



2018  
Annual  
Report

Dear Friends in Christ,

I love that moment in the Acts of the Apostles right after Jesus has gone up into heaven. The disciples are standing there, looking up. They don't even notice the two men in white robes—angels!—who have snuck into their midst. They say to the disciples, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?” All of a sudden Jesus, the animating presence of their life, is gone. And right now all they can do is look and wonder and wait.

After the angels snap them out of their reverie, the disciples go home. They think about what they're going to do. They assign jobs. They pick a new Apostle. They pray. This is how they wait on the return of God and the Holy Spirit who comes to them on the day of Pentecost.

I would argue that we're not too different from the disciples at this stage. Following the busyness of the past few years—the heartache and struggle, the joy and new beginning, the organizing of our life together—now, all of a sudden, we find ourselves looking, wondering, waiting for the presence of God and the answer to the question poised on the lips of disciples everywhere—what's next?

How do we even begin to answer this question?

This has been the work of our Vision Team, meeting monthly since September. With the help of a consultant and partnering with Cherokee Presbytery, we have been one of a number of churches exploring things like community demographics, the changing religious landscape in America, and our own church's story hoping that we can envision where God is leading us in the coming years.

The session, too, has been hard at work. Following our retreat in January, we are beginning a process of prayer and discernment, preparing to receive a report from the Vision Team this Summer so that we can move forward in the way God is leading—with your help.

In the meantime, the report you hold in your hands is a record of all that we have been working on together. It tells a story of a church dedicated to the care of vulnerable children in our community; challenged by the call of God to always learn and discover; and alive in the Spirit of God through creative and substantive worship. It tells the story of a community formed by God's love that supports the sick, welcomes strangers, and nurtures us in the way of Jesus Christ. It tells the story of a church that doesn't just wait, gazing up towards heaven, but does the hard work of preparation so that we can be ready to receive God's Spirit.

Thank you for all that you are doing to bear witness to the grace and love of Jesus Christ—here. I can't wait to see what you do next.

Peace,



Will

## Church Operations

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
<b>Income:</b>			
Tithes & Offering	\$ 310,000	\$ 328,311	\$ 322,500
Investments & Other Income	<u>\$ 22,500</u>	<u>\$ 29,422</u>	<u>\$ 28,000</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 332,500</b>	<b>\$ 357,733</b>	<b>\$ 350,500</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Missions & Benevolences	\$ 51,550	\$ 54,147	\$ 59,300
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 102,945	\$ 105,020	\$ 104,842
Sessional Committees	\$ 19,900	\$ 20,401	\$ 41,100
Music Ministry	\$ 47,940	\$ 48,824	\$ 49,050
Admin & Operations	<u>\$ 110,070</u>	<u>\$ 116,667</u>	<u>\$ 96,105</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 332,405</b>	<b>\$ 345,059</b>	<b>\$ 350,397</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 95</b>	<b>\$ 12,674</b>	<b>\$ 103</b>

Thanks to the Lord's blessings and your continued generosity, income for 2018 exceeded the budget by \$25,233. Expenses for the year also exceeded the budget by about \$12,654. Overall, the year ended with a \$12,674 surplus.

The 2019 church budget reflects a successful stewardship season and incorporates all budget requests from the session teams and operating areas of the church. The 2019 missions budget reflects a 10% increase for 2019.

The church has no outstanding loans or long term debt.

### Operating Reserves

Within the church's operating accounts, the Finance Committee has set a policy of maintaining a 3 month to 6 month operating reserve. Currently the church has approximately a 6 month reserve. The reserve is kept in a money market fund and CD's.

### Investment Account

The church maintains an investment account separate from the operating account and operating reserves. At the end of 2018 this investment account had a value of \$845,000. The account is managed by the church's Finance and Investment Committees.

1. **Clerk Description:** To take and preserve minutes of session meetings, congregational meetings, and communications with the congregation; to perform an annual review/approval of documents by Presbytery; to keep the membership rolls; to report the Annual Statistics of the church to PCUSA; maintain by-laws and policies of the church (our *Trellis*); and provide for communications within and outside the church

2. **Clerk of Session:** Hilliard Jolly

3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706.260.7089                      Email: houdie518@gmail.com

4. **Membership, end of 2018:**

- Active Members: 129 We welcomed 5 new members during the year
- Baptized Members: 18 (children and youth)
- Births: 1
- Baptisms: 2
- Affiliate Members\* 9
- Deaths 1

\* those who actively participate in our church but have their membership elsewhere

5. **Session Members:**

- Our session consisted of 7 female and 2 male Elders.

