

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## First Presbyterian Church

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**ENGAGING TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S WORK OF MAKING DISCIPLES FOR  
THE REDEEMING TRANSFORMATION OF OUR CITY AND WORLD.**



Welcome to the 2019 FPC Annual Report. Thanks for opening these pages to see the testimony of God's work among and through our congregation. God has called us to *engage together in Christ's work of making disciples for the redeeming transformation of our city and world*. It's both our purpose (why we exist) and our hope (what we long to see happen). The pages of this report give evidence of our efforts together toward that purpose. Of course, all of our efforts would be in vain if not for the gracious work of the Holy Spirit. As you read this report, I encourage you to regularly give God praise for the work He has made effective among us.

One of the big themes for 2019 was "engage." First, we started the year with a sermon series called "Engage." Some of you may remember the sermon series image that was up on the screen throughout that series. It had a group of people moving together in a way that formed an arrow and new people were being added into that formation.



To me, it was the perfect picture of the Body of Christ on mission together with Jesus. We have a purpose that isn't just for us, so we're not an inward-facing circle. That purpose is focused on making disciples, so we're not an outward-facing circle with everyone pointed in a different direction. And the only way that we move in the direction of our purpose is when everyone is walking toward it together. The series was designed to help us know what the Bible teaches about engaging together in Christ's purpose for the local church. Later, in the spring, the Session made it a top priority to increase congregational engagement in the ministry and mission of FPC. So, the staff made a goal to add 70 new people to our list of those volunteering at least once per month for the ministry of FPC. We launched the goal on September 1, 2019, and we're almost there. We've already added 55 new volunteers, which means that we have nearly 300 folks who are volunteering in some way at least once per month. Praise God! I truly believe that as people serve the Lord and His Church, God increases their faith. May it be so among us.

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Another theme of 2019 was "healing." In February we hosted an event called the "Healing Symposium." It was, in my estimation, an extremely important event for the health of our congregation. We were able to very clearly name some of the hurtful experiences of our church's past. Then we practiced how to constructively talk about those experiences together. It was a call for us to pursue the hard work of healing together - to be a congregation that leans in, full of grace and truth - so that we might experience more of the Kingdom of God together and demonstrate the beauty of God's Kingdom to others.



Perhaps, though, the most felt theme of this last year was transition. We had four major staff transitions in 2019. First was Oscar Rodriguez, one of our beloved custodians. Oscar left staff early in the year to pursue leadership of Martin Park Ministries. Then, Beth Paz, our High School Director, stepped down at the end of the summer. The Lord gave Beth an extraordinary opportunity through her seminary to explore what God is doing in the global Church. And finally, Christmas Eve marked the end of pastoral ministry at FPC for both Pastors Lana Roberts and Chris Popadich.

Transition is hard. It tends to stir our anxiety and reveal our insecurities. But transition also is a time when the Lord can really work in our hearts to stretch our faith and increase our trust and grow new things that will eventually bear fruit for His Kingdom. Surely, all of that was part of my own experience in our year of transition. There were times I felt anxious and insecure, and there were times I felt absolute peace. The times of anxiety and insecurity revealed my lack of faith in the truth of the Gospel promises. The times of peace revealed God's amazing grace, care, faithfulness, and love. We ended the year with many unanswered questions about our future. But one thing I know for sure. God is faithful, and we can trust in Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." As you'll see in the pages of this report, God has been faithful. May we continue to trust in Him for our future.

JEREMY VACCARO

DR. JEREMY VACCARO

Senior Pastor

*"God is Faithful and We Can Trust Him"*

# COMMUNITY GROWTH



We surveyed the women who attended Women on Wednesdays this fall to discover what is important to them and by extension to other women at FPC, in choosing to participate regularly in a Bible Study. Our findings confirmed what we already suspected. Women desire first and foremost to learn more about and apply God's Word in their lives. A close second is developing and deepening relationships by sharing around the tables with newcomers and friends. This is not a new "kind" of fruit. It is, however, the fruit that should be produced over time as women walk with the Lord, and so we celebrate that the branches are remaining in the vine and producing the fruit of the Spirit in the lives of the women of FPC.



The WoCo team celebrates the fruit that came from having a one-of-a-kind Women's Conference in 2019. Many of us were stretched in our understanding as we partnered with our neighbors at On Ramps Covenant Church. We learned that differences in practices of prayer and worship can be navigated as cross-cultural experiences, and we extended sincere and generous hospitality to all.



