

REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

August 2017 - July 2018

First Presbyterian Church



**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength,
and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”** Luke 10:27



Do justice.



Love kindness.



Walk humbly with your God.

INTRODUCTION

More and more, we as a congregation are striving to live out Micah's ancient wisdom, namely, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God ... (Micah 6:8).

This three-fold wisdom guides us in the ways we live out our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Like last year's Annual Report, this year's report is organized by Micah's three-fold summary of God's expectations. The report not only gives examples of how we have done justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly with God over the past year, but also serves to encourage us to continue our purpose and mission as a faith community in the coming year.

Micah challenges us to keep questioning how will we work for fairness and equality for all, particularly the weak and powerless? How will we ensure love, loyalty, and faithfulness are the cornerstones of our relationships? How will we consider our life's journey with circumspect rather than with knee-jerk reactions? And how will we carefully put Christ first in all the moments of our lives?

“He has told you,
O mortal,
what is good;
and what does the
LORD require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God?”

Micah 6:8



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DO JUSTICE

SERVE one another, our community, and the world with humility and love, relying on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to lead us in witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

FPC continued its strong partnerships with organizations that serve those in need. For Habitat for Humanity, we increased participation by the congregation, supported the establishment of a youth council, and initiated youth build days. We also promoted International Neighbors to the congregation and increased funding; began an initiative to publicize “bite-size” service opportunities to the congregation via a monthly COC email; donated money from our discretionary fund to PACEM for the purchase of new sleeping cots and gave PACEM guests backpacks filled with items collected from members; provided volunteer and financial support for the Blue Ridge House Dinner; donated gifts and time for the CALM Christmas Store; organized a collection of personal items for Love, INC. during Lent, with hopes of continuing this activity every Lent; donated \$15,000 to IRIS toward the purchase of a retinal microscope using endowment funds; directed “5 Cents a Meal” donations to the local food banks; served Soup Kitchen weekly; sent a group to McClure, Virginia to serve through the Binns-Counts Community Center; gave money to Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE) through a Quilt Sowers fundraiser; and more.



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“I am staying at the SHE house, and AIM helped me to get my own place. So, now I don’t have to depend on my abuser for a place to live.”

—SHE Resident



“We at the Emergency Food Network want to thank you once again for your continued and steady support of our organization. Without donors such as you, we could not assist as many local residents as we do daily. Along with weekly staples and delicious local produce, we are now including fresh eggs in our bags. The response has been overwhelming with the recipients showing their full appreciation.”

—Emergency Food Network



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IMPACT
 Meals on Wheels
 CALM Georgia's Friends COC
 Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
 Building Goodness Foundation
 Soup Kitchen The Haven
 PACEM **Love** Habitat
 IRIS **Serve**
 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
 Binns Counts Community Center
 International Neighbors AIM
 Emergency Food Network
 Blue Ridge House
 Love INC



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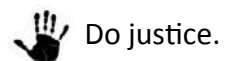
LOVE KINDNESS

NURTURE our faith in Jesus Christ through education and fellowship, growing in wisdom, and deepening our relationship with God and one another.

Fellowship is an integral part of life of First Pres. As part of our fellowship together, we held spring and fall churchwide picnics and an Advent workshop dinner. Various groups and individuals hosted Sunday Fellowship Time and Lemonade on the Lawn.

New member classes were held in the spring and fall to invite those interested in membership to learn more about the church and discern whether or not they would like to join. Twenty-nine people joined this past year -- 25 adults and four confirmands.

Additional ministries nurtured and supported members and the larger community: Biannual Blood Drive, Bereavement Ministry, Card Ministry, Flower Delivery, Prayer Team, 30 Minutes of Care, Transportation, Visitation, and more.



