



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT  
2015

We Are A Community of Welcoming and Nurturing Faith

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WESTMINSTER STAFF</b>	<b>3</b>
STAFF OVERVIEW	3
REPORT FROM REV. DR. BRYAN J. FRANZEN	5
REPORT FROM REV. NANCY C. SCHELL, PARISH ASSOCIATE	6
REPORT FROM CHRIS MCKEE	6
REPORT FROM AMBER RASURA	7
REPORT FROM MARY ANNE JAMES	8
REPORT FROM JOEL STORCKMAN	9
<b>CHURCH BOARDS</b>	<b>10</b>
CLERK'S STATISTICAL REPORT	10
REPORT OF THE DEACONS	11
<b>COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION</b>	<b>12</b>
REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE	12
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE	12
<b>MINISTRY COMMITTEES</b>	<b>12</b>
REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE	13
REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE	14
REPORT OF THE MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE (NOW THE TRADITIONAL WORSHIP COMMITTEE)	15
SOCIAL JUSTICE	17
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</b>	<b>18</b>
REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE	17
REPORT OF PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE	18
REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	19

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR:

What can I say, 2015 was one of those crazy years that often seemed like a sprint that magically turned into a marathon! But it was a great year, and as we come to its end we see that we are set and ready to go forward as a congregation celebrating our 125 years in San Jose and reestablishing our vital ministry for the next 125 years.

We knew as the year began that it was going to be packed, as we were met the very first Sunday, January 4, 2015, by a very cold church: our heater had gone out in two places in the church, the Sanctuary and Mission Hall! This could have been a bad omen for the year, and in the past some might have seen defeat before we even started, but that was not the case. Instead of defeat, it became a symbol that no matter what was thrown at us, God was going to provide, and God did with a heating and air company that was available and would help us to fix our issues for an amount that pushed our resources to their edge but would not break us.

Grounding us in a theme of perseverance and moving forward rather retreating, we found a new energy in the congregation. We welcoming new members and tried new fun activities. We really had some great successes over the past year. Our wine fundraiser was a great time, raising more money than needed to repair the organ. Our Easter service had larger numbers than we had seen in years, and we welcomed more new members this year than in previous years. We saw the start of a new youth ministry and a growing Sunday School program. And we launched our new Wednesday Revive! service and have been able to keep a small but devoted group coming.

We also saw blessings in some of our difficult decisions. But this is what comes when your Session is really working to discern what God is calling us to do rather than to secure what they want for themselves. This led to some really hard decisions about where we would place our resources of time and talents. It meant that we had to say goodbye to some programs that no longer met the vital needs of this community and began to restructure our staff and resources. Yet, for everything we have ended, we have either started something new or been freed to put more energy into the new things we do!

This is going to continue into next year as our Session begins to really vision for the next 25 years using the book *A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation*. If you would like to read along, copies are available on Kindle via Amazon or from the office for \$12.

This will also be our 125<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation, and that alone will bring with it much excitement. One group has been working for over a year already on a history, and others will be asked to help with celebrations throughout the year.

As we look to 2016, I am excited. Not only for the things we have begun and the history we will celebrate, but also, and maybe more importantly, for all of the new challenges and opportunities God will place before us that we have not even thought of!!! I know that we will see more growth in our congregation and connect with the many blessings this place offers as we celebrate this community that is truly a gift from God.

In Christ,  
Bryan

# WESTMINSTER STAFF

## Staff Overview

All staff directly reports to the Pastor/Head of Staff and the Personnel Committee. In addition, each staff member is accountable to certain Session committees. If a Staff person is a church member and serves on a committee, they do so in the role as a member of the congregation, not as a staff person unless otherwise stated in their job description. For example, music staff would be expected to be part of the Music and Worship committee.

Pastor/Head of Staff:

Rev. Dr. Bryan James Franzen

[bryan@westpres-sj.org](mailto:bryan@westpres-sj.org)

408-771-9853

The Pastor is the moderator and a member of Session and moderates meetings, but is not a member of the congregation. The Pastor is also an *ex officio* member of all church committees except the Audit Committee, which no staff member can serve on. The Pastor goes to meetings at the request of the committee, or when the Pastor sees fit. The Pastor is supervised by the Session and the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. The Pastor is responsible for studying, teaching, and preaching the Word, for administering Baptism and the Lord's Supper, for praying with and for the congregation. With the elders, the Pastor is to encourage the people in the worship and service of God; to equip and enable them for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world; to exercise pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, and the dying; to participate in governing responsibilities, including leadership of the congregation in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness in the decision-making of the church, and its task of reaching out in concern and service to the life of the human community as a whole. With the deacons, the Pastor is to share in the ministries of sympathy, witness, and service. In addition to these pastoral duties, he or she is responsible for sharing in the ministry of the church in the governing bodies above the Session and in ecumenical relationships.

