

# **2017 ANNUAL REPORTS FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE February 1, 2018**

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## STAFF REPORTS

### SENIOR PASTOR

**Dr. Michael Gardner**

As I look back on the year of 2017 in the history of Old Mission United Methodist Church, we have much for which to give thanks to God. Old Mission is one of the strong and effective United Methodist congregations in our District. And, as the only Church in the city of Fairway, and the most visible Church on Shawnee Mission Parkway, our beautiful stone building, tall windows, and spire are a recognizable landmark of faith!

We are blessed to be a relationship-based congregation, large in ministry, but one where people still experience a personal connection. That's why people still choose Old Mission to marry their life partners, and build their family life together. Each year, our baptisms equal or outnumber our burials! Our worship services offer wonderful music and inspiring messages. Our strong and talented staff and our children's, youth, early education, caring, and outreach ministries make a real difference. And there are signs of strength and life.

- 1) *All-Church* events (*Back to School Sunday, Old Mission Christmas, VBS*) unite our Church.
- 2) We are growing, receiving 37 new members into the Old Mission family this year.
- 3) Overall giving is strong, boosted by our successful Sanctuary Window Project.
- 4) We have strong laity and staff serving in all areas of ministry together.
- 5) We have excellent congregational care, and a 5-star early childhood program.
- 6) Our Children's and Youth programs are strong, as is our Mission and Outreach program.

One of the biggest highlights of 2017, of course, was Old Mission's 75th Anniversary Celebration. We were featured in the KC Star. We held a successful Mission Celebration. We threw a big Block Party for the community which was well attended. And our Celebration Services were just over the top! Our District Superintendent's message, the recognitions, the Children's book, dedication of the Sanctuary windows, and all the music and the commissioned worship anthem lifted our spirits and created a lasting memory.

But this is not a time to rest on past accomplishments. We still have much to do for 2018 and beyond. We still need to continue to build a stronger program of inviting new people so we stay strong and vital. Just as we completely funded our new Columbarium, and our 75th Anniversary Window Project, we need to commit ourselves to completely funding our General Fund, building, and mission share (apportionments.) Those building blocks support everything else we do in ministry. Please make it your personal goal to strongly support our budget for 2108, and give back to Old Mission, which gives so much to us.

I have been blessed to serve as your Senior Pastor since 2012. But I believe the best days for Old Mission are those in front of us. I am excited to see how we continue to fulfill our purpose of *"...making a difference by loving God and loving people..."* I believe our future is a solid, strong, and vibrant one. We need to look forward to the next 75 years!

And I believe that God will bless our continuing journey as a Church community. In the words of Scripture: *"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord – plans to bless you and not harm you – plans to give you a future filled with hope."* (Jeremiah 29:11)

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**Rev. Karen Nyhart**

It has been a great year at Old Mission. We just finished celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A huge thank you to our co-chairs, Laura Scott and Ed Peterson, who did a wonderful job working with others to provide many activities and special events throughout the year.

My primary responsibilities this year included Christian Spiritual Formation, Missions/Church and Society, and Welcome/Connection.

We have a great education staff that does an excellent job providing spiritual growth opportunities to our congregation and community. I directly supervise our Nursery Coordinator, Minister to Children and Families, Assistant Children's Director, Early Education Director, Youth Director and 2 Youth college interns to provide a safe and caring ministry for our children and youth. Charlotte Christiansen, Debbie Hull, Michele Bowen, Mike Ott, Jordan Larkin, Merit Christensen, Karen Eisele and Betty Leonard have done an excellent job working with our children and youth. I am honored to work with such a great staff.

Charlotte retired at the end of December as our Nursery coordinator after serving in that role for over 14 years. We had a reception to honor her and the wonderful ministry she has given to our little ones and their parents over the years. We have recently hired Jen Peery as our new Nursery Coordinator to start at the beginning of 2018. Jen has been working in the nursery and has years of experience working as a Preschool teacher.

Betty Leonard just celebrated 40 years as our Early Education Director. She does an outstanding job working with teachers, students and parents in providing a preschool program that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This school provides a ministry to our families that live in the community and has over 100 students that participate in the program.

This past year we had a variety of educational opportunities for our adults. We had a Wednesday morning and Sunday night women's study and a Tuesday night theological study. Rev. Pam Nolan and Rev. Lee Johnson led an Old Testament study this past Fall. I led a Tuesday morning study on the Apostle Paul, an Advent study and Financial Peace University. Our Life groups continue to meet and grow.

I led the Confirmation class this past Spring. We had 12 students that participated and joined. Many of these students have grandparents that also attend Old Mission.

I assist in worship every week by reading litany, doing the pastoral prayer, assisting in the sacraments, doing the children's sermon and preaching when needed. I officiate most of the weddings at Old Mission and officiate and help with funerals.

This past year, I was granted Sacramental Authority from the Bishop and had the honor and privilege of baptizing and administering Holy Communion.

Our Church and Society and Mission Committees were very busy this year. We hosted the 75<sup>th</sup> Mission fair and luncheon led by our great co-chairs – Rob and Becky Johnston. We

had one worship service followed by the luncheon and fair. Many organizations that we support came and set up booths to talk about their ministries and to ask for volunteers.

Rev. Debbie Hull moved into the role of Staff Liaison to the Mission team and Church and Society in the Spring, so I could dedicate more time to the area of Welcome and Connection. She has done a great job relating to these committees and she has a deep passion in this area of ministry.

Rev. Wally Proctor, our Pastor in charge of Welcome and Connection retired full-time at the end of 2016. I stepped into this role in the beginning of the year. I worked with a wonderful committee to figure out ways we can be a more welcoming church.

We now have Old Mission mugs with information about our church that are given to first time visitors. We have welcome baskets in the restrooms on Sunday morning filled with items such as tissues, mints and cough drops. We have more volunteers to greet at our outside doors on Sunday mornings. We had volunteers to host in our reception room during special Sundays. This committee has been responsible for ordering donuts and picking them up. We even used the now famous donut wall for these fellowship occasions. Our thanks to the Donley/Eisele family.

This past year, I have been in contact with many people interested in becoming a members of Old Mission. This year alone, we had 42 people join our church. I have truly enjoyed serving in this area of ministry and look forward to working with the welcome committee this coming year in creating other ideas and ways we can welcome people to our church.

I have been your Associate Pastor at Old Mission for 14 years. It has been a blessing to be one of your ministers and to serve with all of you. We have done a lot this year! I am looking forward to next year and seeing how we continue to live out our mission statement, "Making a difference by loving God and loving people".

## **MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

**Rev. Leslie Van Blarcom**

In February and March of 2017, a third 5 week training of CCMs (Congregational Care Ministers) was held. At the end of that training, 6 new CCMs were commissioned for service. There are currently 16 active CCMs – Nancy Ash, Mary Calkins, Todd Chapman, Joanne Francisco, Kevin Hargett, Dennis Hogenkamp, Shirley Hogenkamp, LeAnn Howard, Sue Hunt, Lyla Lindholm, Stephanie Rawe, Julia Sanders, Linda Sisney, Sarah Stanton, Debbie Williams and Jerry Williams.

