

The First Presbyterian Church New Vernon, N.J.

Pastor

Rev. William H. Stone, III

Music Director

Martin Sedek

Accompanist

Jany Izaguirre

Office Administrator & Manager of Accounting

Debbie Hennessey

Financial Secretary

Darlene Cappel

Church Custodian

Tony Rodriguez

Annual Report 2016

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“We welcome you to the embrace of God’s love.”

DOCKET FOR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 26, 2017

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYERThe Moderator

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RECEIVING THE ANNUAL BUDGET Keith Wood, 2016 Chair, Finance Committee

ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION Moderator

ADJOURNMENT

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
PASTOR'S REPORT
2016 Annual Report

In some ways it feels like only yesterday that my family and I stepped off a plane from Edinburgh to begin the next chapter of our lives in New Vernon. During our first few months here the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church has overwhelmed us with a warm and gracious welcome. Many people in both the Church and the community have worked hard to prepare the way for our arrival: donating furniture to the manse; filling up our fridge and pantry with food; helping us to find our way around Harding Township; and welcoming us into your homes on numerous occasions! In the midst of so much change—from moving to a new country to welcoming our daughter Maisie into the world—your kindness, generosity, and hospitality have made our transition smoother than I ever imagined possible.

This has also been a time of significant transition for the Church. During the last two years, FPC has undertaken major work on the sanctuary and said goodbye to Rev. Robert Gamble and both of its Co-Ministers of Music Elena Bird Zolnick and Amanda Tsukamoto Napolitano. Through all of these changes, many faithful and hardworking members of the congregation have stepped forward to ensure that the Church's ministry would continue. Reflecting on this congregation's commitment to the Church, I echo Paul's words to the church in Thessalonica:

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. (*1 Thessalonians 1:3*)

The more I get to know New Vernon, the more your strong faith and your love for the Church comes through. Our congregation has a rich history, and for over 180 years has been an integral part of the community. Since its founding, the First Presbyterian Church has been instrumental in meeting the needs of others—from helping to establish organizations like the Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown, providing financial support to individuals through the PIN fund, to engaging in countless hours of hands-on service. Today we benefit from the hard work of those who have gone before us and inherit the challenge of continuing the good work that they have begun.

This coming year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and provides us with an opportunity to look back and give thanks for the many ways God has breathed new life and energy into the church throughout history. As we do this, I am excited to begin discerning how God is calling our church to move into the future. Our Session committees are already starting to discuss how we can strengthen our ties to the community, provide new opportunities for families to worship together, and be even more attentive to the needs of the surrounding area. As we listen and watch for God's Spirit continuing to move among us, I again echo the words of the apostle Paul to a growing church. I pray that our love would overflow more and more with knowledge and insight to help us to determine what is best...for the glory and praise of God.

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
CLERK OF SESSION'S REPORT
2016 Annual Report

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Todd Claytor	Tom MacCowatt	Jenn McCann
Julia Buteux	Jane O'Keeffe	Don Richardson
Tom Ewig	Peter Saulnier	Eileen Urban
Carol Vellekamp	Jonathan Shelby	Keith Wood

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Communicant Members – December 31, 2015	350
New Members	2
Reinstated	0
Confirmation Class 2014/2015	3
Removed by Letter of Transfer	3
Removed by Session	46
Removed by Death	6
Communicant Members – December 31, 2016	300
Members of Session: 6 men, 6 women	12
Board of Deacons: 3 men, 9 women	12
Baptisms	1

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
Sunday, February 22, 2015
Sanctuary, FPCNV

Sunday, February 21, 2016

The annual meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon was called to order at 11:05AM. A quorum was present.

Interim Pastor Dr. Robert Gamble, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer. He announced that Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session, would be taking the minutes of the meeting.

Handouts containing copies of the 2015 (actuals) and 2016 budget were distributed.

A motion was made to accept the docket as printed in the Annual Report. *Moved, seconded, and carried.*

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 2015 Congregational meeting. *Moved, seconded, and carried.* The Session has appointed the following Session members as officers of the Corporation: Todd Claytor, President; Peter Saulnier, Vice President; Tom MacCowatt, Secretary. Per the by-laws, the Treasurer is elected by the Congregation. A motion was made to elect Keith Wood as Treasurer of the Corporation. *Moved, seconded, and carried.*

The Session has appointed the following Session members to the Nominating Committee: Tom MacCowatt (chair) and Jonathan Shelby. The Deacons have appointed Deacon Barbara Gill to the Nominating Committee. Per the by-laws, two additional members of the Nominating Committee are elected by the Congregation. A motion was made to elect Jeff French and Eileen Urban to the Nominating Committee. *Moved, seconded, and carried.* The meeting was turned over to Keith Wood, Chair of Finance. Keith presented the 2015 financial results, the 2016 budget, and discussed the status of the Sure Foundation and the lawsuit by the Freedom From Religion group against the County Freeholders for grants to churches from the Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

THE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2015 AND THE 2016 BUDGET

The auditors for 2015 were John Murray, David Dietz, and Scott Noyes. They conducted a review of the financial statements and the accounting policies and procedures in place for the year ending December 31, 2015 and found the underlying financial statements accurately to reflect the financial health of the Church.

Over the two-year pastor transition period of 2014-2015, a modest surplus of \$1,763 was recorded, the net result of a surplus of \$48,963 in 2014 and a deficit of \$47,200 in 2015. While expenses were generally well controlled, the deficit in 2015 resulted primarily from a shortfall in the revenues anticipated. Fulfillment of Current Year Pledges and the level of Plate Offerings were disappointing and account for the major variance in revenues. Total Outreach contribution, including 15% of qualifying revenues, plus PIN and HERB Fund awards and the Christmas Offering to the Community was \$74,820 this year. The Congregation should take pride in the achievement. Our church is a standout performer in our commitment to Mission/Outreach by the PC USA when considered on a nationwide basis.

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2016

A modest surplus of \$1,497 is projected, after adjusting the level of expenditures to align more closely with a reduced level of expected Current Year Pledges and Plate Offerings. The reduction in expenses has been distributed selectively so as to maintain a high level of overall effectiveness and has been made in consultation with each of the Committee Chairs responsible. Detailed 2016 budget comparisons to both the actual and budget statistics for 2015 were provided. A motion was made to accept the 2016 budget as presented by Session.

Moved, seconded, and carried.

SURE FOUNDATION/SANCTUARY REVITALIZATION

From a financial perspective, the project is proceeding as planned. Phase I was completed under budget, and Phase II is proceeding satisfactorily with a completion date estimated in mid-January. Plans are under way for Phase III to replace some siding and paint the Sanctuary exterior in 2016, and a grant application to the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust is now in preparation. We are aware that a challenge has been made by an atheist-inspired organization seeking to prevent the Morris County Freeholders from extending construction grants to churches within the County. We have instituted a cap of \$1,000 in expenses from the Sure Foundation for legal defense.

GENERAL

Keith thanked Debbie and Darlene for their work throughout the year and especially in preparing the Annual Report. He further thanked the Finance Committee for all their work and the Congregation for their financial support, encouragement, and understanding.

Pastor Gamble closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon

BOARD OF DEACONS

2016 Annual Report

	Class of:	
2018	2019	2020
Robyn Brown	Dave Mitchell	Jane Coyle
Lisa Chapman	Sue Mitchell	Andrea Di Ruggiero
Barbara Gill	Susan Morris	Olin Friant
Karen Pennett	Judith Shelton	Beth Gibson
		Faith Winow

It is the duty of the Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to those who are in distress.

