



Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church

Annual Report Part 2

Staff, Board, and Committee Reports from June 2016 - May 2017

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 7, 2017 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 22, 2017 - 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 7, 2017, 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 22, 2017 - Bonnie Diehl
President of Trustees

Agenda – Annual Meeting of the Congregation

May 7, 2017

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	
Our Ministry to Youth, Young Adults, and Their Families	Cathi Reckenbeil
300th Anniversary Celebration	Bill and Kris Emmitt, George Fricke
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	Bonnie Diehl, 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	Bonnie Diehl
Adjourn Meeting of Corporation	
Reconvene Congregational Meeting	Moderator
Other Business	Congregation
Singing Praise to God	Chris Fortin
Adjournment and Benediction	Moderator

Table of Contents

Call for the Annual Congregational Meeting—Part 2	2
Call for the Annual Meeting of the Corporation	2
Agenda – Annual Meeting of the Congregation	3
Table of Contents.....	4
Pastor’s Report.....	5
Associate Pastor’s Report	7
Director of Ministries to Children and Their Families.....	9
Director of Music Ministry	10
Director of Children’s Music Ministry	11
Church Administrator and Treasurer	13
Children and Family Ministries Committee	15
Board of Deacons	17
Fellowship Council.....	19
Gifts and Memorials Committee	20
Mission Council	21
Oak Tree Task Force	23
Personnel Council.....	25
Planning Council	27
Search Committee for Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults, and Their Families	29
Clerk of Session	30
Spiritual Development Council	31
The Tree House Child Caring Center	32
Tricentennial Committee	33
Board of Trustees	35
Welcoming Team	36
Worship and Music Council	38
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee.....	40
Church Officer Nominating Committee	42
Slate of Nominations	43
Retiring Officers	44
Biographies of Nominated Officers.....	45
Elders	45
Deacons	46
Trustees	48
Nominating Committee	48
Financial Review Committee.....	49
Officers of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church for 2016-17	50

Pastor's Report

Rev. Dennis W. Jones

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

-Philippians 1:2-6

What a full, exciting, and blessing-filled year it has been! With overflowing gratitude to God, and to all of you, I look back on the past year in the life of our congregation and I offer a prayer of joyous and heartfelt thanksgiving:

- 2017 marks the 300th Anniversary of the founding of our church and the start of our life and ministry. This year has been a chance for us to look back at our rich and vibrant history and be inspired, and be renewed in our sense of identity and purpose as we lean into the future that God calls us to. It was a great joy during January to preach in the role of our 5th pastor, Dr. Robert Finley. June 10 and 11 will be a festive weekend that will long be remembered - including a community-wide parade culminating on the front steps of our sanctuary. I am profoundly grateful for the leadership, vision, and energy poured into this year-long celebration by our 300th Committee, and especially for our amazing tri-chairs Bill and Kris Emmitt and George Fricke.
- I am saddened by the loss of our beloved 600 year old oak tree, but am grateful for the wise, intentional, and prayerful approach we have embraced as we made key decisions during the past year and provided opportunities for the congregation and community to be engaged in an experience of mourning and of celebration. I am especially grateful for the privilege it was to host the Community-Wide Celebration of the Basking Ridge Oak Tree in November, and for the amazing leadership provided by Bill Emmitt and Jon Klippel as the co-chairs of the Oak Tree Task Force.
- Some preachers love to preach sermon series based upon a unifying theme. Others love the spiritual discipline and structure of preaching from the texts that are found in the lectionary. I am grateful that during this past year I had the opportunity to be the lead preacher for two sermon series where we did both – *What Disciples Do* (during this past fall), and *Encounters with Jesus* (during Lent).
- The theme for our 2017 stewardship campaign was “Rooted and Growing in God’s Love.” We were overwhelmed by the generous response from our congregation,

2016-17 Annual Report, Part 2

one of the strongest responses that we have ever had, and for the commitment to and confidence in the ministry of Christ here at BRPC which that response reflects. Thank you Jimmy Hanson for your leadership as Stewardship Council Chairperson over these past three years. You have brought a deep joy and energy to this central work of the church.

- We continue to be 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 been blessed with large new member classes, including many individuals who are already helping to shape and lead our ministry.
- Mindful of our deep commitment to minister as effectively as possible to children and youth, and of the constant turn-over we have had in our youth minister position, Session took the bold step of creating a full-time position. A fantastic search committee, capably led by Joy Schmitt, helped us to find and hire Cathi Reckenbeil, who we have welcomed with much joy. Special thanks to those who assisted our Youth and Young Adult Ministry Council in providing caring and committed interim leadership for our youth ministry during this past year: Jordan Goodwin and our middle school advisors and teachers, Maureen Paterson and our confirmation class mentors Tom Eicher and Chris Whitlock, Jackie Obregon and Michelle Ortega and the high school advisor team.
- Out of great concern for the growing heroin epidemic in our community, especially among youth and young adults, we began a relationship with the Basking Ridge grassroots organization, Community in Crisis, and have provided space in our church house for their programs to begin. My prayer is that this partnership will prosper and grow and allow us to bring hope and healing to young people who are battling addiction, as well as support and a safe harbor for their families.

These are just some highlights! How filled with thanksgiving I am for all of you, and for your dedication to the work of Christ here at BRPC. And how filled with thanksgiving I am to almighty God as God continues to love us just as we are, and lead us in the ministry of the gospel here in Basking Ridge.

With joy in serving as your pastor,



Dennis W. Jones

Associate Pastor's Report

Dr. Maureen Paterson

*“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all of his wonderful acts.
—Psalm 105:1-2*

As we approach Holy Week and Easter I am reminded once again of the many and varied ways in which we as a congregation of faith continue to make known what God has done in our community and throughout the world. Each year as I write this report I am humbled by the amazing faith, generosity, service and love shown by members of Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church. It is a privilege to work and minister alongside each one of you.

The Deacons continue to quietly and compassionately provide care to our church members through meals, rides, visits and cards. Each week we provide greeters for our Sunday services as well as making sure there is a warm welcome awaiting worshippers in Westminster Hall for fellowship time after worship. Along with the work of the Welcome Team this helps to make sure that everyone finds a warm and inviting welcome when they attend worship.

In this last year we trained and commissioned a new class of Stephen Ministers and many of these new recruits have already begun care-giving relationships. It is a profound joy to work with our Stephen Ministers and support them as they provide invaluable help to people in crisis or facing transition in their lives. They provide countless hours of one on one care each year and largely the work they do is behind the scenes - while this confidentiality is necessary for the success of the program - it is work that we should all hold in our prayers.

As we continue to struggle to make our faith relevant in an ever-changing world the Spiritual Formation Council has worked hard this year to provide ways for members and friends to engage in meaningful discussion and faith development. Our small groups continue to provide a safe place for folks to explore and learn more about their faith and through some special speakers and forums we have been able to grow and explore more about what it means to be living out our faith in our current context.

An integral part of all that we do here is our mission work and I am grateful for the many ways that we touch people's lives both locally and around the globe through our mission giving and through our hands on service with local organizations. Countless members are engaged in these partnerships and help to feed the hungry,

provide shelter to the homeless, clothe those in need and provide hope to those in our local community. I am blessed to serve alongside all of you in this work.

It is hard for me to believe that I have served among you now for 10 years and cannot thank you all enough for the many ways that you minister to my me and my family. I feel blessed to be a part of this congregation and for my children to learn and grow in their faith alongside each of you.

Mawren

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

This year has brought a new appreciation for me to strongly hold on and cherish the traditions of our church. Realizing the rich history of our great oak tree, and how it watched over our beautiful church for 300 years has made me all the more cognizant of the responsibility that I have to the children and families of our church to continue honoring the traditions of children and family ministry. Every year, I look back and reflect upon the celebratory nature of my ministry, realizing that I am blessed to have an amazing committee, friends that I work with, and the most beautiful children that parents entrust to me. It is with these loving thoughts that I feel God's presence and love guiding me to do his work in the best church possible, BRPC!

The Children and Family Ministry committee, had much joy and special moments with our children and their families. The spring Easter Egg Hunt, children's musicals, Advent Festival, VBS, and small group activities, exemplified how ministry, fellowship, and love are possible when you follow God.

