

Friends

**CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH – UCC**
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



2013-2014 Program Year Annual Reports

Presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting
June 29, 2014

2013-2014 Program Year Annual Report Table of Contents

3	PASTOR'S REPORT Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, Pastor
9	NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT Laura Beaster-Jones, Nominating Committee Chair
10	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT Chris Hoffman, Director of Music Ministries
13	CHURCH RECORDS
14	CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT Michelle Williamson, Moderator
16	TRUSTEES REPORT Justin Dudo, Deputy Moderator
17	PROGRAMS REPORT Kelly Wellman, Deputy Moderator
25	FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT John Nichols, Financial Secretary
27	TREASURER'S REPORT Theresa Walker, Treasurer

PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, Pastor

July 1, 2013 to June 2014 has been the most exhausting and challenging and, at the same time, energizing and inspiring year of pastoral ministry for me at Friends Congregational Church. This is a report of different ways that the pastorate has served our church's vision of offering God's extravagant welcome to all, and our mission of seeking a deeper spirituality and transforming God's world one act of love at a time. (Note: I compiled this report using some of the categories designated by the Pastoral Relations Committee in their annual pastoral assessment.)

Youth: I've enjoyed working with our youth these last six months, and the youth group at Friends Church is beyond compare. Still, between Confirmation, communicating about and coordinating baptisms, and the planning of the upcoming summer mission trip, the hours I logged from January to June serving the youth group and their families exclusively equate an additional part-time job (and often times more than that). This is something for us to ponder in future discussions about a possible Associate Pastor. Tasks are as follows...

- **Confirmation (Jan. 12 – June 8)**: Confirmation involved preparing weekly Sunday morning lessons co-led by David Manuel or Tami Dudo and myself, arranging Worship Observation Field Trips, working with Christian Education Committee to secure confirmand gifts for Confirmation Sunday, weekly communication via email, phone, and snail mail with confirmands, mentors, parents, and Confirmation co-teachers, writing liturgy for Confirmation Sunday, fielding Statements of Faith written by confirmands, interviewing each confirmand at the end of Confirmation, making video of confirmand interviews for Confirmation Sunday
- Organized and co-facilitated 30-Hour Famine lock-in with Friends Church and United Christian Church, Austin, youth groups, Feb. 22-23
- Received the Confirmation Class from Peace Lutheran Church in worship at Friends Church and responded to their questions after the service, March 2
- **Directed Confirmation Camp at Slumber Falls in New Braunfels, March 21-23**: Last year, I agreed to co-direct Confirmation Camp for our South Central Conference confirmands with Rev. Ken White, then Youth Minister at United Christian Church, Austin. Ken was called to the senior pastorate of a UCC church in Vermont, leaving me to direct Confirmation Camp alone. Thankfully, I had support from Rev. John Gage, new pastor of United Christian Church, Austin; Brazos Association Minister Rev. Liz Nash; Associate Pastor Rev. Nikki Stahl of United Christian, Austin; as well as Slumber Falls vets Scott Loehr and Stephen Loonam. As if preparing Confirmation Camp curriculum, games, worship, singing, etc. for six of our Conference's churches was challenging enough, I also discovered late in the process that, as Camp Director, I am in charge of administrative tasks (cabin assignments, taking up cell phones, etc.). Additionally, I was required to undergo a background check and take an extensive online course on boundary training for liability purposes, a stipulation for all Slumber Falls camp directors. The work was worth it, as I received positive feedback and requests for the Confirmation Camp curriculum from the SCC churches that attended.
- **Youth Group Mission Trip**: Rev. Ken White's group at United Christian Church, Austin, has been going on a summer mission trips with youth groups from four Austin area churches for the past couple of summers. Prior to leaving for Vermont, Ken invited our group to join the Austin churches on their upcoming mission trip to Livingston, Alabama,

PASTOR'S REPORT (cont.)

July 5-12. Given the short notice, I informed our youth group families that if I could get five commitments, I would take our group on this trip. To date, we have ten commitments from our church's youth group. Thus far, the mission trip has involved me attending an orientation and training day with our youth missionaries and parents at United Christian Church, Austin, April 26; attending a Skype meeting of the ministers and adult volunteers for the mission trip; communicating with the youth group and their parents regarding multiple required forms, desired tasks on the trip, etc.; coordinating an orientation day for our parents at Friends Church who could not make the trip to Austin, May 18; and fundraising for the trip, which has been taken on largely by the Christian Education Committee through a car wash, a bake sale, and multiple, ongoing service projects by the youth.

Spiritual Development: Spiritual Development is another area we might consider in terms of Associate Pastor. Not only did Spiritual Development use a great deal of pastoral time (in terms of hours, between a quarter- and half-time position), spiritual development could also do and be more. For example, in 2014-15, I would like to see a spiritual renewal retreat of some sort at Friends Church. Also, since the recent Confirmation process and Confirmation Sunday, adults have been asking about whether they can be confirmed, which begs the question, "Can we have a series of 'confirming moments' classes, where the Confirmation process is tweaked for curious adults?" Spiritual Development tasks were as follows...

- **Coordinated summer Bible Study for young adults.** The group met in coffeehouses while the church was under construction. Eventually, the group took on leadership roles and facilitated the classes themselves.
- **Coordinated Living the Questions for 20- & 30-somethings.** With incredible leadership and help from Lisa Driver, Jillian Gonzalez and Andrew Roblyer, I coordinated the Sunday evening small group ministry for young adults at Friends Church. In June, the group ventured offsite and started a book study in Jillian's home. LtQ has engaged the wider church through a mission moment, the creation of an open Facebook Group, and providing a "question for meditation" for each week's worship bulletin.
- Led or co-led Social Justice and Morning Manna Classes in the fall
- Led or co-led monthly Theology on Tap ministry at Perrine Winery
- Wrote weekly devotionals for the emailed "Midweek Message from the Pastor" and the church's Facebook page

Worship: In addition to working with the Worship Committee and Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman to plan 52 Sunday services that sought to make disciples and change lives, I did the following...

- **Longest Night Service, Dec. 18:** With help from Kyle Walker, I put together a community-wide service of worship catered to those of us who are grieving during the holidays. The candlelit, contemplative service was filled with guitar-led Taizé music, prayers, and readings, and was followed by a wonderful pie and cider reception made possible by our Fellowship Committee.
- **Worked with Pastor and laity of Christ Holy Missionary Baptist Church to get children and youth from our two congregations to offer a dance in the worship services at Friends Church and CHMBC on Oct. 20:** The Angels of Praise dancers from CHMBC mentored our Friends Church children and youth in a powerful dance of solidarity and joy in both of our sanctuaries. I'm blessed to have a colleague and friend in Pastor Kimmie Daily of CHMBC, and our congregation is even more blessed to have an ongoing

PASTOR'S REPORT (cont.)

- relationship with her flock through dances, Confirmation field trips, CROP Walk and more.
- **Wilderness Wednesdays, June – September 2013:** For the 20 Wednesdays when we were displaced from our church building, I planned an assortment of midweek services that found us singing, praying and visiting with our friends at Magnified Health and Rehab Center, volunteering at the Brazos Valley Food Bank, sharing fellowship at a profit share at a different restaurant monthly, or worshipping in the Christ Holy Missionary Baptist Church sanctuary from week to week.
 - **Summer in the Wilderness, June – August 2013:** For our worship services at the A&M UMC Annex on Tauber Street, I offered a sermon series called, "Summer in the Wilderness," that focused on Scriptures with a wilderness theme, many of which were non-lectionary texts. We enjoyed learning how the stories of Jeremiah, Elijah, Hagar, Ishmael, the Israelites, and Jesus' disciples connect and resonate with our experience, and what their still-speaking testimonies to God's justice, mercy, and love call us to do and be in our new church space.
 - **Building Dedication, November 3, 2013:** We dedicated our new church space to the will and way of God, placing our stewardship of this place in God's hands. I enjoyed working with former Friends Church Pastor Rev. Charles Stark, former Friends Church Charter Member Rev. Ludy Manthei, South Central Conference Board President Jena Wendel, Friends in Faith Capital Campaign Coordinator Kathy Langlotz, Building Committee Chair Jess Wade, Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman, and Church Council Moderator Michelle Williamson to make a moving, memorable service of worship for not only our congregation, but for many in our community who attended that one-of-a-kind worship experience. As it was in the beginning, it is now in God's hands and ever shall be!
 - **35th Anniversary of Friends Church, Dec. 8, 2013:** So much planning went into this unforgettable weekend in the life of our congregation. Through various communications over many weeks, I was able to "secure" all four of Friends Church's former pastors for a 35th anniversary celebration (although chaotic weather almost kept founding pastor, Rev. Bill Youngkin, from making it from Ohio). Planning inclusive, joyful, worship in praise of God for God's many blessings while working the history of Friends Church and a role for each of its ministers into the service was a challenge I'd never encountered before (and probably never will again), but it proved to be a rewarding and powerful experience for our now 35-year-old congregation and all of its unmistakable servant leaders who've served its pastorate faithfully: Rev. Bill Youngkin, Rev. Michael Dack, Rev. Charles Stark, and Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson.
 - **Helped plan and host community-wide Palm Sunday Taizé service emphasizing campus ministries, April 13:** Two brothers from the Taizé community were in Texas during Holy Week. With help from the ministers for Treehouse Campus Lutherans, Canterbury Episcopal Student Ministries, and United Campus Ministry, I prepared a Taizé service for the brothers to lead at Friends Church. Glenn Thurman and I threw together music and an order of service that incorporated the screens and kept us from having to use paper.
 - **Delivered sermon for Installation Service for Rev. Katherine Doehring, United Campus Ministry Pastor, at Friends Church, April 24:** We were fortunate that our UCM Minister to Students chose Friends Church as the venue for her installation service, and I was honored that Rev. Doehring asked me to provide the sermon. UCM students present and past, as well as members and clergy from UCM Board churches were in attendance.

