



# **FIRST FREE**

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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## SENIOR PASTOR

Jesus tells three stories in Luke 15, - a story of the lost coin, lost sheep, and lost son. Jesus' major point: those that are far away from God matter to God. And if they matter to God - they matter to us.

At First Evangelical Free Church we have stated it this way: our mission is to help individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together. It has been exciting this past year to see us together start to live out our mission in both big ways and small ways.

This past week I was going through some old photographs of my son. I came across a photo taken when he was 5 years old and being presented a Bible as a new Kindergartener. There were 4 Kindergartens getting Bibles that morning at First Free. Then I pictured what took place last fall, when we once again gave out Bibles to our Kindergarteners. Last year on Kick-off Sunday we gave out 20 Bibles.

Our children's ministry is exploding. On average we have over 100 children each Sunday morning in classes. Over 60 children went to Camp Shamineau. We broke new records last year at our Vacation Bible Camp, with over 300 boys and girls attending and over 170 volunteers stepping up and serving. During that week over \$4000 was given by the children for tents for those in Nepal dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake.

One of the more exciting events that happened last year was calling Jason Pensa to be our Youth Pastor. Jason and his wife Emm arrived in Minneapolis in mid-July and immediately jumped in some vans and headed to New Orleans with our Sr. High students on a mission trip. They have kept busy ever since.

Since the fall 109 students have walked through our doors. On average 32 students attend Sunday mornings and 54 students are here on Wednesday nights with 14 volunteer leaders.

In 2015 we continued to engage the city around us. This past year at Serve Minneapolis 55 of us cleaned up around two of our local schools. We gave over 1000 pounds of food to Community Emergency Services. Forty people got up early and handed out water to the runners of the Twin Cities Marathon. And last summer, we hosted the Nokomis Farmer's Market for 16 Wednesday nights in our parking lot.

We want to make sure that if First Free were to disappear from 52<sup>nd</sup> and Chicago, our neighborhood would notice. They would miss us because of the difference we are making together. Our vision is that that our good deeds will create goodwill which can open the door to share the good news!

One other way that we are making a difference is through our care ministries. We are a body that serves and supports each other as well as those outside our church in need. We are blessed to have Maureen Juarez and Dee Huanca as our Faith Community Nurses. This year 26 faithful volunteers cared for our church family which included 257 home visits to the home bound. This type of caring does not go un-noticed.

We have an outstanding staff team here at First Free! Anne Peterson and Shelby Anderson hold things together in the office. Pastor Jay, Beth Brown, Mike Graff, Pastor Jason, Maureen Juarez and Dee Huanca are each gifted and wonderful people to work with. Scott Beckett does a great job taking care of our church facilities and David Kriesel-Koll has been a great addition as our business administrator. This is not only a superb team with a shared vision - but we also have a fun time together.

I also want to say "Thank You" to Jeff Dutton, who is the Chairman of the Council. Jeff has given many hours of leadership to our church body behind the scenes. His wisdom and heart and friendship are invaluable.

I pray that over this next year, we might continue to see many individuals becoming Christ-centered and Christ-sent as we carry out our vision together!

Joel Sutton

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.  
- Romans 12:4-8*

As I was preparing to write this I read through the report from 2015. So much has happened in the last year! At the expense of originality I have decided to leave this verse at the top of the report. It just fits so well with the spirit of service we see every day at First Free. Thank you to all of you for your part in our church family and the many ways in which you serve. I also want to say a special thank you to the members of Council and our Commission members for their commitment. We recognize your service! Thank you to the congregation for your trust in us as we serve in these leadership roles to support the ministry of First Free. We appreciate your prayers and encouragement.

As I reflect back on the events of the last twelve months at First Free I am so grateful in how God answered our prayers. "The Year of Personnel" included the additions of Jason Pensa as our Student Pastor and David Kriesel-Koll as our part-time Business Administrator.

The 18 month journey which ended in Jason joining the staff was challenging at times, but we feel God brought us the right person for the students and for our staff. To me the crescendo for this journey was hearing Jason preach on December 27<sup>th</sup>. One of the quotes Jason brought to us that Sunday was from CS Lewis. The quote is "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." What a great reminder for all of us! We are glad to have Jason's passion for students and humble spirit at First Free Church.

As the budget for the church grew and the complexity of managing the finances of the church increased it became evident we needed dedicated staff to handle these duties. The role just outgrew the bandwidth of a volunteer. The progress we have made with David in role has validated this personnel decision. Not only has David brought more organization to the processes, but his dedicated time has allowed us to improve our infrastructure. An example would be the new payroll tracking system installed this year. These are behind the scenes changes not necessarily seen on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings, but are needed to support the church now and in the future.

Again this year we welcome many new members into the First Free family. The testimonies of these folks - some are long time attenders and some have been at First Free less than 12 months - are so encouraging and remind me how God builds the body of the church. Like the verse says, "One body with many members." We are excited to have these families take this step in their commitment to First Free Church.

I'm grateful to what God has in store for our church. There are exciting plans ahead for the growth of our ministries. As we continue to move forward with the vision of being Christ Centered and Christ Sent Together we have the opportunity to be part of his work in this neighborhood. I'm so thankful for the unity of the church and for the bright future in the horizon.

