

2019 - 2020  Piedmont
Community Church
ANNUAL REPORT

'Community' is Our Middle Name

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH
JUNE 7, 2020
11:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF A QUORUM
MICHAEL OSBORN, PRESIDENT OF THE TRUSTEES

INVOCATION
DR. WILLIAM McNABB, SENIOR MINISTER

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
MICHAEL OSBORN

TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET REVIEW
JAN WOLFE

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT
SCOTT FITZGERRELL

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD REPORT
HANNAH HANRAHAN

STEWARDSHIP REPORT
STEVEN THORNE

PERSONNEL REPORT
RICH THOMPSON

ELECTION & RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS
MICHAEL OSBORN

IN MEMORIAM
DR. WILLIAM McNABB

MINISTER'S REMARKS
DR. WILLIAM McNABB

BENEDICTION
DR. DON ASHBURN, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

ADJOURNMENT



DR. WILLIAM
MCNABB

I am entering my nineteenth and final year of ministry at Piedmont Community Church. It has been a great joy serving alongside the creative and energetic members of Piedmont 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.

This will be a year of transition as I have announced my intention to retire at the end of September. In the coming years, I believe Piedmont Church will be able to do many wonderful things in God's service 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 \$18,000 over 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 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. The fact that we already had video of our worship services up and running has helped us during this pandemic

where the only way to worship together is online. 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 church's total endowments are now \$1.3 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. This work is currently on hold because of the pandemic but we hope to resume these ministries when the lockdown is lifted.

The Refugee Task Force continues under the leadership of Scott Willis and this year we sponsored our fifth refugee family - the Fazlis a family of seven from Afghanistan. They are doing a great job of becoming acclimated to life in America. Our three previous refugee families are the Bhattis, Shahzads and Yousufzais and all are doing well.

Our relationship with our sister church Kafita CCAP in Lilongwe Malawi remains strong. I traveled along with Scott Kail, Michael Barber and some of our high school students 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, and Mponela Orphan feeding program. We also hosted Rev. Mecious Nkhoma, the former pastor of one of Kafita's spinoff churches. He is studying for a year at a seminary in Los Angeles and he came up to join with us in worship.

Our sister church relationship with Imani Community Church in Oakland enters its eleventh year and continues to grow and strengthen. We shared a wonderful pulpit exchange last fall but because of the lockdown we had to cancel the other pulpit exchange and the 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 *In The Fullness of Time*, *Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*, and *The Good Samaritan for Our Time*, 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 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. Though the pandemic has altered many of our normal church activities, we have found new and creative ways to worship and work together.

May God continue to bless Piedmont Community Church as we seek to shine His light into dark places.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. William McNabb
Senior Minister



Dr. William McNabb invites online worshippers to Easter Sunday services in a 30-second online video ad that was viewed more than 5,100 times on facebook and on our website. As a result, our Easter Sunday service was viewed more than 3,500 times on all online platforms. Photo by Michael Barber



DR. DON
ASHBURN

It has been quite a year in our church community – and in our global community! No one anticipated we'd have to deal with so many changes and challenges so abruptly; at the same time, having a chance to look at ourselves and our place in the world from a fresh perspective. Ministry in these times

has been a whole new experience for me; with moments of sadness and grief, isolation and frustration, combined with a renewed sense of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and the power of the Spirit in community. Yet, even as anything before February 2020 seems like a very long time ago, here are some highlights of the past 12 months in my ministry;

~ I taught two adult education series over the past year, one on *What Does the Bible Mean?* and the other on Interfaith Dialogue.

~ I am currently leading 4 weekly Zoom classes/gatherings, open for anyone to participate.

~ I lead a team that is addressing how we understand and practice membership at the church.

~ I continue to work with the Connecting Team, led by Jennifer Nixon, to help new members find their way at our church.

~ In the fall, I met with and welcomed several new members of the congregation. As it turns out, shelter-in-place started right as I was preparing to meet with another class of new members. Membership gatherings have been put off until we can meet together in the same room.

~ I have worked closely with the Transitional Minister Search Committee as they've begun their important work. I will continue to be a resource as need arises.

~ I am preparing to serve as Temporary Head of Staff in the fall, after Dr. McNabb's retirement.

~ I continue to lead our weekly Walking Together group – as we now Zoom Together.

~ I continue to work with the work of the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, the Mission Action Team and many other groups in the church. I was especially thankful to participate with church members and friends in serving dinner to folks at CityTeam Ministry.

~ I lead the monthly gathering of our Prayer Circle, the members of which pray continually for those whose needs we've become aware of through our prayer boxes and by other means.

~ I've been the primary provider of pastoral care and hospital visitation in our community.

~ I preach and lead worship with Dr. McNabb and our talented staff. It's been both a joy and an education, figuring out how to worship together while sheltering in place.

~ I continue to work closely with, and be impressed by, our Communications Director, and media guru, Michael Barber.

~ I remain active in my denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA); including serving on the Committee for New Worshipping Communities. It's inspiring to witness and support innovative and exciting avenues of ministry in the Bay Area.

In 17 years of ministry with you, this has truly been the most challenging 12 months for me. It's also been the most inspiring. I continue to value the ministry we share, and look forward to what God has in store for us next as we live, and serve, and worship together in Christ's name.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Don Ashburn

Associate Minister



ABOVE: Guitarist and band leader Mitch Polzak plays during the Homecoming Picnic for Piedmont Church Sunday, September 8. The gathering included spicy tacos, juicy watermelon and plenty of rockabilly from the Royal Deuces. **BELOW LEFT:** Dr. Don Ashburn shares a fun time with a young family. **BELOW RIGHT:** A girl wearing a very large hat enjoys a slice of watermelon. Photos by Michael Barber





MICHAEL
OSBORN

As I reflect on the past year, serving as President of the Piedmont Community Church, and entering my third of four years on the Board of Trustees, I recognize there is so much to be grateful for, while also understanding the great uncertainty we grapple with daily—in our personal lives and in the life of our beloved Church.