6. **The *Trellis*:**

- Legal records, and copies of session minutes and reports for recent past years are maintained in the church office.

7. **Preserving our history:**

- Many of our records are preserved in volumes on the library shelves in the Martin House. An ongoing project is to maintain and preserve the history of our church. As we go through our older records, some will be taken to the regional archive depository at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. Most historical records are maintained in files in our building and in the display cabinet in the Commons.

1. **Team Description:** To enhance the environment and opportunities for our congregation to grow in personal knowledge of Jesus Christ through prayer, Sunday School, and fellowship.
2. **Team Chair:** Jo Beth Thompson
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706.260.5621 Email: jobeththompson@live.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - March 6, 2018
  - July 13, 2018
  - October 10, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
  - The Adult Sunday School class took the ten weeks of summer to explore different Christian churches. Gathering information about each denomination's founder, when it began and what brought it to this area of Northwest Georgia. Seven different presenters brought their findings to the class. The series sparked interesting discussion among the class members. There were even requests for a continuation of the series during another summer.
  - Liturgical Arts team created and contributed a Labyrinth that allowed many to explore worship in a different way.
  - The Youth changed their structure to a model called "Teaming Up" by Ginny Holderness. The model focuses on five areas of ministries to create a well-balanced program where the youth of the church are participating in all areas of ministry. The five areas of ministries are: Exploration, Worship, Service, Ministry within the Congregation, and Fellowship.
  - New Joy Makers classes added to enhance and enrich the Sunday School hour for the 3-6 age group (Story Time, Music, Art, Movement and Mission)
  - The Christmas Pageant, held on December 16, underwent a major revision, from Godly Play curriculum, allowing our older children to serve as readers while the younger ones dressed as characters in the story and looked absolutely precious.
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
  - Continue to invest in "Godly Play" materials, used during the "Worship and Play" time of Sunday's worship service, and train volunteers in the use of this resource.
  - Designate specific rooms in the Martin House for particular book collections and develop an orientation guide where members can easily find and use our resources.
  - Continue to implement revisions to the Christmas Pageant in order to accommodate our growing and developing cast members and blend the pageant with the worship service.
  - Continue to explore times and settings which would allow those interested to participate in opportunities for growth in their personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

1. **Team Description:** A team made up of any female member of the congregation who wants to participate in any or all of the activities of the Guild. This group's goal is to maintain, nurture, and increase the spirit of fellowship within the community of faith.
2. **Team Chair:** Annelle Scott
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706.270.3621    Email: atscott@optilink.us
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - January 24, 2018
  - March 21, 2018
  - May 16, 2018
  - September 19, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**

Ongoing Projects:

  - Second Sunday Lunches held each month with the exception of January, July and December with an average attendance of 35
  - Congregational Care Captain selected each month to correspond/visit shut-ins and persons who are ill and to co-ordinate meals if needed: recipients of meals were Sally Wester, Bob Lewis, Will and Katie Scott, and Mary and San Dover
  - Ladies Book Club met each month with exception of May, June and July at the Farm for lunch and book discussion. Average attendance of ten. In May the group met in the home of Annelle Scott and the group hosted a Ladies Christmas Social in December at Annelle's with 25 in attendance
  - Snack provided in the Commons on the 4th Sunday of each month
  - Outdoor planters watered weekly during summer months
  - Birthday cards sent to members
  - "Trees and Wreaths" decoration after service on Sunday preceding Advent followed with pizza lunch
  - "Hanging of the Greens" on Wednesday morning, November 28
  - Provided popcorn and water for Mr. Rogers Movie night in sanctuary in September
  - Helped with snacks for Advent Workshop in November
  - Donated cookies/cake for Friendship House Fundraiser in November
  - Knitting Group meets weekly to knit newborn caps donated to Hamilton Medical Center. This group averages 100 caps per month
  - Drivers provided for doctor visits and church attendance for members who need this assistance.

