

2018 Annual Report



Parkway Statements

Joyful · Inclusive · Compassionate

Purpose Statement (2018)

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Vision Statement

We shall seek the way of God in today's world through...

Joyful Worshipping · Inclusive Caring · Compassionate Serving

Mission Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ seeks within the church universal to respond faithfully to the promises of God as witnessed in the Old Testament and New Testament. We seek to follow the way of the crucified and risen Christ. Therefore, we will worship God, educate and nurture persons for discipleship, build a caring Christian community, participate in God's mission to the world, be stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. May all that we are and do be to God's Glory.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio-economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.



We All Have a Place at Parkway!

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2017 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Steve Penico, 2017 Council Secretary

Call to Order, Quorum

Council President Paul Roesler called the congregational meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Sunday, June 4, 2017. The meeting was held in the Church sanctuary.

Parliamentarian Mark Sableman confirmed that a quorum was present.

Motions

1. Peter Shelton moved and Carol Cobb seconded that we approve the minutes from last year's congregational meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Barbara Eggebrecht moved and Betty Scherrer seconded that we accept the recommendations of the Leadership Commission for the 2017–2018 slate of Council members and Commission members. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Carol Russell's Service to the Congregation

President Carol Russell addressed the meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the support she received during the 2016–2017 church year.

Donna Fauss presented Carol with a gift and expressed our appreciation for all Carol has done.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Race provided a treasurer's report.

For the first three months of 2017, revenues have exceeded expenses.

He answered questions regarding the historic sanctuary and our church's contractual relationship with Miriam Academy.

Vitality Committee

Mark Sableman then addressed the congregation regarding the Vitality Committee.

Last February, Council said that the Church would convene a special committee on finances and long-range planning.

Despite the many positives of our congregation's experiences during the past several years, we acknowledge that we have plateaued in some respects. We want to begin growing once again.

Accordingly, Church representatives have met with our conference ministers – both present and past. Those ministers assure us that we're facing issues that are common to mainstream protestant congregations.

We have talked with church revitalization experts. In particular, we have talked with John Wimberly, who specializes in helping churches become healthier and more vibrant. Ten of our parishioners spoke with him, and they have recommended to Council that we retain Dr. Wimberly's services.

He will lead a nine-month process, beginning in the fall. This will not be the typical long-range planning effort. We'll get right to it, setting specific goals. The kickoff will be in September. Then we will work through committees and through Council over the next six-to-eight months. In the spring, we'll have another intense weekend of planning to pull together what we have learned. At that time, we will agree upon specific strategies to adopt going forward.

Some good quotes from John Wimberly:

“I am convinced that Moses, Jesus, and Paul all had strategic plans...congregations need strategic plans.”

“If anyone is well positioned in Christendom today it is the UCC. It has the right message and the right history.”

Visual Aids

Val Detjen spoke on behalf of the Worship Commission.

She discussed the effort to find the right use of aids for visual learning – in particular the monitor (or monitors).

Miriam Academy

Donna Fauss gave us an update about Miriam Academy. Last year, we welcomed Miriam into our building. They have occupied the lower floor of the Church building. During this past year, they have launched with their new high school program.

We are continuing to work with them as they grow and as they share our mission.

PUNS

Carol Cobb presented information About PUNS: regarding financial matters, physical property, and celebration. The physical closing of the school is almost complete. PUNS has donated many of their surplus supplies – to nine different organizations.

Carol expressed her thanks to those who helped with the move, especially to Roger Fauss. Many thanks also to Barb Kulhmann for all she has done for PUNS, now and in the past.

Thanks to Retiring Council, Commission, and Committee Members

The congregation expressed its appreciation for the service of those members who are retiring from Council, commissions, and committees.

New Members

The congregation then voted to approve the new slate of members for Council and commissions. We welcomed the new members.

Pastor Kevin then led the Installation of the officers.

Adjournment

Pastor Kevin offered a closing prayer, then Paul Roesler adjourned the meeting at 10:47 AM.

Vitality Initiative Update

Kevin Hogarty, Council President

Dear Members and Friends of Parkway UCC,

I wanted to provide an update on our current Vitality efforts and next steps. Additionally, I wanted to thank so many of you who have participated in small and large group activities over the last year. Special thanks go to the Vitality Committee Leadership (Karen Boyd, Doug Dischinger and Mark Sableman) and the entire planning committee.

We kicked things off with our consultant, Rev. John W. Wimberly, Jr., in September. Our first task was to identify our congregation's purpose. Through small and large group efforts, we identified our purpose:

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing:

- ***Spiritual nourishment***
- ***Open—minded inquiry***
- ***Courageous action, and***
- ***Interfaith partnerships***

To fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

In 2018 we've had a number of group discussions, large and small, first to develop a set of goals around the purpose and then strategies to achieve those goals. The most recent and visible activity was the Vitality Workshop held on Sunday, April 8th. That session followed a leadership planning meeting on April 7 with Rev. Wimberly, members of Church Council and Commission members, to identify strategies to accomplish our goals. As a result, we've identified the following goals and strategies:

Goal 1: Create and maintain a more inclusive community

- Develop and leverage Parkway's brand: what are the words, images and graphics we can use in signs, print, social media and our language that tells people who we are?
- Rebuild the website to communicate our mission to our members and the community.
- Create visible communication of our values such as inclusiveness with rainbow banners "All Are Welcome"

Goal 2: Develop opportunities for spiritual nourishment and inquiry that meets a wide variety of needs

- Revive and revise our worship (structure, staffing, style, etc.) and the entire Sunday morning experience.
- Experience — try new things in worship, beginning with a recommendation to have a single blended Summer Worship at 10am for a set number of weeks during the summer — timing and scheduling to be determined by Pastor Kevin and the Worship Commission.

Goal 3: Take on courageous mission and community activities

- Take some risks to choose an area of mission that will become a signature program where people can get involved hands—on to make a difference and we will see the results

Goal 4: Engage in interfaith partnerships to create a just world for all.

- Organize a workday with different faith groups and make it accessible for youth involvement.

Goal 5: Craft a leadership and organizational structure which is inclusive, sustainable, and flexible that aligns with our purpose. *Note: This will likely lead to a number of changes in our governance (Council, Commissions, etc.). However, until we get to that point the current organizational structure remains.*

- Streamline church governance, including Council, commissions, and committees to create a more flexible organizational culture. Revise by—laws accordingly.
- Make recommendations to the Council quickly regarding the staff design.

Following the recommendations of the Planning Team leadership (Sableman, Dischinger, and Boyd), Council has reviewed the goals and strategies and voted to proceed with the initiative. The following are our next steps:

1. We now move to implementation of the strategies prioritized. This requires teams to be assembled for each of the strategies. Remember that Rev Wimberly taught us that teams need to be nimble, with a well—defined beginning and a much—desired end! And he advised that we keep these teams to 3—5 individuals, leveraging the experience within our membership to various topics, while seeking a diversity of thoughts.
2. Based on their role in the vitality planning to date along with knowledge of our membership, Council has commissioned the following individuals to call members to the strategy teams: Karen Boyd, Doug Dischinger, Mark Sableman, Carol Cobb, Carol Russell, Kevin Hogarty and Pastor Kevin. As this work gets underway I encourage you to get involved where and when you may be called and to pray for all those who are called to this important task for PUCC’s future.
3. Once formed, teams will develop specific action plans along with timelines and costs to produce the desired outcomes, reporting back to Council with their specific recommendations to implement the strategies.
4. As teams accomplish this first set of strategies, be prepared that other strategies will emerge. The need for the membership to remain engaged and available to this effort continues. To be transformational we will likely take on new activities and occasionally with some risk to our comfort that comes with “the familiar”. We thank you in advance for your prayers and support as we challenge ourselves and move forward to guarantee the Vitality of Parkway UCC!

