

# 2016 Annual Report



637 6th Street, NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
(863) 294-3121 Fax (863) 294-1105  
[www.firstpreswh.org](http://www.firstpreswh.org)

# STAFF MINISTRIES

## SENIOR PASTOR

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

**As I think back over our church's** ministry in 2016, I realize that we have been faithful in our 130<sup>th</sup> year of living out our **purpose as God's people together.**

**Early in our own church's history, about a** century ago, the Presbyterian Church Book of Order began including a statement called **"The Great Ends of the Church"**. About a decade ago, the elders, deacons, and pastors in our own congregation revised the language of that statement, and reclaimed it as an expression of our purpose.

### OUR PURPOSE

*As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven exists to show God's kingdom to the world as we--*

- + *Share the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ*
- + **Develop and nurture God's children into disciples**
- + *Provide a place and a program for praising God*
- + *Live our lives according to the Word, guided by the Spirit*
- + **Commit to justice for all God's people**

What I believe you will see in the pages of this annual report are stories and accounts of how we all have been living out **our purpose as Christ's people together.** In 2016, we did share the Good News of the gospel here and around the world. In 2016, **Christ's disciples have been nurtured.** We have lived our lives guided by God's Word and Spirit with care and concern for all **God's people.** And in 2016, God has been praised.

I hope that as you read this annual report, you will join me in praising God for a purposeful and prosperous year for First Pres.

In Christ,

*Dr. Steve Negley*

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."* Hebrews 13:8 (NRSV)

As I write these words, I take special comfort in that promise about our Lord and Savior, as I would expect many others, for whom accepting change is often difficult to do. Jesus remains the same amidst all the changes that take place in our world. Certainly, we are well aware of changes that have taken place in our nation and in the world this past year.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we have seen changes in the worship styles we offer, in the Sunday morning schedule, and in our staff. In our membership, babies and others have become part of our church family. Others have moved away or joined the Church Triumphant. The Church, no less than our nation and the world, is affected by changes. For those like myself, we rely on the steadfastness of our Lord and we look to Him for grace in helping us to accept changes and to adapt to them.

As changes have been part of our life in 2016; so they, most assuredly, will be part of our life in 2017, while remembering that *"Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever."* **We would also do well to remember God's words, "I will never fail or forsake you," (Joshua 1:5) whenever we confront changes.**

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Dr. Alan Harvey*

## MINISTER OF VISITATION

It just does not seem possible that I have now come to the end of another great year of ministry, 2016, and now am looking forward to what I believe will be an even greater year of ministry, 2017! The reason I write this is because our Lord continues to challenge us to keep growing in our earthly ministry.

My ministry here at First Presbyterian Church continues to challenge me to become more and more of what God, our Father, calls for me to be. First, I would like to emphasize how excited I am about my call into the Ministry of Visitation. As such, I have been blest with the golden opportunities to visit perhaps some of the finest people in the entire world! The **people who make up the body of Christ's** Church here in Winter Haven are always welcoming, friendly, and full of grace. As I am called upon to serve and care for the good folks of our Christian Community, I am energized.

As my title is Minister of Visitation, it means I am to visit our families. I am also to be a part of the worship service. I do love to be a part of worshipping our Lord and God each and every Sunday. To be able to look out upon the many faces brings a wonderful feeling deep inside me. It is uplifting to me to be part of our home church team.

My call to be part of the ministerial team allows me to continue to do the wonderful calling and serving the Lord. As I am able to serve, I find myself also in His Care and Love. It is true that 2016 has come and gone; but the Lord continues to use us as we tend to His Kingdom here on earth. So, as I stand looking forward to 2017, I will be **blest and excited to carry out God's divine** will. I pray that we will all be in His loving care.

*Dr. Ray Larson*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
WINTER HAVEN

DIRECTOR OF  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE

God has blessed our Educational programs once again at First Presbyterian Church. Here is a little recap of 2016.

Every Sunday, except during a few holiday weekends, we provided Sunday School for children age three through adults. Preschool children met with their teachers for Bible story, snack, and playtime. The elementary aged children had their own Sunday School classes where they focus on Bible stories using different methods. We started a new curriculum called 252 Basics this year. This Fall, when we added in the Praise and Worship service, we invited the youth to attend this service. Once again, things shifted in the Fall, when we added in the 9:30 a.m. service so adults had, two classes to choose from each Sunday. The Perspectives class keeps the same theme all year long, while the other Adult Sunday School class changes curriculum every few weeks. It is very important that we provide educational opportunities for all members and friends of our church to choose from.

