

Annual Report 2019



January 26, 2020
Congregational Meeting

Shawnthea Monroe, Senior Pastor

Dear Peoples Church,

It seems a bit presumptuous for a pastor who's just arrived to write an annual report. I can't offer any grand reflection on the past year; most of this year, I was serving a different church. Moreover, since I arrived on October 15, 2019, I've been on a steep learning curve. Every church has a particular set of habits and practices – a unique way of “being church.” The Peoples Church is no exception and I am still figuring out The Peoples' way of doing things.

One thing I find myself doing a lot these days is asking “Why?” Why do we have our children's pageant so early in Advent? Why do we celebrate communion every Sunday at the 8:30 am service? Why do we have staff meetings only twice a month? Why do we cram the fall annual meeting into a service of worship??

Sometimes the answer is straightforward: Why do we have all our ministries meet on the same night? Because it facilitates communication and collaboration, and gives everyone a sense of our common, higher purpose. (What an excellent idea!) Sometimes the answer is less straightforward: Why don't we celebrate All Saints' Day? Because we never have. (Spoiler alert: that will change in 2020.) Sometimes the answer is revealing: Why did you move the high pulpit off the chancel? Because there was once a pastor who didn't like it. (Oh, then let's move it back.) Sometimes no one knows the answer: Why don't we celebrate Reformation Sunday? Hmm...good question.

Sometimes I ask the question before I make a necessary change: Does anyone know why you are passing the peace after communion? No, why do you ask? Because theologically, the passing of the peace should follow the prayer of confession and assurance of pardon. It is a symbol of our reconciliation with our brothers and sisters in the church, which Jesus tells us to do BEFORE we gather at the table. (So I changed the order of service.)

Churches, like individuals, can fall into habits that are unintentional – or even unnecessary. I remember a story my grandmother Grace told me about her mother's habit of cutting off the end of a ham before putting it in the oven. When Grace asked her mother why she did that, she said, “I don't know. That's how my mother did it, so that's how I do it.” When Grace asked her grandmother why she cut off the end of the ham, her grandmother said, “Because I never had a pan large enough to hold a whole one.”

The key to effective ministry and vibrant mission is to be intentional, i.e. you never want to cut off the end of a ham unless you have a reason to. Asking “why” is a good way to understand whether something is done with intention or is just an unexamined habit. In 2020, I will still be asking questions, but I will also begin to suggest changes to the way we do things at The Peoples Church. The body of Christ never stays the same – it is always acting with intention in the world.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Senior Pastor. I look forward to a full year of wonderful ministry together!

Minutes of the January 27, 2019 Congregational Meeting

Jodi Cook, Chair of the Council of Elders called the meeting to order as part of the 10:30 a.m. service call to worship. After asking for a show of hands of church members in attendance, the clerk, Thad Morgan, then declared there to be a quorum present of at least 100 church members sufficient to conduct the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer David Brower presented the proposed 2019 budget, as approved by the Council of Elders, and answered questions about the budget. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed budget. After discussion concerning the use of restricted funds to address budgetary shortfalls, a motion was made and seconded to table approval of the budget pending further information. The motion to table passed by a majority.

No further business was conducted, and the meeting was adjourned following the Congregation's Affirmation of Faith at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes of the February 3, 2019 Congregational Meeting

Jodi Cook, Chair of the Council of Elders reconvened the budget meeting as part of the 10:30 a.m. service. After asking for a show of hands of church members in attendance, the clerk, Thad Morgan, then declared there to be a quorum present of at least 100 church members sufficient to conduct the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer David Brower presented information on the availability of restricted funds to address budget reductions of certain ministries. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 updated budget. The motion passed unanimously.

No further business was conducted, and the meeting was adjourned following the Congregation's Affirmation of Faith at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes of July 21, 2019 Congregational Special Business Meeting

Jodi Cook, Chair of the Council of Elders called the meeting to order following the 10:30 a.m. service. The sole agenda item was the election to call Dr. Shawnthea Monroe as Senior Pastor of The Peoples Church as unanimously nominated by the Council of Elders. Dr. Monroe presented her sermon, "The Undiscovered Country," during the 10:30 a.m. service. Pursuant to A.12.2, there was no need to declare a quorum since a vote of only $\frac{3}{4}$ of members in attendance is needed to approve the call.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the call of Dr. Monroe as Senior Pastor of the Church. The motion passed unanimously after which Dr. Monroe was invited back into the sanctuary where she accepted the call.

Minutes of the November 10, 2019 Congregational Meeting

Jodi Cook, Chair of the Council of Elders called the meeting to order during the 10:30 a.m. service. The Clerk, Thad Morgan, declared there to be a quorum sufficient to conduct the meeting. A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Rev. Dr. Monroe gave her sermon, "Before and After," after which Chairperson Cook introduced the slate of candidates for the Council of Elders, Nominating Committee, and Treasurer, as selected by the Nominating Committee. Chairperson Cook opened the floor to nominations. There being no floor nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and elect the slate of candidates by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously and the following individuals were elected. Council of Elders: Rick Comstock, Carol Dooley,

Bev Mason, Mary Nowack and Bob Watson.. Nominating Committee: Cathy Privette, Anne Marie Lindley, Cindy Carson, Duane Leroy, Jr. and Sandy Wegenke. Treasurer: Ken Beall.

Chairperson Cook thanked the outgoing Elders for their service to the Church. There were no questions, comments, or new business. A motion was made seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.

**Clerk's Statistical Report
January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019**

Thaddeus Morgan, Clerk

Total Membership as of January 1, 2018		1112
Letter of Transfer (In)	2	
Baptism/Profession of Faith	4	
Reaffirmation of Faith	7	
Confession of Faith/Confirmation	7	
TOTAL		20
Members removed by request	219	
Letter of Transfer (Out)	0	
Deceased	<u>18</u>	
TOTAL		-237

Total Membership as of December 31 **895**

Baptisms		8
Marriages at The Peoples Church		5
Funerals/Memorials at The Peoples Church		13

Service to the Wider Community

Funerals/Memorials		1
Marriages Off-site		11

We remember with deep appreciation and love the servants of God and members of The Peoples Church who died in 2019:

Helen Gieseler	January 7	Emily Henderson	April 14
Diane Miller	January 11	Theresa Paullin	April 22
Walter Wiedbrauk	February 1	Jean Porter	June 17
Linda Dansby	February 3	Yvonne Hafner	June 25
Charles Long	February 9	Frank McAuley	July 15
Russell Kropschot	February 27	Cathleen Gardner	July 21
Alvin Boettcher	April 3	Taylor Johnston	July 26
Betty Weaver	April 12	Al Leppek	August 3
Doris Cuthbertson	April 13	Janet Ronk	October 29