Finally I want to be sure to thank Joel, Jay, Mike, Jason, Beth, Scott, Anne, Shelby, David, Dee and Maureen for all they do to serve the Lord and the body of this church. Each of them contributes so much to the ministry of First Free. We love you and are so grateful for your talents and abilities. What a blessing you are to this family.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Dutton  
Council Chairman

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 4:11-13*

One of the great things about our Mission Statement (*First Free exists to help individuals become Christ-Centered and Christ-Sent together*) is that once you have that 2-part paradigm in your mind, you start to see it everywhere. Recently, as I had been preparing materials and teaching from Ephesians, I ran across these verses and that 2-part paradigm jumped out at me yet again. Here I read that as a pastor and teacher, I am to equip God's people for service (Christ-Sent), so that the body of Christ might be built up toward unity in the faith and Christ-like maturity (Christ-Sent). That is a job description and an affirmation of God's call on our church all in one. It is also a good way to reflect back on what God has done over the past year.

*"...equip his [God's] People for works for service..."*

One of my goals as I work to implement our Mission is to leverage our Community Groups to provide more training. That is, I want our Sunday morning groups to put an emphasis on teaching "how," as opposed to simply disseminating information. There will always be a place (and need) for the latter, but our Sunday Morning venues provide a great opportunity for us to make practical, hands-on equipping available to a large portion of our congregation.

This past year, we have worked toward that goal by offering more Electives: Gospel Fluency; Dave Ramsey's Life, Money, Legacy; The History of the English Bible; and Evangelism is Relationships. All of these had a focus on training, on putting information into practice. My hope in the coming years is to develop a further range of training-focused Electives that can be offered on a regular basis, and that will address the specific needs and context of our congregation. In addition, I will continue to work with our Community Group Leaders to help them provide more training in within each community.

*"...until we all reach unity in the faith..."*

One of the most exciting parts of the past year for me has been the launch of several new small groups, and the growth of some existing ones. Community can be a tricky business - Paul in fact spends no shortage of time and ink both calling people to unity in the body and then instructing them on how to live in that unity. But community, when it works, is a beautiful thing. I remain committed to growing our Small Group ministry, and to providing for each person in our congregation a simpler and easier path into Small Groups. This past year, "Connections" became one of the key steps in that simpler pathway. Connections is a 4-week program that we now run several times each year, targeted specifically at those who are fairly new to First Free. Over a meal, a time of sharing and prayer, the group gets connected to each other and also has a chance to meet and hear from most of the Staff. Two of those groups have elected to simply continue meeting as a new Small Group. But even when they have not been able to continue, they have helped me to find some of those involved a Small Group that better fits them.

*"...and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

As I look back, I am both grateful for what God has already done in and through First Free over the past year and excited as I consider where we are headed. I am excited by the call God has placed on our church to be a light for him in South Minneapolis, and excited for the ways I see that call take hold in the lives of so many. As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and grow alongside this congregation, and it is my prayer that this next year God would continue to use the ministries and leaders of this church to equip his people for works of service so that we might live Christ-Centered and Christ-Sent together.

Jay Pound

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

What a joy to be a part of a congregation that, as a mark of being Christ-centered and Christ-sent people, believes in worshiping passionately! It's my honor to lead and serve our worship ministry volunteers, as well as our entire body of Christ.

Here's a list of the multiple worship-ministry aspects that have seen movement this last year:

- Base Camp with Kari Taylor has continued strongly. Kari spends time at Base Camp with the elementary-age students singing songs, discussing attributes of God and worship, and even sing songs we use during our worship gatherings. I'm excited to see the forward momentum this is producing in these kids' hearts and lives.
- Also with Kari Taylor, we had our first kid's musical in a couple years this past March. With the focus on being Christ-sent as a child in our community, the musical was a welcomed part of our worship gatherings. Thanks to everyone who committed their time and effort to making the musical happen.
- We've had another year of seeing a steady stream of people show interest in serving in the worship ministry. I want to continue encouraging those who have a worship-gift to approach me; this is an ongoing pursuit, and I pray God continues to bless us with the hearts & gifts for leading worship. We're looking for pianists & keyboardists, lead vocalists, worship producers, guitarists & bassists, and those who have an interest in musically leading rehearsals and services.
- The Deep has continued to grow in its importance to our Christ-centered mark of "praying like it matters". The Deep is a gathering for those who want to linger in the presence of the Lord through worship and prayer. The structure has continued to be shaped by the Lord as we've grown, and I anticipate good things in this next year together.
- Our sanctuary sound-system saw many improvements during the 2015-16 fiscal year, updating and future-proofing our mixing console. We have plans in place to further sanctuary improvements with seating and flooring adjustments, a multiple-camera video installation to record worship gatherings, and updating our lighting system. All of this will be acted on as finances permit.

There is a lot of momentum in each avenue of the worship ministry, but my biggest thrill of it all is that the momentum is being carried by multiple members of our worship ministry instead of solely by myself; I have the privilege of equipping and mobilizing members of our body of Christ to grow in their God-given gifts and to disciple them in the process. This next year will see a lot of growth in our worship ministry once again; and I am thrilled that God, at work through many people in our ministry, will be the One who deserves that credit.

