

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

MISSION STUDY

MAY, 2018

At the heart of San Rafael, First Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and inclusive community growing together in faith, hope and love. We humbly seek to understand and respond creatively to the needs of our brothers and sisters here in our city, in Marin County and throughout the world.

— First Presbyterian Church's Mission Statement

WHO WE ARE

In 2019, First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael (FPCSR) will celebrate its 150th anniversary. We are a congregation of 154 members, with a weekly average attendance of 87 in two distinctive English-language services, a Spanish-language service, and Sunday School. Our members are, by and large, well-educated, intellectually curious, creative, accomplished professionals. Many identify themselves as spiritual seekers. A majority can be described as liberal leaning on social matters. Most in our congregation value progressive theology, but we welcome worshippers of more traditional faith. About two-thirds of our members are women. 64 percent of our members are age 65 or older; 40 percent are age 75 or older. Our Spanish-speaking community, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana, is somewhat younger, and children of its members make up the majority of our Sunday School.

We are a downtown church in a well-to-do-suburban county with both a high cost of living and substantial numbers of people in need. We are committed to promoting tolerance and inclusivity. We seek a more just, loving, and equitable society and a healthy planet. We care about and strive to care for our congregation and for our neighbors. Creating opportunities for service is important to our understanding of mission.

We were a two-pastor congregation until 2015, when our previous pastor resigned and we engaged our associate pastor, Rev. Jan Reynolds, as a solo pastor. We are grateful for the healing and coming together we have experienced since then. As we look beyond Jan's retirement in January 2019, we see ourselves moving into the future in a spirit of love, unity, and optimism.

WHERE WE SERVE: A PORTRAIT OF OUR HOME PLACE

Marin County. San Rafael is the county seat, and the oldest, largest, and most culturally diverse city in Marin County. Much has been written about the colorful culture of Marin—its residents’ demographics, lifestyles, and political views. Most would agree that the vibrant quality of Marin’s culture is more than matched by the county’s surpassing natural beauty. Marin sits just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco, but is far enough away to contain huge redwood forests, wild beaches, and fields of cows. It has waterfront towns, homey villages, vast dairy ranches and a wilderness next to the sea. Mount Tamalpais, its most visible landmark, rises over much of the landscape.

The bulk of the county’s population of about 260,000, including San Rafael, can be found along the Highway 101 corridor on the east side of the county. (About two-thirds of the FPCSR members who live in the county live in San Rafael). Eighty-four percent of the county is public parkland and open space, protected watershed or agriculture. Marin has several wildlife and bird sanctuaries. The county is a natural for outdoor recreation—mountain biking, hiking, fishing, bird watching, windsurfing, kayaking, golf, and tennis.

Who Lives in Marin? Marin’s population, according to 2017 US Census Bureau estimates, is about 72 percent white, 16 percent Latino or Hispanic, 6 percent Asian, 3 percent African American, and 4 percent two or more races. Foreign-born persons make up 18 percent of the population.

San Rafael’s population of approximately 59,000 is about 57 percent white, 29 percent Hispanic or Latino, 7 percent Asian, 3 percent multiracial, and 2 percent African American. The majority of San Rafael’s Hispanic residents, including numbers of immigrants, live in the Canal neighborhood.

The second-largest city in Marin, Novato, is home to the second-most FPCSR families. Its population of approximately 52,000 is about 67 percent white, 19 percent Hispanic or Latino, 7 percent Asian, 4 percent multiracial, and 2 percent African American.

Two San Rafael school districts—San Rafael City Schools and Dixie School District—administer a total of 12 elementary schools, two middle schools, one K–8 school, and three high schools (San Rafael High, Terra Linda High, and Madrone Continuation). Total enrollment of around 9250 is about 53 percent Hispanic, 37 percent white, 5 percent Asian, 2 percent multiracial, and 1 percent African American. The Marin County Office of Education also lists 13 independent schools in San Rafael.

The College of Marin, a community college founded in 1926, enrolls about 5,500 students on two campuses and offers an extensive non-degree community education program. Dominican University in San Rafael is an independent university founded in 1890 with an undergraduate enrollment of nearly 1400 (27 percent men, 73 percent women).

93 percent of Marin residents age 25 or above are high school graduates; 57 percent hold a bachelor’s degree or higher. Employment in Marin is about 70 percent white collar, 30 percent blue collar.

