



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* SAN RAFAEL



### 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

At the heart of San Rafael, First Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and inclusive community growing together in faith, hope and love. We humbly seek to understand and respond creatively to the needs of our brothers and sisters here in our city, in Marin County and throughout the world.

1510 Fifth Ave. San Rafael, CA 94901 | 415-456-6760 | [www.fpcsr.org](http://www.fpcsr.org)



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* SAN RAFAEL

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*Many thanks to Stephen Sarhad and Sandra Fisk for photographs*

# CHURCH OFFICERS – JUNE 2019-MAY 2020

## SESSION

### ***Class of 2020***

Janice Kuhl — Church Life  
Jane Martin — Worship  
Ginny Pabst — Adult Education

### ***Class of 2021***

Linda Adams — Mission  
Susan Bryant — Stewardship  
Jerry Current — Facilities  
John Hinman — Outreach  
Lynn MacDermott — Finance

### ***Class of 2022***

Susan Isler — Membership  
Grant Pritchard — Personnel  
Mary Pritchard — Worship  
Michael Stone — Clerk

## DEACONS

### ***Class of 2020***

Barbara Royall — Moderator  
Glen Dickey  
Binny Fischer  
Marj Robinson  
Sue Rostoni

### ***Class of 2021***

Chris Castle  
Rosa Chuc  
Lee Eckles  
Sally Hanson  
Barbara Tjernell

### ***Class of 2022***

Penn Mullin  
Elaine Reichert



*Session & Deacons and Rev. Cynthia Carney-Cochran  
Officer Retreat May 2019*



# CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney • Pastor**

**Rev. Kay Collette • Parish Associate**

**Rev. Bob Hirni • Parish Associate**

**Rev. Nancy Wiens • Parish Associate**

**Lorna Wuertz • Pastoral Care Associate**

**Ann Pope • Operations Manager**

**Bayne Merritt • Senior Community Liaison**

**Nicole Cuzzi • Senior Communications Designer**

**John Steiner • Senior Musician • Composer • 8:30 a.m Service**

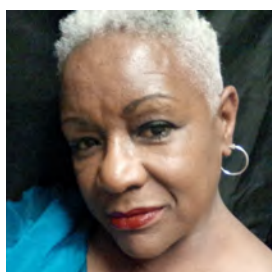
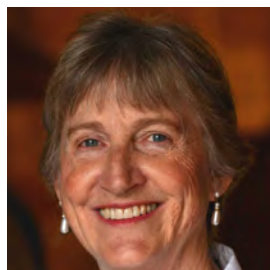
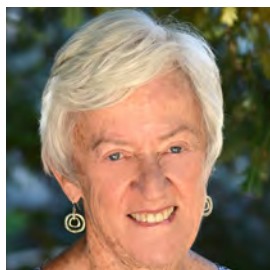
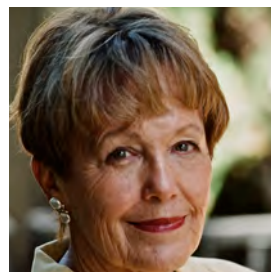
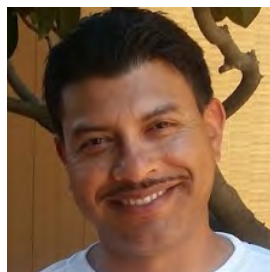
**Alan K. Choy • Senior Musician • 10 a.m Service**

**Martha Wall • Chancel Choir Director**

**Marquise Usher • Sounds A'pealing Handbell Choir Director**

**Deborah Tisdale, Sarah Wolf • Cantors**

**Hector DeLeon • Senior Facilities Technician**



# ANNUAL PASTOR'S REPORT



*Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.*

*Isaiah 43:19 (The Message)*

Dear Friends,

2019 was a quite a year for our church! This passage from Isaiah is one of the readings I used on September 22 when we celebrated our 150th anniversary. My sermon that day was entitled "Scrapbooks and Binoculars." This has been the theme in many ways for the whole year. The Spirit is indeed doing something new in us and among us as we look to our past and future. I am grateful to be on the journey with you.

The year began with Rev. Jan Reynolds finishing her ministry here and retiring. Although the congregation had been preparing for almost a year, I know it was bittersweet for her and for you. Setting up the Jan Reynolds Appreciation Fund was a great way to honor her and provide funding for future exciting projects and needed materials. Jan handed the baton of pastoral leadership to Rev. Joan Smith at the end of January. Joan guided the church in the time of transition using her excellent pastoral and organizational gifts.