Thanks to Mark McClun and the rest of the worship commission for your encouragement and support. Thanks to everyone in the worship ministry family for faithfully walking through ministry with me. Thanks to our congregation, for a continued opening of your hearts to what God wants to do in and through us.

May we as a church be filled with boldness, peace, and discernment; may God give us eyes to see Him and ears to hear Him as we worship Him. May we embrace the sweetness of intimacy and relationship with our Abba Father. I'm looking forward to continually worship Him together with you.

His,  
Mike Graff  
Worship Pastor

## **CREEKSIDE FRIENDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

### VACATION BIBLE CAMP: VBC at FIRST FREE!

*Everest* VBC brought 300 boys and girls through our doors in June. We were blessed to have 170 volunteers help make this week go smoothly. Most amazing was the impact our missions focus had on our community. We partnered with Reach Global through the Evangelical Free Church to raise money for shelters in Nepal. We felt God calling us to this mission as a powerful earthquake hit Nepal and Mount Everest the day before we kicked off *Everest* VBC. It was incredible to watch over \$4,000 come in to go toward this humanitarian cause.

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Since last April, 22 babies have been born to the First Free community! We have such wonderful families coming and so many new families continue to visit our church. I'm thankful for 4 amazing nursery coordinators who keep the nursery running smoothly. We continue to be so blessed with teachers from the 2's Bees class up through the 6th graders who faithfully teach the boys and girls. 31 teachers share these responsibilities during the school year.

We had our largest group of Kindergartners receive Bibles on Kick-off Sunday. They even moved into a bigger classroom this year to accommodate all 22 children!

The K-4th graders have Base Camp each Sunday at the start of the Bible Time hour. The children focused on worship plus spent time playing games and building relationships.

This year I have been enjoying teaching K-3 Children's Church. This has given me the opportunity to get to know the children even better! I couldn't do it without the 3 adults and the few teenagers who consistently lead the small groups' time of Children's Church. We've been continuing our study of the Old Testament plus took time for "Why Do We Call it Christmas?" and "Why Do We Celebrate Easter?" studies from the *What's in the Bible?* series.

### CREEKSIDE CLUBS

On Wednesday nights we have ~100 boys and girls coming regularly. There are 24 leaders who faithfully lead the kids. The Stockade group and the Girls Rock 46 group each had their own retreats. 100 shoeboxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child that went to Madagascar and Kenya. 25 people went on the Retreat46 at Camp Shamineau in April.

### CHILDREN'S MUSICAL...*GOD OF THIS CITY*

Nearly 60 K-5th graders chose to participate in the children's musical, "God of this City"! Our directors Kari Taylor, Anne Peterson, and Cher Nelson led the rehearsals on Wednesday nights before clubs. The children gave a powerful message about serving in their performances which were on a Sunday morning in March.

### PARENTING SEMINAR...REACHING INTO THE COMMUNITY

First Free hosted a parenting seminar put on by Jim and Lynne Jackson from *Connected Families* in January. 60 adults attended and the majority of them were from outside the church.

### CAMP SHAMINEAU

Last year, over 60 boys and girls from First Free & Creekside Clubs went to Camp Shamineau. First Free continues to offer coupons toward Camp Shamineau and Camp Nathanael to students. For the first time this summer, I spoke at camp & had a blast. Doug and I continue to serve on the board of Shamineau and it's truly a blessing to see how the Lord is blessing this wonderful camp ministry!

THANK YOU to our First Free Family for your prayers and support of the children's ministry!

JOYFULLY Submitted,  
Beth Brown  
Children's Ministry Director

## STUDENT MINISTRY

I count it a great privilege and honor to be able to call First Free Church my church home. It is also crazy to think that it was a year ago when I was going through the interview and candidating process here at First Free Church. I thank God for making it clear that this is where He has called Emm and I to serve.

For me personally, I have been stretched and grown professionally a ton in this past year. The first year on staff in a ministry that is new-to-you is often a hard one as you're learning (or relearning) systems, people, programs, traditions, expectations as well as giving yourself grace to catch up to speed with all that you wish you could learn instantaneously.

From the ministry standpoint, it has been my honor to teach our students week in and week out both at our Wednesday night Youth Group as well as on most Sunday mornings during the Student Community Group hour. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know the students between regular Wednesday night youth group or at Tuesday Coffee with Jason times.

Last summer, we took 16 students down to New Orleans on a missions trip. Between both a Fall Retreat and Winter Retreat at Camp Shamineau we took 54 students to camp. I've watched more students play dodgeball than I thought possible between watching them win it all both times at Camp Shamineau or duke it out in our Dodgeball Tournament Outreach this past spring. It was impressive to watch 48 students serve 275 meals at Terrace on Chicago as you all generously helped them raise over \$16,000 to support them heading on trips this summer!

