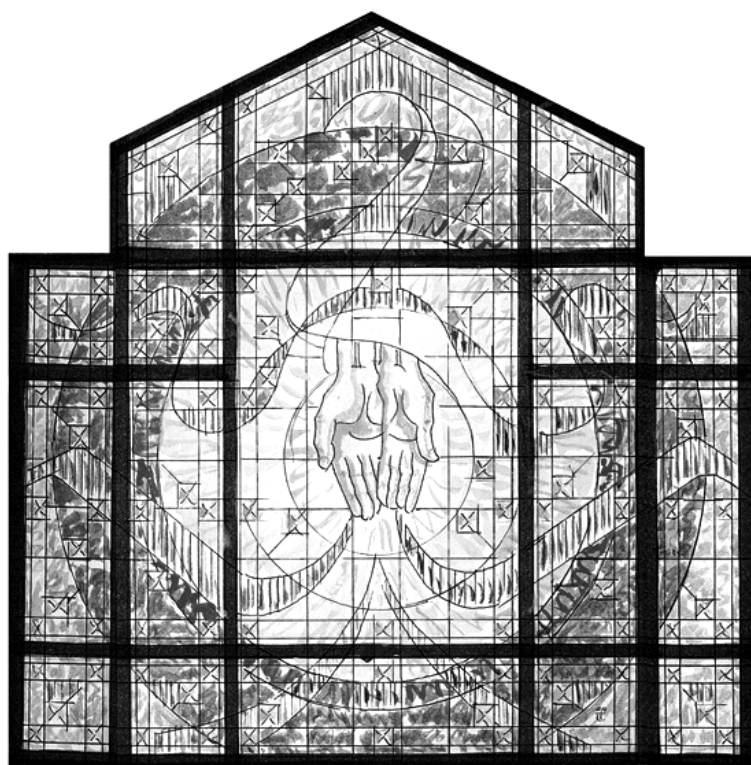


# FEDERATED CHURCH

INTO OUR NEW CENTURY IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

2018 COMMITTEE DIRECTORY  
& 2017 COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
AND  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES – 2018

Ch/Chair=Committee Chairperson GC=Governing Council Representative

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 Kathy Leischner (19) 402-564-2990  
 Julie Graham (19) 402-992-1207  
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### FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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CH/Chair=Committee Chairperson GC=Governing Council Representative

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 Karen Paben (19) 402-564-5213  
 Sunnie Yang (20) 402-302-2971

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

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### WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

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 Cindee Wachter (19) 402-564-1112  
 Kathy Leishcner-Ch,GC(19) 402-564-2990  
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 Bob Arp (Staff) 402-563-2657  
 Stuart Gausman (Staff) 402-910-3964

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 Antonio Garcia (19) 402-606-4309  
 Max Porter (19) 402-564-0844  
 Cola Hahn (20) 402-564-1823  
 Rebecca Timperley (20) 402-897-2006  
 Doug Williams, Ch, GC (20) 402-564-9880

### FEDERATED CHURCH FOUNDATION

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Tim Rathje, Treasurer 402-270-2986  
 John Petersen, Secretary 402-563-2751  
 Brian Klevemann, Director 402-910-1620  
 Marv Zoucha 402-564-7946  
 Rev. Annika Lister Stroope 402-942-1636

### PROGRAM & PROJECT COORDINATORS

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 Dennis Vollbracht 402-942-1895  
 Meals on Wheels  
 Renee Bellum 402-563-2441  
 Community Christmas Dinner  
 Chris Dixon 402-564-5627

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TASK FORCE

#### PRAIRIE VILLAGE BOARD

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 Ruth Erwin  
 Dave Fulton 402-564-1116  
 Larry Mares 402-564-4623  
 Rev. Annika Lister Stroope 402-942-1636

#### PLATE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY BOARD

Louise Moran, Secretary 402-564-5745  
 Cec Bartholomew 402-564-0264  
 Chris Dixon 402-564-5627

## **Governing Council President's Report**

As 2017 comes to a close I thank you for allowing me to be the President of the congregation. When I was asked first to be VP it was more than 2 years ago and I thought wow what am I getting myself into. Although I am glad my term is coming to a close, I am also glad I did it. I learned a lot this year, I learned how much people are willing to pitch in to help out. I saw this first in December 2017 when a pipe burst over the nursery. It was heartwarming to see all of the people who came together in a moment's notice to clean up a very wet mess. Later as spring came I was happy to see folks come together to adopt portions of the grounds and clean up and maintain them over the year. The Garage sale, Cookies and More, Café le Fed, Columbus days and committee membership are some of the great examples of people helping out around the church and there are surely many other examples that I am not listing. One thing I did notice is that often it is the same group of people who roll up their sleeves and pitch in. If I could ask for something it would be for everyone who is able in the congregation to pick one volunteer activity in 2018 and get involved.