Our Wednesday afternoon Christ Kids program met during the school year for children age four through fifth grade. It was really a blessing that so many of our children invited their friends to join them for Christ Kids on Wednesday afternoons. Each week we had around 25 children in attendance. During that time, they had their very own music time with Ms. Lynn McCoy, the Director of Music Ministries, outdoor recreation, Bible story, sharing and praying time, and crafts. We have been extremely blessed to have a dedicated group of volunteers who provide the Bible lessons for the children each week. Lynn McCoy **met with the children's bell choir** immediately following Christ Kids. The children and youth also shared their musical talents the second Sunday of every month in two of the worship services.

Our Morning out Mom program continued to touch children from First Presbyterian as well as the surrounding community. We have had some transitions this year as we welcomed Amanda Olmert and then in the end of December, said farewell to Amanda. We will be welcoming new caretakers this January. This program meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. Children walking through age 3 participate in the program.

Here are some of the highlights in Christian Education in 2016:

Shrove Tuesday was held on February 9. We focused mainly on Shrove Tuesday table trivia. Dr. Larson made his famous pancakes. Great fun was had by all!

The children waved palms on March 20 and hunted Easter Eggs on Easter morning, March 27. We had around 40 children hunting eggs on the playground.

**This year we held several Parents' Night Outs** at the church. Parents were invited to drop off their children free of charge. This was a big hit for sure! We had anywhere from 8-17 children each time.

We had a Playground Mulch Spreading Party on Friday, April 22. Around 15 adults and several children helped spread the mulch in less than two hours!

Our All Church Retreat was May 14 and **15. The theme was "The Same Power."** We focused on the Holy Spirit during the Pentecost weekend. We had around 45 in attendance.

Kidz Summer Escape was held for six weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting June 14. We had around 25 children in attendance. We had a great group of teachers leading the classes as well.

With the help of nearly 50 teen and adult **volunteers, we held "Cave Quest" VBS** – June 20-23. We had an average of 65 children every night. Children age three through fifth grade graduates were invited to attend from the church as well as the surrounding community. It was a fantastic week and the best part is – the whole church came together to celebrate this **exciting week of sharing in Jesus' love!**

Rally Day/Blast Off to Education was held on September 11 and we also presented 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles that day. Due to adding a service and changing service times, this gave us an opportunity to explain to folks how education would fit on Sunday mornings and beyond.

What a great Fall Fest we had on Wednesday, October 26. The Youth of the church really helped to run the various booths for the children to enjoy. We had around 120 people attend that night with a pizza dinner provided before the festival.

December 4 the children participated in Jingle Java Jam sharing their musical talents of singing and playing bells.

The children served as the cast of characters for Come to the Stable and to Bethlehem Square at the 6:30 p.m. show on December 10.

On Christmas Eve, the children sang at the 5 p.m. service and several of them acted

out the nativity during the Time with Younger Disciples.

As I wrap up ten years as Director of Christian Education, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support, friendship, and prayers through the years. It truly has been an amazing time and I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you all in the New Year.

In Christ,

Amy L. McKee

## Our Purpose

**As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven exists to show God's kingdom to the world as we...**

- *Share the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ*
- *Develop and nurture God's children into disciples*
- *Provide a place and a program for praising God*
- *Live our lives according to the Word, guided by the Spirit*
- *Commit to justice for all God's people*

Adopted by Session 2003

DIRECTOR OF  
STUDENT MINISTRIES

2016 was a wonderful year at First Presbyterian Church in the life of our youth. We went on many adventures and enjoyed multiple hands and feet projects.

The youth program was predominately centered on our Wednesday and Sunday night youth groups. The Wednesday night middle school youth group held strong with about 20-25 in attendance each week. Sunday night youth fluctuated from 10 to 19. Each week we enjoyed food cooked or provided by our youth parents and church members, free time to visit with each other, and thought-provoking Bible based discussions. The youth were involved in many other areas in the life of the church such as, ushering every fifth Sunday, a toy drive for the Salvation Army, The Jingle Java Jam, serving at a Jazzbyterian fundraiser to raise funds for our youth in Honduras, Honduras mission trip, lighting luminaries at the Christmas Eve services, Soup Kitchen, our annual Talent Show, Trivia Night, and much, much more.

This summer was a busy summer for the youth as our high school youth were able to attend a mission trip to Honduras as well as our annual Montreat trip to North Carolina. Our middle school youth attended our annual Great Escape trip. Each of these trips provided our youth with an opportunity to get to know each other better as well as nurturing a relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. They all had a wonderful time on these trips and I am most grateful to our congregation who helped make these trips possible for those students who were unable to pay.