I entered the year with the knowledge that the Board would be laying groundwork for our Senior Minister transition as Dr. William McNabb prepares for his retirement in September. I entered the year knowing we would again be reliant on managing a very rigorous budget made possible by the generous annual contributions from you. I entered the year knowing we would be continuing our commitment to execute our goals resulting from our multi-year engagement study.

Like all of you, I never could have imagined completing my term watching months of services in my fuzzy slippers from home, participating in meetings via video and hosting our Annual Meeting as a webinar.

Things have changed.

Like you, I am thrilled that in the face of this unprecedented pandemic (by our generation), our church could perform. It is not an overnight success. The ability to pivot to live streamed and video produced services was a feat accomplished by our Communications Director, Michael Barber, and the dedicated volunteers who have led us into these modern times. While other churches sought new ways to reach their congregation, we seamlessly shifted to what has become the new “normal.” This is not permanent, and I yearn for the day we can greet each other on Sunday morning in the Sanctuary, but I am

grateful that our staff was so well prepared for this remarkable move online.

I have had the opportunity this past year to work closely with 14 dedicated members of the Board of Trustees, and our talented ministers and staff. They take their responsibility to you with the utmost seriousness and participate together respectfully as a Christian family governing the church. You will hear from several of them during our Annual Meeting as we discuss the year in review as well as plans from the Christian Education Board, Buildings & Grounds, Personal Committee and our Finance Committee as we discuss and vote on our 2020/21 fiscal year budget.

Beyond this current global pandemic, I realize Piedmont Church has many long-term decisions ahead of us. Most immediately, the recruitment of a Transitional Minister, followed by our mission study, and then the creation of our permanent Senior Minister nominating committee and its subsequent search for our next leader.

During these trying times, I sincerely hope you will support the church leadership in their mission.

In closing, I am grateful for the support our ministers and staff provide its members and this group of Trustees that serve you. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to serve you, and especially Dr. McNabb during his final year of service. I regret that I cannot share plans for a proper retirement celebration at this time.

Like you, I pray daily for a return to life as we enjoyed it prior to this devastating pandemic.

All the best,

Michael J Osborn
President
Board of Trustees



ABOVE: Church President Michael Osborn takes questions from congregants attending the first Transition Coffee Talk. BELOW LEFT: Church member Eric Behrens asks a question about the Transition time frame. BELOW RIGHT: Trustee Joan Chow addresses the group. Photos by Michael Barber





HANNAH
HANRAHAN

This year, the Christian Education (CE) Board continued with Children and Youth ministries oversight, ran the annual church picnic and the Christmas Pageant.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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).

The Children's Ministry continued these programs:

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

Sunday School: We are in the fourth year using the "Dig In" curriculum. Throughout the year, children learned about many topics such as the Fruits of the Spirit, Psalm 139 and the Ten Commandments. Children ages pre-school - 6th grade meet in the Chapel each Sunday and start with worship, games, songs and a main Bible story. They then move to separate classrooms for more discussion about the story, crafts, games and activities. The children are engaged with the lessons, ask many questions and enjoy the weekly craft that reinforces the message.

We thank the many parents and church members who rally together to not only teach Sunday school but also act as role models for the children. 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. This year the pageant introduced a new format that was performed during the 10:30 am service. It was well received by church members and a wonderful opportunity for children to not only perform but serve

as greeters in the "big church." Many thanks to the hard work of the staff, CE Board, the volunteer teachers, Amy Mackenzie as Music Director and Alison Clayshulte who helped coordinate logistics.

YOUTH MINISTRIES In his 18th 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 class of 6 confirmands this year, who completed our 9-week class. The confirmands were received as church members with the support of their mentors on November 17.

Mexico Mission: Throughout the year, preparation for Mexico provided youth and parents the opportunity to come together to train, fundraise and learn important leadership skills. Unfortunately, two weeks prior, Rev. Kail made the hard decision to cancel the trip in consideration of the health and well-being of the youth and adult volunteers. While the team was unable to travel to Tijuana, Mexico, Rev. Kail worked with our partner organization, Amor, to continue with building 10 of the 18 homes our church had committed to build using local labor. While we would have loved the opportunity to serve, we are thrilled to have provided 10 homes to families. This trip continues to be a backbone for involving the greater Piedmont community in the mission of the church.

Fundraisers: The Treasure Sale raised \$28,000. This amazing feat was accomplished with a much shorter selling window and 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!

HOMEcomings PICNIC The annual picnic was held in September at Piedmont Park. Church members enjoyed a sunny day in the park complete with tacos,

salad, refreshments, music and games. Mitch Polzak and his Royal Deuces band kept everyone entertained and kids played various lawn games coordinated by the CE Board. 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 FELLOWSHIP In response to the engagement survey results, the CE Board created a parental advisory group led by Alison Clayshulte. Quarterly family fellowship potluck gatherings are a key outcome of this team. Two potlucks (pre-pandemic) were hosted one at the church and the other hosted by Michael and Gwendolyn Osborn. The potluck has been well received and it has been rewarding to see relationships grow between adults and children. We look forward to continuing quarterly get togethers (when we can!) and ideating with parents on new ways to engage families.