Leadership Commission

Harold Cobb, Convener

The Leadership Commission took a somewhat different approach this year. As one of the Vitality initiatives is a reorganization of the church structure, which we anticipate that will occur sometime after the upcoming church year, we requested outgoing commission members consider remaining for an additional year. Most agreed to do so. Also, in anticipation of the changes, several commissions will operate with four members.

We give our special thanks to departing council members Carol Russell (who served as council vice—president and president) and Kris McKenzie. Carol Cobb, who completed two years of an incomplete term, has agreed to serve a third year. We also appreciate departing commission members Pat Feeney (Communications), Rick Hasler (Evangelism), Sally Boughman, (Membership Care), Steve Penico, Lydia Roesler and Pat Owens (Worship)

Special thanks to the Leadership Commission for their efforts: Betty Scherrer, Sally Dischinger, and Conrad Damsgaard.

Parkway UCC Leadership 2018—2019

Terms end on the first Sunday of June in the year noted. *President/Convener

Church Council		
May 2019	May 2020	May 2021 Proposed
*Kevin Hogarty, President	Steffanie Rauscher	Tom McKenzie
Paul Roesler	Brad Lyons, secretary	Carol Cobb, vice president
Rich Race, treasurer	Jack Sieber	
Christian Education Commission		
Michelle Brueggemann	*Liz Lyons	Council Liaison:
Ellie Svenson	Pam Manning	
*Carmen Bumgarner		
Christian Services Commission		
*Lisa Mason	Evelyn Buretta	Council Liaison: Tom McKenzie
Sue Moellering	Paige Penico	
Donna Ruzicka		
Communications Commission		
Brad Lyons	Angie Downing	Council Liaison: Brad Lyons
Lisa Mason		
Evangelism Commission		
*Karen Boyd	Helen Race	Council Liaison: Paul Roesler
Marsha Peek	Cassie Rosenberger	
Leadership Commission		
*Harold Cobb	Sally Dischinger	Council Liaison: Carol Cobb
Betty Scherrer		
Conrad Damsgaard		
Membership Care Commission		
Mary Maxeiner	Joyce Ruiz	Council Liaison: Steff Rauscher
Steffanie Rauscher	Pat Owens	
*Peggy Mohl		
Property Commission		
*Mike Mason	Ben McDougall	Council Liaison: Jack Sieber
Kent Tallyn	Mike Rogers	
Roger Fauss		
Stewardship Commission		
Amy Yakel	*Linda Tossing	Council Liaison: Rich Race
Ross Livengood	Harold Cobb	
Tom Maxeiner		
Worship Commission		
Rosanna Hogarty	*Val Detjen	Council Liaison: Kevin Hogarty
Kathy Hilgeman	Michelle Singer	
Bill Hilgeman		

Church Council Report for 2017—2018

Kevin Hogarty, 2017—2018 Church Council President

Like most years, this was a year of change, challenge, uncertainty and new direction. Church Council has been quite active and involved on many fronts and I applaud their dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank all members for their work and dedication to PUCC, particularly as we chart a new and vital future.

In worship, we said goodbye to our long—time Formal Service Music Director, Barb Raedecke and our Informal Service Director, Skyler Brusee. Soon after, we welcomed Barry Luedloff to join us as Interim Music Director for both services. We felt the Vitality Initiative may lead us in new directions and it was best to hold off on long—term staffing decisions until the path forward was clear. Plans will be developed in the coming weeks/months for a long—term solution.

We said goodbye and celebrated the work and ministry of PUNS. Decisions like this are always difficult, but this was all done with grace and in a way that the PUNS was able to continue its mission through a legacy gift of \$7000 to Family Forward Preschool.

Miriam Academy has now completed their 2nd year as a high school with the space provided by PUCC. They continue to grow and expand with utilization of additional rooms. This summer, they will host their summer program here as well. We continue to work with them for a successful third year. Along the way, in conjunction with Miriam Academy we've enhanced some of our space, most notably the Heritage room that now has fresh paint, new carpet, furniture and a great new kitchenette (thanks to the Kris and Tom McKenzie and Joyce and John Ruiz for their efforts).

Our Vitality Initiative has been the biggest undertaking of the past year and will continue to be our primary focus in the year ahead. I want to thank so many of you who have participated in small and large group activities over the last year. Special thanks go to the Vitality Committee Leadership (Karen Boyd, Doug Dischinger and Mark Sableman) and the entire planning committee.

We kicked things off with our consultant, Rev. John W. Wimberly, Jr., in September and identified our congregation's purpose:

Parkway United Church of Christ

strives to be an inclusive community embracing:

- ***Spiritual nourishment***
- ***Open—minded inquiry***
- ***Courageous action, and***
- ***Interfaith partnerships***

To fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

We built on this purpose and developed goals and strategies to ensure the goals are met. As I write, teams are being called to begin the work of implementation. Initial goals and strategies are:

Goal 1: Create and maintain a more inclusive community

- Develop and leverage Parkway's brand: what are the words, images and graphics we can use in signs, print, social media and our language that tells people who we are?
- Rebuild the website to communicate our mission to our members and the community.

- Create visible communication of our values such as inclusiveness with rainbow banners “All Are Welcome.”

Goal 2: Develop opportunities for spiritual nourishment and inquiry that meets a wide variety of needs

- Revive and revise our worship (structure, staffing, style, etc.) and the entire Sunday morning experience.
- Worship Experience — try new things in worship, beginning with a recommendation to have a single blended Summer Worship at 10am for a set number of weeks during the summer—timing and scheduling to be determined by Pastor Kevin and the Worship Commission.

Goal 3: Take on courageous mission and community activities

- Take some risks to choose an area of mission that will become a signature program where people can get involved hands—on to make a difference and we will see the results.

Goal 4: Engage in interfaith partnerships to create a just world for all.

- Organize a workday with different faith groups and make it accessible for youth involvement.

Goal 5: Craft a leadership and organizational structure which is inclusive, sustainable, and flexible that aligns with our purpose. Note: This will likely lead to a number of changes in our governance (Council, Commissions, etc.). However, until we get to that point the current organizational structure remains.

- Streamline church governance, including Council, commissions, and committees to create a more flexible organizational culture. Revise by—laws accordingly.
- Make recommendations to the Council quickly regarding the staff design.

As we move forward and implement these strategies, we can expect this to change us as a Church and community. This will continue to require our effort, prayers, support and of course patience. Change is not easy, but we will continue to be a Vital Congregation and resource for the broader community.

Our weekend with John Pavolvitz grew out of a sense of outreach and mission that has been part of our Vitality Initiative. This provided us an opportunity to show more in the wider community who we are—it is great that so many have participated and thanks to the team that made this happen (Lisa Mason, Karen Boyd, Carol Cobb, Brad Lyons, Angie Downing and Stephanie Polster).

Thanks to the entire Council for your support, energy and commitment to the vitality of PUCC!. Throughout this journey we continue to be blessed by the vision, guidance, grace and prayerful nudging of Pastor Kevin—Thanks!

Kevin Hogarty, Council President for the full Council –

Carol Russell, Carol Cobb, Kris McKenzie, Rich Race, Paul Roesler, Brad Lyons, Steffanie Rauscher and Jack Sieber

Senior Pastor

Kevin Cameron

It's been an important year for us as we have been more intentional about claiming who we are and what our mission and purpose is as a particular people of faith...

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing:

spiritual nourishment...

The *Emmaus Homes Bell Choir* was just here with us – at both worship services on Mother's Day. It was wonderful to have them as worship leaders. It was also great to have cheered for a few of them at the *Special Olympics Track Meet* just a few weeks previous at *JHLTB7!*

The *Core Music Project* is bringing us tried and true classics and new, relevant, challenging lyrics to beloved tunes and so much more.

