

**Annual  
Church Life Report  
2017-2018**



**OAK LAWN  
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**The Rev. Barbara DaCosta, Pastor**

**OAK LAWN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
2017-2108 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## Pastor's Reflections for 2017-2018 Annual Church Life Meeting

I would like to begin this reflection by telling you that I have looked over all the reports submitted to our very dedicated administrative assistant, Sue Morris, and I am absolutely in awe of all that you do here at Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church.

I have felt that way since I started my ministry here five and a half years ago. The truth is, I could not do ministry at our church without you. We are so blessed to have so many gifted, talented and dedicated people in our church family.

You may not realize it, but the pastor attends all of the Board and many of the committee meetings and attends and is a part of most church functions and services. I say that to let you know, I see the labor of love that goes on here. From my viewpoint, everyone contributes to making our church the very welcoming, caring and fun community of faith that it is.

Every year, when it comes time to prepare for these reports, I struggle because I don't want to leave a single person out in the giving of thanks for a job well done. The following reports you are about to read are rich with the details of who did what and when but there is much unmentioned, as well. The bottom line is everyone here deserves thanks. Yes, it is true that some people consistently take on a larger role than others. To those people I remind you of the promise we find in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Having said all of the above, I want to thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do among us. I am certain that the Lord is aware of your service and I can envision Jesus someday saying to you and me, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful with a few things... Come and share your master's happiness."

In the meantime, I look forward to what lies ahead! I look forward to:

- ❖ Preparing sermons and sharing my insights into God's word with you from the pulpit;
- ❖ My conversations with our children;
- ❖ My pastoral visits with you;
- ❖ Communicating with you through our monthly newsletter "Oak Leaves" and our Christmas and Easter letters;
- ❖ Sitting together in the study of the Scriptures through our Wednesday morning Adult Bible Class and Advent and Lenten Series;
- ❖ Through planning and holding Christmas and Holy Week Services;
- ❖ Through working together on our historical May Day Breakfast;
- ❖ Through lifting our hearts together in praise to God through beautiful music;
- ❖ Through sharing a really good cup of coffee from week to week (and occasionally a fine wine somewhere);

And so on!

I feel very blessed to be the pastor of the best church ever and pray that we will continue to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

May the Lord bless us, indeed, as we continue to journey together, pastor and people, to seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness.

Gracefully yours,



Pastor Barbara

### **From the Moderator - 2018**

Dear Friends,

As you are reading this you have already (or will soon) experience the excitement of our annual church school Sunday and the various class presentations and talents on display at so many levels. The theme for the day talks of the various ways these young people grow in their faith and renew their spirit whether it be through the learning and sharing of bible stories or studying books of the bible or speaking of those who have inspired and encouraged them on their faith journey.

In many ways though it is easy to reach a point where, for us as adults, we would tend to coast through our faith assuming as we age that the journey is on track for completion. Funny thing about coasting though.... the only way to maintain movement is to go downhill! So, as adults, I encourage and challenge you to embrace this theme as a congregation in what we do together and within each of us. For me, I am inspired in my faith by the words of C. S. Lewis:

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream"

As I leave the Moderator post, I know and have felt how inspiring you as a congregation and individually have been for me and I am forever grateful for that. Thank you, kind and caring folks of all ages, and keep up the good works.

Submitted by:



## 2017-2018 Report of the Membership

**Membership June 1, 2017** **220**

### Changes

<b>Members Who Have Gone to Glory:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Charles Roper	10/19/2017
Joyce Cady	12/30/2017
<b>New Members</b>	<b>Date</b>
Jenna Antunes	9/10/2017
Lars Anderson	3/25/2018
John Moran	3/25/2018

**Membership June 1, 2018** **221**

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzan Morris, Church Secretary

## 2017 – 2018 Report of the Hospitality Committee

Thanks to the generosity and hospitality of Cheryl Boragine, Robin Butzier & James Marsocci, Darlene Conti, Marilyn Emery, Pat Metcalf, Joyce MacGray & Ruth Simmons, Priscilla, Tatiana & Talea DiCecco, Nancy Larson & Joanne Wales, Linda Palazzo, Pam Pearson & Jenna Antunes, Corinne Ricketson, Milly Smith & Bill Drozdal and Amy Thibodeau, those who sought Fellowship following Worship, also found Devine Refreshments to Enjoy!

Our thanks and appreciation also to the Board of Christian Education who provided monthly birthday cakes and celebration, Lynne Kemp and Bob Butzier who coordinated desserts and special treats on Mother's Day and Father's Day and to Brenda Murray Wall, whose generous donation provided refreshments on Children's Day.

