

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE  
MINISTRY REPORT FOR  
2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**BRIEF HISTORY OF COLLEGE  
MINISTRY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**

First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, Florida, has been engaged in ministry to students of the University of Florida since its inception. In 1951, a major step in campus ministry was taken by First Presbyterian Church when the Session approved the building of a Gainesville Student Center. The construction of the Student Center was funded 100% by First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville. The Student Center was constructed on land donated by a member of First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of housing a Student Center. Through the years, First Presbyterian Church maintained its relationship with the Student Center in a number of ways. The church provided annual financial support to the Student Center, members of the church served on Boards at the Student Center, and the church shared staff with the Student Center.

Sometime in 2012, the Synod, which obtained ownership of the Student Center through a conveyance by First Presbyterian Church several years earlier, made the decision to sell the Student Center. The conveyance by First Presbyterian Church was a gift and no money was paid by the Synod. The property was sold by the Synod for \$2.5 million. After costs were subtracted, the Synod received \$1.8 million from the sale.

In October of 2013, after completing its investigation, the Synod consultation team issued its recommendation for disbursement of the "Gainesville Student Center" sale proceeds. In support of their recommendation, they made the following findings of fact:

1. The Gainesville Student Center was 100% funded by First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville.
2. The Gainesville Student Center was dedicated for the purpose of campus ministry in Gainesville, Florida, exclusively.

Based on their findings of fact, they made the following recommendations:

1. The Synod of South Atlantic will be the owner of the \$1.8 million realized by the sale of the Gainesville Student Center.
2. The \$1.8 million dollars shall be invested in the Presbyterian Foundation.
3. Interest earned from the investment shall be given to the Presbytery of St. Augustine for Gainesville campus ministry.
4. Presbytery of St. Augustine shall provide 100% of the yearly Synod funding (minimum \$81,000 - maximum \$90,000) to the First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) Gainesville for its Gainesville campus ministry.

Pursuant to the findings of fact and recommendations of the Synod consultation team, First Presbyterian Church has received the interest from the principal of \$1.8 million which has been invested in the Gainesville campus ministry.

## GOVERNING BODY

As a ministry of First Presbyterian Church, the College Program is under the supervision and authority of the senior pastor, Dr. Robert Shettler, the Board of Trustees, and the Session. The Session has constituted a "College Committee" which directly supervises the activities of the College Ministry. The College Committee is composed of members of First Presbyterian Church who are faculty members of the University of Florida, Elders of First Presbyterian Church, members of First Presbyterian Church, and college students. The College Committee submits an annual report to the Session. Director of College Ministry, Scott Stuart, attends Session meetings and keeps the Session updated on the various ministries in which the College Ministry is engaged.

**COLLEGE MINISTRY STAFF**

College Director	Scott Stuart
College Interns	Derrick Hardin Beth Decker Joe Mueller
Media Tech	Taylor Cook
Church Staff providing support	Senior Pastor Dr. Robert Shettler
Assistant to Senior Pastor	Carol Israel
Director of Music Ministry	Dr. Mark Coffee

## MISSION AND MINISTRIES

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church is “Glorify God, make Disciples, and meet human need”. That Mission Statement is the Mission Statement for each of the committees and ministries of First Presbyterian Church, including the College Ministry.

As the Book of Order points out, we recognize that the life of the church is one, and that it’s worship, witness, and service are inseparable. The Mission Statement gives us guidance in the College Ministry and focuses us on the calling of the church which is to be a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.

### GLORIFY GOD

While our intention is that all the activities of College Ministry would Glorify God, we’ve placed under this heading those activities generally described as Worship.

**Sunday Worship** - First Presbyterian holds an 8:30 and 11:00 Worship Service on Sunday morning. College students attend those services. College students regularly participate in Worship through the following activities: *ushering, singing in the choir, and leading the Children’s Lesson*. In addition, several are involved in teaching Sunday School.

**College Café** - After the 11:00 Worship Service, we have College Café. Members of First Presbyterian Church provide a home cooked meal for students who wish to remain after the 11:00 service. While it is hard to get a grasp on the number of students that attend the 11:00 Worship Service, last year we had 75 to 80 students participating in

College Café. It is a good time for them to relax over a meal and visit with our senior pastor, other staff, and leaders of our church.

**College Sunday** - One Sunday out of the year is College Sunday. Students are responsible for leading the entire Worship Service. They hand out bulletins, take up the collection, serve as lay readers, lead prayers, and provide the message. In the last couple of years, the anthem has been presented by the brothers of KAPPA PHI EPSILON, a Christian fraternity which meets at First Presbyterian Church.