Deacons meet regularly on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 pm in the second floor meeting room of Fellowship Hall. It is within the confines of these meetings that sensitive issues are often discussed and are considered *confidential* in nature.

Our ongoing responsibilities continue to be the preparation of monthly and special communions throughout the year. When requested, we accompany the Pastor to assist in communion to those who are unable to leave home during these holidays. Flowers are delivered from the Sunday services to those in the community who are ill or have experienced loss. Decorative seasonal "caring gifts" are delivered during the Christmas and Easter holidays to those who are in need of special consideration.

The Deacons coordinate "Coffee Hour" each Sunday in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Each month, two Deacons share the responsibility of assisting Coffee Hour hosts with set-up and clean-up.

During the course of the year, many phone calls of concern are made, cards are sent, and home-cooked meals delivered. The Deacons also host such special events as Easter Breakfast and periodically hold bake and pantry sales to supplement their budget.

The Deacons, under the leadership of our Pastor, approve applications for the HERB Fund (Help with Education Related Bills) and the PIN Fund (Persons In Need). This year \$10,000 was disbursed from the HERB Fund and \$17,557.59 from the PIN Fund.

In 2015 our Church joined The Mental Health Resource Network, a group of faith-based organizations in communities surrounding The Mental Health Association of Morris County. A vacuum cleaner was donated, and money was raised from our congregation to assist those in need. Future requests will continue to be handled through the Deacons.

Barbara Gill, Moderator
Board of Deacons

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE 2016 Annual Report

BACKGROUND

The Administration and Communications Committee (ACC) has primary responsibility for the administration of the Church Office. ACC works closely with the Finance, Personnel, Membership, and Buildings and Grounds Committees of Session where responsibilities intersect.

COMMUNICATIONS

Debbie Hennessey continued to enhance our website, www.pcnv.org. The site offers the Sunday sermon, information about our church, our calendar, The Pipe Organ, any forms you might need and links to other organizations we support.

We evaluated an upgrade of our accounting and database software. It would require a team of tech-savvy volunteers several years to implement as the accounting activities are transitioned and the historical membership data is transferred to new software. Solution based software like this is sold on an annual subscription basis and costs thousands of dollars more than what we spend today.

COMPUTERS AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Minor repair work was done to the audio equipment in the Sanctuary to ensure services could be heard and recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Ford, Chair

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
2016 Annual Report

Committee Members

Julia Averett Buteux, Chairperson	Barbara Coe
Nancy Barrett	Anne Thomas
Rick Barrett	Tricia Tiensch
Nancy Burrows	

In 2016 the Adult Education program consisted of:

- Sunday programs following worship
- Monday Morning Women's Bible Study
- Thursday Morning Bible Study
- Monthly Movie & Discussion
- Monthly Book Club

SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMS

Sunday mornings following worship and Coffee Hour has been found to be the best time for an ongoing individual program open to the entire congregation and the public. This program remains a major focus for Adult Education.

The *Sunday Speakers Series* continued to grow and attract a larger audience through 2016. Beginning in the spring, we made several changes. The first change was to schedule only one speaker per month. The goal was to reduce *Sunday Series* over-exposure and, in turn, increase interest in a program that focuses on quality, not quantity. The second change was to plan the entire year from September through May. This required that all presentation write-ups as well as biographies be completed by August 5th. This deadline allowed us to execute our third change which was to put out a flyer covering speakers for the entire year. It was our belief that a year-long calendar would provide congregants a chance to review the schedule and possibly plan ahead. Our fourth change was to raise the outside speaker fee to \$250. This move was done to create a policy around the fee and not allow it to change with each speaker's fee request. In addition, we believe we can attract a higher quality speaker with a higher fee. It is our hope that speakers from within the Congregation will make their presentations without charge. And finally, our fifth change was to push the program time back to 11:15-12:15. The goal was to shorten the amount of time attendees would have to wait for the program to begin and perhaps make staying for the Speaker Series a more attractive and viable option.

The public relations and marketing campaign continues with posted flyers and press releases. Flyers were posted in at least eight major locations in the nearby area, and press releases were sent to relevant papers within the New Jersey Hills Media Group (e.g., Observer Tribune, Madison Eagle, Chatham Courier). Notices are also included in the *Pipe Organ* and the *Thumbnail*.

The following educational programs were offered in 2016*:

- Jan. 10: *Find Balance and Peace of Mind in 2016* (45) – Laura Nash
- Jan. 24: *On Pope Francis* (21)- Dennis Corcoran
- Mar. 6: *Does America Have a Coherent Foreign Policy* (33) – Doug Simon
- Mar. 13: *A History of Saint Patrick* (13) – Brid Nicholson
- Apr. 10 : *The Reality of Clerical Sexual Abuse* (38) – Jo-Renee Formicola
- May 22 : *The People of God in a Post-Christian Society: The Emergence of “Generative Christianity.”* (25) – Robert Morris
- Sept. 25: *Foreign Affairs in Presidential Politics* (27) – Doug Simon
- Oct. 16: *Raising Children: It's Not Rocket Science, It's Harder* (22) – Catherine Morrissette and Nunzio Gubitosa
- Nov 13: *The Role of Outsiders in the 2016 Presidential Election* (46) – Perry Leavell

*The number in parentheses indicates attendance.

MONDAY MORNING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

The Women’s Monday Morning Bible group continues to be led by the Rev. Barbara Aspinall. In 2016, the group, made up of church members and community friends, studied several different topics.

From January through March, the group researched and studied various themes prompted by Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*. The Merovingian dynasty, the Knights Templar, Opus Dei, Rosslyn Chapel, the Biblical story of Mary Magdalene, the extra-Biblical Gospel of Mary, just war theory, Leonardo da Vinci, and numerous other topics were addressed.

In March, we began a Lenten study of *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. This book led the group in a detailed study of each day of the last week of Jesus’ earthly life as presented by the gospel of Mark. The group discussed the historical, narrative and theological purposes of the story as Mark tells it. We discovered the importance of seemingly insignificant details like which gate Jesus entered the city through on Palm Sunday and the symbolism of myrrh and vinegar as well as what Borg and Crossan believe was Mark’s picture of who Jesus was and is.

In May, we learned about the Presbyterian Church’s view of worship. We read the Book of Order’s description of an order of worship and the parts of a service and their purpose for the people of God.

After our summer break, we began a video and discussion series called “The American Protestant Experience: A Free Market for Faith.” This was a ten-session series that started with the Reformation and Enlightenment antecedents of Protestant religion in America. The colonial period of the Puritans, the separation of church and state as our country was beginning to be a nation, two Great Awakenings, Pietism, the impact of slavery and decimation of the Native American population, and the more modern influences of the social gospel, ecumenism, fundamentalism, and the Pentecostal movement were all considered. We heard sermons by, among others, Charles Finney, Amy Semple MacPherson, and Joel Osteen.

We finished out the year with a four-week Advent and Christmas study from “The Thoughtful Christian” by Walter Brueggemann called “The Messiah,” which is an analysis of the titles the prophet Isaiah provides in chapter 9:6

and that Handel celebrates: “Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” We talked about how these titles do and do not apply to Jesus – how they apply in new ways, to Jesus.

In January, 2017, the group begins a new study of C.S. Lewis – his life and writings. We will be reading and discussing a couple of his Christian apologetical works, *Mere Christianity* and *The Screwtape Letters* as well as his fiction series for children, *The Narnia Chronicles*. We will also watch the movie about Lewis’s marriage, “Shadowlands.”

As always, the women of the church and community friends are all welcome to join us at 9:30 on Monday mornings for education, discussion, good fellowship, and coffee.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday morning Bible class continues under the leadership of Dr. Kevin Newburg. Although the church budget only provides for this class to meet during the academic year, the participants once again decided they would continue the course by funding it themselves over the summer months.

