



Annual Business Report 2019-2020

First Baptist Church of Bloomington
2502 East College Avenue
Bloomington, IL 61704

Table of Contents

Moderator	3
Vice Moderator.....	4
Clerk.....	5
Treasurer.....	6
Statement of Activities	7
Statement of Financial Position	8
Pastor.....	9-10
Christian Education Committee.....	11-12
Church Growth Committee.....	13
Family Care Committee.....	14
Mission Care Committee.....	15-16
Personnel Committee.....	17
Stewardship Committee.....	18-19
Trustees Committee.....	20
Worship Committee.....	21-22
American Baptist Women’s Ministries.....	23

2020 Moderator's Annual Report

This has been an unusual year for the church as well as for me as moderator. My role as moderator was compromised as a result of Brenda's illness during a significant part of the year. However, the Board continued to do the work of the church as the following reports demonstrate. Fred Moore as vice moderator did an outstanding job of stepping in and helping with many of the duties that the moderator would normally take care of and for that I want to publicly thank him for his help and support during the difficult days of dealing with Brenda's sickness.

Of course, the other unique aspect of this church year is the complexities that have accompanied the coronavirus. The year started pretty normal and the Board was continuing the work that was started during Brian's first year of addressing our priorities and working to discern the direction that we were to be led. Then the concerns over the virus hit and discussion and discernment became focused on what would be the best way to address the issues that accompanied the pandemic and how do we best remain the church to our congregation and the community. We searched for opportunities that this dramatic change in our social fabric might present to us as a Body of Christ. The Board with Brian's outstanding leadership sought creative ways to keep the church's focus on God's work and how we could continue to bring the message of God's love to all while complying with the need for social distancing. The on-line services and purposeful contacting of other church members are two of the activities that grew out of those efforts and have allowed us to maintain our church family worshipping together while maintaining a healthy physical distance.

In spite of the uniqueness of the year, the Board didn't stop its search for the church's role in our community both within the church and in the larger community of Bloomington/Normal. We continued to seek discernment of what we are being called to do to serve His purpose in our community. To that end the Board has designated a portion of specific Board meetings to discuss how we move forward to best serve God as a congregation and how we need to function as a church in a society in which the church is no longer revered as it once was. We are studying what others are doing to keep the church and its role meaningful in our current culture. As part of our deliberations, the Board has been studying a book called Canoeing the Mountains, whose theme is focused on the nature of leadership that is required for the church to succeed in a world that needs the ideals and values of the church but doesn't always recognize or value that need or look to the church as a solution. The study is intended to help us examine and plan for the next steps that will be needed to be our best for God's mission in our community and is an extension of the discussion Brian shared last year regarding discernment of how we organize and staff for what we want to accomplish as a church.

As you will see in the following reports committees have been at work to seek similar discernment to present a cohesive direction among all the components of the church. We are blessed at First Baptist with many talented people who are willing to spend their time trying to make our church a living example of what Christ's love looks like in real life. Please thank them for the work they contribute toward that goal.

Vice Moderator/Nominating Committee

Committee Members: Fred Moore (Vice-Moderator, Nominating Committee Chair), Kathy Delong, Jay Hartzler, Bea Olson, Laura Jennings-Mitchell

The Vice Moderator also functions as Chair of the Nominating Committee. During this past year I have continued to regularly meet with the Moderator and the Pastor to discuss board agenda and meeting plans, as well as other issues and concerns of the church. On occasions when the Moderator was not available, I have presided over several of the church board meetings. During the past year we also reviewed as a board the Manuel on Committees.

The Nominating Committee has met on several occasions via Zoom to discuss the vacancies to be filled. The committee has suggested to the church board that there might be reconstruction of two or three of the committees who have functions that are similar, with the possible elimination of one or more committee. That suggestion has been taken by the board for consideration in future discussions.

The committee presents the following individuals for election by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

- Vice Moderator- Mary Jo Douglass (2020-2023)
- Missions Committee- Terri Shirley (2020-2022)
- Family Care Committee - Sue Strauch (2020-2021)
- Trustees Committee- Nick Rude (2020-2023)
- Church Growth Committee- OPEN
- Worship Committee- OPEN

We are grateful to those who have been willing to give of their time and energy and service to our church. Please extend your personal thanks to those who have served and those who continue to serve as members of our Church Board.