Our monthly *Faith Sharing* was recently offered by Angela Chostner. She shared some of her artwork which is now hanging in the *Prayer Corner* in the Sanctuary.

open-minded inquiry...

This year's *Confirmands* wrestled with and offered new meaning to the faith we're sharing.

PUCC recently hosted the *St Louis UCC Ministerium*. Our worship was in the sanctuary facing the stained glass windows and dialoguing with them. These windows can talk and listen!

We are so grateful to you for your participation in the *Vitality Initiative* with our Consultant John Wimberly. Your questions, convictions, ideas have been well received. We are going deeper!

courageous action...

The *International Institute* is committed to building bridges not walls. So are we. Our work with II is life giving for all of us – here and there.

I attended a *Youth Press Conference* on Gun Violence outside one of the Parkway High Schools this spring. Our youth are leaders now and later!

John Pavlovitz, author of *A Bigger Table*, will be with us next weekend. He says some things that take courage to say – and hear. What will we do next?

interfaith partnerships...

We hosted a *Parkway School District Board of Education Candidate Forum* in April with our Jewish, Muslim and Hindu friends in the Gathering Space. Encore!

TASOM, our new Muslim friends from Turkey, will co-host an Iftar dinner here next week. Come break the fast with us.

White privilege is on the agenda for some small groups that are beginning to form after an initial conversation I had with a local Rabbi and the Diversity Director of the Parkway School District.

to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

We are in this together - with the Holy and with one another -- even the stranger!

Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Barb Kuhlmann, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries

Deep discussions, voices of Grace, baking, Youth Worship Service, Old Testament, Advent Workshop, Youth Mission week, stories of Jesus, joyful music, laughter and prayers.

We are Christian Education and Youth Ministries! We bring the stories of Jesus alive and give examples of how we can live a spirit filled life to our children and youth.

In the fall, our Sunday School children learned stories from the Old Testament and after Christmas we studied the life of Jesus.

Our Nursery is fully staffed with Julie Connors and our new caregiver, Becca Palmgren. Special thanks for their care for our little ones.

Along with youth night our Middle school and Senior Highs have different opportunities for adventure. Some events were designed to broaden their faith while other events were for fun and fellowship.

This past summer we offered a different type of VBS. MAD Camp is a week in August of music, art and drama. The children learned the musical, *Down by the Creekbank*. They made the scenery and costumes for a performance on Friday evening. Special thanks to Carol Cobb and Ingrid Scharf for leading us through a great week.

Youth Mission week was a huge success! Pastor Kevin, Carmen Bumgarner and Tom McKenzie took a group of our youth to Appalachia to work. It was a great week of bonding and learning the hardships of the people living in coal country.

Advent workshop is a favorite Sunday evening of making special crafts to either give away or keep themselves. We had a soup supper and vespers in the Sanctuary following dinner. Thanks to Carol Cobb for her great crafts and time

We performed, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* this past December. The Sunday school kids helped with scenery and songs. Special thanks to Liz Lyons and Carmen Bumgarner who helped us make this pageant the best ever!

Book Sunday is always a special morning for our children as we give each child in our congregation a book chosen for their age. Special thanks to Liz Lyons for her time and her leadership for book Sunday!

Easter Sunday we heard the amazing story of Jesus and made many different Easter crafts. We then finished the morning with an egg hunt. Thanks to Carmen Bumgarner for making this morning so special for our children.

Many of our children and youth performed their talents for our congregation during our Youth Worship Service. We are blessed to have so many talented children and youth that joyfully shared their God given talent with our congregation. Special thanks to Marsha Peek for her leadership.

The children and youth of our church are always reaching out. They continue to express the desire to help others. What a joy it is to be part of this wonderful church family. Thank you to all who continue to help us plant seeds of faith into our children's lives.

From the Church Records 2017—2018 Program Year

Membership Gains and Losses	
Gains	Losses
Transfers/ Reaffirmations	Deaths
Joan Brannigan	Jerry Debandt
Molly Grishan	Lucille Arft
Jo Grove	John Lindner
Jean Mueller	Anna Lee Grone
Donna Ruzicka	Nancy Brown
Michael Ruzicka	Milford Tallyn
Jack Sieber	Lorine Collins
Peggy Sieber	Russell Gieselmann
Vergyl Wilcoxon	Total Losses: 8
Dick Witte	
Confirmands	
Ryan Bowermaster	
Iris Cameron	
Nathaniel Doty	
Meredith Downing	
Summer Lyons	
Abigail Sperry	
William Stappenbeck	
Tyler Wessel	
Total Gains: 18	
Records	
Births	Weddings
Harrison Tallyn	Kristin Wilson & Brian Riggs
Sterling Tallyn	Esra Uysal and Bradley Baker
Baptisms	Funerals/Memorials
Elin Patel	Jerry Debandt
Wyatt Watkins	John Lindner
	Anna Lee Grone
	Nancy Brown
	Lorine Collins
	Lilian Mulcahy

Membership & Worship Comparisons

Bart Coleman

Membership (includes adults and confirmed children)

	<u>In Town</u>	<u>Out of Town</u>	<u>Total</u>
As of June 1, 2017 —	365	40	405
2017—2018 Program Year Gains:			
Transfers/Reaffirmations —	10	0	10
Confirmands —	8	0	8
2017—2018 Program Year Losses:			
Transfers/Requested Removals —	0	0	0
Erasers —	0	0	0
Deaths —	-7	-1	-8
Change in membership status			
during program year⁽¹⁾ —	-2	2	—
As of May 20, 2018 —	374	41	415

1 – Moved from “in town” to “out of town” status, or the opposite.

Sunday Worship Service Attendance (Members, children and guests)

	<u>9:30 am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>	<u>One Family²</u>	<u>Total³</u>
Average Attendance During				
2016—2017 Program Year —	88	45	83	128
Average Attendance During				
2017—2018 Program Year¹ —	86	42	97	123
Increase/decrease over the				
2016—2017 Program Year	-2.3%	-6.7%	16.9%	-4.7%

1- Though May 13, 2018

2- On certain Sundays, normally on the fifth Sunday of a month with five Sundays, only one worship service is held (a total of 8 times during this program year). Also, any conclusions utilizing the values shown for the One Family service should be tempered, considering the uniqueness and randomness of this service.

3- **Please note** – The total Sunday worship service attendance may not be equal to the sum of that for the two services, as a result of having to take into account the Sundays where only one service is held.

As you can see from the above, our in-town membership has remained fairly constant while our Sunday worship attendance has slightly decreased. Also, the ratio of our average Sunday worship service attendance for this program year, to our in-town membership, is 34%. The expected ratio for a “mainline” congregation our size is approximately 40%. Thus, our worship service attendance is below what would be expected for a congregation our size.

Stewardship Commission

Linda C. Tossing, Convener



The Stewardship Commission is responsible for raising and securing the financial resources necessary to enable Parkway Church to carry out all aspects of its Christian mission. The Commission's principal activities are to conduct a Stewardship pledge campaign each year and to prepare a detailed Church Budget for the ensuing year. The Commission is responsible to the Church Council and to the congregation. All Church monies are turned over to the Treasurer, who is an ex-officio member of the Commission and its liaison with the Council.

For the 2018 Stewardship Campaign, we selected the theme "Parkway Isn't Complete Without You!". The campaign, to secure pledges for 2018, was conducted in October and November, with Consecration Sunday culminating the effort on November 12. Thanks in particular to Commission members Amy Yakel and Harold Cobb for driving this effort. Church members and friends responded generously and pledged \$306,798 (\$292,438 – General and \$14,360 – Building).