MONTHLY MOVIE & DISCUSSION

The movie group continued to meet at a member’s home at 7:00 on Wednesday evening. The group views a movie and then engages in discussion. The movies usually have a religious or moral theme, or raise topics for debate or discussion. At each meeting, the group selects a movie for the following month and decides on the actual date for the next meeting. Movies in 2016 have included *Citizen Kane* and *Rebecca*. Attendance started to drop in the spring and “Movie Night” was temporarily suspended. Inquiries about its existence prompted it to restart in December with *Eye in the Sky*. *Hustler* is planned for February 2017, but scheduling will remain informal.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

The Book Club has continued meeting monthly in the Fellowship Hall Library at 7:30 on a Tuesday evening. The group reads a book and then engages in discussion. Books selected in 2016 have included:

- JAN 12 *The First Salute* by Barbara Tuchman
- FEB 9 *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson
- MAR 8 *Spies Among Friends* by Kim Philby
- APR 12 *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough
- MAY 10 *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- JUN 14 *Bach* by Tim Dowley
- SEP 13 *Elephant Company* by Vicki Constantine Croke
- OCT 11 *My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem
- NOV 8 *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
- DEC TBA Café Beethoven Dinner

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE
2016 Annual Report

Committee Members

Tom Ewig, Chair
John Thomas

Phil Van Kirk
Don Vellekamp

This report represents the ongoing narrative that Phil van Kirk so ably began in 2015 and continued until the handover to me mid-2016.

1. Regarding the manse at 16 Lee's Hill Road, the pastor has now moved in after a supreme effort, especially on the part of the Vellekamp family, to make the house a home. Furniture was donated, needed restoration work was undertaken. Ongoing maintenance, as well as capital needs, have been identified and placed into future financial budgets.
2. 6 Lee's Hill Road continues to be rented to the Ng family, and small maintenance items were addressed in order to keep them comfortable and satisfied.
3. The major issue at Fellowship Hall remains the water remediation project, which is in the capable hands of Don Richardson and should come to its solution during mid-2017. Other items mainly concern maintenance issues that are addressed as they appear. There are some capital improvement items also on the agenda, such as parking lot re-paving issues and remediation of the brick walkways. These will appear in *The Pipe Organ* under *Session Highlights* as they are addressed.
4. We are nearing the final phase of the church restoration. Again thanks to Don Vellekamp, these have found great success both in terms of the actual restoration as well as in the liaison with the Historic Preservation Committee of Morris County, who have been most responsive in aiding us on the financial side.

Finally, we have spent quite some time formulating the 2017 budget both in terms of maintenance and capital improvement needs. These will be spelled out as they move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Ewig,
Chairman

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE
Sanctuary Building
2016 Annual Report

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Other than normal cleaning, very little maintenance was required.

SURE FOUNDATION PROJECT

Work on the restoration of the roofs and tower continued into 2016 and ended in April. Our contractor, Alden Bailey Company, performed very well and on time and budget. Final payment was made to the contractor in July.

In March 2016 we applied for, and were awarded, a grant from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust in the amount of \$154,000 for the preservation and restoration of the top roof and trim of the tower, replacement and repair of external trim, and painting of the exterior of the building, repair and weather stripping of the front doors, and other minor items. In April we advertised for bids and received three, all high priced and unacceptable. Since timing (weather) was the cause of high prices, it was decided to shelve the project until March 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Vellekamp

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL GARDEN
2016 Annual Report

Jonathan and Suzanne Shelby, Co-Chairs

There were no major capital expenditures for the cemetery or Memorial Garden in 2016. Regular maintenance was comprised of the spring clean-up costing \$225, regular mowing every two weeks costing \$4,100 in total, and the fall leaves clean-up of \$3,625.

The cemetery had three burials during the year and three interments in the Memorial Garden. Unless a plot is sold back to the Church in the future, there is no availability in the cemetery. There are, however, vaults available in the Memorial Garden, section "B". Currently, the cost of a vault is \$2,000, and the requisite brass plaque is \$500.

Looking ahead to the spring of 2017, the Committee will oversee additional tree work and a straightening of several gravestones. The Committee will continue to do its best to maintain the natural beauty of this treasured site.

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

2016 Annual Report

Committee Members

Meg Richardson, Chair

Robyn Brown

Barbara Gill

Janet Bruns

Nancy Gockley

The Congregational Life Committee (CLC) plans events throughout the year to create fellowship opportunities and enhance the life of our Church Family. The goal is to place an emphasis on planning multi-generational events to appeal to all members of our congregation.

2016 Events

Event	Date	Attendance
Souper Bowl Sunday	February 7	50
St. Patrick's Day Special Coffee Hour	March 13	50
Cinco De Mayo Special Coffee Hour	May 1	62
Reception Honoring Stones	May 8	
Church Picnic	June 12	65
Sundaes on Sunday – Sunday School Kick-off	September 18	70
Luncheon to Welcome Stone Family	October 2	100
Installation Reception	November 13	75
Christmas Luncheon	December 11	92

The first event of the year was to co-host with Youth Education Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, a nationally recognized event sponsored by youth groups around the United States on Super Bowl to provide both food and funding to local charities fighting hunger. On February 7th, the Committee provided a simple lunch of soup, salad, and bread after Sunday services, while the youth of the church made dessert and decorated Fellowship Hall in the colors of the two competing teams, the Denver Broncos and the Carolina Panthers. A free will offering was taken, and the proceeds were given to the Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown.

On March 13th, the Committee hosted Coffee Hour in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Irish music, soda bread, and Irish coffee were served, and themed decorations enhanced the food table.

On May 1st, the Committee hosted a Coffee Hour to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Mexican and Tex-Mex- themed food was served, including nachos, bean dips, and virgin margaritas. A piñata was provided for the children, and mariachi music added to the festivities. Also that month, the Committee assisted the Pastor Nominating Committee with a reception-based Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 8th in honor of Bill Stone's election as the new pastor.

The annual Church Picnic was held on June 14th on the church grounds immediately following worship. Attendance was consistent with previous years, with about 60 members present. The traditional meal of hamburgers and hot dogs was served, with Don Richardson and John Brown serving as the grill masters. Church

members provided potluck sides to share. As is tradition, dessert was homemade strawberry shortcake, courtesy of Barbara Gill.

On September 18th, the Committee hosted Sundaes on Sunday, an ice cream-themed Coffee Hour to kick off the start of Sunday School. Ice cream and toppings were provided to welcome the Church Family after the summer break.

On October 2nd, the Committee hosted a luncheon immediately after worship to welcome the Stones to the Church Family on Reverend Stone's first Sunday as pastor. Food for the event was provided by the Committee along with a cake, and the congregation enjoyed a sit-down lunch in Chorba Hall.

On November 13th, a reception was jointly organized by Congregational Life and the Pastor Nominating Committee after Bill Stone's installation. The Committee provided punch, appetizers, and desserts for congregants and church visitors in Chorba Hall after the service.

The final event of the year was the Christmas Luncheon held on Sunday, December 11th immediately following worship. The meal was potluck, with participants providing sides, salads, and desserts, and the Committee providing ham, bread, and beverages. Centerpieces made and donated by Robyn Brown were sold at the end of the luncheon. A free will offering was taken to assist with expenses. After lunch, participants engaged in a carol sing.