PASTOR'S REPORT (cont.)

- **Midweek Services, January – May, 2014:** After a delay in the fall due mainly to weekly construction still happening in and around the sanctuary, the midweek services returned in two formats. Working with the Fellowship Committee, I planned two “meal and program” midweek services, where we gathered to eat and have prayer prior to enjoying an educational program on different topics related to our church’s mission. Working with Licensed Lay Minister Ana Deter, UMC minister Terry Dougherty, and A/V mastermind Glenn Thurman, I put together a series of midweek services we called “Encountering God” services because of the largely interactive nature of the worship experience. With the exception of monthly profit shares coordinated by the Fellowship Committee, midweek worship is on sabbatical for the summer.

Outreach and Community Involvement:

- Attended Pride Community Center Independence Day Picnic at Bachman Community Park, July 6, 2013
- Helped prepare and attended Gig ‘em Week event at Spence Park, engaging students on behalf of United Campus Ministry at TAMU, Aug. 22, 2013
- Represented the UCC and Bryan-College Station at press conference organized by CAUSA (Community Alliance for a United San Antonio) and participated in prayer rally on courthouse steps in support of equal rights legislation, San Antonio, Sept. 3, 2013
- Helped staff Friends Church table and offered remarks at inaugural Rainbow Resource Fair at TAMU, Sept. 4, 2013
- Served as Clergy Liaison of CROP Hunger Walk 2013 and participated in the CROP walk at Veteran’s Park on Oct. 13, 2013
- Offered “Queering the Church” workshop at Queer Texas Conference at the College of Liberal Arts, UT, Austin, Oct. 26, 2013
- Attended Friendship Dinner of the Dialog Institute of the Southwest at the MSC Ballroom, TAMU, Nov. 4, 2013. At the dinner I was surprised to receive the Dialog Institute of the Southwest’s Peace Award for working “locally, nationally, and internationally as a bridge-builder, as a peace-maker, in the area of interfaith dialogue, but also in sexual orientation and gender identity, race relations and care for immigrants, eco-justice and sustainability, homelessness and hunger, and more” (those words from the speech offered by our own Mark Thomas, who introduced me as the award recipient).
- Attended screening of “The Gospel According to Matthew” and participated in panel discussion as one of two clergy reps on TAMU campus, Oct. 9, 2013
- Represented Friends Church in MLK Day Freedom March and Program, Jan. 20
- Attended 7th Annual MLK Breakfast on TAMU campus, Jan. 16, 2014
- Moderated a panel on “Religion, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity,” at the 2014 College of Education and Human Development Conference: *A Dialogue on Climate, Inclusion, and Respect*, on TAMU campus, March 6, 2014
- Offered Protestant Christian perspective on clergy panel for Gay Awareness Week at All Faiths Chapel, TAMU, April 1, 2014
- Marched in Hands Across Aggieland event as part of Gay Awareness Week on TAMU campus, demanding equal rights for GLBT students, faculty and staff at TAMU, Apr. 11, 2014
- Represented Friends Church at inaugural Lavender Graduation at Texas A&M University, Apr. 16, 2014
- Represented Friends Church by introducing films at inaugural Pride Film Festival at Stage Center Theatre, Apr. 25, 2014
- Delivered keynote at UT, Austin’s 7th Annual Lavender Graduation, May 14, 2014

PASTOR'S REPORT (cont.)

- Attended some Pride Community Center outreach karaoke nights at Grand Station
- Wrote monthly clergy columns for *The Eagle*, which appeared every third Saturday
- Attended monthly meetings of the Brazos Valley Ministerial Alliance

Professional Development:

- Attended workshops at UCC General Synod, June 27 – July 1, 2013
- Attended a symposium on “inclusion of people with disabilities in worship” at Dell Jewish Community Center in Austin, Oct. 16, 2013. This excellent, eye-opening event was organized in part by our own Jeff Garrison-Tate.
- Most months I have attended the monthly meeting of the Brazos Association, Jam & Bread, held on Tuesdays at 10am at St. John's UCC, Burton, where clergy and licensed lay ministers gather for fellowship and an educational presentation on varying topics. On September 10th, I gave the presentation for Jam & Bread by sharing about my experiences in Mexico through the Center for Global Education during my sabbatical.
- Attended the Pride Community Center event, “Navigating a World without DOMA,” at the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, Nov. 12, 2013
- Attended National Conference on LGBT Equality, “Creating Change, the largest annual gathering of activists, organizers and leaders in the LGBT movement,” in Houston, Jan. 31, 2014
- Attended Brite Divinity School's Ministers Week at University Christian Church, Fort Worth, February 17-20, 2014
- Took study leave in order to study for and write three sermons: two for Day1 and one for the Installation Service for Katherine Doeiring, UCM Pastor, April 1-4, 7-11, 2014
- Attended workshops at SCC Annual Meeting, June 7, 2014

Administrative:

- Began working out of spare office in Kevin Graham's office space at Eastmark Plaza in June 2013; moved out of Eastmark in early October and set up in new office at Friends Church later that month. I'm grateful to Kevin for his generosity to our congregation in allowing the pastorate to have a rent-free office space for more than four months. I'm also thankful to the Pastoral Relations Committee for helping me move into my new office space at Friends Church.
- Attended UCC General Synod in Long Beach, June 27 – July 1
- Continued serving wherever and whenever needed regarding the Friends in Faith Capital Campaign (e.g, moving back into church building, meeting with Vox reps for various repairs, etc.)
- Organized monthly profit shares for Wednesdays, June-October, 2013, at Double Dave's, Fuddruckers, Blue Baker, Rosa's Café, and Grub Burger Bar
- At UCC General Synod over the summer, I was voted in to serve a four-year term on the Nominating Committee for our denomination; and on a General Synod Nom Com conference call on December 10, 2013, I was nominated and unanimously voted in as the Vice Chair for the 2014-15 biennium with the expectation that I be the Chair for the 2016-17 biennium
- Attended meetings of and led pre-meeting worship services for the South Central Conference Executive Board, on which I serve as Vice President, on November 23, 2013 in Houston and on June 6, 2014 in Navasota
- Attended SCC Annual Meeting at Camp Allen in Navasota, June 6 & 7

PASTOR'S REPORT (cont.)

- I continue serving on the United Campus Ministry Board alongside Kevin Graham, our other clergy representative, and Linda Coats, one of our three lay representatives and UCM Board Vice President

Internal Relations: Especially from July to early October, pastoral care was particularly challenging to maintain. Because I did not have an office with privacy during that time, I had countless appointments at various coffeehouses, in people's homes, etc. Additionally, with an expanded space came more guests and curious visitors. Beyond the needs of our own congregation, there have been many calls for pastoral care, counseling, and even crisis intervention from people who are anywhere from frequent guests to our church to those who have never attended a worship service at Friends but need assistance nonetheless. Although the hours I have spent tending to those who are not on our membership books in the name of Christ cannot be measured in terms of tangible benefits to our congregation, I feel strongly that many of those hours contain the essence of what I am called to do as a minister of the Gospel. Internal relations also found me doing the following...

- With the help of Fellowship Chair Jim Burke, Spiritual Development Chair Jeff Liew, and countless volunteers, I led New Member Classes, November to December, 2013.
- Meetings w/Jeff Garrison-Tate and Pam Engler re: ministry to those with disabilities
- In discussion with parents of infants and toddlers, worked with Pam Engler to start a ministry for families with "youngest" children in our congregation. Our first event was at the Engler home on May 3rd with a follow-up fellowship event planned for late-July
- Attended most monthly Fabulous at Any Age outings

Other:

- Became mentor for UCM Pastor Katherine Doebling, requiring bi-monthly meetings
- Attended and led worship at All-Church Retreat at Slumber Falls, May 8-10
- Performed four weddings, three baptisms, and 1 funeral since July
- Assisted with Dialog Institute of the Southwest Advisory Board
- Traveled to Atlanta to record two interviews, two sermons, two follow-up interviews, and one video reflection for Day1 in the Day1 studios at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Apr. 21-23

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Laura Beaster-Jones, Nominating Committee Chair

It was a pleasure to work with Sue Meisel-Harer, Joshua Cabrera, and Jillian Gonzalez on the Even Year Nominating Committee. Our congregation is blessed with many individuals willing to share a variety of gifts, talents and passions. We are thankful for everyone who considered serving and especially to those who accepted a leadership position.