Parish Associate (Minister of Pastoral Care)

Rev. Nancy Schell

[nancy@westpres-sj.org](mailto:nancy@westpres-sj.org)

The Parish Associate, Minister of Pastoral Care, is a position designed to make sure that the congregation is cared for and supported. In this position they resource the deacons and work in conjunction with the various committees as needed or requested. If this person is female, they oversee the women's ministry. The Parish Associate, in dialog with the Pastor, oversees homebound members and those in need. The Parish Associate is also invited to attend all Session meetings. They are accountable to the Pastor and the Personnel Committee.

Church Administrator:

Elder Joel Storckman

joel@westpres-sj.org

The Church Administrator is the office and secretarial support for all church committees and other staff. The Church Administrator is not a member of any committees but may attend if asked. The Church Administrator also acts as building manager and is the primary contact for all renters. They are accountable to the Pastor, and the Personnel Committee, with the guidance of the Finance Committee which oversees office expenses and efficiency.

Director of Children Ministries:

Chris McKee, MDiv

chris@westpres-sj.org

The Director of Children's Ministries runs and manages all children's and youth education in the congregation. They are a member of the Christian Education Committee and resource other committees on education or developmental matters. They come to Session upon request but are not required or expected to attend all Session meetings. They are accountable to the Pastor, and the Personnel Committee, with the guidance of the Christian Education Committee.

Worship Leader:

Amber Rasura

amber@westpres-sj.org

The Worship Leader is in charge of the Revive! worship team and the music, and in consultation with the Pastor, the order, themes, and activities for the Revive! service. They are an *ex officio* member of the Revive! Committee. They are accountable to the Pastor, and the Personnel Committee, with the guidance of the Revive! Committee.

Music Director:

Mary Anne James

maryanne@westpres-sj.org

The Music Director is in charge of music programs for the congregation. The Music Director is an *ex officio* member of the Music and Worship Committee. They are accountable to the Pastor, and the Personnel Committee, with the guidance of the Music and Worship Committee.

Organist:

Christine Merjanian

The Organist works with the choir director on service music. The Organist is an *ex officio* member of the Worship Committee. They are accountable to the Pastor, and the Personnel Committee, with the guidance of the Worship Committee.

# Report from Rev. Dr. Bryan J. Franzen

## Overview

2015 was a great year for our congregation. We have really begun to see new faces and are doing a great job of integrating them into the congregation.

As Pastor, aside from Sundays, my week starts with scripture study on Monday morning followed by working on the services and my sermons for Wednesday and Sunday. Mondays are also days in which I have the most people stop by to talk. Typically I do not do administrative work on Mondays so that I can be focused on God as I am working through scripture. Tuesdays are often filled with meetings, whether that be pastoral care, staff, church, or community organizations like PACT. Wednesdays, I come in around noon to lead the Men's lunch study; then in the afternoon I will finish everything for that night's service and finalize Sunday Morning's service. Thursdays, I typically write the article and set up the newsletter that goes out the next Tuesday. There are often quite a few day meetings on Thursday. But often I find that I use Thursdays to do things that I have been unable to tend to earlier in the week like visitations and outreach. I say all of this, but even as I write it out I realize how insufficient it is since there is so much more that goes on in a typical week. But unlike many jobs, being a pastor always brings surprises as to how the day will play out!

## Highlights

- Worked with PACT to help develop and implement the Beloved Community, a forum for discussions between the minority community and police, while pushing for initiatives which make law-enforcement more transparent and fair.
- Joined and went to Israel with Partners for Peace. While there I learned new skills as well as a deeper understanding of the historic conflict between the two communities.
- Took further steps to reduce our carbon footprint through the reduction of printed materials. We have been able to do this by using technology; our next goal is to reduce the paper in the bulletins by relying more on digital means and community bulletin boards.
- Worked with Finance and Personnel and the rest of staff to evaluate how and where other staff and I are spending time, so that we can focus more on ministry than on administration.
- With thanks to the technology group, we implemented a more streamlined way to contact staff through simplified emails and a new phone system.
- Offered two New Members classes and welcomed some great folks!!!
- Last, but definitely not least, launched and developed the new Revive! service!!!

