Approach, the psychological-spiritual work I have been engaged in for 18 years after having completed a simultaneous 10 years of seminary training and supervision for the one-on-one private teaching part of that work.

A wonderful year indeed!

**THE BURKHART CENTER**

■ By Price Finley, *The Burkhardt Center Steering Committee Chair*

The Burkhardt Center made some significant strides during 2017. This included the rollout of our website – [www.theburkhartcenter.org](http://www.theburkhartcenter.org).



We are using the website to share information about upcoming events and to continue to build our virtual community. For example, Rev. David Hett, who serves as the Spiritual Director for The Burkhardt Center, maintains a blog on the website offering perspectives on matters of import. In one of his recent entries, titled “Why We Need the Burkhardt Center,” David wrote:

*What we offer at The Burkhardt Center are very small, and hopefully, very large ways to reconnect with our true, or divine, nature. And this doesn’t happen by ignoring the physical reality, but by diving in the deep end and exploring the inner nature of our mental, physical and emotional being—what many traditions call the “soul.” Therefore, we find that offering various opportunities, practices and resources for “Nurturing Mind, Heart and Body” in safe, sacred spaces where individuals from all traditions, or from no tradition at all, can make themselves more available to the Divine Love that is the Ground of our Being.*

We were delighted to help bring Glennon Doyle, author of the New York Times #1 bestselling memoir *Love Warrior*, as well as, blogger and activist, to a crowd of more than 1,200 people in August. In September, we held a wonderful retreat for spiritual renewal with almost 40 participants. And for 2018, we’re looking forward to expanding our *Quest* programming (Quest Programs include seasonal topics, themes

related to world events, special areas of study, book groups and programs offered by volunteers and friends of The Burkhardt Center). Forty people registered for the first Richard Rohr “Authentic Transformation” series on January 4, 2018, to begin a two-month program in spiritual transformation. Also, in January, Jodi Patton began offering training for potential Reiki practitioners. David Hett will also begin a book study on the Diamond Approach spiritual work in mid-February.

**Steering Committee, The Burkhardt Center:** Lisa Bueche, Price Finley, Rose Konrath, David Nickel, David Quelette, Tom White, Peggy Wible. Staff: David Hett, Christy Caine

## ADULT LEARNING COUNCIL

■ By David Nickel, *Adult Learning Council Chair*

**Sunday Morning Adult Learning** programs offered a variety of stimulating programs, which drew strong attendance throughout the year. Programs were facilitated by Walter Watkins, assisted by Council members, and included

- ‘The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why’ – a series of videos by the late Phyllis Tickle, widely published author of spirituality and religion
- ‘Essentials of Judaism’ – a Great Courses DVD series
- ‘Buddhism’ – a Great Courses DVD series
- “Julian of Norwich” – a series conducted by Dr. Diane Lobody from MTSO
- “Martin Luther and the Reformation” – a series with Dr. Jeff Jaynes from MTSO
- *The Great Spiritual Migration* - a discussion series based on the book by Dr. Brian McClaren, a leading pastor with the progressive movement.

**Jesus Seminar on the Road.** Adult Learning Council members participated extensively in planning and facilitating the seminar ‘Alternative Christianities; Jesus in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries’, with Jill Short of the Council assuming a lead role with this event.

**Summer New Testament Series:** This 6-week series led by Walter Watkins and based on Paul Laughlin’s book *Remedial Christianity* was very successful in consistently attracting 40 to 50 participants each class from First Community and other religious organizations.

**Adult Learning Film Group:** This film and pizza group met monthly throughout the year, with an average of 15 to 20 participants per event enjoying fellowship and discussion of current and classical films designed to inspire deeper thought and spark important conversations.

**Much Matters Book Club.** This newly organized group is spearheaded by Dr. Shah Hasan and meets monthly to review and discuss books directed toward current societal issues.

## ADULT LEARNING ADDENDUM

■ By Walter Watkins, *Adult Education Coordinator*

Chair Dave Nickel expanded the membership of the Adult Learning Council with an eye toward more participation from individuals in their 40s. This has added new perspective and new energy to our Adult Learning efforts.