While it was my job to plan each event as well as youth group each week, none of these were possible without the volunteers who tirelessly gave of their time to our youth and the youth program. Without **these volunteers, I absolutely wouldn't be able to do my job each week.** It takes a village and we have a special one at our church. I pray that God will continue to bless our program and our students.

**In Christ's Service,**

*Dana Parrish*

~~~~~  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

As I complete the first full year of my **tenure, I can't believe how fast the days flew by!** I gratefully thank all those who gave their time and support to help ensure music remains a vital component of worship at First Presbyterian Church and look forward to continued growth in our music ministry.

In 2016, we continued to share our faith through music with the Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, and Chapel Bells. We continued to see wide fluctuations in attendance for the Chancel Choir and this will be a focus for me in 2017. We saw several members leave but also added new members. We continued with participation in the Disney Candlelight Processional and will add two concerts in the coming year to offer members additional opportunities for participation. The Chancel Bells also had members leave but we had a new strong group with adequate subs to assist. The Chapel Bells started the fall with a questionable future. But with a change in rehearsal time and new members, it is now going strong.

**The Youth and children's music saw a change the second half of the year.** The addition of the Praise and Worship service allowed for an increase in participation on Sunday mornings. I worked with two different groups of children, Christ Kids and Sunday school, with a few children in both groups. We will continue to schedule the children to participate during worship on Sunday mornings and try to include both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Our music ministry has also outreached to the Morning Out Moms program on Wednesday morning. We offered two half hour sessions so that we could split the class into no more than eight children in each group. Our Christ Kids Ringers are a strong group this year. We had several returning children and I am very excited at how much they have grown in their ringing skills with just our short rehearsal schedule! I thank all the parents for their support with this program.

Fall brought our new Praise Band into focus for the Praise and Worship service. It was a surprise to me that we could staff the Praise Band with our church members! We are a young band and I am blessed that I have the opportunity to see these young people develop not only in their musicianship and faith, but I see them blossom into responsible young adults who take their positions seriously and joyfully. The growth in our music program saw a growth in participation in our sound and video booth. We now have eight members who regularly work a Sunday service to ensure that our audio and visual needs are met for each service.

The Jazzbyterians became a regular addition to our Sunday services in 2016. We had several vocal and instrumental soloists who were willing to come to both the 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services to

share their talents. Outside of Sunday worship, our music ministry included several programs: Spring Ring with the bells, the Hot Night Cool Jazz with the Jazzbyterians, the church wide talent show, and Jingle Java Jam. Scheduling was a challenge with three services. With just a half hour between the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services, there is not enough time to schedule both the bells and choir with a warm up and I must depend on others to help with the children when they participate. We are a church full of talent with people willing to step in and fill the needs to offer musical praise each Sunday. I am grateful and blessed for this year of musical praise.

Joyfully,

*Lynn McCoy*

~~~~~  
COMMITTEES AND  
OTHER  
ORGANIZATIONS

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

I wish to thank all who served on the Buildings and Grounds Committee during 2016. Those were Squire Smith, John Marchetti, Larry Davis, Cheryl Beckert, Keith Ray, Gary Gardner, Joe McKee, and Bill Allen. Staff members serving on the committee were Rev. Steve Negley, Ronda Lacy, and Sam Bryant.

During 2016, the Buildings and Grounds Committee accomplished or completed the following: installed new external double doors to the Christian Education building and to the rear entrance to the sanctuary building; purchased and installed a new gas stove in the church kitchen that does not require any pilot lights, which reduces the possibility of gas leaks and lowers air conditioning costs in the kitchen area; completed the sale of the Spring Lake Towers condominium that was bequeathed to the congregation several years ago; completed trimming the crepe myrtles on our property. Several landscaping projects were completed and several more identified for completion in 2017. Several front rows of pews were removed and placed in the rear of the sanctuary to create more space for the church music program and presentations. Our annual church workday involved adult volunteers and our youth groups. Weeding and the replacement of mulch was completed. Grilled hot dogs and refreshments were enjoyed by those who volunteered. New

toxic-free playground mulch was added to **our children's playground.** The "caps" on the top of each column in the port-cochere were replaced. This was a significant project, needed because of deterioration and aging. New benches were purchased for the rear entrance waiting area. Elevator upgrades were required and completed. Braille plates were added and an alarm battery installed. Air conditioning units were replaced for McLeod Hall, the Golden Center, and the Christian Education building. Kathy Jackson was hired as our new custodian. Kathy worked for many years for the city of Winter Haven. We are pleased to welcome her as a new staff member. During the year we coordinated the use of our buildings by outside non-profit groups who sought the use of our facilities for meetings and events. This is an expression of our ministry to the community and the stewardship of our facilities.

