



Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church

Annual Report Part 2

Staff, Board, and Committee Reports from June 2015 - May 2016

We are a vibrant, warm, and welcoming community of faith. Those who worship here come from a diverse range of backgrounds, and would describe themselves in a rich variety of ways. We acknowledge our doubt, our struggles, and that we are all quite human and imperfect and that we are each at a unique place on our faith journey. We find our unity, our common identity, in Jesus Christ, and together seek to joyfully worship God and energetically minister to the needs of the world on God's behalf. We gather in anticipation of being transformed by the power, purpose, and presence of God among us, and go forth equipped to love God and neighbor more deeply and more wholeheartedly.

We believe that faithful leadership of a church requires being open to new possibilities, taking risks, and learning from mistakes as we try again. Honoring the past, we are convinced that God calls us to a new future.

— Opening paragraph of BRPC's *Vision 2017*

Call for the Annual Congregational Meeting—Part 2

The Annual Meeting Part 2 of the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, will be in Westminster Hall on May 1, 2016 immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner, for the purpose of receiving reports of the Boards and Organizations; for the election of Elders, Deacons and Members-At-Large to the Church Officer Nominating Committee, and for such other business as may properly come before the Congregation.

~April 16, 2016 - Tina Bramel
Clerk of Session

Call for the Annual Meeting of the Corporation

The Annual Business Meeting of the Corporation of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, incorporated by Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey in the year 1785 as the Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation at Baskenridge in the counties of Somerset and Morris, will be held in Westminster Hall on May 1, 2016, immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. This meeting is called for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report, for the election of new Trustees and members of the Financial Review Committee, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Congregation.

~April 16, 2016 - Tom Fitzsimons
President of Trustees

Agenda – Annual Meeting of the Congregation

May 1, 2016

Songs from our children	Beth Donley & The Spirit Choir
Call to Order	Rev. Dennis Jones, Moderator
Declaration of Quorum	Tina Bramel, Clerk of Session
Reading of Call	
Declaration that Call is in Order	Moderator
Open Meeting with Prayer and Scripture	
Thanksgiving to God for our Ministry	
Appreciation to Outgoing Officers	Rev. Dennis Jones Dr. Maureen Paterson
Officer Nominating Committee Report	Nancy Bedner, Chairperson
Nominees for Elders and Deacons	
Nominees for Church Officer Nominating Committee	
Recess Congregational Meeting	Moderator
Call to Order of Corporation Meeting	Tom Fitzsimons, Trustee President
Reading of Call for Meeting of Corporation	Kathy Graback, Trustee Secretary
Nominees for Trustees	Nancy Bedner
Nominee for Financial Review Committee	
Appreciation to Outgoing Trustees	Tom Fitzssimons
Adjourn Meeting of Corporation	
Reconvene Congregational Meeting	Moderator
Other Business	Congregation
Singing Praise to God	
Adjournment and Benediction	Moderator

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Pastor's Report

Rev. Dennis W. Jones

“The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.”

—John 1:15, *The Message*

I love this fresh and compelling translation of the opening chapter of John's gospel. It's a verse that we often read in worship on Christmas Eve as the lights are turned off and, by candle-light, we gaze upon the glorious truth that God has been born among us, God has revealed God's presence to us. Amidst our human pain and brokenness, God has shown up in our midst. As Eugene Peterson so beautifully translates it, “God has moved into the neighborhood.”

With overflowing gratitude I look back on the past year in the life of our congregation and I see the countless ways in which God's love and presence has been revealed. I see the moments where God has shown up, God has been faithful, God has been present and on the move among us. Here are a few examples:

- What a joy it is has been to welcome Chris Fortin as our new Director of Music Ministry! Chris has an amazing breadth of gifts and experience, a winsome spirit, and a passionate faith in Christ. He has brought a fresh energy and perspective to this vital area of our ministry and I look forward to many good years of serving together.
- In response to changes in the polity of The Presbyterian Church USA, and the prompting of the Holy Spirit, Session acted to approve the conducting of same sex marriages on our church grounds for those who are members of our church. We continue to be a church that welcomes all people - whatever their story is and wherever they come from, mindful that our Lord seeks to extend his grace and his invitation and his love to all of us.
- We have been profoundly blessed by an unusually large number of visitors and newcomers searching for a church home where hospitality and grace rule the day, a community of faith where all of God's people are welcomed with love. During the past year we have also been blessed with large new member classes, including many individuals who are already helping to shape and lead our ministry.

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- Our Saturday night informal worship offering, The Oak Table Service, celebrated it's first birthday. Thanks be to God! We continue to discover what God has in mind for this less traditional worship service, and are inspired by the passion and commitment it has inspired in so short a period of time. May we continue to offer spiritual nourishment in a rich variety of ways.
- Mindful of our deep commitment to minister as effectively and faithfully as possible to youth, young adults, and their families; and of the constant turn-over in this staff position for quite some time, we have begun to prayerfully discern a fresh and new approach to this area of ministry. During this season of transition, it has been a gift to have Andy Holvik as our Acting Director of Ministry to Youth and Young Adults, and I am grateful for the abundant gifts he has shared.
- The manner in which we relate to people of other faith traditions, and Muslims in particular, has been a hot topic both locally and nationally. As a sign of friendship and inter-faith respect we hosted Ali Chaudry for a Sunday evening "Understanding Islam" event and had close to 100 people attend. We are also hosting a more in depth 10-week course that Ali is teaching.
- I am continually moved by the measure of care and support we offer to one another each and every week. In a world where so many feel alone and disconnected, we offer one another the gift of authentic community, a sense of belonging, truly living out our calling to be the Body of Christ while celebrating the beauty and uniqueness of each person.

These are just some highlights! There are countless additional ways in which God has shown up during this past year and the story of this wonderful community of faith continues to be written.

With joy in serving as your pastor,



Dennis W. Jones

Associate Pastor's Report

Dr. Maureen Paterson

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God."

—1 John 4:7

When I reflect on this last year in ministry together here in Basking Ridge, I am drawn to this Scripture because it speaks so clearly about the work to which God has called us. We are called to love one another — both those within the church family and those in our community and our world. We do that in so many wonderful, creative, meaningful and pastoral ways.

Through the work of the Deacons, we walk alongside our church members in their times of great joy as well as in their times of difficulty and sorrow. Stephen Ministers provide countless hours of one on one support to people in transition or crisis in their lives. Through our mission endeavors we reach out to bring healing and hope to others through our various mission partners throughout the globe, as well as our local partnerships with groups such as Homeless Solutions and Interfaith Hospitality Network and the work of God's Coop Food Pantry.

It is a great joy to work alongside all of you as we continue to live out our calling to be Christ's hands and feet in this place. I am deeply grateful for the ways in which we are prepared to open our eyes and minds to new opportunities, to welcome new members into the life of this church family and to provide care and love to all who enter our doors.

It is a blessing and privilege to continue to lead and teach Bible Study and join in worship each week and I am grateful for the great leadership exercised by so many of you in these areas through small groups and other activities which help us all to grow in our faith and create an environment rich in theological diversity and providing a place to explore what it means to be in a relationship with God. I am thrilled that there is such a joy in learning.

It continues to be a blessing to call Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church home and to have a place for our children to be nurtured in their faith. I thank all of you for your continued support and prayers as we discover God's path for us all.

Maureen

Director of Ministries to Children and Their Families

Jacqueline Obregon

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them,
for it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

—Matthew 19:14

Each year I am humbled by the love that our children have our Lord Jesus Christ. This love is demonstrated through their singing, worshipping as a group during Sunday School, mission projects, welcoming new children to church, and caring for our church as well as each other. This year the committee, along with devoted volunteers made BRPC a very special place for children to deepen their faith and grow closer to God. From Christian education to special events children are taught that God's love can help us through challenges. BRPC remains a safe place for children to make friends, build confidence, and learn to love one another as the Bible models.

With the direction and support of the CFM committee, we are blessed with amazing programs that foster a safe and loving place for children. I would like to thank them for their tireless dedication and express my gratitude for sharing their faith with our children and their families. I would also like to thank the youth of our church for helping to make our programs fun and special for the younger children, and serving as positive role models during Sunday School.

This past year, we have seen an increase in Sunday School attendance. It was exciting to see new children, as well as, new teachers participating in Christian education. During our midweek Spirit program, children collected money to donate Shop Rite gift cards to the Giving Tree during Advent. They also brought in new children's mittens to give to God's Co-Op Pantry. Advent is a time when our children learn to give to others as well as celebrate the birth of Jesus, with a party after worship. A highlight during Advent was the children's choir participating in the Oratorio. They were amazing! During Vacation Bible School, children learned that with God's help we can conquer challenges. It was a blessing to have over 50 volunteers, 26 that were youth, help to make the week memorable. For the second year, the Egg Hop was a tremendous success. Children, with their families, played games, made crafts and enjoyed a light breakfast as an early Easter celebration.

On a personal note, this past September I returned to graduate school to pursue a degree in Social Work. My goal is to work with children with mental health challenges. I could not do this without the support and love from the congregation.