A few of the highlights for the year:

- Christianity 101 Sunday evening class at North Campus to coincide with Youth Crossroads Worship/classes. Kirsten Dove facilitates.
- Tuesday At Ten average attendance is 20-25, including regular participation by individuals from other religious traditions. Multiple presentation formats are rotated to appeal to a variety of learning styles.
- Sunday morning Wicker Room series focused on a variety of topics, and included 2 guest presentations by faculty of the Methodist Theological School. In the spring of 2017, Dr. Diane Lobody led a multi-week series on the writing of Julian of Norwich. The fall of 2017 included a multi-week series on Luther and the Reformation. Principal presenter was Dr Jeffery Jaynes, with additional sessions led by Mike Elliott and Walter Watkins. Our sessions facilitated by MTSO faculty have become very popular and we are continuing our contacts with the seminary to create future programs.
- We had a successful 6-week summer series entitled Remedial Christianity, based on the book by Paul Laughlin, professor emeritus of Otterbein University. Average attendance was 42 people per week. This class also included individuals from a broad section of the Columbus faith community, including participants from a Jewish synagogue.

**The Burkhardt Center Book Store** –Kirsten Dove, Christy Caine and a group of volunteers have made the bookstore more accessible and relevant. Class books, those recommended by clergy and new merchandise has been added, including T-shirts supporting Heart to Heart ministry.

**The South Campus Library** - Our collection has been refocused on theology, bible studies, psychology, spirituality and contemporary issues. In addition to a major expansion of the reference section of the library, thanks in large part to a generous donation from Rev Jim Long. Additional effort has been made to update and standardize our cataloging in preparation for a proposed software update. The library has also made arrangements with Heart to Heart to offer a variety of surplus library material to their clientele.

**Adult Learning Council:** Mike Elliott, Christy Caine, Bruce and Cathie Hickin, Carolyn Leick, Kris LoFrumento, Dave Nickel, Jennie Nickel, Jill Short, Darian Torrance, Mary Weisman Staff: Walter Watkins

## SPIRITUAL SEARCHER

■ By David Quelette, *The Spiritual Searcher Committee Chair*

This was a year of collaboration for the Spiritual Searcher Committee:

- Bringing the Jesus Seminar on the Road to Columbus for the first time, we worked with both the Westar Institute, home of the “Jesus Seminar,” to bring religious scholars Celine Lillie from Colorado and Robert Miller from Pennsylvania to present a weekend on Alternative Christianities, pulling from the ancient texts of the early Jesus-followers. In addition, we collaborated with our own Adult Learning Council, as Dave Nickel mentions elsewhere in the report, to coordinate this program. Jayne Kaylor from our committee served excellently as overall chair of the steering committee composed of Spiritual Searcher and Adult Learning Council members. This event drew 150 people from around the Midwest to experience our church and our marvelous programs to enrich the spiritual and religious life of our community.

- Second was the even more prestigious “Conversation with Glennon Doyle,” in August, which drew over 1200 people to the work of the Burkhart Center’s Spiritual Searcher program and First Community Church’s mission to be open to all people. Abbey Jo Griffith and Rose Konrath particularly, along with Price Finley, need to be thanked for spearheading this event in collaboration with the Upper Arlington Library’s author series and the Upper Arlington Community Foundation. Glennon Doyle has become a significant new voice in spiritual growth, parenting, gay and lesbian acceptance, and social justice issues, and we were thrilled to provide this venue for her in central Ohio.

The follow up for both of these events has been significant as well, as our “Love and a Coffee Revolution” series following up Glennon’s talk and meeting every other month has drawn 50 people from both our church and the surrounding communities to talks and discussions around Glennon’s work as well as Brene’ Brown’s insights.

The Jesus Seminar on the Road has a follow-up event in January 2018 with Dr. Glenna Jackson of Otterbein University speaking here on “Taking the Bible Seriously Not Literally” that again, our Adult Learning Council is hosting.

We also have a number of new members with new insights and passions, joining our Spiritual Searcher team, about which we are very excited, and bringing many ideas for program and speakers in the future.