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for the dedication and faith that the CFM committee brought to each event and program. Their love and support of the ministry blessed so many of our families. I would also like to thank the youth of our church. They are always quick to volunteer for programs and special events. Their leadership and dedication makes our programs possible.

I get teased from time to time that my entire family works at BRPC! And at times this is actually true. I continue to be grateful for the opportunities that the church has afforded my children. The church was the first place of employment for my son, Alvaro, and my daughter, Gabrielle. Alvaro works as the Oak Table Service sexton, and Gabrielle works in the nursery. BRPC has been a kind and gentle training for how to treat and work with others at a job. My daughter, Armani continues to sing in the Youth Choir and sings often at the Oak Table Service.



Director of Music Ministry

Christopher Fortin

Greetings, friends! What a year it has been! I'd like to share with you some meaningful moments that happened in the life of the music ministries here. Most recently, Jazz Saturday and Sunday were an absolute thrill, and with the help of Hal Slapin we reimagined the flow of worship and how the congregation could play a bigger part. I hope you had as much fun as we did. Over the course of the Lenten season, we celebrated a few centuries worth of music during our midweek services, and explored new settings of the Requiem texts during our Spring Oratorio. Holy Week was nothing short of breathtaking, especially Good Friday. It was good to compose a bit of music, too! Between the Oratorio and Palm Sunday we hosted the Chancel Ringers from First Presbyterian Church in West Chester, PA and had a marvelous time - we hope to do that more often!

In January, we hosted a very moving regional convention on MLK, Jr. Day in conjunction with the American Guild of Organists with special guest clinicians David Hurd and Donald Dumpson. During Advent and Lent, we added and changed some elements of the worship flow in hopes of focusing us all on the theme of the day. I trust it was meaningful as we celebrated those two seasons together. Christmas Eve, the December Oratorio, the Children's Musical and the Walk to Bethlehem were all glorious experiences. What a way to celebrate! As we ended last school year, I began my first year of planning with a full year under my belt, and it felt GREAT! We kicked off the fall with more collaborative music, more involvement overall, and a full look at the entire year's calendar.

A huge shout out to Sanctuary Choir, Oratorio Choir, Beth Donley and the Children's Choirs, Knox Bells, Alpha Bells, Youth Music students, Oak Table Service music teams, to our Friends of Music, and to guest musicians like trumpeter, Christian Venturella for helping us to make this year so powerful, so exciting and such a pleasure to direct. THANK YOU!

It continues to be 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. I encourage you, if you have the desire and experience of playing an instrument or singing that you jump right in! There's a place for you! I'm always happy to receive a call or email, and it would be a thrill to meet with you. May you all sense God's peace and joy this summer as we prepare for another year of ministering together in Christ's name.

With gratitude,

Chris

Director of Children's Music Ministry

Beth Donley

“Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

-Psalm 33:1-3

What a wonderful year of children singing praises to the Lord! This was my 11th year directing the Little Spirit Program. This offering gives young children the opportunity to sing, dance, and learn bible stories. Little Spirit meets on Tuesdays from 4:00-4:45. They come with smiles on their face and eager to have a great time. The Little Spirit class enrollment is 11 children, ranging in age from 2 1/2 to Kindergarten.

The objective 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 in Worship. This year the choir sang with instruments, danced to songs and even used sign language to deliver the religious text in the anthem.

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 10 first and second graders. The Spirit II Choir consists of 9 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.

In December, the children delivered a beautiful Christmas message with the musical, “On Our Way to Bethlehem”. The choirs worked diligently to learn their music and the outcome was a prideful and spiritually rich experience. 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.

- 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
- Ally Lambie, for her valuable accompaniment for the choir.
- Nancy Culton for her love and support of all Spirit children.
- Judith Cook , for her support and guidance 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 mid-week 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. This year much time, energy and a host of emotions have been dedicated to sanctuary window replacement and saying good-bye to our beloved oak tree.

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 Community In Crisis, 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 Brownlee, and Juan Alvarez. It is a joy to work alongside these caring and dedicated people. Pam has announced that she will be retiring this June - the anniversary of

her 30th year of service to the church. It is difficult to imagine the church office without Pam. Her skills, commitment, corporate memory, and beautiful spirit will be greatly missed!

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 39.

In addition I serve as the church staff liaison to the Tree House Board of Directors, and as a Board of Pensions PCUSA Liaison consultant to churches in our presbytery for medical and pension benefit matters related to the Board, and participate in a Presbytery Church Administrators group.

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.

-1 Corinthians 16:14

Children and Family Ministries Committee

Jeanne McConnell & Allison Fahey, Co-chairs

Members: Jacqueline Obregon (staff), Herbert Ryder, Jeanne McConnell (co-chair), Susan Ward, Allison Fahey (co-chair), Emily Jones, Lindsay Healy and Amanda Hughes

The Children and Family Ministries Committee is committed to providing 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 for the second Tuesday of each month. This year, the Committee met at Panera Bread in Basking Ridge so that members could share a meal together.

Nursery care is offered during Sunday worship 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 am Sanctuary Service each Sunday beginning after the Children's Message. Children from three years of age through grade 5 participate in a curriculum that focuses on Bible stories, music and crafts. Students participate in a traditional classroom model in which a single Bible story or Christian lesson is shared and then reinforced by a lesson and hand-on activity. The curricula for the 2016-17 Sunday School year is entitled Spark and is published by Augsburg Fortress.

Spirit, our midweek program for children, seeks to combine Christian education programming with our children's choir program. This year's music program had been led and facilitated by Beth Donley and Judith Cook. Jacqueline Obregon and Ruth Bash have facilitated the education program as the main Bible Study teachers. Ally, a Basking Ridge High School student accompanies the choirs, and additional volunteers help assist the teachers and provide leadership on a rotating schedule. This year the children led worship in May and December by performing children's musical.

With the leadership of director Jeanne McConnell, the 2016 Vacation Bible School program was very successful. The theme was Cave Quest by Group. Over 85 children and 51 volunteers participated in the planning and facilitation of this experience, which included 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.

2016-17 Annual Report, Part 2

The committee executed several special events throughout the year, including outdoor games for the children during the church's Fall Kickoff Sunday, children's musicals directed toward children, an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, a church-wide Advent festival that included a breakfast and crafts, third grade Bibles presented during worship, movie afternoons, and many other fellowship opportunities. We are also getting giveaways for the 300 Anniversary!

This program year, the Committee intends to focus on promoting 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 a review of the Sunday School curriculum and the goals of Sunday School education, teacher training in safety, teaching techniques and the curriculum, a toddler-care program for children from 18 months through age 2, and a fellowship group designed for children in grades 3 to 5.

Allison Fahey took on a great task to review our Child Protection Policy it is being reviewed by a lawyer before it goes to session. Allison also attends Tree House meetings.

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 dedications 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

Karen Skoglund, Moderator

Our 22 Deacons and 2 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 or Deacon partners and one Deacon who are responsible for each Cluster. By staying in touch with each person in the Cluster, Deacons learn of help needed, joys to be celebrated, and they see to it that appropriate assistance is offered. Your Deacons spend many hours staying in touch with and assisting their Clusters.

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

Sunday Morning Coffee

We are responsible for the set up and serving of Coffee Hour at the two services each Sunday. This year, each Deacon reached out to their Cluster to participate in this task oriented service, hoping that, by participating, people will feel a stronger sense of belonging to BRPC. Al Obregon has been an outstanding chairperson of this Ministry, guiding it through an enhanced format this year, ensuring adequate supplies were stocked and extra “goodies” were available. I am so grateful to Al and to his very capable and dependable committee of Jan Hedden, Sue Frantz, and Ron and Bert Whalin. This past year the Deacons arranged to have approximately 90 people serve coffee and provide goodies.

Sunday Morning Greeters

Helen Mallon, Becky Creswell, Pam Blackstone, Leslie and Bob Mensak, Wendy Potter, 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. An amazing 104 greeters were scheduled this past year to be greeters.

Food Angels

Debbie Carroll was unceasing in her efforts to find volunteers to cook for people in temporary need of meals. She often very generously volunteered herself to cook and deliver some of those meals! Along with help from Bev Prochazka, Food Angels delivered 17 meals to families in need.

