

Annual Report to the Congregation - May 2015

Assistant Minister, Rev Lucy Bunch

It has been a great year overall. I have been impressed with the resilience of the congregation in handling the move to Sierra Arden and managing all the details of the building project. It has been a privilege to walk beside the leaders of the project and offer support and encouragement. After we move back to our renovated space this fall (and after some rest!) we will have renewed energy for our mission, "to deepen our lives and be a force for healing in the world." I am proud to be one of the ministers of this wonderful congregation.

Here is a summary of activities in my main areas of responsibility.

Staff Leadership and Committee Support

Administration is a significant part of my portfolio. I supervise the business office and oversee many of the administrative functions of the church.

Stanton Vedell, our Facilities Coordinator, was hired at the beginning of the year in the combined role of Communications and Facilities Coordinator. He is doing a great job in the position, learning quickly and establishing good relationships with the congregation. He along with Elaine Cooper, our receptionist, and Michele Ebler, our bookkeeper, form an effective and mutually supportive team in the office. They are a delight to work with.

This year we upgraded Power Church, our church management software. This has allowed us to have more flexibility for developing mailing lists and reports. We have streamlined our procedures and cleaned up some of our data – we already see greater efficiency. Michele is doing a wonderful job managing all the various accounts, including all the donations and the budget for the building project. She is also taking the lead in managing our membership data.

With funds from the Endowment and fundraising from RE parents we were able to upgrade most of the rooms in the RE wing, including new paint and carpet in the Fahs room, and classrooms 6, 7/8, 9 and 10. We put in new counters in rooms 6, 9 and 12. Room 12 was painted by Carol Jacobs, Doris Jaynes and Jeff Voehler. These upgrades make the rooms more pleasant for meetings and classes.

I serve as ministerial support to the Building Project Steering committee and attend their meetings as well as those of the Building Project Delivery Team. This effort has been a big part of my responsibility for the past two years. I also attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and the Finance Committee.

Congregational Support

This past year I implemented a new small group ministry program called Spiritual Deepening Circles. We have 9 circles with 8-12 members each, meeting twice a month. Each circle has two facilitators who meet with me once a month. I developed the curriculum that the circles use each month. The circles

will close in June, and reconfigure next year. We have not completed our evaluation process, but so far the feedback has been very good.

I preach once a month, and lead or participate in an all-ages service once a month. In addition to some of the traditional all-ages services such as the water communion in the fall, we have created some new services this year, such as the “Sacredness of Trees “ in January, “Fire and Blessing” in February, and “Planting seeds of Hope” in March. Along with Roger, I attend the monthly Religious Services Committee meeting to plan and evaluate our worship services.

Pastoral care is also a part of my responsibilities, and I see congregants during my office hours or by appointment. Occasionally I will visit people in their places of residence.

I offered three Adult Enrichment classes this past year. In November I offered a two part class on Islam. We had over 35 people in attendance! I also offered a workshop Pilgrimage of the Soul that included Collage making and Labyrinth walks. Hinduism was the focus on a two-part class in April. I’ve also led a session for the Alliance Program.