**Spiritual Searcher Committee:** David Quelette, Tom White, Peggy Wible, Elizabeth Downey, Charles Baldeck, Linda Baldeck, Lisa Bueche, Price Finley, Connie Frecker, Abbey Jo Griffith, Diane Haddad, Kate Hauk, Connie Hieatt, Greg Jones, Craig Kauderer, Miranda Kauderer, Jayne Kaylor, Rose Konrath, Cindy Lanese, Brandi Lust, Katy Malhame, Janet McCutcheon, Charlaine Menendian, Vickie Murphy, Stewart Pitchford, Jamie Rhein, Brian Smith, Jaron Terry, Darian Torrance Staff: David Hett

**TRI-VILLAGE TRADING POST**

■ By Rebecca Wolfe, *Director*

*“The purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter– to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all.” – Leo Rosten*

The 50 volunteers that give of themselves weekly at the Trading Post don’t always realize it but definitely make a difference! The atmosphere created in our store is one our customers cherish, a bit of a respite from the normal world of retail. A “sanctuary”, if you will. This leads me to thank you, our congregation for the donations which are the life-blood of our operation. This year we added 43 donors to the 140 from last year and those are only the ones we know about! So many of you just drop things at our receiving room door with never a word. Thank you to all.

We are a drop off place for eye glasses as well. It is reported that the Lion’s Club have received 166 pairs of glasses from our site and Charlie Jacobs has given the Trading Post 172 glasses cases that we resell.

2017 brought big changes to the Trading Post. After over 40 years we finally did a complete re-do of our shop trying to eke out every bit of sales space we could. Only closing one day during the entire renovation everyone patiently waited for the great reveal. In April we opened our “home” to the entire church family for a special Sunday visit and those who had never been to the Trading Post or had not shopped there in years were awed by the transformation. We are again appreciative to Esther Newell’s family for sharing her memorial with us to continue to make the Trading Post a super shopping experience.

The Trading Post continues to be a major mission station for our church. Our work with Heart to Heart on many projects throughout the year help directly affect the lives of those needing nice, affordable clothing. The most memorable is always the Christmas Presence program when we help 30 families choose toys, clothing and household items to make their Christmas a little less stressful and more joyful.

If you think the Trading Post might be your place to make a difference contact Rebecca Wolfe: [rwolfe@FCchurch.com](mailto:rwolfe@FCchurch.com)

## WORSHIP AND ARTS

■ By Ronald J. Jenkins, *Minister of Music & Liturgy*

The year 2017 was a wonderfully enriching year for music and worship at First Community Church.

In addition to the music and liturgy provided for the weekly Sunday morning Services of Worship, and the many weddings and Services of Memory, the following special services kept the Worship & Arts department busy this year.

- 1/18/17 - Dr. Miles' trial Sunday
- 3/1/17 - Ash Wednesday service
- 3/19/17 - WinterSong services
- 3/26/17 - Dr. Wing's last Sunday and reception
- 3/26/17 - Crane Welcome Center ground breaking service
- 4/2/17 - Dr. Miles' first Sunday
- 4/9/17 – 4/16/17 Holy Week and Easter services
- 5/21/17 - Dr. Miles' Installation service
- 6/11/17 - EveningSong service
- 6/4/17 – 9/3/17 we added an additional Sunday service all summer
- 9/10/17- Fall kick off – back to four services
- 10/8/17 - North Campus ground breaking service
- 10/15/17 - Soli Deo Gloria services
- 12/3/17 - K-12 Musical
- 12/10/17 - 44th Annual Christmas Concert
- 12/17/17 - Dr. Lindsay's celebration/reception
- 12/24/17 - Two morning services and 5 Christmas Eve services
- 12/31/17 - Dr. Lindsay's last Sunday

The Worship & Arts Department also hosted two informational events on 4/12/17 and 8/24/17 regarding the proposal of the Klais organ for the new North Campus Sanctuary and are very involved in the ongoing fund raising campaign making this dream a reality.

We have continued to be blessed with outstanding musical leadership from the organ keyboard by Senior Organist Robert Griffith at the South Campus. His weekly service playing continues at the very highest level, enriching everyone's worship experience and included playing for the 8:30 services while Burkhardt Chapel was closed during the Crane Welcome Center construction. He is also serving as our organ consultant in the design of the new Klais organ for the North Campus Sanctuary.

Sally Beske, *Assistant Organist and Director of Youth Choirs*, continues to inspire our youth and the numbers are growing. Each week the children under her leadership are inspired and affirmed, and led to grow in their knowledge of music and in their relationship with God and one another. See Sally's additional report.

Carol Neff provides excellent leadership for our adult handbell choir, The Whitechapel Ringers, both in worship and special concerts in which they participate.

Lois Zook, *Administrative Assistant* in the Worship & Arts Department, carefully and lovingly coordinates all the many, many people who participate or attend, all the information related to rehearsals, services of worship, concerts, including the ushers, all with accuracy and sensitivity to everyone's individual needs.