Director of Ministries to Youth and Young Adults

Andy Holvik

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.”

—Matthew 11:28

This has been an exciting, joyful, and, at the same time, challenging year. It's been exciting to come to a new place and start fresh in this wonderful church. It's been joyful seeing things develop and grow in many parts of the ministry. Middle School Fellowship has been flourishing, as has Confirmation Class. At the same time, the Senior High Fellowship program has been challenging despite all the effort put forth by the wonderful advisors and the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Committee.

We kicked off the year with both Middle School Fellowship and Senior High Fellowship seeing a good number of attendees. The Middle School Fellowship has continued to see a good attendance. It is a very lively and enjoyable group, consisting of a core group of youths. We often have one or more visitors whom the youths are very good at including. In this way, they truly reflect the graceful nature of the Gospel. Our amazing advisors are doing a great job, sacrificing their time and energy to make this a wonderful part of our ministry!

Senior High Fellowship started well, but quickly came to a halt, with between 0-5 attendees on the Sunday nights throughout the year. Many different things have been tried, the advisors have been incredibly helpful and patient, but it has been quite a challenge. We have been getting good attendance on special occasions such as the “Haunted Hayride” in October. With prayerful consideration, this has prompted us to prayerfully shift our focus toward major events. We are now holding “pre-Workcamp Rally Sessions” once a month, which had its startup in March. During these sessions, we are getting instructions in safe use of power tools, talking about former Workcamp experiences, praying together and getting to know each other better in preparation for this summer. Our first session was a great success as people were really bonding with one another. I can really see God working through all this, and we are hoping to grow the success over the next few months!

Confirmation Class has been very good this year, with a total of 11 confirmands. I have greatly enjoyed being a part of the monthly dinners. Last month I joined a bi-weekly mentor group as an effort to get to know some of the youths even better. They are a great wonderful crew who are very kind and polite. They are full of surprises in regards to their thoughts about faith, spirituality and life in general. It is a privilege to get to be a part of their spiritual journey. I would like to especially thank our wonderful mentor leaders, Tom Eicher and Chris Whitlock, as well as our

great coordinators, Karen Twill and Nancy Kilroy. Your effort is making all the difference!

Finally, I am very much looking forward to being a part of this summer's Workcamp in Maine! There's a lot of preparation still to be done, but I have so many great people who are helping and who are all doing their part. I am eternally grateful for this, and can't wait to travel to Maine with our wonderful youth and advisor crews to directly live out Christ's commandment of loving our neighbor!

Director of Music Ministry

Christopher Fortin

As I compose this report, it is the official one-year anniversary of my first day here at BRPC. It has been and continues to be a great pleasure to serve among you in this new chapter of ministry. I have witnessed in this congregation a full year of celebration, growth, difficult loss, immense joy, a strong sense of community and a sure identity in Christ. You have been so very welcoming to me and to many others, and for that I am deeply grateful.

Besides the joy of getting to know and serve alongside you, I'm delighted to say that this year has produced many wonderful, landmark moments in our life together. Here are a few highlights:

- A splendid Christmas Oratorio with some new faces in the orchestra and choirs, including Spirit Choir
- A meaningful, hopeful season of Lent including three Wednesday noontime services, an oratorio with a refreshing look at the mass text, and a beautifully diverse offering of worship during Holy Week
- Middle and High School students ringing and singing throughout the year, and a new weekly meeting time exploring musical elements & styles
- Growing music leadership teams for Saturday evening worship
- A new approach to summer worship, creating a fuller and connected worshipping body in the Sanctuary
- A collaborative effort to create after-school opportunities for PreK - High School students
- A thriving handbell program with more frequent opportunities to ring in worship, and a vision for joining with other ensembles for future festivals, concerts and events
- Engaging with the music community around us such as MISH, Leisure Learning and other organizations that utilize our campus for rehearsal and performance
- New relationships with area choral musicians and composers that in the future we may act as a hub for smaller, possibly isolated choirs to meet and sing together, both within and beyond our denomination

It is my great hope that, over the coming months and years, we might be used by God in a special way through the arts, and through serving as worshipers find a renewed direction for our hands, our hearts and our voices. May you sense God's

peace this summer as we prepare for another year of ministering together in Christ's name.

With eagerness,

Chris

Director of Children's Music Ministry

Beth Donley

“The only thing better than singing is more singing.”

– Ella Fitzgerald

And they all said, “AMEN!”

A year full of joy and singing! This was my 10th year directing the Little Spirit Program. The children are adorable and so eager to sing, dance, and learn Bible stories. This choir meets on Tuesdays from 4:00–4:30. They come with smiles on their face and eager to have a great time. The Little Spirit class enrollment is 9 children, ranging in age from 2 1/2 to Kindergarten.

The goal for the Little Spirit Program is to enable children to reach their full potential in the areas of music, biblical text and movement through informal activities based on a rich curriculum of Christian songs and stories.

Part of the Little Spirit Program is the Choir. The choir had the opportunity to sing monthly in Worship. One highlight is always when the choir sings for Mother's day. There is not a dry eye in the congregation and from me.

Thanks go to the parents for the flexibility in schedule change and also being parent helpers in the class. It is a joy to direct this program and to share this time with our precious gifts from God!

The Mid Week Ministry Music Program also encompasses 2 other Spirit Choirs. The Spirit I choir consists of 11 first and second graders. The Spirit II Choir consists of 12 third through fifth graders. The focus during choir time is to explore the fundamentals of music, sing anthems and hymns, supplement singing with instruments, and integrate music into worship. We have very talented singers in this group, who are anxious to learn. They are doing a phenomenal job at matching pitch and learning to harmonize. The choirs sang every month during the year in worship and shared their musical gifts to the glory of God.

Kudos to the Spirit choirs for their first time singing with the Oratorio choir, under the direction of Chris Fortin, for the December performance. The choirs worked diligently to learn their music and the outcome was an inspiring and spiritually rich experience. The presentation of the Spring Musical, *The Old Testament, Fast Forward*, was also well received by both the children and congregation. Musicals involve commitment from the children to memorize lines, learn music, and demonstrate rhythmic movement and dance. The children did a great job and we should be proud of their accomplishment and delivery of important messages of God's word throughout the musical.

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- **Many thanks to Chris Fortin**, for the constant support and guidance he provided throughout the year.
- **Jacqueline Obregon**, for her direction of the Children's and Family Ministry.
- **Charlotte McGuire**, for her valuable accompaniment for the choir.
- **Nancy Wynant**, for her accompaniment for the musicals
- **Judith Cook**, for her support in the Spirit Program.
- **David Brownlee**, for his hard work on setup, no matter when.

Last but not least, thanks to **all the parents** for their support and dedication and recognizing the value to children who participate in this important midweek ministry program.

Singing God's Word!

Beth Donley

Church Administrator and Treasurer

Janet Bentley

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

—Philippians 4:13

The Church Administrator reports to the Head of Staff; acts as liaison between the program staff, Session, and Trustees directing the support staff to meet the objectives of the church; is responsible to the Trustees for administering the business functions of the church, managing the church facilities and administration of the cemetery. The Church Treasurer receives and disburses funds and maintains the church financial and investment accounts. The Church Administrator/Treasurer wears many hats!

As Treasurer, I support the Board of Trustees, work with the Stewardship Council to encourage congregational giving, with the Joint Budget Committee to administer the allocation of our resources, with the Investment Advisory Committee to manage our invested endowment resources and with The Samuel Brown Society to encourage Planned Giving. I extend special thanks to volunteers George Storm “Mr. Checks” for his faithful service, and to Dawn Domans, Counting Team Coordinator, along with all the Sunday and Mid-Week Counting Team members for the blessing of their ongoing, careful work.

As facility manager I work closely with the Trustees, our sextons, and outside contractors to provide care and maintenance of our historic buildings and grounds. In November, after more than 30 years of service, Peter O’Connor retired. In a restructure of facilities needs staffing we hired Juan Alvarez to work alongside David Brownlee, and engaged the services of a contractor for snow removal work.

As noted in our Statement of Purpose - our doors are always open wide! As gatekeeper of the facility I navigate the challenges of shared space, juggling our ministry and program needs with those of the Tree House as well the many outside groups and organizations with which we share our space. These groups range from a small Bible study group to the 400 plus participant Leisure Learning program. This year we welcomed Recovery Solutions, a support group for families dealing with drug addiction issues, to the list of those who meet regularly on our campus.

Managing the cemetery offers me the humbling blessing to assist families during their most difficult moments.

Personnel responsibilities include supervision of office Administrative Assistants Cara Burchett, Pam Smith, and Michelle Berger, Assistant Treasurers Nancy Kuhn and Elizabeth Messineo, Communication Coordinator Gary Ingram and Sextons David

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Brownlee, and Juan Alvarez. It is a joy to work alongside these caring and dedicated people.

As Human Resources manager I work with the Personnel Council to develop and implement employee policies and benefits. As all employees of the Tree House are technically church employees the total staff for which payroll and benefits are managed numbers 47.

As a Board of Pensions PCUSA Liaison I serve as consultant to churches in our presbytery for medical and pension benefit matters related to the Board.