On a personal note, I am grateful for the Women's Teams who have made a special, continuing commitment to serve the women of FPC and our community. They will carry the ministry forward faithfully. So that everyone can know and be praying for them, they are Marilyn Minassian, Thursday Mornings; Merlene Samuelian and Adrienne Kimball, Morning Glory; Denise Fink, Melanie Franz, Michele Briggs, Maari Nesper, Elizabeth Rooney, & Molly Sargent, Women on Wednesday; and Barbara Knepper, Debby Rader, and Cathe Scott, Women's Conference 2020.

**REV. LANA ROBERTS**  
Associate Pastor, Retired

2019 was essentially a rebirth of the FPC Men's Ministry under the leadership of Pastor Chris Popadich. We adopted Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another," as our motto and continue to use this scripture as a building block for the ministry.

The Men's Leadership Board (MLB) launched in 2018 with a few events that created some momentum; but 2019 was our first full year. We saw steady attendance at our monthly breakfasts (3rd Thursday of each month) and hosted a few additional events. Here are some details:

- **Monthly Breakfasts** saw 45-65 regular attendees with kitchen crew & MLB helping cook & facilitate the event. Excellent Christ-centered speakers discussed how they integrate their faith in their daily lives. We hope to expand the table/fellowship time to encourage a deeper dive into the topics and to challenge one another. Also considering forming "D Groups" or offsite Bible studies.
- **Men's Conference** was successful & well-attended. Joe White was a well received speaker giving 3 talks. The food was excellent and guys connected. We're hoping to continue the momentum with Greg Ehlert as our 2020 Conference speaker. (April 24-25)
- **FSU Football** events (BBQ Night at a private home & tailgate party at a game) were well attended. Thanks to the Kimballs for outstanding BBQ!
- **Service Events** cultivated Servant Leadership and expanded our availability to the church. (The Paint Project will be continued in 2020.) We have a list of potential projects and are inviting input from the Deacons and/or congregation on additional needs where "manpower" is needed.
- **MLB membership** saw some changes. Dave Peltola assumed the leadership role. Bert Aguilar rolled off and Brad Stevens was added. Thank you, Bert, for your service! We continue to meet monthly at Dave's downtown office and are seeking younger members for the board to represent and serve that age group.



The MLB continues to refine its goals & mission. We are called to build relationships among the men of FPC, reaching out to include new members. Please pray for the Lord's discernment and leading as we pursue these goals. 2019 was a great "start" but we seek His strength and wisdom to build a strong group of Christian Men and Leaders at FPC.

**DAVID PELTOLA**  
Ministry Leader

FPC launched the Go Team ministry about three years ago. Go Teams are a group of people who GATHER REGULARLY to care about each other, GROW in our FAITH, and REACH OUT to a SPECIFIC GROUP of people outside our church body.

We currently have three active Go Teams: **Greek Row Go Team** cultivates relationships with sororities and fraternities at Fresno State. **Imago Dei** supports and encourages families with special needs children. The **Good News Club Go Team** hosts a Good News Club at Lowell Elementary School.

The **Good News Club Go Team** has seen several children surrender their lives to the Lordship of Jesus. Some of these children are now involved in our Wednesday night children's program as well as the Sunday morning education. This Go Team has experienced the joy of participating in God's work of changing lives forever with His Gospel. What can ever be better than that?

**Imago Dei** has heard from representatives from Joni and Friends and An Evening To Remember as they learn how to effectively come alongside families of special needs. One of their Go Team members described her experience: "We desire to meet to discover the direction in our journeys because our lives are busy in the arena we have chosen as a vocation. But what is the Lord speaking both personally and in our community of Faith in reaching those that are different?" This is what Go Teams help us discover.



The joy of our **Greek Life Go Team** invigorates my heart as I experience God do AMAZING THINGS each time we go out to interact with the students on Greek Row. Every time without exception God designs deep conversations and opportunities to pray with students. What started with serving hotdogs has branched out to include activities like: a few study/dinner nights in our home; conversations over coffee; and providing study help at the Fresno State library. Step-by-step obedience leads to HUGE BLESSING as God gives us the joy and privilege to be His ambassadors.



