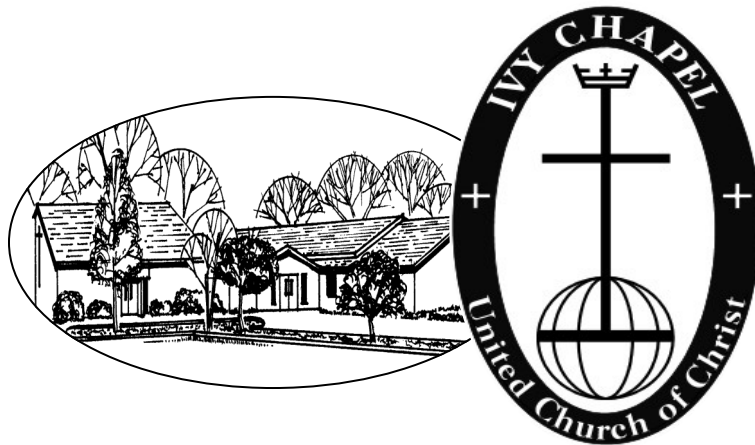


*Ivy Chapel*  
*United Church of Christ*  
*2017*  
*Annual Report*

*Presented*  
*28 January 2018*





*Ivy Chapel*  
*United Church of Christ*  
*2017 Annual Reports*

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# ELMER AWARDS GIVEN FOR 2016 GIVEN AT ANNUAL MEETING ON 29 JANUARY 2017

The Elmer Awards honor those that are the glue that help hold us together. The list is far from comprehensive—there are many more hardworking people here at Ivy Chapel than are included on this short list.

## **Our Own Church (Basement) Lady**

Every church needs a “Church Lady”, because “that’s special”. Ivy Chapel has a lot of special Church Ladies, however, this particular one recognized a need at Ivy Chapel, and literally dug in and cleaned up the problem. The results of her efforts gave us cleaner classrooms and additional rentable space. The “Our Own Church (Basement) Lady” Elmer Award goes to **Sally Dodge**, for adopting the church basement area and organizing, clearing and cleaning the area over many weeks and months.

## **Angelic Voice**

There is a power beyond words, which surfaces in worship after dark. We don’t have many evening worship services here at Ivy Chapel, but the ones we do celebrate are memorable. Christmas Eve Worship is when we gather spellbound, remembering the night of Christ’s birth. We praise God for this angelic soprano who gave glory to God, singing “O Holy Night”, **Valerie Waterman**, our “Angelic Voice”, making Candlelight Worship this Christmas Eve especially lovely.

## **(Chili) Spice Girls**

Did you know Ivy Chapel has its own set of “Spice Girls”? Every other year we have Ivy Chapel’s famous Chili Supper. These two women lead the effort to create the delicious chili that warms the tummies of Ivy Chapel members, friends and neighbors. Hats off, and more importantly, Elmers to Ivy Chapel’s very own “(Chili) Spice Girls”, **Gail Thole** and **Pat Winship**.

## **God’s Youthful Helpers**

What would Sunday morning worship be without these special prodigies? Well, it might not get started, for one! The team of youth who volunteer (or are sometimes drafted!) as Acolytes share the Light and open the Word to bring us together in worship each Sunday morning. We know they will grow up and take on different roles in the future, however let’s celebrate, “God’s Youthful Helpers”, today, with their own Elmer awards: **Calvin Heend, Michael Pfau, Stuart Kirk, Gloria Wintrode, Nick Wintrode, Ben Wehling, Matthew Wehling, Gregory Scott, Miller DiVesta, Audrey Farrell and Rory Winship**.

## **Drama Queen**

She generously shares her gifts and talents with Ivy Chapel, with her school and with her community. Who has not been mesmerized by her vocal and musical gifts, her ability to garner a character’s being in a play? We are so fortunate to be blessed with our very own “Drama Queen”, as meant in the highest reverence, **Skylar Droege**.

## **Stealthy Recycler**

Each week, a faithful servant quietly slips in and loads recyclables into a cardboard box. This conscientious tree hugger takes paper, plastic, cardboard and metal from Ivy Chapel to a recycling

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

receptacle. We applaud Ivy Chapel's "Stealthy Recycler", **Jack Molyneaux**, for his faithful efforts displaying care for God's creation.

### **Hosts & Hostesses, with the Most & Mostess**

There is nothing like an old-fashioned revival! We are not talking about an old-fashioned "tent revival", instead the revival of an old Ivy Chapel tradition, the Progressive Dinner! It's not an easy Fellowship event to organize and perhaps it is a good example of where "it takes a village" to make it a success. Many Ivy Chapel members and friends joined in this wonderful Fellowship event, however, five couples generously opened their homes to all and served wine and appetizers, main courses and dessert. Let's recognize the "Hosts and Hostesses, with the Most and Mostess": **Marsha and Carl Ramey, Dottie and Ron Foster, Sally Dodge and Peter LaSalle, Liz and Scott Shurwan, and Earl and Kay Kreder.**

### **Mother's Day Delight**

They saw an opportunity, and knew the time was right. They introduced a new idea with all their might. Can we have a plant sale? We know it will not fail. The proceeds help our deficit, at least it will a little bit. All went well and they did sell; plants and blooms were all around, just not in the ground! Because they made our day more bright, we give the "Mother's Day Delight" award to the **Mary and Martha Group.**

### **She's Here, She's There, She's Everywhere**

Many people wear many hats here at Ivy Chapel. Ivy Chapel can do what Ivy Chapel does because people step-up and offer their talents and gifts to make our faith community stronger. This next person teaches Sunday School, she is on Council, she leads the effort to recruit for each year's Nominating Slate, and when the Sunday School Superintendent position went unfilled this year she stepped up and said "I'll do it!" It's time to recognize **Annie Sampath** with the "She's Here, She's There, She's Everywhere" Elmer award for her selfless devotion to Ivy Chapel.