I began my journey serving BRPC 20 years ago. During this time there have been 58 staff changes - that's a lot of HR paperwork. I've attended more than 200 Trustee and 1,000 staff meetings - wow! As I felt on day one, and still feel today, it is a privilege and joy to work in company with colleagues and faithful volunteers who rejoice in serving God together in this beloved church. I am blessed beyond measure to be part of this church family.

Let all that you do be done in love.

—I Corinthians 16:14

Children and Family Ministries Committee

Herbert K. Ryder & Susan Ward, co-chairs

Members: Amanda Hughes, Emily Jones, Jacqueline Obregon (staff), Herbert Ryder (co-chair)

The Children and Family Ministries Committee continues to nurture the Christian education and spiritual development of children from infancy through the fifth grade, to foster the spiritual growth of families with children, and to encourage congregational participation in activities that support our children and their families.

Committee meetings are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, at Panera Bread at 25 Mountainview Boulevard, Bernards Township, New Jersey (near exit 33 on I-78).

Nursery care is offered during Sunday services, and during special church events such as the Oratorio concerts. Our youngest church members and guests are thriving under our loving caretakers Pam Smith and Gabrielle Obregon.

Sunday School is offered during the 10:15 a.m. service each Sunday. Children from age 3 through grade 5 begin in worship in the Sanctuary with their families. After the Message for Children, children move to the chapel as a group for personal announcements by the children, singing, Bible stories and prayer. Then they are separated into groups by grade for further study of the morning's lesson. The curricula for the 2015-16 Sunday School year is entitled Spark (published by Augsburg Fortress) and follows the Revised Common Lectionary, so on most weeks the children study the same scripture that their parents hear in worship. On average, 12-30 children attend Sunday School each week.

Spirit, our midweek program for children, seeks to combine Christian education programming with our children's choir program. This year the Little Spirit and Spirit program was scheduled for the same day and time, which has proved to be popular with several families. Jaqueline Obregon has facilitated the education program as the main Bible Study teacher. The music program had been led and facilitated by Beth Donley and Judith Cook. Charlotte McGuire and Nancy Wynant accompany the choirs, and additional volunteers help assist the teachers and provide leadership on a rotating schedule. Also this year the program reduced the emphasis on musicals, scheduling only the May musical and scheduling rehearsals for days and times that do not conflict with Spirit. The children will lead worship in May by performing the musical *Are We There Yet?*, a retelling of the Exodus story that captures the humor and humanity of Moses, Miriam, Aaron, Joshua, and the Pharaoh, and communicates the eternal truths within the story.

With the leadership of directors Amanda Hughes and Susan Ward, the 2015 Vacation Bible School program was very successful. The theme was Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power. Approximately eighty children attended. Over forty individuals volunteered their time in teaching, decorating, leading games, crafts and singing, making presentations, and facilitating snack time. The Committee would like to thank all volunteers for making this a very special event.

The Committee executed several other special events throughout the year, including outdoor games for the children during the church's Fall Kickoff Sunday, an Easter craft celebration on Palm Sunday, a church-wide Advent festival that included a luncheon and crafts, third grade Bibles presented during worship, movie nights and other family-centered activities, communion training for children during the 2016 Lenten season, and many other fellowship opportunities.

For the 2016-2017 program year, the Committee intends to focus on communications with families and recruiting assistance with its programs. The committee will also continue to promote the "church family" environment, which should strengthen fellowship within the congregation and also attract new members to our family of faith. Specific goals that the Committee will explore include upgrades in the nursery, new activities during the church picnic and fall kickoff, trying different committee meeting formats including virtual meetings and pre-event rallies, and teacher and committee member recruitment.

The Committee's budget allotment is used to pay for childcare in the nursery, program curricula, and supplies for the Committee's programs and special events. Running the various programs that our church offers its children takes an enormous amount of dedication and commitment. We are very grateful for the dozens of members of the congregation that have led, taught, and loved our children over the past year.

Board of Deacons

Addie Gundlach, Moderator

Our 22 Deacons and 3 Youth Deacons work to assist members of the congregation who are in need of help in some way. This happens in a variety of ways. To begin, each church member is assigned to one of 11 Clusters and there are two Deacons responsible for each Cluster. By staying in touch with each person in the Cluster, Deacons learn of help needed...or joys to celebrate...and see to it that appropriate assistance is offered. Your Deacons spend many hours staying in touch with their Clusters.

In addition to their Clusters, many Deacons also serve on one of the five Ministries of the Board of Deacons.

We are responsible for the set up and serving of Coffee Hour at the two services each Sunday. This year, we have turned to our Clusters to invite people to participate in this task oriented service, hoping that, by participating, people will feel a stronger sense of belonging to BRPC. Evelyn Helland has been an outstanding chairperson of this Ministry, guiding it through a slightly different format this year. I am so grateful to Evelyn and to her very capable and dependable committee of Al Obergon, Jan Hedden, and Ron and Bert Whalin.

Sunday Morning Greeters

Helen Mallon, Becky Creswell, Pam Blackstone and Juan Iglesias have been the wonderful team who finds people from the Congregation to be Sunday Morning Greeters... so that every person walking through the doors on Sundays has a warm welcome.

Food Angels: Evelyn Gruening and Debbie Carroll are unceasing in their efforts to find volunteers to cook for people in temporary need of meals. And the two of them have often very generously volunteered themselves to cook and deliver some of those meals!

Memorial Receptions

Jean Aurnhammer and her very capable team of Sandy Barlow, Bev Prochazka, Marilou Howe, and Sally Warman are the ones who plan, set up, and serve at Memorial Receptions for our congregation. The receptions are often unexpected in timing and in numbers of guests. Jean and her team do an amazing job of pulling each one together so that each family feels cared for in a difficult time.

Sanctuary Flowers

Peggy Harris and Nancy Kuhn make sure every week that the flowers for the Sanctuary on Sunday are donated, ordered, and then delivered to people in the congregation. While each Deacon takes turns delivering those flowers, the organization of all of it is the diligent work of Peggy and Nancy, and of Debbie Schaub who volunteers her time as an active member of the Congregation.

And Then There Are Others!

Karen Skoglund, our Vice Moderator, organized and hosted our All Cluster Brunch this year. The food was plentiful, the conversation level high, and close to 150 people attended! A great success, Karen!

Our Youth Deacons are Sam Hilde, Jessica Creedon and Emily Fuchs. In conjunction with Andy Holvic and Senior High Fellowship, these three have managed the coordination of household tasks for people in the Congregation and completed by the students in Sr High Fellowship.

Many thanks to Peggy Harris and Becky Creswell for the hours of time the two of you have donated to the Nominating Committee and to the process of finding new Deacons for next year! This in addition to your regular responsibilities for Deacons!

The Deacons' Star Volunteer! Patti Williams has been the Scribe for the Board of Deacons for **25 years!!** Patti, in her gentle and calm way, has kept the Deacons Minutes accurately and diligently every month for all that time. What a great service, Patti, you have performed unfailingly for all of us! We are filled with gratitude for the time and energy you have given. Thank you, Patti, for everything you've done! We certainly understand your decision to retire now...but don't know how we'll manage without you.

To Maureen, who keeps us informed of crisis, of needs for food or transportation, or some special attention, thank you! We don't exist without your help and guidance.

To each Deacon, I am so grateful for your dependability, your cheerful presence and thoughtful actions...for the hours of service you give to our Congregation. It is such a pleasure to work with each of you!

Fellowship Council

Kris Emmitt, Chair

The Committee members are: Dennis Jones, Julie Conway, Dotty Dameo, Joan Eichhorn, Jim Felter, Florence Henry, Connie Ledder, Debbie Schaub, Joelle Strona, Craig Sutherland, Jean Wadsworth and Maggie Wald.

Activities planned and hosted by the Council this year were the Church Picnic at Harry Dunham Park, Lemonade in the Shade following Sunday Worship during the summer, Kick-Off Sunday, Fall Flapjack Fest, Advent Oratorio Reception, 'Appy Christmas Party, Eggstravaganza, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Lenten Oratorio Reception.

The Fellowship Council is always open to ideas for new events that will offer fellowship opportunities for our church family. We especially want to thank the many wonderful volunteers who help at each of our events by preparing food, helping with set-up and clean-up, and in so many other ways that help our events run smoothly. We simply couldn't do it without them!

Gifts and Memorials Committee

George Fricke, Chair

The Gifts and Memorials Committee is a committee of, and responsible to, the Session. It is comprised of a member from Session (George Fricke), Trustees (Don Watt), Deacons (Nancy Kuhn), three members from the congregation at large (Ken

Helland, Wayman Williams, and Ronna Storm), and the Pastor and Church Treasurer as ex-officio. The Committee convenes as needed to consider requests for allocation of funds.

Gifts are received in memory or in honor of a loved one. They are either designated or undesignated. Designated gifts are those for which the donor specifies the use. These can be used immediately to purchase the item specified by the donor, set aside for a future purchase, or placed in an endowment fund with income used as specified by the donor, e.g. a scholarship fund. Undesignated gifts are those for which the donor does not specify a use. These are under the control of Session and use is based on recommendations made by the Committee with the approval of Session.

