

# **Auburn Alliance Church**

## **2018 Annual Report**

**January 23, 2019**

### **Calling Statement:**

We are a family of believers, called to inspire and empower each other, through Christ, to complete His work by experiencing His love with everyone He puts in our paths.

**AUBURN ALLIANCE CHURCH  
2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## Membership List 2018

George Allhusen  
Cathy Applebee  
Randy Applebee  
Cheryl Austin  
Andy Bates  
Kevin Bates  
Wendy Bates  
Kathy Beaver  
Scott Beaver  
Patty Breen  
Earl Brown  
Mickey Brown  
Paul Cammilleri  
Amy Carlson  
David Carlson  
Lee Casler  
Carol Chase  
John Chase  
Randy Condes  
Justin Coretti  
Don Delaney  
Molly Delaney  
Rhonda Delaney  
Frank DeRosa  
Dave Dineen  
Debi Dineen  
Janet Dodrill  
Esther Eastman  
Tina Eastman  
Doug Eldred  
Linda Eldred  
Allan Finch  
Tasha Foster  
Timothy Foster  
Jean Gaffney  
Wayne Gaffney  
Kelly Grieco  
Scott Grieco  
John Haga  
Michele Haga  
Duane Hahn  
Evie Haines  
Howard Haines, Jr.  
Howard Haines, III  
Jennifer Haines  
Matt Haines  
Jim Hedger  
Fran Herrick

Lynn Hollfelder  
Marty Huth  
Nancy Huth  
Gretchen Jenner  
Marcia Jones  
Russ Jorolemon  
Sharry Jorolemon  
Phylis Judge  
Jessica Kent  
Tim Kent  
Gini Kepple  
Mark Kepple  
Philip Kepple  
Rachel Kepple  
Stephen Kepple  
Wendy Kepple  
David Ketchum  
Rebecca Ketchum  
Alisha Koch  
Jason Koch  
Charlie Kraebel  
Denise Kraebel  
Denise Littlejohn  
Helen Littlejohn  
Lauryn Littlejohn  
Michael Littlejohn  
Tim Littlejohn  
David Lovell  
Julie Lovell  
Hector Lowery  
Lori Lowery  
Judy Matthew  
Brandon Milligan  
Becky Mindek  
Mark Mindek  
Chad Mitchell  
Jeannette Mitchell  
Doris Moody  
Joe Moody  
Matthew Noll  
Hal Parker  
Kathy Parker  
Sam Patane  
Sandy Patane  
James Peters  
Nancy Peters  
Don Phetteplace  
Sandy Phetteplace

Mark Phillips  
Pat Phillips  
Marilyn Proulx  
June Quigley  
Mike Quigley  
David Quinn  
Dorothy Quinn  
Eric Quinn  
Janet Quinn  
Larry Quinn  
Linda Quinn  
Nicole Quinn  
David L. Richter  
Renee' Richter  
Jackie Ripley  
Dee Sergi  
Dave Smith  
Debbie Smith  
Veronica Thomas  
Jena Vargason  
Tim Vargason  
Bob Watson  
Heather Watson  
Joshua Watson  
Leah Watson  
Sue Watson  
Jonna Weaver  
Kirk Weaver  
Barbara Zach  
Dennis Zach

**Active Members - 126**

**Inactive Members - 0**

**TOTAL: 126**

Updated 1/20/19

**AUBURN ALLIANCE CHURCH**  
**2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**January 24, 2018**

Pastor Mark Mindek opened the meeting and led the congregation in song, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.”

Pastor Mark Mindek opened in prayer.

Pastor Richter led a time of sharing testimonies and blessings and appreciation for church ministries.

**The Membership List was read, and a quorum was reached with 59 members present. (Note: 40 members are required for a quorum.)**

Pastor Richter read from Romans 12.

Motion and second were made to receive minutes from January 25, 2017. Motion carried.

Pastor Richter stated that, in the past, the reports read during the Annual Meeting included the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Elders and Treasurer’s Report.

Pastor Richter read the Senior Pastor’s Report. A motion and second were made to accept the Senior Pastor’s Report. Motion carried.

Pastor Mindek read the Associate Pastor’s Report. A motion and second were made to accept the Associate Pastor’s Report. Motion carried.

Eric Quinn read the Elders’ Report. A motion and second were made to accept the Elders’ Report. Motion carried.

Tim Littlejohn read the Treasurer’s Report. Tim referred attendees to the supplemental handout, which was prepared after the Annual Report was completed. Pastor Richter said that Pastor Mark will give a report on capital projects later in the meeting. A motion and second were made to accept the Treasurer’s Report.

Nominating Committee Report

Eric Quinn said that the slate from the Nominating Committee is on piece of paper in the folders. Pastor will ask for nominations for Nomination Committee, which we will write in. Pastor will then ask for whether there are any nominations for other positions. The ballot is two sided, with a lot of boxes. When it comes time to vote, if you want to vote for the entire ballot, there is one

check mark in the box that says, for all. If you don't want to vote for anybody, check, against all. If you want to vote for everybody, except for one person or more, check for all except, and then x the box next to the person's name you are voting against. When done voting, slide ballot into the envelope that has been provided. Then envelopes will be collected, and ballots counted.

Pastor is going to come; bylaws say that we need two for nominating committee and an alternate. Write the names in on the ballot as they are nominated. After nominees are in place, Pastor will ask for any other nominees on the ballot, and they can be added, except for Elders. There is space to write in names. At that point, Pastor will close nominations, you will be asked to vote on the ballot.

Pastor asked for a motion for someone to serve on Nominating Committee for next year. Bob Watson nominated Heather Watson. Motion and second were made. Motion carried

Wendy Bates nominated Jenna Vargason. Motion and second were made. Motion carried.

Alternate – Eric Quinn nominated Nicole Quinn. Motion and second were made. Motion carried.

Pastor asked if there was any other person that should be added to the ballot. Pastor gave direction to complete the ballot.

Doug Eldred asked about College and Career Coordinator, as there is no name listed. Pastor clarified that, if there is no name, the board will have the ability to fill the position during the year.