We have worked this year on further expanding the role of CCMs at memorial services, as increasingly, funeral home employees are not present for services at the church. I did 16 memorial services in the past year. We are currently working on a document to describe probable tasks for CCMs at these services. If possible, we will have two present for each such service.

This year, the CCMs and I led a Longest Night Service in December, rather than an All Saints Day Remembrance (Nov. 1) which had been done in the previous three years. About the same number of persons (40) attended and we will do it again this coming December.

The columbarium is officially finished with the completion and installation of the etched glass memorial window. We are indebted to Cliff Van Blarcom for that project. Two additional niches were sold this year.

I have continued weekly worship participation, have preached twice this past year, as well as participating in special services throughout the year. During the year, I also taught several adult SS classes and one session of confirmation. I have the major responsibility for hospital calling. Along with the CCMs, I also do visitation to homebound and those in senior facilities. There is an ever-increasing amount of pastoral care at Old Mission. Ann Spangler and I plan to lead a session for the congregation on living alternatives for older persons sometime in 2018.

## **MINISTER TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Rev. Debbie Hull**

I have now been at Old Mission UMC a little over a year in the Great Plains Conference. I am so grateful that God placed me in this ministry. I get excited about all the different ministries that are happening in this church and of the volunteers giving of their time to help make these ministries a success.

This year I was able to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade retreat at Camp Chippewa, the K-2 Fellowship night, and Vacation Bible School where we served our largest group of 210 kids! It was fun and amazing but also we were joyfully exhausted at the end of the week.

For our mission at VBS we helped out Gordon Parks Elementary school by building 11 benches they can use for outdoor education as well as making cards to encourage the students throughout the year. We also gathered school supplies for both Gordon Parks and Roesland elementary.

Old Mission celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since I have only been here a short time, it was fun to hear about the church's history from members of our church through video, timelines, and our new children's book. Our party on the lawn Saturday was a hoot. Worship on Sunday was glorious with singing the anthem written for Old Mission, all the other music, and the message given by our D.S. It was an amazing experience.

The children's ministry has participated in several mission projects this year. They filled the Easter eggs for the egg hunt at the end of Easter services, they have made 13 knot blankets which we gave to Somalia refugees, made compassion bags to hand to those standing on the street corners needing help, and made bags of goodies to give to Gordon Parks kids taking the yearly assessment tests to give them energy and encouragement. The children also participated along with the congregation in providing 32 flood buckets along with \$6027.00 to give to the hurricane relief!

My greatest joy with Children's Ministry was giving 19 Bibles to our third graders and providing them a retreat to learn how to use their new bible.

This year I have added two ministries to my schedule. I am now with the Missions Commission and am the liaison for Roesland Elementary in the Caring for Kids ministry. I am excited to be a part of both ministries as they are both a passion of mine and a part of my spiritual gifts. I will be looking to provide a couple of opportunities for mission trips for the

summer of 2018 as well as strengthening our community ties with Roesland Elementary in helping with their needs, and in mentoring/tutoring the children.

I participated this year in the Clergy Fellowship of the Great Plains Conference, attended the Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC), officiated a wedding at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Greeley, and attended the services there on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. I worked with a spiritual counselor for a few months, attended the Willow Creek Leadership Training this fall, and will be attending the RMC's Clergy retreat in Oct., 2017.

I look forward to the coming year, continuing our ministries and finding new ways for children and families to be connected to Old Mission, the community, and the world.

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Mike Ott**

2017 was a great year for the Youth Group!

This wouldn't be possible without our 2 Youth Interns, Jordan Larkin & Merit Christensen. They both continue to excel at their positions here and the kids really connect with them.

Our biggest event this year was our summer mission trip to Minneapolis, MN, July 2-7. This year was our first combined trip with both the Middle School and Senior High age groups attending. I couldn't have been happier with how the trip went. It was a joy to watch the younger and older kids interact and grow closer together as ONE youth group; all while working at a number of charity organizations across the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. We had 29 total participants this year, 7 adults and 22 youth.

We also continued our relationship with the youth groups of St. James UMC & St. Paul's UMC through our Teen Summit on Race & Privilege. We were honored to host this year's event at Old Mission and welcomed 50+ youth and adults for a discussion on race in our area. We were also thrilled to welcome in a number speakers from the area, including KCK mayor Mark Holland.

Our Youth also participated in a number of worship services, including leading our annual Youth Sunday and Tenebrae services. Both of which continue to be meaningful experiences for our youth and will continue in 2018.

In addition to all of that, we also had our regular Sunday evening Youth Groups meetings where we ate dinner together, learned a lesson through discussion and activities, and closed it out with games and fellowship time. In case that wasn't enough, we also held a Super Bowl party, went to Power Play, watched movies, went bowling, hosted the Thanksgiving Dinner, went to the haunted houses, helped with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, volunteered at VBS, and implemented a new Sunday School curriculum, among other things!

Here's to a great 2018!

## **DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS**

**Karen Eisele**

2017 was an exciting year in the worship life of Old Mission. Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gave us a reason to celebrate and glorify God through the gifts of many talented musicians. We thank all our musicians who serve weekly.

Here are the highlights:

- Spirit Bells remains a strong ensemble. Their music has a variety of styles and levels of difficulty thanks to Sarah Hill's continued passion for engagement of the dedicated players.
- Tom Gifford's leadership of the Chancel Choir is much appreciated by the singers and our church family. His anthem selections enhance the message throughout the year. Chancel Choir sings weekly and at a variety of special services including many hours of rehearsal.
- The Worship Band is blessed to have such strong and talented musicians in this ensemble. Their music is a key part of the growing contemporary service. From Mike Ott's fantastic tenor voice to our wonderful rhythm section, talented vocalists and rousing horns, all under Sarah Hill's leadership and arranging. The band provided music for many special services this year during Holy Week, VBS and our combined services.
- Gloria Slagle continues to bless the congregation with beautiful and skillful playing. She has had a busy year with additional weddings and funerals. We are thankful for the extra time that Gloria and many of our musicians put in to minister to families in both their sorrow and joy.
- Our seasonal orchestra grew both in numbers and in proficiency thanks to our latest staff addition, Brett Eichman. At Old Mission Christmas the orchestra had 30 instrumentalists. Wow!
- Combined worship Sundays have become a common and welcomed way to worship for Old Mission. Thank you to everyone who helps make those Sundays possible.
- Our youth musicians are a large part of our music ministry. They show growing maturity in the way they prepare for playing and singing in multiple services from Youth Sunday, Easter, Old Mission Christmas, Back to School Sunday, VBS and more! Sarah and Brett are doing a wonderful job mentoring our church's future worship leaders.
- Children's music is alive and well. Children sang in worship during Palm Sunday, VBS, Back to School Sunday and Old Mission Christmas. Our Sunday School music teachers are the greatest! Thanks for leading our kiddos.
- Seasonal ensembles like the Kid's Choir, Worship Choir, Brass ensemble and beginning bell choir have been a great way to build community with church members and include more people into the worship life of the church through music.
- Many dedicated volunteers spend hours of their free time setting up the sanctuary to make room for our growing number of musicians and VBS sets. We couldn't do what we do without their hearts for service. They have built sets for

VBS, platforms for musicians and carried more than a few pews this year alone. We love them!

