



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **(2017-18)**

**The 152nd Annual Meeting of the  
Community Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Benicia, California**







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## *(2017-18)*



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**UNITED**  
in Christ's love,  
a **JUST** world for all.

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*The 152nd Annual Meeting of the  
Community Congregational  
Church  
United Church of Christ  
Benicia, California*







Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
Benicia, California

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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**LEADERSHIP TEAM 2017-2018****STAFF**

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm
Youth Leader	OPEN
Office Manager	Gina Marwick

**OFFICERS**

Moderator	Laura Pyles
Vice-Moderator	Leslie Lessenger
Church Clerk	Shelby Riddle
Financial Secretary	Nancy Gilman
Treasurer	Dale Olm

**Committee Chairs**

Building and Grounds Ministry	Nancy Gilman
Christian Education Ministry	By Committee
Congregational Care	Lanna McNeill
Fellowship	Keith & Laurie Read
Outreach & Missions	Nora Gauger
Stewardship Ministry	OPEN
Welcome and Growth	Donna Hill
Worship Ministry	Priscilla Lane
Member-At-Large	Hanna Hendrickson
Member-At-Large	Della Olm







## Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Community Congregational Church called me to be your pastor - the first full time Pastor in over 38 years. At the time Larry Schaffer, the chair of the search committee, joked that he had to guarantee I would stay for at least thirty years. At the time I laughed and said, "Let's just work on the first year." In April 2019 I will have served here 12 years, making me the longest serving pastor in this congregation's history. Being here this long means that I really know you, and you all really know me. We've been through ups and downs together, funerals and celebrations, births and rebirths... you know that I will be there for you or your family in crisis, and the church will hold together in my absence. You know that together we grow in new and different ways and can take on big and small projects. This past year and a half have shown us that.



In the last eighteen months, we have had an extremely strong council, even those who could only serve for a short time were helpful when they were on the council. As you will read in other reports we revitalized our sanctuary, our fellowship hall, our kitchen, our bathrooms our parking lot and our welcome. These areas became visibly more pleasing to the eye but they also tell a deeper and more meaningful story. We have been more serious about our welcome by cleaning up our "first impressions." Our goal was to have the "outsides" of our church match with who is on the "inside": Community Congregational Church members and friends are open, contemporary, informed, engaged, thinking, lively individuals. When you approached the church before the face lift you saw a lovely, dated place, with some very broken pews, a sanctuary floor in need of serious repair, a fellowship hall floor that no matter how much you scrubbed it, it never looked clean, and bathrooms that left much to be desired. Now when folks come in they focus on the people and are not distracted by the surroundings. Without the support of the whole church, none of this would have been possible. Everyone chipped in at different points, from the sharp looking bulletin boards to the sweet pictures hanging in the bathroom, the new flooring in the sanctuary to very comfortable chairs we now have, that allow us to have worship and flexibility for other events - dances and concerts etc. These changes were a group effort and we can now better serve our wider community. My gratitude goes out to each of you.

While all this work was in progress we still held 78 worship services along with all our other events like amazing fellowship, game nights, concerts, faith studies, and so much more. And we also moved our fiscal year to match the calendar year (which is why this year's Annual report covers 18 months). I think we had all our bases covered!

Through the grace of God and the generosity of Community Congregational Church I took a sabbatical in July of 2018 and visited over 20 UCC churches and interviewed the ministers and their members. My goal was to learn about their experiences of church growth. I meet with churches like ours, to hear their stories of how handled all the changes that have happened in the landscapes of their congregational lives. I listened for what worked for them, what didn't, what helped them, where they saw disconnect and where they saw true epiphanies and how they implemented them. I came back from this sabbatical with lots of insights. After many of the interviews I found I too had lots of insights to share, which underscored for me how amazing Community Congregational is.



On a final note, I'd like to take time in this Annual Report to share what I think makes Community Congregational so special and why I still feel so called to serve here. Often times when a group of people - like a church - come together, they focus on what pleases them, what has always worked, or what makes them happy. Community Congregational is different. CCCUCC is willing to stretch and reach new people. For instance, the new sanctuary and chairs: we made a space for the kids to sit on a blanket and color while they're in worship. From then on, we had a space for kids in our worship and parents with little ones love it. It makes them feel at home, and they know we truly do welcome "exuberant children." From our Mission & Outreach to Welcome we walk our talk, and that makes all the difference in the world. We may be a small church in our numbers but we are a mighty church in our LOVE, and for this and for so much more I give thanks! Finally, I am thankful for the great and gifted staff I am blessed to serve with.





## Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music



“Come Rejoice,” sung by Judy Collins, is weaving an aural spell around me as I prepare my report about CCC’s musical activities for 2017-18 (18 months, in the transition to a fiscal year that corresponds with the calendar year). Already a very resonant space, our sanctuary gained an added dimension with the replacement of the pews and the floor, making it a desirable venue for other groups wishing to perform here. Most important is the musical ministry that takes place here on a regular basis. The Sanctuary Choir sings the majority of Sundays September through June, with the additional commitment of a weekly choir rehearsal. While celebrating our wonderful new soundscape, we have experienced a growth spurt with the addition in fall 2018 of 3 bass voices, those of Andy Zinkevich, Todd Wolf, and Roger Reaber. We have also been blessed occasionally with the soprano voice of Mary Susan Gast and the alto voice of Laura Pyles.

The Women and Girls’ Chorus has sung at various services and also at the Christmas concert. The Children’s Choir, including even the smallest children, has delighted the congregation with their singing on several occasions. Both vocal and instrumental soloists have offered their contributions throughout the year, our instrumentalists comprising both the Instrumental Ensemble and the Christmas Ensemble. The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir has performed numerous times, both in worship and in the wider community, and they, too, have increased their roster. Jazz Gorilla continues to play for worship, for second Saturday, for the NCNC-UCC Annual Gathering, and for events in the community and at other churches. The Hippie Chicks have expanded with 2 new members to become The Hippie Chicks and Company. We also have a Celtic group, variously composed of fiddles, bass, guitar, mandolin, ukulele, flute, and keyboard; this group comprised the corps of musicians who accompanied a contra dance at CCC in October.

