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ON THE COVER - Not many would argue that the Piedmont Community Church courtyard looks great in just about any light, but church member Scott Fitzgerrell found moonlight best suited his ideal photograph, taken January 31 near the time of the Super Moon.
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH
JUNE 3, 2018
11:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF A QUORUM
MAGGIE SPENCER, PRESIDENT OF THE TRUSTEES

INVOCATION
THE REV. DR. WILLIAM McNABB, SENIOR MINISTER

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS
MAGGIE SPENCER

ENGAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
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MICHAEL OSBORN

ELECTION &
RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS
MAGGIE SPENCER

IN MEMORIAM
THE REV. DR. WILLIAM McNABB

MINISTER’S REMARKS
THE REV. WILLIAM McNABB

BENEDICTION
THE REV. DR. DON ASHBURN, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

ADJOURNMENT
Andrew Dean Miller, son of Kimberley and Matthew Miller, looks on as Dr. William McNabb offers a prayer following Andrew’s baptism Sunday, April 22. Photo by Michael Barber
As I begin my seventeenth year of ministry I continue to enjoy greatly serving alongside the creative and energetic members of Piedmont Community Church. I feel we are truly blessed to be a part of a caring loving community dedicated to shining Christ’s love into all the dark corners of our world.

With a tremendous effort from our Stewardship Committee, we were able to come basically even with last year’s pledge amount. In a day and time in which many churches have been experiencing severe pledge declines I salute our many generous members who have helped us keep our pledges on a level playing field. In addition to our stewardship campaign we have continued to make improvements to our facilities due to the receipt of a grant of 1.5 million dollars from an anonymous foundation - a gift for which we are tremendously grateful.

Those funds have helped us refurbish the chapel, rebuild the pipe organ and to restore and repair our stained-glass windows. In addition, the grant enabled us to fund for three years the position of Director of Marketing and Communications which has been ably filled by Michael Barber.

In conjunction with the members of the Endowment Committee we have launched the Wallace and Mary Alexander Circle to honor people who contribute to the PCC endowment or indicate that they have placed the church in their will or trust. The committee hosted a reception on May 20th to introduce the fifth group of new members to the Alexander Circle. In just four years membership has grown to 167 members. PCC’s total endowments are now $2.426 million dollars.

We continue to emphasize our local mission work in the city of Oakland through the tutoring program in conjunction with Faith Network. We also continue to serve meals at the Berkeley Men’s Shelter under the dedicated leadership of Barbara and Stuart Crawford. A wonderful new outreach ministry that has entered its third year is the Refugee Task Force under the direction of David Schmidt. Originally, we accepted two refugee families from Pakistan to sponsor and help relocate. That effort has gone exceedingly well and this year we sponsored the Yousufzai family from Afghanistan and they are adjusting very well to life in America.

Our relationship with our sister church Kafita CCAP in Lilongwe Malawi remains strong. I am in regular contact with Rev. Tembo, their pastor. Last year, they celebrated the birth of a daughter church. One of their “prayer houses” has grown and developed to a size that enabled them to become their own church with their own pastor. We celebrate that accomplishment with them.

Our sister church relationship with Imani Community Church in Oakland enters its tenth year and continues to grow and strengthen. We shared two pulpit/choir exchanges this year and a wonderful joint choir concert.

Assisted by the outstanding efforts of Steve Main we have worked to provide meaningful and uplifting worship services in the past year. I have preached four sermons series Deep Joy for a Shallow World, Simply Christian, Spiritual Hunger in an Age of Plenty, No Such Thing as Normal, along with regular and seasonal sermons.

We are happy that the sermons are now available on podcast so that people can download to listen from their personal devices or can subscribe. Once again, this year I have had the opportunity to work with a wonderful staff whose commitment and dedication to the well-being of the church is evident in all they do. We were also blessed with staff stability this year and we have enjoyed the delightful addition of Michael Barber to the church staff.

I believe God is calling Piedmont Community Church to shine the light of his love to this community and the world. Maureen and I continue to feel blessed to be a part of that mission and I believe God has many more exciting things in store for this community of faith in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. William H. McNabb
Senior Minister
As I reflect on the past year in our shared mission and ministry, I continue to feel blessed to serve as your pastor. As we walk on in faith and service together, I look forward to new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

This past year, highlights for me have included:

~ Leading 3 gatherings for prospective new members, now called “Come and See.” Through the membership process, I met with and welcomed some 20 new members to Piedmont Church.

~ With Leslie Quantz, I helped to lead our annual Family Camp at Westminster Woods, and led the campfire singing with my two teenage children for the first time (it was a blast!).

~ I worked with the Connecting Team to help new members find their way at our church. This year, we welcome Jennifer Nixon as the new chair of the Connecting Team.

~ With Steven Thorne and Joan Chow, I was on the team that recommended hiring our new Communications Director, Michael Barber. I work closely with Michael, and anticipate good fruits arising from inviting new folks to Piedmont Church and better communicating with those who are here.

~ I served as a member of the Engagement Team, and designed and analyzed the results of our online survey with the team’s chair, Mary Margaret Sinnema.

~ With the Rev. Dottie Hutch, I’ve continued to oversee the outreach of our Parish Visitors, who stay connected with those who are unable to attend church on a regular basis.

~ I guided our Adult Education program, including teaching a 5-week series of classes during Lent on the last 24 hours of Jesus’ life, and what that means for us as individuals, as a community, and for the world.

~ I continue to lead two weekly study/fellowship/support groups: Walking Together (which actually sits down to meet each Thursday night at 7 in the Guild Parlor), and a Bible Study at Piedmont Gardens.

~ With Lisa Lindsley, I created and guide a monthly Prayer Circle with a group of lay people.

~ I’m actively involved with the work of the Board of Deacons, the Altar Guild, the Adult Fellowship Team, the Welcoming Team and the PCC-Connect Team.