Fred Moore, Vice-Moderator and Nominating Committee Chair
Kathy Delong
Jay Hartzler
Bea Olson
Laura Jennings-Mitchell

Clerk Annual Report

Membership April 2019

Active	208
Inactive	<u>150</u>
	358

Additions

Statement of Faith	1
Virginia Jordan-Benson	

Transfer of Letter	5
Cheri Grizzard	
Brian Hastings	
Gabrielle Hastings	
Janice Hazekamp	
Daniel Schuetz	

Baptism	0
---------------	---

Losses

Transfer of Letter	1
Norma Nelson	

Death	6
Brenda Azinger	
Mary Jane Guthrie	
Deane Lauher	
Jeanne Lauher	
Barbara Monkman	
Gordon Ropp	

Membership April 2020

Active	207
Inactive.....	<u>150</u>
	357

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Stumm,
Clerk

2019-2020 Treasurer's Annual Report

Attached to this narrative are two reports which offer a look at our overall financial health as of December 31, 2019.

The first report is titled – **Statement of Activities** – First Baptist Church – December 2019. This report summarizes our Actual Total Income and Total Expense and compares those actual income and expense lines to our budget for each income and expense line item in 2019.

The second attached report is titled – **Statement of Financial Position** – First Baptist Church – December 2019. This report shows our year-end assets and liabilities.

Summary of the **Statement of Activities** (*year-to-date actual* column):

- Total Income for 2019: \$392,487.28
- Total Expenses for 2019: \$369,206.56
- Surplus for 2019: \$23,280.72

Summary of the **Statement of Financial Position** (*year-to-date balance* column):

- Checking Account Balance at year-end 2019: \$43,481.08
- Savings and Investments at year-end 2019: \$418,565.44
- Total Assets at year-end 2019: \$462,046.52
- Total Liabilities at year-end 2019: \$59,989.34
- Total Net Assets at year-end 2019: \$402,057.18

Respectively submitted,
Glen Wetzel
Treasurer

First Baptist Church

Statement of Activities

December 31, 2019

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	Annual Budget vs. YTD Actual
Income						
Offerings Totals:	38,388.70	25,017.00	270,791.97	300,204.00	300,204.00	(29,412.03)
Mission Income Totals:	4,744.68	3,092.00	33,468.71	37,104.00	37,104.00	(3,635.29)
Other Income Totals:	33,562.73	4,433.34	65,411.44	53,200.00	53,200.00	12,211.44
LOGOS Totals:	465.00	608.33	6,043.52	7,300.00	7,300.00	(1,256.48)
In & Out/Special Offerings Totals:	1,703.04	0.00	18,771.64	0.00	0.00	18,771.64
Income Totals:	78,864.15	33,150.67	392,487.28	397,808.00	397,808.00	(5,320.72)
Expense						
Administration Totals:	384.45	756.68	11,055.18	9,080.00	9,080.00	(1,975.18)
Pastoral Totals:	7,878.75	12,543.58	91,242.42	150,523.00	150,523.00	59,280.58
Personnel Totals:	7,000.94	7,353.16	84,649.41	86,463.00	86,463.00	1,813.59
Worship Totals:	1,005.60	852.09	6,171.69	10,225.00	10,225.00	4,053.31
Stewardship Totals:	70.98	45.83	125.08	550.00	550.00	424.92
Christian Education Totals:	0.00	958.33	9,223.60	11,500.00	11,500.00	2,276.40
LOGOS Totals:	273.41	837.50	5,729.34	10,050.00	10,050.00	4,320.66
Growth Totals:	42.00	183.33	722.98	2,200.00	2,200.00	1,477.02
Family Care Totals:	157.43	72.92	190.59	875.00	875.00	684.41
Missions Totals:	18,811.64	3,749.66	33,468.71	44,996.00	44,996.00	11,527.29
Physical Plant Totals:	5,843.60	9,689.99	108,055.89	116,280.00	116,280.00	8,224.31
Pastoral Search Totals:	0.00	833.33	614.85	10,000.00	10,000.00	9,385.15
Other Expense Totals:	100.00	33.33	4,702.33	400.00	400.00	(4,302.33)
In & Out/Special Offerings Totals:	2,104.00	0.00	13,254.69	0.00	0.00	(13,254.69)
Expense Totals:	43,672.80	37,909.71	369,206.56	453,142.00	453,142.00	83,935.44
Income - Expense:	35,191.35	(4,759.04)	23,280.72	(55,334.00)	(55,334.00)	78,614.72