Our concert series has taken on new life in the last 18 months, with the addition of several concerts by the Vallejo Choral Society; a brass concert by Brazzissimo, a Bay Area brass chamber music ensemble; a rock concert by The Stolen Cars; a jazz concert by Matt Zebley’s The Oversize Quartet; and finally, a concert by SASS, the Soprano Alto Singers of Solano (formerly the Melody Choral Singers).

Your Minister of Music had a busy year of extended ministry as well. In April I accompanied the 10-state Interregional Disciples of Christ Women’s Retreat (WWOW!—Wild Women of the West) held in Scottsdale, AZ. My collection of hymn texts and tunes, *Table of Grace: Hymns and Short Songs*, was published by Hope Publishing Company in July. Presenting my collection this summer at the annual Hymn Society Conference in St. Louis was a dream come true for me and brings my goal of having congregations sing my hymns that much closer to fruition.



**Sanctuary Choir**

Mary Susan Gast (guest)  
Dean Gilman  
Priscilla Lane  
Cholé McGraw  
Laura Pyles (guest)  
Roger Reaber  
Jackie Sayles  
Deborah Shanks  
Marlan Shanks  
Susan Stofan  
Todd Wolf  
Andy Zinkevich  
*Barbara Hamm – Director*

**Women and Girls' Chorus**

Audrey Benton  
Lydia Benton  
Holly Thomas  
Meadow Thomas  
Maddie Vlnar  
Mary Susan Gast  
Nancy Gilman  
Priscilla Lane  
Cholé McGraw  
Laura Pyles  
Jackie Sayles  
Deborah Shanks  
Susan Stofan  
*Barbara Hamm – Director*

**Children's Choir & Youth Choir**

Annika Altman  
Audrey Benton  
(Co-Leader, Christmas concert)  
Lydia Benton  
Colin Cavagnuolo-Pyles  
(Co-Leader, Christmas concert)  
Erik Gallmeyer  
Elise Gallmeyer  
Avery Koehn  
Emmett Koehn  
Isla Koehn  
Colton Schultze  
Sage Schultze  
Ben Thomas  
Emma Thomas  
Holly Thomas  
Meadow Thomas  
Donnie Vlnar  
Maddie Vlnar  
*Barbara Hamm- Director*

**The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir**

Nancy Gilman  
Cholé McGraw  
Kathy Monroe  
Pat Obendorf  
Keith Read  
Laurie Read  
Deborah Shanks  
Kim Webb  
*Leslie Lessenger – Director*

**Instrumentalists**

Liz Cleves – guitar  
Carlene Coury - ukulele  
Dean Gilman – bass  
Leslie Lessenger – flute  
Adam Olm – fiddle  
Dale Olm – mandolin  
Shelby Riddle – clarinet, fiddle  
Marilyn Scrutchins – guitar  
Deborah Shanks – guitar, harp, organ, piano  
Susan Stofan - autoharp  
Barbara Hamm – piano, organ

**The Hippie Chicks and Company**

Liz Cleves – guitar, banjo, vocals  
Carlene Coury – percussion, vocals  
Marilyn Scrutchins – guitar, vocals  
Dean Gilman - bass

**Jazz Gorilla**

Dean Gilman – bass, vocals  
Shelby Riddle – clarinet  
Barbara Hamm – piano, vocals



## Moderator

Laura Pyles

The last time I sat down to write to you all at the end of my first term as Moderator, it was August 2017. Now, in looking back these 30 months since I took this position, I note how faithfully we continue to live into our journey together as a church. I am grateful to have walked with you along the way.

I like to say we are small but mighty. Collectively, the work we do together creates light in dark spaces. I wrote these words for our last annual review, and they resonate with me still: *...I am reminded time and again of how deep our faith in God and our commitment to social justice remain strong, even during difficult times. Our efforts are realized in the smiles of the children, through the eyes of a hungry person receiving a hot breakfast, by hands caked with soil pulling weeds on a Saturday morning, from a cup of coffee offered in fellowship, of song rising with dappled sunlight through redwoods, in the footfalls of the weary finding solace in our sanctuary. Each instance met with kindness and with love.*

I am thankful for the dedicated people who serve on our church, especially our Council. Each member puts head, heart, and soul into their commitment as leaders. All actions and decisions made are founded their sincere passion for the health and well-being of this enterprise. Also, thank you, the many volunteers who contribute their time, talents, and treasures to the operations, ministries, and many activities that serve our community. And throughout all of this, Pastor Renie has held us in loving prayer. Her steadfast guidance and sage advice are ready companions, and I am ever grateful for her walking with us.

As I take my leave of this post, these are the things I bring with me. We are the church. Love is our mission. All are welcome here.

I continue in my journey now with our Mission & Outreach team, for which I am excited to serve along with our new Moderator and Council. I invite you to join in the conversations and plans for 2019. As always, I remain,