~ I continue to serve on the Mission Action Team. With Selma Chin as the head of the team, we once again raised money for mission at the Alternative Gift Market, and fostered direct “Go Forth” participation in various local mission projects.

~ I continue to be engaged in pastoral care and hospital visitation on a regular basis.

~ I remain active in the Presbyterian Church (USA); as a member of the Committee on Ministry and providing guidance and support to 2 local congregations as they seek to call and install new pastors.

~ Finally, I continue to preach and lead worship with Dr. McNabb, and work with a talented and dedicated church staff.

It’s a joy to be able to share my ministry with all of you in Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn
Associate Minister
Brad Matthews of Hyland Studio in Santa Clara, CA, successfully removes a portion of stained glass in the sanctuary February 8. The Psalm 23 window was restored over a six-week period, matching the original design from 1922. Photo by Michael Barber
Many know my fondness for shorthand phrases and mantras. The theme for my role as President of the Board of Trustees was: “Love Never Fails + Together We Can.” I am very happy to report that it doesn’t, and we did- we accomplished so much!

The second year of our three-year Strategic Plan was a whirlwind of activity for all of the wonderful people who contribute their time, talent and treasure to keep the many wheels of our church turning productively. The synergy created by working together was on full display when I convened a joint meeting for all three boards in January.

But, cross-board and cross-committee work was emphasized all year, with time set aside for socializing as well. The other reports herein document in detail the work of the various boards, staff and groups, all to further our Strategic Plan’s goals of Vibrancy, Sustainability and (improved) Communication. This report focuses on the Board of Trustees.

TRUSTEES
We are a non-denominational community church. This means we self-fund and are self-governed by a set of Bylaws. The Bylaws provide that the Trustees govern church operations, including employing staff and setting policies, and managing the finances and property. Trustees operates through four standing committees. All were very active this year, with too many accomplishments to fully list. Here are just some of the highlights:

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
No project was too big, too small or too distasteful (rodent control!) for B&G this year. In addition to the everyday repairs and updates needed by our beautiful and historic plant, B&G completed more ambitious capital improvement projects enabled by funding from the Anonymous Grant. The Sanctuary’s stained-glass window restoration is now complete, including an ambitious redo of the stunning Psalm 23 Window that graces the back wall. B&G also revived the Church Work Day, organizing a spring cleaning day in March with over 30 volunteers. In addition to innumerable small tasks, work was performed on the Founder’s Room and in the gardens.

FINANCE
Our dedicated Finance Committee, which includes several past members and chairs, added analysis of the Endowment Fund governance documents to its considerable responsibilities to manage the budget and investments. Appropriate transparency of church finances was advanced by a new quarterly “dashboard” report that clearly describes the state of our finances and by keeping the financial information on the website up to date. In addition, the Fin Com implemented changes to internal controls recommended by the outside auditor, provided budgeting advice to the Mexico Advisory Team and continuously worked with the other three committees on finance-related matters.

PERSONNEL
A major highlight this year was the creation of a new staff position: Director of Communications and Marketing. Thanks to funding from the Anonymous Grant, and the hard work of the Personnel Committee, we were able to hire Michael Barber, who moved from Ohio and has been working at full steam ever since. His report demonstrates his considerable accomplishments in just six months, as do the revamped Messenger, Facebook posts and various videos and photos. We will soon no longer be a “best kept secret!”

More hidden is Michael’s role as a link between staff, members and friends, and their various activities - increasing the lines of communication internally as well as externally. In addition, the Pers Com worked to revise the Personnel Manual (last updated in 2005) and created job descriptions for each staff member.

STEWARDSHIP
The Stewardship Campaign met its target this year, but these are challenging times for traditional church pledge campaigns. Now, with Michael Barber’s assistance, the group is tackling the tough issues surrounding appropriate and effective fundraising in the church environment with professional help - they are energized! Work on the 2018-2019 campaign already
has begun, with a multi-point plan and timeline for implementation.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE: ENGAGEMENT TEAM**

Discussions and plans for the future of PCC have been assisted by *Growing an Engaged Church*, a book that describes ways for churches to grow and thrive in the current environment.

Led by Mary Margaret Sinnema, Immediate Past President of the Board of Trustees, the ET conducted a member survey, led carefully designed small-group conversations with special help from Liz Becker and summarized all the information.

As I write, delivery of this information to the congregation is pending.

This effort was both a tremendous amount of work and a true labor of love. Sincere thanks to the leaders and the other ET members: Robin Asbury, Eric Behrens, Anne Conneely, Debi Fitzgerrell, Kristine McCabe, Dr. Don Ashburn and Dr. Bill McNabb.

The ET will conclude its work this summer, but the results will live on through changes and additions to our Strategic Plan.

**CONCLUSION**

What an extraordinary year for Piedmont Community Church! It was truly my honor and pleasure to serve as President. Many, many thanks to everyone who manage to fit service to PCC into their busy lives.

I look forward to serving as Immediate Past President and continuing to work with staff and the next set of leaders.

To those who have not yet served through a board or group - please consider bringing your talents to these efforts. You will learn a lot, get to know fabulous people and perform meaningful work for a cause you believe in. What could be better?

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Spencer
*President, Board of Trustees*

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*Chris Modera helps to prepare for the church’s annual Treasure Sale by folding linens inside Guild Hall Thursday, March 8. The sale earned $34,000, benefitting the Mexico Mission Trip where 315 youth and adults built 17 structures for impoverished families in April. Photo by Michael Barber*
This year, the Christian Education Board continued with Children and Youth ministries oversight, ran the annual church picnic, Christmas Pageant and Family Camp.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES
See also Leslie Quantz’s report, Page 13
Leslie Quantz continued her devoted support of young children in her 12th year as Director of Children’s Ministries, overseeing the Nursery, Sunday School and Kidz Club program (grades 4-6) with leadership from both Julie Hofer and Leslie Quantz due to Julie’s move to the Dakotas.

