

COME AND SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING HERE

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Annual Congregational Meeting Piedmont Community Church June 9, 2019 11:30 am

Call to Order & Declaration of a Quorum Charlie Nooney, President of the Trustees

INVOCATION
THE REV. DR. WILLIAM McNabb, Senior Minister

President's Remarks Charlie Nooney

Treasurer's Report & Budget Review
Michael Osborn

STEWARDSHIP REPORT STEVEN THORNE

PERSONNEL REPORT
JOAN CHOW

Building & Grounds Report Scott Fitzgerrell

Election &
Recognition of Retiring Board Members
Charlie Nooney

IN MEMORIAM
THE REV. DR. WILLIAM McNABB

MINISTER'S REMARKS
THE REV. WILLIAM McNABB

Benediction
The Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn, Associate Minister

Adjournment

SENIOR MINISTER



MCNABB

As I begin my eighteenth 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 REV. DR. WILLIAM part of a caring loving community dedicated to shining Christ's love into all the dark corners of our world. This will be a

year of transition as I have announced my intention to retire in September 2020.

In the coming year, I believe we will be able to do many wonderful things together and continue to be Christ's hands and feet in this place.

With a tremendous effort from our Stewardship Committee, we were able to increase the pledge income of the church this year by \$38,000 or approximately 4%.

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 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. The addition of Michael Barber to our staff has been transformative and incredibly productive in so many ways. The improvements to our church newsletter and worship bulletin, email offerings, website, and making our worship service available for viewing online have been significant.

In conjunction with the members of the Endowment Committee, we have established the Wallace and Mary Alexander Circle to honor people who contribute to the Piedmont Church endowment or indicate that they have placed the church in their will or trust. The

committee hosted a reception on May 19, 2019 to introduce the sixth group of new members to the Alexander Circle. In just six years membership has received 200 donations. PCC's total endowments are now \$2.5 million.

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 City Team Oakland.

The Refugee Task Force is now under the leadership of Scott Willis and they are gearing up to support our fourth refugee family in the fall. Our three previous refugee families are the Bhattis, Shahzads and Yousufzais.

Our relationship with our sister church Kafita CCAP in Lilongwe Malawi remains strong. I am traveling to Malawi in June 2019 to visit our sister church as well as other mission projects we support Nkhoma Hospital, The School for the Blind, Mponela Orphan feeding program.

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 three sermons series *The Stages of our Lives, Going* Against the Grain: Real Life Teachings from the Sermon on the Mount, Stories Jesus Still Tells, along with regular and seasonal sermons.

We are happy that the sermons are now available as videos and podcasts so that people can download to listen from their personal devices or can subscribe. I am also grateful that people who are out of town or sick are now able to watch the worship service live on Facebook or delayed on the church website.

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. I feel so grateful to be a part of this staff family.

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*





REV. DR. DON ASHBURN

I continue to be blessed to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ and you, my sisters and brothers in faith, at Piedmont Community Church. This past year has been full of opportunites to grow and serve together faithfully in the midst of great challenges.

As we move forward into new horizons of ministry and mission, I am grateful to have a chance to walk with you. Highlights for me this past year include:

- ~ Leading gatherings for prospective new members, called "Come and See." Through the membership process, I met with and welcomed some 20 new members to Piedmont Church.
- ~ With Leslie Quantz, helping once again to lead our annual Family Camp at Westminster Woods.
- ~ Working with the Connecting Team, led by Jennifer Nixon, to help new members find their way at our church.
- ~ Supervising and working closely with our Communications Director, Michael Barber.
- ~ Chairing the Engagement Working Group, which took ideas from the Engagement process, and gave a set of recommendations to the Board of Trustees which were agreed to, and are now being implemented.
- ~ Serving as a member of the Engagement Team itself, led by Mary Margaret Sinnema.
- ~ Overseeing, with the Rev. Dottie Hutch, our outreach to members and friends of our church needing pastoral care and visits on a regular basis.
- ~ Guiding our Adult Education program, including a 6-week series on "Putting Piedmont Community Church's Creed into Context," and a 5-week series in Lent on Christianity and World Religions.
- ~ Leading two weekly study/fellowhip/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.