Mission Action Team Liaison: In response to a goal of engaging families in more community projects, we appointed Lindy Lowe and Kyla Oh as

liaisons to the MAT. Their leadership was influential in contributing to ideas such as the Coastal Clean-Up Pick-a-Party and helping reinforce the need for family-friendly service opportunities. Overall, there are many ways for families to serve and we're excited about continuing to collaborate with the MAT.

It was a pleasure serving the church over the past year and working with our faithful and passionate leaders Rev. Kail and Leslie Quantz. Their hard work and dedication to the children and youth programs is deeply appreciated. I also send my thanks to the members of the CE Board who faithfully participate in our monthly meetings and volunteer their time to make all the programs successful!

Many thanks Anne Conneely, Kyla Oh, Jeff Dorman, John Meyjes, Jeffrey Hiller, Alison Clayshulte, Lyle Johnson, Lindy Lowe, Stephen Tindle, Amy McKenzie and Zookie Todd.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Hanrahan
Christian Education Board Chair



Children participating in the Christmas Pageant greet congregants as they arrive for worship. Photo by Michael Barber



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 Community Church. I love and continue to be so excited about the opportunity to serve Christ and those in 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. No one could have predicted how things would change during a pandemic, but as we end our program year it has challenged us. Our ministry has continued.

With that said, allow me to cover some specifics of the ministry over the past year.

Intern Staffing: We have been fortunate to retain Katherine Vieriamendes for her second year. She has committed to serve a third year and, under the circumstances of the pandemic, we will continue our programs through the summer. She will stay on staff during that time as well. We are maintaining an active search for a male counterpart to start in the fall.

Rock and Livewire are functioning well and continue to be the backbone of the youth program. We have moved all activities online using a Zoom platform and it has been effective. It is here that we establish and maintain the vital relationships that our ministry is dependant upon. Over the past year, the focus has been specific and fruitful. We continue our first priority 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 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 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 continues to grow and the "pool" of students is well over 150 for Rock and 60+ for Livewire.

Journey, our Sunday morning option, did meet until quarantine and will resume when possible. This time provided a way 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 students. 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 grade students. It was very successful and culminated in "Youth Sunday" where the students led the congregation in worship. As a result, six students were confirmed on November 17.

The Mexico Mission trip started with a bang after Thanksgiving with a full team of 308 participants and a sizeable wait list. Preparation was action-packed and hugely successful. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused us to have to cancel the trip in late March. Using money already sent to Amor Ministries, 10 of the 18 homes will be built using local labor. I continue to be excited about the future and a firm belief in service mission's opportunities for the students of Piedmont Church and greater Piedmont.

Rock Pizza Lunch continued this year and was a huge success, up to the point of quarantine. This is purely an outreach ministry for the students of Piedmont. Each Tuesday, the students from Piedmont High School walk over to the youth room and enjoy pizza and a drink, as well as a really cool and welcoming atmosphere. We charge just enough to break even and average around 100 students each week. Livewire Movie Night is weekly on Friday and has had a steady drawing, many of which do not addend church at all (yet!). The continuation of LiveWire Movie Nights monthly on Friday nights has been huge outreach to middle schoolers during the shelter-in-place order using online platforms.

New times call for new methods of Ministry. As we

move forward into the unknown, we are shifting our High School ministry to a small group format that allows us to stay connected while not able to meet in person. We are also going to continue the program through the summer.

This coming year will cold look very different but stay similar in content in that we are still on the road to build and strengthen the four areas mentioned earlier.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Scott Kail
Pastor to Students

CHILDREN'S 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 year, we continued

to use Group Publishing's *Dig In* program for our curriculum.

The Sunday school children are started in the Sanctuary once a month, enjoying a children's moment. During the year, we sent over 50 shoeboxes around the world for Operation Christmas Child. We passed out valentines in the Sanctuary and gave Bibles to our third-grade children. We were unable to pass out flowers for Mother's Day due to shelter-in-place, but Michael Barber created a wonderful tribute to mothers with a photo collage online.

We have added a CE board representative to the Mission Action Team (MAT) to help look for opportunities for families with young children (and all children) to help with our volunteer activities. Thanks to MAT for adding age ranges to all volunteer projects.

We have created an advisory committee which meets periodically to discuss the program and to address any changes we may need to make to keep the program vital and up-to-date.

CURRICULUM: We have been very happy with Group Publishing's *Dig Into the Bible*. This year, we are digging into Epic Teachings of the Bible. This year of lessons has series of scripture including The Fruit of the Spirit, The Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer. 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 relating to the topic. For the Fruit of the Spirit series, we learned a different 'fruit.' Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control were all studied.

We had a tree on the wall in the Chapel and each week children added fruit to the tree, representing the topic we were learning. Each series of lessons had activities like this on to tie the lessons together. We continue to collect an offering to support Ines Ulcuango, our Compassion International child from Ecuador. Bibles

See '**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**', *Next Page*

'CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES', *Continued from Previous Page*

were given to third graders and new older students on Bible Sunday. Since we cannot meet together in person, I have been sending out weekly emails of our lessons, including coloring pages and craft ideas. In addition to these emails, I started having twice weekly story times on Zoom. I wanted to be able to see my students!

ATTENDANCE: 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. They make a big difference in the children's lives. I appreciate all who step up and teach. It is a gift to the church and to our children. 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* –A group for kids in fourth, fifth and sixth graders. We meet monthly in the Youth room. This year, we had a lemonade stand for the International Justice League. Many of our activities were cut short due to the shelter-in-place. I have started weekly Zoom meetings so we can continue to check in with each other.