The Children’s Ministry continued these programs:

~ Sponsoring a child from Compassion International, Ecuadorian Ines Ulcuango, who will soon age out of the program, but who has been under our sponsorship for years.

~ Sixty-five Christmas shoeboxes were filled with donated items to send to children all over the world. This year, it was a family event after service so that adults could participate with their children.

Sunday School
We continued with the new curriculum, “Dig In”, Creating Deeper Bible Experiences for Kids! Children continue to be more involved in the new program, which provides worship time, games, crafts and mission projects that help our children deepen their knowledge of Christ and become better citizens of the world. All children meet in the chapel each Sunday and start with games, songs and the main story.

The children then move to the classroom for more discussion about the story, crafts, games and activities. The new program is interesting and rewarding to teach and not as intimidating as the previous program (Godly Play).

Sunday school continues to be well-attended, with good feedback from students and parents about the curriculum. Children are enjoying the activities that complement the Bible message.

Some families with school-aged children have begun to attend more regularly and put their children in the Sunday School program, rather than joining them in the sanctuary.

Four-year-old Matilda Osborn finds pre-Christmas joy in preparing gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child in Guild Hall Sunday after worship November 5.
Christmas Pageant
The annual Christmas pageant, a church tradition for more than 80 years, was held in December under the leadership of the CE Board. The Advent Dinner followed immediately in Guild Hall with the help of the Board of Deacons. The Salvation Army Band performed for the 46th year and the evening’s offering was given to them for their efforts. Many thanks go to the hard work of the staff, CE Board, the volunteer teachers, Russ Taylor on piano and Wayne and Christy Guidici as pageant directors. The children work hard each year memorizing lines and giving everything they have to make this a success. As a parent, I enjoy watching the pride our children take in this performance.

YOUTH MINISTRIES
See also Rev. Scott Kail’s report, Page 12
In his 16th year as Student Pastor, Scott Kail continued his vital spiritual work with youth.

Rock And Livewire
These programs are functioning well and continue to be the backbone of the youth program. It is here that the vital relationships that our ministry is dependent upon are established and maintained. With a leadership team of adults in place for both Rock and Livewire, we continue to have as our first priority building relationships with students that are involved in the ministry.

Confirmation
Seventeen confirmands completed our 9-week class. The confirmands were received as church members with the support of their mentors on November 12.

Mexico Mission
The trip was a huge success. Seventeen structures were built by 315 attendees over the five days in Mexico. This trip continues to be a backbone for introducing the greater Piedmont community to the church. We are excited about the future and a firmly believe in support service mission opportunities for students and adults.

Fundraisers
The Treasure Sale raised $36,000, which was $1,000 less than last year. This amazing feat was due to the tireless work of over 80 volunteers and the generosity of all those that donated items. Many thanks to all including those that purchased treasures as well.

FALL KICK-OFF PICNIC
The annual picnic was held in September at the Piedmont Park across the street with the support of the CE Board and the Welcoming Committee. Board members prepared the food, drink and dessert that were available in addition to the tasty taco truck tacos.

Children’s activities included a jumpy house. Mitch Polzak and his Royal Deuces band kept everyone entertained in the beautiful weather and scenery. The picnic was paid for by an anonymous donor so that attendees did not have to pay. Next year, the Board will encourage members to bring a friend to the picnic so that more families can discover and participate in our church community.

FAMILY CAMP
Family camp was held over Labor Day weekend in Westminster Woods in Sonoma County with 37 people in attendance. Two days and nights were spent in the beautiful woods, with outdoor worship, singing songs, hiking, making s’mores, arts and crafts, enjoying social hours and exploration and fellowship. While attendance is not what it once was, the families that do attend hope to make this a regular event, with the goal of spreading the word on the spiritual benefits of these few days together.

FELLOWSHIP OUTSIDE OF CHURCH
We wanted to encourage families to get to know each other outside of church. My husband Mike and I held a social in March for families with young children at our house for food and fellowship. It was well-attended and we received positive feedback for creating a friendly atmosphere to get to know each other – both children and adults. We hope to offer more of these in the coming months.

I wish to give my thanks to the incredible leadership and passion we have in Scott Kail and Leslie Quantz as examples for our children. They work so hard to make this program sustainable and joyful. I am also thankful for the members of the CE Board.

Team members faithfully participate in our monthly meetings and we have done a lot of work to build community for the youth of the church. Many thanks to Jeffrey Asbury, Ron Heckmann, Hannah Hanrahan, Anne Conneely, Kyla Oh, Michael Perkocha, Beth Covin, Tina Farman, Tomas Melian and Lauren Young.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwendolyn Osborn
Christian Education Board Chair
As the ministry year comes to a close, it is good to sit and ponder the people, relationships, meetings, ministry, events and all that is the Student Ministries of Piedmont Community Church.

I love and continue to be so excited about the opportunity to serve Christ and those in and around Piedmont. I believe the ministry and those involved have grown significantly in many ways. We continue to remind ourselves that we have not arrived, but we are well on our way in a very exciting journey. It is by God’s grace and leading that we conduct the ministry and also by His grace that we are on the road we now travel. With that said, allow me to cover some specifics from the past year.

We have been fortunate to continue to receive two grants to staff Interns for our Student Ministries. Our homegrown Katherine Vieiramendes and Jeremy Kaetzel have been with us this year and have greatly contributed to the health and growth of ministry to students in and around Piedmont. Jeremy will return for another year with us and I am actively seeking a replacement for Katherine, who will still stay with us by volunteering.

Rock and Livewire are functioning well and continue to be the backbone of the youth program. It is here that we establish and maintain the vital relationships upon which our ministry is dependent. Over the past year, the focus has been specific and fruitful.

We continue to prioritize the building of relationships with our students. This is a growing number and consists of church members as well as many students whose families are of different faiths and no faith association.

We count this a huge privilege to have access and active ministry to so many. This team of leaders also assists with the weekly leadership and direction of the ministry.