The officers below serve two-year terms, with the exception of Youth Representatives, who serve a one-year term. In one case, an individual agreed to continue in their position, since the Church Council appointed them to finish a vacated position. Our new (and continuing) church leaders are as follows:

Deputy Moderator of Trustees	Jennie Adams
Treasurer	Theresa Walker
Stewardship Chair	Tom Vogel
Justice and Missions Chair	Robin Miller
Personnel Chair	Diane Simpson
Worship Chair	Andy Ambrus
Evangelism Chair	Rachel Boenigk
Nurture Chair	Linda Coats
Congregational Representative	Bart Taylor
Pastoral Relations	Andy Tag
Youth Representative to Programs (1 year term)	decided not to fill
Youth Representative to Board of Trustees (1 year term)	decided not to fill

The positions to be filled next year by the outgoing Congregational Representative and Nomination Committee are:

ODD YEARS

Moderator (the current Vice Moderator will assume this position)
 Vice Moderator
 Deputy Moderator of Programs
 Steering Secretary
 Property Chair
 Financial Secretary
 Spiritual Development Chair
 Christian Education Chair
 Fellowship Chair
 Congregational Representative
 Pastoral Relations
 Youth Representative to Programs (1 year term)
 Youth Representative to Board of Trustees (1 year term)

Sincerely,

The Even Year Nominating Committee (Laura Beaster-Jones, Sue Meisel-Harer, Joshua Cabrera, and Jillian Gonzalez)

MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT

Chris Hoffman, Director of Music Ministries

The Music Ministry at Friends Church has been quite busy during the 2013-2014 year. From our temporary location at Tauber Street to our newly renovated space, this has been a year full of celebrations and special events, and the musicians of our church have been going full steam to enhance the worship experience for all in attendance.

The Chancel Choir ebbs and flows with various levels of participation from a wide variety of folks with diverse experiences. This has led to further exploration into various musical styles – singers and congregation members alike got to experience pieces that make some feel very comfortable, while some pieces exposed others to new ways of worshipping through music. From gospel to classical, a cappella pieces to pieces with instrumental ensembles, each Sunday offered something new for those who came to worship with us. While many pieces were sung in English, many others were sung in Latin (the language of the early Church).

This year's Christmas "Cantata" was actually a Masterwork by Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741). The first Masterwork performed in Friends Church's newly renovated sanctuary was his "Gloria." This work was composed while Vivaldi was a music teacher and director at an all-girls orphanage, so it was originally performed with girls covering all the voice parts, from soprano to bass. The Friends Church Chancel Choir got to recreate this festive piece with a Chamber Orchestra. The Marian Anderson String Quartet once again formed our string core, and the other parts consisted of trumpet (John McSpadden on piccolo trumpet), oboe (Savannah Troy, a voice and piano student of mine), and harpsichord (Chris Borchardt coming back to assist). Special thanks go out to our phenomenal vocal soloists – Cathy Hansen, Maggie Gartner, Anne Nichols, Tami Dudo, and Jennie Adams.

The Good Friday Cantata was another Masterwork that once again provided a chance to try a different format for a service. This year the evening featured a French Romantic composer – Louis Vierne (1870-1937). The service had a series of readings and prayers interjected with the movements of Vierne's "Solemn Mass." This work was unique in that it is the first Masterwork to be performed at Friends that used organ – in this case, the electric Kawai piano (donated by former choir member Kathy Miller) provided several different organ registrations. With these sounds coming from the speakers, several members in the congregation kept looking around for organ pipes! As we are still searching for a church pianist, I did double duty – conducting and playing the organ parts. Additionally, the evening had a free-standing anthem: a very moving a cappella "O Vos Omnes" by Pablo Casals (1876-1973), a Catalan cellist, conductor, and composer. This piece, with text taken from Lamentations, is a traditional and perfect addition to any Good Friday service, and this musical setting has been a personal favorite of mine ever since I first sang it during my undergrad days.

Easter was a fabulous celebration of life and joy, and featured many big musical moments. As the sanctuary was transformed from Good Friday black to Easter white, "Easter" from "Five Mystical Songs" by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was sung. This piece featured our wonderful baritone soloist, Tom Vogel. Our traditional opening hymn of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" was elaborated upon with an exciting Choral Introduction, an "obligatory power ballad modulation" between the third and fourth verses, and a big Choral Coda (ending). The sanctuary was filled with glorious music – from the singing of the Choir and Congregation, to the sound of the organ, and the fanfares produced from brass and percussion. Finally, the Choir had one more anthem to sing ("Sing for Joy, Alleluia!" by Jonathan Willcocks, a modern-

MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT (cont.)

day composer), with the continued assistance of brass and percussion. Needless to say, this was a very musically epic service. The Choir absolutely earned the next Sunday off! Special thanks to our enthusiastic and exciting Easter instrumentalists – Amy Tutoki, Nick Becker, Emily Becker, Daniel Ioege, Andy Tag, and Jeremy Dudo.

The Chancel Choir had other occasions this year in which their musical leadership was called upon. In November, the Choir sang for the Friends Church Dedication Service, celebrating our newly renovated and expanded church. Two contrasting works were performed: a lively and bouncy setting of “Laetatus Sum” (translation: “I was glad when they said to me: let us go into the house of the Lord”) by Michael Haydn (1737-1806), and an ethereal and difficult (10-part a cappella!) setting of “Locus Iste” (translation: “This place was made by God; a priceless sacrament...a [safe] sanctuary”) by Paul Mealor (born in 1975, the current musical sensation who was brought into the spotlight after composing a beautiful “Ubi Caritas” for the Royal Wedding). In June, the Choir was also present and sang at the South Central Conference Meeting at Camp Allen. A small handful of singers from other choirs in the Conference joined in to sing, but the main body of singers was represented by Friends Church. As I was unable to attend (I was away giving a Voice Masterclass), Jess Wade stepped in to direct this group.

Our Children’s Choir, A Joyful Noise, provided special anthems during Children’s Sabbath Sunday and fifth Sundays. It is a tradition for the Children’s Choir to sing whenever there is a fifth Sunday in any given month. Special thanks go out to Tami Dudo for helping me prepare A Joyful Noise for the various Sundays that they have sung this year. It is always a pleasure working with such an enthusiastic group of singers. The kids continue to charm the congregation with their various musical offerings. The dedication of the group goes into the summer, and even though the numbers may be smaller then, the enthusiasm and energy levels are just as high as ever!

Instrumentally, the church has continued to grow. The music at Friends Church has been supplemented with solo strings, string quartets, string basses, guitars, drums, flutes, clarinets, recorders of various sizes, bassoons, trumpets, French horns, euphoniums, and trombones. These various instrumental gifts have been wonderful additions to the Worship Services. It is also great to see so many of our youth stepping up and providing musical leadership. We have a LOT of talent with our youth! They will continue to provide their musical offerings (instrumental and vocal) during the summer. I am thrilled that we are able to include them in worship music – you don’t just have to be in the “adult” choir in order to provide special music for services.

Additionally, these various instruments and interested singers have combined in various ways to supplement the music of this year’s Children’s Christmas Pageant. The music for that production was adapted and rearranged yet again this year, breathing new musical life into a treasured tradition and bringing new and fun elements to the table. This is the third year in a row where I had the opportunity to re-write the traditional Pageant songs into new arrangements. With the various musical gifts that our church is blessed with, you can count on something new and wonderful happening with this long-running tradition every year. Finally, a HUGE amount of gratitude goes to Jess Wade (for directing the musicians) and Hilary Guillen (for playing piano). I was absent that Sunday, as I was contracted to be a soloist for two Christmas Cantatas at a church in Brenham. When I have to travel (mostly for solo performance obligations on my part), it is great to know we have such able and willing volunteers to help make the musical components of worship run smoothly.

MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT (cont.)

Last July, I was able to go to a seminar to further my professional development. I spent a week in Princeton, New Jersey, attending a Conducting Institute at the Westminster Conservatory (also known as Westminster Choir College). 60 choir conductors from around the world participated in this week-long experience of music rehearsals, seminars, masterclasses, and other various activities and presentations. We got to work with legendary conductors such as James Jordan, Bruce Chamberlain, Weston Noble, Gary Graden, Sabine Horstmann, and Charles Bruffy. In addition to working with these conductors, we also got to meet and sing with current composers, such as Frank Ferko and Brandon Waddles. I met several fellow conductors from around the country that I have become good friends with, and stay connected to via Facebook. I even found a fellow Director of Music Ministries for a UCC Church in Florida (with a unique congregation size of over 2,000 members!). I also found many great pieces that I have had our Chancel Choir sing this past year, and have a few more in store for the year ahead. This trip was also made possible with financial support from Blinn College (where I teach voice and direct the choir on the Bryan campus) and Friends Church. I would like to thank Friends Church for helping me attend this conference with their generous financial contribution.

