FOLLOWING THE GOD MADE KNOWN IN THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS, WE AT PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GATHER AS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY TO WORSHIP, LEARN AND SERVE.

ANNUAL REPORT

2015
2015 AT PEACE

Deaths:
Harry Mumm, Earl Brown

Births:
Kai Latimer Koepf Taylor, Quinn Kathleen Sullivan, Samuel August Eilering

Confirmands:
Grace Gibson, Lily Gibson, Jonathan Gilmore-Haggard, Berkeley Rebman, Alexis Reed, Lily Tesch

Baptisms:
Grace Gibson, Lily Gibson, Samuel Eilering

New Members:
Karin Eftink and Sarah Peyton, Ted Loucks and Tina Robbins, Christopher and Carla Grundy, Elizabeth Beckwith, Ann Fessenden, Mike Rhoads
My report to you will be very short, as my time with you in 2015 was limited to search and call and the month of December. Let me say how excited I am to be here. I have received love and support in this short time that exemplifies abundant hospitality. Thank you.

By now you will have heard the words I use at the beginning of each sermon – penned by Miller Williams and Leonard Cohen. In these days when it is so easy to call names and distance ourselves from people we disagree with; when the rhetoric of fear freezes our hearts and actions - these words are a reminder, a challenge and a comfort to me. They remind me that God’s love is faithful in all times and places. They challenge me be compassionate even when it seems impossible. They are a comfort as they encourage me to hear the good news that even in my failed attempts there is hope. When life is at its most difficult, there is hope. As Nadia Bolz-Weber says in her book, “Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People”:

“Never once did Jesus scan the room for the best example of holy living and send that person out to tell others about him. He always sent stumblers and sinners. I find that comforting.”

And so I share these words each Sunday for you to hear and for me to hear. Perhaps if we listen to them long enough they will take hold.

Have compassion for everyone you meet
Even if they don’t want it. What seems conceit, bad manners, or cynicism is always a sign of things no ears have heard, no eyes have seen. You don’t know what wars are going on Down where the spirit meets the bone.

Miller Williams

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.

Leonard Cohen
During this past year, my ministry at Peace has concentrated on two areas. The first is our continuing efforts to attract new members to the community. I have been working with a circle of folks called the Fishers Circle to determine what we are doing that works and what we need to improve upon. We are using focus groups to help us gain that information and will be using it to fine tune our efforts. The second area of ministry has been working with Laura Bardelmeier and representatives of the United Hebrew Congregation, the Islamic Foundation of St. Louis and the Interfaith Partnership in developing a multi-day program for our 4-7 year-olds. The resulting Sprouts of Peace program is designed to introduce our children to children from the other faith communities, to make new friends, learn about our faith traditions and to have fun. In March, the group will be making a decision about how we might proceed with a week-long summer camp experience.

What wonderful ministry opportunities I’m privileged to exercise! It was great fun to work with such a talented staff and the elected and volunteer lay leadership team during 2015. Bob Molsberry was such a good interim for Peace. He kept us active and focused. I hated to see Kourtney leave us but Darcy is awesome. Kelly is highly skilled and such a joy to greet in the office. Al is deeply committed to faithful ministry and a passion for justice characterizes everything he does. And now there’s Wendy- what a blessing: our future as a congregation under her leadership promises renewed commitment to mission guided by Gospel initiatives. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

My staff role is supporting “sustaining ministries” which includes the development of Care Partners who share clergy visits to members and friends who are in retirement communities, skilled nursing communities, or homebound. It also includes planning for Mary Martha circle. Facilitation “Good Questions” and provides challenge, intellectual stimulation, and much joy. Thanks for letting me serve with/among you at Peace UCC.
Darcy Swanson,  
Music Coordinator

The music department is alive and thriving at Peace United Church of Christ!! The ensembles are busy at work rehearsing and providing music for worship.

Folk Choir
The folk choir had a good year, singing both favorites from the past and learning some new pieces. Thanksgiving Day and Light One Candle were among the group's favorite pieces. They also sang pieces by Ken Medema, Rosemary Crow, Larry Olson, and Karol Baer. A favorite activity for the choir was a campfire sing-along hosted by Lynn and Gretchen Loudermilk. All ages gathered in their backyard where a meal was shared and we sang together accompanied by Dee Ban on the autoharp.