- Scott Nyhart is the bomb! 'Nuff said. He makes us all sound a little better. He continues to run the sound board at all service plus train our team of volunteers and fix any number of technical problems on the spot!
- Finally, we were able to commission a choral arrangement to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Singers from each of the three worship services joined their voices together in this memorable worship service. It was a true joy! Many thanks to the entire music staff for preparations for the service, especially Tom Gifford in rehearsing our Anniversary Choir. Also a large thank you to Dr. Paul Aitken, composer in residence and director of Worship Arts for Church of the Rockies, United Methodist Church in Boise, Idaho for writing and arranging us this gift of music for years to come.

“Your church oh Lord all through the years had one old mission song.  
Help us, with music of the spheres, to serve the poor and wronged.”

*The Things We Need” by Dr. Paul A. Aiken*

I am honored to work with such a strong and dedicated staff and thankful for a church who values music and the arts in worship. Thanks be to God!

## **VBS**

Spirit Week 2017

We re-popped a VBS from 2011. This high school themed children’s program ministered to 225 children throughout the week. 70% of our registrants are from the community, which is a testament to the awesome volunteer team we have. Once again over 100 volunteers taught these kiddos about the real work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

## **CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR**

**Tom Gifford**

The Chancel Choir has an active roster of 22 singers. On any given Sunday, we average around 18 singers per service. Our choir enhances the music ministry of the traditional services by singing anthems, leading hymns, and providing service music like introits, responses and Amens. The singers prepare and sing a new anthem every week from the middle of August to the middle of July. They rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 and on Sunday’s 20 minutes before the service. They performed music for approximately 45 services and rehearsed over 70 hours throughout the course of the year. We added over a dozen new songs to our repertoire during 2017.

The Choir continues a rotation of singing at the 11:00 o’clock service on all Sundays except the third; when they sing for the 8:30 service. Besides the regular Sunday services, our

choir sings at special Lenten services, funerals, OMUMC's Combined Thanksgiving Services, Old Mission Christmas, and the Christmas Eve late service and the Back to School Celebration in August.

It was our pleasure this year to perform the world premiere of Paul Aitken's anthem entitled "The Things We Need." The song was commissioned by Old Mission to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church. The choir, along with many extra singers, performed it at the anniversary celebration services in September. We are pleased that the commissioned anthem came with a brand new hymn called "O God, Who Knows the Things We Need" by Paul Aitken as well. The tune name of that hymn will forever be known as OLD MISSION.

The choir director continues to lead the hymns and sing solos at the services not attended by the choir and helps to coordinate, and/or conduct any other Special Music opportunities as they arise, especially during Old Mission Christmas and our Easter celebrations. Also, the director coordinates with whomever is preaching in an attempt to match the anthems with the sermon and the scripture for that day.

## **DIRECTOR OF SPIRIT BELLS**

**Sarah Hill**

The bell choir continues to play 9 months a year, bringing their music to worship in the second Sunday of each month, or at special combined services like our Anniversary celebration, Thanksgiving and Old Mission Christmas. We had some very fun music this year that utilized the additional musicians present at those combined services. There aren't many churches where a bell choir could play with bass and fiddle or cello, flute, timpani and drum set! I am so grateful that Old Mission has such a wide commitment to excellence in worship music.

The Summer Bell Choir was a chance for interested new ringers to play side by side with our experienced ringers, with just a short-term commitment. We had 8 new ringers try their hand at bells, and many were hoping to do it again. I'm planning a similar spring-time bell choir, hopefully following up in the summer. It was a lot of fun for me to introduce new musicians to the instrument. The bells are a proud part of the music ministry at Old Mission, and will continue ringing in the new year by collaborating with solo musicians and recruiting new players.

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MUSIC**

**Sarah Hill**

Old Mission is blessed to have many talented youth musicians committed to sharing their gifts, which I believe is because this church is committed to supporting youth leadership through music. The youth band meets most Sunday nights before fellowship to learn contemporary music and some traditional hymns, and then lead their peers in a short worship service once a month. The youth band also brings their music to Sunday morning worship 4-5 times per year

as a group. The youth band also helps lead worship for some children's events like 2-5th grade lock-in and 3rd grade Bible retreat, as well as volunteering during VBS. There are many youth musicians who participate in other ways, by playing cello or trumpet with the worship band, flute with the Spirit Bells or saxophone at the 75th Anniversary or Old Mission Christmas. We are so blessed to have Brett Eichman on staff to work with these young instrumentalists.

Almost all of our youth musicians participated in our annual Youth Sunday in February this year. The theme "Welcome" gave youth time to share with the congregation one of the most important things they've learned at Old Mission- that everyone is welcome in God's family. The worship services were planned by youth, led by youth through liturgy, music and sermon, and were extremely meaningful. New this year was a small, youth-only orchestra that assisted in leading hymns at the two traditional services. My favorite part of the service is seeing all of our youth gather in the front of the sanctuary to give the benediction. I believe their enthusiasm in saying "May the Lord bless you" is a reflection of the way this church has blessed all the students at Old Mission.

#### **DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP BAND**

**Sarah Hill**

The worship band continues to lead the contemporary service at 9:45 each Sunday, collaborating for all-church events like Back to School Sunday, 75th Anniversary, Thanksgiving and Old Mission Christmas, and leading a full sanctuary of children at VBS. It's been a busy year! We continue to be blessed by excellent volunteer musicians and support from the congregation. The worship planning team works to select songs that are meaningful for the congregation to sing in praise and worship, and the entire band works and practices to make excellent music.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Scott Long, Chair**

The Trustees have had a full year in 2017. A combination of church staff, volunteers, and professionals have worked together to maintain, repair and improve Old Mission's physical plant and facilities. We appreciate the hard work of all in our continuing efforts to maintain the church.

During 2017, the Trustees have continued to oversee numerous maintenance, repair and improvement projects involving Old Mission's facilities and properties. Much of our work in 2017 involved three major projects: 1) the Sanctuary Window Replacement project undertaken as part of Old Mission's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration; 2) the proposed sale of the Church's rental properties along Mission Road; and, 3) sump pump repair and replacement as part of addressing on-going water issues at the Church.