Memorial Receptions

Jean Aurnhammer and her very capable team of Bev Prochazka, Jean Dorr, 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. One particular

memorial service, the Oak Tree Service, required the Deacons to coordinate with local Girl Scouts and businesses refreshments for over 700 people who attended!

Sanctuary Flowers

Nancy Kuhn made sure every week that the flowers for the Sanctuary on Sunday are delivered to people in the congregation. While each Deacon takes turns creating beautiful bouquets and delivering those flowers, the organization of it all (bouquet supplies, cards, scheduling) is due to the diligent work of Nancy. Debbie Schaub, who volunteers her time as an active member of the Congregation, ensures that Sanctuary flowers are donated and ordered. Overall, the Deacons created and delivered 166 bouquets. In addition to weekly flower deliveries, the Deacons also delivered 57 Poinsettia plants at Christmas and 27 Easter Lilies.

And Then There Are Others!

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

Our Scribe, Jean Smith, kept the Deacon minutes accurately and diligently every month. Thank you very much Jean for the terrific job you did as the Deacon scribe.

Our Youth Deacons are Emma Aird and Elizabeth Strona. In conjunction with YOUth Group, they worked hard to get more freshman students involved in BRPC. They've supported faith and bonding-oriented meetings, a potluck dinner, a Christmas party, coffee house night, a Souper Sunday workcamp fundraiser and Youth Sunday all designed to bring the youth closer together.

Many thanks to Dotty Dameo for the hours of time 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 as Deacon, is much appreciated.

To Maureen Paterson, 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 and for the hours of service you give to our Congregation. I have never met group of people so dedicated and willing to step up and help. It is such a pleasure to work with each of you! You are all an amazing group and I feel so blessed to know you.

Fellowship Council

Debbie Schaub and Maggie Wald, Co-chairs

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

The council hosted many fun events this past year, including: the annual church picnic, cheerfully held in Westminster Hall due to forecasted thunderstorms; the “Fabulous Fall Flapjack Fest”; two Oratorio Receptions; the Eggstravaganza breakfast; the 'Appy Christmas Party, held despite the threats of snow and graciously hosted by Jeff and Patty Haines; and the sugar-filled, purple and gold-themed Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We also organized refreshments for “Lemonade in the Shade” during the summer and for the Kick-off Sunday celebration in September.

All of these activities were more fun thanks to the many volunteers who helped us bake, cook, serve and clean up. We are thrilled about the many members who volunteered, through the Time and Talents sign-ups to help with future events. We will keep calling you!

We are blessed to have welcomed two new members, Elaine and Donna to our council this year. They’ve brought new ideas and lots of energy to the planning and execution of council events.

We are hoping to shake it up a little in the coming year with some new events. We welcome the congregation’s thoughts, suggestions and participation.

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 Sally Bedrosian, Lois Boston, Edmond King, Connie Plumstead, Eleanor Todt, William Watts, and Mildred Van Dyke.

Since the May 2016 Annual Report, Gifts and Memorials funds have been used for the purchase of new windows in the sanctuary.

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

Carol Skidmore, 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. This year the mission council decided to continue our decision to make contributions to various organizations on our own rather than funding these missions through Presbytery. Contributions were made directly to Good News Home for Women, Restore Ministry and Institute for Music for Children. We continue to house IHN guests 4 times a year and cook for Homeless Solutions. These are projects in which families can participate.

We held a trip to Ecuador in late June that included 23 people and was very successful. Highlights include: 18 homes (shelters) were built in 4 days; they worked on the water problem re-teaching residents about the purpose of the filters and the importance of using them all the time; sun dresses that we sent were well received; Susan Felter brought a sewing machine and taught women to use it, making dresses while they were there, and the machine was left for their use.

God's Co-op Pantry continues to do well but is struggling financially. This year the pantry became part of the Community FoodBank of NJ in Hillside which means they can no longer charge the clients a nominal fee per bag of food received. Over 200 bags of food are distributed each month and the money to pay for the food (even though what we receive from the food bank is only about \$.16 - .18 per pound) comes directly from our account. We are in the process of applying for state funding which will allow us to get food for our clients at no cost. If we are accepted, this will greatly reduce our financial burden. Additionally we are actively looking for a grant writer to help us find grant money to help replenish our account. The Lenten Mission Offering this year benefited the pantry. We are still asking the congregation for monthly food donations to offset some of the expenses.

Instead of a Maundy Thursday Mission Project this year, we collected personal products for the women residents of Good News Home for Women in Flemington. We had a representative come to speak to the congregation in early April at both Sunday services followed by a pot luck luncheon and time to put the donations in gift bags to send back to the women.

Mission Council continues to explore alternative ways to raise funds in addition to those supported by the budget. In December, Bishop Janes United Methodist Church again graciously welcomed us as a part of their Homespun Holiday Boutique where we held our now annual alternative gift giving fair. We extended to fair to BRPC for three Sunday's following the Homespun Holiday Boutique. This is an alternate way

of gift giving which allows people to support their favorite mission by giving a donation in someone's name. This was a great success for the third year in a row.

In January we began supporting two new missionaries in Haiti - Mark Hare and Jenny Brent. They are eager to communicate with us. They are not affiliated with the other mission work we do in Haiti in Nod Dorcilian. The Nod Dorcilian community is where we have been active in supporting a health clinic. This clinic is currently staffed with two nurses who are vaccinating local people. They are also working on a solar project that seems to be going well and will help to keep the refrigeration running that is essential for preservation of vaccines and other medications.

The newest mission outreach that has just begun in April 2017 is that of Community in Crisis. The vision of Community in Crisis is to be a model community for substance abuse prevention and education: changing lives, enabling futures. They represent an "it takes a village" approach to the opioid epidemic, attacking the problem at the local level by marshaling local resources. Interventions are designed to meet unique community needs and to produce sustainable environmental change. Session approved their use of the computer room for Tuesdays and Thursdays for this purpose.

The Mission Council will continue our practice of inviting members of several organizations to speak at our meetings and during our minute for missions time during worship services. We feel this is a good way to get to know our mission partners better and for the congregation to hear from them as well.

Oak Tree Task Force

Jon Klippel and Bill Emmitt, co-chairs

Oak Tree Task Force Members: Bill Emmitt, Scott Eichhorn, Karen Hilde, Mary Jane Hoare Amanda Hughes, Dennis Jones, Jon Klippel, Ed Landis, Mike Schneider, Sylvia Schneider, Ken Skoglund, John Smith

In the spring of 2016 serious concerns emerged about the health of the Basking Ridge Oak Tree. Extensive analysis was performed with the advice and guidance of a panel of leading experts. No specific causative factors were identified but by late summer it became clear that the historic tree had reached the end of its life and that our attention would need to turn toward planning for the careful and considerate addressing of the future.

On November 6th, 2016 BRPC held a community wide Celebration Service of the life of our Historic White Oak Tree. At that time word was shared with the community that an Oak Tree Task Force would be addressing the many aspects that will need attention. We outlined several areas that our Task Force would be dealing with as we prepare for the removal of our special tree and plan for memorials to ensure its place in our future.

Tree Removal-a team led by John Smith prepared a bid document outlining the requirements for the job which was given to 4 area tree companies. After careful consideration, the contract was awarded to Keiling Tree Care. Keiling Tree has been active in both efforts to save the tree over the past year as well as the initial pruning of the tree done just prior to the November 6th service. The timing for the removal has been scheduled for the week of April 24th, 2017

Fundraising Reception at Pollaro Furniture-at the February meetings of Session and Trustees, a fundraising event was approved as a community effort to help with the costs associated with removing the tree as well as subsequent costs for trucking, sawmills, wood storage and the creation of a memorial at the site of the tree. Bernards Township, The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills and The Friends of Ross Farm have all joined us in sponsoring this event. The date of the reception is Wednesday, April 19th , 2017 at the Pollaro Furniture facility in Hillside, NJ.

Tree Lighting/Illumination-just prior to the Christmas Eve carol sing, spot lights were installed around the Oak Tree to illuminate the tree. These lights were on a timer and came on at dusk and remained on for 8 hours. The illumination continued through the winter and up until the removal as a farewell gesture to its long tenure in our community.