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2019

	Year Begin Balance	Year to Date Balance	Balance Last Month	This Month Change	Year to Date Change
Assets					
Cash & Checking Accounts					
1002 General Fund - First Financial	39,673.40	43,481.08	18,226.19	25,254.89	3,807.68
1001 Fellowship Fund -First Financial	1,171.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,171.93)
Cash & Checking Accounts Totals:	40,845.33	43,481.08	18,226.19	25,254.89	2,635.75
Savings & Investments					
1003 Hilliard Lyons	380,335.91	418,565.44	439,033.10	(20,467.66)	38,229.53
Total Assets:	421,181.24	462,046.52	457,259.29	4,787.23	40,865.28
Liabilities					
Payroll Withholdings					
2003 Payroll W/H- Federal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2004 Payroll W/H - State	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2005 Payroll W/H - FICA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Withholdings Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Long Term Debt					
2007 Anchor State Bank loan	79,290.45	59,989.34	76,239.61	(16,250.27)	(19,301.11)
Total Liabilities:	79,290.45	59,989.34	76,239.61	(16,250.27)	(19,301.11)
Total Net Assets:	341,890.79	402,057.18	381,019.68	21,037.50	60,166.39

2019-2020 Pastor's Annual Report

As I write this report reflecting on our past year of ministry together, I'm doing what many of us are in this time, working from a repurposed space at home, and thinking about the unexpected turn our lives have taken in the past number of months.

Last year's report commented on how we were all adjusting to a time of transitions, and the importance of connecting, learning, and encouraging each other as we work together as a team.

At a fundamental level, that theme has carried over through this year. A big part of 2019 for me has been to just participate in and learn the rhythms of the church and the people, while attempting to lay the groundwork for our discernment process that began last year and now continues with even greater urgency in light of circumstances now in 2020.

The past year saw some important elements come into place for our future work. We affirmed Jania's work as our Administrative Assistant, making her an official staff member of the church in March, and I am grateful for Cheri's expanded ministry as our Interim Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care. Cheri's ministry and gifts have increased our effectiveness in worship planning and preparation, as well as making sure that we are staying in touch with our members and friends who are less able to connect in person with the events of the church's life. I'm grateful to the church and the Pastoral Relations Committee for their work and welcome during my official installation service in April, and for the service of our board members, many of whom stayed on extra terms to provide stability and essential background knowledge in the midst of these transitions.

There's a meme called "what I actually do," where in a series of pictures, we see "what I think I do", "what the world thinks I do", "what my parents think I do", and finally "what I actually do"... The biggest part of 'what I actually do' in ministry is time spent in communication. Listening to people. Talking with folks. Writing emails. It is about hearing where people are at, sharing vision and ideas, working through challenges, planning together, and yes, praying together. At the heart of it all are relationships – the connections we have between ourselves and with God.

And so, in the past year, I've spent considerable ministry time seeking to learn, listen, coordinate, and build relationships inside and outside the church. This is part of the normal rhythm of church life and ministry as well as being essential for the discernment and visioning we need to move forward in a healthy way into the mission God has for us today in our community of Bloomington Normal. I have also been able to become more involved in our American Baptist family, participating regularly in our local clergy cluster and through accepting a position on the Great Rivers Region board as the Area III representative on the Planning and Review Committee. Beyond our ABC connections, I'm grateful for developing connections with local clergy from the downtown churches (our ecumenical Good Friday service is one example of this), and for other opportunities to get to know area clergy. I look forward to finding more ways we can collaborate for the sake of God's work in our community.

Closer to home, it was a privilege to baptize three of our youth last Easter, and to be a part of their faith journey, as it continues to be a joy walking with people of all ages in faith.

Some of the other ministry highlights of the year include helping with LOGOS and learning more about its rhythms and traditions, attending the LOGOS camp at Estes Park in Colorado over the summer, helping with the VBS program and the church's outreach and mission events. The shared insights during our Wednesday morning Bible Studies have been a blessing to me, and I also enjoy the times we've been able to gather the Young Adult group for a mix of fun and learning.

We began the year of 2020 with the intention to build on the information gathered from our listening sessions, board retreats and observations from a year in ministry together. The board has started (and continues) to go through Tod Bolsinger's book: Canoeing the Mountains as a way to help us think through what kinds of structures, ministries and support are needed in this time of change in society and church culture.

I have long believed that one of the essential pivots of the way we need to live out our faith as a church community is to own the reality that the church is the people, not the building. What we couldn't anticipate is having to move not just away from a building-centric ministry to the need to forego meeting together in person anywhere. In the past few months, many, many people have risen to the need and the challenge to live out our faith as the community of First Baptist Church in entirely new ways. By the time we read this report as a congregation, the changes and adaptations will have continued even as we discern our way forward into a new normal. But I am certain that some of the core questions and insights from this time will remain. They are an invitation and a challenge if we will accept it; to enter into the needs of the time and opportunities to join in how God redeems and brings good out of a pandemic that has brought so much suffering to the world in different ways.

