

Annual Report 2017 of the Independent Presbyterian Church

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**Independent Presbyterian Church
In Memoriam 2017**

Ruth Newsome Brannen	April 27
CAPT Richard Alan Hill	July 22
Ruth Greer Wilson	July 27
Michael Simpson Wilson	August 3
COL Richards Owen Stewart	September 22
John Gilbert Donaldson, Sr.	October 31
Harriet Owen MacRitchie	December 2
Florence Childrey Coleman	December 25

Senior Minister **Terry L. Johnson**

Beginnings and Ends

I wrote extensively about the completion of 30 years as the senior minister of I.P.C. in the 2016 Annual Report.¹ We celebrated the 30th anniversary on October 22, 2017 in a beautiful, understated and wonderful morning of events that included my whole family. Amy Martin and her committee did an excellent job of pulling together all the moving parts and making it a day to remember. The perspective from this year's Annual Report will be that of 2017 as the beginning of the second block of 30 years, a time of beginnings and ends.

Ends

Two extensive sermon series came to an end in 2017. We completed the Gospel of Luke, a series that began November 21, 2010 and completed February 5, 2017. Over seven years were required to complete the longest book in the New Testament. The completion of Luke also marked the completion of a 30-year project. It began on May 5, 1987 with the Gospel of Mark. My goal from the beginning for our congregation included preaching the four gospels plus Acts on Sunday mornings. It took 30 years, but the goal was reached.

Mark – 1987-1989
Acts – 1990-1992
John – 1992-1996
Matthew – 1998-2006
Luke – 2010-2017

The only significant disruption to the Gospels/Acts pattern occurred in 2006-2010 when we preached through 1 John, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and Philipians.

The other sermon series that ended in 2017 was on “The Identity and Attributes of God.” The original intention behind that series was to greet incoming and returning students at SCAD with 10 sermons on God's attributes in conjunction with our partnership with Reformed University Fellowship. My life was forever changed by reading J. I. Packer's *Knowing God* as an undergraduate. I hoped for a similar impact upon local college students. On September 15, 2013 I preached on “The Study of God.” Seventy-two sermons and 3 ½ years later I preached the last of seven sermons on “The Wisdom of God,” completing the series on May 18. This undoubtedly was personally the most meaningful series of sermons I have ever preached. Weekly I was reading the Puritans, such as Stephen Charnock's *The Existence and Attributes of God*, Richard Baxter's *A Divine Life*, William Gurnall's *A Christian in Complete Armour*, and George Swinnock's *The Incomparableness of God*, plus dozens of other Puritan and Reformed authors. Alas, our collaboration with RUF was ineffective and few college students attended, yet I am hopeful that the study of the attributes was a blessing to our people.

Beginnings

New church plant

In January we launched our seventh area church plant. The Rev. Ronald Gleason was installed as our church planter on January 15. This effort has gotten off to a rocky start, though not so rocky as to topple our high aspirations for that work. Our motivation for local church-planting is enhanced in knowing that the six Savannah area daughter-sister churches that we have had a significant role in planting (Grace of the Islands, Kirk, Pooler, Richmond Hill, Beaufort, Bluffton), enjoyed an average Sunday morning attendance of 840 in 2017.

¹ Accessible at www.ipcsav.org.

New staff

Mid-summer we celebrated the beginning of two ministries. We ordained and installed Timothy Shaw as assistant minister on June 25. Evan Gear arrived as intern on July 10. They represent a push on our part to get younger representation on the staff of our church and more broadly in leadership. Ron, Frankie, Kathryn and I are all over 60 years old. Tim and Evan bring fresh energy and perspective to our ministry, helping us to minister effectively to the younger ages who must always be the growing edge of the church.

New officers

A few years ago our Session was looking old as well. Several elders became *emeritus* (McLaurin, Austin, Van Puffelen), several moved away (e.g. Fletcher, Marting), and several rotated off and effectively retired (Dykema, Forester, Brodmann, Gibson, Hale). We lost a total of 11 elders in 10 years. Replacing them in that same 10-year period meant drawing from the younger ranks of the church (and some not so young!): Jody Lanier, Frankie Daniell, John Garnett, Tim Barrett, David Gross, Greg Brunson, Will Brodmann, Marc Biemiller, Wallace Milling, Mike Hazeltine, Steve Jackson, and Roy Thompson. Eleven off, twelve on. The transition has been smooth and speaks well of our ability to maintain institutional memory and continuity while gaining the perspective of the younger families, all by God's grace.

During the same period of time we have ordained and/or installed 25 new deacons. They have maintained the ranks of the diaconate while 15 deacons have moved away and nine have become elders, a net loss of 24 deacons in 10 years, yet their numbers at the beginning of 2018 still are at 24. We can be thankful for our grace-enabled capacity to replenish our leadership with capable and godly young men.

New members

All churches live with the reality of the transient nature of our civilization. As many people as move to the Savannah area and join us move from Savannah and leave us. The turnover is remarkable. One challenge an historic congregation like ours faces is maintaining membership as older members depart this world. Over the past 30 years 259 of our members have died, an average of more than eight per year. Merely maintaining membership is a challenge. This year was not a great year for adding new members. Yet our total membership (communing, in and out of town) stands at 740 (plus 169 non-communing for a total of 909) compared with 529 at the beginning of 1987. Today our largest single demographic is in their 20's. The second largest is under nine years old! The third is between 10 and 19. This bodes well for the future. Here is how our numbers break down:

Under 20	27%
Under 40	51%
Under 60	73%
Over 60	27%

Or we can put it this way:

Under 20	27%
20-39	24%
40-59	22%
60 and over	27%

Our weakest link is in the 30's cohort, amounting to only 9% of the membership. We can say that we are both a young congregation as well as being an older congregation. We are balanced, which is a good thing. The early church was not made up of a single demographic. We know this because the Apostles expected their epistles to be read in the hearing of the various types of persons present in their congregations: married people and single (1 Cor 7), young people and old (Titus 2), parents and children (Eph 6), rich and poor (1 Tim 6), slave and free (1 Cor 7), and Jew and Gentile (Gal 1-3).

New conference

For the first time ever we hosted a multi-speaker conference. We celebrated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses by hosting in March, in conjunction with Midway Presbyterian Church, a conference on "The Reformation's Reforms" featuring Drs. Carl Trueman, Robert Godfrey, David Hall, and David Gobel. We also hosted in June (through the WOC) Dr. Rosaria Butterfield, who spoke on sexual ethics. These events were in addition to our regular Missions Conference and Communion Season services. We're discussing the possibility of hosting the Reformed Worship Conference not every other year, but at some ratio.

New facilities

We fully renovated the carriage house in the lane, what had been a barbecue shop, into a residence for interns. The Gear family moved in the week of September 18. This arrangement has proven to be a boost to our college ministry and a complement to our renovated lane.

Personal

After addressing the Twin Lakes Fellowship in April, I stepped into a whirlwind of speaking engagements from late September to late October.

September 22-30 – St. Petersburg, Russia

October 12-14 – Reformation Worship Conference, Atlanta, GA

October 24, 25 – Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL

October 27, 28 – Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Greer, SC

Otherwise I am continuing to reduce some of my activities. I relinquished the Chatham Bible Study in 2016 after nearly 20 years. This fall I let Veritas Academy know that this would be my last 6th grade history class after over 20 years. Some concessions have to be made to age. Emily and I continue to adjust to our empty nest. Ben is finishing up his senior year at Georgia College and considering law school. Abby is teaching Latin at the Wesleyan School in Atlanta. Sally, Peter, and Audrey are living in Hyde Park, Chicago, close to the inner-city clinic at which Peter is practicing dentistry. Sam spent 2017 in Australia for a non-combat deployment and otherwise at the large Marine Corp facility at 29 Palms. Last but not least, Drew and Caroline are here in Savannah and expecting their first child in June!

I am grateful that God has preserved my health and strength, enabling me to complete 31 years as your pastor. I am equally grateful that the congregation and staff have been willing to tolerate my limitations.