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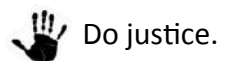
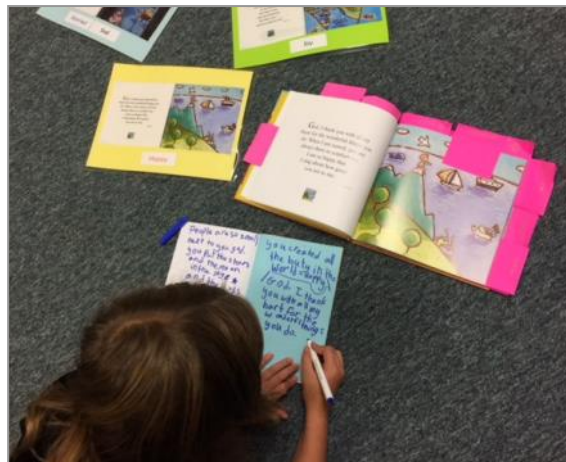
Walk humbly with your God.

Children's Ministry

Godly Play curriculum was introduced for Grades K-5, giving children an opportunity to respond to faith stories in a meaningful way.

Other faith development opportunities included the summer musical, Summer Story Time, Parenting in the Pew Class and Resource, Lent in a Box, Lenten devotions for Children and Families, Hanging of the Greens, Jesse Tree Advent learning, and giving of Bibles to kindergarteners and third graders.

The young age of the children did not prevent them from serving their church and community. They engaged in Soup Kitchen prep, Loaves and Fishes projects, International Neighbor family events, and a Halloween party with youth at Riverdale Assisted Living.



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Youth Ministry

FPC Youth continued to deepen their faith through study, worship, and discussion, and share their faith in the community through service. They participated in the 30-hour Famine, care packages for college friends, lemonade and brownies on the Downtown Mall after the August 12 events, desserts for Soup Kitchen, PACEM, and the Pilgrimage weekend in Washington, D.C.

Fellowship and faith growing opportunities included Montreat, Sunday Youth Group, mid-week morning devotionals, Senior Celebration, and more. More than 25 youth led a meaningful service on Youth Sunday in May.



“Being a youth at FPC is not just about being in a youth group. It is about being a part of a family.”

—High School Student Ada Trowbridge



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Adult Ministries

To nurture adults through learning and discussion, we provided an exciting array of classes and small groups to be:

Relevant - Studying the scripture into today's context

A Charter of Christian Freedom: The Epistle to the Galatians
Exodus: A Pattern of Salvation
Scripture of the Day
Biblical Historical

Responsive - Reaching out to people in today's world

Waking Up White
A Spiritual Journey into the Immigration Discussion
Men's and Women's Bible Studies
Journey to the City of Jerusalem

Reflective - Encouraging people to a deeper spiritual experience

Lectio Divina: Reading the Bible for Spiritual Formation
Intergenerational Advent Class

Renewed - Finding balance in our daily lives

Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for Searching People
Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home

Relational – Connecting people in new ways through various small group opportunities



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“The New Member Class made it possible for us to really understand how the church works. As parents of two children who have attended the preschool, we were already aware of the wonderful community at First Pres, but really getting into the details of youth ministry and governing of the church was key for us in making the decision to join. We look forward to years of worship at First Presbyterian!”

—New Member Scott Roth



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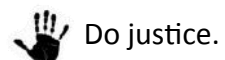
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WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD

WORSHIP God faithfully and joyfully,
prayerfully seeking God's direction for our lives.

First Pres members, regular attendees, and guests worshiped together on Sunday mornings and participated in other opportunities at special times throughout the year, including prayer stations on Ash Wednesday and a supper and service on Ash Wednesday. Various activities enhanced the beauty and meaning of worship, including Hanging of the Greens for the Advent season and palms and lilies for the Easter season. More than 200 volunteers supported worship at First Pres, including communion servers and preparers, chancel teams, greeters, musicians, and more.

In March, the Worship Committee merged with the Evangelism Committee to become the Welcome and Worship Committee, in an effort to better partner in inviting people in the community to join us in worship and related activities.



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“When I worship at FPC, I feel a tremendous sense of grace and acceptance, and I am spiritually renewed for the challenges of the days ahead.”