There have been several things that have been most impactful to me this past year. One is watching a great team of youth leaders who come from all different walks of life model what it means to love on students on a weekly basis. They model what it means to be Christ-sent week in and week out both during small group time as well as outside of it. Another is watching students begin to bloom and pop whether it's in their desire to know Christ more and begin to read about Him in the Word or as they have expressed a desire to serve and witness to their friends. I love hearing from the youth leaders about the ways God is working amongst our students.

Wow, what a year it has been so far, thank you for allowing my wife and I to begin to become a part of this church family. It has been an honor to serve alongside such great staff who have all been encouraging and supporting towards us. It has been an honor to lead such a wonderful team of youth leaders who do such an amazing job as small group leaders and are supportive of me. If there's one thing I would ask that pray as Paul encourages, "To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints [*including students & youth leaders*], and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:18-19)

By God's Grace,  
Jason Pensa  
Student Pastor



## FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

*Beloved I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2.* As we begin our twelfth year, we rejoice in the opportunities to serve at First Free and for your continuing prayers and support.

Visitation continues to be a major focus since there were an average of 39 homebound and hospitalized people each month. Two people took the Visitation Class in the past year. The Faith Community Nurses, Pastors and 10 Trained Visitors made more than 260 visits to homebound or hospitalized persons. In addition, we were privileged to come alongside many people who were not homebound, assisting them in their issues of concern.

Other Areas of Ministry which were overseen or carried out by the FCN's included the following:

- Monthly Blood Pressure Clinics were directed by Holly Doble with assistance from Margaret Jensen and Ruth Peabody. Seventy eight people had their blood pressure taken at least once. Support was provided for those with abnormal pressures.
- The yearly Blood Drive was held with thirty units of blood collected.
- We continue to make contact with expanding families and follow up with those who desire.
- Expressions, a support group for those experiencing chronic illness, met twice a month with Karie Amstutz and Dee Huanca facilitating.
- Two volunteers worked with the prayer shawl ministry and seven shawls were distributed. Another volunteer made twelve quilts that were distributed to New Salem Free Church and the Dominican Republic.
- Mary Kay Brown began a First Free card ministry, sending cards of encouragement to members of the congregation
- Health education classes were provided to the Senior Community Group at their request.
- The yearly update of CPR, use of the automatic defibrillator, and treatment of anaphylaxis was provided to church members and staff by Beth Frangipane and Maureen Juárez.
- The FCNs represented First Free in meetings with Redeemer Health and Rehab Center.
- The FCNs were members of the Caring Commission of First Free.

The Wellness Advisory Team for the Faith Community Nurses met last year to provide wisdom and encouragement. Carolyn Berg, Marilyn Fisher, Beth Frangipane, Nancy Kolb, John Lande, Gail Marchand, Phyllis Nordin, Kathie Solem, Jerry Young and Marlene Ytterboe were members of the team.

Plans for 2016-2017

- Support and encourage volunteers to develop areas of service
- Effectively carry out the roles of Faith Community Nurses, including visitation and providing support to young families.
- Respond to health education needs of individuals and groups at First Free.
- Provide information and assistance in completing health care directives.

The following people went to be with Jesus in the past year: Elizabeth Andersen, Robert Andersen, Gen Anderson, Ardese Barrett, Richard and Marilyn Carlson, Neil Cupersmith, Don Johnson, Cheryl Miller, Marian Nyquist, Estella Roberts, Ruth Swanson, Evelyn Seaberg and Harry Whitehead.

Dee Huanca RN, MS, FCN and Maureen Juárez RN, MS, FCN

## CARING COMMISSION

*Proverbs 16:3 "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."*

Caring Commission is grateful for the generosity of our members. Caring desires to use benevolent funds wisely. Along with the power of prayer, the power of the leading of the Lord; Caring's commitment to lift burdens will succeed.

We have seen members face many trials. They have come in forms of financial woes, physical illness and pain, and spiritual battles. Caring Commission wants to be an encouragement and help to those who are in a time of hurting.

Proverbs 22:9 states, "A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor." A new community group called S.A.L.T (can read about them in December 2015 church newsletter) led the 2015 fall food drive and a 2016 spring food drive. 1,063 pounds of food was delivered to Community Emergency Services in the fall. Thank you to those who contributed food, to Steve and Marlene Maloney who headed up the drive, and the S.A.L.T community group.

For the serving aspect of Caring Commission, we helped with the Baptism picnic and will be serving again this summer, we will be in need of volunteers for 2016 picnic if you are looking to serve in a one-time event we would love your help. We were privileged to be a part of service at the falls. We are grateful to the Agape class who planned and served the Thanksgiving pie social. And the S.A.L.T class for their helping hands for Easter fellowship time. We look forward to serving meals to the many people who will be taking the 101 class for church membership. So many willing hands make these celebrations and classes happen.

Community nurses continue to guide wisely and inform Caring Commission of those who have needs within the church. First Free is blessed to have these godly woman, who serve tirelessly. Marlene Ytterboe's term is up for vice/chair and treasurer of Caring; she has been an example of grace and kindness. She will be missed. Caring Commission members Anne Nordell and Jerry Young give sound judgement and understanding on how to make Caring fulfill our duty to First Free. And Kathie Solem our Council representative brings a rich dimension of boldly going to the throne of God to intercede for the needs of our church body. We miss the cheerful presence of Ryan and Terry Legros who because of work schedule conflicts, felt they could no longer serve on Caring. For the time they did serve we are grateful.