After a demanding year of reading over 150 PIFs (Presbyterian résumés, Personal Information Forms), listening to sermons, and reflecting on the leadership skills desired in the next pastor, the nine-member Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) presented me to the congregation on Jan. 27, 2019. The congregation voted to call me as your next pastor, and I am truly grateful to God for this opportunity to serve you. After Jeffrey and I packed up and moved north from Orange County, I began officially on April 1. My installation service on June 2 was a highpoint of my life and ministry, as people from my past and present came together to celebrate this new chapter.

Some of the joys for me in my first nine months include moments in worship, in conversation, in working together, and in meetings. I enjoyed planning the God on Broadway worship series over the summer and Celtic Advent series in December. Listening to you and getting to know you in small groups and at events is one of my delights as a pastor. Please continue to share your hopes, experiences, and concerns with me. I appreciate working with the session, deacons, and various committees as well as individuals who offer to organize new events. Our officers training retreat in May helped us set the ground work for our first year together, using materials from *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Unchartered Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. The discussions at meetings continue to inspire me, reflecting a level of trust and hope for future. Working with the planning committee for the 150th-anniversary celebration helped me learn so much about the church's history and all the ways God has used our church to be a beacon of light and love for San Rafael, Marin County, and beyond.

Worship is central to our life together. It has been a great joy to work with the Worship Committee to plan worship services on Sunday mornings, SoulSong, and special services. Over the summer, we started having our children in worship at 10:00 before their Godly Play time, and they are experiencing the blessing of being with their church family. I am moved every Sunday by the richness and variety of music. Our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, our amazing directors Martha Wall and Marquise Usher, and certainly our talented pianists John Steiner and Alan Choy, provide such beautiful and meaningful music. Our guest musicians, particularly Deborah Tisdale and the Jesse Boggs Band, offer an abundance of music that speaks to our minds and hearts. Music gives expression to human life and shapes how each person and community will live our faith and callings. SoulSong started again in the fall and is drawing people from the community into a time of contemplative and quiet music and readings.

I am grateful to the session, who are the spiritual and administrative leaders of our congregation. Investing their time and skills, they work alongside longtime members and newer friends of the church to provide important programs, plan worship, oversee the finances, and care for our facility. Many thanks to the deacons, who care for the congregation and seek new ways of helping, praying, and supporting people. Our Adult Education classes continue to help us explore important topics. Our Mission Committee, along with the Green Team, continue to lead the congregation in working for social justice, being peacemakers, and caring for our planet.

The church staff is a great crew who enjoy working together and have an excellent combination of skills, flexibility, and humor! Ann Pope manages the daily operations of the building and the many groups who share our space. Bayne Merritt is community liaison as well as Sunday morning tech and set-up person. Nicole Cuzzi continues to design artistic and informative Sunday worship bulletins, Clarion newsletters, event flyers, website pages, and weekly enews. Hector DeLeon, our dedicated church custodian, keeps our building clean and sets up for our various events. I am grateful for each one of them.

Our parish associates and pastoral care staff have been a great blessing. I have never served a church that had such a gifted and committed volunteer pastoral staff. Their friendship means so much to me. Many thanks to Rev. Bob Hirni, Rev. Kay Collette, Rev. Nancy Wiens, and Lorna Wuertz.

The many nonprofit groups and congregations who share our space are more than renters. They are our partners in building the Beloved Community (a term from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) as we seek to be a place where all people are welcome and feel connected to other people and to the Spirit's love and light.

This annual report reflects the ministries and mission of this congregation. You are a vital congregation that is making a difference and welcoming new people into this community of faith. I look forward to many adventures together. Let's keep our binoculars handy!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent "C" and "y".

Cynthia

Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney

# CLERK OF SESSION

## Clerk of Session

During times that are challenging for religious communities everywhere, our membership and participation remain steady. More important, members and both new and longstanding friends seek to do the work of God, with hearts open to Spirit's calling in a world with many needs. Along with our talented and dedicated staff, the deacons, session, committees, choirs, and many individuals in the congregation continue to serve imaginatively, diligently, and faithfully, supporting each other's growth and strengthening and promoting our many programs of worship, fellowship, mission, community service, education, spiritual development, and pastoral care.

