

Falcon Heights Church

United Church of Christ

2015 Annual Report

**for Annual meeting on
January 31, 2016**

**Kyle Roeckeman,
Moderator**

**The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis,
Interim Pastor**

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Moderator's Report

Kyle Roeckeman

This has been an exciting year in the life of our church. After starting the year with the presentation of a balanced budget at our Annual Meeting, we were informed that we were being assessed for street repairs on Garden Avenue. This led to some meetings with the Falcon Heights City Council and getting involved with some needed community action on the sidewalk situation. The road work is still pending, but we made some good headway in establishing a presence in our community and neighborhood.

The Executive Board was also involved with the work of the Discovery Team. We met with them to discuss the content of the post-its and to discern what was needed for the church to heal. These meetings ultimately led to the creation of our new vision for our church – “Seekers and Servants, growing in God’s transforming love.” This vision will help set a clear focus of where we would like to be as a faith community.

In addition to setting a clear vision, we moved forward with a new name. We have long discussed the need for a stronger identification in the community. Part of that took place when we renamed our church. While we did not want to lose our ties to the United Church of Christ, the Executive Board and Communications Ministry Team felt that we could rework things a bit to make us more identifiable. At the July Congregational Meeting we officially changed our name to Falcon Heights Church, United Church of Christ. This new name will soon appear on the outside wall on signage that was chosen by our Communications and Property Ministry Teams.

The Executive Board also supported other ministry teams in their efforts. The Outreach Ministry team came to us early in the year with concerns about their funds. We voted to approve additional donation requests for Holy Buckets and Sandwich making on Communion Sundays. The Membership team presented the results of reviewing the member roll and discussed different scenarios for members who were no longer attending. The Property Ministry team brought several proposals that were approved, including some much needed roof repair and furnace replacements.

Throughout the year I am always impressed with how individuals step forward and help out wherever help is needed. The nursery was cleaned. First hour classrooms were organized. Meals were provided. Pageants and musicals were directed and performed. Whenever help was needed, someone stepped forward to assist.

We still have more work to do. Our financial situation was much better this year, which allowed all of us some needed room to breathe, but we are not done. Every week we need people to greet, to act as liturgist, and to usher. We need people to help make sandwiches, to teach First Hour, and to cook food for someone in need. Our new vision says that we are seekers and servants. Let’s move forward into the next year and take this vision to heart.

Kyle Roeckeman, Moderator

Matthew 25:40 – The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Report of the Interim Pastor

The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The apostle Paul's words to his church in Corinth set a challenging standard for us as Christians. What does it mean for each of us to allow God to transform us into a "new creation?" What does it look like for a church to let the "old" pass away and to let "everything" become new? How do we hold on to beloved traditions, customs and ways of being together, and still be open to the changes God envisions for us? How do we let go of grudges and move into forgiveness? These are difficult, and hopeful, questions for any congregation, and even more so for one that has been through a painful and difficult time in its life together.

In my annual report last year at this time, I described the interim tasks that we would need to complete in 2015 in order to "enable the healing and future well being of the 'Body of Christ' that is your church." Reading through the report of the Discovery Team, included in this 2015 Annual Report, I am encouraged by how much progress we have made in this last year. Opportunities were provided for the congregation to name both the blessings and the painful difficulties of Falcon Heights Church, UCC, history. A number of you participated in worship, small group discussions and submitting written comments regarding the current core values and shared beliefs among you. A vision of the church you discern God calling you to be has emerged and is being brought for congregational vote: *"Seekers and servants, growing in God's transforming love."* Some people have found this process helpful in moving forward. Some share worries that there has not been enough confrontation and accountability around past difficulties. Some have decided to leave the church. And many have stayed and are being joined by welcomed newcomers. This is the current mix that I see and experience here.

In worship on January 24, the Discovery Team invited you to affirm and make personal a Covenant of how you will respectfully act together: *"We will speak the truth in love, celebrate each other's gifts and perspectives, choose the good of the whole church over our individual preferences and comforts."* Some among us have stated that this Covenant does not go far enough and others have questioned whether such a behavior covenant is really needed. What is important is that now you have clarity about what is expected when we disagree with one another. I ask that you hold each other to this Covenant. Disagreements will continue, especially if this congregation keeps seeking for God's presence and truth, grows in serving the wider community, and allows God's transforming love to change each of us individually! Conflict is a natural part of being in forward-looking ministry together; it is *how* we express and work through our disagreements that reveal our commitment to one another and to God's wider purposes.