—FPC Member Anna Farrell



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Music at First Pres

Each week, the members of First Presbyterian's music ministry come together and rehearse, preparing to help lead the congregation in worship. Music is a special offering of worship helping us all to walk humbly with God.

Seasonal highlights included a performance of the Chilcott *Requiem* for All Saints Day and a performance of Liszt's *Via Crucis* for Holy Week. This year, we held five concerts in our Music on Park Street series that helps connect us to the surrounding community.



Do justice.

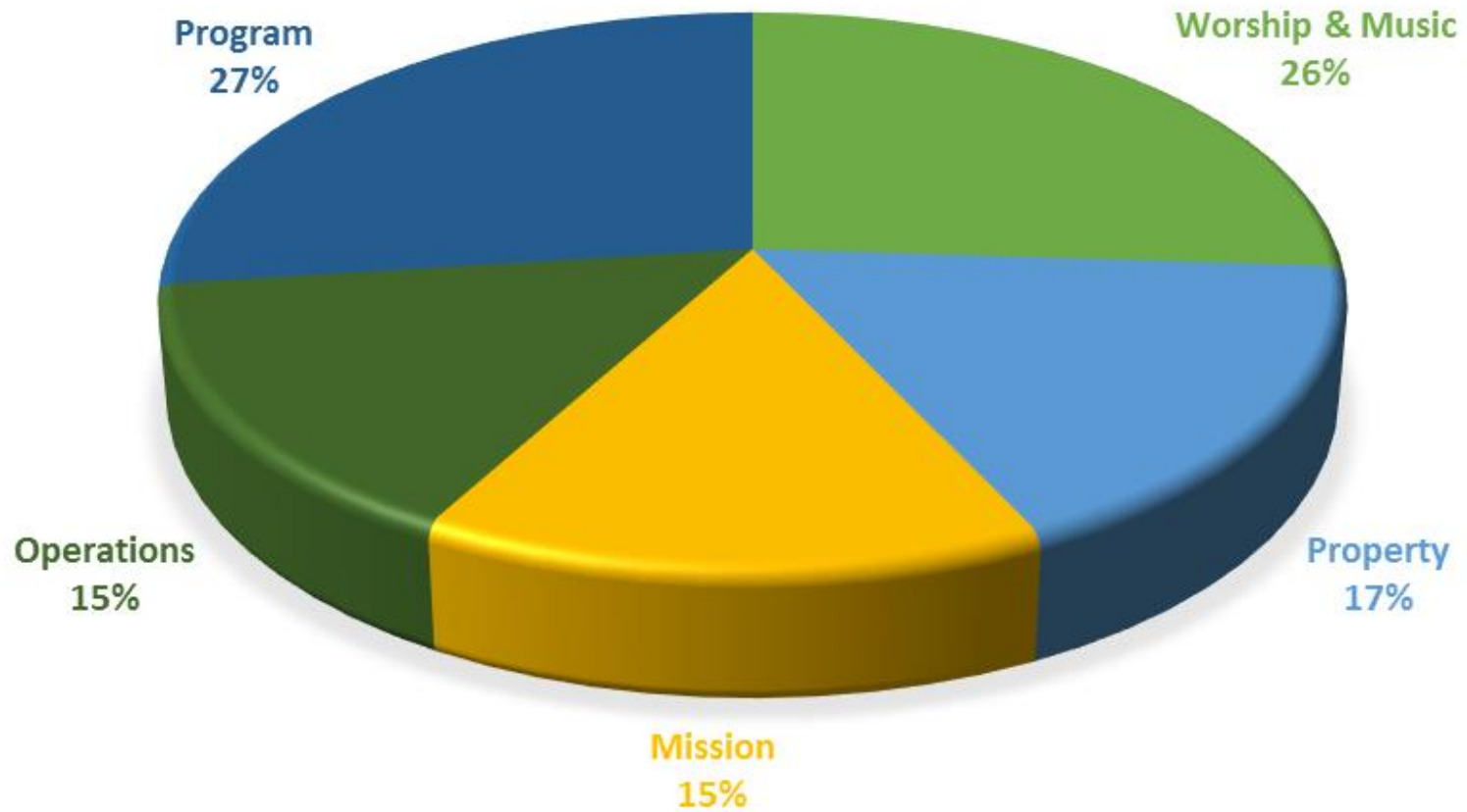


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First Presbyterian Church Expenditures



