

because
you gave...



As we look back over 2014, we have much to celebrate. As you read this publication, we invite you to pray over every ministry, every program, every person connected to the First Pres family. As you pray, use Psalm 100, such a joyful Psalm.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.

For we know that we belong to God and it is He that calls us, every one of us into deeper relationship with Him.

Celebrate.

Embrace joy.

Love deeply.

Remain steadfast in faith.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Jennifer Holz

Senior Associate Executive Pastor

Rev. Dr. John Goodale

Associate Pastor of Caring Ministries

Jim DeJarnette

Minister of Worship and Music

Alison Murray

Executive Director



FIRST PRES ELDERS

Dorothy Alvarez

Paul Batura

Linda Boyles

Keith Bryant

Howard Brooks

Craig Engelage

Kate Fugate

Ralph Gates

Warren Gerig

Dave Jenkins

Marlene Kort

Leah Landolfi

Stu Lark

George Lenz

Jim Martin

Paul Moede

Curtis Olson

Ruth Tepley Quinlan

Cindy Sparks

Stan Stevens

Steve Williams

What is generosity? We hear that word so often, and in so many contexts, it can lose its power. As Christians, we get our model of generosity from God. The Apostle Paul writes, **"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."** (2 Corinthians 9:8)

The last year was filled with transition and change, but the blessing of God was evident to us through the generosity of this Congregation. You freely gave of your time, talent and treasure, building up this body in love as we sought to love the city and those around us.

We can't thank this Congregation enough for the way you've poured yourselves out generously for First Pres. The theme of this year's report is "Because You Gave," and on the following pages you'll see celebrations of life and ministry from the past year.

We've also been blessed by the efforts of five Elders who've worked tirelessly and are stepping down — Cindy Sparks, George Lenz, Dorothy Alvarez, Warren Gerig and Ralph Gates. Cindy served as Chair of the Trustees and the Human Resources Committee, putting in countless hours to help guide crucial First Pres operations. George, too, worked with the Trustees, the budget sub-committee and with the Foundation, and has brought great experience and insight. Dorothy, who serves in College and Young Adult ministry, brought an incredible spirit and passion to all our discussions, and has been such a vibrant part of so many ministries at First Pres. Warren brought his expertise to the Life Safety Committee and served as a liaison to the local law enforcement community. Ralph was a vital part of the First Pres North community and has been active with First Pres missions. And now Ralph has taken on a new challenge of serving as chair for the Pastor Nominating Committee. All five have brought incredible passion and a heart for the ministry of First Pres, and we thank them all for the way they've served this faith community.

The focus for this year is *Living God's Purpose*. Our prayer is that each member of this Congregation, and our church as a whole, will be in prayer, listening for how God is calling us to His purpose in our church, in our homes, in our city and in our world. May you be filled with the Spirit of the Lord and richly blessed this year.

We are so grateful to be serving you in 2015.

Your First Pres Session

...we ministered to



STAFF

Nate Stratman, Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries

Jenn Strehlow, Administrative Associate for Family Ministries

Beth Morrison, Nursery Manager

Nicole Heitman, Nursery Assistant Manager

Carla Olson, Director of First Pres Pre-School

Delma Cliett, Director of Get Set Pre-School

Helen Hazelton, Assistant Director of Get Set Pre-School

Danny Shaw, Children's Ministries Director

Kathy Dobyms, Children's Ministries Associate

Priscilla Wittrock, Administrative Assistant

Scott Boss, Youth Associate

Collin Grant, Youth Associate

Allen Hunter, Youth Associate

Matt Holtzman, Minister for Young Families and Pastoral Care

Ruth Zschoche, MOPS

In the Bible we see the importance of children to the Kingdom of God. It was Jesus Himself who said in Luke 18:16, **"...Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."** Because of your generous gifts, we continue to pour into the lives of children, youth and families. We carry the faith from generation to generation, as countless adults and volunteers model faith to young people who come through our doors. And our youth, in turn, model that faith to the world through countless acts of service to our city, our country and our world. Praise God for the future of His Kingdom!