A motion and second were made for the nominations to be closed. Motion carried.

All nominations were approved.

Pastor asked if there was a motion to receive Jim Hedger as an Honorary Elder. A motion and second were made. Motion carried.

(Note: New people filling positions or people renewing terms are in bold type; people continuing in positions are in regular type. See the Nominating Committee Report included in the 2017 Annual Report packet for further clarification.)

Church Secretary	Fran Herrick
Disbursing Treasurer	Tim Littlejohn
Recording Treasurer	Amy Carlson

Counters	Kathy Beaver Tina Eastman Liz Ferlenda Becky Ketchum Denise Littlejohn Holly Martin Janet Quinn Lindsay Swab Barb Zach
Board of Ministries at Large	Matt Noll Doug Eldred
Elder (3 year term)	Don Delaney (20) David Carlson (20) John Chase (20) Hector Lowery (19) Bob Watson (19) Hal Parker (19) Eric Quinn (21) David Dineen (21) Jim Peters (21) Jim Hedger (Honorary)
Deaconesses (2 year term)	Kathy Beaver (20) Denise Littlejohn (20) Linda Eldred (20) Pat Phillips (20) Fran Herrick (19) Debi Dineen (19) Denise Kraebel (19)
Facilities Team (3 year term)	Andy Bates (21) Lee Casler (21) Matt Haines (21) John Haga (19) Howard Haines III (19) Don Phetteplace (20) Dennis Zach (20) Brandon Milligan (20)
CE Chairperson	David Carlson

CE Secretary	Wendy Kepple
CE Service Coordinator	Nicole Quinn
CE Adult Coordinator	Mark Phillips
CE College & Career Coordinator	
CE Youth Coordinator	Phil Kepple
CE Children's Coordinator	Jeannette Mitchell
Great Commission Women	Becky Mindek
Song Leaders	Doug Eldred Bucky Haines Marty Huth Charlie Kraebel Chris Wright
Pianists and Organists	Cheryl Austin Kathy Beaver Doris Moody Renee Richter Kate Smithler
Music Committee	Wendy Bates Renee' Richter
Ushers	Randy Applebee Andy Bates Jake Brown Scott Beaver Lee Casler John Chase Dave Dineen Allan Finch James Leubner Jon Leubner Joe Moody Jason Noll

Auditor	Frank DeRosa
Assistant Auditor	Russ Jorolemon
Encouragement & Support Coordinator	Janet Dodrill
Sanctuary Committee	Linda Eldred
Greeter Chairperson	Ken Bohman
Nominating Committee (2 + alternate)	Heather Watson Jena Vargason Alternate – Nicole Quinn

### Renovation and Remodeling Projects

Mark referred attendees to the report in the supplemental handout.

For the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall renovations, the total cost was \$44,546.23. This was paid for with \$37,156.25 (earmarked from the congregation) and \$7,389.98 from Marie Harris. Howard Haines asked about the \$37,156.25. This was all given specifically for the kitchen. Cathy Applebee asked about the \$10,000 from the Metcalf Foundation. That is part of the \$37,156.25. There is still some minor electrical work to be done, lighting, a divider, and a sink in the Fireside Café. There are also plans to put a gas insert in the fireplace. Larry Quinn mentioned that there was a lot of work done with plumbing and a grease trap, which is all included in the kitchen renovation. Mark said that all requirements of the Cayuga County Health Department were fulfilled, so the infrastructure is in place if meals were to be prepared in the kitchen. Sharry Jorolomen asked about air conditioning in the kitchen; Mark said that would be addressed.

Furnace and Boiler Replacement – The Weil McLain boiler lasted 36 years. The hot water tank was original from 1981. They were replaced with two high efficiency boilers that were installed. There was an anonymous donation of \$7,000, and \$7,310 from Marie Harris. We are required to have a yearly inspection; inspector raved about the Utica Boiler. Larry asked about estimated savings in heating per year; Mark said that there is a five-year payback on these boilers.

AEDs – Marie Harris provided \$2,398.

The remaining balance of \$7,145.17 in funding from Marie Harris was put into General funds.

Parking Lot Expansion – French / Metcalf Foundation provided \$25,000, of which \$5,110.08 has been spent. Hal asked about the total budget for the parking lot. That number is not yet known. We do have drawings from an engineer, and will be looking for approval from the City planning Office this year.



Capital Improvement Projects – There was a capital project fundraiser that started at beginning of this year. There has been \$10,629 collected, and \$12,300 provided from the French / Metcalf Foundation, plus another \$4,700 for closing costs on the new mortgage. Projects include doors in the narthex, LED spotlights for sanctuary, and sound equipment.

The \$4,000 closing costs are less than if we went to a new bank. We can now pay ahead on the mortgage, and will not be penalized if we pay off early. Lee Casler clarified that the interest rate is 4.75%.

Funds that were given specifically to projects will be utilized for those projects.

Becky Mindek asked if there was a way to educate the congregation on additional giving toward the mortgage principal. Phil Kepple recommended making a video to walk people through the process. Mark said that it would be good to educate about Tith.ly. What is the length of term on the new loan? 10 years. Mark said that he would like to talk to the Board about giving above and beyond, for an early payoff.

### Questionnaires

Mark went through the questionnaire tabulation. Sixty-one (61) responses were received. See handout. Mark said there are no formal plans related to the questions asked at this point, just gathering information and input.

Question 1: Would you support the church in hiring a full-time staff member in 2018 to oversee the children and youth ministries? Why or Why Not?

Yes – 42, No – 10, No Response – 9

Bucky Haines asked how this survey is weighed. Mark said the survey will go in its entirety to the Elder Board to get a flavor of where the congregation is related to this. Eric added that the Elders will determine if there is more discussion needed, and the Board of Ministries will need to be involved before a request would be brought to the congregation.

Question 2: Is there a position we could fill that you believe is more important than hiring someone to oversee the youth ministries? What would that position be and why?

Majority said there were no other positions that were more important than youth position.

Question 3: What ministry does Auburn Alliance currently not have that we could create that would inspire you to get involved?