Marin has the oldest median age (45.4) and the largest elderly population by percentage (19 percent) of any county in the Bay Area. It is also the slowest growing of all Bay Area counties.

Marin voter registration is 56 percent Democratic, 17 percent Republican, and 23 percent no party preference. Marin has voted for the Democratic candidate in every presidential election since 1984. Hillary Clinton received 77 percent of Marin's vote in 2016. No Republican has been elected to represent Marin in the US House of Representatives since 1972.

A Wealthy—and Expensive—County. Marin is consistently ranked among the five wealthiest counties in the country. According to the Census Bureau, the median household income in Marin (2016) was \$100,310, per capita income \$63,608.

The rate of owner-occupied housing in 2016 was 63.4 percent. The median value of owner-occupied housing units was \$859,400. (The median price of homes sold in 2017 in Marin was \$980,000, in San Rafael \$1.1 million.) Median selected monthly owner costs with a mortgage came to \$3,290, without a mortgage \$758. Median gross rent was \$1,764.

Neighbors in Need. The high cost of living, particularly housing, means that many in our county struggle. Eight percent of people living in Marin (13 percent in San Rafael and 33 percent in Marin City, where most of Marin's African American population lives) are below the Federal Poverty Guideline of \$20,420. That's the lowest percentage in the Bay Area. However, as the United Way notes, Marin also has the highest cost of living. The California Self-Sufficiency Standard (SSS) includes costs of basic needs of California's working families. The SSS figure in Marin, based on a family of three, is \$67,531. 30 percent of Marin families fall below that standard, and 66 percent of single mothers are below the Self-Sufficiency Standard for single mothers.

Eleven percent of children in Marin experience poverty. The percent of student eligibility to receive free or reduced price school meals is relatively low in Marin (26 percent, compared with 59 percent for the state as a whole). However, the rate is 65 percent in the San Rafael Elementary School District and 60 percent in Shoreline Unified School District, which serves rural West Marin.

The SF–Marin Food Bank estimates that nearly one in five Marin residents (49,000 people) are at risk of food insecurity.

The 2017 homeless count and survey identified 1,117 homeless members of the Marin community, of whom 30 percent were classified as chronically homeless. 71 percent lived in Marin prior to becoming homeless (53 percent for 10 years or more).

Exacerbating sheer levels of need are inequity and racial disparities. The top one fifth of Marin taxpayers take home about 71 percent of the county's total income. The bottom one fifth earn 1.3 percent of the total income.

A 2017 study, "Race Counts," by Advancement California, compared California's 58 counties according to performance, disparity, and impact across 44 indicators for seven key issues: economic opportunity, education, crime and justice, health care access, housing, democracy, and healthy built environments. Marin ranked first in performance (how residents as a whole are doing in those issues.) But Marin also ranks first as the California county with the most racial disparity in those same indicators.

Religion in Marin. In 2010, the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, using numbers of adherents as reported by religious organizations, offered the following breakdown of

religious affiliation in Marin. Catholic: 30.55 percent, Protestant: 7.55 percent, Jewish: 1.8 percent, Eastern (mostly Hindu and Buddhist): 1.43 percent, Muslim: .44 percent, not claimed by any religious group: 56.5 percent. We suspect that the numbers of adherents may be lower now.

The most extensive survey of religious attitudes in Marin County dates to a 2000 Marin Community Foundation-funded report based on 604 interviews by the Institute for Jewish & Community Research, San Francisco. We believe many of the trends identified nearly two decades ago continue and have, if anything, accelerated since then.

- According to the interviews, traditional religious institutions represent more Marin residents than other forms of religious identity, but there is a growing population of religious seekers, those on spiritual journeys who are looking beyond the faith in which they were raised for their own individual religious identity, which results in a growing number of people who are switching religions. Many people who have switched religions are borrowing from different religious traditions, and there is a growing population of people who live in households where more than one religion is practiced.
- Over three of every five (62 percent) either never attended services (22 percent) or attended services less than once a month (40 percent).
- For a number of people in Marin, yoga and meditation centers, twelve-step meetings, classes on spirituality, spiritual bookstores, and retreat centers may have become their present-day church, temple or mosque. Fifty-three percent (and 41 percent of Protestants) said they were “spiritual but not religious.” Spiritual growth was important to 66 percent of the Protestants.

