

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Prescott, Arizona

An Open and Affirming Congregation



2019 Annual Report

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
216 East Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
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www.FccPrescott.org*

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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2019 CHURCH MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

Co-Moderator Patty Lantrip
Co-Moderator Ralph Wagner
Treasurer Staci Robbins
Clerk Suzanne Broussard
Cabinet Members-at-Large

Sandra Johns
Natalie Brummer

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher
Office Administrator Julie Jaquette
Director of Music Jane Osborn
Organist Brian Moore
Bells Director Carole Sue Linson
Building Minister Tom Macy
Janitorial David Turrell
Child Care Maria Janca
Jeni Gessert
Kelsey Williams

FOUNDATION

President Al Beeson
Vice President Angela Imbierowicz
Secretary Jim Christopher
Treasurer Susan Lemons
Board Member Julie McCurdy
Board Member Dave Foote
Board Member Pastor Jay Wilcher

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH

Helaine Berman
Becky Bryant
Bill Bryant
Gary Gard, Chair
Patty Gard
Linda Moore
Staci Robbins

CALLED TO CARE

Yoichi Matsumoto
Natalie Brummer
Rev. Harry Strong

MINISTRY OF WELCOMING

Patty Brenner
Randy Cook
Tom Macy
Anne Solt

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Martha Garrison

MINISTRY OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Al Beeson
Chuck Budinger
Ralph Gilges, Chair
Pete Norum

STEWARDSHIP

Julie Jaquette
Patty Lantrip

NOMINATING

Patty Lantrip

PASTOR CHURCH RELATIONS

Angela Imbierowicz
Jay Eby
John Huff

WE REMEMBER

Amy Wilson March 17

Mardell Hull May 13

Ron Solt October 23

Sylvia Neely November 21

Marilyn Eby December 24

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
140th ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2020**

140TH AGENDA

Greetings and Call to Order	Ralph Wagner, Co-Moderator
Establishing a Quorum	Suzanne Broussard, Clerk
Opening Prayer	Reverend Jay Wilcher
Remembering Those Who Have Passed	Reverend Jay Wilcher
Approval of Minutes from 139th Annual Meeting	Ralph Wagner, Co-Moderator
Treasurer's Report and Adoption of 2020 Budget	Staci Robbins, Treasurer
Foundation Message	Susan Lemons, Board Member
Vote on Nominations of Church Officers	Ralph Wagner, Co-Moderator
Co-Moderator, Barbara McCollough	
Physical Resources, Tom Macy	
Treasurer, Julie McCurdy	
Members at Large, Sandra Johns	
Second Members at Large, Linda Kaul	
Foundation Board Member, Julie McCurdy & Anna Strong	
Report on Sabbatical	Ralph Wagner, Co-Moderator
Closing Prayer	Reverend Jay Wilcher

MINUTES FROM THE 139th ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 27, 2019

Following worship service, everyone in the congregation was invited to gather in Perkins Hall for the annual meeting which was preceded by a potluck meal. Administrative assistant, Julie Jaquette, was again recognized as being an "annual meeting birthday girl."

At 11:52 a.m., Moderator Patty Lantrip called the 139th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott, Arizona, to order. A quorum of 37 was established. In all, there were 58 members present in addition to many guests.

Pastor Jay Wilcher opened the meeting with prayer. He then led us in remembering those of our congregation who have passed in 2018, sharing a personal remembrance of each: Kevin Nelson, Pat Welch and Marilyn Lummel.

The minutes of the 138th Annual Meeting of FCC of January 28, 2018 were approved.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer, said that the open budget review held last Sunday after church was very productive with responses to questions on many of the budget items which included the following expenses: custodial, van insurance and maintenance, marketing, security guards, music supplies, outreach, and OCWM. Regarding the 2019 budget, Pete Norum made a motion to increase our Southwest Conference support, OCWM, from the budgeted \$3,600 to \$7,000. Discussion ensued. The following comments were shared: From Gary Gard : our present mission outreach exceeds \$21,000 and that this is 8% of the budget. From Susan Lemons: our present budget is a deficit budget as it depends on \$108,000 from the FCC Foundation. The motion was not approved.

The proposed budget for 2019 was unanimously approved.

Al Beeson, FCC Foundation, reminded us that the Foundation exists as a separate entity to "support this church". He announced that Jay Eby, after 12 years of service on the Foundation, has retired. Jim Christopher is a new member on the board. There are presently ten endowments comprising funds in the Foundation. He stated that, "More legacy gifts will be needed to support the church for years to come."