Other Events:

  - Provided Going Away Receptions for Scholarship Choir Students Michaela Olson and Tanner Cline
  - In October provided evening visitation reception for Anne Farrow and assisted with serving lunch in Hollis Hall following Ann's Memorial Service.
  - Provided a reception for Organ Dedication Sunday in May

- Provided Book of Prayers, Handmade quilt and a meal for two families with new babies-the Jeff Granillo family and the Bracey Hubbs family
- Hosted Church Women United with meeting and luncheon in November
- Held Potluck Supper for members in July
- Held Family Picnic at Hubbs' Lake Frances home in August
- Special lunch held for members and guests following children's Christmas Pageant
- Made special Crismons for each child participating in or attending the pageant
- Purchased printed napkins "First Presbyterian Church, Love First-Love All" for use at receptions and events involving the community

1. **Team Description:** To build community within the church by anticipating the informational needs of the congregation and guests and extending gracious hospitality to all.
2. **Team Chair:** Pam Partain
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell): 706.217.8117    Email: pampartain@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - February 19, 2018
  - April 16, 2018
  - June 4, 2018
  - August 14, 2018
  - October 22, 2018
  - November 26, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
  - Rebranded Evangelism Team to Connection Team to better reflect mission of team within life of the church and community
  - Revisited mission and responsibilities of Connection Team
  - Chair attended Digital Disciples training to expand reach of social media communications.
  - Began implementing Digital Disciples strategies including recruitment of Super User group of FPC Facebook page, creating shared photo album for FPC photos, increasing number of FB posts, purchasing camera to livestream worship services and other events via Facebook
  - Planning information lunch for repeat visitors and new members (early 2019)
  - Drafting content for information booklet for new members
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
  - Recruiting additional Super Users to boost reach of social media content
  - Recruiting photographers and videographers to take photos, operate camera for livestream
  - Generating additional content for social media
  - Formalize and produce informational materials for new members
  - Conduct media audit and adjust communication strategies accordingly

1. **Team Description:** To maintain all church facilities and property in good order and repair, to provide for the safety and security of buildings and church activities conducted on or within church property, to provide for aesthetic additions, and to assist in making church facilities available to outside groups upon request.
2. **Team Chair:** Kathryn Sellers    **New Chair:** Robert Smalley
3. **Contact Info for Robert:** (cell) 706-260-5579                  robertsmalley@optilink.us
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - January 19, 2018                  • October 17, 2018
  - April 23, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
  - Revisions continued for open/close procedures to ensure comfort and security
  - Facility needs in organ installation and the secure surround railings
  - Inspections of essential systems coordinated (fire suppression, sprinkler system, elevator, security and HVAC)
  - Installation of HVAC dehumidification in the sanctuary for general comfort and for the protection of instruments
  - Replacement of column bases and front steps completed; repair of columns
  - Brick repointing on all exterior walls completed except further cleaning
  - Sidewalk extended from sanctuary to Selvidge Street
  - Hymnal racks added for sanctuary
6. **Projects under contract or in the planning stages:**
  - Repointing of brick chimneys and caps
  - Repair of front porch columns
  - Parlor mantle and hallway niche doors
  - Hollis hall: room darkening shades, TV for presentations
  - Second floor water fountain
  - Sanctuary: sound/video to commons and Hollis hall; hearing assist technology
  - Various repairs to walks and driveway
  - Sign for front walk
  - Art and other items to complete interior décor and furniture need
7. **Ongoing Projects:**
  - Continuing to complete the building structural issues left undone by contractor and damage by water/age
  - Providing for routine maintenance

1. **Team Description:** To administer all financial matters of the church.
2. **Team Chair:** Julie Tharpe
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706.280.7795      Email: jltharpe52@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - April 17, 2018
  - October 16, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
  - 2018 Budget has been reviewed and approved by the Team and has been presented to the Session with the recommendation that it be approved.
  - The Investment Committee has met and reviewed the TD Ameritrade account and investigated other investment options. The Committee decided to remain with TD Ameritrade based on its performance and investment fees. The Committee also recommended that investment distribution percentages remain the same and that the investment percentages be rebalanced when benevolence are invested
  - The Financial Review procedures have been updated and approved by the Finance Team and presented to and approved by the Session.
  - Excess funds in the Bank of the Ozarks Money Market account were moved to a 12 month CD at Bank of the Ozarks that will pay a higher interest rate.
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
  - The Team meets quarterly and reviews and discusses church financial information to ensure that funds are being spent and managed properly. The Church treasurer provides regular reports to the team. The team's review includes:
    - Review of income
    - Review of expenses
    - Consideration of future expenses
    - Monitoring of any special giving opportunities (i.e. organ fund, hymnals, etc.)
    - Discussion of insurance
  - Efforts are on-going to obtain information concerning the advantages and disadvantages of establishing an endowment.
  - The team oversees the yearly stewardship campaign, the results of which are used to determine future budgeting.
  - The team reviews and considers on an ongoing basis the financial benchmarks for the church and makes recommendations for any changes to session.
  - Managing the weekly deposit and maintaining procedures for that deposit.
  - Review and consideration of the yearly budget (December of each year).