2017 proved to be a year of growing pains for our congregation, by the end of the year our expenses for the year were outpacing our contributions, we had to dip into savings and ask for help from each of you. I am happy to see that the Stewardship drive has shown a healthy percentage of increase and many in the congregation are really living generously as our Stewardship theme asks. I did learn that for each member, the church pays \$40 in denominational support which comes out of the general fund of the church and that not all members contribute to the general fund. Those who don't contribute to the general fund don't pay any of the monthly bills for the church and in fact some other member is paying their denominational support. It is great that members contribute to specific restricted funds but we all should contribute to the general fund of the church.

I hope for a great 2018 at Federated Church and again I thank you for the privilege of being your President in 2017.

Rick Porter, 2017 Federated Church President

## **Pastor's Report 2017**



## **Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families**

Looking back at 2017, it felt very full. There were plenty of things happening. Since many activities have been reported by the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Committees, I won't belabor readers with redundant information - please read those annual reports. Nonetheless, there are a few things I would like to add with regard to our intentional ministries for Christian formation.

Our Children's Ministry supported the idea of reaching out and connecting with Emerson Elementary School for their after-school tutoring. In January 2017, a group of dedicated volunteers from Federated Church went to Emerson on a weekly basis to help students with homework for an hour - thank you to Chris Dixon, Cindee Wachter, Anjel Garcia Lopez, Ethan Yang and Lucas Miller.

Children's Ministry partnered with the First United Methodist Church for the annual Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) during the first full week of June. It was wonderful to see our children - and many other children - gathered together and excited to learn more about God's Word. Thank you to all our volunteers and teacher Kristi Wolfe, our VBC coordinator for the past two years. During the summer months (when there is normally no Sunday school), children were provided snacks and kid-friendly activities after their sermon - thank you to Sunnie Yang and Macyn Norris.

We made a change to when our Confirmation classes meet. Instead Sunday mornings during the education hour, confirmands now meet each other week on Sunday evenings for a couple hours. I would like to thank the Gausman, Lange and Norris families for willing to try something different. One of the many benefits of this change is the feasibility of doing more activities with confirmands (Annie L., Macyn N. & Riley G.). We helped Women's Fellowship with posting signs for Cookies N More, sorted cans for recycling and prepared a meal for the Columbus Rescue Mission. Another benefit is the formation of a 7th & 8th grade class for Sunday mornings. Thank you to Brenda Sand and Lisa Perrin for accepting the challenge to teach our new middle school group. There are plenty of activities mentioned in the Youth Ministry Committee report. But one thing that was not shared - and should not be overlooked - is Doug Williams' service as a youth teacher. Doug requested to step down from teaching with the recent graduating class. While it was tempting to say no, I knew that he did not make this decision lightly. Thus his request was accepted and we want to thank Doug for his many years decades of service to our Youth Ministry. I recently learned that he was instrumental in starting this ministry when his children were in their adolescence.

There are many people to thank for the things we have been able to do with our ministry to children, youth and families. I want to thank all our teachers, among those not previously mentioned: Denny Vollbracht, Heidi Kleemann, Matt & Nicole Miller, Max & Ashli Porter, Roland Augspurger. Thank you also to the members of Christian Education, Youth Ministry and Membership & Growth Committees with whom I've had the privilege of working with.

One of the great privileges of being a pastor is being welcomed into sacred moments of life. We celebrated several baptisms and confirmations in 2017. I also got to officiate wedding ceremonies for these beautiful couples: Shelby Hughes with Brian Alther on May 27th and Kaylee Dewald with Beau Godwin on September 16th. Along with these celebrations of new life, there were celebrations of *completed* life. I am tremendously grateful for the opportunities to preside over the memorial and/or graveside services for these beloved children of God: Irene Christensen, Linda Miller, Cynthia Irby and John Neater. Thank you Federated Church for allowing me to serve as a pastor. God's blessing on us all, Edward Yang

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Gene DePue/Kathy Leischner – Chair, Donna Augspurgen, Annette Griffith, Barb Olson, Judy Temme, Cindee Wachter. (Gene Depue moved to Omaha mid-year.)

Music Directors: Bob Arp, Lee Augustin, Stuart Gausman

Pastors Annika Lister Stroope, Edward Yang

**Purpose:** To organize a program of worship services, music and sacraments that will enhance spiritual relationship with God in Christ.

Members of the W & M committee meet monthly or as needed to discuss and suggest ways to enhance the overall worship experience at Federated. Music, environment, liturgy, communion and attendee involvement are all taken into consideration. The pastor and music directors are ex officio members of the committee and participate in all planning and discussions. Committee members look to their professional knowledge and training to enhance all services. A representative of the Governing Council chairs the committee.

Doane College Concert Choir, CHS/CMS choirs, Columbus Jazz Band, Consonaires, Puppets, Youth Bells, and other talented musicians participated in worship in 2016. The vocal and bell choirs helped lead worship.

Ecumenical Lenten lunch services were again held at the Methodist.

The Thanksgiving ecumenical service was held on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving day, at 4PM at St Lukes. An ecumenical Blue Christmas service for those dealing with loss was added during Advent.

