



# Parkway Statements

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## 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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# Congregational Meeting Minutes

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Steve Penico, Council Secretary  
June 5, 2016 Congregational Meeting

## **Call to Order, Quorum**

Council President Mark Sableman called the congregational meeting to order at 11:10 AM on Sunday, June 5, 2016. The meeting was held in the Church sanctuary. A quorum was present.

## **Motions**

1. Paul Roesler moved and Donna Fauss seconded that the minutes of the previous congregational meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Kevin Hogarty moved and Paul Roesler seconded that the slate of leaders proposed by the Leadership Commission be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Discussion**

Mark Sableman gave an overview of the past church year. Here are some topics he covered. Parkway has had a lot of successes and seen a lot of progress during the past year.

- We have had opportunities to lease space in the Church, in particular to Miriam Academy. Our Church's physical facilities are assets, and we are working to use them in productive ways that benefit us and other organizations whose missions align with ours.
- We have made progress in the way we run the Church, in particular regarding finances. Mark also mentioned that we are currently looking for financial secretary.
- John Dorhauer, the president of the United Church of Christ, has been in the news and has been a part of the life of our Church. Many in our Church have read his book *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*. It has been the subject of discussions at our Church Council meetings and at TED. We anticipate further discussions to follow during the year.
- We often track metrics to help us show and evaluate what is happening in the Church. Dorhauer has helped us look for more useful metrics – metrics that show what we're doing to further the central mission of our Church. If we are simply recording weekly attendance or monthly donations, we are not truly capturing what our Church is about.

Our Church also faces challenges

- Many decades ago, Parkway helped create the first preschool in our area. PUNS was the leader, and others followed our lead. At this point, however, many organizations have preschools. It is now a competitive environment. We need to adapt, and we need to be realistic, while still continuing with traditions.

- We also need to acknowledge the significance of the demographic and social changes that are affecting our church.
- In the course of facing these challenges, we've found that this has been a year of reflection.

Mark also acknowledged and expressed his appreciation for the many "multiples" we find in our Church. We have many dedicated people, contributing in multiple ways, through many commissions and committees. We do multiple types of volunteer work, provide many meals, mission moments, and a lot of music. In fact, Parkway itself is a multiplier. It has a multiplier effect on our lives and on the lives of so many people that we reach out to during the year. We are the church of the people who won't sit still. Mark then turned the floor over to other members of the congregation, who reported on a variety of topics.

First, he introduced Donna Fauss, who is spearheading multiple fundraising events. Donna told us that

- We will be raffling a quilt. The minimum bid will be \$400.
- We've launched a fundraiser which allows Church members and friends to buy bricks with short inscriptions of their choice. These bricks will line the walkway that leads into the Church.
- The Church will put on a silent auction, with over 80 items for sale.

Mark discussed Pastor Kevin's upcoming sabbatical. This will be a time of renewal for Kevin and for the congregation.

Mark then introduced Karen Boyd, who explained our congregation's plan for growth and renewal during the coming year. Along with Kevin Hogarty, Karen has been leading discussions about the Dorhauer book. She said that during these sessions, they have heard the world "story" more than a hundred times. Stories are important. We tell our faith stories to one another. Two years ago, Karen came to Parkway and began sharing her story with us. Telling stories is an important part of how we create a welcoming environment, and it's central to the process of evangelism.

Karen was asked to speak because there are two special projects she's involved with during the sabbatical renewal effort:

1. Reading and discussing the Dorhauer book
2. Crafting and sharing our story

Karen provided a very brief summary of Dorhauer's message:

The church is declining. He says that different churches will face different futures. Some will need to make big changes. Some will go out of existence. But others will remain healthy and relevant.

Karen said that Parkway will be in this last group – it will be a church that thrives. She referred members of the congregation to a new pamphlet that's been produced for Parkway: our business is mission. It is mission that will keep us relevant, and ultimately we will take our story on the road outside of Parkway in a variety of ways.

Pastor Kevin then spoke on behalf of the sabbatical committee:

- The committee has produced a pamphlet that provides answers to standard questions about the sabbatical and the sabbatical process.
- There is a list that shows what will happen at Parkway on each Sunday during the sabbatical.
- He explained healthy mind/spirit/body relationships.
- He explained that Mark Robinson will be our interim pastor. Mark will be available for pastoral care and will be in the pulpit on about half of the sabbatical Sundays.

Harold Cobb then presented the leadership report. The Leadership Commission comes up with the list of people to serve on Council and on the commissions. Harold said he was struck by the depth and breadth of active member participation. It is amazing how much our Church members and friends do for the Church. The leadership report was approved unanimously.

We then had the installation of the new leaders.

Carol Russell, the incoming Council president, expressed our thanks to Mark Sableman for his service as Council President during the past year. He was a spectacular leader. He answered 1500 emails, did pro bono work, guided us through difficult situations, and still managed to smile and maintain a wonderful sense of humor.

Mark Sableman adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.

## Leadership Commission

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Harold Cobb

Unlike our state and federal elections, where we choose candidates for two, four or six years, Parkway must select approximately 40% of our leadership each year. Of the 64 positions on the council and commissions, 28 must be filled this year. Some commission members chose to serve for more than one term, but this still poses Leadership an annual challenge. We strive to match people and commissions to get the best result and appreciate member's willingness to serve.

Special praise to the outgoing council members: Donna Fauss, Florence Simonson and Steve Penico. My personal thanks to the Leadership Commission members, Barbara Eggebrecht, Sally Dischinger, and Conrad Damsgaard.

# Parkway UCC Leadership 2016—2017

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

<b>Church Council</b>		
<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 Proposed</b>
Carol Russell, Co-Vice President Carol Cobb, Secretary Kris McKenzie	Rich Race, Treasurer *Kevin Hogarty, President Paul Roesler, Co-Vice President	Steffanie Rauscher Brad Lyons
<b>Christian Education Commission</b>		
*Liz Lyons Pam Manning	Michelle Brueggemann Ellie Svenson *Carmen Bumgarner	Council Liaison: Carol Cobb
<b>Christian Services Commission</b>		
Evelyn Burette Paige Penico	*Lisa Mason Sue Moellering Donna Ruzicka	Council Liaison: Kris McKenzie
<b>Communications Commission</b>		
Pat Feeney Angela Downing	Lisa Mason Stephanie Polster *Brad Lyons	Council Liaison: Brad Lyons
<b>Evangelism Commission</b>		
Rick Hasler Helen Race Cassie Rosenberger	*Karen Boyd Marsha Peek	Council Liaison: Paul Roesler
<b>Leadership Commission</b>		
Sally Dischinger	*Harold Cobb Betty Scherrer Conrad Damsgaard	Council Liaison: Carol Cobb
<b>Membership Care Commission</b>		
Sally Boughman Joyce Ruiz	Mary Maxeiner *Steffanie Rauscher Peggy Mohl	Council Liaison: Steff Rauscher
<b>Property Commission</b>		
Ben McDougall Mike Rogers	*Mike Mason Kent Tallyn Roger Fauss	Council Liaison: Carol Russell
<b>Stewardship Commission</b>		
*Linda Tossing Harold Cobb	Amy Yakel Ross Livengood Joe Biondo	Council Liaison: Rich Race
<b>Worship Commission</b>		
*Val Detjen	Rosanna Hogarty Lydia Roesler Pat Owens	Council Liaison: Kevin Hogarty

# Church Council Report for 2016-17

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Carol Russell, 2016-2017 Church Council President

In a year filled with challenges, surprises, difficult decisions, rejuvenation, and a growing vitality, your Church Council has stayed extremely busy and active! You can be very proud of their willingness to work hard, put in long hours, and keep smiles on their faces! Thanks to all of you in the Congregation who supported us through the year.