Stewardship's other key responsibility is to prepare a budget proposal each year for approval by the Church Council and by the Congregation at its annual budget meeting in February. The budget effort this year was challenging and required significant work by members of Stewardship, by the Church Council, by Church Treasurer Richard Race, and ultimately by Council leadership to convey the challenges and the opportunities reflected in this year's program. Thanks to Ross Livengood for driving this effort for the 2018 budget. Several factors impacted the budget including Miriam Academy expanding its use of our church's facility. The balance of the 2018 income is made up of anticipated unpledged contributions and other facilities income.

Considering this circumstance, Stewardship and Council agreed to submit for congregational approval an expense budget of \$461,749. This is a deficit budget of \$46,411 but with 45% of the 2017 carry over of \$21,979, the adjusted deficit for 2018 is \$24,432. This budget was submitted to and approved by the congregation at the annual Budget meeting on January 28, 2018.

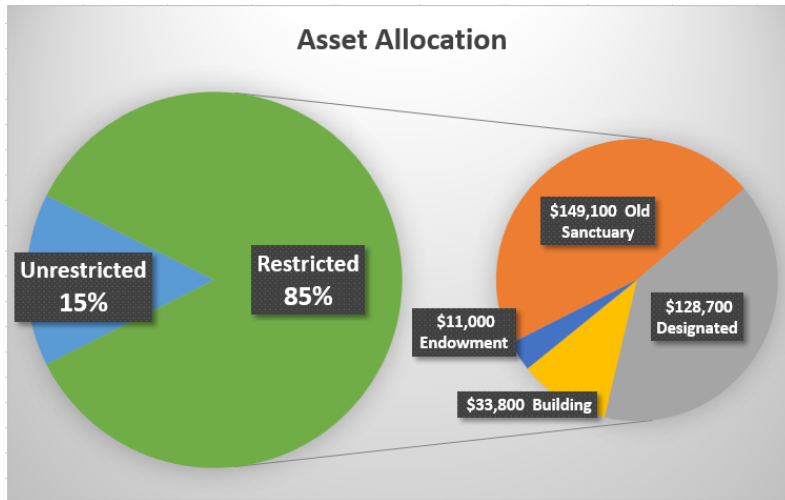
Thanks for the contributions of the members of Stewardship—Harold Cobb, Ross Livengood, Amy Yakel, Joe Biondo—to Treasurer Richard Race, to Kevin and Mona, and to the Church Council, all of whom have played integral parts in Parkway's striving to be good stewards of our resources and our goals.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Richard Race, Treasurer

Our financial Fitbit is encouraging! Our cash asset value (not real estate or buildings) has grown 34% to \$378,600 at the end of 2017, compared to the end of 2016 value of \$282,700. The growth is due to the increased rental income from our 3 year tenant, Miriam Academy, plus the ongoing endeavor of the entire congregation to control spending while continuing to donate as they can to cover our average monthly expenses of \$38,500. We will find out in December 2018 if Miriam will use their option to stay a fourth year.

Our cash assets are in two categories: restricted funds have a specific purpose, and the unrestricted fund is available for month to month expenses. As of the end of April 2018 here is how our assets are allocated:



The Unrestricted Fund for monthly expenses value is \$56,200. There are four funds that are restricted, making up 85% of our cash asset. In the Designated Fund, the Council Discretionary reserve fund value is \$94,800. This is where \$7,700 a month of Miriam rent, and 45% of the 2017 surplus cash, is saved. The goal is to have \$230,000 in reserve, which is 50% of our annual expense.

All the Restricted cash has been moved into an investment fund managed by United Church Funds, a part of the UCC. Investment earnings in 2018 are not

expected to be in the double-digit range of the past few years. If the market stabilizes, we could expect the 2018 earnings to be around 5% to 7%. The Unrestricted cash has been moved to Commerce Bank. We also maintain a Charles Schwab account to accept stock donations.

Our short-term outlook is good. We know we have some roof repairs coming in 2018 or 2019. If we can stay on our current path we should be able to handle those expenses. Our long-term outlook may see a decline in income from donations, unless something changes. Through April, 42% of our donations in 2018 have come from people over the age of 75, who make up 36% of our congregation. 4% of donations came from people under 45, who make up 10% of the congregation. Sometimes you don't need statistics to tell you what you already know, but the magnitude of the numbers underscores the "vital" of our Vitality Initiative.

Property Commission

Mike Mason

Thanks to the actions of Roger Fauss, Pete Eggebrecht, Ben McDougall, John Ruiz, Mike Rogers, Kent Tallyn, and others that get pulled—in on various projects, the church property continues to serve its congregants, tenants, and guests.

We appreciate the patience everyone has provided us as we endeavor to serve our various needs. Thank you for letting us know when concerns arise.

An objective began last year is that of recording processes and scheduling or standardizing maintenance issues. There are many processes we need to record and will continue to this effort.

Along with endeavoring to be methodical about property needs, we are working to create a framework that will allow our volunteers to best meet the church community's needs. The volunteers of the church off set the expenses of vendor services, but we need to balance our expectations with volunteer expertise and their desire for life beyond their service.

Our primary volunteers provide countless hours, as well as those who have helped with specific projects, for giving their time and talent to benefit us. Thank you for caring so deeply about your greater church family.

Facilities Committee

Marsha Peek, Convener

This year we continued to monitor the many groups and individuals using our buildings. We are so grateful to Mona for keeping everything organized and running smoothly as we are a very busy place! Our thanks to Susan Thomson for her continuing work with getting invoices out to our many renters. What an amazing office staff!

Finally, many thanks to you, the congregation for your continued support in keeping PUCC a safe space for the students of Miriam Academy and St. Louis Children's Choir, respecting their space during school hours and rehearsal hours.

If you would like to join this committee, please contact Marsha Peek, convener.

Mike Rogers, Property

Mark Sableman, Member—at—large

Marsha Peek, Evangelism and Convener

Mona Smith Herberg, Office Administrator

Kevin Cameron, Pastor

Elm Lawn Cemetery

Tom McKenzie

The Elm Lawn Cemetery Association Board is charged with maintaining the perpetual care cemetery adjacent to the historic sanctuary. There are a number of single, double, and triple burial plots available, as well as crematory plots. Also, all tax—deductible donations for the general maintenance of the cemetery will be greatly appreciated. Please keep the cemetery in mind as you make your complete personal plans.

Historian Report

Kim Livengood and Naomi Runtz continue to work together as Naomi transitions out of role.

All of the old church record books have been digitized: Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Deaths. We also have a hard copy printed out.

The St. Louis Genealogical Society has scanned, digitized and put our records on their website. If you're a member, you can research from home! This is a much appreciated effort, having taken many hours.



Worship Commission Annual Report

Val Detjen, Convener

The Worship Commission continues many of the same tasks and responsibilities from year to year. We serve as the liaison to the Sanctuary Committee who takes such pristine care of our sanctuary, decorates seasonally and oversees the fresh flowers we enjoy each Sunday and Holidays. They see to it that coordinating banners and appropriate seasonal Paraments are hung. Thank you to Naomi Runtz for making our new UCC logo banner.

We oversee the ushering system, communion preparation, recruiting lay readers, oversee the music budget and work closely with the Musical Director(s) and Pastor Kevin.

This year we established short term teams to create a special 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and purchased informational booklets. We established a Core Music task force to look at the hymns and songs we sing. In keeping with our mission statements and purpose statements we are working toward the use of inclusive language in all the portions of worship, yet have sensitivity to older hymns and music that are both traditional and treasured.

