



Park Ridge Community Church
Annual Report 2018

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The Annual Reports can also be viewed online at www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Annual Meeting Minutes - May 7, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Vinopal, Chair of the Congregation, at 11:11 AM. Pastor Brett opened the meeting with a prayer. Charlie welcomed members and non-members. Ushers passed out the 2017 Park Ridge Community Church Annual Report.

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Tim Lapp was appointed Parliamentarian.

Verification of Quorum

Tim Lapp, confirmed the presence of a quorum, necessary to conduct the business of the church.

Approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the May 1, 2016, were included in the annual report. A motion was made to pass the minutes from last year's meeting by Ginny Feurer. Bill Scharringhausen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Chair of the Congregation Report

Charlie began his address to the congregation by speaking of how our church family has encountered significant changes this past year. These changes required the Executive Committee to be led through a prayerful process of examining the needs of the congregation, the staff, our ministries and the sustaining future of PRCC.

He indicated that a further, significant change is on the horizon. Dr. Brett McCleneghan has been in discussion with the Executive Committee regarding his retirement and has notified the Executive Committee of his interest to affect his retirement this year. The Executive Committee responded to his request, which was targeted for August 2017. Charlie continued that PRCC must now begin its search for both interim resources and a new senior minister. On behalf of the members and friends of PRCC, he expressed our gratitude to Brett for his faithful service to this congregation over the past 16 years and for his life of ministry for 38 years.

Charlie then called upon Vice Chair of the Congregation & Finance Committee Chairman, Laura Sissman, and Treasurer, Bill Williams, to give the financial report.

Financial Report

Laura reported that 2016 was a difficult year and 2017 will also see its share of financial challenges, but that we expect to have less of a deficit. Overall, the church's financial condition is sufficient to see us through these challenges. Most importantly, the Financial Committee and church leadership understand that a plan to address these challenges needs to be put in place during 2017 so that the operations of the church are in line with future revenues and expenses.

Income from pledges was 1.3 percent less than pledged gifts received in 2015, while the total gift income was 7.2 percent less than last year.

Total operating expenses were \$1.3K less than in 2015 and \$7.6K less than budget. Our investment funds contributed \$11.2K of income towards the operating budget.

We ended the year with approximately an \$80K deficit in revenue, with about a \$64K deficit projected for 2017. Expenses are expected to remain flat.

Laura said that, despite the challenges on the financial front, 2016 continued to be a time of strength in our church family and the resources we have dedicated to our mission. We can't just rely on cutting expenses to solve the deficit problem, and that the ministry of everyone is necessary moving forward.

Laura then thanked the Financial Committee for all its arduous work and efforts throughout the year, with a special note of thanks to Charlie and Bill Williams for the role they've played in helping us move forward.

Board of Trustees Report

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dave Self was not present because he was at his daughter's graduation, but the operations and ongoing capital needs overseen by the Trustees are detailed by Dave in the 2017 PRCC Annual Report.

Election of Officers

Trish Williams was the moderator for the nominations for officers of the church and the Board of Directors. She thanked this year's nominating committee, including George Brant, Sarah McCarty, Karen Nelson and Naomi Siebert.

Trish asked Pastor Brett to read this year's slate of nominees. Paul Battaglia as Clerk moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented, which was seconded by Mark Holihan, and the slate was passed by the congregation through a show of hands.

Eric Nelson Scholarship Award

Charlie announced the Eric Nelson Scholarship Award recipient for 2017 was to Emily Donahue.

Emily is among the most active members of the PRCC Youth Group, she has attended four mission trips, been an inspiring leader at the Pumpkin Patch and on Beatles Night. She will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Charlie continued by saying he wanted to also thank Kate Joyce and Darcy LeDuc for the exceptional work and volunteerism they did this year with the Youth Group.

Second Mile Award

Pastor Brett presented the Second Mile Award to Alayne Richards. He recognized Alayne for her long-term service to PRCC (since 1978), including her dedication to youth, Circle 7 leadership and participation in events such as Pasta Divine. The congregation gave her a hearty and well-deserved applause.

Adjournment

In closing, Charlie thanked the congregation, staff, volunteers and Pastor Brett for all they have done for Park Ridge Community Church. He invited all downstairs to Jordan Hall for a celebratory luncheon organized by the Social Committee (with a special thank you to Patrice Dombro). He asked if there was any other business on the floor. Finding none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark Holihan made the motion. Lonn Naudzius seconded it. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Battaglia

Interim Senior Minister's Observations

I am enjoying my time as your Interim. You have welcomed Janet and me into your lives and hearts, and that is very special to us.

When I arrived mid-October, PRCC was experiencing a season of transition; and, it still is. Transitions are opportune times for organizations to examine afresh the milieu in which they operate. Just think about the changes that have occurred since the last time there was a change in pastoral leadership.¹

- The last of the Millennials was born, Generation Z entered the world, and Generation Alpha is now being born.
- The “phone” went from primarily a communications device to a video game, direction finder, electronic telegraph, and research library.
- Peanuts comic strips ceased and only exist as repeats.
- Once prevalent floppy-disks no longer exist.
- The high-pitched whine of a dial-up modem is no longer heard.
- Paying taxes with a credit card became an option; you now get reward points by paying your taxes to the IRS on plastic.
- Blackberry has gone from being a wild fruit to being a communications device to becoming a wild fruit again.
- Checker Cabs ceased and now only exist in museums.
- Park Ridge changed.

See what I mean? Life is happening at the speed of change. During this interim time, the church is availing itself of the opportunity to take a good look at itself. It is looking at its vaunted past as a formative part of the surrounding community. The church is taking stock of its current position in a changing world. And it is contemplating a future as to how it can be a strong voice for the Gospel's call to love justice, do mercy, and walk humbly with God.²

To do so, the church is asking for your input in discerning its values, defining its objectives, and declaring its purpose. The cumulative results enable the church in putting together a new vision for the future and a structure that will facilitate that vision.

These are good tasks to accomplish in the interim time. An interim comes as someone with objectivity and with care to empower a congregation in a very special time in its life, a transitional time. There are congregational emotions to which the interim is sensitive and assists the congregation in working through so that the right person may be called.

One of the most important tasks of the interim is to help the congregation in its openness to the future: to try new things, to chart new directions, to be ready for new leadership. And that in itself is exciting! The sense of excitement includes the anticipation of the new person who will be called to minister to this particular and special people of faith.

¹ Adapted from the annual Beloit University Mindset List found at <https://www.beloit.edu/mindset/2021/>.

² See Micah 6:8.

Chair of Congregation Report

This past year has had me reflecting on the writings of Paul. His dedication and passion to encourage the early Christian church, despite tremendous challenges, has served many followers to take his words as guidance, responsibility and reassurance. The image that comes to many of us is that of a body working as one. Each part having its purpose. Each purpose working to strengthen other parts. Taking those things that are weakest and bringing them forward through support of others to perform great work. At Park Ridge Community Church, through the work of many, in big ways and humble, small ways, we are strengthening as a body of faithful servants.