For the first 4 months, we started the Council year with Kevin on a much deserved sabbatical. In his absence, Mark Robinson did a wonderful job of guiding and being there for our Congregation as needed. Council mixed it up a bit also by meeting in homes for several meetings to add a more relaxed atmosphere and increase relationship building.

On the business side, we hired Susan Thomson to be our new financial person for the Church. She has done a fabulous job. In addition, we had 3 fundraisers to help bring in new sources of revenue—bricks lining the pathway, a quilt raffle, and silent auction.

In the fall, the Leadership gathering was held on the Russell porch, was well-attended, and filled with great suggestions for the future. The Town Hall Meeting was late October with a ‘World Café’ approach where small groups met for dialogue and relationship building. It also was quite successful and hopefully will occur more frequently.

John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of our UCC, with his book, Beyond Resistance, provided our Church with lots of conversation this past year. Many of his ideas have prompted discussions in numerous venues. Also, we have tried increasing our connections with Shaare Emeth and Marthoma. There was a very successful joint luncheon in August of 2016.

The Council, after many hours of difficult discussions and gathering of information from both PUNS and other sources, voted to suspend operation of Parkway United Nursery School at the end of the school year in May 2017. The decision was based on finances (PUNS reserve went from \$105,000 to \$28,000) and a reduction in student enrollment (185 a few years ago to 39 this year), and other concerns. The decreased enrollment was due to numerous religious schools in the area opening competing preschools and public schools (e.g. Kirkwood) offering free preschool. We were very saddened for this decision, but extremely grateful for the 47 years of fabulous early childhood programs PUNS has successfully offered and achieved.

And finally, as the saying goes, “When God closes a door, God opens a window” - or something similar. At any rate Miriam Academy has completed their 1<sup>st</sup> year as a high school and they have been hugely successful and very happy with the space provided by PUCC. As a result, they would like to add a second class so next year there will be a freshman and sophomore class and they will occupy additional rooms on the main level of the Education Building as well as in the basement. There are always challenges for groups sharing space, but we have listened long and hard to all sides and reached a compromise that will serve everyone’s needs.

Thanks to the entire Council for your team spirit, your level of high energy, your positive outlook and your support. Thanks to Kevin for his, as always, knowledgeable opinions, superb leadership, and steady guidance. Thanks to the Congregation for their support, their constructive comments, their help when asked and frankly for being there with smiles on their faces and hope for the future.

Carol D. Russell, Council President for the full Council –

Carol Cobb, Donna Fauss, Kevin Hogarty, Kris McKenzie, Steve Penico, Rich Race, Paul Roesler, Florence Simonson

# Senior Pastor

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Kevin Cameron

## **Some of the Things You See on a Stroll Around Parkway UCC Today:**

### ***These are a few of my favorite things***

A Welcome Table with numerous nametags so we can become the community that the Spirit is calling us to be.

A sign-up poster for providing flowers for worship on Sundays to honor, cherish and/or remember a loved one. A sign-up poster for providing pastries for Fellowship Time on Sundays – so we can get to know one another better over treats.

A broom and vacuum getting quite a workout because of how much our building is used!

A Hawaiian loaf of bread and gluten free wafers; grape juice and wine because when we say we have an 'open table', we want to make sure that all people are welcome and can partake.

A shelf of TED texts for adults and age appropriate books for children and youth that celebrate our commitment to lifelong learning.

A larger than life display of some of our happenings on the big screen.

A cake that the Sweet Bakers baked for the food pantry at Pilgrim UCC in the city.

A dozen round tables which model our vision of egalitarianism and theology of inclusion.

A Traditional Hymnal and Informal Worship Song Book so we can continue to be blessed by the powerful past and be open to the generous gifts of now.

A baptismal font that is not emptied but the water is allowed to evaporate into the air we breathe each time we enter the sanctuary as an individual or a faith family.

A small group of people chatting in the parking lot after a meaningful and memorable AA meeting.

A stack of mail that brings financial gifts from members and friends who believe in the mission and ministry we share.

A pile of worship bulletins, books and notes from my Sabbatical that continue to inform and inspire me.

A lingering spirit of laughter and learning from our preschool of 47 years.

A blue recycle bin that helps us remember to love the Creator and the Creation.

A keypad on the front doors because the church belongs to all of us.

A cup of fair trade coffee that helps link us with people around the world in a just way.

A Miriam Academy student, smiling ear to ear, as she gives a tour to a prospective student.

A nook with a wide array of greeting cards that can be used any time the Spirit moves you to send someone a blessing, word of appreciation or healing

A vibrant set of stained glass windows that help us see and feel God's love story.

# Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

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Barb Kuhlmann, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries

Food drives, clothing for those in need, deep discussions, voices of Grace, donations for Neighborhood Houses, youth Musical Worship, Moses, Pajama day, Advent Workshop, Youth Mission week, Parables, 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.

Our summer Sunday school was a one room school house where we learned about the Lord's Prayer. With the help of our youth we studied the meaning of each phrase of the Lord's Prayer and how Jesus taught us how to pray and praise God.

In the fall our Sunday School children learned the story of Moses and after Christmas we studied the parables of Jesus.

Our Nursery is fully staffed with Melissa Gausling and Julie Connors. 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 walk in faith while other events were for fun and fellowship. The youth had a fun Sunday traveling to Elephant Rock State Park. Thanks to Doug and Amy Yakel for sponsoring this great event. Another trip was planned where some of our youth went to Owensville, Missouri to attend our friend Pastor Stephanie DeLong's church. Thanks to Marsha Peek and Cindy Wessel for hosting this trip.

We offered a different type of VBS this year. MAD Camp is a week in August of music, art and drama. The children learned the story of the Prodigal Son from the musical, "Barbeque for Ben!" 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! Each day we went out into the community to offer ourselves to helping others. Thanks to all who helped make this a fun, special week!

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

Our Christmas Pageant this year was written by our own Blake Lyons. The Sunday school kids helped with scenery and songs. "Our Christmas Pageant" was very special as our youth took the responsibility to write and direct the musical.

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 and Pat Klein for making this morning so special for our children.