Yours in gratitude,

Laura Pyles





**Clerk**

Shelby Riddle

**Baptisms**

Rhys Anderson Olm - June 3, 2018

**Weddings**

None

**New Members (9)**

4/1/18

Carlene Coury

Ed Dieden

Kathy Dieden

Pat Obendorf

Bobby Schultze

Shannon Schultze

Nancy Purtle

Deborah Shanks

Marlan Shanks

**Membership Withdrawn**

Jan Wong

**Transferred Membership**

Rev. Jerry Alan Walton

Rev. Carol Brubaker Walton

**Deceased**

Karen Updyke

**Members Placed on the Inactive List (24)**

Cox, Betty 03/23/1986

Kravets, Rob 04/12/1998

Kravets, Kathleen 4/12/1998

Mason, Carl 11/14/1999

Mason, Gail 11/14/1999

Parsons, Natalie 06/03/2007

Eubank, Eileen 12/02/2007

Scott, Mickey 06/01/2008

Hanna, Mathew 05/17/2009

Watson, Lance 10/04/2009

Esparza, Jill 6/27/2010

Hawthorne, Heidi 3/20/2011

Herr, Liberty 5/15/2011

Brisena, Sophia 5/15/2011

Brisena, Isabelle 5/15/2011

Green, Jennifer 4/8/2012

Beatson, Leslie 4/8/2012

Otero, Dylan 4/8/2012

Atuatasi, Anna 03/23/2014

Atuatasi, Sione 03/23/2014

Nemcik, Tanya (Thompson) 03/23/2014

May, Carol 03/23/2014

Morgado, Felecia 09/30/2015

Morgado, Sarah 09/30/2015

**Total Members**June 30, 2015 - **109**June 30, 2016 - **112**June 30, 2017 - **108**Dec. 31, 2018 - **89**



**MEMBER JOIN DATE**

July 2017-Dec. 2018

<b><u>Member Name</u></b>	<b><u>Join Date</u></b>	<b><u>Member Name</u></b>	<b><u>Join Date</u></b>
Mortensen, Eleanor	11/21/1954	Nancy Schaffer	12/21/2008
Burns, Karen	8/16/1955	Hanna, Christopher	05/17/2009
Estey, Frances	3/25/1956	Cooper, Brent	06/14/2009
Estment (Wyatt), Patricia	10/9/1959	McDonald, Reiko	06/14/2009
Stephens, Carol	11/4/1964	Ensminger, Veronica	10/04/2009
Stofan, Susan	2/24/1974	Blackie, Stuart	1/24/2010
Hammonds, Maryo	9/15/1974	Gauger, Eleanor (Nora)	1/24/2010
Hammonds, Sam	9/15/1974	Thomas, Tricia	1/24/2010
Martin, Pam	10/22/1978	Aldritt, Nancy	3/20/2011
Osada, Carolyn	6/8/1980	Kidder, Natalie	3/20/2011
Scrutchins, Marilyn	6/7/1981	Stauffer, Cheryle	3/20/2011
Lane, Priscilla	12/5/1982	Goad, Carla	3/20/2011
Hutchins, Patricia	10/16/1983	Dolter, Jean	3/20/2011
Read, Laurie	2/17/1985	Dolter, Bill	3/20/2011
Read, Keith	2/17/1985	Cooper, Kieran	5/15/2011
Sayles, Jackie	4/5/1987	Stamm-Kirk, Katie	5/15/2011
Koehn, Rebecca	05/07/1995	Cavagnuolo, Michelle	4/8/2012
Smith (Read), Robyn	5/31/1998	Daffern, Tracy	4/8/2012
Olm, Dale	9/27/1998	Hill, Donna	4/8/2012
Conway, Debbie	4/25/1999	Pyles, Laura	4/8/2012
Murrell, Janet	11/14/1999	Vlnar, Eric	4/8/2012
Taylor, Penny	11/14/1999	Vlnar, Maria	4/8/2012
Thomas, Jett	1/16/2000	Benton, Audrey	6/10/2012
Thomas, Milly	1/16/2000	Daffern, Kyle	6/10/2012
Blackie, Leslie	7/30/2000	Daffern, Natalie	6/10/2012
Blackie, Jonathan	7/30/2000	Mitchell, Karyna	6/10/2012
McGraw, Chol��	2/25/2001	Thomas, Debra	01/18/2015
Cox, Daniel	05/12/2002	Olm, Della	01/18/2015
Cox, Regina	05/12/2002	Riggs, Trudy	01/18/2015
Massey (Read), Kristen	05/12/2002	Tubiello Riggs, Jennifer	01/18/2015
Sindt, Cassidy	05/12/2002	Gast, Rev Mary Susan	01/18/2015
Hamm , Barbara	06/30/2002	Straw, Rev Roger	01/18/2015
Gilman, Nancy	07/20/2003	Cleves, Liz	09/30/2015
Watson, Jim	07/20/2003	Farrell, Moira	09/30/2015
Benton, Graham	01/25/2004	Towery, Faune	09/30/2015
Thompson, Sarah	01/25/2004	Coury, Carlene	04/01/2018
Gilman, Dean	12/12/2004	Dieden, Ed	04/01/2018
Olm, Sam	05/15/2005	Dieden, Kathy	04/01/2018
Blackie, Lindsay	05/15/2005	Obendorf, Pat	04/01/2018
Schaffer, Larry	05/07/2006	Schultze, Bobby	04/01/2018
Stamm-Kirk, Rev Renie	06/03/2007	Schultze, Shannon	04/01/2018
Riddle, Shelby	06/03/2007	Purtle, Nancy	04/01/2018
Olm, Adam	06/03/2007	Shanks, Deborah	04/01/2018
Stamm-Kirk, Allison	12/02/2007	Shanks, Marlan	04/01/2018
Lessenger, Jim	06/01/2008		
Lessenger, Leslie	06/01/2008		



## Financial Secretary

Nancy Gilman

Community Congregational Church, UCC - Benicia CA  
Donations Account Balances (07/01/2017 - 06/30/2018)

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

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Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<b>Giving Accounts</b>		
060 - Pledges - Current Year	115,966.50	115,966.50
061 - Pledges - Paid Advance Next Year	23,348.16	23,348.16
065 - Parishioner Contributions	7,554.16	7,554.16
067 - Donation In Kind	1,823.41	1,823.41
071 - Building Use - Other	2,335.00	2,335.00
073 - Building Use - Playing To Learn	30,728.28	30,728.28
074 - Bldg Use, PTL Utilities	5,940.00	5,940.00
075 - PTL - Building Use - Property Tax	1,615.00	1,615.00
076 - PTL Donation for Maintenance	560.00	560.00
085 - Fundraiser - Stewardship	4,185.00	4,185.00
087 - Fundraiser - Crab Feed	4,638.00	4,638.00
098 - Refunds & Misc Deposits	1,991.69	1,991.69
110 - Mission & Outreach Funds	2,222.00	2,222.00
404 - Strengthen the Church (UCC)	50.00	50.00
409 - Puente de la Costa Sur	140.00	140.00
412 - Xmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	570.05	570.05
426 - Feeding Friends on the Street	420.00	420.00
600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	23,913.70	23,913.70
604 - Building & Grounds - Charitable Bequests	100.00	100.00
610 - New Sound System	4,000.00	4,000.00
612 - Sanctuary Chairs	8,849.50	8,849.50
613 - Sanctuary Flooring	10,704.00	10,704.00
703 - Concert Series (Music Series)	175.00	175.00
708 - Pastor Restricted Fund	800.00	800.00
711 - Weekend in the Trees	8,740.00	8,740.00
712 - FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget	455.00	455.00
713 - Worship Ministry Committee	100.00	100.00
714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	1,715.00	1,715.00
718 - Handbells	100.00	100.00
724 - Pastor Exp - contributions	3,650.00	3,650.00
725 - Special Renovation Projects	1,000.00	1,000.00
726 - Holiday House	90.00	90.00
801 - Special Fellowship Events	993.21	993.21
<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$269,472.66</b>	<b>\$269,472.66</b>