Jeannette Mitchell said that there are a couple on the response list that we already do, ie. Homeless outreach. CE has discussed the possibility of a way to make sure people are aware of the church's ministries. Eric encouraged people not to wait, but that if God places a ministry on your heart, make a proposal for it to be done. Mark said that Connection groups could get involved in ministries too.

Question 4: Would you support expanding to a second, identical morning worship service if it meant that you and your family could be involved in more church ministries and activities? Why or why not?

Yes – 16, No – 35, No Response - 10

Eric shared that there have been a lot of changes made due to space over the history of the church. Think instead about what could be changed to reach more people, not necessarily just because of space.

Wendy Bates asked about traditional vs. contemporary service. The balance now is a good mix, with hymns and careful and thoughtful song choices from the worship team. Mark said that we have a great multi-generational dynamic, and we want to protect that.

Mark asked for prayer for the leadership, for wisdom and to see where God is leading us in the future.

Pastor said that God did some amazing things when the new building was built. What God is capable of doing is beyond our comprehension.

### 2018 Budget

Eric Quinn said that the budget is in the supplemental handout. The numbers down the right hand column were taken from the report from the bookkeeper. The books were not closed, so this is a guideline for the January – December 2017 payout. There are a couple of line items to explain:

5110 Office Supplies – Several thousand dollars were paid for the copier. That will not happen again this year, so the budget number is reduced.

5200 New and Replacement Equipment - \$0 was spent because some projects were funded through grants, but the budget line is being bumped up to cover the cost of a new riding lawnmower.

5290 Community Outreach – This budget line now includes Trunk or Treat and Night to Shine. The line shows that we paid out \$10,000. This amount includes Night to Shine, most of which was paid through the Tim Tebow foundation, so the amount actually spent was less than \$1,000.

5330 Mortgage – This includes mortgage payment and extra principal spent. For the new mortgage loan, the total amount financing is just over \$544,000 at 4.75% for 10 years. The monthly payment is \$5,713.06. Looking to the left column, it shows that \$68,567 is twelve months of payments, plus the \$4,000 in closing costs.

Jenna Vargason asked where the VBS budget is; it is under CE. Eric can provide the breakout.

The subtotal for the 2018 budget is \$375,541, which is an increase of 3.35% over last year. For Contributions to District, the formula is 7% of total budget minus mortgage payments. Last year, we caught up our commitments to the district.

Eric noted that the church's fiscal year is January 1 – December 31. The budget vote is not until mid-January, so the budget is actually one month off our fiscal year.

5295 Events – Hector Lowery asked about the total number. The total was for the concert, but \$8,736.94 was covered by tickets. AAC did not have to pay any money beyond the \$1,000 in the budget.

Hal Parker asked if we carried a ledger balance for capital improvements, so that we know where our capital funds are at any point in time. Restricted funds are carried for capital improvements. We have been blessed with foundation and legacy monies, but we need to be funding capital reserves in the budget.

Janet Quinn asked about \$9,000 CE budget, of which only \$4,800 was spent. Dave Carlson said that we would like to start a women's ministry and a senior ministry. CE is also encouraging leaders to turn in receipts, which would increase the amount that youth spends. Curriculum is also in the budget. New curriculum was not well received, so teachers are reusing material, or coming up with their own lesson plans. Janet Quinn said that Adult classes have to pay for their own books; maybe it should come out of CE budget.

Phyllis Judge asked about her proposal for the library. Mark said that the \$9,000 for CE also includes money for the library. This is still a discussion that is taking place. The plan is to expand the library.

Becky Mindek asked about the Adult Education Material budget line. Eric said that line is for education that falls outside CE committee. Don Delaney added that it includes counseling books and membership books.

Motion and second were made to approve the 2018 budget. Motion carried.

Pastor thanked Eric for all of his work on the budget.

Pastor mentioned that we have a new Bookkeeper, Barb Zach, and new Recording Treasurer, Amy Carlson.

Pastor Richter closed in prayer at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Haines  
Secretary

### **Annual report of the Sr. Pastor for 2018**

*The statistics for the last twelve months in Auburn are as follows:*

Sunday morning average	234	(Last year was 251)
Sunday School attendance	79	(Last year was 91)
Youth groups:	22	(Last year was 43)
Small Groups	90	(Last year was 80)
New Members	8	(Last year was 9)
Funerals	1	(Last year 5)
Baptized	0	(Last year 9)

### ***I have been involved in the following:***

- \*Numerous visits (home, breakfast or lunch), counseling sessions, and hospital calls.
- \*Attended Prayer Conference at Albany NY
- \*Attended Church functions, and meetings
- \*Went to “The Cove”, in Ashville NC to the Billy Graham training center.
- \*Attended ministry related banquets and seminars.

### ***On-going activities at the church:***

- \*Supper Six
- \*Stonecroft Ministries
- \*LEAH Co-op Group
- \*Quilting, SCOPE, Great Commission Women,
- \*Golden Guys

### ***Events in 2017:***

- Secret Sister Luncheon
- Teen Chill @ Delta
- Night to Shine
- Link Classes

District Prayer Conference at Albany NT  
Easter Musical (choir)  
Easter Service  
Spring Refresh Women's Conference Auburn Holiday Inn  
Secret Sister Luncheon  
Graduation Banquet  
Membership Classes  
Delta Lake Family Camp  
Delta Lake Youth Camps  
VBS  
International Fashion Show  
Men's Ministry Meetings  
Delta Work Days  
Church Yard Sale  
The Kings Brass  
Fall Refocus Women's Conference at Delta  
Missions Conference  
Trunk or Treat  
PCC Annual Banquet for Life  
Operation Christmas Child  
Golden Guys Luncheon  
GCW Craft Fair  
Living Nativity  
Christmas Musical (choir)  
Christmas Eve Service

The Sunday Morning attendance continues to be erratic. The attendance was actually pretty good from January to the end of July. The month of August started a downward trend that continued until the end of the year. August 26 was the lowest attendance of the year with 196, and April 1 (Easter) was the highest at 359. What amazes me is how you can have 209 (April 15) one Sunday and 272 (April 22) the next! It would be nice to see more consistency in our attendance.