- ~ Leading our monthly Prayer Circle group, and introducing new Prayer Boxes, which have been utilized repeatedly by people who request prayer.
- ~ Staying actively involved with the work of the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, the Altar Guild, the Mission Action Team, and many other groups in the church.
- ~ I remain active in the local work of my denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA); as a member of the Committee on Ministry and the Committee for New Worshipping Communities.
- ~ 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 at Piedmont Church.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn *Associate Minister*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As we reflect on the past year on Piedmont Community Church, there is so much to be grateful for as we realized a year of growth.

In a time that many churches struggle, PCC saw *increases* in both attendance and financial support.

We have also seen the impact of our digital outreach and a tremendous reaction to our revised web presence. These postives are no accident, but a result of a dedicated staff and the hard work of the network of volunteers that are at the heart of our church.

The focus of the Board has been to support the staff and congregation with a particular focus on:

- ~ Serving others within and outside our church community
- ~ Continuity of financial growth
- ~ Increasing vibrancy and engagement

We are very blessed to have dedicated members in the Board. Below, each committee lead addresses the past year as it relates to their area of focus.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

See Page 9

FINANCE

The church continues to be reliant upon the generous annual contributions from its members. In the current pledging cycle, the church had 260 pledging households participate, a 3-year high. Our annual operational budget uses these contributions plus a small transfer of funds, under \$61,000, from the Endowment Funds to balance our annual budget.

In June 2021, the impact of the \$1.5M Anonymous Grant will be felt by our annual budget, for the last several years this grant has provided nearly \$200,000 annually towards our general budget and specific support for our marketing efforts, youth interns, and the Christmas concert. Our deferred maintenance fund has a current balance of \$256,200 after having been seeded with \$500,000 about 12 years ago, this balance reflects the work this winter in the sanctuary, but prior to the improvements in the Christian Education Building planned for this summer.

The investment in both marketing activities and the new, high-profile fulltime marketing professional position at the Church was in anticipation of a multiyear increase in attendance, and membership growth to drive both vibrancy and increase pledging households. The metrics from these early efforts are very positive.

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee's work in 2018/2019 focused on a major re-writing of the PCC personnel handbook which dated from 1997 and 2003 updates. Such work was necessary to ensure that ordained and non-ordained job expectations and job descriptions were aligned with fiscal realities, best practices to ensure ongoing growth for staff, and responsiveness to the needs of members as well as serving the wider community. As PCC leadership moves toward implementation of the 2018 Engagement Workgroup recommendations, clarifying such expectations from trustees is critical for ensuring retention of current staff and hiring the most qualified staff in the future.

STEWARDSHIP

See Page 8

CONCLUSION

It has been a pleasure to serve as president this past year and to work closely with such a talented group of individuals.

The year ended with the announcement of Dr. William McNabb's pending retirement. I look forward to the well-deserved celebration of his enormous contributions

Moving forward, it also presents the unique challenges of a transition. It will be a call to all of us to work together, pray together for the good of the entire congregation and continue to build on the solid Christian foundation that is Piedmont Community Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Nooney President, Board of Trustees

STEWARDSHIP

Because of you, we as a church membership accomplished a tremendous thing this year. With your thoughtful prayers and reflections on how God has blessed you and your family, we collectively increased the amount pledged for the 2019-2020 operating budget by \$38K, to a total 2019-2020 amount of \$1,077,937. This is a strong 4 % increase over the previous, 2018-2019 pledging cycle.

Along with my fellow committee members, Lani Taylor- Stewardship Chair, Dani Montague, Paul Schroeder, Maggie Spencer, Michael Barber and our talented Dr. Bill McNabb, we want to say how sincerely grateful we are to each of you, and how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity to ensure the work of our church continues in full this coming year. Thank you very much!

This year's *Because of You* Stewardship campaign in fact had two key objectives. The first was to increase pledges among those already pledging. Second, we wanted to attract more first-time pledgers. I'm happy to report, because of you, we succeeded in achieving both of these goals. We welcome 31 new pledging families this year, and of those families who pledged last year, 62 were able to increase their pledge. To each of you, both the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees, thank you very much.

Looking forward in the year, know that we'll launch the 2019-2020 pledge campaign on September 29. More details will be provided closer to that time. We hope you will again participate in that effort to support Piedmont Church's annual operating budget.

ENDOWMENT FUND

As many of you know, while the Stewardship campaign's purpose is to raise money in the short term to fund our annual operating budget, our Endowment Fund's purpose is to ensure long-term financial security and viability for Piedmont Church.