Family Fellowship - We held two potlucks this year for family fellowship and plan to have quarterly events in the future.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: This year we changed the format of the Christmas pageant. The Board of Christian Education (CE) decided that the pageant should be seen by everyone in the Sanctuary, so we moved it to a Sunday morning during the 10:30 service. Many who hadn't been able to come to past pageants were able to see our wonderful children perform-

ing the nativity. It was well received and I anticipate that we will use this format going forward.

Thanks to Alison Clayshulte and Amy McKenzie for the many hours spent producing the pageant. Thanks to the CE Board for their leadership.

FACILITIES: The Christian Education Building has been completely updated with new paint, carpet and laminate flooring in the classrooms. It looks beautiful and fresh. The interior is brighter and more welcoming.

Thanks to the Board of Trustees, Building and Grounds and everyone involved with this project including Scott Fitzgerrell, Lani Taylor and Mary Wilson.

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 guidance. Thanks to the staff at Piedmont Community Church.

Respectfully submitted
Leslie Quantz
Director of Children's Ministries



Dr. Don Ashburn preaches a children's sermon on Sunday, October 13 - a day that included a family picnic in Piedmont Park. Photo by Scott Fitzgerrell



MICHAEL
BARBER

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew, 5:15,16

In many ways, our communications strategy at Piedmont Community Church is a simple one - Just shine the light!

The year began in June with a two-week journey to Malawi, Africa, where we documented time spent with our sister church, Kafita CCAP, Nkhoma Hospital, the School for the Blind and the Mponela Orphan feeding program. The resulting 20-minute mini documentary was shown during worship in September, prompting congregants to donate more the \$5,000 after worship. The money will benefit the people of Malawi in so many ways.

In the fall, communications played a significant role in the annual stewardship campaign. The theme *Because of You* was a holdover from the previous year and was equally successful as we ended once again oversubscribed - this year by \$18,000.

Communications helped bring in nearly 1,100 people to celebrate Christmas Eve with an overflow room at capacity during the 9 pm service, and the annual Christmas Concert, in early December, nearly sold out both performances.

Our social media presence continued to increase this year. In November 2017, Piedmont Church had 650 followers on our Facebook page. In May of 2020, we surged past 1,020 followers, many connecting with us due to our highly promoted video content.

Our overall website activity maintained metrics similar to the previous two years, but the Media Ministry continued to gain momentum with an average of 70 hours of video played per month.

However, on March 15, 2020, everything changed.

A shelter-in-place order by the State of California forced us to close the Sanctuary to help prevent the spread of coronavirus or COVID-19. This gave us little option but to rely heavily on the online worship

products we had developed since August of 2018. On March 15, we broadcast live to our website and Facebook page, praying, preaching and singing to an empty room.

The following week, and in the weeks to follow, clergy and I pre-recorded worship and uploaded services each Sunday. Additionally, all clergy made use of our media by creating inspiring features, weekly devotions and special music. The results have been outstanding. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Piedmont Church has played an average of 404 hours per month, an increase of nearly 600%. On any given Sunday, our worship videos receive a minimum of 1,800 views.

I have little doubt that the Media Ministry will continue to play a significant role in helping to connect parishioners, and friends of the church, by delivering much needed inspirational content during the pandemic and beyond.

~ Our emails are more widely read than a year ago, averaging 62% open rate vs. 49% in 2019. National average for faith-based organizations is 27%.

~ Total audio downloads of sermons, full worship recordings and music exceeded 14,200, an increase of 2,000 downloads from 2019.

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 Church to our members and the wider community.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Barber
Director of Communications

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS & CONTACTS

PiedmontChurch.org - Official Website
Weekly Email - Contact Michael@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'

STEWARDSHIP

Because of your continued financial generosity, we collectively increased pledges for the 2020-2021 operating budget by \$18K, to a total of \$1,097,093. This is a steady 3 % increase over the previous, 2019-2020 pledging cycle.

Along with my fellow committee members, Dani Montague (Stewardship Co-Chair), Susan Butenhoff, Jan Wolfe, Paul Schroeder and Dr. William McNabb, we want to say how very 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!

Building on last year, this year's pledge campaign focused on two critical goals. 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 welcomed 15 new pledging families this year, and of those families who pledged last year, 65 were able to increase their pledge. For each of you, the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees, thank you very much.

At this moment, our church family is going through unprecedented change, starting with the emotional and economic impact of COVID-19. Later this year, we will see the retirement of Dr. McNabb in September. This will be followed by a period of transition as we welcome our new Transitional Minister in January, who will help guide our community in the search for our next Senior Minister.

In the coming year, your continued and dedicated financial support will become even more critical to the continued financial health of Piedmont Church. We hope you will again participate in the fall pledge campaign, to fund our 2021-2022 annual operating budget and ensure steady continuity during these exciting new times.

ENDOWMENT

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 four ways you can contribute to the Fund:

1. Include Piedmont Community Church in your will or estate planning,
2. Make a gift of cash or other property in honor of, or in remembrance of, a family member, loved one, or to celebrate a special moment in the life of your family.
3. If you are an existing member of the Fund, you can make an additional gift to the Fund, either as a gift of cash or by including the church in your will or estate.
4. In response to member feedback, you can now personalize your gift to the Fund by designating it for one or more church ministries. The five ministry options are 1) Buildings and Grounds, 2) Music, 3) Youth, 4) Missions and 5) Digital Media Outreach.

Your gift, designated to your ministry of choice, will help guarantee that ministry will continue to thrive and serve others within our church community, and beyond.

As a result of COVID-19, this spring's Endowment Fund campaign has been postponed to a later time. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Endowment Committee which has spent a great amount of volunteer time in its preparation over the past months.