There is much interim work still ahead of us this year. We will continue to explore the question "who is our neighbor *now*?" A deepened understanding of the changing needs of the demographics and the needs of the community surrounding this church will help us be better servants. While we have several church members serving with our Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ (including Conee Biggs on the Board of Directors, Margot Olsen working with Committee on Ministry), our recent participation in Conference events has been minimal. How might we become more knowledgeable about the wider UCC, and become full partners with the work of our Conference?

All of you will be invited to participate in the pastoral search process this year, from the recommending of possible members to the Pastoral Search Committee, to helping the PSC compile a Church Profile that accurately describes the history, ministries and current vision of this congregation. We will also need to work carefully to clarify the expectations you have of a new Senior Pastor, as it is unspoken or unmet expectations that often derail the pastor-parish relationship. Strengthening our performance review process, for both clergy and our other paid staff, will also be an important part of our work together.

I am grateful to have another full year to serve with you as your interim pastor. I will be eager to learn of the “new” that God is bringing into our individual lives and into the lives of this increasingly vibrant congregation. Working with such a diligent and creative Executive Board this last year, under the competent leadership of Kyle Roeckeman, has been a delight. With such generous and professional staff, including Colleen Degnan, Joel and Karen Johnson, and Sara Nedeau, I feel like I am part of a strong team working on your behalf. May God bless, challenge and guide all of us in our evolving ministries together this year.

The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis

Ministry Team Reports – 2015

Discovery Team Final Report

When we convened together in December 2014 for our initial meeting, we found that our eight members were drawn from various subsystems of the congregation. Some knew each other well, some only a little, some not at all. We represented various ages, genders, occupational backgrounds, family situations, and lengths of time as members of Falcon Heights Church.

Meeting or working together at least monthly throughout the next year, the Discovery Team fashioned and led the congregation through a series of explorations with the goal of determining a forward-looking vision for our church and towards the process of selecting and calling a future pastor.

Among our early activities was that of visualizing the community of Falcon Heights Church. Spurred by readings of Paul's language about the 'body of Christ' as a metaphor for the church, we found that we had many ways of seeing our particular faith community. In all, many of us agreed that it was a place of great energy and hope, but also one that had been wounded.

We were led to the conclusion that this wounded community needed to openly revisit its history - both the inspiring and the painful parts. This process was discussed at length in our meetings and eventually we determined that working in small groups would be a way of addressing the past while also allowing for each person to both speak and actively listen. Having practiced the process together and reflected on our own joys and disappointments in our church community, we led small groups through a similar exploration of personal histories on 'History Sunday' in early 2015. Volunteer 'recorders' took extensive notes and we reviewed and aggregated these in the weeks that followed. In many senses a mirror to our own initial experience with the process, we found that the people of Falcon Heights Church have experienced great joys and deep disappointments in the course of their times together, and that many of these memories and feelings have proven to be enduring.

After examining history as viewed through personal experience, we encouraged the congregation to explore the values that we hold together as we look to the future. Using an extensive list of potential values, we again worked with small groups to focus on which were most important in our church. After the groups had completed their work, extensive documentation showed that the people of Falcon Heights Church held among their highest values: community, love, inclusivity, and spirituality.

Following this exercise, a series of weekly explorations focused on each value in turn, as we helped initiate informal group-based conversations after worship services. Many worshippers participated actively and found that the back of the gathering room at times became quite crowded as people came together to speak and listen to what these values meant and why they were important.

In the late summer we began the third part of the process, an examination of our theological beliefs. We used as our model the United Church of Christ statement of faith as contained within our church constitution document. Participants were encouraged to think and pray with open minds and hearts about what these statements of belief meant to them and how they resonated with their own faith positions and experiences. Each Sunday in August, worship services focused on an integral portion of this statement. In turn, we examined beliefs about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the promises of scripture and our faith traditions.

With the information and inspiration from these explorations of our history, values, and beliefs in mind and heart, we moved intentionally toward the process of facing toward the future. As a component of this, we examined questions around the theme of “who is our neighbor?” This was a reference not only to scripture but also to the physical and social location of our church in a wider community. As a result we initiated contacts with and explored furthering relationships with local organizations including the nearby elementary school and the Adult Learning Center.