future generations

2014 By The Numbers

- 💧 **100** Bibles presented to second grade students
- 💧 **12,157** volunteer hours devoted to sharing the love of Jesus with children
- 💧 **4,000** meals served to those in need this past summer
- 💧 **3,696** lunches served to students in Get Set
- 💧 **4,779** donuts eaten in Student Ministries
- 💧 More than **30** adult volunteers in Student Ministries
- 💧 **10** student small groups meeting Wednesday nights
- 💧 **12,000** grilled cheese sandwiches served to Palmer High School students
- 💧 More than **450** hours spent serving God's Kingdom
- 💧 **40** tarps, **12** bags of flour, **20** cans of shaving cream and 400 water balloons to create memories at Crud Wars
- 💧 **36** boxes of gloves used to change diapers in the nursery
- 💧 **1,000** books read in Rise and Shine
- 💧 **282** midweek events where children were cared for
- 💧 **330** carols sung per hour at Carols and Cocoa
- 💧 **30+** couples growing their marriage through dating Wednesday nights



Are You Called to Serve?

Contact First Pres Family Ministries, Jenn Strehlow
884-6220 or jstrehlow@first-pres.org

Prayer Father, we know that You earnestly seek to be part of the lives of our children, for to such as them belongs Your Kingdom. Bless them in their journey of faith, and bless the adults in our community who seek to model Your love to our children and youth. May their example inspire our kids to seek You more deeply. May Your word be planted deep in their hearts, and may it take root and remain an active part of their lives all their days. We give You thanks for the many volunteers who pour their lives into our youth; may You bless them and bless their work. And we praise You for the desire You've put in our youth to serve You by serving our city and those in need throughout our country and our world. We thank You for Your guidance to parents earnestly seeking to raise their children to be people of an unwavering faith and for the resources You provide through this community. Amen.



...we shared God's



STAFF

Katie Fowler, Associate Pastor for
Missional Strategies

Susan Buenger, Global Missions
Associate

Lydia Van Dyk, Administrative
Associate



Our call as God's chosen people is to spread the Gospel far and wide. It was the final instruction Jesus provided His disciples before He left earth. **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

(Matthew 28:19-20) In The Year of the City, as a Congregation, we considered how to model God's love to people in every corner of our city. We also considered that loving cities meant looking beyond our own, as we continued our ministry partnerships around the globe. Whether in downtown Colorado Springs, neighborhoods in Cuba or places of hurt around this country, First Pres helped spread the love of God by loving those in need.