As of this writing, since last year's annual report, gifts have been received in memory of Jerry Dorr, William Halsey, Robert O'Neill, Edward Royer, Allen and Helen Stoecker, Elinore Todt, and David Villepique.

Since the May 2015 Annual Report, Gifts and Memorials funds have been directed by the donors to the Memorial Garden (Royer) and Oak Tree Scholarship (Todt) reserves. In addition, funds have been used to purchase a keyboard for our music ministry (Barrie) and to support the care of the Oak Tree (Halsey and Kinney).

The Committee arranges for entries to be made annually in the official Book of Remembrance. Recognition of these beloved saints of our church are offered during the All-Saints Day worship service.

Mission Council

Ruth Bashe, Chair

Council Members: Jacques Delli Paoli, Josh Felter, Ellen Greenhorn, Michael Pasnik, Maureen Paterson, Carol Skidmore (elder) and Suzanne VanLoon.

Mission focus continues to be hands on intergenerational mission. Youth and children have been involved in many projects.

Last year, mission council decided to no longer fund Mission through Presbytery. Instead contributions were made directly to Good News Home for Women, Restore Ministry and Institute for Music for Children. It was decided to continue the same practice this year.

God's Co-op Pantry continues to do well. Over 200 bags of food are distributed each month. . Maundy Thursday Mission Project benefited the pantry. Food was donated during Lent and the food was bagged to go to the pantry on Maundy Thursday and delivered to the Pantry, with the help of middle schoolers, the following week

We continue to house IHN guests 4 times a year and cook for Homeless Solutions. These are also projects in which families can participate.

Mission Council continues to research ways to raise funds in addition to those supported by the budget. In November, Bishop Janes again graciously welcomed us as a part of their Homespun Holiday Boutique. We had an alternate way of giving allowing people to support their favorite mission by giving a donation in someone's name. This was a great success for the second year.

The health clinic in Haiti is staffed with two nurses and is doing well.

The Lenten offering was given to The Institute for Music for Children. In addition, to learning music, dance and theatre, the children learn the importance of building community and giving back to others.

In an effort to get to know our mission partners, Mission Council has invited members of several organizations to speak at meetings.

Personnel Council

Matthew Dresner, Chair

Members: Betty Hahn, Bob Taylor, Bonnie Diehl, Don Wadsworth, Jann Slapin, Matthew Dresner (Chair, Elder), Patty Haines (Elder), Tina Bramel (Clerk of Session), and Rev. Dennis Jones (Ex Officio)

The Personnel Council celebrates accomplishments and milestones from the last twelve months with the tremendous support of program staff, support staff, and lay leaders.

- September recognition of Beth Donley's ten year anniversary with BRPC as Director of Children's Music Ministry
- September hiring of Andy Holvik, Interim Director of Ministries to Youth & Young Adults (thank you Theresa Creedon & team!)
- November retirement recognition of Peter O'Connor, BRPC Sexton for over 32 years.
- November hiring of Juan Alvarez as Sexton to complement and collaborate with David Brownlee to care for BRPC's property and facilities (thank you to Janet Bentley and our Trustees!)
- May 1 recognition of Janet Bentley's twenty year anniversary as Church Administrator and Treasurer (aka "Wonder Woman")

Financially, as approved by the congregation in January, an average cash compensation increase of 3% was approved for clergy and staff in response to this congregation's generosity and growth reflected, in part, by the effort and impact of our incredible clergy and staff. Since that congregational approval, approximately

an additional \$2k will be allocated to accommodate Reverend Paterson's medical and benefits coverage due to a change in the family's availability of coverage. In essence, for several years, BRPC had received a "discount" from the Presbytery as a "clergy couple" with her family's benefits covered by husband Ian's employment with New Providence Presbyterian Church.

As we move to the 2015-2016 year, the Personnel Council is especially focused on the intersection of the opportunities posed by the BRPC's 300th anniversary and its impact to the staffing model relative to our growth in the community - especially with young families, and the evolving challenges engaging our youth and young adults in a spiritually invigorating and meaningful way.

Planning Council

Rudy Hyzer, chair

Members: Jon Klippel, Ed Landis, Teresa Lane, Rev. Dennis Jones (Pastor)

Session formed the Planning Council in 2010 to strategically and prayerfully assist with long range plans for our future. The first initiative of this partnership was Vision 2017, a six phase five year plan, concluding during the 300th anniversary of the church. Four of the initiatives are implemented, as of the end of 2015, and they would be:

1. New schedule for Sunday morning worship
2. Small groups highlighting spiritual formation and development
3. Emphasizing local mission activities
4. Create a third worship service on Saturday with a contemporary style

Two more initiatives remain under consideration and development.

1. A capital campaign to raise funds for facilities to support the mission and worship activities
2. Development of a new governance model

It is interesting to note two improvements to the church campus envisioned for Vision 2017, renovation of the Church House parlor and a refurbished Westminster Hall, have already been accomplished.

As the Church's 300 anniversary approached the planning Council was active in the creation and recruitment of a team to plan and lead the celebration in 2017. This group is lead by Kris & Bill Emmitt and George Fricke. The theme of the celebration is "Sharing God's Love for 300 Years."

Planning Council is prayerfully considering, along with the Stewardship Council, the timing and possibility of a financial appeal to celebrate our 300th anniversary. It is premature to discuss the specifics of such an appeal or whether an appeal of any

kind will be approved. Nevertheless, it may be an appropriate moment for the congregation to joyfully give thanks to God for the many blessing received over 300 years by providing for the continued vitality of this family of faith. A significant portion of planning Council's time is allocated to this effort.

The council is looking into ways to use the data collected by the church to better support Session decision making. The financial data is available in abundance and is useful for the budget process and with other financial decisions. There is a need to enhance other data currently collected, for example attendance figures, to support decisions in non-financial matters.

The Planning Council is your host for Kick-off Sunday and the Annual Meeting.

Clerk of Session

Christina Bramel, Clerk of Session

Donald J. Wadsworth, Assistant Clerk of Session

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) consists of the Book of Confessions (Part I) and the Book of Order (Part II). The Book of Order contains the new Form of Government, which defines the responsibilities, and powers of the Session. These responsibilities are fulfilled through several councils and committees, each of which has a separate report elsewhere in this Annual Report. The Session currently consists of seventeen Elders plus our Pastor, who acts as Moderator, and our Associate Pastor. The Clerk of Session is elected each year to faithfully record the minutes of meetings and maintain vital statistics of the Church. An Assistant Clerk and General Mission Treasurer are also elected each year. The Session diligently seeks to give guidance to the spiritual life and development of our Church.

Following are some of the highlights for the church year April, 2015 through March, 2016:

- The Session discussed alternative ways to fund our Presbytery Mission partners in 2015.
- The Oak Table Service was launched on February 21, 2015 under the direction of a task force sub-committee of session.
- Session authorized to extend a call to Christopher Fortin for the position of Director of Music Ministries. Our new Director of Music Ministry, Chris Fortin, began on April 13, 2015.
- Session discussed the Marriage Amendment passed recently by PC/USA wherein the General Assembly approved giving ministers power to officiate at same sex weddings. Upon a motion from the Worship and Music Council, Session discussed its role in this language change and passed a motion authorizing same-sex

marriages of church members on church property in accordance with Amendment 14-F of the Book of Order.

- Seven young people of the Confirmation Class were examined by Session and received into membership in May.
- Session approved the request by the Youth & Young Adult Committee to disperse \$5,860.00 in Scholarship funding to three deserving applicants for the school year from September 2015 through August 2016.
- Andy Holvik, Director of Ministries to Youth and Young Adults, began in his new position in September of 2015.

Spiritual Development Council

Herb Kimmich, chair

The Spiritual Development Council meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm in the Geneva Room. Current members include Elaine Coulthart, Dawn Domans, Evelyn Drake, Betty Hahn, Barbara Knudson, Linda Lutes, Jean Smith, Chris Whitlock and Dr. Maureen Paterson (pastoral advisor).

This year's goals have been to enhance biblical literacy, support prayer and spiritual development, enhance interfaith understanding, and encourage and support small group ministry. In keeping with these objectives, we are offering 9 small group studies, a Women's Retreat, and have supported several Church programs in conjunction with other councils.

Programs included are:

- Bible Studies
- Book Studies
- A multi session course on the Islamic Religion
- A multi-session course on Jewish Spirituality (Kabbalah)
- A Labyrinth experience
- Several prayer vigils
- Library support
- Men's Luncheon

Many additional opportunities for Christian learning and fellowship were provided in ongoing Small Groups that met at various times throughout the week.

SDC supports the Church Library, which continues to expand its collection in response to congregational interests and needs. Dawn Domans is the Church Librarian.

The Tree House Child Caring Center

Jen Nowack, Director



The Tree House Child Caring Center, which will soon complete its 33rd year of operation, continues to grow and mature as it serves the child care needs of the community. The center was established by the authority of the Session through Children and Family Ministry Committee. The Government of the Center is vested in a Board of Directors, the majority of whom are Church members, currently under the leadership of President Betsy Fryling. The Board meets once a month.