This was the third year we offered Youth Musical worship. Many of our children and youth performed their talents for our congregation. 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 2016-2017 Program Year

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<b>Membership Gains and Losses</b>	
<b>Gains</b>	<b>Losses</b>
<b>Transfers/ Reaffirmations</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
Joe Biondo	Nina Hoch
Lana Biondo	John Mattingly
Brad Brueggemann	
Michelle Brueggemann	
Jan Mantovani	<b>Transfers/Requested Removals</b>
Alicia Rutherford	Reggie Boon
Mike Rutherford	Dan Nacke
Polly Rutherford	Karen Nacke
	Stephanie DeLong
<b>Total Gains: 9</b>	Kathleen Tarr
	<b>Total Losses: 7</b>
<b>Records</b>	
<b>Births</b>	<b>Weddings</b>
Wyatt Watkins	Christina Attanese and Alex Oliver
	Emily Nguyen and Khai Duong
	Wendy Moellering and Alexis McGeahy
	Nueza Maria Santos Neves and Larry Ozro Dean
<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>Funerals/Memorials</b>
Finn Hood	Chrystal Jackson
Oliver Hood	Nina Hoch
Caroline Mangus	Ruth Comens
Elle Stewart	Dru Wilbur
Zach Ullrich	Afton Bailey
	Mildred Tarney Smith

# Membership & Worship Comparisons

Bart Coleman

## Membership & Worship Comparisons

**Membership** (includes adults and confirmed children)

	<u>In Town</u>	<u>Out of Town</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>As of June 1, 2016 -</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>403</b>
<b>2016-2017 Program Year Gains:</b>			
Transfers/Reaffirmations -	9	0	9
Confirmands -	0	0	0
<b>2016-2017 Program Year Losses:</b>			
Transfers/Requested Removals -	-5	0	-5
Erasers -	0	0	0
Deaths -	-2	0	-2
<b>Change in membership status during program year<sup>(1)</sup> -</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>As of May 21, 2017 -</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>405</b>

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 Family<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Total<sup>3</sup></u>
<b>Average Attendance During 2015-2016 Program Year -</b>	97	45	108	140
<b>Average Attendance During 2016-2017 Program Year<sup>1</sup> -</b>	88	45	83	128
<b>Increase/decrease over the 2015-2016 Program Year</b>	-9.3%	0.0%	-23.1%	-8.6%

1- Though May 21, 2017

2- On certain Sundays, normally on the fifth Sunday of a month with five Sundays, only one worship service is held (a total of 5 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 the table above shows, our worship service attendance decreased during this (2016-2017) program year. This certainly invites the question – “So, what has happened to our attendance?”. The table below attempts to shed light onto that. To provide more detail of our worship attendance, the program years on the table above have been divided into two approximately half-year periods.

	<u>9:30 am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>	<u>One Family</u>	<u>Total</u>
2015-2016 Program Year: Jun-Dec	99	45	110	140
Jan-May	97	45	108	140
2016-2017 Program Year: Jun-Dec	82	44	77	119
Jan-May	88	46	108	133

This table shows our attendance during the 2015-2016 program year was quite steady, but declined during the first half of this program year. However, during the second half of this program year, our attendance is showing signs of recovering. As to why our attendance dropped during the first part of this program year, one suggestion would be that Pastor Kevin's sabbatical occurred during that period.

The ratio of our average worship service attendance for the second period of this program year, to our in-town membership, is 36%. The expected ratio for a "mainline" congregation our size (in-town membership only) is approximately 40%. Thus, our worship service attendance is slightly below what would be expected for a congregation our size.

Bart Coleman

# Stewardship Commission

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Linda 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 2017 Stewardship Campaign, we selected the theme "Faithful - with little – with much – with all," The campaign, to secure pledges for 2017, was conducted in October and November, with Consecration Sunday culminating the effort on November 13. Thanks in particular to Commission members Mike Henson and Ellie Svenson for driving this effort. Church members and friends responded generously and pledged \$303,700 (\$287,850 - General and \$15,850 - Building). A supplemental effort in January raised total pledges to \$331,615 (\$315,765 – General and \$15,850 - Building) for the two funds.

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 much 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. The 2017 facilities income was adjusted to reflect the Parkway United Nursery School (PUNS) closing in May 2017 and the Miriam Academy expanding its use of our church's facility. The balance of the 2017 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 \$479,189. We were encouraged also by the positive response to a supplemental pledge effort which allowed approval of 2017 Budget by the congregation! We do go in to 2017 with a \$10,000 budget deficit.

Thanks for the contributions of the members of Stewardship—Harold Cobb, Mike Henson, Ellie Svenson, and Amy Yakel—to Treasurer Richard Race, to Kevin, Susan 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.

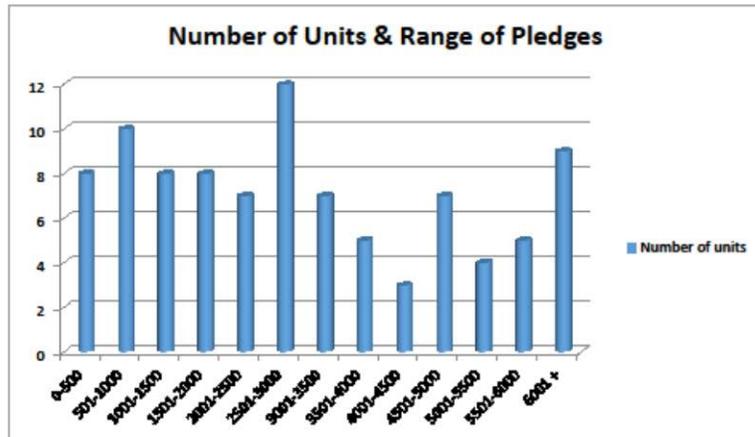


Parkway 2017 Pledge Stats

2017	
Range of Pledges	Number of units
0-500	8
501-1000	10
1001-1500	8
1501-2000	8
2001-2500	7
2501-3000	12
3001-3500	7
3501-4000	5
4001-4500	3
4501-5000	7
5001-5500	4
5501-6000	5
6001 +	9
<b>Total Giving units</b>	<b>93</b>

Average	\$3,278.11
Lowest	\$125.00
Highest*	\$12,996.00
Mean	\$2,796.00

\* Does not include Challenge pledge



Pledge Campaign Results and prior years compare

None since 2014	7
None since 2015	20
None since 2016	13
None in 2016, pledged in 2017	5
New Members	10
Ongoing	78

93 Pledge units in 2017

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Pledged	\$312,547.59	\$362,027.44	\$293,486.00	\$331,586.56
Total Contributed	\$325,072.46	\$312,854.10	\$298,487.46	n/a