Instrumental Ensemble
The instrumental ensemble enriches our worship with their music each month, providing music for prelude and postlude, as well as playing along on the service music. Our ensemble includes youth, people that love to play, and experienced musicians. Everyone in the ensemble works together and encourages each other while making beautiful music. The ensemble has played pieces by Haydn, Chopin, Grieg, and Beethoven this past year. Our ensemble also plays for Christmas Eve and Easter services. You will find members of our ensemble providing music for weddings, memorial services, and special music during the summer months.

Chancel Choir
The chancel choir experienced the positive impact of collaborating as they worked with Webster Groves Presbyterian, Christ Lutheran, and Webster Groves First Congregational UCC to present Ola Gjello’s double choir Sunrise Mass in May with orchestral accompaniment. We also collaborated with The First Congregational Church of Webster Groves UCC’s chancel choir for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services. The chancel choir hosted the Emmaus Handbell Choir in October as a part of our Multigenerational Disabilities Awareness Sunday. Fellowship is also an important part of the chancel choir. We kicked our year off this fall with a potluck dinner and rehearsal hosted by Rob Hartman. There are also Meet Eat N’ Greets held occasionally throughout the year. Some chancel choir highlights were John Rutter’s All Things Bright and Beautiful, George Fredric Handel’s For Unto Us A Child Is Born and Richard P. Gibala’s The Advent Carol. This dedicated group of talented musicians can be found singing in worship almost every Sunday.

Children’s Choir
The children’s choir collaborated with the youth choir in May to present “Where is the Peace?” This musical provided the youth and children the opportunity to explore peace through word and song. The children’s choir rehearses each week working on beginning music reading skills and vocal techniques. Disco dancing breaks and playing Boomwhackers are some of the choir’s favorite activities during rehearsal when they are not singing. Children’s choir sings for worship once a month.

Youth Choir
The youth choir rehearsals are so much more than just learning our music. They are a time for sharing, building community, spiritual growth, and instilling in our youth the understanding they have valuable gifts to share in worship. Youth choir gathered over Thanksgiving weekend for a potluck followed by a rehearsal. They also have the tradition of celebrating the end of their year in May with a meal at P.F. Changs. Our choir works on part-singing and vocal techniques as we prepare our anthems for worship each month.
Multigenerational Opportunities
This year the worship and learning teams have worked to provide multigenerational opportunities for all ages. In the music department we have provided these multigenerational experiences:

Multigenerational Choir
Choristers of all ages gathered to sing three times during the summer months, which had been previously known as summer choir, and then twice this fall. We sang Uyai Mose arr. by Kevin Holland with percussion accompaniment and congregational participation on World Communion Sunday. Thanksgiving Sunday we sang Come Sing Your Thanks to Our God by Terry D. Taylor with rhythm instruments and congregation participation.

Handchimes
We have gathered the handchimes that once lived in the pews and have started a handchime choir. The enthusiasm is alive and building within this new ensemble. They rehearse on the third Sunday of the month between services and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. They played familiar carols during the prelude at the Family Christmas Eve Service and have accompanied the children’s choir on a couple of anthems. Stay tuned you will be seeing more handchimes during worship soon!

Joyful Noise Makers
Joyful Noise Makers meets the fourth Sunday of the month between services. It is for all ages that would like to participate in the music program, but without the weekly rehearsals like the other choirs. We meet on Sunday morning, learn a response or short piece of music, add some instruments to it, then lead the response during the 11:00 worship service.

The formed ensembles are only a portion of the gifts and talents this community has to offer! The summer was filled with a wide variety of special music while the choirs were on break, and the winter was capped with congregational carolers singing and delivering holiday baskets to our homebound members made during one of our multigenerational events. Music is so vibrant at Peace United Church of Christ!!!
Katie Huffman, Student Pastor

As the student pastor at Peace UCC, I have had many opportunities over the past five months to participate in and learn about parish ministry. I have attended weekly staff meetings; I have participated in worship; I have preached; I have been introduced to each of the church committees; I have observed learning hour classes; I have led a learning hour class; I have attended church gatherings; and, perhaps most importantly, I have built relationships with the people of this congregation. From the first day I walked through the doors of Peace, I have been welcomed with open arms. You all have made me feel at home, and I am so very grateful. Thank you for your encouragement and support as I continue to learn and grow and serve as the student pastor.