Through this work, we are growing as a church community. Sometimes this is reflected in new members joining, bringing their talents and experiences. Other times, it is seen in the acts of kindness, faith and love for the least or the lost in our community. Many come to our church interested reaching out to the marginalized and vulnerable. But, in a recent focus group, an individual really challenged my thinking on how we should measure our progress. While extremely important to our mission, strength and growth cannot simply be measured in raw statistics on membership or meals served. God has not called us to measure ourselves in our mortal and highly competitive terms. As Paul writes in Ephesians 4:15 - 16,

“But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part if working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”

Our growth is measured through our response together in love, as one body! Simple...

I will repeat a bit of what I have said in the past, this has not and is not easy. Many in our midst have poured all their energy, talent and time in support of this church and for people they deeply care for. This is the test of love. To love when your strength is depleted. To love when you may not know what the outcome is or whether you are confident you are making a dent at all.

I am thankful for all the dedicated people who have boldly walked together in changing times in our congregation and the world around us. Selfless efforts by many are allowing us to see a path to greater vision meant for us as a congregation. We have seen this energy and spirit expand across our entire congregation, from life-long members to the newest of the new bringing their talents and amazing, innovative ideas to our congregation.

I am also encouraged by so many people willing to challenge each other in our thinking. The path we take as a congregation is winding. We do not always know what is ahead of the next steep hill. Our vision as a community of faith will only stay clear if we continue to monitor ourselves and take a good long look at ourselves and our path. This is the work we are engaged in now as a congregation. Setting our vision for the next coming years. Knowing that this is not set in stone but will require regular “vision tests” to make sure we are still seeing our mission as a congregation with 20/20 eyes. Making sure we are putting structure in place that enables us to keep our visions vibrant, healthy and always focused on the work the Holy Spirit has invited us to engage in together in His holy name.

This work will continue, and I believe we are setting a course for ourselves to continue to test this and not become complacent as we get into more settled times in the coming years, with strong new leadership to be called to lead this flock. In the near term, we may have to think more creatively on what can be done. Which priorities need to be our focus. And, importantly, caring and supporting each other so that all will feel refreshed and strong in their efforts, big and small, as participants in the family of faith. It is important that we dedicate ourselves to take care of each other. Encourage each other. Lest we end up leaving someone to the side or fail to welcome someone new who may have tremendous value to help to discern the spiritual path for PRCC. In this past year, my confidence has been strengthened by seeing so many amazing people step in and step up!

With all of this, I would fail in my responsibilities if I did not acknowledge the great work of so many people. The list is too long but know that I am so thankful for every member and friend of PRCC who

has taken the walk with us in this past year guided by faith and a deep sense of care for others in our church family. From Stephen Ministers being so intentional in ensuring members have been cared for in times of need and praying for the health and direction of this church; to Darcy Le Duc and Kate Joyce giving of their time to our youth; to the team leading Confirmation with a soul to lead young people through a journey. The list goes on...Knitting Knights, Solid Rock Carpenters, Medical Lending, Garden Committee, Trustees, Christian Education, Social Committee, Music programs without equal, and on and on and on. Specific recognition must be extended to our dedicated staff. To define the faithful service of Liz Swanson and Sasha Gerritson in a single sentence or description would be a complete disservice to the essential roles they have played within our congregation. Leading when voids existed; challenging when other voices needed to be heard; and caring always for this congregation, responding in love and faith. They have provided guidance to our Board and to staff members, including Jaclyn in the office and Teri and Shelley leading Sunday School. Just simply amazing and spirit-led work.

Special thanks to Pastor David Ezekiel. Occasionally, we have that experience of someone being called to the right place at the right time. Pastor David has been and continues to bring his experience, guidance, patience, humor, faith and commitment to this congregation. Our path is rocky, but Pastor David continues to encourage and reassure this entire congregation that these are simply just rocks: some that we can use as stepping stones, some that we must climb over, and some that we can just blast right through! He is a blessing to this congregation.

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors have journeyed with this congregation through a season of change. Dedication, energy and faith by these individuals have permitted all of us to be more confident in uncharted waters. Along with their dedicated service, I do not think this congregation, or I, would feel so steady at this time if it were not for the grace and faith shown by our Vice Chair, Laura Sissman. Yes, Laura is a close friend to me, but she has also shown me, even in my most discouraged and frustrated times, what a heart of deep faith can mean. This congregation is and will continue to be in such capable hands with Laura in the role of Chair. We are blessed with her presence.

Now I simply share with you my deep thanks for all who have encouraged me and shown true hearts of love to me and others. In the simple, quiet acts of service, we are reminded that we do this with a sense of responsibility, and much more profoundly with humble, faithful hearts. You may not know the impact of your works in the moment, but this work ripples through our community and will reach those in need of the Holy Spirit and the love of those around them.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

Peace and blessings to you all,
Charlie Vinopal, Chair of the Congregation

Finance Report

Last year's annual report, while addressing the financial challenges encountered in 2016, stated that the Finance Committee had a high degree of optimism toward the overall financial condition of the Church. The results from 2017 support this feeling. 2017 presented its own challenges as the Church started navigating changes in pastoral leadership, but due to a strong response from the Church family, the Church showed a surplus from operations during 2017. This was a vast improvement over the original 2017 budget which had forecasted a significant deficit. In addition, the funds at Northern Trust had a good year as a result of the overall strength of the markets. These two items allowed the Church to end the year in a stronger financial position than it started.

This report will address each financial area in depth, but first consider these significant facts and figures:

- 1) Income from pledged giving was down 9.4% from 2016 but non-pledged giving was up 167% and much of this increase happened in the last quarter of the year.
- 2) Our investment funds had a very successful year in 2017 and generated \$17.9k towards the operating budget.
- 3) At the end of 2017, the combined balance of all fund assets at Northern Trust was \$1,059.9k an increase of \$85.7k over the year-end balance at 12/31/2016. The increase was a direct result of an overall strong year in the markets.

The financial results from 2017 have provided the Church with the opportunity to take a deep breath and move into the future with the knowledge that the options are not limited by financial limitations. The support of the congregation confirms the strength of our church family. We continue to strive to honor God with our use of the resources that he entrusts to us. We are challenged to be wise, careful, and generous stewards, to support our operations and to fund our vital ministry.

Church Operations 2017

Results from operations show a surplus of \$21.5k. Positive results for both revenues and expenses were responsible. Total income was 14.72% greater than budget and 4.35% greater than in 2016. Expenses were 8.32% under budget and 12.64% less than in 2016. The revenue increase was primarily a result of a surge in Special Gifts and Gifts-Non-Pledge in the final quarter of the year. The decrease in expenses was largely driven by decreases in salary expense resulting from the change process as we seek new leadership at the Church. Youth Ministry expense was also down but that was a result of a smaller summer mission trip.