As we looked toward completing our work together, we engaged in further steps of the ‘visioning’ process, in which we sought to discern where we were led as a congregation to serve God in the times to come. Through prayer and discussion, we came to the congregation with a request for comments on where and how the church should direct its extensive, though always limited, energies and resources.

This process led us to a joint meeting with members of the Executive Board in early November 2015. At this meeting, we explored a number of New Testament descriptions for the church, and discussed what kind of church God is calling us to be next. We shared ideas about our future directions and prayerfully discerned possible manifestations of these in a new Vision Statement for our church. Possibilities were referred to the Executive Board, which voted on a final form at its December 2015 meeting: *Seekers and servants, growing in God’s transforming love.*

In our concluding phase, we discussed and considered what steps the church can and should take next to move along toward future service and mission. Through our meetings during and after the Advent season, we set upon three next tasks. (1) the shaping of a covenant that would embody our intentions for our future relations with one another in the church setting; (2) taking the new Vision Statement to the congregation for approval at the upcoming Annual Meeting; and (3) recommending that the Executive Board develop a Mission Statement that describes how we will become the church that we envision God calling us to now.

In summation, we intend to present our covenantal language to the congregation during the service on January 24th, 2016. We also recommend that the congregation and Executive Board begin the process of forming a Pastoral Search Committee for the purpose of selecting a called pastor within an appropriate timeframe.

We are grateful to God for the blessings of guidance and inspiration during this time and also wish to convey to the congregation our appreciation for their ongoing support and input as we have sought to learn lessons from our past with the intent to carefully and prayerfully position ourselves for future service.

Submitted respectfully,

Jack Whitebread (on behalf of Discovery Team members Carol Holm, Dwight Brown, Marv Fabyanske, Jessica Olson, Connee Biggs, Paul McCune-Zierath, and Nancy Duffrin)

Children's Ministry Team

Members: Jill Dent, Sue Gramith, Patti Holmes, Carol Meeter, Rachel Pazandak

Staff: Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis

Our team continues our work of supporting children and their families in their faith development. We have a team that is passionate about this work and is supported by many volunteers.

During the first half of the year, our First Hour classes were staffed by a rotating cast of volunteers, including Jill Dent, Rachel Flaherty, Sharon Frisell, Nancy Duffrin, Serena Jones-White, Carol Meeter, Margot Olsen, and Susan Seyfarth (apologies if we missed anyone!), with Susan Seyfarth tirelessly ensuring that each week was covered. A huge thank you to Susan for keeping First Hour going during this time of transition. Also in the spring the children told us the story of David and Goliath with the musical "The Rock Slinger and his Greatest Hit." Thank you to Margot Olsen for her creative genius and direction of the play and Patti Holmes for accompanying.

During the summer we offered "Summer Sundays." For 10 weeks two volunteers took the kids outside after Children's Time through the end of worship. The theme was "Caring for Creation" and included topics on celebrating trees, clean drinking water, soil & seeds, etc. Thanks to Children's Ministry Team members for planning the sessions from previous work by Pastor Anne and to the volunteers that led the sessions each week: Chuck & Sue Gramith, Jill Dent, Sharon Frisell, Jeanie & Bob Morrison, Nancy Duffrin, Rachel Pazandak, Patti Holmes, Carol Meeter, Rachelle Roeckeman, and Rachel Flaherty.

This Fall we have offered two First Hour classes for children in addition to First Hour for adults: Explorers (K-4th grade) and Seekers (5th-8th grade). We are extremely grateful to Sue Gramith and Margot Olsen (with Bob Olsen as substitute) for making a full-year commitment to their classes. Their passion and connection with the children and youth has shown results and we have had a steady group of attendees each week, particularly from our middle schoolers. We ended the calendar year with an intergenerational Christmas Pageant, "Hamil the Camel," once again led by Margot Olsen assisted by Patti Holmes.

Thanks to efforts by multiple ministry teams and individual volunteers, throughout the year we have enjoyed opportunities for intergenerational fellowship, including Mardi Gras/Ash Wednesday, Lenten Suppers, a church scavenger hunt, Christmas Caroling, an Epiphany Party, and many church potlucks. These give our children wonderful opportunities to make connections with other members of our church.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Meeter

Youth Ministry Team

In 2015, the youth group supported multiple outreach initiatives and held Wed. night dinner and faith formation studies, with youth group leaders Michelle Vance, Jo Behm and Paul McCune-Zierath and the support of Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis.