As a leadership team, we focused on four main areas:

~ Building an atmosphere of community
~ Building an atmosphere of worship
~ Creating a proper understanding of Jesus Christ and the role He desires to play in our lives
~ Reaching as many students in Piedmont, accepting them where they are, and exposing them to Christ and our ministry

Although this will continue to be a process, I feel we are achieving these goals in fine fashion. The number of students attending and involved on a regular basis continues to grow and the “pool” of students is well over 150 for ROCK and 60+ for LIVEWIRE.

Sunday School continues to meet the need to go deeper with our faith and biblical teaching.

It is always biblical, usually interactive and strongly applicable in the lives of the students. The attendance has been steady and tends to mirror family attendance each Sunday. As with the flow of attendance as a whole, we experience ups and downs as the seasons of the year flow. This has left us with the decision to remain a combined group of Middle and High School. As a practice, we venture into the sanctuary for monthly Communion.

Confirmation occurred in the fall and was offered to 8th and 9th-grade students. This was part of a purposeful move on behalf of Student Ministries and the CE Board to make the most of Confirmation and best integrate it into the total ministry experience for Middle School students.

It was very successful and culminated in “Youth Sunday” where the students led the congregation in worship. As a result, 17 students were confirmed on November 12.

Mexico Missions underwent some tweaking and changes this year. We added many steps to the preparation and training end as well as successfully recruited more adults than ever for the trip.
We reached a new high with 315 participants and continue to be excited about the steady interest in the trip with the students of Piedmont. The trip was a huge success as we built 17 structures.

We continue to be excited about the future and believe firmly in service opportunities for the students of the church and Piedmont. Some small changes for this year really helped emphasize the relationships with the local families and the focus on patience and quality instead of speed in building.

We will continue to evaluate and fine tune the mission and seek to use the CE Board to a greater extent in this part of the ministry.

Rock Pizza Lunch continued this year and was a huge success. This is a purely outreach ministry for the students of Piedmont. Each Tuesday the students from Piedmont High School walk over to the new youth room and enjoy pizza and a drink, as well as a really cool and welcoming atmosphere. As we started the event, we offered the meal free of charge and hosted over 150 students each Tuesday. We now charge $4, just enough to break even, and average around 100 students each week.

This coming year will look very similar in content in that we are still on the road to build and strengthen the four areas mentioned earlier. We did not have critical mass for this year but look forward very eagerly to the sixth trip to Africa this next summer and will be selecting the students who attend this December.

Praise God for His guidance and blessings and we pray for the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Scott Kail
Director of Student Ministries

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**CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES**

The Children’s Program includes the Nursery, and Sunday School for the Pre-Kindergarten through middle schoolers.

Seventh and eighth graders can choose to go to the Youth Sunday school program.

Sunday School classes are offered during the 10:30 am service. This is the second year of of using Group Publishing’s “Dig In” program for our curriculum.

We included all church members and sent 65 shoeboxes around the world for Operation Christmas Child.

We passed out Valentine’s in the sanctuary, gave Bibles to 14 children and made flowers to pass out to all the women for Mother’s Day.

We plan to have the children in the sanctuary monthly next year.

**CURRICULUM:**

We have been very happy with our new program, Group Publishing’s *Dig Into the Bible*. This year, we are digging into the Bible in one year. The children are responding well to the stories, games and crafts. They have more opportunities to get to know each other better before we start the lesson each week as they play games and draw pictures together before the start of the lesson.

I have received a lot of positive feedback from parents about this program. Each week, the children hear a new Bible story. I feel that this program helps them to learn more about the Bible.

We continue to collect an offering to support Ines Ulcuango, our Compassion International child from Ecuador. Bibles were given to third graders and new older students on Bible Sunday.

**ATTENDANCE**

We have over 100 children from Nursery through sixth
grade attending Sunday School. Weekly attendance continues to remain a bit inconsistent because the various outside activities have a significant effect on attendance and participation. We have quite a few new families visiting and joining the church and Sunday school. I continue to encourage everyone to bring friends to Sunday School.

TEACHERS
I want to thank all my Sunday school teachers. You make a difference in the children’s lives. I appreciate all of you who step up and teach. I believe that this new program is much easier for the teachers than our previous program, and they have much less preparation time for each class.

NURSERY
The Nursery is available every Sunday. We are happy to have Shanna Farrell as our new Nursery Coordinator. She and her family are new to the church. The Nursery continues to be a safe, vibrant, fun place for our youngest members. Pat Ruvkun has assisted for over 20 years.

FELLOWSHIP
Kidz Club is for kids in fourth, fifth and sixth graders and meets monthly. This year, our participants were mostly boys (come on girls, be represented!)

Attendance has been a bit affected by outside sports but each month we enjoy new projects. This year, we had a lemonade stand for the International Justice League, we collected food and money for the Alameda County Community Food Bank and we cleaned up around town for Earth day.

We are starting to have more Family Fellowship activities. This year, we had a pizza party after Sunday school, a family potluck at the home of Michael and Gwendolyn Osborn and a picnic in the park after Sunday school. I look forward to having more of these activities next year.

PAGEANT
The Christmas pageant was a big success under the leadership of Wayne Guidici. The children continue to enjoy participating and the pageant was well attended. Thanks to the CE Board for their leadership.

Wayne Guidici arranged the script and directed the pageant, as he has done for many years. Amy MacKenzie worked with the children to make sure they knew the songs and Russ Taylor played the piano. The Salvation Army Band performed for the 47th year! The patience of the Sunday School teachers during pageant season is always appreciated!

FACILITIES
The Sunday school classes continue to enjoy the renovated chapel and we thank those who helped with the spring work day in wiping down walls, cleaning classrooms and sterilizing the nursery toys.

A special thank you to Jim Kellogg and Lynn Nelson for arranging this day.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. This program is very dependent on volunteers and I thank each of you who contribute.

I want to thank the CE Board for their continued support and for helping to improve the program.