Michael K. Stone, Clerk of Session

## Annual Statistical Report

### Membership:

Membership December 31, 2018.....	156
New/Reinstated Members 2019.....	4
Deaths/Transfers Out 2019.....	5

Membership December 31, 2019..... 155

### Attendance 2018:

8:30 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday.....	18	
Total 8:30 attendance.....		878
10:00 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday....	68	
Total 10:00 attendance.....		3,513
Soul Song average attendance.....	19	
Total Soul Song attendance (11 services) .....		211
Christmas Eve Service attendance.....		<u>300</u>
<b>Grand Total</b> .....		<b>4,902</b>

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### Attendance 2019:

8:30 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday.....	20	
Total 8:30 attendance.....		940
10:00 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday.....	73	
Total 10:00 attendance .....		3,807
Soul Song average attendance.....	18	
Total Soul Song attendance (5 services) .....		88
Christmas Eve Service attendance.....		<u>283</u>
<b>Grand Total</b> .....		<b>5,118</b>

**In Memoriam:** James Lawrence Bohan, Jeanne Leoncini, Charles Fischer

# 2019 Budget & Actual, 2020 Budget

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
**Income and Expense Statement (Preliminary)**  
 January 2019 - December 2019

	2019 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
Contribution Income	\$ 292,510	\$ 275,000	\$ 291,800
Rental Income	122,329	135,000	125,000
Investment and Miscellaneous Income	1,986	2,005	1,954
5% Quasi-Endowment Transfers	24,540	24,540	23,700
	<u>441,365</u>	<u>436,545</u>	<u>442,454</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel Expenses			
Pastoral Expenses	141,337	133,018	147,892
Other Staff Expenses	167,948	167,200	168,940
Employer Expenses	10,324	10,200	10,700
Subtotal Personnel Expenses	<u>319,609</u>	<u>310,418</u>	<u>327,532</u>
Administrative	29,545	26,037	27,435
Facilities	64,894	62,339	74,189
Mission	16,500	16,800	17,500
Christian Education	1,090	3,375	3,375
Worship	3,772	3,400	4,000
Outreach	2,877	5,000	5,000
Church Life	860	1,000	600
Disaster Preparedness	-	-	250
TOTAL EXPENSES - BUDGETED OPERATIONS	<u>439,147</u>	<u>428,369</u>	<u>459,881</u>
NET INCOME / (LOSS) - BUDGETED OPERATIONS	<u>\$ 2,218</u>	<u>\$ 8,176</u>	<u>\$ (17,427)</u>
<b>NON-BUDGETED OPERATIONS</b>			
Endowment and Quasi-Endowment Income Reinvested	136,411		
Contributions to Programs, Net of Expenses	(49,963)		
Pastor Nominating Committee Expenses	(21,822)		
NET INCOME / (LOSS) - TOTAL	<u>\$ 66,844</u>	<u>\$ 8,176</u>	<u>\$ (17,427)</u>



# 2019 BALANCE SHEET

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
**Balance Sheet (Preliminary)**  
 December 2019

## ASSETS

### BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank of Marin Checking	\$ 53,818
Savings Accounts	241
Subtotal Bank Accounts	<u>54,059</u>

### INVESTMENTS

Vanguard - Krah	404,873
Vanguard - 1987 Fund	126,496
Vanguard - Pastor Housing	265,525
Vanguard - Boyce	60,807
Vanguard - Endowment	48,899
Funds Invested by Others	<u>47,911</u>
Subtotal Investments	<u>954,511</u>

### FIXED ASSETS

Land	329,100
Buildings	1,050,400
Furniture	115,900
Windows/Organ/Carillon	<u>363,000</u>
Subtotal Fixed Assets	<u>1,858,400</u>

### OTHER ASSETS

Investment Inc Receivable	501
Prepaid Expenses	<u>6,596</u>
Subtotal Other Assets	<u>7,097</u>

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 2,874,067

## LIABILITIES

Accrued Study-Pastor	\$ 1,370
Accrued Expenses	3,925
Prepaid Pledge Income	20,450
Security Deposit	<u>2,850</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>28,595</u>

## NET ASSETS

### UNRESTRICTED

Unrestricted Net Assets	(67,129)
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### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED

Krah Endowment	388,498
The 1987 Fund	120,000
Jan Reynolds Appreciation	63,548
YOTM / YST	21,596
Hispanic Worship	12,112
SFF Grant for MISC Dinners	5,000
Special Music	3,295
Deacons' Offering	2,285
Other Temporarily Restricted Funds	<u>14,725</u>
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted	<u>631,059</u>

### PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED

Property Fund	1,858,400
Pastor Housing Endowment	177,596
Parsonage Endowment	87,929
Boyce Mission Endowment	60,807
FPCSR Endowment	48,899
Archibald and Holden Funds	<u>47,911</u>
Subtotal Permanently Restricted	<u>2,281,542</u>

TOTAL NET ASSETS 2,845,472

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 2,874,067

# PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee worked on a number of matters during 2019, including, but not limited to, the following matters. The committee is made up of Leslie Purdy, Dan Crawford, Bill Schultz, and Grant Pritchard (committee chair).