Donation of a “baby oak”- nearly 15 years ago many seedlings were grown from acorns collected from our own oak tree through a program at Union County College

led by Professor Tom Ombrello. These seedlings were sold to raise funds for the renovation of our church cemetery. Professor Ombrello planted one of the seedlings in his Historic Tree Grove on the college campus which has grown to about 25 ft tall at this time. In response to the news that our Historic Oak Tree was dying and would need to be dismantled, the Union County College administration has graciously offered this very special “baby oak” to our church. Although it cannot be planted on the exact location of its “parent” as suitable location was selected in the historic graveyard just to the north of the sanctuary. On Tuesday, April 11th the oak tree was transplanted to our church property. The costs for the move are included in the fundraising needs for the overall Historic Oak Tree project.

Oak Tree Tee Shirt Contest-as a result of interest shown by our local school district, students at all levels have been discussing our Historic Oak Tree and its significance to the community. One result has been a tee shirt contest at William Annin School which they developed in concert with The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills (THSSH). We are now beginning to see these shirts all around town! Other plans involving our schools are currently being coordinated with the Task Force.

THSSH Video-the Historical Society is in the process of creating a video highlighting the history of our Historic Oak Tree which will include interviews with town and church personnel, footage and photographs of the tree and much more. They are also sponsoring an art show displaying the works of local artists featuring our Oak Tree which is being scheduled for later in the spring.

Forward Plans-the Task Force is continuing to develop plans for wood creations from wood collected from our Oak Tree. The type and number of projects will be dependent on the quality and quantity of wood discovered as the tree is taken down. The Task Force is also developing plans for a memorial to be placed on the site of our Historic Oak.

Throughout all of these activities we have sought to be ever mindful of the responsibility to our congregation and our greater community as we care for the tree and the cherished memories that it represented for so many generations.

We want to thank everyone connected with this project for their efforts in making our work possible and helping to ensure that our tree is removed safely and with the dignity that it deserves.

Personnel Council

Karen Johnson, Chair

Members: Betty Hahn, Jann Slapin, Ronna Storm, Bob Taylor, Don Wadsworth, Karen Johnson (chairperson), Patty Haines (Elder), Tina Bramel (Clerk of Session), and Rev. Dennis Jones (Ex Officio).

During the 2016-2017 program year the Personnel Council has actively supported our session, senior pastor and other BRPC staff in human resources matters. This has included celebrating milestone anniversaries, reviewing and revising policies related to personnel administration, and supporting the Youth and Young Adult Council in their efforts to redefine the position of Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults, and their families, and ultimately hire a new Director.

Primary accomplishments:

July: Provided a “Farewell” reception for Andy Holvik.

Held collaborative meetings with YYA Council re: “Reimagining YYA Staffing Model” and interim coverage of the youth programs.

Discussed, modified, and adopted Program Staff Self Evaluation Form for Dennis to pilot in the 2016-2017 program year as a part of the Program Staff appraisal process.

Aug: Co-sponsored a motion to session with YYA Council to search for and hire a Full-time Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults and their Families(non-ordained.)

This included the approval for an additional \$26,344 in budget to pay salary and benefits.

Collaborated with YYA to write new job description for Director of Ministry to YYA.

Sept: Began the process of recruiting a search committee for our full time youth director.

Voted to send a request for a 3% average cash compensation increase to the Joint Budget Committee as an affirmation of the dedication and hard work of our staff in a time of congregational growth and responsibility for our 300th anniversary celebration.

Oct: Sent a motion to session to approve the new job description for Director of Ministry to YYA.

Nov: Five-year anniversary celebration and recognition of Jackie Obregon as Director of Ministry to Children and their Families.

2016-17 Annual Report, Part 2

Approved revised Service Recognition Policy.

In collaboration with the YYA Council we met with the search committee to answer questions and guide the beginning of the search process.

Dec: Sent a motion to session to approve the Search Committee's revisions to the Youth Director's job description.

Holiday meeting with the staff to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

Jan: Presented Maureen's and Dennis's revised terms of call for Congregational Approval at the Annual Meeting.

Feb: Approved Gary Ingram and Jackie Obregon for interim coverage of Youth and Young Adult staff needs.

Sent representatives to a Collaborative meeting of Personnel Councils from four area Presbyterian churches: Meeting at Morristown Presbyterian.

Approved a short survey to be completed by Program Staff as we begin our review of the piloted Program Staff Self-Evaluation Form.

March: Met to act on the recommendation of the Search Committee to call Catherine Reckenbeil to be our new Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults and their Families.

Voted to send a motion to session to approve Catherine Reckenbeil to join our staff at BRPC effective April 6, 2017.

As we continue this program year, the Personnel Council is especially focused on praying for and supporting our staff as we plan for our 300th Anniversary Celebration and implement special programming related to the removal of our 600-year-old oak tree. We are thrilled by our congregation's desire to effectively support and minister to all ages. It is our prayer that BRPC will continue to meet the ongoing needs of our thriving congregation and the greater community.

Planning Council

Jon Klippel, chair

Members: Donald Grossmann, Rudy Hyzer, Ed Landis, Ken Skoglund, Rev. Dennis Jones (Pastor)

The Planning Council was formed by Session in 2010 to strategically and prayerfully assist with long range plans for our future. Accordingly, one of the primary areas of concentration has been the development and assessment of Vision 2017, a six phase five year plan, concluding during the 300th anniversary of the church.

At the outset of the 2016-2017 activity year, the vast majority of components of Vision 2017 had been achieved or were steadily making their way toward completion as scheduled. The outstanding elements were viewed as

1. Capital campaign - linked to the 300th to support mission and worship activities
2. Assessment /Development of a new governance model

The concept of a 'capital campaign' was given careful consideration and after weighing all of the factors; it was felt that the path to follow would be to provide a renewed emphasis upon the Samuel Brown Society planned giving opportunity. It was firmly felt that, as our church journeys into the fourth century of its life, the embracing of this idea of providing legacies for future generations of members has particular merit. A project team has been created to support this effort and it is being led by David Fahey. There will also be a special 300th Anniversary message of appeal to all members to consider making a celebratory gift in joyous remembrance of the three centuries of the church's life.

Concurrently, a very significant concern and challenge emerged at the beginning of the 2016-2017 activity year - the condition of the Historic Oak Tree. The Oak Tree's situation represented a multitude of complex issues from the practical and financial aspects of facilities, public safety and fiduciary responsibility to historical stewardship, community relations and the articulation of the intertwining of our history with our future. Throughout the late spring and summer of 2016, Trustees (principally represented by Bill Emmitt) and the Planning Council of Session (represented by Jon Klippel) worked closely with an extended panel of leading arborists and tree experts to assess the situation and identify options. In late summer, when the prognosis became clear that the tree was no longer alive, a collaborative Oak Tree Task Force was formed plan and act upon all the extensive challenges of dealing with making our way forward. This Task Force has a summary report located in this annual report and it has maintained ongoing reporting to both Trustees and Session.

2016-17 Annual Report, Part 2

In the course of dealing with wide range of the historic tree issues and various other matters involving the stewardship of the church and community heritage, efforts have been made to maintain, formalize and enhance the communication and consideration related to all matters of historical and cultural legacy significance.

In October of 2016, a new format for attendance analysis was crafted. This assessment perspective is supplementing the monthly statics and will be periodically reviewed for potential enhancement.

In November of 2016, as a part of Planning Council's responsibility to explore and understand the larger issues facing the world in which we and our church community dwell, the evening's meeting was entirely focused on a review and discussion of The Covenant Network of Presbyterians. We were provided with a comprehensive overview and discussion by our invited guests - Judy Pasnik & Nancy Campbell. Planning Council is giving this topic further examination and the discernment process is still under way. We are very appreciative of the insight and compassionate perspective provided by Judy and Nancy.

As we make our way into the second half of 2017 and complete our full year of celebrating the 300th Anniversary, our focus will turn toward consideration of the challenges that we will face and the vision that we will need in the 4th century of our history. One of the topics that will also be visiting will be the renewed assessment /development of a new governance model

This has been a very active and multi-faceted year for the planning Council. It began with leadership provided by Teresa Lane as Chair. We would like to recognize Teresa with appreciation for articulating key issues and leading the annual Kick-off Sunday program to an excellent start to our program year. In the early fall of 2016 the position of chair transitioned to Jon Klippel.