The Marin Interfaith Council (MIC), whose offices are at FPCSR, is a strong presence in the county, celebrating faith traditions, advocating justice, and building community. MIC’s partners include over 52 congregations, eight religious organizations, and 19 nonprofits. Board leadership rotates. Our pastor, Jan Reynolds, serves as president of the board this year.

Marin County is home to 16 Presbyterian churches, whose membership ranges from 10 to 455 (a total of 1964 members as of 2017), as well San Francisco Theological Seminary. Thirteen of the 16 churches lost members between 2012 and 2017.

HOW WE SERVE

We seek to be faithful to our call in four dimensions: worship, education and spiritual development, service in the world, and strengthening our church community.

Worship

Worship is central to our life as a congregation. We offer distinctive services that provide different styles of worship, allowing a variety of people to find what draws them into worship.

Our 8:30 Sunday service is more intimate and quiet, in a contemplative frame, including meditative verses, chanting, and time for silent reflection on the sermon message. The 10:00 Sunday service is

more traditional in style, if not in content. Some recent worship themes have included “Summer of Love” (Summer 2017), “Angels among Us” (Advent 2017) and “The Wisdom of Not Knowing” (Lent 2018). Most services include congregational conversation after the sermon. We celebrate communion every Sunday at 8:30 and once a month at 10:00.

Our Spanish-speaking community, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana, is led by elder David Morales, who is studying to become a commissioned pastor, and will soon come under care of the Session. Its members, several of whom are FPCSR members, worship in Spanish at 10:00 every Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month, when their service and our regular 10:00 service combine to worship and celebrate communion together.

SoulSong, the first Sunday evening each month, is held in a beautiful, contemplative candlelight setting. We draw from “interspiritual” sacred scripture and poetry, Taizé and other chanting, prayer, and silence, as we open ourselves to God’s embrace. This service attracts Marin residents who identify as “spiritual but not religious,” as well as our congregants.

Music is a treasured part of our worship. Our pastor, musicians, and Worship Committee collaboratively plan services in which music, readings, and proclamation of the Word are woven together and amplify each other. Our bell choir and chancel choir are enthusiastic and highly valued participants in our services. We are blessed by the contributions of some extraordinary musicians, including master pianists John Steiner and Alan Choy, bell choir director Marquise Usher, and chancel choir director Martha Wall, and by the gifts of wonderful guest musicians from multiple musical and cultural traditions. Our parish associates, Kay Collette, Bob Hirni, and Nancy Wiens bring diverse talents that expand our worship experience.

We place a high value on esthetics. Our Art and Esthetics Committee adds beautiful visual effects that enhance worship and reflect the seasons of the liturgical year. In recent years, we have invested in revamping the sanctuary to improve its appearance, permit the inclusion of more artwork — including photography and artwork by talented congregation members—and make the space more easily adapted for different types of worship and performance.

The theology expressed in our worship is progressive, but not exclusive. We seek to grow together in faith, and do not demand or expect conformity to particular theological positions. We strive to be inclusive in the language we use in worship and to be open and welcoming to all who wish to worship with us.

Education and Spiritual Development

We are committed to supporting each other and community members of all ages as we grow in mind and spirit. We seek to explore faith, deepen understanding, and make connections as we live out our faith in the world.

Childrens’ and Youth Education. We have historically presented a robust program for youth through high school age. Due to changing demographics, we currently offer only Sunday School for younger children. Sunday School, in English, serves both children from our Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana community and children from our English-speaking congregation. Our small, but energetic, group of younger children love the Godly Play Sunday School curriculum, which

dramatizes beloved Bible stories from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. In the summer, we mix it up and bring in the Whole People of God, an online lectionary-based Sunday School curriculum. We hope to increase our offerings for youth in the future, including programs in cooperation with other churches.

Adult Education. Adult education classes and retreats take advantage of the rich resources of our region, including San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Marin interfaith community. A few offerings from the past several months: “Jesus Gets Under My Skin,” provocative readings of Jesus’ parables by Rev. Doug Huneke; a study of Bible characters by our parish associate Rev. Bob Hirni; classes on vulnerability by Rev. Ted Scott; exploration of social justice proclamation in other faiths’ sacred texts; end-of-life questions and concerns with hospice chaplain Rev. Dave Martin; “Beauty As Threshold to the Divine Mystery,” with Dr. Wendy Farley, director of the Program in Christian Spirituality at SFTS.