### **He's Here, He's There, He's Everywhere**

Ivy Chapel has many unsung heroes. If I name them all we will be here all day! This next person is here, when many of us are not, contributing time and talents to help make our worship space, inside and out, a better place. Hoping not to "kick the bucket", this fearless soul hopped into a hydraulic bucket lift, for some truly tall tasks. He trimmed tree branches, installed new parking lot lights and repaired the exterior north façade of the sanctuary, which is the area way up above the towering, clear glass window! Back down on the ground, his woodworking gift gave us beautiful pew crosses to keep pew papers standing up. For efforts above and beyond the call of duty, we recognize **Gary Lindhorst** with the "He's Here, He's There, He's Everywhere" Elmer award.

### **I Want Your Blood**

Ivy Chapel has traditions, some of which date back to our beginning, more than 50 years; we also try new things. With reduced space rental commitments, Ivy Chapel looked for ways to increase our community service. This past year, Ivy Chapel initiated a new outreach to help meet our **community's** blood donation needs. Thanks to the Board of Deacons, and urging of Sue Wilson, we held not one, but two, blood drives with the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, and provided approximately 60 pints of blood to help

*(Continued on page 3)*

those in need. The “I Want Your Blood” Elmer goes to **Sue Wilson**, and the **Deacons** for starting and supporting this new community outreach program.

### **Yes, of Course I Can**

They say “many hands make light work”. Well thank goodness for that around here and thank goodness for the people who just say “yes, of course I can”! For all their efforts, we recognize **Lee Headrick, Jan Wirtz, Diann Sheahan, Jack Molyneax**, for filling in for Frieda, when she is out; we recognize **Erin Winship** for the several years helping to co-direct VBS, with Linda, and **Krissy Lowry** for jumping in and volunteering to organize and plan the Game Night fellowship event, even though she was within weeks of delivering 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Claire)

### **Cultivating Generosity**

If you lead, many will follow. For six years this person has led our Stewardship campaigns guiding us in our commitment to a faith-filled life for ourselves and Ivy Chapel, helping us to grow in our understanding of what it means to extend our Christian commitment to others. To this end, he and the Stewardship Committees challenged us to dream and see ourselves, and others, differently, and to be willing to share our capacity to love more deeply and completely. The “Cultivating Generosity” Elmer is in recognition of the out-going chair of the Stewardship Committee, **Rod Hertenstein** and his dedication to help the Ivy Chapel congregation grow into a deeper, more caring Faith Community.

### **Partner in Prose**

I used to tell my kids, I have eyes in the back of my head to let them think I saw all, knew all. Perhaps that was an exaggeration (please don’t tell them, though!). I realize I don’t see all, know all about Ivy Chapel’s “goings on”, so I solicit help throughout the year for the “who, what, when and where” for these Elmers. It time to acknowledge my “Partner in Prose” the past two years, **Pastor Dan**.

### **Whale of a Fellow**

The Whale of a Fellow award represents someone who goes above and beyond in his or her efforts at Ivy Chapel. As always, it is difficult to narrow the selection to one person, or sometimes a couple, who do their utmost to serve God and our congregation.

You may have noticed several Elmers, this year, recognize those who stepped-up and volunteered, or willing gave their gifts of talent and time. This year, the Whale of Fellow honor goes to an individual who contributed talents and time to Ivy Chapel in so many ways. This person was the face, voice and heart of this year’s Vacation Bible School and has been for many years. As the music leader, she put hours into providing an experience the VBS kids will remember and cherish for years to come, oftentimes tailoring the standard material just for the Ivy Chapel kids. She brought her artistic gifts to our parking lot and led the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parking Lot Chalk Arts Festival. And, while juggling college work and activities, she unselfishly volunteered and wrote a totally original script for the children’s Christmas Pageant, woven around Christ’s birth story, past pageants and her experiences with Ivy Chapel. It was a fun-loving witness to the miracle of the Messiah’s Birth!

She grew up in, and has been nurtured by our faith community, and she has blessed us in return with her loving Christ-filled spirit by giving back to Ivy Chapel with her gifts and talents. Please join me in recognizing the many gifts **Tara Lowry** shared with Ivy Chapel this year.

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

## 19 NOVEMBER 2017

46 members were present. Moderator Jo Ann Moody called the meeting to order at 11:15 am and gave the invocation.

### I. Nominations

The Slate of Nominations to boards and committees was presented to the Congregation. **Sarah Heend** agreed to be added as the Council representative from Christian Education, and **Gail Thoele** agreed to be added as the Council representative from the Deacons. A motion was made to accept the Slate as amended by **Nancy Litzinger** and seconded by **Peter LaSalle**. The motion passed 46-0.

### II. Budget

**Steve Lowry** gave a brief introduction to the proposed 2018, that shows a surplus for the first time in years. This is partly due to the successful stewardship campaign. **Ronn Foster** made a motion to accept the 2018 Budget as presented and **Julie McAlister** seconded. The motion passed 46-0.

**III. Nancy Litzinger** present a motion that Council (or its designees) present at the 2018 Congregational Meeting a view of challenges and opportunities for Ivy Chapel over the next five years. **Rod Hertenstein** seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Jan Wirtz**, seconded by **Jack Litzinger** and passed.