With the resignations of both Barbara Raedeke and Skyler Brussee, we worked in concert with the Council to establish an Interim Music Director search committee and were delighted to hire Barry Lueddel who will serve until the end of January 2019. We hope to establish a search committee around

September 2018. Barry is invited to be one of the candidates. We are presently working with Barry to evaluate our present program needs and dreams. We appreciate his skills, ideas, enthusiasm and smiling disposition.

We provided UCC Lenten Devotionals, “Lovers to Fools” and hope they were well received. Brad Lyons helped us provide Lenten Devotionals from the Disciples of Christ.

Under the guidance and creativity of Rosanna Hogarty and ideas of Paul Roesler, three alternative services were held on Saturdays with fellowship following. Feedback was positive. A special Evening Sunset service under the leadership of Rosanna was celebrated on May 6.

Our congregation has three anniversaries to celebrate this year; 180 years as a congregation, 20 years in our “new” sanctuary and 10 years of being Opening and Affirming. Rejoice!

The Vitality study will bring challenges and new ideas to our commission and we look forward to working with others to enhance and embrace creative worship, the expression of God’s boundless love, the teachings of Jesus and the refreshing, renewing, Breath of the Holy Spirit.

Many Thanks and Blessings to Pastor Kevin, Mona Smith Herberg for her hard and excellent work on the bulletins, Barry Lueddel, Barb Kuhlman, Song leaders and the Choir, Voices of Grace and all the folks who share their time and talents to come together and Worship.

We began the year with members Pat Owens, Lydia Roesler, Steve Penico, who have left or will leave the commission, Rosanna Hogarty, Secretary, Kevin Hogarty, Council Representative and myself. We pray for healing for Pat, good luck and happiness for Lydia as she graduates and goes to college in the Fall and well deserved rest for Steve. We look forward to the Leadership Commission finding us new and experienced people to join us.

Worship Commission: Sanctuary Committee

Barbara Eggebrecht, Convener

The Sanctuary Committee purchases flowers, hangs banners and paraments, and restocks pews with envelopes and prayer cards.

We particularly enjoy decorating for the holidays:

- Palms for Palm Sunday
- Lilies and ferns for Easter Sunday
- Harvest Display for Thanksgiving
- Christmas tree, greenery and poinsettias for Advent and Christmas.

Our committee members are: Judy Waddell, Kris Mckenzie, Mary Maxiener, Carol Cobb and Barbara Eggebrecht. Roger and Donna Fauss continue to help and advise us which we truly appreciate.

If you would be interested in joining us please contact one of our members.

It is a blessing to care for the house of our Lord.

Music Ministry Director

(combining Organist/Chancel Choir/Informal Worship Music)

Barry K. Luedloff, Interim Music Director

Mid—October saw the creation of an Interim Music Director position, to cover the work needed in combined vacancies in the music ministry here at Parkway UCC, that interim to go through July of 2018. The idea was (and still is) to give the congregation and various commissions/teams time to sort out and identify exactly what are the music ministry needs and goals here at Parkway UCC, as part of the on—going Vitality Study, while at the same time allowing for some experimentation and introduction of some new or different musical offerings and experiences (stylistically) in worship. The three positions of Organist, (Chancel) Choir Director and Informal Worship Music Director were combined into one interim position to allow this thoughtful discernment to occur. Most recently, when it was discovered that more time was actually needed to achieve this properly, that initial Interim agreement was extended through the end of January of 2019.

2017 was a year of change for Parkway, with the leave—takings of long—time Organist and Chancel Choir Director Barbara Raedeke and Informal Worship Music Director Skyler Brussee in late summer. Although I was not present when they were serving Parkway UCC, I do know that we all (yes, even the new Interim Music Director) owe them many thanks for their leadership, professionalism and commitment to our ministry of music throughout the time they were here. Their diligence and effort in growing and maintaining this music ministry made the transition of my stepping in last October much, much easier.

Same to our adult Chancel Choir and our Informal Worship musicians; they are so committed to their music ministry and musical offerings, and have been so very helpful and supportive of “the new guy!”

What an amazing group of singers. I am so thankful to be allowed to work with them. The Chancel Choir continues, and has even grown a bit, with a couple of newer members, as does the Informal Worship Musicians. The Interim time has allowed some new efforts and a few different musical experiences to occur, along with some fellowship—building events for the musicians involved.

And what wonderful music from Voices of Grace, and their volunteer leaders Stephanie Polster, Cindy Bowermaster and Colleen Haviland! As the new guy, I have been so astounded and impressed with their offerings of music in our worship services. Thank you all so much! We look forward to the continuation of that part of the Music Ministry in the future, hearing more from our youth in whatever form that takes.

Our thanks also goes to Carmen Bumgarner for her work in guiding the Hand Chimes offerings by the children and youth, and for Barb Kuhlmann for the children's singing! Your gifts of music are enlightening, uplifting and a true delight each time we hear you!

In general, our heartfelt thanks to all the choirs, musicians, instrumentalists, soloists, singers and ringers who this past year have added so much to our worship and fellowship here at Parkway. Although I don't know everyone who offered their gift of music this past year, please except my thanks (and Barb's and Sklyer's too, I'm sure) for what you gave to us all here at Parkway.

On a personal note, what a blessing it's been to be working with Pastor Kevin, Barb Kuhlman, Mona Smith Herberg, and Susan Thompson. The staff here at Parkway is truly great and gracious, and my thanks to each of you for your efforts in support your Music Ministry. Special thanks to Val Detjen and the Worship Commission, for their support of the music ministry effort here, and their guidance and suggestions. It is so wonderful (and a comfort) to have your combined and individual encouragements, and to work as a team. A special and personal thanks to Marsha Peek in coordinating the planning sessions for songs for the Informal Musicians, and for her encouragement and support as I've been coming up to speed during this interim.

We've tried a few new things, including:

- Singing some of the new songs identified in the Core Music project.
- One Family Choir (combined singers, especially from Chancel Choir, Informal Worship Musicians, and Voices of Grace, along with other volunteer singers from the congregation) on the 5th Sundays and other times we hold our One Family services.
- Our first (and soon to be annual, me—thinks) All Singers and Musicians (and their families) Fellowship Gathering off—site (a.k.a., a Choir Party), where musicians from both services gathered together as one group to just relax, bond, share a pot—luck meal and really get to enjoy one another's company (. . . and it was a great way for the new Director to get to know everyone better)! Thanks to Gloria and Don Wandless for being our first hosts! It was a great day, and a real treat!
- A special choral group, the New Gentlemen's Gospel Choir (on Mother's Day)! Most successful, and VERY impressive!
- Music notation software Sibelius, for the computer in the Music Director's office.
- Margarita Rehearsal for the Chancel Choir and Informal Worship Singers and their families (...go ahead, ask us about it...)
- Parkway UCC One Family Choir singing the National Anthem at the Saint Louis Football Club (Professional soccer) evening game on Wednesday, May 30th (may be televised on Channel 11)

So, what more to watch for going forward? Here are a couple of things identified and committed to . . .

- Summer Choir (singing on the 1st Sunday of each month during summer worship schedule) – no extra rehearsals; volunteer singers show up to learn one simple 2 or 3—part song, one hour prior to the 10:00am service on the 1st Sundays in July, August and September. Watch for details!

- We'll be seeing another new special choral group on Father's Day (bet you can guess what it's going to be...)
- Jazz in July service, at 10:00 a.m. Sunday July 22 – worship music “in the manner of jazz!”
- An intergenerational (adult/youth Jr. High and above) Hand Chime Ensemble is in the works, beginning mid–summer.
- Moving back to occasionally/ frequently utilizing individual soloists and instrumentalists for some of our special music offerings, throughout the year, and especially at festival service and seasons, holy days/holidays (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc.).
- Organizing a first coordinated season of concerts to be held here at Parkway . . . watch for future announcement of our 2018/2019 season! Traditional formal concerts in Sanctuary, but also includes the concept of a “coffee house concert” atmosphere in the Gathering Space for less–formal music presentation, as outreach to the surrounding and greater community. Potential for developing into an annual concert season?