We are indebted to Judy Hoberg who oversees the art displays in Brownlee Hall, Scott Van Hooser for his work on special liturgical season decorations, and the entire Worship and Arts Council, especially chair, Joan Talmage.

We are deeply grateful for the gifts from the "Friends of Music" which are so critical to our music budget. Their gifts continue to financially undergird the artistic efforts of the Music Department, as well as subsidize the services on Christmas Eve, Good Friday and Easter morning.

It is our continuing hope that our efforts in music and liturgy might provide a moment of beauty in worship and for the 'presence of the divine' to be experienced.

Ronald J. Jenkins, *Minister of Music and Liturgy* (full time)  
 Sally R. Beske, *Assistant Organist and Director of Youth Choirs* (full time)  
 Lois E. Zook, *Administrative Assistant* (full time)  
 Robert A. Griffith, *Organist*  
 Carol T. Neff, *Director of Whitechapel Ringers*  
 Ann Baker, *accompanist* for Kindergarten, Cherub and Junior Choir  
 Various per-service organists and pianists for the Burkhart Chapel service including Carol Hofer, Kathleen Houchens and Ann Baker.

**THE WORSHIP & ARTS COUNCIL**

Worship at First Community Church is a diverse experience. The main purpose of the Worship and Arts Council is to support the evolution and maintenance of an atmosphere in which each person may find a meaningful expression of faith. This Council is concerned with the congregation's central activity of worship, and all that concerns worship, including but not limited to music, the visual arts, drama, ushering, bulletins, special services, sanctuary decoration, ambiance of the space, and allied concerns; and, to enhance the congregation's participation in the arts, including, but not limited to, the concert series, art displays, and interior design of the public areas of the church facility.

**CHOIRS**

The Chancel Choir  
 The Chamber Singers  
 The Whitechapel Ringers (adult handbell choir)  
 Cherub Choir  
 Chorister Choir  
 Junior Choir  
 Vocal Ensemble  
 Youth Bell Choir 1  
 Youth Bell Choir 2

## YOUTH CHOIRS

■ Sally Beske, *Director of Youth Choirs*

More than 80 children participated in our six Youth Choirs this year. The Youth Choir program season began in September with a field trip to Ohio Wesleyan University. Choir children and their parents heard a demonstration of a Klais pipe organ, similar to the one that we will have in our new sanctuary. Our staff organists, Robert Griffith and Sally Beske made the presentation. The children and their families were able to feel the wind from the blowers and watch the workings of the instrument. The children asked excellent questions and at the end of the demonstration several of the older youth with piano training had an opportunity to play. The design of our Klais organ will be especially engaging for children. There is a passageway through the pipes and blowers where children will be able to view the inner workings. A special stop on our new organ has been designated in honor of our Youth Choirs.

On December 3, all the children's choirs came together to present a new variation of a Christmas musical initially presented in 2010, *William Bear Has Christmas*. Written by youth choir director, Sally Beske, this was our 22nd annual children's musical. It told the story of a fierce bear who is transformed by the power of God's love.

Youth Choirs continue to show growth and vitality. This is especially evident at the North Campus on Wednesday evenings in partnership with K-5 Midweek Missions as the children rotate through a pizza dinner, a mission project and choir. The Youth Vocal Ensemble for grades 6-12, meeting just before Crossroads on Sunday evenings, sings in Crossroads every month and also in Sunday morning services. As we look to 2018, the Youth Choirs are scheduled to participate in worship at both the North and South Campus at 4 different service times in 19 different services from January-May. After a closing concert for our families, we will break for the summer and then begin again after Labor Day. Christmas Musical number twenty-three, with the working title of *Christmas Under Construction* is planned for December of 2018. The best view of all the work being done for our new sanctuary is just outside the youth choir room. The children get to check on the progress of the new construction when they come to choir every week. It is creating an exciting and memorable experience for them this year.