I’m very happy with our new program. I especially want to thank Julie Hofer and Gwendolyn Osborn for the support they continue to give.

Thanks to the staff at Piedmont Community Church and thanks to my family – John, Allison and Melissa who step in to help teach and help in the nursery when needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Quantz
Director of Children’s Ministries
Three years ago, the Trustees looked at internal and external trends and committed to try to stay ahead of the challenging issues facing most churches today to help our church and community thrive. So, a strategic plan was created with three platforms of focus - Sustainability, Vibrancy, Communication.

To help achieve the plan, we needed to address our congregation’s “engagement.”

In church terms, engagement means the emotional connection and sense of belonging and identity one has with their church, not just their level of involvement. A flourishing church has a high percentage of highly engaged congregants.

When a congregant is engaged, good things happen, such as serving others more, inviting others more, feeling cared for, growing spiritually, having a greater sense of life satisfaction and resiliency, giving more, feeling appreciated, being active in small groups, regularly doing something enjoyable and developing and deepening friendships.

The goal of growing engagement is to help those not engaged to become engaged. This will, in turn, create a community where the majority of members are emotionally connected and visitors, sensing the strength of our community will want to stay.

Thereby, we grow the strength of our community internally, and grow our community by welcoming new members. When congregants are engaged, the social and financial health of the church increases and provides a more sustainable foundation to continue our mission.

First, we formed an Engagement Team representing different life stages, church leadership, length of membership, genders, places of residence, staff and members.

Next, we conducted research through a congregational survey and nine conversations to explore where engagement stands today our church. The questions focused on the five Elements of Engagement: I Belong, I Make a Difference, I Am Receiving, I Am Growing and I Am Recognized and Appreciated.

About 215 of us participated in the survey and 80 convened in conversation. The insights from this research are vital to inspire us collaboratively with ideas and opportunities to grow engagement at Piedmont Community Church. We shared these insights with you on May 23 and extensive ideation sessions will take place in June.

Finally, the growth opportunities will be implemented, measured and communicated in many ways. The strategic plan, board work, staff goals, marketing initiatives and membership spirit will reflect engagement growth. It is an ongoing effort and we are all encouraged and empowered to be continuously inspired with new ideas to grow.

The Engagement Team thanks you for sharing thoughts, feelings and experiences about your connection to the church and for providing terrific ideas to consider for implementation.

Special thanks to some folks who helped with the plan, conversations and logistics – Zookie Todd, Jennifer Nixon, Mary Jo Cook, Maggie Spencer, Jean Leahy, Nick Baz and Michael Barber. We look forward to loving and growing our church home, together.

**Robin Asbury, Liz Becker, Eric Behrens, Anne Conneely, Debi Fitzgerald, Kristine McCabe, Joe Scherer, Mary Margaret Sinnema, Dr. Don Ashburn and Dr. Bill McNabb**

“We measuring engagement and creating strategies to grow it is like enriching the soil for an abundant harvest.” – Albert L. Winseman, Growing an Engaged Church
I arrived in Northern California from Columbus, Ohio on October 26, 2017, just in time to experience a rousing worship service at our sister church, Imani.

Although some from Piedmont Community Church teased that this was not a typical Sunday, I have found our worship - and many experiences connected to Piedmont Church - to be just as uplifting.

Each encounter with staff, boards, guilds and church members supports my decision to begin a new chapter of my life’s work in Piedmont.

The energy level at this church is among the highest I have experienced. It’s an honor to document, promote and support - by all means of communications - the enormous amount of good work produced here.

While writing and photography remain our primary storytelling tools, we have found video to be an excellent source for reaching our faith and wider communities. Since October, 2017, our videos have been viewed more than 177 hours.

More people are listening to our sermon podcasts, too. Twice as many, in fact. Downloads have doubled from 655 plays April 1 thru October, 2017 to 1,230 plays October 30 thru April, 2018.

Together, we have enjoyed these and many other successes, including:

~ Production of a short video from the Sunday, October 29 event at Imani, viewed 1,191 times

~ Design and distribution of the Mission Action Team’s AGM catalog, earning $42,000

~ Production of a short promotional video for the Christmas Concert, viewed 712 times

~ Production of a short invitational video for Christmas Eve services, viewed 790 times

~ Creation of an Advent flyer listing holiday events, distributed during Christmas Concert and in worship

~ A complete redesign of The Messenger newsletter

~ Increased Facebook activity from 648 ‘Likes’ in October to 762 in May, 2018 (+18%)

~ Revitalized Instagram, began with 32 followers in March to 102 in May, 2018 (+240%)

~ Created a church YouTube channel

~ Implemented Texting service ‘piedmont church’ to 797979 to deliver messages by phone. Visitors are greeted by a short video message from Dr. McNabb and encouraged to explore opportunities to worship and serve at Piedmont Church.

~ Production of The Builders Mexico documentary, viewed in worship by more than 300, downloaded 371 times

~ Increased Mexico activity on website by 200% over 2017

~ Worked with the Stewardship Committee to create a communications plan for the upcoming Pledge Campaign

As we all know, the reward for doing good work is more work to do. I look forward to the months ahead as we break new ground in our communications efforts, delivering the good news of Piedmont Community Church to the wider community.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Barber
Director of Communications and Marketing

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS & CONTACTS

PiedmontChurch.org - Official Website
Weekly Email - Contact Jean@PiedmontChurch.org
The Messenger Newsletter - Michael@PiedmontChurch.org
Sunday Bulletin - Contact Jean@PiedmontChurch.org
Facebook - Facebook.com/PiedmontCommunityChurch
Instagram - PiedmontCommunityChurch
Twitter - @Piedmont_Church
YouTube - Search channel ‘Piedmont Community Church’
Text - ‘piedmont church’ to 797979 for visitor information
Idara Essien takes a moment to admire her wings while playing the part of an angel in the 82nd annual Christmas Pageant December 10. The pageant is made possible by the Board of Christian Education with special music by the Salvation Army Band. Photo by Michael Barber
2017-2018 has been a great year for the music program of Piedmont Community Church. In addition to the regular high-quality offerings of our Chancel Choir, there were some major highlights for me personally, including this past December, when our Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra gathered to perform our Christmas Concert, Love’s Pure Light. The instrumental ensemble was absolutely top-drawer, and once again your choir, decked in their finest evening wear, offered two bravura performances.