Summary of Senior Minister's Work – 2017

Teaching

Prayer Meeting Devotionals	41
Veritas Academy History	58
Dead Theologians' Society, Jan.-Nov. (39 different men attended; average attendance 16)	31
Reformation's Reforms Conference 1517, Mar.23-25	4
History class on "Christianity" at Savannah Co. Day School, Mar. 29	1
Inquirers' Class	14
Twin Lakes Conference: "Expository Preaching 101" – Apr. 18-20	1
New Covenant, Richmond Hill "Worship the King" conference, "The Reformation & the Church's Liturgy," May 6	1
Trinity Presbyterian, Statesboro "Men's Fellowship Dinner" – "Christian Manhood"	1
College Sunday School – June 25	1
Officers' Training Class – Aug.- Nov.	10
Monthly Intern Teaching/Discussion – Aug.-Dec.	5
St. Petersburg, Russia Pastors Conference, Sept.26-28	4
Reformed Worship Conference Workshop, Midway Presbyterian, Powder Springs, GA, Oct.12-14	1
Shiloh Metropolitan Church Lecture Series, Jacksonville, FL – "The Life of the Church," "The Worship of the Church" – Oct. 24-25	2
Mini Conference on Worship, Greer Presbyterian, Greer, SC – "The Power of the Gospel," "The Means of Grace," "The Program of the Church"	3
Career Bible Study, Devotional at Christmas party, Dec. 14	1
Total	179

AM Preaching

Luke 24:28-24:53 (CLXXXVIII-CXCI)	4
"The Romans Road"- Texts that Transform, Rom. 10:1-13, Jan. 15	1
John 1:1-5:17 (I-XXIX)	29
"Easter Faith," Acts 2:22-41, Easter Sunday, Apr. 16	1
"The Storm of the Lord," Ps 104:1-17, following Hurricane Irma, Sept. 17	1
"The Family of God," 30 th Anniversary Service, Oct. 22	1
"Practical Lessons From the Reformation for the Church's Ministry Today," Rom 1:16, 17 Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29	1
"The Church Jesus Loves," Eph 5:21-33 – Ordination/Installation of Officers, Dec. 3	1
"Learning from the Incarnation," Isa 40:1-11, Christmas Eve	1
Total	40

PM Preaching

The Identity and Attributes of God (LXVI-LXXIV)	9
Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Ronald N. Gleason, Jan.15	1
"The Great Invitation"– Texts that Transform, Mt 11:28-30	1
"Sowing and Reaping" – Texts that Transform, Gal 6:7, 8	1
"The Romance of Ministry" – Eph 3:7-10, Ordination & Installation Service for Rev. Timothy Shaw, June 25	1
"Truth and Lies" – Texts that Transform, 1 Jn 2:3-5	1
"Living and Dead Faith" – Texts that Transform, Jas 2:14-26	1
"The Struggle" – Texts that Transform, Rom 7:18-19, 24	1
"The Power" – Texts that Transform, Jn 15:1-5	1
"Accessing the Power" – Texts that Transform, 2 Tim 3:15-17	1
"The Church's Public Ministry: Pastors & Preaching" – Texts that Transform, Eph 4:11-16	1
"The Church's Public Ministry: Pray, Sing & Partake" – Texts that Transform, 1 Tim 2:1-2	1
"Baptism & Our Children" – Texts that Transform, 2 Chr 24:17-27	1
"Baptism & Childrearing" – Texts that Transform, Eph 6:1-4	1
Lessons and Carols Service Meditation, Dec. 10	1
"God with Us and For Us," Mt 1:18-25, Dec. 24	1
Total	24

Other Preaching

Funeral service for Ruth Newsome Brannen, Apr. 27.....	1
Memorial Service for CAPT Richard Alan Hill, July 22.....	1
Private Memorial Service for Michael S. Wilson, Aug. 3	1
Graveside Service for George D. Hamilton, Aug. 8.....	1
Funeral Service for John Gilbert Donaldson, Sr., Oct. 31.....	<u>1</u>
	5

Total Sermons **69**

Total Teaching/Preaching **248**

Other Duties

Opening Prayer for Savannah “State of the City Address,” Feb. 9.....	1
First Scots Presbyterian, Beaufort, SC Officer Installation service, Feb. 12.....	1
HIS Radio Ads for Reformation’s Reforms Conference (3 ads).....	<u>1</u>
	3

Writing**Books/Magazine Articles:****# of Pages**

“The Rise and Decline of Evangelicalism in the United States” – <i>Evangelical Times</i> , Feb., 2017	6
“Three Pages a Day” – <i>Banner of Truth Magazine</i> , April 2017	3
“Hughes O. Old, A Personal Remembrance” – <i>Confessional Presbyterian</i> , June 2017	6
“Worship in the PCA in 2017” – <i>The Aquila Report</i> , June 29, 2017	6
“Licorice and License” – <i>The Aquila Report</i> , July 9, 2017	3
“The Quest for Biblical Worship” – Part 1 – www.reformation21.org/blog , July 27, 2017	4
“The Quest for Biblical Worship” – Part 2 – www.reformation21.org/blog , Sept. 17, 2017	4

I.P.C. Newsletter Articles:

“John Knox and Worship - 2” – February 2017	3
“Grace Based Parenting” – March 2017	5
“Ordinary Means Parenting” – April 2017	4
“The Well Ordered Home” – May 2017	3
“Our Collapsing Ecclesiology” – June/July 2017	3
“Jesus and the Church” – August 2017	5
“The Apostles and the Church” – September 2017	4
“Where Jesus Is” – October 2017	3
“A Sixth Sola?” – November 2017	3

Pamphlets**New:**

CLXXXVIII.-CXCI. Expositions of the Gospel of Luke; Lk 24:28-53	44
LXVI.-LXXIV. The Identity and Attributes of God	87
III.-XIII. Texts that Transform	119
I.-XXIX. Expositions of the Gospel of John	<u>388</u>

Total number of pages (new writing) **633**

Reprints:

“Fathers: Teach Your Children”	55
“Modesty”	20
“The Stones Cry Out”	260
“An Evangelical and Reformed Faith”	35

“The Lord’s Supper”	85
“The Nurturing of Christian Piety”	35
“Our Order of Worship”	150
“Who We Are”	35
“Abortion, Human Nature and Law”	20
“Saved Through Childbearing”	30
“The Church As It Was Meant to Be”	150
“Observing the Sabbath”	50
“The Five Points of Calvinism”	100
“Childrearing in a Hostile Culture”	<u>100</u>

Total number of pamphlets (reprints) 1125

Pastoral Contacts

Counseling	100
Hospital/home visits	21
Hospitality at Home	50
New member interviews	26
DTS meetings	<u>164</u>
	361

Boards, Committees, and Organizations

Coastal Empire Reformed Fellowship (CERF)
MNA Committee, Savannah River Presbytery
Savannah River Presbytery
Steering Committee of the Twin Lakes Fellowship
Board member – Westminster Theological Seminary California
Lecturer – Westminster Theological Seminary California
Lecturer – Reformed Theological Seminary Charlotte
Lecturer – China Reformed Theological Seminary Taipei, Taiwan
Reformation Worship Conference Steering Committee
Confessional Church Planting Fellowship

Weddings – Baptisms – New Members 2017

Weddings

(*Members of I.P.C.)

Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Martínez (nee Jacquelyn Van Eck)	Mar. 31, 2017
*Dr. and Mrs. Victor Winthrop Rosenfeld (nee Leighann Elizabeth Parrish)	April 29, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. *Josiah Stephen Van Puffelen (nee Christian-Emilee Vining)	May 27, 2017
2 nd LT and Mrs. Alexander Hays Hammond (nee Elizabeth Hancock Woods) @ 1 st Presbyterian Church (USA), Savannah, GA	June 10, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Todd Rodenberg (nee Megan Dian Roberts)	Nov. 18, 2017
*TSgt and Mrs. Daniel Joseph Frasure (nee Caitlin Foster)	Dec. 22, 2017

Baptisms

Cora Lyndal Davis	Jan. 8, 2017
Olivia Anne White	Jan. 29, 2017
Mildred Jean Gibson	Feb. 12, 2017
Brantley Edgar Laffitte	Mar. 12, 2017
Sarah Boyd Hazeltine	July 2, 2017
Luke Timothy Foster	Sept. 3, 2017
William “Will” Gage Henry	Sept. 3, 2017
Sarah Katherine Gibson	Sept. 3, 2017
Ragen Louise Pavlo	Nov. 5, 2017
Steven Anthony “Sam” McAllister, Jr.	Nov. 5, 2017
Howell “Pete” Up De Graff	Dec. 17, 2017