We currently offer two weekly Bible study groups, one in English and one in Spanish.

Our Men’s Book Group and Women’s Book Group attract members and friends for fellowship and discussion of pertinent books chosen by participants.

The Adult Education and Mission and Social Justice Committees have teamed to establish a monthly film night, which attracts participants from the wider community as well as from FPCSR. A few of the films in recent months have focused on homelessness and recycling in Oakland, gun safety, climate change, the impact of coal mining, and possible health risks of wireless technology.

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth. What we think or say about God provides the framework to talk about the spiritual dimension of our lives. It puts words on our yearning for the Divine, a yearning that opens us to spiritual formation. But in order to respond to this yearning—to grow—we need to develop habits that open us to the creative love of God. We need to walk a spiritual path. There are many ways to do that. For some it means a discipline of meditation, for some, it means experiencing nature, for some being absorbed in music, or experiencing varied forms of worship. Some find service as their primary form of spiritual expression. Whatever the mode, these ways of walking open us to the creative love of God and provide the interior formation that drives our growth. That is why we encourage and provide opportunities for people to take steps along a spiritual path, including our 8:30 worship service and SoulSong.

A weekly Centering Prayer Group led by our parish associate Rev. Kay Collette includes teaching on the theory and method of Centering Prayer, reading, silence, and time for conversation among companions who seek a conscious connection with the Loving Inner Presence.

The monthly Spiritual Practices Group “In the Presence” features explorations of meditation and prayer practices that bring us into a sense of presence with ourselves, the world, and Spirit.

Service in the World

Under the collaborative leadership of our pastoral and office staff and a very active Mission and Social Justice Committee, FPCSR demonstrates a deep commitment to addressing the needs of our

neighbors as well as the wider world and to work for solutions to the root causes of systemic and persistent issues. A few examples, in addition to regular adult education and film night programs:

Youth on the Move (YOTM). YOTM programs support vulnerable youth in our community. The *Youth Service Team*, partially funded by the Marin County Juvenile Justice Department, provides high school age youth with enriching service learning opportunities that fulfill court-mandated community service hours. Through the *Short School Enrichment Program*, FPCSR volunteers offer after-school “classes,” including science, art, cooking/nutrition, and gardening, at an elementary school that serves children (97 percent living in poverty) from the Canal area of San Rafael. We provide *Young Moms Marin* with meeting space for fellowship, guidance, and counseling and offer gifts and gift cards at Christmas and other times during the year. We sponsor the work of *Opening the World*, a nonprofit that provides leadership opportunities for transition-age youth who are at-risk.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). For many years, teams from FPCSR have traveled on mission trips to various worksites (most recently, Lafayette, Louisiana) to assist with rebuilding efforts in response to disasters including hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, and to get to know the people and communities affected by disaster.

Living in Harmony with God’s Creation. Our recently launched Green Team has been leading us to evaluate and improve our practices as a congregation and to provide education resources to help congregation members take action in their households. FPCSR now purchases 100-percent renewable energy through our local facility, MCE. We are members of Marin Interfaith Climate Action and support California Interfaith Power and Light. Each year, we devote worship services, sermon series, and adult education programs to exploring the spiritual implications of our relationship with the natural world.

Hunger Action. Mission and Social Justice Committee members have been leaders in organizing the annual Marin CROP Walk, in organizing Bread for the World offerings of letters, in supporting and participating in the Presbytery’s Pedal for Protein bicycle-ride fundraising, and in coordinating monthly Cents-ability offerings.

Response to Homelessness and Needs for Housing. FPCSR members prepare a monthly meal for the Mill Street Shelter and volunteer regularly to help build houses through Habitat for Humanity. For several years, we provided office space for the Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy; we continue to offer financial support and provide facilities, including our kitchen, for weekly wellness gatherings and meals. Since the beginning of the Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST), First Presbyterian has been one of the congregations taking turns feeding and housing groups of homeless men during the winter. FPCSR staff and members are now active in efforts to replace REST with “housing-focused shelter” initiatives to help homeless people get off the street, protected, and into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

Marin Organizing Committee (MOC). First Presbyterian Church leaders and members have been active in the Marin Organizing Committee, a faith-based coalition that takes a grassroots community-organizing approach to working for social justice. In addition to its promotion of “housing-focused shelter” efforts, MOC’s current concerns include renters’ rights, educational equity, and justice for our immigrant neighbors.

