



Avon Lake
Presbyterian Church

2017 Annual Report

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2017 Annual Report

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Ecclesiastical Meeting
Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

January 28, 2018

Avon Lake, Ohio

Moderator, The Rev. Charlie Swartz

Opening Prayer	The Rev. Charlie Swartz
Attestation of Quorum	Elder Kathy Navarro, Clerk of Session
Approval of Docket	The Rev. Charlie Swartz
2017 Minutes, Clerk's Report, Annual Statistics..... Officer Rotation, Committee Members	Kathy Navarro
Nominating Committee Report	Elder Kathy Leopold
Nominations from the floor, Action to approve nominations	
Pastor Explains last year's success and Renewal Plan for 2018..... "Are you ready for our journey?"	The Rev. Charlie Swartz
Finance Committee Report, Treasurer's Report	Cheryl Dean/Marcy Uhl
Presentation of 2018 Budget	Cheryl Dean
Pastor's 2018 Terms of Call	Matt Wendling
The pastor will leave the sanctuary, and the Human Resources Chair shall moderate this portion of the meeting.	
Questions about Annual Reports	Committee Chairs
Miscellaneous Business	
Adjournment with Prayer	The Rev. Charlie Swartz

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation
Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Moderator, Trustee Paul Selvage

Opening Prayer	
Attestation of Meeting and Quorum	Kathy Navarro, Secretary of the Corporation
Trustees' Report.....	Paul Selvage
Election of New Trustee	
Adjournment with Prayer	

*Minutes of the Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting
of the Congregation
And Annual Meeting of the Corporation*

Sunday, January 29, 2017 in the Sanctuary

The ecclesiastical portion of the meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and opened with prayer by the **Moderator, The Rev. Charles Swartz**. The Clerk, Lee Lohr, declared that a **quorum** was present. A motion was seconded and carried to approve the docket as distributed.

Clerk, Lee Lohr, presented the minutes of the January 31, 2016 annual congregational and corporation meeting; and special meetings held on February 23, 2016 and August 21, 2016. All sets of minutes had already been approved by the session as per *Roberts' Rules of Order*. Ms. Lohr offered opportunity for questions about the minutes, various 2016 membership statistics and her written narrative report in the Annual Report Booklet. There were 9 member deaths in 2016, the most the clerk has seen in her 25 years of membership. With additional inactive members removed from the roll, year-end membership was 399. This means that session will be able to send two elder commissioners to presbytery meetings instead of three. **The text of the narrative report along with 2016 annual statistics will be appended in the Permanent Minute Book, following the December 2016 Regular Session Meeting Minutes.**

ACTION: A motion was seconded and carried to receive the Clerk's report.

Nominating Committee: Elder Mandy Robison, chair, presented a slate for election to the Session and Board of Deacons. Opportunity for nominations from the floor yielded no new nominations.

ACTION: A unanimous ballot was approved as follows:

For Ruling Elders, Class of 2020: Paul Haggerty, Margre Lind Mills, Marcia "Marcy" Uhl, and Matthew Wendling.

For Deacons, Class of 2020: Bernadette Barnes, Julie Burr, Mackenzie Kneiss, and Carolyn Rose.

For Trustee, Class of 2020, Ruling Elder Timothy Strauch.

A slate was presented for At-Large members of the Nominating Committee. Opportunity for nominations from the floor yielded no new nominations. Per our bylaws, a session member and a deacon will be appointed to the committee at a later date.

ACTION: A unanimous ballot was approved for the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee for a one-year term: Lucinda "Cindi" Dansizen, Jim Janis, and Elizabeth Shoemaker.

ACTION: A motion was seconded and carried to dissolve the current Nominating Committee.

Pastor's Report – The Rev. Swartz referred to his written report. In 2016, we had an operating budget deficit of \$34,000. Additionally, we used \$15,000 of encumbered funds to pay operating expenses. The encumbered funds need to be paid back. While the session expected that starting a new ministry, specifically a contemporary worship service, would have a cost, elders trusted that additional funds would be received to offset the cost of the ministry.

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Minutes of the Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting of the Congregation And Annual Meeting of the Corporation (continued)

On January 21st, the session had a retreat to focus on the church's financial situation and to finalize the budget for 2017. Session committed itself to approving a balanced budget. They began with the Biblical basis of Jesus' Great Commission while being reminded of the words to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. As the session went over the budget line-by-line, cuts in costs were made. Even so, a need to increase funds remains. Staff salaries were frozen.

Some of the strategic changes to be made are:

The time of Contemporary Worship is being changed to 5:00 pm on Sundays. Youth Group will follow so there is a hope that more youth will attend this service. Also, there may be others for whom this is a more convenient time.

Christian Education will be more intentional in Cornerstone Preschool. Beau Dansizen will lead chapel time for the children on a regular basis.

Our annual pledge to support the mission of the wider church was cut significantly. At this time, we don't have the resources to support those missions plus our own.

Various income initiatives are being planned. (See minutes of the January 21st session retreat). They will be coordinated by the Stewardship Committee but people will be needed to lead and help with the initiatives.

After Pastor Charlie's presentation, there was a time for questions and comments.

Can quarterly financial reports be supplied to the congregation?

How will we publicize the change in time of the Contemporary Worship service?

Has consideration been given to increasing membership to increase income?

If we go ahead with garden plots, water usage needs to be monitored. Perhaps rain barrels can be used.

Can we engage Scouts who may be working on their Eagle or Gold Award to assist with some projects?

Session needs to do a cost versus income analysis on the ideas for generating income.

Is there extra cost involved in heating or cooling the sanctuary for Contemporary Worship?

Finance Committee – Ruling Elder Cheryl Dean, Chair, announced that as of the next day after paying per capita, payroll, payroll taxes, and other bills, there would be about \$29,000 in the checking account. However, some members have paid their full 2017 pledge at the beginning of the year.

Note: The 2017 budget and results of the 2016 financial review will be appended to the 2016 permanent minutes.

Pastor's Terms of Call - At this point in the meeting, Pastor Swartz handed the moderating of the meeting to Ruling Elder Scott Francy, Chair of the Human Resources Committee. The Pastor and his family left the sanctuary. Elder Dean presented the pastor's terms of call for 2017. There was no increase in pay. Pastor Charlie agreed to a reduction in his continuing education allowance.

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Minutes of the Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting of the Congregation And Annual Meeting of the Corporation (continued)

ACTION: The recommendation of the Human Resources Committee carried to approve the pastor's 2017 terms of call as follows:

Cash Salary	\$37,569.45
Housing Allowance	<u>42,230.00</u>
Total Effective Salary	79,799.45 (Amount subject to Board of Pensions Dues)
Social Security Offset	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total Income	\$82,299.45
Board of Pensions Medical	19,550.87
Pension, Death & Disability	<u>9,575.93</u>
Total Benefits	\$29,126.80
<u>Reimbursable Expenses</u>	
Auto/Misc. Professional	\$1,500.00
Continuing Education	200.00
Additional Medical Coverage ¹	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total reimbursable expenses	\$4,200.00
Total package	\$115,626.25 (cost to church)
Vacation Time	one month
Study Leave Time	two weeks

¹ The Additional Medical Coverage is to compensate for major medical expenses incurred by the minister and his immediate family that exceed the standard medical plan coverage, up to the amount noted. Reimbursement for qualifying expenses will be made upon submittal of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church's routine expense report signed by the minister and submitted to the Church Treasurer. This account will be cleared at the end of each financial year; unexpended funds will not be rolled over to subsequent years. All prior year spending reimbursements must be completed within the first sixty (60) days of a new financial year. Should the minister's term of call end within a financial year, spending will be reimbursed up to the maximum amount prorated to the effective date of the end of the term of call; reimbursements for spending within the financial year up to the effective date of termination of the term of call must be made within sixty (60) days of the effective date of termination. Any amount of reimbursement made above the prorated maximum must be reimbursed to the church and/or deducted from the final salary payment(s) to the minister unless a) the congregation agrees to suspend the requirement, or b) the congregation initiates the end of the term of call.

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Minutes of the Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting of the Congregation And Annual Meeting of the Corporation (continued)

At this point in the meeting, Pastor Swartz returned to the sanctuary, resumed moderating the meeting and thanked the congregation.

The following committees did not give verbal reports but submitted written reports. Members were encouraged to contact committee chairs with any questions they might have.

- Stewardship Committee** – Ruling Elder Dan Maloney, Chair
- Christian Education** – Ruling Elder Kathy Hamilton, Chair,
- Evangelism Committee** – Ruling Elder Darlena Gallant, Chair,
- Human Resources Committee** – Ruling Elder Scott Francy, Chair
- Mission Committee** – Ms. Beth Janis, Chair,
- Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Carol Nussle, Convener.
- Healing Prayer Ministry** – Arlene Strauch, Convener.
- Property Committee** – Ruling Elder Larry Madson, Chair.
- Worship & Spiritual Life** – Deacon Bill Marshall, Chair,
- The Board of Deacons** – Deacon John Weeden, Moderator
- Presbyterian Women (PW)** – Lee Lohr, Moderator,
- Cornerstone Preschool** – Julie Erker, Director

A comment was made regarding the financial turnaround of Cornerstone Preschool, which had been in financial trouble just a few years ago.

ACTION: A motion was seconded and carried to receive the reports.

Pastor Swartz offered prayer to close the ecclesiastical portion of the meeting at 6:06 pm.