Insurance accounts for about nine percent of our total budget. The Buildings and **Grounds Committee spent significant time** exploring quotes and options to secure the best coverage at the best price. This is an ongoing project as we move into 2017.

*Bill Allen*

Chair

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

This past year, the Community Outreach and Engagement Committee focused its attention on Name Tags, the Electronic Messaging Center (the sign,) and the production *Come to the Stable and to Bethlehem Square.*

Regarding name tags, while still encouraging their use, we did learn that some people use them regularly and others do not. We explored the possibility of securing name tags for children.

Though the Communications Task Force exercises responsibility for the EMC, we are interested in its effectiveness in presenting our church and its programs in the best light. (pun not intended, but will allow it to stand).

From September through early December, the committee focused most of its attention on *Come to the Stable and to Bethlehem Square.* A tremendous amount of work is involved in this presentation and we make changes and enhancements each year, although these may not be recognized by the audience. We had to secure a new source for our animals this year and it was less than we paid the previous year. We

had very good attendance at the first show with standing room only, but the second one was not so good. At the time this report is being written we have not had an opportunity to review what we did, what we need to do better and how we can get more people involved.

*Alan Harvey*

Staff Liaison to Community Outreach and Engagement Committee

#### CONGREGATIONAL CARE

For 2016, the Congregational Care Committee consisted of 10 active members with Dr. C. Alan Harvey as our Pastoral Leader.

As 2016 began, we prepared 18 comfort food meals, which were delivered by our ministers to families of our church, during time of illness, birth of a baby, or death. A total of 54 meals were prepared during the course of the year.

This committee also assisted families who experienced the death of a family member. In 2016 we hosted 10 funeral receptions. We also mailed booklets titled "Journey Through Grief" to the bereaved families. At the start of the Holiday Season, letters were mailed to the families who lost a family member during the year.

Our committee also sends 'thinking of and praying for you' post cards to those who are listed on our prayer list every two months.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continued to meet the fourth Monday of every month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the back of McLeod Hall. New members, who knit or crochet, are encouraged to join us, whenever your calendar allows.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the loss of two of our members this year.....**Mary Dukes and Judy Kingham. You are missed.....until we meet again.**

As we begin 2017, we look forward to serving our church and church families. If you feel the call to join this wonderful group of volunteers, please speak to Dr. Harvey or myself.

I would like to thank each and every member of this committee who has responded to all our needs during the year. You have made my transition to this position a very humbling experience.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet E. Howard*

Chairman

#### DEACONS AND LOCAL MISSION

In 2016, the Deacons continued to receive presentations from various agencies that we support. We did things differently than having a representative from the organization come and address us. We set **up two mission fairs ... the first one that dealt with Youth related ministries:** Anchor House for Boys, Boy Scouts, Girls, Inc., and Polk Training Center. The second mission fair in September dealt with adult and family **related ministries: Angels' Care Center/Project Love, Family Emergency Services, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, and the Mission.** The Deacons also delivered items collected at the church to **benefit Angels' Care Center/Project Love** and Family Emergency Services. In addition, we would like to encourage our members **to donate items to Habitat for Humanity's** Restore and Meals on Wheels Thrift Store, for your donations are another way that you may join us in supporting these organizations and their ministries. Alan also kept us apprised of our in-house ministries: Bag Lunch, Soup Kitchen, Angel Van, and Saturday Nite Live. All of these agencies and programs are supported by monies allocated to the Deacons for the purpose of local missions.

We gave out 14,518 bag lunches and we served 5,473 meals at our Saturday Soup Kitchen. Those numbers represented a decrease of 802 bag lunches given out in 2015 and an increase of 618 more meals served in 2016. At the current rate of \$1.28 for food filling the bag lunches, it cost us \$18,583.00. Most Saturday Soup Kitchen meals cost \$2.00 to \$2.25/plate and so the amount spent for Saturday Soup Kitchen would be in the range of \$10,946.00 to \$12,314.25. Supporting these ministries alone could easily consume the funds allocated to the Deacons to fund other local ministries mentioned above.

As the body responsible for allocating monies to local missions, we were faced with some tough decisions this year regarding the funding of our Feeding the Hungry Ministries (Bag Lunch Ministry and Saturday Soup Kitchen Ministry.) To support these ministries we reduced the amounts we had planned to give to local missions by 25%. We lamented this action **but felt committed to supporting these "in-house" ministries.**

The Deacons staffed two Saturday Soup Kitchens in the summer. We were made aware of some issues related to the Saturday Soup Kitchen that needed addressing. To that end, a task force is being convened to deal with matters

related to the efficient, safe, and ongoing operation of the Saturday Soup Kitchen. This group will be meeting within the next month or so to make recommendations and to review and update policies related to it operation.