The youth group led the annual Easter breakfast youth group fundraiser and summer 2015 marked a transition as four of our seniors graduated. Our youth participated in Pilgrim Point Camp events and contributed to worship music.

Having finished a two year Confirmation Program begun by Associate Pastor, The Rev. Brandon Perrine, and completed by Interim Pastor, The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, five of our high school youth were confirmed and received into membership in our church during Sunday worship on May 3. Many thanks go to the adult mentors who worked with this group. Confirmed were Nate Schermerhorn, mentored Marc Schermerhorn, Cayenne Meile, mentored Gordon Everest, Kevin Holmes, mentored by Rachel Flaherty, Joe McCune-Zierath, mentored Jack Whitebread, and Erin Hill, mentored by Kari Willey.

Over the summer, in lieu of a summer mission trip, the youth group volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids and landscaped a Habitat for Humanity site in Minneapolis.

In the fall, with Jo Behm's departure, we were fortunate to have Paul McCune-Zierath join the youth ministries team with Michelle Vance. Paul led and continues to lead Bible study and discussions focused on the historical context and interpretation of The Bible on Wed. nights.

In the winter, the youth group volunteered at the House of Charity in Minneapolis. We also started learning about the 2016 National Youth Event and Charlie Holm met with the group to share his experience with the Minnesota Conference and National Youth Events. Thank you to everyone that supported us throughout the year.

(Written by Michelle Vance, for the Youth Ministry Team)

Adult/Intergenerational Ministry Team

In 2015 the Adult/Intergenerational Ministry Team concentrated on a few intergenerational social activities. With other teams, we helped organize and lead the Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras celebration. We planned the fall kick-off event to the program year on September 13. This included a barbecue with hamburgers and hot dogs and potluck offerings after the service, as well as activities for children (including a bouncy tent). Also this winter we helped with Wednesday evening food for those participating in the Christmas play as well as other evening activities. Our team also helped plan and coordinated food for the Epiphany Service. An adult education focus was coordinating with the Children's Ministry Team and Pastor Anne on adult First Hour offerings both last spring and this fall.

Members of this team are Rachelle Roeckeman and Sue Gramith, who both are concerned that this ministry is underperforming. There has been an unclear mission and focus for several years--are we to concentrate on social, intergenerational offerings, or adult faith formation? In the past we have had discussions with professional staff about what our focus should be, but it has never been made clear. Also, a team of two people is unable to give the time and energy needed to maximize the impact we could have on programming and members. We would like to recommend that there is thought given to discerning a focus for this team as well as an effort to add to the number of members. Another possibility to consider is linking the team with another ministry whose mission is intergenerational. A natural fit might be with the Children's Ministry Team, as they are also involved in providing intergenerational experiences. We hope this ministry can be revitalized.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Gramith on behalf of the team.

Communications Ministry Team

This past year the Communication Committee had a productive year. The current membership of the committee is Linda Owen, Cor Wilson, Jeff Marr and Pastor Anne. The committee met approximately once per month. In the spring and summer months, we reviewed the church website, monthly and weekly publications, and church signage. We also explored the need to update the frequency and method of written communications to our intergenerational congregation. While it was important for us to review our publications, we determined that no changes were needed at this time. The committee identified an update to the church website as high priority and thus began the process of researching types of website software and reviewing the websites of similar churches around the state. In the fall, we selected website software (Wordpress) and began a process of migrating our current site to the new software. We look forward to launching the new site in the first quarter of 2016. The committee worked alongside the Property Committee to explore new signage at the northeast corner of the property and on the north face of the building. In January 2016 the two committees selected lettering and a vendor to install on the north face of the church. This project will be completed in the early spring of 2016 once the weather warms. We have enjoyed the fellowship of working together and invite any interested members to join us this next year.

In Service – Cor, Jeff, Linda and Anne

2015 MUSIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Joel and Karen Johnson

As we are completing our 50th Golden Anniversary year at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, both Karen and I have enjoyed our long tenure in the service of this congregation. Throughout the year, we cherish our fellowship with FHC musicians and our many dear friends within the congregation.

