

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jody Brockett Schmetz, Worship Elder

Worship services for SHPC are planned weekly by the Worship Committee. Worship committee members are Pastor Bev Brewster, Music Minister Stephen Iverson, and Worship Elder Jody Schmetz, with pastoral intern Lora East through the spring of 2015.

Services are planned around a variety of themes derived from seasonal observances, the Lectionary, the life of the church, and current events. Pastor Bev prepares the majority of the sermons. In 2015 we welcomed Cathy Sarkisian, pastoral intern Lora East, Pastor Curran Reichert, Pastor Bentley Stewart, and Pastor Paul Gaffney as guest preachers. Each week adult and youth liturgists are chosen from the church community for the upcoming service. Communion is served during worship at least once a month and SHPC continues its long tradition of Birthday and Two Cents a Meal Sundays. Music Ministers Stephen Iverson and Michael McCarty provide preludes, chants, hymns, anthems, and original music that support the theme of each Sunday. Again this year they were often joined by drummer Bill O'Callaghan. For special services they were joined by guest musicians including vocalist Charlotte Phillips, harpist Natalie Cox, and the Meg Eldridge String Quartet.



The hand chime group also performed for Advent.

The liturgical artists and Flower Guild members work to visually and creatively support the seasonal celebrations and weekly services. This past year they brought back the very popular "Sacred Circle" for Lent and Easter. For Advent they created a beautiful new installation supporting the theme "Where Heaven and Earth Meet" with special thanks to artist Margaret Thorp. This installation had a large earth arc of woven ribbon, moss, and flowers reaching up to the lighted heaven arc of shimmering cloud-like fabrics. The Flower Guild, led by Patti Vance, has done a beautiful job contributing flowers and plant life for the enrichment of worship each week.



The Worship Committee plans special services for Christmas and Easter as well as for Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, "Fat Sunday", World Communion Sunday, and Stewardship Sunday. These special services were all well attended. For Easter we had 165 in attendance; we had over 150 for Christmas Eve. Overall attendance has been strong.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Schmetz
Worship Elder

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT

Fred Morfit, Building and Grounds Elder

The overall state of our building and grounds is solid and healthy, but like fifty-somethings everywhere, it is starting to show its age here and there. On the plus side, we have a lot of devoted folks who lent their time, energy and expertise not only to keeping up with the maintenance, but actually making improvements that will make our collective use of the place more enjoyable.

- We had a very successful Work Day that brought an army of members out to sand, scrape, paint, scrub, sweep and dig and generally whip the joint into shape. It was an enormous success that involved a lot of folks and left the place in great shape for another year.
- We completed the installation of a 2000 gallon rain catchment system that was the combined brain child of the Green and Garden teams.
- We did a major overhaul on the hillside drainage to finally (we hope!) solve the problem of diverting the huge amount of water that comes off the hill during heavy rains away from the building and off the grounds.



But much remains to be done and we have big ambitions for 2016 and beyond. After polling the congregation we have a long list of "to do's" that we are wading into right away. First up is going to be a new set of front doors to beautify the main entrance and

put an end to the question once and for all of, “Is this a church or the Drake High School gym?”

Once that job is complete, we will take a look at the “wish list “ that everyone contributed to and figure out how we can take on some of the other, bigger jobs. A kitchen remodel was something that many, many people felt was in order, for example. But funding such projects is going to be our biggest challenge and we, collectively, have to find ways to make these improvements real. We have an amazing group here at SHPC and we deserve a facility that reflects the energy, compassion and sense of community that we demonstrate every day. I look forward to being part of that effort and working with all of you to make this vision a reality.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Morfit
Building and Grounds Elder

MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Patti Vance, Mission and Justice Elder

The Sleepy Hollow Church continues to support outreach in our community and beyond. The Mexico Mission project, under the direction of Mark Sarkisian and Chris Lopin, guided high school youth in constructing two homes in Mexico in June. To gain carpentry skills for this mission, students built two new garden beds for the Justice Garden and reinforced existing structures.