## Looking forward

I am really excited about the direction our church is heading. 2016 is going to be a great year. As we begin to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are actively reconnecting with our community, which was the initial focus of our congregation!

I look forward to our Session's continuing to transition from being a committee of the whole to a visioning body. This means we will continue to place more emphasis on the individual committees to take the lead in their respective ministries. This will give the Session time to do the necessary visioning work of discerning God's call and direction for our congregation.

I am also looking forward to once again serving the church by being a delegate to the General Assembly.

## Report from Rev. Nancy C. Schell, Parish Associate

For the first half of the year I was the receiver of the caregiving of this church family as I had a slow recovery from hip surgery. Then I was able to assist in worship and do some visiting. I give thanks for this church and for the new ministries we have begun. I continue to support PACT as it works to give voice to the voiceless and works for racial and financial justice.

It is hard to vision how I will be involved in 2016, but I am sure that our church will continue to be a lighthouse that gives warmth to our members and the community.

## Report from Chris McKee

### Overview

The Director of Children and Youth is responsible for administering curriculum for children and youth, providing teacher support and training, teaching Sunday School as necessary, ministering to children, youth and parents, delivering the weekly children message and organizing special children/family programming.

### Highlights of 2015

This past year of 2015 has been an exciting time of program development for Christian Education at WPC. Whereas my first year focused on overall organization, this past year centered on developing new ministry opportunities, most specifically in launching two youth groups. Our youth groups include a Sunday morning gathering and a Wednesday night opportunity for fellowship and Bible study. I thoroughly enjoy working with youth because it is a time where they start to claim their own faith identity as well as to discover interest in developing skills for a successful life as a Christian. It is a great joy to have youth ministry opportunities, for it keeps a congregation young at heart as well as in tune with the surrounding community. The elementary children's church program continues to be *Whirl*. With any program, I occasionally add modifications in order to better fit our specific needs. For example, when teaching in a large group format, there were social and academic obstacles that made it difficult for all the age groups to follow along at the same time. Therefore, I restarted our Preschool/1<sup>st</sup> grade option in addition to the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Back in September, we were blessed to have elementary-aged children attend our Wednesday Revive! worship, so I added a midweek children's church option. I continue to find exciting ways to keep our children and youth ministry programs fresh and exciting.

The following is a brief sampling of what we have accomplished together in 2015:

- July: VBS program was *Hometown Nazareth* and the kids participated in collecting backpacks for Sacred Heart's Pack-a-Back Program.
- Provided *Whirl* Sunday School training for Preschool-5th Grade
- August: the youth cleaned and painted The Hiding Place.
- September: launched two youth groups: Sunday following worship and Wednesday evening.
- October: both youth groups joined together for Laser Tag.
- November: the youth put together sack lunches for those in need.
- December: Children and Youth Christmas Pageant.

- Community Outreach: Movie Nights expanded to every other month, Easter Egg Hunt, July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, Stroll The Alameda children's activities, Trick-or-Treat The Alameda, Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

#### Looking Forward to 2016

- I have joined the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and in January will attend the APCE conference in Chicago. My participation with APCE will provide me with valuable resources for WPC programming.
- Provide additional training to CE teachers.
- Continue to expand our youth ministries.
- Bring on additional Children's Church teachers for children and youth.

I appreciate the opportunity to be in ministry with you.

In Christ,

Chris McKee, M.Div.  
Director of Children and Youth

## Report from Amber Rasura

### Overview

I was hired in August of 2015 as Worship Leader for Westminster Presbyterian's new Revive! service. The past four months have seen growth and experimentation in the Revive! service, as well as a slow establishment of routine. The first service was officially September 2<sup>nd</sup>, but services have been taking place since mid -ugust. Since the first service, the worship team has grown from two regular players and a drummer to five regular players and a rotation of drummers. The service is beginning to find its unique flow as the Wednesday congregation grows closer and more involved.

### Highlights of 2015

- Recruitment of four regular volunteer musicians.
- Recruitment of several volunteers to play twice a month.
- Regular service order established after experimentation.
- A new program, Planning Center, has been learned and utilized to organize music, plan the service, and keep it flowing smoothly.
- New equipment has been purchased and put to use.
- The worship team has learned a large repertoire of worship music.
- A small but steady cast of volunteers have found roles in the service.
- Worship team performed in a community outreach event, Christmas in the Park.