Beginning in February of 2017, the Congregational Life Committee will be chaired by new Session member, Jenn McCann.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Richardson,
Congregational Life Chair

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2016 Annual Report

Committee Members

Keith H. Wood, Chairman

Doug Coy
Bret Fischer
Reverend Gamble

Tom MacCowan
Don Richardson
Peter Saulnier

Jonathan Shelby
Phil Van Kirk

Don Vellekamp
Alex Weil

MISSION

To provide the FPCNV with the financial resources to support the needs of the congregation, as directed by the Session.

PROCESS

The Committee is organized to operate primarily through the sub-committees or teams represented, working independently but also coordinated at the Finance Committee level to provide the leverage from interaction and additional resources, as necessary. These independent efforts include Accounting and Audit, Banking, Budgeting, Insurance, Investments, Stewardship, and Strategic Planning. Liaison is conducted with Buildings and Grounds, Audit, and Personnel Committees.

OVERVIEW OF 2016

Results in 2016 were importantly influenced by a significant investment in the manse, which was funded primarily from net savings in personnel costs related to the Pastor transition. Outside of those expense categories, variances from budget were minimal and reflect the careful attention paid to controlling costs.

Revenues benefited from special gifts, including a generous bequest from the Estate of Berdine Groel. Fulfillment of 2016 pledges and plate offerings contributed to the stream of revenue for the year but were back-end loaded posing some uncertainty about results during the year. The secular decline in membership continued to challenge results in 2016, but the rate of the decline in related revenue appears to have been arrested to some degree by the active participation of members newly pledging and maintenance of the average pledge received. Eliminations of pledges continue to challenge results with increasing numbers of active members leaving the area.

Outreach expenditures were maintained at a high level, and the total of \$86,116 included the policy of awarding 15% of certain qualified sources of revenue, PIN Fund and HERB Fund disbursements, and the Christmas Offering. Our congregation continues to rank nationally near the very top of all Presbyterian congregations in this important category.

Excluding the unique operation of the Sure Foundation and the sanctuary revitalization, the results in 2016 of a consolidation of Operations (+\$7,959) and the Net Surplus in Investment Accounts (+\$1,809) is \$8,148.

Operating Budget for 2017

The year 2017 brings to a close a four-year transition in Pastors, in which the net financial impact in Operations has been a surplus of \$10.4K, including a projected modest surplus of \$0.772K for 2017.

From this point forward, the financial ability to enhance and broaden even further the Church's programs will depend importantly on expanding the membership and raising the level of participation in pledging. For 2017, the present level of expenditure is essentially maintained. The principal change reflected is a transfer of costs from Buildings and Grounds to Personnel in order to reflect the termination of our contract with Dublin Maintenance and retaining Diego (Tony) Rodriguez as Church Custodian.

The surplus develops despite a reduction in rental revenue due to CME's planned closing of the Academy during the year and the previously mentioned decline in pledges. We are seeking a replacement of CME as a tenant for this space. Detailed information on the 2017 Budget and comparison to the 2016 Budget and Actual results appears in the spreadsheet accompanying this report.

Sure Foundation – Sanctuary Revitalization (Roof & Belfry)

Phase II was completed in 2016 and came in essentially at the budgeted level. A County Grant for Phase III (repair and painting of the exterior) has been approved and will be available for use as this final phase is undertaken in April 2017 (weather permitting). Sufficient resources are expected to be drawn from the Sure Foundation to fund the Church's planned commitments for Phase III without the need to borrow temporarily from other Church accounts.

Court Challenge – Opposing Grants to Churches on NJ Constitutional Grounds

Motions for Summary Judgements were heard in October 2016, and the Judge has now handed down a decision that is favorable to the Defendant Churches and Morris County Freeholders. The Court dismissed the case "with prejudice," thus forbidding the Plaintiff from refileing this lawsuit or refileing the lawsuit on the same issue. The Plaintiff, the Foundation for Freedom from Religion ("FFFFR"), filed the suit alleging that the Morris County Freeholders and the churches erred in awarding and receiving, respectively, grants that were employed to preserve historic structures. Grounds for the complaint were based on FFFFR's flawed interpretation of the NJ Constitution. We are pleased with this outcome and are encouraged that this matter is now concluded.

Grant Award from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund

Thanks to Don Vellekamp's successful filing of a Grant Request to the State of New Jersey, we have been informed that an award of \$150,000 will be made to FPCNV in the February/March 2017 time frame. These funds are in recognition of the expenses already undertaken by the Church for the sanctuary and those planned for Phase III. Our intention is to reimburse the badly depleted Capital Improvement Fund for its past commitments to the sanctuary project. These funds will be added to the Capital Improvement Fund and will be available to assist with funding the water remediation and other capital projects planned by Buildings and Grounds over the next several years.

Balance Sheet and Investment Program

The balance sheet remains strong and liquid. Retained Surplus, including 2016 Net Income, is \$148,487, and portfolio securities total \$1.041 mil. Investment results for 2016 essentially met benchmarks. Please refer to the accompanying reports in this Annual Report for detailed information on activity taking place in each of the Investment Accounts in 2016.

Thanks

Deb Hennessey (Manager of Accounting) and Darlene Cappel (Financial Secretary) performed admirably throughout 2016, and I hope you will take the opportunity to thank them for their sincere efforts, as do I.

Each member of our Committee takes their individual responsibilities very seriously and each contributed at the Committee level as well, resolving issues arising and planning for our future. Please accept my personal thanks.

Finally, let me express my thanks to you, the Congregation, for your encouragement, financial support, and patience. For all of this we are most grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith H. Wood", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith H. Wood
Chairman

February 14, 2017

To: Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session
Keith Wood, Chair, Finance Committee

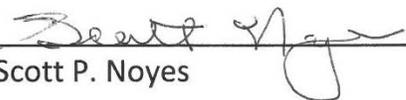
From: Scott Noyes, Audit Committee

Subject: 2016 Review of Financial Statements

As requested by the Finance Committee of the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, we have conducted a review of the financial statements and the accounting policies and procedures in place for the year end December 31, 2016.

We found the underlying financial statements to accurately reflect the financial health of the FPCNV. Accompanying this document is a detailed set of observations and recommendations for the consideration by Session and the Finance Committee.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Noyes



David Dietz



Russel MacAusland

First Presbyterian Church NV

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2016

	◇ <u>Dec 31, 16</u> ◇
Total Session Restricted Funds	<u>386,552.79</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>1,041,216.40</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>5,611,609.25</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Choral Fund Scholarships	550.00
Piano Fund	2,999.38
PIN Fund (Discretionary)	
PIN Fund/Special Account	9,766.59
PIN Fund (Discretionary) - Other	<u>10,304.84</u>
Total PIN Fund (Discretionary)	20,071.43
Prepaid 2017 Pledges	69,600.33
Prepaid Presbytery Dues 2017	455.00
Soup Kitchen Donations	90.00
Special Gifts for 2017	13,500.00
Youth Activity Fund	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>108,466.14</u>
Total Current Liabilities	108,466.14
Long Term Liabilities	
#6 Rental Security Deposit	3,011.59
CME Academy Security Deposit	1,400.70
Fund Balances/Checking Account	
Christmas Offering	<u>3,557.00</u>
Total Fund Balances/Checking Account	3,557.00
Peapack Gladstone Mortgage	<u>306,799.35</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>314,768.64</u>
Total Liabilities	423,234.78

First Presbyterian Church NV

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2016

	◇ <u>Dec 31, 16</u> ◇
Equity	
Equity in Fixed Assets	3,998,670.77
Fund Balances	1,041,216.40
Retained Surplus	140,528.64
Net Income	<u>7,958.66</u>
Total Equity	<u>5,188,374.47</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	 <u><u>5,611,609.25</u></u>