The REST Program continued its mission of providing meals and dignity for homeless men and women. Shannon Mong coordinated efforts along with site leaders Millie Millar and Scott Hamilton. We also participated in the summer pilot program which provided meals for the homeless during the summer months. Shannon expanded our mission by inviting youth to cook for the monthly REST meals. Youth REST cooking is a wonderful mission outreach effort for youth in our community.

The Justice Garden had another bountiful growing season – producing over 1,000 pounds of tomatoes and other organic veggies with help from over 15 church and community members. Produce was delivered to the Marin Food Bank, Bennett House for low-income seniors and the farm table at church for Sunday mornings. Our community farmstand on Saturdays helped raise over \$1,000 with proceeds to benefit the REST Program.



Our Garden/Green efforts were honored with the *Spirit of Sustainability Award* by the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative in October. We are mission partners with the ISFC, and have contributed much to each other's food justice ministries. Our Green and Garden teams continue to collaborate on moving our church towards being a greener church and are committed to sustainability education.

At Christmas, Frankie Eakes directed the Gift Program for CASA and foster children with donations from church members for over four dozen children.

Wil Swalberg is the dedicated overseer of our Food Barrel Ministry, which benefits the Marin Food Bank with hundreds of pounds of canned and dried food yearly. He also makes sure that we bring our Cents-ability Offerings in monthly to feed the hungry through Presbyterian Hunger Action. We contribute to our national church through Presbyterian Peacemaking and One Great Hour of Sharing (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Assistance, and Presbyterian Self-Development of People). Locally, we support the Marin Interfaith Council, and Pastor Bev participates regularly in MIC peacemaking discussion.

Our Pastor advocates for criminal justice reform and ending cruelty to children in prison, and members of our congregation have joined the effort to end prolonged juvenile solitary confinement.

Members of our congregation continue to provide mission outreach that benefit the community in so many ways. Thank you one and all for your caring efforts this past year!

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Vance

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE REPORT

Linda Peltzman, Membership Nurture Elder

2015 has been a good year. My committee and myself have been a welcoming presence for newcomers and visitors. Between us, we manage to have at least one person each Sunday to make folks feel at home at SHPC. Our bean soup welcome jars have been received well and I'm told tasted good!!!! We have a meeting planned for assembly of about 4 dozen more. In a money saving effort I have asked the congregation for donations of pint jars and have been blessed with an abundance of them. I recently added 2 volunteers to my committee.

The Birthday card ministry of recognition continues.

Our annual Church family retreat was well attended and we had a chance to visit, eat and play together out in the redwoods. Plans are underway for a spring retreat again this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Peltzman

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Carolyn Goodman, Moderator

With a goal of building a stronger, more connected congregant community, Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church is organized into 4 Parishes, each one led by a Deacon. For the past year, Parishes have been led by veterans Patti Eisinger and Nancy Elberg/Frankie Eakes, returning Deacon Marie Ongaro and newcomer Robin Holway, with organizational support from the Deacon Moderator, Carolyn Goodman.

The Deacons are primarily responsible for organizing and managing the Sunday Fellowship Hour that follows Worship, by tapping into volunteers from each Parish to supply something sweet, something savory and (because we are all coffee drinkers!) the endless supply of caffeine to keep our morning on track.

Deacons also organize and run the annual Harvest Feast - a traditional SHPC event that celebrates our bountiful gifts. While the Deacons prepared and served the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce and veggies, the congregation supplied all of the side dishes from a variety of salads, bread and non-traditional foodstuffs to the more traditional pumpkin, pecan and mincemeat pies. Long, family-style tables meant the entire congregation could sit together and enjoy a meal that was lovingly prepared by all in attendance.

Each Deacon also hosted a potluck Deacon Dinner at their home during the year. Invitees from their respective Parishes allowed for additional community-building and the opportunity to get to know one another better.

Throughout the year, the Deacons also helped to organize meals for Betty and Wil Swalberg, provide coffee and nibbles after special events, and keep the kitchen stocked with juice, creamer and paper goods in order to ensure a smooth-flowing Fellowship Hour.

In addition to her organizational and management duties, Deacon Moderator Carolyn Goodman attended the monthly Session meetings as a non-voting member.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Goodman
Moderator, Board of Deacons