1. **Team Description:** The team is to have as members an active elder and not less than six members at large and its responsibilities are to communicate foreign and domestic mission opportunities to the congregation, to sponsor specific mission projects directly involving the congregation, to encourage the congregation to respond to the needs of the greater church and to crisis needs outside our community, and to try to involve in mission projects members who are not volunteers in other areas of church life, “so as to make known the good news of Jesus throughout the world.” On behalf of the congregation of the Church, the team disbursed \$40,000.00 for mission and service projects. Numbers have been rounded.
2. **Team Chair:** Susan Bisson      **New Team Chair:** Margaret Venable
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 404-216-3852      Email: mhvchemistry@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - January 8, 2018
  - February 5, 2018
  - March 5, 2018
  - May 7, 2018
  - June 4, 2018
  - August 6, 2018
  - September 4, 2018
  - November 5, 2018
  - December 2, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
  - Celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and the legacy of PCUSA minister “Mr. Rogers” with a sweater drive in January to which the congregation donated more than fifty jackets, and repeated the sweater drive in the fall with donations of more than twenty jackets, given to City of Refuge
  - For Dalton Senior Housing (for elderly or handicapped adults with income under \$15,000.00 per year, operated by Hamilton Health Care System Inc.)
    - Composed and delivered Easter gift bags of toiletries and snacks for 88 residents, \$400
    - Provided July ice cream social for both locations with about 15 volunteers, supplies donated
    - Delivered regular gifts of magazines
  - For Joan aka JoAnn Lewis Park neighborhood
    - Distributed soup and sandwich supplies with books once a week January – March, \$1,271
    - Participated in Big Red Reads four Thursdays in July to co-ordinate with the free lunch distribution program
  - For Camp AIM (conducted by Family Support Council for child victims of sexual abuse)
    - Donated \$2,500
    - Peggy Rollins was full time worker at the 2018 camp and Roger Rollins coordinated daily breakfasts and lunches with church and community volunteers
  - For Blue Ridge School
    - For Book Club we purchased ten books for each kindergarten, first grade, and second grade classroom, one of which is read to each room each month by some of our approximately 25 volunteers, then given to the classroom library. With help from volunteers from St Mark’s Episcopal Church, the number of children served has tripled. \$1,600
    - Provided a Valentine’s Day party and end of year treats for each kindergarten and first grade class, \$443
    - Delivered approximately 30 large bags of food, clothing and furnishings to the school social worker for distribution to families experiencing acute need, supplies donated
  - Hosted the inaugural event of Dalton Public Schools Success Academy, a program for eighth graders who have not responded to traditional education programs, by providing lunch and a venue for a panel discussion of journalists, attended by approximately 80 students, teachers, community members, and the DPS Superintendent, \$912

- Hosted the November meeting of Church Women United, attended by about thirty members of a variety of community churches, as part of our effort to re-connect with that organization, \$537
- Literacy and education donations, local and international
  - Biblioburro \$1,000
  - Furnishings for a literacy classroom and for a math classroom for City of Refuge Afterschool Program, serving children whose families cannot afford after school care, in the building recently donated by Shaw Industries, \$8,000
  - City of Refuge summer tutoring program, CORE Camp, \$1,000
  - Sharing is Caring (provides Christmas gifts for families who participate in household management and child rearing classes) \$3,000 plus donations of toys by congregation
  - Emery Center, providing education on African American heritage, \$1000
  - Montreat Conference Center, in appreciation for hosting retreat, \$1,000
- Response to the needs of those outside our congregation - the Greater Church
  - Members and friends who reside at Royal Oaks prepared personal hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and for Dalton's Family Crisis Center and City of Refuge, for which we committed \$1,000;
  - Donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance \$2,500 undesignated and \$3,000 for Refugee Emergencies
  - Donated \$2,000 to DOCUP (local crisis housing and utility assistance)
  - Donated \$2,000 to Friendship House (childcare for working poor)
  - Donated \$2,500 to Conasauga Drug Court for rehabilitation programs
  - Provided snacks for Hamilton Medical Center waiting rooms, supplies donated
  - Donated \$1,000 to The Greenhouse, the non-government funded arm of the court's victim-witness assistance program helping child victims of crime
  - Donated \$1,000 to Dalton College Birdfeeder, a food resource for students
  - Donated \$1,000 to Chattanooga Are Foodbank designated for Whitfield County
  - Donated \$1,000 to Providence Ministries for addiction counseling