love far and wide

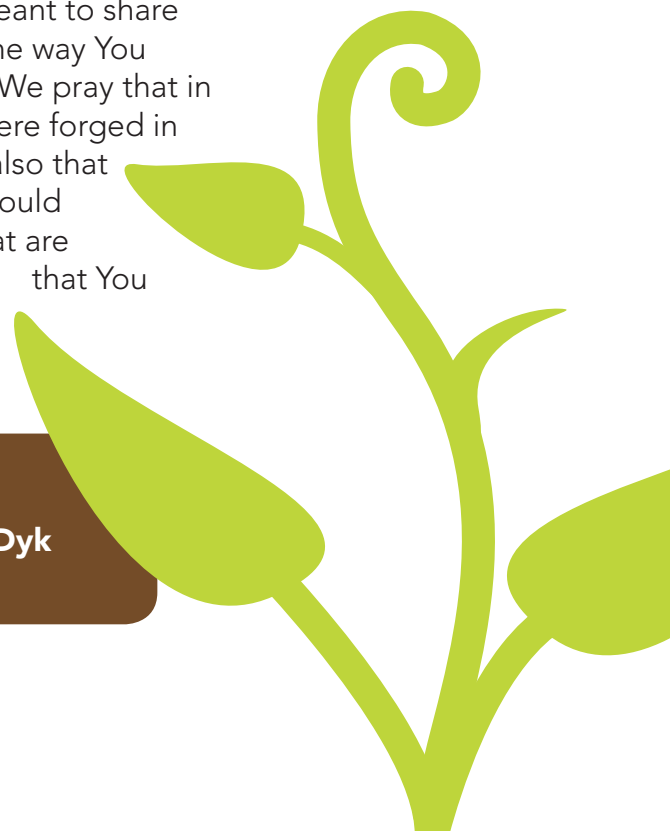
2014 By the Numbers

- 💧 **1** fourth floor is being added to the Compassion Child Development Center in Kalimpong, India as a result of the *Give Back the Blessing* Offering.
- 💧 **21** years of waiting for clean water ended for a community in El Salvador after a First Pres team of eight helped drill a well funded through generous giving to our *Something Significant for Christmas* catalog.
- 💧 **42** Compassion-sponsored children received special gifts from their First Pres sponsors when a mission team visited our partner church in Kalimpong, India.
- 💧 **3** guests from our partner churches in Egypt visited us for the first time, culminating years of partnership development.
- 💧 **\$5,000** was donated to help a team from our partner church in Egypt, Heliopolis Evangelical, as they reached out to Iraqi refugees in December.
- 💧 **4** indigenous churches partner with First Pres: First Presbyterian – Reformed of Havana, in Cuba; Aswan Evangelical Church in Egypt; Presbyterian Free Church of Kalimpong, India; and the Heliopolis Evangelical church in Cairo.
- 💧 **600** volunteers from First Pres blessed our community in a variety of intergenerational service projects during *Loving Our City Weekend*
- 💧 **37** years volunteers have served meals at Marian House Soup Kitchen.
- 💧 **805** bags of clothes donated to Ecumenical Social Ministries during our fall clothing drive.

Prayer Father, in The Year of the City we pondered what it meant to share Your love outside the walls of the church. We praise You for the way You opened our eyes and opened our hearts to those around us. We pray that in the new year You continue to build those relationships that were forged in 2014 and that You continue to help us love our city. We pray also that You help us to love Your people around the world, that You would continue to strengthen our partnerships around the globe that are rooted so deeply in relationship. Above all, Father, we pray that You guide our hands and feet and use us to serve the needs of Your people. Amen.

Are You Called to Serve?

Contact First Pres Ministry in Mission, Lydia Van Dyk
884-6233, lvandyk@first-pres.org



...we worshipped



STAFF

Jim DeJarnette, Minister of Music

Chris Sebby, Director of Music
Administration

Justin Anderson, Worship Leader

Frank Shelton, Organist

Marty Kelley, Volunteer
Coordinator

Marg Killick, Accompanist,
Assistant Organist

David Pantle, Audio Visual Manager

Beryl Glass, Graphic Designer

Jan Weiser, Worship Media
Specialist

Mary Frieg, Welcoming Ministries

Jeralynn Dix, Wedding
Coordinator

Are You Called to Serve?

Contact

First Pres Worship Ministry

Chris Sebby

884-6172 or

csebby@first-pres.org

We are a people called to worship our Creator. **"All the earth bows down to You; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of Your name."** (Psalm 66:4) At First Pres, Worship has always been a core value, and that was exemplified in 2014. We continue to celebrate expressions of worship in many ways and through many avenues. On Sunday mornings worship goes across the world to homes, computers and phones via LiveStream. Worship happens in homes, cars and offices via the our radio ministry, too. This year, as in years past, we laid our gifts at His feet in worship — whether through art, poetry, singing, prayer, playing instruments or volunteering in the technical arts. We are a people of worship.