The Fund is a financial resource for meeting emergency situations and offers a natural place for receiving legacy gifts from members and friends who include Piedmont Church in their estate planning.

You can consider the Endowment Fund as our church's 401K.

There are two ways you can contribute to the Fund:

- 1. Include Piedmont Community Church in your will or estate planning, and
- 2. Make a current gift of cash or other property (e.g., purchase a brick for a minimum \$500 donation in honor of your family or loved one).

Hopefully you were able to join us on May 19, Endowment Sunday, where we unveiled the installation of new bricks into our courtyard, symbolizing these member's financial commitment to the long-term sustainability of Piedmont Church. A lunch was served after the ceremony, along with the opportunity to attend the seminar, *Leaving a Legacy: Basics of Estate Planning*. I hope those who attended found it useful.

Remember, if you are already a member of the Endowment's Founder's Circle, please consider making an additional gift to the Endowment Fund as a sustaining member, either as a gift of cash, or in your will or estate.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Stewardship Committee would like to express special appreciation to Michael Barber, our Director of Communications. Michael has provided tremendous creative guidance and developed compelling materials for both our Giving programs. Thank you so much Michael!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Lani, Dani, Paul, Maggie, Michael, Bill and myself, we each thank you very much for your very generous gifts to Piedmont Church - gifts of time, talent and financial.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Thorne
Board of Trustee Secretary,
Co-Chair of Stewardship Campaign

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The 2018-19 year was pretty typical for our fine old buildings: that is, repairs, maintenance, and improvements were accomplished at both small scale and large.

First of all, in an old and essential tradition, we had two excellent workdays, one in the fall, and one just before Easter. Thank you to all who participated! Many hands (and I think we had about 50 each time) made light work. Windows were cleaned, gardens weeded and planted, bits and pieces and entire rooms painted, and a general sprucing up was accomplished on both occasions. We all know what it takes to maintain a house, and PCC is a very large house, indeed—so, once again, thank you. Oh, and we'll be calling on you all again this fall—but you already knew that.

Last fall, an inspection of Dr. Don Ashburn's home revealed that it needed work. The church owns the house, so, with BOT approval, the house exterior was repainted, the kitchen drains replaced, and improvements made to the electrical system.

The big job this program year got going when we discovered a terminal case of dry rot last fall in one of the major support columns in the sanctuary—rot that extended to the outer wall sheathing and the frame of one of the stained glass windows. Getting it fixed involved plans by a licensed engineer and repairs by a fine local contractor with broad experience in such matters.

The west sanctuary wall was opened inside and out, a new column was fitted, and a steel-reinforced moment joint was created. Now that the work is done, you can't tell that anything happened—which is the way it should be. So, when you look at that wall, just imagine thirty thousand dollars floating there, invisible, but working hard to keep the roof up.

This summer we will undertake a major refreshing of the CE Building. New carpet tile, vinyl plank flooring, better hallway lighting, and all-new interior paint will combine to present a fresh new face for children's and youth ministries—which are, after all, the future of the church. This work is overdue; we are on it and looking forward to being done in time for fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Fitzgerrell

Buildings & Grounds



The largest building and grounds issue this year was the repair of the west sanctuary wall. Photo by Scott Fitzgerrell

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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 14

Leslie Quantz continued her devoted support of young children in her 13th year as Director of Children's Ministries, overseeing the Nursery, Sunday School and Kidz Club program (grades 4-6) with leadership help from intern Bailey Barfield.

The Children's Ministry continued these programs:

- ~Sponsoring a child from Compassion International, Ecuadorian Ines Ulcuango, who has been under our sponsorship for years and is now giving back to her family.
- ~ Sixty-five Christmas shoeboxes were filled with donated items to send to children all over the world. For the second year, we made it a family event after service so that adults could participate with their children

Sunday School: We are in the third year of our "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. Children ages pre-school - 6 th grade meet in the chapel each Sunday and start with games, songs and a main bible story. The children then move to separate classrooms for more discussion about the story, crafts, games and activities. The new program is interesting and rewarding to teach and we have enthusiastic teachers who volunteer their time to be with the children as they grow with Christ. Sunday school continues to be well- attended, with good feedback from students and parents about the curriculum

Christmas Pageant: The annual Christmas pageant, a church tradition for more than 80 years, was held in December under leadership from 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 47th year. Many thanks go to the hard work of the staff, CE Board, the volunteer teachers, Amy Mackenzie as Music Director and Wayne Guidici as pageant directors. The children work hard each year memorizing lines and giving everything they have to their performance. It's a wonderful thing to watch these children tell the story of Jesus in our sanctuary and then continue the evening with an Advent dinner celebration involving all generations of the church.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

See also Rev. Scott Kail's report, Page 12

In his 17th year as Student Pastor, Rev. Scott Kail continued his vital spiritual work with youth.