Pastor Annika took Study Leave May through July. Her leadership was enhanced by traveling experiences that provided many new worship, interview, and research opportunities. She shared and will continue to share these experiences with the congregation. Pastor Edward and guest pastors/speakers, lead services during this time.

Alternative worship times were discussed throughout the year. The committee is always in discussion regarding what is best for the entire congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Leischner, Chair  
Worship & Music Committee

## **CHANCEL CHOIR REPORT**

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Psalm 95:1

The chancel choir exists to enhance the worship experience. Music can touch the soul of a person in ways the spoken and written word can't. With its 25 men and women and an exceptional accompanist, the choir strives to do just that.

The choir sings every Sunday except the third during the months of September through May. They also participate in many special services such as Christmas Eve. Within the choir are various soloists and instrumentalists that also play an important part of this music ministry. Membership is made up of dedicated men and women that are willing to share God's gift of music. There are no auditions to be a member. The only requirements are a commitment to Wednesday evening rehearsals and a desire to sing praises to God.

During the summer months and on occasion at other times of the year when the choir isn't available, the church service is enhanced with the presence of vocal or instrumental soloists or small groups. These can be members of the church or musicians from outside the congregation.

Bob Arp  
Director

## **MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Your Membership and Growth Committee met monthly and worked throughout the year to achieve membership development and growth within our Church. Bridging generations, community outreach, and developing individual growth through volunteering and social interaction were the areas we tried to concentrate on.

Hosting the Fifth Sunday Potlucks four times this year is becoming a church tradition that we have received many positive comments and we want to continue with. Providing a relaxed atmosphere that promotes social interaction and just "plain old good food" reintroduces a nostalgic church memory from our childhood to our current church family. The goal is to use this to reach out to the community and welcome them to attend also.

Participating in the annual Columbus Day's events was a prime opportunity in community outreach for our Federated Church. Providing a diaper changing tent in Frankfort Square took many volunteers but was used by many grateful families and we learned the chamber of commerce also appreciates our involvement and keeps a spot for us.

With many church members pitching in, our Columbus Day's float was built with the theme, "Fuel your own Flame of Faith with Federated!". Church members who volunteered to march in the parade took this message and represented Federated very well before thousands of spectators along the streets of Columbus. We were rewarded with a first place trophy after our hard work.

Hosting and promoting a safe Trunk or Treat event was another community outreach program our committee continued to pursue. Bringing your front porch to the Federated Church parking lot for trick or treat fun gave our member volunteers a chance to interact with many neighborhood youngsters and their parents in costumes. Many laughs and memories were created with this event, and plans to expand are in the works for next year,

Keeping pew supplies stocked, new visitor welcome bags, hosting Cafe LaFed, and Heritage Sunday celebration were other duties our committee took on. Please give a big thank you to committee members Dana Brandt, Karen Grabowski, Marcia Dewald, and Daryl Smith.

Co-Chairs

Mike Slizoski  
Byron Meyer

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairperson: Sharon Kuncel

Members: Georgia Behlen, Anita Han, Sue Mares, and Karen Paben

This year, our committee became involved by sponsoring a speaker from Rejuvenating Women in Omaha to bring awareness to the state-wide problem of sex trafficking. We invited the public and used social media and the local newspaper to bring awareness of our project. We continue to support the community Food Pantry as well as the Medical Mission Team. We had an all-church donation for the Birthday Give and the December Spirit of Christmas Giving donations. We chose to limit Meals to the local Mission to once a month for 2018 due to demands on people's time and energy. We served coffee hour two times during the year.

Submitted by Sharon Kuncel.

## **MEALS ON WHEELS REPORT**

Federated Church continues to participate in the delivery of Meals on Wheels. We are one of ten local churches that rotate to assist Columbus Community Hospital in providing this much needed service to our community. During 2017, we were responsible for 5 weeks, averaging 16 volunteers each week, to cover 7 routes.

Women's Fellowship Community Action Committee (Charlotte Lambert, Cec Bartholomew, Jean Royer and Renee Bellum) thank our faithful and generous volunteers. We will continue to announce our weeks through the monthly Federated News and weekly bulletins. You may contact any committee member if you want to volunteer. It can be one day or more, and takes about an hour.

Submitted by Renee Bellum

## ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW REPORT

The mission of Order of St. Andrew is to be supportive caregivers to the Federated Church family. We achieve this mission through the following means:

**Visitation:** We connect with families who have experienced hospitalization or loss. Regularly scheduled visitations are made with people who are unable to attend church services. Many visits include small gifts of food, baked goods, or flowers.

**Prayer Chain:** Prayer is a powerful practice as we extend support to the Federated Church family. This year we added prayer request cards in the pew racks.

**Card Ministry:** Pastor Edward worked with the youth to create note cards for our continuing card ministry. We also send thank you notes to people who make a memorial contribution to the Federated Church.

**Spiritual Growth:** The Order provides several publications to support the spiritual lives of our church family. They include: [These Days](#); [CareNotes](#); [I'm OK](#); [Holiday Grief](#); and HomeTouch Ministry devotions and activity sheets.