Our Facilities as a Community Resource. Our downtown location creates an opportunity and, we feel, an obligation to make our space available to community nonprofits at below-market rates, and sometimes at no cost. While we benefit from rental income, managing rentals requires a considerable expenditure of time on the part of our office staff. The groups using our building regularly express their appreciation for the opportunities we offer them. For 16 years, we have supported Fifth Avenue Early Head Start, which serves up to 20 families. Among other groups: two Hispanic congregations not otherwise affiliated with us (Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer and Mies Abundante Church); the Marin Interfaith Council; the Environmental Forum of Marin; the Golden Gate Computer Society; the Miraflores Academic; Art Therapy; numerous AA, NA, and other support programs; the Canal Welcome Center; the Lighthouse Singers; and People with Disabilities Succeeding. We are also in a position to host community gatherings such as the Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy's annual Thanksgiving service.

Mission Giving. In addition to annual contributions to the mission work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, the Mission and Social Justice Committee directs support to local and national organizations involved in social justice issues, including the Ecumenical Association for Housing, Bread for the World, Homeward Bound of Marin, the Marin Interfaith Council, Presbyterian Mission Coworker, Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy, Westminster Woods, Marin Organizing Committee, California Interfaith Power and Light, and San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Nurturing the Community of the Church

At the same time that we look outward to serve our neighbors, we seek to support the community at FPCSR.

Pastoral Care. Pastoral care is coordinated by the pastor, with a dedicated team including our parish associates, the Board of Deacons, elder David Morales serving our Hispanic community, and elder Lorna Wuertz, our associate for pastoral care. A long-time First Presbyterian member, Lorna says that it is her privilege to pray at the bedside of a critically ill patient, meet with those in crisis, and accompany individuals and families as they navigate their life journeys. Her training as a spiritual director has prepared her to listen to people's stories with the ears of her heart and assist them in recognizing Spirit's presence in the most difficult of circumstances.

The Board of Deacons. Among many responsibilities in addition to making pastoral care calls, our deacons serve communion at the 10:00 service, deliver flowers at Christmas and Easter, send notes and cards to members who are ill and grieving, provide receptions after memorial services, host SoulSong, and send weekly mailings to our shut-in members. Through their Maintenance Ministry, the deacons offer members and friends of FPCSR assistance with minor house maintenance and repairs ranging from replacing light bulbs and furnace filters to light plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and computer issues.

Church Life. The FPCSR Church Life Committee was founded to foster fellowship through social activities that encourage community members to enjoy each other and deepen relationships.

Through Supper Club, congregation members enthusiastically participate in a shared round robin of hosting dinners. The Hiking Club brings members and friends together monthly to take advantage of the beautiful opportunities in nature close to home.

The annual Crab Feed offers great food, entertainment, and camaraderie, while raising funds to meet expenses of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance mission trip. Other yearly events include the church Christmas party, the homecoming barbecue, and the Palm Sunday potluck, which is also an occasion for Session members to meet around the table with members and friends and take the pulse of the congregation regarding issues and upcoming programs.

LOOKING FORWARD

We feel called to continue to serve in all the dimensions of our ministry that we have identified. Our community is strong, supportive, and committed to remaining relevant in the world.

We look to expand our mission in some areas. We are exploring what it might mean to be a sanctuary congregation in support of immigrants among our neighbors. We are investigating the feasibility of major adaptations to our facilities, such as adding solar panels to reduce energy use and promote green energy.

We know that growth for its own sake matters less than faithfulness to our mission. We also realize that we must grow if we are to be sustainable. With the exception of our Spanish-speaking community, our membership is clearly aging. We know that we need to explore and find ways to reach out and attract more visitors and participants in our programs, and to find new members, including younger members. At the same time, we will continue to honor and serve our older members in many ways, from arranging rides and scheduling some events and meetings during daytime hours to including topics relating to aging and life transitions in our education programs.

Our lay leaders are a talented, hard-working, creative, and determined core group. We are grateful for members who continue to serve, and often to serve repeatedly, on Session, the Board of Deacons, and committees. We know that our future health depends on expanding that core and nurturing new leaders.

We strive to be faithful in our stewardship. Through a concerted effort, we have increased income from rental of our facilities, so that it now accounts for almost 30 percent of our budget. Thanks to the generosity of past members, we have endowment funds that generate income and give us some budget flexibility; we are committed to using these funds prudently. We do not have a parsonage, but we have a pastor housing endowment to offer some assistance with pastor housing.