### Three words that sum up Go Teams: **RELATIONSHIP - ADVENTURE - JOY**

Interested? There are two ways to go about stepping into this adventure:

1. **Gather around a common interest:** Select a group of people outside the church for whom you have a heart and find a group of people who share that passion with you. Pray and meet together asking God to guide your next steps as you begin to connect with those particular people outside the church.
2. **Gather around a community:** Find a group of people who want to be in an intentional missional community. Begin to meet and pray together asking God to draw you to a group of people outside the church whom you can serve. If you are interested in knowing more about Go Teams at FPC contact Mindy Franklin and/or call the church office.

**MINDY FRANKLIN**  
Ministry Leader



# COLLEGE MINISTRY

We are familiar with the phrase, "God is faithful!" Sometimes we hear it so often, it seems to lose some meaning for us. However, this past year in college ministry, God has proven time and time again the truth that indeed, **He is faithful!** Through the partnership between FPC and the CCO, we have seen God do some INCREDIBLE things.

In January, 3 students, 2 CCO Experiential Design leaders, and Geraud went on a trip called ReCreate. Students played in God's creation while re-creating a vision for their lives. It included discovering their identity, direction, and the purpose of community. After the trip, a student reflected, "I often settle for substitutes because they are so readily available and I tell myself that I can have the best of both worlds. It's easy to rebuke obvious addictions like gambling, but I came back home feeling convicted to identify even the subtle areas, like intimacy, in which I turn away from God's gift and pursue worldly substitutes."

13 students and 3 congregants attended the CCO's annual Jubilee Conference. Students grew in their faith and had an opportunity to ask deeper questions and explore what it means if they give their lives to Christ. One of our Fresno students prayed aloud, "God, I don't know if you are there, but here I am." Hallelujah! In front of our very eyes, God was changing a student's heart.

In the Summer we kicked off Encounter Fresno with 4 students and 1 intern living in the Pink House. Students gained a deeper understanding of why we all need the Gospel, the importance of the local church, and a vision for life beyond college. After 6 weeks of classes, mentorship, attending FPC, and living in community, students felt empowered to explore their faith more deeply and grasp how God is moving in their lives.

In the fall we welcomed our first CCO fellow, Austin Kilduff, a graduate from Northwestern University in Boston, MA. Austin came to Fresno for a year to join us as he discerns his call to further ministry. He has been connecting with students from our church and at all 3 Fresno colleges and universities. He has been a gift to the team!



Here are some other ministry highlights from the year:

- 3 students made a decision to follow Jesus and 2 students recommitted themselves to following Jesus.
- 25 students attended Bible study throughout the year.
- 13 students attended either a spring break trip or a fall retreat. During the summer, 20+ students were involved in college ministries through Bible studies, game nights, volunteering in CBA, etc.
- On average 18 students attend Project 23, a worship gathering to help students share the Gospel with their peers.
- 12 men and women from FPC were regularly committed to serving college students throughout the year in various capacities - from meal prep to Greek Life Go Team.

Next time you hear "God is faithful," look back on 2019 and remember the things that He has done!

**GERAUD BRUMFIELD**  
College Ministry Director

# Care



## DEACONS

In 2019, the Deacons extended care and compassion to many people from the congregation and the community. We have been thinking about and trying to create intergenerational opportunities for ministry and service. Also, our retreat helped us to learn to tell our stories in just a few sentences so that we are ready to “give a reason for the hope that is within us”.

Memorial receptions are a major way the Deacons, and many who come alongside, serve in a practical way. The intention is to not only serve food, but also to support the families and friends of those who come together to mourn. We trust that this is a way to sow the seeds of the gospel through kindness that will produce fruit.

It is our great joy to serve those in need through the Benevolence Fund. This year, through the generosity of the congregation, we gave over \$ 9,000 to those in need. This included people who needed temporary help with food, car trouble, moving expenses or various health issues. We look at requests from people (or their friends) and try to be good stewards of God’s gifts. This is a great way to share God’s love with so many in need.

**DENNIS DU PERTUIS**  
Ministry Leader

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our Stephen Ministry team has completed our third year offering this one-to-one lay caring ministry. Communication with the church family is improving and more and more people are becoming aware of the care giving ministry we offer. The spotlight on our ministry both from a mission focus and having a personal perspective, has opened the door to good discussions among the church family.

In May we began evaluating changes to help grow the ministry and have continued those discussions throughout the rest of the year. We have also been considering how to proceed after Pastor Lana’s retirement. Two Stephen Ministry leaders with years of experience in another church explored with our pastoral team the possibility of partnering with our SM team. We look forward to discovering how this relationship will unfold in 2020.