We are invited to understand that the church is not about place or programs, but people who see themselves as disciples of Jesus who individually and collectively are called to own and live out their faith in ways that point to the loving presence of God.

We are invited to simplify and deepen what we do. To look for what's essential to hold on to, to go deeper in it, and simultaneously be free to send our whole congregation to try new things, to reach out to neighbors and community members and friends.

We are invited to remember that at the heart of it, it is about relationships – and we have a calling and opportunity to be gracious to one another. To forgive old wounds and seek healing so that we may work together in one Spirit. As Baptists, we joke about having many different perspectives on the way things should be, and sometimes there's an edge to the observation. And yet, we have an opportunity to remember what is truly important, what is bigger than our differences, and create space for one another in grace to live and grow together in Christ.

May God bless us on the journey as we lean into the coming year in faith, hope and love.

2019 -2020 Christian Education Committee Annual Report

Committee Members: Becky Strack, Chairman, Nanette Tanaka, Nathan Jennings, Reece Larson, and Michelle Wiggins

The purpose of the committee is to promote and implement the educational programming, leadership, and fellowship ministries of our church. We have a variety of programs in place and added new ones this year. Traditional Sunday morning church school for all ages was established in 1843 and as a committee we are proud to say that with an occasionally month off, this program continues. Attendance is still declining for children and youth, but we were able to add an adult class that meets during the second service. This is for those adults who attend the first service.

An educational and fellowship group for young adults continues to grow. This was begun just as we moved from one program year to another and we understood this is an age group where attendance will fluctuate radically at times, however there is a devoted core group that meets regularly. They welcome our college age members when they are home on break.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast was organized under the leadership of Daniel Schuetz and on the second Saturday of the month they share a meal, welcome a speaker, and enjoy being together.

The Women's Bible Study group meets twice a month September to May. They studied Colossians and Philemon, by Max Lucado this past year.

The Wednesday morning Bible Study led by Pastor Brian is well attended each week where he offers insight to scriptures being used on Sunday morning.

LOGOS our midweek biblically based intergenerational program was led by Michelle Wiggins and the C.A.R.E. Team members this year. 31 participants were registered, and 61 volunteers gathered every Wednesday for Bible study, Worship Arts, Recreation and Family Time. One could say it was a challenging year due to the weather and the Covid19 outbreak. However, participants and leaders alike enjoyed the time they were able to spend together. Technology was introduced both as a subject to study and to use as a way to learn. Various videos of Bible stories were made and are available for viewing on the FBC You Tube channel. The annual Souper Bowl Chili Cook-off was well received and the annual bidding war over German chocolate cake did not disappoint the treasury!

We continue to support those children and youth who attend Lake Springfield Baptist Camp each summer paying half of the camp fee for each participant. We also helped five youth attend the GenOn LOGOS summer program in Estes Park Colorado in 2019.

In May 2019 we recognized our high school graduates with the blanket ceremony and held a reception during Gathering Time for high school, college, and graduate school and trade school grads.

Vacation Bible School ROARED into FBC in July with 43 participants gathering for five evenings to share a meal, worship and learn about how life is wild, and God is good. The sound of a lion roaring echoed throughout the sanctuary as everyone sang, danced, and experienced how God provides for us every day.

We set goals in September and are happy to report that several have been met; several are a work in progress. Due to the diligent work of Nanette and Preveena our supply closet on the second floor is cleaned out and organized; the costume closet also on the second floor has been organized by Michelle, Gretchen, and Becky. All the old choir robes have been donated to an organization that matches robes with churches that need them. Greg and Joyce Topping were happy to deliver them to the organization in Pennsylvania this spring on their way to visit their daughter.

CE's response to the Covid19 shelter in place meant adapting our traditions into innovations. Michelle put together video lessons that were led by various members and shared on the church website. She used the Family Time themes and turned them into a weekly challenge for every church family to participate in. We kept in contact with our church school and LOGOS families via emails, phone calls and old-fashioned letters in the mail letting them know we were praying for them and to see how they were responding to being home 24/7. We look forward to Allison Benton working with us and the Growth Committee on how to stay connected using various social platforms as well as offering lessons and devotions. While we wait for restrictions to be modified and eventually lifted, we are determining what will return to "the way it was" and what new modifications will stay in place.