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

Search Committee for Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults, and Their Families

Joy Schmitt, Chair

Committee members: Julie Conway, Peggy Eicher, Josh Felter, Bill Gretta, Heidi Law, Connie Ledder and Sally Speakman

The Search Committee first convened in November 2016 with a shared commitment to identify a candidate whose skill sets and leadership capabilities matched the needs of our youth. Although our aim was to identify and hire a candidate by the summer of 2017, our church leadership supported our contention that we would search until God led us to the right person.

The Committee quickly tapped in to the individual talents of its dedicated members, which resulted in a systematic, organized approach. Our work streams included finalizing job description; identifying and outreaching to sources; tracking and reviewing resumes; establishing response protocols for each candidate interaction; developing interview questions; creating evaluation tools; and tracking every committee action in a master project tracker. Our national outreach included postings through Presbyterian Church USA's Church Leadership Council, seminaries, job banks, camps, presbyteries and word of mouth through our congregation, all which yielded approximately 70 candidates. Our committee met weekly at first to establish our resources, and then to review and interview candidates.

Of the 70 candidates reviewed, we conducted phone interviews and in-person interviews with several. On paper and in person, one candidate stood out, and our search ended when we found Catherine Reckenbeil. Cathi comes to our church family with 20+ years leading youth groups, mission trips and retreats, and that's in addition to her years spent as a school teacher. She's well educated with a BA from Bucknell and has participated in Continuing Education at Princeton Seminary for more than a decade. She hails from nearby Branchburg, and understands the local terrain our youth are navigating. From her immense experience in leading kids spiritually, to helping them work through problems, to garnering participation around a program that resonates with youth—she just gets it. Cathi possesses that rare skill set of being able to think big strategically and yet execute down to the last detail, with tremendous faith, care and love. Our youth, young adults and their families are in very capable hands.

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, 2016 through March, 2017:

- Session Councils are still reviewing the draft of the Child Protection Policy which has recently been re-written by the Children and Family Ministries Council. The revised policy will be voted upon at a future Session meeting.
- Session authorized funding to conduct an Historical Building Assessment (HBA) with a noted preservation architect. BRPC's last survey was done in 1939, at the time of 100th anniversary of the building.
- Session authorized The Planning Council to form a Task Force for the purpose of providing focused management of the tasks associated with the Oak Tree.
- Session approved the motion for a Community-wide Service of Celebration for the Life of the Oak Tree on Sunday, November 6, 2016.
- Session approved a request from the Community in Crisis group to use space in the lower level of the Church house for a "Wellness Recovery Center". They will begin offering programs in April of 2017.
- Session authorized to extend a call to Catherine Reckenbeil for the position of Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults and their Families.

Eleven young people of the Confirmation Class were examined by Session and received into membership in June.

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, Gail Iglesias, Barbara Knudson, Linda Lutes, Jean Smith, Chris Whitlock and Dr. Maureen Paterson (pastoral advisor).

Our most continuous offerings for spiritual development are available through five small groups: Sunday at Nine, Tuesday Evening, Early Birds, Wednesday Mornings, and Walk and Talk and these provide varied learning experiences throughout the year. Additionally, this year the council hosted three special events open to the community including: Community in Crisis, The Heroin Epidemic in Basking Ridge; The Jerusalem Exhibit at the MET; and Theology and Politics. These were well attended and focused on differing topics of current interest to our varied community. Finally, the women's retreat this year was led by Reverend Robert Morris on Personal Resurrection: The Spiritual Dimension of Everyday Life and drew attendants from the church as well as the community at large. The bulletin board outside the library is regularly updated to highlight current events being planned, our ongoing small groups, as well as materials of interest in our library.

The Council supports the church library and under the guidance of Dawn Domans, all the historic church bulletins have now been scanned and stored for preservation. We are in the process of refreshing the library collection and updating the guidelines for selection of materials. In order to facilitate these efforts, the Council is forming a Library Committee and will keep our church community informed of progress through our bulletin board and excerpts in the church bulletin.

Thank you to everyone who supports and/or attends our small groups and other special events as well as all the people who share great ideas with us for new events, books, or spiritual development experiences.

The Tree House Child Caring Center

Jen Nowack, Director



In the fall of 2017, The Tree House will celebrate the start of its 35th year of operation! 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.

Over the past year, The Tree House staff has worked diligently to continue to implement the Creative Curriculum. All staff members have received over 20 hours of professional development in the areas of Child Development and Learning, Positive Discipline and Health and Safety. To continue, all staff members have joined Professional Impact New Jersey which is a statewide system that guides, tracks and recognizes the professional growth and development of individuals working in early care and education, after-school and primary education. In addition, The Tree House continues to be part of Grow NJ Kids which is a quality improvement program for the state of New Jersey. The Tree House received \$10,000 in grant money which was used towards the purchase of new furniture for some classrooms, new classroom curriculum supplies, and also a brand new shade over the sandbox on our playground. In addition, participation in the program provided each classroom with a complete set of new curriculum materials for the Creative Curriculum (approximately a \$5000 value). Finally, Grow NJ Kids provided a minimum of 24 hours of training in curriculum and assessment to the entire Tree House staff. It has been a year of great growth and development for the school and the staff. As the Director, I invite everyone to stop by the school and see the classrooms and congratulate the teachers on a job well done!

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 124 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, Susan Felter, Jim Felter, Betsy Fryling, Rudy Hyzer, Marilou Howe, Chuck Miller, Judy Pasnik, Mike Schneider, Sylvia Schneider, John Smith, Don Wadsworth and Ken Warman.



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

Keeping in mind the theme for the year as well as the goals outlined above, the "rollout" for the celebration year began at the Fall Kick-Off Weekend with the introduction of the Tricentennial Christmas ornaments and the car magnets. That was followed by the introduction of the calendar timeline illustrating our full year of activities with themes for each month including emphasis for church history and mission.

At the 'appy Christmas Party this year, guests were greeted by a host in colonial garb who introduced himself as John Ayers, the man who donated the land on which our church stands ~ thus setting the mood for the anniversary year to come. The Sunday of the January Annual Meeting, Dennis preached a very well-received sermon in the persona of beloved Pastor Finley bringing to life the early days of our church. A printed BRPC Historical Timeline prepared by the Committee was made available beginning that day which illustrates how the development of our church coincided not only with events in Basking Ridge, but also with state, national and even world events. A church historian was introduced who pops up from time to time with interesting factoids and historical tidbits about our church history.

A major effort has been made by the Committee to expand our reach into the area of social media and we have begun wider utilization of our church website with a page to the 300th Anniversary, as well as expanding use of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to spread the word about our events and our history.

2016-17 Annual Report, Part 2

Major effort has gone into the preparation and planning for our our Celebration Weekend. Plans for Saturday include a fabulous Parade and Celebration Program, Art Gallery, Cemetery Tours with Re-Enactors. On Sunday there will be one service with beloved former pastors invited back to participate in the service. After worship, there will be a wonderful catered picnic at Ross Farm in Basking Ridge with special events planned for children so that the entire family can enjoy the day. Former members will be invited back for this weekend and we are hopeful that the entire town will enjoy the weekend and have an opportunity to feel the spirit of our church and congregation.

On October 14th, a 300th Celebration Show is being planned and will be performed in Westminster Hall by talented members of the congregation of all ages for all ages. While still in the planning stages, it is anticipated that this will take place in the late afternoon and include food of some sort.

In addition to the above, the Committee has undertaken the task of updating the **BRPC HISTORY 1717-1989** which should be completed later this year, having added approximately 25 pages and 28 years. We hope to have it copyrighted and published at that time.

With the huge help and support of the Deacons, a new photo directory will soon be available for this tricentennial year.

The Committee chairs would like to thank not only the active members of this Committee who have spent so much time and energy for nearly two years preparing for this tricentennial year, but also the many individuals who are not named here but have stepped up to help with the many details that were involved along the way.