**Jo Ann Moody** adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sally Dodge**, Recording Secretary



# IVY CHAPEL UCC OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS 2018

<b>Council</b>		<b><u>Terms</u></b>
Moderator	Jo Ann Moody	15-16, 17-18
Vice Moderator	Annie Sampath	15-16, 17-18
Recording Secretary	Sally Dodge	15-16, 17-18
Financial Secretary	Peter LaSalle	18-19
Treasurer	Steve Lowry	16-17, 18-19
Christian Action	Marsha Ramey	17-18
Christian Education	Vacancy	
Church and Ministry	Jan Wirtz	16-17, 18-19
Deacons	Vacancy	
Fellowship	Vacancy	
Trustees	Frank Purviance	16-17, 18-19
<b>Christian Action</b>	Janet Wilking	15-16, 17-18
	Nancy Litzinger	17-18
	Marsha Ramey*	15-16, 17-18
	Diann Sheahan	17-18
	Pat Winship*	15-16, 17-18
	Kathryn Kuntzman	17-18
<b>Christian Education</b>	Julie Mc Allister	17-18
	Donna Grote	17-18
	Celeste Tichy	15-16, 17-18
	Sarah Heend	16-17, 18-19
	Vacancy	
	Marilyn Gulotta	17-18
<b>Church and Ministry</b>	Jan Wirtz*	16-17, 18-19
	Nancy Marston	17-18
	Tom Wehling	17-18
<b>Deacons</b>	Carl Ramey	17-18
	Dottie Foster	18-19
	Carl Winship	16-17, 18-19
	Gail Thoele	17-18
	Michelle Moody	15-16, 17-18
	Diane Droege	15-16, 17-18
<b>Trustees</b>	Frank Purviance*	16-17, 18-19
	Mark Gerdes	15-16, 17-18
	Bruce Wilking	16-17, 18-19
	Gary Lindhorst	16-17, 18-19
	Tom Glenn	18-19
<b>Stewardship (3 yr.)</b>	John Weiland	15-17, 18-20
	Sue Wilson	18-20
	Don Wolff	18-20
<b>Memorials (3 yr.)</b>	Lee Headrick	15-17, 18-20
	Ralph Weiland	14-16, 17-19
<b>Investments</b>	Beth Noonan	15-16, 17-18
	Tom Glenn	16-17, 18-19
<b>MO Mid South Conference</b>	Rod Hertenstein	09-15, 16-18
	Judy Hertenstein	09-15, 16-18
<b>St. Louis Association</b>	Carl Ramey	09-15, 16-17
	Marsha Ramey	09-15, 16-17

\*Council Rep

+Filled unexpired term

Terms are for 2 years unless otherwise noted.

## MODERATOR

Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ had much to celebrate this year! To name a few of the more obvious reasons, we began a shared space partnership with Chesterfield Community Preschool and once again, have “little feet” in our church home throughout the week. We joined together to create a safer place for us to worship and work in, with a new fire safety system. We created new outreach programs with the Isaiah 58 Ministries, Ritenour Co-Care and Baby Blue Pantry, a special outreach mission. Once again, we had another successful Harvest Fest in November, through the efforts of so very many people. Furthermore, our 2017 Stewardship program reminded us of our blessings and encouraged Ivy Chapel to choose to grow our generosity as part of our faith journey, together. Lastly, Ivy Chapel’s financial position strengthened this year, and we voted in a balanced budget for 2018. “Woo-hoo” for all that Ivy Chapel UCC is today, and to everyone who works to create and sustain the Ivy Chapel we love to be.

As we reflect on 2017, we also can look forward and wonder, “What opportunities and challenges will Ivy Chapel face and deal with in 2018, and beyond?” While we have no way of

clearly forecasting those opportunities and challenges, we should be comforted that our congregation can address them as they arise and handle them with the same care and thoughtfulness as we have in the past. At our November Congregational Meeting, the Congregation approved a motion to present a view of the expected challenges and opportunities for Ivy Chapel, over the next five years, at the November 2018 Congregational Meeting. I hope Council, along with the congregation, sees this as an opportunity to better understand the qualities and attributes that give us reasons to celebrate, as we have this year, as well as an awareness of who Ivy Chapel can be in the future.

My sense of 2017, is one of awe of what Ivy Chapel accomplished, and a feeling of anticipation of where we may be headed in the future. Perhaps, 2017 was Ivy Chapel U.C.C. “advent” season, as we take the time to understand and prepare ourselves for who we can be. Surely, the Holy Spirit will be with us as we take this journey together!

In the Spirit of Christ,

***Jo Ann Moody***

Moderator



# PASTOR

The past year has offered our faith community both challenges and opportunities. This is so true to life.

Some within our congregation have celebrated personal milestones and joys during 2017. Some have experienced significant changes or challenges or sorrows. The recently concluded calendar year has imprinted souls with indelible marks, varying from joyous exclamation points to painful scars. As Holy Scripture encourages, we have cried with those who were crying, and we have rejoiced with those who were rejoicing (Romans 12:15). This is how compassionate disciples live.

Thankfully, during each period of uncertainty in our lives, God's Church supplies people with a reliable foundation. "... For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.... Don't you realize that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" (First Corinthians 3:10, 14) At all times—even tumultuous times such as the present, God is a steadying influence. God knows, especially now, this world needs steadiness. "O give thanks to God, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

Once again, our congregation was spiritually enriched by living through the seasons (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost) of the Church Liturgical Year together. We began 2017 relishing the final days of the Christmas Season. Next, we moved into the Season of Epiphany. This time around Epiphany was an extended season (a total of 8 Sundays) due to the way the calendar fell. Of course, the date for

Easter Sunday varies from year to year. In 2017, Resurrection Day was celebrated on Sunday, April 16 (fairly late, as the possibilities go). The date of Easter Sunday then determines the Ash Wednesday date. One backtracks 40 days (not counting Sundays) to establish the date when the Lenten Season begins. This past year, Lent began on Wednesday, March 1.