Another year filled with many opportunities to grow and take steps toward our faith development. We look forward to blending our traditions with innovations to meet the ever-changing lifestyles of seekers and believers in our community.

2019-2020 Growth Committee Annual Report

Committee Members: Lesley Sutton, Kallie Yearick, Chuck McGuire, and Virginia Jordan-Benson

As the composition of our committee experienced major changes during the past year, we continued to evolve as a ministry. This was especially felt in the passing of our chair, Brenda Azinger. In addition, Melin de la Cruz and Will Mullenix moved out of the area, and Tamara Anderson-Pruett left for personal reasons. We added two new members: Kallie Yearick and Chuck McGuire. In another bittersweet development, Kallie recently informed us that she will be relocating to another state for work in the near future.

We developed the Next Steps at First Baptist Church flyer and updated the FBC Life brochure that includes our vision, ministry missions and contacts. We continued the tradition of hosting quarterly FBC Life Luncheon to provide opportunities for those interested in learning more about FBC and the American Baptist organization. We identified an opportunity to integrate the monthly Lunch Today with the Sunday Lunch Bunch to include those interested in having lunch together after church service. This has been a successful partnership and provides continuity for connection of members/guests who seek this type of fellowship.

A key part of the Growth Ministry involves a process to follow up with guests who participate in the life of the church. This consistent process was very effective in assisting the ministry with ensuring follow up with all guests who provided connection information. The ministry also leveraged the guest information provided in the pew guest registers to obtain contact information to make connections. We obtained 15 names from the register between December 2019 and February 2020 however only 4 guests provided contact information.

We have a reliable base of greeters and a solid scheduling process in place. This year a focus was made to develop written expectations/responsibilities for communication to existing and future greeters.

We began preparations to collaborate with other church committees in hosting an International Potluck, specifically seeking to include college students. This event was postponed due to the social distancing required by Covid-19. Our plan is to pursue this event in the future.

We were also successful in collaborating with the Christian Education Ministry to support an internship for an FBC college student who will help enhance FBC's efforts to stay connected in this time.

Last but certainly not least, we finalized the church's tree photo wall! It is a beautiful display of the congregation and helps us all connect better to match a name with a face.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virginia Jordan-Benson
Growth Ministry Interim Chair

2019-2020 Family Care Annual Report

Committee Members: Sue Strauch (chair), Sharon Carr, Beverly Jennings, Linda McAninch, Terry Ogunleye, Joyce Topping and Sharon Wetzal

The Family Care Committee is responsible for planning and preparing meals for our congregation in response to individual needs and board direction. Some events are planned with other committees. Some events are at the request of families for funerals and memorial services and some may be requested from our area churches.

From May 2019 to April 2020 we have served meals to approximately 300 people. Meals were provided for the Annual Meeting on May 19, 2019, for the Stewardship Meeting on November 10, 2019 and for four soup lunch meetings with Pastor Brian and Gabrielle in the Fall. Additionally, we provided a meal for family and friends following one funeral service. We held Meet and Eat luncheons three times throughout the year with an average of 20 attendees per luncheon. Extra food is usually shared with members of the congregation.

Our card ministry is designed to keep in touch with those who are unable to attend church and others in our congregation who are experiencing a difficult situation. When we gather for Meet and Eat, those in attendance have the opportunity to sign cards for those unable to attend. Birthday cards are being sent to these same people. Cards have also been sent to church members and friends during trying times in their lives as we have been made aware of these.

The prayer chain has 2 means of communication – an e-mail chain and a phone tree. All prayer requests begin with the pastor and are forwarded from the office.

Our committee strives to be of service to members and friends of this church community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Strauch
Family Care Committee Chair

2019-2020 Missions Committee Annual Report

Committee Members: Terri Shirley, Betty Hope, Anna Greenfield, Lynnae Wollenweber

The Mission Committee's responsibility is to plan for and help execute decisions and actions to support Mission Objectives:

- Through our actions and financial allocations, demonstrate and share the teachings of Christ
- Promote awareness of our Church's Mission activity and direction to the congregation and community
- Establish direct and meaningful mission relationships, both at home and abroad
- Mission by DOING and providing direct calls to action so our congregation can participate

Hands-On Community Partnerships

Home Sweet Home Mission

- Big Give weekend, First Baptist Church of Bloomington donation over 1,400 pounds of food
- Visit hshministries.org to see their work and faith in action

Sugar Creek Elementary

- FBC volunteers in classrooms weekly
- Assisted with the school's Winter Extravaganza, included Frosty's Gift Shoppe

Midwest Food Bank – Backpack Program

This has been the first year First Baptist Church has served as an assembly site and resource to support this program to provide food for low income grade school students over the weekend.