# Treasurer's Annual Report

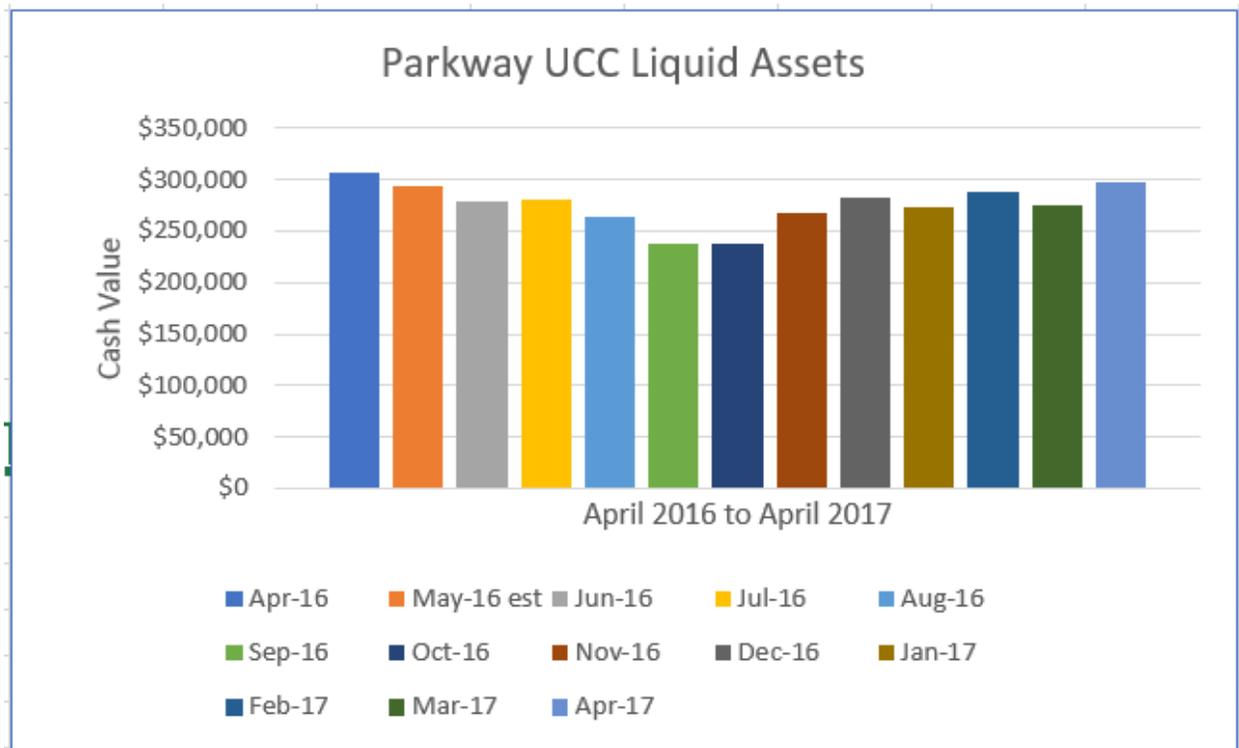
Richard Race, Treasurer

We are on the way to OK! Our financial health can be assessed by measuring the change in our liquid assets (other than real estate, buildings, and their content). About 50% of these assets have purposes designated by the donors, and the remaining is what we use to pay our expenses. A goal is to have a little more income and donations than we have mission and operating expenses each year, so our undesignated cash assets stay even or increase.

2015, 2016, and 2017 are years in which our expenses were estimated to exceed our income and donations, and the congregation was encouraged to donate more if they could. Our assets at year end show the decline of these deficit years: we had \$346,400 at end of 2014, \$310,500 at the end of 2015, and \$282,700 at the end of 2016.

The chart below is the month by month amount of liquid assets for the past year, with a low of \$237,300 in September 2016. The encouraging news is that we have \$298,000 in April 2017, almost back to 2015 levels. The growth in assets is from the congregation's generosity in the second pledge drive plus unpledged donations so far in 2017, and the increased income from long term facilities rental. The summer months are higher in expenses for utilities and grounds keeping, and lower in donations. The chart shows low points in September/October 2016. Let's see how we are doing in November 2017!

Restoring our level of available assets is necessary as our current building is anticipated to need maintenance to the roof and perhaps the heating in the next two years.



# Property Commission

Mike Mason

Thanks to a well-seasoned commission crafted by Ben McDougall, and fulfilled by the actions of Roger Fauss, Pete Eggebrecht, John Ruiz, Mike Rogers, Kent Tallyn, and others that get pulled-in on various projects, the church property continues to function well.

We have worked to react to aging infrastructure, and transitioning utilization of the facilities, and we will continue to do so. Partnering with our leadership, the goal with the property transition is to find a balance in reacting and planning. To work within a meaningful budget, we are attempting to strategically address infrastructure, and have tools to assist the volunteer workforce to do so safely.

We appreciate the patience everyone has provided us as we endeavor to serve the needs of the congregation, our tenants, and our guests. Thank you for letting us know when bulbs need replacing, you're concerned by the smell of gas or the clarity of our water. We strive to care for the property in a way that demonstrates our care and balances with our financial realities.

We invite you to work with us in offering ideas, solutions, and connections to challenges that present themselves as well as those for which we can plan. Thank you to those on the commission who are on the property on a daily basis and care so deeply.

# Facilities Committee

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Marsha Peek, Convener

This committee is made up of a representative from Evangelism, a representative from Property, a member-at-large, the office administrator, and the pastor. The tasks set forth for the committee are:

- To help oversee renters and building usage
- To meet as needed to discuss concerns, suggestions, scheduling, etc. pertaining to building usage
- To be available to meet with new renters and/or interested parties
- To be proactive in securing new renters and/or one-time usage events
- To review forms and check-lists
- To make recommendations to council as needed

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. Our office staff is amazing!

Our keypad system at the main entrances seems to be working out beautifully. Many thanks to Jim Winkelmann and Pete Eggebrecht as well as Mike Rogers for keeping it all working and updating codes as needed.

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

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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 2016

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Naomi Runtz, retiring Historian

I'm very happy to report that KIM LIVENGOOD has agreed to become the Church Historian. I think she's a great choice. I will keep backing her up as needed.

My husband, Joe, and I have digitized the old church record books: Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Deaths and have printed out copies of same.

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.

This is one of the most rewarding jobs that I have ever done.

# Worship Commission Annual Report

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Val Detjen, Convener

"We shall seek the way of God in today's world through...joyful worshipping....Inclusive Caring ...Compassionate Serving". This continues to be our vision and hope.

It is fascinating to contemplate the changes in our faith and worship in this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Reformation. It is astounding to think of the radical nature of how the invention of the printing press affected the newly emerging Protestant Church and to watch the progression of technology and myriad forms of communication to share our faith and spread the Gospel.

Candles to electricity ~ Gifts from God!

There are so many hearts, minds and hands that go into worship planning for each week and each year. Our Pastor, Kevin provides the framework, inspiration and advance planning and then a tapestry of scripture, liturgy, music, office and lay participation come together each week to provide food for our souls and support for the week ahead.

We are so fortunate that our worship experiences seem to move so seamlessly each week, but it only happens because we have such faithful and gifted folks who share their talents and skills so well. The Sanctuary Committee may be our most unsung heroines and heroes, who assure us of fresh flowers, appropriate banners, pew envelopes, seasonal decorations and upkeep of our beautiful sanctuary.