This June I celebrate my eighth year of directing musical activities at Friends Church. I am amazed at how quickly the time has flown during these past years. While this is technically a job, it is a blessing to be able to have a job that is a love and hobby of mine. Sometimes this doesn't even feel like work. I have the church family to thank for that! This is truly a calling that I cherish. I thank God for all of our blessings through music that we have been given, and look forward to exploring how we can all worship through music in this upcoming year. If you are interested in being a part of our strong commitment to musical excellence, please contact me and I can get you plugged in. There are many ways to get you involved with musical worship participation - some activities that we currently do, and some yet to be explored. God loves it when we all make joyful noises, and I do too!

CHURCH RECORDS

Membership

195	Active Members
21	Members not active
<u>56</u>	Out of town members
272	Members as of June 29, 2014

New Members	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
	27	12	32

Sacraments and Rites

1	Infant/child Baptisms
2	Adult Baptisms
1	Marriages/Holy Unions at Friends Church

Average Attendance	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
Sunday Worship	109	105	112
Wednesday Worship	20	15	14

Attendance at Special Services

	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
Ash Wednesday	69	50	64
Maundy Thursday	30	33	29
Good Friday	63	118	74
Easter Early Service	55	51	66
Easter Worship	176	188	181
Christmas Eve	91	90	131

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Michelle Williamson, Moderator

This year Friends Church has grown in both spirit and size. Not only have we seen the completion of a building addition, but we have also experienced growth in our membership, and electronic outreach. With growth in numbers, space, pod cast, and a youtube channel we are now able to reach more and more people with God's message of unconditional love. We have much to be thankful for: outreach, plans for the future, committee leadership, and pastoral leadership. I would like to recap just a few highlight from 2013-2014. This year at Friends church, the Church Council and the congregation:

- We revised the constitution changing the name of Steering Committee to Church Council and making some grammatical clarifications bringing the constitution into alignment actual practice.
- Moving Back In to the new space – This year started with a moving survey and then a flurry of activity. The survey allowed for church members to provide feedback on different things Council needed to keep in mind when leading the move back in process. A move in plan was developed, ALL Church Leadership took on the responsibility of being crew leaders and volunteer coordinators, and members signed up to help during shifts. Amazingly over the course of two weeks we managed to move out of two storage units, say goodbye to the brown chairs, move out of the Tauber building, hold a congregational meeting, relocated Dan and the church office back to the new addition, get the piano tuned, assembled the new chairs, clean and unpack all the classrooms, unpack the storage sheds, prepare the space for worship, decorated, figured out a chair configuration, and so much more. Thinking back on everything is exhausting, but I have fond memories of everyone pitching in to help and supported each other and I remember many people loving being in the new space.
- Revisiting and Revising Systems – With the new space new realities arose. Some of the way we did things before the new addition still worked, however much of our systems needed to be analyzed and tweaked. Everything from keys, A/C, building fee schedule and policies, learning how to run the new building systems, decorations guidelines, Insurance coverage, pest control, cleaning services/needs, etc all needed to be reviewed and adjusted. Although we have made great headway, this refining process continues with a report or review of one system or another at each council meeting. The Trustees committee has had more than their share of work this year to get all the systems running smoothly.
- We dedicated surplus to help cover some unexpected moving back in cost, new hymnals, and help fund the playground.
- As a church we hosted a glorious Dedication Ceremony and a 35th year celebrations with all of Friends previous pastors including Bill Youngkin.
- To support committees and to help Church Council stay connected, Church Council members attended as many committee meetings as their schedules would permit. This is a new practice has received mostly positive feedback so we plan to continue.
- Friends has so many gifts to be thankful for therefor the Church Council has purposefully focused time each month to sending thank you notes to those who share their gifts with the congregation.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT (cont.)

- Continuing Congregational Meeting Conversation – At the January Congregational meeting the final budget brought forward discussion concerning the Director of Music Ministries Salary and calling an Associate Pastor. We have continued a deep dive discussion on the topics and worked with the original associate pastor committee, reviewed the stewardship process, and continue to revisit the discussion and planning. An Associate pastor would allow us to miss fewer opportunities to share Gods love and help support our growing ministerial/spiritual needs.

Being able to do all these things, and so much more, requires dedicated leaders, supporting congregants, and an incredible staff. Specifically, Kim Beasley deserves immense appreciation. Kim works seamlessly with all our different personalities and she keeps the wheels of the church rolling. Neither I nor Church Council would function as smoothly as we do without Kim's help.

I would like to thank our Director of Music Ministries, Chris Hoffman, for his wonderful messages and gifts. Chris is so talented and is able to lead our music ministries to new heights and worship. Each year I think, "well that was the best year/performance ever, there is no way he can top that!" but the just music continue to get better. Impressive! Thank you for sharing these gifts with us.

My report would be incomplete without a thank you to our clergy for all they do. Ana Deter, Licensed Lay Minister, has given her gifts to many worship services and other mission work. I am grateful for her continued support and Lay Minister work at Friends. Church Council's job would be much more difficult without Dan's support, vision, leadership, guidance, and love of this congregation. Dan's ability to see how we all connect and his natural ability to outreach in ways we have never experienced before is a true blessing and connects us to the wider community. We are blessed with his ability to make God's message come alive and his leadership.

Thank you for the privilege to serve this congregation as moderator.

Peace to you,
Michelle Williamson

TRUSTEES REPORT

Justin Dudo, Deputy Moderator

Brian Blake, Stewardship
Sally Manthei, Property Chair

Amanda Conley/Paula Tag, Personnel Chair
John Nichols, Financial Secretary

The past year has been an adventure as we transitioned back to our home at Southwood Drive. As Dan repeatedly pointed out, it will take time to learn what this space means to each of us and how we can best use it. I personally learned that many people are passionate about how we use this space, but in order to get things done, it usually comes down to a group of people just taking the time to see something through. I cannot thank those enough who just took the time.

Here's just a few of the things that happened over the past year:

- Sally Manthei served as interim administrative assistant after Bridget left, somehow keeping things in order while we were in the wilderness.
- Our old sanctuary chairs went to Jo Hudson and New Church.
- Stacy De Leon volunteered to lead the effort to interview and hire a new administrative assistant.
- Jess Wade herded cats like a pro. In addition to everything he did for the capital campaign, he was indispensable while moving from Tauber to Southwood Drive.
- GM Haulers moved the big items from Tauber and storage back to Southwood Drive.
- Countless volunteers put in overtime unpacking boxes and putting Friends back together again in near record time.
- Kim Beasley joined Friends as our administrative assistant. Sally rejoiced.
- Kelsey Leopold and Katelyn Williamson joined Morgan Leopold as childcare workers.
- During a church work day, volunteers cleaned out the wooden storage building.
- Paula Tag graciously agreed to finish the current term for Personnel. Michelle rejoiced.
- The Sustainability Team installed a water reclamation system at the corner of the north wall and had a planting party around the grounds.
- The Youth Group and other volunteers helped prepare the playground by pulling fence posts and picking up trash.
- Volunteers for The Big Event spread pea gravel around the new playground. Kate rejoiced.
- Brenner Fencing moved the wooden building and installed a chain link fence around the playground.
- Engineers Without Borders built a new structure in the playground.
- Glenn Thurman and Andy Tag strove to grow and strengthen our burgeoning Technology committee.
- John Nichols donated his time to help construct a wall for the Audio Video command center.
- The hot water heater was replaced in the closet behind the kitchen.

Of course, things still need to be done:

- The playground needs more pea gravel around the play structure, as well as a few finishing touches on the new structure to make sure it is safe.
- The building use agreement is undergoing a complete revamp to accommodate the new space.
- The Associate Pastor's "closet" needs cleaning so that it can be used as an office.
- The pianist position is still open.
- The copier contract ends in April, 2015. Consideration is under way to replace it with a used copier.
- The lawn care contract is being reviewed to possibly expand it to care for the mulch areas and playground.

PROGRAMS REPORT

Kelly Wellman, Deputy Moderator

This has been an action packed year for the entire church and required a tremendous amount of coordination and teamwork between Trustees and Programs committees. We had a unique summer "In the Wilderness" at A&M United Methodist Church while we excitedly awaited the construction of our renovated church space. We made the most out of our temporary home, embraced the change, and benefitted from committee efforts to maintain continuity of worship services and programming.

We were blessed to return to our expanded church home in October 2013. In true Friends UCC fashion, we conquered the move and filled our spaces to make them functional and welcoming in a matter of days. Fellowship hosted a Sip N See of the space on October 6 and our Welcome Home Service was held on October 13 with the official dedication on November 3, 2013. Not only did our physical church expand, but the addition of Audio Visual (AV) equipment in the sanctuary gave rise to the use of technology being incorporated into worship services through slides, images, and videos.