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

Total church assets as of April 30, 2020 were \$2,128,000 held in many different types of buckets.

Investible asset were held as follows:

Cash - 29%
Bonds - 20%
Stocks -51%

Total portfolio returns were -6.44% versus our benchmark of -5.25%. The market has bounced back a little since May 1. We are very conservatively postured from an asset allocation standpoint.

We retain every confidence in our manger, Sepio Capital Management, SF.

Please extend your thanks of service to Bob Leslie (Endowment Committee Chair), Pat Leicher, Carl Anderson, Rick Eigenbrode and Dr. William McNabb.

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

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

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild this year had a hard act to follow as in 2019 we purchased three beautiful new sets of banners for the Sanctuary. So this year we used some of our bake sale proceeds and added a new set of Altar cloth for the communion table.

This year's Altar Guild highlight was certainly the Greening of the Church for Christmas, a big job filled with fun, and good fellowship and under the guidance of Marion Schmidt, more beautifully done than ever.

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 we have on most Sundays in the courtyard, and through the church website, which has become the most popular method.

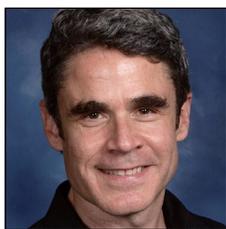
Very special thanks go to Alice Wong Roth for her hard work again this year as flower chair for the Altar Guild as she with the help of husband Gino have made it all happen seamlessly. Both Alice and Gino are stepping down from the Altar Guild after years of service, and will be hugely missed.

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 and decorating the church.

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.

Finally, we need a new crop of members on the Altar Guild, so please consider signing up. The time commitment is really not all that much: five Sunday morning meetings, a few Saturday decoration events, and helping with two communion services. It is fun and a great way to help Piedmont Community Church look its best.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Schroeder
Altar Guild Chair



DR. STEPHEN
MAIN

The year 2019-2020 has been a year of triumph and challenge for the music program of Piedmont Community Church. In addition to the regular high-quality offerings of our Chancel Choir, our fall season contained some major highlights for me personally, including this past December, when our Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra gathered to perform our annual Christmas Concert to capacity audiences. 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 – this signature event has continued to build a reputation in the Bay Area, as we draw ever wider audiences. As always, I truly think the entire experience represents Piedmont Church at its finest.

Other musical highlights of the past fall included our increasing involvement with the musicians of our sister congregation at Imani Community Church, as well 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. Our Handbell Ensemble also performed excellent and difficult new literature, often with guest instruments.

This spring would have included our annual Choir Sunday in June, our usual splendid Easter service with brass and percussion, as well as multiple choral performances of large-scale works – all of which was swept away by the unwelcome arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like many churches since mid-March, we moved our worship services entirely online. Unlike many churches, we have been thriving, graced with the considerable skills of our Director of Communications, Michael Barber, who has enabled us to carry so much of our mission and ministry forward through our weekly broadcasts, emails, social media, etc.

While we continue to figure our way forward, I can already say how proud I am to be a part of an excellent program staff that has adapted so well to the demands of the moment. The church feels alive and well. Rehearsals, meetings and study-groups also meet virtually, and everyone I know is doing their utmost to reach out and keep connected to our congregants and our community. In spite of all the unknowns of this pandemic, it is indeed a good time to be a part of Piedmont Church.

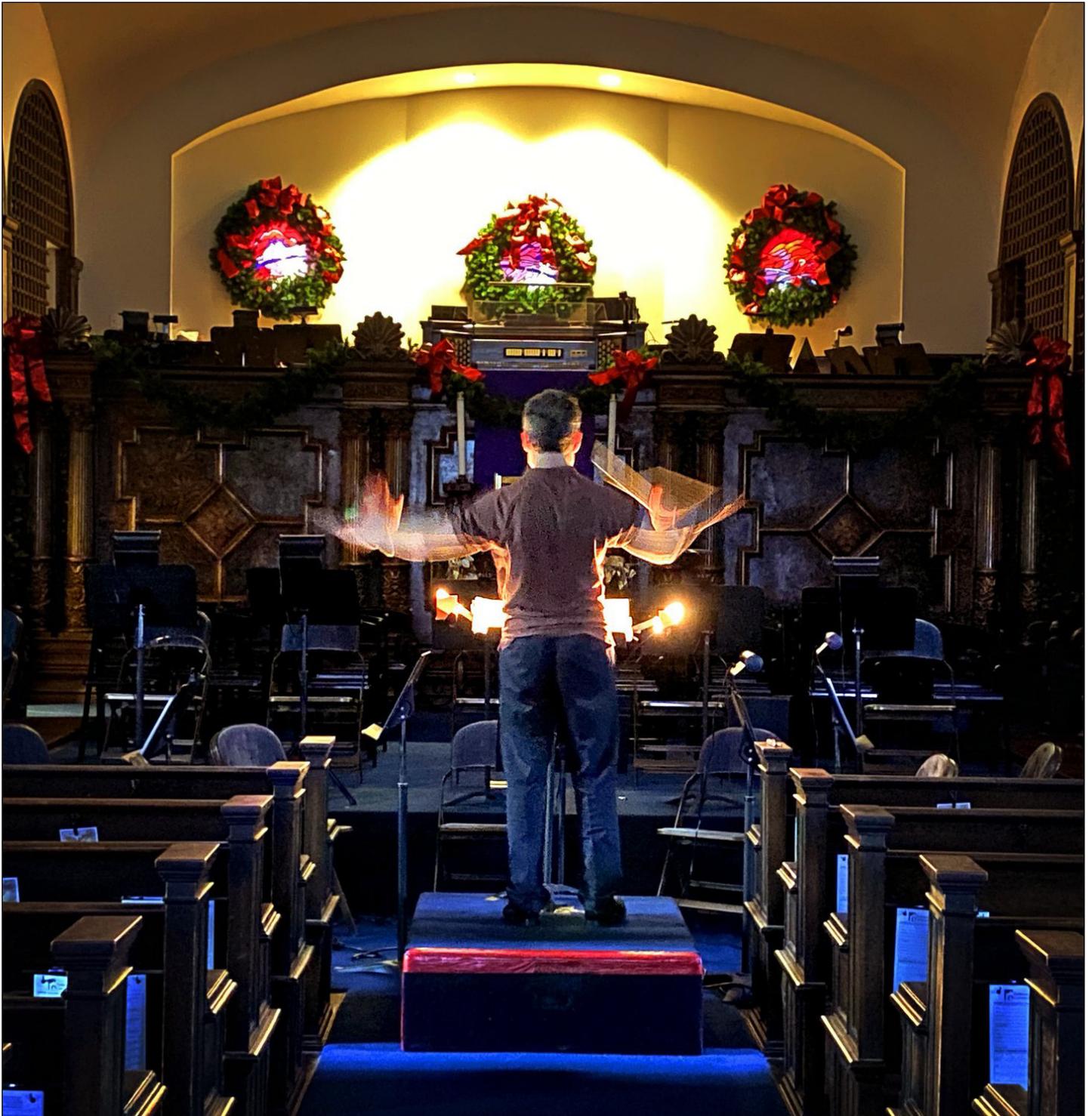
Of course, the challenges will continue to unfold. While the “sheltering” orders will ultimately be lifted, the best epidemiological authorities have made it clear that it will not be safe for choirs to sing en masse until a vaccine or other effective treatment is widely available. In any other era, this would have effectively meant the suspension of the music program for the duration. But through the blessings of digital technology, we have the ability to deliver a host of musical content online.