As you can see, there is much going on, much coming, but still much to do. We're always encouraging those with a feel for, appreciation of, or gift of music to come along and join us for the ride! We're seeking diverse musical experiences. Offering the gift of YOUR music can be personally uplifting, and is something that we always welcome. Contact me and let's have a talk about your thoughts, ideas, or questions about joining in sometime: barry@parkwayucc.org

Most of all, thanks to each of you, the congregation, who is our family here at Parkway UCC, for helping to make that “Joyful Noise!” we read about in scripture! You've made me feel so welcome and an immediate “part of the family” here. Your comments, suggestions and support make my task here so much easier.

St. Augustine said “[The one] who sings, prays twice!” So **KEEP SINGING . . . LOUDLY** and **JOYFULLY**, whether it be from the choir loft or the pews – wherever you happen to be during worship! Proclaim **YOUR** Joyful Noise so that it is heard throughout the community!

P&H! [Peace and Harmony!]
Barry K. Luedloff

Tuesday Evening Dialogue (TED)

Karen Boyd

The Tuesday Evening Dialogue (TED) is a twice monthly potluck supper/book discussion group that welcomes everyone to its circle. We are a group of multi—generational adults who enjoys the fellowship created by reading books of many types (eg, spirituality, theology, contemporary drama, fun comedy, politics, history). We share our thoughts, raise questions, get off topic, and eat good food together! Book selections are made by the group, and everyone's input is welcome!

TED meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, convening at 6pm in the Heritage Room at church. Look for announcements in the weekly e—news and the church bulletins for the next book, pick up a copy conveniently in the church office, and join the fun.

Truly, everyone is welcome! In recent times we have seen many new members to Parkway find a comfortable place to get know people in our friendly small group. Folks frequently sited at TED include Florence Simonson, Dottie Dwyer, Joyce Ruiz, Helen and Rich Race, Lana and Joe Biondo, Kevin and Rosanna Hogarty, Joan Brannigan, Pam Manning, Sue Moellering, Mark and Lynn Sableman, Gale Haggard, Nancy Wessinger, Michelle Singer, Pam Walker, Polly Rutherford, Mike and Gerry Rogers... And more!

Christian Education

Christian Education: Co—Convener, Carmen Bumgarner

Christian Education Committee

CE had an interesting beginning, adjusting to the new room set up and sharing space (happily) with Miriam School. Thanks to a company of elves, we have found a place for everything in storage, and thanks to Barb Kuhlmann and Michelle Brueggeman, even the craft closet is organized!

Other highlights of the year were:

* “Down by the Creekbank” **MAD Camp** with lessons about life and the importance of our water—topped off with a fabulous show at the end!

*Inspiring **Mission Trip** with the teens to the Appalachian Folklife Center in West Virginia

***Trunk or Treat** was spooky and sweet— a wonderful community event!

***Advent Workshop** led by Carol Cobb was festive as usual, with amazing crafts!

*”The Best **Christmas Pageant** Ever” led by Barb lived up to its name!

***Super Bowl Sunday and Chili/Brownie** smack down both helped raise funds for this summer’s mission trip.

***Book Sunday**, led by Liz Lyons, gifted our youth with hard cover books that contain beautiful messages for all ages.

***Easter** Sunday, led by Barb and Carmen, and starring the fabulous Skit Guys video, was full of giggles and partnership between our older youth and younger kiddos. The teens were a big help both before and during Sunday School!

***Youth Sunday**, as always, was a wonderful place to showcase our talented youth. They led the music, did the readings, gave the sermon, ushered, and led Children’s time.

* **Youth Night** was held every Wednesday night— though a HIT with middle schoolers, we may need to find a different night/format to navigate the High Schoolers’ schedules!

*CE is always grateful for the **teachers** who step forward and lead our children each Sunday. Our youth were blessed with the leadership of Marsha Peek, Stephanie Rauscher, Paige Penico, Amy Yakel and Cindy Wessell! Our younger students were led by Barb Kuhlmann, Liz Lyons, Ingrid Scharf, Carol Cobb, Carmen Bumgarner, with help from Michelle Brueggeman, Sylvie Delaney, Pat Klein, Ellie Svenson, and Kim Livengood as well. Karen Nolte’s consistent leadership in Sunday School continues to be a blessing for PUCS Sunday School!

*Our new **Nursery** Attendant, Becca Palmgren and her partner in crime, Julie Connors, did a wonderful job organizing, cleaning and doing their best to make the nursery more welcoming for our youngest!

CE is looking forward to creating more interfaith opportunities and bringing more of the young community in to our church family this coming year.

Christian Services Commission

Lisa Mason, convener

The Christian Services Commission met bimonthly throughout the year. The commission's ongoing goal is to offer a variety of opportunities for PUCers to share God's love, while inspiring everyone to seek and create additional opportunities.

PUC's recent Vitality Initiative reinforced the significance of community service in the future health of the church and the St. Louis area. The Christian Services Commission attempts to identify our overarching mission areas in order to be the most impactful. We readily admit that maintaining this focus is not an easy task when presented with so many places and causes of need!

Our goal is to share God's love with those who may not regularly feel loved or lovable. Our efforts generally revolve around assisting those whose basic needs are not being met — **children, the hungry, refugees/immigrants, and those recently released from prison**. Our commission is also excited about sharing opportunities to build positive interfaith relationships. The Sustainability Seekers group was formed as an offshoot of CSC to encourage care for **the earth** in practical, meaningful ways.

The PUC congregation engages with the community:

- A youth mission trip to Appalachia in July 2017, was led by Tom McKenzie, Kevin Cameron and Carmen Bumgarner with 10 youth. Three members served via an adult mission trip to UCC's Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, took place October 29 — November 4, 2017.
- Nathan Rauscher led his jazz ensemble to perform a benefit concert for Circle of Concern food pantry in July 2017—more than \$800 and many nonperishables were donated.
- In September, the International Institute hosted its first women's tea; we participated by donating books for all ages highlighting strong female characters, as well as breakfast breads and fruit, and sending a small team to interact with the new Americans in attendance.
- The St. Louis area Crop Walk was shifted to evening to incorporate dinner and a concert. Sue Moellering helped plan, organize, and implement the Walk with members from other St Louis—area churches. Due to a timing conflict with our annual picnic, Parkway did not officially have a team this year, but we still collected \$2,090 —more money to fight hunger than the other participating organizations/churches!
- Jesus Has Left the Building (JHLTB) 6 on October 21, 2017, was our first experiment with holding the event on a Saturday. Seven all new projects encouraged PUCers to get out of their comfort zones and into community service. A congregational survey was conducted again (following the one after JHLTB 4) to gather reactions to the change and suggestions to maximize the opportunities for connections with God, the community, and our PUC family. The majority of survey respondents expressed no preference between Saturday or Sunday community service; the few who did note a preference were evenly split between the two options. Therefore, our commission decided to host one Saturday and one Sunday JHLTB event per year.
- Jesus Has Left the Building 7 was held on Saturday, April 28, 2018. This JHLTB offered only three projects as the Special Olympics Spring Games needed a significant number of volunteers. Other PUCers made cards of support to be shared with 54 people near and far (our PUC family and friends, those targeted by Westboro Baptist, Parkland school shooting survivors). The third group helped renovate garden space for new Americans at the International Institute's South Farm. Several people baked cookies in advance to be distributed in appreciation to those who serve our community.