Once we were back on our feet at 2200 Southwood Drive, the fellowship and programming opportunities seemed to assume a frenetic pace. Whether it was celebrating the 35th anniversary of Friends UCC with all four former pastors attending the celebration service, opening our doors to Family Promise, or offering Wednesday night programs and meals, the increased activity was a constant companion.

I have personally been humbled to serve in this position over the past year and observe first-hand, the truly giving nature of so many church members. From Christian Education, Evangelism, Spiritual Development, and Nurture to the work of Justice and Missions, Fellowship, and Worship, these committees dedicate countless hours to ensure we offer God's extravagant welcome to all. The following reports submitted by the respective committee chairs offer a modest glimpse into the past 12 months of service.

Christian Education

Kate M. Lucchese, Chair

Committee members: Tami Dudo, David Manuel, Sue Meisel, Priscilla Miller, Robin Miller, Jenny Vogel, Anne Wehrly.

We started off the fall with the excitement of being back in our renovated church, and using our wonderful new divided classroom. Acolyte training was a bit rushed as a result of the move-in, and we will revisit it this coming fall. Classes this year were lively and well-attended. Anne Wehrly continued to teach the K-2nd Grade class, and we welcomed a new teacher, Priscilla Miller, to team-teach Grades 3-6 with Tami Dudo. Tami also led rehearsals and performances by Joyful Noise youth choir, and she and Sue Meisel conducted many Children's Moments. David Manuel taught the Junior High class, and Robin Miller again took the High School. The beautiful new riser area at the front of the church required a new staging of the Christmas Pageant, some new costumes, and a new piece of scenery which Ludy Manthei helped provide. Many youth musicians joined adults in the playing for the Pageant Ensemble, under Chris Hoffman's baton. 31 children and youth participated in the Pageant this year, always a good rough estimate of weekly Sunday School attendance.

PROGRAMS REPORT (cont.)

In the new year, in a joint effort with the Property Committee, Christian Ed. organized the construction of a fence around the playground, and coordinated with Aggies at the Big Event in March to help rake a load of pea-gravel and spread some mulch in the playground. An Easter Egg Hunt was organized as usual by the older youth and thoroughly enjoyed by the children, with much generous participation by the congregation in the form of egg-stuffing treats. Heifer International was established as our new youth mission, supported by the Children's Offering Envelope program we tested in May.

Dan and David Manuel team-taught the 11-member Confirmation class this past spring, and held a fun and thought-provoking Confirmation Retreat on March 21-23 at Slumber Falls with groups from several other UCC churches. Sean Dudo, Jeremy Dudo, Allyson Goodman, Philip Guillen, Lucy Harper, Daniel Ioerger, Cole Maxwell, Megan Nelson, Elizabeth Tag, Nick Vasquez, Spencer Williamson celebrated the completion of their course of study and membership in the church with a special service on Pentecost (June 8) and the gift of *The Unofficial Guide to the UCC*. The previous week we honored our three high-school seniors, Allyson Goodman, Cain Miller, and Katelyn Williamson the previous week, with gifts and good wishes, and regretfully sent off teacher Priscilla to a new life in Fort Worth.

Early in the year, we supported Dan in his desire to join churches in Austin (University Christian Church, Congregational Church, United Christian Church, University Baptist Church, & Church of the Savior) to take our Youth Group on a Mission Trip to Alabama July 5-12 2014 (to help a needy church with their VBS and do construction), if he could convince at least 5 kids to go. 9 signed up, namely Jonathan Chapman, Allyson Goodman, Phillip Guillen, Sean Dudo, Jeremy Dudo, Megan Nelson, Alex Tag, Elizabeth Tag, and Nick Vasquez. Total costs per student were estimated at \$450, and \$4050 was requested and received from congregational funds. Our committee agreed to coordinate fundraising to recover those costs, with a goal of complete repayment by December 31, 2014. So far those efforts (Youth Task Sheets, a Car Wash May 31 and a Bake Sale June 8) have netted over \$1000.

Evangelism

Glenn Thurman, Chair

Committee Members: Andy Tag

The Evangelism Team focuses on getting the word out about Friends Church and welcoming all who find our doorway. This year we focused on being ready to make our presence known as we returned to our newly renovated and expanded facility. Along with the Worship Committee, we shared the cost of new ink pens to go in the new Sanctuary chair backs. We also worked with Fellowship to use our new logo on the new coffee mugs that were purchased upon our return from the "wilderness".

We now have 3-12ft color banners (in each of the 4 liturgical colors) that are put out at the corner of Southwood & Mitchell Pkwy (FM2818) every Sunday morning. These flags are tall enough to be seen from each of the neighboring intersections at Rio Grande & Longmire. We are also using the Welcome flag in the main sidewalk flowerbed as you walk up to the main Sanctuary entrance. (Thanks to the Youth Members that consistently help in bringing them in after worship)

PROGRAMS REPORT (cont.)

We have continued to grow Friends' online presence — as this and word of mouth are our most often cited way that people learn of about Friends Church. In January we were required to update our webpage software and subsequently updated our webpage design at the same time. Our new look has been well received and gave us a much needed refresh. We are still working out kinks on some of the functionality but all in all everything is working well. Our church website traffic receives about 3,300 unique online visitors every month who each visit about 3 times per month. We are serving about 35,000 pages per month with many of those landing on the Sermons page. Saturdays and Mondays are the most popular days to visit the Sermons pages. We have followers from all over the globe, including UK & Germany. Clearly, it is an exciting time at Friends!! We continue to add functionality and information to the website to better reflect the spirit of Friends.

Our Friends Congregational Audio Podcast continues to reach thousands of listeners via iTunes, our Sermons webpage and the Facebook Status updates. Beginning in September of 2013 we started our video podcast of the sermons. Friends Church now has its own YouTube Channel where the Sermon Videos are hosted, with a link to them incorporated on our own Sermons Webpage. Currently we have about a dozen subscribed followers to the YouTube channel and the 35th Anniversary sermon by Rev. Bill Youngkin leads them all at 135 views as of June 2014. We expect that this additional media format will continue to expand the reach of Friends Church ministry. A huge THANKS goes out to Andy Tag for his continued dedication to keeping us current on our Sermon Page postings (transcript, audio & video). Just an FYI, we actually hear from folks far and near whenever we get behind on postings.

Our presence on Facebook continues to grow and reach new folks as well as engage our own folks in current happenings as well as sharing the links to the weekly sermon webpage and Pastor Dan's "Mid-Week Thoughts". Over this past year, we have continued to use spot Facebook ads for Christmas & Holy Week as well as occasional special events, like the Youth Group Car Wash. These ads are very affordable and reach several thousand people each time. During actual construction we posted daily & weekly photo updates to keep everyone engaged and excited about the progress of the construction. This was a huge success. Our traffic and comments stayed high and energized. We just need to continue to encourage folks to "Check-In" and "Share" events and posts from the Church's FB page to their own.

(FREE – EFFECTIVE Evangelism!!!!)

We have been trying to keep up with the Eagle postings for weekly faith calendar events as well as keeping the paid Worship Guide listing current. We also advertised in the Christmas and Holy Week special sections again this year.

After the official air dates of Pastor Dan's "Day1.org" sermons, we will post links to them on both our website and Facebook to share these with as many folks as possible.

It has been a wonderful and exciting 2 years as Evangelism Chair and our Committee is looking forward to working with and supporting our new Chairperson!!!

PROGRAMS REPORT (cont.)

Fellowship

Jim Burke, Chair

The Fellowship Faithful continue, every week, to jump feet first into providing the extravagant welcome Friend's wishes to present to our Church Family and our community. In no way was this ideal better demonstrated over the past 12 months than with the every-changing scenarios associated with the move-out, completion, and move-in to our new home. The following list details many of the efforts put forth by this selfless, generous and often times exhausted group of Faithful folks:

- Sip n See new building viewing party
- New Space dedication reception
- Back to Sunday School Pancake Breakfast
- Men's Breakfasts
- Secret Sister
- July 4th picnic at Aerofit
- Leadership Training Class luncheons
- Dinner for UCM students
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Easter Brunch
- New Member class luncheons and receptions
- Confirmation Sunday reception
- Senior Graduation Celebration
- Various other receptions, "Friends Fest" times, and events as needed/requested

This talented group of chefs, party organizers, furniture movers, and all around "pitch in and do anything" group has pulled together, often with short notice, to enhance the overall family experience we all strive to provide at Friend's. Our talents were truly put to the test when we packed up the kitchen, continued to provide coffee service in our temporary space, and then unpacked and organized our lovely new kitchen space.

Our newly remodeled kitchen continues our efforts to be good stewards of our Earth. New appliances are as energy efficient as possible, the new cabinets on the stove wall provide additional storage, and the stunningly beautiful new countertops are both functional and easier to maintain. The new floor and paint are appreciated. Our new and revamped "rolling buffets" are space efficient and provide easy meal presentation in different areas of the church building. Clean up on Sunday morning and for events is "speedy" thanks to the addition of a second energy efficient dishwasher. We continue use as many "green" products in the kitchen as we can find, and are able to afford.