Our faith community took some bold steps into virgin territory this Lenten Season. We committed to invite extra-mile gifts to some little-publicized yet vital area ministries which we believed would appreciate a modest financial boost. The first 3 Sundays of Lent, we invited special gifts to Creve Coeur Meals on Wheels. The final 3 Sundays of Lent, we invited special gifts to Baby Blue Food Pantry in Festus. The response from Ivy Chapel was beautiful. Our faithful embraced this as a form of taking on something additional for Lent. Indeed, profound appreciation eventually was expressed to us by each organization for the offering gift they received from Ivy Chapel UCC. By trying something unfamiliar as a Lenten discipline, our congregation was blessed.

Another grand highlight of our year in faith was a visit from our brother in Christ, the Rev. Dr. Guangyu Lou, Associate Pastor serving Samuel United Church of Christ. Guangyu served as our guest witness during this autumn's stewardship "Journey to Generosity." Guangyu described in a letter written to us and in his Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> sermon among us how the newborn, Chinese ministry which he coordinates has become a substantial aspect of the life of

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Samuel UCC. It was a lovely thing. Soft-spoken, mild-mannered Guangyu inspired us by testifying out of his own personal experience that a congregation embracing a new venture can lead to blessings all around.

Coincident with the Rev. Dr. Guangyu Lou's contact with us, a burgeoning, fresh opportunity was unfolding at Ivy Chapel UCC. Autumn was when months of collective efforts by many in our congregation came to fruition. In October, this exciting, new educational venture was born. Chesterfield Community Preschool received state licensing and began operating on the lower level of our church facility. Young children are now learning and growing here on weekdays. Stunning! The preschool is starting small, but it seems to be taking hold. Praise God for this dynamic, added dimension!

By the grace of God, you and I have grown in our relationship with God. This year's

events have instilled within each of us greater reliance on God. Following Christ summons all disciples to continue learning and growing. With each new opportunity, may we continue giving generously of ourselves and our resources in response to Loving and Gracious God.

"Let the people praise you, O God; let all people praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere God." (Psalm 67:5-7)

At the close of 2017, we humbly thank our Savior Jesus Christ for revealing potential opportunities and for guiding us to respond faithfully. Looking back, we are deeply grateful. Looking ahead, we are enthused about what God is going to do here next.

Stunned with amazement and full of hope,

***Pastor Dan***

# YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Our youth are an important part of the life of Ivy Chapel UCC. They are valued members who participate in many ways in the life of our church. Our youth love to serve God. If you need them to do something, just say the word and they will respond—"wherever you need me, I'll help out!" They serve as Acolytes, Lay Liturgists, Ushers and Greeters. The older youth are role models for our younger youth. They love to interact with our older members. They are a talented group and love to share their talents with the congregation—singing and playing musical instruments. They do many jobs, lead fundraisers and mission projects, are a part of our worship experience, and many other things. There are many ways to stop and connect with them. I hope you find opportunities get to know them better. They are an important part of our Ivy Chapel family and the future of the church. I am blessed to be a part of Ivy Chapel's youth program and to be involved in the lives of our wonderful young people.

We had many wonderful activities this year, ranging from fun & fellowship to hard work, outreach and mission opportunities. Lambs/Genesis families and the Ark & Alpha-Omega youth and parents help me with planning and coordinating activities. As in the past years our youth groups planned many combined activities. We also include our growing group of preschool aged youth in some of our activities.

We are blessed with a wonderful group of young people, and also loving and enthusiastic parents. I thank them for helping my job to run smoothly.

Youth Sunday was May 7. Our theme was "Grounded in God". The worship service was written and led by youth of all ages. Many of our youth shared their musical talents during worship. Our Multi-age youth led the Children's Message. Even our youngest Preschool and Kindergarten children were involved in the service. Through scripture, songs and a skit written by one of our Sr. High Youth we learned about God's vision for our earth, the dangers facing our environment and how we can be good stewards of the gifts God has given us. I always look forward to Youth Sunday and seeing what a great service our youth put together.

Ivy Chapel's youth of all ages know how important it is to do God's work in the world. This year they took part in several mission opportunities. In July our youth Grades 6 – 12 travelled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where they participated in many different service activities, being God's hands and helping others. Youth who were involved in the mission trip were Calvin Heend, Stuart Kirk, Ben Wehling, Gloria Wintrobe and Nick Wintrobe. Our adult sponsors were Elizabeth Schurwan, Sarah Wilson and Pastor Dan Wilson. The group shared their experiences with the congregation on Youth Mission Sunday in July.

This year's Christmas Pageant was a part of worship on December 17. The pageant was based on the book "The Christmas Lizard", and adapted as a Christmas Pageant by one of our College Youth who tailored it to our congregation and our children. Many youth of all ages (Pre-K through Sr. High Youth)

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were involved in many different parts of worship—leading worship, sharing musical talents and sharing the story of Jesus’ birth with the congregation. It was a fun, meaningful and touching worship experience.

It is a joy to be able to work with all of you. We are truly blessed to be a part of Ivy Chapel UCC. Each person contributes to God’s work in the world, by being a part of this welcoming, caring, faithful community of God’s people. I encourage you to make it

your mission to seek out the youth in our midst. Get to know them and share your lives with them. Both you and they will benefit from the experience. Thank you for all of the support you give the youth during the year. I know that this helps them realize that they are important, contributing and valued members of our Ivy Chapel congregation.