The concert was rounded off with the entire audience singing carols with full orchestra, after which we all repaired happily to the Guild Hall for an astonishing reception and a roaring fire.

Ticket sales were excellent, and this annual event is quickly gaining a reputation in the Bay Area, as we draw wider audiences. Once again, I truly think the entire experience represented Piedmont Church at its finest.

We’ll be doing it again!

Other musical highlights include our increasing involvement with the musicians of our sister congregation at Imani Community Church, including a spirit-filled joint concert in the sanctuary in the early spring.

There were also a number of opportunities to hear small instrumental ensembles in worship throughout the year, which many of you always tell me is a special treat.

At this writing, plans are being made also for an upcoming “Americana” service, with bluegrass influences.

Membership in our choirs is strong. Our section leaders continue to lead with a great variety of ideas and influences. We are lucky to have them!

Our other ensembles continue to contribute as well, with the Handbell Ensemble tackling new and challenging literature, and with very good membership – and high levels of enthusiasm.

Finally, preparations are well underway at this writing for the upcoming Spring Choir Sunday, where the Chancel Choir, soloists, and instrumental ensemble will perform Schubert’s glorious Mass in G. Accompanied by lush strings and organ, this piece is revered for its warm lyricism and joyous take on the ancient texts. Hope to see you there!

Here comes the part I always say in these reports (and I never forget to say it either): none of this comes cheaply! Musicians, music programs, pipe organ maintenance, sound systems, orchestras, and all the rest are only possible because of the generous giving and dedicated time of our members.

The direct result can be heard in our most important goal – worship services that are vivid, direct, and meaningful. If ever I forget how crucial this goal is, I need only visit another church where it isn’t so; I always return to Piedmont Community Church feeling very fortunate.

I feel blessed to be part of a congregation that truly values and supports the music we make here.

As always, it’s my continued hope that what we do in this place will continue to inspire you and honor God.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen T. Main
Minister of Music
The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Stephen Main, practices for the annual Christmas Concert held in December. Photo by Michael Barber
The Altar Guild at Piedmont Community church is made up of men and women in the congregation.

We meet five to six times per church calendar year to coordinate activities for upcoming holidays and special events and receive reports from our various committees and chair positions.

The Altar Guild’s basic responsibilities consist of adorning the church for the holidays, preparing communion for the congregation, arranging flower donations for the altar and changing the paraments according to the liturgical calendar.

However, the love that each Altar Guild member infuses into those tasks make them anything but basic. Each way in which we serve the church is a reflection of how the church has served us and what it means to our members to be a part of this community.

Our Altar Guild workdays occur around the holidays to green the church with Christmas decorations, place poinsettias prior to Christmas Eve, adorn the doors with palms for Palm Sunday, and fill the church with lilies for Easter. These workdays are a time of fellowship with one another and grateful service to our church.

Each month, the Altar Guild has the responsibility of preparing communion in remembrance of and reflection on the life and sacrifice of Jesus and cleaning the sanctuary following the services.

Following the liturgical calendar, we change the altar paraments throughout the year to align with the seasons.

The Altar Guild coordinates distribution of Easter Lilies to those unable to attend church regularly and members who have lost a loved one in the past year.

Our flower committee and additional gracious volunteers arrange the donated altar flowers to commemorate special occasions that individuals and families wish to celebrate.

We also place a single rose on the altar to announce the birth or adoption of a baby into our church family.

The bake sale that the Altar Guild holds during the Alternative Gift Market each year raises funds for the purchase of new decorations and supplies that keep the church vibrant and welcoming. Congregants are welcomed to contribute goods to sell, and all are welcome to enjoy the treats.

I extend my deepest gratitude for each of the Altar Guild members, their families, and other church members who contribute their time and talents to the Altar Guild throughout the year.

It is a privilege for us to serve the Altar Guild and this church in ways that benefit the entire congregation and provide glory to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Zookie Todd
Altar Guild President, 2017-2018
We would like to thank the members of The Board of Deacons for all your hard work throughout this past year. Without your efforts, we would not have completed our mission and would not have had a very successful year.

We thank you for everything that you have done within your committees and, in particular, we thank each of you for dutifully signing up volunteers every Sunday to make sure we had greeters, ushers and communion servers all year long.

**FELLOWSHIP**
The team of Jay Foreman (chair), Steve Wuebbens and Helen Steers did a commendable job in coordinating with the Loaves and Fishes Ministry to put on our popular Harvest, Advent, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday dinners. We were especially honored to have our own Deacon, Lisa Lindsley, sing to us at the Harvest dinner.

We thank Kirk Miller for doing a wonderful job in leading us in Christmas Carols during the Advent dinner. As the chair of the Fellowship committee, I want to thank everyone who helped in preparing the dinners, setting up, helping coordinate and cleaning up. A very special thank you to the Loaves and Fishes team!

**MISSION**
As Deacon members of the broader Mission Action Team (MAT), Lynn Nelson, (Deacon Chair for MAT), and liaison Lisa Lindsley have been involved in helping to provide opportunities for church members and their friends to serve others, locally and globally. Examples include the Alternative Gift Market, Project Peace, and our “Go-Forth” (Community Service Day) event, which we hope will become an annual Piedmont Communit Church Mission tradition.

The Deacons look forward to continuing our work with the Mission Action Team and we thank them for overseeing the mission activities and making mission an integral part of our identity as Christians and as a church.

Also, we thank them for their diligent work in vetting agencies and making recommendations to the Deacons for projects and organizations to fund. The Mission Action Team’s work is integral to the Deacons’ success.

