

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 nine 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, preaching, and leading a small group of young adults.

As I oversee the administrative responsibilities of the church, there are several areas to report. Our boards are very responsible and take great care to ensure that our financial practices and our decisions are wise and responsible. Our property and finance board worked carefully over the last year to oversee the church finances, and I am pleased to be able to report that we ended the fiscal year in the black. In addition, our maintenance volunteers and our property and finance board are continually considering what large and small maintenance projects should be completed to ensure the continued care of the property. This last year focused particularly on a major repair of the front railing along the deck, replacing screens on the church property and windows at the Coleman parsonage, and replacing the deck on the Cliff Drive parsonage. Our Cliff Drive Care Center board has been exploring the needs of the community and working on their own strategic planning for the next few years.

Our administrative staff have organized and blessed the church this year. Jake Elliott has been a blessing as our communications coordinator, following the departure of Aaron Bubert to seminary. Cara Emerson has continued as our administrative assistant, working on projects varying from volunteer coordination for some of our events to preparing items for our retreats to making sure we all have the Sunday bulletin each week. Ron Inman has begun to settle in as our bookkeeper, having acquired more knowledge in the past year and created systems for his work now that he has been here longer than a couple of months.

As I oversee our Cliff Drive Care Center Pre-school and After School Program director Jenny Yznaga and staff, there is much to celebrate this year. We are close to capacity on most days of the week, with our prekindergarten classes bursting at the seams. Our after school enrollment is up this year with an average of 14 students here every day. Last year's summer camp was close to capacity and included many trips to local parks, beaches, businesses, and educational sites. We are looking forward to summer camp again this summer. We have welcomed several new teachers this year with Luz Suastegui, Christopher Blake, and Halie Johnson. We have welcomed several CDCC families to church as visitors or new attenders this year, and they have enjoyed several of our joint events. Our second annual Grandparents' Day was held at the end of February, to great success. CDCC also weathered the fire and mudslide well, utilizing a newly implemented communication system to connect with parents each day about the status of the school during the disasters. We ultimately only had to close three days during the fire, although we did have families stranded on the other side of the mudslide. Jenny is always casting vision for the next steps for our preschool. Please pray with us as we discern how God may be calling us to reach out next.

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 and to help us reach into Santa Barbara with his love.