Board of Trustees

Bonnie Diehl, president

Members: Dick Bedner, Bill Emmitt, Ellen Johnson, Jeremy McGuire (Vice President), Ken Skoglund, Ronna Storm, Craig Sutherland, Janet Bentley (Church Administrator and Treasurer) and Kathy Graback (Secretary).

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the stewardship of the church's property and financial resources. In addition to meeting 11 times a year; Trustees serve on or liaison to several other councils, committees or boards of the church, including Session.

The eventful 2016-17 year was guided by faithful commitment by all members. Review of the activities of the Board for the 2016-17 term of office include:

1. Maintenance of the church's buildings, equipment and campus.
 - a. Oak Tree
 - b. Historical Preservation
 - c. Sanctuary Windows
 - d. Church House Windows
 - e. Planting of Oak Tree Seedling
 - f. Crisis in Community Office Space
2. Review and approval of matters regarding the management of the church's financial assets.
 - a. Insurance
 - b. Investments
3. Monthly monitoring of revenues and expenses relative to the current year's operating budget.
 - a. Review of Budget
 - b. Stewardship Campaign

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 Dick Bedner, Bonnie Diehl, and Don Watt, who conclude their terms in May for their service and valuable counsel.

Welcoming Team

Scott Eichhorn, Chair

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

The "Welcoming Team" (formerly known as the "Invitation & Membership" Council) is involved in a variety of activities designed to provide a leadership role in warmly welcoming any & all visitor 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 functions of warmly greeting new visitors, keeping track of them and providing a list for use by the church in reaching out to welcome them, thank them for visiting BRPC and invite their continued involvement. Linda Lutes lovingly makes personal contact with these visitors in order to again provide a welcome, tell them about BRPC and answer any of their questions. For the coming year, we are excited that we have some new volunteers to share this load with these three devoted women!

New Member Classes & Receptions

We were again blessed this year to hold a few more sizable classes (with yet another coming up in May), resulting in a good number of energetic & faithful new members who are excited to jump right in and make significant contributions to our BRPC family. Some of these new members have already begun to add their talents to the life of BRPC. {As Dennis reliably states at these New Member Classes: "All of our inactive slots have already been taken!"} We are blessed that our new members are taking this message to heart!

We also hosted New Member Welcoming Receptions for all of our new member groups, with congratulatory cakes, group photos & corsages for all. [Please remember that we post these photos of our most recent new members on the bulletin board on the right wall as soon as you enter Westminster Hall; please look at these photos so that you all can be on the lookout to greet & meet our newest members of faith, and start the beginning of new relationships!]

**** A special thank you to Wayman Williams for his faithful stewardship in reliably taking these wonderful photos of our new members!

The Website: Wwww.Brpc.Org

At the expert hands of Gary Ingram, our website constantly continues to improve, providing a reliable, informative & fun source of news about BRPC, our activities & ministries.

This year, we are excited to announce that we have some volunteers to take photos of all church events, which can be viewed & enjoyed on the website.

Charter Day

As usual, our Team played a pivotal role in BRPC's contribution to the town's Charter Day festivities. In addition to our usual "tent" on S. Finley Ave., Emily Jones hatched the great idea of also having a kids' crafts table at the entrance of Westminster Hall. This provided a nice welcome to our church for families that were going into Westminster Hall to view the artwork, or just to get out of the heat! These will be repeated this year on Charter Day, which is Saturday, May 20.

{*** If anyone would like to help out by volunteering to work on Charter Day at either the S. Finley tent or the Westminster Hall table, please contact Scott Eichhorn as soon as possible.}

Mass Mailings

In a continuing effort to connect with our surrounding community & invite visitors to BRPC, we again sent out mass mailings for our Oak Tree Service, as well as for Holy Week/Easter services, this year announcing our 300th anniversary of Sharing God's love, and quoting from John 1:5 - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Conclusion

As last year, I am again overjoyed to report to the BRPC Community of Faith that our new members consistently tell us that they were immediately struck by the warm & friendly reception they have received from the membership when they visited us. As we all know, people have the choice to worship anywhere - we on the Welcoming Team are deeply grateful that all of our vibrant new members have chosen to worship with us!

*** We are also thankful for the welcoming attitude of our established members, because in this effort, WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE WELCOMING TEAM!

Again, thank you to all....and especially to the loyal & devoted members of this Team for their efforts this year. Let's all now enjoy our 300th together!

Blessings to all,

Scott

Worship and Music Council

Charles King, chair

Members: Ted Beaudry, Sue Brewer, Rob Brown, 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), and Charles King (chair).

During this past year as we have entered our 300th year as a church, we have continued to be blessed with a variety of opportunities to worship God. Our pastors, Dennis Jones and Maureen Paterson, and our Director of Music Ministries, Chris Fortin, provided worship leadership of consistent high quality at three different weekly services: a 9 AM Chapel service and a 10:15 AM Sanctuary service on Sunday mornings and the Oak Table Service at 5 PM on Saturdays in Westminster Hall. Each of these services offers not only a different day and time for weekly worship but also a distinctive worship experience. The Sanctuary services are usually the most traditional and formal, the Oak Table Services are informal and generally more participatory and contemporary in style, and the Chapel services provide a more intimate worship experience. Although the Council will continue to monitor the status of our worship services, we have concluded that at present the rich range of worship opportunities and styles they provide justifies the considerable effort necessary to meet the challenge of providing consistent worship leadership at all three services.

Under Dennis' overall leadership, our church staff also worked very effectively this year to introduce innovative worship elements and enlist the support of church members in various aspects of worship leadership. Each week during Lent, for example, Maureen selected objects to place in each of our worship spaces to symbolize the text of the day and the cover of the bulletin highlighted a drawing Stu Conway specially created to illustrate the day's text. Dick Bedner also constructed a cross from branches of our beloved oak tree a cross, which was used for the Chapel and Oak Table Services. Chris composed special Lenten congregational and choir responses for the weekly and Good Friday services. There has also been increased use of lay scripture readers throughout the year, and Chris has organized a cadre of musicians from our membership to provide music leadership at the Oak Table Services when he is not present to provide his inspiring leadership.

Chris continued to provide a wide range of opportunities our adult and youth choir members to inspire us in worship with their musical talents. He has also led each of our three bell choirs (the adult Knox and Alpha Bells and Youth Bells) in ringing at the Sanctuary services generally once a month. Beth Donley continues to provide expert leadership of our children's choirs, offering an enriching experience for the

children of our congregation and blessing us with their voices in worship. Chris led the Oratorio Choir in two excellent programs this year, one in Advent that featured Vivaldi's Gloria and one during Lent feature a recently composed Requiem by the British composer Bob Chilcott. Chris complemented our 300th Anniversary celebration year with three Lenten Luncheon programs, each focusing on the music from one of our three centuries as a community of faith in Basking Ridge, followed by delicious luncheons expertly and lovingly provided by our members under Sue Brewer's overall supervision.

Other initiatives involving or supported by the Council this year included:

- Providing Knobloch Scholarship awards to Daniel Celentano, Caitlin Costello, and Gregor Rankine
- Successfully introducing the intinction method for serving communion on Sundays when the Westminster Hall kitchen is needed for other church activities
- Continuing the re-plating and repair of several pieces of our communion silver under Sue Brewer's leadership
- Dawn Domans' completing her work scanning past church bulletins (some more than a century old) into electronic format thereby helping to preserve our church's rich worship history.

The Worship and Music Council feel privileged to provide support in various ways for our congregational worship. We not only assist our church staff worship leaders but also work with and support the many volunteers who work behind the scenes to help us express our joyous worship of God in our weekly and special worship services. We particularly recognize and thank the tireless efforts of:

- Sunday Flower Coordinator, Debbie Schaub
- Holiday Flowers and Decorations Coordinator, Karen Morrison
- Wedding Coordinator, Karen Morrison
- Lenten Luncheon Coordinator, Sue Brewer
- Communion Team
 - Sue Brewer and her Communion Preparation Team for communion set-up
 - Jann and Hal Slapin for communion clean-up
- Our faithful ushers under the leadership of Jim Felter.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee

Theresa Creedon & Michelle Ortega, Co-chairs

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee: Theresa Creedon, Co-chair, Michelle Ortega, Co-chair Members: Tina Bramel, Peggy Eicher, Margaret Klippel, Sadie Nelson (Youth Elder), Anne Pinto, Sally Speakman, Karen Twill with new members Jennifer Assay and Joy Schmitt.