Rock And Livewire: These programs are flourishing and continue to be the backbone of the youth program, where vital relationships are established and maintained. The adult leadership team for both Rock and Livewire continues to prioritize building relationships with students that are involved in the ministry.

Confirmation: We had a small class this year, with six confirmands that completed our 9-week class. The confirmands were received as church members with the support of their mentors on November 11.

Mexico Mission: As always, the trip was a huge success. Twenty structures (2 more than last year!) were built by 320 students and adult leaders in Mexico. This trip continues to be a backbone for involving the greater Piedmont community in the workings and mission of the church. We are excited about the future of this and other mission trips as we enthusiastically support these service mission opportunities for students and adults.

Fundraisers: The Treasure Sale raised \$36,000. This amazing feat was due to the tireless work of over 80 volunteers and the generosity of all those that donated items. We appreciate all who came to hunt the treasures and purchase goods as well!

FALL KICK-OFF PICNIC

The annual picnic was again held in September at the Piedmont Park. Board members prepared the food, drink and dessert available in addition to the tasty taco truck offerings. Mitch Polzak and his Royal Deuces band kept everyone entertained in the beautiful weather and scenery and kids got their energy out in the giant bounce house. One of our favorite fall events, this is not only a great time to re-connect with other members after the summer, but also a wonderful opportunity to bring a friend to introduce to our church community.

FAMILY CAMP

Family camp was held over Labor Day weekend in Westminster Woods in Sonoma County with 31 people in attendance. Two days and nights were spent in the beautiful woods, where we participated in outdoor worship, singing songs, hiking, making s'mores, arts and crafts, enjoying screen-free social hours and exploration and fellowship.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

In response to the engagement survey results, the board plans to create small groups of families to lead and organize activities both within and outside of the church, with the goal of fostering friendships and community among young families. In addition, the board has a liaison with the Mission Action Team to help support and promote family-friendly service projects. I am so grateful for the incredible leadership and passion we have in Rev. Scott Kail and Leslie Quantz as examples for our children. They work hard to make this program sustainable and joyful. I also send my thanks to 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 Hannah Hanrahan, Anne Conneely, Kyla Oh, Tina Farman, Tomas Melian, Jeffrey Hiller, John Meyjes, Alison Clayshulte, Lyle Johnson, Lindy Lowe, Stephen Tindle and Lauren Young.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwendolyn Osborn
Christian Education Board Co-Chair



STUDENT MINISTRIES



REV. SCOTT KAIL

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 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 of the ministry over the past year.

We have been fortunate to continue to receive two grants to staff Interns for our Student Ministries. Jeremy Kaetzel and Baily Barfield have been with us this year and have greatly contributed to the health and growth of ministry to students in and around Piedmont. Both Jeremy and Baily will be moving on the other endeavors and I will be actively seeking to fill both positions for the 2019-2020 School year.

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 that our ministry is dependent upon. Over the past year, the focus has been specific and fruitful.

We continue to have as our first priority that of building relationships with students that are involved in the ministry. This is a growing number and consists of church members as well as many students whose families are of different faiths and or no faith association. We count this a huge privilege to have access and active ministry to so many. A team of volunteer leaders also assist 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 roll 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 remains steady and the "pool" of students is over 80 for ROCK and 40+ for LIVEWIRE.

Journey, our Sunday morning offering for grades 7-12 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 regular and tends to mirror family attendance each Sunday. As with the flow of attendance of the church as a whole, we experience ups and downs in attendance 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 to the sanctuary for the monthly administering of Communion.