College Sunday in 2016 was a big event for our College Ministry. The sermon was given by Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, President of the University of Florida. His topic was "Learning to be Followers of Christ in College: The Challenge and the Privilege". Also in attendance was Dr. Jackson N. Sasser, President of Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida. After the service, Dr. Fuchs along with Dr. Sasser and their wives joined us for lunch which was attended by 125 students and guests.

**Trajectory** - Wednesday night at First Presbyterian Church is Trajectory. Trajectory is food, Bible Study, and Worship. Students gather in the Sanctuary around the piano to sing hymns. Weekly attendance averages around 50 students.

**Kappa Phi Epsilon** - Monday night is Kappa Phi Epsilon night. Kappa Phi Epsilon is a Christian fraternity. They use several of the classrooms in our Education Building for training. At the end of the training they gather in our Chapel for a Worship Service. Weekly attendance is between 75 to 80 young men. Several of the Elders at First Presbyterian Church have been closely involved with the leadership of Kappa Phi

Epsilon providing encouragement and support. Scott Stuart personally mentors the officers of Kappa Phi Epsilon on a weekly basis.

### **MAKE DISCIPLES**

**Trajectory** - Trajectory falls under two categories. It is Worship as we have pointed out, but it is also making Disciples. Trajectory is a weekly Bible Study. This past year it included a study of the Book of James. Students wrestled with the topic of *what does it mean to be a mature Christian*.

**Kappa Phi Epsilon** - The Christian fraternity, KAPPA PHI EPSILON, also properly falls in two categories. While they close their meetings each Monday night with a Worship Service at our Chapel, the evening for the 75 to 80 brothers begins with classes.

**Tabling** - One of the initial activities for the First Presbyterian College Ministry at the beginning of each academic year is tabling. Scott Stuart and other members of his leadership team are on the campus of the University of Florida the first weeks of each term. Students are provided information regarding the College Ministry Program at First Presbyterian Church. Students are given an item with the church's name, address, and phone number on it like cups. It is an important way in particular to meet freshmen and other students who are not familiar with Gainesville. Last year we had 15 of our leaders and return members of our College Program staff tables on both campuses.

**Small Groups** - During the year, men's and women's small groups are formed within our college group. This is an opportunity for students to meet in smaller groups to go deeper with issues raised in our weekly Bible Study or other issues related to being



a Christian on a college campus. In the past year approximately 30 to 35 students participated in small groups.

**Veritas** - One of the most exciting outreach opportunities we have had in the last couple years at First Presbyterian Church is to partner with the Veritas forum in sponsoring speakers on the campus of the University of Florida. Last year Dr. Troy Van Voorhis, a Professor of Chemistry at MIT spoke. Dr. Van Voorhis shared that as a scientist who has been recognized for his contributions to the field of Chemistry, he found purpose and meaning in the person of Jesus Christ. His lecture on campus drew an audience of over 900 students. The next afternoon First Presbyterian Church hosted a luncheon for leaders of Christian ministries on the campus of the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. Over 75 leaders participated. It was an opportunity for them to hear Dr. Van Voorhis share his journey as a Christian and Professor of Chemistry at MIT. A luncheon was also held for members of the University of Florida faculty. 130 faculty members attended. There were two professions of faith by faculty members.

**Passion** - In January, 15 college students attended the Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. It is three days of challenging speakers, great music, and encouragement to be in the presence of thousands of college students seeking to live lives as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Pumpkin Carving** - An event students look forward to every year is our pumpkin carving contest. This is a great time to invite friends, share a few laughs, and watch the creativity take place. Many times, students are not ready to join a Bible study for various

reasons, but our hope in these moments is to build relationships with students so that when they are ready to ask questions or come to church they know where to find us. 35 students showed up to show their skills.

**Hog Roast** - Though the Gators lost, we were able to celebrate a day of football with a good old fashion Arkansas Razorback Hog Roast. Just days after Gordon Hall was completed we opened up our doors and welcomed the neighborhood by streaming the game, feeding everyone, and giving a Gospel presentation at halftime. We fed 75-80 folks.

**Christmas Celebration** - After a long semester this is a great time to unwind, share a meal, and participate in our annual White Elephant gift exchange. Though many students look forward to this every year this is something that is a little extra special for our international students. It not only serves as time to participate in something unique to our country, but it also gives our students a chance to have conversations about why we celebrate Christmas. 50 students were welcomed by Reverend Dr. Shettler and his wife Connie at their home.