The Peoples Church			
PROPOSED 2020 GENERAL FUND BUDGET			
	Amended		Proposed
	2019	2019	2020
	Budget	Actual	Budget
Revenues and Support:			
Contributions:			
General Fund Pledges- Note A	\$ 650,000		\$ 675,000
Other Giving	125,000		125,000
Total Unrestricted Giving	775,000	\$ 774,629	800,000
Endowment Distributions- Note B	105,000	105,000	105,000
Preschool Income	1,220,000	1,262,205	1,275,000
Other Income	5,000	4,938	6,000
Total Income - Note C	\$ 2,105,000	\$ 2,146,772	\$ 2,186,000
Expenses:			
Personnel (non-Preschool)- Note D	\$ 700,000	\$ 703,936	\$ 745,000
Christian Education/Wed. Night Live	30,000	26,248	30,000
Campus Ministry	8,000	7,135	8,000
Community Engagement	60,000	57,559	60,000
Music & Worship- Note E	11,000	9,959	17,500
Communications	9,000	6,444	7,000
Welcome Ministry	1,000	992	1,500
Administrative/Stewardship	60,000	75,449	61,000
Building & Grounds- Note F	257,000	267,558	256,000
Preschool Expense	982,300	939,538	1,000,000
Total expenses	\$ 2,118,300	\$ 2,094,818	\$ 2,186,000
Revenues less Expenses	\$ (13,300)	\$ 51,954	\$ -
Note A: Stewardship pledges to date approximate \$675,000, which was our goal. Other giving has been set at \$125,000.			
Note B: The Endowment Fund had a market value approximating \$2,947,000 at 12/31/19. The 2020 spending policy rate has been set at 4.65% which will result in approximately \$105,000 being distributed to General Fund and \$20,000 to the 13 restricted accounts.			
Note C: Restricted accounts are used for expendable gifts and endowment income restricted as to use or monies raised for specific purposes. Consistent with past practices, restricted accounts are used for non-budgeted purposes as deemed appropriate by the Peoples Church Elders and Ministries. As of December 31, 2019 restricted account balances totaled \$452,533, which includes \$162,734 restricted for organ repair and replacement.			
Note D: The 2020 Personnel budget includes a 2% raise for salary increases, an increase in minimum wage and provides for other anticipated inflationary increases in benefits.			
Note E: Included in the Music & Worship budget is \$6,500 for American Sign Language (ASL) services, previously funded from Restricted Funds donated for this purpose.			
Note F: The Building and Grounds budget incorporates expected inflationary increases in budgeted items and provides \$34,000 for capital improvements. Often, bequests and other one-time gifts are used to fund major capital improvements and maintenance. Gifts and bequests for capital improvements are generally recorded in the Restricted Fund until expended.			

THE PEOPLES CHURCH OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2019

	December 2019	December 31 2018	
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 672,450	\$ 480,877	Note 1
Endowment investments	2,975,883	2,371,304	Note 2
Land, building, and contents	2,788,182	2,788,182	Note 3
Total assets	\$ 6,436,515	\$ 5,640,363	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Payroll taxes due	\$ 8,677	\$ 4,083	
Employee Savings Plan & other liabilities	17,181	(2)	
Wage Garnishment Due	(182)	(182)	
Health Insurance Liability	9,066	18,956	
Pre-paid Contributions	27,100	21,600	
Unrestricted net assets			
General	158,075	106,121	
Property	2,788,182	2,788,182	Note 3
Temporarily restricted net assets			
All other	452,533	330,301	
Endowment net assets	2,975,883	2,371,304	Note 2
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,436,515	\$ 5,640,363	

KEY POINTS

Note 1 - Total cash at December 31, 2019 was \$672,450. Of this balance \$219,917 was General Fund cash and the balance of \$454,533 was Restricted Fund cash.

Note 2 - Total Endowment Assets at 12/31/19 were \$ 2,975,883 vs \$2,371,304 at 12/31/18.

Following is a summary of 2019 Endowment Fund activity:

Beginning balance 1/1/19	\$2,371,304
2019 gifts and bequests	323,724
Net income and market appreciation	405,657
Less spending policy distribution	-124,802
Ending balance 12/31/19	\$2,975,883

The market value of investments at Merrill Lynch at 12/31/19 was \$2,946,744.39. Other Endowment assets at 12/31/19 totaled \$29,138.17.

Note 3 - Under the modified accrual basis of accounting used by The Peoples Church, assets are recorded at original cost at time of acquisition. Assets are not depreciated and repairs and maintenance are expensed.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN				
Statement of Activities				
December 31, 2019				
	Yr to Date Actual	2019 Revised Budget	2019 Actual to Budget	
Unrestricted Net Assets				
Revenues and support				
Contributions	774,629	775,000	100.0%	<i>Note 3-1</i>
Endowment Distributions	105,000	105,000	100.0%	
Preschool Revenue	1,262,205	1,220,000	103.5%	<i>Note 3-2</i>
Restricted Funds	-	-		
Other	4,938	5,000	98.8%	
Total Income	2,146,772	2,105,000	102.0%	
Expenses				
Personnel	703,936	700,000	100.6%	<i>Note 3-3</i>
Christian Education/WNL	26,248	30,000	87.5%	
Campus ministry	7,135	8,000	89.2%	
Community Engagement minis	57,559	60,000	95.9%	
Music and Worship ministry	9,959	11,000	90.5%	
Communications	6,444	9,000	71.6%	
Welcome ministry	992	1,000	99.2%	
Administrative and Stewardshi	75,449	60,000	125.7%	<i>Note 3-4</i>
Building & grounds	267,558	257,000	104.1%	
Preschool Expense	939,538	982,300	95.7%	<i>Note 3-5</i>
Total expenses	2,094,818	2,118,300	96.6%	
Revenues less expenses	51,954	(13,300)		<i>Note 3-6</i>
KEY POINTS				
<i>Note 3-1</i> General Fund contributions for 2019 were \$774,629 vs a budget of \$775,000. Stewardship pledges for 2019 totaled \$657,000, about \$18,000 short of the goal of \$675,000.				
<i>Note 3-2</i> Pre-school Revenue for 2019 was \$1,262,205, \$42,205 above budget.				
<i>Note 3-3</i> Personnel expenses for 2019 totaled \$703,936 vs an amended budget of \$700,000. Note -The annual personnel budget was reduced by \$50,000 due to staff changes.				
<i>Note 3-4</i> Administrative and Stewardship expenses for 2019 totaled \$75,449, \$15,449 over budget. This variance results primarily from legal fees exceeding budget by \$10,324.				
<i>Note 3-5</i> Preschool Expense for 2019 were \$939,538 vs a budget of \$982,300 Preschool net income for 2019 was \$322,667 or \$84,967 over the budget goal of \$237,700.				
<i>Note 3-6</i> Unrestricted revenues for 2019 exceeded expenses by \$51,954.				
SUMMARY OF 2019 RESTRICTED FUND ACTIVITY:				
	Beginning			Ending
Area	Balance	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
Ministry	\$119,934	\$54,418	\$112,680	\$61,672
Music	68,074	106,890	6,479	168,485
Christian Education	27,007	28,631	22,632	33,006
Community Engagement	8,071	4,599	3,500	9,170
Other	64,042	119,268	45,582	137,727
Endowment	43,173	26,898	27,599	42,473
Totals	\$330,301	\$340,702	\$218,472	\$452,533

Chairperson of the Council of Elders, Jodi Cook

This year, I was fortunate to work alongside a very dedicated, hardworking, and passionate group of people on the Council. I am very excited to introduce Bob Cantrell as chairperson for 2020. With Bob's natural leadership, finance background, dedication and commitment to this church, I have no doubt that he will do a fantastic job.