Trustee Robert Ralston opened the corporation portion of the meeting with prayer at 6:07 pm. The Clerk of Session, also the Secretary for Corporation meetings, declared that a quorum continued to be present.

Elder Ralston reported that no actions were required by the trustees in 2016. However, the trustees have begun to look at alternative insurance companies to see if another company can offer a better rate.

The meeting closed with prayer by Robert Ralston at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leela Ann (Lee) Lohr, Clerk of Session

The Rev. Charles Swartz, Moderator

Leela Ann Lohr, Secretary of the Corporation

Trustee Robert Ralston, Moderator of the Corporation

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Session Retreat at Lakewood Presbyterian Church

January 21, 2017

Present: The Rev. Charles Swartz, Moderator; Elder Lee Lohr, Clerk of Session; Elders Phil Barnes, David Burr, Beau Dansizen, Scott Francy, Darlena Gallant, Jay Knox, Kathy Leopold, Larry Madson, and Dan Maloney

Excused: Cheryl Dean, Kathy Hamilton, and Mandy Robison

Session members began to gather at 9:00 am for a time of fellowship and welcome. Pastor Charlie reviewed a proposed schedule for the day. We took some time to consider Jesus' Great Commission. There being a quorum present, Pastor Charlie opened the business portion of the retreat with prayer.

A summary of the latest draft of the 2017 budget was distributed and reviewed. This summary contained a breakdown that helped compare fixed costs with variable costs. A document with the breakdown of staff salaries was also distributed.

ASSESSING CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Session members expressed the following assumptions of goals for the contemporary worship service:

- An increased number of worshippers from outside the congregation as well as current members who hadn't been worshipping regularly
- To provide an alternative worship experience
- Retention of current members who would prefer contemporary worship
- An increase in income
- People serving God by participating in the production of the service
- To inspire worshippers to be involved in other areas of the life of the congregation
- Families worshipping together
- To have a critical mass of worshippers at the service

Charlie polled session members with the question, "Is God with us in this?" The overwhelming response was positive. However, elders also believe that changes need to be made to sustain the service.

IDEAS FOR WAYS TO CHANGE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Time of service – Session members agreed that holding Contemporary Worship at 5:00 pm or 6:00 pm on Sundays is worth a try.
- Marketing – A new sign would be a big positive; Using the term, "Contemporary Worship" and branding it as "Lighthouse Worship" at a later date; using Facebook more effectively.
- Increase finances for the service
- Consider changing the place of the service, i.e., could it be held in Hart Hall rather than the sanctuary. After considering the logistics involved, session deemed that the service should remain in the sanctuary at this time.
- Culture: One consideration is instilling a culture of "we" rather than "us versus them" (traditional vs. contemporary). Session needs to portray a positive atmosphere to the congregation.
- People resources: We need more people to be invested in the service through assisting in various ways. Margre Lind-Mills recently volunteered to work on this.

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Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Session Retreat at Lakewood Presbyterian Church (continued)

ASSESSING SOCIAL MEDIA

Session considered the value of having a paid staff person as Website and Social Media Administrator. Other churches in our presbytery do this with volunteers. We considered whether this person should focus on redesigning the website and ask volunteers to keep up our social media pages or if the social media aspect is more important and the website could be minimal. There was not a consensus on this.

MISSION GIVING

After a time for lunch, we considered mission giving. In 2016, \$56,546 went to various missions. This amount includes \$20,400 in general mission to support the wider church (General Assembly, Presbytery, Synod); mission trips (including the amounts paid by participants); and various extra commitment opportunities such as denominational special offerings, disaster relief, 2 cents-a-meal for hunger relief, etc. If compared to other churches in our presbytery according to percentage of receipts, we are highest.

In 2016, we designated the Christmas Eve offering to help pay our pledge to the wider church. Enough was collected so that we could pay the last two months of our pledge. Session considered whether to reduce the amount of the general mission pledge considering the amount we pay in per capita. This would be discussed further at the time this line item comes up in the final budget consideration.

HOW TO INCREASE RECEIPTS

Dan Maloney presented some suggestions for fundraisers. Of those presented, session members suggested moving forward with the following ideas:

- Selling land at the east end of our property, perhaps even building a house on it to sell. This would require a loan, approval by the congregation, and approval by the presbytery. The amount that could be raised depends on how we move forward.
- Selling garden plots on our front lawn. We would keep one plot and plant vegetables that could be donated to people in need. Plots would sell for at least \$25 each.
- Erecting a columbarium or developing a memorial garden on our land to the north. Any trees that would need to be cut down could be sold as fire wood.
- Selling pumpkins in the fall. Estimated proceeds could be \$2,000.
- Challenging members who don't already tithe to tithe during Lent. Estimated proceeds could be \$3,000. Some members might continue to tithe.
- Promoting legacy gifts – This would not result in immediate income.
- Silent auction – Estimated proceeds of \$5,000
- Christmas tree sale – Estimated proceeds of \$3,000
- Rent out our library space for professional services – Estimated proceeds of \$2,000

The goal for 2017 is to raise about \$15,000 in order to replenish our designated funds, some of which were used to pay bills in 2016.

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Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Session Retreat at Lakewood Presbyterian Church (continued)

FINALIZING THE BUDGET

- In adjusting the draft budget, in order to balance it, session decided to pledge only \$5,000 to support the mission of the wider church. The 2016 pledge was \$20,400.
- Jay reported that he looked through 2016 invoices for utilities, trash pick-up, exterminator costs; considered the square footage used by Cornerstone Preschool; and used a formula provided by the gas company to calculate the difference in the cost of heating between empty space during the week and Cornerstone's use of space during the week. He determined that annual expenses to run the preschool were \$9,143.45. Additionally, the cost of the custodian's time to clean for the preschool is \$3,538.08. Cornerstone asked if their teachers could clean the space. The consensus was to continue to use our custodian for all of the cleaning. Cornerstone also asked if they could purchase their own paper products such as paper towels and toilet tissue. Those costs were not figured into Jay's estimate of annual expenses. Per Jay's calculations, session agreed it is reasonable to ask Cornerstone to give \$1,000/month to the church. Jay was thanked for his time in preparing this information.
- Session went through the budget line by line and determined various places where cuts could be made; what could be cut now and what might we re-evaluate to possibly cut at a later date, if needed.
- We considered the legal aspects of the use of designated funds. After discussion, session decided to defer some of its debt to itself (i.e., replenishing encumbered/designated funds that were borrowed) in order to have a balanced budget. According to the budget that was drafted, we would be able to pay back about \$2,300 if projected receipts are realized.
- The Sound System Fund, being a temporary designated fund and the sound system being paid for, there was a consensus to dissolve this fund to reduce what is owed to other designated funds. It is important that this be reported to the congregation. There are some people still paying their pledge to this fund.
- In order to realize receipts from fundraisers in 2017, the Stewardship Committee will need help to get the projects off the ground soon. There are too many for the Committee to handle by themselves.
- A major cut was the Youth Director's hours – from 20 hours per week to 10 hours per week, beginning in September.
- Cutting the Web Administrator/Social Media position in half or fully was considered. Session did not do that at this time.
- There was a consensus to change the fiscal year from the calendar year to the program year. Therefore, a 6-month budget was prepared in addition to the annual budget that was prepared. Both will be included in the annual report to the congregation.
- In order to keep the annual meeting to one hour so that the congregation can move to the annual chili and soup cook-off, the meeting will be kept to budget related items and election of new officers. The congregation will be referred to the written reports of committees, but committee chairs will not verbally present their reports.

ACTION: A motion was seconded and carried to approve the budget for 2017. The content of the budget will be appended to the 2016 permanent minutes.

The retreat/meeting adjourned with prayer at 5:25 pm.

Submitted by Lee Lohr, Clerk of Session

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting
May 21, 2017

A special meeting of the congregation was called by the Moderator, the Rev. Charles Swartz, at the request of the Nominating Committee for the purpose of electing officers. There was also a request from the Human Resources Committee to give an update on the hiring of a Youth Director. The meeting opened with prayer at 11:10 a.m. by Moderator Swartz. The clerk attested that a quorum was present.

The Rev. Swartz recognized Ruling Elder Mandy Robison, Chair of the Nominating Committee to give the Committee's report. Elder Robison presented the slates of ruling elders and deacons separately. Opportunity for nominations from the floor was given. There being no nominations from the floor, the congregation approved the recommendations from the Nominating Committee and elected the following members as officers:

RULING ELDER: Jackie Butrey, class of 2018 (filling an unexpired term)

DEACONS - Both for the class of 2018 (filling unexpired terms): Michael Ciarrone and Shawn Brunner

The Rev. Swartz gave a report that the Youth Director position will be filled as soon as possible. He recognized Matt Wendling, a member of the Human Resources Committee. Mr. Wendling said the Human Resources Committee is looking to fill an interview team at large from the congregation.

The meeting adjourned with prayer offered by Rev. Swartz at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Navarro, Clerk of Session

2017 Statistical Report

Active Members 1/1/17 399

Gains:

Profession/reaffirmation of Faith	10
Certificate	3
Other	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	13

Losses:

Certificate	1
Death	1
Other	<u>47</u>
TOTAL	49

Active Members 12/31/17 363

Baptisms:

Children (<17yrs. Old)	4
Adult	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	4

Weddings performed by the Rev. Charlie Swartz (non-member) 1

Funeral Services conducted by the Rev. Charlie Swartz (1 was non member)..... 2

IN REMEMBRANCE

Members:

Dorothy Mariner—10/18/17

Friends of the Church:

Sandra Nuss—10/21/17

Clerk's Annual Report

Session began 2017 by having a day-long retreat at Lakewood Presbyterian Church to specifically discuss the church's financial situation, prioritize goals, and prepare a balanced budget that would achieve those goals.