Full Time Youth And Young Adult Director Hired!

Our committee worked diligently along with the Personnel committee throughout spring and summer of 2016 to prepare the hiring proposal and job description for session's approval of the full time staff member. We partnered to provide on-going support to an outstanding search committee, led by Joy Schmitt. The committee conducted a highly professional and thoughtful search that elicited over 70 candidates to ultimately hire Cathi Reckenbeil. Cathi started on April 4, 2017 and is enthusiastically applying her years of experience and passion for youth ministry to reinvigorate the Youth and Young Adult program which we have newly branded BRPC YOUth Group.

Youth And Young Adult Activities

The Committee continued to support and grow the youth ministry despite the absence of a Youth Director this past program year. Many volunteers and staff divided the duties:

- Confirmation class was led by Rev. Maureen and Rev. Dennis
- Middle school fellowship was led by seminarian Jordan Goodwin with continuity of support from our long time valued advisors Josh Felter, Steve Thomas, and committee member/parent Anne Pinto.
- Bibles and Bagels (middle-school Sunday School) was led by Margaret Klippel and seminarian Jordan Goodwin with routine support from Anne Pinto and others including Michelle Ortega, Peggy Eicher and Alex Ryder.
- Senior High Fellowship was led by Michelle Ortega, Gary Ingram, Steve Thomas, and Josh Felter through the fall and into the winter when Jackie Obregon stepped up to support some of the signature events like the Christmas White Elephant and the Winter Coffee house.

In summary, despite the gap in staff leadership, the generous love and support of our staff and volunteers sustained the programs and even managed to grow the participation at the senior high level on the newly configured monthly event schedule.

2016-17 Annual Report, Part 2

The approximate average attendance was as follows:

- Middle School Fellowship 8-14 youth supervised by 3-5 adults weekly
- Bibles & Bagels - 4-10 youth with 2 adults weekly
- Confirmation Class is comprised of 13 9th graders
- Senior High Fellowship 12-20 students monthly with 3-5 advisors

Workcamp 2016

It is a testament once again to the fine work of many hands that helped to facilitate a successful 2016 senior high mission trip to the Carpenter's Boat Shop in Pemaquid, Maine. Under the leadership of Andy Holvick, with volunteer advisors and carpenters Lisa Conway, Gary Ingram, Gregg Thomas, Steve Thomas, Josh Felter, Jake Boudreau, Emily (Slapin) Lufkin, Kristina Wenner, Natassja Holvik, Katy & Justin Meyers, Sam Turner, Tom Limongello, Jillian DeFillippo we sent 43 youth to the help repair homes of those without means to make those repairs on their own.

Souper Sunday Workcamp Fund Raiser

The February Souper Sunday tradition was once again a successful workcamp fundraiser and a source of great camaraderie for the incoming freshman class and older high school aged church members and their community colleagues. Many thanks to our generous congregation for donating \$2,668.

Scholarships

We were able to award scholarship funds in the amount of \$1,215 to 6 deserving applicants. Three of the applicants are church members; three are from the community at large. These deserving individuals are studying for degrees in the "helping" professions, including medicine, music education, and counseling.

Community Outreach

With 3 student suicides in Basking Ridge over the last year, our church and council leaders responded by opening its doors and its hearts to students in the community as a safe place for expression and support. Rev. Dennis, Rev. Maureen, Gary Ingram, Michelle Ortega and others including some of our youth joined in support of the young people suffering from these tragic events. It is a need we acknowledge exists and are exploring how we might play a role in helping to eradicate. We would like to help fill a spiritual void that might lead to a breaking down of barriers to seeking help before it is too late. Please keep our youth director and council in your prayers as we explore a role that fits with our mission while supporting our congregation and community youth and young adults.

Thank you and Blessings to all of 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: Ed Landis, Ellen Greenhorn, Pat Haines, Peggy Eicher, Rudy Heizer

Appointments: Dotty Dameo - Deacons, Ellen Johnson - Trustees, 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

2016-17 Annual Report, Part 2

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.

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		
Jon Klippel	David Lange	Marty VandenHerick
Ethan Konicek (Y)	Andy Nowack	Peter Ward

Deacons		
Dan & Rocio Campbell	Betty Mills	Donna Van Blarcum
Dave & Laura Govan	Caroline Schmitt (Y)	Amber Vigeant (Y)
Nancy Mallett	Mike & Maggie Skow	
Linda Metcalfe	Jenny Speal	

Trustees		
Heidi Law	Jay Link	Mike Poehner

Nominating Committee		
Sue Brewer	Pat Haines*	David Klippel
Bill Gretta	Meghan Klinger	

*Continuing in a new term

Financial Review Committee		
Sue Pape		

Retiring Officers

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

Elders	Deacons	Trustees
Ted Beaudry	Emma Aird	Dick Bedner
Nancy Bedner	Jean Aurnhammer	Bonnie Diehl
Kris Emmitt	Becky Creswell	Don Watt
Jim Hanson	Evelyn Gruening	
Herb Kimmich	Marilou Howe	
Teresa Lane	Helen Mallon	
Sadie Nelson	Beverly Prochazka	
	Gerry Shamey	
	Karen Skoglund	
	Elizabeth Strona	

Biographies of Nominated Officers

Elders

Jon Klippel

Jon grew up in Basking Ridge and is part of a family that has been active in our congregation since the 1960's. He and his wife (Margaret) have two children (Bradley and Alex). Jon has previously served as a youth deacon and more recently on several church committees including Planning Council and is a Co-Chair of the Oak Tree Task Force. Jon has spent his career in marketing and sales in the medical device and diagnostics industry. He enjoys reading and travel in his spare time.

Ethan Konicek

Ethan Konicek was born in Basking Ridge and was confirmed last year. He is the son of Mark and Chantal Konicek. He has attended the annual summer work camp in Maine. He is a sophomore at Ridge High School. He plays Trumpet in both the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band. He plays on the school football team, and competes on the ski team. He enjoys hanging out with friends, skiing in his free time.

David Lange

David has lived in New Jersey for most of his life, with breaks for college, medical school and residency training. He and his wife Joan raised a daughter Danielle and a son, Eric in Mendham where he has lived for 29 years. He is the president of the Peer Group for Plastic Surgery in Florham Park and maintains a practice devoted to plastic and reconstructive surgery including trauma and craniofacial surgery. His practice includes volunteer medical missions to Central and South America, Bosnia and Asia to treat infants and children born with cleft lip, cleft palate and other deformities. Community activities included coaching boys and girls recreational league soccer for five years. He also coached Little League girls' softball and was a ski instructor at Mt. Creek and Hidden Valley. He was a member of the parents' council of Boy Scout Troop 1 Mendham where he organized and helped lead many high adventure trips including mountaineering trips to Switzerland and New Mexico. He was fortunate to find BRPC, it's outstanding, caring and devoted leadership and to become a member to help further the warmth, caring, humanity and spiritual goals of this wonderful church and its congregation.

Andy Nowack

Andy grew up in different areas of New Jersey and New York and joined our congregation in 2015. He and his wife Jen have three children: Carter (12), Sidney (11) and Hunter (8). Andy has previously served as a Trustee, a member of the Stewardship Team, a volunteer with IHN and a member of a small group at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church. Andy works for Premier Development as Executive Vice President and enjoys watching his kids' various teams, camping, woodworking and relaxing at the beach in his spare time.

Michael Poehner

Michael had a distinguished 35-year career in the Technology and Services Business. He has held CEO and Senior Executive positions in a number of major Information Technology and Services Companies and has led start-ups and emerging high-growth companies. Most recently, he was President and CEO of DMR Consulting.

Currently Board Member of Transitional Data Services and a Managing Partner at The INSIGHT Group

Peter Ward

Peter grew up in Ringwood, NJ and has been active in our congregation for the last 9 years. He served as an Elder at the Community Presbyterian Church of Ringwood before relocating to Basking Ridge. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Kevin 9 and Violette 4. Peter and Susan have served as Sunday school teachers for the past 6 years. Peter is an attorney with a small firm and enjoys gardening in his spare time.