## Looking Forward to 2016

In 2016, I hope to expand the worship team further by continuing recruiting. Craigslist has been a great medium for recruiting volunteers, as well as my regular attendance at Balanced Breakfast (a musician's group) meetings. I plan to involve the worship team in several community events throughout the year, continuing participation at Christmas in the Park and looking for summer outdoor activities. There are several workshops I wish to take part in to improve my skills and network. I also have equipment upgrades in mind, should the budget present itself. One large, overall goal is to grow the Revive! service. This includes getting to know each attendant personally and finding a place for them to get involved if desired, as well as inviting more people to attend each week. I would like to see more youth involvement in the service itself. Finally, I will be working to ensure that the service and worship team run as smoothly as possible in my absence as I take a maternity leave in late spring.

Respectfully,

Amber Rasura

## Report from Mary Anne James

### Overview

The year for music began with a gala Wine Tasting and Silent Auction to raise money to repair our historic pipe organ. The event was successful, and we were able to have a major repair completed by July, and we had some fun along the way.

In February, organist and choir accompanist Howard Lee resigned due to other commitments, and we began the search for another organist. In May, Christine Merjianian accepted the position. In the meantime, the Sanctuary Choir, a volunteer group conducted by Mary Anne James, did outstanding work singing unaccompanied anthems in worship. Despite being a small group, the choir offers high quality anthems week after week. In addition to singing regularly at Sunday morning worship, the choir provided music for Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve Services. Nicholas Mollé finished his term as Choir Assistant in August, and Jessica Nguyen took the position in September. These able musicians conduct and support the choir whenever Mary Anne is away. During the year, we also purchased the new Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God*, and began using it right away. The choir was able to introduce a few of the new hymns as anthems in the service.

The Handbell Choir played three times in the winter and spring, but due to loss of members did not resume in the fall. However, a Youth Handbell choir began in the fall, playing at Children's Sabbath and at the Children's Christmas Program. This program is very popular with the children and young people who play and with the congregation.

In the spring, Joyful Noise Choir for ages 3 through kindergarten, under the direction of Jennifer Seguin, sang on Palm Sunday. Junior Choir for grades 1-6, directed by Mary Anne, sang on Easter and Mother's Day. When fall came, a number of Junior Choir singers moved up to the Youth group, and Jennifer Seguin began a leave from Joyful Noise. The groups were consolidated under a new name, Good News!, and participated in Children's Sabbath and the Children and Youth Christmas Program.

The Early Music Concert Series took place January through May with six concerts. In the fall, the variety series featured three concerts. Audiences were small but enthusiastic.

Mary Anne prepared and led music for the annual Women of Westminster retreat at Mount Hermon, which the women shared in worship the following week. Another annual event, the Community Tree Lighting, took place the first Friday in December. After a community Christmas Carol Sing, children and teens from nearby schools presented seasonal music and dance to a full house of cheering family members. Notables from the community, neighborhood and business associations participated, including the Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose. "Elvis" also came and sang holiday songs to the cheers and screams of the audience. There was also an opportunity for Mary Anne to work with Amber Rasura, our new worship leader for the Wednesday night Revive! service.

### Looking Forward

As we head into 2016, we see growth in the size of Sanctuary Choir. The Youth Handbells are learning very quickly to read their parts and love practicing handbell techniques. We anticipate continued joyful singing from Good News! Choir. Our repaired organ continues to serve, and we are hearing lovely and varied sounds as Christine explores all the possibilities. We pray that God will continue to be pleased by our musical offerings and that each musician will be blessed in many ways as they serve God and God's people.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne James  
Music Director

### Report from Joel Storckman

#### Overview

The role of the Church Administrator is to manage the church's main office and perform other administrative tasks relating to the church and the building. The main office is an information hub, so collecting and communicating information about church events and activities is a primary focus. The office also manages all the groups that rent space from the church, including collecting rent payments, managing the building calendar, and coordinating facility issues.

#### Highlights of 2015

- Prepared weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, special event flyers, maintained the church website content, helped with weekly newsletters
- Prepared monthly Session packets and provided administrative support to Session committees
- Scanned incoming invoices/check requests, and mailed out vendor checks
- Distributed mail, answered phone calls and e-mails, converted church phone to cell phone for greater coverage during the day
- Replaced office printer with one that was more cost-effective
- Gave building tours and provided administrative support for people renting unused space at the church
- Managed the church calendar, scheduled many events and activities, maintained the church contact database

- Increased building walk-through frequency; tracked status and reported facility issues and rent payment weekly to Finance Committee; retained a new janitorial service to give us a cleaner facility

### Looking Forward to 2016

Plans for improving administrative support to the church include improving the website to provide more information to members, and improving church office procedures to better support the needs of the new Wednesday evening service.