The church had received a gift of stock and, after discussion with a broker, it was cashed in with the proceeds going into the savings account. Also during the year, a Tithing Challenge was issued and in September, a church wide auction was held. These last two events exceeded the fundraising goal of \$15,000.00.

I was elected Clerk of Session and began serving in that role in May. I want to thank Lee Lohr for her help and guidance.

Another retreat was held in the narthex in June with the purpose being to discern God's will for our future, what to do with the money from the stock sale and if or how we move forward with the contemporary worship service.

Session voted to join the Renewal Project sponsored by the Presbytery. Through the Center of Parish Development, this program will provide us with two years of coaching and support in dealing with building a stronger church, and moving forward with our goals. Pastor Swartz and Margre Lind-Mills have had meetings with our coach and are putting together the Coordinating Team.

Lauren Vann began her journey as the new Youth Director in August.

The design for the new front sign was finalized and the contract was awarded to Wagner Sign Company. A variance for the width of the sign was granted from the City of Avon Lake. The installation will be completed in early in 2018, depending on the weather.

Cornerstone's charter was revised to make it a Christian based school. The ALPC Pastor and Director of Christian Education shall collaborate to lead regular chapel time with the children. The Director shall incorporate a daily Bible story lesson into the class schedule as part of the curriculum.

Session removed 49 people from the rolls; 40 had not attended in quite a while, 3 requested the action, 1 by certificate of transfer, 4 members moved out of the area, and sadly there was 1 death. There was also 1 death of a friend of the church.

As I reflect back on the year I am also excited to see where God will be leading us in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Navarro, Clerk of Session

Church Officers

January 1, 2018

Pastor and Moderator of Session – The Rev. Charlie Swartz

DEACONS:

CLASS OF 2018

Shawn Brunner ('17)
Michael Ciarrone ('17)
Bill Marshall ('15)
Mike Reighard ('16)

CLASS OF 2019

Megan Kumler ('16)
Sue Maloney ('16)
Terry Robison ('16)
John Weeden ('13)

CLASS OF 2020

Julie Burr ('14)
Bernadette Barnes ('15)
Mackenzie Kneiss ('17)
Carolyn Rose ('14)

RULING ELDERS:

CLASS OF 2018

Jackie Butrey ('17)
Cheryl Dean ('12)
Jay Knox ('12)
Larry Madson ('12)

CLASS OF 2019

Dave Burr ('16)
Kathy Hamilton ('16)
Kathy Leopold ('16)
Dan Maloney ('16)

CLASS OF 2020

Paul Haggerty ('17)
Margre Lind Mills ('17)
Marcy Uhl ('17)
Matthew Wendling ('17)

TRUSTEES:

CLASS OF 2018

Paul Selvage

CLASS OF 2019

Jim Janis

CLASS OF 2020

Tim Strauch

Elected by Session:

Clerk of Session: Ruling Elder Kathy Navarro

Church Treasurer: Marcy Uhl

Session Committees

January 1, 2018

Moderator, the Rev. Charlie E. Swartz

Clerk, Elder Lee Lohr

Christian Education

Kathy Hamilton, Session, Chair

Lynn Campsey Clutter

Penny Helbig

Jay Knox, Session

Lee Lohr, Director CE

Susan Reighard

Lauren Vann, Youth Ministry

Evangelism

Paul Haggerty, Session, Chair

Amee & Rich Dunfee

Finance

Cheryl Dean, Session, Chair

Clay & Tammy Dusek

Lynn Morway, Financial Sec'y

Bob Ralston

Marcy Uhl, Treasurer

Human Resources

Matt Wendling, Chair, Session

Carolyn Beeler

Terry Linick

Carol Unger

Charlie Swartz, Pastor, ex-officio

Mission

Beth Janis, Chair

Kathy Leopold, Session Rep

Marian Conn

Jennifer Gavin

Carol Madson

Jenni Stryczny

Mandy Robison

Stewardship

Dan Maloney, Session, Chair

Jackie Butrey, Session

Sue Maloney

Sherry Spenser

Property

David Burr, Session, Chair

Artie Austin

Rich Dunfee

Dick Francis

Larry Madson, Session

Worship & Spiritual Life

Margre Lind-Mills, Session, Chair

Dave Brunner

Chris Chase

Muriel Homer, Director of Music

Janet Hukill

Beth Shoemaker

Marcy Uhl, Session

Ruth Weeks

Charlie Swartz, Pastor, ex-officio

Nominating Committee

Annual Report

The nominating committee has been busy the past couple of months and presents the following slate of officers:

Elders – Class of 2021

Jackie Butrey

Elders—Class of 2019

Susan Reighard

Deacons – Class of 2020

Will Wendling

Deacons – Class of 2021

Shawn Brunner

Mike Ciarrone

Mike Reighard

Trustee – Class of 2021

Craig Young

The Nominating Committee recommends that the following people be elected for a one-year term as At-Large members of the next Nominating Committee: Cindi Dansizen, Jackie Day, and Elizabeth Shoemaker.

There is still work to be done. We need three more Elders and a Deacon. Please prayerfully consider nominating yourself or someone you know.

I would like to thank this year's nominating committee for their diligence and faithfulness: Cindi Dansizen, Jim Janis, Elizabeth Shoemaker and John Weeden, as Deacon representative.

In faithful service,

Kathy Leopold, Nominating Committee Chair

Finance Committee

Annual Report

This report includes the church's Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2017, the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the twelve months ending December 31, 2017 and the Budget for 2018, which was approved by the Session on January 15, 2018.

We had a solid financial year in 2017 and were able to repay all the \$15,830.77 borrowed from the encumbered funds in 2016 and still end the year with a surplus. Session hopes the strong giving continues into 2018 so that we are able to continue this trend.

As you can see by the 2018 Budget, the Session is committed to balancing the budget. There is a 2 percent salary increase for most staff members and continuing education for program staff was reinstated.

Special thanks go to Marcy Uhl, Treasurer and Lynn Morway, Corresponding Financial Secretary for their hard work and dedication. Thanks are also extended to Tim Strauch, who conducted the annual audit of the church financials. I would also like to thank those who faithfully help with counting money each Sunday; Clay & Tammy Dusek, Bob Ralston, and Marcy Uhl.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Dean, Chair, Finance Committee

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in Bank-Unrestricted Checking	\$31,108.56	
Cash in Bank-Unrestricted Savings	37,932.80	
Cash on Hand	200.00	
Cash in Brokerage Account	100.14	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		\$69,341.50

FIXED ASSETS

Church Land Improvements	38,444.57	
Church Land	17,000.00	
Church Building	914,259.99	
Furniture and Fixtures	40,066.95	
Church Equipment	126,816.94	
Church School Equipment	3,703.23	
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		1,140,291.68

RESTRICTED ASSETS

Cash in Bank- Savings	30,789.25	
Endowment Fund	6,727.77	
TOTAL RESTRICTED ASSETS		37,517.02

TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$1,247,150.20</u>
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Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2017

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued Contributions	\$5,490.00	
Withheld Payroll Taxes	5,953.41	
Mission Trip Deposits	1,013.00	
Copier Deposit Payable	6,051.10	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		\$18,507.51

EQUITY

ALLOCATED FUNDS

Local Mission Fund	548.46	
Special Designated Gift Fund	36,968.56	
TOTAL ALLOCATED FUNDS	37,517.02	

UNALLOCATED FUNDS

Unallocated Equity	1,131,219.54	
Net Income	59,906.13	
TOTAL UNALLOCATED FUNDS	1,191,125.67	

TOTAL EQUITY 1,228,642.69

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$1,247,150.20

Notes to the Balance Sheet

CURRENT ASSETS \$69,341.50

The checking account is maintained at Huntington National Bank.

The unrestricted savings is being held at Fifth Third Bank in a money market account. The total of the unrestricted funds was \$37,932.80. The balance of the money market account was \$68,722.05 at December 31, 2017, with an interest rate of 0.05%. Interest earned during 2017 was \$35.30.

The cash on hand represents a petty cash fund.

The cash in brokerage account represents a balance in an Ameriprise Financial investment account. Interest earned during 2017 was \$0.14.

FIXED ASSETS \$1,140,291.68

The fixed assets are being carried on the books at cost, and include all real and personal property owned by the church.

RESTRICTED ASSETS \$37,517.02

The restricted assets represent monies accumulated in the various Allocated Funds shown in the Equity section of the balance sheet. The monies are being held at Fifth Third Bank. The interest earned on these funds was left to accumulate in the account and is allocated to unencumbered savings. The monies restricted as an endowment fund are invested in The Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund. The value per share at December 31, 2017 was \$26.95. At year end there were 249.639 shares in the account with an ending value of \$6,727.77. Dividend income amounted to \$620.32 in 2017.

CURRENT LIABILITIES \$18,507.51

The accrued contributions represent 2018 contributions paid in 2017 for tax purposes. While these contributions are included in the checking account balance for 2017, they will not be recorded as receipts on the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures until 2018.

Withheld payroll taxes represent federal, state and local payroll taxes payable in January, 2018.