2018 Budget

After the miss on the budget in 2016 the 2017 budget was prepared with a very conservative {some might say paranoid} scenario in mind. In 2018 we have prepared what we hope is a realistic budget with at least one big caveat on the expense side. The amount for Staff Salaries are for the current staffing levels of the Church. This is fluid as the search for a Senior Pastor could be completed during the year and there could be other changes. We went with the methodology of just showing what we know is because anything else would be just a guess. There is no way to judge when a new Senior Minister will join us and there are no other staffing changes that have gone beyond general discussion.

On the revenue side, estimates have been conservative but not pessimistic. In 2018 we have budgeted a small increase in giving versus what was received in both 2017 and 2016. We also budgeted a slight increase in Fundraising Income versus 2017. Overall revenue is budgeted to decrease 4% from 2017 and be even with 2016 levels.

Expenses are budgeted to go up slightly from 2017 levels but to be significantly less than 2016 actuals. The primary driver as mentioned earlier is the decrease in staff salary.

The bottom line is a deficit of \$9.8k. The Church ended 2017 with \$56.4k in the Operating Account so a deficit in this range is workable. As the search for a new Senior Pastor continues during the year and as the leadership works with the congregation to determine staffing changes the goal is to create a financially stable operation.

The financial condition of the Church remains very strong. There are more than adequate reserves available to the Church. We believe that everyone should be comfortable with the Church's ability to move in whatever direction the congregation chooses.

We believe that every area of ministry is very valuable. As is our congregational tradition, our work and ministry benefit from the insight and participation of any and every church member. As we continue on this journey in 2018, we expect and trust that with open dialogue with the congregation and input from all members of our church family we will continue to focus our resources to align with the expectations of our congregation and enhance our journey in growing even further in our spiritual vitality.

PRCC INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS:

2017 was a positive year for our three funds at Northern Trust – CRF, Endowment and Contingency. During the past year our fund balances, including amounts held at Northern Trust and amounts held for designated purposes at Park Ridge Community Bank, increased by \$91.4k. This was driven by an excellent year in the markets with the gains, both realized and unrealized, large enough (\$122.6k) to offset amounts transferred to the general fund including income from the Endowment and Contingency funds.

Statement of Operations - Northern Trust Funds - 2017	
ACTIVITY	YEAR 2017
Net Investment Income	\$16,875.97
Net Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	\$105,732.77
Net Change in Fund Assets Resulting from Operations	\$122,608.74
Net Change in Fund Assets Resulting from Capital Transactions (Transfers)	-\$40,609.19
Net Change in Fund Assets	\$81,999.55
Fund Assets - Beginning of Period Per Statements	\$974,233.19
Fund Assets - End of Period Per Statements	\$1,059,895.59
Net Change in NT Fund Assets Per Statements	\$85,662.40

A comparison of fund balances as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017 were:

COMPARISON OF NON-OPERATING FUND BALANCES			
FUND	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	DIFFERENCE
PR Community Bank - Dedicated Accounts	\$ 193,056.94	\$ 198,805.75	\$ 5,748.81
Contingency Fund	\$ 308,175.72	\$ 321,757.58	\$ 13,581.86
Capital Replacement Fund	\$ 297,166.89	\$ 303,697.30	\$ 6,530.41
Endowment Fund	\$ 368,890.58	\$ 434,440.71	\$ 65,550.13
Total Non-Operating Fund Assets	\$ 1,167,290.13	\$ 1,258,701.34	\$ 91,411.21

The Finance Committee is deeply committed to prayerful, obedient stewardship of the gifts God bestows on our church, through our faithful congregation, providing financial oversight of church operations, ensuring prudent spending, managing the investment funds for maximum growth with relatively low risk, and ultimately seeking to respond to the resource needs as God has called us each to serve with faithful hearts.

Every effort has been made by the Finance Committee to provide the congregation with accurate and transparent reporting of the church’s financial health. If any difference exists between this report and the source financial documents, the source documents will govern. If any member of the congregation would like further information or details they should feel to contact Bill Williams, the Church’s Treasurer.

We are extremely grateful for the time, commitment, and expertise contributed by each person on the Finance Committee: Fund Managers Dave Swanson, Tom Klimmeck, and Bill Williams; Receipts Treasurers Mark Holihan and Bob Mack, and Memorial Gifts Chair, Anita Rikind.

We happily anticipate the unfolding of God's plans for our church in 2018, as we seek to give and serve together according to his will and purpose.

Respectfully submitted by: Bill Williams, Treasurer and Laura Sissman, Vice-Chair of the Congregation & Finance Committee Chair

PRCC INVESTMENTS
Notes to Financial Statements
(year ended 12/31/2017)

1. FUND MANAGERS PANEL

The general purpose of this committee is to oversee investments of Park Ridge Community Church funds. The Fund Managers Panel consists of three members appointed by the Chair of the Congregation. The Fund Managers Panel reports to the Finance Committee. Each member of the Fund Managers Panel has primary responsibility for one of the established funds including the Capital Replacement Fund, Contingency Fund and Endowment Fund. The funds are managed together with the appropriate level of diversification spread out among all funds, with the goals and requirements of each individual fund taken into consideration.

2. GENERAL FUND

The purpose of the General Fund is to act as a reserve account for general Church operations. The General Fund is not restricted and can be used for operating cash purposes or to cover budget deficits.

3. CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND

The purpose of the Capital Replacement Fund (CRF), is to act as a funding mechanism for capital expenditures and ongoing maintenance of the church properties. The CRF will not be used for operating cash purposes or to cover budget deficits.

4. CONTINGENCY FUND

The purpose of the Contingency Fund is to accumulate capital to invest so as to provide income and meet emergency financial demands that, but for this Fund, could only be met by a special fund-raising effort by the membership.

5. ENDOWMENT FUND

The purpose of the Endowment Trust Fund is to provide a means of accepting gifts given to the Church during the lifetime of a person as well as accommodating bequests made under a last will and testament.

6. CUSTODY AND MANAGEMENT

The assets of the General Fund are held at our bank, Park Ridge Community Bank. The assets of the CRF, Contingency Fund and Endowment Fund are held in custody and managed by Northern Trust. Northern Trust is a global leader in delivering innovative investment management, asset and fund administration, fiduciary and banking solutions to corporations, institutions and affluent individuals. A monthly custodial fee is charged on the investment balance of each Fund. The annual custodial fee is approximately 0.758%, depending on Fund assets.