The 2019 year brought a lot of transition to this church. In June, our Associate Pastor Betsy Aho announced her acceptance of a senior pastor position at a local UCC church. We were very fortunate and thankful to have her leadership within the church for so many years and we continue to wish her the very best as she spreads her wings in our community. In addition, Rev. Case Van Kempen completed his interim commitment and left in early August. Rev. Van Kempen provided wonderful leadership and organization to our church in the year he served and was instrumental in his guidance to the search team.

Early in July, Jim Kelly, chair of the search team, announced their candidate for the next senior pastor. Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe-Mueller and her family came as a candidate to The Peoples Church and received unanimous approval from the congregation in attendance. Late in October, Dr. Monroe hit the ground running and has quickly learned who we are and how she fits among us. We look forward to seeing how God will work through her to continue to bless our church. A special thank you to the search team members for their time and commitment during their year long search.

Another staff transition came late in the summer when we welcomed Kathi Mitchell as our new Christian Education director. We appreciate Ann Harvey for all she gave for our growing children's ministry in 2018 and 2019 and we welcome Kathi as she will continue to bless the lives of our younger members.

While the church was experiencing so much transition inside the church, a primary focus of the council in 2019 was the potential transitions outside our walls. The Development Ad Hoc group has been very busy meeting with local developers, leaders in the city, and attending meetings of City Council, Downtown Development Authority, and Planning Commission. The involvement and participation of this Ad Hoc group continues to be the eyes and ears of the church and because of this, church leadership has become a consistent voice at city meetings to ensure our parking and sanctity of the memorial garden concerns are taken into consideration with any potential development directly around our church.

With so many changes in 2019, the council is prepared for the necessary fluctuation to continue to be successful in the upcoming year. We continue to keep a watchful eye on our financial forecast, building improvements, community involvement and surrounding development updates. We are encouraged by the support for Dr. Monroe, the increase in participation of our children's programming, and renewed commitments with our outreach missions. We look forward to the upcoming year and continued growth within the church body.

Thank you for having the confidence in me to lead the Council of Elders. God Bless.

Members of the Senior Pastor Search Team: Jim Kelly (Chairperson), Susan Kilmer (Vice Chair), Cal Kerr, Aram Kabodian, Haley Hanson, Jodi Cook, Beth Lundy, Brian Gronowski, and Ruth Ann Ference.

Members of the Council of Elders 2018: Jodi Cook (chairperson), Bob Cantrell (Vice Chair), Thad Morgan (Clerk), David Brower (Treasurer), Cal Kerr, Beth Lundy, Julie Pierce, Barbara Scott (2019); Bob Cantrell, Stacy Gronowski, Kate Jones, Rob Privette, Diane Shafer (2020), John Lindley, Kari Naughtin, Dottie Spousta, Brad Williams, and Nancy Williams (2021).

Annual Report of the Associate Pastor

Rev. Drew Filkins

What an exciting year 2019 was here at The Peoples Church! We concluded our senior pastor search and welcomed our new senior pastor, as well as continued to be a wonderful welcoming community of faith.

Throughout the year we had amazing opportunities to grow in our faith and understanding. I was particularly proud of our Peoples Church Field Trips that happened last May during our *Wednesday Night Live!* Programming. A group of us traveled to visit the worship spaces of other local faith communities to see and hear how their space influences what they do during their corporate time together. We visited the Christian Scientist Reading Room, the Islamic Center, the Hindu Temple and the Greek Orthodox Church. I was thrilled by the overwhelming support from the congregation and the generosity of our hosts. I look forward to doing this again in 2020.

Many of our adult Christian education programs have grown over this past year as well. The Forum is a popular Sunday morning program where voices from the community help us understand our world better. Great Decisions continues to inform us about our nation and the world. There are many book study groups and Bible studies that continue to meet every week. If you have not yet connected with one of these groups, consider finding an opportunity to connect and grow in Christ.

Our children's ministry programs have continued to stay strong and be a hallmark of our congregation. Throughout 2019, there was a transition in the leadership in our children's program, but the volunteers have kept it going well. Julie Bills moved on to new ministry opportunities at the end of 2018. At the beginning of 2019, Ann Harvey joined the staff as interim Children's Education Director. After hosting a wonderful Vacation Bible School at Woldumar Nature Center where over 100 children, teens, and adult volunteers explored God's creation and learned about Christ's love, we were able to hire Kathi Mitchell as our Children's Christian Education Director. We thank both Julie Bills and Ann Harvey for their energy, creativity, and enthusiasm.

The Children's Christian Education ministry has had a wonderful fall under the leadership of Ms. Mitchell. Ms. Liz Reed and she were able to put together a wonderful Christmas pageant, *Out Standing in Their Field*. The music was delightful, and the children were adorable. Ms. Mitchell has also worked hard on providing more fun family events. The Fall Fest to celebrate the harvest and the arrival of Rev. Dr. Monroe was a huge hit. The family game night saw many families, youths, and children playing games together and enjoying fellowship time. These events are allowing members of our congregation to get to know one another and connect.

The Youth ministry has continued to grow and gain energy under the leadership of Joseph Kennedy. He led a wonderful mission trip to Philadelphia where he and the students worked with urban farms. Mr. Kennedy helped organize a wonderful youth Sunday in November. The students did a remarkable job helping lead worship. The cake auction following the service was the most successful of my tenure here. I am looking forward to seeing what Mr. Kennedy does with his time here before he heads off to seminary in the fall. The Christian Education ministry will begin the search process for a new youth ministry director in the first few months of 2020.

The time between Rev. Van Kempen's departure in August and Rev. Dr. Monroe arrival in October was both an exciting and exhausting time for me. It was wonderful taking on new responsibilities and leadership during the time of transition, but it was a lot of work. I am so excited to have Dr. Monroe on board and look forward to working under her leadership in the years to come. Her energy and knowledge will help us continue to follow the call that God has for us in this place.

May God bless us as we continue to bloom together.