Mission trip deposits represent 2018 funding received in 2017.

Copier deposit payable represents funds received from a new copier vendor to pay off the previous copier lease.

LOCAL MISSION FUND \$548.46

This fund represents monies received which have been designated to be used at the discretion of the Pastor for local mission purposes. There were no transactions during the year.

(continued on next page)

Notes to the Balance Sheet (continued)

SPECIAL DESIGNATED GIFT FUND \$39,512.78

This fund reflects the source of monies received from special offerings and to whom they were given. Transactions for 2017 are as follows:

BALANCE on 12/31/16		\$39,512.78
2017 Easter Offering	1,690.00	
2017 One Great Hour of Sharing	755.50	
2017 Christmas Offering	2,360.25	
2017 Christmas Joy Offering	700.00	
2017 2¢ -A-Meal Donations	804.28	
2017 Sound System Fund	100.00	
2017 Lunch Bunch Fund	1,070.50	
2017 Music Fund	600.00	
2017 Hurricane Fund	1,380.00	
2017 Contemporary Music Fund	5,000.00	
2017 Thanksgiving	940.50	
2017 C.R.S. Summer Snack Fund	150.00	
2017 Pentecost	135.00	
2017 Sign Fund	6,370.00	
2017 Next Step Ramp Fund	708.00	
2017 Permanent Improvement Fund	188.00	
2017 Soldier Care Package Fund	555.00	
2017 Youth Fill-A-Box Mission Fund	120.00	
2017 Memorial Fund	1,120.00	
2017 Endowment Education Fund	620.32	
2017 Nicaragua Fund	<u>1,262.00</u>	
		26,629.35
Presby. of the Western Reserve (OGHS)	755.50	
Sound System Fund	419.00	
Presbytery of the Western Reserve (2¢ -A-Meal)	804.28	
Soldier Care Packages	485.50	
Neighborhood Alliance (Christmas)	2,360.25	
Lunch Bunch Fund Expense	1,409.99	
Presbytery of Western Reserve (Joy Offering)	700.00	
Youth Fill-A -Box Mission	120.00	
C.R.S. Summer Snack Fund	150.00	
Sign Fund	13,650.00	
Next Step Ramp Fund	708.00	
Presbytery of Western Reserve (Pentecost)	135.00	
PCUSA (Hurricane Disaster Funds)	1,380.00	
Lunch Bunch Fund (Thanksgiving)	940.50	
Parking Lot	1,250.00	
Lorain Coop Ministry (Easter)	1,690.00	
Contemporary Music Fund	668.55	
Nicaragua Mission	<u>1,547.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>29,173.57</u>
BALANCE on 12/31/17		<u>\$36,968.56</u>

TOTAL UNALLOCATED FUNDS \$1,191,125.67

This represents the unallocated portion of the equity after recording the results of operations for the year.

The Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
Statement of Receipts and Expenditures
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

RECEIPTS

Current Operating:	406,160.50	
Mission	<u>44,197.03</u>	
 TOTAL RECEIPTS		 \$450,357.53

EXPENDITURES

Current Operating:		
Worship & Spiritual Life	\$119,744.70	
Evangelism	907.48	
Stewardship	1,892.44	
Christian Education	18,081.77	
Finance	164,234.67	
Property	<u>47,163.73</u>	
 TOTAL CURRENT OPERATING		 352,024.79

General Mission	\$5,000.00	
Local Mission	<u>33,426.61</u>	
 TOTAL MISSION		 <u>38,426.61</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>\$390,451.40</u>
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NET INCOME		<u>\$ 59,906.13</u>
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NOTES

CURRENT OPERATING RECEIPTS represent funds that were available to be spent on the current operation of the church. This is exclusive of contributions which were designated for Mission.

CURRENT OPERATING EXPENDITURES represent money spent to operate the church during 2017. This does not include expenditures for Mission or any expenditure made directly from any of the allocated funds.

MISSION amount represents the amount of money which was received and/or designated for mission purposes, including special offerings. Throughout the year, this money was either disbursed to various designated organizations or transferred to allocated funds within the church.

The GENERAL MISSION money was allocated in 2017 as follows: 35.0% to the General Assembly, 5.0% to Synod of the Covenant, and 60.0% to the Presbytery of the Western Reserve.

Stewardship Annual Report

Church members again proved to be generous stewards in 2017. The year started with a challenge to the elders to achieve a balanced budget (revenues equal expenditures) for the year. After a careful review of expenses and projected income, it was realized that an additional \$15,000 would be needed to balance the budget. This was quite necessary since the past several yearly budgets were created with deficit amounts which led to actual net losses. In 2017 a new income "fundraising account" was established for this \$15,000 shortfall to prevent further losses.

To generate these funds, two fundraising activities were chosen, namely a tithing challenge and a silent auction. The tithing challenge took place in the second quarter of the year with twelve members and/or families responding to the challenge. After some compelling sermons by Pastor Charlie, the participants gave \$8,100 over their pledged amounts for the quarter. Just imagine the ministries the church could offer if the entire congregation tithed for one quarter!

Planning for the silent auction started in March as Susan Maloney led the effort and assembled a very capable committee to hold the event in September. The dedication and participation by church members in this event was a sight to see and will be fondly remembered. The results exceeded expectations as \$11,659 was generated. With this income and that of the tithing challenge, we surpassed the \$15,000 goal with total fundraising income of \$19,759.

During the year, one generous soul donated approximately \$25,000 to the church as a stock gift. While the donor remained anonymous, I hope they are reading this and know how thankful we are for this amazing example of stewardship.

Offertory envelope giving (loose plate offerings, tithe challenge monies, stock gift not included) in 2017 of \$344,728 showed a nice increase over the previous year similar giving of \$330,574.

The Pledge Campaign for 2018 is coming to an end and your continued generosity and support for the church is quite evident. As of January 18, pledges totaled \$285,653 with a few more pledges expected to be returned. This compares favorably to the previous campaign with final pledges of \$277,042. As the special fundraisers are complete and the pledge campaign is coming to a successful conclusion, I thank you for your generosity, not only from a monetary standpoint, but also the use of your time and talents in a manner that glorifies God.

Special thanks to the Stewardship Committee comprised of Jackie Butrey, Sherry Spenser and Sue Maloney.

Dan Maloney, Stewardship Chair

2018 Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Operating Budget

2017 Budget

2017 Actual

2018 Budget

Receipts

Fundraisers	15,000	19,719.17	
Total Pledges and Faith	328,362	336,037.04	333,500
Loose Plate Offerings	7,000	33,019.61	8,000
Per Capita Offerings	5,000	4,800.50	5,000
Building Income	1,200	928.28	1,000
Interest Income	700	655.90	700
Pledged for Contemporary Worship	5,000	5,000.00	
Cornerstone Preschool	8,000	6,000.00	6,000
Youth Mission Trip Income		11,410.00	
Total Operating Income	370,262	417,570.50	354,200

Expenditures

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Minister-Salary & Housing	79,800	79,799.45	81,395
" -Social Security Offset	2,500	2,500.00	2,500
" -Pension & Insurance	29,127	29,126.88	30,117
" -Auto & Profess Exp	1,500	1,037.89	1,500
" -Study Leave Reimbur.	200	110.00	200
" - Medical Expense Reimburse	2,500	2,500.00	2,500
Guest Minister	885	746.19	900
Music-Worship	700	650.29	700
Music - Licensing	670	618.00	700
Music Education	230	210.00	250
Music-Inst/Robe Main	400	253.79	400
Music-Guest Organist	500	450.00	500
Worship Supplies	900	768.30	950
Sanctuary Accessories	250	169.00	250
Sanctuary/Special Occation Flowers	150	343.79	250
Sound Room/Projector	650	-	300
Miscellaneous	360	461.12	300
Total	121,322	119,744.70	123,712

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2017 Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Budget (continued)

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
EVANGELISM			
Materials	600	144.40	600
Advertising	1,400	763.08	1,400
Total	2,000	907.48	2,000
HUMAN RESOURCES			
Advertising	500	-	500
Total	500	-	500
STEWARDSHIP & MISSION			
Stewardship Supplies	1,550	1,892.44	800
General Mission	5,000	5,000.00	5,000
Deacons Budget	-	-	-
Total	6,550	6,892.44	5,800
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
Youth Min - Confirmation	100	175.47	100
" - Fellowship/Supplies/Trips	500	1,118.51	1,000
" - Youth Missions	6,000	12,325.11	8,000
" - Youth Missions - 2018		2,513.00	
Curriculum	1,100	887.92	1,100
Supplies	500	480.09	500
Special Programs	150	-	150
Summer Program/VBS	150	-	250
Beulah Beach	1,000	629.70	1,500
DCE Study Leave	-	-	500
Youth Director Study Leave	-	-	500
Library/Media Resources	-	(48.03)	75
Total	9,500	18,081.77	13,675

2018 Terms of Call
Pastor Charles E. Swartz

*For a copy of the 2018
Terms of Call
Please contact the church office*

Christian Education Committee Annual Report 2017

The Christian Education committee brings Christ's love to our congregation through our programs and education. On our committee this year were Lynn Campsey Clutter, Jay Knox, Kathy Hamilton, Penny Helbig, Susan Reighard, Lauren Vann, Lee Lohr and for the first quarter, Kristen Gomez. Thank you Kristen for the years you served on this committee!