Confirmation occurred in the fall of this year and was offered to 8th and 9th grade students. This was part of a purposeful move on behalf of Student Ministries and the Christian Education (CE) Board to make the most of Confirmation and best integrate it into the total ministry experience for the Middle School students. It was very successful and culminated in 'Youth Sunday' where the students led the congregation in worship. As a result, 6 students were confirmed on November 11, 2018.

Mexico Missions underwent some tweaking and changes for the good this year. We added many steps in the preparation and training end as well as successfully recruited more adults that have ever attended a Mexico trip. We reached a new high with 320 participants and continue to be excited about the steady interest in the trip with the students of Piedmont. The trip was a huge success. We built 20 homes, and we continue to be excited about the future

and a firm belief in service mission's opportunities for the students of Piedmont 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's opportunities 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 the 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 charge 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 look forward very eagerly to the sixth trip to Africa this next summer. A group of 11 will travel to Malawi to connect with our sister church Kafita as well as serve at rural feeding centers, hospitals and a school for the blind.

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

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Scott Kail Director of Student Ministries





LESLIE QUANTZ

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 Journey, the Youth Sunday school program. Sunday School classes are offered during the 10:30 am service. This is the

third year of using Group Publishing's 'Dig In' program for our curriculum.

This year, the Sunday School children are starting in the Sanctuary once a month, enjoying a Children's moment.

During the year, we sent 65 shoeboxes around the world for Operation Christmas Child. We passed out Valentine's in the sanctuary, gave Bibles to our third-grade children and made flowers to pass out to all the women for Mother's Day.

CURRICULUM

We have been very happy with Group Publishing's 'Dig Into the Bible.' This year, we are digging into 'Discipleship, Reflecting God's Heart in Everyday Life.' The children enjoy the stories, games and crafts. They continue to 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. 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 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. This program is very easy to teach and there is minimal preparation time for volunteers. I am always looking for new teachers, please consider teaching. It is so important to teach our children the importance of God.

NURSERY

The Nursery is available every Sunday. The Nursery continues to be a safe, vibrant, fun place for our youngest members.

FELLOWSHIP

Kidz Club is for kids in fourth, fifth and sixth graders and meets monthly. 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 planted herbs for Earth Day.

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. The Salvation Army Band performed for the 48th year! The patience of the Sunday School teachers during pageant season is always appreciated.

FACILITIES

The Sunday school classes continue to enjoy starting in the chapel and we thank the many who helped with the spring work day in wiping down walls, cleaning classrooms and sterilizing the nursery. Thanks to all of you for your continued support. This program is very dependent on volunteers and I thank each of you who contribute

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



COMMUNICATIONS



MICHAEL BARBER

If you're a fan of Saturday Night Live as I am, you may recall the character 'Target Lady' played to perfection by Kristen Wiig. In her bit, the overly enthusiastic cashier weaves her signature line into conversation. "Success!"

Although I strive to be much less annoying, my reaction to the results

of this past year's communications efforts at Piedmont Community Church is just as cheerful.

As I work through my second year of service, I'm thrilled to report that our communications plan – lifting up all good things about the church while sending our message of God's unconditional love and grace for all into the wider community – is successful.

Part of my job is reporting on metrics, including internet activity and church attendance. I can report that more people are connecting with Piedmont Church online than ever before, and Sunday attendance has increased an average of 17.9% in the past 12 months and 25.5% since November.

We can at least partially attribute the attendance increases to the fact that our church's message is more accessible. Sunday services began LIVE streaming on Facebook in August, with worship videos stored on our website for future viewing. Our clergy have spoken to visitors who tell them their first exposure to Piedmont Church was the live webcast.

I must thank Steve Senter and Bob Wright for their dedication to helping with camera and audio tasks, making our live stream possible.

I've enjoyed working with so many of you to achieve these and many other successes, including:

- ~ Our videos on Facebook and website were played a total of 50,433 minutes (or 840 hours) this year. Compare this to 16,585 (or 276 hours) in the previous year, an increase of 306%. This includes LIVE stream each Sunday at 10:30 am and other produced video pieces.
- ~ Production of *Twenty Keys* Mexico documentary, viewed in worship by nearly 500, downloaded more than 350 times playing for a total of 84 hours in the first 4 weeks.