*Alan Harvey,*  
Staff Liaison to the Deacons

#### FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee coordinates and oversees table fellowship activities that are held in McLeod Hall throughout the year. This year our attention was focused on four big events, **two of which are held within a week's time.**

**With the help of Elmo and Linda's** Catering, we hosted the Maundy Thursday Dinner. Our Easter Breakfast was staffed by our members with men preparing and serving the breakfast aided by women, who also decorated the fellowship hall. Our next event was our Patriotic Luncheon and Sing Along, Hog Heaven Smokehouse once again catered this event for us. The last event was the Rally Day Breakfast with some food items being prepared here and doughnuts provided by The Donut Man.

This committee meets as needed to make preparations for these events that have been on our church calendar for some years.

*Alan Harvey*

#### FRIENDSHIP CALLERS

Friendship Callers are exactly what their name says; these good people make friendly calls, both by phone and in person upon members and friends who are restricted in their getting out. When people who because of age and/or physical restrictions are limited to what they can do for themselves, a Friendship Caller will come on the scene.

At present, we only have two couples and two individuals who have volunteered to reach out in caring for some who do not have family who can or are able to care for them.

Please, if you are able and available, simply give me a call and I will be pleased to visit with you to answer any questions you may have.

Always in His Spirit,

*Ray Larson*  
Staff Liaison

#### GLOBAL MISSIONS

In 2016, our church was active in spreading the Word and love of Christ around the world in global missions.

Beyond our city, we use gifts given to our church to support the work of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. Together with 70 other Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations, our presbytery is a mission partnership, allowing us to conduct ministry which is larger than what most churches can handle alone. In this mission, new churches are being organized and disciples are being nurtured in the greater Tampa Bay region. Our mission work also helps provide for faith formation at the Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center and Eckerd College. Furthermore, our mission in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay includes providing spiritual and physical support of migrant farm workers and their families through the varied ministries of the Beth-El Mission in Wimauma.

Nationally and internationally, along with 10,000 other PC (USA) congregations, people are being trained and supported in ministry and mission personnel are blanketing the globe with the gospel of **Jesus Christ. Our church's investment in World Missions** totaled over \$40,000, including our shared ministry in Presbytery (Cedarkirk, Beth-El, and The Tampa Bay Presbytery International Partnership with the Presbytery of Honduras), and our support of three General Assembly Mission Partners: John McCall, mission co-worker in Taiwan; Ruth Brown, mission co-worker in Congo; and Sharon Bryant, mission co-worker in Thailand.

Over the past year, our congregation has **also shared God's love world-wide** as we collected \$3,805 in our Christmas Eve Offering for Medical Missions. These gifts went to support the Medical Benevolence Foundation Health Clinics in Kenya, Bangladesh, and Haiti, and our medical partnership with the Presbytery of Honduras.

At Easter, we gave \$2,266 to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters (through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

In the summer of 2016, twenty two of our church members engaged in a one-week mission trip to Honduras. (This trip **marked our congregation's ninth such** mission to Honduras since 1998.) While in Honduras, our team partnered with our Christian brothers and sisters in congregations of their presbytery to

provide meals and stuffed animals to families at an inner city hospital, and one day medical and dental clinics in one urban and two rural congregations. Friendships were deepened, faith was shared, and God was glorified.

And in 2016, we hosted several of our mission partners. In April, Dr. Fred Foy Strang and Dr. Cecily Strang, mission partners supported by our church in their ministry in Kenya and Tanzania visited Winter Haven to update our congregation on the ministry we share in Africa. Later in the year, Rev. Dr. Sharon Bryant, a mission partner in Thailand whom our church has supported for years also led a worship here on a **state-side assignment. Sharon's multi-day visit** saw three of our church member families extend incredible hospitality to this sister in Christ.

We are indeed witnesses to the saving grace of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

*Steve Negley*

#### LIBRARIES

The First Presbyterian Church library system – the Price General Collection Library, the Spencer Theological Library, and the Children/Youth Library in the CE building – offer a wide variety of fiction, biography, history, juvenile, and religious titles. Our goal is to be the first choice of our members for their library needs. Our circulation remains strong and many use one of our libraries for meeting purposes.

**The ongoing job of refreshing the library's** catalog continues through removing outdated or worn out volumes to make room for current and best-selling titles. Most of our inventory has been cataloged electronically for quicker, more accurate lookup of needed materials. Additionally, we now have online resources in the library to help our members locate books they want in our libraries or through the Polk County Library Cooperative.