In August, Lauren Vann became our new Youth Director. At the beginning of October, regular meeting times began for youth Sunday school and youth group on a weekly basis. These programs began with only 3 youth present in October and since have grown to an average of 12 to 15 youth per week. With the increasing numbers of youth, space is becoming more of a need. Lauren is seeking out areas with better space accommodations. In October, it was announced that the youth will be going to Houston, TX in June for their 2018 mission trip. Multiple events such as ALPC's first Parents' Night Out, Apparel Sale, Cookie Sale, Santa's Workshop and many more have been held to raise funds. On January 21st the youth will host a Soup Sale to fundraise, as well as the second Parents' Night Out on February 17th. The youth will have the opportunity to mingle outside of the church on January 21st at Kalahari, and the youth attending the mission trip will have opportunities to get together and meet before heading out on the mission trip.

Sunday school for the children continues. They begin with worship in the sanctuary. In the Fall, Pastor Charlie began offering children's sermons during the program year as well as in the summer months. After the children's sermon, the children go to their classes.

New in 2017 is a class for the preschool children. This fills a void since for a few years, any preschool children that came would play in the crib/toddler room with smaller children. The class begins with a simple story from a Preschool Bible published by Sparkhouse and endorsed by MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). After the story, they have a simple story-related activity and then play. It's a good way to begin their spiritual development.

In January and February, Lee Lohr and Carol Nussle led the adult Bible study, "Come to the Waters." It ended as Lent began, during which Pastor Charlie led a study on "Lessons of the Cross." In October, Lee led a study on the Protestant Reformation in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. Plans are being made to have short-term adult studies from time to time.

Vacation Bible School did not go as planned this summer due to low registration. However, the committee has discussed what can be done differently to make VBS happen in 2018.

This committee has oversight of Cornerstone Preschool, a ministry of our church. A new charter was written by this committee to better define the relationship and structure of the Preschool as part of ALPC. Session reviewed the document. After further revisions, Session approved the document. One of the things that was implemented even before completion of the document is chapel time. Beau Dansizen began leading the time with the preschoolers early in the year. Since September, Pastor Charlie and Lee have led chapel time twice a month. The children hear a spiritual lesson, have a time of interaction, and end with a song. It's been a rewarding time with the children!

Respectfully submitted –

Lee Lohr, Lauren Vann, Kathy Hamilton, And the CE committee

The Evangelism Committee's Annual Report

The purpose of the Evangelism Committee is to spread the spirit and words of Christ to all men and all women. To welcome all to worship in our service in our diverse congregation at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church. To encounter Christ in each person by treating all with love, trust and respect. To nourish spiritual growth and encourage, teach and support all who witness and follow Christ's example.

This year we:

- held "Exploring Membership" classes that introduced and assimilated new members into the life of the church
- gave welcome gift mugs filled with candy and a Welcome Brochure to visitors, to graduating seniors, and to Next Step interns
- put "Evangelism is simply a lifestyle of love" messages and inspirational quotes in Sunday worship bulletins
- coordinated with our Social Media Director to maintain and improve our church website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages
- planned and funded advertising for traditional and contemporary worship services online, in print ads in local newspapers and ALHS musicals and athletic programs, and on posters and yard signs
- sent emails with prayers and scripture passages lifting up the various groups within the congregation Monday through Friday each week
- provided the month long Pentecostal Prayer Project experience including a daily prayer and scripture guide booklet for use in praying for ALPC
- donated money, gathered information, and held meetings with Session and various committees for purchasing a new sign for the church
- contributed articles to the *Saints Alive!* newsletter
- co-hosted with the Christian Education Committee the Rally Day activities (provided food, games, etc.)
- Introduced the new Apron Welcome Packet

The Evangelism Committee plans for the fiscal 2018 period are:

- * Represent ALPC in the Avon Lake Homecoming Parade. (This has been accomplished)
- * Represent ALPC in the Memorial Day Parade
- * Bless your Pets Community Event
- * Investigate sending ALPC Welcome Packets to new Avon Lake residents
- * Finalize the installation of the New Sign project

Web and Social Media

Highlights of 2017 include:

A new ALPC web site was created in 2017 – www.avonlakechurch.com. The new web site design began in February 2017 and was completed in August 2017 while not exceeding the allotted hours (no more than 8 hours/week) given to the web and social media position.

The new web site URL is housed with GoDaddy.com.

Higher security levels are provided by both GoDaddy.com and the new web site coding.

The new web site also provides a mobile friendly responsive design which is retina ready which helps it render correctly on high resolution screens.

Our Facebook account exists @ www.facebook.com/avonlakepc.

2-3 posts per week were consistently posted to Facebook with a total of **198 Facebook posts** going "live" in 2017.

Facebook Insights show we "reached" **32,910 people** with our Facebook posts in 2017. The reach drastically decreased when you compare reaching 102, 211 in 2016, which we believe is due to the fact that we didn't pay for any Facebook "boost" or "ad" tools in 2017. We will look into doing the "ad" and "boosts" in 2018 since it provides such an affordable and targeted way to extend our "reach"

Our Twitter account exists @avonlakepc.

The name of our Instagram account changed this year to @alpcyouth since this account is being utilized by Lauren Vann to communicate with our youth regarding upcoming events, Wednesday Night Youth Group, inspirational quotes, etc.

Google Analytics was set up for the new web site just recently on January 25, 2018.

778 people viewed the sermons and choir videos posted to our Vimeo account in 2017. The Palm Sunday Procession was the most watched video last year with 89 views.

Print ads were placed in The Press for Easter and Christmas 2017.

We also tried two small print ads in the Lorain Morning Journal for Christmas 2017.

A print ad was also placed in the 2017 Fall and 2018 Winter Avon Lake High School Sports Programs.

A print ad was also placed in the Spring Avon Lake High School musical program.

We continue to keep our Streaming License purchased from CCLI which allows us to post the majority of our anthems and music sung by the choir to the web site and social media.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Burr, Social Media Director

Human Resources Committee

Committee membership

The ALPC Human Resources committee includes 4 members: Terry Linick, Carolyn Beeler, Carol Unger, and Matt Wendling. After years of service, Scott Francy stepped down as HR committee chair and rotated off of Session. Also, Sandee Hebert has rotated off the HR committee. Matt Wendling, who is new to Session this year, replaced Scott as chair. Please thank Scott and Sandee for their effort and cheerful service.

To replace these members, and to provide additional HR support to Cornerstone Preschool, we are in need of more members to participate in this committee. Please contact Matt Wendling (440-864-3264) if you are interested.

Hiring Activities

After posting a job opening in June, ALPC hired Lauren Vann as Youth Director, effective August 16. Prior to joining ALPC, Lauren was the Next Step Ministries Team Leader at the Long Island location where missionaries from ALPC worked this summer. Lauren earned a BS in Psychology of Counseling and Clinical Research from Liberty University in 2017.

The HR committee is holding-off posting a job opening for Contemporary Worship Director, pending the results of our Renewal process.

Policy Changes

The ALPC Employee policy was changed to allow 1 Sunday off per quarter (4 Sundays per year). This is an increase from 2 Sundays off for the first year of employment. Sundays off must still be approved by the Pastor as Head of Staff.

With Cornerstone's new charter document, the ALPC HR committee will support Cornerstone Preschool staff starting in 2018, including sitting-in on annual reviews. Additional committee members are being recruited to help fill this need.

Annual Reviews & Salary Action

In November, annual reviews for ALPC staff were completed. Reviews of Cornerstone Preschool staff will occur in February 2018. The HR committee recommended to Session that ALPC staff receive a 2% increase for the upcoming year, in alignment with the increase to starting pastor's terms of call for the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. Salary changes for preschool staff will be determined as a part of their review process (which again occurs in February 2018).

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Wendling, Human Resources Chair

Mission Committee Annual Report

The Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Mission Committee strives to provide financial and physical mission opportunities for our members. We are compelled to keep others informed about a variety of mission topics and goals. As a committee we try to live our slogan, *Mission Matters*.

We would like to thank Session Elder Kathy Leopold for her participation on the Mission Committee. We wish to lift up the Prayer Shawl Ministry, a sub-committee of the mission group. We also want to applaud the ongoing efforts of Kathy Leopold, our church liaison, to Shalom Presbyterian Church of Estelí, Nicaragua, and the Guatemala health mission.

The most significant mission of ALPC continues to be the Lunch Bunch luncheons. We are able to host a free and delicious lunch for anyone in our community. Heartfelt thanks go to Marian Conn, Kathy Hamilton, Sue Mabe, Carol Madson, Kathy Navarro, Chef Bill Till, Michele Gillum of LCM and Muriel Homer (music) for coordinating this mission! We are blessed to have faithful volunteers who make this monthly event possible. It has been described as a "well rehearsed dance in the kitchen." We have served over 1,500 meals this year and share fellowship time with many people. Many guests feel a spiritual connection with ALPC and Pastor Charlie after attending our monthly meals.