Christian Education Ministry

Beth Lundy, Chairperson

The Christian Education (CE) ministry was very busy in 2019 which allowed our team members to show how flexible they are and how working together allows much to be accomplished. Our Peoples Church Preschool is still under the direction of Dana Johnson and staff. Mr. Joe Kennedy leads the youth program and Children's Program was led by Ms. Ann Harvey (January-August) and Kathi Mitchell (August-December). Our entire CE program is led by Pastor Drew Filkins. Other ministry members include: Liz Reed (music), Carol Jacob (library), Susan Reedy (art), Carol Dooley and Beth Lundy (Chair).

The CE ministry is always hopping as the church calendar keeps us that way. The Children's ministry has a fantastic group of volunteers leading children's classes on Sunday mornings. Vacation Bible School was successful again this year at Woldumar Nature Center. The Harvest Festival was a lot of fun in October and in November, we brought back Family Game Night. Many additional family activities have already been planned for 2020. We rolled out a new check in system in September for all Children's ministry activities. And a new C2E2 (Committee for Christian Education and Events) parent committee was started. We plan to do more promoting and planning with this sub-committee in the new year. Joe Kennedy is back for his third year with the Youth ministry. Youth Sunday, the Mission trip (Philadelphia-2019), Cake Auction and helping with VBS are highlights of the year. Confirmation, Bible Study, retreats and sleep over/shut-ins round out the program. We also currently offer several Adult Bible Study opportunities throughout the week. Our preschool continues to thrive. We are at full capacity in the classrooms. The Library Committee had a successful book sale and continues to have readers in the library twice a year. The Music Program had a spectacular Christmas Pageant (thank you Liz Reed and Kathi Mitchell). Both the Carol Choir and Coppertones are doing well. The Fine Arts Committee continues to decorate our halls with fantastic artwork including our current exhibit by Guiro Delgado and his prison ministry.

There is always something going on at The Peoples Church with the CE Ministry. Many thanks to both the staff and volunteers who make it possible.

Annual Report of the Campus Ministry

Stacy Gronowski, Chairperson

2019 was another year of celebration and growth with the students of Michigan State University. It was also a year of change as their leader, Rev. Betsy Aho accepted a call to Haslett Community Church, and Joe Kennedy became the leader of this wonderful group of young adults. With Joe's leadership there has been consistency in event planning and he has continued to develop the students' Christian faith and service to their community.

Campus Ministry started off the year by leading the 10:30 worship service on January 20. In conjunction with that, there was a fundraiser which raised over \$5000 dollars to use toward their spring break mission trip. Throughout the year the Campus Ministry students were instrumental in shaping and developing two weekly group meetings: Lunch and Lounge, which occurs after the 10:30 service, as well as one weeknight meeting for dinner and Bible study. The students traveled to Florida to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project for their spring break mission trip. In the spring, the Campus Ministry graduates were recognized and celebrated. In the fall, the ministry welcomed several new members and the focus continued to be one of mission, ministry and fun, as well as outreach, specifically to the MSU community. Campus Ministry plans to continue to maintain a healthy budget for the 2020 year and will remain focused on spiritual growth, service and fellowship. The members of the Campus

Ministry were Betsy Aho (Director), Joe Kennedy (Director), John Lawton, Martha Bristor, Kari Naghtin, and Stacy Gronowski (chairperson).

Annual Report of The Peoples Church Youth Group (PCYG) & Campus Ministry

Joe Kennedy, Director

The Peoples Church Youth Group successfully and regularly served over thirty 6th through 12th graders in 2019.

The Peoples Church Campus Ministry successfully and regularly served over twenty college aged students in 2019.

2019 is my third year of employment in the position of Youth Ministry Director, and my first year as Campus Ministry director.

PCYG

This year's Vacation Bible School program continued to see the work of senior high school students acting as crew leaders, and junior high school students working as crew leaders in training. The PCYG annual Winter Retreat took us to Big Rapids, MI. We participated in Winter Fest with UCC churches from around Michigan. We spent a day of service at Burcham Hills, playing games with members of their memory care unit. The annual summer Theme Park trip saw an attendance of nearly 30 students, below last year's participation. Our annual mission trip, this year went to Philadelphia, PA. Ten students and chaperones participated. Those attending the trip provided a week of meaningful service to the people living in the city through the Youth-Works organization. They also engaged with community members to learn of food poverty and nutritional deprivation. The summer lunch program saw growth this year, better integrating students from VBS to regular programming. Our largest lunch included nineteen students. The youth choir increased attendance and participation, especially in the middle school demographic. The average attendance of the middle school group is around fourteen students, and it continues to grow with *Wednesday Night Live!* as an anchoring event. Attendance for the high school group has been down this year due to a large graduating class last year, and the recombination of high school and middle school programming. Youth Sunday provided another opportunity for the students to showcase their leadership by leading the congregation in worship.

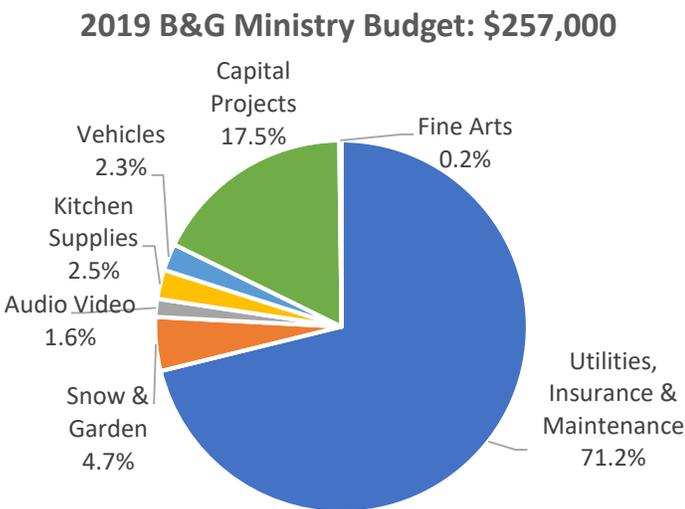
I presented to the Peoples Church Forum regarding the successes and challenges unique to the PCYG program, and our Youth Groupers aided in a presentation about generational change in greater church demographics. The annual cake auction which followed Youth Sunday brought in funds in excess of over three thousand dollars for 2020's mission trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Our fundraising goal for this year was \$2,300. Our middle school program continues to show the most consistent growth, and will set up next year's high school group to flourish. The groups will separate their meeting times again to help facilitate this growth.

CAMPUS

The campus program has grown slightly from the beginning of the year, and new students continue to join us almost weekly. I anticipate having an average attendance of twenty two students by the end of the academic year. Attendance in our Tuesday Campus Bible Study has remained consistent with average attendance of eight students.