Bottom line for our Fellowship group is that they are a bunch of dedicated, talented, loving, caring folks that like to take care of other folks. Many thanks from this humble chair for all the hard work, ideas, and blessing everyone has put forth this past year!!

PROGRAMS REPORT (cont.)

Justice & Mission

Elizabeth Vasquez, Retired Chair, Scott Loehr, Chair

The work of Justice and Missions would not be possible without the dedication of a diverse and giving group of Friends Church congregants. Below is a brief highlight of the work performed over the past year.

Crop Walk – Friends had 15 walkers in the Crop Walk on October 13 to benefit Brazos Food Bank. This year we collected over \$625 in online pledges for the Crop Walk.

Family Promise - We continued participation in this ministry as a host church. Along with our Buddy Churches, Faith UCC and Covenant Presbyterian, we have hosted five times over the past year: July 21-18, September 22-29, January 26 – 31, March 30 – April 6, June 1 – 8. Our churches have assisted 1-3 families per visit, providing a safe place for them to sleep and eat. Just as important, we have provided them with companionship and support during their difficult situation. Our wonderful church members come together with about 30 to 40 people volunteering each time.

Angel Tree - Christmas 2013 Angel Tree ministry was another success. Two families benefited from the generosity of our ministry. With the exception of a washer and dryer, we were able to provide all “wish list” items.

Festival of Giving - Our Festival of Giving was held three weekends in December (1, 8, 15). Donations totaled \$1,520. There were eight charities that benefited from these donations this year. The donations were as follows: Back Bay Mission \$30; the Aggeland Humane Society \$270; the Brazos Church Pantry \$345; Heifer International \$175; Brazos Hospice \$170; Family Promise \$390; Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN) \$120 and our Church Crisis Fund \$20.

Habitat Can Recycle Program - we continue our ongoing mission to recycle aluminum cans collected at our church and take them to the metal recycle facility. All proceeds go to Habitat of the Brazos Valley. Recently, due to our temporary relocation, we have discontinued the aluminum can collection. We encourage our members to recycle cans and donate funds to Habitat.

Brazos Church Pantry - The Social Justice Class and other volunteers from our congregation continue to volunteer once a month at the Church Pantry. Congregants also continue to donate food and money to this mission.

Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network - We continue to support BIIN through annual dues and contributions for their internet services. Justice & Mission provides a representative to BIIN for our church.

School Kits – Friends Church collected and shipped 34 School Kits to Church World Services.

Hygiene Kits - Friends Church gathered supplies (e.g. tooth paste, soap) to complete 100 hygiene kits for Back Bay Mission. Back Bay Mission, a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, serves poor and marginalized individuals along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The 100 hygiene kits were the most collected by any church within the South Central Conference!

PROGRAMS REPORT (cont.)

Nurture

Doris Simpson, Chair

The main link to nurturing the Friends Church family is the on-going Prayer Chain who daily pray for the joys and concerns of our members and friends.

We supply meals to members upon leaving the hospital and when there is a death. Four meals were served this year.

Three red candles were placed on the altar and presented to members leaving our church membership and community, on their final Sunday with us.

A ceramic cross is placed on the altar announcing the birth of a baby into the congregation. Two crosses were presented this year.

All year long, welcome bags are given to first time visitors at our worship services. These are happily received.

Friends Church gives memorial gifts to immediate family members of the church. The bereavement charities are Slumber Falls Camp, Back Bay Mission, Evangelical Children's Fund, mission offerings, seminaries, United Campus Ministries and Family Promise. Five memorial gifts were made this year.

The transportation committee has been providing rides to work for Mondays through Thursdays for a congregation member.

A total of 27 cards were sent to absent members this year.

My personal thanks to all who helped in any way to provide the services of the Nurture Committee. It helped to make my job easier.

Spiritual Development

Jeff Liew, Chair

The Spiritual Development Committee strives to facilitate ways for spiritual growth **for and by the Congregation**. Given the diversity of our Congregation, each of us will have different spiritual needs and goals. We aim to meet and accept each person for who and where they are spiritually, and to help cultivate their spiritual development and growth. This Committee facilitates a variety of activities and forums so every person has opportunities to become an agent of spiritual growth for themselves and for others in the Congregation. Some of the spiritual development activities that the Congregation made happen are highlighted below:

Adult Sunday School: Ana Deter, Georgianne Moore, Mark Thomas, Lucy Thomas, Jeff Garrison-Tate, and others have been co-leading and facilitating **Social Justice** and **Morning Manna** groups that met at 9:15am, and will continue in the Fall of 2014 and 2015.

PROGRAMS REPORT (cont.)

Living the Questions (LtQ) Young Adult Group: Jillian Gonzalez, Lisa Driver, Andrew, Meg, and Michael, and others in the *LtQ Crew* have been *living it out* faithfully by engaging in thoughtful readings and discussions using the LtQ curriculum to seek a deeper understanding of what it means to live a Christian life as a young person in this day and age. Pastor Dan continues to support and shepherd this forum and LtQ will continue in 2014 and 2015.

Fabulous at Any Age (FAA) Group: Linda Coats continue to spearhead FAA, which welcomes anyone who wants to be in community with each other. The group meets once a month and is a great way for members of Friends to get to know one another and to actively engage in the local community beyond the church walls throughout the summer of 2014 and will continue in the Fall of 2014 and 2015.

Theology on Tap (Tot) Discussion Group: ToT continues to evolve and is meeting once a month at Perrine Winery. The Discussion Group continues to be a forum that welcomes topic ideas or guest speakers and facilitators.

Circle of Friends Book Study: Walter and Rhoda Bertsch continue their tradition and hospitality by hosting the Circle of Book Study. The group has been studying and recently completed “The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic” by John Shelby Spong. This book study will be starting a new book when it continues again in the Fall of 2014 and 2015.

Lent Devotionals: *The “Calmly Plotting Lent Devotionals 2014”* by The Stillspeaking Writers’ Group at the United Church Press was provided to the Congregation, and several members shared comments that they really appreciated and enjoyed this resource. One congregation member expressed that she felt this was the best devotionals, yet. Indeed, “God is Still Speaking”. ***Feel the Spirit!*** Peace.

Worship

Maggie Gartner, Chair

Loving God Through Service

This was the year that the Worship Committee spent time in the Wilderness with the rest of the congregation and worked to maintain our homey, Friends feeling while we were there! We helped with planning the move, moving to the church on Tauber Street, and moving back into our beautiful new home. We again planned worship services, prepared for communion, and ensured the presence of Greeters, Communion Servers, and Lay Leaders. The many details—large and small—of every service were revised for the new expansive space of the sanctuary. Anne Nichols devoted many hours of sewing to create the beautiful new hangings that grace our walls and the altar. Other members of the committee have helped with banner hanging, baking bread, tree decorating, and the innumerable tasks that need to be done so that all may experience the joy of worshiping together. I would like to thank the members of the Worship Committee—Anne Nichols, Jess Wade, Andy Bob Ambrus, Jennie Adams, Sarah Over, and Dan DeLeon. I would also like to thank Cathy Hansen for her continued management of the lay leader process and Glenn Thurman for his AV

PROGRAMS REPORT (cont.)

contributions to our services. Without these wonderful Friends, our Worship services would be much different. A special thank you goes to you, the Congregation, for your support and help in our many endeavors. If you have greeted, served as lay leader, helped with communion, sung in the choir, moved chairs, placed the cards and pencils in the chairs, provided a Moment for Missions, purchased a hymnal or any other task, thank you! You are truly deeply appreciated.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

John Nichols, Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary's duties are to collect, categorize, and deposit all income to the church, excluding transactions involving the capital campaign, to communicate this information weekly to the Treasurer, and to prepare annual giving reports and semi-annual pledge reports for individual congregation members. The Financial Secretary also gives information to assist with the annual stewardship campaign. Below are the pledges and offerings received in the past 12 months. This does not include special offerings, monies collected for Tenzin, for the crisis fund, and similar categories.

Table 1 shows the giving amounts. Any amount that is given that has a name attached is treated as a pledge. Offerings are the cash that cannot be attributed to any person. The special is for the bell tower only. Table 2 shows the annual giving amounts.

Table 1 Giving Amounts

Year	Month	Pledges	Offering	Special
2013	June	14420	3047	0
	July	18730	357	0
	August	11159	228	0
	September	13065	413	
	October	13700	267	0
	November	11532	228	0
	December	13572	283	0
2014	January	20552	279	0
	February	15632	587	
	March	18509	638	
	April	16881	481	
	May	17142	283	1000

Table 2 Annual Giving Amounts

Year	Total
2008	\$163,027.00
2009	\$159,225.00
2010	\$163,399.00
2011	\$161,900.00
2012	\$187,886.00
2013	\$192,985.00

Figure 1 shows a plot of the monthly giving. Figure 2 shows a plot of the annual giving since 2008. There is an annual increase of about 6000 per annum over that time.

Yours faithfully

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT (cont.)