The love of God is at work in our church, may First Free grow abundantly, to become more Christ-Centered and Christ-sent together, for the glory of His kingdom. To that end Caring Commission is open to how God will lead.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Peterson  
Caring Commission Chair

## WORSHIP COMMISSION

Another year has passed and we join in one accord to look forward while drawing upon what we have experienced in our church body this past year. The annual meeting once again is one of our worship services. I trust that what we see, feel, and hear will indeed bring us to worship. Listen closely.

Seeing a slew of dedicated volunteers sing, play, and run the technical aspects of each Sunday brings me to worship as I see God's hand stirring the desire in their hearts to serve. We experienced the joy of remembering and celebrating the lives of the faithful servants of our body that because of their hope in Christ are now part of the "great cloud of witnesses" experiencing what is promised. "I go to prepare a place that where I am you will be also."

We saw the happiness of seeing new life brought into our church. Lives were dedicated to God and we promised we would uphold them in prayer, claiming the promise "bring up a child in the way of the Lord and when old they will not depart from it". We know the thrill of knowing that God's guidance has led people to our church, joining us in proclaiming He is sovereign. The privilege of pastors who proclaim the gospel of salvation: redemption through grace and the blood of Jesus Christ.

The story of God's faithfulness in the lives of our church friends.

Worship is a state of being, not of doing. We bring our requests and praise to Him. We lift up our voices in praise and singing. We give tithes and offerings. We pray for others. We pray for ourselves. We come to gather together. Oh, we do stuff, but if it is without a "heart" of worship, we cheat ourselves. Do we each, always, have a heart of worship? No. But we are called to "present (give away) our bodies (being) as a living (active) sacrifice (less of me and more of you) holy and acceptable (only by the blood of Jesus) and this is our act of *spiritual worship*.

May this day find us as John, "worshipping in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" and celebrating what He has done and what He will do.

Mark McClun  
Worship Commission Chair

## OUTREACH COMMISSION

The Outreach Commission is charged with promoting missions and evangelism.

We are each missionaries in an increasingly dark and spiritually needy culture, involved in spiritual warfare whether we recognize it or not. The future will challenge believers to either conform to the world or suffer persecution. The founders of First Free were concerned that the end of the age was near. Are we?

Matthew 28:18-20: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.'"

Evangelism goes on constantly without any need for input from the Outreach Commission. A lot of what the church does is outreach. Creekside Clubs, Youth Group, Women's Neighborhood Bible Study, both Men's Fellowships and many small groups, MOPS (which Outreach helps fund), VBC, TC Marathon (which has its own team of organizers), Street Fest, Picnic in the Park and many other ministries of the church. Further, there are ministries outside of the church in which our people are involved. Finally, every encounter that each of us has with people that God has placed in our path is outreach for Christ's Kingdom.

We sponsor twice a year Outreach weekends. On October 24-25, 2015, the focus was "Good News to the Poor" with Dan Reeve as the keynote speaker and Rick and Becky Mackey, Julie Turnquist and Jack and Beth Thompson participating. February 20-21, 2016, "Unreached People Groups Next Door" focused on local ministries for which we can volunteer - Carl Nelson of Transform Minnesota was the keynote speaker. Outpost Ministries, New Life Family Services and Arrive Minnesota participated.

Outreach Commission submitted a budget of \$169,200 to the Council this year. We help support 32 missionaries/missionary families (including two indigenous missionaries - one in sub-Saharan Africa and one in the Muslim world) and 9 missionary organizations. We subsidize short term mission trips by our people. We try to inform and inspire our people to pray, give and go, including both to their neighbors and those far away.

The idea of lifetime commitment to missions seems to be less common than it was and the cost of cross cultural missions has risen astronomically. Also, we seem to be losing a generation of sacrificial givers within our fellowship who supported missions as well as the other ministries of the church faithfully.

Do we as individuals and as a fellowship take our faith and our responsibility seriously? Will the Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant"? (Matthew 25:21) Or will it be "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot". (Revelation 3:15)

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Women's Neighborhood Bible Study (WNBS) ladies studied two books this year: *Servants of the Lord* and *Hosea*. This weekly gathering of women from different churches and backgrounds is made up of women of all ages and experiences. WNBS has women from all walks of life - from new moms with babies just a few weeks old to some members who have grandchildren and even great- grandchildren! Some of the women have been in church and Bible study all their lives and others haven't attended church in decades but saw the banner in front of the church and decided to try it out. (The banner out front has brought in many ladies hungry for God over the years!) This year we had a total of 51 registered members including 10 women who served on our leadership team.