We ended this year in transition celebrating our years with Pastor Lana and excited for what the Lord has for us. May God be glorified as we seek to grow and minister together as a team.

**DIANNE MCKNEELY**  
Ministry Leader

# KINGDOM KIDS



*Children's Ministry's purpose is to lead kids to love Christ, His church, and the world. Our goals are to come alongside families to help their children know Jesus, belong to the church family, and learn how to love the world and serve others.*

Kingdom Kids is best described as fruitful and joyful. This year we welcomed 31 new children: 19 new children, 6 newborns, and 10 from Bethany Inner City Church (in November, they merged with us to become one Sunday School hour).

In addition to loving & educating children all morning each Sunday, we invited children & families to 12 events such as: 2 Sugar Pine camps; Kids Wednesday Nights (4th-6th graders); City Bible Adventure; and a Marriage Night. It was pure joy to see families and children enjoying one another, establishing new friendships, coming to know Jesus, and having fun.



This fall I partnered with Child Evangelism Fellowship to reach out to children at Lowell Elementary School through Good News Club. I've witnessed Holy Spirit fruit in my short time there. The number of students attending doubled, and 6 children came to accept Christ as Savior. Praise be to God! How exciting to see students return each week eager to hear the next chapter in an ongoing Bible story we unfold for six weeks at a time.

Another continuing joy is to tutor students at Martin Park. The Wise Old Owl team also engages kids in free time fun, a Bible lesson and prayer time. We are thrilled to have some of those students attending either our Wednesday program or Sunday School.

None of what God did in and around us at FPC this year could have happened if not for a large team of faithful and dedicated volunteers who prayed, loved on, taught and cared for our beloved children from birth to sixth grade, some of whom have been serving for many years. It was also your faithful prayers and offerings which allowed God's work to be fruitful and joyful.

**MARGIE NUÑEZ**  
Children's Ministry Director



*IGNITE- Where Jr. High students become disciples of Jesus who are ignited in their faith to pursue a deeper relationship with God and fully surrender their lives to worship the Lord (Heb. 12:28-29).*

### 2019 Fruit:

- 33 Active Students: 20 Eighth Grade and 13 Seventh Graders.
- 11 Youth Leaders investing their gifts and time to love students and each other well.
- 12 Outreach events with an average of 9 unchurched friends participating in each event.
- 11 New members completed Confirmation in April.
- 4 Camps/Retreats saw community growth and students committing their lives to Jesus!
- 2 Awesome Summer Staffers: Sophia Steele & Hector Chavez.
- 1 New Ministry Assistant: Ani Abajian.



We are thankful to God for his continual faithfulness to our students and team of leaders as we meet, laugh, cry, study, serve and go to camps together. The theme of 2019 was rhythms and growth, where parents, students and youth leaders learned new rhythms of making the gospel a lifestyle and growth that happened in students' relationships with Jesus! Relational ministry remains key to developing the faith of young disciples of Jesus. It is a privilege to walk alongside students and families in their joys and sorrows and our Youth Leaders have engaged with students in meaningful ways this year.



**MEAGAN BERGEM**  
Youth Ministry Director

# ROOTED



*ROOTED - Where High School students experience a loving community and grow deeply rooted in a relationship with Jesus, in order to bear Gospel fruitfulness for a lifetime (Col. 2:6-7)*

## **2019 Fruit:**

- 50 Active Students: 15 Freshmen; 15 Sophomores; 15 Juniors; 5 Seniors.
- 14 Youth Leaders investing their gifts and time to love students and each other well.
- 12 Student Leaders planning events, leading worship, and serving their peers.
- 10 New members completed Confirmation in April.
- 4 Camps/Retreats saw community growth and students committing their lives to Jesus!
- 2 Awesome Summer Staffers: Mitchel Walter & McKenzie Klassen.
- Guatemala Serve & Learn Trip in July.
- 1 New Ministry Assistant: J.R. Hancock.



God has been very present in some big changes this year! We said goodbye to our beloved Beth Paz as the High School Director in August, then welcomed Meagan Bergem into the new role of Director of Youth Ministries. The theme of 2019 was engagement and transition, where students chose to dive deeper into their faith even in the midst of change; youth leaders jumped aboard fresh and ready for ministry; and we grew more rooted together! Students' perspectives have been rocked by exposure to cross-cultural experiences. They have wrestled with God's goodness in the midst of hard realities, and sought to be a bold witness for Jesus on their campuses. These students, leaders, and parents are truly a testament to God's work of grace and transformation!