## CHURCH BOARDS

Our Church has two boards: the Session, which is given the charge of overseeing the mission, ministry, and operation of the congregation; and the Deacons, who are given the responsibility of care. Session and the Board of Deacons meet on the third Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the congregation. However, when the committees are dealing with issues concerning individuals, they may choose to move to a closed session.

The Session	The Deacons
Dave Burgess, Clerk	<u>Class of 2016</u>
<u>Class of 2016</u>	Martha Orellana
Rob Heiser	<u>Class of 2017</u>
Melinda Schell	Ruth Eddlemon
<u>Class of 2017</u>	Jim Kilty
Betty Slater	Ann Kilty
Pat DeWhitt	Rachel Notor
<u>Class of 2018</u>	Ron Schuler
Ross Barrons	<u>Class of 2018</u>
Heather Escoto	Lorraine Chretien
Cathy Akem	

### Clerk's Statistical report

Active members as of December 31, 2014	116
Additions during 2015	
By profession of faith	0
By reaffirmation of faith	6
<u>Other additions</u>	<u>0</u>
Total additions	6
Reductions during 2015	
By letter of transfer	4
Deaths	0
<u>Other losses</u>	<u>3</u>

Total reductions	7
Active members as of December 31, 2015	115
Baptisms during 2015	2

Respectfully submitted,

David Burgess, Clerk of Session

## Report of the Deacons

### Overview

The members of the Deacon Board for 2015 were Marla Bohnhoff (Moderator), Jim and Ann Kilty, Ruth Eddlemon, Ron Schuler, Martha Orellana, and Rachel Notor. After the resignation of Rachel Notor, Karen Lewis joined the board. When Marla Bohnhoff moved to Reno, Ann Kilty assumed the role of Moderator.

Our responsibility as Deacons is to minister to the needs of members and friends within our congregation as well as the larger community. Ways in which we minister include providing financial assistance to WPC members and friends when needed, providing meals as needed, preparing communion, providing food for memorial services, facilitating the first-Sunday-of-the-month food donations to the Second Harvest Food Bank, keeping in touch with our parish members with visits, phone calls, and cards.

### Highlights of 2015

- Donated quarterly to Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart (\$800)\*
- Provided financial support for the monthly Homeless Shelter Meals (\$1,280)\*
- Provided hot cross buns for Easter breakfast
- Provided financial assistance to WPC members

\*Contributions to community organizations accounted for approximately \$2,000 of our \$4,000 budget.

### Looking Forward to 2016

- Continue our community support with Second Harvest, Sacred Heart and Homeless Family Shelter.
- Continue ministering to our parish members
- Take a more active role in following up with visitors and potential new members

Deacon Board for 2016: Ann Kilty, Jim Kilty, Lorraine Chretien, Karen Lewis, Martha Orellana, Ron Schuler.

Submitted by: Ann Kilty

# COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION

## Report of the Audit Committee

In 2015 the Audit Committee, consisting of Rick James and Sandy Williams, conducted spot audits of the 2014 financial records. The records were found to be in good order. The full audits are available from the office upon request.

## Report of the Nominating Committee

The members of the 2015 Nominating Committee, Rick Marovich, Betty Slater, Ron Schuler, Cathy Akem, Steve Jenks, Charles Verrey, and Karen Lewis, served long and faithfully during the year. The congregation thanks the committee for its long and diligent efforts. Below is a list of the Nominating Committee members and the candidates they proposed to serve the church.

### *Elders*

- Cathy Akem – 3-year term
- Ross Barrons – 3-year term
- Heather Escoto - 3-year term

### *Deacons*

- Lorainne Chretien – 3-year term

### *Others (recommended to Session for action)*

- Sandy Williams – Financial Secretary
- Jim Lewis – Treasurer
- Dave Burgess – Clerk of Session

## MINISTRY COMMITTEES

The Ministry Committees are committees that the Session has authorized to carry out many of the hands-on ministries and missions of our congregation. All ministry committee meetings shall be announced at least one week prior to the meeting in the bulletin and are open to the congregation.