Rob Privette, Chairperson

The Building and Grounds (B&G) Ministry serves The Peoples Church by providing stewardship and guidance associated with the operation, maintenance and upkeep, safety and security of the church building, grounds, furnishings, equipment of the church. It also supports and works in cooperation with the The Peoples Church Earth Stewardship Committee chaired by Susan Kilmer and the Fine Arts Committee chaired by Sue Mills.



The 2019 B&G Ministry included Michael Benninger, Bill Cawood, Nancy Danhof, Matt Gosselin, Greg Houghtaling, Bill Nash, Jan Perron, Rob Privette (Chair), Nancy Wilson, Dana Johnson Ex-Officio (Preschool Director) and Andy Mayville (Facility Director).

The Ministry's \$257,000 2019 Budget was allocated as shown in the graph. Key projects completed during the year are shown in the table below. In addition, the following smaller projects were also completed during 2019: Uneven pavement repair, Youth Den Carpet replacement, Parking Lot Repairs, Security System Replacement, Security Cameras, 306 Carpet, PEV Charging Station replacement.

2018 Budgeted Projects*

NW Entrance Doors
Limestone Repairs

2018 and 2019 Zehner Projects

Sanctuary Main Floor (Carpeting Only)
Chapel HVAC
Radio Repeater
Choir Lights

2019 Budgeted Projects

Preschool Office Relocation (1Q20)
Preschool Wiring
Preschool AC
Limestone Repairs (Cont)

* - Completed in 2019

Other significant accomplishments included:

- Initiation of a conceptual design for northern edge of church property addressing functional needs, privacy, security, aesthetics as well as potential developer and city plans for the area
- Spring Grounds Clean-up days organized by Matt Gosselin (Fall event cancelled due to snow!)
- Tree planting/ activities for Arbor Day, Earth Stewardship Committee
- Bees were reintroduced to The Peoples Church, the Earth Stewardship Committee
- Football Saturday Parking was organized and worked by the Earth Stewardship Committee
- Four Art Exhibitions were organized and installed by the Fine Arts Committee
- The 6th Annual MSU Holiday Brass Concert was hosted by the Fine Arts Committee

It was a very busy and productive year in the life of The Peoples Church B&G Ministry. The B&G Ministry wishes to recognize (once again) the tireless work and important contributions made by Andy Mayville and the Facilities and Grounds staff in the upkeep of our beautiful church home.

Bradley Williams, Chairperson (Written by Beverly Mason-incoming chairperson for 2020)

Community Engagement Ministry continues to be blessed by the generosity of the people of Peoples Church. With the help of loyal and gifted volunteers we have programs of support in place throughout the community as well as national and international organizations. We have on our ministry four representatives to the denominations that make up our church. We meet at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Robertson Room.

2019 Transitions

In December 2019, Mary Heiderson resigned as a longtime member of the Community Engagement Ministry serving as secretary as well as coordinator of the Personal Needs Closet. Susan Kilmer has stepped in to become Secretary, and Mimi Burpee will become the coordinator of the Personal Needs Closet.

Giving and Engagement

The ministry continued to honor and carefully distribute The Peoples Church funds to local, national, and international organizations. Giving opportunities in goods, donations, and time continued throughout the year.

Local

Funds were distributed to many local organizations, some traditional, and others were new organizations we supported through monetary donations and personal engagement.

Education Scholarship funds were given to Alma College, Albion College, Adrian College and Olivet College. Camp scholarships were given to the denominational camps. Food, clothing, shelter and transportation were shared with Lansing Food Bank, St. Vincent's, Mother Theresa House, Haven House, Unity Spirit Center, Lansing City Rescue, Advent House, Southside Kitchen and Christian Services.

Edgewood Village continues to be supported throughout the year. Edgewood Village children were able to attend Vacation Bible School at Woldumar Nature Center. EMPOW-HER offered 10 free spots to young women to attend. Math tutoring for 6th graders began. Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Baskets were provided for more than 20 families. The garden project led by Lary Hill was also supported by the Elders in the fall during an all-day clean up event for service.

The City Rescue Mission celebrated 108 years on October 10 and Flo Baerron attended the celebration. We continued our support with warm new socks for the mission.

The FAME (Fostering Academics, Mentoring Excellence) Program was added to the programs supported by Community Engagement. Blankets, pillows and sheet sets were purchased as well as gift cards for incoming freshman. Harvest Dinner was hosted in the social hall on November 21, with members of the ministry attending.

Holiday Food Baskets were provided for families in need on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Joan Wright is mentoring a family to replace her as coordinator in 2020.

National

Re-Member, which supports the Ogallala Lakota Nation, continues to be supported on an annual basis. We also donated money for flood relief this year when we learned that the reservation was affected by the Midwest floods and two community members died. We gave to UMCOR Disaster Relief, UCC Disaster Relief, Presbyterian Disaster Team, Baptist Disaster Relief, and World Center Kitchen.

International

The NYAKA Fund Raising Event was held at Studio C Theatre and was well attended by church members on October 10. Our regular annual commitment to NYAKA was given in August as they celebrated their 18 years of success. We sponsored a student named Peter for one year through their scholarship program. We approved an additional \$1000 in December which will support two students moving forward. Haiti Nursing School

Scholarships were funded for young women to attend nursing school. The school was started by a Presbyterian group. After graduation, the nurses stay and work in Haiti for a five-year commitment. We continue to give to our four denominational missionaries.

Additional Funds

The congregation continued to give generously through special offerings, contributing more than \$9,000 for Holiday Food Baskets, One Great Hour of Sharing, Chili-Cook-Off, Blanket Sunday, Sock and Snow Pants, and Disaster Relief.

Donated Time/Goods

Our congregation also volunteered for Community Engagement projects. Shopping for Holiday Food Baskets, buying for the Personal Needs Closet, delivering food baskets, serving food at Southside Kitchen, tutoring at Edgewood, collecting and delivering gift cards, socks, mittens, snow pants for refugees.

Community Engagement continues to encourage needed donations from the congregation. These projects include gifts for Edgewood Village children at Christmas, snow pants to Judson Memorial, Undie Sunday.

An important mission of the Community Engagement is one that needs no funds, just dedicated people who are willing to visit once a month a member of The Peoples Church who no longer can attend church on a regular basis. Gretchen Rosenbrook is the coordinator of the Visitation Team and connects members on the team with members of the church who need to feel connected. This is a valuable ministry of engagement.

Community Engagement is grateful to the congregation for its support and faith in our ministry to distribute church funds.

Those serving on this ministry this year were Flo Baerren, Charles Blackman, Mimi Burpee, Jim Dalley, Barbara Dunlap, Phyllis Grummon, Lary Hill, Loretta Johnston, Susan Kilmer, Gretchen Rosenbrook, Barbara Scott, Ruth Worthington, Joan Wright, Brad Williams (chairperson).

