

# November 2018 Caller



## Pastor Ken's Message

Each fall, pastors are required to make a report to the Church Conference. Especially for those who were unable to attend our annual Church Conference, here is the report I offered.

The Pastor shall give a report on the state of the church and an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to (¶ 340):

**Providing support, guidance, and training to the lay membership in the church; ministering within the congregation and to the world; and administering the temporal affairs of the congregation.**

The primary work of this year has been to engage in a visioning process for the congregation, in order to set our goals and priorities for the coming year(s). That process made clear that there is considerable hope for the future of the church within the membership and need within the community for the ministries of the congregation. As the developed strategic plan is implemented, we expect the congregation to grow spiritually and numerically, while becoming healthier financially.

As we have engaged in this process, our active ministries have continued to serve the community while showing love and compassion for our neighbors. Worship continues to anchor the body of Christ in the Spirit and Word of God. Study groups strengthen our knowledge of scripture and theology, build relationships and help us grow as disciples. Prayer shawls bless

members, friends and neighbors who are celebrating life's milestones or suffering through pain and illness. Our many feeding ministries (Smart Sacks, Meals on Wheels, Shepherd's Table, Summer Lunches) help neighbors who are food insecure have enough to eat. The Giving Tree/Cross through the TESS Center aids local families during the holidays. Hughes House continues to offer safe homes for disabled adults. Life Skills/ESL welcomes community members who seek to learn English. Even as we continue to grow into what it means to be a Reconciling Congregation, every child of God can find welcome here. Our facility offers space for schools, community meetings, 12-step groups and others. The church retreat allows participants to strengthen relationships with each other and Jesus Christ.

After seven years of faithful ministry, Pastor Evelyn Rivera was appointed to a new congregation in July. We joined together in celebrating her ministry with us. Rev. Diana Wingeier-Rayo was appointed to serve as our associate pastor. She brings new ideas and excitement for ministry, as well as considerable experience in cultivating congregations for growth and gifts as a church planter. We are forming a strong pastoral team, which will continue to be empowered by the Spirit.

We celebrated 70 years of ministry this year! A celebration and recognition of these years of faithful ministry was held in September, with a focus on where God is leading us next. Despite our continued

struggles with finances and numbers of people, our ministries to do Christ's ministry among God's people today are strong. It is a privilege to serve as Senior Pastor of this church and I look forward to continuing to lead the congregation into the beginnings of the next 70 years!

**Provide an update on the status of the vision / mission goals set for the prior year.**

**Goal #1: Engage in a Visioning Process to discern God's future for the congregation**

After assembling the Vision Team from across the membership of the church and speaking with conference leadership, we decided to hire an outside consultant to work with us through the process. Rev. Rachel Cornwell, from The James Company, was contracted as our consultant. With her guidance we conducted house meetings, community interviews, an asset mapping exercise with the congregation and created a strategic plan to guide our ministries over the next 2-3 years. Although some aspects of the goals need to be finalized, a copy of that plan is enclosed with the Church Conference reports for approval.

**Goal #2: Continue to unify and build relationships within the congregation**

We have engaged in several bi-lingual worship opportunities and celebrations this year and additional ones are planned before year's end. The Youth Service, Pastor Evelyn's celebration of ministry, United in Love Rally Sunday, Asset Mapping Sunday, and an Hispanic Heritage Sunday have been held. An international Fiesta is planned for November 11 to celebrate our diversity as a family in Christ and perhaps an Advent gathering will also be held.

**Provide vision / mission goals for the upcoming year.**

My primary vision for this congregation is to grow and strengthen into a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-generational congregation which reflects, serves and engages in ministry with our neighborhood. Our vision and mission goals are organized in 3 broad categories: Worship, Community Building and Invitation.

**Worship:** Grow worship attendance by 10% (average of 10 people)

**Community Building:** develop two new strategic partnerships this year that will help extend our reach into the community

**Invitation:** create 3 new small groups each year that are intentionally diverse and inclusive.

The action plan for achieving these goals is outlined in the strategic plan.

In addition, I expect to lead a conversation to **review the administrative committee structure** of the congregation to be sure we are best aligned to undertake our ministries. I will have conversations with colleagues whose churches are utilizing different structural models.