**Rice Night** - It is true what they say, "Rice goes with everything". With this idea in mind, Patty Hill and several others have used this opportunity to make a giant bowl of rice and invite our international students to dinner every Tuesday night. It is at her table we celebrate a meal and discuss scripture in a cultural context. These moments are a small picture of what I believe the great wedding supper will one day look like. Last year over 30 international students participated.

**Thanksgiving Feast** - Many of our students are not able to go home for Thanksgiving. This is a great opportunity for us to come together to enjoy a meal and celebrate Thanksgiving. Our international students seem to particularly enjoy sharing a Thanksgiving meal. It gives us a time to remind students and visitors of the Mayflower Compact and share with them that the Pilgrims left England in part to pursue their freedom to worship Jesus Christ. Last year we had 60 students share a meal.

**PW Conference** - This year First Presbyterian Church had the privilege of hosting a Presbyterian women conference. Our college student assisted in helping park cars, helping conferees load and unload vehicles, provide directions and assist with registration. Our college students spend so much of their time with other college students, they really enjoy spending time with other age groups.

**In His Image** - At the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year, First Presbyterian partnered with a campus ministry reaching Greeks on campus to host "In His Image". The program was directed to young women. The theme was that no matter how many messages the world sends you about how you should look and how you should act, you are made in the image of God and He has a divine purpose. Three young women shared with the group about the journey in finding who they were created to be as children of God. Over 300+ young women participated.

### **MEET HUMAN NEEDS**

**Restock GCM** - Two blocks south of our church is Gainesville Community Ministries. Gainesville Community Ministries provides services to the homeless and

people living in poverty requiring assistance. At the beginning of the summer ten college students spent a day unloading food, organizing and restocking shelves.

**Nicaragua** - First Presbyterian Church has had a relationship with Shalom Presbyterian Church in Esteli, Nicaragua, for over 15 years. During our annual mission trip, members of First Presbyterian Church are involved in construction projects, Vacation Bible School in the surrounding barrios, and distribution of food. In the last two years, college students have made up the majority of our mission team. Nine college students attended this year's trip.

**Hurricane Matthew** - Hurricane Matthew caused considerable damage and erosion, particularly in the Jacksonville area. Eleven of our college students traveled to Jacksonville to partner with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to deploy sandbags and provide other assistance to families whose homes were in danger of flooding.

**Family Promise** - First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville is part of the Family Promise network in Gainesville, Florida. Four times a year First Presbyterian Church is home to three to four homeless families for a period of two weeks. Sunday school rooms are converted into apartments. Volunteers are needed to prepare meals, provide transportation, and serve as hosts. This year approximately ten college students served as hosts for our visiting families.

**Thornwell Orphanage** - This past year 20 of our college students traveled to Thornwell Orphanage in South Carolina. While there, they did chores necessary to keep a farm operating, cooked for families, and engaged in recreation with children. The

highlight of the trip was an opportunity to witness families being reunited with their children.

**Flowers to Homebound** – First Presbyterian Church has a large number of senior members who, because of age and other disabilities, are unable to attend the Sunday Worship service. One of the ministries the college group has been involved in is taking flowers from the worship service, breaking them down into individual arrangements, and delivering them to the homes of our elderly members. This allows our senior members to feel like they are still part of the Body and our college students to visit with members who can share with them the history of First Presbyterian Church.

## MEASURING SUCCESS

One of the questions we were asked by the Committee on Ministry this past Spring was “how do you measure success?” It is a hard question to answer when you look at the mission of the church and its ministries. The Book of Order makes clear that the mission of the church is to participate in God’s mission for the transformation of humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God’s love and calling all people to Discipleship in Christ.

At First Presbyterian we seek to carry out that mission through our Mission Statement, “Glorify God, makes Disciples, and meet human need”. All of the ministries in the College Program are evaluated against that Mission Statement. Each one is looked at to see whether it glorifies God, makes Disciples, or meet human needs. If they do, and we believe each one does, then we believe we are engaged in the mission of transformation described in the Book of Order.

Graduates of the University of Florida and Santa Fe College are leaders in the areas of business, law, medicine, and education. The goal of college ministry is the development of spiritual leaders. Part of how we measure success is seeing students who become Sunday School teachers lead a Worship Service, teach a Children’s Lesson, organize and lead service projects, and lead mission trips. We are seeing students taking on these rolls and be successful in them.