Kelly Archer, Administration & Communications

I continue to find gladness and satisfaction working in the church office at Peace UCC. Each week I appreciate the rhythm that comes from beginning a new worship bulletin on Monday, gathering as a staff on Wednesday afternoon and sending out our electronic newsletter on Friday. And yet among those many ordinary days comes extraordinary moments in the work of our church – ringing the church bells (all day!) in response to the Supreme Court’s ruling on Marriage Equality, packaging up a prayer quilt for Emanuel AME church in Charleston, visiting with the bakers at Bridge Bread when I pick up our communion loaves.

Among the many joys I marked in the church office this year was my attendance at the United Church of Christ Office and Support Staff Conference in April 2015. The conference brought together over 40 UCC staff members from churches, conferences, and the national offices for a time of learning, connecting, and play. Our host church was Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Wayne Indiana and our keynote speaker was Valerie Tutson. Being in the company of kindred spirits was wonderful as we shared stories, best practices and fellowship.

Another highlight of my year in the office came in June, when the Governing Body extended an offer to expand my job to a full time, benefited position at Peace UCC. It was an honor to accept this position and the additional hours allow me to serve the ministry needs of our teams in a greater capacity.

2015 saw an increase in press coverage for Peace. Landing on the cover of the Post Dispatch’s Christmas Day edition was certainly exciting, as was sparking an overdue conversation via the editorial page of the Webster Kirkwood Times as we continued to report our stolen Black Lives Matter Signs. Be it in the newspaper, a Facebook post, or over the phone, sharing the good news of our congregation with the world beyond our red doors is a privilege and a joy. Thank you for granting me this opportunity to serve.
As noted in the 2014-15 campus ministry report in a late spring “News and Notes,” Stillpoint was mostly dormant (due to family illness) in the 2015 Spring I term, resuming a more regular pattern of activities in Spring II. The Listening Post, offered most Mondays for an hour or so, attracted a mix of students, faculty, and staff. A “regular” at the Listening Post was one of the housekeeping staff, who introduced me to several of her colleagues.

“Pause for (No) Thought: Meditation for Everyone” switched from Wednesday to Thursday so as not to be in competition with a free yoga class offered by the Wellness Center. That switch enabled me and a small but regular group of meditating staff to attend both events. One of those staff members had faithfully attended “Pause” as an undergraduate. Due to this group’s interest, “Pause” continued on after graduation through June.

Tables at the Involvement Fair and the Wellness Fair at the beginning of Fall term enlarged Stillpoint’s e-mail list. As in the previous term, the Listening Post drew students, staff, and faculty. A “regular” this term was an undergraduate student who was a generation older than most of his classmates. Several students, faculty, and staff tried “Pause” for one or two sessions, but the more regular meditators were once again staff members. There was enough interest to offer a book group, and those involved chose Buddhist teacher and psychotherapist Tara Brach’s True Refuge: Finding Peace and Freedom in Your Own Awakened Heart. (The other option was Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu’s The Book of Forgiving.) The group met six times, with a final meeting scheduled for spring term. The portable labyrinth appeared in the library three times, once in conjunction with All Saints’ Day and Samhain. In addition, it was available in conjunction with an end-of-term “drop-in event for perilous times,” where participants could also fold peace cranes, make a donation for refugee relief, and/or send notes of support to several U.S. sites experiencing terrorism in 2015 (Charleston, Colorado Springs, and San Bernardino). At the end of the term, I asked those on my e-mail list to send notes of support to Webster’s Muslim Student Association. Finally, in my weekly e-mails, I mentioned off-campus events such as the CROP Walk, my NAMI Basics classes, some Interfaith Partnership listings, the Webster-Rock Hills Ministries “Empty Bowls” supper, and the MCU meeting about the Ferguson Commission Report recommendations.

Staff reports on 2015 would not be complete without a mention of our Interim Pastor, Rev. Bob Molsberry, who served the congregation until November 30, 2015. In addition to preaching and pastoral care, Pastor Bob provided leadership for our 2015 Stewardship Campaign, taught Confirmation, and coordinated special guests for Peace including Rev. Malcolm Himschoot and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. The community gathered for Bob’s last Sunday at Peace and to share a meal and special memories from his time with us.
SHARED MINISTRY REPORTS

GOVERNING BODY PRESIDENT: JOE KELLY

He was well into his eighties when beloved congregation family member Lee Whiston told me it was in looking back that he could best see God’s hand in life’s events.

When I reflect on what our year has been, I get an inkling of what Lee meant.