New Members *under age 16

Mr. and Mrs. Seth S. White (Marci) *Olivia Anne (n/c) *Carter Grayson (n/c)	Jan. 29, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. Luke H. Dixon (Emily)	Mar. 5, 2017
1LT Per H. Johnson	Mar. 5, 2017
Dr. and Mrs. Nohl A. Braun (Alyce)	May 28, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Cooper (Karen)	May 28, 2017
Ms. Geneen M. Gibson	May 28, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. William (Nick) A. Greene (Sue)	May 28, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Jackson (Sally)	May 28, 2017
*Miss Laura Candice Jackson	May 28, 2017
Miss Sally R. Prescott	May 28, 2017
*Mr. Andrew (Drew) Paul Rodgers III	May 28, 2017
*Miss Marley Tidwell Rodgers	May 28, 2017
Mrs. Anabelle Schenk	May 28, 2017
Mr. Daniel R. Sharpless	May 28, 2017
Mrs. William D. James (Alexandra)	June 11, 2017
Mr. Matthew Lucas Nyce	June 11, 2017
Mr. R. “Todd” Rodenberg	July 9, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. Evan J. Gear (Jaimie) *Eliza Jane (n/c) *Maisie Lynn (n/c) *Jobe Evan (n/c)	Nov. 19, 2017
*Miss Anna Naomi Hazeltine	Nov. 19, 2017
*Miss Mary Kate Hazeltine	Nov. 19, 2017
Dr. and Mrs. James (Jim) D. Moore, Sr. (Minnie)	Nov. 19, 2017
Mr. Matthew M. Mullinix	Nov. 19, 2017

*Miss Beatriz (Bel) Elena Orellana	Nov. 19, 2017
Mr. J. Stevens (Steve) Stone	Nov. 19, 2017
Miss Hannah Lynn Williams	Nov. 19, 2017
Mr. L. Kris Warren	Nov. 19, 2017
*Miss Lucy Smith Biemiller	Dec. 10, 2017
Mr. and Mrs. Joshua D. (JD) Blevins (Abby)	Dec. 10, 2017
*Mr. Justine Ross Rambo	Dec. 10, 2017

Transfers of Membership–Moved Out–of–Town 2017

(C = communing; N/C = non-communing)
(*children, under 16 yr.)

Transfers of Membership/ Letter

Out-of-town transfers:

Mrs. Carol N. Bowman and Mr. Thomas Bowman, Jr.	Feb	Millbrook Presbyterian Church (PCA), Millbrook, AL
Mr. Glen K. Umberger	March	Redeemer Presbyterian (PCA), New York, NY
Mrs. John B. Carpenter (Rachel Garnett)	April	Westminster Presbyterian (PCA), Dayton, TN
Mr. Clay H. Gibson	May	Carriage Lane Presbyterian (PCA), Peachtree City, GA
Mr. Benjamin C. Gibson	June	Reformed Presbyterian Church (RPC) Manassas, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Maganini (Jan) Linae Paula (n/c)	August	Island Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Hilton Head, SC
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick R. Brown (Ranae) Zachary Joseph Richard (n/c)	September	Oakbrook Community (PCA), Summerville, SC.

Sub-total: 10 communing adults & 2 non-communing children

In-town transfers:

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander M. Jones (Susan)	June	Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
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Sub Total: 2 communing adults & 0 non-communing children

TOTAL Transfers: 12 adults (communing) & 2 children (non-communing)

Moved Out-of-Town (members)

Mr. R. Keith Todd	March	Kentucky
Mr. Gary C. Moore	March	unknown
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick R. Brown (Ranae) Zachary Joseph Richard (n/c)	May	Summerville, SC
Mr. Josiah S. Van Puffelen	June	Chattanooga, TN
Mrs. A. Hays Hammond (Elizabeth Woods)	June	Memphis, TN
Miss Jennifer L. Daniell	June	Chiang Mai, Thailand
Miss Qi Angel An	July	California
Mr. Thomas M. Smith	August	Japan (military)
Miss Lindsay M. Winks	August	Williamsburg, VA
CPT Elizabeth (Grace) Smitham	September	Japan (military)
Mrs. Kathleen F. Ward	September	Atlanta, GA
Miss Virginia H. England	September	Birmingham, AL
Mrs. Harriett C. Gonzalez	November	Kansas
Mr. C. Conrad Martin	November	Birmingham, AL
Dr. and Mrs. C. Wayne Holley	December	Florence, SC

Total: 17 adults + 1 child (non-communing)

Members Removed from Roll

In-Town Members Removed

Mrs. A. Sue Hunnings	
Grace Addison, Ryan Harrison, n/c	August
Miss Brittany S. Singleton	August
Maj. and Mrs. David L. McCaffree, Jr. (Elizabeth)	
(Hannah Maddison and Lillian Erin, n/c)	August

Sub-Total: 4 adults +4 non-communing children = 8

Out-of-Town Members Removed

Mr. Arthur M. Fairley	August
Mrs. Timothy J. Green (Alison)	August
Mr. Jonathan R. Mayo	August
Miss Maria G. Mayo	August
LT COL C. Breckinridge Paris (Mattie)	
Jackson Richard	August
Mr. J. Matthew Sanders	August
Miss Kathryn S. Steward	August

Sub-Total: 9 adults

TOTAL: 13 adults & 4 non-communing children = 17

Moved back to town (members)

Mrs. Daniel R. Sharpless (Elissa)	January
Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Rustine (Barbara)	
Michael Grant	June

Total: 3 adults

Moved back to town (Restored to roll)

Mr. Matthew M. Mullinix	June
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Total: 1 adult

Communing and Non-communing Membership and Attendance 2017

(adults and children, communing and non-communing [n/c])

Additions

Births	9	
Professions of Faith	10	(2 adults; 8 children)
Reaffirmations of Faith	6	
Associates	0	
Transfers of Letter	26	(22 communing adults; 4 n/c children)
Added back to rolls	<u>4</u>	
Sub-total	55	(34 adults; 8 communing, 13 n/c children)

Total Communing Members

Losses

Transfers (in-town)	2	(2 communing adults)
Transfers (out-of-town)	12	(10 communing adults & 2 n/c children)
Deaths (in-town)	6	(6 communing adults)
Deaths (out-of-town)	2	(1 communing adult)
Removed from Rolls (in-town)	8	(4 communing adults & 4 n/c children)
Removed from Rolls (out-of-town)	9	(9 communing adults)
Total (in-town)	-16	(12 communing adults & 4 n/c children)
Total (out-of-town)	<u>-23</u>	(21 communing adults & 2 n/c children)
	-39	

Net Gain In-Town Communing Members	+30	42 in-town gained – 12 in-town lost
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2017 Total In-Town Communing Membership	811	
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Associate Minister

Ronald H. Parrish

It is a great blessing and source of humble satisfaction to serve as one of your Associate Pastors. Christian Education and Pastoral Care are my particular areas of ministry. I oversee the program of Christian Education and work closely with the Christian Education Committee. In the area of Pastoral Care, I work with the Congregational Growth and Care Committee and seek to provide pastoral care to members by means of calls, visitation and especially the hospitalized and shut-ins. I want to thank the chairmen of these committees, John Garnett and Greg Brunson, and the committee members for their support and encouragement.

As a Teaching Elder, I am thankful for the opportunities that I had to teach, preach and assist in worship. I taught this past year throughout the Sunday School, Wednesday noon and the Garmer weekly Bible Study.

It is a joyful privilege to serve with my colleagues Terry Johnson, Tim Foster, Frankie Daniell, Jane Boatright, Amy Martin, Tim Shaw, Josh Espinosa, Kathryn Van Eck, Paul Rodgers and Evan Gear. I value and respect each one for their gifts and the way our differing gifts are blended to work as an effective team.

I am privileged to labor along with faithful and supportive Elders and Deacons. A special thanks of appreciation goes to Dennis Boatright, Clerk of Session, and Wallace Milling, Chairman of the Diaconate, for their faithful leadership and service.

As a Presbyterian, I participated in the work of Savannah River Presbytery and served as a member of the Reformed University Ministry Committee. On November 5, 2018 I will mark 40 years as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. Little did I know then that I would spend over half of my ministry serving on the staff of this great congregation.

I am very thankful to God for giving me a very supportive wife in Donna and four children who are now engaged in the pursuit of careers. Matthew is the Director of Advancement for Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity in Richmond, VA. On April 29, we celebrated the marriage of our daughter, Leighann, to Dr. Victor W. Rosenfeld. Victor is a Neurologist practicing with South Coast Medical and he and Leighann are making their home on Wilmington Island. Andrew is the Director of Communications for Sigma Phi Epsilon and lives with wife, Claire, in Richmond, VA. David was employed with Savannah Neurology Specialists for the first half of the year and is now pursuing other career opportunities. This year Donna completed 22 years at Candler Hospital as a mother/baby nurse. We look forward to her retirement in early 2018.