Count: 33

Period: 07/01/2017 - 06/30/2018

Year: 2017



**Community Congregational Church, UCC - Benicia CA**  
**Donations Account Balances (07/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)**

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

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Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<b><i>Giving Accounts</i></b>		
059 - Previous fiscal year pledges	550.00	550.00
060 - Pledges - Current Year	51,482.37	51,482.37
065 - Parishioner Contributions	6,578.68	6,578.68
067 - Donation In Kind	2,397.17	2,397.17
071 - Building Use - Other	1,250.00	1,250.00
073 - Building Use - Playing To Learn	15,960.00	15,960.00
074 - Bldg Use, PTL Utilities	3,000.00	3,000.00
075 - PTL - Building Use - Property Tax	450.00	450.00
076 - PTL Donation for Maintenance	300.00	300.00
087 - Fundraiser - Crab Feed	600.00	600.00
110 - Mission & Outreach Funds	971.00	971.00
208 - NCNC/UCC Share	100.00	100.00
412 - Xmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	624.00	624.00
426 - Feeding Friends on the Street	325.00	325.00
600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	8,747.63	8,747.63
605 - Capital Improvements	1,490.00	1,490.00
703 - Concert Series (Music Series)	186.00	186.00
704 - Music Program Fund (Barbara's)	50.00	50.00
705 - Christian Ed / Sunday School	66.00	66.00
708 - Pastor Restricted Fund	25.00	25.00
711 - Weekend in the Trees	2,206.00	2,206.00
712 - FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget	100.00	100.00
714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	830.00	830.00
725 - Special Renovation Projects	1,592.10	1,592.10
802 - Special Church Events	64.00	64.00
<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$99,944.95</b>	<b>\$99,944.95</b>

**Count: 25****Period: 07/01/2018 - 12/31/2018****Year: 2018**



## Treasurer

Dale Olm



Since our last Annual Report in June 2017, the church changed from a fiscal year beginning July 1 (ending the following June 30) to a calendar fiscal year running from January 1 to December 31. The following reports are therefore broken into a July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 period and a 6-month transitional July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 period. Thus, the transitional period only represents one half of a normal fiscal year.

Changing the fiscal year to align with the calendar year has many advantages, including simplifying tax year charitable contribution reporting, simplifying payroll recording and reporting, reducing confusion over pledging commitments and aligning us with our

Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC.

Fiscally, the church is stable, with net cash reserves of \$24,906. Expenses average about \$18,000 per month, so the cash reserves represent about 1.4 months. We have been meeting our loan payments for the campus renovation/parking lot. This Fall, we hired a part-time custodial service after a hiatus of over a year and a need for infant/child care was satisfied by contracting with Playing to Learn Day Care to provide nursery services on Sunday.

The Financial Secretary report indicate more funds were received by the church than is indicated in the revenue reported in the Treasurer report. This is due to funds received which were not included in budgetary revenue and which go into restricted accounts (such as the Weekend in the Trees retreat and pledges paid in advance).

During the last one and a half years, our revenue has exceeded our expenses despite predicted deficit budgets. Several factors contributed to this. There have been severe cutbacks in budgets for many committees compared to previous years (including, music, worship, Christian education, stewardship, welcome and Congregational care), frozen staff salaries, cancellation of the custodial service for 16 months (and relying on volunteer service from the congregation), and a several month delay in hiring our current office manager (also volunteer supported). Many expenses were covered using funds from restricted accounts and by individuals in the congregation.

Dale Olm, Treasurer





## Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia

## Balance Sheet Summary (End of Current Fiscal Year vs End of Last FY)

As of December 31, 2018 (Transitional Fall 2018 Fiscal Year and June 30, 2018 (Old 2017-2018 July to June Fiscal Year)

	CURRENT TRANSITIONAL HALF YEAR			LAST JULY TO JUNE FISCAL YEAR		
	Dec 31, 18	Jun 30, 18	\$ Change	Jun 30, 18	Jun 30, 17	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Current Assets						
Checking/Savings						
US Bank 2241	15,446	52,120	-36,674	52,120	9,001	43,119
Payroll Services Direct Deposit	-1	0	-1	0	0	0
Cornerstone CD#9002 2/5/12	16,768	16,613	155	16,613	16,106	507
Cornerstone CD#9003 2/9/12	32,537	32,216	321	32,216	31,576	640
Cornerstone CD#3	10,099	0	10,099	0	0	0
Vanguard Federal MMF	112	3,090	-2,977	3,090	12,976	-9,887
Total Checking/Savings	74,960	104,038	-29,078	104,038	69,659	34,379
Other Current Assets						
Petty Cash Accounts	171	171	0	171	171	0
Total Other Current Assets	171	171	0	171	171	0
Total Current Assets	75,131	104,209	-29,078	104,209	69,830	34,379
Other Assets						
Campus Renovation 2015	329,704	332,655	-2,951	332,655	338,472	-5,817
Total Other Assets	329,704	332,655	-2,951	332,655	338,472	-5,817
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>404,835</b>	<b>436,864</b>	<b>-32,029</b>	<b>436,864</b>	<b>408,302</b>	<b>28,562</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Other Current Liabilities						
Payroll Tax liabilities	91	192	-101	192	511	-319
Total Other Current Liabilities	91	192	-101	192	511	-319
Total Current Liabilities	91	192	-101	192	511	-319
Long Term Liabilities						
Cornerstone Loan - Parking Lot	329,522	332,655	-3,134	332,655	338,472	-5,817
Total Long Term Liabilities	329,522	332,655	-3,134	332,655	338,472	-5,817
Total Liabilities	329,612	332,847	-3,235	332,847	338,983	-6,136
Equity						
Pastor Restricted Fund	490	566	-77	566	1,188	-621
Total of All M&O Funds	8,335	6,296	2,040	6,296	7,156	-860
Bequests - Cap Impr. Fund	4,692	8,515	-3,823	8,515	9,593	-1,079
Capital Improvements - General	1,720	4,295	-2,575	4,295	2,228	2,067
Capital Impr. Special Projects	4,650	5,050	-400	5,050	462	4,588
Sabbatical set aside (accrued)	10,716	18,217	-7,501	18,217	14,513	3,704
Pledges Paid in Adv (use sub)	9,200	23,348	-14,148	23,348	0	23,348
Set-asides for current yr exp's	248	294	-46	294	853	-559
Special Restricted Equity Accts	10,266	14,698	-4,432	14,698	8,458	6,240
Net Assets	12,882	20,964	-8,081	20,964	35,537	-14,573
Net Income	12,023	1,774	10,249	1,774	-10,669	12,443
Total Equity	75,223	104,017	-28,794	104,017	69,319	34,698
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>404,835</b>	<b>436,864</b>	<b>-32,029</b>	<b>436,864</b>	<b>408,302</b>	<b>28,562</b>
NET CASH RESERVES	24,906	22,738	2,168	22,738	24,868	-2,129



Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia  
 Revenue and Expense Budget vs. Actual  
 July through December 2018 Transitional Half Year  
 July 2017 to June 2018 Old Fiscal Year

	CURRENT TRANSITIONAL HALF FISCAL YEAR				LAST JULY '17 to JUNE '18 FISCAL YEAR			
	Jul - Dec 18	Budget	\$ Over or	% of Budget	Jul '17 - Jun 18	Budget	\$ Over or	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense								
Income								
Loose Offering - Parish Contrib	6,579	3,745	2,834	176%	7,554	6,590	964	115%
Pledges - Operations & Ministri	64,561	62,560	2,001	103%	115,697	117,090	-1,394	99%
Pledges - Cap Improvement Fund	10,868	12,373	-1,505	88%	24,484	23,320	1,164	105%
Cap Improvement Fund - non-pled	1,490							
Trans-> Cap Imp & Loan Pmt Fund	1,046	-1,410	2,456	-74%	-2,355	-773	-1,582	305%
Use of Building	20,766	20,372	394	102%	41,004	39,663	1,341	103%
Fundraisers	0	2,752	-2,752	0%	5,034	4,500	534	112%
Transf Equity/Reserves to Rev.	11,205	11,290	-85	99%	5,704	3,704	2,000	154%
Other sources of funding (int.)	597	330	267	181%	1,261	1,023	238	123%
Cornerstone Interest Rebate	0	846	-846	0%	1,692	1,719	-27	98%
Total Income	117,110	112,858	4,252	104%	200,074	196,836	3,238	102%
Expense								
B & G - Utilities	6,674	7,107	-433	94%	13,151	11,738	1,413	112%
B & G Custodial	1,800	3,000	-1,200	60%	0	0	0	0%
B & G- Maintenance & Janitorial	2,717	2,067	650	131%	3,987	5,515	-1,528	72%
B& G-Taxes	813	372	441	218%	744	734	10	101%
Insurance- Property	3,655	3,516	139	104%	7,051	6,794	256	104%
Loan Payoff	11,091	11,273	-182	98%	22,547	22,547	0	100%
Christian Education & Youth	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
Fellowship	407	262	145	155%	621	1,150	-529	54%
Music, Adult & Youth Choirs	225	162	63	139%	324	343	-19	94%
Stewardship	30				0	0	0	0%
Mission, Outreach & UCC Support	3,353	3,128	225	107%	6,011	5,855	156	103%
Welcome (Growth)	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
Worship	0	48	-48	0%	97	360	-263	27%
Finance & Administration & IT	2,296	1,987	309	116%	4,002	3,875	127	103%
Office/Computer/Copier Supplies	2,082	1,839	243	113%	3,564	3,083	481	116%
Professional Expenses	340	170	170	200%	493	790	-297	62%
Sabbatical budgeted set aside	1,852	1,852	0	100%	3,704	3,704	0	100%
Nursery and Childcare Provider	552	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0%
Staff	69,597	77,030	-7,433	90%	133,538	133,442	96	100%
Total Expense	107,484	113,813	-6,329	94%	199,832	199,930	-98	100%
Net Ordinary Income	9,626	-955	10,581	-1008%	242	-3,095	3,336	-8%



## Building and Grounds

Nancy Gilman

It has been a very busy year for CCCUCC. We have made major improvements to our sanctuary with installation of flooring and removal of pews and purchasing new chairs. New flooring in the fellowship hall. The bathroom revitalization, including painting. We hired a cleaning company that comes in twice a month. Had Vallejo Choral Society concerts, our own Christmas Concert, Contra Dancing, Thanksgiving Feast, service auction, Tuesday morning Dominos, Thursday evening AA group in fellowship hall, Saturday work days, mid-week work days, faith study, worship services, various meetings, coloring of banners for Advent and fellowship every Sunday after worship. Wow....I'm sure I missed some.