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Active Members

1,078

Average Worship Attendance

340

Services with Communion

64

New Members

29

Confirmands

4

Baptisms

11

Youth Attending Montreat

26

Music on Park Street Concerts

5



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Yearly Outreach Contributions

\$145,000

Financially Serving Our Neighbors

Alliance for Interfaith Ministries
Binns-Counts Community Center
Blue Ridge House
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
Building Goodness Foundation
Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries
Emergency Food Network
Foothills Child Advocacy
Georgia's Friends
Habitat for Humanity
IMPACT
International Neighbors
International Response
to Improve Sight (IRIS)
Love, INC
Meals on Wheels
PACEM
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)
Soup Kitchen
The Haven
Union Theological Seminary



Monthly Events Held at First Pres by Outside Groups

30

Our Building Supports ...

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings
American Needlepoint Guild meetings
Arc of the Piedmont meetings and events
Boy Scout leaders meetings
Brownie Troop meetings
Charlottesville Bar Association lunches
Charlottesville Music Teachers' Association
Charlottesville Special Needs Support
Group meetings
Charlottesville Symphony performances
Congregate Charlottesville events
Fire concerts
Homeschooled Teens dances
Hospice of the Piedmont events
Music by the Bedside performances
Narcotics Anonymous meetings
Oratorio Society performances
Piedmont Court Appointed Special
Advocate (CASA) training sessions
Ready Kids events and meetings
Three Notch'd Road performances
Virginia Consort performances
Virginia Glee Club performances
Wednesday Music Club performances



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STAFF



Rev. Dr. David G. Forney	Pastor
Rev. Dr. Aram Bae	Associate Pastor for Youth & Mission
Rev. Liz Forney	Covenant Pastor
Dr. Jeremy Thompson	Director of Music
Kathy Freer	Parish Nurse
Judy Blair	Business Manager
Tracey Daniels	Communications Director
Susan Lawson	Office Administrator/Receptionist
Michael Joyce	Facilities Manager
Hunter Vermillion	Custodian
Donna Buchanan	Preschool Director
Cathy Dalton	Assistant Preschool Director

LEADERSHIP

Class of 2018

Elders of the Session

Betsy Critzer
Caitlin Dean
David Hamer
Bill Henderson
Nathan Jordan
Jocelyn Kelley
Eleanor Maloney
Kirk Pilkington

Board of Deacons

Elizabeth Best
Leigh Critzer
Sam Haas
Jeannette Halpin
Joyce Katstra
Richard Lutz
Donna Nunley
Katherine Warren

Class of 2019

Elders of the Session

Jessica Ammons
Downing Miller
Deborah Rexrode
Nancy Roche
Jim Snead
Mac Walker
Bill vonReichbauer

Board of Deacons

Charlie Chadwick
John Dillery
Elaine Knight
Tom Phelps
Diane Schmidt
Wanda Towberman
Polly Wehmann

Class of 2020

Elders of the Session

Michelle Katstra
Nancy Lutz
Donna McCauley
Jim Patterson
Craig Redinger
John Wehmann

Board of Deacons

Jane Brennan
Anita Brockette
Diane Brownlee
Shelley Matthews
Meghan McIver
Richard Myers