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH				
INVESTMENTS				
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NT FUND ASSETS BY FUND				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017				
	Capital			
	Replacement	Contingency	Endowment	Total
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund Assets
OPERATIONS				
Net investment income Less Fees Paid to Northern Trust	\$ 5,260.40	\$ 4,177.87	\$ 7,437.70	\$ 16,875.97
Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) on investments	\$ 23,557.82	\$ 20,942.22	\$ 61,232.73	\$ 105,732.77
Net change resulting from operations	\$ 28,818.22	\$ 25,120.09	\$ 68,670.43	\$ 122,608.74
CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS				
Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Withdrawals	\$ (22,408.95)	\$ (14,715.24)	\$ (3,485.00)	\$ (40,609.19)
Withdrawals - Pledges made via Stock to NT w/ Proceeds to PRCB	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net change resulting from capital transactions	\$ (22,408.95)	\$ (14,715.24)	\$ (3,485.00)	\$ (40,609.19)
NET CHANGE IN FUND ASSETS	\$ 6,409.27	\$ 10,404.85	\$ 65,185.43	\$ 81,999.55
FUND ASSETS - Beginning of period	\$ 297,166.89	\$ 308,175.72	\$ 368,890.58	\$ 974,233.19
FUND ASSETS - End of period	\$ 303,576.16	\$ 318,580.57	\$ 434,076.01	\$ 1,056,232.74
FUND ASSETS - Per NT Statements	\$ 303,697.30	\$ 321,757.58	\$ 434,440.71	\$ 1,059,895.59
Difference	\$ 121.14	\$ 3,177.01	\$ 364.70	\$ 3,662.85

1. The withdrawal from the Capital Replacement Fund was to reimburse the General Fund for expenses incurred on behalf of the CRF, primarily for the Great Hall Window replacement project, and paid for out of the General Fund's checking account.
2. Withdrawals from the Contingency and Endowment funds included amounts withdrawn from the Contingency Fund used to pay severance to Pastor Brett and a portion of the interest, dividend and realized investment income earned in both Funds, which was used, as specified in the By-Laws, to support the general operations of the Church.

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2017 YEAR END AND 2018 BUDGET

Account Name	2016	2017		2018
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
INCOME				
PLEDGED GIFTS	393,010	352,752	356,113	376,130
GIFTS - NON PLEDGED	27,029	27,000	72,260	59,870
LOOSE COLLECTIONS	17,612	17,500	12,980	14,000
OTHER	-	-	-	-
	437,651	397,252	441,353	450,000
SPECIAL GIFTS	120	100	11,599	1,000
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	11,395	1,500	12,857	2,200
	11,515	1,600	24,456	3,200
INVESTMENT INCOME	12,423	11,032	19,053	11,482
MUSIC & DRAMA IMISTRY INCOME	3,548	4,000	2,643	2,625
FUNDRAISER INCOME	16,947	38,000	28,869	31,154
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	4,958	5,716	4,606	4,830
YOUTH MINISTRY INCOME	47,455	30,000	36,243	32,400
CHRISTIAN ED. INCOME	1,423	1,100	1,812	1,720
PASTORAL SERVICES & MEDICAL LOAN	3,215	2,505	3,565	2,500
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH INCOME	630	-	885	450
SOCIAL COMMITTEE INCOME	450	200	253	250
TOTAL INCOME	540,215	491,405	563,738	540,611
EXPENSES				
PROFESSIONAL STAFF & BENEFITS	325,384	306,654	264,947	281,686
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	18,147	18,600	17,753	12,424
MUSIC & DRAMA MINISTRY EXPENSE	60,456	57,300	52,287	52,400
YOUTH MINISTRY EXPENSE	42,218	29,300	29,646	29,560
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	9,342	12,100	9,805	9,650
PASTORAL SERVICES	839	3,050	1,603	1,600
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH EXPENSE	3,355	3,350	2,142	2,500
SOCIAL COMMITTEE EXPENSE	931	1,500	2,406	2,500
WORSHIP/SERVICE SUPPORTS	11,943	12,316	12,530	11,650
OFFICE EXPENSE	38,904	34,050	38,078	33,355
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	109,133	113,200	111,020	112,794
TOTAL EXPENSE	620,652	591,420	542,217	550,119
NET INCOME	\$(80,437)	\$(100,015)	\$ 21,521	\$ (9,508)
Drivers - Income:				
Drivers - Expense				

Receipts Treasurer Report

It is the responsibility of the Receipts Treasurer to receive money and other financial gifts made to the church, allocate these gifts to the proper accounts, deposit same in the designated bank account, and forward a weekly report to the Treasurer and Vice-Chair.

The Receipts Treasurer is the church official who has primary responsibility for tracking and monitoring the amount each contributor has estimated they will give to the church during the year. He maintains a progressive tally of the results of our annual stewardship campaign and reports regularly to the Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors. He is the church official who tracks how much each contributor actually gives during the calendar year as compared to their "Estimate of Giving". Statements are mailed to every contributor at the end of each quarter, so that they are reminded of the status of their giving and can maintain it on a current basis. The option of Automatic Funds Transfer is available for those who desire to make their contributions in that way. We have experienced an excellent response to this opportunity for our members' regular giving to be transferred directly to the church's bank account (via ACH or check). This has given our cash flow a very positive start every month. To participate in this program, please contact the Receipts Treasurer for the particulars.

The results of the Stewardship Campaign for Budget year 2018, as of April 1, 2018, show 108 positive responses totaling \$379,260 for an average of \$3,512 as compared to last year where we had 103 pledges totaling \$347,333. Current economic conditions have affected us all in many ways ... fortunately our members continue to be very generous. *Our financial goals will be met only if all contributors maintain their planned giving throughout the year.*

The response of the PRCC family to requests for contributions in all areas of ministry continues to be very gratifying.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Holihan and Bob Mack - Receipts Treasurers

PS: We would also like to mention that we had a few anonymous donors who contributed substantially to cover the costs of the windows in the Great Hall. We thank you so very much!!!

Arts and Décor Report

Arts and Décor was revived this year after the realization that the church was in need of some serious cleaning and updating. We began by organizing a whole church clean up. Endless church members joined forces to clean, polish and spruce up the entire building. Some of the highlights were that every pew in the sanctuary and chapel was washed and polished. Many of the baseboards were repainted in several hallways. The ladies' washroom and Great Hall kitchenette were repainted. The dusty library was cleaned. The Oak Room was completely refurbished, repainted, and the antique cabinets were cleaned and repaired. We received a generous donation of a lovely mahogany office desk for that office. Thank you to all who worked so hard for four days to make our church beautiful again. Thank you to all who donated your time, energy, paint, cleaning supplies and furniture to the cause!

The table in the Park Place room was lovingly restored and a protective glass top was purchased from our budget. We also hired a professional upholsterer to re-stuff the two couch cushions in the parlor. We deemed it far more economical to repair rather than replace those two sofas. Once more funds are available, we would like to clean and repair the furniture in Park Place Room. Furniture donation is always a welcome possibility pending approval by Arts and Decor.

Arts and Decor, Robin Kopecky and Kathy Davis

Christian Education Report

Sunday School Facilitators: Teri Biedke and Shelley O'Brien

Thank you to all of our teachers, youth assistants, musicians, and parent volunteers for making 2017 - 2018 a great year and helping us through this year of transition. Throughout the year, we strived to provide a welcoming, enriching program to students of all ages.