**Flower Power:** We deliver plants to homebound members and nursing homes following the Christmas and Easter services. We participate in the annual Necrology Service by reciting the names of those who have died in the past year and honoring their memory with a white rose.

**Blue Christmas Service:** This was our second year to host a chili supper before the Blue Christmas Service.

**New This Year:** A resource has been created listing local in home assistance for those providing care for loved ones. Brochures listing senior living options in Columbus are also available.

Members of the OSA extend Christian love and support in far more ways than reported here. This is often done in private. With God's help, we strive to share our blessings and serve with humility.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Sanderson

## **PLATTE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY REPORT**

The Food Pantry was founded in 1975 by a Federated Church member, Hugh Gross. It quickly became a community effort. Housed at Federated Church until our church renovation, it is now housed at the northwest end of the Family Resource Center at the corner of 19thst. and 32ave.

In 1994 a Board of Directors was formed, made up of representatives of area churches and service clubs. The officers for 2018 –President-Chris Dixon, Vice President-Holly Recek, Secretary-Louise Moran, Treasurer-Mary Frauendorfer. Other members of the board are: Cecilia Bartholomew, Cecil Jones, Edwin Kosch, Sandy Fisher, Shannon Dush. Jackson Moore is the Executive Director.

Donations from churches, service clubs, schools, scouts, and other organizations and individuals in the area are received throughout the year. The Can-Care-A-Van annually held in June brings in a large part of donations for the support of the pantry. Approximately 60,000 lbs. of food was received during the past Can-Care-A-Van. This was more than the previous year. There are several other agencies in Columbus who collect and distribute food.

Through an anonymous donation during "The Big Give" from the United Way we received a donation to be used to feed those who might not be able to get to the pantry. A Back Pack for elderly program was developed. Individuals who signed up at low income housing would have bags of non-perishable items delivered. This was a once or twice delivery. The program continued in 2017 with an increase in numbers served.

Through September 2017, 1163 individuals (452) families were helped. It has become necessary to purchase some staple foods. Monetary and food donations are always welcome.

Federated members volunteer as board members, interviewers and sackers. The Federated Church has always been a great supporter of the Food Pantry and we appreciate the continued support.

Louise Moran-Federated Church Representative

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Members: Nila Novotny – Chair, John McClure, John McPhail, Dave Melick, Kathy Morris

The Personnel Committee met monthly as needed to address staff needs.

Reviews were done with all staff including the Pastors between January and May. We addressed the need for updating the computers for the office staff with input from Jim Rains and Chrissy Ford. This was put in place in the fall of 2017. The performance improvement plan, created in 2016 was followed through successfully.

Rev. Annika had study leave during the summer of 2017. Rev. Edward traveled with the youth for their summer mission trip. Pulpit supply was needed and worked out well.

We discussed long term planning for the music staff and at this point changes are on hold as our music staff is stable and satisfied with their current situations. We also discussed possibly hiring a worship leader, but the youth didn't feel the need for that at this time.

Overall, there were no major problems and staffing is stable.

It has been a pleasure to serve on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nila Novotny, MD



## **Nominating Committee Report 2017**

There was nothing either new or exciting from the nominating committee in 2017. This being my second year on the committee I am always impressed with how hard the committee works to fill the many roles needed for running the church committee system each year, my sincere thank you to them. My observations though are that it seems like the same people serve on committees and just get rotated through different ones. That is truly a shame in my opinion. It seems like we have three groups in the church. Those folks who rotate through committees and are always willing to do so, Those folks who did that for years and now are mostly but not permanently on committee retirement and the last group who never or almost never can be called on to be on a committee for the church. If you are reading this and are in the last group, please make 2018 the year that you step up and fill out your name on a self-nomination form when it shows up in your bulletin in the fall.

Rick Porter, Chair of 2017 Nominating Committee

## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER REPORT**

Federated Church again hosted the Columbus Community Christmas Dinner on December 25, 2017.

This event is free to the public and totally financed by community donations. This year was the 44th anniversary of the event, which has been held every year since 1974, when Rev. Lee Hicks brought the idea of a community dinner with him when he moved from Valentine, Nebraska to Columbus to become the Senior Pastor at Federated Church.

It was then that he asked two community-minded individuals, to make this event happen. To this day, Chris and Laretta Dixon, Charles and Leona Rogers, and their families continue to make this event part of their family Christmas tradition, along with so many other families over the years to experience the joy of sharing with others.

When Rev. Hicks left Columbus in the mid-1980s, he asked Paul Canaday to take his place in organizing the event with the Dixon and Rogers families.

The dinner feeds more than 250 people annually from all walks of faith, who all share in the joy and celebration of Christ's birthday. The committee thanks Federated Church for hosting this community tradition. The committee looks forward to continuing this tradition with Federated Church.