**MEAGAN BERGEM**  
Youth Ministry Director

# MISSION

We were blessed to steward the generous gifts of this congregation's \$ 152,000 mission budget for 2019. Most of it (\$ 70,000) was invested in the on-going support of mission partners or agencies making disciples around the world in places like India, Armenia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Brazil. Another \$ 44,000 was invested in support of ministries & partners working for the redeeming transformation of our city like Youth for Christ, Evangel Home, Hope Now for Youth and the Pregnancy Care Center. A little over \$ 18,000 was invested in support of our denomination's World Outreach Workers & Church Planters sharing the gospel in Germany, Romania, and even San Francisco.

Almost weekly, we introduced you to these servants and organizations during that mission minute in worship.

Did you know that FPC folks, individually or on teams, were serving and learning in India, Uganda, Nepal, Albania, Cambodia, Central Asia, South Asia, Mexico, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic? Going global is so good for us!



We also want to celebrate that there's one couple and one young adult in our congregation actively pursuing full time, long term mission work. What a joy & privilege to do our part to support their exploration, pray and otherwise support and encourage them. The couple are official EPC World Outreach workers in the process of discerning where God would have them serve among an unreached people group. The young adult took the Perspective class and traveled with teams to two countries this past year. (Yes, we left off names and details for security reasons.)

"We are happy to be your children, oh Lord; make us happier still to extend the table."

**TERRY JAURENA**  
Mission, Outreach, Communications Director

# OUTREACH

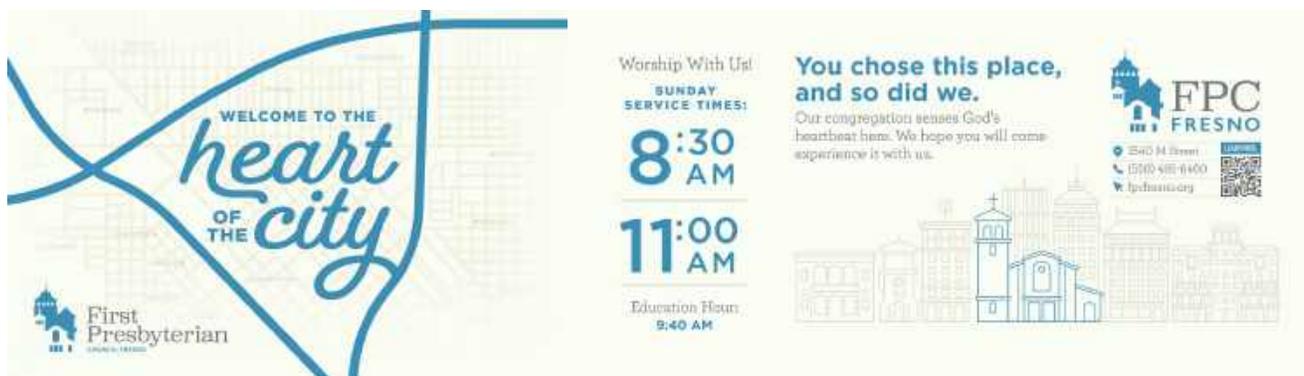


To frame this report I share the distinction between Outreach & Evangelism made by Ken Priddy at the Church Vitality training we had in 2016:

“Outreach is of great value and often is a prerequisite to evangelism, but outreach should not be mistaken for evangelism. **Outreach** happens when people of faith from inside the church connect with people without faith on the outside of the church in order to build credible and sustainable relationships. **Evangelism** happens when people without faith are connected to the crystal clear Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Here are a few connection efforts from 2019:

- Those Easter & Christmas yard signs & invitations are intended to help you, as people of faith inside the church, to connect with people without faith outside of the church. The fruit is not so much in who comes, but in your making a connection.
- 12 ArtHops the 1st Thursday of each month, believing that a warm welcome and a kind conversation can sow gospel seeds.
- Since June we’ve used a mail service to send welcome postcards to those who’ve moved into the lofts & apartments nearby. That effort was refined a bit when Bekah Hanson, Randy White & Jill Freeman added their talents. The QR code on those postcards directs them to a new “Welcome Neighbors” page on our website.



- In July, we invited you to join or form a group to Eat Downtown after church, getting to know folks in the church and being a blessing to our neighbors. It was so much fun, we did it again in January of 2020.