We have superb musicians. Barbara Raedeke and Skyler Brussee, our choir, song leaders, and an astonishing number of talented youth and adult musicians. Moved by the Spirit, they provide us with hymns and songs to sing. Skyler and Barbara work tirelessly to inspire us with the gift of instrumental and vocal music, not to mention keeping our organ and pianos in tune. Thanks to Pam Walker and Marsha Peek for their help planning the Informal worship service. Many thanks to Voices of Grace.

We are grateful for the folks who coordinate and prepare communion, our ushers, our lay readers and our dedicated sound system folks. The use of a single monitor in worship hasn't worked out as we hope, but the Commission is working with the idea of two monitors mounted in the sanctuary. *We are committed, whatever the format to honor the request and need of those in*

*our church family who desire and need “visuals” in worship to make their experience more meaningful.*

Kudos to Mona Smith Herberg who puts such a comprehensive bulletin together, and special thanks to Barb Kuhlman, the CE Commission, teachers and all the youth of PUCC who bring us such fresh new ideas and joyous programs during the year.

One of the great blessings of Parkway United Church of Christ is that it is a community of those who celebrate both roots and wings. We seem to have the roots portion of heritage and tradition down pat, but in our ever changing world the Worship Commission seeks to find new and inspiring wings and ways to make our worship experiences ever more relevant, vibrant and meaningful. We are always open to new ideas and new ways of understanding how our God is still speaking.

Thank you to Judy Waddell for her many years of service on this commission, and her continuation of working on the sanctuary committee. Welcome to Lydia Roseler as youth rep and farewell to Kevin Hogarty as he moves on to greater servanthood.

Finally all “Blessings, Laud and Honor” to our Pastor, Kevin Cameron who is the glue that holds us together, who works tirelessly with and for us and who continues with God’s grace to love us into being.

We are: Rosanna Hogarty; Pat Owens; Judy Waddell; Lydia Roesler, youth rep; Kevin Hogarty Council Liaison; and Val Detjen, Convener.

## Worship Commission: Sanctuary Committee

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Barbara Eggebrecht, Convener

The Sanctuary Committee has a busy year taking care of our beautiful worship space. We are Judy Waddell, Kris McKenzie, Mary Maxeiner, Mary Jo Cannon, Barbara Eggebrecht and Donna and Roger Fauss continue to be our faithful helpers.

We all enjoy the seasonal decorations. Poinsettias at Christmas, Palms for Palm Sunday, Lilies and ferns for Easter, Pumpkins for Thanksgiving. We also change the banners and paraments, stock the pews and keep the perpetual candle in the prayer corner lit.

We appreciate the generosity of the members who sign up and pay for the weekly flowers. A bargain for \$30.00. We have had some open weeks this year so please check our sign up chart on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

Our banners are aging and if anyone or two or three would be interested in making one it would be greatly appreciated.

It is very rewarding doing this work. We would love to have some new people join us. Give it some thought.

# Organist/Choir Director

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Barbara Raedeke

I am happy to report that our adult choir continues to flourish and provide strong musical leadership for our 9:30 service. They are a committed, hard-working, and fun group, and I enjoy working with them. We were happy to welcome a new member, Meera Williams, this season. A number of other church members, including some of our youth, sang with us for the Christmas season. The Easter and Christmas seasons, when we have the opportunity to present special music with guest musicians, are always highlights of the year for us. We invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us for the entire choir season or for the holidays.

I have been happy to assist Stephanie Polster and Cynthia Bowermaster with Voices of Grace, who have sung beautifully for us throughout the year. Our summer musical offerings have been provided by talented members who sing or play instruments, and we have all appreciated their contribution to our worship.

I am pleased that our 2017 budget has restored funding for music to its former level so that I am able to purchase new choral music and hire guest musicians for special services as well as maintain our instruments.

I am very grateful to the choir for their faithful, dedicated service, and to Parkway's members, Pastor Kevin, and the staff for their support of my work.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Raedeke  
5/14/17

# Informal Worship Music Director

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Skyler Brussee

What a year it's been! I am consistently impressed with the input I have received while putting together music, scheduling, and bouncing ideas off of the council and church members. PUCG is a place where I feel very comfortable trying new things and taking risks with our worship style. We have quite a few new songs that the congregation is now very comfortable with and have gotten into a good "groove." Discussion on the use of the monitor at the 11:00 service is often brought up and all ideas are welcome for discussion.

Our team has grown! We have lost a few singers but gained a few more! The informal worship team is always welcoming new singers, instrumentalists, dancers, and talent. Please contact Skyler Brussee ([skyler.brussee@gmail.com](mailto:skyler.brussee@gmail.com)) to set up a meeting if interested.

At the moment, our team is in the midst of coming up with the "core" PUCG songs that really represent who we are and what we strive to be as a United Church of Christ. What better of a way to reflect on values than through song! I have taken a new position as a full time K-8 music teacher at Litzinger School in Special School District, but will remain at Parkway on Sunday mornings. Thank you ALL for your kind words as I finished graduate school and am moving on to a new field. It means so much to me.

We are continuing to think "outside the box" with our worship and I cannot wait for you all to see what is in store this year.....it will be another wonderful year!

Skyler Brussee  
Informal Worship Music Director

# Tuesday Evening Dialogue (TED)

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Karen Boyd

The Tuesday Evening Dialogue (lovingly known as TED) is a twice monthly potluck supper/book discussion that welcomes everyone to its circle. We are a group of adults - couples and singles - who enjoy the fellowship created by reading books of many types, sharing our thoughts and questions, and eating good food together. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, convening at 6pm in the Heritage Room at church. Book selections are made by the group, and your input is welcome! 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 to join the fun. In recent times we have seen many new members to Parkway find a comfortable place to get know people in our friendly small group. If you are interested in more information you can ask any of the frequent participants - Florence Simonson, Dottie Dwyer, Rich and Helen Race, Joe and Lana Biondo, Gerry and Mike Rogers, Kevin and Rosanna Hogarty, Mark and Lynn Sableman, Pam Manning, Sue Moellering, Michelle Singer, Polly Rutherford, Pam Walker, Joan Brannigan, Gayle Haggard, Barb Eggebrecht, Rhett Schwent.....and there's a place for you!

# Christian Education

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Christian Education: Co-Convener, Carmen Bumgarner

It was an interesting time to become Co-Convener of Christian Education, just before I was embarking on a month-long sabbatical adventure with my family. But Barb, Liz, Pam, Pat, Cindy and Paul led the children and youth through a summer of "Lord's Prayer" lessons in Sunday School, Youth Mission Week, and M.A.D. Camp, with a Barbecue theme!

We jumped in immediately when the school year began, with plans to increase attendance, understanding of mission, and a dip back into the Rotation Model for 9:30am Sunday School. The fall was dedicated to MOSES and Mission. The children and youth collected toiletries for Louisiana flood victims; clothing for Children's Home Society; and coins for Lydia's House. Karen Nolte helped the children understand where their donations were going and who they would help.