## **6. Examples of Mission Activity Initiated Outside the Committee Meetings**

- Participation in Saturday Sacks (food for the weekend for children who depend on school meals)
- Distribution of knitted caps to newborns at Hamilton Medical Center, organized by Kathy Bridges
- Youth prepared and delivered Thanksgiving food baskets to City of Refuge clients and Christmas cookies for residents of Dalton Senior Housing

## **7. Ongoing Projects:**

- Blue Ridge School Book Club and food bags
- Seasonal book and food project for Joan Lewis Park neighborhood
- Dalton Senior Housing
- Hygiene kits for disaster relief
- Camp AIM
- Partnering with City of Refuge
- Attempting to add personal invitations and information to the already excellent media communications provided by our church
- International Mission – We plan to continue our connection with Biblioburro ( provides books and educational opportunities to children in remote areas of Colombia) and Will is in the process of exploring other opportunities to serve

1. **Team Description:** To provide the Session an organized approach in fulfilling its responsibilities to all the staff employed by the church.
2. **Team Chair:** Turner Plunkett      **New Team Chair:** Tate O’Gwin
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 770.402.8006      Email: [tateogwin@gmail.com](mailto:tateogwin@gmail.com)
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - February 13, 2018
  - May 8, 2018
  - August 14, 2018
  - October 9, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
  - Annual Church Staff Feedback
  - Appointed a new Vice Chair
  - Performed Annual Staff Evaluations
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
  - Continuation of FPC staff feedback process

1. **Team Description:** To relate our worship life to the total work and witness of our congregation.
2. **Team Chair:** Jeane Jones
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 770.597.7358 Email: jeanejones@mac.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
  - January 10, 2018
  - March 14, 2018
  - August 15, 2018
  - October 10, 2018
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
  - Added three new members to the team
  - Set up banners for special services: Christ the King, Pentecost
  - Draped the cross in the Commons for Lent and Easter
  - Set up Taize style worship for Maundy Thursday service
  - Provided palms for Palm Sunday
  - Set up flower crosses for Easter
  - Provided special communion breads for World Communion Sunday
  - Set up tartans for Reformation Sunday and co-ordinated the tartan processional
  - Provided candles for candlelight service on Christmas Eve
  - Worship and Liturgical Arts Teams sponsored participation in Varnell Elementary's butterfly project by encouraging our youngest members and youth in making about 200 paper butterflies.
  - Organized a system for maintaining necessary items for hymnal racks. A sanctuary team was formed to implement the system.
  - With Liturgical Arts, Worship Team held our first "in house" art show of members' art on display throughout the lower floor with the theme of "New Life".
  - Two training/refresher sessions on how to serve communion were led by Will.
  - The team relocated the harpsichord from the parlor to the choir loft to be used upon occasion in worship. It was played during the Bach cantata on Dec. 23.
  - The Liturgical Arts Team painted and provided a labyrinth to use on four evenings during Advent with the help and support of the Worship Team. Julie Johnson spoke on and directed use of the labyrinth at the Dec.2 Advent workshop.
  - The children of the church made paper stars which were added to strings of lights from the balcony to add to Advent worship.
  - Permission was gladly given to CE Team for the first graders and youth to participate as acolytes and for the youth to serve as ushers every 5th Sunday.
  - Purchased banner for baptisms.

## 6. Ongoing Projects:

- Providing ushers/greeters
- Lay readers
- Communion preparers
- Communion servers
- Maintaining all candles with liquid wax
- Maintaining hymnal racks with pens, pencils, cards, fellowship pads
- Through the Flower Team, providing flowers for worship every week and changing paraments according to the church season.
- Welcoming, introducing and assisting visiting pastors.
- Meeting quarterly to plan new tasks and to critique past worship services and matters related to worship.