Love, **Linda Lowry**,  
Youth Program Coordinator

**O**ur youth love to get together for fun fellowship activities, but, just as much, love to plan mission activities to help those in need or lift someone's spirits. From our youngest Kindergartners to our Sr. highs, our youth are sure to include many opportunities to be God's hands in the world, reaching out to others.

Here are some of our 2017 activities: **Youth Sunday**—May 7; **Mission Trip Sunday**—July 23

### **MISSION RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**Souper Bowl of Caring** – Collecting money and canned goods. During our Famine Lock-in we use this money to purchase food and other items (diapers, paper goods, etc.) for JNM and Circle of Concern

**World Vision Famine Lock-in & Lydia's House service project** – Collected monetary donations to feed the hungry

**Undie Sunday**—Coordinated with Christian Action

**Lenten Food Drive** —Coordinated with Christian Action

**St. Louis Area Food Bank**

**Mission Trip** to Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Youthworks)

**Circle of Concern** (College Student Get-Together)—On Dec. 27 youth from grades 7-12, college youth and other Ivy Chapel folks joined together to volunteer at Circle of Concern. We had a great turn out and provided much needed assistance in sorting and packaging food donations.

**World Vision Child Sponsorship**—Our Sr. High youth have sponsored a child through World Vision for many years. This year we are continuing our sponsorship of Alex, who is 7 years old

### **ADDITIONAL 2017 SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Catering Ivy Chapel's Annual Meeting Luncheon in January

Easter Cookie Fundraiser

Spaghetti Dinner Volunteers

Nursery cleaning

Youth work day/basement cleaning

Butter Braid Fundraiser

Putting together College Care Packages for our Ivy Chapel youth attending college

### **MORE FUN TIMES TOGETHER**

All Church Bowling, Laser Tag, Lent Pretzel Baking, Easter Egg Hunt, Pizza Making Party, Youth Sunday, A-O End of the School Year Lunch, Rally Day, Game Night, Planning Meeting/Wiener Roast, Acolyte Training, White Elephant Bingo, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bibles, Zoo Trip, Trunk or Treat, Escape Room, Help at Harvestfest, Help at Hanging of the Greens Potluck, Santa's Workshop, All Youth Christmas Party, Advent Storytelling Activity, Christmas Pageant, Ark/Alpha-Omega/College Circle of Concern Service Project, Ark/Alpha-Omega Youth Christmas Party.



# *Board Reports*

## BUDGET AND FINANCE~TREASURER

The Ivy Chapel Budget for 2017 had an approved budget deficit of \$20,503, but actual results were a deficit of \$852. Overall income was \$16,178 higher (better) than budget while expenses were \$3,473 lower (better) than budget. Most of the various boards expenses came in lower than the budget. This is even more remarkable considering we raised \$21,015 for the Fire Protection system and still had \$2,551 left in Designated at year-end to cover monthly monitoring charges. We also only had to charge the Contingency budget line for \$647 when we paid \$5,900 for two new furnaces, the rest being paid from designated offerings and Memorial fund.

The 2017 expenditures included designated giving OGHS \$2685, Neighbors in Need \$2215, Habitat for Humanity \$1000, Christmas Fund \$767, Hurricane Fund \$770, Baby Blue Pantry \$655, Creve Coeur Meals on Wheels \$405 and Isaiah 58 \$225.

The biggest fundraisers during 2017 were Harvestfest \$6,005 (after payments \$334 to Neighborhood House and \$334 to Lydia's House), Spagetti Dinner \$1853, Trivia Night \$742 and Garden Sale \$702.

The year-end designated balance of \$38,972 includes 2018 Prepaid Pledges and Rent \$35,266, Fire Protection System \$2,551, Pastor Emergency \$410, Memorial Garden \$107, Nursery \$270, and Mary and Martha Women's Group \$291.

The Reserves increased in market value \$6,889. The increase is not reflected in the \$852 Ivy Chapel 2017 deficit amount and as a result of the increase and pledges of stock additions to the reserves during the year offsetting transfers out, the reserves increased during 2017.

Year-to-year, we reduced the deficit from \$9,854 in 2016 to a deficit of \$852 in 2017, a reduction of \$9,000 – AMAZING. And better yet, we have a balanced budget for 2018.

***Stephen Lowry***

Ivy Chapel Treasurer

# Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ

## 2017 Financial Statement

	2015	2016	2017	2017	2018
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed
<b>INCOME</b>					
Pledges	\$ 151,196	\$ 157,285	168,034	162,448	\$ 185,000
General	27,850	37,590	35,782	30,000	31,450
Facility Rental	5,236	4,754	6,067	2,500	9,700
Fundraisers net income (loss)	12,244	3,355	9,743	8,000	3,355
Grocery Coupons (net income)	2,391	3,362	2,500	3,000	2,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 198,917</b>	<b>206,345</b>	<b>222,126</b>	<b>205,948</b>	<b>232,005</b>

## EXPENSES

Church and Ministry	110,611	104,789	107,477	108,183	111,812
Trustees	62,438	56,984	60,105	59,882	60,629
Deacons	19,849	19,447	20,336	21,471	22,283
Christian Education	27,961	28,387	28,706	29,880	30,567
Christian Action	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Stewardship	250	402	293	525	525
Fellowship	147	189	62	150	150
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 227,255</b>	<b>216,199</b>	<b>222,978</b>	<b>226,091</b>	<b>231,966</b>
<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>(28,338)</b>	<b>(9,854)</b>	<b>(852)</b>	<b>(20,143)</b>	<b>39</b>