This past year, the Adult Chancel Choir delivered consistent commitment to excellence and faithful attendance at a remarkable level. The highlight musical experience for both the Choir and congregation was the presentation of the Mozart "*Credo Mass*" in C (K.257) during the December 6th morning worship service. The 40 adult and youth singers, who began rehearsing in mid-October, along with 15 soloists from within the choir and an excellent professional orchestra, thrilled our Falcon Heights congregation and extended community. Over 240 joined in the celebration, enthusiastically singing the carols. What a joy to have a full church!

Special thanks to Ben and John Reitan, video recorders and Joe Vance, editor/producer. The Mozart "*Credo Mass*" will soon be able to be viewed on line via the church web site.

Besides faithfully singing during Sunday worship, the Chancel Choir also performed at special services such as Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday.

The Christmas Services are always special. Again, it was a joy to welcome home many college students and young adults... resulting in a large festive group of singers.

The Easter Sunday music was particularly exciting with a professional brass quartet joining forces with the Chancel Choir. Again, a wonderful celebration!

Many fine instrumentalists accompanied the Choirs and also hymn singing. Most notable were violinist Linda Owen, flutist Carol Meeter, Bob Olsen on horn, folk artists Nancy Hendricks, Noah Keitel, Paul and Joe McCune-Zierath. Assisting on piano Patti Holmes.

Children's Drama Director Margot Olsen and Patti Holmes collaborated to create and present a delightful intergenerational program at the December 13th worship service. The program was fun for all!

A wide variety of individual musicians and groups performed at Sunday morning worship services during the summer. Pianists Patti Holmes, Chris Gillis and Organist Karen Johnson played and led the service music. Joel Johnson led the Chancel Choir Men, a Chancel Octet and a larger Chancel Ensemble. Betty Wicklem enthusiastically led The Summer Gospel Singers. Resident composer, Nancy Read Hendricks led a women's ensemble in one of her new compositions. Vocal soloists included Chuck Michaelson, Jennifer Wick and a duet of Robyn and Patti Holmes. Instrumental soloists included violinist Linda Owen and cellist Garrett Marr accompanied by Margot Olsen. A dramatic close out of the summer was the appearance of 14 Horns under the leadership of Bob Olsen from the Twin Cities Horn Club.

John Reitan is a top-notch professional tuner-technician who donates his services year after year. Again, thank you John, for maintaining and tuning all of the church pianos.

It has been an absolute joy to welcome and work with a top-notch interim colleague, Pastor Anne. We thankfully appreciate the excellent professional help from Colleen in the Church Office.

Inreach Ministry Team

Team Members: Tracy Faville, Charleen Prill and Carolyn Hill

The Inreach Ministry's purpose is caring for each other.

This year the Inreach Ministry Team did not meet formally, but rather communicated by email when needs arose or in preparation for upcoming Inreach projects. Inreach activities this past year included the following:

- 1) Prayer Team (Charleen Prill, Helen Brown, Karen Meile, Jan Blomberg along with Pastor Anne) meetings monthly to pray for and send cards to members or family/friends of members for whom prayers were requested. In addition, the Prayer Team maintains the Prayer List which is published in the weekly worship program, the TAB and Connections Newsletters.
- 2) Participating in workshops and on Boards as in cooperation with Lyngblomsten to learn about, communicate and provide resources, activities and programs for seniors in our church and the community.
- 3) Visiting infirm, elderly and/or shut-in members as requested/needed.
- 4) Sending greeting cards (sympathy, get well, thinking of you, Christmas, etc.) on behalf of team to members at holidays or during difficult times,
- 5) Coordinating meal preparation and delivery by volunteers for several families going through transitions or otherwise difficult situations,
- 6) Organizing and preparing soup supper and Christmas Caroling groups to visit four of our elderly/shut-in members in December.

The Inreach Ministry Team members can be contacted at anytime with questions or requests for any of the above-mentioned ministries.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM - 2015 Year-End Report

FHC Members and Friends: Thank you for helping to do God's work!

EXCITING NEWS: FHC IS PARTNERING* with Falcon Heights Elem. School

In order to furnish backpacks containing food so local families have enough to eat. The trade off is that we are terminating our relationship with the Ramsey County/Maplewood Shelter do to 'inactivity'.

House of Charity: Pastor Anne and Michelle Vance/Paul McCune-Zierath coordinated two service trips to the HOC in 2015; we are proud of our half dozen youth who participated!).

Five people participated for their first time this year.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Tracy Faville, Nancy Ellias, Karen Meile, and Cayenne Meile.

