

## **Free Methodist Church Society Report**

### **Associate Pastor of Administration: Rev. Danielle Garcia**

As we gather to celebrate the ministries of the past year and the ways in which God has worked in our midst, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve such a faithful and loving congregation as Pastor of Administration! For the past fifteen years, I have been blessed to share with you in God's work in Santa Barbara, and I continue to be thankful for the care and support which this church provides, allowing me to serve you more fully. It is a joy to share in the pastoral care of this congregation through visitation and preaching.

#### **Administration**

- Our Property and Finance Board is very responsible and takes great care to ensure that our financial practices and our decisions are wise and responsible.
  - They carefully managed the church finances during a period of growth and stepping out in faith as we increased the budget to allow for additional ministry to occur through this congregation and additional staff hours.
  - They planned carefully and prayerfully for 2024 and passed a budget with a stable income line from 2023. This budget allows us to maintain our commitment to the future of our church.
  - They approved several significant maintenance projects last year:
    - Replacing a furnace in the Coleman parsonage
    - Painting several offices
    - Replacing the carpet in the preschool areas, lower fellowship room, upper fellowship room, and offices.
- Our administrative staff have organized and blessed the church this year.
  - Cara Emerson has continued as our Administrative Assistant, working on a wide variety of projects varying from volunteer coordination to making sure we all have the Sunday bulletin each week. Cara communicates with our prospective CDCC families, manages our facility use and calendars, and helps our staff complete their responsibilities effectively.
  - Ron Inman continues as our Bookkeeper, ensuring donations, bills, and student attendance and payments are all processed correctly. Allison Smelley has continued to provide a few additional bookkeeping hours each week for specific projects and monthly bookkeeping tasks.

#### **Maintenance**

- Phil Guenthart continues to work approximately 16 hours per week, helping us with both routine maintenance and specific projects.
- During the past year, these specific items have been completed by Phil:
  - Routinely addresses Gate latches in CDCC area, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, help with set up and take down of senior lunch, vehicle maintenance, and lightbulbs, as well as Sunday service details.
  - Routinely negotiates contracts and procures estimates for CDCC Board and Property/Finance Board decisions.

- Oversaw the replacement of the carpets in the facility
- Created and installed, or modified and installed the items needed for the new infant center/nursery, such as the creation of the sleep space, the new shelves for storage, the baby gates, and many other items.
- Repaired water leaks from both broken pipes and broken faucets.

### **Cliff Drive Care Center**

- Delanie Sabac stepped in as our new director of CDCC children's programs, guiding our staff, students, and families. Allyssa Espinosa has taken over as our new Assistant Director.
- Our infant center is running well in its second year of operation with a committed staff of teachers and wonderful families becoming part of the CDCC community.
- We expanded our after school program back to pre-2010 capacity due to the need for more after school care in our community and have been blessed with a stable and committed staff of teachers in this program.
- Our teaching staff members are working hard to make sure our students still have a positive experience, develop friendships, and learn the academic, social, and emotional skills to be successful in the rest of their schooling.
- All of our programs are full with a significant waitlist as several of the area schools and non-profits have ended or reduced their after school care, several preschools are unable to open to capacity because they cannot find the staff, and infant care is a severe shortage in Santa Barbara. We praise God that our After School program has been able to care for children in loving and consistent ways, the we have been able to maintain a full staff of teachers and aides for full enrollment, and that we were able to care for infants to support the families of our community.
- We are looking forward to summer camp again this summer with students already enrolled. We look forward to providing care and connection for our students, as well as time outdoors.
- We have welcomed several new staff members. Wesley Webster-Brown and Alysse Mastromarino have joined our staff this year and been wonderful additions to our team, and Jenny Yznaga has stayed on board part-time in our infant center and other programs as needed.

I ask that you would thank God with me for the ways he has blessed the administrative and Cliff Drive ministries of the church. Please also pray for wisdom to address whatever challenges we will face in the coming year, asking God to bring his solutions to light as we reach into Santa Barbara with his love.