Nursery:

We continue to offer professionally staffed and background checked childcare each Sunday morning throughout the year for both our 8:30 and 10:00 am services.

Sunday School Attendance:

Sunday school enrollment (nursery – high school) is at 125 active students. Actual attendance varies from 25 to 50 children in attendance on Sunday mornings. 11 adult and youth teachers volunteer their time and energy to help guide these children on their spiritual path.

Sunday School Curriculum:

We are continuing to use the Deep Blue curriculum from Cokesbury for preschool through 5th grade. It is a three-year program in which our children will learn 140 of the most beloved and important Bible stories. The program is user friendly for volunteers and staff and offers online lessons, so prep work can be done from anywhere. Middle school and high school students worked with Feasting on the Word, which follows a common lectionary. Together, parents, students, and teachers were able to learn about the Word of God.

Sunday School Music:

Andrew and Angie Weber continued to lead children in grades preschool through third grade in music every Sunday prior to classroom instruction. The children sing in worship about four times per year during Consecration Sunday, our traditional Christmas Pageant, Palm Sunday, and Annual Meeting Sunday.

Summer Sunday School:

We plan to offer kids club or summer Sunday school over the summer during the 10:00 service. We will once again offer Vacation Bible School here at PRCC in June.

Stewardship for Students:

Stewardship is coordinated with the Sunday School to allow for students to help in our outreach ministries.

- During the fall, we bought and decorated mini pumpkins for Senior Contact to deliver to PRCC's homebound members. For October's CROP Walk, we did a mini-walk around church, helped collect coins in worship, and donated offerings. Sunday school kids helped to stuff Peds Pups with the congregation in November. In December, the children decorated bags that were filled with necessities for the Epworth Shelter.
- During the winter, the Sunday school made their annual Valentines for PRCC seniors and shut-ins. They collected money in baby bottles for the Maryville mothers and children program.
- During the spring, we assembled lunches for the Uncle Pete's Lunch program.

We have used weekly offerings to donate to Samaritan's Purse, CROP Walk, Peds Pups, Maryville, Feed My Starving Children, and Uncle Pete's.

Additional classes:

Confirmation—middle school students gathered weekly to study together, deepen their faith, prepare for Confirmation in 8th grade, and have a little fun. We appreciate the guidance of Jim Pantazi, Bob Mack, and Siri Nelson, who created and implemented a curriculum on their own. We will welcome six 8th graders into their adult church lives this spring.

My Bible Class— students in third grade and older learned how to properly use their Bibles and were presented with their own Bibles in church. Teri Biedke led seven children on this journey.

Holy Communion— students in second grade and older were introduced to the history and spiritual meanings behind the sacrament of Holy Communion by Rev. Cathy Stewart. Twelve children will make their First Communion during the service on May 6.

Sunday School Wing Update:

As our Sunday School Wing is so very loved, it required a bit of a cleanup and update. We saw the bathrooms updated and painted. New carpeting was laid throughout the Sunday School wing. These new updates have made an astounding impact in our learning environment and we are so grateful for these improvements. Many thanks to our donors and the Board for the approval.

Christian Outreach & Lifeworks Report

In July 2017, the Senior Pastor Search Survey was conducted, which brought out interesting results regarding service/outreach at PRCC. Members considered service/outreach the 3rd main strength at PRCC; however, it also was the 3rd area highlighted for change or expansion. The Christian Outreach Committee immediately worked on new opportunities while maintaining existing programs for members who are dedicated to reaching out in faith and loving service. An Outreach Fair was hosted in September on Rally Day to kick off the year.

Long Term Partners

Lincoln Park Community Shelter provides interim housing, meals and social services for the homeless. The 1st Thursday of the month, dedicated members prepare and serve a nutritious, hot meal to the residents of this shelter. Since the inception of our service to LPCS 18 years ago, PRCC has prepared and served over 8,500 meals.

Sunday Night Supper, in conjunction with the Park Ridge Ministerial Association, is open to anyone in need of a meal. PRCC volunteers prepare and serve healthy, hot meals 3 times a year, including hosting at PRCC in December. This is the 11th year PRCC has been involved in this ministry during which time we have served over 4,000 meals.

The Chicago Bridge Project builds relationships among people with different backgrounds by cooking restaurant quality meals and distributing them, along with every day essentials, to communities in need. For the past 2 years PRCC members have been collecting clothes, blankets and toiletries to distribute the 2nd Saturday of each month.

The Niles/Park Ridge Crop Hunger Walk was organized 26 years ago with PRCC participating every year. The purpose of the walk is to help end hunger in our community and around the world. Since 2005 PRCC has raised \$63,591, had an average of 37 walkers each year and 1-3 members have served on the planning committee.

Maine Township Food Pantry provides food on an emergency basis to people living in Maine Township. Food is collected by our church the 1st Sunday of each month and a volunteer transports it to the Food Pantry. PRCC has been collecting and donating 30 bags of non-perishable groceries a year for about 14 years.

Uncle Pete's Ministry distributes bagged lunches to feed people who are "less fortunate" on the west side of Chicago. Packing 100 lunches each spring has been a wonderful project for our Sunday School families over the past 5 years.

Solid Rock Carpenters started in 2005 in response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster and has been providing shelter for the underserved ever since. Since 2005, SRC has hosted 16 framing days, built 47 homes, organized 55 trips and many local projects. In 2017, PRCC volunteers actively engaged in both framing days and 3 trips.

Knitting Knights is a fellowship circle that creates useful items for charity with the generosity of donated yarn. In 2017 projects included Easter Baskets & Patriotic Star Door Hangers for Senior Shut-Ins, Bookmarks for My Bible Class, Twiddle Muffs for Senior's with Dementia/Alzheimer's, New Born Red Hats for The American Heart Association Little Hats Big Hearts, Red Scarves for Foster Care to Success, Hats & Scarves for Maryville Academy, Men's Hats for Epworth Men's Shelter and warm garments for The Chicago Bridge Project. Knitting Knights also sells their creations twice a year. Some of the proceeds were used for 2 Weaving Looms for Maryville Academy, socks for Epworth Men's Shelter and a Pumpkin Patch Donation. Along with meeting twice a month, Knitting Knights attended the Chicago Yarn Crawl, Midwest Stitches Conference and the PR Library Knit in Public Day.

New Outreach Opportunities

The Pampered Chef was a fun way to stock the kitchen of 14 essential tools valued at \$215 after the church wide clean up. \$365 was raised plus a \$50 donation was received from this fundraiser to support Outreach programs.

Maryville Academy's core value of caring for children and strengthening families provided new opportunities for PRCC in 2017. Many of the events included various groups and were intergenerational.