## GOVERNING BOARD

Connie Johnston, *Chair*  
 Bill Mead, *Vice Chair*  
 Scott Campbell, *Past Chair*  
 Dr. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*  
 Dr. Deborah Lindsay, *Executive Minister*  
 Erick Piscopo, *Church Treasurer*  
 (June 2017-2nd term)  
 Gwen Carmack, *Incoming Treasurer*  
 (July 1, 2020-1st term)  
 Patti Link, *Administrative Staff*  
 Joy Barney  
 Jack Burtch  
 Erin Byrne  
 Mark Catalano  
 Elizabeth Downey  
 Ron Gardner  
 Jamie Greene  
 Jason Milligan  
 Jodi Patton  
 Amy Pelzer  
 Sandy Pfening  
 Judy Reinhard  
 Barb Burgie Satterfield  
 Mike Zook

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Eric Shisler, *Chair*  
 Lynne Ayres, *Vice Chair*  
 Sandy Anderson, *exPast Chair*  
 Buck Byrne  
 Bob Dana  
 Ben Dickens  
 Jason Downey  
 Nancy Evans  
 Phil Hawley  
 Jim Hutchins  
 Karl Klamar  
 Rose Konrath  
 Ralph Talmage  
 Darian Torrance  
 Cheryl Zeiger

Dr. Deborah Lindsay, *Executive Minister*  
 Bruce Pontious, *Stewardship and  
 Development Consultant*  
 Erick Piscopo, *Treasurer* (Jan – Jun)  
 Gwen Carmack, *Treasurer* (Jun – Dec)  
 Sandy Pfening, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Cindy Sue Gepfert, *Foundation Admin.*  
 Jane Torbica, *Administrative Assistant/  
 Recorder* (Jan – Mar)

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Jim Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*  
 Robin Hood, *Administrative Staff*  
 Mike Elliott, *Chair*  
 Susanne Kondracke, *Vice Chair*  
 April Howe, *Secretary*  
 Judy Reinhard, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Crystal Allen  
 Dawn Costin  
 Bruce Crouthamel  
 Jeff DeRoberts  
 Brian Gillespie  
 Mary Gossard  
 Elizabeth Haines  
 Connie Hieatt  
 Beverlee Houseman  
 Jim Howe  
 Tony Keefer  
 Bert Kram  
 Sally Kriska  
 Mark Loux  
 Dennis McGuire  
 Linda McGuire  
 Ann Patrick  
 Ken Patrick  
 Kevin Satterfield  
 Andrew Wildman  
 Donice Wooster

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE BOARD

Mike Zook, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Paula Russell, *Staff Liaison*  
 Robin Hood, *Administrative Staff*  
 Brad Briggs  
 Jane Briggs  
 Patrick Carle  
 Nancy Dell  
 Shirley Edler  
 Julie Edmonds  
 Susan Forbes  
 Mary Gossard  
 Nancy Hartman  
 Tina Parsley  
 Maryann Rinsch  
 Deb Steidle  
 Liz Sturges

## ADULT LEARNING COUNCIL

Rev. David Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*  
 Walter Watkins, *Adult Education Coordinator*  
 Christy Caine, *Staff, Past Chair*  
 Jamie Greene, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Dave Nickel, *Chair*  
 Darian Torrance, *Co-Chair*  
 Mike Elliott  
 Bruce Hickin  
 Cathie Hickin  
 Carolyn Leick  
 Kris LoFrumento  
 Jennie Nickel  
 Lisa Norris  
 Jill Short

## BURKHART CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Rev. David Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*  
 Christy Caine, *Administrator*  
 Lisa Bueche  
 Price Finley  
 Rose Konrath  
 David Nickel  
 David Quelette  
 Tom White  
 Peggy Wible

## K-12 COUNCIL

Julie Richards, *Director of K-12*  
 Kirsten Dove, *K-5 Program Coordinator*  
 Sandy Pfening, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Mackenzie Adkins, *Staff*  
 Jennifer Bratka, *Staff*  
 Laura Wetmore, *Staff*  
 Gabrielle Whitcomb, *Staff*  
 Tricia Baxley  
 Holly Debelko-Schoeny  
 Lisa Diemer  
 Rob Dingle  
 Krista Hartman  
 Lauren Hawley  
 Laura Helland  
 Cat Hiller  
 April Howe  
 Betsy Johnson  
 Carrie Narcelles

Heidi Orsini  
 Laura Klebe  
 MaryAnn Hopping  
 Adam Miller  
 Leah Miller  
 Dory Sisson  
 Laura Watson