1. Reviewed and resolved confidential personnel issues as required.
2. Worked with staff on workers' compensation, property/casualty and HR Insurance issues.
3. Participated in staff annual reviews.
4. Hosted staff Christmas luncheon at church.
5. Reviewed and updated the Employee Handbook and personnel files and job descriptions.
6. Reviewed salary and all pertinent budget information for recommendation to session for 2020.
7. Worked with Pastor Reynolds to plan a smooth transition to her retirement in January 2019 and completion of her tenure.
8. Conducted and completed search for transitional (bridge) pastor (Rev. Joan Smith) to fill gap between Pastor Reynolds's retirement and arrival of newly called pastor (Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney) officially starting on April 1, 2019.
9. Worked with Budget Committee on 2020 budget proposal to session.

Grant Pritchard, Personnel Chair

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## CHRISTMAS STAFF LUNCH



# FACILITIES



The fluorescent lights were replaced with LED bulbs, except for the sanctuary chandeliers, throughout the church. The financial savings have not been as consistent as expected. This is partially due to the electric heat and partially due to the greatly increased light around the building. The increase in light is greatly appreciated.

Property rentals have been stable, with the exception of one dance group. It has been several years since any rates have been increased, so we are considering some increases.

Many thanks to Ann Pope for keeping track of maintenance issues in our aging building by using a group of reliable contractors. We also thank our volunteers, including John Robinson, Ralph Lunan, Jim Redpath, Bill Schultz, Martin Stevenson, George Ridout, Gordy MacDermott, and Glen Dickey. We will greatly miss Chuck Fischer, who was willing to work on our most difficult tasks.

The door locks into the kitchen and the second-floor hall gave up after about 10 years, and required lock maintenance.

The office phones developed noise and are being replaced with a computer-based system.

Some of the front flowers were replaced with some annuals to give them a little spark.

Some of the lights in the sanctuary were replaced, so that the choir could read their music a little more easily.

Cynthia has suggested adding some signs around the building, so that people will be able to find their way around the building better.

We have had some problems with homeless people using our property as their bathroom. We have hired a security company to take pictures of the activity, so that someone will be able to talk to these people and discourage this activity. We should all be aware that there is a bathroom in Boyd Park that is open until 9:00 pm and opens again at 5:30 am.

A summer project we would like to have some volunteers for is to touch up some low painting around the church. The flaking areas seem to be low and can be corrected from a step ladder.

Jerry Current, Facilities Chair



# OUTREACH, PROMOTION & MEMBERSHIP



Our 150th year was full of remembering our past, celebrating this heritage, and welcoming our new pastor. These benchmarks opened up opportunities to announce our good news to the community, and drew previous congregants back into our church and many others to seek out what was happening at 5th&E.

With the benefit of having a new pastoral approach, some of the routine ways we have looked at our church have been improved. This includes not only our advertising but the signage for navigating the way around the church for visitors.

These improvements are all focused on making a newcomer feel comfortable and welcome. Consequently, we see many visitors returning to Sunday worship, asking for name tags, and joining us in many of our community and mission endeavors.

We welcomed four congregants into our church family as members in 2019, and look forward to their involvement and support in our activities. Each Sunday we hope to create a welcoming environment for worship and extending friendship and inclusion to all individuals who visit our church so that they might return.

John Hinman, Chair, and Janice Kuhl, Outreach and Promotion  
Susan Isler, Chair, Membership

**CELTIC ADVENT  
WORSHIP SERVICES**  
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL  
SUNDAYS 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

**DECEMBER 1**  
THIN PLACES  
CHANCEL CHOIR

**DECEMBER 8**  
SOUL FRIENDS  
DIXIE STORK, CELTIC HARP

**DECEMBER 15**  
PREPARE THE WAY  
CHANCEL CHOIR AND HANDBELL CHOIR

**DECEMBER 22**  
INCARNATION  
SUSAN WILKINSON (BASS FLUTE)  
AND BENITO CORTEZ (VIOLIN)

**DECEMBER 24**  
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

**DECEMBER 29**  
GUEST PREACHER: REV. EMORY GILLESPIE  
SERMON: THE MURMURING DEEP

Refresh your soul through poetry,  
music and silence.