**First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
2017 Preliminary Operating Budget**

	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>2016 Actual</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Budget (P)</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Administrative				
#6 Rental Income	25,364.00	23,825.00	25,200.00	27,300.00
CME Academy Rental Income	1,200.00	15,200.00	14,800.00	6,799.00
Denominational Assessment	881.00	661.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Investment Income	2,980.00	4,297.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	4,897.00	1,808.00	1,500.00	6,654.00
Use of Buildings	2,831.00	5,210.00	2,500.00	5,000.00
Total Administrative	<u>38,153.00</u>	<u>50,801.00</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>50,753.00</u>
Offerings				
Current Year Pledges	373,468.00	353,945.00	390,000.00	375,000.00
Flowers	5,195.00	3,950.00	4,000.00	6,000.00
Gifts Rec'd in Excess of Pledge	6,209.00	10,174.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous Gifts	0.00	44,375.00	1,000.00	20,000.00
Plate Offerings	17,053.00	21,120.00	30,000.00	23,000.00
Prior Year Pledges	7,417.00	13,089.00	14,000.00	23,500.00
Total Offerings	<u>409,342.00</u>	<u>446,653.00</u>	<u>441,000.00</u>	<u>452,500.00</u>
Total Income	<u>447,495.00</u>	<u>497,454.00</u>	<u>491,000.00</u>	<u>503,253.00</u>
Expense				
Administrative Expenses				
Denominational Assessment	12,969.00	12,784.00	12,800.00	12,225.00
Insurance	23,095.00	24,600.00	23,000.00	25,000.00
Miscellaneous	2,538.00	3,396.00	1,000.00	2,500.00
Office Equipment Maintenance	2,084.00	3,479.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Stationary/Supplies/Postage	6,169.00	9,419.00	6,500.00	7,500.00
Telephones & Internet	4,044.00	5,091.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Administrative Expenses	<u>51,799.00</u>	<u>58,769.00</u>	<u>51,300.00</u>	<u>55,225.00</u>
Buildings & Grounds				
Building Maintenance/Repairs				
CE Building	9,682.00	12,271.00	13,000.00	11,150.00
Church	4,379.00	4,006.00	2,000.00	3,300.00
Miscellaneous	240.00	408.00	1,000.00	500.00
Cleaning Services	22,076.00	20,601.00	25,500.00	-
Custodial/Kitchen Supplies	1,324.00	1,763.00	1,500.00	1,800.00
Equipment	1,327.00	237.00	500.00	1,000.00
Grounds Maint/Snow Removal	19,833.00	24,533.00	15,000.00	24,000.00
Manse expenses (6 Lee's Hill)	4,830.00	7,089.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Manse Maint. (16 Lee's Hill)	7,867.00	24,088.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Manse Mortgage Interest	14,316.00	13,887.00	15,200.00	15,200.00
Trash Removal & Misc.	811.00	946.00	800.00	1,000.00
Utilities				
CE Building	14,446.00	8,322.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Church	7,354.00	4,893.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Buildings & Grounds	<u>108,485.00</u>	<u>123,044.00</u>	<u>101,500.00</u>	<u>84,950.00</u>

**First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
2017 Preliminary Operating Budget**

	2015 <u>Actuals</u>	2016 <u>Actuals</u>	2016 <u>Budget</u>	2017 <u>Budget</u>
Christian Education-Adult				
Adult Program	450.00	1,695.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
Bible Study	5,100.00	7,150.00	5,000.00	7,000.00
Miscellaneous & Library	165.00	156.00	200.00	200.00
Total Christian Education-Adult	<u>5,715.00</u>	<u>9,001.00</u>	<u>6,200.00</u>	<u>8,700.00</u>
Christian Education-Youth				
Sunday School Curriculum	0.00	432.00	800.00	800.00
Youth Programs & Retreats	3,087.00	2,918.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Christian Education-Youth	<u>3,087.00</u>	<u>3,350.00</u>	<u>3,800.00</u>	<u>3,800.00</u>
Congregational Life Committee	686.00	580.00	850.00	850.00
Membership Committee	991.00	707.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
Music & Worship				
Flowers	2,973.00	4,032.00	3,000.00	4,000.00
Guest Preachers	1,400.00	3,600.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Instruments Maintenance	2,234.00	1,349.00	800.00	800.00
Music & Supplies	814.00	2,452.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Musicians & Singers	13,648.00	9,857.00	13,000.00	13,200.00
Special Christmas Decorations	4,600.00	1,221.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Music & Worship	<u>25,669.00</u>	<u>22,311.00</u>	<u>20,800.00</u>	<u>22,000.00</u>
Outreach	59,685.00	58,569.00	65,100.00	63,225.00
Pastor Nominating Committee		8,471.00	5,000.00	
Personnel				
All Other Salaries	110,894.00	102,876.00	108,000.00	134,688.00
Employer Taxes	12,643.00	10,138.00	12,700.00	10,675.00
Mileage Reimbursements	728.00	226.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Minister's 403 (b)	1,500.00	3,133.00	6,000.00	
Minister's Educ Allowance	68.00	780.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Minister's Pension/Med/Dental	39,086.00	31,288.00	35,500.00	33,500.00
Minister's Salary	51,557.00	39,712.00	46,976.00	55,000.00
Minister's SECA	9,298.00	2,962.00	6,777.00	7,268.00
Minister's Utilities	3,926.00	2,589.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	4,990.00	1,599.00	1,200.00	1,000.00
Moving Expenses		5,095.00		
Non-Clergy Health/Pension	3,888.00	4,305.00	3,800.00	8,100.00
Youth Leader	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Personnel	<u>238,578.00</u>	<u>204,703.00</u>	<u>233,453.00</u>	<u>262,731.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>494,695.00</u>	<u>489,495.00</u>	<u>489,503.00</u>	<u>502,481.00</u>
Net Income (Gain/Loss)	-47,200.00	7,959.00	1,497.00	772.00

S-1
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Purpose: A depreciation reserve to be drawn upon for replacement or repair of major capital items.

Restrictions: None, when used for purposes defined above.

Asset Allocation Policy: 100% Cash Equivalents

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/16 - 100% Cash Equivalents

CASH FLOW 2016

SOURCES

Balance January 1, 2016		\$75,551.00
Insurance Claim for Fire Pump	\$10,563.00	
Dividends & Interest	4.00	
Total Income		10,567.00
TOTAL SOURCES		\$86,118.00

USES

#4 – CE Building

Replacement of Fire Pump	(9,895.00)	
Painting	(17,945.00)	
Carpentry	(5,000.00)	
Total CE Building Expenses		(32,840.00)

#6 – Brick Manse

Install Chimney Liner	(1,900.00)	
Total Brick Manse Expenses		(1,900.00)

Grounds Maintenance

Water Remediation	(3,900.00)	
Water Purification System	(5,400.00)	
Brickwork & Stair Repairs	(1,500.00)	
Total Grounds Maintenance Expense		(10,800.00)

Advisor's Fees	(100.00)	(100.00)
TOTAL USES		(\$45,640.00)

Balance December 31, 2016		\$40,478.00
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S-2
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
CEMETERY FUND

Purpose: To maintain and provide funds for capital projects for the cemetery.

Restrictions: Use of income and principal.

Asset Allocation Policy: 50% Stocks, 50% Fixed Income

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/2016 - 54% Equities, 24% Fixed Income, 22% Cash Equivalents.