The Small Group ministry continues to thrive with an average of 90 attending. I continue to see new people moving into various groups that meet here at the church. I would encourage everyone to be involved in a small group. I will deeply miss those that attend my small group on Sunday Nights!

This past year marked the home going of Ginny Hedger. Ginny went home to be with the Lord on September 3. We will miss her quiet spirit, prayers, and kind words. We continue to pray for her husband Jim as he tries to go forward without her after 71 years of marriage

I want to thank Julie Lovell and Helen Littlejohn, for their invaluable service in the church office as Secretary, and Mark Mindek for his hard work as Associate Pastor. Also, I am thankful for

my wife Renee, who continues to encourage me, and serve along with me in the areas of Sunday School teacher, organist, and Choir Director. Also, I appreciate the help of Matt and Diana Noll, as well as Sue Watson, for keeping our facility clean and presentable.

When I think about the Auburn Alliance Church, the prayer that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi always comes to mind. He said: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 1:2-6) Thank you for partnering with me these last 28 years! We will miss all of you more than you can imagine! Please pray for us as, we will continue to pray for you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. David L. Richter

### **Associate Pastor's Report**

Psalms 34:8 "Taste and See that the Lord is Good!" was our theme as we focused on the Greatness of God. We began the year focusing upon the person of Jesus and the centrality of Jesus to the Christian Faith. We transitioned into a short series on Stewardship and spent the remainder of the year within two books, Nehemiah and James. Both books were powerful in seeing God's rebuilding power and the practical application of faith and works through the book of James. Both Pastor Richter and I felt that these two books were essential in preparing our church for the coming months of transition and change that was coming.

As we have started the new year, we have introduced our new theme...Connect, Grow, Serve...three words identifying direction and purpose for our biblical teaching and how practical the Gospel is in everyday living. Connect, the fundamental truth of being connected to God through the grace and mercy of Jesus. Connecting with one others means realizing that the Christian faith cannot be lived on an island, but in the context of community and fellowship with other believers. Grow, the facet of Christianity that moves us toward maturity in the faith and deeper intimacy with Christ. It is what Tozer calls, "When deep calls to deep!" This is the purpose of growth...growth in our relationship with God. But growth also involves being mature in our faith with other believers. Again, the process of maturity cannot be in a vacuum, but within the everyday relationships of church life. Serve, the byproduct of the intersection of maturity of relationship with God and maturity with one another. This watershed of growth will compel us, force us to reach out and serve one another in ministry and to share our faith.

It is my prayer that in 2019, we would see the salvation of at least 10 adults. Please pray with me, that God would bless us as a church family to see this happen!

This past year saw some great things happen as it relates to salvation and decisions for Christ! Two adults in particular prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord whereas four children at Delta Family Camp and seven children at Vacation Bible School also received Christ! We Praise the Lord for His goodness in seeing these new ones in the faith. We also had one young child commit to fulltime ministry and another older teenager recommit their life to the Lord and follow that commitment with water baptism. Truly we serve an awesome God!

We have much to be thankful for from this past year. I want to thank the Golden Guys and Facilities Team members in giving of themselves and their talents in keeping this property looking great. The deaconesses are other unsung heroes from this past year as they do many things behind the scenes. There are others who do many tasks to assist the function of our church from facility maintenance, to library, to cleaning of the church, to keeping CE moving forward, to formal engaging of ministry to people...too many to mention...however, I want you to know that your ministry does not go unnoticed. I praise the Lord for you and all that you have given.

There is one other area of praise that I would like to highlight and that is the area of finances. The giving of missions as a record year is absolutely amazing! I am so thankful to the Lord for prompting hearts to give to missions. We have never given \$57,000 to missions in the history of Auburn Alliance Church. Last year was a record year as well, but this is a new record for us. I give God all of the glory for this.

In conjunction with giving is the giving to our mortgage as well. This past year we gave a little over \$70,000 to our debt, which is \$16,000 over what we had budgeted to give. That is a tremendous accomplishment as a church in the midst of transition. With this pace of giving, we will liquidate our debt of \$494,000 in 8.3 years.

Lastly, friends, lets earnestly seek the Lord for our pastoral search committee to know the mind of God and hear His voice in who will be our next lead pastor.

Thank you for allowing Becky and I the privilege of ministering with you!

I respectfully and humbly submit,  
Rev. D. Mark Mindek

## **Elders' Report**

### **Romans 8:24-28**

*24 We were given this hope when we were saved. If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently. 26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the*

*Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. 28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

For the leadership at Auburn Alliance Church, 2018 ended with a touch of sadness, a lot of hope in what God has planned for us, and confidence that there is nothing happening in our church that God has not ordained for His purpose.

Pastor Richter was our respected leader, our good friend, our teammate, and our spiritual mentor for many years. So many men of Auburn Alliance had the opportunity to serve along side of Pastor Richter as Elders. Every one of us feel blessed to be a small part of the work that God was able to accomplish through the faithfulness of Pastor Dave, his wife Renee' and the rest of the Richter family.

There were many reasons to rejoice through 2018. We watched as our reach into the community deepened through events like Night to Shine, Vacation Bible School, Trunk-or-Treat and the Drive-Thru Living Nativity. We look forward to adding other events to really impact the hearts of the people of Auburn. Every moment we spend serving our community in the name of Jesus helps them come to the realization that our God is love, and he desires that they know Him personally and completely.

In our own congregation we have been excited to see the impact of the small group Connection Ministry. We watched as Connection groups rallied around those who were sick and hurting, those who were rejoicing and those who just needed to share with, and be prayed for by a good group of close friends. We truly believe that what we are seeing in the Connection groups of Auburn Alliance is very close to the model of caring and home church that we read about in Acts 2, Acts 12, Romans 16 and other passages. As Auburn Alliance grows in size, providing a place for people to connect deeply with others with whom they can share and grow is extremely important in helping solidify their faith in Christ.