The Tree House has continued to thrive over the last year by creating a new website, continuing to provide extensive staff development, and implementing the research-based, developmentally appropriate, Creative Curriculum. Additionally, the school was happy to install new flooring in Calvin Hall, refurbish the Office Manager's office and install new outlets in two classrooms to allow for air conditioning units. We made other facility improvements including the installation of new carpet in a room in Little Acorns, new flooring in a Little Acorns bathroom and new coverings on cement stairs in the main Tree House building. Finally, The Tree House continues to be part of Grow NJ Kids which is a quality improvement program for the state of New Jersey. By becoming part of this program, The Tree House shows its dedication to the development of a quality preschool program. Currently, The Tree House is awaiting approval of a \$10,000 grant which will allow for the purchase of required new furniture and curriculum materials for the school.

The Tree House is proud to provide a competitive program and a valuable learning experience for all of our children. Our objectives remain the same in that we encourage the individual potential and social development of each child and help him or her to achieve a positive self-image.

Our current center enrollment is 119 preschool children. The center is licensed for maximum attendance of 140 children at a given time. The Tree House employs a total of 24 employees including teachers, teacher assistants, afternoon child care providers, an office manager, and director.

Tricentennial Committee

Chairs: George Fricke, Bill Emmitt & Kris Emmitt

The Committee members are: Dennis Jones, Tina Bramel, Jim Felter, Dick & Betsy Fryling, Marilou Howe, Rudy Hyzer, Chuck & Betsy Miller, Judy Pasnik and Don Wadsworth.

The Tricentennial Committee was formed to plan events to celebrate our church's 300th anniversary.

The Committee unanimously adopted the theme for the year: *Sharing God's Love for 300 Years*.

Goals

Reflecting on Sharing God's love for 300 Years and keeping in mind that we would like BRPC to become more visible in the community, the following goals were agreed upon which we hope will be reflected in everything we do:

- Celebrating our heritage and the saints who have come before us
- Remembering where we have been
- Learning from our past
- Giving thanks to God for our past, present and future
- Renew and reinvigorate our faith through honoring our history
- Be open for God's direction going forward

The Year Long Celebration

The hope is that the events planned will energize the congregation to honor our past and, at the same time, enhance our current programs. Planned events will not only involve our congregation, but will also include the entire community and provide opportunities for former members and friends to return and celebrate with us.

"Rollout" of the celebration will begin during the Fall of 2016 and a kick-off event will coincide with the January Annual Meeting. There will be a major celebration weekend June 10 & 11 inviting back past members and friends of our congregation. Saturday will be a day for the entire town to celebrate while Sunday will be a day for church members and friends, past and present. A very special Worship Service and a catered picnic under a tent at Ross Farm are being planned. Other events throughout the year will focus on both our historical past and hopes for Sharing God's Love in the future.

The Tricentennial Committee is still in the planning stage and welcomes input and ideas from members of the congregation. Members are also encouraged to become involved by volunteering their time and talents to help make our celebration year a success.

Board of Trustees

Tom Fitzsimons, president

Members: Dick Bedner, Butch Cooper (Vice President), Bonnie Diehl, Bill Emmitt, David Klippel, Jeremy Mcguire, Ken Skoglund, and Don Watt, Janet Bentley (Church Administrator and Treasurer), Kathy Graback (Secretary).

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the stewardship of the church's property and financial resources. Meeting 11 times a year, the Board's activities are focused

on three main areas: 1) the maintenance of the church's buildings, equipment and campus; 2) the review and approval of matters regarding the management of the church's financial assets; and, 3) the monthly monitoring of revenues and expenses relative to the current year's operating budget. Trustees serve on or liaison to several other councils, committees or boards of the church, including Session, as an integral part of the Board's oversight activities and as a means to connect with the life of the church.

This past year started rather orderly with no "BIG" projects on the table. Numerous needed masonry projects were undertaken including re-pointing and re-building the remainder of the cemetery stone wall down North Maple Avenue; repair of the brickwork and stone tops in the Church House parking lot; re-pointing various brick areas along the front of the education building and the chimney at the rear of the Chapel; and, replacement of the small slate patio outside the door at the rear of the Church House parlor. It was originally planned to reset the slate, but upon inspection, most of the slate pieces were in very poor condition. New cement pavers replaced the slate along with the walkway leading to the big patio behind the library.

In August, we experienced the collapse of a major limb of the church's old white oak tree. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and the cable system supporting the limb prevented any serious damage in the churchyard. Upon inspection, it was determined that dry rot had been at work where the limb joined the trunk of the tree. Estimates by our tree expert and long-time tree caretaker, David Welch, were that the rot had probably been on-going for upwards of 15-20 years. This event, along with the tree's appearance and signs of poor health heightened our awareness of the tree's fragile nature. The Trustees also consulted with a second tree expert (from the New York Botanical Garden). Both experts agreed that the tree was in decline and its life expectancy was most likely in the range of 10-20 years. The tree appears to have weathered the winter with no problems, and spring will be a time of close monitoring and nurturing—especially the soil and root system. The cable system will be thoroughly inspected and any needed repairs made.

Other projects worth mentioning include: patching and seal coating the back driveway; cleaning out dead shrubbery in the Memorial Garden with a plan to do replanting in the spring; the addition of new leaders from the gutters on the Finley Avenue side of the Sanctuary to handle heavy rains; and a new closet was constructed in Calvin Hall courtesy of Dick Bedner and Don Watt.

We note that our long time Sexton Peter O'Connor retired in November. In addition to his many and varied duties caring for the church property in the spring, summer, and fall, Peter was our "GO-TO" guy whenever we had snow. This required Peter to be on campus as early as 4:30 am to insure we have clean, safe walkways for Tree

House arrivals or Sunday services. Peter was tireless in the faithful execution of his many duties. We will all miss him.

This report would not be complete without a special mention of our sincere appreciation for the office staff, and particularly Janet Bentley, whose sound management and knowledge of church financials are invaluable to the Trustees as well as the congregation. The Trustees are indebted to our faithful secretary, Kathy Graback for her meticulous minutes and communications. Finally, the Trustees recognize Butch Cooper, Tom Fitzsimons and David Klippel, who conclude their terms in May, for their service and valuable counsel.

Welcoming Team

Scott Eichhorn, Chair

Members: Dr. Maureen Paterson; Diane Kahn; Ellen Greenhorn; Marilou Howe; Gary Ingram; Marj Rich; Carol Skidmore; Marilyn King; Linda Lutes; James Craney; John Smith; Joan Eichhorn

*** Trying to fill the shoes of Mike Rountree and Gary Ingram (previous co-Chairs) is no easy task!!! ****

The "Welcoming Team" (formerly known as "Invitation & Membership") is involved in a variety of activities designed to provide a leadership role in warmly welcoming any & all visitors to BRPC, helping them to learn more about our congregation, participating in our periodic New Member Classes, and providing a means for our new members to develop a bond with existing members in order to deepen and enrich their church experience. We also periodically review the church rolls and advertise worship services & other church-related activities via mailings & website publicity.

New Visitor Greeters

Diane Kahn and Ellen Greenhorn faithfully perform the critical function of greeting new visitors, keeping track of them and providing a list for use in reaching out to welcome them, thank them for visiting BRPC and invite their continued involvement. Thanks to both of you!

New Member Classes

We were blessed to be able to hold 3 classes this year (with another coming up soon on April 24!) resulting in over a dozen talented & vibrant new members from each class. Some of these new members have already become quite involved in various activities/functions for the church. As Dennis likes to say (often!): "All of the inactive slots have been taken; only active slots are available!" We are blessed to report that our new members are taking this to heart. We also hosted Welcoming Receptions for all of our new member groups, with congratulatory cakes, group

photos & corsages for all. Photos of individual new members/families are posted on the bulletin board as you enter Westminster Hall - please look at these photos & introduce yourselves to the newest members of the BRPC's community of faith! {We are about to begin [this month] sending the group photos to the new members with the invitation to place them on their refrigerators, in order to make it easier for them to identify other new members and get to know them.} Thank you to Wayman Williams for consistently taking these individual photos of each new group.

Mass Mailings & Website

In an ongoing effort to connect with our surrounding community & invite visitors to BRPC, we sent out mass mailings for our Oak Table Service, as well as for Holy week/Easter services. (These mailings comprise the vast majority of the monetary expense included in the Welcoming Team's annual budget.) Gary Ingram continues to be of invaluable assistance in growing our wonderful website, which provides a comprehensive account of BRPC and its ministries. Thank you Gary!

In conclusion, I am overjoyed to report to the Congregation that our new members consistently tell us that they were immediately struck by the warm & friendly reception they have received when they visited us. As we all know, people have the choice to worship anywhere – we are deeply grateful that all of our vibrant new members have chosen to worship with us.

*** IN THIS EFFORT, WE ALL ARE MEMBERS OF THE WELCOMING TEAM!! Thank you to all... and I would like to especially thank all of the loyal & devoted members of this Team for their efforts this year in guiding me through this year.