2014 By the Numbers

- 💧 **933** "Likes" on Facebook
- 💧 **358** households per week worshipping via LiveStream
- 💧 **270** worship services
- 💧 **1,029** first-time visitors
- 💧 **93** new members joined First Pres
- 💧 **31** baptisms at First Pres
- 💧 **36** hours per person spent learning music and preparing for Advent
- 💧 **111** students attended Music and Art camps over the summer
- 💧 **26** pieces of music learned in the month of December

our King



Prayer Father, we praise Your name and gloriously honor You. May we continue to be a people made to worship, not just on Sundays but in every day and every way. Let our worship of You be a witness of Your greatness and glory in the world. Continue to bless those who seek You and who use the abilities You have given them to glorify Your name. Draw us deeper into fellowship with You and help us use our lives to Live Your Purpose each day. Fill our hearts with an overflowing joy, Lord, that we might share Your love with the world around us. Amen.



...we strengthened



STAFF

Jennifer Holz, Senior Executive
Associate Pastor

John Goodale, Associate Pastor of
Caring Ministries

Eunice "Junior" McGarrahan, Pastor
for Discipleship

Sue Hayward, Associate of Caring
Ministries

Angie Forman, Administrative
Assistant for Caring Ministries

Ina Meyer, Associate of
Administration for Adult
Ministries

Renee Brown, General Manager,
Café 225

Sandy Tafoya, Coordinator of Food
Ministry

Caren Clarke, Banquet Captain

Catherine Sloan, Chef

As part of the family of God, we are bonded to one another. **"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."** (Romans 12:5) In this last year, we forged those bonds in many ways. We joined together to grow in faith on Wednesday nights. We served our city and modeled Jesus' love to a world in need. We came around those among us who were struggling, offering care, compassion and love. Every day of the week community is being built within the walls of First Pres, at Café 225 and in homes throughout Colorado Springs. We build community, growing in faith and care for one another. That is the picture of the family of God.

Prayer Father, we know from Your Word that we, as Your people, are the church. You call us to build each other up in love. We pray that we would grow in the depth of our knowledge and love of You, continually finding ways to live Your purpose in our daily lives. Thank You for the many in our Congregation who love You and love us so much that they give of their time to make calls and visits. As we are recipients of these loving touches, may we turn around and do the same for others. We also pray fervently for those who've experienced loss this past year through death, physical limitations, employment, financial resources or in other ways. May we share Your love with those in need in our midst. Amen.

our bond as believers

2014 By the Numbers

- 💧 **954** prayer cards were given to the Monday Morning Prayer Team
- 💧 **40** celebrations of life held at First Pres
- 💧 **1,460** contacts made by the Pastoral Care Team
- 💧 **330** meetings held by Support Groups
- 💧 **2,942** contacts made by Stephen Ministers
- 💧 **443** birthday cards sent to those 80 or older in our Congregation
- 💧 **1,000** visits made by the CanCare team
- 💧 **1,550** visits made to those in hospitals or rehabilitation facilities
- 💧 **136** Deacons serving First Pres
- 💧 **67** volunteers facilitating Help for the Holiday Blues, Mending Broken Hearts and the Grief Workshop
- 💧 **2,991** meals served during the Fall 2014 term of GTW.

Are You Called to Serve?

Contact Caring Ministries

Angie Forman

884-6145 or

aforman@first-pres.org

Discipleship

Ina Meyer

884-6117 or

imeyer@first-pres.org



...we are a sending



2014-2015 GreenHouse Interns

Candice Barry, Pittsburg, PA
Preschool Ministry
Aundraya Garcia, Hutchinson, KS
Global Missions

GreenHouse Board

Mary Anderson
Howard and Dale Brooks
George and Carolyn Cresswell
Jeff and Kathy Freyschlag
Ali Jo Meier
Curtis Olson

"This has been a sending church for a long, long time."

Dr. John Stevens would know. With memory spanning more than 45 years in ministry here, his description sums up a rich First Pres tradition of equipping God's people and launching them into ministry.

Over the decades, we've given special attention to seminarians, new pastors and interns, investing in them significant financial resources, building deep relationships, imparting a grand vision and teaching practical skills.