The elders would like to express our deeply sincere appreciation for all of those who volunteer their time and talents to God through the ministries of Auburn Alliance. There is no telling how many hours of preparation and prayer happen each and every day by people that desire no recognition, but understand that what they do will have an eternal impact. Musicians, Coordinators, Janitors, Teachers, Helpers, Carpenters, Plumbers, Coaches, Hosts, Singers, Bakers, Youth Workers, Prayers and everyone else who gives of themselves, please take confidence in knowing that God is using each and every one of you to reach the people of our community.

We started 2018 at an Elder's retreat, discussing and praying over ways that we can truly create a culture of discipleship at Auburn Alliance. Shortly thereafter we had Kevin and Becky Beers come to teach us how they connect the people in their large church with other members of their



church family that need them and can mentor them, raising them up in their faith in the same way parents and grandparents raise up children and grandchildren. We are working hard to find better ways to help our people disciple and love others into action here at Auburn Alliance.

It is obvious to the leadership team that we are at an important place in the life of the church when it comes to personal involvement. So many churches are desperately seeking more people to get involved and be a part of the ministries as it seems the busyness of everyone's lives is overtaking their desire to be involved in actively helping people in their Christian walk. Auburn Alliance is no different. We need to make every effort to help Christians, new and old, see the world through Jesus' eyes and understand that the single most important thing is leading people to a Christ, and nothing else.

As we look at starting 2019, we are fully committed to searching for, praying for, finding, calling, and supporting the man that God has ordained to come be the next Auburn Alliance pastor. As this report is being written, the process is already underway and we are confidently praying that God is already preparing the heart of that person and the hearts of his family. We are praying that God is aligning the values of Auburn Alliance and burning them deeply into the heart of this man.

In the meantime, we stand firmly behind Pastor Mark Mindek as our interim lead pastor. We believe in the effectiveness of his ministry in his gifts. We believe he has been called to be a part of Auburn Alliance just for this very time, and this very situation. We covet your prayers for him and the entire leadership team as he leads us into the next era of our church ministry here in Auburn. We also are confident in his wife Becky and the compassionate way that she reaches people and draws them to the church and ultimately to Jesus. Together they are an amazing team that loves, encourages, prays for, and stands in the gap for the Auburn Alliance family. We pray for God's greatest blessing on them as they lead us during this time.

We, as a leadership team are also in one heart of prayer for the Auburn Alliance Family. Change is never easy, especially when it happens at the top level of leadership in any organization. God Knows. God Cares. God is in Control of the whole situation. We are excited as we anticipate the new ways of reaching our community through people who never knew that they had a heart for the people of Auburn until this moment.

As Pastor Richter has challenged us in his last message with us, we must pray without ceasing. Let's desire and work to be that praying church that Pastor Dave was so amazed by when he first arrived at Auburn Alliance. Let's also seek God's will more diligently than ever before. There is no limit to the number of people that we can reach for Christ if we just follow His leading and make ourselves available to be used moment by moment by our Savior.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Quinn  
2018 Elder Board Chairperson

## Treasurer's Report

God blessed Auburn Alliance Church financially in 2018. Here are the highlights:

- Total revenue was \$484,723. Net revenue was \$75,906.
- The average weekly unrestricted giving was \$7,182 for a total of \$373,473.
- Online giving was \$52,982. This is an increase of \$20,000 over last year's online contributions.
- As a church we gave \$56,675 to the Great Commission Fund. This is a more than \$4,000 increase over last year.
- Total mortgage payments for the year were \$75,549. Of this, \$25,141 was interest and \$50,407 was principal. In May of this year the Board of Ministries decided that although the monthly payment is approximately \$3,540 we would increase our monthly payments to \$6,000. This will enable us to pay off the loan faster. Individuals in the church also donated \$12,261 to apply to the principal. Over the lifetime of the loan, we have been able to pay off an extra \$95,226 of the principal.

I appreciate the outstanding job Barb Zach is doing as the new bookkeeper for Auburn Alliance. There was a steep learning curve with our new accounting software, but Barb is handling it beautifully. The reports she is producing are clearer and more helpful than in the past.

Auburn Alliance Church is in a sound financial position. Praise God for his abundant provision.

Sincerely,  
Tim Littlejohn

## Deaconess Report 2018

In 2018 the deaconess board consisted of Kathy Beaver, Debi Dineen, Linda Eldred, Fran Herrick, Denise Kraebel, Pat Phillips, and Denise Littlejohn. The deaconesses met five times during the year as well as conducting many email discussions between meetings. Specific functions of the members include:

- Kathy Beaver, with help from Pat Phillips, organized meals for those needing assistance due to hospitalization or extended illness. Twenty-two meals were provided.
- Debi Dineen was the secretary; taking and distributing minutes to all members.
- Linda Eldred provided flower arrangements for funerals or dish gardens as needed.
- Fran Herrick acted as head deaconess until April when Denise Littlejohn assumed the role.
- Denise Kraebel was the contact for visitation requests. She was also in charge of inventorying and ordering communion supplies. The deaconesses take turns preparing communion monthly.
- Denise Littlejohn updated contact information for the automated calling prayer chain.

The deaconesses researched and purchased devotional books to give to baptismal candidates to celebrate and encourage their step of faith. Children who are baptized will receive a copy of Jesus Calling: 365 Devotions For Kids. Adults and teenagers will be given Billy Graham's book, Hope For Each Day. In addition, we purchased Bibles to give away to anyone who needs one. The Bibles are located on the information table in the narthex.

The deaconesses assumed the responsibilities of the Hospitality Coordinator when that position was vacated in the spring. This includes making sure that the kitchen is stocked with supplies and helping with potluck dinners, the graduation banquet, funeral meals etc... We hope to find a new coordinator outside of the deaconess board to fill this role as there is not a deaconess available during the day on weekdays.

Most recently, the deaconesses had the pleasure of being involved in organizing the farewell dinner for Pastor David and Renee Richter. Fran Herrick was the point person for this event. The church secretary, Helen Littlejohn, played a pivotal role as well. The entertainment was planned and organized by Sharry Jorolemon, Wendy Bates, and Kelly Grieco. We were pleased to be a part of this event honoring the Richters for their years of love and service here at Auburn Alliance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Littlejohn

## **A String and a Prayer Quilting Ministry Report**

String and a Prayer Quilt Ministry has been very busy making quilts. Seven quilts were sent out this year. We meet twice each month in the quilt room to fellowship, sew and pray.