Worship and Music Council

Charles King, chair

Members: Ted Beaudry, Sue Brewer, Dawn Domans, Beth Donley (Director of Children's Music Ministry), Chris Fortin (Director of Music Ministries), Betsy Fryling, Jeff Haines, Rev. Dennis Jones (Pastor and Head of Staff).

Our excellent pastoral and music staff continued to provide inspirational worship experiences during this past year. Our pastors, Dennis Jones and Maureen Paterson, blessed us with their creative worship leadership and challenging sermons. We also welcomed our new Director of Music Ministries, Chris Fortin, who has impressed us with his wonderful musical and leadership gifts. Chris has enhanced our worship with his inspiring leadership of our voice and bell choirs and the more frequent use of various instrumental ensembles to support the worship. Through his gift for improvisation and musical composition, he has made music a more integral part of our worship services and introduced us to many of his own creative musical arrangements. Chris worked with and supported Beth Donley, who continues to provide outstanding leadership of our children's choirs, to enhance the involvement

of the children in the worship music. There was a particular intergenerational emphasis this year with several events in which the adult and children's choirs sang together, including during the Advent Oratorio, which also included the rarely performed Mendelssohn Magnificat. Chris also continued our practice of Lenten Luncheon music programs and led the Oratorio Choir and instrumental musicians in a very meaningful Lenten Oratorio, featuring Schubert's Mass in G together with other inspiring and varied versions of the mass texts.

The Council supported with Session's concurrence the continued use of a broader mix of worship services this year, providing the Saturday evening Oak Table Service (OTS) throughout the year after its successful introduction in during Lent in 2015 together with the usual two Sunday worship services, one at 9:00 am in the Chapel and the other at 10:15 am in the Sanctuary, for most of the year. In recognition of the reduced attendance during the summer months, the Sunday schedule was modified to a single service at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary from late June to early September. The Council paid particular attention this year to the support of the OTS, given its recent launch. We met several times with frequent OTS attendees to assess how well this service is meeting its objectives and to help with logistical issues. We were pleased by the enthusiastic comments from the OTS attendees. This enthusiasm together with evidence of increase in the overall worship attendance across all of our services convinces us that our current worship schedule appears to be successfully providing a wider range of service styles, times, and locations that address the varied ways our members find meaning in the worship of God, despite the challenges of providing worship leadership for all of these services.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee

Theresa Creedon, chair

Members: Andy Holvick (Director of Ministry for Youth and Young Adults), Tina Bramel, Peggy Eicher, Margaret Klippel, Gabby Obregon (youth elder), Teresa Lane, Anne Pinto, Michelle Ortega, Sally Speakman, Karen Twill

The committee continues to support the strong tradition of youth ministry in this congregation. Andy Holvick joined in September of 2015 as the Interim Director of Youth Ministries and has been consistently supported by a strong and steady group of volunteer youth advisors and other volunteers who generously give of their time and talents. We are extremely grateful for these wonderful, devoted and spiritual leaders:

Middle School Bibles and Bagels - Peggy Eicher, Teresa Lane, Margaret Klippel and Anne Pinto

Confirmation Class - Mentors Tom Eicher and Christina Whitlock assisted by Karen Twill and Nancy Kilroy with Andy Holvick ministering along with Rev. Dennis Jones

Middle School Fellowship - Josh Felter, Stephen Thomas, Anne Pinto, John Pinto and Paul Klippel with leadership from Andy Holvick

Senior High Fellowship - Josh Felter, Gary Ingram, Stephen Thomas, Jake Boudreau & Michele Ortega with leadership from Andy Holvick

Workcamp Advisors - The work of many hands helped to facilitate a successful 2015 at the Carpenter’s Boat Shop. We had 36 youth attend and were blessed by the contributions of the following advisors: Lisa Conway for her above and beyond hours of planning, coordination of the work camp sites and overall leadership of the camp experience, Josh Felter, Lauren Graback, Stephen Thomas, Gregg Thomas, Donna Anderle, Jake Boudreau, Lindsay Caiati, Jillian DiFilippo, Gary Ingram, Justin Meyers, Claire Pratt, Jordan Thomas. We also want to acknowledge and celebrate the long standing relationship with the Carpenters Boat Shop under the leadership of Kim Hoare and the guidance of Bobby Ives whose devotion has spanned almost 40 years of annual mission trips for our BRPC and community youth.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO ALL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, COMMITMENT, HARD WORK AND LOVE

The Year In Review — Some Quick Facts And Figures On Average Weekly Attendance

Program	Average Attendance
Middle school Bibles & Bagels	5
Middle school fellowship	12
Confirmation Class	11
Senior High Fellowship	0-6

The good news about the Y&YA program lies with the strength in routine participation from the middle schoolers. What we are struggling with is the Senior High Fellowship attendance. Our committee has concluded after many different attempts at reaching out to the youth with different times for fellowship and with different activities that the model for conducting the Y&YA mission itself must change and adapt to the times. The turnover of youth leadership over the past 6 years has been annual with one exception of a two year stint back in 2012. This in combination with the busy life style of youth in our community and the part time nature of the youth leader position has prompted our committee to join forces with the Personnel committee to reimagine the program; both its leadership model and program execution. We will be taking that on with great commitment and enthusiasm in the coming weeks. Andy Holvick, who has blessed our congregation with his interim leadership, love of youth and many talents, will be returning home

to the Netherlands on or about August of the 2016. This was always part of his plan and factored into our decision to hire him in this interim role.

The focus has shifted away from trying to reinvigorate senior high fellowship to leveraging the strength we have in the work camp experience. Inspired by the record fellowship attendance and fund raising success of Souper Sunday, (raised a record \$3020, with 35 combined youth and advisors participating), we have instituted Work Camp Rally sessions. These once a month gatherings allow the youth to learn about carpentry, roofing and power tools while sharing stories of work camp faith experiences, inspirations and fun. Started in March, the first event drew an enthusiastic crowd of 12 and 8 advisors that we expect to repeat and grow in the coming months. New ideas such as a work camper- led coffee house night is planned for May followed by the traditional car wash fund raiser in June.

Despite the challenges presented by the low Senior High Fellowship attendance, our senior high youth are active and engaged members of our church participating in other aspects of our church life. The Y&YA committee is confident that with the support of our Personnel committee, our pastors, advisors and staff that we will be constructing a new model that will better suit the needs of the youth we serve and will contribute to the growth of our congregation both in numbers and as young disciples of God. Our goal will be to meet our senior highs where they are now and to prepare a program that will keep the current crop of middle schoolers and those behind them actively engaged in the coming years.

We are truly blessed to have a solid foundation of support, experience and open minds upon which we will embark on this new journey to transform the Youth and Young Adult program in the coming years.

Thank you and Blessings to all our dedicated volunteers and our wonderful congregation who support the youth of our church and the community.

Church Officer Nominating Committee

Nancy Bedner, chair

Members elected by the congregation: Chris Whitlock, Dot Dameo, Ellen Greenhorn, Ed Landis, Hal Slapin.

Appointments: Peggy Harris, Becky Creswell - Deacons, Butch Cooper - Trustee, Nancy Bedner - Session

Church Officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees) are elected by the Congregation at its annual meeting. Also elected are five individuals for the Nominating Committee, and one for the Financial Review Committee. A slate of nominees is presented by the Church Officer Nominating Committee, having been selected in accordance with Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church Guidelines for Nominating Church Officers:

Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church Guidelines for Nominating Church Officers

In connection with its responsibility to nominate individual active members for election to church officer positions, the Nominating Committee shall use the following general guidelines in its deliberations:

1. Consistent with the words of the *Book of Order*, candidates for officer positions “should be persons of faith/spiritual character, dedication, exemplary lives, honest repute, and sound judgment.” In addition, candidates for deacon should reflect “brotherly/sisterly love and warm sympathies.”
2. Equal representation of the congregation should be generally reflected in the composition of the various boards. This notably includes age, gender, racial and ethnic backgrounds, disability status, length of membership at BRPC, focus of participation at BRPC, occupational skills and interests, and marital and family status. Note that, except where the congregation has voted otherwise, the *Book of Order* indicates that officers should be 25 years of age or older.
3. Terms of service
 - a. No officer shall be elected for a term of more than three years at any one time.
 - b. No officer shall serve consecutive terms, either full or partial, for more than six years.
 - c. After serving a total of six years, no officer shall be nominated for reelection to the same board for a period of one year.
4. Whenever possible at least one half and preferably more of the nominees for each board should be persons who have not previously served on that board at BRPC.
5. In considering candidates for any of the officer boards, evidence of voluntary service to the church (BRPC or former churches) and regular attendance at worship are desirable and financial support of BRPC is essential (unless there are special circumstances).
6. Requests for persons having special skills and/or experience by any Church leader shall be considered. As an example, the chair of the Nominating Committee may request that at least one member of the nominating committee should be familiar with the youth of our church and potential youth nominees.
7. For deacons, geographic spread within the communities served is desirable. Deacons serving a particular cluster should reside in that cluster if at all possible.
8. Adult members of the same family, including all generations and whether residing in the same household or not, shall not serve simultaneously on the same governing board.
9. Youth members of families selected to fill youth positions on the Session or Board of Deacons may serve simultaneously with a parent or grandparent, but not on the same board. In any situation of conflict between an adult member and a youth member from the same family, consideration should be given to allowing the youth member to serve since she/he has only a very limited window of opportunity to serve. Whenever possible the youth should be nominated and the parent held for nomination in a future year.