Deacons

Rocio and Dan Campbell

Rocio grew up in Newark and has been active in our congregation since the August 2016. She and her husband, Dan, have three children Emma (8), Zoe (3) & Madeline (3). Rocio has helped host the Coffee Fellowship after Sunday Morning Worship and is looking forward to being of service in as many ways as she can. Rocio works for the Bernardsville Public Library as a Information and Borrower's Service Representative and enjoys crochet/knitting, reading and watching movies in her spare time.

Dan grew up in Basking Ridge and has been active in our congregation since the August 2016. He and his wife, Rocio, have three children Emma (8), Zoe (3) & Madeline (3). Dan sings with the Oratorio Choir. Dan works for Hamilton Jewelers as a Senior Gemologist Appraiser and enjoys watching movies, going out to dinner and hiking in his spare time.

Dave & Laura Govan

Dave grew up in White Township, NJ and joined our congregation in September after being an active member at LCPC. He and his wife (Laura) have two children (Luke 13 and Chas 11). Dave has two older sons from a previous marriage, (JP 22 who is graduating from The University of Rhode Island and James 20, who has completed his second year at Penn State.) At LCPC Dave was a Youth Advisor and a Local Mission Volunteer. Dave works in the technology industry as a Chief Revenue Officer and has a management consulting business advising companies on how to improve marketing and sales. Dave is also a certified youth sports coach. Dave enjoys spending time with his sons, hiking, exercise, and playing tennis.

Laura grew up in The Bay Area of California and joined our congregation in September after being an active member at LCPC. She and her husband (Dave) have two children (Luke 13 and Chas 11, both at Bedminster Elementary School). Laura has previously served as a Deacon at LCPC and on the Hearts for Honduras Mission. She works part time as a consultant in technology sales. Laura enjoys playing tennis, watching sports and spending time with her family.

Nancy Mallett

My husband and I moved to Fellowship Village about two years ago and joined BRPC shortly thereafter. Previously we lived in Allamuchy, NJ and before that in central NJ and CT. We have four married children in their 50's and thirteen grandchildren, most of whom are young adults.

I have previously served as Deacon and Elder in other Presbyterian churches including mission trips to central Maine, organizing a soup kitchen crew, helping with food pantries and Christian education.

I grew up in NY and CT and moved to NJ when married. We spend summers on Lake Winnepesaukee and enjoy all the water sports with friends and family. I enjoy golf and swimming and most importantly being with our family.

Linda Metcalfe

Linda grew up in Basking Ridge and joined our congregation two years ago. She has served on the Tree House Board for two years and helped teach Vacation Bible School last summer. She and her husband have four children (Ryan -26, Robert -24, Catherine -19 and Chirstopher-16) Linda has taught children for over 27 years and is currently teaching Kindergarten at Oak Street School. She also served as the Director of the Pluckemin Church Preschool for ten years. She enjoys hiking, gardening and yoga in her spare time.

Betty Mills

Betty grew up in Harding Township (4th generation) at my present "mini farm" home. I grew up at BRPC - 49 years (left from 2/11/98 - 12/21/14) returning then. I'm a retired RN of 45 years; presently working part time at an 1826 water power Gristmill. I enjoy hiking, kayaking, skiing, birding, and fiber arts (weaving and spinning) in my spare time. I am looking forward to serving God and my church.

Caroline Schmitt

Caroline Schmitt has lived in Basking Ridge the past seven years and is currently a sophomore at Ridge High School. She joined the church last year after attending Confirmation class. Caroline attends church regularly, helping with Sunday school, Souper Sunday, and Youth Sunday. She attended her first Maine work camp last summer, where she enjoyed helping others and deepening her relationship with God, and she looks forward to another fulfilling trip this summer. Caroline plays tennis on Ridge's team and throughout the year, and she fulfills her love of dance with tap, jazz and contemporary classes.

Maggie and Michael Skow

Maggie and Mike were first introduced by a mutual acquaintance while living in New York City. Together, they became members of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. They participated in the church's "20's/30's bible study", and volunteered to serve dinners to those in need as part of a shelter program. Maggie and Mike married in Sept 2014 and moved to Basking Ridge in 2015. That year, they also joined the BRPC family. They now reside in Tewksbury Township with their dog, Lincoln.

Donna Van Blarcum

Donna was raised in Warren, attending Mt. Horeb Methodist church with her family. She 1st transferred her membership to a Presbyterian church when she lived in SC and Todd Jones was her pastor there. After spending another ten years in northern VA, she moved back north and is happy to be living in close proximity to her large extended family here. Donna has served as Deacon, Usher Greeter, and Sunday School teacher in some of her former church roles. She works, as an accountant, in the business office of Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Amber Vigeant

Amber has grown up in Basking Ridge and was confirmed last year. Amber lives with her mom Heidi Vigeant and her beloved sheep dog, Ace. She currently a sophomore at Ridge High School. Amber was the soccer goalie for the JV team last fall and played forward this winter on the RHS JV basketball team. Amber attended Maine Work Camp in 2016 and is looking forward to do the same next summer. When Amber is not spending time with her friends on the weekends you can find her playing soccer and basketball on various club teams.

Trustees

Jay Link

Jay grew up in the rural community of St. Matthews, SC, where he was a member of the St. Matthews Presbyterian church from elementary school through college. He has been a member of our congregation since 2006. He and his wife Stephanie, who currently chairs the BRPC Investment Advisory Committee, have one daughter (Georgia, 10). Jay works for Bank of America as a Managing Director in the global wealth management division and enjoys golf, family travel and music in his spare time.

Nominating Committee

Sue Brewer

Suzanne Brewer was born in Los Angeles, California and lived there for 22 years. Married a military man and moved around the USA until settling down in Basking Ridge, NJ in 1978.

She was married to Joe Brewer until he died in May 1997. She moved to Bernardsville in 2002. She has three sons, Gregory Bassett 55, Steve Bassett, 50, and

Andy Bassett 48 and three grandsons. She has served as a Deacon, serves on the Music and Worship Council, play handbells with the Alpha group, chairs the Lenten Lunches, sets up monthly communions and is on the board of God's Co-op Pantry. She enjoys volunteer work, her home at the beach, gardening and her housemates, Gracie and Oliver.

David Klippel

David grew up in Basking Ridge and has been active in our congregation since the 1970's. He and his wife, Shirley, have a son, Paul, who has just finished his freshman year at High Point University. David has previously served as an elder and trustee and on several church committees over the years.

Financial Review Committee

Susan Pape

Sue has been an active member of BRPC for 20 years, and in that time has served as a Trustee, a Deacon, and as a member of the Worship Council and the Nominating Committee. She is currently a member of the Knox Bell Choir. Sue was graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with an Accounting degree, and has worked for IBM for 35 years. During that time, Sue was an Internal Auditor for over three years and a Business Office Manager in IBM's outsourcing business for 16, with a focus on process and internal controls. In her spare time, Sue enjoys cooking, being with family and fellowship with friends.

Officers of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church for 2016-17

The Session

2019	2018	2017
Allison Fahey	Theresa Creedon	Ted Beaudry
Don Grossmann	Scott Eichhorn	Nancy Bedner
Gail Iglesias	Patty Haines	Kris Emmitt
Jeanne McConnell	Charles King	Jim Hanson
Michelle Ortega	Carol Skidmore	Herb Kimmich
Maggie Wald		Teresa Lane
		Sadie Nelson (y)

The Deacons

2019	2018	2017
Dorothy Dameo	Pam Blackstone	Emma Aird (y)
Jean Dorr	Debbie Carroll	Jean Aurnhammer
Sue Frantz	Jan Hedden	Becky Creswell
Nancy Kuhn	Juan Iglesias	Evelyn Gruening
Bob & Leslie Mensak	Al Obregon	Marilou Howe
Wendy Potter	Sally Warman	Helen Mallon
Jean Smith	Ron & Bert Whalin	Beverly Prochazka
		Gerry Shamey
		Karen Skoglund
		Elizabeth Strona (y)

The Trustees

2019	2018	2017
Ellen Johnson	Bill Emmitt	Dick Bedner
Ronna Storm	Jeremy McGuire	Bonnie Diehl
Craig Sutherland	Ken Skoglund	Don Watt