**Include as a part of the report a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come (¶ 350.1).**

This past year I attended the Bishop's Days Apart, the Festival of Homiletics, the For Everyone Born convocation, the Justice for Our Neighbors Roundtable and the Justo Gonzalez lectures.

In the year to come, I am recommitting to taking my Sabbath Day for weekly renewal, will attend the Bishop's Days apart, a worship/preaching seminar and the Justice for Our Neighbors Roundtable.

### November Worship Opportunities

**November 4, 2018 – All Saints Sunday**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 25:6-9

**Sermon:** “Rejoice in God’s Salvation”

**Theme:** Remembering our loved ones and placing them into the hands of God

**A Celebration of Holy Communion**

**November 11, 2018 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture:** Micah 6:6-8

**Sermon:** “What Does the Lord Require?”

**Theme:** Serving Christ with justice, loving kindness and humility.

**International Cultures Celebration**

**November 18, 2018 – Consecration Sunday**

Rev. Diana preaching

**November 25, 2018 – Reign of Christ Sunday**

**Scripture:** Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

**Sermon:** “Listening for the Voice of Truth”

**Theme:** Finding Christ’s truth in the midst of a cacophony of voices

### CONCERT

The Advent Project under the direction of Richard Roe will present a conversation concert on November 10 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary of Hughes United Methodist Church. They will be performing J. S. Bach’s Cantata 131 “Out of the depths, I cry”.

The concert is free with a suggested donation of \$20.00. The concert will feature Matthew Hill, tenor; Jason Buckwalter, baritone; and special guest artist, Andriana Gonzalez-Collins. It will be introduced in English and Spanish.



### Deaths

Mae Evans (Ann Brunk’s sister) died September 25, 2018.

David Parker (Norman’s nephew) died October 2018.

**CHURCH RETREAT** has been postponed – to be rescheduled in the Spring.

### Financial Snapshot

**Income:**

September \$36,742

To date: \$375,452

**Expenses:**

September \$39,536

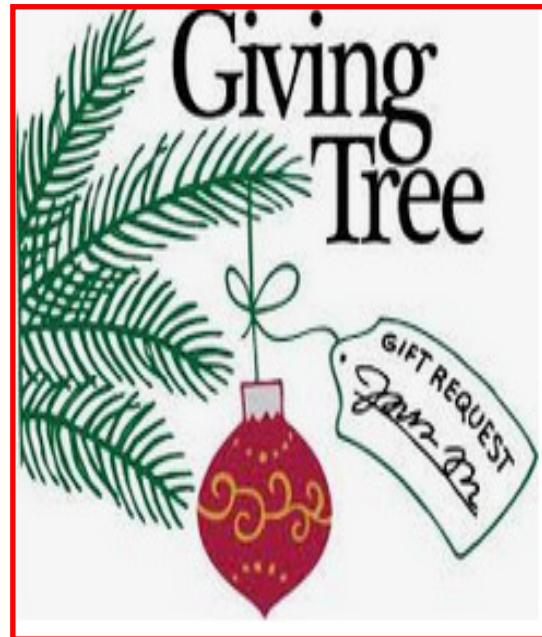
To date: \$420,526

## Look for the Giving Tree on November 18th

Hughes will again work with the TESS Center to provide gifts and food to three needy families. The tree will be up in the Narthex on November 18th. It will be decorated with multiple ornaments (three colors) which will have the items written inside.

Please take as many as you'd like and make sure to keep the tag. Items will be collected and sorted on December 16th with delivery later that week. Gifts should be wrapped and tag attached. Food items need not be wrapped but please attach tag for separation..

Hughes has been active in this mission work for many years. It allows us to spread God's blessings and help those in need. If you have any questions feel free to contact Jill Glixon or Kathy Ripley.



Kindly e-mail your Caller articles to Marty Weaver, Editor at [caller@hughesumc.org](mailto:caller@hughesumc.org) or place them in the Caller drawer outside of the Church Office by the 15th of each month.

Please visit the Hughes Website at [www.hughesumc.org](http://www.hughesumc.org)