## End of the Month Balances:

Cash - Checking Account	13,246	11,538	36,993
Cash Equivalent-Grocery Coupons	1,825	1,300	3,025
	<u>15,071</u>	<u>12,838</u>	<u>40,018</u>

Money Market Funds	<u>13,261</u>	<u>3,417</u>	<u>3,397</u>
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	<b>28,332</b>	<b>16,255</b>	<b>43,415</b>
Less: Designated funds	<u>(2,700)</u>	<u>(2,138)</u>	<u>(38,972)</u>
<b>Funds Avail. for General Use</b>	<b>25,632</b>	<b>14,117</b>	<b>4,443</b>

Equity Investments	<u>37,659</u>	<u>41,114</u>	<u>56,825</u>
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>\$ 63,291</b>	<b>\$ 55,231</b>	<b>\$ 61,268</b>

## CHRISTIAN ACTION

This was a busy year for the Christian Action Board. Throughout the year the ministries and the lives of the individuals who they serve were touched by the kindness and generosity of the members of our Ivy Chapel congregation.

Throughout the year the congregation helped supply the Joint Neighborhood Ministries and Circle of Concern with food products and other necessary items, as well as fresh produce from our garden. During the year we were notified that JNM was changing their services, and closed their food pantry. After visits to other sites and discussion of the needs of other food pantries the decision was made to support Isaiah 58 in the city of St. Louis and Ritenour Co-Care in north St. Louis county.

This year the church council asked the Christian Action board to facilitate special Lenten offerings. Two organizations, Meals on Wheels and Baby Blue Pantry (a box for donations of baby supplies in Jefferson County) were selected and received special offerings of \$426 and \$630 respectively.

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing in March gave the congregation the opportunity to share with their offerings and support this interdenominational and global ministry. The Lenten canned food drive in conjunction with the youth groups began in March and ended on Easter Sunday.

In May Ivy Chapel once again collected and shared swimming pool items for the summer fun of students at Every Child's Hope (ECH).

In the July and August, the congregation supported a collection of school supplies which were distributed to Circle of Concern for children starting school.

In September Christian Action helped the Deacons with the annual Blessing of the Animals program. The animal organization receiving donations was SNUGGLE, an organization that rescues special needs animals, mainly cats and dogs, which need special foster care due to injury, health disorders, or pregnant cats & dogs.

This fall we again challenged ourselves to build a LEGO house with bricks costing \$10 each. We fulfilled our pledge of \$1,000 to the UCC Habitat House which is supported by St. Louis area UCC congregations. Construction started on the house in November with our workday to be scheduled for spring 2018.

In October Brenda Booth, Executive Director of Isaiah 58, presented a mission moment on the services of their organization which includes a food pantry, thrift clothes closet, and holiday giving programs.

Also in October Ivy Chapel also took up a special collection for Neighbors in Need which supports UCC ministries of justice and compassion through the U.S.

In November Ivy Chapel members collected holiday gifts which were dropped off at the ECH and Isaiah 58 Christmas stores, allowing students at ECH and neighborhood residents to select gifts for their families. The mitten tree also overflowed with hats,

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gloves and mittens for Isaiah 58, Circle of Concern and JNM.

At the end of the 2017 budget year Ivy Chapel UCC through the budget of the Christian Action Board, was able to send Our Church Wider Mission (MO-UCC) and the St. Louis Association of the UCC's Outreach Ministries with \$2,500 each. Additional monetary donations were made to Circle of Concern, Isaiah 58, Ritenour Co-Care, and the Joint Neighborhood Ministry (still active in a new format which provides lunch to residents of the Benton Park neighborhood).

In 2017 the generosity of Ivy Chapel members had many positive effects on the lives of people in our community and wider missions, as we strive to be disciples of God's vision to support the outreach mission of the church.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## **S**unday School and Nursery

It is always a challenge to find enough Sunday School teachers and nursery helpers. The board has tried various ways to let the congregation know of the ongoing need for teachers. We always welcome anyone who would like to try teaching God's word to our young ones.

We continue to use The Whole People of God curriculum. It works well for our Sunday School needs, with its online resources that allow us to tailor the Sunday School lessons to our particular classes and teachers.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

This year we were unable to have a VBS program. We just weren't able to find enough volunteers to fill all the necessary roles for the week. The CE board is looking into various ways hold a Vacation Bible School at Ivy Chapel this coming summer.

## **RALLY DAY**

The theme this year was "God's Superheroes." We wanted to explore all the ways God helps us to be superheroes in the world. The children and youth made superhero capes in Sunday School and wore them during the worship service on Rally Day. During worship and the luncheon afterward, the entire congregation was invited to think about what their own God-given superhero powers were, and how to take them into the world.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

The adult Bible study meets on Sunday mornings, before worship. The group has worked through several series of studies this year, as they usually do. There is a strong group of regulars, but they always welcome newcomers.

Respectfully submitted,  
***Sarah Heend***, chairperson

# CHURCH AND MINISTRY

**I**vy Chapel U.C.C. Church and Ministry Board serves as the liaison between the members of our congregation and the Pastor. Members are encouraged to bring their concerns and suggestions to this Board.

The Church and Ministry Board met four times in 2017. Two of those meetings included Pastor Dan. We discussed future plans and events. The C & M Board completed the yearly evaluation of Pastor Dan, using the previously updated form. The 2018 Budget was also determined and approved by our Council. We thank our members for coming forward to help fill our Board and Committee vacancies for the 2018 and for their generous donations toward improving our facilities. Thank you all and prayers for a blessed 2018.