The following organizations were supported by our congregation in 2017:

- **2 Cents a Meal**-local and national hunger outreach programs through the Presbytery Sensibility initiative.
- **Thanksgiving Offering**- Avon Lake Presbyterian Church-Lunch Bunch Lunches. Collected side dishes for Thanksgiving baskets and for CRS.
- **Christmas Joy Offering** - retired Presbyterian Church workers, their families and Diversity Education through PCUSA.
- **Christmas Eve Offering**- Neighborhood Alliance, Lorain County. Homeless shelter, child care, Senior support and PATH.
- **One Great Hour of Sharing** - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, hunger programs and self development of people. (Palm Sunday)
- **Nicaragua Mission**- (Kathy Leopold) beans and rice for a children shelter, books, school supplies etc.
- **CRS**-(Community Resource Services) Summer food program including hundreds of snacks for local families.
- **Easter Offering**-LCM (Lorain Cooperative Ministries).
- We also supported the **LCM summer STEM camp** for Lorain children including PACE counselors. We donated gently used books for students in the reading programs at the camp and healthy snacks.
- **NEXT Step Ministries**- Hosting Interns, youth and adult missionaries over the summer.
- Coordinated dessert socials and joined in with ALPC families at cook-outs and a corn roast for Interns, Arranged 2 mini mission summer events and a winter ramp project. Approximately 120 volunteer hours and \$708.00 were donated to complete the ramp.
- **Thank a Soldier**- Soldiers near and dear to our hearts received restaurant gift cards, treats and personally signed "thank-you" cards. Toy soldiers were distributed to remind us to include soldiers in our prayers. The donations to this mission have exceeded the expenses, so donations were made to D.A.V. (Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust) and the Valor Home in Lorain, OH to provide assistance directly to veterans in need.
- **Pentecost Offering**- PCUSA special offering with focus on youth.

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Mission Committee Annual Report (continued)

We continue to support food pantries in Lorain County via donations to LCM (Lorain Cooperative Ministry), CRS (Community Resource Services) and Neighborhood Alliance.

We are working closely with Lorain Cooperative Ministry. ALPC members Carol Madson, Mandy Robison and Pastor Charlie Swartz are our representatives to LCM. Mandy took on the role of secretary in 2017. Lorain Cooperative Ministry is instrumental in providing food for our Lunch Bunch Program as well as many other missions in Lorain County.

Our sincere thanks go to the ALPC staff for their participation and advice with ALPC mission projects. We collectively search for new ways that our church family can be of service to people locally and globally. We hope to continue to honor our ALPC traditions while adding new mission opportunities for all members.

One of our goals in 2017 was to provide lower cost opportunities for mission to help reach the ALPC goal of a balanced budget. With members' help and enthusiasm, we were able to meet that goal.

Respectfully submitted, Marian Conn, Jen Gavin, Kathy Hamilton, Beth Janis, Kathy Leopold, Sue Mabe, Carol Madson, Mandy Robison, Jenni Stryczny.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

In November 2009 twelve women in our church family came together to form the Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Our purpose and mission are to knit or crochet shawls to give to people facing difficult times as a tangible outward sign of God's love. Each shawl is made with love and prayers from the knitter for the recipient. We pray that those who receive a shawl will feel God's love and the warm and caring thoughts and prayers of the person who created the shawl.

While shawls are our main focus, we also make baby blankets, scarves and hats. All of the items made are donated to those in need.

In 2017 we made and gifted 12 church members or friends with shawls and 8 newborns received a baby blanket.

We supported First Lutheran Church in Lorain by giving them 75 scarves and hats for their distribution to those in need in the Lorain area.

We donated over 75 items to West High School (800 students) in Columbus for their Holiday Market. This is a program sponsored by the Westside Urban Ministry through the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. Items are gathered to be sold at West High School through the school's "Cowboy Bucks" program. Students earn "Cowboy Bucks" by increasing their school attendance, getting better grades, helping others through community service etc. The students use their "Bucks" to buy Christmas gifts for their family (or themselves) when they shop the Holiday Market.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at the church the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am. We encourage anyone interested in being a part of this ministry to come join us! We will teach you how to knit! Questions: call me, Carol Nussle, 933-2462.

We are blessed and honored to be able to provide a visible outreach of God's love and caring through our shawls and other items we create and give to the glory of God.

Carol Nussle for the
Prayer Shawl Ministry; A Sub-Committee of Mission Committee

Property Committee

Serving on the Property Committee in 2017 were Dave Burr, Doug Day, Rich Dunfee, Dick Francis, Larry Madson, Craig Shoemaker, Jon Kumler, and Jack Storm. Thank you for all your work and participation in the Committees' projects throughout the year. Additionally, many church families participated in the spring and fall clean-up projects and our "Adopt a Project" initiative.

The Property Committee is continuing to implement our long term facilities plan to support major property improvements for our church facility. We continue to see funds added to our Permanent Improvement Fund so we can implement future building requirements.

The Property Committee wants to thank all those who supported our "Adopt a Project" initiative:

- Dishes washed weekly by Marian Conn, Linda Kurak, Debbie Stueber.
- Smoke detectors and emergency lights checked monthly by Don Stueber.
- Burned out lights replaced by Dan Maloney and Gary Uhl
- Snow plowing, Jim Janis and Gary Uhl

Projects completed for the year 2017 include:

- Spring and Fall Cleanup
- New front sign on Electric Blvd has been approved, and installation is targeted to be completed before Easter
- Winterize the snow blower
- Assisted in the implementation of the Contemporary Worship Service

Projects for the year 2018 include:

- Continuous update to the long term facility plan and continue to communicate the status of our Permanent Improvement Plan to support it.
- Spring and Fall cleanup with emphasis on cleaning up areas that have accumulated dead trees and brush.
- Continued implementation of our "Adopt-a-Project" initiative.
- Continue to relocate outdoor tools from boiler room to shed.
- Investigate replacing Narthex lighting with LEDs.
- Serve as prudent custodians of our church facility.

The Property Committee has a continuous need for talented volunteers to help plan for and update our church facility. If you would like to help us with our mission, please contact any of the Property Committee members.

The Property Committee

Worship and Spiritual Life Committee

The mission of the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee is to manage the ALPC worship experience. Sounds interesting, but what does that really mean? It means planning and organizing all elements of our worship, such as providing music, slides, sanctuary decoration, preparing communion elements and special services, organizing volunteers, and even putting out the service flags on Veteran's Sunday. Basically, we strive to make our worship experience meaningful, rich in God's love and presence, allowing and encouraging us to grow spiritually, individually, and together as a church family. This year, our committee included Dave Brunner, Chris Chase, Beau Dansizen, Muriel Homer, Janet Hukill, Margre Lind Mills, Bill Marshall, Beth Shoemaker, Marcy Uhl, and Ruth Weeks.

Our choirs and guest musicians continued to lead us in musical worship with many beautiful anthems. Banners and flowers in our sanctuary helped to set a peaceful mood for worship. Songs and prayers were projected making it easier for us to participate. Communion was lovingly prepared and served. Bulletins were handed out. We were greeted on our arrival. Our offerings were collected. Refreshments were served after worship, allowing us to connect with each other. Our sanctuary was lovingly cleaned. All of these activities occur seamlessly and almost without thought; but, it really takes an army of dedicated people who serve our church family to make it all happen. Thank you all!

We worshiped in a variety of new ways this year, such as celebrating the risen Lord at an Easter Sunday sunrise service at Lake Erie, and finding joy in the Lord with Joke Sunday. Christmas carolers were transported on The Weeden Bus (and Shoemaker Subaru) as we ministered to our shut-ins in song. We also enjoyed the telling of Christ's birth by our children and Youth in a wonderful Christmas Eve Sunday morning pageant. Our Lighthouse Contemporary Worship went on an extended hiatus in May. Our committee continues to work to understand this experience and the many lessons learned, as well as how this worship experience can be consistently incorporated into our church life.

We saw some changes in our long-term volunteer core as Kathy Navarro stepped down as lead for communion preparation, Janet Hukill stepped down as our sanctuary decorator (flowers and banners), and Ruth Weeks stepped down as lead volunteer scheduler. We thank these wonderful women for their past and continued service. Kathy, as you know, is now our Clerk of Session, and both Janet and Ruth continue to serve on this committee. We were blessed that others have stepped forward to fill these roles: Lynn Campsey-Clutter and Barb Lehmkuhl have taken on sanctuary flowers; Gary Uhl has taken on Banners and Paraments; JoAnn Wainscott rotated to lead the worship volunteer scheduling team; and Dave Brunner and Marcy Uhl are now scheduling communion preparers. In addition, we have greatly expanded our team of communion preparers. Again, thank you all!

It was with joy and sadness that we saw Beau Dansizen called to a wonderful new opportunity. His musicianship and creativity knew no bounds and is missed, but we rejoice that he continues to bring God's message to others, and also, that new windows of opportunity are open for others here at ALPC.

Submitted by: Margre Lind Mills, Worship & Spiritual Life Chair

Volunteer Scheduling Team

Many church members find that signing up as greeters, ushers, coffee servers, liturgists, sound room technicians, and/or Communion Servers is a significant way of serving their church. The committee appreciates these dedicated church members. However, more are needed.

The committee of Nancy Albrecht, Lynn Morway and Ruth Weeks will continue to distribute the schedule twice a year under the leadership of JoAnn Wainscott.

Submitted by: Ruth Weeks

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Worship and Spiritual Life: Choirs

This year found our choir members working very hard to combine their talents to provide beautiful, inspirational music for the congregation's spiritual benefit. Their love of singing, ringing, a common goal of praising God, and enjoying each other's company kept our attendance very high. Our chancel choir, besides singing regularly almost every Sunday during the program year (September through May) sang for special services: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, two services on Easter and three services on Christmas Eve. The bell choir, in spite of more than the usual number of health problems and family health problems was able to play about once a month and two services on Easter and on Christmas Eve. They also traveled to Independence Village to bring Christmas cheer to the residents there and played for the Santa breakfast in Hart Hall.