Thanks also to Robin and ALL who helped with details of Clean- Up- certainly not as glamorous, but part of the job!

As we look forward to next year, please consider signing up (with a friend or two) to provide refreshments for Coffee Hour. Goodies of all kinds (even store-bought) are always welcomed and appreciated!



Marilyn Drummond

## **2017-2018 Report of the Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet monthly throughout the year. In July we met at the home of Janet Breckenridge where we enjoyed our fellowship, Janet's beautiful yard and fish pond, and a bag lunch. Pam continues to provide a delicious coffee cake each month, Janet coupon shops for yarn, and Chuck Wales provides our cards. Pam's friend, Marion, has given us several crocheted shawls for which we are very grateful.

Church members and friends have taken over 30 shawls this year to give to family members and friends who are ill, grieving or just having a bad day. Cards have been received thanking us for a shawl and telling us how it has helped them in their time of need. Excerpts from two of the cards are as follows. "It is so wonderful to wrap the shawl around my shoulders ... The immediate warmth that envelopes me, both from the shawl and from the knitter's love, is beautiful." "Thank you so much for the prayer shawl and most especially for your thoughtfulness and comforting gesture. I am finding comfort in holding the shawl when I read or watch TV... Your gift is very heartwarming and appreciated."

In addition to prayer shawls, we have created and donated children's sweaters, baby sweaters, baby hats and baby blankets to the World Vision "Knit for Kids" project and to the childbirth clinic in the Philippines where Carol's granddaughter is studying to be a midwife.

Please continue to take a prayer shawl to friends or family members as needed along with a card and be sure to sign our book located on the table by the pastor's office.

"For I was sick, and you cared for me, bereaved and you gave me comfort, lonely and you reached out to me." (Matthew 25:35-36 paraphrased)

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Rathbun, for the Prayer Shawl Ministry

## **2017-2018 Report of the Memoirs Group**

Our Memoirs Group was presented with some interesting personal vignettes this year illustrating our diverse and wide-ranging backgrounds

To maintain the freshness and energy within our group, there ought to be an adequate number of members offering their short observations and life stories.

But, sadly, for a variety of reasons, some find it difficult to join us regularly. So, in that regard, all of us in the Memoirs Group have become recruiters, ready to answer queries and, we hope, spark an interest in some to see and feel the benefit of sharing small parts of their lives. So please consider joining us and, as ever, STAY TUNED.

Submitted by:  
Charles Wales

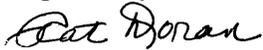
## **2017-2018 Report of the Future's Committee**

The Committee has met several times during the year.

Cash for Causes program continues to be successful with many of our members purchasing Stop and Shop gift cards regularly. \$2,000.00 was transferred to the general budget in October. Other funds have been used to maintain our Adopt-a-Spot and to provide the luncheon for our Bring a Friend Sunday in March.

John McCann has continued to keep our web page updated and has added pictures to the site. We are currently discussing using a direct mailing postcard to all the homes in the area.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Doran, Chairperson

## **2017 – 2018 Report of the Flower Committee**

The Flower Committee organized the schedule for flowers on the Altar on a weekly basis as well as for the church calendar Holidays. Pastor Barbara or the Worship Leader announced who was being honored or remembered with flowers and/or the Memorial Candle each Sunday.

Advent Season was especially beautiful and festive. The Hanging of the Greens was wonderful, and the multi-colored poinsettia plants were picturesque. The Altar was adorned with white poinsettias while the right corner of the Sanctuary was decorated with multi-colored poinsettias shaped in the form of a tree.

On Easter the committee used their creative skills to surround the tomb with Lilies, Daffodils, and Tulips. Symbolically brightening a pathway for Jesus as he departed from the tomb.

I want to say a sincere thank you to the dedicated committee members who shared their talents, and their time to beautify our church. It was my pleasure to work with these artistic, gifted women. Marilyn Drummond, Nancy Larson, Dee Kolb, Lynn Gilleney, and Pam Pearson.

Respectfully submitted,

Rennae Bell, Chairwoman

## **2017-2018 Report of the Pastoral Relations Committee**

The members of this committee are: Pam Pearson, Dottie Wilbur, Jim Ellison, and Judy Butzier. Our responsibility is to be a liaison between the Pastor and the Congregation ... to check in periodically to see how things are going. We have been doing that and I must say that life at Oak Lawn seems to be going well. There have been no major issues brought to our attention. We continue to support our Pastor in every way we can. For these reason, we are truly blessed. Pastor and People ... together for the Kingdom of God.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Butzier

## 2017 - 2018 Report of the Music Committee

The Music Committee had a very challenging yet fulfilling year. In September, Judy Deion notified the committee that she would be retiring as the director of the Sanctuary Choir. The committee chose to recognize Judy for her incredible 18 years of service on Sunday, December 17, 2017 during coffee hour. Thank you, Judy!