Already, as of this writing, your Chancel Choir, Handbell Ensemble, and section leaders have already made several excellent “virtual” performances. Our services continue to include inspired solo singing, our pipe organ continues to peal forth in our worship broadcasts and we’ve even had several guest instrumentalists. More to come!

If I ever forget how lucky I am to work with these amazing, talented musicians and church members, the past two months have reminded me all over again. As we move into the final chapter of Bill McNabb’s long and inspiring ministry - and our transition to new pastoral leadership - I feel more blessed than ever to know each of you personally, and 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,
Dr. Stephen Main
Minister of Music



In near total darkness and alone, Dr. Stephen Main practices conducting pieces to be performed during *Overture to Christmas* at Piedmont Community Church. Steve said that practicing in silence helps to imagine the music as it should be, allowing him to more confidently direct choir and orchestra. Photo by Michael Barber

The Buildings and Grounds team, consisting of Steve Senter, Randy Litteneker, and Scott Fitzgerald, accomplished two large, important projects during the 2019-2020 program year:

Refurbishing the Christian Education (CE) Building:

This project involved completely repainting the interior of the hallways and classrooms; replacing the worn-out carpeting in the hallways with carpet tile; and replacing the classroom carpeting with new, rigid vinyl-plank flooring, for a practical surface to resist the onslaughts of expressive children; we also removed the carpet from the south stairway and refinished the hardwood beneath. We borrowed Trustee Lani Taylor as our interior-design consultant, and she did a great job, partnering with Scott in choosing paint colors, carpeting and vinyl plank. Mary Wilson, parishioner and owner, with her husband, of California Carpet, was our vendor providing guidance and excellent pricing. Both the carpeting and the vinyl are modular units, so that inevitable damage can be repaired without wholesale replacement. Leslie Quantz and Rev. Scott Kail and their many volunteers were also of great help in this project, consulting with the B&G team, moving furniture in and out and in general putting up with the inevitable disruptions. Thanks to all involved, the CE Building is now ready for many years of creative children's ministry.

Bringing the church into compliance with fire and safety regulations

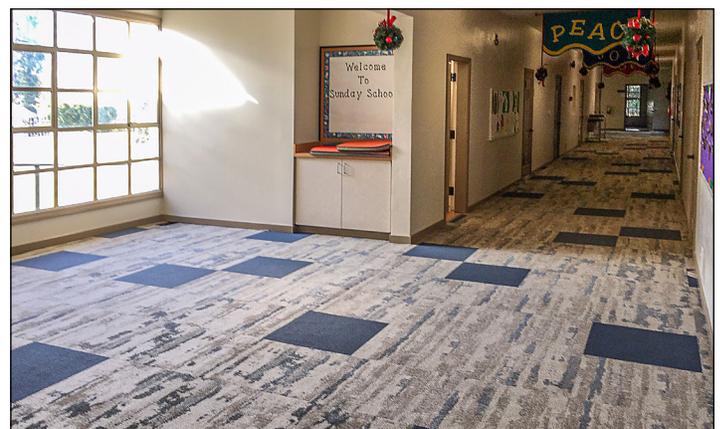
Trustee Steve Senter took this one on almost single-handedly, coordinating with Toni Fischer and staff, and most importantly with the able assistance of Bob Wright, who spent hours dealing with new signage, safety-zone floor taping and other onerous projects throughout our facility. Steve really gets full credit for this one: the matrix of major and minor details required hundreds of hours of his time, coordinating with the Piedmont Fire Department inspector, Toni (never to be forgotten) and Bob. Under Steve's direction, the team cleared and reorganized all closets and storage areas to open up access to the many furnaces and electrical panels and also marked access perimeters to them; installed three Knox Boxes

for PFD storage of master keys to the church; worked with preschools and the Boy Scout office to ensure compliance with State of California fire regulations; added and repositioned fire extinguishers; completed many electrical repairs; and added signage for fire extinguishers, exits, electrical panels, maximum capacity and more. This large, complex project was long overdue - and now it's done. It would be remiss not to also thank our staff for their help and their flexibility in adjusting their routines to a new, stricter regimen.