- ~ Total audio downloads of sermons, full worship recordings and music exceeded 12,500. Compare this to less than 2,000 downlads in the same period last year, an increase of 620%.
- ~ Worked with the Stewardship Committee to create a communications plan for the *Because of You* Pledge Campaign, raising \$38,000 more than the previous year using fewer mailings
- ~ Our weekly emails are being read by an average of 335 people, compared to an average of 270 people last year, with an open rate of 43%. The national average open rate for religious institutions is 29%.
- ~ Our Treasures Sale saw record earnings, turning over \$36,000 to the Mexico house building mission. This is due in part to a promotional video that reached 1,400 people on social media, yard signs and newspaper ads.
- ~ The Mission Action Team earned \$41,500 with the help of our AGM catalog.
- ~ *The Messenger* newsletter continues to inform and inspire with feature stories, photographs and colorful design
- \sim We increased Facebook activity from 762 'Likes' in 2018 to 834 in May, 2019 (+11%)

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 Commnity 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

YoutTube - Search channel 'Piedmont Community Church'





The short film *Twenty Keys* was made to celebrate the house building mission in Tijuana, Mexico. Nearly 500 were in attendance on Mexico Sunday as the film debuted in worship.

The film was subsequently downloaded from our website 350 times, playing 80 hours in the first 3 weeks.

MUSIC MINISTRY



DR. STEPHEN MAIN

2018-2019 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, Welcome Home.

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 – we were completely sold out for both shows, which is a great problem to have. 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 our upcoming spring "Americana" service, with bluegrass influences. This performance will follow on the heels of our wildly popular "Americana" Christmas Sunday, this past December.

Membership in our choirs is strong, with four new members this year. 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 *Dark Night of the Soul*, by contemporary Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. Accompanied by strings, piano, this piece is striking for its dark mysticism and ecstatic take on an ancient text.

In addition, the choir and ensemble will also perform a recent piece of my own, *The Tyger*, based on the famous poem by William Blake. 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 PCC 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*



ALTAR GUILD

The main news for the Altar Guild this year is the purchase of new banners for the sanctuary. Zookie Todd, along with former AG members Christy Guidici, Lonnie Simonson and Marion Schmidt, have actually been working on this effort for years, evaluating needs, designs, and costs as well as obtaining approval of the Pastors and Board of Deacons. After years of saving bake sale proceeds, we were able to purchase 3 new sets:

The first set was ordered, made, shipped and received in time for Christmas use (Christmas Eve through Epiphany). These hangings are a deep red with trumpeting angels and the text: 'Joy to the World' and 'The Lord has Come.'

Next, we purchased the banners that you saw during Lent featuring doves and text from John 14:27: 'Peace I leave with you', and 'My peace I give to you.' Although purple (Advent and Lent) they also can be used at other times and will allow rotation with the stunning 'I am the Vine', 'You are the Branches' silk banners

Finally, we received and hung the new Easter banners (Easter Sunday until Pentecost), purchased to replace the old linens. These have lilies and an open Bible with the text 'Alleluia He is risen' and 'He is risen indeed.' We certainly hope all of the congregation likes them as much as we do!

Also included in this work was the design and construction (Wayne Marzolf) of new rods and specially designed adjustable hanging poles so the high banners can now be easily changed safely from floor level without high ladders. Thanks to everyone for a great job indeed.

The Altar Guild of course also sets up flowers for the church each Sunday. Fresh cut flowers can be donated and dedicated to loved ones or for special occasions by signing up in the courtyard at our table each Sunday, or, through the church website which has become the most popular method.

Flower donations have been doing well, with numerous months fully booked. As a part of the flower program, flowers that are unclaimed after service by the donors are directed to church members who are unable to attend worship in person, church offices or retirement homes. Very special thanks go to Alice Wong Roth for her hard work this year as de facto flower chair for the AG—she made it all happen.

We would also like to thank everyone on the Altar Guild for all the other important work throughout the year including setting up for communion each month at both services, decorating the church for both Easter and Christmas, along with lily and poinsettia management and delivery afterwards to those unable to attend services.

These thanks go not only to the Altar Guild members, but also to their family members and friends (as well as former Altar Guild members) for pitching in and helping throughout the liturgical year.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Adams & Paul Schroeder Co-Presidents, Altar Guild

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 Fellowship Committee 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), they 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 Community 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 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

The Congregational Life Committee continued to oversee various efforts to make visitors and new members feel welcome and engaged with our church. We thank the volunteers from the Welcoming Team for making every member and visitor feel welcome on Sunday Mornings. Without your efforts, we would not have the wonderful smiling faces that we have every Sunday.