In June Donna completed an aggressive regimen of chemotherapy for breast cancer that was diagnosed in September of 2016. The first half of 2017 was been very difficult for Donna, but the prayers and support of the congregation were a great source of strength and encouragement. Scans as of December 2017 did not show any sign of cancer, for which we give praise to God. We are very thankful for the many acts of love and support from the members of the congregation. It means more than I could ever express. Thank you for allowing us to serve this wonderful congregation.

Associate Minister **Timothy P. Foster**

My eleventh year at I.P.C. was marked with joys, challenges, and milestones. Caroline and I feel privileged to serve a congregation that loves and prays for its ministers. I am grateful to serve alongside a wise and seasoned pastoral staff. Here are a few highlights from my ministry in 2017.

Preaching — During my Sunday evening preaching, I completed a series on 1 Timothy and began a new series on 1 Peter. I am the primary preacher for our Wednesday Noon Study that meets in Telfair Hall. The combination of lunch and Bible study provides a rich opportunity for spiritual encouragement and fellowship in the middle of a busy week. This year we were able to finish a series on “The Seven Deadly Sins” and begin a new series on the Gospel of Mark.

Teaching — I enjoyed the opportunity to teach some new topics this year. The Winter Sunday School elective featured a new class—*Women and Counseling*—which I enjoyed leading. The purpose of this class was to equip the women of our church to provide godly help and counsel to other women, in fulfillment of the mandate of Titus 2:3-5. I also led an elective during the Fall quarter on *How to Read, Study, & Teach the Bible*. The purpose of this class was to develop basic principles for preparing and leading a Bible study. In addition to these elective classes, I also participated in our regular adult Sunday School rotation and I assisted Mr. Johnson in teaching Officer’s Training.

Pastoral — I served on the Congregational Growth and Care committee as well as two committees of the Savannah River Presbytery (Candidates & Credentials; Sessional Records). I provided pulpit supply at area churches, conducted hospital visitation, participated in weddings and funerals, offered pastoral counseling, and partook in a variety of ministries associated with our church (Dead Theologians’ Society; PRIMES; Coastal Empire Reformed Fellowship). I also served on the Provisional Session for our Bluffton church plant. It was a privilege to preach for the installation service of our church planter, Dr. Ron Gleason, on January 15. The church plant officially launched in May with morning and evening services.

Study — I defended my dissertation in March, and in May I graduated with the Doctor of Ministry (Pastoral Counseling Emphasis) from Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia). It was a rewarding conclusion to several years of fruitful study. I am grateful to the church leadership for allowing me to take this valuable course of study.

Personal — The month of May was a busy one for us. In addition to graduation, we welcomed our second child, Luke Timothy. He was baptized on September 3. He has been a wonderful addition. It has been a joyous year for us. The beloved members of I.P.C. make this such a tremendous place to serve the Lord’s kingdom. Thank you for your continual love, prayers, cards, encouragement, and support for our family. We look forward to what the Lord will do in 2018.

Staff Updates

Jane H. Boatright

The Lessons and Carols service in 1987 was our family's first visit to Independent Presbyterian Church. We were a young couple with 3 young children, and I was expecting our fourth child. We grew up at I.P.C. alongside of our children, adding to our brood two more children during our now 30 years at the church. Our two oldest daughters, Emily Moody and Anna Gross, are still at the church along with their husbands Ryan Moody and David Gross and their children. Our son Josh lives in Colorado, and our son Tim lives in Charleston. Our youngest two children are still at the church. Caroline and Drew Johnson are expecting their first child, and Hunter is here pursuing his undergraduate degree. We are thankful for every year our family has had at I.P.C. It is a joy for us all to serve the Lord in the church we love.

Francis V. Daniell

The Daniells continue to be very thankful to be a part of the I.P.C. family. Judy is still teaching Pre-K at Veritas Academy two days a week. She also greatly enjoys being a part of the Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study. Jennifer is now in graduate school in Chiang Mai, Thailand, at Payap University. She is in her second semester of a two and a half year program in Linguistics. We look forward to having her home this summer.

Joshua M. Espinosa

The Espinosas found themselves alive and well with our growing family in 2017. The joy (and challenges) of raising twins along with their brothers gave us all opportunity for praising God for His continued grace. We were able to celebrate 15 years of marriage, the one-year celebration of Faith and Evie's birth, Isaac's 6th birthday, Caleb turning 10, and Joshua nearing his teen years with his 12th birthday. In our 3rd year in Savannah, we continue to remain in thankfulness for the Lord's provision of this opportunity we have with the I.P.C. family a part of our lives. Soli Deo Gloria!

Evan J. Gear

This year has been full of transition for the Gear family. Evan graduated from Seminary in May. Jaimie gave birth to a healthy baby boy on the 9th of June. The next three weeks we spent getting to know and love Jobe, while we packed to move across the country to Savannah in the first week of July. Needless to say, we are thankful to be here and settled into the Carriage House with Elizah Jane attending Veritas just across the lane, while Jaimie, Maisie Bird and Jobe enjoy being so close to Evan during the day. We are so thankful for our beautiful little home and the opportunities it provides for ministry to the college students. It has been a blessing in so many ways to be here serving and worshiping among you. Please continue to pray for the college ministry and for Evan and the family as he begins the process of licensure and ordination within the PCA.

Amy R. Martin

Two thousand and seventeen was both a wonderful and tragic year for the Martin family. Charlie and I are so proud of Conrad's graduation from Birmingham Southern College in May. Sadly, my sister Vicki was killed in a car accident while traveling to attend the family celebrations. It has been a time of deep grief and adjustment for us these past few months. Charlie continues to work with Wayne Brothers Incorporated and has opened an office on Johnson Square which has him home more this year. Our daughter Rebecca and her husband Jimmy continue to live in Birmingham, and Conrad has moved there as well with his job. I continue to be blessed and humbled to work with the children and families of I.P.C. and the wonderful staff God has placed here.

A. Paul Rodgers

In 2017 the Rodgers completed four years of life in Savannah. For the most part it was a great and momentous year, but not without a sense of foreboding. My oldest child will be a high school senior next year! Sarah Blake is a junior and visual art major at Savannah Arts Academy. Time is such a precious gift from our gracious God, but oh how I long for it to slow down! My younger three attend Veritas

Academy. Jan was the 5th grade teacher at Veritas the previous four years, but this past fall she switched to a half-time position teaching Kindergarten. Marley recently turned thirteen, giving us three teenagers simultaneously. Pray for Jan and me! Sarah Blake began driving in 2017, and both she and Drew are employed. Sarah Blake has now worked at Lanier Realty for over a year and Drew is employed by Veritas Academy and before that by Publix. God is certainly stretching me as He takes the Rodgers family to new places with our children's maturation.

Two thousand and seventeen also included some medical adversity and a big positive for our family. Jan was diagnosed with a rare liver disease. She also has a surgery scheduled for early 2018 from other problems that became apparent in 2017. Regarding my diabetes though, I, for the first time in almost two decades, scored below a 7.0 on an A1C. The A1C is a test that surveys three months for management of the disease. I was in my 20's the last time I scored so low. This low score is very encouraging for me and reflects even the church's support of my disease management.

Thank you to the congregation of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Savannah. For the grace evident in your lives, the Rodgers are eternally grateful.

Timothy D. Shaw

Abby, Annie, Levi, and I are all so very thankful for our church, our work, our friends, and our family here at I.P.C. In June I.P.C. ordained me to the gospel ministry as a teaching elder in the PCA and to the congregation as an assistant minister. This will be a highlight in my life, and I will be forever grateful for the calling you made. Lord willing, we look forward to many more years serving alongside this congregation. I greatly enjoy my work with the career group and am encouraged by the growth I have seen there. And finally, in 2018 we anticipate a new baby in the Shaw household in the late summer.

Kathryn Van Eck

The year 2017 was an eventful year for me personally. I have continued to enjoy my work at I.P.C. My constant relationships with various choir members, from children through adults, has been very enriching and encouraging to me.

I also delight in being a part of my children's lives: My daughter Kate, who lives in Baltimore, has accepted a position at Kennedy Krieger Institute. I enjoyed visiting her in June of this year. I have also enjoyed visiting my daughter Bess, husband Todd, and their two precious children several times this year in New York City. In March my daughter Jacquelyn was married here at I.P.C. That was definitely the highlight of my year! A second reception was held in Spain in late July, which I and all of my family members were privileged to attend as well. Jacquelyn and Jorge anticipate the birth of their first child in May of this year. Jonathan and Ali are in Baltimore, and Jon just finished an internship and will soon begin a second internship in D.C. I was also privileged to visit them in June.

My children and grandchildren are a great joy to me, but my work at I.P.C. is also interesting and rewarding. It seems there is never a dull moment. I have been very blessed with working with two very proficient pianists who assist on a regular basis—Tevis Garnett, and Denise Winks.