Prayer is powerful. As a ministry we pray for each quilt request and as a congregation you have the opportunity to pray for the recipient of each quilt. I want you to know that lives are touched and people encouraged through these quilts and the prayers that go with them.

Thank you to all of you who have faithfully tied knots on the quilts and prayed for people who are hurting.

Respectfully Submitted  
Cathy Applebee

## **Fellowship Committee Report**

The Fellowship Committee serves our church body by coordinating food and hospitality for our fellowship gatherings and outreach events.

In 2018, the Fellowship Committee served in the following areas:

- Set-up refreshments for Annual Meeting
- Catered the Night to Shine event
- Dish to pass dinners throughout the year
- Continued to stock the church kitchen with table service

We look forward to administering God's grace in this practical way in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Quinn

## **Great Commission Women Report**

The purpose of Great Commission Women in the local church is to **educate and engage** the congregation in missional support through **prayer, world awareness** and **financial giving**. As you read this report, my prayer is that you will see the various ways in which Auburn Alliance Church is involved in The Great Commission and how you are making an impact in God's work, locally and around the world.

Our most exciting news is that TWO women gave their hearts to Jesus this year through events and ministries of GCW! Praise God for their new lives in Him and their influence on their husbands and children! PRAY for these ladies as they continue to grow at Auburn Alliance. Five young women from AAC have felt God's call to serve with ENVISION of the C&MA which offers international mission experiences like short-term trips and internships in over 20 cities in the US and overseas. Ministering alongside International Workers and experiencing new cultures, God is at work in their hearts and plans. Ask Heather Watson, Christianna Dineen, Hannah Watson, Molly Delaney, and Evangelynn Dineen about how God is using their Envision experiences to shape their future.

This year, four women from Auburn Alliance travelled to Lancaster for the GCW National Conference, "Celebrate". Through the speakers, music and fellowship of other women, we enjoyed a refreshing and renewing time for our souls. It gave us a clearer picture of the work of GCW groups in local churches in America and how each one contributes to the work of missions overseas within the C&MA. This very special time was concluded as all four of us knelt at the altar and prayed together to confirm the truths God had challenged us with. Besides our regular monthly gatherings here at the church for Bible study, prayer and fellowship, we also had several **special events** this year:

- February - helped set up for Night to Shine
- April – District Spring Refresh at Holiday Inn Auburn
- May – Walk/Run and Church "Extra Mortgage Payment" Yard Sale set up
- June – Quigley's bonfire
- July – District Renew at Delta Lake Family Camp
- August – Strawberry Fields
- September – International Fashion Show and Fall District Refocus at Delta Lake
- December – Artisan/Craft Fair

### **Finances:**

Connection Café - \$550.58

Walk/Run - \$449.00

Mason Jar Banks - \$769.29

Artisan/Craft Fair -\$1,064.29

**Because of these contributions, AAC GCW was able to send \$2,444.16 to the "MORE" GCW 2017-18 National Project as well as send support to district expenses of GCW.**

(The Northeastern District GCW surpassed their goal of \$16,000 by contributing \$19,794.03 to the GCW National goal of \$157,500 which supported at-risk girls in West Africa, pregnant teens in Ecuador, human trafficking survivors in Cambodia and female prisoners in Philippines.)

The **new project** theme for 2018-19, "MORE-PART II", also has a national goal of \$157,500...supporting an orphanage in Asia Pacific, a women's ministry center in Mexico, a

widow's center in Burkina Faso, a CMA orphan project in Vietnam and a crisis pregnancy shelter in North and Central Asia.

Thank you to Fran Herrick who continues to “work the numbers” for our GCW account which is not an easy task with all of the projects and weekly counting of Café donations. Thank you, also, to Kelly Grieco and Fran who keep the Café supplied, Janet Dodrill who cuts and prepares endless used stamps and Amy Carlson who serves as prayer coordinator. Thank you to all of you who contribute to the GCW projects and pray faithfully for our International Workers.

I would like to invite any women who have never visited GCW to come visit us the second Thursday of the month....come fellowship with other women, see the power of answered prayer and reach out to our community and world!

**REMINDER FOR MEN & WOMEN: STAY CONNECTED WITH C&MA MINISTRIES!** Please be sure to subscribe for your **FREE ALLIANCE LIFE MAGAZINE** at [cmalliance.org](http://cmalliance.org) or at the AAC **Welcome Center** in the foyer. Also, visit the GCW national website at [www.greatcommissionwomen.org](http://www.greatcommissionwomen.org) and our AAC GCW website at [auburnalliance.org](http://auburnalliance.org).

Serving WITH YOU, FOR HIM,  
Becky Mindek

### **Christian Education Committee**

#### **Chairman's Report**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19 – 20)

With all that has gone on this year the Disciple-making ministries have continued to teach all those who would come. In order to simplify adult classes and the coordination of teachers for the adults we removed the quarterly schedule, which use to require that classes be thirteen weeks long and to change curriculum each quarter. We have been maintaining the men's and women's classes throughout the year except during the summer months when we held one class for all. This has allowed all the classes to present information that is not based on a quarterly structure and has been very successful.

Another big change has been the addition of RightNow Media. RightNow Media is an online library of disciple making tools, which can be accessed by anyone in the church. It includes videos, curriculum, study guides and a lot more. It is sponsored by the Christian Education Committee to provide materials to help you grow in the Lord Jesus and to teach others to follow all that Jesus commanded. All that is available can be found at RightNow.org and accessed through the Auburn Alliance Church page.

One other change this year was the addition of Kids worship bags. These bags are available for use by the 8 – 10-year-old children during the worship service since there is no children's church

available for that age group. These bags have some quiet things in them to keep them occupied while the parents worship.

I would like to thank all the coordinators of each ministry on the committee for their hard work and dedication and to all those who participate in the Disciple-making ministries. I would also like to say that there are many ways to serve in making disciples and I ask that each of you pray about joining the team. There is much to do and few doing the work.