May God make our efforts to build credible & sustainable relationships fruitful.

**TERRY JAURENA**  
Mission, Outreach, Communications Director

# WORSHIP ARTS



The Worship Arts Ministry is made up of many different teams whose goal is to lead the congregation to honor and glorify God.

FPC is one of the few remaining churches in the Fresno area that continues to have a strong choir. So many people cannot commit to being involved in this ministry for the whole year, so there are opportunities to join choir for short sessions (Fall, Christmas, Winter, Easter, and Spring).

Music interns continue to work with the choir in what can be described as a discipleship relationship. The interns are not only getting vocational training, but they are also being encouraged in their faith.

The First Impressions Team (Link Crew, Greeters, and Ushers) are improving capacity to host well to those that attend our worship gatherings.

Full Court Pres, (the children's choir), Joyful Ringers (the Bell Choir), the Brass Ensemble, the Chancel Choir, and the worship bands continue to provide worship music for the congregation.

The screen and sound technicians continue to support the pastors and worship teams with quality support. Additional members have joined the 2nd service worship band including some of our high school students.

Individuals serve during the summer, offering solos, duets, small groups in music for our offertories. It's a joy to see the variety of talents in our church.



This year's 43rd Annual Messiah Sing-Along was once again an event that glorified God and served as an outreach event to the community. Around 450 people attend!

Prayerfully consider the many opportunities for you to get involved in one of the many teams in the Worship Arts.

**DR. JULIE CARTER**  
Music & Worship Director

# PERSONNEL, FACILITIES & FINANCE

The Lord has blessed our congregation with a dedicated and talented staff. Our committee has been delighted to interact with and support our staff team as they have creatively sought to serve the Lord in their individual areas of ministry while focused on how those efforts support FPC's Purpose Statement: Engaging together in Christ's work of making disciples for the redeeming transformation of our city and world.

In September the Session decided to combine the overlapping areas of interests of formerly stand-alone Personnel Committee with Facilities and Finance. This structure has enriched our discussions regarding a variety of staffing issues including staff changes during the year as well as developing recommendations for future staffing/structure to be presented to the Session.

Since October, Bill Briggs has served as Moderator, with a primary focus on Personnel issues and Allan Knepper continuing to focus on Facilities and Finance issues. Pastor Jeremy is included. Adding Elder Justin Fortmeyer, Gerre Brenneman, and Katie Brown enabled the views of a broader cross-section of our congregation to be represented during our deliberations.

A major focus of those deliberations have been staff departures, realignment of responsibilities and new hires.

- Oscar Rodriguez departed FPC with our blessing to devote all of his efforts to the Martin Park Ministry in February.
- Nathan Crain was hired to replace Oscar and he has become an effective and personable member of our custodial staff.
- Beth Paz departed as Director of High School Ministries at the end of August. Beth completed an MDiv and received a fully-funded one-year post-graduate Fellowship from Fuller Theological Seminary.
- The following new positions were created and filled to realign our Jr. and High School ministries (Ignite and Rooted). We are blessed to have these creative and energetic staff directing our youth ministries.
  - Meagan Bergem, Director of Youth Ministries
  - JR (John Robert) Hancock, High School Youth Ministry Assistant
  - Ani Abajian, Jr. High Youth Ministry Assistant.
- Associate Pastor Lana Roberts retired effective December 31 after blessing FPC with her many gifts for 14-years.
- Assistant Pastor Chris Popadich departed, also effective December 31. He is actively seeking clarity from the Lord regarding EPC pastoral options.

We also addressed other HR related issues and maintained communication with the staff. The following PFF actions were approved by Session:

- Ataloo Woodin's position description, Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, was updated to reflect her increased responsibilities;
- Anti-Harassment Policy to be official policy and included in the Staff Handbook;
- Updated Staff Driver Policy and Volunteer Driver Policy made official FPC policies.

Gerre Brenneman, Katie Brown and Justin Fortmeyer took the lead conducting the annual Check-In Interviews which encourage an open exchange regarding work-related issues, both positive and negative. Bill Briggs, Justin Fortmeyer and Elder Charity Whitney met with Pastor Chris for his Exit Interview.

Katie Brown took the lead in recognizing the following staff members for their years of valued service to FPC:

*Freddie Rodriguez: 25-years | Ataloo Woodin: 5-years | Margie Nunez: 5-years*

PFF recommended that all staff receive an across the board salary increase of \$.50 hr. The dedication of our staff is appreciated and the increase is a tangible way to reflect their various contributions to FPC's ministry.