It is my prayer that God will continue to bless my service at I.P.C. in the coming year.

Session

J. Dennis Boatright

At the beginning of two thousand and seventeen, the session was composed of twelve ruling elders and three teaching elders. The session customarily conducted its business through monthly regular scheduled meetings (except for June and July) that were held on the next-to-last Monday of the month and during special called meetings as required. Joint meetings with the diaconate were held monthly. Mr. Michael Hazeltine, Mr. Stephen Jackson and Mr. Roy Thompson were elected at the November congregational meeting to the class of 2023. They will begin their duties on January 1, 2018.

The session continued to conduct its business through committees which were made up of Elders, Deacons and church members:

- Christian Education
- Congregational Growth & Care
- Youth, College & Career
- Finance & Administration
- Missions
- Personnel

The activities of these committees are summarized later in the annual report. The session is grateful to the church officers and members of these committees who volunteered their time and talents to further the work of the church.

As we review 2017, I'm so thankful for God's wonderful blessings toward the ministry of Independent Presbyterian Church as part of Christ's church. My prayer for us at I.P.C. is that we would continue to persevere through faithfulness to our great God and to continue to use the Word of God, the sacraments and prayer as our weapons and instruments to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to fight the spiritual battles that God calls us to fight as members of his church. On behalf of the session, I extend a special thank you to Elder Daniell and Elder Garnett for their six years of service on the Session and to the full-time and part-time staff members whose dedicated work give direction and meaning to the ministry of Independent Presbyterian Church. We are also blest with our newest addition to our ministerial staff, Mr. Tim Shaw, along with his wife, Abby, and their two children, Annie (nicknamed Hollywood) and Levi. Rev. Shaw spent two years as the Assistant to the Sr. Minister and was called by the Session to join the staff as Assistant Minister after passing his examination and being ordained into the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

The Ad Hoc Security Committee completed its work in 2017 which resulted in a new system for the overall safety and security of the congregation and facilities at Independent Presbyterian Church.

Membership and Committees

Class of 2017

Francis V. Daniell
John W. Garnett

Class of 2018

Timothy A. Barrett
David B. Gross

Class of 2019

David D. Gobel
Charles C. Martin, Jr.
W. Gregory Brunson

Christian Education

Elder Greg Brunson (Chairman)
Ron Parrish (Associate Minister)
Elder Marc Biemiller
Deacon Andy Brodmann
Jane Boatright (WOC & Nursery)
Amy Martin (Children's Ministry)
Kathryn Van Eck (Music Ministry)

Financial & Administration

Elder Rick Mullinix (Chairman)
Elder William Brodmann, Jr.
Director)Deacon Andrew Gibson
Deacon Kenneth Crowe
Church Administrator Josh Espinosa

Youth, College & Career

Elder Tim Barrett (Chairman)
Timothy Shaw (Assistant Pastor)
Elder Charles Martin
Charles & Kathy Moore
Paul Rodgers (Ministry Director)
Lucy Biemiller
Carol Dusek
Megan Mullinix

Clerk of Session

Rick Mullinix (Chairman)

President Point Pleasant Corporation

Tim Barrett

Class of 2020

J. Dennis Boatright
Richard B. Mullinix, Jr.
William D. Brodmann, Jr.

Class of 2022

Marc C. Biemiller
Wallace T. Milling, Sr.

Congregational Care & Growth

Elder John Garnett (Chairman)
Tim Foster (Associate Minister)
Elder David Gross
Deacon Neal Cope, Sr.
Rosemary Taylor
Tracy Wood
Stacy Nix
Wilbur Wiggins

Missions

Elder David Gobel (Chairman)
Elder Frankie Daniell (Ministry)
Deacon Frank Orellana
Deacon John Rigby
Paul & Cindy Carpenter
Judy Daniell
Amy Martin
Julie McDougall
Todd and Terri Fruit
Forrest Williams
Chuck & Kathy Moore
Eddie DeLoach

Personnel

Rick Mullinix (Chairman)
Elder Dennis Boatright
Elder Tim Barrett
Elder Greg Brunson
Elder John Garnett
Elder David Gobel
Josh Espinosa (Church Administrator)

Christian Education Committee

Greg Brunson

The Christian Education Committee is responsible for all the educational and music programs of the church. The work of this committee is delegated to various paid and volunteer individuals (Director of Nursery and Women's Program, Director of Children's Program, and Director of Music) as determined by the Session. The areas of responsibility include: Nursery, Children's Church, Leadership Training, Sunday School, Training of Church Officers, Women of the Church, Music Program and Choirs.

Sunday School

There were five Adult Sunday School classes led by class presidents and taught by a combination of the church's three ministers, pastoral apprentice and lay teachers. Average Sunday School attendance was 276 (290 last year).

During the Winter quarter five electives featuring a variety of subjects were taught in the Adult Sunday School. Mr. Johnson taught a Men's Class about how to be faithful in their various roles *as men* in a culture that is hostile to Christian discipleship. Mr. Foster taught a class on Women and Counseling designed to help women to counsel women as envisioned by the Apostle Paul in Titus 2:3-5. Mr. Forester taught a class on the Book of Acts and Mr. Parrish taught a class on the History of Revivals in America: 1740-1860. The Winter Elective Classes have been well received by the congregation.

Nurseries

Mrs. J. Dennis Boatright (Jane) serves as our Director of Nurseries.

Each week members of our church faithfully volunteered to care for the nursery children of the church. We need about 70 volunteers each Sunday in order to staff the 4 different nursery rooms. In addition, we had paid nursery workers that helped with our children on Sundays, Tuesday morning ladies' Bible studies, the Wednesday mid-day service, and during the special services or programs of the church. Our happy news in 2017 was that we had 9 babies born into the church.

Children's Ministries

Mrs. Charlie Martin (Amy) serves as our Director of Children's Programs.

Memorization Program: A total of 113 children have completed Level I (Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments) since 1994. In 2017 they were Gregory Macomber Thompson, Matthew Adam Crowe, Wallace Turner Milling Jr., and Stephen Townes Milling. A total of 34 children have completed Level II (*The Catechism for Young Children*) since 1993. Thirty-five children have passed Level III (*The Shorter Catechism*) since 1996.

Children's Church meets weekly during the morning worship service and was led by a faithful number of church members.

The annual Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast was held on Saturday, April 15. The youth prepared for the breakfast and helped host the event. Approximately 250 attended this event.

Fall Family Night was held on Tuesday, October 31, with approximately 300 in attendance. The youth set up and hosted the event. The highlights were several new games and the Big Bon Pizza trailer. Read-A-Louds continued during the dinner hour with a variety of members volunteering to read to the children.

Women of the Church

Mrs. J. Dennis Boatright (Jane) serves as our Director of Women's Program.

In March our women gathered for our Women's Missions Luncheon as part of our World Missions Conference. In June we hosted Rosaria Butterfield who spoke on "Biblical Sexuality" on Friday night and Saturday morning. In November (rescheduled because of Hurricane Irma) the women of our church held their annual W.O.C. Meeting and Tea. Also, Tim Foster taught a winter quarter Sunday School class for women—"Women and Counseling."

Many of our women participated in Tuesday morning weekly Bible studies and monthly circles. Teachers for these groups were: Peggy Marting, Sally Robyn, Liz Brodmann, Tevis Garnett, Terri Fruit, Jane Boatright, Linda DePue, Annette Hartley, Lucy Brannen, Barbara Rustine, and Emily Moody.

Music Ministry

Mrs. Kathryn Van Eck serves as our Director of Music.

The Sanctuary Choir consisted of 35 members. The choir enjoyed a relaxing time together at Kathryn's home on June 7....lots of food followed by group singing.

A party was held in Kathryn's home for 6th and 7th grade students on August 18. This get-together is a welcome to the students and an encouragement to them in regard to joining Youth Choir.

The Youth Choir, 6th-12th grade, worked through some difficult music this year. They had a pizza party on February 3, and on the weekend of April 28 enjoyed the annual Youth Choir trip. This year the choir went to Charlotte, S.C., sang at Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church, and on Saturday had a fun day at Carowinds. This trip was planned by Mr. John Garnett. We were lavishly entertained by Tom and Claudia Waters (Emily Johnson's sister). The Youth Choir sang for a final time at Point Pleasant on May 28. Mrs. John Garnett was accompanist for this choir.

The Chapel Choir had a fun adventure to Summer Waves on May 20 and worked very steadily in the fall in preparation for the Lessons and Carols service. Mrs. John Garnett was accompanist for this choir.