Respectively submitted,

***Jan Wirtz***, chairperson

***Nancy Marston***

***Tom Wehling***

# DEACONS

**T**he Deacons have continued their work sponsoring blood drives, and successfully met our goals of 21 units in both our May and November blood drives. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 15 and Thursday November 15, 2018, as we will again host a blood drive from 3-7 PM.

Due to difficulty scheduling all lay leader positions, the position of Welcomer has been dissolved and the duties will be fulfilled by the Greeters.

We have continued our tradition of hosting an Ash Wednesday soup and bread dinner as we begin traveling the road to the cross and beyond.

Partnering with Christian Action, we assisted in hosting Blessing of the Animals. We sponsored SNUGGLE (Special Needs Under Gentle Guided Love Everyday), a group who deals with special needs animals. Once again, it was a successful afternoon.

In consultation with Council and the Trustees, a more accessible worship space was created in our sanctuary. It is now possible for folks in wheelchairs to sit with

their family/caregivers instead of in the aisles. Thank you to everyone who helped envision this and to Gary Lindhorst for making our visions a reality. New, sturdier chairs will purchased for this space.

Deacons continue to coordinate Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias.

Work on a new supplement continues.

Other responsibilities that the Deacons spearhead include Care Corps, altar cloths, Sunday coffee supplies, lay ministry schedule, communion preparer and server schedules, pew pencils and supplies, updating membership list and lay ministry instructions.

Ivy Chapel UCC currently has 130 members.

Thank you to Diane Droege, Michelle Moody, Carl Winship and Carl Ramey for their hard work during this past year. We look forward to 2018 and continuing God's work at Ivy Chapel UCC.

Your Sisters in Christ,  
**Sue Wilson**  
**Gail Thoele**  
Co-chairs



# TRUSTEES

2017 proved to be an eventful, exasperating and encouraging year for the Board of Trustees. The year began in a relatively normal fashion. Then God presented our congregation with a marvelous possibility for reintroducing a preschool into the life of Ivy Chapel United Church of Christ. Initially, the prospect seemed quite daunting. As discussions continued through various Ivy Chapel Boards, we came to recognize that this could be far more than just another way of producing revenue; but, in fact, could be a gift from God to Ivy Chapel. Having the church occupied on a daily basis for the education of young children, what could be a more faithful use of our building? Council approved the concept and asked that we investigate and proceed cautiously. What has now come to fruition, in retrospect, was a long, arduous process. Following the multitude of lists, requirements and inspections by various official representatives required for licensing, provided opportunity for Ivy Chapel to take a closer look at our whole facility. In the process, we discovered that perhaps the church building which we had become accustomed to was somewhat lacking.

The elephant in the room was our existing emergency bell, fire alarm system. It was determined that an upgraded alarm system was needed for us “to do all that we can to keep every person who enters this house of God safe.” As a result, a new “up-to-code,” monitored audio/visual alarm system was installed thanks to the tremendous generosity displayed by Ivy Chapel’s congregation in response to a “fire safety system” special offering appeal. Exit signs and emergency lighting were also addressed.

A licensed architect was needed to assist with the “re-zoning” process required in order for our church to accommodate a new, state-licensed preschool. Architect Ralph Hall was hired. Despite a summer roller-coaster ride of meetings, red tape and submittals, the only upgrading ultimately required was the playground. All climbing equipment was repaired and centralized. Zoysia sod was removed and relocated to bare areas. The climbing area was bordered with landscape timbers and backfilled with playground mulch. The swing area was also re-defined and mulched. Modifications to the perimeter fence were made to meet code. An old storage shed was demolished and discarded. Painting, power washing, and concrete patching were completed to improve the aesthetics of the entire area. All work was completed “in-house” with only minimal cost of materials. Chesterfield Community Preschool (CCP) received license and opened in October.

Realizing that all children of the church also would enjoy the benefits of physical improvements, we decided to address the entire lower level. Sunday School classroom furnishings were reviewed, and unneeded items were either discarded or donated to Goodwill. All rooms were emptied, floors machine scrubbed and polished. Room contents were cleaned and put back in place. The Trustees express our thanks to the Ivy Chapel CE Board for your partnership in accomplishing this work sprucing up all Sunday School classrooms. Hallways and stairwell also were scrubbed and polished. Lower level bathroom improvements included replacement of two rusted sinks, replacement of urinal seal,

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caulking, and framing of girls' restroom wall mirror.

In addition to routine maintenance work completed by the Trustees and congregation, some substantial items replaced this year included: lower level rooftop exhaust fan, building water pressure regulator, building underground water meter, and a twin furnace unit supplying the east side of the sanctuary.

The need for adapting the physical arrangement of our sanctuary space has been discussed for some time. Council reviewed, discussed and requested minor pew rearrangement to make the sanctuary more inclusive for our entire congregation.

Pews were relocated and carpet cleaned.