Each of these women has participated in over 50% of all giving and serving opportunities -**Thank you!**

Tracy Faville and Nancy Ellias coordinate this giving opportunity: **ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP !!**

FEEDING THE HOMELESS: More than 1,700 PEOPLE WERE FED by our donations to Simpson House

- **INTERGENERATIONAL and FAMILY ACTIVITY**

Of the 51 participants, 7 were age 8-9 or less !

There were 13 times that families participated this year.

4 times a grandparent with at least one grandchild family participated this year!

FHC EXPANDS SUPPORT OF THE DEPT. of INDIAN WORK!

Food: This year FHC targeted protein, as grocers stopped donating frozen meat to Second Harvest FHC response was very good (tuna, etc.). DIW would like a repeat for 2016

Clothing Drive: **Successful! Good Response!**

FHC clothed 300 hundred people in 2015: based on # of bags and known contents of several bags.

- **Thank you, Nancy Duffrin,** for your countless delivery trips to the DIW.

Giving Tree: A huge box of gloves, hats, socks, and mittens were delivered to DIW

- **Thank You, Worship team, for putting up the tree in the entry way.**

School Supplies: **successful** summer drive involving youth, members, friends of FHC

***"Holy Buckets":** FHC has had a 20-30 year relationship with the Maplewood Shelter (Lowry Shelter)

- Only a handful of buckets were requested this year and slightly less than last year.

Keystone: FHC works through Keystone to help members of our greater community.

FHC makes an annual donation to Keystone and support their efforts, taking pressure off of our Pastor.

"Holy Hammers" / Habitat for Humanity: FHC contributed money and people once again.

Thank you, Carol Meeter and Joe Vance for coordinating this activity and all of your hard work.

Meals on Wheels: Thank you to the many FHC drivers and a thank you to Carolyn Hill for coordinating.

Thank you, you many donors, (members, and friends of FHC) for your support and efforts.

YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

*** *Thank you also to an awesome team of people who coordinate YOUR / FHC Outreach efforts: Nancy Duffrin, Nancy Ellias, and Pastor Anne.**

2016 promises to hold new challenges and opportunities for participation. **PLEASE JOIN US ON OUR TEAM!**

Respectfully submitted, Chuck Gramith

Property Ministry Team Report

Team Members: Chuck Michaelson (chair), Andy Frisell, Joe Vance

The Property Ministry Team had a very busy year doing everything from minor repair work to major capital improvements.

In the spring, nine families adopted their own island: a parking lot island, that is! These islands received major weed pulling, bush pruning and extensive cleaning that made our parking lot look the best in years! Some of these islands also received a late-autumn clearing of landscape rock, in preparation to stump removal. Chuck helped raise the storm sewer in the middle of the north parking lot, avoiding winter shock absorber and wheel alignment issues.

Speaking of stumps, we now have seven more stumps, as the PMT worked hard at removing infested trees hit by emerald ash bore in cooperation with the City of Falcon Heights.

As usual, there was plenty of maintenance projects: unthawing frozen pipes, changing light bulbs, fixing toilets, snowblowing, shoveling, and lawn mowing. Our many thanks to Bob, Marge, Jordan, Margot, Andy, Marv, Sue, Michelle and countless others that helped in their own ways this year! A big thank you to Joe Vance for plowing the parking lot!

The heat was on this fall: four furnaces heating the court and classrooms needed to be replaced, and thanks to Kirk, they magically came on line. A warm thank you goes out to Kirk for his help and hard work.

A big thank you to all our volunteers, and to the congregation that continues to invest in our facility.

Chuck Michaelson, Chair
Property Ministry Team

Stewardship Ministry Team

Stewardship Team: Jennifer Rogers, Charlie Rose, Doug Nelson

- We met several times throughout year
- Began the year with team members Jennifer Rogers, Jeff Wick, and Charlie Rose
- Jeff Wick resigned from the Stewardship team in October after almost two years of valued service
- Team activity highlights:
 - o Summer – Sent a mailing to regular givers who are not yet using the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) service, encouraging people to start using EFT. Resulted in 1 new EFT user.
 - o October –
 - kicked off 2016 Stewardship campaign;
 - sent out pledging materials;
 - facilitated “how you have seen God working through our church” testimonials on 3 Sundays
 - o December – worked on following up with people who had not yet pledged
 - o January 2016 – sending personal thank you notes to all who pledged for 2016
- Pledges exceeded the initial target pledge amount of \$240,000
 - o Totals as of 1/25/16: \$248,741 from 73 pledges.