The Music Committee was then charged with finding a new director. Beginning in October 2017, the search began. Fortunately, our search remained close to home. After interviewing three very capable candidates from our church family, the Committee offered the position to Corinne Ricketson. Corinne graciously accepted and began later that same month.

In December, the Music Committee was faced with another challenge. Unfortunately, Mary Ackroyd fell days before the Christmas Eve service and broke her wrist. Although we found a substitute for Christmas Eve, we were in need of a substitute for the duration of her leave. Again, we are so blessed in our church family with so much musical talent. Marilyn Drummond filled in for Mary until she was able to return. I cannot thank Marilyn enough.

There are so many people I would like to thank for commitment to the music ministry at Oak Lawn. Thank you to:

- The Sanctuary Choir
- The Bell Choir
- Our instrumentalists
- The music ensembles and soloists
- Our newest group, Sweet Sounds
- Mary Ackroyd, for your musical messages each Sunday
- The congregation for raising your voices to the Lord during worship

And finally, thank you to the Music Committee for your guidance and support this year. The Committee members are:

Mary Ackroyd  
Pastor Barbara DaCosta  
Judy Deion  
Marilyn Drummond  
Bob Kolb  
Corinne Ricketson

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Gilleney  
  
Chair, Music Committee

## **2017-2018 Report of the Board of Deacons**

A common theme of service over this last year has been “reaching out.” Our church website managed by John McCann (<https://www.olcbaptistchurch.com/>) now includes photographs depicting fellowship opportunities, programs, contact information and events of tradition such as Bible Study (including Advent and Lent), Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship (St. David’s), “The Little Drummer Boy” Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve Service, the annual May Breakfast, Craft Fair and others. Each of these forms of outreach touches lives in many ways.

The members of this board have met and worked diligently to serve in several capacities. Visitation, worship leading, serving communion and coordinating with Pastor Barbara DaCosta to plan engaging services of worship were intentional points of focus. Providing ushers, flowers and supporting the ministry of music are elements God uses to activate His word in all willing hearts. Thank you to those who have volunteered to usher over this last church year. Some members have served for a month at a time; some single weeks in the rotation and youth came forward also! It is wonderful to see each person serving through the tradition of ushering in worship services. Each of these pieces functions in a small way to forge a strong body that promotes worship...personal, individual and communal; according to the needs of its people.

In October and April, Pastor Barbara took opportunities to travel and recharge. Two gracious pastors filled the Pulpit, Dr. Cynthia Smothers and Rev. Charlie Hartman, respectively. The board was thankful that our pastor was able to take some time to find rest, as we all need to “come away.” On October 22nd, the deacons accepted the retirement of Judy Deion from the position of Music Director. Corinne Ricketson was hired for this position shortly afterward, on October 25th. The strong and effective music tradition at church continues!! In April, the Board of Deacons was pleased to accept the membership of three new members, Lars Anderson, Jenna Antunes and John Moran. Just before May Day this year, the culmination of a heartfelt dedication was realized with the Adopt-A-Spot monument in memory and thanks for the life and dedicated service of Kevin P. Doran.

As I step away from the Board of Deacons in June, this account will give testimony to the many working hands enabled by active hearts of service here at Oak Lawn. May each hand and heart be welcomed with its unique offerings of Christian service toward others.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Margery Jones, Secretary/Treasurer for The Board of Deacons

## **2017-2018 Report of the Board of Christian Education**

In reflecting upon the past year of the Board of Christian Education, the word that came to mind was commitment. The members of the Board are not only committed to the continuing Christian education of the God's children, but also to each other. Robin Butzier, as Superintendent, is committed to the Christian nurturing of both her children and her teaching team which includes Pam Pearson and Millie Smith in the Beginner and Middle classes, respectively. Assisting in these classes are Joyce MacGray and Lissie Wagner, and more recently Priscilla DiCecco in Joyce's absence. Bob Butzier joined Robin in the Youth class, and Priscilla and I helped in the nursery. Brooke Taylor and Sharon Nightingale have recently been assisting with our youngest children. Pastor Barbara continues to lead the weekly Adult Bible Study, along with Advent and Lenten studies.