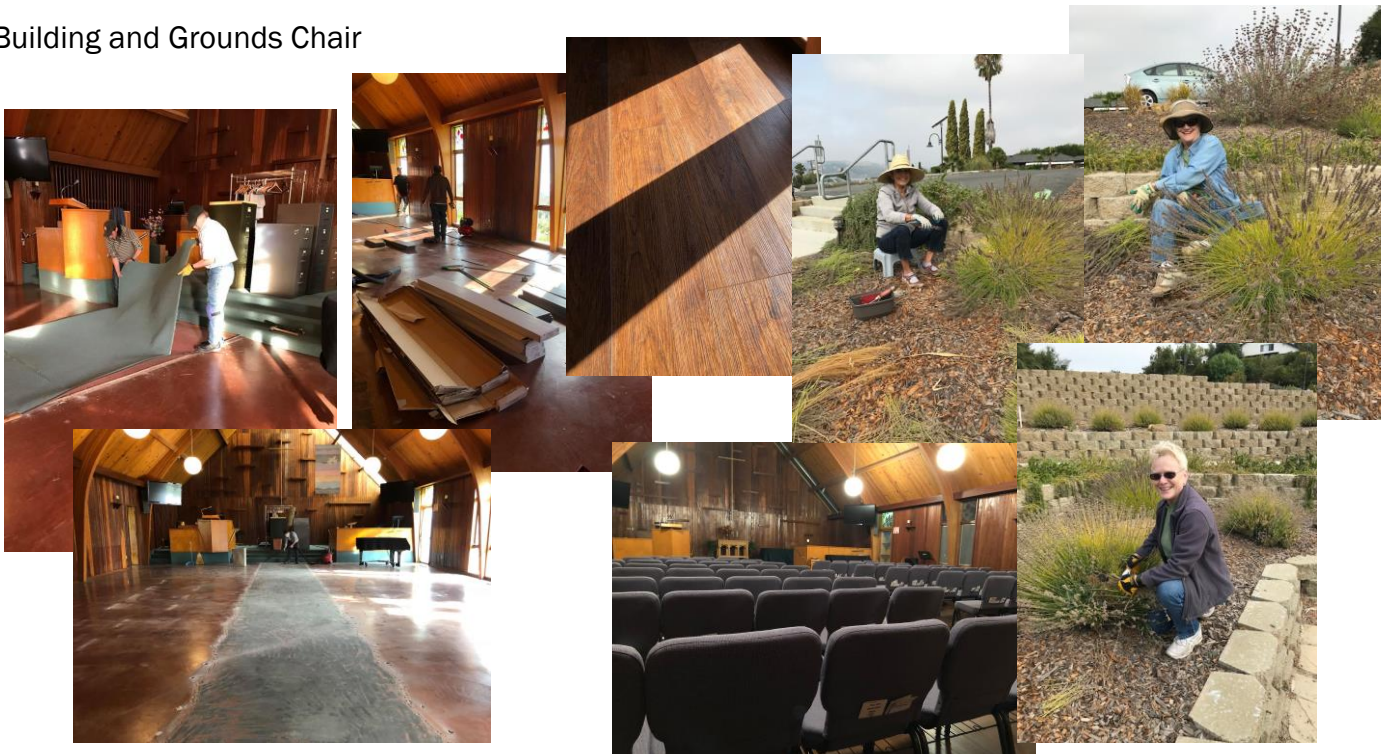
All of this is possible through your giving in pledges, in the collection plate, fundraising and giving your time to do the work that needs to be done. Thanks to all of you who come in and clean bathrooms, sweep and wash floors, wash windows, weed, plant flowers, fix and maintain our sprinkler system, make food for our work days, decorate the sanctuary, make Costco runs to make sure we have coffee for Sunday mornings and stock the kitchen and bathrooms with everything we need, and those who show up and ask what needs to be done. Your donations help us hire Genesis House to come once a month to do a lot of the heavy work we can't do.

As you can see, it takes many hands to make our building ready for Worship every week. You may not see this happening, but it is a weekly job. We truly have the best congregation! And thank you to Jim Lessenger for all you do and for making sure we keep on top of what needs to be done.

Submitted by

Nancy Gilman

Building and Grounds Chair





## Christian Education

Dale Olm

Sunday school was held following the children's sermon in worship on all Sundays except the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday). Starting in October of 2018, Sunday School was held every Sunday, including the first Sunday. Average attendance was 5 children per Sunday ranging from one to 11.

Seasons of the Spirit Encore Curriculum was used in 2017/2018. The Curriculum was changed to Whole People of God in the Summer of 2018.

During Sunday School, we take an offering. During the Fall of 2018, the children elected to use the money collected from offerings to help Mission and Outreach buy rubber rain boots for the children of Puente de la Costa Sur.

In October of 2018, we arranged with Playing to Learn Child Care to provide nurse and infant care during the worship service.

Thanks to all our volunteer teachers: Nora Gauger, Deborah Thomas, Dale Olm, Jan Wong, Liz Cleves, Marilyn Scrutchins, Laura Pyles, and Nancy Gilman.

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted teachers: Meadow Thomas, Kim Osborn, Adam Olm, Della Olm, Jim Lessenger, Priscilla Lane, Hanna Hendrickson, and Karyna Mitchell.

Dale Olm





## Fellowship

Keith & Laurie Read

The co-chairs of this committee were Laurie and Keith Read. The committee members were Nancy Gilman, Susan Stofan and Lanna McNeill. We would like to thank the generous members of the congregation who volunteered to provide food as well as doing set-up and clean-up for fellowship. Several people opted to donate funds, rather than to provide food.

The enjoyment of the congregation was observed by an increase in how long people stayed to converse and eat treats each Sunday. Events, such as the Thanksgiving Feast, had significantly increased attendance. The Fellowship Committee coordinated and/or provided food at the following events:

Congregational Meeting Potluck-January  
Service Auction Potluck  
Monthly "Cookie Sundays"  
Congregational Meeting Potluck-June  
Homecoming Sunday  
Picnic for the End of the Interim Pastor's Term  
Celebration for the Pastor's Return from Sabbatical  
Thanksgiving Feast  
Some Building and Grounds Work Day Lunches  
Annual Meeting Potluck

Respectfully submitted by Laurie and Keith Read





## Mission and Outreach Annual Report

Nora Gauger

The Mission and Outreach Committee of our church has been busy this past 18 months carrying out our commitment to follow the example of Jesus and serve those in need both here locally and throughout the world. My thanks especially for our wonderful, hard-working committee: Janet Murrell, Penny Taylor, Debbie Thomas, Nancy Gillman, Pat Obendorf, with lots of support from Rev. Renie, the Council and the congregation.

With the 5% of the pledges reserved for Mission and Outreach, our committee has been able to send money to a wide variety of causes they have determined our church will support.