(see Comm. Eng. budget report next page)

The Peoples Church Annual Report | 2019

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2019 CATEGORIZED GIVING							
	LOCAL			NATIONAL			INTERNATIONAL
		Budget	Actual		Budget/Actual	Budget/Actual	
Education	Alma	1,600	1,600				Haiti Nursing Scholar 3,500
	Albion	800	800				NYAKA Scholars 1,000
	Adrian	800	800				
	Olivet	1,600	1,600				
Food	Edgewood Vlg	3,500	2,540				NYAKA 5,000
	Lansing Food Bank	1,500	1,500				Heifer Int'l 720
Clothing	Lansing Food Bank	1,500	1,500				
Shelter	St. Vincent	200	200				Drs. w/o Borders 1,000
Transport	Mother Theresa House	1,000	1,000				
	Haven House	920	917				
	St. Vincent Refugee	500	455				
	F.A.M.E.	1,200	782				
	Unity Spirit Ctr	500	500				
	Lansing City Rescue	720	720				
	Advent House	1,850	1,850				
	Christian Service	1,000	1,000				
	Southside Kitchen	1,000	1,000				
Missions	Methodist Camp	500	500	Re-Member	1,000		Am. Baptist Missions 3,000
	Presbytery (LM)	500	500	(Feather 11)			Methodist Missions 3,000
	Presbytery (D)	500	500				Presbytery Missions 3,000
	UCC Camp	500	500				UCC Missions 3,000
Disaster Relief				Re-Member (Flood)	2,500		
				UMCOR Dis. Relief	1,500		
				UCC Dis. Relief	1,500		
				Presby. Dis. Relief	1,500		
				Am. Baptist Dis. Relief	1,500		
				World Center Kitchen	1,000		
Caring							
	Personal Needs	2,700	2,261				
	Pastoral Fund	1,300	504				
Totals		24,690	22,029		10,500		23,220
	*Holiday Food Baskets	1,500	1,500				
		26,190	23,529		10,500		23,220
*Note: Holiday Food Baskets is a separate account							

Annual Report of the Finance Ministry

Robert Cantrell, Chairperson

Members of the Finance Ministry in 2019 included: Robert Cantrell (Chair), Dave Brower (Treasurer), Dave Ronk Jr., Ron Dooley, Dave Przybylski, Barbara Houghtaling, John Lindley, Lindsey Bramlet, Wallace Markham and Dee Przybylski (Office Administrator).

The year was focused on achieving at a minimum a break-even balanced budget for our General Operating Fund which was accomplished. In fact, due to adjustments in personnel planned expenditures and revenues exceeding expenses in our preschool program, for the second year we achieved a surplus. This is a noteworthy achievement during a time of transition and shows the strength we have to manage our operations. The details are in the financial report included with the annual report which I would urge the reader review. During a year of transition with a new pastor coming on board, we prudently managed our finances. The financial support from the congregation made this all possible.

Another important area of our financial operations, the Endowment Funds Program benefited significantly from the 2019 financial market rise and from new gifts during 2019 approximating \$324,000. Plans were considered and implanted to decrease the annual spending policy contribution to the General Operating Fund and Endowment Restricted Accounts from 5% to 4.65 %, effective for the 2020 Budget, with a goal to go to 4% in succeeding years. This is more in line with the lower rate of return that has become more the norm. This is more in line with lower investment rate of returns that have become the norm in recent years and will help to insure that the Fund maintains its principal basis, and in turn, the desired funding to the General Fund and Endowment Fund restricted accounts.

A major effort in time and research was accomplished in a thorough review of the Endowment Fund and related Endowment Restricted Accounts to assure that funds are assigned to the purposes and uses so designated. The review dated back to 1976 when the Endowment Fund was established, using information available from previous annual reports, correspondence and Council of Elders meetings minutes. This was no small task and was led by Dave Brower and the members of the ministry pouring over years of documents. The ministry is proud to say that the task was completed. Confidence was significantly increased that we are as current and complete as we can be in managing the Endowment Fund and Endowment Restricted Accounts with their intended purposes. An annual review going forward will be done to assure this area of our financial operations will always be current and up to date.

The elevator rebuild was successfully completed as planned. A plaque was placed by the elevator in appreciation for the financial contribution from the Mary D. Zehner estate which was received in 2018 totalling \$195,520. We also were able to purchase a new 10 person van with the remaining funds. In addition, we were fortunate at the end of 2019 to receive another bequest from the Charles Long estate, expected to approximate \$65,000, of which \$55,000 was received in 2019. These funds have been designated by the Council of Elders for roof repairs and restoration.

The 2019 Stewardship campaign for 2020 proceeded in the fall with two “get to know your church better” receptions in the Robertson Room. The objective was to stimulate connection to the church and our programs and to be informative. Attendance was good at these sessions and all indications are we will achieve another balanced budget year in 2020. This is based in part on the strong response for the 2020 Stewardship Campaign which is very much appreciated.

A goal for 2020 with our new Senior Pastor and staff in place, is to reach out to the community to focus on increasing church membership by telling our story, continuing to offer interesting programs and a strong outreach effort. That being the case we can feel assured that the resources to perform our church mission should be enhanced complementing the bedrock financial health of our church.

Annual Report of the Personnel Ministry

Cal Kerr, Chairperson

2019 has been another very busy year for the Personnel Committee. Our major focus this year was a complete revision of our staff Employee Handbook as well as the soon to be completed update of our Preschool Parent Handbook.

Again this year we were able to provide our church staff with a very solid level of benefits from health and dental care to life insurance and long term disability. We continued our tradition of recognizing our staff on Staff Appreciation Sunday which was held on October 27. We took this time to show our thanks for all they do to keep our building and preschool an enjoyable and safe place to work and visit. It was also the time when we honored those individuals with milestone anniversaries. Dana Johnson, our Preschool Director completed 25 years and Dee Przybylski, our Office Administrator, completed 10 years of service to our church.

As is our continuing responsibility, the Personnel Committee provides a direct channel of communication between the Council of Elders, the congregation and the church staff regarding personnel matters. We consult with the Senior Pastor and then recommend to the Council of Elders any changes or additions to the personnel policies of the church. We consider such matters as staffing, annual salary adjustments, benefits, position descriptions, performance reviews for ministerial staff and other concerns of the church regarding personnel.

The Personnel Committee is composed of six members, all of whom must be current or previous members of the Council of Elders. All members are appointed by the Chair of the Council of Elders and approved by a vote of the full Council. Each member serves a three year term – two new members being appointed each January.

The members of the Personnel Committee during 2019 were Emily Anderson, Kate Jones, Wayne Budde, Alan Canady, Calvin Kerr and Wes Reedy.

Annual Report of the Preschool

Dana Johnson, Director

The Biggest News of 2019 - We're Moving!