With the closing last year of SPNM, the Board of Christian Education chose the Community Action Partnership of Providence (CAPP) for our new food outreach venue. We thank our congregation for their generosity, so we can continue to provide food to needy families. Also, in community outreach, the Board once again held its Pancake Breakfast to benefit the needs of the SPCA. All those in attendance enjoyed a good breakfast, an entertaining time with Ron Sargent the Balloon Man, and animals benefited from donated food and supplies. The Board of Christian Education also hosted the popular Easter Egg Hunt, and Pumpkin Carving for our community neighbors. Other in-house activities hosted by the Board include Rally Day, Harvest Sunday, Stone Soup with Christmas caroling and cookie decorating, Family/Game/Movie Nights, Bingo Nights, and Family & Fun Sunday at the Masonic Youth Center.

The programs and activities sponsored by the Board of Christian Education are only possible due to the commitment and hard work of its members. I am honored to work with Robin Butzier, Priscilla DiCecco, Jamie Ellison (before leaving for her new job), Millie Smith, and Bill Drozdal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinne Ricketson

## 2017-2018 Report of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has continued its stewardship of the church building, parsonage, and combined grounds of Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church. The Board maintains and repairs the inside and outside of our property. It also handles the church finances and invested funds. Projects undertaken by the Board of Trustees during the 2017-2018 are as follows:

- Replacement of soap dispenser in Ladies Room.
- Painting of parking lot markings and top step of Quaker Room entrance.
- Maintenance and repair of the church alarm system.
- Lawnmower maintenance and repair as well as lawn mowing.
- Repair of the parsonage washing machine and broken attic window.
- Expanded church insurance to cover use of neighboring Buco and Buco back parking lot for church guests.
- Quotes are being collected for professional repairs needed at the church and parsonage as well as the painting of both buildings.
- Naturally Clean continues to clean the church,
- Change of electricity supplier from National Grid to North American Power.
- Tree cutting and cleanup after damage from several storms.
- Insulation of restroom pipes as mandated by the insurance company.
- Arranging for contracted snow plowing.
- Allowing court ordered community service to be done with church supervision.
- US Census Bureau used church space for several training sessions.
- Requests for use of church space were approved by the Trustees.
- Fall and spring cleanups as well as window washing were accomplished.

The Board of Trustees appreciates the support of the church congregation. Those who donate time and talents help the Trustees to maintain the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church buildings and property.

Respectfully submitted by,



Trustees Secretary

## 2017-2018 Report of the Audit Committee

The Committee performed an Audit of the General Fund for the year 2017 using the following procedures:

- Identify all church accounts
- Prepare independent bank reconciliation for last month of year under review and first month of the following year
- Reconcile/Test of cash receipts per books with deposit per bank statements
- Reconcile/Test of cash disbursements per books with bank statements
- Compare/Test Treasurer's receipts with Financial Secretary's records
- Test paid invoices for approval and proper account classification
- Scan check register for unusual entries
- Review "Designated/Held Aside" amounts in general fund

The committee found no material discrepancies or procedural variances.

Respectfully submitted:

William Wilber  
John McCann,  
Lynn Gilleney

Signed by: William Wilber for the Committee

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Wilber". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

## 2017-2018 Report of the Nominating Committee

### OFFICERS

Moderator	Judy Butzier
Assistant Moderator	
Secretary of the Corporation	Julie Ellison
Treasurer	Lynne Kemp
Financial Secretary	Chuck Jones
Church School Superintendent	Robin Butzier

### DEACONS

2021 Jim Ellison  
2021 Bob Butzier  
2020 Lynn Gilleney  
2020 Darlene Conti  
2019 Rennae Bell  
2019 Marilyn Drummond

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2021 Pat Doran  
2020 Bill Drozdal  
2019 Corinne Ricketson  
2019 Milly Smith

### TRUSTEES

2021 Bob Kolb  
2021 Lynne Kemp  
2020 Jerry Napolitano  
2020 Suzanne McMillen  
2019 Scott Lewis

Each term continues until the Annual Church Life Meeting of the year listed.

The Nominating Committee expresses its appreciation to those who have accepted the nominations and to all who have faithfully served and completed their terms.

The Nominating Committee was comprised of the members of the Executive Board.

### **The following is a listing of out-going officers and board members:**

Officers -	Bob Butzier (Moderator) Peg Wood (Financial Secretary)
Deacons -	Linda Palazzo Margery Jones Chuck Jones
Christian Education -	Jamie Ellison Robin Butzier Priscilla DiCecco
Trustees -	Jim Ellison Curtis Miner