Caring for Seminarians

When a member of the First Pres family decides to pursue a seminary education and ordination in ECO, he or she applies to come "under care of Session."

Care comes in the form of an elder liaison who provides prayer support, counsel and encouragement throughout seminary. Jennifer Holz explained that this prerequisite for ordination reflects a strong belief in the need for communal discernment on the road to vocational ministry.

Through the years, hundreds of students have attended seminary under the care of the First Pres Session — those as dear as our own Amber Odvody Ayers, Nate Stratman and Matt Holtzman, and those as storied as Rear Admiral Mark Tidd, who recently retired as the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Navy.

Funds from the First Pres Foundation have enabled the church to offset the costs of seminary for those serving on staff, and that has helped us to attract dynamic, talented people to our ministry team.

Building Up New Pastors

Dr. M. Craig Barnes is President of Princeton Seminary. But as a new pastor in the 1980s, he was a beneficiary of First Pres' commitment to equipping and sending.

"I was one in a long line of recent seminary graduates who were hired by First Pres, and who then learned how to be pastors," Craig said. "John Stevens had a great vision for training new assistant pastors and helping them discover how to become true leaders of the church. When I became a senior pastor, I used the leadership insights I learned at First Pres to succeed. When I became a seminary professor, I taught them to my students. Now that I am the president of a seminary, my calling to

GreenHouse Ministry

Today, First Pres equips interns in part through GreenHouse Ministry, a comprehensive and integrated intern development program. GreenHouse interns serve in their area of interest within the church, live together in the home of Jeff and Kathy Freyschlag, and meet regularly to build community and pursue discipleship.

Greenhouse is currently recruiting interns for 2015-2016. See www.GreenHouseMinistry.org for details.

train the next generation of pastors is still guided by the leadership insights I learned at First Pres.”

Dr. Jim Edwards, who served as Minister of Students in the 1970s, concurred. “Your first call as a pastor is a formative experience—either positively or negatively. It sets you on a trajectory of something you want to continue or something you want to avoid. My experience at First Pres was very positive.”

It was the love and vision of the pastoral staff that made the difference for Jim.

“We were colleagues in ministry,” he said. “We were all pulling the cart in the same direction. We had our frictions. It wasn’t always easy, but it was healthy and it was good. It has given me a vision ever since of what the church can be and ought to be.”

Coaching Interns

While being equipped himself, Jim created an internship program in which college students and young adults explored vocational ministry. Under Jim’s leadership, ministry staff and interns met for

four hours each week to discuss books they read together and explore the idea of calling.

This relationally intense model worked. Of the six to eight interns hired each year, many decided to pursue vocational ministry. By the time Jim left to become a professor of theology, he counted at least 30 former interns who had gone on to seminary and who were preparing for or working in ministry.

The Legacy Continues

Our long-term investment in young ministers has returned many blessings to our congregation. Three of our current pastors are among those launched at First Pres: Jennifer Holz grew up in this church and was ordained here. Eunice “Junior” McGarrahan did her first teaching for adult audiences here in the 1960s. And Katie Fowler came to First Pres for pastoral training and stayed on as part of the ministerial staff. Now these three and many others are giving back and providing care and guidance for the next generation.

This year brings a new chapter and renewed commitment to living out our purpose as a sending church. We’ll continue to grow our Greenhouse Ministry and support our seminarians. And a deepening partnership with Fuller Seminary will bring a new stream of interns to our church family.

You Can Be a Part

of the equipping and the sending!