2015 Women's Fellowship Report

During 2015, the Women's Fellowship chaired by Marilyn Baden and Charlene Prill held a plant sale in May and a Christmas gift and bake sale in November. A total of \$333 was grossed from the plant sale and \$291 from the gift and bake sale. Contributions were made to the Department of Indian Work - \$400, Union Gospel Mission \$100, Salvation Army \$100. We replaced a Gathering Room window \$240, provided a moderators plaque \$119 and purchased a grill for the church \$829.

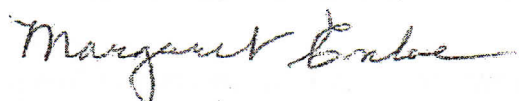
Programs funded by the Mary Ellen Arneson fund were: the Lynbloomsten story, History of the St. Paul Ice Palaces, Life Changing Decisions, and ventriloquist Rev. Kevin Doely's program of comedy, message and music.

A spring luncheon and Christmas Pot Luck were held.

The Hostess Committee, a part of the Women's Fellowship, provided memorial service receptions for Mary Jane Johnson, Donna Johnson (our last charter member), Evelyn Flesland, John Nicol, Robert Carlson and Mamie Wolf. This group is chaired by Joan Brust and Margaret Enloe. About 25 women participate in this service.

Women's Fellowship meets at 10 am on the first Friday of each month in the Gathering Room. New members are most welcome in both groups.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Enloe
Treasurer

Membership Ministry Team

Members: Cindy Duddleston *, Jacob Kanake*, Marlene Loken, Pat Bohman, Jan Blomberg, Margaret Enloe, Pastor Anne - Staff.

This group has met 14 times since March for the purpose of identifying individuals who were listed on the church photo directory as compiled by a survey committee in 2013 and/or listed on the Logos computer program as church members.

After streamlining this list and identifying those we could (by looking old church Annual Reports etc.) we came up with a workable list.

In May we sent out 28 letters of inquiry regarding if these people were still wanting to be considered members of the church. Our response was 2 people wished to stay on our membership list. Forty three members were dropped. Some requested to be dropped and many did not respond by the deadline and we had to assume that they were not interested in continuing their membership. These were removed with the approval of the minister, as required in the Bylaws which states that absent members, in spite of kindly approaches have not communicated with the church may be removed.

As of December 31, 2015, recorded as Members

216

In need of contact where we are quite sure that these people are attending elsewhere

40 (estimate)

Working backwards, we can assume that as of the beginning of the year we had 259 members. We have added 5 by confirmation, lost 5 by death, and dropped 43. Thus as of December 31, 2015 we have 216 members.

* Elected members.

Worship Ministry Team

Team Members: Betty Wicklem, Randi Tomlinson, Margot Olsen, Pastor Anne

Early in 2015, our Executive Board reviewed initiatives from the Vision 2014 strategic plan, and affirmed the need for a variety of different kinds of music in our Sunday worship. We have a long history of excellent music here at our church under the direction of Joel Johnson. In consultation with our music staff, we have added more contemporary, world music and folk songs into worship, often accompanied by guitar, drums, flute and piano.

Our Lenten season began with an informal all-ages worship, following the Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras celebration, of music, prayer, singing and imposition of ashes in observance of Ash Wednesday. "Ashes to Go" were offered to the community the next day by Pastor Anne. The Worship Ministry Team created a theme for the Lenten Season, "The Lenten Journey of the Heart," focused on the heart. A series of paintings of various heart renderings, done by Barb Neihart, graced the back of the Sanctuary, with black and white reproductions of these hearts on each Sunday bulletin through Lent. Sermons focused on the heart as the seat of spiritual perception, with topics including how we perceive God's presence with the heart, forgiveness and letting go of resentments. Pastor Anne and Paul McCune-Zierath led Wednesday Evensong services of prayer, silence, scripture readings, Taize chants and candle-light, right before choir practice began. The much-loved tradition of a Service of Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday evening, with many speaking parts, choir anthems was coordinated by Chuck Gramith.

We again welcomed two different liturgical dramas into worship, under the direction of Margot Olsen and accompaniment by Patti Holmes: "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit," about the David and Goliath story, in the late spring and then "Hamil the Camel," about the nativity story during Advent.