**OUTREACH**
During the first half of the church year, Jim Clarkson, (chair), Charlie Wood, and John Quantz focused on the collection and coordination of donations for two local organizations. With the generous support of church members we were able to donate much-needed school supplies to Burckhalter Elementary School through the Giving Tree Project.

During the Christmas season, the team spent many hours coordinating donations for families we adopted for the Adopt-a-Family program, in partnership with City Team Ministries. Thank you to the Outreach committee for doing a wonderful job.

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**
Deacons Julie McDonald, (chair) Linda McClain and Suzanne Latham continued to oversee various efforts to make visitors and new members feel welcome and engaged with our church.

The Welcoming Team, headed by Charly Taylor, has brightened all of our Sunday mornings for over a decade. We thank you all, and especially Charly, for making our church a lovely and welcome place to be.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Foreman and Julie McDonald
Co-Chairs, Board of Deacons
The Mission Action Team (MAT) reports to the Board of Deacons and provides oversight and guidance in regards to many church mission activities. The goal of the MAT is to make mission an integral part of our identity as Christians and as a church.

Members are invited to participate and are approved by the Deacons. Membership is limited to 12 voting members. Dr. Don Ashburn serves as staff liaison. Current members include Deacon: Lynn Nelson and Members-at-large: Judy Wright, Mary Fielder, Bob Cheatham, Rick Clark, Jeff McClain, Kristi Marcelle, Terhilda Gerrido, Sunny Bostrom-Fleming and Selma Chin.

The MAT supported the Deacon’s mission activities and helped plan and implement projects such as the Alternative Gift Market (a holiday gift market in December, including 18 domestic and international agencies, resulting in over $45,500 in donations this year).

Mission service opportunities included Project Peace Days in June, November and February and monthly service opportunities at CityTeam Oakland and Berkeley Men’s Shelter.

MAT also reviewed agencies receiving Deacon Accrual Funds and recommended funding to CityTeam, Destiny Arts, Faith Network, Habitat for Humanity, Grateful Gatherings and Project Peace.

With funds provided from the previous Pick-A-Party ($26,000 raised in 2015 and $10,000 remaining), MAT recommended Better World Fund grants to Faith Network to replace their foundation reading books at 22 school sites ($6,270) and to George Mark House to assist funding their Mobile TeleHealth Cart ($2,000). It is hoped that another Pick-A-Party can be organized in the coming year to further support BWF grants.

MAT also sponsored Martha Sommers to speak at the Sunday Forum in November, where Dr. Sommers shared her experiences in the Congo and her recent return to Malawi.

MAT hopes to continue to inform and provide service mission opportunities for Piedmont Community Church members and to provide grant funding for worthwhile projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Selma Chin
Mission Action Team

MISSION SERVICE 2016-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission Activity</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Action Team:</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Peace Day:</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faith Network:</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berkeley Men’s Shelter:</td>
<td>560</td>
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<td>CityTeam Oakland:</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oremi:</td>
<td>360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasure Sale:</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGM:</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adopt A Family:</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoebox:</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Task Force:</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL HOURS: 7,435
### MEMBERSHIP

**Total Membership, May 15, 2017** 1,337

**Members Received**
- by Confession of Faith, Letter of Transfer or Reaffirmation 26
- Confirmands 17

**Total Members Received** 43

**Members Removed:**
- Deaths 16
- Letters of Transfer & Requests 7

**Total Members Removed** 23

**Total Membership, May 15, 2018** 1,357

### PASTORAL SERVICES, OFFICIATING

- Baptisms 8
- Marriages 12
- Funerals/Memorials 9

**Total Pastoral Services** 29

### AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

**2017-2018** 232
CONFIRMANDS
Kate Aubrecht
Laine Avagliano
Oliver Cheng
Caroline Collins
Nico DeFazio
Megan Hiller
Allison Mandel
Mary McCabe
Scott McKenzie
Andy Melian
Quincy Munyan
Jo Jo Murphy
Angela Napper
Sydney Parkhurst
Lindsay Recker
Alexandra Wilson
Max Young

NEW MEMBERS
Mark and Tami Becker
Nancy Bishop
Rachel Eidbo
Shanna Farrell and Eric Rheinheimer
Jim Gutske and Barbara Love
David Larsen
Wendi Lelke-Wallway
Jeff and Kristin Parkhurst
James Ramos and Jeff Leiberg
Ryan Parkhurst
David and Lois Reed
Weston and Lisa Settlemier
Amy Taylor
Mark Winniford
Lorri Zimmer
Kai Zimmer
Kami Zimmer

Members of the confirmation class of 2017 pose with Rev. Scott Kail after services November 12.
Photo by Michael Barber
IN MEMORIAM

Peter Ormond        Nora Martinez
Hattie Church      Ed Bartlett
Louise Propert     Mary Smith
Louis Chew          Allan Halden
John Jones           Carl Moore
Margo Anderson      Flora Larson
Beverly Bollman     John Whalen
Alma Emerson        Paul Nancarrow
Caroline Slotemaker de Bruine Carol Christiansen
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2019
Charlie Nooney, President
Jim Fleser
Lani Taylor
Maggie Spencer, Past President

Class of 2020
Joan Chow, Vice President
Scott Fitzgerrell, B&G
Michael Osborne, Treasurer
Steven Thorne, Stewardship

Class of 2021
Jan Wolfe – Finance
Dani Montague – Stewardship
Adam Thacher - Personnel
Randy Littenecker – B&G

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2019
Jay Foreman, Chair
Janet Peterson
Steve Wuebbens
Charlie Wood

Class of 2020
John Quantz
Linda McClain
Helen Steers
Suzanne Latham

Class of 2021
Mike Bandrowski
Dana Gordon Colton
Leland Leisz
Kristi Marcelle

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Class of 2019
Gwendolyn Osborn, Co-Chair
Beth Covin
Tina Farman
Tomás Melian
Lauren Young, Student

