

The State of the Church

Historically, the corporate report is a summary of the accomplishments of every team and committee. It is a retrospect of where we have been. This year, the corporate report is little bit of what we have done but hopefully it more of a where God is leading us.

Let's start with what we have done. As you have heard we concluded a very successful Capital Campaign. The Gathering room is a wonderful place. Just ask anyone who has met in this room. The Hogan Youth Center, a few years ago the discussion around Hogan House was how to tear it down. I am in awe of what it has become. It is a warm and homey space. Comfortable to both young and old. It took faith and vision to see these projects to reality. These two spaces provide educational, recreational, and social space that was desperately needed so the church can continue to grow.

Tuesday Tutoring is now 40 students strong. Jackie Kinney was able to secure grant funding for the purchase of about a dozen iPads. A dedicated cable internet service was brought into Crawford Center to handle all iPads and Chromebook's in use. The educational leaders in our community have deemed this program so successful that they would like us to expand and accept non-Hispanic children in need of tutoring. If you have time to spare on a Tuesday afternoon, the program could use your help.

Our personnel have stabilized and are now rock solid. What a team. It's kind of like a rock band. We have Maggie, our pastor on lead, Jennifer, our music director on keyboards, Sam, our Christian Educator keeping that youthful beat on drums, and Dudley, who is back up vocals and new member development. We even have back stage staff like Martha who keeps the show running, Paula, making sure money is coming in and going out. Sharon who helps keep the kids and Cathy who helps keep this place neat and clean.

I could go on and on about how successful each program has been, but I think most of you already know that success because you are a part of it.

I would rather talk about where we are going and why that is important to all of us. Core Values are who we are and how we live as West End Presbyterians. Core values should be evident to our visitors and relevant to our members, old and new, young and old. Last Saturday the Session and Diaconate had a retreat at Hogan Youth Center to start the process of identifying what we value at WEPC. Our stage was set with a TED Talk by Dewitt Jones who always tries to Celebrate. What is Right. With that framework here is a rough draft of our Core Values.

Faith

Faith is trusting when the outcome is uncertain. We are a body of faith. Willing to take risks, acknowledging Christ as the Head of the Church, praying and listening for spiritual direction.

Love/Compassion/Welcoming/Acceptance/Diversity

We are a warm and welcoming church and a diverse church (geographically, politically, a place of all ages). We are compassionate and care for others.

Tradition

We are a church that likes tradition. We have a rich and unique history. Proud of our Presbyterian heritage with a touch of independence.

Music and Worship

Corporate Worship is central to this congregation and music has also been a central part of worship. We value positive messages, messages that are relevant as we go about our lives in a very uncertain world.

Spiritual Development of All Ages

We value a strong youth program and we have devoted resources to the youth. But we also value the spiritual growth of our adults. Our challenge will be to continue to provide education that is relevant and meaningful.

Serving One Another

We are a church that is mission centric. God has called us to serve internationally, nationally and locally.

Stewardship/Generosity

We have done an excellent job with the gifts that God has provided. We are debt free, and we have a well-maintained campus. We just ended a very successful stewardship campaign but most importantly, we are a community that is engaged and provides talents and gifts far beyond money.

Fellowship

We are a church that likes to be with each other. This is a place to love, a place to be loved, and a place to belong.

I hope that's this gives you a sense of what we value, of what is important to us Here at West End Presbyterian Church. As the core value process continues, the Session will continue to update you. We also appreciate any feedback you might have. I am thankful for how much the Lord has blessed all of us this past year and I am looking forward to how He will bless us and where He will lead us in the days, months and years to come.

Grace and Peace to you all.