Youth Group started back up after Labor Day, each Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm. This group would be charged with preparing activity bags for children during worship, and of course, eating candy and enjoying the creative games and activities planned by Barb!

Pat agreed to oversee the nursery and to check in each Sunday morning. We have been concerned that our youngest don't feel drawn to the nursery. With Liz, they cleaned up and de-cluttered and discussed ways to engage the toddlers.

We began planning for the Christmas Program, which the Youth agreed to write again. We began creating sets and learning songs, both to sing and play with bells and chimes. Liz took charge of the script with the youth.

We planned an event for each month, which included the Pageant, Souper Bowl Sunday, the Chili/Brownie cook-off, Book Sunday, Easter egg hunts and crafts, a Youth hike, Mission trip, and MAD Camp.

The spring brought a unit on PARABLES with some digging in the dirt to create hands-on learning.

Pam has been discussing the plight of Adult Education, how to hit Restart, and how it fits in to Christian Education. She and Kevin are creating a committee.

Focus since Easter has been on what goes and what stays as we transition from a Preschool to a High School and what shared space means. We had a LOT of cooks in the pot as these decisions were made, but with all the right ingredients, we came to some difficult, but necessary decisions.

CEC is looking forward to having an organized, decluttered Sunday School Room and Craft Closet; Barb is looking forward to having an office that doesn't look like a storage closet; and most of all, we are looking forward to getting back to the work of teaching our children and no longer talking about moving, storing, shifting, etc. On to the next chapter!

# Parkway United Preschool Director

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Barb Kuhlmann, Director

Parkway United Preschool has been a children's ministry under the supervision of the Board of Directors and the Church Council. For 47 years we have provided outreach to our community. As I took over the Directorship in June, 2016 we had 2 camps planned each month. All but the last one in August were full and successful. A huge thank to Ellie Svenson for the time and expertise in working with the budget and supporting me.

We have been very busy this year! We had a Grandparent day in November that was well attended and very special. The children performed a fun Christmas show for all and then met Santa who came by! Dad's day, Pirate Day and Pajama day were a few of our "special" days in the spring where the entire school enjoyed festivities together. We finished the year with Thursday, May 18 Rainbow Graduation and sending our students off for their last day. All of the families returned for our closing celebration that evening. The Bubble Bus, the Balloon Guy and pizza! What a way to close our school!

In January this year, 2017 the Church Council decided to close the preschool permanently. Although it has been sad to see it close it has been a privilege to work for many years with Sally Dischinger, the many teachers and the families that chose us.

# Parkway United Preschool Board

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## THE MAGIC

For 47 years Parkway United Church of Christ Preschool provided a magical environment where preschoolers learned interpersonal skills such as kindness, sharing, patience, and caring. The countless teachers and leaders over the years embraced them with love, understanding, and nurture. Obviously, PUNS spanned 2-3 generations of families, many of whom became members of Parkway because of their involvement with the School. The School was also an important part of the surrounding community.

Even when faced with the closing of the school, the 2016-2017 faculty and staff gave selflessly of themselves to ensure a quality semester and positive ending. There is no way to adequately thank this special group of teachers and staff. This group reflects the entire history of the school as alluded to in the previous paragraph.

When the school closed on May 18<sup>th</sup>, events from a morning graduation ceremony in the sanctuary to a "thank you and goodbye" luncheon for teachers and staff, to a blockbuster all school celebration picnic in the evening brought together all stakeholders. PUC should be proud that PUNS was always a "class act."

It is my hope that everyone will both always treasure PUC and remember the significant contribution the School made to the church as a whole. There needs to be a physical reminder in the historical area of the gathering space.

## THE NITTY GRITTY FROM 2016 - 2017

The year began with the rejection of director Nancy Sokolik's deficit budget for 2016-2017 and her subsequent resignation.

Ellie Svenson and Kim Weas worked to craft a balanced budget, which was made possible with Barb Kuhlmann's offer to serve without additional compensation for her additional role as director of the school and summer camp. In addition, she taught two profitable summer camp segments gratis.

Under Barb's leadership, school staff was reconfigured with the hiring of one new teacher. Jenny Lindahl, financial secretary, did a yeoman's job. The teachers went "above and beyond" to make this the best year ever. There were very modest increases for returning faculty.

The October PUNS Board meeting was devoted to how Council planned to spend the next calendar year looking into options for the preschool and use of facilities beyond the 2017-2018 school year. In November, the new PUCC financial secretary and Mr. Race were able to wade through the disarray of the financials of both PUCC and PUNS.

PUNS Board members attended the December Council Meeting to demonstrate the parents', teachers', and board's commitment to sound and profitable operation for the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, the PUNS board showed in concrete terms how the building space could be collegially shared between the preschool and Miriam School, which had asked to expand.

The Council took a confidential vote to close the school, shared this decision with the Preschool Board and then announced their decision to the congregation by email the first week of January. Council put in place several teams to handle the closing which will culminate with a celebration scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>.

On this spring's PUCC cleaning day, Barb Kuhlmann, Paul Roesler, and Ellie Svenson inventoried of all PUNS' physical assets. Staff from both Caroline Mission and Northside Community School are invited to receive items that can be of use to them in serving their inner city clients. At this writing a contract with the Miriam School use for the 2017-2018 school year and plans beyond that are being formalized. It is my hope that remaining PUNS funds and those funds expected from renting space to Miriam School be placed in the PUCC building fund for future repairs and upkeep to the physical plant.

The last day of operation is May 18, 2017. There will be a graduation ceremony followed by a teacher appreciation luncheon. Barb Kuhlmann and the "closing committee" will work into the summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Svenson, PUNS Board Chair 2016-2017

# Parkway United Preschool 2016-2017 Press Release

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spring where the entire school enjoyed festivities together. We finished the year with Thursday, May 18 Rainbow Graduation and sending our students off for their last day. All of the families returned for our closing celebration that evening. The Bubble Bus, the Balloon Guy and pizza! What a way to close our school!

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Barb Kuhlmann, Preschool Director

When Parkway United Nursery School closes this May, it marks the end of an era at Parkway United Church of Christ in Town and Country. The school is closing after providing 47 years of preschool education for thousands of 2, 3, and 4 year olds from the church family as well as the surrounding community, including Kirkwood, Des Peres, Ballwin, Maryland Heights and Chesterfield. The church council voted to close the school at the end of 2016-2017 school year due to low enrollment. The future of preschools has changed in recent years with many K-12 schools and school districts opening their own preschools.

The school began in the fall of 1969 when the church council asked a group of members to investigate the possibility of opening a preschool. The school opened in January 1970 with 12 students and a lead teacher/director, assistant teacher and janitor. Although it provided a Christian environment, religion was not part of the curriculum. The church pastor, Kevin Cameron, also a PUNS parent, said, "The early childhood classrooms and playground, and the infamous 'Big Room' have been the perfect places to learn how to share, listen, laugh and wait your turn – keys to a fulfilling and faithful life. I will miss hearing the laughter mostly. We all need to laugh more."