For the last several months of 2019 our staff has been working to rearrange some of the storage areas in the preschool to make way for new offices. Facility Director, Andy Mayville, coordinated the project which includes flooring, furniture, painting, wiring and air conditioning. Moving all stored materials from one place to another allowed the preschool to purge some of the items that were no longer being used regularly. One example - to make way for new books, the preschool held a used book sale that included over 150 children's book titles.

Outdoor Enhancement

We were able to get our outdoor playspace recertified as a *Nature Explore Certified Playground*. This year activities included pet rock painting, fun with bubbles, and a concert by the Pretty Shaky String Band. We also purchased Infant/Toddler outdoor climbing equipment to physically challenge our youngest learners. These items include: a tunnel, a bridge and octagon-shaped wooden platform stepping stones.

Traditions for Family Fun

In an effort to give families ongoing opportunities to network, the preschool provided the following family-favorite events: Art Show and Ice Cream Social, Spring Children's Concert, All Family Picnic at the Park, Come Out and Play event in the Outdoor Classroom, and a Fall Family Fun Open House in November.

Partnering with Michigan State University

We continued our work with MSU by providing child care for MSU students on four Saturdays just before finals; hosting student nurses as weekly volunteers in the classroom for our third year; volunteering as a location for MSU and LCC students to complete service learning experiences; and also hosting students in the social work field to become acquainted with young children before going into their professional field.

Extra-Curriculars Enhance Programming

The preschool provided on-site lessons from professional instructors in soccer, music and creative movement.

Volunteers Appreciated

Special thanks to Robert Lopez for the donation of many flowers and plants that adorned the outdoor classroom this year. More thanks go to Noah Durst for building new nap cubbies for the children in the Toddler Room as well as a Tortoise Observation Deck. Our outstanding volunteers truly help to make our program unique.

The full-time staff includes: Lead Teachers: Cathy Koenig, Taurie Davis, Jessica Dort, Jessica Derby, Ra'Chael Rhodes, Sarah Macaluso, Samantha Sweazey, Beth Detzler, Judie Mirabelli-Migaldi, and Julie Pitsonis. Lead Teaching Assistants are Bridget Larson, Suad Albaiaty, Fatma AlHakeem, Megan Lawson, Fouzia Lakraa, and Diane Conner. Preschool Administrators are: Executive Director, Dana Johnson (25 years); Resource Teacher, Michelle Clingenpeel (16 years); Enrollment Manager, Lindsey Bramlet (6 years) ; and Office Manager, Hunter Benson (2 months).

Annual Report of the Welcome Ministry

Robin Matheson and Diane Shafer, Co-chairpersons

Welcome Ministry had another full year receiving visitors, regular worshippers and members; helping to provide church-wide activities; holding Peoples 101 and New Members classes; facilitating the Welcome Desk, greeters and coffee fellowship; and doing fundraising with football parking. We continued Food & Fellowship, which began in 2017. Ministry members Diane Shafer (Co-Chair), Robin Matheson (Co-Chair), Paul Babbitt, Jessica Eysselinck, Phyllis Gaulden, Phyllis Grummon, Martha Hibbs, Julie Pierce, *Christine McCreedy, Mary Nowack and Nancy Seymour Martindill all played key roles in making this year successful. Many other volunteers helped at the Welcome Desk, served as Greeters, made coffee and helped at all-church events throughout the year.

**Christine McCreedy stepped down from Welcome Ministry during the year.*

Welcome Desk

Diane Shafer coordinated volunteers to staff the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Paul Babbitt faithfully arrives earlier most Sundays to welcome those who walk through our doors before 9:00 a.m. to attend the 8:30 a.m. service. The desk is staffed with one to three people at these times to be able to catch those leaving the 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service, greet those coming in for the 9:30 a.m. Peoples Forum and 10:30 a.m. worship, and to wish those we didn't catch on the way in a great week as they leave. We also staff all services on Easter and Christmas. Our goal is to make sure everyone receives a smile, hello, handshake or hug at every service they attend.

Church-wide Events

This year, the Welcome Ministry facilitated and/or participated in the Empty Bowls Talent Show on February 3, Pastor Betsy Aho's Farewell Party on June 30, a Thank-you Party for Interim Senior Pastor Case Van Kempen on August 4, the Fall Kick-off Chicken Dinner on September 8 and the Stewardship Seedling Sessions on October 27 and 29.

The Empty Bowls Talent Show, chaired by Diane Shafer, had approximately 100 people in attendance. The food was well received. People donated \$307 toward its cost. Lots of hand-made bowls were provided by Margie

Steinkamp, the Lansing Pottery Guild and Janet Erickson at the event. Bowl sales raised \$583 and this money was donated to the Southside Kitchen. Joe Kennedy did an excellent job as our MC. One comment was on the lack of people over 'a certain age' in the show.

The Robertson Room was packed for Pastor Betsy Aho's farewell party on June 30. There were fruit and veggie trays, desserts, lots of purple and polka dots (favorites of Betsy's) and vases filled with Twizzlers, her favorite candy. Congregation members had an opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to her in person and to write personal sentiments on note cards and in her jar of hearts. Framed pictures of Betsy in all her various church roles lined the tables around the room. Pastor Aho became the Senior Pastor at Haslett Community Church. We are thrilled for her and really glad she's not too far away.

August 4 was our last day with Interim Senior Pastor Case Van Kempen, who had been with us for just over a year. What a blessing he was to our church! The congregation was invited to the Robertson Room after 10:30 worship for cake, coffee and juice. Case received cards and gifts, including a remote-control Ferrari and gift cards for Leigh and him to their favorite restaurants.

Over 200 people attended the Annual Chicken Dinner on September 8 as part of Kick-off Sunday. All enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Finally, new this year, as part of the stewardship campaign, the Welcome Ministry participated in the Seedling Receptions on October 27 and 29. Stewardship chair John Lindley and Pastor Shawntea Monroe spoke about the blessings we have here and the need for an awesome stewardship campaign. Ministry chairs were asked to mingle with attendees to discuss what their ministries do and what a difference the campaign makes. Diane Shafer and Robin Matheson were able to serve as the Welcome Ministry representatives at both sessions.

Peoples 101, New Members Classes and New Members Gatherings

Peoples 101 was offered the first Sunday of many months following the second worship service. Ministry members and pastors met with anyone seeking more information about the church. The setting was informal, and discussions were generated around attendees' questions and tailored to those who attended. Classes were offered on January 6, February 3, March 3, May 5, June 2, August 4, November 3 and December 1.