**Sanctuary Window Replacement Project.** Trustees spent a significant amount of time and effort in 2017 on the Sanctuary Window Replacement Project undertaken as part of Old Mission's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Trustees coordinated this project with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Project Committee and following that committee's successful fundraising efforts in early 2017, Trustees were able to place Old Mission's order for the new windows with Chicago Lumber Company ("CLC"), the Marvin Window representative selected as the contractor for this project. Trustees negotiated the formal contract with CLC and established an agreed upon timeline for ordering the windows, approval of window design and shop drawings, delivery of the windows and contractor access to the Sanctuary, to assure completion of the window installation prior to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on the weekend of September 16 and 17. The new windows were delivered during the week of August 7th and Trustees oversaw the installation of the windows by CLC. CLC completed the installation of the twelve new windows (10 in the Sanctuary and 2 in the Steeple Tower) on Thursday, August 24. During the last week of August, CLC finished its work on this project (including the clean-up of the site and removal of the project trash container and storage containers), well in advance of the September 8, 2017 contractual deadline for project completion. Trustees were pleased that none of the old windows were thrown away, as all of the old windows were eventually claimed (and taken away) by various people for repurposing for a variety of new uses. Trustees were very pleased with the CLC's work on this project and believe that the new windows look spectacular. CLC's lead installer and installation crew were very diligent and conscientious and were great to work with. Using funds collected by 75th Anniversary Capital Project Committee for this project, Trustees were able to timely pay CLC in full for the windows and its work on this project. Many thanks to the members of the Capital Project Committee for their work on this project and in spearheading the campaign to raise the funds necessary for this project. Many thanks also go out to the many individuals and families in our congregation who contributed to window campaign. Without this support, this project could never have been undertaken and completed. Thanks are also extended to Pat Duesman (CLC's Vice President who oversaw this project for CLC) and his entire installation crew for their work on this project. Trustees also extend special thanks to Jerry Busch (Old Mission member and window expert) for all of the help, advice and support that he has provided Trustees during the entire project process. Jerry's expertise and assistance were invaluable. Finally, Trustees extend their thanks to Old Mission's staff for all of their efforts in connection with this project, and in particular, Trustees want to thank Gene Bohannon and Gay Ecton for their work on behalf of the Church during the installation of the Windows - Gene for working with the installation crew to allow them into the Church so they could start early each morning and stay late each evening in order to complete their work in such an expedient manner and Gay for all of her work with the CLC and the entire installation crew during the entire installation process, as well as all of her work in contacting and scheduling the landscapers, electricians and other third parties that were needed in order to allow the window installers to do their work in a timely manner.

**Sale of Old Mission Rental Properties along Mission Road.** Late in 2016, Lane4 Property Group approached Old Mission with a proposal for the purchase of Church's rental properties along Mission Road (including the west lawn area). After many discussions with the Chair of Trustees and Reverend Gardner, Lane4 presented Old Mission with an initial letter of intent. Trustees

reviewed this initial offer and generally approved the concept of the proposed sale, but wanted several revisions/modifications/clarifications to Lane4's proposal. After numerous additional meetings and significant negotiations, Lane4 proposed a revised letter of intent dated March 1, 2017 (the "LOI") that included all of the revisions/modifications/clarifications requested by Trustees. Under Lane4's proposal, following their purchase of the properties, Lane4 would develop a 2 story office building on the site, including new parking that would extend Old Mission existing parking. Old Mission would have the right to approve Lane4's plans and once completed, Old Mission would have the right to use the new and expanded parking constructed as part of the development. Lane4's proposal was presented to Old Mission's Leadership Group and this group endorsed the proposed sale. Reverend Gardner and the Chair of Trustees meet with the District Superintendent and District Board of Church Location and Building on March 7, 2017 and, in accordance with the Church Book of Discipline, the DS and this Board each approved the proposed sale. Trustees reviewed the March 1, 2017 LOI and formally approved the proposed sale on the terms described in the LOI and recommended that the proposed sale be submitted to a Church Conference for approval. A Church Conference was called for March 26, 2017 and Lane4's proposal was presented and approved at the Church Conference. Following the Church Conference, Trustees proceeded to negotiate a formal written contract for the proposed sale (on the terms described in the LOI) and a formal written contract for this proposed sale was executed effective as of June 23, 2017. Since that time, Lane4 has proceeded with their due diligence review and investigation, worked to formalize their plans for the site and have had numerous discussions with the City of Fairway in connection with the various approvals required for Lane4's planned development of the site. The Chair of Trustees met with the City Administrator and Mayor to discuss the contemplated sale and expressed Old Mission's support of Lane4's planned use of the site. Lane4 continues to seek the necessary City approvals and a meeting between Lane4, the Chair of Trustees, the newly elected Mayor of Fairway, the newly appointed head of the City's Planning Commission and the City Administrator is scheduled for February 5, 2018 to discuss Lane4's plans for the site. Pursuant to the terms of the contract (as amended), the due diligence review and investigation period (the period in which Lane4 may terminate the contract if it is not satisfied that it can obtain the necessary City approvals for their planned development of the site) can be extended by Lane4 to May 2, 2018. Trustees will continue to work and cooperate with Lane4 as it seeks the necessary City approvals and in closing the proposed sale of these properties. Should the sale close, it is Trustees intent that \$500,000 or more of the sales proceeds be deposited into the Church's Building Maintenance and Improvement Endowment, with the remaining sales proceeds being used for various capital improvement or building capital repair/maintenance projects (such as the sanctuary tile removal and installation project, sanctuary pew repair, gutter repair/replacement and/or exterior painting and repair).

**Sump Pump Repair and Replacement / On-going Water Issues.** Throughout 2017, Trustees continued to address various on-going water issues in the Church basement and window wells. As part of addressing these issues in 2017, Trustees undertook the repair and replacement of several of the sump-pumps serving the Church building, including the following:

(a) During the summer, it was discovered that the two sump pumps serving the Fellowship Hall window wells were not working. One pump was in working condition, but the electrical contact to this pump was not working. The second pump was not in working condition, but the electrical contact to this pump was working. As a temporary fix, the working electrical contact was switched to the working pump to create a single functioning pump to drain the window wells on an interim basis. Trustees approved the replacement of the non-functioning pump and the repair of the non-working electrical contact and this work was completed in September and these two pumps are now fully functional and working to keep the window wells drained.

(b) It was also discovered that the two sump pumps in the mechanical room on the lower level of the Church that deal with the water from the drain at the base of the ramp (at the rear of the Church) were not working. Old Mission's plumbing contractor discovered an electrical circuit on the "mother board" controlling these pumps had shorted out, but was able to wire across the shorted out circuit and get the pumps running again on a temporary basis. Trustees approved a proposal for the replacement of these non-functioning pumps and this work was completed and these two pumps are now fully functional and working properly. As part of an overall review of options for keep various Church systems operating during power outages, Trustees have received a proposal for a battery back-up for these pumps and Trustees anticipate considering this proposal (as well as other possible options for back-up power for this and other Church systems) in 2018.