The library system has many current and **popular books for our members' reading** enjoyment. Bestsellers and books related to current events are added regularly to our collection. Additionally, books featured in or related to current Sunday School curriculum are added to the libraries. Special emphasis is placed on requests by our patrons for specific books. We have partnered with Dr. Harvey to make available for purchase or loan books featured in his OM-OM book club.

During 2016, we continued the service of locating hard-to-find or out-of-print books for individuals to purchase. Staff and several

several church members have used this service to successfully locate volumes for their personal library. With our resources, we can usually locate books not available at local bookshops and we can normally beat retail prices on any book.

*Jonathan and Bethany  
Owen*

#### MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Membership Development Committee is to serve Christ and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven in ways that encourage active membership and church growth.

Dr. Alan Harvey serves as staff liaison. In 2016 the Membership Committee included Joyce Anderson, Toni Barger, Joan McCollough, Jackie Pinckney, Nell Speer, Glenn Thomas, Loretta Travis, Ellen Zeller, Pat Vobornik, Judy Denlinger, and Debbie Sowards serving as the committee chairperson.

The committee meets on the second Thursday of every odd month excluding July.

Birthday postcards and stamps are distributed at the meetings to each committee member along with a list of birthday names and addresses. A personal handwritten birthday message is sent to every member of our congregation.

Throughout the year the membership committee hosts "New Member Receptions" to welcome our newest members. In addition, the committee hosts' receptions honoring Confirmation Class graduates, welcoming our winter residents, and celebrating our "Outstanding Older Adult". We also hosted a combination "New Member Reception" and "Farewell" to our custodian Ann Quesenberry. In February we joined forces with the Hospitality and Congregational Care Committees to host a reception celebrating Dr. Negley's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

During the past year and in previous years, we have hosted two "Ice Cream Socials" for 80+ year-old members. The first social honored celebrants born between January and June, and the second honored those born between July and December.

The Membership Committee is honored to have the responsibility of selecting individuals for consideration by Session for the "Outstanding Older Adult" award. This year we recommended Bill Patchen and Nancy Shaw. Session approved the nomination and they were presented and

honored with a reception in November.  
Respectfully Submitted,

*Debbie Sowards*  
Chair

#### MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden Committee was reorganized, May 2015.

Meetings held in the fall of 2015 noted the deterioration and over growth of Courtyard Plantings, the decline of one Winged Elm, and general lack of oversight.

Committee voted to:

\*Dismiss the current garden maintenance company.

\*Find a replacement for maintenance.

\*Replant the courtyard/office area.

\*Take at least three bids for endeavor.

Beginning in January 2016, courtyard plantings removal and new installation bids were submitted by 5 different landscape companies. Belisle Nurseries was selected to re-landscape the courtyard at a cost of \$1531.00.

An agreement between Belisle and First Presbyterian was signed for the maintenance of the Memorial Garden in February. Services noted in the agreement will be provided for \$200 on a twice monthly basis.

The Committee agreed to meet quarterly, instead of monthly.

Carol Carter is chair for the Columbarium plaque procurement.

*Peggy Davis*

Chair

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The women of First Presbyterian Church met regularly throughout the year in two Circles (Joy and Lydia). At their monthly gatherings they supported one another in prayer, and were enriched by great Christian fellowship. Bible Study Leaders Jana Easterling, Sue McClew and Carol Carter helped the women in their circles explore God's Word in their monthly lessons. In the winter and spring, the groups engaged in a study titled *Come to the Waters*, an exploration of the central role that water plays in the stories of scripture. In the fall, the circles embarked on a journey to expand their understanding of who Jesus was and is for us today in the study titled *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens*. This study is continuing throughout the spring, and all women of the church are invited to attend. We are saddened by the passing of three of our long-time members this year, Joanne Carruth (Lydia), and Mary Dukes and Judy Kingham (Joy).

*Sue McClew*

Chair

#### SATURDAY NITE LIVE

**Saturday Nite Live had a great year ...** picking up a few new members and some volunteers too. We were blessed to receive outside donations to supplement the monies received from the church to assist with the expenses incurred for programming, e.g. there were two donations in December amounting to \$400. We had a variety of programs that were informative and/or entertaining.

The schedule is listed below:

January 15	Sports/Game Night
February 20	Parkland Baptist Puppet Troop
March 19	Celtic Music Group
April 16	Miz, Daisy the Clown
May 21	Movie Night: Ice Age
September 17	<b>Celebrating Everybody's Birthday</b> Fire Fighters on Parade
October 15	Harvest Ball
November 19	Christmas, Too!
December 17	<b>"Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town"</b> Holiday Potluck

Christmas Too! Allowed us to do some different programming for Christmas, which included games, ornament crafting, storytelling, caroling, snacking on cookies and cocoa, and presenting guests with Advent calendars.