- We started the year with a special offering to the UCC Justice and Witness Ministry supporting the UCC's active participation in the effort to prevent violence at Charlottesville during August, 2017.
- We have allocated money to the "Five for Five" special funds our denomination sponsors: Our Church's Wider Mission, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, and the Christmas Eve offering to the Christmas Fund (for assistance to pastors in need).
- We also sent money to Planned Parenthood of Vallejo, the San Francisco Night Ministry, to the Campfire victims (through our NCNC conference) and, partnering with our Sunday School, to Puente de la Costa Sur for rainboots for the children of the farmworkers they serve. We also sent a donation to our partner church, the Greek Orthodox church in Vallejo, which has faithfully cooked for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday program, when much of their cooking equipment was stolen this last fall.



In addition, the committee has worked to ensure that we have vital, local, hands-on missions our congregation can be involved in:



- Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Breakfast for our friends on the street would not be possible without Penny Taylor, Janet Murrell and the many volunteers who each month supply all the ingredients for a full healthy breakfast and are there to serve it and/or provide music and fellowship to make the event special. Thanks also to Debbie Thomas who oversees the handing out the clothes and supplies we have for our homeless.
- At Christmas, Nancy Gillman presents our congregation with Benicia families lacking the financial resources for Christmas gifts, request that are quickly signed up for by our congregation and distributed to the families in need.
- Also at Christmas, the congregation also generously underwrites our "Instead of Poinsettias" fund which supplies money we use to buy new underwear, tarps, hats, gloves, etc. for our homeless which we use to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Sunday.
- At Easter, we do the same thing—instead of Lilies this time, we decorate with starter baskets (and sometimes layettes) for aged-out foster youth placed in apartments by First Place for Youth—once again funded by donations from the congregation.



- Summer means our annual project to supply backpacks for the children of farmworkers on the coast near Pescadero. Thanks to Pat Obendorf who works with Puente de la Costa Sur, the non-profit who serves this impoverished community—and to our congregation who signs up to purchase the items needed and then together packs the backpack Sunday before we take them down to Pescadero.

We are grateful to the many partners (mentioned above) whose help makes these missions possible—two others we should also mention are The Solano County Food Bank which supplies containers for our month-long food drive (also assisted by *Playing to Learn*), and the Benicia Public Library which between Thanksgiving and Christmas collects coats we pick up and distribute to the Homeless.

Nora Gauger  
Chairperson





## Stewardship

Committee members: The budget committee doubled as stewardship. Many hands assisted with fundraisers. The fall stewardship campaign chair was Leslie Lessenger and great assistance by Nancy Gilman and Rev. Renie.

A Festival of Music in October 2017 raised money to pay for rehabilitation of the sanctuary. Our Crab Feed in February 2018 raised \$848.91 and \$1655 from the auction, and a raucous service auction in May 2018 raised \$2530 for the general fund.

Community Congregational Church continues to be a 5 for 5 UCC Special Offering church, each year sending funds to Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund.

Our stewardship theme for 2018 was "Everything is possible!" Because of the change in fiscal year, our spring campaign encouraged members to increase their giving by 10% and to sign up for automatic payment through their bank or Vanco. In the fall letters of thanks were sent to those who had responded to the request to increase giving. Everyone who had contributed during the year received a hand-addressed letter with their pledge card. "Everything is possible!" means this little church can do great things.

We are pleased to report that with pledges from 39 family units the 2019 budget includes \$135,096 for the General Fund and \$22,824 for the Capital Improvement Fund (total \$157,920). This represents a 12% increase in total pledges over June 2017. We have 4 new pledging family units.





## Worship

Priscilla Lane

This year the worship committee consisted of Renie Kirk, Barbara Hamm, Nancy Gilman, Marilyn Scrutchins, Deborah Shanks, and Priscilla Lane. Leslie Lessenger, vice moderator, supported us by attending most meetings. Donna Hill lent her creative ideas for Lent and Advent.

Meeting monthly, except for April, we planned worship for four Sundays at a time as well as looking ahead to the different liturgical seasons. Renie, our pastor, planned the themes and texts months in advance and Barbara, our music minister, met with Renie to go over music each Sunday. Then the committee would discuss aspects of the services to bring the texts to life such as having special music, videos, other visuals, congregation participation, and rearrangement of the sanctuary. Some of our ideas for worship enhancement were: tying people together to demonstrate “what affects you affects me”, having people place rose petals in a bowl of water, having a tent/shelter and lantern scenario, a school scene, a home scene with rocking chair and pillows, and bricks to symbolize the fallen temple in Jerusalem. Of course, the sanctuary during Lent, Pentecost, and Advent brought bigger visual changes.

Early in the year we talked about not being a mediocre church and started on revitalizing worship. We want our services to be seamless from one part to the next. A step we took was to begin training our liturgists. Another step was to make sure the microphone use was easy and consistent for all. In addition, some members of the committee were trained in how to operate the sound system, computer, and tv screens for the times when our “IT” person, Renie, is gone.

From June 19 to September 4, our pastor was on Sabbatical. The Reverend Susan Meeter was with us during that time. She worked closely with this committee in planning the worship services and her time with us was positive, spirit filled, and enjoyable. We were thankful for her ministry with us.

Deborah Shanks has so easily and willingly played for our services during times when Barbara was gone. She has also directed the choir on numerous occasions. Also, when Barbara was gone this summer, organist Kevin Manz kindly agreed to play for us. Our own The Reverend Doctor Mary Susan Gast filled in for Renie several times this year gracing us with beautiful words of wisdom. We are grateful for Deborah’s, Kevin’s and Mary Susan’s help.

Heartfelt thanks go to Jett and Millie Thomas for donating \$100 to this committee so that we could have fresh flowers for many Sundays this year.

Our worship services have been enhanced by all the acolytes, ushers, and liturgists who volunteered their services week after week this year. Thank you.

One last shout out of appreciation goes to the worship committee, a group of people whose dedication, creativity, and sense of spirituality has started us on a journey to great worship services.

Respectfully submitted by Priscilla Lane, Worship Chairperson





## The Rolling Tones - Handbells

Leslie Lessenger

The Rolling Tones completed our 10<sup>th</sup> year. We reprised "Noah and the Ark" and continued to expand our repertoire. Outside venues included 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at the park in Vallejo (2017, 2018), Melody Choral Singers Christmas Concert (2017) and the Benicia Rotary Club (2018). We accompanied the choir on several pieces and added instruments such as flute, clarinet and harp.