### 2016 Committee Assignments:

#### **Worship and Music**

Melinda Schell

#### **Christian Education**

Cathy Akem

#### **Social Justice**

Vacant

#### **Evangelism**

Betty Slater

## Revive!

Heather Escoto

### Report of the Christian Education Committee

#### Children and Youth Age Breakdown

• Birth to 3:	3
• 4 Years	2
• 5 Years:	2
• 6 Years:	2
• 7 Years:	2
• 8 Years	0
• 9 Years	4
• 10 Years	2
• 11 Years	2
• 12 Years	5
• 13 Years	0
• 14 Years	0
• 15 Years	2
• College	1

#### Overview

What a great year of ministry at WPC for Christian Education. In 2015, CE focused on program development and successfully launched two youth groups in September. We have a Sunday Youth Group that gathers after worship from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM in The Hiding Place. The Sunday youth enjoy their coffee hour food as we check in and chat about the morning scripture. The second youth group meets on Wednesday evenings during the Revive! worship service at 7:00 PM. The Wednesday Revive! youth group is using Echo the Story curriculum where the youth experience the biblical narrative through storytelling, creative reflection and dialogue. Echo the Story provides ways to help youth find themselves in a greater story. Our elementary age Children's Church curriculum continues to be *Whirl* for Preschool to 5th graders. We added an elementary Children's Church option for Wednesday Revive! where *Whirl* is used as well. As with any program we occasionally modify the curriculum in order to better fit our specific needs.

#### Highlights of 2015

The following is a brief sampling of what Christian Education has accomplished:

- The launch of our Sunday Youth and Wednesday Revive! Youth
- *Whirl* Sunday School curriculum – *Whirl* is a lectionary-centered for pre-K through fifth grade and brings kids into the life of the church.
- Children's Sermons to introduce the Sunday School lessons
- Good News! Choir and Handbells
- Easter Egg Hunt

- Worship: VBS Sunday, Acolytes, instrumental and choir performances, Children's Sabbath, Christmas Pageant.

Our VBS program was *Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid*, a five-night Vacation Bible School program held July 12-16. The kids learned how to stand up for their faith among people who doubt that the carpenter's son is really God's son. The Biblical truth was reinforced through the Bible point and carefully integrated into each activity. God's Word comes alive through engaging in interaction with Bible history!

- WPC kids and youth participated in various local mission projects throughout the year: One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter, Sacred Heart's Pack-a-Back during VBS and the purchase of a pig through the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The Wednesday youth assembled sack lunches for those in need.
- Provided childcare for babies and toddlers (0-3) in the Family Room for Sunday and Wednesday worship services.
- Promoted Community outreach programs like, Easter Egg Hunt, July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, Stroll the Alameda, Trick-or-Treat The Alameda and Community Christmas Tree Lighting

#### Looking Forward to 2016

- Cathy Akem joining CE Leadership as a Session Elder.
- Chris McKee will join the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and in January will attend their Conference in Chicago. This will provide WPC with additional resources for program development.
- Provide additional training to CE teachers.
- Continue to expand our youth ministries.
- Bringing on additional Children's Church teachers for children and youth.

## Report of the Evangelism Committee

### Overview

The Evangelism Committee is charged with promoting the witness and love of God for ALL people, especially the un-churched, newcomers, non-Christians and inactive members as well as inspire the congregation to do the same.

That pretty much covers all that the church does outside of the morning worship service. All the on-going activities we pursue during the year are geared to encourage participation of the congregation to welcome and encourage non-members to find an activity where they feel comfortable. Every activity we produce has a Biblical purpose and message for non-believers. The major ones are the Women's Retreat, Easter brunch, VBS, July 4th parade hot dog meal, the new Revive! service and dinner and the Community Tree Lighting program.

Every year has its challenges to present the gospel in a manner that is current with today's world. We are trying to learn the best way to communicate electronically using the Internet, Facebook, Twitter, nextdoor groups, and still keep those without these devices informed so they don't feel abandoned. We are still pursuing face-to-face contacts to expand our footprint to the people in our immediate neighborhood. All this is done with pre-

planning and prayer with God's guidance. We are looking forward to a year full of new experiences as well as going more in-depth with our present programs.

### Highlights of 2015

- Worked to create a new logo and marketing plan for the church
- Worked with the Revive! team to launch that ministry
- Gave out 1000 hot dogs at the Rose, White, and Blue parade
- Introduced visitor Welcome Bags
- Had another successful tree lighting service!

### Looking Forward to 2016

- Build on the successes of 2015:
  - Continue to help the Revive! team by engaging groups like Young Life.
  - Expand our advertising and ministries that connect with our neighbors.

Betty Slater, Elder  
Evangelism Committee

## Report of the Music and Worship Committee (Now the Traditional Worship Committee)

### Overview

The Music and Worship Committee is delighted with work that enabled the repair of our church organ, after the fundraiser held in January of 2015. Many items were auctioned, including paintings, crafts, trips, and services. Enough money was raised to repair the organ, with a little left over.

The Sunday evening "Gathering" was discontinued and the Wednesday Evening Revive! begun. This better meets the needs of the community. For many, Sundays are extremely busy days and attending church is put aside. The Wednesday Service begins with dinner at 6 p.m. with Worship beginning at 7 p.m. Amber Rasura is the leader there.

Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas included MANY participants from the congregation as well as the Sanctuary Choir. Thank you, everyone.

### Highlights:

In addition to the very successful Organ Fundraiser

- We were fortunate this year to welcome another talented organist to our music staff, Christine Merjanian.
- Thanks to the Los Gatos Presbyterian Church, we received new hymnals in the Sanctuary and labeled them for Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- We maintained weekly liturgists, and acolytes were signed up for the whole of 2015. (Congregants are encouraged to contact Melinda Schell to sign up for 2016.)



Goals:

- Get more people involved in worship
- Grow the attendance at the Traditional Service

Melinda Schell, Elder

Music and Worship Committee

## Social Justice

### Overview

WPC continued to be greatly involved locally including support for Downtown Preparatory School to remain in the neighborhood. Although the school will be relocated, the new location will be better for the students and will receive greater support from the School District.

We participated with PACT (People in Community Acting Together), an advocacy faith-based organization housed in our building, with our Pastor, Bryan Franzen, as one of the leaders along with other local pastors, rabbis and priests. WPC participated in a Black Lives Matter community meeting in San Jose. Our member Lorraine Chretien facilitated an English-speaking group, and I myself, a Spanish group with local police and monolingual families.

I participated in a couple meetings of the Mission and Outreach Task Group held at the San Jose Presbytery and led by Rev. Margaret Boles.

### Highlights

In June, I attended the Gathering, a triennial conference of Presbyterian Women, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. About 3,000 women leaders from the US and beyond attended. The plenaries were powerful and inspiring with sermons and themes dealing with our environment, racial ethnic relations, combating human trafficking and more. I was able to translate for our two sisters leaders who traveled from Guatemala to the Gathering. The connection was palpable and they were able to share their hearts and minds in a very open and safe space. The theme of the conference was “One Body--One Spirit.” God was certainly pleased by the commitment and love of the women in his globe.

Also in June, a new idea was presented: Multicultural Dinner Feasts. This was in the aftermath of the Charleston, South Carolina tragedy with the purpose to help foster understanding and growth through getting to know our neighbors while sharing tasty refreshments and fellowship for a few hours as one body. It is still my hope that we can host one community event in 2016.

This year the Mission Committee was renamed Social Justice Committee, a change approved unanimously by the Session.

In early October, I traveled to Juarez, Mexico for a week to visit an orphanage, Rivers of Mercy. I was able to help in the orphanage mainly with lots of shopping for groceries at Sam’s Club in El Paso, which is only a half hour from the orphanage. All the staff, missionaries and volunteers give much-needed love to the delightful children. I also gave a workshop on goal setting for the women missionaries while I was there. It was a rewarding experience and a blessing for me. I saw the tall dividing wall between El Paso and Juarez. Juarez cartel violence has decreased by 90% due to God’s working with Christian Mexican leaders. It was amazing to see this.

Also in October, as the Gathering was discontinued, a new group was formed called Natio, which means “people” in Latin. As we enter new challenging times we feel the need to make more connections with our diverse community. The first event we decided to attend was at Villa Montalvo in Saratoga, a celebration performance of World Music by a group called One Beat. Right now we are in the process of writing our

mission statement. The members are Lorraine Chretien, Richard Navarro and myself. So far we have had about four meetings in member homes.

I will no longer be the Chair of the Social Justice Committee, but I look forward to collaborating in any areas related to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Olga Enciso Smith  
Chair, Social Justice Committee  
January 15, 2016

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

The Administrative Committees are committees that the Session has authorized to administer the operations of the congregation. Finance/Stewardship, Property Committee and the Technology Committee meetings are open to the congregation. The Personnel Committee is not.

### 2015 Committee Assignments:

#### **Finance and Stewardship**

*Ross Barrons*

#### **Property Subcommittee**

*Ron Schuler*

#### **Personnel**

*Pat DeWhitt*

#### **Technology**

*Rob Heiser*

## Report of Stewardship and Finance

2015 was a year of opportunity, progress and accomplishment! We started up and funded a new Wednesday service, Revive!, to reach out to new communities, we grew our Christian Ed program, and we continued with generous giving and fund raising to make repairs to our stained glass windows and our organ. We continued to have a good level of member giving, grow our rental business and received an additional grant for our new service. We upgraded our facility with new video displays in the sanctuary, computers, sound systems, heater repairs, a new stove in E100, cleanup in more of our rooms that were being used as dead-space storage, sidewalk repair, and upgrades to carpets, paint and lighting. We can all be proud of our accomplishments, giving of money, work and time. The real blessings at Westminster are the people, the positive attitude we bring to every event, effort put into every task and solutions we apply to our problems.