- We are honored that Shaare Emeth approached PUCC to partner in caring for immigrants and refugees living in St. Louis. In November and December we participated together in the International Institute's *Neighbors helping Neighbors* initiative, collecting gifts, clothing, and living expenses for two families. A pot luck lunch at International Institute in April 2018 provided another opportunity to partner with Shaare Emeth.
- Six people from PUCC joined the Habitat for Humanity build in south city in early December 2017.
- With Beth Damsgaard—Rodriguez of Interfaith Quest as our consultant, the Christian Services Commission launched **Intertwine Interfaith Initiative** in March 2018 to build interfaith friendships celebrating our similarities and differences. Our first event was to learn about the CANstruction project created by interfaith youth. In June 2018, PUCC will host an Iftaar to break the Ramadan fast with the Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM). All faiths (and those of no particular faith) are encouraged to participate in Intertwine events. Our intent is to perpetuate these opportunities into the future, sharing planning and participation with various faith communities.
- The Sweet Bakers continue to provide homemade desserts for people dining at Pilgrim UCC's soup kitchen.
- Two small groups of PUCChers work with Concordance Academy to partner with individuals from area churches/organizations in teams to support people recently released from prison.
- Several members volunteered to provide transportation for Luke John Mani, an Eden Seminary student from Sri Lanka sponsored by the Church of the American Ceylon Mission and Global Ministries.
- PUCChers volunteered to read books to children through the Ready Readers initiative.
- A few members provided support for Christ United Church of Christ Sanctuary project for an undocumented immigrant.
- Although not organized by PUCC, many members are active in social justice initiatives, demonstrating the compassion of Christianity.

Organizations appreciate our willingness to welcome events into our church space:

- Every Child's Hope (ECH) again held their annual Fall Market & Luncheon in Parkway's Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space.
- Parkway hosted the Emmaus Homes' Christmas Party. Nearly 100 clients enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing at PUCC. Church members set up the party space, baked treats, and helped throughout the event.

Throughout the year, members enthusiastically donated necessities to share with those in need:

- School supplies (Little Bit Foundation)
- Give—a—Meal monthly collection and more than 100 new clothing items on Palm Sunday (Isaiah 58 Ministries)
- Gift cards and essentials for victims of hurricanes in Texas and Florida; monetary support for victims of hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico
- Winter accessories (Little Bit Foundation)

- Items for The Christmas Store (Every Child’s Hope)
- Monetary assistance through our UCC fund that responds to natural disasters in the USA
- Shoes (Shoe Man Water Project)

Many organizations benefit from the congregation’s generosity through special offerings:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Crop Walk | • Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses) |
| • Neighbors in Need | • One Great Hour of Sharing |
| • Every Child’s Hope | • Habitat for Humanity |
| • “Soup—er” Bowl Sunday | • Strengthen the Church |
| • Holy Joe’s Café | • Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) |
| • Circle of Concern | • Family Forward (formerly Children’s Home Society of Missouri and FamilyResource Center) |
| • Emmaus Homes | • Northside Community School |
| • Christmas Fund | |
| • International Institute of St. Louis | |
| • Heifer International | |
| • Eden Seminary | |
| • Lydia’s House | |

We encourage the many PUCC individuals who serve as Church Relations Representatives (CRR) to keep us all informed of events and opportunities at the numerous area organizations with missions to love all of God’s people.

Through their individual efforts and those organized by CSC, PUCCers generously share their time, talents, and resources to make a difference, perpetuating the true meaning of Christianity!

Christian Services Commission: Evelyn Buretta, Sue Moellering, Donna Ruzicka, Paige Penico, Lisa Mason, Kevin Cameron, and Kris McKenzie (Council Liaison)

Parkway UCC Sweet Bakers

Carol Cobb

Parkway Sweet Bakers has been baking sweet treats for Pilgrim UCC Outreach Wednesday Neighborhood Lunch for nearly 6 years. Twice a month we prepare 8 cakes or brownies for the attendees. During that time I have figured I (don't check my math) we have baked 1200 cakes (with love), which provided over 13,000 servings. The mission is served well as we share conversation with each other.

We meet every second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am to bake different recipes for guests and servers. Over the years we have made chocolate chip cookies, carrot cake, pound cake, Jello cake, oatmeal cookies, and brownies. Each baking day one member underwrites the cost of the ingredients and we all pitch in to create the treats. One of us delivers the treats either Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

We welcome anyone who likes to bake to join us for conversation and community service. In addition, if anyone would like to help underwrite the cost of ingredients, please contact one of the members listed below.

PS: And thanks to the powers that be that have kept the pilot lights burning; life has become so much easier in lighting the ovens.

Carol Cobb/Linda Tossing/ Pat Owens/Carol Russell/ Donna Fauss/Kris McKenzie

Pat Klein/Florence Simonson/Dottie Dwyer

Evangelism Commission

Karen Boyd, Convener

This year the Evangelism Commission (Karen Boyd, Cassie Rossenberger, Marsha Peek, Helen Race, and Paul Roesler, Council Liaison) provided many options for us to invite those interested into our church community—to find a safe place to be a family, a couple, a single person—of any age, anywhere on the journey. We sponsored open—door community events like the Easter Egg Hunt, the Sugarplum Bazaar, the Trunk or Treat. We ensure greeters to welcome our visitors each Sunday morning. We shared details of ourselves to give people a view of WHO WE ARE. THANK YOU to everyone who made those activities a success.

Of special note, we continued our program of *Share Your Faith*—worship testimonials on the second Sunday of each month during worship. THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the success of this new program.

Without question, evangelism is the work of all of us, and we ask all of you to contemplate new, bold ways to extend the welcome, in the most relevant and timely ways. There is much more to be done. People are searching for something that Parkway has to offer.

To that very purpose of new, bold, and relevant ways to extend our welcome: members of the Evangelism Commission were deeply committed to participation in the Vitality Project and offered these specific thoughts to the Vitality Planning Team.

- The Evangelism Commission hopes for a refreshed definition of “evangelism” that uses language which clarifies our commitment to a Gospel which is defined by love, inclusion, growth, and possibility.
- We believe that our Christian community known as *Parkway* needs to be CLEAR and PRESENT about WHO WE ARE — to provide language, images, graphics that define us, that show people who we are — our BRAND — in signs, print, social media, and in our language to and about one another.
- We also believe that our message of WHO WE ARE — Parkway — is part of everything we do as a church, and to that end there is no separation of our message from anything we do or say about Parkway — worship, education, mission. Evangelism is not separate from but rather a part of everything we do.
- We support change to our church governance that will allow us to walk confidently forward and make real and relevant our purpose statement to all who seek community such as ours.

“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” Mark 16:15

Communications Commission

Brad Lyons, convener

The Communications Commission continues to strive to:

- Create and maintain best practices for external and internal communications, advertising, social media, branding and marketing.
- Engage routinely with all other commissions to provide support for special events, ongoing programming, evolving worship and community practices, social media, and other types of communication.
- Prepare and support church leaders, at those leaders' request, when local media contact the church or when media exposure is anticipated or in the event of a congregational or community—related crisis.

CommComm focused this year on preparing for a website redesign, which will be one of the first measurables of the Vitality project currently underway. We surveyed other congregations' websites, noting what we liked and didn't like, and set the groundwork for the redesign work.

John Pavlovitz's upcoming visit has engaged CommComm in a variety of ways, including community outreach and exploring new advertising opportunities such as electronic billboards (we passed on that option). Turnout for the event will not necessarily gauge our success, but we may be able to discern some indicators about what works and what doesn't.

The need for a new IT company was identified in the fall, and a team outside of CommComm has reviewed potential vendors. A decision will likely be made soon. For 2018 and beyond, CommComm recommended as a bare minimum budgeting one new computer each year so we do not find ourselves staring as a massive technology gap and budget crisis.