Chris Dixon, Co-Chairman

## Youth Ministries Committee Report

The following are highlights from 2017:

Youth clubs continue to meet on Wednesday after school and evening. After-school programs focused on more intentional activities, such as learning to bake, and is attended by kids in middle school. This time also serves as mission, as food is shared with the Rescue Mission. The evening group, which is attended by more high school students, uses the curriculum "Echo the Story" which is a more reflective-style curriculum. While the youth clubs meet on Wednesdays, Confirmation class meets on Sunday evenings twice a month. The Confirmation curriculum is in video/workbook/discussion format.

During January and into early February, the youth held their annual book sale. Many of the books that were not sold were donated to Columbus Public Library for their book sales throughout the year, as well as boxed up to be forwarded to Margie Heier in Africa.

In early February, nine youth travelled to Lincoln to attend service at Good Shepherd Church. Youth from our church and Good Shepherd then went bowling at UNL East Campus.

The Taste of Federated fundraiser was held February 12<sup>th</sup>, with around 17 "chefs" participating. Members were asked to bring sample sizes of their specialty food to share with Federated members and friends. Many delicious foods were shared, with the winner taking home a trophy and the runner up, a medal.

Nine youth participated in the 30-hour famine February 24<sup>th</sup>-February 25<sup>th</sup>. There were games, a program, and prayer time to keep the kids busy. They then ate breakfast Saturday morning. There were funds raised that were sent to World Vision for the 30-hour famine. Thanks to Max Porter and Antonio Garcia for helping.

On Easter Sunday, an egg hunt was held; confirmands and a few high school students helped with this.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, three youth helped a church member with yard work.

Confirmation was held Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Those confirmed were: Anjel Garcia Lopez (Jeremy West--mentor), Beatriz Garcia Lopez (Sue Mares--mentor), Elizabeth Sand (Katie Claus—mentor), and Ethan Yang (John McClure—mentor).

On Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the youth held a flower sale for Mother's Day.

Graduates were recognized on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. There were five 2017 graduates: Brady Hanks, Ben Lange, Riley Lyon, Jenna Mares, and Regan Rine.

In June, in preparation for the mission trip to Estes Park, Colorado, mission training was held the week of June 12-June 16. It included teambuilding, making lunch, eating together, and prayer. The mission trip was held the week of June 19<sup>th</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup> and included worship and songs, service to others, and traditional camp activities. There were nine youth who made the trip: Anjel Garcia Lopez, Reagan Gausman, Meera Lange, Kaitlynn Meyer, Lucas Miller, Mitchell Norris, Coden Prokopec, Jessica Sand, and Ethan Yang. Thanks to Max Porter, Brenda Sand, and Edward Yang who served as chaperones.

In July, the youth assisted in moving items during Federated's garage sale week to help Women's Fellowship.

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, our committee hosted a potluck to kick-off the Sunday school year.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, a Confirmation retreat was held at Camp Luther with three students attending.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the confirmands prepared a spaghetti dinner and delivered it to the Rescue Mission.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, youth and family members went to lunch and then Christmas carolling at nursing and members' homes. Thanks to Denny Vollbracht for driving the bus!

Sincerely,

## **Christian Education Committee Report**

The Christian Education (CE) Committee met on the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the following months: Jan, Feb, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and November. An ongoing project for the CE Committee was decorating the Education Center hallway for different seasons and celebrations, such as birthdays. Based on a United Church of Christ statement ("God's love colors the whole world"), a partial earth has been placed on one wall with each of the Sunday school children coloring their own cartoon character.

The CE Committee has been involved with worship. Members of the CE Committee filled in for pastor Edward with Children's Sermons when requested. Committee members also organized and maintained sanctuary activity bags for children, including a recent addition of several new items. There were several major events for our committee in 2017. We hosted the Easter egg hunt for children on Easter morning, March 16th. On April 30th, we had our first Children's Sunday to celebrate the children in our church with games, bounce houses, and hot dog with chips. For the Sunday school Kick-Off on September 10th, we provided snacks for children. On October 22nd, we assisted our annual Children's Sabbath (where we recognize the needs of children around the world) by collecting children's books to be shipped to Ghana, Africa. The CE Committee helped prepared for the Christmas Pageant on December 17th and provided craft supplies for that day's Sunday school activity. We are currently working on updating the Cradle Roll display and our committee description.

We would like to thank our out-going committee chair, Heidi Klevemann and members, Janet Lyon and Sharyn Beard.

Prepared by CE Committee Secretary

## **Puppet Ministry: H.I.S. Puppeteers Report**

*"The Spirit is in you. You have received Him from God. You don't belong to yourselves. Christ has paid the price for you. So use your bodies in a way that honors God." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

The puppet ministry began in 2011 with a memorial donation from the Jay Augustine family. The focus of the puppet ministry is to guide the young in an intergenerational ministry, sharing the Word of God in a fun, caring, supportive group. The volunteer directors, Julie Graham, Cindy Hoadley, and Katie Claus, believe that the vision, time and talent are gifts given by God, which are lead and developed through prayer and work.