Many programs were introduced through the years, including A Mother's Day Out program for infants and toddlers, which became Parent's Day Out. Later a preschool Summer Camp was added. An enrichment program for area half-day kindergarten called K-Plus was also added.

Morning and afternoon sessions subsequently were offered for half-day kindergarten called World Travel Adventures with Barb Kuhlmann. A new country was studied every month, and with two musical programs per year. Barb said, "The Kindergarten-Plus World Adventure program incorporated several fields of academic studies, such as history and geography, but it also taught children character-building skills." A K-Plus mom said, "It has been the most incredible experience! It allowed my daughter to learn about the world and is bigger than Des Peres, Missouri." The class was offered for 19 years until local school districts converted to full-time kindergarten. At that time Globetrotters for PUNS pre-k students was started.

For many years the Rainbow class offered a special Friday project cooking their snack, learning how to prepare food and eat it. The teacher, Connie Weber said, " My goal was to inspire a love of cooking on Fridays. I always felt if a child was involved with their own cooking, they would always be willing to try new foods and feel good about themselves that they were able to accomplish a task." She made a cookbook for each student to take home at the end of the year.

The school contributed many classroom furnishings such as tables, chairs, cabinets, and rugs that could be used by the Sunday school classes. The contributions included a new boiler in 1995 and later raised funds to build a new playground behind the church. Many students have returned to do their Eagle Scout projects on church property with ramps, new sandboxes, and benches for the playground and a pergola for the upper level playground. Funds were also raised to purchase 6 new maple trees.

Long time Director, Sally Dischinger, who retired in 2014 after 24 years, said, "As PUNS Director I worked with wonderful, professional, dedicated, loving teachers who made every day special for their young students. It was a joy to step into our classrooms and see happy, engaged children

learning that school is a great place to be. We have touched thousands of lives with so many families, and have loved every moment. I had The. Best. Job. Ever! From Dr. Seuss, 'Don't cry because it's over - be glad that it happened.' I know we are!"

Many of PUNS students have gone on to great success in school and in their careers. Some have returned to visit and share their life journey with the teachers. Current director, Barb Kuhlmann said, "We have formed close community ties where one can go almost anywhere and they know about PUNS. Our focus has always been to be an extension of the family where the children feel safe and loved. We have many parents bringing their own children back to school with us. It is with heavy heart that our school is closing, but we have been so blessed to have been a part of our families' lives."

Carol Cobb  
Co-Chair, PUNS Farewell Event

# Christian Services Commission

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Lisa Mason, convener

The Christian Services Commission, including Evelyn Buretta, Sue Moellering, Jill Schatz, Polly Winkelmann, Lisa Mason, Kevin Cameron, and Florence Simonson (Council Liaison) met bimonthly throughout the year. The commission's goal is to offer a variety of opportunities for PUCers to share God's love, while inspiring everyone to seek and create additional opportunities.

Each member of CSC read and participated in discussions of John Dorhauer's *Beyond Resistance* as part of the congregation's sabbatical renewal. The significance of community service in the future health of the church both inspires our actions and alerts us as to the tremendous importance of encouraging this focus for PUC. With so many worthy organizations, social justice issues, and projects, we've attempted 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!

Overall, 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, and those recently released from prison**. Likewise, the Sustainability Seekers group was formed to encourage care for **the earth** in practical, meaningful ways. Polly Winkelmann will continue to lead that group toward raising awareness and fulfilling those goals.

The PUC congregation engages with the community:

- Recent changes in the St. Louis area Crop Walk leadership resulted in a significant need for help to make the Walk possible. Sue Moellering went above & beyond in her efforts to plan, organize, and implement the Walk with members from other St Louis-area churches. Parkway had approximately a dozen walkers in attendance, and was in the top five of money collected to fight hunger!
- We are honored that Shaare Emeth approached PUC 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 originally from Kenya and Myanmar. A pot luck lunch at International Institute provided another opportunity to partner with Shaare Emeth.
- The Sweet Bakers continue to provide homemade desserts for people dining at Pilgrim UCC's soup kitchen.
- A multi-generational group prepared and served dinner at Ronald McDonald House.
- Two small groups partner with other area churches in teams to support people recently released from prison –this program is now coordinated by Concordance Academy rather than COPE.
- Jesus Has Left the Building (JHLTB) 4 on July 31, 2016, and JHLTB 5 on April 30, 2017, offered approximately eight projects each date encouraging PUCers to get out of their comfort zones and into community service on a Sunday morning. A congregational survey between JHLTB 4 and 5 sought suggestions to maximize the opportunities for connections with God, the community, and our PUC family.
- Care was expressed through physical labor with local youth mission projects in July and an adult mission trip to New Orleans for the St. Bernard Project in October.
- Volunteers distributed supplies at Joint Neighborhood Ministry's Back-to-School event.
- Ten handy people from PUC joined the UCC rehab build for Habitat for Humanity.
- Several members volunteered to provide transportation for Mawia, an Eden Seminary student and Methodist Minister from Myanmar.

- Raking leaves, washing cars, visiting, and inviting residents to PUC C events connected us with Emmaus Homes.
- PUC Cers volunteered to read books to children through the Ready Readers initiative.
- Although not organized by PUC C, many members became more 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 PUC C. Church members set up the party space, baked dozens of cookies for the event, and helped throughout the event.

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

- School supplies (Little Bit Foundation & Joint Neighborhood Ministry)
- Give-a-Meal monthly collection (Isaiah 58 Ministries)
- Winter accessories (Little Bit Foundation)
- Items for The Christmas Store (Every Child’s Hope)
- Toys (Board of Religious Organizations)
- Shoes (Shoe Man Water Project)
- Individual-sized toiletries (Isaiah 58 Ministries/food pantries)

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crop Walk             | <input type="checkbox"/> International Institute of St. Louis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbors in Need     | <input type="checkbox"/> Heifer International                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every Child’s Hope    | <input type="checkbox"/> Eden Seminary                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> “Soup-er” Bowl Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia’s House                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Joe’s Café       | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Houses                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Circle of Concern     | <input type="checkbox"/> One Great Hour of Sharing            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emmaus Homes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat for Humanity                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Fund        | <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen the Church                |

We continue to rely on the many PUC C 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, PUC Cers generously share their time, talents, and resources to make a difference, perpetuating the true meaning of Christianity!

# Parkway UCC Sweet Bakers 2016-2017

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Carol Cobb

PUCC Sweet bakers have been baking sweet treats for Pilgrim UCC Outreach Wednesday Neighborhood Lunch for nearly 5 years. We decided to do twice a month a few years ago as one church which donated desserts dropped out.

We meet every second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am to bake different recipes for guests and servers. 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. We truly need more bakers and people willing to deliver the goodies to Pilgrim on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning. Diane Yanzser, Director of the Pilgrim Food Pantry and the Wednesday soup kitchen assures us her guests love our cakes.

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. We also would love the donation of some nice dishtowels which dry well. Washing the dishes and drying them afterward is part of our work. Smelling the delicious cakes baking is a side benefit. (We never eat them, though.)