One of the specific goals of the College Ministry at First Presbyterian Church was to increase our presence in the communities of the University of Florida and Santa Fe

College students both on and off campus. First Presbyterian's college program played a key role in the revival of the Veritas forum on the University of Florida campus. In 2016, over 900 students attended a presentation by Dr. Troy Van Voorhis, a Professor of Chemistry at MIT who told them how he found purpose and meaning in his life in the person of Jesus Christ. The next day, over 75 leaders of campus Christian ministries attended the luncheon at the University of Florida where they could explore in depth with Dr. Voorhis some of the issues he raised in his presentation. Over the last three years, over 2,500 members of the university and college communities in Gainesville have attended lectures on the University of Florida campus by Christian academics like Dr. Van Voorhis and John Lennox.

Probably the best evidence of our increased presence within the University of Florida and Santa Fe College communities was this year's College Sunday. The sermon was given by Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, President of the University of Florida. His topic was "Learning to be Followers of Christ in College: The Challenge and the Privilege". In attendance was Dr. Jackson N. Sasser, President of Santa Fe College in Gainesville. After the service, Dr. Fuchs, Dr. Sasser, and their wives joined us for lunch which was attended by 125 students and guests.

We have held several events each year to introduce ourselves to the students living in the condominiums and apartments that surround First Presbyterian Church. One example was this year's Hog Roast. We streamed the University of Florida/Arkansas football game on a big screen in the Fellowship Hall, barbecued a whole hog, chickens,

and sausage and invited the neighborhood. A conservative estimate would be that we fed 75-80 folks. A gospel presentation was given at halftime. What was most encouraging about the experience was that at one point Scott looked around the Fellowship Hall and realized that he only recognized about a quarter of the people there.

At the end of the day, the true measure of success is probably whether lives are being changed by inviting people to find meaning and purpose in their life through the person of Jesus Christ. In the conversations we have with students at College Café, in small groups, at Bible Study, while participating in service projects, we see lives being changed as students commit themselves to a more mature walk with Jesus Christ.



## COLLEGE EXPENSE REPORT

The attached page shows the expenses for the College Ministry at First Presbyterian Church for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. Total expenses are \$112,342.00.

Revenue received from the Synod for the same time period was \$81,000.00. The difference between the expenses captured on the attached report and the income received from the Synod is \$31,342.00. That was paid out of the General Budget of First Presbyterian Church.

A number of expenses and revenues for the College Ministry are not captured by the attached report. The Global Commissions Committee covers \$500.00 of the cost of the Nicaragua Mission Trip for each college student. This is done to allow students who otherwise might not be able to afford the trip to participate. During the time period covered by the attached report, the Global Mission's support for college students' participation in the Nicaragua Mission Trip was \$4,500.00.

During the time period covered by attached report, a member of First Presbyterian bought and donated to First Presbyterian Church a smoker with a cost of \$5,495.00. That smoker was purchased to allow the College Ministry to host special events like this year's Hog Roast.

The support by the Global Missions Committee of College Students Participation in the Nicaragua trip and the donation of the smoker are not captured on the attached

report and constitute an additional \$9,995.00 of support provided by First Presbyterian Church and its members to the College Ministry.

As was pointed out in the report, one of the major outreach efforts in the Fall for our College Ministry was a barbecue held during the Florida/Arkansas football game which was live streamed in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall on a large screen. The renovation included a state of the art AV system so that we could live stream special events geared toward college students. None of the costs of that renovation are reflected in the expense report. We have similarly not sought to capture the additional costs for custodial and other services incurred when hosting large events like a barbecue.

A minimum estimate of the contribution made by First Presbyterian Church to the College Ministry above the \$81,000.00 provided by the Synod would be \$41,500.00.

The budget for the College Ministry of First Presbyterian Church for the fiscal year 2017/2018 has not been finalized. We are still awaiting the final report from the Stewardship Campaign regarding anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year. Although we anticipate some increased expense related to special events and missions, a number of students have already expressed interest in being part of next year's Nicaragua Mission Trip, we believe the expenses for 2017/2018 will be pretty close to those detailed on the attached report.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLLEGE EXPENSE REPORT

(Fiscal Year July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017)

Ministries	Amount
<b>College Outreach</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trajectory (Weekly Bible Studies)</li> <li>• Special Events (Veritas, Hog Roast)</li> <li>• On Campus Ministry (Tabling)</li> <li>• College Missions</li> <li>• College Ministry Support</li> </ul>	\$ 29,028.67
<b>Food and Meals</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Café</li> <li>• Special Event Meals</li> </ul>	\$ 7,748.99
<b>Summer Expenses</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicaragua Mission Trip</li> <li>• Summer Curriculum</li> </ul>	\$ 3,592.00
<b>Staffing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel Costs including benefits</li> </ul>	\$ 75,564.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$112,342.00</b>
<i>*Received from Synod</i>	<i>\$ 81,000.00</i>