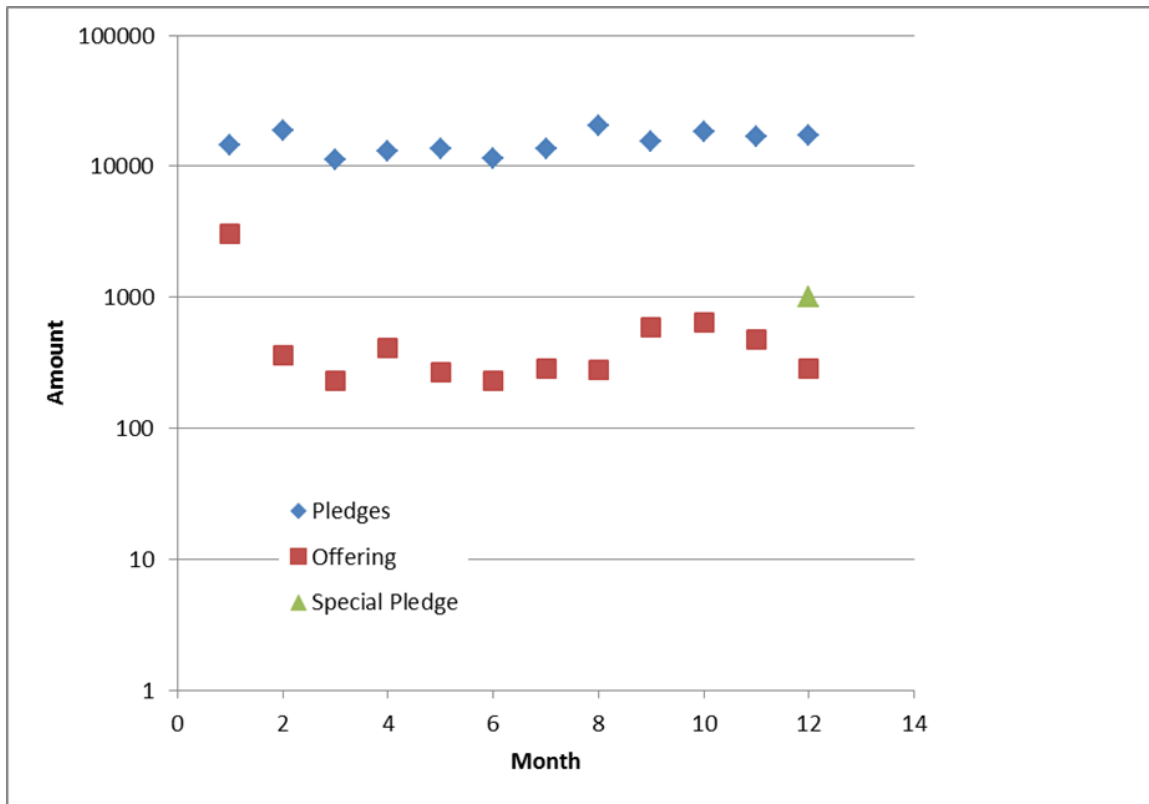


Figure 1 Month by Month Giving

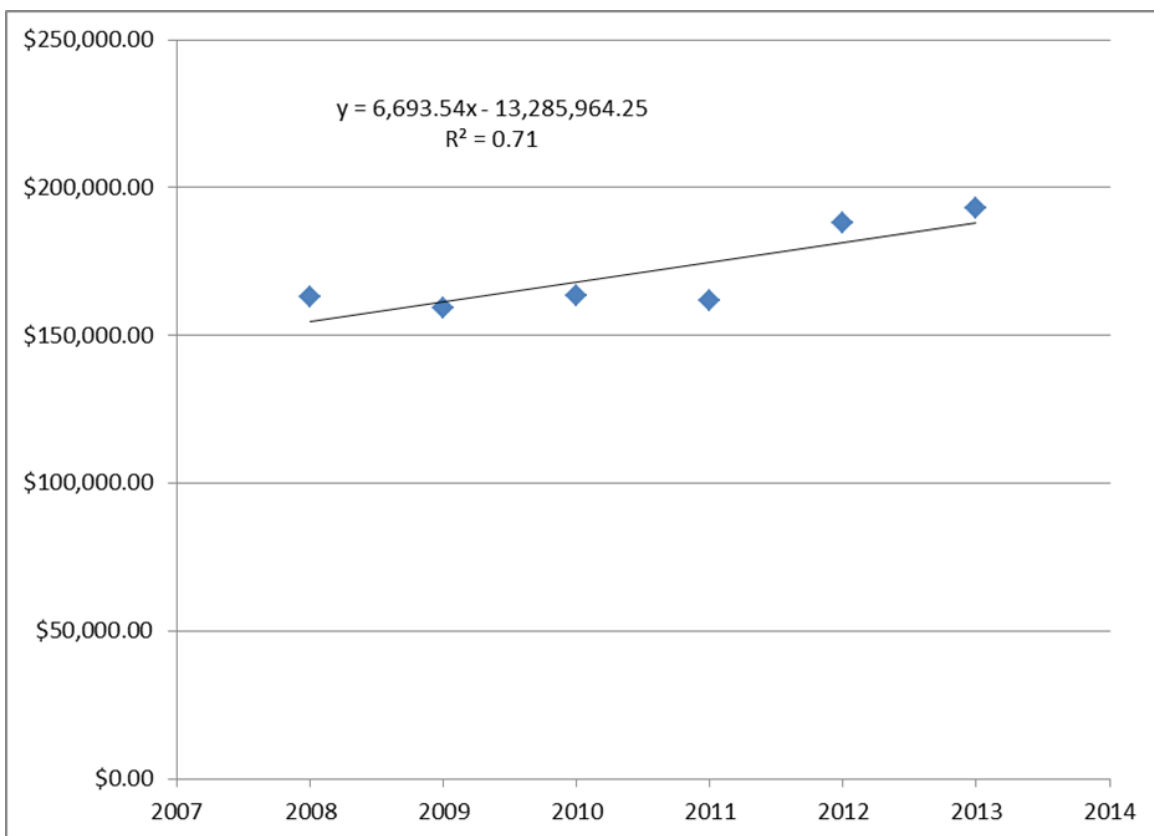


Figure 2 Annual Giving

TREASURER REPORT

Theresa Walker, Treasurer

In 2013, we showed the following net income:

Net Operating Income	\$14,924
Net Capital Campaign Income	\$59,546
Other Restricted	<u>\$ -1,189</u>
 Total Net Income	 <u>\$73,281</u>

The Net Operating Income surplus of \$14,924 was due to a 10% increase over budgeted revenue with actual expenses being close to our budgeted estimates. We added \$5,000 of this surplus to our reserve funds. By the end of 2013, we had accumulated \$44,900 of reserve funds. (Our target reserve equivalent is three months of expenses which is now approximately \$47,000.)

Capital Campaign revenue for 2014 was \$189,955 and expenses were \$130,409 resulting in a carry forward to 2014 of \$59,546. Our previous mortgage of \$65,167 was paid to UCC Cornerstone Fund, Inc. in January of 2013.

Other Restricted shows a negative net income for the year. However, funds were carried forward into 2013 that covered these expenses.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at treasurer@friends-ucc.org.

Church Snapshot

As of May 31, 2014

Outstanding Loans

<u>Mortgage</u>	<u>\$637,020</u>
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In March 2014, a mortgage of \$867,178 carried by Brenham National Bank was assumed by our church. Our monthly payments are \$5,999. In addition to the scheduled monthly payment, we make an additional payment applied directly to the principal based on monthly contributions.

Available Funds

General Operating	\$51,530
Capital Campaign	\$83,167
<u>Other Restricted</u>	<u>\$8,998</u>
Total	\$143,696

Note: There are also two promissory notes held by the Local Church Ministries of the UCC. The amounts are \$20,000.00 and \$86,293.00. We will only be required to repay these notes if we sell our land and building, leave the UCC, or no longer use the facility for our ministry. In February of 2013, we remitted \$5,315.00 (5% of the notes) to the LCM in order to subordinate our lien so that we could move forward with securing our construction loan at Brenham National Bank.