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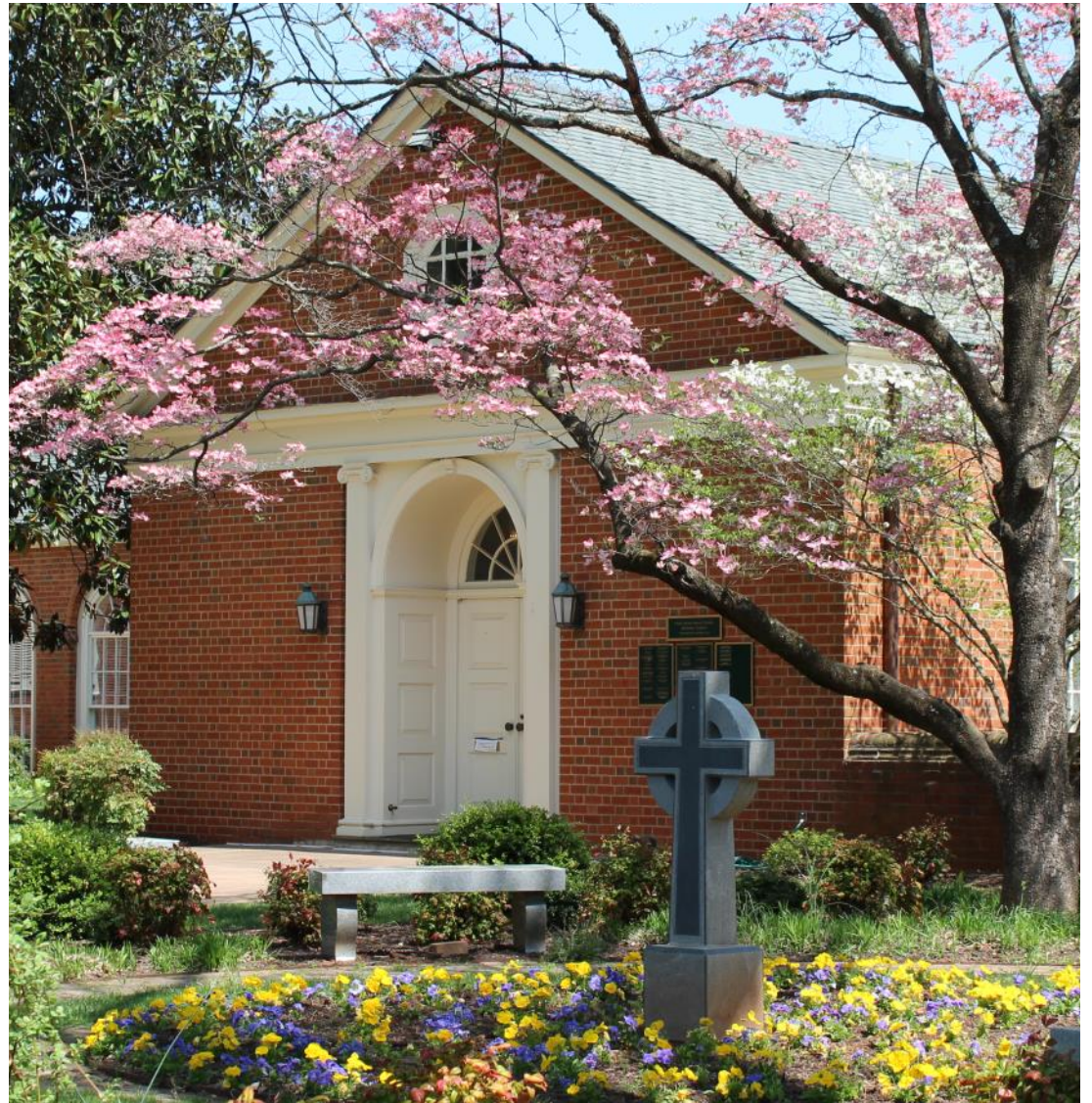
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IN MEMORY

Helen Dickerson
Julie Howard
Joann Walker
Grace Ford
Donna Packard
Jewell Higgison
Kathryn Westbury
Kal Howard
Robert Tanner
Barbara Isaacs
Sue Brown
Raymond Shepherd
Dorothy Hess
Clark Weaver



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