In addition to these major projects, numerous other projects were continued, supervised, undertaken or completed by the Trustees in 2017, including:

\*New tile for the Sanctuary was purchased in 2016 and in January of 2017, Trustees coordinated the delivery and storage of this tile. Over 14,900 lbs. of tile was delivered to Old Mission and 20 volunteers assisted in moving and stacking the tile in the Church basement, where it will be stored until the Church is ready for the tile to be installed. The installation of the tile will require the removal of the existing tile in the sanctuary and the removal and reinstallation of the sanctuary pews. It is Trustees' intent to proceed with the installation of the new tile once funds are available for this project.

\*The improvement and relocation of the entrance to the chapel and installation of new double doors in the chapel entrance and the entryway between the chapel and the columbarium was completed in 2017. The top panels of chapel entrance doors feature decorative glass panels from Old Mission's original chapel entrance doors and the top panel of the columbarium entryway doors feature frosted glass panels that mirror the decorative panels installed in the chapel entrance doors.

\*Trustees approved Early Education's request to replace/repair the cabinets in various classrooms used by Early Education. This project was completed in 2017 using funds Early Education had left over from their 2016 budget. Trustees also approved an Early Education request to install a shade (similar to the shade covering a portion of the toddler playground) over a currently uncovered portion of the Early Education playground. Early Education

continues to investigate their options for this project. Trustees thank Early Education for taking the lead on these needed repairs and improvements in the areas of the Church used by Early Education.

\*In the fall of 2017, Cliff Van Blarcom completed the installation of the decorative window in the columbarium. Many thanks to Cliff for all of his work on the columbarium.

\*On several occasions during 2017, Old Mission suffered power outages of varying durations. Trustees are reviewing options for keeping Church systems operating during power outages and/or for limiting the cost of resets/restarts required as a result of these power outages and are meeting with Old Mission's HVAC contractor (P-1) to discuss these issues. Trustees anticipate continuing to consider options for addressing these issues and for limiting the costs associated with future power outages and system resets/restarts during 2018.

\*During 2017, Old Mission continued to utilize the services of P-1 under a maintenance contract entered into during 2015 to maintain and service Old Mission's HVAC system and cooling tower. This maintenance contract expires in February of 2018 and Trustees have begun discussions with P-1 concerning the possible renewal of this contract, as well as various concerns Trustees have with the coverage of such contract and the overall cost of HVAC maintenance and repair in 2017. Further discussions with P-1 on this issues and concerns are anticipated in 2018.

\*In 2017 Trustees identified numerous items of deferred maintenance and repair work that needs to be addressed around the Church (including repair of wood rot, trim and window painting, railing repair and repainting, window caulking and repair, gutter replacement, exterior door repair and repainting, concrete and step repairs, tuck point work, sanctuary pew repair and other exterior and interior maintenance and repair work) and worked to prioritize this work and to formulate a plan for addressing these deferred maintenance and repair needs on a systematic-phased approach wherein (subject to budgetary constraints) as much of the top priority work as possible in a given year is completed, with the remainder to the work completed in future years. Most pressing of these needed exterior repairs is the replacement of the gutters on the sanctuary and the north portico, various areas needing concrete repair and/or replacement, the repair and repainting of the main entry doors off the north parking lot and several areas where wood rot needs to be repaired and repainted. Trustees would like to undertake as many of these pressing exterior repairs as possible in 2018, with the most pressing being gutter replacement. Once all of the currently needed deferred maintenance and repair work is completed, Trustees hope to establish an on-going schedule for performing routine preventative maintenance work (such as repainting and wood rot repair) on a regular basis and Trustees anticipate on working on such a plan in 2018.

\*In addition to the deferred maintenance and repair work identified by Trustees, numerous improvement projects, such as the retiling the sanctuary floor and the repair of the sanctuary pews, repair of the interior Rose Window light, reinstallation of the exterior Rose Window light, replacement of sanctuary lights, etc., have been identified by Trustees. Trustees see these

improvement projects as a lower priority than ongoing operational and deferred maintenance and repair needs, but that they are projects that should be undertaken as funds become available. In this regard, at the end of 2017 an anonymous donor gave the Church as designated gift underwriting the cost of the repair/reinstallation of the interior Rose Window light and Trustees are in the process of undertaking this improvement project in early 2018.

\*Trustees approved the purchase and installation of a new phone system to replace Old Mission's current obsolete phone system. Installation of the new phone system (as well as staff training on the new system) is anticipated in early 2018.

\*Rick Stuart continues to serve as Old Mission's maintenance man and Gay Ecton, in her role as Church Administrator, keeps Rick quite busy doing miscellaneous jobs and projects around the church. We are very thankful for Rick's excellent work.

Finally, the Trustees look forward to continuing their work in 2018.

## **STAFF PARISH**

**Rob Johnston, Chair**

The membership of the 2017 Old Mission Staff Parish Relations Committee consisted of Rob Johnston (Chair), Shannon Beck, Dean Strasser, David Howard, Piper Childs, Tammy Kelly (new member), Claudia Dawson (new member), John Cushon (new member) and Bryan Wiltfong (new member).

The Committee works closely with the clergy and staff to fulfill the mission of the church. The Committee had a busy year; highlights of the Staff Parish committee for 2017 are summarized as follows:

**January** - The first month of each year is relatively quiet for the Committee. Typically, new members are welcomed and briefed on committee responsibilities and goals are established for the coming year.

**February** - The Committee got down to substantive work in the February meeting with a review of the Staff Parish Relations "Roadmap" which provides a summary of the year's upcoming agenda. The liaison assignments were reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

**March** - The committee addressed the organizational impact of two staff members with serious medical conditions: 1) Larry Bentson's upcoming hip surgery and the need for interim persons to fill-in during his absence and 2) Michelle Bowen's arm fracture which required surgery. The Committee also reviewed the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration planned for Old Mission.

**April** - Staff self-evaluations begin in the second quarter of each year. By this time, the Committee members are finishing up connecting with their assigned staff members either by meeting, telephone call or card. The staff members are asked to complete their self-evaluations so that meetings with their supervisors can be scheduled.

**Ma y** - The Committee considered the Pastoral Leadership Assessment for Dr. Gardner and the Deacon Leadership Assessment for Revs. Karen Nyhart and Debbie Hull. All assessments were reviewed and discussed and subsequently signed by the members of the Committee. The signed assessments were then emailed by Dean to the District office.

**June** – The June 2017 agenda was light, consisting of a status review of the self-evaluations and the appointing of an SPRC liaison for Old Mission’s college interns (Merit Christensen and Jordan Larkin).