In 2017, we launched a planned giving program, and received some generous gifts for an endowment to support mission programs. We plan to continue to encourage and expand planned giving. Energetic and effective fundraising permits us to offer our Youth on the Move Program to date without funding from the general budget. The congregation has responded generously to requests to increase their pledging, but as members move away, die, or find themselves in changed circumstances, we know that we need to find new sources of income.

Over the long term, we wish to offer worship experiences, service opportunities, and education programs that energize a fairly broad spectrum of Christian believers of all ages, as well as people

who do not strongly identify themselves as Christian. While cherishing its Presbyterian traditions of reformed worship and theology, our church is seeking a path and the inspiration to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. We are aware of the challenges of being the church in a region characterized by “spiritual but not religious” sentiments. We seek to offer a home for longtime members, for those who want to be followers of Jesus but who are apprehensive about the institutional church, and for others who have not found a place to satisfy spiritual longings that may not have a name. Ultimately, we wish to offer sustenance that will send us out ready and eager to do God’s work with hearts open to Spirit’s calling in a world with many needs.

ATTACHMENTS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: A BRIEF HISTORY

Since its inception in 1869, FPCSR has been committed to addressing the pressing social needs of the day by taking a leadership position in the community and caring for our church home and family. As we reflect upon our history, we can be proud of our leadership on social issues. And as part of an evolving tapestry, we are challenged to continue these traditions of service and growth in God's work.

In 1869, the nation was recovering from the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant was president of the United States, the Transcontinental Railroad had just been completed, and San Rafael was a village of 600 residents, plus an estimated 200 transients. On September 26, 1869, a group of local residents requested the formation of the First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. Since many of the early settlers in San Rafael were of Scottish ancestry (via Canada or directly from Scotland), it is understandable that they established a Presbyterian church.

The church founders initially focused on constructing a church building, and the congregation was supportive. In 1870, just one year after signing the church formation request, the 60 members of the church paid \$1,000 to purchase a lot on E Street between Third and Fourth Streets. In 1876, our first church building was dedicated. In 1890, Mrs. E.F. Park donated \$20,000 to build a larger church that would meet the needs of the growing congregation. Despite the stock market crash of 1893, 87 members of the congregation raised the additional \$15,000 needed for the project. Through their efforts, our current property, at 1510 Fifth Avenue, was acquired and the beautiful old church that stood for more than 75 years was built, debt-free. The press at the time described the building as “the handsomest temple of public worship in California.”

In 1884, Dr. Arthur Crosby was invited to leave the New York church where he was pastor and come to San Rafael. A letter from Session informed him: “San Rafael is the county seat of Marin County, distant about 14 miles from San Francisco, connected by the North Coast Pacific Railroad Co's cars and boats, time, about one hour.... Is growing in population and wealth. Has a population now of some 3000 people. In this State of fine climes, that of San Rafael is considered the most desirable. The town is a Sanitarium, a summer resort as well as a place of suburban homes. Has water works, gas and a complete sewer system. And it is believed to have a future before it.” Dr. Crosby was later credited as the person who most influenced San Francisco Theological Seminary's decision in 1890 to move to Marin County.

In 1894, a group of members became disenchanted with the church's use of fermented wine for communion and withdrew their membership to form First Congregational Church of San Rafael.

The present office space and downstairs classrooms were built in 1951, and in 1961 Canoles Hall was added. When a 1970–71 study of structural safety determined that prohibitively expensive retrofitting was required to make the church earthquake safe, the Session made the heart-wrenching decision to demolish the old stone church structure. Today's structure was built to replace it. The stained-glass windows from the stone church were preserved and cleaned, and now grace our current sanctuary. The bells from the stone church were installed in a new bell tower outside.

The congregation has always been involved in mission outreach and community participation. In 1886, an organization named “Workers for Christ, First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael” was formed “to create a real interest in Foreign Missions among the young people of this church and Sunday School.” In 1902, the congregation started the Chinese Presbyterian Mission. Many Chinese workers had come to the area, but they had no facilities other than their tent cities at China Camp. For 26 years, the Chinese Presbyterian Mission provided church services, night school, and a meeting place, albeit a segregated one.