2015-16 Annual Report, Part 2

At the Annual Meeting on May 1, 2016, the Church Officer Nominating Committee, with joy and thanksgiving, submits the following slate for the congregations approval:

Slate of Nominations

Session		
Allison Fahey	Jeanne McConnell	Michelle Ortega
Don Grossmann	Sadie Nelson (y)	Maggie Wald
Gail Iglesias		

Deacons		
Emma Aird (y)	Sue Frantz	Wendy Potter
Dottie Dameo	Nancy Kuhn*	Jean Smith
Jean Dorr	Bob and Leslie Mensak (working together to fill one position)	Elizabeth Strona (y)

*Continuing in a new term

Trustees		
Ellen Johnson	Ronna Storm	Craig Sutherland

Nominating Committee		
Peggy Eicher	Pat Haines	Ed Landis
Ellen Greenhorn	Rudy Hyzer	

Financial Review Committee		
Ed Landis	Chuck Miller	

Retiring Officers

We offer thanks to and for these people who have served with dedication.

Elders	Deacons	Trustees
Matthew Dresner	Sandy Barlow	Butch Cooper
Jim Felter	Jessica Creedon (y)	Tom Fitzsimons
George Fricke	Emily Fuchs (y)	David Klippel
Rudy Hyzer	Addie Gundlach	
Gabrielle Obregon (y)	Peggy Harris	
Herb Ryder III	Evelyn Helland	
	Samuel Hilde (y)	
	Nancy Kuhn*	
	Erica Studness	

*Continuing in a new term

Biographies of Nominated Officers

Elders

Allison Jane Fahey

Allison is originally from Southern Indiana where she was active in the Bedford, Indiana Presbyterian Church congregation from birth until moving to the East coast in 2006 after finishing her undergraduate degree. Allison and her husband, David, have two children, Finnegan and Wynafred. Allison previously served as a youth elder for her church in Indiana and was active in the youth group, choir and bell choir. Allison works for the Louis Berger Group, Inc. in Morristown as an Environmental and Land Use Planner and enjoys cooking, gardening, running/hiking, and traveling in her spare time.

Don Grossmann

Don has been a member since 1991. Don and his wife, Melissa, reside in Basking Ridge. Their daughter, Julia, attends Penn State University, majoring in Music Education. Don has previously served on the Nominating, Youth and Young Adult, and the Children and Family Ministries committees. Don works for MetLife in the Internal Control Department and enjoys skiing, hiking, gardening, the "Mets", and performing on bass clarinet with the Raritan Valley Symphonic Band.

Gail Iglesias

I grew up in New Hampshire and New Jersey and have been active in various Presbyterian churches since the 1970's. My husband Juan and I have three adult children (Kevin, Margot, and Kimberly) and three grandchildren (Aidan, Logan, and Tyler Kerrigan) that we care for during the week. I have previously served as a deacon and on several church committees such as Cemetery Committee, Youth Education, and Circle Four. I am currently a member of the Knox Bell Choir, a volunteer gardener for the church grounds, and an usher. I retired from teaching at Seton Hall University 7 years ago to care for my new grandson, Aidan, and in my spare time I enjoy gardening, needlecrafts, skiing and music.

Jeanne McConnell

Jeanne, her husband John, and their daughter Rebecca are recent members of our congregation. Jeanne grew up in the Presbyterian Church; her father is a Presbyterian minister in Wilkes Barre, PA. Jeanne's first church was Westminster Presbyterian, where she enjoyed the choir and girl scouts. Jeanne and her family previously attended Pluckemin Presbyterian, where Jeanne was involved in children's ministry, Vacation Bible School, and Deacons. Jeanne worked at the Somerset County Community Development office until Rebecca was born, and now sells Longaberger as a direct sales consultant.

Sadie Nelson

Sadie has been involved with Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church since age 2, performing in the children's choir, volunteering at the Vacation Bible School, attending fellowship, and attending the Maine Work Camp. She lives with her mom, dad, and two sisters, Emma and Rose. She is a sophomore at Ridge High School, where she partakes in and enjoys English class, law class, and photography, and plays on the girls' soccer team. She is looking forward to her 2nd year at the Maine Workcamp this Summer.

Michelle Ortega

Michelle Ortega grew up in Meyersville, NJ and joined our congregation in September 2015. Her daughter, Tori, is a junior at the Eugene Lang College for Liberal Arts (The New School) in NYC. Michelle served in her previous congregation as a deacon, an adult education leader, a worship arts contributor as well on as the children's, junior high and high school ministry leadership teams. She also enjoys preparing dinner for our homeless neighbors through IHN. Michelle is the President and owner of Communicare Ltd, Inc, a holistic speech and occupational therapy center for children and adults. She also regularly writes poetry and prose, and her photography has been featured on several sites.

Maggie Wald

Having recently joined the BRPC family, Maggie considers herself a 'newbie.'

A native of Canada until 1984, Maggie, with daughter Elizabeth, moved to Warren, NJ to marry Frank Wald, and instantly became a stepmom to his 5 children. The first two items on her list of priorities were to become an American citizen and to find a new church home.

Maggie's faith Journey has taken place in two local Presbyterian churches, both of which provided love, support, and a place to stretch & grow. She explored her faith through numerous Bible Study groups. She served as an Elder for- two terms, heading Personnel. Until 1995, Stephen Ministry was her primary path to serving, and before long, she became a Stephen Ministry Leader. This led to serving two terms as Deacon of Stephen Ministry Liaison. For the past 12 years, Maggie has led a group of 6 friends in "a spiritually-based book study/discussion, wrestling with moral & ethical issues that we face daily.

Frank & Maggie travel extensively, visiting their children and seeking new adventures. Maggie is a huge fan of live theater, and she is a self-avowed 'foodie' (also wrote a cookbook of family "keepers.") And no one knows better than Miss Charlotte that Maggie is the biggest dog-mom on Nottingham Way!

Maggie has a heart for living and for loving.

Deacons

Emma Aird

Last year I completed the church's confirmation class as a freshman from Ridge High School. It really helped me form a closer bond to God and to figure out where I am on my faith path. Last summer (2015) I joined the BRPC Work Camp in Pemaquid, Maine for my first time. During that one week I made many friends and learned a lot about myself and what I'm capable of doing, as well as how wonderfully people can work together to make a difference for those in need. Joining the BRPC has been a lot of fun for me, and I'm looking forward to remaining active in the church for the next few years. During my spare time, I enjoy reading, watching movies, learning about history and taking my two dogs for walks around my neighborhood. I also love to travel and learn about different cultures and hope to spend a summer traveling Europe when I am older.

Dorothy Dameo

Dorothy has been a member of BRPC since 1972 and has served two terms as Elder and Nominating Committee. She has also served as Deacon, Trustee and on the Kitchen Renovation Committee. She has served as Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School. Dorothy served as Chair of Education Council and has been active on the Fellowship Council for many years. She has chaired activities such as the Progressive Dinner and Shrove Tuesday events for many years. Dorothy has three stepsons, one son and nine grandchildren. Her hobbies include her two dogs, Greta and Nikki, cooking, golf, decorating, pet therapy and, of course, church! She will soon be moving to Whitehouse Station.

Jean Dorr

Jean Dorr joined BRPC in 1986 with a letter of transfer from the New Canaan Congregational Church.

Beginning in 2008 Jean served as a deacon for five years. During that time she joined the deacon focus committee. This committee reviewed the role of deacons in our church as well as other churches. Recommendations from this committee revitalized our deacon ministry.

For several years Jean was an active member of the fellowship committee, chair of the memorial reception committee and initiated the prayer shawl ministry. Presently, Jean is a participant in the Wednesday women's bible study group.

Jean and Jerry moved to Bernardsville in 1984 and have been active in the community. Jean retired from Warner Lambert as a consumer marketing specialist. Son Jeff and family live in Tewksbury.

Susan Frantz

My parents settled in Bergen County, NJ, where I grew up attending both the public schools and the local Third Reform Church. In Basking Ridge, we lived in Liberty Corner and attended LCPC, where the children attended Sunday School, I taught classes, and I became a deacon. I worked in public schools and retired about 2 ½ years ago. I continue to work a few hours a week as a psychotherapist. I have lived in my home in Spring Ridge for about 20 years. After retirement I returned to community activities and friends and looked for a church home and a friend introduced me to BRPC. I joined last spring.