- Knitting Knights: Donated 2 weaving looms, 25 children's hats and 24 women's hat/scarf sets.
- Puppy Stuffing Party: Families and individuals participated in stuffing 40 puppies for children in crisis.
- Christmas Giving Tree: The congregation generously supported 33 children and provided 64 gift cards.
- Kindred Spirits: Crafted gift card envelopes, wrote inspirational cards and collected "Coins for Change".
- Sunday School: Collected "Coins for Change" and offerings for the Christmas Giving Tree.
- Circle 10: Donated \$250 and assisted with food at the Women's Social/Maryville Baby Shower
- Women's Social/Baby Shower: Women's gathering, hear from Donita Jackson, Director of the Mom's Recovery Center, and support the center with items from the wish list.

The Outreach Committee welcomes new ideas and new volunteers who would like to share God's love and grace with those in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Deitke, Liz Swanson and Luan Zoellner

Deacon Report

The Deacons are charged with supporting the ministers, staff and congregation of the church. Our primary job is to set up and serve Communion on the first Sunday of each month. We alternate between the Intinction serving style and the traditional Passing of the Elements for the 10:00 service. Communion is by Intinction at the 8:30 service. Church members have been supportive of both methods.

Deacons serve on many other committees as well to represent the congregation. We have members on the Senior Minister Search, Youth, Kindred Spirits, Christian Education, Senior Contact, Ushers, Church Use and the new Worship Committee.

We also assist with Baptisms, Memorial Services and the Service of Remembrance. We support the Senior Outreach group by supplying cookies and visiting homebound members during the holidays. Our extra cookies help the Youth with their Cookies-by-the-Pound Fundraiser. We serve “Deacon Dogs” on Rally Day Sunday. The Deacons host a meal to celebrate and welcome the Confirmands into the congregation. In previous years we have helped with pancake breakfasts, congregation lunches and hosted Pasta Divine.

The current 20 Deacons have faithfully served the church this year and many will continue into second terms. If anyone is interested in joining the Deacon team, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Smith and Siri Nelson Deacon Co-Chairs

Medical Loan Closet Report

After more than 25 years loaning out medical equipment, people are still amazed at the amount of inventory we have. We have available almost any item that people need. This year we served over 800 clients with about 1200 pieces of equipment. As of January 1, 2017, we have stopped carrying hospital beds in our inventory. As a service to those in need of this item, we will keep a list of those who have one to donate and refer them to these people.

Our ministry is only as good as the volunteers that staff it Monday to Friday. I am indebted to Karen Nelson, Cathy Stewart, Luan Zoellner, Tricia Williams, Sandy Bowen, Pat Tamburrino and Ann Siena for their unfaltering loyalty to finding just the right items for our clients.

This year we gave away a lot of walkers and crutches, some wheelchairs and rollators to Joni’s Friends – Wheelchairs to the World. They collect these items, house them in a Walmart warehouse and when there are enough items, Walmart takes them to a prison in the Midwest where they are reconditioned and then sent out into the world to low income countries.

Donations come from those who are grateful for our services. That money is used to buy items in great demand, such as transfer benches.

This ministry continues to help those in need of medical equipment, but don’t want to purchase it. Costs of aforesaid equipment are rising, as Medicare cuts back on what items they will fund. We fill the gap. Get the word out to your family and friends that we are the place to go to for anything they require to ease the pain of rehab or ongoing problems.

Barbara Scharringhausen, Loan Closet Coordinator

Membership Report

Committee Members: Larry Adams, Sara Born, Lauren Kleingers, Keith Reboletti, Julie Smith and co-chairs Paula Mack and Tricia Williams.

We are delighted to report we officially welcomed 23 new church family members (15 adults and 8 youth) to our congregation.

Throughout the year, the Membership Committee continues to focus on the following:

- Developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church
- Identifying and meeting the needs of current members

To be a more welcoming church and more intentional in our efforts, the committee:

- Communicates PRCC's welcoming spirit as it remains the focal point of our committee. Whether in person, by phone, welcome note or welcome emails it is our desire to reach out to all who come through our doors.
- Continues to work with staff on how best to capture our visiting guests and newer friends by focusing on the best way and time to promote the "Who's in the Pews" during our worship service. We are looking into new options for how to obtain visitor information on Sundays.
- Coordinates coffee hour fellowship before and after each service on Sunday mornings.
- Promotes and organizes the dinner group program. This year there were 6 dinner groups comprised of 13 couples and 7 individuals.
- Held two PRCC Information meetings, one in November and one in March, for visitors to learn more about PRCC.
- Hosted two Membership Sundays, where we welcomed our newest members to our church family, one in December 2017 and one in April 2018.
- Continues to discuss ways to populate the on-line membership directory with photographs and also get the word out to members about how to access the instant church directory from their phones, tablets or computers.
- Looks forward to coordinating another "Strawberry Sunday". This very well received fellowship event has been held on Father's Day the last two years.

The membership committee is delighted to serve on behalf of the congregation in welcoming and providing avenues of connection for our PRCC family and friends. We welcome any ideas from our church family on how we can continue to grow in relationship with each other through worship and our ongoing ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Mack and Tricia Williams, Membership Chairs

Memorial Gifts Report

This fund began the fiscal year with approximately \$30,000. It has been the goal of the committee to spend these funds. Major projects undertaken included new carpeting in the Sunday School wing, as well as remodeling both bathrooms and new art work. These expenditures honor the memories of several former church members, including Jim Nolan, Dick Beile, Eleanor Rowley, Evelyn Claire, and Dolores

Wilhelm. The bathroom remodeling was largely funded by a bequest in memory of Mary Denes; the donation included a note that she often brought her children and grandchildren to church.

Landscaping projects were undertaken in memory of Jane Downton. Additional funds were expended on a piano bench and brass furnishings for the altar.

Donations for the fiscal year as of mid-March total \$11,922.65, and the account balance is \$7,431.48.

Ideas for the expenditure of Memorial Gifts funds are always welcome. The goal is to use Memorial gifts in ways that are useful to the church but that are not typical maintenance. Discussions are ongoing of using the funds for enhanced security for the Park Place entrance and modernization of the security on the Courtland Street entrance.

It is a privilege (and a pleasure) to undertake these responsibilities on your behalf.

Anita Rifkind

Music Ministry Report

The PRCC Music Ministry is committed to providing the highest quality music for the glory of God. Varied & diverse repertoire is of the utmost importance to the Music Ministry as we strive to meet the needs of our ever growing and diverse congregation. Everyone is welcome to join us!

The Music Ministry of the Park Ridge Community Church provides liturgical music to enrich our worship services and participates in special musical events as an outreach to the community. Various music groups include Chancel Choir, Angeli HS Girls' Choir, Bells on High, Sunday School Music. Additionally, an important part of our work is inviting guest artists, ensembles and directors to present meaningful music as part of worship and to promote fellowship building experiences to our congregation.