We thank instrumentalists Kyle Burr, Ed Carter, Gail Carter, Doug Day, Barbara Graves, Susan Richardson, Natalie Waggoner, and Sarah Waggoner for adding variety to our music.

Thank you, Jackie Day, for filing and keeping track of our chancel choir music and Gail Carter for keeping our bulletin board current.

Thank you, Gary Uhl, for being our bell choir roadie. We appreciate your putting up and taking down the bell tables, along with your able assistant, Jim Janis.

A very special thanks goes to Doug Day for his many contributions to the music program: accompanying the choir, playing gathering music at least once a month and on special occasions, transposing and transcribing musical arrangements and being there to do whatever is needed.

Our dedicated choir members are:

CHANCEL CHOIR MEMBERS

SOPRANO

Marian Conn
Jackie Day
Tammy Dusek
Sue Mabe
Jean Shane
Susan Richardson
Sharon Smucker
Marcy Uhl
Sarah Waggoner

ALTO

Gail Carter
Deb Gantz
Barbara Graves
Ruth Ann Peel
Sharon Pervo
Elizabeth Shoemaker
Linda Swartz

TENOR

David Brunner
Clay Dusek
Jeff Hansen
Jim Smucker

BASS

Ed Carter
Doug Day
Mike Dean
Ed Homer
Mack Peel

HANDBELL CHOIR MEMBERS

Dave Brunner	Cathy Graves
Ed Carter	Kathy Navarro
Gail Carter	Sharon Pervo
Doug Day	Jean Shane
Cheryl Dean	Linda Swartz
Barbara Graves	Elizabeth Shoemaker, substitute

Muriel Homer, Director of Music

2016 Healing Prayer Ministry

(A sub-committee of Worship & Spiritual Life)

This is not our home. Earth is where we make the choice to live on our own, independent of God, **OR** to live with God increasingly dependent on Him for everything, now and forever. God gave us the free will to make that choice for one cannot have a relationship without the freedom to choose it.

Every Sunday morning after the worship service the Healing Prayer Ministry meets on the **left side** in the front of the sanctuary for the purpose of prayer – to ask God for His help in choosing Him. Our ego which makes free will possible also makes dependence on God difficult. It's always a challenge to surrender to Him, **trusting Him** with our lives even though He sent His Son, Jesus, to show us the way.

During prayer, we focus on the Good News of the Kingdom of God. The news that on the cross Jesus took all pain and sickness on his shoulders and has been victorious over death. He has torn the curtain of the temple releasing into our lives the healing river that flows through heaven pouring God's grace and healing down upon us. As our understanding and faith increase, we want to share this Good News of God's Kingdom with praise and thanksgiving to God for His abundant and unconditional love.

We are very grateful to those who have been called to this ministry. We strive to have at least 2 or 3 in attendance to pray with those who come forward for prayer. If you would like to join the Ministry, please feel free to contact any one of us below:

Michele Cold
Amee and Rich Dunfee
Beth and Craig Shoemaker
Arlene Strauch
Cris Till
John Weeden.

Submitted by Arlene Strauch on behalf of the Healing Prayer Ministry.

Board of Deacons Annual Report

Officers:

Moderator	John Weeden
Co-Moderator	Carolyn Rose
Recording Secretary	Bill Marshall
Treasurer	Julie Burr

Additional Valued Members: Bernadette Barnes, Megan Kumler, Mike Reighard, Terry Robison, Sue Maloney, Rich and Anee Dunfee, Mike Ciarrone, Shawn Brunner, Mackenzie Kneiss.

Fellowship Committee:

This committee planned and held the following events in 2017:

Jan - Chili/Soup Cook-Off	Aug - Set-up for Outdoor Service
Church Directories	Sept - Grilled Deacon Dogs for Rally Day
Feb - Fat Tuesday Potluck	Volunteered at "Bid of Class"
April - Sunrise Service	Oct - Fall clean-up/Browns watch party
- Easter Breakfast	Dec - Breakfast with Santa
May - Lunch for Spring Clean-up	
June - Prepared some deserts for Mission Mondays	
-Ice Cream Social	

Visitation and Outreach Committee:

This committee continued their care for all of our worshipers through the Congregational Care Ministry.

**The Congregational Care Ministry* is an outreach ministry under the purview of the Visitation and Outreach Committee. Their central mission is, "To provide Christly care as we minister to each other." The CCM, headed by Bernadette Barnes and Rich Dunfee, has continued to evolve to better serve all of our congregation.

The CCM continues to recruit and organize these volunteers from our church who are known as our Congregational Care Friends (CCF). The CCFs periodically interact with a designated group of church members, and when appropriate, relay any concerns or needs on the members behalf to our pastor for follow-up visits.

John Weeden - Moderator, Board of Deacons 2017

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Deacons' Annual Financial Report

DEACON'S FUND				
TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE*				\$528.41

DEPOSITS	Date	Amount
Chili-Soup Cook-off Free Will Offering	2/1/2017	\$348.00
Easter Breakfast Free Will Offering	4/28/2017	\$379.00
Christmas Breakfast Free Will Offering	1/8/2018	\$301.00
Sub-Total		\$1,028.00

WITHDRAWALS	Date	Check No.	Amount
Bernie Barnes (Easter Breakfast 2017)	4/28/2017	1402	\$178.05
June Service Charge			\$3.00
July Service Charge			\$3.00
Carolyn Rose (Spring Clean-up)	6/12/2017	1403	\$45.09
Carolyn Rose (Church Directory)	7/13/2017	1404	\$120.00
Julie Burr (Ice Cream Social)	8/15/2017	1405	\$35.34
August Service Charge			\$3.00
September Service Charge			\$3.00
October Service Charge			\$3.00
Carolyn Rose (Fall Clean-up/Browns Party)	11/17/2017	1406	\$166.64
Carolyn Rose (Christmas Breakfast)	1/8/2018	1407	\$329.09
Sub-Total			\$889.21

ENDING BALANCE				\$667.20
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Julie Burr, Treasurer

Presbyterian Women Annual Report

All women of the church are welcome to participate in Presbyterian Women (PW) events in the congregation, presbytery, synod, and triennial church wide gatherings. Many participate in one or two of seven Women's Circles. Women's circles are an opportunity to get to know other women better and create relationships. Some circles do Bible studies. Others read and discuss faith-based books. Some do service projects. In all cases, the Holy Spirit is at work as the women nurture their faith.

In April, ALPC women hosted the semi-annual gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. We served home-made soup, sandwiches and salads for lunch. Several of our women attended the excellent program.

The annual Spring Tea was attended by 50-60 women and girls. Although this wasn't as many as the past several years, it was enjoyed by all who came. Kathy Leopold did a wonderful job of organizing the tea. Ameer Dunfee made the delicious food.

Our Spring and Fall Rummage Sales raised less than the past several years. However, they still raised enough to support much of the work of PW. The same team has been coordinating the sale for quite a while and have decided to run only one rummage sale per year as we move forward. We added the Honey Baked Ham sale at Christmas-time after a couple of years' hiatus. While this is not a big fundraiser, it isn't as much work as the rummage sales.

Proceeds of our fundraisers this year have helped our local congregation in addition to pledging our support of PW in the wider church. As in past years, PW funds purchase coffee hour and kitchen supplies. Some funds were used to offset the church budget's support of the youth mission trip. Money has been set aside to help purchase new chairs for events in Hart Hall. The current chairs are the original ones when the church was first built and were used before any pews were purchased.

Thank you to the congregation for supporting PW fundraisers and to all those who have helped with Presbyterian Women.

Thank you to the following women serving on the Coordinating Team:

Kathy Leopold – Vice-Moderator for Program

Janet Parker – Secretary and Mission Coordinator

Kathy Navarro – Treasurer and Ham Sale Coordinator

Jackie Day – Rummage Sale Team Leader

Beth Janis – Kitchen Coordinator

Sherry Spenzer – Sunshine Coordinator

Jean Gorning – Emergency Meals Coordinator

Circle Representatives: Cindi Dansizen, Lee Lohr, Kathy Navarro, Carol Nussle, Susan Reighard, Sharon Call, and Ruth Weeks

Janet Hukill – At-Large Representatives

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Lohr, Moderator

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Presbyterian Women Annual Report (continued)

Budget - The budget covers the fiscal year of July 1 to June 30.

We set the budget for the 2017-2018 year as follows:

	Carry-over from previous yr.	\$3,651.77
Income -	Circle Pledges	0.00
	Fundraisers	0.00
	Rummage Sale - Fall	3,000.00
	Rummage Sale - Spring	2,500.00
	Interest Income	1.00
	Spring Tea	600.00
	Total	\$9,752.77
Disbursements -	PW Birthday Offering	125.00
	PW of the Western Reserve	250.00
	PW Thanks Offering	125.00
	Mission Mission-tbd end of FY	2,500.00
	Nicaragua	0.00
Youth Ministry	1,000.00	
	Mission Subtotal	\$4,000.00
Local	Coffee Hour	550.00
	Compassion Meals	250.00
	Gifts to the church	1,450.00
	Sanctuary/Christmas Dec.	100.00
	Programs	600.00
	Rummage Sale	300.00
	Sunshine	0.00
	Miscellaneous	100.00
	Local Subtotal	3,350.00
Total Disbursements		<u>\$7,350.00</u>
Carry Over		\$2,402.77

Notes: After the budget was set, it was decided that there would not be a spring rummage sale. PW will meet in 2018 to re-examine this budget. Of the \$1,450.00 Gifts to Church \$700.00 was promised to the Property committee in the previous fiscal year towards new chairs for Hart Hall.