Nancy Kuhn

Nancy Kuhn became a member of BRPC in January 2002. She and her husband John have one child, Stefani Kuhn, age 14. Nancy has previously served as Deacon since 2014 and on several committees including the Membership Committee, and the Spiritual Enrichment Committee. She served as a mentor for The SCEEP program and volunteered for Vacation Bible School. Nancy works as one of the Assistant Treasurers at BRPC and she enjoys playing tennis, hiking and reading great books. She also volunteers at the Overlook Hospital Gift Shop and is a member of the Overlook Auxiliary.

Leslie and Robert Mensak

Leslie and Bob married 43 years ago in Elmora Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, NJ. Leslie had attended that church since childhood and later served one term as a deacon and two terms as an elder. Bob also served the Elmora congregation for two terms as a deacon and one term as an elder.

A move to Millington brought the couple to Basking Ridge Presbyterian, where Leslie served a term as an elder of this congregation. During their years at BRPC, Leslie worked as the Resource Center director and educator for the Presbytery of

Elizabeth. She also served six years on the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Bob worked in construction code enforcement in the Department of Community Affairs for the state of NJ. He served on a destroyer in the US Navy and is a member of VFW Post 7858, Bernardsville. For the last 31 years, he has been a volunteer in the chaplaincy program at Lyons VA Hospital, serving communion to veterans each month.

Leslie and Bob were members of Liberty Corner Presbyterian for 17 years before rejoining BRPC last year. During that time, Leslie served as a Stephen Minister, Stephen Leader, and deacon. She is currently a Stephen Minister at BRPC and a hospice volunteer for the VNA of Somerset Hills. The couple has a daughter, Carol, a son, Ross, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Wendy Potter

Wendy Potter and children Stewart and Caroline have been BRPC members since 2003. Wendy works at Merck and Company as an IT Program Manager. Wendy has been active in the community - starting the Boys Lacrosse program at Bernards High School and generating all funding for the first two years of the program. She served on the Bernardsville Recreation Committee and as BHS Booster club president. She is also very actively supporting two senior parents who attend BPRC. A resident of Bernardsville for 16 years, she now resides in Mendham for the past 3 years. In her spare time she enjoys golfing, gardening, biking and knitting - but is looking forward to expanding her engagement with the church as Deacon.

Jean Smith

Jean has been a member of BRPC since 2014. Since joining the church, she has become a member of the Alpha Bell Choir, Tuesday Evening Small Group and Spiritual Development Council. She has also volunteered time with the recording teams and supporting the church's commitment to IHN, Homeless Solutions, and God's Co-Op Food Pantry. She looks forward to furthering her involvement by serving as a Deacon. Jean is single and lives in Bedminster. She works as an engineer for Schindler Elevator Corp. in Randolph, NJ. In her spare time, she enjoys visiting with friends and family, traveling, and playing golf.

Elizabeth Strona

I have been a part of the BRPC community for most of my life, as my brother and I were baptized here 15 years ago, and confirmed last May. Over the years, I have become an active participant in the life of our church. I was a member of children's choir and attended Vacation Bible School in the past, and continue to serve our church as a I grow up. Currently, I annually volunteer as a counselor at Vacation Bible School and attend Maine Work Camp with the senior high fellowship. I am currently a sophomore at Watchung Hills Regional High School and enjoy art class and culinary class. Outside of class, I enjoy playing the drums, practicing yoga, playing ultimate frisbee, and participating in Girl Scouts.

Trustees

Ellen Johnson

Ellen Johnson has lived in the Basking Ridge area for over 35 years. At BRPC she was active with the children's choirs when her daughters, Amanda and Beth, were younger, has served as a Deacon, is a past member of the Fellowship Committee, was on the PNC that called Dr. Paterson and is currently on the counting team.

In a former life Ellen was a computer programmer and systems analyst. In the past she has been Treasurer of Meals on Wheels, Junior Woman's Club, and several school PTO's. After raising children she decided what she wanted to be when she grew up and for the last 15 years has worked as a travel consultant at Ridge Travel in Basking Ridge.

Ronna Storm

Ronna Storm moved to Bernardsville in 1968, the year she joined BRPC. She and her husband George have two adult children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Ronna has been a church school teacher, an elder, and a member of several councils and committees, most recently Gifts and Memorials. She and George volunteer with IHN. As a retired English teacher, Ronna enjoys her free time to read and visit family and friends across the United States.

Craig Sutherland

Craig grew up in Naugatuck, Ct, and has lived in Boston, New York City, Millburn and finally settled in Basking Ridge in 1992, when he and his family joined BRPC. Craig and Liz have four children, Meaghan, Will, Drew and Elle (all in their 20's). He has previously served on Session, and on several committees including Stewardship, Mission and currently Fellowship. Craig is also a trustee of the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House. Craig is COO and a principal in Meeker Sharkey & Hurley Insurance & Benefits, and enjoys travel, the ocean and mostly spending time with family wherever we can be together.

Nominating Committee

Ellen Greenhorn

Ellen joined BRPC in 2008 when she and her husband, Rob Brown, moved to Basking Ridge. She serves on Missions, previously served on Adult Education and has learned a lot from discussion and study in small groups. Ellen works in marketing and innovation strategy for Henkel and enjoys sailing, traveling, volunteering at the wildlife refuge and grant writing.

Pat Haines - Nominating Committee

Pat and Scott have been members of BRPC since November 1967. Both Pat and Scott have served as advisors to the Senior High Fellowship and Junior High Fellowship. Pat has served as a Deacon and Elder, and has served as the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee at Elizabeth Presbytery. Pat has mentored seminarians serving at BRPC and has been an usher.

Beyond BRPC, Pat has served as the President of the Somerset County Jail Chaplaincy Board, working with the Chaplain, jail staff, and inmates. Pat started a meditation group for women incarcerated in the jail.

Pat and Scott have two daughters, Stacey and Dani, and two grandchildren, Ceara and Rourke.

Peggy Eicher

Peggy Eicher became a member of BRPC in 2004 with her husband Tom, and daughters Ingrid and Haley, when they moved here from the Philadelphia area. The Church provided the girls with a welcoming entrée into the community, for which Peggy was very appreciative. For that reason, she has tried to help provide the same for the youth of the Church by teaching Sunday school and serving on the Youth and Young Adult Committee, serving for 5 years as head of the committee. Peggy has also enjoyed singing with the Oratorio choir and serving on the Fellowship committee. She is currently enjoying learning with the Tuesday evening small group. During the week she is the Medical Director for the Center for Pediatric Feeding & Swallowing at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Paterson.

Ed Landis

Ed has been a member of the church since 1964 and has served as a Trustee, and as a member of an associate pastor nominating committee. Ed is senior partner in the law firm of Meyner and Landis and has been in the private practice of law since 1962. A resident of Bernardsville since 1969, Ed served for many years as President of the Board of Trustees for the Bernardsville Public Library. He has three grown daughters and six grandchildren, ages 8 to 25.

Rudy Hyzer

Rudy has been a member of the church since 2008, but began attending in 2000. He served as Trustee President in 2014 - 2015. He is the current Chair of the Cemetery Heritage Committee, was a member of the Stewardship Committee in 2014, ushers and helps with IHN. Rudy is a leader of Boy Scout Troop 351 and is active with BRPC Men's Lunch program. He lives in Bernardsville with his bride Barbara and son Roy Garrett. He is retired from Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. where he served in the finance area as Budget Director of Marsh Inc. and Treasurer of Guy Carpenter & Company, LLC. He is involved in cycling, hiking, gardening and woodworking.

Financial Review Committee

Chuck Miller

Chuck and his wife, Betsy, have been members of BRPC for over 35 years. During that time, Chuck has served as an Elder on Session several times, has been the Chair of Mission Council, has tutored with the inner city SCEEP program, and holds down a seat in the back row of the choir. They live in Bernardsville, 6.2 miles from their 3 grandchildren in Gladstone. He enjoys golf, his dog Delilah, summers in Maine, and the Boston Red Sox.

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Notes

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Artwork of Young Presbyterians

Officers of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church for 2015-16

The Session

2018	2017	2016
Theresa Creedon	Ted Beaudry	Matthew Dresner
Scott Eichhorn	Nancy Bedner	Jim Felter
Patty Haines	Kris Emmitt	George Fricke
Charles King	Jim Hanson	Rudy Hyzer
Carol Skidmore	Herb Kimmich	Gabrielle Obregon (y)
	Teresa Lane	Herb Ryder III

The Deacons

2018	2017	2016
Pam Blackstone	Jean Aurnhammer	Sandy Barlow
Debbie Carroll	Becky Creswell	Jessica Creedon (y)
Jan Hedden	Evelyn Gruening	Emily Fuchs (y)
Juan Iglesias	Marilou Howe	Addie Gundlach
Al Obregon	Helen Mallon	Peggy Harris
Sally Warman	Beverly Prochazka	Evelyn Helland
Ron & Bert Whalin	Gerry Shamey	Samuel Hilde (y)
	Karen Skoglund	Nancy Kuhn
		Erica Studness

The Trustees

2018	2017	2016
Bill Emmitt	Dick Bedner	Butch Cooper
Jeremy McGuire	Bonnie Diehl	Tom Fitzsimons
Ken Skoglund	Don Watt	David Klippel