We are pleased to have returning Chancel Choir soloists: Angela Weber, soprano, Sarah Hibbard, soprano, Jessye Wright, alto, Wellington Da Silva, tenor, Alex Makkawy, tenor, Larry Adams, baritone, Lorenzo Formosa, baritone, Alex Honen, bass and Andrew Weber, baritone. Their valuable assistance in leading the Chancel Choir at the 10 a.m. worship service each week is extremely important and much appreciated. In addition, Angie & Andrew Weber provide the music for the 8:30 a.m. service and lead the Sunday School Music and VBS music.

In 2007, the Chancel Choir started a new program that honors Chancel Choir Members of the Year. One female and one male chancel choir member is chosen each year by the Music Ministry staff. A plaque is found in the main hallway, next to the door that leads to the organ. New Members will be announced at the end of the year Chancel Choir Party.

As always, we are grateful to Bill Scharringhausen for continuing to serve as Chancel Choir President. Thanks, Bill!

The Angeli Choir went on tour to Nashville in 2017. It was so fun! And in 2018 we plan to travel to Boston. The Chancel Choir is hoping for a tour to Canada in 2018 or 2019, planning stages are coming soon.

Guest artists and directors have been invited to participate in our program as well, to add to our scope and add meaningful moments to our worship. We had the Big Band Community Jazz Band play at PRCC, starring our own Bob Mack!! We've invited jazz musicians for Jazz Worship, we had the Joe Mullins Radio Ramblers, string quartets led by Karen Nelson, harp by Linda Thomas and many more. The return of Jazz in January is scheduled for 2018, along with a new idea of doing Jazz Vespers in 2018.

Our hand bell program is possible because of the dedicated leadership of Sandra Bowen, along with the faithful members of each group. We were pleased to welcome a small String Ensemble, led by our own Karen Nelson, for Easter 2017. The plan for 2018 is also a string quartet.

Special musical events included our annual folk music service, jazz music service, and family led service. In addition to Jazz in January, we have a wide range of musical programming. In 2016 The Chancel Choir sang at the PR Country Club in the first ever choir fundraiser dinner and is planning a similar event during this year's holiday season. The Angeli Choir sang for the PR Women's Prayer Breakfast.

On Good Friday, the Chancel Choir presented the Solemn Reproaches of the Cross by Bucklee, featuring Jessye Wright, mezzo soprano and Kent Wehman on piano. Then in December, the Chancel Choir presented "For Unto us a child is Born" by Bach, as part of advent worship.

2018 plans include the re-forming of the Junior Choir, the Chancel Choir presenting Rutter Requiem on Good Friday and the Gloria in Advent.

Respectfully submitted,

Sasha Gerritson, Minister of Music & Bill Scharringhausen, Choir President

Pastoral Services Report

Pastoral Services play a vital role in keeping PRCC such a caring and welcoming faith community. Pastoral care is offered to all members of our congregation with a special focus on our senior, long-term members. The care needs of our congregation are multifaceted and could not be accomplished without the dedicated time and effort of many volunteers. I am very grateful for the involvement and commitment of all who give their time to serve others in these caring ministries.

Medical Lending Closet (report by Barbara Scharringhausen) serves the larger community as well as our friends at PRCC.

Senior Contact (report by Kimberly Walters) has connections to our home-bound members. Other activities that are directed toward our long-term members include:

Kindred Spirits Café which is a regular opportunity for all to gather weekly for lunch.

Chair yoga is offered right before KSC and is celebrating 10 years of service to PRCC & the community.

Senior Sunday Service is offered in the spring with a focus on recognizing and celebrating the many connections between multiple generations in our congregation.

General Pastoral care is offered through **Stephen Ministry**, see report by Ginny Feurer. Care & support also comes through our **Prayer Ministry** as well as in various groups. **Knitting Knights**, is a fellowship circle that creates useful items for charity through the generosity of donated yarn. **Monday Morning Bible Study** has been meeting for years and is open to anyone seeking fellowship and a Biblical learning opportunity. The 2018 **Women's Retreat** was an evening in March of food, fellowship and support of Maryville Family Services coordinated by the Christian Outreach committee.

This year, the need for additional job duties arose and expanded into areas unique to the situation of the staffing transitions that we faced. My role, alongside other senior staff members, included helping plan and lead worship on Sundays, organize procedural manuals for weddings & memorials as well as a more detailed job description, establish a Worship Support Group, intentional work on the church vision and organizational structure, establish & support the Sunday School facilitators and plan & draft communications to the congregation as needed.

Worshiping and Serving has been God’s purpose for PRCC for the last 175 years and continues for the future. We rely on God’s leading to move us into the next phases of our ministry together. Our statement of purpose, has in the past and continues now, to guide us to “go forward together in freedom seeking continually to learn more of the true nature of God and His purpose”. I am very grateful to be a part of this work.

In Christ’s Love, Liz Swanson

Senior Contact Report

- Four visits have been made to home bound seniors during the year.*
- Mailings to entire senior congregation in November and December.**
- Other mailings listed were to approximately 22 home bound seniors, only.
- Birthday cards were mailed to all seniors.
- We decided against the dinner after the Maine South Musical as last time it was held, there were more volunteers than seniors attending.
- The Ice Cream Social held before The Concert in the Park last year was well received and we intend to repeat it.

CO-CHAIRS Elizabeth Parsch, & Kimberly Walters

BIRTHDAY GREETING COMMITTEE OF 1 - Ginny Jacobson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Nancy Ady, Sandy Bowen, Ginny Jacobson, Brian Keady, Karen Nelson, Kimberly Walters, Jeanne Wells, Tricia Williams, Luan Zoellner and Liz Swanson.

	2017-2018
SEPTEMBER	Scarecrow decoration*
OCTOBER	Pumpkins decorated by Sunday school*
NOVEMBER	Advent Card Mailing**
DECEMBER	Cookies from cookies by the pound* Christmas Card Mailing**
JANUARY	n/a
FEBRUARY	Mailing - Valentines by Sunday School
MARCH	Irish Soda Bread Delivery*
APRIL	Mailing – Easter Cards
MAY	TBD
JUNE	TBD
JUNE - Mobile Seniors	Ice cream social – Concerts in the Park
JULY/AUGUST	n/a

Senior Minister Search Report

The Senior Minister Search Committee has been spending most Thursday evenings together since last June. The Committee had sought out candidates for Senior Minister from Seminary alum, paid advertising, and the UCC. To date, we have received close to one hundred resumes. From those on hundred resumes, we have carefully conducted phone and Skype interviews of ten candidates. We are in the process of now further reducing the remaining ten candidates based on the Skype interview and a review of taped sermons.

The Search Committee has not stopped searching for more candidates. We are once again running our ad in the Christian Century Magazine during the month of April. Because we at PRCC are blessed with a very capable interim pastor, the Search Committee can be very selective. Obviously, before any candidate is considered for the Senior Minister position, the Search Committee would request that the Church Board call a Special Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of calling the new Senior Minister.

Please continue to pray for the Search Committee.