Kathy Navarro, Presbyterian Women Treasurer

Cornerstone Preschool Annual Report

Cornerstone Preschool is in its 33rd year. At Cornerstone, we provide hands on, developmentally appropriate learning activities to help develop and strengthen your child's social, physical, intellectual, creative, emotional and spiritual development. We promote a child-directed learning environment whereby the child makes choices at learning centers and is intrinsically motivated to learn. We also promote an open-ended learning experience which helps build a child's self-esteem by not setting them up for failure.

Our program includes foundations in literacy development, social/emotional development, pre-math skills, science, music, art, social studies and physical fitness. We promote an open-ended learning experience where there is no right or wrong way. Our classroom management includes conflict resolution, logical consequences of behavior and redirection.

Each month, we focus on a different subject. Some topics include rainforests, winter, five senses, community helpers, and more. We also include many family engagement events such as Hallelujahween, Bring your parent to school Day, Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, Career Days, School Art Show, Mystery Readers, End of the Year Ice Cream Social and Pre-K graduation.

Our *Pre-K* classes are limited to 18 children with two teachers in each class. These classes are offered on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The *Pre-K PM* class meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Our *Three & Fours* class is limited to 16 children with two teachers. These classes are offered on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Tuesday, Thursday, Friday mornings and afternoons. Our *Two and a Half* class is limited to 12 children with two teachers in the class. This class is offered on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We also offer an extra day of *Enrichment* for the *Three/Fours and Pre-K classes* and a *Lunch Bunch Program* offered to all the classes except the two and a half year old class.

Julie Erker is the Director of the preschool and is the 3/4 year old *Enrichment Teacher*. Kim Baroni, Heather Wiley, and Tina Folds are the *Lead Teachers* for the *Pre-K morning and afternoon classes*. Kristen Marinelli and Kellie Allen are the *Assistant Teachers* for the *Pre-K morning and afternoon classes*. Dawn Crannis, Annie Morningstar, and Kim Baroni are the *Lead Teachers* in the *Three/Four year old classes* with Melissa Glynn and Shannon Krecic as the *Assistant Teachers*. Lindsay Tate and Mindy Thomas are the *Lead Teachers* for the *Two and a Half year old Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday class*. Melissa Glynn, Julie Erker, and Myisha Conley are the *Lunch Bunch Teachers* and Lindsay Tate is the *Lead Pre-K Enrichment Teacher*.

The 2017-2018 school year enrollment was 110. We welcomed two new teachers, Annie Morningstar and Shannon Krecic. We also welcomed two new board members, Marian Conn and Anna D'Orazio. We had a successful fundraiser, *Stoller Pastry* and we are looking forward to our third annual fundraiser, *Ladies Night Out*. We helped four school families in need of financial assistance with tuition scholarships. We continue to meet with our *Advisory Board* where we further discuss problems, new ideas and the future direction of Cornerstone Preschool.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Erker, Director

Cornerstone Preschool 2017 Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE IN CHECKING JANUARY 1, 2017	\$ 7,084.30
Beginning cash balance in Savings January 1, 2017	<u>\$ 40,591.31</u>
TOTAL Cash checking & savings	\$ 47,675.61

CASH RECEIPTS

Tuition	\$180,299.21	
Camp Tuition	10,275.00	
Fundraising Income	6,239.34	
Donations	<u>100.00</u>	
		\$196,913.55

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries and Wages	145,931.75	
Payroll Taxes	11,881.65	
Donations to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church	3,000.00	
Donation for new sign to ALPC	950.00	
Operating Overhead to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church	3000.00	
Scholarships	1,360.00	
Advertising	572.18	
Camp Supplies & helpers	3,196.36	
Aid/Helper	260.00	
Playground	2,209.56	
Furniture & fixtures	7,811.38	
Repairs	1,447.42	
Website	89.82	
Telephone & cell phone	1,867.92	
Training	893.00	
Office expense	1,308.75	
Fingerprinting	322.00	
Classroom supplies, upgrades and events	8,191.48	
Miscellaneous	295.21	
Sunshine	1,049.06	
Substitutes	<u>1,060.00</u>	
TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS		<u>\$196,697.54</u>

TOTAL Cash in checking & savings **\$ 47,891.62**

ENDING CASH BALANCE IN CHECKING DECEMBER 31, 2017	\$ 13,663.01
Ending Cash Balance in Savings, December 31, 2017	\$ 34,228.61

Cindi Dansizen, Bookkeeper

Pastor Charlie's Report

Dear Friends,

This is how my annual report opened last year, "In response to our \$34,000 deficit in 2016, we need to make changes in the way we serve Jesus Christ. In every crisis is a gift. We must be wise to find it. A crisis invites a wise church to ask Jesus if there is a different way to live out its purpose." Fast forward to today. How did we respond to that crisis? We ended 2017 with a \$60,000 surplus! How did we do it?

We responded the way that a church centered in Jesus Christ always does. We pulled together and sought our Lord's voice and help. We did not rely on our own strength, but relied upon Jesus. Even when we were frightened, we did not panic nor stoop to blame. As is the way of this church, we faced the challenge in humility, wisdom and faithfulness.

As you remember, our session prayerfully came up with a plan that was strategic and prudent and shared it with all of us at the annual meeting. In that plan, we would cut costs by eliminating everything that was not absolutely essential. We would keep our mission works strong, but we determined that we were not large enough anymore to support denominational missions to the extent we had in the past. We planned income generating events. We created a six month budget with the message that if that budget could not be supported, we would cut positions and staff hours at the end of those six months. By the end of the meeting, we all knew the hole we were in. I asked if we would support the session's plan, and everyone said, "Yes."

God spoke to us and encouraged us to strengthen his church. We moved out of that meeting united in purpose, and we acted in faithfulness over the next twelve months. It was an extraordinary year. In Christ's grace-filled economy, the more we focused on blessing our church through our activities the more we felt hope and joy and laughter. God gave us the faith to entrust more of our personal riches to his Kingdom as we joined in the "Tithing Challenge" and increased our regular donations. One family was moved by the Spirit to bless our church with a huge \$25,000 gift, no strings attached. The gifts were encouraging to all.

In the spring, we said "Thanks" and "Goodbye" to our longtime youth director and recent contemporary worship director, Beau Dansizen. That was sad for us even while we were happy for the opportunity he had to use his education in a ministerial job. Thanks to God's providence, our youth met the fabulous Lauren Vann on their summer mission trip and she came here in August to join us as our youth director. She is having terrific results, as our youth respond well to her and show it through excellent attendance at the weekly youth group and at Sunday school.

By June, the session was delighted to note that our offerings were not only matching but surpassing expectations. We were able to extend our budget for six more months and not make any staff cuts. Over the summer, God gave us a cooperative spirit and endurance as we worked together to create the extraordinary "A Bid of Class" silent auction. God gave us generosity as we shared our treasures and talents as gifts for the auction. That night was so much fun. I loved dressing up in a tuxedo and doing the "auctioneer's chant" to spur us on to greater generosity. What a great night! Sue Maloney exceeded all expectations as she managed and directed that "wow" event raising \$11,659. We all took pride in it, for it was all our success.

God gave us determination to do what was needed to see that our church succeed. It took much sacrifice, much work, much planning, much prayer and we received much love, much joy, much strength as we not only reached our goal of a debt free year, but blew past that goal by sixty thousand dollars. What can't we do when we are united?

Which leads me to renewal. As focused as we were on restoring financial health, there is a sense in our church that we are a bit adrift. There is a feeling that while we have many, many wonderful ministries we do not have clarity about our direction. That is why our session has wisely decided that this will be a year of renewal.

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Pastor Charlie's Report *(continued)*

We have joined in with 14 other churches in our presbytery to work with Ray Schultz, a whiz bang consultant from the "Center for Parish Development" to help us create a beautiful *Renewal Journey*. Two of us have been going to educational gatherings and have had conversations with him as we design a process that will be a good fit for us. Our renewal coordinating team (Margre Mills, Bill Hamilton, JoAnn Wainscott, Sybil Wendling, and I) is meeting and designing our experience. In a nutshell, this is all about listening to God to learn what the Lord's mission is for us at this time in our life. We hope that you will participate in the events, for your prayers and spiritual visions are needed. This will be fun, this will be loving, this will be unifying. By the end we hope to know better who we are and have clarity on our direction.

I ask us to put ourselves into this year's renewal activity with vigor. You are needed for it to be a success. Your story is needed as we celebrate our story and seek what the next stage of our awesome journey will look like.

Your pastor, Charlie

*Concise Priorities for
Avon Lake Presbyterian Church*

In awe we receive God's grace and gospel

Expand experience of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Expand small group opportunities

Expand programs for children, youth, and young families

In gratitude, we respond with worship and Servanthood

Expand experience of God in worship

Develop healthy giving

Expand care for members in loss, crisis, or need

Encourage cooperative leadership

Improve inter-church communication

**In love, we represent Jesus Christ as we minister to transform lives in family,
community and the world**

Get The Word Out! Get People In The Door!

Expand Missions!