**SOUL SONG**

Featuring interspiritual chants, piano  
and violin with John Steiner and Wendy Loder

**Sunday, December 2, 5:00 pm**  
First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael

1510 Fifth Ave.  
[www.fpcsr.org](http://www.fpcsr.org) | 415.456.6760

*Christmas Services*  
*Everyone Welcome!*

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE**  
5:00 PM  
Carols, voice & bell choirs, violin, flute,  
vocal soloist & virtuoso piano

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
10:00 AM & 8:30 AM  
Carol singalong and other Christmas music!

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
1510 Fifth Street, San Rafael  
[www.fpcsr.org](http://www.fpcsr.org) 415 456 6760

*Celtic Advent, Soul Song and Christmas ads from 2019*

# STEWARDSHIP

We want to begin by expressing our gratitude for the congregation's ongoing financial support and for your thoughtful consideration of your pledge commitments for the coming year. THANK YOU!

For 2019, our stewardship campaign focused on honoring our 150th anniversary by looking backward as well as forward — through both “scrapbooks and binoculars.”

We are thankful that throughout our history, our forebears have pledged financial support rooted in their deep belief in the power of God's love to unify us all, and in their tireless concern and care for each other and the world around them.

Similar to last year, we included a narrative budget with our stewardship letter so that everyone in the congregation could understand our priorities for 2019 and 2020, how pledges fit into the overall financial picture of the church, how funds are used to support our programs and how the rental program of our facility supports other community and religious organizations and programs.

For 2020, we are budgeting \$270,000 in pledges, up 3.8% from our 2019 budget. Repeat donors increased their pledges by \$13,648, and we received \$8,650 in new pledges. Each pledge is important to us and critical to our future financial health.

For over 150 years, the generosity of our members has enabled First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael to make a profound difference in the lives of those around us. Thank you for your generosity and support of God's work in the world.

In closing, the Stewardship Committee wishes to express our gratitude for the longstanding, selfless service of committee member Chuck Fischer. Chuck exemplified the humble generosity that has characterized FPCSR for 150 years. While we miss him deeply, Chuck's example inspires us to look to the future with confidence and hope.

The FPCSR Stewardship Committee: Steve Astle, Susan Bryant, Chuck Fischer, Leslie Purdy, Ralph Purdy

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# PLANNED GIVING

The Stewardship Committee and Planned Giving Committees have now combined. While our 2019 focus was on stewardship, in 2020 we plan to have broader discussions with the congregation about ways to plan your giving to the church. This can include legacy gifts (e.g., through wills, trusts, and IRA distributions) as well as ways to contribute to projects like Youth on the Move or to improve the church facility. Since our church building is aging, we have a wealth of opportunities like fixing the roof or replacing the front doors that are one-time costs but hard to pay for in the operating budget. In addition to the Stewardship Committee, the Planned Giving Committee includes Bill Schultz and Suzie Pollack.



## CHURCH LIFE



The FPCSR Church Life Committee was founded to foster fellowship through social activities. The ongoing events provide a variety of fun opportunities enabling our members to know each other. These include Supper Club, organized by Marcia DeZwarte, and the monthly Hiking Group, coordinated during 2019 by Chuck and Binny Fischer and Barbara Tjernell, which meets on the third Sunday of each month. There are also annual events like the Crab Feed, a fundraiser for the Mission Committee's annual mission trip, the potluck brunch in Canoles Hall following the Palm Sunday worship service, and the wonderful FPCSR Christmas Party, which was hosted by Bill and Ginny Schultz on December 14.



FPCSR is always open to new ideas for activities. But there was one special activity during 2019: the 150th anniversary of the founding of First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael.

For such an important milestone, there had to be a very special celebration. Barbara Royall, Sue Rostoni, John Hinman, Susan Isler, Sandra Fisk, Linda Adams, Cynthia Cochran-Carney, and Janice Kuhl spent months coming up with the plan for a celebratory lunch and historical presentation in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 22, 2019, as well as working out the logistics of the event. The 150 years were broken down into segments in the history of FPCSR, world events, and community actions, which were presented by many members of the church and accompanied by music from the eras played by Jesse Boggs Band of Santa Rosa. It was a memorable day.



Janice Kuhl, Session Chair  
Barbara Royall, Church Life Committee Lead

# WORSHIP

In many ways, worship continued much the same in 2019 as in previous years. One very significant change came with the retirement of Rev. Jan Reynolds at the end of January. We were fortunate to be joined by Rev. Joan Smith, who, serving as our bridge pastor, was able to shepherd us through the transition. In April, just in time to celebrate Easter, we welcomed Cynthia Cochran-Carney as our new pastor.