The puppeteers for the year 2017 included Ensya Arps, Jayda Arps, Anjel Garcia, Beatrice Garcia, Mark Garcia, Alex Garcia, Lucas Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Riley Gausman, Meera Lange, Ethan Yang, Elliot Yang, Hunter Yang 2017 was a very busy year for the puppeteers.

February: The Beach Brunch fund raiser for the Alumni Mission Trip to Cuba performing "Get On Board with the Lord" and "Glory to His Name"

April: Schuyler Presbyterian Church Awana Awards program performing "I Will Follow Him" and "Get On Board with the Lord".

Omaha Puppet Festival by Creative Ministries competing in the song competition performing, "I Will Follow Him" earning a Silver Award. This was an overnight stay and included learning workshops.

Sunday Church service performing "I Will Follow Him"

May: Women's Fellowship program performing "Doxology" along with a brief overview of the history of the Doxology and the puppet ministry at Federated Church. The audience then participated in a performing workshop given by the puppeteers.

June: VBS at Methodist Church performing "My God is So Big"

August: Columbus Days Parade. The puppeteers and puppets walked and sang with the Federated Church float.

October: Children's Sabbath Sunday church service performing "My God is So Big"

December: Sunday church service performing a rap version of "We Three Kings" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Special Mission: Alumni Mission Trip to Cuba: Some of the puppets stole away with the alumni to Cuba to visit with the children living in a Cuba orphanage. It was during this visit that 3 of the beloved puppets decided to stay in Cuba and start a ministry there with those children. It was a great day sharing in the glory of God's Love.

We graciously thank the members and friends of Federated Church for your prayers and financial contributions that support this puppet ministry.

It has been a Blessed year. Katie, Cindy and I have watched these puppeteers grow in skill and grow with maturity. They are focused and have a deep love for Jesus. They have a desire to use their talents, skills, and personality to share the Word of God's love. It is truly a gift and we feel Blessed. These young puppeteers love having adults join and puppeteer with them. Please consider being part of this ministry. Come practice with us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. We will welcome you with our hands in the air!

Peace, Love, & God's Blessings,

Julie Canaday Graham, Director H.I.S. Puppeteers of Federated Church

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT**

Women's Fellowship continued its mission of Christian fellowship and spiritual growth to women of Federated Church in 2017; and sought to provide outreach to those in need, both locally and around the world.

Four fellowship meetings were held this year, designed to provide time for fellowship through meals and programs, although the board met more often to address issues and plan for special events. The three circles met monthly to share devotions and biblical based lessons. Through monies donated at Circles through least coin, birthday offerings and fall thank offerings, donations were sent to help in both the United States and worldwide. Our annual Garage Sale and Cookies N' More provided \$6,700 to local missions. Other mission donations were sent to both the Homestead Presbytery and the Nebraska Conference of UCC, Kamp Kaleo and Camp Calvin Crest.

2017 ended the year with the end of the year's old format. However, a committee was formed to explore new possibilities so that the mission and social concerns so important to , not only the women of the church, but the church as a whole, might continue.

Co-Moderators  
Cec Bartholomew  
Charlotte Griffith  
Rogalyn Stevens

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

Beginning Checking Account Balance	\$2,932.02
Total Receipts	+ \$17,092.11
Total Disbursements	<u>- \$14,084.60</u>
Checking Account Balance 12-31-2017	<b>\$5,939.53</b>
(Includes \$3,465.56 Transfer of Savings Account)	
Savings Account Balance	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,939.53</b>

**RECEIPTS:**

Circles	\$1,222.20
Projects: Garage sale, Cookies 'N More	\$9,350.60
Other Services Projects: Luncheons, etc.	\$593.50
Funeral Donations	\$680.00
Birthday Offering	\$462.25
Fall Thank Offering	\$275.00
Least Coin	\$103.00
Change for Projects	\$200.00
Needlecraft Prayer Ministry	\$40.00
Transfer from Savings Account	<u>\$4,165.56</u>
	\$17,092.11

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Mission Project Distributions	\$6,900.00
Operating expenses /Project expenses	\$414.37
UPC Goal Sheet and Contingent Fund	\$1,160.00
UCC Goal Sheet and Contingent Fund	\$1,160.00
Birthday Offering	\$462.25
Fall Thank Offering	\$275.00
Least Coin	\$103.00
Camp Calvin Crest/Kamp Kale°	\$200.00
Mission UPC/UCC	\$505.00
Staff Gifts/Honorary Member/Memorials	\$575.00
Kitchen	\$671.07
Literature and Registrations	\$237.95
WF Programs/Luncheons	\$357.63
Needlecraft Prayer Ministry	\$505.33
Candies, Nativity, Microwave (Funeral Donations)	\$560.00
Change for Projects	\$200.00
	<u>\$14,084.60</u>

Mission Project Distributions include:

Platte County Food Pantry; Center for Survivors; Place at the Table; I Can Camp; Holiday Spirit Co Op; Federated Needlecraft Prayer Ministry; Habitat For Humanity; Federated Church-Helping Hands Fund; Columbus Medical Mission (Novotny).