Along with the great things we did this year came risk. We had to let go of some of our reserves to pay for our windows, new electronics, and Revive!. We consumed our mission reserve and had to spend money to accomplish our goals even when money was tight and spending was sometimes scary. The truth is that while saving, frugality and caution are important parts of financial management, there is no way to grow and reach out to new people and service new communities by doing less and hoarding our money. The Session, the committees, congregation and staff here at Westminster worked hard to balance caution with risk, and we should all be proud of what we accomplished.

Now as we move into 2016, we all need to continue to deal with this balance of safety versus risk. We have a strong giving community and a robust rental business that serves both our goals in the community and helps us pay for, upgrade and maintain our facility. While we are blessed with money, talent and time, we can't do everything. This new year we are going to have to make some hard choices. We are going to have to ask ourselves what are our priorities? What old things can we no longer fund or invest in? What things need to change or be reinvented? What new things can we fund and what good ideas need to wait for another time? I have faith that we will listen to what God is asking the Session, the committees, the congregation and the staff to do and we will meet this year's challenges with the same creativity and optimism as we did last year.

I thank God for the wonderful blessings we enjoyed in 2015 in people, community and fellowship. I pray that we will remember those blessings in the upcoming year and continue to be good stewards of what we have been, and will be given.

Charles Verrey

## Report of Property and Maintenance

### Overview

In 2015, the Property Subcommittee focused on maintaining the church facilities including the manse. We accomplished most of our goals for the year, and responded to issues as they came up to ensure all church activities would continue uninterrupted. The maintenance team consisted of Merrylye Wiese, Bob Slater, Jim Kilty, Dave Bohnhoff, Ed Jeroszko, and Ron Schuler.

### Highlights of 2015

- Recharged all fire extinguishers
- Had sprinkler system inspected
- Organ repaired and tuned as needed
- Created a Dutch door for the Family Room (Narthex)
- Replaced several soap dispensers and hand towel holders
- Re-lit several heaters in the Education Building
- Removed 16 chairs from the Education Building and removed old TV set, table, and curtain
- Removed two overhead cabinets from the Education Building
- Replaced four 8-foot wooden tables with four 8-foot plastic tables and five 6-foot folding tables
- Placed 18 yards of cedar bark in playground yard
- Placed two large speakers in Sanctuary and one small speaker in family room and Narthex
- Replaced one large outside window in Amber's office (due to rotting wood and termites)

- Held two all-church work days
- Cleaned out storm drains between church and parking lot and one drain in atrium area
- Secured a new janitorial service
- Cleaned carpets – office to narthex and choir room

### Looking Forward to 2016

In addition to the general maintenance and surprises that always come up, plans for the new year are:

- Establishing a new locking system for the church and the Education Building
- Place a new light at the south end of the parking lot (if in budget)
- Repair the ceiling and repaint the walls and ceiling in Amber's office
- Paint the outside of the new window in Amber's office
- Remove the dirt pile in playground yard and place bark
- Replace the batteries in the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors

- Ron Schuler

## Report of the Personnel Committee

### Overview

In 2015, the Personnel Committee focused on streamlining and improving the personnel structure and procedures of Westminster Presbyterian Church while supporting the daily operations of the staff.

### Actions

The Committee (with input from others) completed performance reviews of all employees.

### Additions to the Staff

- With the beginning of the Wednesday night "Revive!" service, Amber Rasura was hired as a worship leader.
- Child care attendants were hired for Sunday morning.
- The organist and accompanist opening was ably filled by Christine Merjanian.
- The new job of "church host" was created; to be performed as needed by Chris McKee.
- Jennifer Nguyen was hired as an Choir Assistant.

### Changes

- The position of Night Watchman was discontinued.

### Looking forward to 2016

Our goal in 2016 will be to continue to develop and implement structures that support the staff while using resources effectively. Many thanks to members of the congregation and staff who have been flexible and supportive as we have attempted to do this throughout 2015.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

The Personnel Committee

Pat DeWhitt, chair

Charles Verrey  
Christy Frost  
Nan Notor