Our unanimously approved slate of officers for 2019 are:

Patty Lantrip, Co-moderator

Ralph Wagner, Co-moderator

Continued on next page

MINUTES FROM THE 139th ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED

Bill Rouse, Physical Resources

Staci Robbins, Treasurer

Susanne Broussard, Clerk

Patty Gard and Kathy Stevens: Hospitality Team Leaders

Andy Wallace and Sandra Johns: Members at Large

Andy Wallace, David Foote, Angela Inbierowicz and Al Beeson: FCC
Foundation

Education Director Marti Garrison thanked Patty Gard and Carol Dosse for their service to Sunday school and the library respectively. She directed our attention to the CE bulletin board display in Perkins Hall and encouraged participation in the study groups on the church calendar each month.

Co-moderator Patty encouraged everyone to read the reports in the annual report booklet. There was a successful motion to approve these reports.

At the close of the annual meeting Julie and John McCurdy were presented a special gift in recognition of their years of continuous and unselfish service to the church.

In his closing prayer, Pastor Jay spoke with gratitude of the many who have come to be a part of the "body of the church" this past year.

Meeting closed at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Solt, Clerk

PASTOR'S REPORT

The year began with sound issues in our wireless microphones. There were several Sundays of painful screeches during worship and failure of the sound system to operate correctly. It was a trying time to say the least! We tried a new mic and other changes, but no success. We finally learned that T-Mobile had purchase the entire bandwidth our wireless receivers used, rendering them useless. Thanks, T-Mobile! We learned that anyone on this frequency was impacted. So, we purchased new sound equipment and had no further issues.

The year began with David settling in as our office apartment guest and church custodian. Tom Macy and David took care of the building all year long. Our "Minister of the Building" – Rev. Bill Linson, continued to help with his building knowledge and expertise until his retirement at the end of the year.

Our worship was enhanced by an increase in musical groups and variety of music. Our worship attendance grew and consistently averaged over one hundred each Sunday. I hear from visitors that we are indeed a friendly and welcoming place of worship – I am grateful to all of you for that!

After much planning, we hosted a racial diversity event in April. Over a hundred were in attendance. Our mayor was on the panel as well as state leaders of NAACP.

I was able to obtain one hundred donated chairs for our church in time for the pancake breakfast. This enabled us not to have to borrow chairs from other places.

I served as president of the board of CCJ (Coalition for Compassion and Justice). It was a great year as we focused on providing housing for the homeless. Our partnership with Dorn Homes gave birth to two lodge models being constructed for future residents. My involvement is an extension of your ministry in our community.

It was a tough year as we had prominent members of our church family pass away – Marilyn Lummel, Amy Wilson, Mardell Hull, Ron Solt, Sylvia Neely, and Marilyn Eby. They will all be missed. We will continue to remember their gracious presence with us, and all they did to bless our church family.

Living in Arizona and Prescott, there are always people moving away from us to be near family, and others arriving from other places. This year was no different. We said "goodbye" to members who will be missed and said "welcome" to others who have joined us. It seems the only constant is change, but our other constant is God, who has kept this congregation going since 1880! We look forward to celebrating our 140th anniversary in September of 2020.

Serving Christ with you,

Pastor Jay

CO-MODERATOR'S REPORT

As I look through my 2019 Minutes and emails, I realize that we began the year with our main focus on the **2020 Budget** that would lessen our dependence on Foundation monies. The Cabinet has been diligent in trying to do just that by paying attention to how the church's money is spent. Many adjustments and changes were aggressively made by the Budget Committee with much discussion and eventual approval by the Cabinet for 2020 (now before congregation for approval).

Some main happenings The **church van** became a future viable source of income and was listed for sale and later sold. Natalie Brummer became our church's **Member in Discernment** and has been faithfully supported all year. A new **microphone system** was needed and installed (and now a new **video system** is almost complete).

Patty Lantrip, Revered Ralph Wagner and Pastor Jay attended the **Annual Southwest UCC Conference** in Phoenix. This annual meeting is open to any member of FCCUCC and partially subsidized for attendees.

A **Long Term Planning Committee** was organized and a meeting followed to brainstorm along with the recent survey to the congregants to gather facts and opinions on our church's future. The **Pancake Breakfast** committee was also formulating and planning began along with the decision that all the proceeds to be given to Discovery Gardens Preschool. Enough was raised to pay tuition for one year for a needy student.

The planning of a special **Women's Fellowship Tea** was launched with a wonderful and successful turnout at the home of Ronda Hatfield. Our first **Art Show** captured the attention of some talented artists as well as many customers.

One big upcoming celebration is our **Church's 140th anniversary** coming this fall, which has already been discussed. A committee chaired by Barbara McCollough is be forming soon.

Pastor Jay's long awaited **sabbatical** (*June-August of this year*) has committee members already making plans for Pastor Jay's absence.

Well, besides the above church activities, various Cabinet decisions were made to strengthen our community involvement (DACA for example). I've had many challenges that I've tackled with perseverance and truly through the grace of God and much support from YOU.

As the outgoing Co-Moderator, I learned and worked closely with those willing to explain the who, what, where and why to me (thank you Cabinet members, among others). I do appreciate your confidence and support while following the path of 'how to be a Co-Moderator!'