## **NEEDLECRAFT MINISTRY REPORT**

The Needlecraft Prayer Ministry was organized in February of 2011. It's purpose is to pray for individuals while working on gifts of comfort. The idea for this ministry came from the Prayer Shawl Ministry but we have expanded it to include sewing, cross stitch, and embroidery projects as well as knitted and crocheted projects, to include more people.

Gifts have gone to military personnel, individuals, the Center for Survivors, Teen Moms, and Medical missions. We have gifted our preschoolers and 3rd graders with bookmarks when they received their Bibles. We also make the baptismal banners given at the time of baptism. Other Items made include Chemo Caps, Alzheimer activity blankets, Reusable Sanitary kits for girls as well as diapers, hospital gowns, baby hats and blankets. New projects include Red baby hats for the American Heart Assn., port pillows and "anti ouch" pouches which were distributed to cancer patients at the Columbus Community Hospital.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-3 p.m. at the church. Anyone who would like to participate with us is welcome to attend. If you prefer to work on projects at home instead of with the group, your support is welcome.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE**

On December 15, the drawing was held for the lovely quilt, pieced by the late June Hegi, and completed by Louise Moran and Elsie Ida. The winner (with a ticket purchased at our Cookies N' More) was Denise Tschantre, who expressed total delight upon receiving it and express a heartfelt "thank you" to the women of Federated.



## FEDERATED CHURCH FOUNDATION REPORT

The Federated Church of Columbus Foundation, Inc. was started in 1998 as a 501 (c)(3) private foundation, organized exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes. As such, the Foundation can handle a wide array of charitable giving.

The Foundation administers the funds held from the generous donation of Mr. Philip Wilson. Mr. Wilson was a Federated Church member in his youth and later a successful attorney in Dallas. Upon his death in 1998, he left a bequest to the "Foundation created by Federated Church" for the express purpose of establishing a permanent endowed scholarship fund. The Foundation awards scholarships for post-high school vocational training and undergraduate studies for up to five years.

The original gift has grown by over \$170,000 to around \$850,000 in assets near the end of 2017. The Foundation has awarded 615 scholarships since distributions started in 2000. In the 18 years of existence, approximately \$719,100 in scholarships has been awarded for the youth of our Church.

In 2017, 4 total scholarships were awarded to new area high school graduates and an additional 20 renewal scholarships were awarded. The scholarship amount was \$1,750 per award.

The directors of the Foundation for 2017 were: Larry Mares - President, Tim Rathje - Treasurer, Sherry Thompson - Secretary (Sherry resigned in April due to a move out of town), John Petersen - assumed the Secretary position and Brian Klevemann, who joined the Board in April.

Sam Scheidegger, Wilma Arp and Duane Munson served on the Scholarship Committee.

Assisting the Foundation: Terry Millard serves as asset management; Tom Grubaugh performs accounting and tax preparation services; Clark Grant provides legal counsel; and Jim Rains serves as a part-time executive assistant.

We greatly appreciate the contributions of all these individuals.  
Respectfully submitted, Larry Mares, President

**2017 ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**As of 12-31-2017**

In 2008, the Endowment Committee was established as a stand-alone committee, spinning off from the Property and Finance Committee. The main purpose of the Endowment Committee is to enhance the mission and outreach of Federated Church beyond the general obligation of the congregation. Another purpose of the committee is to encourage and promote gifts to the Endowment, and to invest, reinvest and administer the funds. Original committee members were Clark Grant, Terry Norris, Dave Lange, John Lohr and Lynn Higgins, who all served from 2008 through the end of 2013.

2017 committee members were; John Novotny-Chairman and member-at-large, Gail Wurdeman-member-at-large, John Hahn-member-at-large, Rick Porter-Governing Council representative, and Pat Anderson-Property and Finance Committee representative. Terry Millard continues to be the investment advisor/agent for the invested funds.

There are four main categories of fund distributions from the Endowment, those being Christian Education, Community Service and Outreach, Wider Mission of Federated Church, and Capital Improvements. Additionally, the Governing Council may also approve fund distributions for other purposes. The Endowment Committee receives, reviews and recommends requests for funding, but the Governing Council approves all funds in and out of the Endowment.

During 2017, the Committee was active by meeting on 7-30-2017, as part of the 5th Sunday Pot Luck, as did most of the Church committees on that day. The meeting had no specific agenda, but we did re-affirm the members and their terms. Below are the agreed upon terms:

John Novotny – Member at large (17) – 2nd and final term ends 12-31-2017.

John Hahn – Member at large (18) – 1st term ends 12-31-2018 and he can serve one more 3-year term ending 12-31-2021.

Gail Wurdeman – Member at large (19) – 1st term ends 12-31-2019 and she can serve one more 3-year term ending 12-31-2022.

The Governing Council and Property and Finance Committee will both make their appointments to the Endowment for 2018 as appropriate, which were currently held by Rick Porter and Pat Anderson respectively.