We have continued to grow and build as a congregation. Whether seen in the faces of our new members, felt in new relationships, or shown in the beginnings of a newer understanding of how Peace fits with and acts in our wider community this has been a year of spirit. Please be sure to read Team Reports for just a few of the uplifting details of life at Peace over this last year.

At risk of stating the obvious (and forgetting too much of equal importance) let me lift up a few highlights. This was the year we fully and equitably recognized the wonderful contribution of our Administration and Communications Coordinator, Kelly Archer. This year also saw our talented and inspiring Music Coordinator, Darcy Swanson, rise to the occasion in our time of need. And through it all, our steadfast pastors, Al and Marilyn and Bob, continued to shepherd through what was beginning to seem like our everlasting interim. If all this was not evidence enough that something was moving through Peace, the congregation—you…us—came forward with truly astounding pledges.

And even with all of this God still had something to say to Peace United Church of Christ in Webster Groves, Missouri. The Search Committee, having labored so long and hard to do its best, did everything we hoped against hope they would. And so, we ended 2015 with a beginning named Wendy Bruner. Talk about your still speaking God!

As look back at 2015 I am struck by the grace that guided Peace to where and who we are now.

Joe Kelly leads a team during our Flood Stories event.
THE COMMUNITY TEAM: JENNY DAVIS, LEADER

The Community Team has hosted several events in 2015. We served fried chicken and all the sides at our end of Sunday school program luncheon. We celebrated the end of Bob’s ministry with us in November with a congregational luncheon. We also celebrated the end of our stewardship campaign at the same lunch. With the hiring of our new minister, we provided a reception in her honor. A pizza/finger foods meal was served after a family-friendly Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Concert, in July.

Several groups, including Circle of Care, Mom’s group, Men’s breakfast, Mary Martha Circle, Artist/quilters meet regularly in hopes of sharing fellowship in our community.
THE FINANCE TEAM: SCOTT GUERRERO, LEADER

“It was a very good year!” Thanks to the exceptional generosity of the members of the congregation and earnings from the Peace Foundation, our total income was very good — $346,582. Thanks to careful spending by the team leaders, and our new parsimonious pastor’s “self-move” with a rent-a-truck, we ended the year with a surplus of $15,423. Our outreach gifts to various organizations totaled $45,760. Our balance sheet is strong with $89,917 being invested in the UCC Cornerstone Fund. As a result of the best-ever stewardship campaign in 2015, it is now incumbent on all of us to use these resources wisely to deliver on our mission to worship, learn and serve.

THE PEOPLE TEAM: LOLA CONTESTABILE, LEADER

My first Governing Body Meeting was in August, 2015. As we proceeded to look at the responsibilities of the People Team, it became clear that I needed team members. John Panhorst is a continuing team member. I recruited other team members whom I believe will be a real asset regarding the functions of the People Team — they are: Paul Detrick and Lynn Loudermilk. Both of these gentlemen are long time members of the church and very familiar with the various aspects of the People Team.

After completing that first hurdle, attention had to be focused on the 2016 Budget. This includes salaries and benefits for the staff. The People Team’s proposed budget was completed with the approval of the Governing Body and input from the Finance Team.

To better illustrate the People Team, the various responsibilities include:

Safe Church Policy – already written and in place. This well written policy will serve as a guide for the People Team, as well as the Personnel Policy. Other functions under the umbrella of the People Team are: Seminary Students, Oversight, Nominating, Pastoral Relations, and Personnel. There are already some circles formed to assist with some of these programs.

Going forward in 2016, our newly formed team’s mission is to strive to ensure that the staff will have confidence in our judgement and our ability to answer any questions and deal with concerns in a professional, yet caring manner. We will strive to keep the best interests of the staff, Governing Body, the other teams and the congregation in our recommendations regarding various initiatives that will arise in 2016.
THE FACILITIES TEAM: GARY BOEHNKE, LEADER

Team – Paul Kachulis, Lil Lau, Will Oberkrom, Al Schon, & Gary Boehnke

Circles – Job Jar (from putting table & chairs back to small maintenance jobs), Monarch Garden (Plantings targeted to feeding Monarch Butterflies), Driveway Garden (east driveway garden), Kitchen (care & improvements to Fellowship Hall kitchen) & Memorial Garden (west side of the bell tower; plant care and improvements)

The Facilities Team has much appreciation for the work done by; Job Jar, Circles and other Volunteers. I have GREAT appreciation for the team members who meet, plan, juggle, debate and supervise repair and maintenance work.