CASH FLOW 2016

SOURCES

Balance January 1, 2016		\$227,230.00
Operating Revenue	\$11,055.00	
Investment Income	4094.00	
Change in Value of Investments	10,061.00	
Total Income		25,210.00
TOTAL SOURCES		\$252,440.00

USES

Advisor's Fees	(\$100.00)	
Operating Expenses	(9,979.00)	
TOTAL USES		(\$10,079.00)
Balance December 31, 2016		\$242,361.00
<i>Accrued Income</i>	631.00	
Total Value with Accrued Income		\$242,992.00

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
CROSSROADS SOCIETY FUND**

Purpose: Dedicated to general needs and capital improvement requirements.

Restrictions: Income may be distributed only after the principal balance reaches \$1 million or when the portfolio has been in place for 5 years. Thereafter, principal withdrawals are limited to 5% of the balance as directed by Session.

Asset Allocation Policy: 50% Stocks, 50% Fixed Income.

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/2016 - 51% Equities, 25% Fixed Income, 24% Cash Equivalents.

CASH FLOW 2016**SOURCES**

Balance January 1, 2016		\$229,552.00
Investment Income	3,966.00	
Change in Value of Investments	9,561.00	
Total Income		<u>13,527.00</u>
TOTAL SOURCES		\$243,079.00

USES

Income Reinvested	(5.00)	
Advisor's Fees	(100.00)	
TOTAL USES		<u>(\$105.00)</u>
Balance December 31, 2016		\$242,974.00
<i>Accrued Income</i>	598.00	
Total Value with Accrued Income		<u>243,572.00</u>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
ENDOWED FUND**

Purpose: Used to support church's programs.

Restrictions: Limited to use of income only.

Asset Allocation Policy: 50% Stocks, 50% Fixed Income.

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/2016 - 55% Equities, 25% Fixed Income, 20% Cash Equivalents.

CASH FLOW 2015**SOURCES**

Balance January 1, 2016		\$99,299.00
Investment Income	\$1,779.00	
Change in Value of Investments	4,347.00	
Total Income		<u>6,126.00</u>
TOTAL SOURCES		\$105,425.00

USES

Income Disbursement to Operations	(\$1,779.00)	
Advisor's Fees	(100.00)	
TOTAL USES		<u>(\$1,879.00)</u>
Balance December 31, 2016		\$103,546.00
Accrued Income		<u>272.00</u>
Total Value with Accrued Income		<u>\$103,818.00</u>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
HERB (Help with Education Related Basics) FUND**

Purpose:	Provide funds for Scholarship and Education. Administered by the HERB Fund Committee, which consists of the Pastor and the Deacons.
Restrictions:	Individual Grants are limited to \$5,000 per year. Disbursements are limited to 6% of the beginning of the year market value unless otherwise approved by the Session.
Asset Allocation Policy:	70% Stocks, 30% Fixed Income.
Actual Asset Allocation:	12/31/2016 - 70% Equities, 15% Fixed Income, 15% Cash Equivalent.

CASH FLOW 2016**SOURCES**

Balance January 1, 2016		\$197,854.00
Investment Income	\$3,845.00	
Change in Value of Investments	10,558.00	
Total Income		14,404.00
TOTAL SOURCES		\$212,258.00

USES

Income Reinvested	(3.00)	
HERB Fund Educational Grants	(\$10,000.00)	
Advisor's Fees	(100.00)	
TOTAL USES		(\$10,103.00)

Balance December 31, 2016		\$202,155.00
<i>Accrued Income</i>		665.00
<i>Total Value with Accrued Income</i>		<u><u>\$202,820.00</u></u>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
MEMORIAL FUND**

Purpose: General Endowment

Restrictions: Unrestricted use of income and principal

Asset Allocation Policy: 50% Stocks, 50% Fixed Income

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/2016 - 58% Equities, 25% Fixed Income, 17% Cash Equivalents

CASH FLOW 2016**SOURCES**

Balance January 1, 2016		\$97,769.00
Investment Income	\$1,825.00	
Change in Investment Value	4,549.00	
Total Income		<u>6,374.00</u>
TOTAL SOURCES		\$104,143.00

USES

Income Disbursement to Operations	(\$1,825.00)	
Advisor's Fees	(100.00)	
TOTAL USES		(\$1,925.00)

Balance December 31, 2016		\$102,218.00
<i>Accrued income</i>		286.00
Total Value with Accrued Income		<u>\$102,504.00</u>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
ORGAN FUND**

Purpose: To pay for organ repairs and to provide for its replacement at the end of the organ's useful life.

Restrictions: None when used for purpose defined above.

Asset Allocation Target: 50% Stocks, 50% Fixed Income

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/2016 - 58% Equities, 26% Fixed Income, 16% Cash Equivalents

CASH FLOW 2016**SOURCES**

Balance January 1, 2016		\$50,836.00
Investment Income	\$903.00	
Change in Value of Investments	2,223.00	
Total Income		<u>3,126.00</u>
TOTAL SOURCES		\$53,962.00

USES

Organ Repairs	(\$3,612.00)	
Advisor's Fees	(100.00)	
Subtotal		(\$3,712.00)

Balance December 31, 2016		\$50,250.00
<i>Accrued Income</i>		<u>140.00</u>
Total Value with Accrued Income		<u>\$50,390.00</u>

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
PIN (Persons in Need) FUND**

Purpose: For humanitarian and educational needs; administered by Minister and Deacons.

Restrictions: None when used for purpose defined above.

Asset Allocation Policy: 100% Cash Equivalents

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/2016 - 100% Cash Equivalents

CASH FLOW 2016**SOURCES**

Balance, January 1, 2016	\$21,971.00
Donations	5,841.00
TOTAL SOURCES	<u>\$27,812.00</u>

USES

Grants	<u>(\$17,557.00)</u>
Balance December 31, 2016	<u>\$10,305.00</u>

Note: No income is attributed to this account. Given the relatively short life of deposit, balances are commingled within the Peapack Gladstone Bank Account but activities of the fund are segregated for purposes of this presentation.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON
SURE FOUNDATION FUND**

Purpose: To fund the Church Restoration Project.

Restrictions: None when used for purpose defined above.

Asset Allocation Policy: 100% Cash Equivalents

Actual Asset Allocation: 12/31/2016 - 100% Cash Equivalents

CASH FLOW 2016**SOURCES**

Balance January 1, 2016		\$148,634.00
Grant Funds Received	\$271,952.00	
Sure Foundation Commitments	45,426.00	
Dividends & Interest	4.00	
Total Income		<u>\$317,382.00</u>
TOTAL SOURCES		<u>\$466,016.00</u>

USES**Phase I – Foundation Restoration Expenses**

Re-installation of Kitchen & Bathroom	(4,017.00)	
Rewire Bathrooms & Smoke Detectors	(360.00)	
Total – Foundation Restoration Expenses		(4,377.00)

Phase II - Roof & Tower Project

Construction & Preservation Services	(366,245.00)	
Contract Administration	(17,740.00)	
Drawings & Documentation	(7,002.00)	
Chimney Masonry	(5,470.00)	
Total – Roof & Tower Project		(396,457.00)

Phase III – Exterior Restoration

Daedalus Projects	(1,200.00)	
Drawings & Documentation	(14,239.00)	
Total - Exterior Restoration		(15,439.00)

Fees & Charges	(100.00)	
Total - Fees & Charges		<u>(100.00)</u>
Total Expenses		(416,373.00)

Balance December 31, 2016		<u><u>\$49,643.00</u></u>
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First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

2016 Annual Report

Committee Members

Jane O’Keeffe, Chair

Nancy Burrows

John Thomas

Caroline Ford

Patti Wood

Ann Talcott

The Membership Committee began the year with a goal of getting our membership directory to accurately reflect our membership and their contact information, obtain current photos of members and their families, review and update membership documents. We are still in the process of getting responses from all members. Our committee shrank during the year as members shifted to other committees or moved out of town.