Class of 2020
Hannah Hanrahan, Co-Chair
Kyla Oh

Class of 2021
Allison Clayshulte
Lindy Lowe
John Meyjes
Lyle Johnson
Jeffrey Hiller
Stephen Tindle

ALTAR GUILD

Class of 2019
Will Adams, Co-Chair
Paul Schroeder, Co-Chair
Connie Halley
Dani Montague
Zookie Todd

Class of 2020
Amy MacKenzie
Linda Smith-Munyan
Penny Robb
Gino Roth

Class of 2021
Kara Baysinger
Anila Bhatti
Other New Members TBD

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Bob Leslie, Julie McDonald, David Schmidt

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS
PLEASE SEE PAPER COPY DURING ANNUAL MEETING, OR VISIT THE CHURCH OFFICE AFTER MAY 27
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The Endowment Fund Management Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and provides oversight and guidance for all church investments.

The Endowment Fund Development Subcommittee develops and executes communication programs encouraging members to contribute to the Endowment Fund, now and in the future, through planned giving.

The Endowment Fund Investment Committee members are: Chairperson-Bob Coleman and members: Bill Gisvold, Horton Shapiro, Timothy Recker and ex-officio members Maggie Spencer and Dr. William McNabb.

The Endowment Fund Development Committee members are: Chairperson- Bob Leslie; members: Bob Coleman, Pat Leicher, Connie Hosemann, Frank Arthur, Richard Eigenbrode, Carl Anderson and ex-officio Dr. William McNabb.

Under the purview of the Board of Trustees and guided by the Endowment Fund Management Committee, Piedmont Community Church has approximately $2.5 million for investment. These funds are split between unrestricted and restricted funds.

The Endowment Fund Investment Committee selected Merrill Lynch in 2012 as the investment manager for these assets. In 2017, the team managing Piedmont Church’s assets left Merrill Lynch to form an independent firm called Sepio Capital which manages $2.8 billion of assets. Sepio Capital’s investment approach is to augment the financial return for the church while maintaining the safety of the principle.

As of December 31, 2017 our assets were split roughly 62/38% stocks to bonds and cash. This varies by account type and accounts with longer investment horizons have greater equity exposure while accounts with a shorter horizon have greater fixed income or cash exposure.

The total return for invested funds in 2017 was 14.0%. This compares to a weighted average benchmark return of 15.8%.

This is the sixth year of the Endowment Fund Development Committee, with its purpose being to: “Establish an Endowment Fund giving program to become part of the culture of PCC so as to enhance the long term fiscal management of PCC.”

Each year, the Endowment Fund Development Committee seeks new contributions via both cash or inclusion in one’s estate plan, and in so doing become a member of the Wallace and Mary Alexander Founders Circle.

The growth in participation to the Endowment Fund is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(all cash donations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(all cash donations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>(22 cash donations, 11 included in estate plans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>(71 cash donations, 30 included in estate plans, 17 both cash &amp; estate plans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>(All cash donations, 1 estate plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>(All cash donations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>(All cash donations)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Wallace and Mary Alexander Founder’s Circle had its official unveiling of the bricks in the Courtyard Memorial Walkway in 2014. During that ceremony, 123 bricks were unveiled with each brick representing the thoughts and best wishes of each contributor to the Endowment Fund.

In subsequent years the Alexander Circle has grown to 167 members as of the most recent addition on May 20, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Leslie  
Chair, Endowment Development Committee

Bob Coleman  
Chair, Endowment Investment Committee
The life of “The Church in Piedmont,” as it was originally known, began as the twentieth century dawned. The drive to former church homes in Oakland had proved arduous, so several attempts to provide Sunday School for residents’ children were made between 1900 and 1905.

Then in 1905, a permanent Sunday School program was organized under the leadership of Rev. Henry Mowbray, Assistant Minister of First Congregational Church, Oakland. Until the 1906 earthquake, the Sunday School met in the old Blair Mansion on Highland Avenue, then moved to the carriage house of the Mirriam home on Hillside Avenue. The Piedmont Sunday School Association was founded and raised the funds and built Mowbray Hall in 1909, a permanent home for the Piedmont Sunday School, which stood till late in the century on Vista Avenue across from Piedmont City Hall. Mowbray Hall was soon in demand for adult services.

In Fall of 1909, Dr. John Stuchell was encouraged by the Presbytery of Oakland to investigate the possibility of establishing the first church on the hill. Dr. Stuchell began conducting worship services in Mowbray Hall, and in his Easter Sunday sermon in 1910 described his vision of what would become Piedmont Community Church:

“We have the chance of showing what a church conducted on the broad lines of basic Christianity can do.”

- Dr. John Stuchell, 1910

This vision of an “umbrella” like ecumenical community church, while revolutionary in its day, found a willing and energetic following in this new community of Piedmont. After that Easter service, 56 charter members formally established The Church in Piedmont, which, in the spring of 1912, joined with the Piedmont Sunday School Association as one body.

Piedmont Community Church has been served by nine Senior Ministers:

- Dr. John E. Stuchell, Presbyterian, 1910-1916
- Rev. Charles D. Milliken, Congregational, 1916-1927
- Rev. Ernest F. W. Swann, Methodist, 1927-1934
- Dr. Holland F. Burr, Congregational, 1941-1959
- Dr. Paul W. Yinger, Congregational, 1960-1971
- Dr. Jim Davis, Presbyterian, 1994-1999
- Dr. William H. McNabb, Presbyterian, 2001-

In addition, the church has been served by 6 different Interim Senior Ministers: Rev. Francis Van Horn, 1934-35; Rev. James Muijenberg and Rev. Arthur Basham, 1939-1941; Dr. Harold Eymann, 1959-1960; Dr. Kenneth Johnson, 1971-1972; and Rev. David Sandberg, who served us in 1999-2001 and previously in 1994-1995.