As of 12-31-2017, the Endowment Fund balance was \$223,637.02. Below is a brief summary of the fund history:

\$ 36,779.17 – Starting balance 1-1-2008 (inception), rollovers from unused memorials at the time

\$ 139,575.00 – Contributions to the Endowment since inception

\$ (56,386.61) – Expenditures of Endowment since inception (see below)

\$ 103,669.46 – Accumulated earnings since inception

\$ 223,637.02 – Ending balance (as of 12-31-2017)

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

The \$56,386.61 expended from the Endowment (noted above) is broken out as follows:

- \$ 1,520.00 – Columbus Medical Mission Team trip to Nicaragua in 2011
  - \$ 3,000.00 – Federated Youth Triennium to Purdue University in 2013
  - \$ 3,000.00 – Columbus Medical Mission Team trip to Kenya in 2013
  - \$ 3,500.00 – Ghana Ministries/Seth Agidi/Shepherd Centre in 2014
  - \$ 3,500.00 – Youth mission trip to New Orleans in 2014
  - \$ 3,500.00 – Columbus Medical Mission Team trip to Haiti in 2014
  - \$ 200.00 – Youth Ministries Committee from Flossie Watson Fund in 2014
  - \$10,981.61 – Repair of Ed. Center roof in 2014
  - \$ 5,000.00 -- Chifundo Clinic, Zambia, Africa (Marjie Heier) in 2016
  - \$ 5,000.00 -- Columbus Medical Mission Team trip to Haiti in 2016
  - \$ 1,010.00 -- Federated Youth Triennium to Purdue University in 2016
  - \$ 5,000.00 – Youth Ministries alumni mission trip to Cuba in 2017
  - \$ 5,000.00 -- Columbus Medical Mission Team trip to Haiti in 2017
  - \$ 6,000.00 – Funding towards Rev. Annika Stroope's Sabbatical in 2017
  - \$ 175.00 – Youth Ministries Committee from Flossie Watson Fund in 2017
- =====
- \$56,386.61

A more detailed history of the portfolio growth is below: (Year End's)

\*Of note, "Growth includes investment earnings, investment growth and outside contributions"

Year	Ending Balance	% Growth (Earnings/appreciation less outlays)
2007 -	\$ 36,779.17	(N/A%) (Original rollovers from Memorials)
2008 -	\$ 47,065.17	28.0%
2009 -	\$131,415.97	179.2%
2010 -	\$133,817.97	1.8%
2011 -	\$140,530.42	5.0%
2012 -	\$152,938.05	8.8%
2013 -	\$162,761.89	6.4%
2014 -	\$162,634.58	(N/A%)
2015 -	\$174,374.78	7.2%
2016 -	\$219,368.34	20.5%
2017 -	\$223,637.02	1.9%

The Endowment has one "designated" fund, the "Flossie Watson Fund", which is intended to help those students who cannot otherwise afford to attend one of our two denominational camps (Calvin Crest or Kaleo). It can also be used for youth mission trips or other such events. The fund as of 12-31-2017 had a balance of \$3,638.95. Gene Watson had donated starting funds at the time of Flossie's death as a tribute to her help with the church youth programs.

We look forward to another great year in 2018.

Respectfully submitted  
John A. Novotny, Committee Chair

## **2017 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

The theme for the 2017 stewardship campaign was "Give Generously" which was suggested by one of our denominations and from whom provided material and information for the campaign. The stewardship committee met regularly during the campaign and established a goal. That goal was met by the congregation and exceeded the amount pledged in 2016 by approximately \$4500.00. There were eight new pledges in 2017 which did not pledge in the previous year. The committee would like to remind all the membership that each contribution is important regardless of amount.

Lloyd Castner  
Chairperson

## **Finance & Property Committee Annual Report - -2017**

## 2017 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total 2017 Worship Attendance:	7,774
Average Weekly Attendance:	154
Average <i>Summer</i> Weekly Attendance:	115

### Losses During 2017

#### Membership (December 31, 2017)

Active Members:	360
Inactive Members:	211
Children:	5
Baptized Infants:	39

### Gains During 2017

**Transfer/Reaffirmation of Faith:** 7

**By Confirmation:** 4

Anjel Garcia  
Betty Garcia  
Elizabeth Sand  
Ethan Yang

**Baptisms:** 1  
Myah Torrez 2/12/2017

**Transfer to Inactive Roll:** 2

**Losses by Transfer:** 1  
Robert Meyer

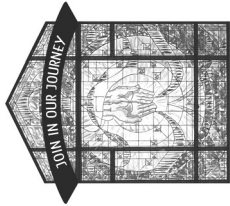
**Member Losses by Death:** 6

Irene Christensen	01/11/2017
Marcella Henry	01/28/2017
Linda Miller	04/23/2017
Doris Van Diest	06/17/2017
Duane Munson	10/10/2017
George Greenawalt	10/31/2017
Norry Augustin	12/31/2017

**Non-Member Funerals:** 1  
Cynthia Irby 07/04/2017

**Other Losses:** 0





# THE FEDERATED CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED