

Pastor's Report

2016 was a Year of Remembering, the third movement in our Spiritual Direction journey which has led us to our 150th anniversary, when we remembered great stories of our faith and how they inform us today. Put a dash in remember and we have re-member, the process of looking again at what it means to be a member of this 2000-year movement which seeks to follow Christ. Biblically we are in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking ourselves whether we fall asleep with the disciples or follow Jesus to the cross, and eventually new life. From all accounts, we have chosen new life.

This new life can be evidenced as we continue to build Ministry Circles into the church's culture, connecting our various committees and groups into the areas of mission, education (wisdom), congregational life (jubilee), and stewardship. It is the amazing work of completing a policies handbook which has gathered all our church policies in one place for easy access. It is continuing to get our finances in order and celebrating a successful pledge drive. It is starting a new website and filling out our mission statement behind the words Behold, Be Still, Become. It is starting a youth group again, of creating a youth room in my old office on the third floor, bringing energy to our children's ministry and seeing more young families. It is the Mystics Group studying the wisdom of saints and other small group opportunities. It is realizing that every space in our building is used almost every day by community groups, music groups, by our own ministries, and youth mission groups from across the country. It is remembering all that we do and all the people that serve Christ so well in this place. Thank you!

In January, we welcomed back David and Jeannine Wiseman for a weekend church retreat followed in February by Robin Meyers, renowned author and speaker. In June eight of us made a pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona to spend a week with John Philip Newell, one of the foremost voices in Celtic Spirituality, part of our Presbyterian heritage that we would be wise to know and remember, one that espouses inclusion, justice, peace, and a deep connection with creation. We came back inspired to share what we learned and began a Celtic Evensong service in September which continues to meet each Wednesday, 5:30–6:00PM around the baptismal font in the sanctuary, welcoming dozens upon dozens of visitors from around the world and across Santa Fe to worship, sing, and pray using the same books used in the Iona Abbey. At the close of the year we launched the beginning of our 150th anniversary and celebrated the early beginnings of our church before it was incorporated as a congregation.

We have been blessed with a great number of new members this year, and almost all of them have become involved in the life and leadership of the congregation. Welcome and thank you!

If there is a good spirit in the church, and I feel there is, it is because of a very competent and dedicated staff working hard to serve the needs and ministries of the church. It is the hard work of people in the Stewardship Circle who have given our church a solid grounding for our finances and other administrative functions. It is the work we do in the community and world, as I hear from more and more people from outside our church of the good and generous place this is. It is our amazing music program and our highly-respected Child Development Center. It is all of these ministries combined with the talents and energy of our members and friends as we move into our 150th year and well beyond. Many thanks to all for making this a year to remember.

Harry W. Eberts

Music Director's Report

It has been a wonderful year of music and learning.

Chancel Choir:

Thanks to: Jenny Harland, Linda Beck, Jill McCormick, Jeannie Bowman, Kristan Robbins, Nancy Maret, Nina Brown, Ruth Primus, Pauline Schneider, Margaret Dean, Amy Gross, Laurie Romero, Barbara Roush, Gwen Fuller, Judi Haines, Nelda Bell, Candy Elkjer, Linda Loving, Barb Hutchison, Jennifer Elliott, Susan Slotter, Sue Kingston, Juliett Scott-Baker, Carol Fallis, Tim Willson, Bill Elkjer, J. B. Beck, Jim Toevs, Howard Turner, David Beatty, Chris Haynes, Andy Ritch, Grant Wright, Michael Roybal, Darryl Bowman, John Pasch, Ralph Fuller, Greg Schneider, Keytha Jones and Travis Bregier with David Solem, accompanist

For their many hours of devotion that average 5 hours per week, or 200 hours for the year, plus the three TGIF concerts.

The group improved in vocal skills, team work and giving their best effort every week.

Repertory this year included:

Linda Beck's *Requiem*, *Sure on this Shining Night* by Lauridsen, *Ave Maria* by Biebl, *Arise My Love* by David Beatty and others.

11:00 Soloists

Thank you to Nancy Maret, Tim Willson, Kristan Robbins, Barbara Roush, Nina Brown, Travis Bregier and Michael Roybal for vocal solos and Rebecca Heindel and Jim Toevs for instrumental solos.

Chancel Bell Choir:

Thanks to: Darryl Bowman, Paul Kincaid, Bill Humphreys, David Beatty, Nancy Peterson, Cheryl Lockhart, Jodi Bustos, Judy Montaña, Barb Hutchison, Linda Beck, Carol Smock, Jeannie Bowman, Jan Charter, Krista Peterson, Jennifer Elliott.

For their many hours of devotion that averages 2 hours per week and three TGIF concerts.

Repertory this year included: *Masters in this Hall*, *Melodie* by David Beatty, and others.

The Ensemble grew musically this year.

TGIF:

There were 53 concerts this year, including Larry Palmer, James David Christie, Grisha Krivchenia, Folias Duo, Donna Coleman and many more spectacular performers. The eSSO gave quarterly programs. It was a memorable year of wonderful concerts attended by an average of 90 people per week.

Thank you to ushers: Barb Hutchison, Barbara Roush and Julia Hudson.

Administration Assistance:

Thank you to Barb Hutchison, attendance; Judy Montaña, librarian; Jeannie Bowman, Worship Chair and many unsung heroes who pitch in when needed.

Children's Music

Jill McCormick offers a wonderful music experience for children during and after the 8:30 service that includes singing, movement, recorders, chimes, art and Orff Instruments.

Continuing Ed

My continuing ed took me to Cincinnati for Chorus America and Oberlin Conservatory for two weeks of Early Music training.

30th Anniversary

The church recognized my 30th year with a marvelous recognition that included a beautiful cake, flowers, a huge piece of Nambé and a special music fund for the music program.

Celtic Service

A Celtic service was added to worship schedule. Thank you to Jennifer Elliott, Rebecca Heindel, Jim Toevs and Jenny Harland for their help with music for that service.

MorningSong Service

The MorningSong Choir included Janis Gonzales, Jennifer Elliott, Julia Hudson, Karen Finney and Carol Fallis.

The Fisk Organ

The organ received new power packs from the builders that have increased the reliability of the instrument and a portable Zimbelstern was added to the instrument.

It is an honor to serve and share music with our great community at First Presbyterian and Santa Fe. I thank you for the privilege.

With gratitude, Linda