Friends Congregational Church UCC
Budget vs. Actuals: Operating - FY13 P&L
 January - December 2013

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Income				
2000 Donation Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2010 Pledge	170,056.90	143,285.00	26,771.90	118.68%
2020 Offering	32,776.10	40,543.00	-7,766.90	80.84%
Total 2000 Donation Income	\$ 202,833.00	\$183,828.00	\$ 19,005.00	110.34%
2100 Building Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2110 Dynacisers	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2120 Other	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
2130 Yoga	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 2100 Building Rental	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00	-\$ 1,000.00	0.00%
2200 Garage Sale	0.00	1,800.00	-1,800.00	0.00%
2300 Restricted Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2310 One Time	11,853.82	0.00	11,853.82	
2320 Tenzin	333.20	0.00	333.20	
2340 Slumber Falls	1,724.70	0.00	1,724.70	
2350 Capital Campaign	189,955.36	0.00	189,955.36	
Total 2300 Restricted Income	\$ 203,867.08	\$ 0.00	\$ 203,867.08	
2400 SCC (5 for 5) Collections	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2410 Christmas Fund	1,192.50	0.00	1,192.50	
2420 Neighbors In Need	1,482.10	0.00	1,482.10	
2440 OGHS	1,156.00	0.00	1,156.00	
2450 Strengthen the Church	365.00	0.00	365.00	
Total 2400 SCC (5 for 5) Collections	\$ 4,195.60	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,195.60	
2500 Other Operating Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2510 Transfer From Restricted	645.00	0.00	645.00	
2520 Misc Income	806.08	0.00	806.08	
Total 2500 Other Operating Income	\$ 1,451.08	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,451.08	
Total Income	\$ 412,346.76	\$186,628.00	\$ 225,718.76	220.95%
Expenses				
3000 Administrative	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3010 Conferences	585.57	400.00	185.57	146.39%
3020 Copier Service	4,055.01	4,500.00	-444.99	90.11%
3030 Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3031 Brazos Association	999.96	1,000.00	-0.04	100.00%
3032 UCM (United Campus Ministry)	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.00%
3033 OCWM	4,752.00	4,750.00	2.00	100.04%
Total 3030 Dues	\$ 7,251.96	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 1.96	100.03%
3050 Financial Services	929.44	660.00	269.44	140.82%
3060 Gifts Given	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	
3070 Insurance - Property	6,152.50	7,757.00	-1,604.50	79.32%
3080 Bank / VANCO Fees	1,013.86	800.00	213.86	126.73%
3090 Mortgage	20,825.66	0.00	20,825.66	
3091 Church	2,666.34	22,092.00	-19,425.66	12.07%
3092 Portable Building	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Total 3090 Mortgage	\$ 23,492.00	\$ 22,092.00	\$ 1,400.00	106.34%
3100 Office Supplies	1,229.57	1,000.00	229.57	122.96%
3110 Postage and Delivery	523.20	250.00	273.20	209.28%
3120 Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3121 Gas & Electric	7,686.09	10,950.00	-3,263.91	70.19%
3122 Internet	599.16	840.00	-240.84	71.33%
3123 Telephone	1,043.70	880.00	163.70	118.60%
Total 3120 Utilities	\$ 9,328.95	\$ 12,670.00	-\$ 3,341.05	73.63%
3130 Non-Budgeted Expense	11,792.35	0.00	11,792.35	
3150 Personnel Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3160 Technology	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3161 Website Hosting	191.76	195.00	-3.24	98.34%
3162 Electronic Newsletter	126.00	130.00	-4.00	96.92%
Total 3160 Technology	\$ 317.76	\$ 325.00	-\$ 7.24	97.77%
Total 3000 Administrative	\$ 68,072.17	\$ 57,704.00	\$ 10,368.17	117.97%
4000 Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4010 Christian Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4011 Curriculum	695.45	396.00	299.45	175.62%
4012 Supplies	141.15	192.00	-50.85	73.52%
4013 Vacation Bible School	0.00	192.00	-192.00	0.00%
4014 Youth Group	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.00%
Total 4010 Christian Education	\$ 836.60	\$ 1,080.00	-\$ 243.40	77.46%
4020 Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4021 Other Advertising	44.00	0.00	44.00	
4022 B/CS Eagle	900.00	1,080.00	-180.00	83.33%
4023 Evangelism Misc	319.20	100.00	219.20	319.20%
4024 Radio	0.00	550.00	-550.00	0.00%
4025 Verizon Phonebook	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4026 Area-wide Phonebook	0.00	66.00	-66.00	0.00%
4027 Internet Advertising	134.03	500.00	-365.97	26.81%
4028 Website Hosting (deleted)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4029 Electronic Newsletter (deleted)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 4020 Evangelism	\$ 1,397.23	\$ 2,296.00	-\$ 898.77	60.85%
4030 Fellowship	1,538.74	1,400.00	138.74	109.91%
4040 Mission	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4041 Brazos Church Pantry	360.00	360.00	0.00	100.00%
4042 Mission Trip	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.00%
4043 Missions Misc	47.49	100.00	-52.51	47.49%
4044 Family Promise	309.79	274.00	35.79	113.06%
4045 BIIN	480.00	480.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 4040 Mission	\$ 1,197.28	\$ 1,364.00	-\$ 166.72	87.78%
4050 Nurture	145.22	200.00	-54.78	72.61%
4060 Spiritual Growth	150.50	200.00	-49.50	75.25%
4070 Worship	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4071 Supplies & Misc	1,399.64	800.00	599.64	174.96%
4072 Music Copyright	0.00	185.00	-185.00	0.00%
4073 Guest Musicians	600.00	500.00	100.00	120.00%
4074 Music	1,983.40	2,330.00	-346.60	85.12%
4075 Piano Tuning	285.00	300.00	-15.00	95.00%
Total 4070 Worship	\$ 4,268.04	\$ 4,115.00	\$ 153.04	103.72%
Total 4000 Programs	\$ 9,533.61	\$ 10,655.00	-\$ 1,121.39	89.48%
5000 Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	

5010 Building & Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5011 Mowing Services	4,800.00	4,800.00	0.00	100.00%
5012 Pest Control	538.50	850.00	-311.50	63.35%
5013 Repairs & Maintenance	2,556.85	4,000.00	-1,443.15	63.92%
5014 Supplies	579.32	500.00	79.32	115.86%
5015 Custodian	5,392.54	7,600.00	-2,207.46	70.95%
Total 5010 Building & Property	\$ 13,867.21	\$ 17,750.00	-\$ 3,882.79	78.13%
5020 Guest Ministers	500.00	2,000.00	-1,500.00	25.00%
5040 Payroll Taxes	1,401.23	1,808.00	-406.77	77.50%
5050 Personnel Advertising	379.75	100.00	279.75	379.75%
5070 Stewardship	205.85	250.00	-44.15	82.34%
5100 Personnel	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5110 Pastor	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5111 Salary	28,068.00	28,068.00	0.00	100.00%
5112 Parsonage	28,068.00	28,068.00	0.00	100.00%
5113 Pension	5,313.51	5,988.00	-674.49	88.74%
5114 403b	1,564.44	1,564.00	0.44	100.03%
5120 Continuing Education	248.45	400.00	-151.55	62.11%
5121 Health Insurance	5,092.12	5,076.00	16.12	100.32%
5122 Life Insurance	483.96	484.00	-0.04	99.99%
5123 Mileage	1,254.29	2,000.00	-745.71	62.71%
5124 Professional Expenses	959.00	400.00	559.00	239.75%
5125 Pastor Discretionary Fund	575.69	400.00	175.69	143.92%
5126 Other Travel Expenses	1,922.37	0.00	1,922.37	
Total 5110 Pastor	\$ 73,549.83	\$ 72,448.00	\$ 1,101.83	101.52%
5130 Associate Pastor	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5131 Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5132 Parsonage	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5133 Pension	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5134 403b	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5135 Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5136 Health Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5137 Life Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5138 Mileage	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5139a Professional Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5139b Pastor Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 5130 Associate Pastor	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
5140 Wages	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5141 Administrative Assistant	5,191.13	4,000.00	1,191.13	129.78%
5142 Childcare workers	1,809.26	4,200.00	-2,390.74	43.08%
5143 Director of Music Ministries	10,417.92	10,418.00	-0.08	100.00%
5144 Pianist	4,431.50	4,641.00	-209.50	95.49%
Total 5140 Wages	\$ 21,849.81	\$ 23,259.00	-\$ 1,409.19	93.94%
Total 5100 Personnel	\$ 95,399.64	\$ 95,707.00	-\$ 307.36	99.68%
Total 5000 Trustees	\$ 111,753.68	\$117,615.00	-\$ 5,861.32	95.02%
9000 Restricted Fund Disbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00	
9010 One Time	12,922.48	0.00	12,922.48	
9020 Tenzin	300.00	0.00	300.00	
9030 Journey	500.00	0.00	500.00	
9040 Slumber Falls	1,882.50	0.00	1,882.50	
9050 Capital Campaign	130,409.19	0.00	130,409.19	
Total 9000 Restricted Fund Disbursements	\$ 146,014.17	\$ 0.00	\$ 146,014.17	

9500 SCC (5x5) Disbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00	
9510 Christmas Fund	689.00	0.00	689.00	
9520 Neighbors in Need	1,497.10	0.00	1,497.10	
9540 OGHS	1,156.00	0.00	1,156.00	
9550 Strengthen the Church	350.00	0.00	350.00	
Total 9500 SCC (5x5) Disbursements	\$ 3,692.10	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,692.10	
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Total Expenses	\$ 339,065.73	\$185,974.00	\$ 153,091.73	182.32%
Net Operating Income	\$ 73,281.03	\$ 654.00	\$ 72,627.03	11205.05%
Net Income	\$ 73,281.03	\$ 654.00	\$ 72,627.03	11205.05%

Operating Carryforward from 2012	\$ 39,900.00
Operating Carryforward to 2014	\$ 44,900.00
Capital Carryforward to 2014	\$ 59,546.00