- Pick up food monthly from food bank
- Assembled 100 bags every two weeks
- Provided storage and transportation containers to protect the food in transit
- Integrated hands on mission of building the food bags into Logos and with Sunday school groups
- Will continue program into 2020-2021 school year after summer break if it is still offered

Frosty's Gift Shoppe

The Gift Shoppe has shoppers from Sugar Creek Elementary, MARC First and those arriving for an open shopping time at the Church. Over 170 participants received the benefit of reduced priced gifts to purchase for key adults in their lives. Generous donations of gifts, money and time provided this special experience for children and those on fixed incomes to participate in the joy of selecting, paying for, and giving gifts.

- gifts were assembled/packaged
- 17 volunteers helped during the shopping events
- 12 families provided email addresses for more information about family events at FBCB
- Remaining gifts after the three shopping events were donated to McLean County Santa for Seniors and Home Sweet Home Mission

Trunk or Treat

Provided safe environment for community to gather for trick-or-treating. Many Sugar Creek elementary families and ESL families visited, as well as others from the community. Estimated just over 300 trunk or treaters came through.

Family Movie Nights

Hosted families for movie, snacks, and fellowship. Approximately 25 young and old attended the outdoor movie. This is an outreach effort to mission to our community, invite them into our building to introduce ourselves. It also serves as fellowship for our congregation as we serve others.

Connections Abroad

International Ministries – American Baptist Churches, USA

Jon and Amanda Good and family – faith and education mission to Hungary

- Continued monthly sponsorship
- Pastor Brian Hastings and Terri Shirley attended an International Mission Planning Workshop

You can keep updated on their experience:

- Search FACEBOOK and follow this group: SixGoods Go – Global Servants to Hungary

Mission Giving and Special Offering:

United Mission Basics	13,387.00	40% of Mission budget
ABW Love Gift	547.00	Congregational Collections
America for Christ	1,002.00	Congregational Collections
World Mission	1,025.00	Congregational Collections
Retired Ministers/Missionaries	250.00	Congregational Collections
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,007.00	Congregational Collections
Institutional Support (admin)	2,914.00	Missions Budget
Targeted Giving (Good Family Missionaries)	4,267.00	13% Missions Budget
Total 2018 ABMS Giving	25,399.00	

The five special offerings, America For Christ, World Mission Offering, Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Regional Offering, are ways we support the good work of specific ministry partners

In addition, ongoing mission allocations to the United Mission Basics Fund at American Baptist Churches are undesignated contributions from our church to the vital mission and ministry of American Baptists. Basics funding provides educational, communication, and administrative support for the extensive foundation of American Baptist missions.

2019 - 2020 Personnel Committee Annual Report

Committee Members: Carolyn Wetzel, Roger Bridges, Joyce Benton, Cheryl Gaines

With three of four committee members, including the chair, new to their roles on this committee, it has been a time of discerning our role as a personnel committee. While that remains a work in progress, we have attained several goals.

We explored which positions may appropriately be compensated by salary and which need to be hourly according to the Fair Labor Stands Act. Adjustments were made as appropriate.

We reviewed and adjusted some job descriptions. This remains a work in progress.

We initiated mandated reporter training for staff, as required by a new State mandate.

In collaboration with Christian Education, we are in the process of putting into place the mechanisms to conduct and review annual background checks on paid staff as well as volunteers who work with children.

Future goals include continued review and refinement of job descriptions and completion of personnel policies.

2019-2020 Stewardship Committee Annual Report

Committee Members: James Martin, Karen Bridges, Jeremy Sutton

The theme of this past fall's stewardship campaign was "*Journey to Generosity: An Opportunity to Say 'Yes.'*" This theme reminded us that each of us has been blessed by God in different ways, and, in our own individual life journeys, He encourages us to use and manage those gifts to help others generously and voluntarily.

As is typical during a stewardship campaign, members and friends of our church were challenged to consider what we could realistically give – from a financial perspective – to further God's work and ministries at FBC. Additionally, we were also challenged to consider how we could give of our time and talents to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Thankfully, our church family answered both calls! Your financial contributions have allowed God to do some amazing things at FBC. Many of those initiatives have been outlined elsewhere in the annual reports from our staff and various committees. And, we received nearly two dozen positive responses to engage in a conversation with Pastor Brian or Pastor Cheri to discuss how their interests, hobbies, skills, passions, etc. can help them grow spiritually while generously helping others here at FBC or in our community.