The Handbell Choir was comprised of 14 members and was once again directed by Mrs. Greg Brunson.

On March 12 the church hosted the Bryan College Choir, who sang for our morning worship. The students stayed at various choir members' homes and was provided a meal after the service.

Family worship and inclusion of Psalms and Hymns was encouraged through the newsletter, completing in 2017 our 26th year of this program.

For an eighteenth year the congregation participated in Operation Christmas Child, which was organized by Mr. Evan Gear.

Greg Brunson, Chairman
Jane Boatright, Director of Nursery and Women's Program
Amy Martin, Director of Children's Program
Ron Parrish, Associate Pastor
Marc Biemiller, Elder
Andy Brodmann, Deacon
Kathryn Van Eck, Director of Music

Youth, College and Career Committee

Timothy A. Barrett

2017 saw continuity of ministry with our youth, new energy with ministry to collegians and our transition from intern leadership to ordained pastoral leadership with our Careers.

Youth:

There were several highlights of the year for our student ministry. Early in the year the theme for the Winter Retreat was “*Who is on the Lord’s Side.*” Dennis Boatright taught three lessons on the biblical figures of Abraham, Ruth, Joshua and Caleb. Paul Rodgers led the youth through another lesson on how to do a character study on a biblical figure. Thirty-six students and eight chaperones participated at the retreat held at Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, Georgia. In June, twenty-one middle school students and eight chaperones launched our first ever Apex. This event was held in Blue Ridge, Georgia and was a big hit. The theme was “*The Test You Do Not Want to Fail*” and was taken primarily from 2 Corinthians 13:5. Apex is hoped to be a harvesting event where our middle schoolers will be confronted with the gospel and the claims of Christ and offered an opportunity to own Christ. In July, we held our fourth ***Mission Savannah*** at Point Pleasant and throughout our community. The theme for this event was “*Anything, Anywhere, Anytime.*” The subject of our studies was the call of God and primarily examined the life of Abraham. Caleb Galloway, a PCA Pastor in Alabama and an old friend of Paul’s, was our speaker. Ministries and organizations we served during ***Mission Savannah*** included Coastal Jail Ministry Transitional Program, the Fresh Air Home, painting at Point Pleasant, and odd jobs for some needy recipients. Teaching series taught by Paul Rodgers through the year included *Relating & Dating* (to high schoolers), *The Fruit of the Spirit* and *God’s Role and Ours in the Pursuit of Holiness*. We continued with our regular annual events as well. We hosted a Friday morning *Chick-fil-A Prayer Breakfast* at Point Pleasant for our youth and collegians during the summer. Our youth assisted several of our members in the clean-up efforts from hurricane Irma.

The ministry was made possible by a large team of volunteers who taught Sunday School, led small groups, served as chaperones, cooked meals, and much more. I speak not only as chair of this committee but for Paul Rodgers and all our church family in thanking all volunteers for their service. May the seeds you have sown reap a harvest greater than you could ever imagine.

College Ministry:

Prior to the Gears’ arrival, Tim Shaw and Peter Gibson gave themselves to the college ministry among the covenant children who come home for the summer. This included weekly Bible study (through the book of Daniel), kick-ball games, and many other informal gatherings.

The Gears arrived mid-summer and Evan stepped into the weekly teaching and Sunday School class. Peter Gibson remained part of the work until August and the return of the students to their various, scattered places of study. As the covenant children departed; SCAD students arrived, and with their arrival the task of forming a ministry for them began. Though somewhat set back by hurricane Irma, the ministry to SCAD has gotten off to a good start with a solid group of students coming faithfully to Sunday School, morning and evening services, as well as Saturday morning coffee at the Carriage House.

In December Evan and the family had the opportunity to deepen relationships with the returned students as they opened the Carriage House for a Christmas party and other informal times of fellowship. In addition, Evan has continued to teach Sunday School, focusing on the parables of Jesus.

Thankful for the small beginnings, the Gears look forward to the new year, prayerfully and expectantly trusting the Lord to bless and give increase to this work. May He be pleased to produce good and lasting fruit among the college students, adding to their numbers and maturing those He has brought into fellowship.

Careers:

Our Careers' Ministry in 2017 grew in depth. There were several deacons ordained from this group this year, and there was more ownership taken in the leadership. Every weekend there were opportunities for fellowship and study. A men's small group and a women's small group were started as well as a discussion group that met regularly. All this happened alongside our week-in and week-out Thursday Night Bible Study and monthly activities (Urban Hope dinners, Christmas party, etc.).

Please continue in prayer for Paul, Evan and Tim as they serve our church's youth, college and career groups. Pray also for the leadership and wisdom of this committee as we seek to improve our ministry in these areas. May our Lord give us humility, purity and boldness with the gospel. May He continue to bless us with favor and healthy growth to serve not only our church but our community and the world too.

Missions Committee

David W. Gobel

The Missions Committee selects local and foreign missionaries and organizations for financial and prayer support; planting new churches or supporting church-planting initiatives; organizing short-term mission opportunities for members of the congregation; overseeing the I.P.C. Day Camp, and hosting an annual Missions Conference. We continued to support one of our own members, Jessica Wiggins, who is serving as a nurse with Peru Mission in Trujillo, Peru. The committee also oversees the activities of the subcommittee on Moral Concerns. Below is a list of persons, organizations, events and projects supported by the Missions Committee in 2017.

The members of the Missions Committee for 2017 were: Frankie Daniell (Missions Director), Judy Daniell, David Gobel (Chairman), Julie McDougall, John Rigby, Paul and Cindy Carpenter, Charlie and Amy Martin, Chuck and Kathy Moore, Todd and Terri Fruit, Frank Orellana, Eddie DeLoach and Forrest Williams (Chairman, Moral Concerns subcommittee).

Church Plants

1. Bluffton, SC – Ron Gleason, church planter
2. First Asian Indian Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, VA - Jegar Chinnavan, organizing pastor
3. Tegucigalpa, Honduras – Aaron Halbert, pastor
4. Christ Presbyterian Church (OPC), Magna, Utah – Jason Wallace, pastor

Local Missions

Bill Maxey Ministries
Christian Medical Association
Coastal Empire Right to Life
Coastal Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Coastal Jail Ministries
Covenant Care Services
HIS Radio – Jody Robinson
International Seaman's House
Living Vine Christian Maternity Home
Savannah Care Center
Savannah River Presbytery
Savannah United Ministries
Urban Hope
Veritas Academy

Home Missions

Al Baker, Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship
Christian Counseling and Education Foundation
Chaplin Ministries, MNA
Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA
The Gideons
Palmer House for Children, Columbus, GA
Reformed Youth Movement
Reformed Worship Conference, Midway, Georgia
Twin Lakes Fellowship
World Missionary Press

Reformed University Fellowship

Savannah College of Art and Design – Soren Kornegay
Georgia Institute of Technology – Michael Phillips
RUF International at Georgia Tech – Tracy West
Georgia Southern University – Ro Taylor/Josh Keel
University of Georgia – Justin Clement
Appalachian State University – Chris Horne

Seminaries:

Greenville Presbyterian Seminary, Greenville, SC
Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS
Reformed Theological Presbyterian Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA
Westminster Seminary, Escondido, CA
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA

World Missions

Wes & Jami Baker	Church Planting, Peru Mission
John & Sue Burch	MTW Missionary Mentoring
Alonzo & Esther Ramirez	Church Planting, Peru Mission
Peter & Diane Bakelaar	Church Planting, Japan
Henry & Wendy Clay	Navigators, Columbia, SC
Joe & Bev Fitzpatrick	Pastor Training, Puerto Rico
Gary & Linda Johnson	International Xchange Organization
Jon & Sarah Pfeil	Church Planting, Japan
Roger & Diane Smalling	Bible Training in Latin America
Bruce & Barbara Wannemacher	Theological Training, South Africa
Mission India	Church Planter Training
Wayne & Ann Curles	Pastor Training, Eastern Europe
Coby & Pamela McGinty	University Ministry, South Africa
The Puritan Project	Reformed Literature Publishers
Marc & Aline Mailloux	MTW, Caribbean Islands
Dale & Susan Ellison	Medical Ministry, Peru Mission
Hermes & Alleen de Tomas	Administration & Short-Term Coordinator, Peru Mission
Chinese Reformed Theological Seminary	Taipei, Taiwan
Dan & Carol Iverson	Church Planting, Japan
Jerry Knight	Instructor, African Bible College
Mark & Barbara Rustine	Wycliffe Bible Translators, Dallas, Texas (until July)
James & Rachael Grant	MTW Madrid, Spain (fundraising)
David and Natalie Holsten	Mission Aviation Fellowship, Indonesia
Vic Bernales	Pastor, Davao, Philippines
Dr. Nickolay Revtov	Evangelism Explosion Eurasia
Benjamin & Anna Wontrop	Bury St. Edmunds, England
Rosemary Bolton	Bible Translation, Indonesia
Sebastian Heck	Reformation 2Germany, Heidelberg, Germany
Tim & Nicole Mares	African Bible University, Kampala, Uganda
Jessica Wiggins	Peru Mission, Trujillo, Peru
Bill Schweitzer	Gateshead Presbyterian Church, Newcastle, England

Certain missionaries supported by I.P.C. are not listed here because of the sensitive nature of their work.