CommComm helped initiate an ongoing effort (led by Richard Race) about disaster preparedness, active shooter responses, and crisis communication. An effort to train the congregation on these various scenarios is in development as of this report.

As reported last year: We continue promoting events for the community such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, and Sugar Plum Bazaar. We are getting better at posting these events effectively. The challenge of cracking the St. Louis media market remains; with so many churches scrambling for such a small portion of the available space, it's extremely hard to get noticed. However, using free resources such as online community calendars, we get the word out to much of the St Louis community.

A mass—texting service was explored, but another free option was discovered in the spring and will be rolled out later this year. The intent is to use it sparingly.

The 60" monitor is currently underused. (On Pentecost, it was sitting unused in the coat rack area.) We need to figure out how to use this valuable asset, whether in worship, fellowship area, etc.

Angela Downing | Pat Feeney | Brad Lyons (Convener) | Lisa Mason | Stephanie Polster | Mona Smith Herberg, staff | Kevin Cameron

Membership Care

Peggy Mohl, Convener

The Membership Care Commission (MCC) is entrusted with serving the individual, emotional and social needs of our church's members and friends. In addition to support from Pastor Kevin, the 2018 MCC members are:

Peggy Mohl, Convener | Joyce Ruiz | Sally Boughman | Mary Maxeiner | Steffanie

Rauscher, Council Liaison

This commission sponsors a host of annual intergenerational events to foster social connections among Parkway members. A variety of options are promoted in the hopes that everyone can find something that appeals to their personal interests. Some of the activities that the Membership

Care Commission sponsors include:

- Annual PUCC picnic
- Blessing of the Animals
- Community Easter Egg hunt for children
- Friendship Dinners
- Trunk or Treat in October
- Christmas dinner hosted by Mike and Gerry Rogers
- Updating PUCC membership/pictorial directory

The MCC sponsors the annual Christmas Caroling and Spring Sing to bring some cheer and smiles to members living in nursing or rehabilitation centers. When a church member is sick or grieving or adjusting to a new baby, this commission organizes meals to be brought to lighten the load during difficult or adjustment periods. Many church members beyond the commission help with these events. To remind college students that their church family is thinking of them even as they are away at school, the collegians are sent Halloween treats in the fall and Girl Scout cookies in the spring.

Joyce Ruiz has been trained and serves as our church's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimers Association. She coordinates PUCC participation in the annual Alzheimers Walk as well as Christian Education opportunities for members to learn more about Alzheimers Disease.

All members and friends are welcome to participate in any of the three monthly support groups at our church sponsored by the Alzheimers Association. There is one for people living with Alzheimers, one for adult children of those living with Alzheimers, and one for caregivers of those living with Alzheimers.

The Membership Care Commission supports and encourages members to participate in social activities such as *Adventurous Women Out Late (AWOL)* and *Not Just for Men* as well as fifth Sunday One Family Worship which is usually followed by a light lunch. These are great opportunities for people who regularly attend either the traditional or informal worship service to enjoy time together.

NJFM: The Not Just for Men Group

Harold Cobb

As always, the Not Just for Men Group was all over the place. We visited a variety of places and enjoyed several fine eating establishments. Our trips this year were:

- Missouri History Museum in June for a display of Civil rights in St. Louis and in February for their permanent display called Reflections.
- The Science Center for their special exhibit on the Treasurers of King Tut.
- A joint venture with the Sustainability Seekers to visit the Republic recycling Center.
- A guided tour of the Fabulous Fox (our second time and better than the first)
- A tour of the first state capitol in St. Charles
- A tour of the Hawken House in Webster Groves

We also continued our annual traditions: Maundy Thursday communion with Kevin and a light breakfast and pew alignment, Christmas brunch at First Watch and the Mother's Day brunch honoring the women of the church.

We vary in numbers from event to event and welcome everyone. Stay tuned for next year.

AWOL (Adventurous Women Out Late)

Carmen Bumgarner

AWOL started with good food and ended with the notorious Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In between, the women of AWOL enjoyed Oscar—nominated movies, the Purdue Glee Club, "The Color Purple", good food, cold and creamy custard, great conversation, joyous laughter, and some new friendships were born and old friendships strengthened.

We hope to diversify our outings more in the year to come, incorporating charity walks/runs, service projects, and even more fellowship and fun!

Please submit AWOL ideas to Carmen Bumgarner cfbum@charter.net

Personnel Committee

Karen Nolte

The personnel committee is charged with employee relations with non—clergy staff. The highlights of our work this year included the hiring of two new staff: our interim music director and a nursery assistant. As promised last year, this year’s work included a review and update of our personnel manual and benefit review for both full and part time staff positions. We feel it is important to be in a position to support the work of PUCC as we move forward in our Vitality Initiative and to create a work environment and benefit package that allows us to attract and retain the staff we need to help us move forward. In the coming year we will be completing a legal review of the manual to make certain that we have gotten our work right and to protect our employees and our church. We will work with other church teams as part of the Vitality Initiative to help determine the best staffing structure to support the initiatives of the church and to in turn support those staff as we work together. We continue to appreciate the input of all of PUCC members as you help us by participating on hiring teams and providing valuable feedback during our staff evaluation process.

Ministry Planning & Review Committee:

Senior Pastor—Kevin Cameron

Doug Dischinger

Listening to God and one another, the role of the MPR Committee is to focus on building up the church for ministry and mission through collaborative planning and goal setting. This strengthens relationships between clergy, church leadership, and the congregation leading to a more creative, cohesive and faithful ministry.

The role and mission of the MPR Committee is to facilitate the development of a faithful and effective shared ministry and common life by our pastor and congregation together by:

- Creating a climate of trust, openness and honesty between clergy, church leadership and the congregation.
- Helping clergy, church leadership and the congregation articulate and integrate goals with each other
- Providing counseling and consulting opportunities for clergy, church leadership and the congregation pertaining to behavior, decision making, relationship development, spiritual and emotional well—being
- Advocating for the professional growth and development of the clergy

Thanks for your support.

MPR Committee members:

Sue Stohr | Doug Dischinger | Donna Engel

Sustainability Seekers

Polly Winkelmann

Recognizing the link between Christian faith and environmental stewardship, the Parkway Sustainability Seekers was formed in 2016 with the goal of exploring and promoting sustainability in our church facilities, our homes, and the wider community. The group meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month. During this past year we have jointly sponsored several educational opportunities with other Parkway groups.

We joined the AWOL group to attend the new movie Al Gore produced, entitled *An Inconvenient Sequel*. In the fall, we joined the Not Just For Men Group for a tour of the Republic Services Recycling Plant. We will join NJFM again June 5th for a tour of Alberici construction company headquarters, an exemplary “Green” building and campus.

After Parkway became a member of Interfaith Power and Light, their coordinator, Tracy Koch, was invited to do a mission moment about the organization, which has leant us their expertise since our inception and helped us publicize our events.

Our team began a fund-raising project this year to reduce our paper usage at the fellowship time by the purchase of mugs and dishwasher. Fair Trade chocolates and coffee were sold for several months, and fund raising culminated with an eco-friendly vegetarian luncheon held on Earth Day, April 22. Recipes from the meatless lasagnas donated are available on the Parkway website. Our Earth Day celebration also included a speaker at adult education—Sylvester Brown of the Sweet Potato Project.

At the 2017 UCC national conference, a resolution of witness was passed, recognizing climate change as a crisis and calling upon people of faith to work to protect God’s gift of creation. The Parkway Sustainability Seekers will continue to investigate our role in protecting the sustainability of our planet and the many ways that social justice and environmental stewardship intersect.