While we are genuinely appreciative of the financial response we received, when all pledges and historical non-pledged offerings were counted and compared to our projected 2020 expenses, we anticipated approximately a \$53,000 budget shortfall.

At the February 2020 quarterly business meeting, we shared that, practically, the only way to make up for that deficit (without dipping into our Hilliard Lyons investment funds) was to either increase our income or reduce our expenses. We also shared that relying on the investment account (which had been riding an historically long bull market) could be impacted – positively or negatively – by world events (e.g., foreign conflicts, politics).

We were not expecting a global pandemic that would lead to a massive decline in our portfolio balance (which, fortunately, is incrementally back on the rise again at the time of this writing).

Given the COVID-19 outbreak, many of our normal ministries and expenditures have been paused. Our committees are doing their part to manage and reduce expenses where they can. At the same time, we are expanding our ways of doing virtual, on-line ministry while we are physically distant from one another. We are reaching others – and that is a blessing!

And, our church family and friends are continuing to support FBC through faithful giving, via checks received in the mail, as well as increased use of our on-line giving application.

Additionally, many of us are seeking out opportunities to help one another or to volunteer within the community to help others during these difficult times.

In short, you are continuing to find opportunities to say 'yes' with your gifts and your talents!

In this most unprecedented of times, the Stewardship committee would like to thank:

- Everyone who tithed or pledged or simply gave financial gifts to help with our ministry goals and other budgetary needs.
- All of those who accepted the invitation to discuss your own gifts and how they can be used in service of others.
- Greg Topping (our lead offering counter), who, during our time apart from one another at church, has continued to faithfully collect, count, and deposit our offerings.
- Our dedicated team who counted our weekly offerings before physical gatherings were restricted – Aaron Haning, Nobu Tanaka, and Jan Hazekamp (new to our counting team in 2019).
- Sue Strauch and the Family Care Committee for their help in coordinating the Consecration Sunday luncheon that concluded our formal stewardship campaign.
- Debbie Stumm for her assistance with the budget preparation last fall.
- Pastor Brian and Pastor Cheri for their sermons and support during the “Journey to Generosity” series.

We encourage you all to be safe and look for your own opportunities to say ‘yes’ to God’s call in your life’s journey.

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee

Karen Bridges, Jeremy Sutton, and James Martin (Chair)

2019-2020 Trustee Committee Annual Report

*Committee Members: Al Strauch (Chair), Dennis DeLong, Rick VanArsdale,
Rich Clemmons, Ryan Wetzel, Mary Jo Douglass*

The Trustees work year-round in conjunction with the campus manager to make the church grounds and facilities a safe and inviting place for worship and other church activities while being good stewards of the money allotted in the budget. This dedicated group, along with other volunteers, spends countless hours in an effort to achieve that goal. We strive to maintain our church as an open and inviting place for not only our own functions, but for community activities as well. This committee works with all other committees to provide the facilities that enable them to run their programs efficiently and use our resources to facilitate the work of the church in the community.

Major accomplishments this past year include updating procedures for wall decorations, updating lighting inside and outside the church, hiring a new company for snow removal and lawn care, adding supportive braces to the long pews, replacing and leveling sidewalks that were tripping hazards, purchasing an attachment for upholstery cleaning, and inventorying all tables in the church. Additionally, the trustees maintain the HVAC system that needs many repairs as it is showing its age. We also provide access to our facility by granting building use requests for members and community groups and by serving as a polling place.

The Trustees would like to thank the many dedicated non-committee members who cheerfully volunteer their time and talents to help complete essential tasks while expecting no recognition for their work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Al Strauch
Trustee Committee Chair

2019-2020 Worship Committee Annual Report

Committee Members: Gretchen Clemmons, Brian Cox, Kristi Greenfield, Jay Hartzler, Chrissy Jennings, Joan Leitzen, Sarah Tomkinson, Jeff Wollenweber, Sarah Wollenweber, Jessica Gaines, Cheri Grizzard

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...” Heb. 10:25

The Worship Committee meets together monthly to plan our worship services and special worship events. The Worship Planning team then meets weekly to finalize and implement the services.

In May, we celebrated Mother’s Day, by asking members to give to the Church World Service Blanket Project and CE recognized our graduates. We celebrated Father’s Day in June with donations given to the AB Men Disaster Relief Fund.