Throughout the 2015-16 school year we have had discussions on the book topics and prayed about so many different situations. One of our members brings several children from her in-home daycare with her to WNBS. These children, who have no church background, are cared for, loved and introduced to stories and songs about Jesus by our wonderful nursery volunteers. Seeds are being planted! Someone recently asked one of our members how we are able to fill up an entire 90 minutes -- we wonder how we able to get so much learning and praying accomplished in "just" 90 minutes! We laugh and cry together, share hugs and live life together and sometimes we even sing. We come from many backgrounds and are very different, but in Jesus Christ we come together desiring to know more about God, his Word and to come along side those who desire to grow in their faith.

A big thank you to Scott who sets up for us each week and Leola for faithfully making coffee and coordinating the kitchen. We are so grateful for our loving childcare workers: Beckham, Gail, Jan, Janet, Marie, Russ, and Unni, who make it possible for many young mothers to participate in WNBS each week.

At the beginning and end of each meeting we pray together and we often pray for our church. We feel so blessed to be able to meet here. Thank you to the church body of First Free for enabling WNBS to feed and nurture women of all ages.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanine Bruen  
On behalf of the WNBS Leadership Team

## FINANCE & PROPERTY BOARD

It has been an active year for our church in many ways, and that has included repair and renovation projects. A significant part of that was due to a routine but fairly in depth Fire Code inspection of our building, with a lengthy list of items to change, renovate or repair. Most of that has been taken care of - new Exit Signs, some Door changes and replacements, etc. We are also having the ceiling replaced in Room 102, as well as other repairs. Also among necessary items being done are repairs and waterproofing in the elevator shaft and to the elevator.

I am very grateful for the members of this Board, they have done a superb job! Those stepping down this year will be *greatly* missed!! And, always - Scott Beckett. He is very dedicated, and under-appreciated, simply because he does so much that is truly behind the scenes, but necessary for the use of our facilities, and would definitely be missed if not for his taking care of things without being asked!

We also continue to make repairs to the exterior of the windows around the building, and the interior remodeling has included some kitchen improvements.

Thank you to all of you for putting up with various interruptions as we continue to work to keep this great facility in the best shape possible.

As I said last year - thank you for allowing me to serve, and I *continue* to look forward to many years in this wonderful place of God!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rollin Nordell  
Finance and Property Board Chair

## TREASURER

As we reflect on the church finances for the past year, our hearts are full of gratitude! The budget increase last year was a 3.7% increase, a stretch goal, primarily to fully staff for what the Lord is doing and what we believe He wants to do in our midst. We also wanted to make sure our staff were paid fairly for what they do. What joy to see what God will do when the church body is in step with His Holy Spirit and gives generously "what the Lord has placed on their heart to give". *Thank you each for your generosity and faithfulness to His leading!*

The church fiscal year ended with an operating surplus of \$23,690. Expenses were less than projected by \$44,981 and contributions were less than projected by \$21,291 resulting in this net surplus.

The largest factor to expenses being less than projected was that the Student Pastor started in mid-July and the status of the Worship Pastor with salary adjustments took place in June. Both were budgeted to take effect in April. We also saved \$5,890 in natural gas costs due to lower prices and the milder winter. We don't anticipate this to be repeated in the coming year.

Average weekly income was \$17,016, which is \$409 less than the budgeted weekly income of \$17,425. However, as previously stated, with expenses being lower than anticipated we were able to meet our operating expenses for the year.

The cash balance on hand for operations on March 31, 2016 was \$85,936.

There were no major financial transactions that took place during this fiscal year. Several new doors and exit signs were installed around the church to keep the building up to fire code. Challenge Funds previously contributed were utilized for these projects. The church has no outstanding debts at this time.

The budget being presented for the fiscal year 2016-2017 is a 1.84% increase over last year. With the market increases last year, we are holding staff salaries at the current level with one change. Two office staff are increasing from 32 hours per week to 36 hours per week to meet the current administrative needs. Nurture expenses were increased slightly to keep up with the growing number of children and youth we minister to. The Council instructed the various Commissions and the Finance & Property Board to keep their respective budgets the same as fiscal year 2015-2016, and wherever possible, to reduce expenses.

If there are any specific questions that you might have about the church's finances, please do not hesitate to contact me or David Kriesel-Koll, Business Administrator.

Respectfully,

Julie Danielson  
Treasurer

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee has examined the financial statements and supporting records of First Evangelical Free Church for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016. In our opinion, the financial statements fairly present the results of operations for the fiscal year and the financial condition as of March 31, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Holman - Chairman  
Ben To  
Audrey Zhang