New Members: (3) Marjatta DiSerio, Russ MacAusland, Faith Winnow (returning)

Confirmands: (3) Sofia Kasparik, Jack Myers, Julia White

Removed by death: (6) Dean Groel, Sally Dudley, Mariliese Mihok, Bob Mims, Dick Winter, Jeanne Zenker

Letter of Transfer/Moved Away: (32) Elizabeth Alger, Robert & Jane Asdal, Judy & Bill Blank, Erin & Clay Castner, The Cook Family (4), Christodoulou family (3), Stan & Nicki Doggett, Gregory Gianis, Michael Koencke, Jr, Pamela & Avery Klurfield, Lang family (5), Steve & Debra (Chipman) Polachi, Barbara Rottner, Waite family (4)

Adult children who have moved away: (17) Kristen, John & Derek Becht, Charles & Georgia Bloom, Zander & Zach Buteux, Charlie Cotton, Carson Gannon, Lauren Kelly, Patrick & Will Mc Donald, Fraser, Bailey & Grayson Miller, William & Emily Saulnier

Current Membership: 300

The Committee continued to place “ads” in publications such as the Observer Tribune and the Historical Society brochure. We also created and placed a welcome banner for Bill Stone’s Installation. Our member name tags were updated, we reviewed membership documents, checked fellowship pads, and sent welcome notes to any new names. We continue to send birthday cards to members for whom we have a birthday month and day.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane O’Keeffe, Chair

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE
2016 Annual Report

Jonathan Shelby, Chair

Nancy Burrows	Phil Van Kirk
Tom Ewig	Kathy Sheeleigh
Rev. Bill Stone	Eileen McDonald

The goal of our committee as established by the Session is to *fulfill the commitment of the Church of Jesus Christ to minister to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely and the powerless, locally and throughout the world; to help establish Christ's just, peaceable and loving rule in the world; and to be a visible presence of our church in this community.*

THE TOTAL GRANT FUNDING BUDGET FOR 2016: \$57,816

Chaplaincy Program-Morris County Correctional Facility	\$3,000.00
Supports salary for Pastor Scott	
Children on the Green	\$6,298.00
Early childhood education for homeless children	
Community Enterprise Solutions	\$4,000.00
Computer equipment: Exploration Center, Guatemala	
Community Soup Kitchen	\$3,140.00
General Fund	
Cornerstone Family Programs (Morristown Neighborhood House)	\$7,186.00
Supports After-School & Employment Services	
Deirdre's House	\$6,298.00
Clinical Counseling Program	
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,798.00
Homeless Solutions	\$6,298.00
Case Management Services for Shelter Guests	
Kirkridge - Together It's Possible Program	\$4,508.00
Mental Health Assoc. of Morris County	\$5,391.00
Nairobi-Newton Presbytery	\$5,391.00
Supports programs helping Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	
Willow Tree Center	\$4,508.00
Addiction Counseling & Prevent Bullying in School Program	
Other Expenses:	
Reimbursements for Mental Health Association dinners	\$773.03

The 2016 Christmas Offering was dedicated to Cornerstone Family Programs/Morristown Neighborhood House. The organization received **\$3,532**.

During the year, the following non-profits were featured in ***The Pipe Organ*** and/or representatives from the organizations made a presentation to the congregation during the service:

February	Community Soup Kitchen- volunteers needed!
March	Thank-you letter from the Interfaith Food Pantry
April	Mental Health Assn of Morris County Dinner announcement
May	MHA dinner pictures
June	Kirkridge runner for the altar and thank-you note
November	Food Drive for Interfaith Food Pantry Thanksgiving items
November	Lou Schwarcz from Mental Health Assn—value of our donation for Stewardship
December	Cornerstone Family Programs to receive Christmas offering

Members of the congregation participated in a variety of other outreach projects, including:

Christmas Is for Children

“Adopt” a child and buy three Christmas gifts from their “Wish List,” coordinated by Susan Fischer

Social Club Italian Dinner for Mental Health Assn of Morris County

Dinner & entertainment for 55 guests, held in April and October, coordinated by Jonathan Shelby and Meg Richardson

Interfaith Food Pantry

Thanksgiving food drive to supply needed items that included 9 turkeys and 2 hams. Delivery of goods was made by Jonathan Shelby and Caroline Ford.

Christmas Gift Program for The Chaplaincy Program at MCCF

Collected undergarments for inmates, coordinated by Nancy Barrett

Community Soup Kitchen

Three teams from our congregation shop, prepare, and serve lunch the third Wednesday of each month, coordinated by Kathy Sheeleigh. Additionally, several participated in the Walk of Faith fundraiser.

Breakfast Bags for Community Soup Kitchen

100 bags, coordinated by Youth Education Committee Chair, Kerra French

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Shelby

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE
2016 Annual Report

Committee Members

Peter Saulnier, Chair

Edna Conway	Amanda Napolitano
Dr. Robert Gamble	Rev. William Stone
Min Kwon	Tricia Tiensch
David Mitchell	Patti Wood
Sue Mitchell	Elena Bird Zolnick

This year was one of transition and growth. Our first challenge was to find leadership for the Choir during Elena's leave of absence from February through the end of Choir season. Fortunately, Ben Krumreig stepped into the leadership position and did an outstanding job. He returned to his hometown in Ohio at the end of the season, and the Choir and congregation will greatly miss his voice and leadership.

February was a full month for music at the Church with free seminars after worship, on the flute and the saxophone led by CME musicians Sarah Shin and Ana Garcia Caraballos, respectively. On February 28th Ming Xie, an international award-winning pianist and doctoral student at Juilliard, performed a recital in the sanctuary.

Shortly after Elena began her leave, Amanda requested a leave of absence from March until September to pursue a graduate degree in education and get married. Fortunately, we were able to find two very talented organists, John Wolfe and Roshan Chakane, to fill in during her absence. They each studied at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers. John has moved on to a fulltime position at a large church in New Rochelle, NY; Roshan is continuing his studies. We hope to have them both back as guest organists.

On Mothers' Day, CME Academy presented a debut recital of eight young student musicians: Nicole Izaguirre, Moriah Kam, Lauren Lee, Sophie Lee, Lexa Naumovich, Mila Naumovich, Paul Salaune, Asiah Sharpe, and Yujia Sun, accompanied by their teachers, Rob Grohman, MiJung Cho, and Stella Park.

As Rev. Gamble prepared to leave his interim position and we awaited the arrival of Bill Stone and his family, we had the challenge of filling the pulpit for 14 Sundays from June through September. We were again fortunate not only to fill the pulpit but also to benefit from nine different guest preachers, each of whom brought a unique style and experience to New Vernon. Some had preached here before, and others were new to us. Many came through our strong relationship with Princeton Theological Seminary.

We learned during the summer that Elena would not be renewing her contract in September and immediately began a search for a new Choir Director. During the search process, we also learned that Amanda wished to leave after Christmas and that we now needed to find both a Choir Director and a fulltime organist! During the search, we considered maintaining the current structure of two Co-Ministers of music versus moving to a single Director who would both play the keyboard and direct the Choir. We finally settled on a single Director of Music with responsibility for the entire music program and to hire an accompanist to play the organ and piano. We believe this new structure will provide a well-coordinated music program with clear leadership and responsibility.