Thank you,
PRCC Search Committee

Social Committee Report

We are now catering the food for nearly all of our events and have been using Sunrise Grill along with Jason's Deli. Our year began in August with the going away party for Brett, Consecration Sunday was in October and we revived the Advent Potluck held in December. The annual Brunch will be held in May. We no longer request reservations and plan on 150 people.

Jan Steiner – Chair of Social Committee

Stephen Ministry Report

I feel that I am repetitive in saying that Stephen Ministry continues to do well each year. We are a stable group, and all our Stephen Ministers are passionate about the program. Being able to walk with someone who is in crisis and helping them get to a better place in their lives, is a humbling journey for the Stephen Ministers as well as for the care-receivers. Each of us learns more about our faith and how turning to God helps enormously. We, as Stephen Ministers, are there as the care-givers, and God is the cure giver.

We presently have 16 active Stephen Ministers, and several who are trained but are in “retirement” mode. But they would come forth if we needed them and their skills for a person seeking a Stephen Minister. Almost all of the active Stephen Ministers have a care-receiver. And, we have 11 trainees who will be finished with their 50 hours of training by the first week in May, and then they will be able to have care-receivers also.

We had started the new training class last October, because all our trained Stephen Ministers had care-receivers or were at a point in their lives that they couldn't take on that responsibility. Our new class of trainees is wonderful. The five Stephen Leaders (Liz Swanson, Katie Reboletti, Peggy Fergus, Anita Rifkind and myself) have taken turns leading the classes, and all of us are impressed with the enthusiasm, the faith, the insights that these people are already showing. We know that they will really add positive energy, skills and gifts to our program. The trainees are Kathy Berry, /Brian Fergus, Andrea Goodwin, Kate Joyce, Cindy Klimmeck, Darcy LeDuc, Kelly Mack, Bruce Nelson, Jane Scheuer, Cathy Stewart, and Lois Zitoli. We love them all!! 1 Corinthians 12:14 tells us, “There are various gifts, but the same Spirit”. We see these various gifts every week.

During Lent this year, the Stephen Ministers, during supervision, read aloud the names of all who have been on the prayer list which is printed in the Sunday bulletin each week. That is significant for all who have asked for those prayers, either for themselves or for loved ones.

Perhaps our program is surviving—and thriving—for several reasons. Our Stephen Ministers are committed to the program and continue to stay active, even after their two -year commitment is fulfilled. They continue to come to supervision twice a month, even when they do not have a care-receiver. Confidentiality is KEY to our program, and names or identifying information is never revealed during our supervision sessions, or anywhere else. I think the congregation is aware of that and knows that they can get the help of a Stephen Minister and others will not know, unless they, as care-receivers, choose to share that information. And we have the support of all of you, our congregation. All these things are important factors in helping our program move forward.

Our Stephen Leaders feel fortunate that we have such a gifted and faithful group of Stephen Ministers. The combination of their individual gifts, talents and the depth of their faith is continually inspiring.

I thank all of you in our congregation for supporting this ministry. It is such an honor to serve the church in this capacity. We willingly continue to serve.

If you feel that you could benefit from having a Stephen Minister walk with you through a time of struggle in your life, please contact Pastor David or Ginny Feurer

Submitted by Ginny Feurer, Stephen Leader

Trustee Report

The Park Ridge Community Church Trustees oversee the operations and the ongoing capital needs of the physical plant and property of the Church.

In 2017 the Trustees have overseen an operating budget which included:

- Utilities \$21,338;
- Cleaning, set-up and janitorial services \$18,651;
- Insurance on the church and grounds \$26,607;
- Contract services (elevator, floor mats, pest control, emergency generator, fire alarm system, and garbage pickup) \$20,198;
- Lawn care and snow removal \$11,617; and
- Plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems service and repairs \$16,135.

In addition to the regular operations this past year, there have been several Trustee projects at PRCC in 2017. Examples of some of these projects are:

1. Great Hall window replacement (with substantial private contributions);
2. Supported the Sunday School Wing Children's bathroom upgrades (with private funding);
3. Supported Wi-Fi upgrades (Thom Goodwin);
4. Supported Carriage house needs (Gratitude to Bill Williams, Tom Klimmeck, Mary Biardo, and John Davis); and
5. Front step stone replacement (Bill Barsanti).

The Trustees are planning to address the following 2018 projects/concerns including:

- Additional capital window replacement;
- Sanctuary double hung window repairs;
- Painting interior/exterior improvements; and
- Facility utilization planning.

Please recognize the contributions of our trustees: Reggie Pantazi, Bill Barsanti, Fred Siebert, Scott Collins, John Donahue, Mike Artrip, John Davis, Thom Goodwin, Dave Self, and Mary Biardo.

The Trustees sincerely thank our incredible office staff, and the members of the executive committee and board for their support, and each one of you who contribute and give of yourselves in so many ways making PRCC 175 Years Strong!

Respectfully,
Dave Self, Chairman Trustees

Usher Report

Generally, the first people that you meet on Sunday morning as you enter PRCC are the smiling Ushers who welcome you and provide you with a bulletin. There are approximately 24 men and women who are Ushers. The Ushers are generally responsible for making sure that church is open, the lights are on and the candles are lit. In addition, at each service, you will see the Ushers collecting prayer requests and passing the collection plates. Most of the work that the Ushers do is behind the scenes on Sunday morning. PRCC is blessed with having the men and women who provide their services as Ushers.

We at PRCC are always looking to get more people involved in the committees that make up our church. Anyone who would like to become an Usher should contact Tim Lapp or the church office.

Tim Lapp, Head Usher

Youth Committee

Member: Kevin and Carrie Plach, Fred and Naomi Siebert, Kate Joyce, Darcy Le Duc, Scott and Siri Nelson, Aimee Collins, Anita Rifkind, Chris Chandler, Hannah Siebert and Zach Nelson.

After a year of transition in the church, I am happy to report the youth program is strong and active. The youth committee is blessed to have two energetic and enthusiastic leaders step up and volunteer to lead the youth group. Darcy Le Duc and Kate Joyce have really strived to provide quality programs and activities for our youth and should be commended for their efforts. We are further blessed to have excellent leadership from our outstanding seniors in youth group. Zach Nelson and Hannah Siebert have been invaluable to the youth group and will be greatly missed as they move on to college and life after youth group.

We traveled to South Carolina on our annual mission trip, held the pumpkin patch with the help of other groups in the church, worshipped together and held at least one activity each month. Although the pumpkin patch is our main fundraiser, “cookies by the pound” remains a popular event. Plans are underway for our next mission trip and we have several young, energetic and enthusiastic youth who will work with Kate and Darcy to help plan future events.

The youth committee is concerned about the future leadership of the youth programs as our current leaders are volunteers and have committed to at least one more year of service. However, a more permanent solution will need to be addressed by church leadership to provide a high level of youth programming and to attract new youth to the program.

Respectfully, Kevin Plach