Let us not grow weary in our work and continue to work together in the name of the Lord Jesus to make disciples, baptize them and teach them.

Respectfully Submitted  
David Carlson

### **Children Coordinator's Report**

Our Spring & Fall Sunday School Contests were again a big hit with the children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In June, 11 winners were awarded a trip to Get Air (a trampoline park) and a pizza lunch. There were 12 winners this fall that will enjoy a bowling party in January. These kids attended Sunday School regularly and memorized many Bible verses to earn this special day; congratulations to all our participants & winners!

Vacation Bible School this year did not disappoint! Over 125 kids attended throughout the week and learned how Jesus Rescues in many areas of our lives. The kids collected items to fill over 35 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We know these children from our church and community were blessed, especially the four whom accepted Jesus as their Savior!!! A big thank you to Jena Vargason and the 47 volunteers who gave of their time and talents.

During our Sunday morning service, we continue to provide nurseries and Junior Church for children up to age 7. This fall, we introduced Worship Bags for children who stay for the whole service. The bags offer quiet activities for children during the quieter times of our service. I thank the "Young Mom's" Sunday School class for helping maintain the bags.

I give thanks to all our regular volunteers, especially our Sunday School & Kids Connect teachers: Mickey Brown, Rhonda Delaney, Michelle Haga, Jenny Haines, Samantha Hodge, Tim & Jessica Kent, June Quigley. Paula Koffler, the Junior Church Coordinator, and Jena Vargason, the Nursery Coordinator continue to oversee these vital ministries and I thank them as well for their time and commitment.

Children are busy little beings that God created and as you can see, we have kept them busy this year! In our busyness I am sure that each has grown in their walk with God and I pray that they continue to grow this next year.

In Christ's Name,

Jeannette Mitchell

## **Youth Coordinator's Report**

When reflecting upon 2018, it has been another year to be grateful for the youth ministry here at Auburn Alliance. A special thank you goes to all the leaders and parents for the support and love their share for the lives of the teens involved in this ministry and even those who don't attend. This year we have seen a transition from a dynamic Sr. High led group of students we had graduate this summer to a more Jr. High attended group. We have still maintained a great group of students and have slowly been connecting with new students.

One of the highlights of the year was the Teen Led Service that was done on Mother's Day in May. The students showed the diversity and level of their talents as the entire service from the greeters and ushers to the music and preaching was done by our teens.

Starting in the fall with the Youth Kick off, we have seen the youth group attended by a wide range of students including first time visitors. This has been a great blessing and challenge. New and "old" faces continue to walk through the doors for YG on Saturday nights and have been met with open arms by the leaders of this group. The attendance has been a little affected at times with scheduling conflicts for some, but we continue to average around 20-25 teens per night with the highest being around 38. As lives are busy all around us and even in our own homes, any night will provide challenges no matter what night YG is held but we are grateful to the parents and teens that have faithfully made a commitment to attend as often as possible. We continue to strive to connect with teens through ministry within youth group but also through fun and fellowship. Our goal in Youth Group is to assist families and teens in the growth of their relationship with Christ. We covet your prayer and support as a church family and look forward to what God has in store for 2019! Please pray for our teens and also the upcoming Teen Chill retreat planned for Feb 1-3 at Delta Lake Bible Conference.

This fall we have tried to have a variation of activities and themes for YG nights to allow for the diversity of how our teens interact and connect especially given the age range faced with a group of grades 6-12. We are trying to make YG as welcoming as possible but to be honest we just want teens to come and have fun as they connect with us and are challenged to live a life honoring to God. We would love to see all teens that attend our church to get involved as this ministry is about them. If anyone would like to know more about what is going on at Youth Group, feel free to talk to either myself or any of the leaders as we would be happy to share with you!

We are in the preparation stages for LIFE 2019 which will be held in Orlando, Florida in July. We are thankful for everyone who has already supported this trip prayerfully, financially, or both! Please stay tuned for an information as we shore up details in the very near future!

In closing, I would covet your prayers for this area of ministry as we seek God's direction for the future. Sometimes the future can look scary, especially when we are faced with the here and now



every day, but He only asks us to trust Him and take one step at a time. Before you know it the future becomes the present and it is no longer the unknown. By His Grace we will proceed! Thank you all!!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phil Kepple

**Library Report**

Many thanks to all the generous people who have donated items to our library. You have make over 300 donations to date! Special thanks to Pastor and Renee’ Richter for the many commentaries/study books they recently donated.

Twenty people have used the library with over 70 items borrowed since we opened. If you haven’t taken advantage of this opportunity yet, please stop in and look over the collection.

Phylis Judge  
Library Coordinator

**Christian Education Treasurer’s Report**

**Sunday School Account**

Balance on Hand 12/31/2017	\$1240.22	
Sunday School Offerings 01/01/2018-12/31/2018	\$1178.66	
Bank Interest	\$2.58	
	<b>\$2421.46</b>	<b>\$2421.46</b>

**Expenditures 01/01/2018-12/31/2018**

United World Missions-Terry Malone	\$480.00	
Great Commission Fund	\$182.73	
Sunday School Materials	\$406.56	
	<b>\$1069.29</b>	<b>\$1069.29</b>

**Balance on Hand 12/31/2018** **\$1352.17**

**Average Sunday School Attendance**

2018	72
2017	87
2016	97
2015	99
2014	91
2013	95
2012	100
2011	97

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wendy S Kepple

## **Facilities Team Report**

The Facilities Team is a volunteer group from the church responsible for ongoing maintenance of the facilities and grounds, as well as special projects that arise.

Again, and continually we would like to thank and give special recognition to the Golden Guys, a separate group of retired individuals that complete most of the maintenance issues that arise. Thank you to Larry Quinn for again leading this group.

Additionally, our team would like to thank the Kepple family and Phil Kepple in particular, they have been consistently dependable with a cheerful attitude troubleshooting and maintaining furnaces, drinking fountains and other systems as needed. It should be noted; they are not even part of the facilities team.