By the grace of God, much remarkable work was done during 2017. We are encouraged and delighted by what has been accomplished and what is to come. A great big 'Thank You' from the Trustees for all of the support, physical effort and monetary assistance given by so many individuals in our amazing congregation. We especially thank Birdie Pruessner and CCP for providing our church with a blessed opportunity for introspection and motivation to change. God is Still Speaking!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Board of Trustees*

# *Committee and Group Reports*

# FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Although there was no formal Fellowship Committee Chair, we joined together in the following fellowship activities throughout 2017:

**January:** Annual Meeting, with lunch and Elmer Awards

**February:** Spaghetti Dinner fellowship and fundraiser; and All Church Bowling

**March:** Trivia Night fellowship and fundraiser – led by the “Lowry clan”

**May:** Potluck in the Pavillion!

**June:** The Church Picnic

**July:** White Elephant Bingo

**August:** Rally Day, with potluck lunch

**September:** Star Gazing – led by Bruce Wilking

**October:** All Church Family St. Louis Zoo Trip; and Trunk-or-Treat

**November:** Harvest Fest fellowship and fundraiser

**December:** Hanging of the Greens Potluck lunch; and Santa’s Workshop

We are still looking for a Fellowship Chair to help coordinate fellowship activities in 2018. If you feel the calling, please speak with Annie Sampath, or another Council member!

# INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Ivy Chapel Common Investment Fund (hereafter, CIF) is comprised of the investments of the Ivy Operating Reserves and the Ivy Endowment Fund. The CIF is managed as a whole, but the assets of both Funds are tracked separately. The total value of the CIF increased significantly during 2017, due to a very favorable investment climate and several stock donations during the year. The overall investment return of the CIF during the year was 15.5%.

## CIF

Beginning Balance (1/1/17)	\$44,531.55
Contributions of Stock	\$18,801.35
Withdrawals from Endowment Fund	(\$10,000.00)
Increase in Investment Value	<u>\$6,889.38</u>
Ending Balance (12/31/2017)	\$60,222.28

## Operating Reserves

Beginning Balance	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$19,407.39

## Endowment Fund

Beginning Balance	\$44,531.55
Ending Balance	\$40,814.89

Due to late-year contributions of stock and a December transfer to Ivy operations, the CIF had only 5.6% liquidity at year-end. This will be restored to approximately 20% money market funds in the very near future.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tom Glenn**

**Beth Noonan**

# MEMORIAL AND SPECIAL GIFT FUND COMMITTEE

**G**ifts to Ivy Chapel were received during 2017 memorializing Carole Purviance, Ron Fix and Mary Mitchell.

Memorial funds were used to partially cover the cost of replacing the sanctuary furnaces.

Account balances were \$21,254.85 on January 1, 2017 and \$21,277.31 on December 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
***Ralph Weiland***, Chairman  
***Lee Headrick***, Secretary

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## *Journey to Generosity*

### *The Way of Jesus*

Committee Chair John Weiland worked with Pastor Dan to develop a theme, processed all mailings, and introduced the theme in the opening sermon of the program. Sue Wilson organized and cooked our celebratory Consecration Luncheon. We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Guangyu Lou, who was our guest steward, to Frieda Clark for her office assistance, and to Pastor Dan for his guidance and counsel.

The number of pledges decreased by one, reflecting three new pledges and four pledges from the previous year that did not pledge this year. In spite of this, the overall level of giving has increased significantly from last year. Collectively, we have exceeded last year's total amount pledged by nearly \$20,000, an increase of nearly 12 percent.

Our harvest has been fruitful. *God be praised.* Our congregation has *chosen* to generously share God's abundant blessings. Let us continue to *choose* to grow our generosity as part of our faith journey.

Respectfully submitted,

***John Weiland***

Stewardship Chair

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pledges	49	42	40	40	42	41
Total pledged	\$153,017	\$138,880	\$150,212	\$159,496	\$162,448	\$181,908
Avg. per unit	\$3,113	\$3,307	\$3,755	\$3,987	\$3,868	\$4,331
New	9	2	2	1	5	3
Increased giving	17	15	22	15	20	23
Unchanged giving	15	4	15	22	16	15
Decreased giving	8	21	1	2	1	0

# MARY AND MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP

## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Feb.—Discussion with **Sally Dodge** about White Privilege for Black History Month

Mar.—Lenten Devotion with Pastor Dan Wilson

Apr.—Presentation of the Progress of Deaconess Foundation Building by Project Manager **Beth Noonan**. This is an Administration and Meeting Building for Neighborhood Houses UP, Deaconess Foundation and Vision for At Risk Children.

Sept.—Trip to see Play, Church Basement Ladies at Westport Playhouse with nine ladies

Nov.—Tour and video of Caroline Mission UP (Unleashed Potential) Pre-School and other programs

## SERVICES AND OUTREACH

Apr.—Easter Gifts to Seven Pines Emmaus House Residents	\$ 20.00
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May—Plant and Birdhouse Sale--Income to Ivy Chapel	\$702.37
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June—Welcome Summer Luncheon with **Marsha Ramey**, Head Librarian, Sachs Library with theme of new summer reading. Started pre-school book collection donation. 18 people attended including residents of Seven Pines Emmaus Home.

Aug.—Dessert for A Dollar Bake Sale--\$100 to Ivy Chapel and \$100 to purchase pre-school books	\$200.00
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Oct.—Two Bird Feeder Gift Baskets to HarvestFest Fundraiser Assisted with regional Emmaus House Picnic at Millennium Park	\$90.00
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Nov.—120 books collected (\$94.00 spent on books, remainder donated). 71 'Birthday Books' to Caroline Mission UP Pre-school. Remainder split between Caroline Mission UP and Lydia's House	\$250.00
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Appreciation Gifts of Body Lotion to Seven Pines Emmaus House staff	\$ 25.00
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Dec.—Christmas gift to Seven Pines Emmaus residents, four Poinsettias plus one for the house.	\$ 10.00
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Birthday Gift to each Emmaus Resident	\$ 50.00
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Personal Notes written to sick or shut-in Ivy Chapel members each month

Total Monetary Value	\$1347.37
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Gratefully submitted,  
**Kay Kreder**