Throughout its history, the church has addressed a range of thorny issues as part of our mission to do Christ’s work. As one example, our history with respect to the full inclusion of the LGBTQ community suggests how the congregation’s understanding has evolved. Ours is an inclusive congregation, and we are proud to welcome all people into our church family, but this was not always the case, and we had to work together through a difficult time to reach where we are now.

From 1975 to 1979, Rev. Janie Spahr served as our well-loved assistant pastor, before leaving to accept a position as executive director of the Oakland Council of Presbyterian Churches. As the council became aware that Janie had come out as a lesbian, she was encouraged to resign. She went on to become one of the Presbyterian Church’s outstanding leaders in the struggle for inclusion, beginning with the founding of the Ministry of Light, which later became the Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, and is now the Spahr Center, named in Janie’s honor.

When the Ministry of Light sought in the early 1980s to rent office space at First Presbyterian San Rafael, the Session turned down the request. This led to an intense period of soul-searching by officers and members. We discovered that we had to learn how to discuss this and other contentious issues in an open, honest, and loving manner. That learning took time, but we persisted in it.

By 1993, many people’s attitudes had changed, and some members proposed that we become a More Light church. Although our commitment to inclusion had grown, and we had for some time been ordaining LGBTQ members as elders and deacons, some in the church had difficulty supporting some of the More Light ideals. A compromise was reached. We did not officially become a More Light church, but we began including the following statement in our weekly Sunday bulletin:

“This church welcomes into full membership all those who confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, regardless of race, color, gender, age, physical ability or sexual orientation.”

In 1995, our pastor, Norm Pott, told the congregation that he felt called to stand for moderator of the General Assembly in 1996. His platform specifically and vocally opposed Amendment B (the “chastity and fidelity” provision), which had not passed at that time. The congregation again held prolonged discussions with members on both sides of the issue, prayed with Norm through a several-month period, and ultimately agreed to support his candidacy for moderator. His candidacy was subsequently endorsed by Presbytery. It was an exciting and proud time for many of us to share in the candidacy of our pastor. Norm was not elected; he returned to our church and served for one more year before retiring in 1997 after an 11-year tenure with FPCSR.

Norm gave us the platform to address the challenges that remained. In 2003, after a decade of prayer, consideration and debate, we became a More Light church, and shortly thereafter hired an

“out” lesbian, Rev. Annie Petker, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, as minister of Christian education and mission outreach. She later served as our acting pastor after the departure of our next pastor.

After Norm Pott’s retirement, Rev. Robert Conover was called to be pastor in 1999. The membership felt energized and ready to continue our faith journey. During the next years, we instituted a contemplative 8:30 worship service. We began collaborating with Sausalito Presbyterian Church on joint annual mission trips to Leon, Mexico. Rev. Kay Collette was invited to be a parish associate for spiritual development.

Subsequently, a series of controversies arose over a number of issues that revealed divisions within the congregation, leading ultimately to the dissolution of the relationship with Associate Pastor Carolyn Osborn in 2002 and with Pastor Conover in 2004. The Presbytery intervened and appointed a seven-member administrative commission to oversee developments at FPCSR. A year later, the Session resumed full responsibility for the congregation, and Rev. Dr. John C. Evans was hired as interim pastor.

Many new and longtime members of the congregation were so upset by some of these events that they left the church. Our membership decreased dramatically. The extensive experience of Dr. Evans was enormously valuable, and led to a new transparency and honesty that, while not eliminating disagreements, engendered a renewed willingness by the congregation to listen and to understand.

In 2007, we called Rev. Samuel Alexander to be our pastor. In 2010, we called Rev. Jan Reynolds as associate pastor. When Rev. Alexander resigned in 2015, we were able to engage Jan as our solo pastor. We have continued to grow in love and commitment to each other and in our mission to be Christ in the world. We also celebrate a renewed and productive relationship with Rev. Conover as stated clerk of the Presbytery.