**July** – No meeting.

**August** – Staff evaluations began in the August meeting with reviews for Larry Bentson, Gay Ecton, Amy Hernandez-Zoellner and Debbie Hull. It was reported that the remaining staff evaluations were being completed so that the liaisons can schedule their meetings with their respective staff member. The Committee also received a report concerning the status of the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**September** – The Committee continued the process of reviewing staff evaluations; evaluations of Karen Eisele and Betty Leonard were on the agenda for this month. The Committee discussed the need to have some succession planning in place in the future. There was also a discussion of the Early Education Center and its separate committee. Piper Childs was designated as the SPRC’s representative on the Early Education Committee.

**October** – Staff evaluations of Tom Gifford, Brett Eichman, Mike Ott, Jordan Larkin, Gloria Slagle, Sarah Hill and Leslie VanBlarcom were reviewed during the October meeting. No other business was considered by the Committee.

**November** – The November meeting focused on the Clergy salary recommendations and also the salary recommendations from the Early Education Center. Dr. Gardner reported on the Clergy recommendations and Piper reported on the EEC recommendations. All of the recommendations were approved after due consideration. It was also reported that Charlotte Christiansen was retiring as the nursery coordinator. The effective date of Charlotte’s retirement is December 31, 2017.

**December** – The Committee considered the proposed 2018 personnel budget which was approved. Additionally, the appointive recommendation forms were discussed for Dr. Gardner, Revs. Nyhart and Hull. The forms were completed, signed and submitted to the District office. It was reported that Jen Perry will succeed Charlotte as the new nursery coordinator for 2018.

**Summary** – The SPRC had a busy and productive year. The congregation is blessed to have such a caring clergy and staff at Old Mission.

## **LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEES**

### **FOUNDATION**

**Karl Phares, Chair**

The Old Mission Methodist Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established to provide a permanent endowment to fund educational scholarships and other programs and activities of the Old Mission Methodist Church. Grants from the foundation are funded from the growth of the endowed assets. A spending policy (based on a fixed % of the average of the last three year-end asset balances) controls the maximum allowable grants for the subsequent year.

In 2017 the foundation funded over \$25,000 in scholarships to 19 Old Mission college students. The foundation also issued grants for the Youth Mission Trip, Vacation Bible School, and for musicians at the holiday services.

The Foundation depends on contributions in order to grow its assets, which increases funds available for grants. Accordingly, the Foundation respectfully requests and solicits your generous annual contributions and encourages your consideration in estate planning. Contributions and Memorials of \$1,000 or more, received in the same calendar year, are recognized on a permanent plaque.

### **LIBRARY**

**Shirley Ingerly, Chair**

The Charles B. Bennett Library offers a variety of materials for all ages. The library is open on Sunday morning. At other times when the door is locked, the key can be picked up in the church office during office hours. A portable bookshelf in the hall holds children's books available for check out when the library is locked. Anyone attending Old Mission is welcome to use the library.

No books have been added to the collection this year. There are ongoing computer issues that limit the processing of books for circulation.

### **EARLY EDUCATION CENTER**

**Ian Bartalos, Chair**  
**Betty Leonard, Director**

This year the Early Education Center replaced cupboards or cupboard doors in rooms 154,155,156, 159,201 and 203. After re-gluing the laminate on these old cabinets for years, we are very excited to have them replaced! Major renovation was done on the large preschool climber which was installed twenty years ago. Worn pieces were replaced including updating one climbing area with a "rock wall". In addition we replaced the upstairs water fountain with a handicap accessible fountain and water bottle filler. The water fountain on the first floor was updated with a bottle filler as well.

Sixty-seven children were enrolled full time, nineteen part time in preschool and fourteen in after school care.

## **FOCUS AREAS: WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVE AND WITNESS**

### **PRAYER CHAIN/PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

**Michele Bowen**

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

Romans 8:26.

It's only by His Spirit that so few can do so much. Both our prayer chain and prayer shawl ministries continue to be an important part of our praying ministry here at Old Mission. Our prayer chain includes thirty five dedicated pray-ers who feel called to pray for the needs of our families, friends, community and the world. Our prayer shawls are a tangible part of that ministry, something to hold onto. As the shawls are made, praying is done. Before they are given out, praying is done. As they are given away, praying is done. They represent the prayers of our church. Our baby prayer shawls are given to parents as their children are baptized. These ministries belong to God. As a testament to Him, since this ministry began in 2006, we have made and given our nine hundred prayer and baptism shawls. That's God.

Ken Tebow, a founding member of the Saturday Prayer Group, shares that the group was founded in 1960 (ish). The group began as a mini worship service led by then pastor Dr. Ben Schmidtke They meet every Saturday morning at 8 am in the Meditation Room. They are active members in the prayer life of Old Mission lifting up the weekly prayer requests. New members are welcome to join this supportive group.

“Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

### **CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

**Deb Adams, Chair**

Church and Society Members and Meeting Attendees in 2017

Chair: Deb Adams [ddadams55@gmail.com](mailto:ddadams55@gmail.com) Pastoral Staff: Debbie Hull [debbie@oldmission.org](mailto:debbie@oldmission.org)

Nancy Kirkland [kirklandkorner@aol.com](mailto:kirklandkorner@aol.com) Connie Walsh [cwalsh@everestkc.net](mailto:cwalsh@everestkc.net)

Charlotte Christiansen [charlottechristiansen07@yahoo.com](mailto:charlottechristiansen07@yahoo.com)

Becky Johnston [robandbeckyjohnton@gmail.com](mailto:robandbeckyjohnton@gmail.com) Taylor Smith [taylorrdsmith@gmail.com](mailto:taylorrdsmith@gmail.com)

Katherine Frohoff [kfrohoff@kc.rr.com](mailto:kfrohoff@kc.rr.com) Janice Kresin [jmkresinks@yahoo.com](mailto:jmkresinks@yahoo.com)

Debbie Williams [Dmscott94521@gmail.com](mailto:Dmscott94521@gmail.com)

Early in 2017, the Church and Society Committee discussed the social justice and racial equity history of C&S in the UMC and then spent the year integrating some social justice activities into our on-going work to support local human service agencies. The committee met four times in 2017, on April 2, June 11, Sept 10 and Dec 10. We also sponsored two additional “one-time-only” book club sessions focused on books with social justice themes on May 9 and July 18. This schedule seems to be working out well for the committee, and we have decided to continue a quarterly meeting schedule in 2018 with a few additional activities throughout the year,

Our major activities for 2017 included:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on 2/28/17 organized by Taylor Smith with Connie Walsh shopping for us. We chose a social justice concern for the free will offering and collected \$927 for Syrian refugees through The Advance (UMC General Board of Global Ministries).

Johnson County Food Ministry involves cooking and serving dinner on the 3rd Thursday every other month organized by Janice Kresin with Connie Walsh shopping for us. Janice reports a need for three cooks who can prepare dinner from 1-3pm on "our" Thursdays. Starting in December 2017, the menu changed to BBQ, mashed potatoes, green beans, and salad. This dinner is easy to prepare, and popular with the families who come to eat.