An ongoing project is to bring the church into the 21st century by installing an inconspicuous projection system in the Sanctuary. Visual media, both online and during services, have become increasingly important in modern churches, and we are fortunate to have the talented Michael Barber in charge. This project aims to make the presentation of such media easy, effective and economical, without disturbing the historic architecture of our church. To date, the screen has been installed. Further work has been halted, however, due to the coronavirus.

Finally, we should never forget that our facilities, which we own free and clear - thanks to the foresight of our founders - are historic and rather fragile. Like a fine antique, they're good forever but only if they receive the love and care and investment they deserve.

Respectfully submitted
Scott Fitzgerald
Buildings and Grounds Chair



CE Building after renovations. Photo by Scott Fitzgerald

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.

FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee coordinated with the Loaves and Fishes Ministry to plan church dinners in the Guild Hall. For the October Harvest Dinner, tables were beautifully decorated with fall leaves and the small candles. To encourage young families, a table was set up with crayons and fall themed coloring sheets. In December, following the Christmas Pageant, the Deacons helped to provide food in the Guild Hall during the Alternative Gift Market. For the Adult Fellowship Christmas Party, Bob and Tina Farman kindly offered their Wine and Design space in Jack London Square for a potluck dinner followed by Kirk Miller leading us in Christmas carols. On Ash Wednesday in February, over 52 adults and children enjoyed a delicious salmon dinner prepared by Loaves and Fishes. Unfortunately, the Maundy Thursday Dinner in April was canceled due to the coronavirus outbreak. The whole team of Deacons pitched in to set up, serve, clean up and even provide food to make these events a success.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Deacons continued to oversee various efforts to make visitors and new members feel welcome and engaged with our church. Deacons joined Dr. Don Ashburn at the new member gatherings and acted as welcomers at the Sunday services. We thank all the Deacons, as well as Loaves and Fishes, and the numerous volunteers who join us in making Piedmont Church a warm and welcoming place to be.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE

As Deacon members of the broader Mission Action Team (MAT), we have been involved in helping to provide opportunities for church members and their friends to serve others, locally and globally. Examples include serving monthly at CityTeam Hope Cafe,

Project Peace Community Service Days, and the Alternative Gift Market. MAT also vets agencies and makes recommendations to the Deacons and Board of Trustees for qualified projects to fund. We thank MAT for making mission an integral part of our identity and as a church.

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The major project for the Outreach Committee this year was Adopt-A-Family. The Board Deacons again worked with CityTeam. Fifteen families were identified and church members provided over 75 presents to share God's love and to brighten their Christmases. Thank you to the Outreach committee for doing a wonderful job.

As co-chairs of the Board of Deacons, we wish to express our gratitude for all the board members and volunteers who worked hard to make our church services and social events run smoothly. This year, we undertook the task of creating the Communion Server Team and the Usher Team. We began using PCC Connect to facilitate online sign-ups for these Sunday ministries.

We especially appreciate those of you who dealt with the special challenges of learning how to participate in this way! We have been honored to have served with this wonderful Board of Deacons and the Piedmont Community Church for the last 3 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Latham and Linda McClain
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 MAT is to make mission an integral part of our identity as Christians and as a church. MAT is also involved in the annual Deacon Accrual Fund recommendations and evaluating and recommending grant proposals for the Better World Fund.

MAT 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:

Deacons: Mike Bandrowski, Lynn Nelson; Christian Education: Lindy Lowe, Kyla Oh; Members-at-Large: Sunny Bostrom, Bob Cheatham, Selma Chin, Mary Fielder, Jeff McClain, Kristi Marcelle and Judy Wright.

2019-2020 Mission Activities

CityTeam Hope Cafe - Piedmont Community Church members and families enjoyed serving monthly dinners at Hope Cafe, allowing us to share God's love in service to the local community in Downtown Oakland.

CityTeam/Mexico Student Leaders Service Day

Scott Kail and 40 high school student leaders donated their day off from school to serve at CityTeam, helping to clean, make lunches and serve meals.

Project Peace Community Service

Quarterly community service days at Harbor House and Garfield Elementary School were another avenue to participate in service to our community by gardening, painting, cleaning and organizing needed areas.

Back-to-School Backpack Drive

Over 20 Backpacks with essential school supplies of pencils, erasers, markers, folders and binders were collected and donated to CityTeam for students in the Oakland schools.

Pick-a-Party

Over 50 engaging parties were generously donated

by church members, raising over \$22,000 to support mission work through Better World Fund Grants.

California Coastal Beach Cleanup

MAT hosted a coastal cleanup of Alameda Crown Beach where a total of 692 lbs of trash and 138 lbs of recyclables were collected from 1 ¾ miles of coastline at Alameda Crown Beach in one day.

Children-Rising

Piedmont Church members continue to remain active as tutors to students in Oakland who are two grades below in reading and math. Additional members assist with food bagging at the Alameda Food Bank for Friday distribution at these schools, ensuring that children do not go hungry over the weekend.