To that end, we hired Martin Sedek as Director of Music, who began his tenure as of January 1st. Marty is a highly accomplished music leader and teacher with degrees from Berklee College of Music, Montclair State, and Rutgers. When not at FPCNV, he is conducting choirs for Masterwork Chorus, The Choral Arts Society of NJ, and teaching and leading choirs at Montclair State. As a bonus, his wife Eileen is joining our Choir as a soprano section leader. Marty recently recruited Jany Izaguirre as Accompanist for the Choir. Jany is well known to us as she is affiliated with the Center for Musical Excellence (CME), led by Min Kwon. CME was a rich source for guest musicians at Sunday worship including Min Kwon, piano; Yunah Lee, soprano; Sarah Shin, flute; Ana Garcia Caraballos, saxophone; and Mijung Cho, piano.

We look forward to an active 2017 focused on strengthening and growing our music program that is such an important ministry of our church.

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
2016 Annual Report

The objective of the Personnel Committee is to provide the Congregation with competent, responsive staff members whose individual and collective efforts are channeled effectively in support of the Congregation's requirements.

Throughout the year, there is ongoing communication and consultation with members of staff, either at their request or a Committee's initiation, relating to all issues of job performance. This is to ensure that effective communication is taking place both vertically and laterally within the staff, and that both the human and financial resources of the Church are being applied in a manner consistent with achieving the Congregation's objectives.

The Committee operates as an independent third party in resolving disputes and has the responsibility for securing the confidentiality of all communications in matters entrusted to the Committee and access persons.

An annual program of evaluation and guidance of individual staff members relative to their performance is conducted by Committee members. A personal meeting with each staff member is held annually in order to review the staff member's past performance and set goals for the upcoming year, as well as to continue a dialogue on matters of importance. As background for these interviews, the Personnel Committee solicits confidential evaluations provided by the Chief of Staff and members of the Congregation most directly involved with the staff member. Further, the Minister's Annual Evaluation is developed from confidential evaluations performed by all members of Session, Deacons, and a sampling of members of the Congregation. A composite of their respective evaluations is presented to each staff member and is compared with their self-evaluations.

Recommendations to and from the Finance Committee regarding appropriate and competitive compensation and benefits for each employee are made.

During 2016, the Committee, as recommended by the PNC and Session, hired Rev. Bill Stone as our permanent Pastor. Elena Bird Zolnick, Co-Director of Music, resigned, and Martin Sedek was hired as Director of Music, effective January 1, 2017. Amanda Napolitano has announced her desire to resign in order to dedicate her energies to Educational Administration, and we are currently searching for a full-time organist. Tony Rodriguez, who worked for the Church under Dublin Maintenance, was hired as a full-time employee of FPCNV.

Carol Conger Vellekamp,
Chairperson

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
2016 Annual Report

Members

Todd Claytor, Chair

Lisa Chapman	Peter Saulnier
Tom Ewig	Jonathan Shelby
Tom MacCowatt	Tricia Tiensch

CAMPAIGN REPORT AND PLEDGE RESULTS

CAMPAIGN REPORT

The theme of this year's campaign was "**Ushering In a New Generation!**" We asked each of our members to increase their pledge amount from last year by just 5% to get us to our goal of \$405,000. Continued attrition of our membership made it difficult even to reach last year's total, much less shoot for the campaign goal. When we review the final results, however, we are deeply grateful for the generosity and fellowship of our loyal church donors as well as new members and those who have not pledged previously. Thanks to all!

PLEDGE SUMMARY AS OF 1/15/17:

2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Total amount pledged was \$385,554 from 108 pledges.

2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Total amount pledged to date is \$370,000 from 106 pledges (88% of the 120 solicited). The results include 28 members who increased their amount over last year by a net of \$13,600; 13 who decreased their pledge amount versus last year by \$11,700; a loss of 13 who previously pledged but did not pledge this time for decreased revenue of \$46k, and 49 who were unchanged. There were also 16 new givers for a total of \$16,300.

As difficult as this year's campaign was, I am encouraged by the addition of new pledges and appreciate the continued support of all others. We are hopeful that pledges lost to hardship circumstances will return.

I offer gratitude to all members of the Committee for their faithful support.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Claytor,
Stewardship Chair

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE
2016 Annual Report

Kerra French, Chair

Susan Fischer
Brenda Myers
Meg Richardson

Don Richardson
Katherine Newburg Stieh
Rev. Robert Gamble/Rev. Bill Stone

Major activities include the following programs:

- Sunday School
- Children's Sermons
- Confirmation Class
- Youth Service Projects
- Sr. High Mission Trip
- Christmas Pageant

We continued our Sunday School class for students in grades K-7. Our attendance averaged 3-5 students; however, attendance increased in late 2016 following the arrival of Bill Stone. The children continue to enjoy the fellowship of being together. Smaller class size allows for us to get to know one another well. This means we can celebrate both the big and little joys in the life of our children as well as support each other through tricky or rough times. We adopted the curriculum, "Feasting on the Word," an ecumenical, downloadable, and lectionary-based curriculum. Katherine Newburg Stieh resigned as Director of Sunday School in January after securing a full-time teaching position. A rotating teaching schedule was established with members of the Youth Education Committee sharing the teaching responsibility throughout 2016. Barbara Schiavone was hired as the Nursery Caregiver during Sunday service.

The Children's Sermons were offered every Sunday during worship and presented by Robert Gamble, Susan Fischer, and Bill Stone, upon his arrival. Children are called to the front of the sanctuary where the leader tells a story or reads a book. Sometimes props are used to engage the children. The 5-10 minute sermon is creative and heartfelt, not only for the children but for the entire congregation. This year the entire congregation participated in a no stress, no fuss "Sounds of Christmas" pageant using our traditional costumes that allowed for participation by children and adults, with the congregation providing various sounds effects as a narrator told the Christmas story.

Our 8th grade students participated in Confirmation Classes led by Pastor Robert Gamble. The confirmands each selected a mentor to work with them on their faith journey. We had five students in the 2016 Confirmation Class, including one from the Meyersville Presbyterian Church. The confirmands all participated in a retreat in late February at Camp Johnsonburg and officially joined the church in May.

In 2016, the Youth Ministry continued its focus on service projects. In January, youth provided decorations and baked brownies for the Souper Bowl luncheon. In February, our youth prepared and mailed 25 Valentine's Day care packages to our college students. March found them stuffing and hiding Easter eggs for the children's Easter Sunday egg hunt. In April, a group of youth and adults served with The NYC Relief Bus, a soup kitchen on wheels based in Elizabeth. Our team arrived early on a Saturday morning to prepare homemade soup and load the converted school bus with food and supplies. We then drove with our team to the Bronx where we had the privilege to serve the poor and homeless lunch on the streets of the city, pray with them, and experience their strong sense of community.

In June, we hosted High School Graduation Recognition Sunday to honor our nine seniors heading off to college in the fall. In late June, three of our youth joined Robert Gamble on a Sr. High Mission Trip to the Eastern Shore, Maryland, in the town of Onancock, where they joined youth from other churches and worked on area homes, doing yard work, painting and cleaning, and planning and leading programming for children in the community. In October, we participated in the Hunger Walk to benefit the Community Soup Kitchen where we were joined by Bill and Ewan Stone. During their November school break, our youth participated once again in an in-reach workday, assisting a local church family with moving and storing patio furniture and stacking wood in preparation for the winter and purchasing contents and assembling 100 Breakfast-To-Go bags for the Community Soup Kitchen.

The Youth Education Committee hosted their third successful Friday Fellowship Dinner in November for 18 guests. Attendees were all parents of children and youth from our congregation, and Bill and Hayley Stone were present to meet these families. Jeff French and Don Richardson prepared and served a restaurant-quality dinner while Susan Fischer coordinated a variety of child care activities for 10 children with the assistance of Nathaniel Fischer, Katherine Stieh, and Kerra French.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerra French,
Chair