We observed several important transitions in worship: celebration of Jan's time with us and her departure, Cynthia's arrival and special installation service, and the magnificent 150th-Anniversary Celebration. Each of these services involved special music, art that made the sanctuary a delight, and guests whose presence deepened the significance of the services. At the end of Cynthia's installation service, the congregation formed a huge circle around the sanctuary and sang "What Does the Lord Require of You?" a truly moving moment.

In addition to our volunteers, worship relies on our great office staff—Nicole Cuzzi, who prepares the bulletins each week, Ann Pope, our office manager, who keeps the office running smoothly, and Bayne Merritt, who is right there doing whatever needs to be done and ensuring that our technology is working on Sunday mornings. We share our deep gratitude for all that they do for us.

We are also fortunate to have parish associates Kay Collette, Bob Hirni, and Nancy Wiens, who have been able to provide invaluable help whenever needed.

We continue to provide two weekly services—the 8:30 contemplative service and the more traditional 10:00 service. In addition to our Sunday morning services, we have SoulSong on the first Sunday evening of each month. SoulSong was on hiatus for several months during our leadership transition, but resumed in October.

Our core musicians remained the same: John Steiner for the 8:30 services and SoulSong, Alan Choy for the 10:00 services, Sarah Wolf as 8:30 cantor before she moved, Martha Wall directing the choir for the 10:00 services on the first and third Sundays of the month, and Marquise Usher directing the bell choir on third Sundays. Deborah Tisdale continues to sing on the second Sunday, and Jesse Boggs and his friends perform on the fourth Sunday. In addition, we have had a variety of guest musicians, including a number of talented youth who performed during the summer and as additional accompanists for the choir.

Although we didn't hear the organ in 2019, it has been examined and declared to be in good condition for its age. With this affirmation, we are hoping to hear organ music occasionally during 2020.

Volunteers are an essential part of each and every service. While Bayne has stepped in and taken over the preparation for the 8:30 service, volunteers still help serve weekly communion, lead the singing, and put flowers, candles, and communion supplies away after the service. Volunteers greet people as they arrive for both services, read the call to worship and affirmation, collect the offering for the 10:00 service, sing in the choir, play handbells, change the paraments and decorations seasonally (often weekly), and help to keep things organized. And we haven't even mentioned our amazing Christmas Eve service, when the sanctuary was packed, everyone who wanted one received a candle to light (many prepared during the December session meeting by FPCSR elders), and we all sang "Joy to the World."

Jane Martin and Mary Pritchard, Cochairs, Worship



## WORSHIP IN 2019



# MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Presbyterian Book of Order calls us to healing; reconciling and binding up wounds; ministering to the needs of the poor, sick, lonely, and powerless; and engaging in the struggle to free people from oppression, hunger, and injustice. The following is a list of the activities undertaken by the Mission and Social Justice Committee in 2019 toward these goals.

**1. Crab Feed:** The Crab Feed is an annual dinner with musical entertainment. The purpose of the Crab Feed is to raise funds to support our annual Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) mission trip in late March or April. The Crab Feed is organized by Mission and Church Life; the funds raised are used to cover the following:

- Van rentals for transportation from the airport to the local church where we are to stay, and between the church and our various worksites
- Housing costs and the food we purchase and prepare for our meals
- Purchase of needed construction supplies

**2. PDA Mission Trip:** In April, our group traveled to Corpus Christi, Texas. We painted a home, insulated another, and prepped a third home with cleaning so that its residents could return home. In the plan for recovery, only certain kitchen items are replaced, so we purchased a washing machine and dryer for one family with leftover funds. Weather was not kind to our traveling this year. Cancelled flights and delays were rife. Many of us spent a lot of time waiting at airports

**3. Engagement with Homeless Members of Our Community:** Our church provides the facility and kitchen for the Interfaith Street Chaplaincy's supper each Tuesday. FPCSR members provide the food and "host" about every two months, in cooperation with Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church. Attendance runs about 80.

**4. Youth on the Move (YOTM):** FPCSR has three programs in support of vulnerable youth. 1) We have adopted Short Elementary School. We offer afterschool programs in art, science, cooking, movement, and gardening for second- through fifth-graders. 2) Young Moms Marin: we offer space to Young Moms Marin on Friday afternoons. The moms enjoy fellowship together and receive guidance and counseling. At the same time, their



children are cared for in a nearby room. We also support the moms by bringing in meals occasionally, and with gifts and gift cards at Christmas and other times of the year. 3) Youth Service Team (YST): This program provides high school students with enriching experiences that fulfill their mandated community service hours. The program is directed by a trained counselor, Jeannine Curley, a member of FPCSR. This program has been so successful that it receives partial funding from the Marin County Juvenile Justice Department.