Short Term Missions

Our annual Peru Day Camp trip took place Dec. 30, 2016 – Jan. 7, 2017 with great participation from I.P.C., Twin Lakes Camp, and the Peru Mission churches. Approximately 140 children were served. The Fall medical and construction trip to Peru took place Sept. 27 – Oct. 7.

Missions Conference (February 23-26, 2017)

The theme of the 2017 Missions Conference was “Come and See,” taken from John 4:29. Dr. Paul Kooistra, former director of the Presbyterian Church in America’s (PCA) missions agency, Mission to the World (MTW), was the keynote speaker. Missionary guests included Alex and Stefany Mark, pastor of First Scots Presbyterian Church, Beaufort, South Carolina; Hermes and Alleen Tomás of Peru Mission in Trujillo, Peru; and Tim and Andrea Kay of African Bible University in Kampala, Uganda. A special offering was collected to support Jessica Wiggins in her short-term service to Peru Mission and to defray publishing costs for the translation of one of Terry Johnson’s books into Chinese, a project sponsored by the Chinese Reformed Seminary, Taipei.

I.P.C. Day Camp at Point Pleasant

Another camp enrollment record was broken with 685 campers attending over the 8 one-week sessions (34 campers more than last summer). 89% of the campers were not members of I.P.C. Camp employed 28 high school and college students. Eleven of I.P.C.’s middle school students volunteered. Staff meetings/dinners were held every Monday night in the homes of different staff members to conduct camp business and have a Bible study together. This summer we studied “Questions God Asks.” Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this camp.

Moral Concerns Subcommittee

The Moral Concerns Committee led the congregation in our efforts to stand for life in 2017.

- In the spring and fall we participated in the “40 Days for Life” prayer campaigns at the abortion clinic in Savannah.
- In October we stood alongside other churches in the "National Life Chain."
- Our attendance at the "March for Life" in Washington D.C. was completed with a full busload of Christians, 48 persons.
- Presentation to our youth was made in October to encourage them to attend the March for Life and to become involved in committee activities.
- On September 23, 2017 Students For Life America and Coastal Empire RTL sponsored a kickoff event & concert at the Savannah Civic Center Arena. Mr. Paul Rogers attended with some of the I.P.C. Youth.
- Ms. Paula Kinard (United for Life for His Glory / Coastal Empire Right to Life) made a presentation to the committee and any interested members of I.P.C. about God’s workings in the Low Country and the new women's THRIVE healthcare clinic in Savannah due to open 2018.
- Several members of I.P.C. did sidewalk counseling regularly, and over 20 babies were spared abortion through God’s intervention this year.

Congregational Growth and Care Committee

John W. Garnett

The Growth and Care committee is responsible for implementing the I.P.C. Care Groups, and also for providing general oversight of several special events during the year to nurture the growth and fellowship of our congregation.

Care Groups

The Care Group ministry is a vital and integral part of I.P.C. and provides an organizational method of caring for the members of our congregation. Each month a Care Group is reviewed during the joint portion of the Diaconate and Session meeting to discuss any specific needs or on-going prayer requests while a picture of each individual/family is displayed in that Care Group.

Many of you may have assisted or even been the beneficiary of actions by other I.P.C. members during 2017, as we fulfilled Christ's command to "bear one another's burdens." During the year many meals were provided to I.P.C. members, cards and notes were mailed, telephone calls made, home and hospital visits took place, and groups gathered for fellowship; all are important aspects of acting as the body of Christ while on this side of heaven. Our committee is always truly grateful to hear of these small blessings and know there are countless other acts of love done within the congregation we do not hear about, which we are extremely grateful for as well.

Once again in 2017, we experienced the destruction of a hurricane (*Irma*) and were able to witness the actions of I.P.C. members as they cared for their fellow members as well as provided assistance to their neighbors. All of these actions demonstrated a witness of Christian love and faith in action.

Other Events

During 2017 there were several events for congregational participation and spiritual growth. By participating, attendees were able to grow deeper in their faith while also enjoying the fellowship and benefits of being in the company of fellow believers. Additional events during 2017 included:

- Special services observing Sanctity of Life, Georgia Heritage Day, Maundy Thursday, Kirkin' of the Tartan, and Thanksgiving were held during the year. Many thanks to those in our congregation who assisted in the preparation of these unique services.
- Over 50 I.P.C. members assisted with the coordination and hosting of the *Reformation Reforms Conference* in March to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. During the three-day conference, attended by over 150 participants, several well-known authors, seminary professors, and ministers provided insight as to the lasting effects of the Reformation on worship, family, educational, and vocational aspects within society. I.P.C. had never hosted a conference like this; special appreciation goes to all those involved.
- Our sixth Communion Season was held in August, featuring Dr. Derek Thomas, pastor of First Presbyterian in Columbia, SC. The sessions culminated with observing the Lord's Supper during Sunday morning worship.
- A Veterans' Appreciation Lunch was sponsored by I.P.C. at Pt. Pleasant in November to recognize the men and women who currently serve and have served in our nation's armed services. This was the fourth year for this event, and approximately 100 were in attendance. Special thanks to Dexter Brewer and his committee of I.P.C. members who organize this event.

Thank you to each member of I.P.C. for everything that you do and for your continued prayer and support of our church. Serving on the Congregational Growth & Care Committee in 2017 were Neal Cope, Tim Foster, John Garnett, David Gross, Stacy Nix, Ron Parrish, Rosemary Taylor, Wilbur Wiggins, and Tracy Wood.

Finance and Administration Committee

Rick B. Mullinix

The F&A committee is responsible for the overall operational matters of the church. We also work with Mr. Espinosa, Director of Administration, in support of his administrative duties. Our committee prepares the annual budget based on input from committee chairs, reviews monthly spending, and reports to the Session.

Members of the 2017 F&A committee were Rick Mullinix (Chairman), Will Brodmann, Kenneth Crowe, Andrew Gibson, and Josh Espinosa.

1. Total tithes and offerings was \$2,148,813. Adding funds from Trustees, trusts, foundations, and other revenues brought the total income for 2017 to \$2,898,166.
2. We gave a total of \$521,039 to mission causes outside the church.
3. Trustee funds in the amount of \$148,101 were used for an HVAC pipe insulation.
4. We set a target reserve fund of \$2.3M; Actual as of 12/31/17 is \$1.9M.
5. Ameris Bank was selected for church operational funds.
6. Please see the Financial Statements.

We are a blessed congregation to have such a fine staff and the financial means to support our ministry and maintain our facilities.

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee has oversight responsibilities for church staff and polices.

Members of the 2017 committee were Rick Mullinix (Chairman), Dennis Boatright, Tim Barrett, David Gobel, Greg Brunson, John Garnett, and Josh Espinosa.

1. Established an Ad-hoc committee to celebrate Terry and Emily's 30th year of ministry at I.P.C.
2. Hired Maria Martinez as Financial Secretary.
3. Outsourced kitchen management to Miss Sophie's.
4. Hired Twannala Frazier and Alisa Perry to work in the kitchen.