Repertoire included:

Gloria, Alleluia! by Diana Meux

Still, Still, Still, arr: Bill Dugger

Pas et Medio (w/ Deborah Shanks, harp; Leslie Lessenger, flute; and Shelby Riddle, clarinet)

Holy, Holy, Holy, arr. by Kevin McChesney

Festive Praise, by Susan Geschke.

Rise to Meet the Sun, by Le P'ing

Procession, by Kevin McChesney

Christ Is Risen," by Pote (with choir)

Noah's Ark by Tammy Waldrop

Dona Nobis Pacem; arr. Blanche Marie Lewis (trio)

Alleluia, arr. Howard Gould (quartet)

Jubilate, AMEN" by Ruby Shaw Hollis

Sing with Hearts by Intako, arr. Martha Thompson

Thanks be to God (with choir)

Cantate Domino (with choir)

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella, 17th century French carol, arr. Cathy Moglebust

Pat-a-pan, Burgundian Carol, arr by Barbara B. Kinyon



Members are: Nancy Gilman, Kathy Monroe, Kim Webb, Pat Obendorf, Laurie Read, Keith Read, Chol  McGraw and Deborah Dahl Shanks. Leslie Lessenger, Director.





## Congregational Care

Lanna McNeill

Committee Chair Lanna McNeill and Committee Members Laurie Reed and Hannah Hendrickson comprised the main Committee.

Birthday Card Committee Team members comprised of Lanna McNeill, Marilyn Scrutchins, Hannah Hendrickson, Pam Martin, Penny Taylor and Carlene Coury distributed Birthday cards throughout the year via US post office and a few electronically.

Overall during this past year:

100+ BIRTHDAY CARDS sent to Congregation

75+ SUPPORT & CELEBRATION CARDS sent to Congregation

48+ OUT REACH CALLS & EMAILS to Congregation

3 MEALS / ASSISTANCE OUT REACH Support to Congregation

There is so much more to be done. Thank you for the honor and privilege to have this opportunity to be part of a very important and vital Committee. Support and communication are critical in an ongoing effort. Warm welcome to incoming Chair.

Grace and blessings,

Submitted by:

Lanna G. McNeill 12/17/18





## LEADERSHIP TEAM 2019

Nominating Committee  
Leslie Lessenger and Pastor Renie

### STAFF

Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Youth Leader  
Office Manager

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk  
Dr. Barbara Hamm  
Vacant Due to Budget  
Laurie Lopez

### OFFICERS

Moderator  
Vice-Moderator  
Church Clerk  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer

Leslie Lessenger  
Shelby Riddle  
Deborah Shanks  
Nancy Gilman  
Dale Olm

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry

Jim Lessenger  
Nancy Gilman

Christian Education Ministry

Open

Congregational Care

Carolyn Osada

Fellowship

Open

Mission & Outreach

Laura Pyles

Stewardship Ministry

Open

Welcome and Growth

Pat Obendorf & Nora Gauger

Worship Ministry

Pricilla Lane & Marilyn Scrutchins

Member-At-Large

Kathy Dieden





## Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	<b>Community Congregational Church UCC</b>										
2	<b>of Benicia</b>				<b>2018</b>	<b>Proposed</b>		2018 Crosses the old and new			
3	<b>Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019</b>				<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>		fiscal budget years (half of			
4	<b>(January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019)</b>				<b>R&amp;E</b>	<b>2019</b>		2017/2018 FY and Fall 2018)			
5					Jan to Dec.						
6											
7	<b>Funding (Operations and Ministries)</b>										
8	Refunds & misc. deposits				0	0					
9	Loose Offering				10,139	6590	estimated non-pledged contributions				
10	Pledges				123,108	135,096					
11	Capital Improvement Pledges & donations				24,139	22,824	pledged contrib. to loan & cap. Improv.				
12	Use of Building				41,540	43,159	PTL, 12 Step groups;				
13	Fundraisers				5,034	4,500					
14	Transfer from Reserves & Restricted accounts				15,057	3,704	to cover sabbatical set aside and sabbatical minister				
15	Transfer to(-)/from(+) Cap Imprvmt/Parking Lot				937	-277	excess of pledges to Cap Imp Fund for loan payment				
16	Other funding (interest +)				3,034	2,770	CD Interest & rebate on loan interest				
17	Grants				0	0					
18	<b>Total Revenues</b>				<b>222,988</b>	<b>218,366</b>					
19	<b>Expense (Operations and Ministries)</b>										
20	B&G - Utilities				13,062	14,367	shared by PTL				
21	B&G - Custodial (contract)				1,800	7,200	New Custodial contract Fall 2018				
22	B&G - Maint. & Housekeep				4,367	7,391	Genesis House, contractors, repairs, supplies				
23	B&G - Property Taxes				1,185	744	Paid by PTL, 2018 amt 1.5 year				
24	B&G - Property Insurance				7,309	7,492					
25	Cornerstone Loan Payments				22,364	22,547					
26	Christian Education / Youth				0	600					
27	Congregational Care				0	100					
28	Fellowship				715	1,150					
29	Music, Adult & Youth Choirs				225	1,163					
30	Stewardship				30	30					
31	Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM, IAF)				6,184	6,755	5% of pledges received; includes ocwm				
32	Welcome				0	300					
33	Worship				0	360					
34	Other committees & Ministries				0	0					
35	Council & Discretion Funds				0	0					
36	Other Exp-Finance & Admin				4,246	3,668	Bank fees				
37	Office/Comp./Copier Supply				3,779	3,484					
38	Professional Expenses				663	790	required training, NCNC, dues, WITT				
39	Sabbatical set aside				3,704	3,704	for future sabbatials				
40	Child Care during Worship				552	2,288	child care hired Fall 2018				
41	Staff				137,402	141,994	pastor, music director, office manager				
42	<b>Total Expense</b>				<b>207,587</b>	<b>226,127</b>					
43					<b>15,401</b>	<b>-7,761</b>					