**5. Adult Education Programs:** The Mission Committee collaborates with the Adult Education Committee to present Wednesday evening documentaries on environmental and social justice issues.

**6. Mill Street:** Under the direction of Bill and Ginny Schultz, a team of people prepare meals for 55 homeless men living at Mill Street. The meals are prepared for the last Thursday of each month and delivered to Mill Street by Donna Butler. Mill Street is becoming a low-barrier shelter to house chronically homeless people who will transition to permanent housing with surrounding support services.

**7. Marin Interfaith Climate Action (MICA):** MICA is an environmental organization of many different faith groups in Marin County. The Mission Committee sponsors MICA monthly meetings at FPCSR and two Mission Committee members serve on MICA.

**8. Opportunities for Service:** The Mission Committee gives "Opportunities for Service" presentations for the congregation during worship services, generally on the third Sunday of each month.



# MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

**9. Marin Organizing Committee (MOC):** FPCSR has been a member congregation of MOC since its founding. Members of the Mission Committee represent our church at MOC meetings and actions. Major focuses for MOC include increasing affordable housing, tenant protection, mental health in schools, and support for Marin's aging.

**10. Mission Giving:** On behalf of FPCSR, the Mission Committee designated \$8500 for the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly as a part of our responsibility as a connectional denomination. In addition, the Mission Committee directed financial support to local and national organizations involved in social justice issues. The following are the disbursements made in 2019:

- **Marin Interfaith Council:** \$1000
- Presbyterian Mission Coworker, Rev. Karla Koll: \$1000
- Ecumenical Association for Housing: \$200
- Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy: \$1000
- Westminster Woods Presbyterian Conference Center: \$400
- MOC: \$2000
- Homeward Bound of Marin: \$500
- California Interfaith Power and Light: \$150
- San Francisco Theological Seminary: \$500
- Bread for the World: \$300
- Seeds of Learning: \$300
- Project Avary: \$300

**11. Bread for the World:** This is a Christian advocacy organization working with the US Congress on behalf of the hungry and homeless, domestically and internationally.

**12. Pedal for Protein (P4P):** The Mission Committee sold Equal Exchange products to raise money for P4P. Ralph Purdy went part of the way before taking a fall. He has recovered and says he will ride his bike again.

**13. Green Team:** The Green Team is under the auspices of the Mission Committee. They have applied for a prestigious designation called Earth Care Congregation. As a part of that designation, our church will offer environmental classes, sermons, and films directed at being good stewards of the environment.

**14. Sanctuary Congregation:** Twelve of us continue to be ready to give rides, provide food, help with shopping, or simply be with those in need of help with immigration. The Multicultural Center of Marin (formerly the Canal Welcome Center) will contact us as needs arise.

**15. Presbyterian Special Offerings:** The Mission Committee has promoted and supported the One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Justice, and Christmas Joy offerings. This year we added Pentecost offering so that we are supporting all four of our denomination's major efforts.

**16. Alternative Gift Market:** Over \$4,000 was raised at the newly renamed Advent event and distributed to these organizations: Heifer International, Homeward Bound, Opening the World, Presbyterian Hunger Agency, Scout Troop 2000, Seeds of Learning, and Habitat for Humanity.

Linda Adams, Chair





# ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Adult Education Report: 2019

2019 was a year full of change and special events as we said good-bye to and celebrated Rev. Jan Reynolds, welcomed Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney, and honored our 150-year history as First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. Between the festivities and special events, Adult Education offered a rich program of classes, workshops, and discussions.

Many of our programs were presented by our members and focused on ourselves and on our church and personal concerns. Sandra Fisk led us on a fascinating tour of our beautiful stained glass windows. John Hinman told us stories from the history of FPCSR and introduced us to our founders. Jeffrey Cochran-Carney offered two classes in Celtic Spirituality. Bob Hirni offered weekly Bible classes. The City of San Rafael offered our church officers training in Disaster Preparedness that has led to many improvements in our level of preparation for emergencies or disaster. Our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team gave a report on their week-long experiences in East Texas helping to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. Nancy Wiens shared, over two weeks, an introduction to Emotional Freedom Technique Tapping. EFT Tapping, now used in treating soldiers with PTSD, is a new way in which practitioners are finding peace of mind.

Members of community organizations were generous in giving their Sunday mornings to talk with us about their programs and concerns. Floyd Tompkins came from the Seminary's Center for Innovation in Ministry, and Laurie Garret Cobbina talked to us about the work of the Seminary's Trauma Chaplaincy. Jenna Famular and Ryan Maecker, Community Development Managers for MCE Clean Energy, talked about the green future for our county. Suzanne Walker spoke to us about the current work of the Marin Organizing Committee and Nick Morris gave us an update on homelessness in Marin. Scott Quinn spoke on behalf of Marin Interfaith Council.