Thank you to all the Deacons, Loaves and Fishes, MAT, and the numerous volunteers that volunteered throughout the year. Our job is impossible without you!

I am honored to have served the Board of Deacons and Piedmont Community Church for the last four years. These past years on the Deacons has allowed me to develop new relationships, reinvigorate some old ones, and has led me to a more spiritual place. I am thankful for Piedmont Community Church and the wonderful members.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Foreman *Chair, Board of Deacons*

MISSION ACTION TEAM

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:

Mike Bandrowski, Christian Education: Lindy Lowe; Members-at-large: Judy Wright, Mary Fielder, Bob Cheatham, 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 (AGM), a holiday gift market in December. The AGM celebrated its15th year, raising over \$41,500 in life changing donations to support 18 domestic and international agencies.

Better World Funds for Mission projects will be supported by the Pick-A-Party held on June 2, 2019. This will enable MAT to award BWF Grants to deserving mission projects.

Mission service opportunities included Project Peace Days in June, August, October, March. Upon recommendation from the Deacons, a single agency was chosen (out of the many opportunities) to foster church community.

Monthly service opportunities at Berkeley Men's Shelter transitioned to Oakland CityTeam at the end of 2018. We now serve monthly at Hope Cafe.

MAT also reviewed agencies receiving Deacon Accrual Funds and recommended renewed funding to CityTeam, Destiny Arts, Faith Network, George Mark House, Habitat for Humanity, Grateful Gatherings and Project Peace. To keep our congregation informed, each agency has shared their work at a Moment for Mission.

MAT hopes to continue to inform and provide service mission opportunities for Piedmont Community Church members and with the Pick-A-Party, to provide Better World Fund grants for worthwhile projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Selma Chin
Mission Action Team

MISSION SERVICE 2018-2019	HOURS
Mission Action Team: Coordination (12 hrs), 10 Participants (240 hrs)	252
Project Peace Days: Coordination (8 hrs), 50 Participants (150 hrs)	158
Faith Network: 23 Tutors (920 hrs), 3 Food Bank Baggers (90 hrs)	1,110
Berkeley Men's Shelter: Coordinate/Cook (226 hrs), 12 Participants (220 hrs)	446
CityTeam Oakland: Coordination (8 hrs) 65 participants (195 hrs)	203
Oremi: 1 Mentor (96 hrs)	96
Treasure Sale: 5 Organizers (100 hrs), 40 Volunteers (30 hrs)	1,300
AGM: Coordination (20 hrs), 10 Participants (80 hrs)	100
Adopt A Family: Coordination (32 hrs); Participants (60 hrs)	92
Shoebox: Coordination (25 hrs); 40 Participants (40 hrs)	65
Refugee Task Force: 30 Participants (10-50 hrs)	2,000

TOTAL HOURS: 5,823

CHURCH CLERK

MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership, May 15, 2018	1,364
Members Received	
by Confession of Faith, Letter of	
Transfer or Reaffirmation	20
Confirmands	6
Total Members Received	26
Members Removed:	
Deaths	11
Letters of Transfer & Requests	5
Total Members Removed	16
Total Membership, May 15, 2019	1,374
PASTORAL SERVICES, OFFICIATIN	NG
Baptisms	7
Marriages	8
Funerals/Memorials	10
Total Pastoral Services	25
AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATT	ENDANCE
2018-2019	262

CONFIRMANDS & NEW MEMBERS

CONFIRMANDS

Molly Ashton Alex Aubrecht Liam Campbell Brady Colbert Sheri Lynn Halden

Ann Jumper

NEW MEMBERS

Thompson Bellingrath Cheryl Chiene Benson

Doug Biehn Jayne Biehn Brian Cain Brian Cain Liam Cain

Jeff Dorman Erin Gore Gary Hurd

Kathy Hurd

Wendi Lelke-Wallway

Kimery Leong Ryan McCorvie Mark McLaughlin Shannon Peloquin

Erin Rivera Jerry Wu Julie Wu Janice Yager

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Bowman Greta Arnell Harriel Dick Fletcher Edna Parker Evelyn Craig Maggini Carolyn Renton Bette Evans Anderson Betsy Wagener
Denny McLeod
Wheatley Allen
Carol Lawson
Roddy Moore
Kimberly Egan
Dick Cochran