The summer sermon series centered on “Packing for the Journey,” which led into an August series relating to the VBS themes.

Two new banners were donated to display on the west wall: “Love the Lord” and “Love People”. Six new communion cup trays were also donated. We instituted the use of the Red Attendance pads again.

We planned a Labor Day service outside on the west lawn, but there were threats of rain and cold, so we moved it into the sanctuary. The service was followed by a potluck.

More people were invited to lead in worship services this year, especially the special services of World Communion Sunday, Christmas Eve, and Maundy Thursday. There were some opportunities to have people that are homebound read scriptures and other parts of the service. Logos members and groups led in worship in various ways during the year.

Advent started with our annual Hanging of the Greens, decorating the church. The theme of advent this year was “Telling the Stories of God’s Peace, Hope, Joy and Love”. Our Christmas Eve service had a new start time of 5:00, followed by a reception hosted by the worship committee. There was a New Year’s Eve game night followed by a short worship time.

Pew blankets were again placed on the pews by the prayer shawl committee, to warm people during the cold months. Choir robes from several years ago were gathered and will be donated to a company in Pennsylvania who re-purposes them.

Lent began with an Ash Wednesday service, in conjunction with the Logos ministry. The theme for Lent was “Encounters with Jesus” and focused on the people who encountered Jesus during His life. We had testimonies from some people telling of their encounters with Jesus.

Lent was interrupted by the Covid 19 Virus that struck the country, state, and world. A Stay at Home directive was given in March through the end of May, and we had to begin providing services online. With the technical expertise of David and Evan Greenfield and Michelle Wiggins we were able to have our first live streaming service on March 29th. Pastors Brian and Cheri have led us in virtual worship each week since then. Music was recorded, archived music was used, solos were sung, scriptures were read, and pictures were displayed during

the services. Videos were compiled and shown of members and friends greeting one another, waving palm branches for Palm Sunday, and exclaiming “He Is Risen” for Easter. A Zoom prayer and gathering time followed the worship service each week. Our traditional Good Friday service with the downtown churches was recorded and available to watch online. Nightly devotions and prayer time were offered by Brian and Cheri.

We continue to meet “together” for God’s Kingdom and Glory!

Worship Chair: Gretchen Clemmons

2019-2020 American Baptist Women Ministries Annual Report

Committee Members Joan Leitzen (Chair, Circle Chair, Special Interest Missionaries), Joyce Topping (Secretary, White Cross), Bea Olson (Treasure/Love Gift), Marion Armfield (White Cross), Carolyn McGuire (Courtesy).

The theme this year was Sisters Seeking Wholeness. This theme gives us the opportunity to explore tools and information that we need to achieve wholeness in every area of our lives (spiritually, emotionally, and financially).

The ABWM Circle had six meetings planned this year but with CO19 Virus we had to cancel two of our meetings. The programs we did have included. Recycling Furniture for Families, Lebanon, Celebrate 100 years of White Cross, and Music with History with Leslie Sompong.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been active this year, making and distributing 3 pray shawls, 4 blankets for high school graduates, 79 rolled bandages, and 12 birthing kits for Congo. We would like to thank our Mission Committee at FBC for their support in assisting in the 12 birthing kits. And 54 items to Friendship House in Peoria. Two Pink Slipper Projects, 18 wash cloths to DOVE Shelter in Mass. And 15 wash cloths to Hope's Door in TX.

We have 3 Special Interest Missionaries, Revs. Taku & Katie Longkumer serving in Northeast India, Jae Stockton in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico, and Dr. Timothy and Mrs. Kathleen Rice in Democratic Republic of the Congo which we remember in prayer and with \$25 gift at Christmas. Our Home Missionaries who also got \$25 are Friendship House of Christian Service in Peoria, Mang Sonna Bethel Neighborhood Center Ks. And Rankin Christian Center in Pa. In February we had a church wide offering for Love Gift \$358.89 was collected and thanked everyone who participated in that offering. GRR project to National Support was \$200. We also sent \$200 to Area III project which this year was camps Lake Springfield and Blackhawk. To Sallie Peck Memorial Scholarship Fund \$200. Outfit/refit was \$25. Women and Girls \$50. We have not decided on White Cross cash gift this year because we do this at Spring Rally and because of CO19 Virus we did not have the Rally.

Members of our group participated in Area and Regional ABWM events and GRR ABWM Annual Conference in Alton this year. We do not meet during the summer months but will begin our new program next year in September.

Respectfully Submitted
Joan Leitzen
American Baptist Women
Ministries. President