The Audit Committee



## PROPOSED 2016-2017 BUDGET

	Proposed 2016-2017 Budget	Actual 2015-2016 Budget		
<b>PERSONNEL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>				
PERSONNEL	\$ 493,300	\$ 477,000	3.4%	\$ 16,300
PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT	\$ 8,800	\$ 8,200	7.3%	\$ 600
OTHER PERSONNEL EXPENSE	\$ 12,750	\$ 16,750	-23.9%	\$ (4,000)
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 9,800	\$ 9,800		
OFFICE SERVICES	\$ 35,100	\$ 37,300	-5.9%	\$ (2,200)
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$ 559,750</b>	<b>\$ 549,050</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>\$ 10,700</b>
<b>COMMISSIONS</b>				
CARING COMMISSION	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,000	27.5%	\$ 550
NURTURE - GENERAL	\$ 12,800	\$ 10,500	21.9%	\$ 2,300
NURTURE - CREEKSIDE FRIENDS	\$ 29,900	\$ 27,000	10.7%	\$ 2,900
NURTURE - STUDENT MINISTRY	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,650	17.2%	\$ 2,350
WORSHIP COMMISSION	\$ 16,000	\$ 14,000	14.3%	\$ 2,000
<b>TOTAL COMMISSIONS</b>	<b>\$ 77,250</b>	<b>\$ 67,150</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>\$ 10,100</b>
<b>FINANCE &amp; PROPERTY</b>				
BUILDING EXPENSE	\$ 78,835	\$ 79,845	-1.3%	\$ (1,010)
UTILITIES	\$ 44,500	\$ 42,200	5.5%	\$ 2,300
HOUSE - 5147 CHICAGO AVE	\$ 2,230	\$ 3,050	-26.9%	\$ (820)
Rental Income - 5147 Chicago	\$ (4,800)	\$ (4,800)		
HOUSE - 5151 CHICAGO AVE	\$ 2,530	\$ 4,100	-38.3%	\$ (1,570)
Rental Income - 5151 Chicago	\$ (9,000)	\$ (9,000)		
HOUSE - 5155 CHICAGO AVE	\$ 5,250	\$ 7,300	-28.1%	\$ (2,050)
Rental Income - 5155 Chicago	\$ (12,600)	\$ (12,600)		
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	\$ 4,280	\$ 4,600	-7.0%	\$ (320)
VAN EXPENSE	\$ 2,300	\$ 3,100	-25.8%	\$ (800)
SUNDRY	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,950	1.7%	\$ 50

TOTAL FINANCE & PROPERTY	\$ 116,525	\$ 120,745	-3.5%	\$ (4,220)
TOTAL FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES	<b>\$ 753,525</b>	<b>\$ 736,945</b>	2.2%	\$ 16,580
OUTREACH COMMISSION				
EFCA AFFILIATIONS	\$ 13,212	\$ 13,212		
EFCA MISSIONARIES	\$ 41,400	\$ 45,600	-9.2%	\$ (4,200)
NON - EFCA MISSIONAIRES	\$ 69,000	\$ 67,200	2.7%	\$ 1,800
ORGANIZATIONS	\$ 15,516	\$ 13,248	17.1%	\$ 2,268
LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800		
OUTREACH INVOLVEMENT-PROMOTION	\$ 19,300	\$ 19,100	1.0%	\$ 200
TOTAL OUTREACH COMMISSION	<b>\$ 169,228</b>	<b>\$ 169,160</b>	0.0%	\$ 68
TOTAL FOR OPERATIONS	<b>\$ 922,753</b>	<b>\$ 906,105</b>	1.8%	\$ 16,648
			1.84%	

# BALANCE SHEET

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

#### Checking/Savings

12000 · Wells Fargo Bank, NA (Checking)	25,516.85
12020 · CIF Demand 14314221	60,419.29
12030 · CIF Demand 973739 (P&E)	10,971.20
12040 · CIF Demand 973742 (Benevolent)	32,255.65
12050 · CIF Demand 973755 (Memorial)	33,854.92
13000 · CIF Demand 995629 (Special)	19,753.02
13010 · CIF Demand 995632 (Reserve)	26,736.07
13020 · CIF Demand 995645 (Donor Rest)	18,796.29
13030 · CIF Demand 995658 (Challenge)	61,575.38
13040 · CIF Demand 995661 (Council Des)	31,155.49
13050 · CIF Demand 995674 (Outreach)	886.16
12085 · CIF Demand 900647 (Youth Pass)	16,587.02
12060 · CIF Term 143150596 (LT Mission)	40,000.00
12070 · CIF Term 143175364 (Memorial)	27,131.87
12090 · Ameriprise - 8656 9188 5133	62.50