*Alan Harvey*

#### STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Celebrating 24 years of Christian caring at First Presbyterian Church, Winter Haven, the Stephen Ministry Program is a lay minister service to folks going through transitions in their lives. Whether the death of a loved one, health related issues, the birth of a baby, a job loss or job change, relocation, divorce, financial strains, issues dealing with aging, and any others...all can be the reason you might want someone to come alongside you confidentially, to help get through that life transition.

The Stephen Ministry program had a new class of 4 Stephen Minister trainees that began training on February 4, 2016. On May 22, 2016, Carol Carter, Richard Moots, Connie Shipley, and Katie Sparr were commissioned as Stephen Ministers.

During the year, our Stephen Ministry program had 16 active Stephen Ministers as well as 8 Stephen Leaders which included the three pastors. There have been approximately 117 people who have gone through Stephen Minister training since our Church became a Stephen Ministry congregation in 1992.

The Stephen Ministers have been very active in providing one-on-one confidential Christian care giving for dozens of members of our congregation throughout 2016. Several Stephen Ministers provided additional care giving in assisting at funerals.

The Stephen Ministers also hosted a **dinner and a program on “Your Final Celebration” for our congregation, and the ones who attended gained insight on their final wishes.**

The Stephen Ministry program is planning two other events for our congregation during 2017.

Questions about how you might be involved in this rewarding ministry can be directed to any of the pastors.