Our Sanctuary was filled with "floating" stars during the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season, as we focused on spreading the Light of Christ.

2015 Financial Secretary Report

UNITS	AMOUNT
40 PLEDGES PAID IN FULL	
19 PLEDGES -CONTRIBUTIONS EXCEEDING PLEDGED AMOUNT	\$10,455.00
12 PLEDGES - CONTRIBUTION NOT FULLFILLED	(\$2,377.00)
71 TOTAL PLEDGES	\$236,850.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PLEDGES	\$244,928.00
20 CONTRIBUTIONS BY PEOPLE WHO MADE NO 2015 PLEDGE	\$2,182.00
91 TOTAL CONTRIBUTING UNITS	\$247,110.00

There were 3 pledges that were prepaid in 2014 totaling \$9,900.

Many thanks to Kathy Baldwin and Mike Bohman for their help. Every week, one of them set time in their busy schedules to assist in my doing this task.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Blomberg, Financial Secretary

Membership Information

New Members 2013

(by Confirmation)

Kevin Holmes
Joseph McCune-Zierath
Erin Hill
Cayenne Meile
Nate Schermerhorn

Members Dropped 2015

57 members dropped

Members Deceased 2015

Donna Johnson
Evelyn Flesland
John Nicol
Robert Carslon

Worship Attendance

Year	Avg. Attendance	Christmas Eve	Easter
2015	081	160	192
2014	095	141	264
2013	109	244	240
2012	115	230	295
2011	136	233	280
2010	124	267	312
2009	120	143	238
2008	137	235	250
2007	132	214	233
2006	120	278	217
2005	123	252	246

Pastoral Records - 2015

Baptisms

5/10/15 Molly Margaret O'Connell
5/31/15 Sebastian Keitel Rogers
9/12/15 Kiefer Harrison Schauffert Holm

Marriage Ceremony Conducted by FHC UCC Interim Clergy

9/12/15 Jack Whitebread & Heather Sagisser
The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, officiating
at Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Chanhassen, MN

Confirmation on 5/3/15

Kevin Holmes
Joseph McCune-Zierath
Erin Hill
Cayenne Meile
Nate Schermerhorn

Falcon Heights UCC – Treasurer's Report 2015

Submitted by David Hill, Treasurer

General Notes on 2015

- Combined income from all sources was \$288,731, about \$26,000 more than budgeted. The difference is due to pledges received after the budgeting period, and gifts beyond pledged amounts.
- A gift was received in September from the FHUCC Foundation for \$20,488. In 2015, \$20,724 from the Foundation Fund was used for building mortgage and interest payments, roof repairs and air conditioning repairs.
- Non-staff expenses were mostly in-line with the 2015 budget.
- Direct outreach and MN UCC dues totaled \$9950, as budgeted. Other outreach is funded through non-budget special offerings.
- Total revenue for the year exceeded expenses \$29,598 vs budgeted -\$5333

Mortgage

Principal Balance 1 January 2015	\$108,288
Principal paid in 2015	\$11,247
Principal balance 31 December 2015	\$97,042
Interest paid in 2015	\$2965

The mortgage refinanced September 2014 @ 2.75% annual rate. 9 years remaining on mortgage.

Assets/Liabilities and Fund Balances

- A gift of \$23,037 was received from the Helen Kelsey estate, recorded in the Memorials fund.
- The \$10,000 Bridge loan from the Foundation was paid off with interest. No assets/liabilities remain from bridge fundraising or severance payments.
- All stock assets have been sold and cash deposited to US Bank general checking
- Severance payments of \$4709 were made in 2015, but had been expensed in the 2014 fiscal year.
- Scrip bank account and card inventory has been adjusted, and shows correct assets and scrip earnings for use

Permanently Restricted Funds

- The Handbell Fund CD (base value of \$5000) is held at North Star Bank with interest accumulating in bank checking. The Carillon Fund CD (base value \$5000) is held at North Star Bank, with interest reinvested in the certificate.
- The temporarily restricted Outreach Trust balance is \$21,384. \$1000 has been transferred to NS Bank and held as restricted funds.

2016 Budget

- The budget submitted by the Executive Board shows expenses \$2443 greater than expected income.
- Pledges have been received for almost \$245,000.
- 2016 budget includes funding for a Faith Formation leader, 2% staff raises, a significant increase in outreach contributions, and large expenses for furnace replacement and tree removal