One major project that presented itself this year was flushing the sprinkler system that failed the initial inspection. A special thank you to Matt Haines for his methodical and time consuming commitment to perform the flushing “in house”. It resulted in a savings to the church of over \$10,000. Thank you Matt!

Thank you to Matt and Diana Noll, as well as Sue Watson for week to week cleaning of the entire facility.

We would also like to recognize Pastor Richter for all his years of snow blowing and shoveling that went largely unnoticed. Now that we need to replace his services, the value of it is more apparent than ever! Thank you Pastor Richter!

Hard fill operations have continued as we develop the future parking lot expansion. Coming soon will be a glass vestibule entry at the main sanctuary to keep the common area warmer.

More than anything we give glory and praise to Jesus Christ. Please remember our freedom to worship Him out in the open. Please appreciate our wonderful facility. Please thank Jesus for His provision. It is a pleasure to serve you and our awesome God.

Sincerely,  
Lee Casler

## **Missions Committee Annual Report for 2018**

This year Auburn Alliance Church hosted four International Workers throughout the year to share their countries, their ministries, their praises, their prayer requests and most importantly, what God has been doing in their sphere of influence.

Through the ministry of the Great Commission Women, Auburn Alliance Church has “adopted” Kelsey Ferguson as a “Third Culture Kid (TCK).” That means as a church we are committed to praying for her and remembering her on her birthday and on holidays. She is five years old and lives in Asia with her parents and two older brothers. Ken and Wendy Ferguson, along with Kelsey came for a one-day visit to our church in April. Ken gave the sermon during the worship service and Wendy gave a presentation during the fellowship meal afterward. The church love offering for them was \$874.50.

September brought Carlos Saavedra to our church from Paraguay. He was visiting us as part of the Northeastern District’s annual Missions Conference. Auburn Alliance was the first of 12 other Alliance churches in our district he visited. He stayed with us for four days, visited with five of our church groups, and gave the sermon during the worship service. Our theme for this fun time with Carlos involved lots of SPAM and we sent him off with a great SPAM feast. The church love offering for him was \$1,020.25.

Shawn and Heather Wallace visited us in November. They, along with their two younger sons, help to pastor an International Church in Nairobi, Kenya. A lot of our congregation know the Wallace’s from Delta Lake and have followed their ministry through the years. We enjoyed hearing from Shawn during his sermon. We shared a post-Thanksgiving Day meal with them where we got to hear from Heather and what keeps her busy in Kenya. The church love offering for them was \$685.00.

Later that same night we welcomed Danny and Grace Varela, along with their two young sons. Together with Danny’s parents, they pastor in Honduras. They showed us pictures, shared their music with us and then shared their hearts in a message. Grace is the daughter of Mark and Gini Kepple and it was wonderful to be able to hear from them as they were in the U.S. for a short time. The church love offering for them was \$660.00

Missions is a vital part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Any chance we have to host an International Worker is a special blessing both to the workers and to us as a congregation. Thank you so much for your attendance, your generous giving and most importantly, your prayers for these workers. The Missions Committee looks forward to what God has in store for Auburn Alliance Church in 2019.

The Missions Committee is always looking for extra help in planning and running the mission’s events. If this is something you would like to help out with, please contact either David or Amy Carlson.

Respectfully submitted,  
David and Amy Carlson

## 2019 Nominating Committee Report

Names **highlighted** are new-to-be-elected

Names in **bold** are up for re-election

POSITION	Proposed	Approved
Church Secretary	Fran Herrick	
Disbursing Treasurer	Tim Littlejohn/ <b>Denise Littlejohn</b>	
Recording Treasurer	Amy Carlson	
Counters	Kathy Beaver Tina Eastman Liz Ferlenda Becky Ketchum Holly Martin Janet Quinn Lindsay Swab <b>Patty Breen</b> <b>Kathy Williams</b>	
Board of Ministries at Large	<b>Rhonda Delaney</b> , Doug Eldred	
Elder (Three Year Term)	Don Delaney (20) John Chase (20) <b>Steven Kepple (20)</b> <b>Hector Lowery (22)</b> <b>Bob Watson (22)</b> <b>Hal Parker (22)</b> Eric Quinn (21) Dave Dineen (21) Jim Peters (21) Jim Hedger (Honorary)	
Deaconess (Two Year Term)	Kathy Beaver (20) Linda Eldred (20) Denise Littlejohn (20) <b>Fran Herrick (21)</b> <b>Debi Dineen (21)</b> <b>Denise Kraebel (21)</b>	
Facilities Team (Three Year Term)	Andy Bates (21) Lee Casler (21) Matt Haines (21) <b>John Haga (22)</b> Dennis Zach (20) Brandon Milligan (20)	
CE Chairperson	<b>Nicole Quinn</b>	
CE Secretary	<b>Michelle Haga</b>	
CE Service Coordinator	<b>Jena Varguson</b>	
CE Adult Coordinator		
CE Youth Coordinator	Phil Kepple	

<b>CE Coordinator</b>	<b>Children's Commission</b>	<b>Jeannette Mitchell</b>	
<b>Great Women</b>		<b>Becky Mindek</b>	
<b>Song Leaders</b>		<b>Doug Eldred Bucky Haines Marty Huth Charlie Kraebel</b>	
<b>Pianists &amp; Organists</b>		<b>Cheryl Austin Kate Smithler</b>	
<b>Music Committee</b>		<b>Wendy Bates Meghan Littlejohn</b>	
<b>Ushers</b>		<b>Randy Applebee Andy Bates Jake Brown Scott Beaver Lee Casler John Chase Dave Dineen Allan Finch James Leubner Jon Leubner Joe Moody Jason Noll Tim Varguson Nate Klinger Ethan Kepple John Haga</b>	
<b>Auditor</b>			
<b>Assistant Auditor</b>		<b>Russ Jorolemon</b>	
<b>Encouragement &amp; Support Coordinator</b>		<b>Janet Dodrill</b>	
<b>Sanctuary Committee</b>		<b>Linda Eldred</b>	
<b>Greeter Chairperson</b>		<b>Dave Dineen</b>	
<b>Nominating Committee</b>			