Mission – Together we strive to maintain and enhance the facilities and property of Peace UCC. We plan for current and future needs for the ministry and mission of the congregation and teams at Peace.

If you should have an interest in helping with our mission and/or serving on the team or one of the circles contact any team member.

Budget – In 2015 we had a maintenance and repair budget of $25,000 (Buildings & Property) and this allowed us to make a few repairs and improvements in conjunction with other teams and circles.

New and relocated front east street sign
New ceiling lighting in room 16
New (first ever) front exterior electrical outlet
Repair exterior building floodlights
Clean and stain lower parking lot fence
General maintenance and repairs

We look forward to the 2016 budget of $33,000 with anticipation of being able to address the repair of one of the storm sewer lines, extensive tree maintenance and maybe even repair the leaking bell tower roof.

Capital Fund - Facilities Team has proposed to Governing Body that a Capital Fund (a designated account) be created for the purpose of raising and holding funds for future capital repairs and maintenance items (costs over $10,000). Peace has not had a capital fund account in the past, so when there were capital items that needed repair or replacement Peace would have to get loans and/or ask members for extra donations. Sometimes it took years to raise the needed funds (like with Education Wing roof replacement) and more damage was incurred during the process. We hope members will consider making gifts to the Capital Fund. We have also asked that these funds be placed in an investment account for maximum growth until needed.
THE LEARNING TEAM: DEBBIE GREGG, LEADER

The Learning Team at Peace UCC is always learning, and this year in particular we spent time discovering new ways to support faith formation in our congregation. Though the lessons at times seemed arduous, like not having enough teachers to staff weekly church school classes and not having enough children registered to offer our annual summer program, these very challenges led us to find fresh ideas on Christian education and emerging models for Sunday mornings and beyond.

As we look at the past year and celebrate, we also must look at the future. What does 2016 hold? Christian education, faith formation, learning – whatever the term, can we look beyond the traditional views of ourselves and our faith journey to develop a new model? We experimented in 2015 with an idea that learning is no longer a handful of people teaching our children in grade-level rooms on Sunday morning. The invitation is open: will each of us – each member of the congregation – assist in the process of forming the faith of each other member? Are you ready to live that responsibility?

Meanwhile, some highlights of the past year:

- Monthly intergenerational events where families grow together and people of different generations build relationships while learning from one another. Did you witness the powerful testimonies from The DisAbility Project and the Rev. Malcolm Himschoot?
- Members shared their talents and expertise: Laurel Koepf-Taylor helped us reconsider how we include children in worship; Stacey Morris led a powerful exercise for children on social justice; and Gail Saxton offered her creativity in several ways on numerous occasions. Berkeley and her mother Neale Rebman led a couple of events that focused on outreach.
- Did you participate in our very own flood (stories, that is)? In traditional Peace fashion, we asked the questions about our faith story and brought in stories from other traditions to understand the significance of the story of Noah and the flood.
- Kelly Archer served as our representative to the National Association of United Church Educators Annual Meeting and is participating in St. Louis Association of United Church Educators monthly meetings.
- Carla and Christopher Grundy are leading discussions and activities for youth.
- Major reworking of the Sunday morning learning hour! Musical opportunities, multi-generational opportunities, discussion groups, service projects……
- Sprouts of Peace: The Rev. Al Schon and Laura Bardelmeier have been working with representatives of the United Hebrew Congregation and the Islamic Foundation of St. Louis to develop a special program for 4-7(ish) year-olds. The program will introduce the children of our respective communities to each other in ways that allow them to become friends across cultural and religious lines. This may lead to a new summer program.
- Experimented with a liturgy for children attending shepherds during second service in Advent.
- Hosted a reporter and photographer from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch at the Christmas Eve pageant: Cover story about us on Christmas day!
- So much more. Many, many people have said yes when asked to lead or help with activities and many others volunteered ideas and leadership. I thank each of them heartily for sharing their gifts and ideas.
A church school student makes a food drive sign.

A skit about flooding in various faith traditions.

“Stork” McKinley

Family time at the Drum Circle

A prayer prompt at a learning hour led by Amy O’Brien

“The Last Supper” as represented by can goods.

Church schoolers work together on an activity.