Refugee Task Force

Just weeks into 2020, the church "adopted" a family of seven from Afghanistan. Since their arrival, the RTF has diligently worked to assist the family with employment, health and dental care, driving lessons and school needs. Donations of toiletries were also collected to replenish the Jewish Family and Community Services supplies, the partnering agency for the adoption.

Treasure Sale

Church members and friends spent countless hours curating and pricing the thousands of "treasures" donated for the sale. This year's Treasure Sale raised \$25,000 to benefit the high school Mexico home building program.

Mask Brigade

Repurposing fabric intended for next year's Mexico curtains and harnessing church sewists (including past and present Mexico Mission curtain sewists), the Mask Brigade has sewn over 1,300 masks to assist in the fight against Covid-19. Mask donations were given to George Mark Children's House, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, and CityTeam.

Alternative Gift Market (AGM)

The AGM celebrated its 16th year of offering a catalog of life-changing gifts to give at Christmas time.

Almost \$37,000 in donations were raised to support 18 domestic and international agencies, including building 18 protected water wells for villages in Africa.

Adopt-A-Family

Board of Deacons worked with CityTeam to identify 15 families for which PCC members generously provided presents to share God's love and to brighten their Christmases.

Operation Christmas Child

Our children had an opportunity to serve by filling Christmas boxes with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies for children living on Native American Reservations and children living in areas affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine and disease.

Better World Fund

BWF grants totaling \$8,300 were approved for a new

washer/dryer at CityTeam's Women's Bridge Housing program and for new reader non-fiction books for all 22 Oakland schools served by Children-Rising.

Deacon Accrual Funds

Annual unrestricted funds of \$25,000 were renewed and distributed to CityTeam, Destiny Arts, Faith Network, George Mark House, Habitat for Humanity, Grateful Gatherings and Project Peace. To keep our congregation informed of their important work, each agency presented at a Moment for Mission.

Despite a challenging time to provide direct mission care with Covid-19, Piedmont Church still had a very meaningful year of sharing God's love in service.

Respectfully submitted
Selma Chin
Mission Action Team



Treasures Sale volunteer Roger Eliassen sits in the rain at the main entrance of the sale Saturday, March 14 while chatting with volunteer Wayne Marzolf, donning blue gloves. The sale, providing funds for the annual Mexcio house building mission, was reduced to one day due to the coronavirus issue. Gloves were worn by volunteers and shoppers to keep everyone safe from possible transmission. Photo by Michael Barber

Donald Parker
 Gordon White
 Ron Koch
 Suzanne Soper
 Doris Kidwell*
 Jay Carlson*
 Aija Koch
 Berthalee Kuderna

Jim Obando
 Patty Ruvkun
 Barbara Stewart
 Roger Radius
 Keith Tollas
 Bruce Wolfe
 Polly Jackson

CONFIRMANDS & NEW MEMBERS

CONFIRMANDS

Lauren Ashton
 Charlotte Davies
 Cecelia DeFazio
 Katarina Melian
 Kate Meyjes
 Jaden Recker

NEW MEMBERS

Alicia Alban
 Kelly & Michael Bailey
 Cheryl Chiene Benson
 Claire & Vincent Faughnan
 Bob Katter
 Tom Walter
 Pete & Ellen Wilson

CHURCH CLERK

MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership, May 15, 2019, 1,374

Members Received:

Confession of Faith, Letter of Transfer
 or Reaffirmation, 10
 Confirmands, 6

Total Members Received, 16

Members Removed:

Deaths, 13
 Letters of Transfer & Requests, 5

Total Members Removed, 18

Total Membership, May 15, 2020, 1,369

PASTORAL SERVICES, OFFICIATING

Pastoral Services

Baptisms, 6
 Marriages, 6
 Funerals/Memorials, 8

Total Pastoral Services, 20

Piedmont Community Church - 2021-2023 Proposed Slate

Underline denotes persons to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Jan Wolfe, President Randy Littenecker, VP Dani Montague, Stewardship Adam Thatcher, Secretary	Kathy Kelleher, Treasurer Steve Senter, Buildings & Grounds Susan Mani, Stewardship Richard Thompson, Personnel	<u>Bob Farman, Buildings & Grounds</u> <u>Kara Baysinger, Personnel</u> <u>Lisa Fuller, Stewardship</u> <u>Pat Leicher, Finance</u>

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Janet Peterson, Co-Chair Leland Leisz Dana Gordon Colton Mike Bandrowski	Lynn Nelson, Co-Chair James Ramos Katrina Bergen Ron Heckmann	<u>David Birnbaum</u> <u>Kristin Johnson</u> <u>Gary Hurd</u> <u>Jane Anderson</u>

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Allison Clayshulte Lindy Lowe John Meyjes Lyle Johnson Jeffrey Hiller	Jeff Dorman Amy MacKenzie Zookie Todd	<u>Blaire Jahn</u> <u>Julie Hofer</u> <u>Kelly Bailey</u>

ALTAR GUILD

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Kara Baysinger Kristin Parkhurst Paul Schroeder	Mary Heller Judy Wright Kathy Hurd	TBD

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Steven Thorne, Kristi Marcel, Jay Forman

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES	BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Michael Osborn Joan Chow Scott Fitzgerald Steven Thorne	Hannah Hanrahan Anne Connelly Kyla Oh	Jan Wolfe Janet Peterson Allison Clayshulte
BOARD OF DEACONS	ALTAR GUILD	
Suzanne Latham Linda McClain John Quantz Helen Steers	Penny Robb Gino Roth Alice Roth Linda Smith-Munyan	

MEMBERS ONLY

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MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY



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:

“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.