## AKITA COUNCIL

Scot Nicoll, *Executive Director Camp Akita*  
 Bobbi Mueller, *Director of Camp Akita Operations*  
 Amy Gray, *Administrative Staff*  
 Jack Burtch, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Andrew Wildman, *Council Chair*  
 Susan Anderson  
 Kendall Glasser  
 Sarah Jonaus  
 Julie Keefer  
 Tony Keefer  
 Corey Liepelt  
 Meredith Liepelt  
 Stacy McVey  
 Jim Mason  
 Beth Ryan  
 Scott Ryan  
 Jason Shough

## EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

Barb Burgie, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Kara Sterns, *Co-Chair*  
 Abbey Murry, *Co-Chair*  
 Lauren Alexander  
 Megan Daughters  
 Kinsley Giles  
 Sarah Giles  
 Cassandra Kaparos  
 Chelly Montgomery  
 Kelsey Walker

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Kristy Glaser, *Coordinator of New Member Engagement*  
 Erin Byrne, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Annie Stair, *Chair*  
 Tricia Baxley  
 Jim Butcher  
 Linda Butcher  
 Dawn Costin  
 Liz Davis  
 Julie Edmonds  
 Kathy Glass  
 Stacy McVey  
 Jenny Morrison  
 Bryon Murray  
 Susan Murray

Jenny Lou Renkert  
 Kathy Tagliaferri  
 Bill Mielke  
 Michael Zmuda

**MISSION COUNCIL**

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**REPRESENTATIVES TO MISSIONS**

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 Jeff Leister, *Ministry of Presence*  
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 Joan Talmage, *Mat Makers*

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Rev. Kate Shaner, *Minister of Mission*  
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 Maryanne Ditty  
 Barb Falkenberg  
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 Cathy Klamar  
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 Michelle McClure  
 Mimi McGinty  
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 Carol Meyer  
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 Charles Nichols  
 Mary Ann Rinsch  
 Alison Gessner Rooney  
 Les Sauer  
 Kit Schmauch  
 Billie St. Clair  
 Jennifer Schaaf  
 Diane Sturges  
 Lindsay Swad  
 Sarah Taylor  
 Barbara Wood  
 Steve Walker  
 Mindy Wyckoff

## WORSHIP AND ARTS COUNCIL

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 Ron Gardner, *Governing Board Rep.*  
 Joan Talmage, *Council Chair*  
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 Aaron Carmack, *Chancel Choir Rep.*  
 Peggy Concilla  
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 Tracy Morrison Dickens  
 Elizabeth Downey  
 Molly Youngstrom-Hagkull  
 Lenny Smith  
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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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 Bob Everhart  
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 David Markworth  
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## SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

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 Barbara Burgie Satterfield  
 Barb Davis  
 Price Finley  
 Becki Harr  
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 Mike Zook

## SPIRITUAL SEARCHER COMMITTEE

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 Christy Caine, *Staff*  
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 Kate Hauk  
 Connie Heatt  
 Greg Jones  
 Craig Kauderer  
 Miranda Kauderer  
 Jayne Kaylor  
 Rose Konrath  
 Cindy Lanese  
 Brandi Lust  
 Katy Malhame  
 Janet McCutcheon  
 Charlene Menendian  
 Vickie Murphy  
 Stewart Pitchford  
 Jamie Rhein  
 Brian Smith  
 Jaron Terry  
 Darian Torrance

## CAPITAL PROJECT COMMITTEE

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 Nan Weir, *Owner's Rep*  
 Dr. R. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*  
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 Ginny Barney  
 Joe Bull  
 Erik Clark  
 T.R. Gross  
 Bill Mead  
 Barb Burgie  
 Cydney Philbin  
 Tracy Stuck