*Barbara Perkins*

~~~~~  
WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Less than a month after our church was organized in December of 1886, the first public worship service was held in a room over a downtown Winter Haven store. By 1893, a permanent house of worship was **completed and now we gather each Lord’s Day** in a sanctuary where God has been worshiped for over 90 years.

2016 was the 130<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the people known as First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven met each week to worship God. The Word was preached, and our worship life was graced by the gifts of many of our members. Under the leadership of Lynn McCoy, music abounded. The Chancel Choir, the Chapel **Bells and Chancel Bells, the children’s** choirs, youth singers and ringers, the Jazzbyterians, our Praise and Worship band, and other soloists and ensembles all helped us lift our praises musically to our Creator.

In the fall of 2016, our church decided to add a greater variety of worship experiences for the congregation and community. We moved to three unique Sunday worships services:

8:15 a.m.: Chapel Worship – A traditional worship service held in our chapel.

9:30 a.m.: Heart of Worship - A Praise and Worship service held in our sanctuary.

11:00 a.m.: Sanctuary Worship - A traditional worship service held in our sanctuary which includes music from the Chancel Choir and the organ, as well as other instruments and groups.

2016 was another year of First Pres and its people worshipping our God.

*Steve Negley*



# DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

| Fund                     | 1/1/16<br>Beginning<br>Balance | Direct<br>Transactions | Income        | Expenses       | 12/31/16<br>Ending<br>Balance |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Christian Education      | \$ 1,998.03                    | \$ 0.00                | \$ 3,031.00   | \$ -3,061.00   | \$ 1,967.43                   |
| Memorial Garden          | -74,540.31                     | 0.00                   | 4,006.50      | -5,538.89      | -76,072.70                    |
| Music                    | 26,741.97                      | 0.00                   | 2,294.44      | -1,527.75      | 27,508.66                     |
| Property                 | 42,958.02                      | 35,412.33              | 14,319.90     | -45,996.84     | 46,693.41                     |
| Worship                  | 5,392.36                       | 0.00                   | 3,188.00      | -2,720.00      | 5,860.36                      |
| Youth                    | 0.00                           | -2,728.50              | 20,406.49     | -12,520.01     | 5,157.98                      |
| Other Designated         | 58,658.01                      | 0.00                   | 3,448.23      | -10,489.54     | 51,616.70                     |
| Other Session Designated | 1,679,600.54                   | -41,447.26             | 72,762.02     | -24,753.51     | 1,686,161.79                  |
| Missions/<br>Benevolence | 27,159.77                      | 4,174.79               | 52,781.71     | -67,739.72     | 16,376.55                     |
| TOTALS                   | \$ 1,767,968.39                | \$ -4,588.64           | \$ 176,238.29 | \$ -174,347.86 | \$ 1,765,270.18               |

## FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL HISTORY General Funds

| Year | Total<br>Receipts | Total<br>Disbursements |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 2012 | \$ 968,236        | \$ 966,188             |
| 2013 | \$ 910,325        | \$ 991,594             |
| 2014 | \$ 918,977        | \$ 966,219             |
| 2015 | \$ 926,968        | \$ 990,083             |
| 2016 | \$ 948,523        | \$1,007,264            |

# GENERAL FUND

|                        | 2016 Actual     | 2016 Budget   | 2016 Variance |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Income                 |                 |               |               |
| Receipts               | \$ 834,445.10   | 865,000.00    | -30,554.90    |
| Other Receipts         | 114,077.52      | 91,200.00     | 22,877.52     |
| Total Income           | \$ 948,522.62   | \$ 956,200.00 | \$ -7,677.38  |
| Expenses               |                 |               |               |
| Benevolence            | \$ 85,104.62    | \$ 90,205.00  | \$ -5,100.38  |
| Personnel              | 701,711.23      | 682,007.72    | 19,703.51     |
| Other Committees       | 12,318.16       | 19,210.00     | -6,891.84     |
| Program Committees     | 16,322.21       | 16,000.00     | 322.21        |
| Office/Administrative  | 37,924.30       | 35,200.00     | 2,724.30      |
| Properties             | 153,883.16      | 152,000.00    | 1,883.16      |
| Total Expenses         | \$ 1,007,263.68 | \$ 994,622.72 | \$ 12,640.96  |
| Excess Income/Expenses |                 |               |               |
|                        | \$ -58,741.06   | -38,422.72    | \$ -20,318.34 |

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

| ASSETS                                    |                        |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Checking Accounts                         | \$ 106,065.81          |
| Savings/Investments                       | 1,714,851.71           |
| Cash on Hand                              | 350.00                 |
| Property                                  | 3,173,791.79           |
| Prepaid Expense                           | 0.00                   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                       | <b>\$ 4,995,059.31</b> |
|                                           |                        |
| LIABILITIES                               |                        |
| Current Liabilities                       | \$ 8,298.91            |
| Other Deductions                          | 251.90                 |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                  | <b>\$ 8,550.81</b>     |
|                                           |                        |
| NET ASSETS                                |                        |
| General Fund                              | \$ 3,221,238.32        |
| Session/Donor Fund Balance                |                        |
| Christian Education                       | \$ 1,967.43            |
| Memorial Garden                           | -76,072.70             |
| Music                                     | 27,508.66              |
| Property                                  | 46,693.41              |
| Worship                                   | 5,860.36               |
| Youth                                     | 5,157.98               |
| Other Designated                          | 51,616.70              |
| Other Session Designated                  | 1,686,161.79           |
| Missions/Benevolence                      | 16,376.55              |
|                                           |                        |
| Subtotal Session/Donor Fund Balance       | \$ 1,765,270.18        |
|                                           |                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>                 | <b>\$ 4,986,508.50</b> |
|                                           |                        |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b> | <b>\$ 4,995,059.31</b> |

## OFFICERS

### Elders

### Deacons

#### Class of 2016

Bob Carter  
Jonathan Owen  
Ben Tucker  
Judy Winfree  
Shawn Swango

Karen Alexander  
Bill Allen  
Nancy Shaw  
Debbie Sowards  
Heather Whitney

#### Class of 2017

Cheryl Beckert  
Rob Frost  
Gannon Olmert  
Dana Parrish  
Pat Reass

Jay Dugger  
Erin Emry  
Janet Howard  
Greg Marris  
Joe McKee

#### Class of 2018

John Eycleshimer  
Mary Ann Koon  
John Marchetti  
Nanette Rodgers  
Lori Roe

Judy Denlinger  
Laura Powell  
Ed Smith  
Nell Speer  
Dave Zwicker

|                                         |                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Presbyterian Women, District 4 Director | Sue McClew              |
| Moderator of Deacons                    | Nancy Shaw              |
| Clerk of Session                        | Jonathan Owen           |
| Treasurer                               | John H. (Jay) Gray, Jr. |

## STAFF

|                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor                               | Dr. Steven R. Negley  |
| Associate Pastor                     | Dr. C. Alan Harvey    |
| Minister of Visitation               | Dr. Raymond M. Larson |
| Parish Associate                     | James G. Manor        |
| Director of Christian Education      | Amy L. McKee          |
| Director of Music Ministries         | Lynn M. McCoy         |
| Director of Student Ministries       | Dana H. Parrish       |
| Director of Finance & Administration | Ronda A. Lacy         |
| Administrative Assistant             | Connie J. Shipley     |
| Office Assistant                     | Rose S. Flynn         |
| Director of Maintenance              | Sam D. Bryant         |
| Custodian                            | Kathy L. Jackson      |