**BILL BRIGGS**  
Personnel Elder

# FACILITIES

“Never a dull moment for the Facility Team.” That seems to be the perfect motto for our crew. While the regular maintenance and intermittent equipment repair needs are keeping us busy all year long, we seem to always be looking for ways to make the church campus just a little more user-friendly.

David Parker, Allan Knepper and his son Zechariah spent countless hours in 2019 replacing the majority of our classroom and office fluorescent light fixtures with more cost-effective LED lighting. This job was and still is a big undertaking. It has already made a noticeable difference in our utilities billing.

Other volunteers, like groups from our College ministry and the MLB, have "pitched in" with a couple of painting projects. We are always looking for ways to get folks engaged.



The Music Room (used as a practice room for the choir) got a few updates, such as new paint, new flooring, and additional storage spaces. Likewise, one of our Children’s classrooms (Rm 206) has been updated with a fresh coat of paint, some new wall décor, and a new cabinet/counter combination.

We have made a couple of campus security-related changes, too. In the spring of 2019, we installed several security cameras in various locations of our facility. The system has helped us identify areas to address in order to reduce some of the outside issues seen in the past. Around the same time, we added and/or replaced some outside light fixtures to make our campus brighter at night.

Our Administration building received some attention when we replaced the worn-out carpet in the upstairs hallway. The new checkered pattern carpet tiles are also great for playing “Hopscotch” 😊.

One of the biggest highlights was the opportunity to celebrate Freddie Rodriguez’s 25 years of employment with FPC in December. His long-term custodial work has been a huge blessing over the years. We often dwell on his experience and he has proven to be a great servant for the Lord’s kingdom.



Going into 2020 the biggest prayer request for the Facility Team is the installation of the long awaited solar project in our parking lot. May the Lord make this year the one that concludes this project.

**TORSTEN GRÜNBERG**  
Facilities & Finance Director

# FINANCE

Gratefully Session again extends its thanks for your continued giving to FPC.

The giving for 2019 was \$ 1,436,713. This is about a \$ 23,000 (1.6%) increase from 2018. God provides just as He promises. I need to confess that it was difficult to believe as the first giving quarter of 2019 was one of our lowest in almost 10 years. I apprehensively presented this issue to Session and they chose to pray and wait to see what God was doing. I still worried slightly more than I prayed but clearly there were enough prayers and grace that we not only caught up but exceeded what seemed impossible then.

We have over the past two years presented deficit budgets. We had decided the level of cash was too high and wanted to put it to kingdom use. The goal was to invest extra in certain ministry areas using our undesignated cash. Now for 2020 we have aligned our budget with 2020 expected giving. The reductions were achieved by a belt tightening strategy in ministries and budgeting to replace two full time pastors with one. We even were able to give staff raises and provide Jeremy some funds to further enhance his sabbatical by attending additional conferences and training seminars.

To start 2020 we have about \$ 640,000 undesignated cash in the bank. We have earmarked \$ 320,000 for solar (I actually believe it will be done by summer. Please PRAY.)

Session is always concerned that we use the funds God has given to us to further increase His kingdom and will continue to evaluate our spending to further help engage our FPC congregants in sharing and deepening their faith.

Again, thank you for enabling FPC Ministries through your giving.

## Budget Comparison 2019 to 2020

Ministry	2019 Spending	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2019-2020 Change
Administration	79,991	76,254	78,942	2,688
Christian Education	55,403	60,800	53,700	(7,100)
Community Growth	63,565	71,800	27,300	(44,500)*
Deacons	1,266	4,030	3,230	(800)
Facility & Grounds	143,251	151,500	152,200	700
Mission	151,353	152,000	147,600	(4,400)
Outreach	4,425	9,850	8,290	(1,560)
Personnel	928,022	968,469	955,082	(13,387)
Worship	20,499	22,285	22,095	(190)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,447,775</b>	<b>1,516,988</b>	<b>1,488,439</b>	<b>(68,594)</b>

\*Our CCO commitment was moved to Personnel

**ALLAN KNEPPER**  
Finance Elder

# SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR 2020



## **ERIC CRANTZ, ELDER**

In 1987 Eric began attending FPC. He is married to Sarah and they have four daughters: Julia, Hannah, Laura, and Ava. He is most looking forward to serving our congregation and growing closer to God through the process.