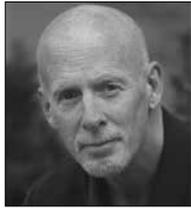
Last Name	First Name	Status Type	Base Department Name
Gepfert	Cindy Sue	Full-time	Affil-Foundation
Frick	Andrew	Full-time	Akita Camp & Program Director
Nicoll	Scot	Full-time	Akita- Executive Director
Miller	Robyn	Full-time	Akita- Food Services
Cox	Teresa	Full-time	Akita- Maintenance
Roley	Tyler	Full-time	Akita- Maintenance Assistant
Young	Michael	Full-time	Akita- Maintenance Director
Young	Danita	Full-time	Akita Site and Facilities Director
Hood	Robin	Full-time	Assistant to Dr. Glen Miles, Rev. Jim Long, Missy Obergefell, Paula Russell and Rev. Paul Baumer
Russell	Paula	Full-time	Congregational Care Director
Pierce	Alayna	Full-time	Director of Early Childhood Preschool
Jameson	Pamela	Full-time	Director of Facilities Ministry
Mueller	Bobbi	Full-time	Director of North Campus Administration & Camp Akita Operations
Jones	Jeffrey	Full-time	Facilities NC Supervisor
Brydie	Robin	Full-time	Facilities SC
Miller	Lawrence	Full-time	Facilities SC
Woicinski	Louis	Full-time	Facilities SC
Link	Patricia	Full-time	Finance Department
Dowell	Gretchen	Full-time	Finance Department: Accountant
Larimore	Cynthia	Full-time	Finance Department: Controller
Graham	Lamar	Full-time	Heart to Heart Director
Jones	Natalia	Full-time	HR Liaison
Richards	Julia	Full-time	K-12 Ministry Director
Barber	Michael	Full-time	Marketing & Communications
McCleery	Tabitha	Full-time	Marketing & Communications
Baird	Lisa	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Easterling	Leigh Anne	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Enderle	Elaine	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Gardner	Terra	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Hiser	Kate	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Hummel	Stephanie	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Kinnamon	Alicia	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Maceyko	Mary Beth	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Majka	Jeanne	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
McCann	Heather	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
McClurg	Rhonda	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Perry	Leslie	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Youngs	Susan	Full-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Lindsay	Deborah	Full-time	Ministerial Staff Executive Minister
Shaner	Katherine	Full-time	Ministerial Staff Missions
Long	James	Full-time	Ministerial Staff Pastoral Care
Hett	David	Full-time	Ministerial Staff Religious Life & Learning/Burkhart Center
Miles	R. Glen	Full-time	Ministerial Staff Senior Minister
Jenkins	Ronald	Full-time	Ministerial Staff Worship & Arts
Torbica	Jane	Full-time	NC Administration
Gray	Amy	Full-time	NC Administration - Akita
Caskie	Amy	Full-time	NC Administration - Missions
Zook	Lois	Full-time	Worship & Arts
Beske	Sally	Full-time	Worship & Arts - Associate Organist, Director of Youth Choirs
Whitcomb	Gabrielle	Full-time	Youth Ministry Coordinator
Adkins	Makenzie	Full-time	Youth Missions & Program Coordinator

# STAFF

Last Name	First Name	Schedule Status	Base Department Name
Watkins	Walter	Part-time	Adult Education Programing
Wolfe	Rebecca	Part-time	Affil- Trading Post
Altop	Matthew	Part-time	Akita- Food Services
Hill	Alexis	Part-time	Akita- Food Services
Kirby	Wesley	Part-time	Akita- Food Services
Nemeth	Lauren	Part-time	Akita- Food Services
Newell	Kaytlin	Part-time	Akita- Food Services
Roley	Colton	Part-time	Akita- Food Services
Wiseman	Dreena	Part-time	Akita- Food Services
Booth	Brandon	Part-time	Akita- Maintenance
Nemeth	Jeffrey	Part-time	Akita- Maintenance Groundkeeper
Cox	Kenneth	Part-time	Akita-Maintenance
Caine	Christina	Part-time	Burkhart Center Administrator
Glaser	Kristin	Part-time	Coordinator of New Member Engagement
Obergefell	Melissa	Part-time	Director of Older Adult Ministry
Alexander	Donna	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Black	Susan	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Cavallaro	Holly	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Crumrine	Kimberly	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Mitchell	Sarah	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Money	Jamie	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Olson	Sara	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Roe	Jennifer	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Short	Abigail	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Zambito	Jamy	Part-time	Early Childhood Preschool
Fisher	Robin	Part-time	Facilities NC
McCann	Jessica	Part-time	Facilities NC
White	Thomas	Part-time	Facilities NC
Jansons	Paul	Part-time	Facilities SC
Jansons	Teresa	Part-time	Facilities SC
Kaylor	Michael	Part-time	Facilities SC
Singer	Michael	Part-time	Facilities SC
Buckingham	Gay	Part-time	Finance Department
Greene	Rickey	Part-time	Foundation Accountant
Dove	Kirsten	Part-time	K-5 and Adult Education Program Coordinator
Bratka	Jennifer	Part-time	K-5 Coordinator/K-12 Admin Coordinator
Rogers	Emily	Part-time	Marketing Department
Birnbrich	Hannah	Part-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Knauer	Elizabeth	Part-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Swanson	Stacey	Part-time	Mary Evans Child Development Center
Gebhart	Matthew	Part-time	Media Department
Martin	Joseph	Part-time	Media Department
Naugle	Caleb	Part-time	Media Department
Nini	Christopher	Part-time	Media Department
Pitchford	Stewart	Part-time	Media Department
Baumer	Paul	Part-time	Ministerial Staff Pastoral Care
Wetmore	Laura	Part-time	NC K-5 Coordinator
Ryan	Rachel	Part-time	North Campus Receptionist
Long-Lindquist	Mary	Part-time	SC Receptionist
Perkins	Margaret	Part-time	SC Receptionist
Porterfield	Sally	Part-time	SC Receptionist