Peace Youth Gathering with Christopher and Carla Grundy

“That Zany Youth Group” welcomes Pastor Wendy!
THE SERVANT TEAM: SANDY BOWE, LEADER

This mission of the Servant Team is three fold: Philanthropy, Outreach and Social Justice. Peace is a “5 for 5” Church – a designation of which we are very proud in that it signifies that Peace supports all of the denominational UCC offerings. These “5” are: One Great Hour of Sharing; Strengthen the Church; OCWM (UCC Basic Support); Christmas Fund; and Neighbors in Need. These “5” drive much of the work done by the servant team at Peace UCC. The year started in a flurry of activity for our team as we worked diligently to fulfill this mission, continued traditional projects, started new ones and continued our focus on social justice as unrest in our communities continue.

The following pie chart highlights our philanthropy. The General Fund provides the Servant Team with 10% of actual income each year and the pie chart shows the gifts made on the church’s behalf using these funds.

Social Justice Activity was threaded throughout the year. In response to some member’s concerns about socially /environmentally responsible investing, Betsy and Melissa met with members of the Endowment Committee in March to learn more about the church’s investments. After speaking with the trustees , we learned that over 23% of its funds are invested with socially responsible companies and that funds are invested in ways that are good for the church financially and also striking a balance with social responsibility.

Through the summer 2015, a book study group convened by Janet Rundquist and Cheryl Palmer to read and discuss “The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in an Age of Color Blindness”. Peace UCC joined other congregations in the “Black Lives Matter” initiative providing funds to support the billboard and yard sign campaign throughout St. Louis.

Attending to our environmental justice mission, another e-cycle event was held in late summer. The response was twice that of last year, e-cycling a total of 5,376 lbs of computers, TVs, monitors, cell phones and printers. Peace also continues its subscription to Green America.

In the shadow of the worldwide refugee crisis and terrorist attacks in Paris this fall, Laurel Hayes coordinated a two prong Alternative Advent event for Peace -the Amnesty International Project and United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ Global ministries project to aid Syrian refugees.

The Webster- Rock Hill ministries is expanding, adding a radio station and more physical space. Wynn Miller has been instrumental in promoting commitment and support to the ministries and helped with a clothing drive that generated funds for the expansion. The Servant Team voted, in principle, to support the Webster Rock Hill Jubilee Campaign through 2016.

Our Yellow Bag ministry has been more intentional to encourage contributions. On the last Sunday of each month, we hand out bags to church members collecting them on Communion Sunday of the next month. The connection with Communion Sunday will hopefully remind people to bring in their donations.

Habitat for Humanity is an effort lead by Elaine Alexander to help others in need for safe warm places to live while giving members a chance to use new skills and build community with other church families. Other rewarding outreach activities we had the opportunity to be involved with included Lydia’s House, Crop Walk, Pride Fest and Gateway 180. These activities, offered by the Servant Team, gave members of Peace UCC the opportunity to reach out and get involved by comforting and supporting the local and global community.
A Vigil in the days following the mass shooting at Emmanuel AME church in Charleston.

Peace UCC, in coalition with other churches, erects a sign that no one can steal.

Peace folk at the 2015 CROP Walk to end hunger

Yellow Bag Ministry

Young volunteers stuff bulletins with information about the UCC national offering “Neighbors in Need”

Peace folks of all ages make pillowcases for children receiving treatments for cancer.
THE WORSHIP TEAM:
SARAH WEBSTER & JANET RUNDQUIST, LEADERS

In 2015, the Worship Team shifted its attention from refreshing our physical worship space to looking at other aspects of the worship service. We partnered with the Education Team to be more intentional about including multi-generational worship opportunities.

This fall the Worship Team "ushered" in some interesting changes. Sarah Webster and Janet Rundquist are sharing the leadership. As we prepared for advent and readied the sanctuary for the Christmas season, we decided to retire our well-worn, traditional garland and replace it with beautiful wreaths. The tree again graced the front of the sanctuary while the altar came forward to help tell the nativity story with the special figurines donated by the Brown family.

Original, homemade and traditional wreaths were donated by the congregation to spread yule time cheer to the narthex and Fireside room. The joyful addition of a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus brought many to church on the Hanging of the Greens Saturday, and once again many hands made light work.

The newly formed chime choir led by Darcy had their debut on Christmas Eve and the children's pageant was the front page story in the Post Dispatch on Christmas Day.