## **MINDY FRANKLIN, ELDER**

Mindy came to FPC in 1978 through her involvement with Seekers and the Trainee ministry. She has been involved in the church over the years in many capacities. She is married to Jamie and they have three married adult children: Hannah Norman, Bekah Hanson, and Lucas Franklin, and she has three delightful grandchildren. She is motivated to serve because there is no greater joy than stepping out in obedience to God's call by offering Him her loaves and fish and watching Him do far greater things than she could ever imagine.



## **DEBORAH A. HUGHES, ELDER**

Deborah has been attending FPC since 1997. She has been a widow since 2016 after 46 years of marriage. She has three adult children and two grandchildren. She is motivated to serve by her desire to see our church become the Holy Spirit inspired, transformational, Jesus-centered church God desires us to be.



## **SUZANNE KIMBALL, ELDER**

Suzanne has attended FPC since 2011 with her husband Dan. They have three adult children: Kelsey, Michaela, and Logan. She strongly believes in the direction that FPC is headed as a downtown church and reaching out to our neighbors and being a beacon of light in a difficult part of our city. She also believes in the leadership that Jeremy provides and is motivated to support him in this season of change.



## **CHARITY WHITNEY, ELDER** (2nd 3 year term)

Charity attended FPC in 1998 and then again in 2012 after she returned from school. She joyfully worships here with her husband Ian and daughter Patience as well as her parents, Leslie and David Purvis. She is serving because of God's boundless capacity for renewal. He is at work transforming her, our church and our city through leadership.



## **BEN WIELE, ELDER** (2 year term)

Ben has been attending FPC since 2012. He was referred to our church by friends and a random passerby in Starbucks - seriously! He and Ashley have been married since 2010. They have one son, Cooper, and a daughter, Reese. Ben serves because he understands the vital role church leadership plays in the life of the community and is honored to explore what that role means for him and his family. (for 2 year term)



### **CHESTER GOODALE, DEACON FOR PRAYER**

Chester has been attending FPC since April of 1997. He is married to Julie and they have three adult children: Stephen, Caleb, and Sarah. He believes that the desire to pray is Holy Spirit given, and that having a heart for prayer is as much caught as taught. He hopes to see people at FPC grow in having a heart for prayer! (2nd 3 year term)



### **BILL GOTTHARDT, DEACON FOR COMMUNION**

In 2016 Bill began attending FPC. FPC member Bea Kast (now deceased) is his aunt. He is motivated to serve and teach our church and community as a deacon the way that Jesus served and taught the multitudes.



### **CATHERINE LUSK, DEACON FOR MEAL SUPPORT**

Catherine grew up attending FPC with her parents, Jim and Roxanne Cousins. After some time she began attending again in 2013. She is married to Jeff Lusk and their son is Everett. Catherine was blessed to receive meal support after the birth of her son and she looks forward to sharing tangible blessings with others.



### **SANDY MOZIER, DEACON FOR CARE COORDINATION**

Sandy began attending FPC in 2007. She is married to Scott and they have three daughters, Marika, Haley, and Lauren. She is motivated to serve as a Deacon because she loves Jesus and she loves His church. She believes that service is one of the ways that we live out our faith as Christians.



### **DAVID PARKER, DEACON FOR FOOD CLOSET**

David has been attending FPC with his family since Easter of 2016 by the request of his son, who had attended winter camp with the Jr. High youth group. David is married to Kristina and they have two children, Caleb and Samantha, and all are actively involved in the life of the church. David has always believed that helping the church meet the needs of the community in very practical ways helps us to experience the blessings that God will share with his people.



### **KATHLEEN WILSON, DEACON FOR MEMORIALS**

Kathleen first attended FPC in 1970 and has been attending regularly since 2017. She is married to Joe and they have three married children and six grandchildren. She has been asking the Lord where to serve and when she was approached about becoming a Deacon she knew it was a call from Him. She hopes to share and experience God's glorious love as she serves.

**Nominating Committee:** Eric Crantz (incoming Elder), Emily Dull, John Goodell (current Elder), Paula Harabedian (current Deacon), Heidi Lynn and Dave Peltola. (One additional member yet to be added.)

# *Saints Gone Home*

Al Adams

Fred Fitchhorn

Rod Kellenberger

Ben Shaver

FPC Members who Died in 2019



1540 M Street | Fresno CA, 93721  
559-485-6460 | [fpcfresno.org](http://fpcfresno.org)