Last Name	First Name	Schedule Status	Base Department Name
Tribble	Jill Fisher	Occasional	Ceremony Coordinator
Hall	Carolyn	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Hiller	Logan	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Kadic	Reagan	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Milas Mikes	Andrea	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Sharp	Hannah	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Sharp	Mallory	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Smiley	Melody	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Wallace	Norma	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Willmarth	Lauryn	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Zook	Amalia (Mollie)	Occasional	Church Sunday School
Aeh	Mary	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Anderson	Rebekah	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Fleshman	Judith	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Lorenz	Stefanie	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
McKnight	Bernadette	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Petras	Tricia	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Smith	Barbara	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Sneller	Merida	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Stottlemire	Tara	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Wooster	Mary (Donice)	Occasional	Early Childhood Preschool Sub
Wilcox	Jon	Occasional	Facilities NC
Fabbre	Stacy	Occasional	K-5 Sunday School
Hopping	MaryAnn	Occasional	K-5 Sunday School
Benjamin	Leah	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Coggan	Kirsten	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Compton	Lynn	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Dingess	Chelsea	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Frick	Diane	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Holdsworth	Michelle	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Manahan	Katherine	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Quinlan	Lindsay	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Simmonds	Caitlin	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Zurhorst	Hilary	Occasional	Mary Evans Child Development Center Sub
Campbell	Barbara	Occasional	Parent Growth
Neff	Carol	Occasional	Worship & Arts Bell Director
Baker	Ann	Occasional	Worship & Arts Organist
Griffith	Robert	Occasional	Worship & Arts Organist
Carmack	Gwen	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Fry	Jennifer	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Humphrey	Deborah	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Jarred	Dustin	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Jones	Dameon	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Levell	Keith	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Moreen	Robert	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Parker	Amy	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Root	Thomas	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Wilkinson	Julie	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist
Zook	Lois	Occasional	Worship & Arts Soloist

# 2017 PROGRAM STAFF



**Dr. R. Glen Miles**  
*Senior Minister*



**Rev. Paul Baumer**  
*Minister to the Staff*



**Rev. David Hett**  
*Minister of Religious  
Life & Learning*



**Ronald Jenkins**  
*Minister of Music  
& Liturgy*



**Dr. Deborah Lindsay**  
*Executive Minister*



**Rev. James Long**  
*Minister of  
Pastoral Care*



**Rev. Kate Shaner**  
*Minister of Mission  
and Youth*



**Michael Barber**  
*Director of Marketing  
& Media*



**Salle Beske**  
*Director of Youth Choirs  
& Assitant Organist*



**Leigh Anne Easterling**  
*Director of Early  
Childhood Ministries*



**Cindy Sue Gepfert**  
*Foundation  
Administrator*



**Pam Jameson**  
*Director of  
Facilities Ministry*



**Bobbi Mueller**  
*Director, NC Admin,  
Camp Akita Operations*



**Scot Nicoll**  
*Executive Director  
of Camp Akita*



**Missy Obergefell**  
*Director of Older  
Adult Ministry*



**Julie Richards**  
*Director of  
K-12 Ministry*



**Paula Russell**  
*Director of  
Congregational Care*

**CONTACT**

614 488.0681

**NORTH CAMPUS**

3777 Dublin Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43221

Fax: (614) 777-4098

**SOUTH CAMPUS**

1320 Cambridge Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43212

Fax: (614) 488-2763

**CAMP AKITA**

29746 Logan-Hornsmill Rd, Logan, Ohio, 43138

Summer Camp: (614) 488-0681 ext. 101

Facility Rentals: (740) 385-3827 ext. 222

Group Programs: (614) 354-1935

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