**Contact Lindy Keffer,
Manager of Ministry Giving,
(lkeffer@first-pres.org) to find out how.**

FINANCIALS

First Presbyterian Church Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014

Assets	<u>\$26,514,572</u>
Liabilities	\$ 519,582
Net Assets	<u>\$25,994,990</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$26,514,572</u>

Statement of Activities

	2015 Budget		2014 Actual		Variance	
Total Income	\$6,812,400	100%	\$6,753,804	100%	\$ 58,596	0.8%
Expenses	<u>\$6,762,400</u>	99%	<u>\$6,553,846</u>	97%	<u>\$ 208,554</u>	3.2%
Board Designated						
Capital Reserve	\$ 50,000	1%	50,000	1%	—	
Change in Net Assets	—	—	\$149,958	2%	\$149,958	—

OPERATING BUDGET 2015

Contribution income	6,147,000
Other income	665,400
TOTAL INCOME	6,812,400
Salaries and wages	2,904,537
Benefits	1,058,514
TOTAL LABOR EXPENSES	3,963,051
Program expenses	1,126,084
Missions expenses	599,400
Support expenses	1,073,865
TOTAL NON-LABOR EXPENSES	2,799,349
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,762,400
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	50,000
Board designated capital reserve	50,000
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
AFTER RESERVES	0

First Presbyterian Church Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014

Cash	\$25,068
Investments	\$1,557,207
Donated Land	\$748,448
Total Assets	<u>\$2,330,673</u>

Liabilities	\$0
Net Assets	<u>\$2,330,673</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,330,673

First Presbyterian Church Foundation

Statement of Activities

December 31, 2014

Contributions	\$81,402	53%
Gain/Loss on Investments	\$73,523	47%
Total	\$154,925	100%
Grant Payouts	\$ (56,893)	-37%
Administrative Expenses	\$ (3,000)	-2%
Change in Net Assets	\$95,032	61%

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2014



MEMBERS RECEIVED IN 2014 – 95

CONFESSION
OF FAITH - 34

RESTORED
2

REAFFIRMATION
OF FAITH - 31

TRANSFER IN
MEMBERSHIP - 28

TOTAL LOSSES - 120

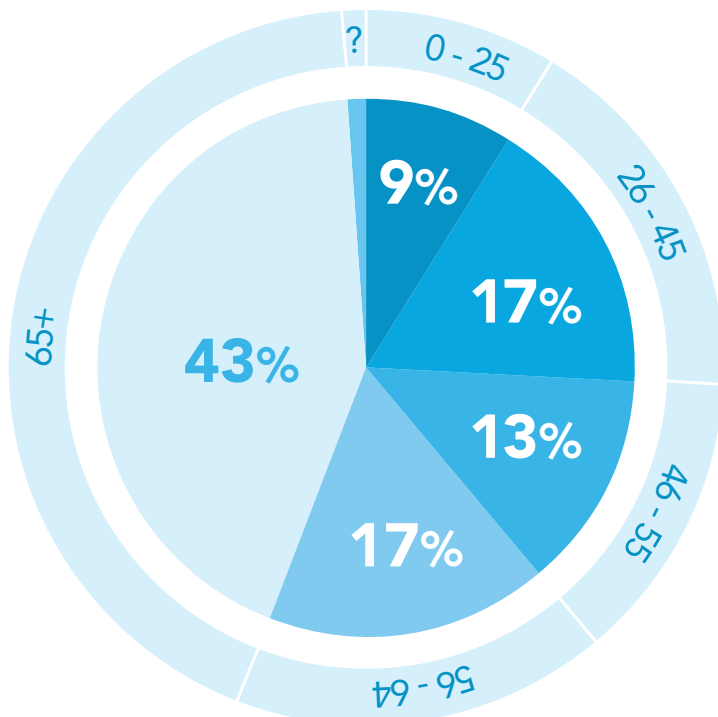
REMOVED FROM
ROLL - 45

TRANSFERRED
OUT - 26

DEATHS
49

BAPTISMS

Infants	18
Child and Youth	12
Adult	1



0-25 yrs	326
26-45 yrs	638
46-55 yrs	492
56-64 yrs	642
65+ yrs	1597
Unknown	41

TOTAL MEMBERS: **3,736**

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: **2,016**



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