Old Mission UMC Blood Drives organized by Nancy Kirkland three times in 2017 in cooperation with the Community Blood Center. Nancy reports strong support from the congregation, and moving from 4 times to 3 times a year seems to be working well. For example, we collected 42 units of blood at the October drive. The first blood drive in 2018 will be on February 25.

Northeast Johnson County Multi-Service Center Food Pantry benefits from our congregation's donations throughout the year. Connie Walsh collects and delivers donations from the white collection box in the church foyer and the shelf outside Michelle Bowen's Sunday School classroom. In 2017, our church donated 934 pounds of food and \$3,475 (this includes \$500 that was forwarded to the food pantry on 1/2/18).

Social Justice "One Time Only" Book Club meetings were held on May 9 (hosted by Deb Adams) and July 18 (hosted by Becky Johnston). On May 9, we discussed *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love* by William Willomon, a small but powerful book addressing current immigration concerns from a Christian perspective. For the July 18 discussion, we read *The Revolution Where you Live* by Sarah Van Gelder who details her visits to inspirational communities across the country that are confronting racism, poverty, environmental degradation and the many other challenges we face as a nation in creative ways.

Kansas Interfaith Action, a statewide social justice organization with an interfaith membership, held their annual dinner in Topeka on May 23 with Becky Johnston representing our Church & Society Committee.

"Case Against Hunger" is an annual appeal for CrossLines food pantry and food kitchen. Connie Walsh organizes this summer mail appeal for the Church & Society Committee. This year, Connie received an emergency call from CrossLines just after the mailing went out to the congregation. She publicized the extra need this year through the Old Mission newsletter and the church responded by donating more than \$5,000 (a 40% increase over the amount raised in recent years).

Winter Coat Drive, organized by Nancy Kirland and Charlotte Christiansen, is an annual collection of new and gently used coats for CrossLines that Church & Society sponsors each fall. In 2017, we collected 19 new and 94 used coats as well as some gloves and other winter clothing necessities.

As we head into 2018, Church & Society is seeking new members and open to considering additional social justice activities. Nancy Kirkland has agreed to co-chair the committee with Deb Adams in 2018.

## MISSIONS

Susan Strong, Chair

In 2017, Old Mission UMC continued its Covenant Relationship with the Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) ministry serving south-central Mexico through our Missions Committee gift of \$2,500 to the General Board of Global Ministries.

Our major projects in 2017

This was our fifth annual **Living 6:8**. We combined this project with a Mission Fair hosted by the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee. We had 5 different projects for people to participate. Starting a few weeks before Living 6:8 (collecting snacks for Roesland) to the week before by packing meals at a conference activity for Rise Against Hunger, the day before helping at Lazarus Boutique and then two projects on Living 6:8. We had 59 volunteers starting the week before Living 6:8. It was a busy day! Mission Fair was spectacular! 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary did a phenomenal job! I wish it would have lasted 4 more hours!

Fourth quarter was our 4<sup>th</sup> year as collection center for **Operation Christmas Child**. We had 57 volunteer hours over 8 days. OM donated 106 filled shoe boxes and we collected 486 boxes from the community. For a total donation of 592 shoe boxes.

We continued our traditional fund raisers for Church World Service and Heifer International. Donations were collected for Easter \$625, Mother's Day \$325, Father's Day \$420, and Christmas cards \$950. We have been participating in these fund raisers since the 1990's.

Roesland Elementary Partnership is our fulfillment of the Bishop's continuing initiative on active involvement in public education. For the 2016-2017 school year OM providing about 20 volunteers completing 1,034 volunteer/tutoring hours. OM tutors grades 1 thru 3 with the Barton reading program, K thru 3 for tutoring in classrooms and one on one. We are continuing these activities for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Mission's also provided gift cards for teachers to buy manipulatives for their math program. We also gave funds for their lunch program.

Organized several different collections:

- Lazarus Boutique – collected men's underwear and socks.
- Bishop's Round-Up: collected 486 diapers, 21 rolls of paper towels and 20 rolls of toilet paper. Delivered by Frank Reichart.
- Adoption of 5 **Roesland Elementary** families for Christmas by OM Sunday school classes.
- UMCOR flood buckets – collected supplies and put 32 buckets together. We also collected over \$6000.00 to give to UMCOR.
- Christmas Eve offering will be paired with funds from the committee and go toward our conference apportionments. Total donated was \$3,480.

These projects were brought to you by the compassionate, hardworking people of the Mission's committee: Pat Hotze, Shelle Lewis, Julia Sanders, Lou Smith, Chris Cunard (member emeritus),

Audrey and Tom Wiegmann. A **big thank you** to them and Rev Deb Hull and Rev Karen Nyhart (leader emeritus) for their guidance!

The **biggest thank you** goes to you, for your support of Missions! None of these accomplishments would be possible without you!

**MINISTER TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR**

**Rev. Debbie Hull  
Michele Bowen  
Lory Allison**

The Children's Ministry Council is comprised of 13 dedicated and talented Old Mission members as well as our Children's Ministry staff liaisons. Here are some highlights from 2017.

**Missions:** Throughout the year, children participate in a variety of mission projects that support local and global organizations. All Children's Sunday school and Children's Church offerings go towards a variety of mission projects: Children's Church packed 45 operations Christmas Child boxes. VBS children made benches for Gordon Parks Elementary school and collected school supplies for Roesland Elementary school. The Sunday school children made "Compassion bags" to give to our friends without home, collected money for Pura Vida project – helping Guatemalan children go to school, and put together "Encouragement Bags" to help Gordon Parks students taking the state tests.

**Special Activities:** The Children's Ministry Council is responsible for several special events outside of the regular Sunday morning educational setting. Some of these activities are offered to Old Mission children – others are offered to the children in our community as well. The OM Staff and the Children's Ministry Council organize the events, and parents volunteer their time, energies and talents to make the events successful. Below are some of the activities sponsored by Children's Ministry Council in 2017:

- **Lock-In** for 30 third thru fifth graders provided an opportunity for outreach as the children could bring a friend to Urban Air, enjoy fellowship with the worship team, and bonded in a sleep-over experience at the church.
- **Camp Chippewa Overnight** provided 12 Old Mission 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders with outdoor fun while playing games, horseback riding, learning archery, and cooking their dinner over a campfire. The highlight of the weekend was the children's devotional and preparation for the Sunday worship service that they designed and prepared themselves. They wrote and performed their own special music, designed the order of worship in order to create the bulletins, chose Scripture and wrote their own message!
- **K-2 Fellowship/Movie Night** provided 11 of our younger elementary kids. They enjoyed a taste of their own "Lock-in" pajama party & movie night. There was pizza, games, a devotional and hot chocolate and popcorn for to go with the movie – Polar Express

- **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast:** We recognized and celebrated the children’s Sunday school teachers, nursery workers and volunteers with a “day off” and a special breakfast and fellowship time. We couldn’t be in ministry without them.
- **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – The council helped to provide games and prizes, popcorn, cotton candy, and a petting zoo. It was well attended by OM members as well as the community.
- The annual church-wide **Back to School Sunday** was indoors this year. We had one service which included a Sunday school favorite – Loftus who helped with the blessing of the children and youth. The children received “Jesus is the Light” lighthouse keychains for their backpacks. This was followed with Chris Cakes in fellowship hall.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Presentation and Retreat:** The Council sponsored the presentation of 19 bibles to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders. Later that same week we had our retreat with pizza, games and learning to become more familiar with their new bibles.
- **Back to School Pool Party** This was the first year for the pool party. It was a great success but unfortunately the weather was quite chilly. The children and a few adults braved the cold and jumped in to swim the night away. Others fellowshiped and played games at the tables. We look forward to offering this again next year.