Total Checking/Savings 405,701.71

Total Current Assets 405,701.71

**TOTAL ASSETS 405,701.71**

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

##### Accounts Payable

20000 · Accounts Payable -200.00

Total Accounts Payable -200.00

Total Current Liabilities -200.00

#### Long Term Liabilities

31000 · Benevolent Fund - LIB 31,879.29

31200 · Memorial Fund - LIB 59,689.36

31250 · Outreach Memorial - LIB 865.64

31300 · Challenge Building - LIB 60,636.30

31350 · Youth Pass Through - LIB

31351 · General Youth - Sunday Offering 2,465.94

31352 · PP Student - Jasmyn Danielson 180.00

31353 · TOC Fundraiser - March 13,930.57

Total 31350 · Youth Pass Through - LIB 16,576.51

<b>31400 · Donor Restricted - LIB</b>	
31401 · Agape Community Group	3,187.83
31402 · Seekers Community Group	3,761.79
31403 · Advent & Thanksgiving Fund	1,447.30
31405 · Children - Shameneau Scholars	490.00
31406 · Children's Ministry - General	410.00
31412 · Dom Rep (DR) Team Support	1,475.10
31413 · Faith Community Nurses	205.00
31417 · Music Ministry	500.00
31435 · Operation Christmas Child	160.48
31419 · Staff Christmas Gift	2,204.37
31429 · Youth Scholarship - Student	3,166.74
31438 · Constanza Mission Sport Camp	1,000.00
31431 · Rental Deposit - 5147 Chicago	400.00
31432 · Rental Deposit - 5151 Chicago	600.00
31433 · Rental Deposit - 5155 Chicago A	525.00
31434 · Rental Deposit - 5155 Chicago B	525.00
<b>Total 31400 · Donor Restricted - LIB</b>	<b>20,058.61</b>
<b>31500 · Reserve Fund - LIB</b>	<b>26,400.00</b>
<b>31700 · Council Designated Fund - LIB</b>	
31701 · Health Care Premium Credit	21,939.72
31702 · State of MN - Sales Tax Refund	2,879.85
31703 · Wells Fargo Rewards	5,346.98
31704 · Twin Cities Marathon	600.00
<b>Total 31700 · Council Designated Fund - LIB</b>	<b>30,766.55</b>
<b>31750 · Mission Investment Fund - LIB</b>	<b>40,000.00</b>
<b>31800 · Property &amp; Equipment - LIB</b>	<b>10,716.24</b>
<b>31850 · Special Gifts Fund - LIB</b>	
31855 · Kitchen Remodel - V Fjellman	4,472.80
31885 · Kitchen - Storage for Supplies	5,000.00
31875 · Marquee Sign Replacement	10,000.00
<b>Total 31850 · Special Gifts Fund - LIB</b>	<b>19,472.80</b>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>317,061.30</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>316,861.30</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>35100 · Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>64,822.45</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>24,017.96</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>88,840.41</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>405,701.71</b>

**FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
**Financial Summary for the Period Ending March 31, 2016**

	YTD 2015 - 2016 <u>Actual</u>	YTD 2015 - 2016 <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	2015 - 2016 <u>Total Year Budget</u>
Local Ministries - Income	\$ 754,019	\$ 736,945	\$ 17,074	\$ 736,945
Outreach - Income	\$ 130,795	\$ 169,160	\$ (38,365)	\$ 169,160
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 884,814</b>	<b>\$ 906,105</b>	<b>\$ (21,291)</b>	<b>\$ 906,105</b>
<b>Deficit:</b> Income to Budget (AWI x # of weeks)				
Disbursements				
Personnel & Administrative	\$ 522,672	\$ 549,050	\$ (26,378)	\$ 549,050
Caring Commission	\$ 205	\$ 2,000	\$ (1,795)	\$ 2,000
Nurture General	\$ 10,351	\$ 10,500	\$ (149)	\$ 10,500
Nurture Creekside Friends	\$ 26,159	\$ 27,000	\$ (841)	\$ 27,000
Nurture Student Ministries	\$ 11,273	\$ 13,650	\$ (2,377)	\$ 13,650
Worship Commission	\$ 14,057	\$ 14,000	\$ 57	\$ 14,000
Finance and Property	\$ 113,682	\$ 120,745	\$ (7,063)	\$ 120,745
Outreach - Non Missionary Support	\$ 24,514	\$ 29,900	\$ (5,386)	\$ 29,900
Outreach - Missionary Support	\$ 138,210	\$ 139,260	\$ (1,050)	\$ 139,260
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 861,124</b>	<b>\$ 906,105</b>	<b>\$ (44,981)</b>	<b>\$ 906,105</b>
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 23,690		\$ 23,690	
Average Weekly Income (AWI)	\$ 17,016	\$ 17,425	\$ (409)	\$ 17,425
Number of Weeks into Fiscal Year			52	

**Operations**

	March 2016	YTD
Income	\$ 72,515	\$ 884,814
Disbursements (includes Outreach)	\$ (69,322)	\$ (861,124)
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 3,193</b>	<b>\$ 23,690</b>

**Operating Cash on Hand - EOM**

\$ 85,936

**Balance Sheet - Current Assets**

12000 - Wells Fargo Bank, NA (Checking)	25,516.85	<- Operating Cash
12020 - CIF Demand 14314221	60,419.29	<- Operating Cash
12030 - CIF Demand 973739 (P&E)	10,971.20	<- Designated Fund
12040 - CIF Demand 973742 (Benevolent)	32,255.65	<- Designated Fund
12050 - CIF Demand 973755 (Memorial)	33,854.92	<- Designated Fund
13000 - CIF Demand 995629 (Special)	19,753.02	<- Designated Fund
13010 - CIF Demand 995632 (Reserve)	26,736.07	<- Designated Fund
13020 - CIF Demand 995645 (Donor Rest)	18,796.29	<- Designated Fund
13030 - CIF Demand 995658 (Challenge)	61,575.38	<- Designated Fund
13040 - CIF Demand 995661 (Council Des)	31,155.49	<- Designated Fund
13050 - CIF Demand 995674 (Outreach)	886.16	<- Designated Fund
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12070 - CIF Term 143175364 (Memorial)	27,131.87	<- Designated Fund
12090 - Ameriprise - 8656 9188 5133	62.50	<- Brokerage Pass Through
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>405,701.71</b>	