Annual Statistical Report – 2017

Membership:

Membership December 31, 2016.....	174
New/Reinstated Members 2017.....	7
Deaths/Transfers Out 2017.....	7
Former Members Removed from Rolls	19
Membership December 31, 2017.....	155

Attendance 2016:

8:30 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday.....	18
Total 8:30 attendance.....	913
10:00 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday.....	69
Total 10:00 attendance.....	3,529
SoulSong average attendance.....	17
Total SoulSong attendance (11 services)	191
Christmas Eve Service attendance.....	<u>275</u>
Grand Total.....	4,908

Attendance 2017:

8:30 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday.....	18
Total 8:30 attendance.....	892
10:00 Worship Service average attendance per Sunday.....	65
Total 10:00 attendance.....	3,400
SoulSong average attendance.....	15
Total SoulSong attendance (8 services)	119
Christmas Eve Service attendance.....	306
Grand Total.....	4,717

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael
Income and Expense Statement
January 2017 - December 2017

	2017 <u>ACTUALS</u>	2017 <u>BUDGET</u>	2018 <u>BUDGET</u>
INCOME			
Contribution Income	\$246,246	\$261,500	\$250,365
Rental Income	127,497	110,000	125,000
Investment and Miscellaneous Income	3,995	2,002	2,005
Released from Restrictions:			
5% Quasi Endowment Transfers	23,184	23,184	23,460
TOTAL INCOME - BUDGETED OPERATIONS	\$400,922	\$396,686	\$400,830
EXPENSES			
Personnel Expenses			
Pastoral Expenses	\$127,996	\$128,623	\$134,102
Other Staff Expenses	152,020	151,150	154,800
Employer Expenses	9,438	10,200	10,200
Subtotal Personnel Expenses	289,454	289,973	299,102
Administrative	30,785	29,836	30,507
Facilities	59,039	56,377	60,689
Mission	16,000	16,000	16,000
Christian Education	3,055	3,375	3,375
Worship	3,185	2,600	3,200
Membership	3,960	4,100	4,100
Church Life	151	650	650
Planned Giving	0	300	300
TOTAL EXPENSES - BUDGETED OPERATIONS	\$405,629	\$403,211	\$417,923
NET INCOME / (LOSS) - BUDGETED OPERATIONS	<u>(\$4,707)</u>	<u>(\$6,525)</u>	<u>(\$17,093)</u>
NON-BUDGETED OPERATIONS			
Transfers (to) / from Reserves	(\$15,000)		\$17,093
Endowment and Quasi-Endowment Income Reinvested	72,841		
Contributions to Boyce Mission Endowment	55,000		
Contributions to Programs, Net of Expenses	6,421		
NET INCOME / (LOSS) - TOTAL	<u>\$114,555</u>	<u>(\$6,525)</u>	<u>\$0</u>

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael
Balance Sheet
Consolidated - December 2017

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
BANK ACCOUNTS		CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Bank of Marin Check -5620	\$ 19,646	Accrued Study-Pastor	\$ (2)
Savings Accounts	<u>20,237</u>	Accrued Expenses	365
Subtotal Bank Accounts	39,883	Prepaid Pledge Income	19,300
		Security Deposit	<u>2,200</u>
INVESTMENTS		Subtotal Current Liabilities	21,863
Vanguard -Endowment	37,822		
Vanguard - Krahl	386,656	TOTAL LIABILITIES	21,863
Vanguard - Pastor Housing	231,409		
Funds Invested by Others	47,911	NET ASSETS	
Vanguard - Boyce	56,336	UNRESTRICTED	
Vanguard - 1987 Fund	<u>120,587</u>	Unrestricted Net Assets	(57,073)
Subtotal Investments	880,721	DONOR RESTRICTED	
		TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	
FIXED ASSETS		Krahl Endowment	373,419
Land	329,100	The 1987 Fund	119,108
Buildings	1,050,400	Estie Special Projects	18,161
Furniture	115,900	Undesignated Memorials	14,353
Windows/Organ/Carillon	<u>363,000</u>	YOTM / YST	11,263
Subtotal Fixed Assets	1,858,400	Hispanic Worship	10,832
		Wiens Grant	10,000
OTHER ASSETS		Rummage Sale	6,080
Investment Inc Receivable	501	Deacons' Offering	5,199
Prepaid Expenses	<u>6,024</u>	Pastor Discretionary	3,333
Subtotal Other Assets	6,525	Other Temporarily Restricted Funds	<u>17,114</u>
		Subtotal Temporarily Restricted	588,862
		PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	
		Property Fund	1,858,400
		Archibald and Holden Funds	47,911
		Parsonage Endowment	87,929
		Pastor Housing Endowment	143,480
		FPCSR Endowment	37,822
		Boyce Mission Endowment	<u>56,336</u>
		Subtotal Permanently Restricted	2,231,878
		TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,763,667
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,785,530</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,785,530</u>