**Education:** Sunday school is offered for infants and toddlers in our church nursery. Two year olds through fifth grade have a wonderful Sunday school program at 9:35 a.m. weekly. Children’s church is offered weekly during the 11:00 worship service for children aged 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have an amazing number of caring and dedicated adult and parent volunteers who minister to our most precious resources– the children. It is a large job, both in recruiting as well as encouraging and supporting those who are in ministry to our children. We have had a very successful year in ministering to the children of Old Mission as well as the community. This time has also provided a special opportunity for us to nurture the faith and use the talents of our volunteers in unique ways to fill needed roles. In the spirit of the Wesleyan tradition, our leaders and faithful volunteers have taken the charge to “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people we can, as long as ever you can.” Praise be to God!

## WITNESS

**Sherry Ott, Lay Leader**

The mission of this ministry area is to effectively communicate the message of Old Mission, both to our internal faith community (members and guests) and to our geographical faith community (Fairway and the surrounding area).

**Website** ([www.oldmission.org](http://www.oldmission.org)) – We continue to use the expanded database functionality through our website provider, Elexio, to communicate more effectively - i.e. mass text and

email messages when needed. The new database system enabled us to release our online directory, providing a portal for all members and release a mobile app available from a tablet or smartphone. We continue to get member photos uploaded and educate / encourage people to use the functionality from both their computer and smartphones. The next website related projects that we will be undertaking in 2018 are donations by text message and Event Check-In Services. Our website (hosted by Elexio) and related suite of products are key tools for Old Mission...visitors, members and staff.

*A special thanks to Amy Hernandez-Zoellner for the wonderful job she continues to do in maintaining the website on an ongoing basis!*

**Social Media** - The Old Mission Fan Page on Facebook can be found simply by typing Old Mission in the Facebook search field ([facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/oldmission)). There is also a link to the Facebook Fan Page on our website that people can view even if they do not have a Facebook account.

**Computer Systems – Infrastructure** - Our support / maintenance agreement with Ideolity, a local computer services company, continues to be positive. Due to financial constraints, the purchase of a centralized server (preferred model) continues to be a difficult challenge to overcome.

**Multimedia in Worship** – We continue to enjoy the 2 TV screens in the sanctuary. We use the Pro-Presenter software to display content on the screens in both the contemporary and traditional worship services as well as special events as needed. Sermon content is displayed in both worship services as well as song lyrics in the contemporary service. This has been a very exciting and important component of implementing our 2020 Church Vision to make “our use of technology innovative and creative, serving people and sharing God’s story through all the senses” and to move toward making “our Sanctuary adaptable for all styles of worship, music and the arts”.

**Digital Signage** – A huge THANK YOU again goes out to Scott Nyhart for 100% of the time making sure there is engaging display, current and accurate information on the digital sign in the Narthex!

**FRAN Mail** - Guests to our worship services receive a handwritten letter from a member, letting them know that we were glad they visited and inviting them back. In the note the member invites them to contact him / her via phone or email with any questions they might have. Thank you to Nancy Richart who has been faithful in this ministry for many years!

**Connections Center** – Thanks to the continued dedication of a group of people led by Kevin Hargett and Gay Ecton in the Connections area in the North Portico continues to be a wonderful place for members and guests to gather for fellowship. Beverages are available each Sunday following each of the 3 worship services.

## **ADDITIONAL REPORTS**

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Suellen Woelk, President**

2017 was a year of general downsizing.

Ruth Chiga continued to serve as the Lunch Bunch Chair. We have to consider Lunch Bunch as a BIG success again this year. The UMW members think that it is good to eat out and enjoy each other's company each month, which helps to build our social connections.

UMW's Reading Program continues to be Chaired by Norma Jean Gould. Modern technology has changed the protocols. Many of the suggested books are now on Kindles or iPads, and some of our readers don't have the skills to access this technology, but our biggest problems are the increased cost of the books and the small reader participation.

Bookmarks, our book club, was discontinued because of low attendance, but now there is talk of Elizabeth Adams resurrecting it.

This year we again organized 3 Lenten Lunches for Old Mission with the help of Joyce Thompson. They were well attended, so we are planning to continue this commitment to our church in 2018.

The next success that I want to celebrate was the Holiday Sale. It was bigger and better than ever. Once more, Marsha Norman helped us with the silent auction, Arlene Mowry provided some beautifully knitted items, the Cox family donated 4 exquisite handmade porcelain dolls, and lots of people provided cookies and breads. The only improvement that I would add would be to include some homemade candy next year. Brittles also sell well. We celebrate that we earned over **\$1000.00**.

We decided to hold only one General Session this year. It was in the fall and it helped us get organized for the Holiday Sale.

Our biggest success was the teamwork that emerged as our members worked valiantly to really make our abbreviated 2017 calendar a success!

I am so proud of our existing members.

### **Reverend Pam Harris MD**

In the past year, I have served as Medical Director for Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care, the oldest and largest non-profit hospice in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In that time, we have finalized the merger of NorthCare Hospice back into the agency (with that group having split away from the agency in the 1990's), adding a second inpatient hospice and 3 additional counties of coverage. We have further expanded coverage to some of our previous areas, now being able to serve additional families. As such, we provide end-of-life care to nearly 4,000 patients and families a year, in homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and our two inpatient hospice houses.

My duties include not only direct patient care, but also oversight of our medical staff, and palliative care consultations for those with serious or life-limiting illnesses at Shawnee Mission

Medical Center. In providing direct patient care, I provide not only physical care but also emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual care to my patients, aided by our interdisciplinary team of nurses, social workers, chaplains and others. This has been a challenging year, as we had two physicians move to another healthcare system, leaving me as the only full-time physician. As such, I am on-call providing necessary administrative function to the agency about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the time, as our contract physicians and nurse practitioners cannot execute those duties. My work week is typically 60 hours, including the need to work on many weekends. As such, I am unable to participate in church staff meetings or to be able to serve in worship services. I have not officiated at any formal clergy duties such as weddings or funerals in the past year.