Individual speakers included Moina Shaiq who spoke to us about her experiences as a Muslim living in the Bay Area. Dr. David Conant, from Kaiser's End of Life Program, explored and explained California's End of Life Option Act. Fr. Vince Pizzuto, author of *Contemplating Christ: The Gospels & the Interior Life*, provided an introduction to his view of Contemplative Christianity. Jackie Kudler, on the faculty at College of Marin, read her poetry based on Bible stories. Barbara Rowe reported on her experience traveling to BorderLinks in Tucson to study immigration issues first hand. Kerrin Meis, an art historian, showed slides and talked about symbolism in Christian Art. A highlight of individual presentations was a half-day retreat offered by Ruah Bull titled "Opening to God." Our members always find Ruah's offerings warm, enlightening, thoughtful, and inspiring.

Ongoing study and discussion groups offer members of our congregation opportunities for learning and growing, for making friends and for engaging in community. The Men's Book Group and the Women's Book Group have loyal participants and eagerly welcome new members. The Centering Prayer group, which meets weekly, and the Spiritual Practices group, which meets monthly, offer exploration, study, silence and companionship for one's spiritual journey.

This rich list of programs is only possible because of the generous contributions of time made by our members and individuals and organizations in our community. In particular, we thank Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney, Rev. Kay Collette, and Lorna Wuertz for their dedication to helping create an interesting, educational, and often challenging Adult Education program.

Ginny Pabst, Chair



# CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We offer the Godly Play curriculum, which dramatizes familiar stories from Christian and Hebrew scriptures, to a small but interested group of younger children, ages four to nine. We are delighted that this small group is energetic and enthusiastic. When older children join the group, the lesson is expanded. Summer classes offer more variety and include the Whole People of God curriculum, which includes weekly lessons and resources for teachers. Beginning in September, the children joined the congregation at the beginning of the service and stayed through the passing of the peace, in addition to coming upstairs for communion the first Sunday of each month. Occasionally they bring their rhythm instruments to accompany worship music or have a small part in introducing the sermon topic for the day.

We are grateful to the teachers who faithfully offered lessons throughout this past year: Barbara Tjernell, Janette Meza, Rosa Chuc, Mariel Kauil, Carol Farrar, Mary Pritchard, Dinah McClure, Bob Hirni and Lorna Wuertz.

Lorna Wuertz, Chair





# PRIMERA IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA



The Spanish-speaking community of FPCSR worships with the whole congregation on first Sundays, when we celebrate communion together. On other Sundays worship is conducted in Spanish in the chapel at 10:00 am. Our Spanish-speaking community provides mutual support on our spiritual journeys and shares in the advancement and care of the Latino immigrant population of Marin County.

In our worship services, we sing songs by Latin American composers and Presbyterian hymns in Spanish. Our worship leaders in 2019 were David Morales and Virginia Perez, with members' participation, the congregation continues to worship together with shared leadership.

Most persons who attend the Spanish-speaking service are recent and visiting Spanish-speaking immigrants and their children. While the service is entirely in Spanish, everyone is welcome. Many of our children attend Sunday school in English while the adults are worshipping in Spanish.

We have also been involved in social justice issues affecting the Hispanic immigrant population in Marin, partnering with Marin Organizing Committee.

David Morales

# BOARD OF DEACONS

“Be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people’s help to the friendless and those in need.” – PCUSA Book of Order



The deacons this year were Barbara Royall (Moderator), Chris Castle, Rosa Chuc, Glen Dickey, Lee Eckles, Binny Fischer, Sally Hanson, Penn Mullin, Elaine Reichert, Marj Robinson, Sue Rostoni, and Barbara Tjernell

All members and friends of the church are assigned to a deacon who keeps in touch over the course of a year. Deacons check in and reach out particularly to those who have been affected by illness or life changes.

The deacons have continued to serve by:

- Making pastoral care calls
- Serving communion at the 10 a.m. service
- Delivering flowers at Christmas and Easter
- Sending notes and cards to members who are ill and grieving
- Providing receptions after memorial services
- Hosting the Taizé Service (SoulSong)
- Maintaining the Maintenance Ministry
- Sending out monthly mailings to our shut-in members

It is a blessing and privilege to serve as deacons to the members of First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. We thank the Rev. Cynthia for her guidance and encouragement.

Barbara Royall, Moderator