CHURCH BOARDS & GUILDS

Piedmont Community Church - 2019-2020 Proposed Slate Underline denotes persons to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2020

Michael Osborn, President Joan Chow, Vice President Scott Fitzgerrell, B&G Steven Thorne, Secretary

Class of 2021

Jan Wolfe – Tresurer Dani Montague – Stewardship Adam Thacher - Personnel Randy Littenecker – B&G

Class of 2022

Kathy Kelleher
Steve Senter
Susan Mani
Richard Thompson

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2020

Suzanne Latham, Co-Chair Linda McClain, Co-Chair John Quantz Helen Steers Janet Peterson

Class of 2021

Mike Bandrowski Dana Gordon Colton Leland Leisz Kristi Marcelle

Class of 2022

James Ramos Katrina Bergen Ron Heckman

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Class of 2020

Hannah Hanrahan, Chair Anne Conneeley Kyla Oh

Class of 2021

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

Class of 2022

Jeff Dorman Amy MacKenzie Zookie Todd

ALTAR GUILD

Class of 2020

Penny Robb Gino Roth Linda Smith Munyan Paul Schroeder

Class of 2021

Kara Baysinger Kristin Parkhurst Other New Members TBD

Class of 2022

Mary Heller
Judy Wright
Other New Members TBD

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Tim Recker, Ann Lin, John Benson

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Charlie Nooney, Past President
Jim Fleser
Lani Taylor
Maggie Spencer
John Halley

Jay Foreman Steve Wuebbens Charlie Wood

BOARD OF DEACONS

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Gwendolyn Osborn, Co-Chair Tina Farman Tomas Melian Lauren Young, Student

ALTAR GUILD

Will Adams Connie Halley Zookie Todd Amy McKenzie

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bob Leslie Julie McDonald David Schmidt

ENDOWMENT

The Piedmont Community Church Investment Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and provides oversight and guidance for the short and long-term church financial assets.

The members of this committee consist of the three voting members of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, including the Treasurer of the church, and at least two non-trustee members of the church who have experience or expertise in the areas of finance and investments.

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 and members Justice Carl Anderson, Richard Eigenbrode, Pat Leicher and ex-officio member Rev. Dr. William McNabb.

The Treasurer appoints a committee member as the committee chair.

The Investment Committee managed over \$2.5 million in investments during the past year, 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 \$3.5 billion of assets. Serpio Capital's investment approach is to augment the financial return for the church while maintaining the safety of the principle.

As of December 31, 2018 our assets were split roughly 61/38% 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 2018 was 4.47%. This compares to a weighted benchmark return of \$5.5%. Through April 1, 2019 PCC was 9.8% versus 10.2% for the benchmark.

This is the seventh 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:

2011 2 (all cash donations)

2012 12 (all cash donations)

2013 33 (22 cash donations, 11 estate plans)

2014 84 (71 cash donations, 30 included in estate

plans, 17 both cash & Damp; estate plans)

2015 26 (all cash donations, 1 estate plan)

2016 17 (all cash donations)

2017 26 (all cash donations)

2018 19 (all cash donations)

2019 14 (all cash donations)

The Wallace and Mary Alexander Founder's Circle had its official unveiling of 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.

The Alexander Circle has received 200 donations as of the most recent addition on May 19, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Leslie

Chair, Endowment Development Committee

Bob Coleman

Chair. Endowment Investment Committee



he 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:

"The opportunity is given of building up a church that will be the pride of the community in future years; we have the chance of showing what a church conducted on the broad lines of basic Christianity can do: if we let it slip, if we allow our enthusiasm to be chilled by the old partisan cries, if we insist that the work must be Congregational or Episcopalian or Presbyterian to be acceptable to the Almighty and helpful to mankind...then we prove that we are not as far beyond

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

- Dr. John Stuchell, 1910

the Middle Ages as we had fondly imagined. But we do not take this dismal view."

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
Rev. Richard E. Shields, Presbyterian, 1935-1939
Dr. Holland F. Burr, Congregational, 1941-1959
Dr. Paul W. Yinger, Congregational, 1960-1971
Rev. Samuel J. Lindamood, Jr., Presbyterian, 1972-1994
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 Muilenberg 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.