Renovation Committee

The Renovation Committee provided oversight and direction for the following projects in 2017:

1. 21 W. Oglethorpe Lane property, purchased in 2016 for \$469,000, was refurbished and converted to intern living quarters at a cost of \$108,000, bringing the total expenditure on the property to \$567,000.
2. 2018 projects under consideration by the committee and subject to session approval are:
 - a. Pew floor refurbishment
 - b. Pew cushion reupholster or replacement
 - c. Pavilion area for Point Pleasant

Summary of Revenues and Expenses 2017

Revenue

General Budget Account (Pledges, General Offerings, Sunday School, World Missions, and Loose Plate)	\$2,148,812.65
Trusts and Foundations (Jenkins, Hollis, Nevitt, Hostetter)	\$387,798.00
Other Revenues (Interest, Rental of Church, Memorials, Food Service)	\$205,861.07
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,742,471.72

Expenses

Church Extension (Missions, Church Planting)	\$521,039.39
Personnel and Benefits (Salaries, Benefits)	\$1,188,638.60
Christian Education Work Area (Activities, Youth, Nursery, W.O.C.)	\$115,617.86
Congregational Growth (Congregational Care, Fellowships)	\$38,805.67
Food Service (Food, Supplies, Equipment, Repairs)	\$69,572.34
Building and Grounds (Maintenance)	\$433,443.07
Office expenses (Office Operations, Utilities, Insurance, PP support, Misc.)	\$345,958.85
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,713,075.78
INCOME	<u>\$ 29,395.94</u>

Statement of Net Worth (12/31/17)

Cash (General Operating Account)		\$ 98,654.22
Designated Funds		549,943.17
Glasgow (Missions)		146,168.86
Trustees	—SunTrust	\$1,882,909.16
	—Stewart Memorial	\$ 2,875.00
	—Glasgow Investment Fund	<u>\$ 21,827.58</u>
Total		\$1,907,656.84
Capital Campaign & Renovation		\$ 149,254.37
Bookshop		\$ 119.00
Point Pleasant Corporation		\$338.60
Day Camp		\$144,898.93
TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS		\$ 2,172,267.74

Victoria Jenkins Charitable Foundation

2004 received		\$285,000
2005 received		\$225,000
2006 received		\$291,801
2007 received		\$313,487
2008 received		\$302,152
2009 received		\$159,201
2010 received		\$218,904
2011 received		\$222,823
2012 received		\$193,092
2013 received		\$381,940
2014 received		\$305,754
2015 received		\$296,223
2016 received		\$208,494
2017 received		\$409,771

As of 12/31/17		
Not spent— Church planting----->	\$	198,632.86
Not spent— Maintenance----->	\$	183,827.75
Not spent— Education----->	\$	-0-

Capital Campaign and Renovation Report
December 31, 2017

Beginning Balance 2017		
Checking		\$ 52,327.70
Income Received for 2017		
Gifts from Congregation	\$198,814.77	
Interest	<u>609.05</u>	
Total income		\$199,423.82
Expenses		
Fellowship Hall	\$ 5,704.00	
Carriage House	<u>\$ 96,793.15</u>	
Total Expenses		\$102,497.15
Net profit for 2017		\$ 96,926.67
Ending Balance 2017		
Checking		<u>\$149,254.37</u>

The Diaconate

Clark Gibson

Twenty-four men had the privilege of serving the Lord's congregation at I.P.C and the local community in 2017.

Deacons serve the church through the following standing and ad hoc committees. Each deacon serves on a committee.

The Worship Assistance Committee, chaired by Jody Robinson, shepherded the ushering schedule for 2017. The entire Diaconate along with men from the congregation, with Session approval, supported this crucial committee through ushering and security services during the weekly Worship services. Twelve men are required for Sunday mornings to usher, collect offering, and count it. Likewise, three men are needed for Sunday evenings. Four additional men are required on Communion Sundays for setup/cleanup of the Communion elements, and all available ushers/deacons put away tables and benches after AM services. In addition, deacons support ushering needs for all the special services such as the Missions Conference, Communion Season, Lessons and Carols, and funerals. The committee also replaced the sound board at Point Pleasant this year to improve the sound quality.

The Mercy Committee, chaired by Neal Cope, ministered resources to those in need, both in the congregation and the local community. Through Neal's leadership, this vital committee expressed God's love and care for His people during trying circumstances such as Hurricane Irma.

The Hospitality Committee, chaired by Wilbur Wiggins, encourages the officers and congregation to warmly welcome visitors, follow up with them, and encourage visitors to become members. The committee also works with the kitchen staff to see that meals and cleanup proceed smoothly. All of the deacons assist at the large annual events, such as the Point Pleasant BBQ, Low Country Boil, and the Lessons and Carols Service.

The Stewardship committee, chaired by Kenneth Crowe, works to encourage material giving within the congregation, and to lead members in wise and generous stewardship of their time and talents.

The Maintenance Committee, chaired by Clay Nolen, is supported by many deacons. Of particular note were Breck Van Puffelen and Clark Rookstool. Maintaining the historic buildings of I.P.C.'s downtown campus, along with the Point Pleasant property on Talahi Island, is a continuous effort, where wood, masonry, and steel structures in the southern coastal environment require constant attention and significant resources. Painting, debris clean up, grounds maintenance, air-conditioning maintenance, cleaning, etc., are never-ending tasks. The Diaconate supports the Director of Administration, Josh Espinosa, and sexton, Josh Corbitt, with contractor selection, obtaining bids, scheduling, oversight, and in some cases, performance of the tasks. Examples of projects the maintenance committee executed this year were the fence at Point Pleasant, a work day on the pews and vents in the sanctuary, cleanup days at Point Pleasant, repairs to the pumps and insulation on the chiller.

Ad Hoc Security Committee was chaired by Rob Kelly. Church security is becoming increasingly important in today's world. The committee reached out to other churches and law enforcement to develop a plan for our congregation. You may have noticed the policeman on the grounds at all services now. This is one of the changes recommended by the committee and approved by the Session. A safety team is also being formed to improve monitoring of the grounds and nursery during the services. In order to improve communications and continuity of Deacon officers, the terms of the new chairman and vice chairman were extended from the current one-year term to a two-year term.

In 2017 the Diaconate participated in the following efforts/events:

- Communion Season Services
- Missions Conference
- Reformation Conference
- Terry Johnson's 30th Anniversary celebration
- Lessons and Carols
- Christmas Eve service
- Pt. Pleasant cleanup for Women's Tea and Veterans Day event
- Regular worship services of the church
- 12 regularly scheduled monthly meetings

The class of 2017, composed of Neal A. Cope, Clark W. Gibson, Patrick C. Kenard, Ryan B. Moody, Jody P. Robinson, Roy C. Thompson III, and K. Wilbur Wiggins completed their four-year service and rotated off the Diaconate, where their service and fellowship will be greatly missed.

The Diaconate welcomed Mark W. Dusek, David A. Goser, William (Bill) A. Immel, Patrick B. McLean, Mark C. Rustine, Aidan W. Suiter, Steven L. Thompson, and Willian B. Van Puffelen aboard as the class of 2021.

Class of 2017

Neal A Cope
Clark W. Gibson
Patrick Kenard
Ryan B. Moody
Jody P. Robinson
Roy C. Thompson III
K. Wilbur Wiggins

Class of 2018

William J. Black
Michael D. Hazeltine
G. Clay Nolen

Class of 2019

Kenneth C. Crowe
Stephen E. Jackson, Jr.
Roy R. (Rob) Kelly IV
Clark M. Rookstool
Willian (Breck) B. Van Puffelen II

Class of 2020

Andrew W. Brodmann, Sr.
Patrick L. Brodmann
Andrew G. Gibson
Andrew B. Johnson
Gary W. McKee II
Francisco Orellana
W. Ryon Rambo
Peter M. Schenk
H. Dax Williams

Class of 2021

Mark W. Dusek
David A. Goser
William (Bill) A. Immel
Patrick B. McLean
Mark C. Rustine
Aidan W. Suiter
Steven L. Thompson
Willian B. Van Puffelen

The Trustees
Frank A. Chisholm, Jr.

The beginning balance of the Trustee account on 1/1/17 was \$1,840,122.38. The account is managed by SunTrust Bank.

The total income added to the account from reinvestment was \$60,987.63.

The Trustees paid out expenses in the amount of \$208,858 which included paying out \$2,000 to Christian education, \$58,757 for the church property insurance, and \$148,101 for the chiller insulation project.

The ending balance of the Trustees account on 12/31/2017 was \$1,882,909.

Trustees of I.P.C. are:

Frank Chisholm, Jr., Chairman (2018)

William D. Brodmann, Sr. (2019)

G. Ronald Morris (2020)

Marion T. (Jody) Lanier III (2021)

John R. Toler (2022)

Point Pleasant Corporation

Frankie V. Daniell

Point Pleasant continues to be a real blessing to the life of I.P.C. Again in 2017 it was used for Sunday evening worship, day camp, "Mission Savannah," RUF functions, Campus Outreach functions, Sunday School and care group functions, and several other ministry-oriented events. Additionally, it continues to be a great venue for birthday parties for our covenant children. Significant improvements in 2017 included a new tree house (thanks to Chuck Moore and Kenneth Crowe for help with that project) and a new 4 element high challenge course built by Project Adventure. While used primarily for day camp, it also serves other groups in the church (Sunday School classes, Bible study groups, etc.)