New Members' classes were offered on April 3 (during *WNL!*), April 7, October 2 (during *WNL!*), and October 6. Ministry members and pastors met with those considering membership for 60-90 minutes followed by an optional church tour. Those who chose to become members were recognized in worship the following month. New member inductions were performed on May 5, June 23, June 30, October 13 and November 20 (during *WNL!*). Those who joined in 2019 were: Michael Smith, Stephanie Aguilar-Smith, Adam Prew, Ashley Prew, Deb Hager, Amy Moore, Yvonne Robles, Grimaldo Robles, Katherine Zondervan, Robert Zondervan, Paula Detwiller, Roger Smitter and Alexander Haines. Jesalyn Henry, Holden Knapp, John Laxton, Ben Novello, Elsie Paris, Naomi Sowa and Kirill Spink also became members by confirmation.

Twice a year, all members who have joined in the previous year meet at church or a pastor's home for a New Members' Gathering. The Welcome Ministry provides lunch. This year the spring date didn't work for many new members so we invited them all to a gathering on November 3 in the Robertson Room following 10:30 a.m. worship.

Welcome ministry provided an avenue for people to connect with one another outside of the walls of The Peoples Church. Once a month, January through April, Welcome Ministry hosted a Food and Fellowship gathering at a local restaurant. On January 13, 18 of us went to Beggars Banquet. On February 24, 8 of us went to Dublin Square. On March 24, 12 of us went to Reno's East and on April 28, 22 of us went to Coral Gables. Congregation members just show up if they are willing and able at noon.

Annual Report of the Worship Ministry

Julie Pierce, Chairperson

The 2019 year began with a discussion about a capital campaign to replace the organ and fund some key building improvements, such as replacing the roof. Revenue needed to fund the campaign is estimated at \$1.75 million. Pastor Case believed that planning for the campaign should begin now, but others felt that the timing was wrong, and that the church should wait until the senior pastor is in place. The Elders Committee made some tentative moves toward identifying some of the congregational leaders that have the financial experience and skills to help the church find a professional fundraiser to assist with the capital campaign, but there was no real impetus to begin anything. Worship was grieved with the passing of Trisha Thorpe, a longtime member of the church and valued member of the Worship Committee. Memorials given in her memory are earmarked for the organ fund – and the choir gave a donation.

2019 was the first full year for the new ASL program. Interpreters were hired to interpret the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service for the hearing impaired. It has allowed them to more fully participate in worship. This new venture also provides sign language students from Lansing Community College an opportunity to observe professional interpreters at work, obtain some signing practice and earn credits toward their degrees. It is the hope of the Worship Ministry that this unique program will become a permanent ministry here.

Worship Ministry members joined with other ministries and individuals to support the church position regarding the development of downtown East Lansing and its implications for the church and available parking. Downtown developers had made vague promises regarding the allocation of parking areas in East Lansing but none of the proposed plans would support the parking needs we require. The Elders' Ad Hoc Downtown Development Committee, headed by Andy Mayville, continues to closely monitor the situation and keep the church informed of new developments and concerns.

Jonathan Reed, Elizabeth Reed and Judy Kabodian have truly blessed the church with their wonderful talents, respectively as the choir director; children and youth choral and bell director; and the church organist and pianist. The music is sublime and truly adds a transformative experience to worship. Except for the need to replace the organ, Jonathan reports that the Music Ministry is doing fine.

Jerry Sutton handles the ushers for the 8:30 a.m. service. Paul Babbitt coordinates ushers for the 10:30 a.m. service and reports that he has a dedicated group of ushers and acolytes ready and willing to serve.

Dan Taylor, who coordinates the communion servers for the 8:30 a.m. service and Julie Pierce, for the 10:30 a.m. service, report that all is going well. There was a brief period over the summer in which communion bread was mysteriously disappearing from the refrigerator, but some investigation revealed that it was most likely one of the homeless individuals known to wander through the building. Steps were taken to secure the communion bread and the problem has since resolved itself.

The church has a wonderful ministry in which congregants can purchase floral bouquets to adorn the chancel table. These floral gifts are usually given in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a joyous occasion, birthday or anniversary, or for the glory of God. Dee Przybylski coordinates ordering flowers. There have been some concerns raised that most people don't know about the floral dedications even though there is a three-ring sign-up binder at the Welcome Desk. Years ago, a sign-up sheet was posted on one of the Friendship Hall bulletin boards, and it is being considered that posting a new sign-up sheet, in addition to the three-ring binder, might help increase participation. Volunteers also are needed to take bouquets to hospitals, shut-ins and the elderly after services and return the vases to the church. Worship Ministry will continue to explore ways to resolve these issues.

Mid-October brought Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe as our new senior pastor. Although her tenure is but a few months old, she is proving to be a dynamic and motivational preacher, teacher and leader. Because worship services are at the heart of the mission and ministry of the church, Dr. Monroe believes the Worship Ministry should have a larger role in the life of the church. In other churches that she has served, the Worship Ministry worked in tandem with the pastors and leadership to help shape the ebb and flow of Sunday services. Elements such as color and design, flowers and music were used in the Sanctuary to create an environment of praise and worship reflecting the seasons and the liturgical calendar. It promises to be an invigorating time of growth and energy for the Worship Ministry.

Dottie Spousta has been named the Worship Ministry Chairwoman for 2020. I would like to thank the church and the Elders for the opportunity to serve as Chairwoman for the past year. It has been a blessing. I've learned a lot, met many wonderful people and made new friends. I wish Dottie the very best, I know she will be a capable and inspired leader and that the Worship Ministry is in very good hands.

Annual Report of the Women of Peoples Church

Lorie Barbieri, Chairperson

The WPC is continuously pursuing avenues to engage more fully members of the Peoples Church. In mid-2019 the WPC Board created a Strategic Planning Task Force to identify means to grow involvement within our Church Family. Our focus this year is in implementing results of the Task Force's work.

Our Annual Strawberry Breakfast was held on Saturday, May 4. Pastor Case was our Guest Speaker. Judy Kabodian welcomed everyone with her beautiful piano music. Everyone enjoyed their time together.

A brief Annual meeting was held at the Strawberry Breakfast. The WPC Fiscal Year has been changed to match the Fiscal Year of the church.

Our May Jewelry Sale was once again a success. Thank you to the members of the church who donated items for the sale.

After our summer vacations came to a close, the WPC Board began our fall planning session in early September. Our theme this year is JOY!

For a change this year, the Advent Tea was held on a Sunday after church. Rueline Stokes was our Guest Speaker addressing the gathering with her beautiful rendition of Storytelling through her personal Poetry! Judy Kabodian once again graced us with her music.

Our church circles continue to enjoy their time spent together and their much appreciated support of charitable causes within our community.

The WPC has contributed \$6,700 towards new chairs and tables in the Robertson Room. We will all enjoy their arrival!

Mark your calendars for February 18 at 10:00 a.m. when Pastor Case VanKempen will return to present a discussion on his new book: The Jericho Effect: What if we tried it God's way for a change?

The WPC look forward to 2020 as we continue in our mission to serve and build relationships within The Peoples Church – Our Community – Our Charitable Organizations.