Carol Cobb/Linda Tossing/ Pat Owens/Carol Russell/ Donna Fauss/Kris McKenzie, Pat Klein/Joyce Ruiz

## Evangelism Commission

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Karen Boyd, Convener

I've asked a lot of people - both clergy and lay people – “what is evangelism?” People struggle answering - it's one of those challenging, churchy terms. So, I searched the internet and found this view from beloved UCC theologian, Walter Bruggemann:

“I think that evangelism is helping people come to awareness that this dominant world of greed and anxiety and self-sufficiency and despair – will never give you what you want. So come over to this world of trust and abundance, come over to this world that will give you what you want - for safety and joy. And what we're talking about is to join the church, if the church is faithful to that idea that our way of being in the world contradicts the way the world wants us to be..... We are talking about being the world differently.”

**Evangelism is inviting people outside our community to come inside with us – because we have something that they need that they are not going to get anywhere else. We have something to share.**

Too big? Too bold? Well, the Gospel is big and bold. And, the Gospel expects a lot of us.

This year the Evangelism Commission (Karen Boyd, Cassie Rossenberger, Marsha Peek, Rich Hasler, Helen Race, Ruth Peace, and Carol Cobb - Council Liaison) provided many options for us to invite those outside into our community. We sponsored open-door community events like the Easter Egg Hunt, the Sugarplum Bazaar, the Trunk or Treat. We invited visitors to join us for scheduled Lunch Bunch gatherings after worship. We saw to it that there were people at the door, waiting to welcome the visitors each Sunday. THANK YOU to everyone who made those activities a success.

We sponsored the all-congregational reading of John Dorhauer's "Beyond Resistance", along with small group discussions and congregational workshop. We tackled the tough themes of that book and asked tough questions about what is required of a welcoming and relevant church in our world today – our world where the traditional mainline church is rapidly disappearing. THANK YOU for all the effort to host these events and to raise these issues.

We initiated a new program of "Share Your Faith Story" – through worship testimonials and written columns in the news letters, and "Faith in Action", our monthly story featuring Parkway's people translating "faith" into "action".

Why share these stories? When we share our faith with one another we nurture our own relationships, and think of the impact on our visitors those Sunday mornings who witnessed our testimonies. 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.

Parkway, let us be a faithful church to that idea of "being the world differently". Let us find those who are looking for something different and invite them to be with us. Could Jesus have been more clear?

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

## Communications Commission

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Brad Lyons, convener

In the second year as an official commission, 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.

*Intersections*, our monthly newsletter, has been discontinued due to Mona's reduced hours and the large volume of time it took to create. Some less-frequent version of print newsletter may emerge later in 2017. Email and the weekly worship bulletin are our dominant tools for regular communication with the congregation, with social media a distant third. We appreciate the congregation sharing social posts to broaden the reach of PUCC events and messages.

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.

The acquisition of the 60" monitor has given us a new, attractive way to share our story via photos and videos with visitors to our building. We are still working on how the monitor can be used in various capacities.

Long-awaited signage hanging below the marquee sign has been a great addition. It didn't hold up well to our lone ice storm, but the replacement should last longer. Additional signs can be ordered to provide variation, a key factor in catching the eyes of regular passers-by.

It may seem like a small issue (or, depending on your preference, medium, large, or extra-large), but three new t-shirt designs ~~are now~~ available for members. We especially appreciate this opportunity to display unity and our PUCC message for community walks/runs and projects including JHLTB.

PUCC got lucky this year in that we never had to cancel due to inclement weather. That said, we are still working on a mass-texting service to let members know about closures or other quick-breaking news.

CommComm has agreed to serve as the administrative commission for IT issues, relying on input from IT contractors and knowledgeable volunteers. The need to replace our aging server and the possibilities of web-based applications and file storage prompted a larger discussion about how our IT functions and is administered. Dropbox continues to serve working groups effectively, a network-attached storage (NAS) service will be connected this summer, and PowerChurch will move to an online interface that can be accessed outside the building. Thanks to Pete Eggebrecht for doing the research that will lead to improved efficiency for office staff. If you have knowledge in IT, we'd love to have you lend a helping hand.

Although we had to discontinue the monthly newsletter, Mona's reduction in hours has had only a small effect on our communication efforts. The commission members continue to take on more of the tasks involved to offset some of Mona's previous efforts. She helped lead the Missouri Mid-South Conference's Communications Covenanted Workgroup until she stepped aside early in 2017.

Dottie Dwyer | Brad Lyons (Convener) | Lisa Mason | Stephanie Polster | Mona Smith Herberg, staff | Kevin Cameron

## Membership Care

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# NJFM: The Not Just for Men Group

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Harold Cobb

Not Just for Men Group is a textbook definition of eclectic as we try a variety of places around St. Louis. We vary in number from few to a large group depending on the event, but always come away with a good experience. Our trips this last year were:

- ❖ Missouri History Museum in July for a display on Route 66 and November for Toys of the 50's, 60's and 70's with lots of reminiscing.
- ❖ Saint Louis Mercantile Library at UMSL for an exhibit of John James Audubon and a tour of the various permanent displays at the library.
- ❖ The Thornhill House at Faust Park-we received a fascinating guided tour of the home of one Missouri's first governors, Gov. Bates.
- ❖ The Dog Museum at Queeny Park-a selection of paintings, statues and special displays (which sadly is leaving St. Louis.
- ❖ The Photography Hall of Fame near The Saint Louis University campus, which featured a special display of post World War II photos of occupied Japan.
- ❖ In May a group attended a Bach Concert at The Sheldon.

Each year we have several annual traditions: Maundy Thursday communion with Kevin and alignment of the sanctuary pews for Holly Week; Christmas Brunch at First Watch, Mother's Day Brunch for the ladies of the church.

As the name suggests, all are welcome. Watch the Sunday bulletin for future events.

## AWOL

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Carmen Bumgarner

With Carmen's early absence and over-scheduled 2016-17, AWOL was spotty at best this year. But when we did get together, it was a wonderful time for fellowship and relationship building!

- \*We shared tears and laughter at several films
- \*We enjoyed Mediterranean Cuisine and ice cream
- \*We broadened our horizons at live theater.

AWOL is always looking for new ideas.

Fellowship, Fun, Deepening relationships between the Women of PUCC is the mission of AWOL.

# Personnel Committee

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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 our financial staff, employee evaluations, updating of staff files and the process of moving our office administrator to part time . The committee will address employee benefits and an updated personnel manual in the upcoming year. We appreciate the input of all of PUCC members as you help us by being part of hiring teams and providing valuable feedback during our evaluation processes.

# Ministry Planning & Review Committee:

Senior Pastor—Kevin Cameron

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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

We look forward to working with Parkway UCC's new consultant, Rev. John Wimberly , beginning in September as he comes to us with a task of helping our congregation in our planning process recognize and move passionately toward our mission and ministry as followers of Jesus.

Thanks for your support.

MPR Committee members:

Brad Lyons

Sue Stohr

Doug Dischinger

Donna Engel