Many Blessings to All and Good Luck to incoming Cabinet members!

Patty Lantrip

CO-MODERATOR'S REPORT

It is a great honor for me to be the co-moderator of First Congregational and to have co-moderated with Patty Lantrip. She has diligently guided me into the role of co-moderator during this my first year of service. For her help and the help of so many others I am grateful.

One of the things initiated this year has been Long Range Planning for our Church family. We are still in the early stages but we have already helped the church see the need for a more realistic church budget. This year's Proposed Budget was partially influenced by the work of this committee. We have also begun the search for a more precise way to express who we are and what our mission is here in Prescott and the world at large. As we continue this process we covet your prayers, input and advice.

Submitted by Ralph Wagner, Co-Moderator

CLERK'S REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

Membership count, Jan 1, 2020:

December 31, 2018 117

Additions 11

Deaths 5

Inactive 2

New Count December 31st 121

New Members: Natalie Brummer, Jan 27
Jane Cheek, Jan 24
David Deville, Jan 27
Alan Michael, Jan 27
Wendy Michael, Jan 27
Linda Moore, Jan 27
Linda Kaul, Sep 29
Barbara McCollough, Sep 29
Dennis McCollough, Sep 29
Michelle McFadden, Sep 29
Veronica Sepe, Sep 29

Deceased: Amy Wilson, March 17
Mardell Hull, May 13
Ron Solt, October 23
Sylvia Neely, November 21
Marilyn Eby, December 24

Baptisms: Walker Cullen Bryant , December 15

Weddings: Schaible, February 23
Johnson, June 2
Zynda, June 8
Fone, September 28

Memorials: Pat Welch, January 5
Marilyn Lummel, February 9
Ronald Solt, October 28

TREASURER

December 31, 2019

The budget for 2019 anticipated expenses totaling \$251,265. Actual expenses reached \$253,885. Funding for most of these expenses came from Foundation transfer (\$85,000 for minister and \$23,000 for Education) and Favour Funds (\$6,000 Education Director). The remaining (more than \$146,000) was anticipated from generous pledges and contributions from our congregation and from facility usage (outside groups), memorials and weddings.

Below is a recap of 2019 finances, with a few highlights:

Income versus Expense:

Income as of December 31, 2019 is \$271,921

- \$132,333 from pledges and other contributions
- \$25,588 from facility use and other income
- \$114,000 transferred from Foundation and Favour Fund

Total expenses as of December 31, 2019 are \$253,885.

Total income has exceeded expenses by \$18,036.

Budget versus Actual:

Income at year-end reached 102% of the overall income budget of \$260,000.

- Income from offerings is 103% of that budget
- Income from facility use is a 128%
- Transfers from both the Foundation and Favour Fund are at 100%

Expenses at year end are at 101% of the expense budget of \$251,265.

Budget Highlights:

Non-budgeted Income:

Sale of Church Van to Yarnell Fire Department brought in **\$7,000**.

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TREASURER continued

Non-budgeted Expenses:

- The cost of our sound system repair/upgrade was **\$5,000**. Members of the congregation generously donated \$3,145 and the remaining \$1,855 was spent from Payne Fund.
- New Video system cost was **\$4,600**. Congregation members again generously donated \$2,930 and the remaining \$1,670 spent from the general operating account.

Current funds available in reserves and designated funds:

Payne Fund, undesignated	\$148,934
Ashenfelter Fund (for building upkeep)	\$20,695
Favour Fund (for Education Director)	\$0
General Memorial	\$4,789
Women's Fellowship	\$2,089
Music	\$2,000

Special note for 2020 budget:

Based on input from the Long-Range Planning Committee and Foundation Board, the 2020 budget committee was tasked with preparing a proposed budget based on significantly reduced funds from the Foundation. As such, many of the ministries and some employee budget areas were reduced to accommodate operating with only \$51,000 coming in from the Foundation in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Staci Robbins
Treasurer

NOMINATING SLATE

Co-Moderator	Ralph Wagner
Co-Moderator	Barbara McCollough
Ministry of Physical Resources	Tom Macy
Treasurer	Julie McCurdy
Members at Large	Sandra Johns
Members at Large	Linda Kaul

FOUNDATION

Members Julie McCurdy
Anna Strong

OUTREACH & MISSION

Committee Members: Helaine Berman, Becky Bryant, Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, Gary Gard, chairperson.

Total dollars spent from the committee's budget (\$4,400), undesignated mission contributions, and designated mission contributions (including DACA Fund).

LOCAL/REGIONAL Mission Projects/Programs:

Coalition for Compassion and Justice	\$600
Provides shelter, counseling, and job search assistance for those who are homeless, and helps to place clients in more permanent housing.	
Community Cupboard	\$395
Provides food bags for those who are homeless and for those living below the Federal Poverty Level. This is in addition to donated food items.	
DACA Students	*\$6,683
For immigrant youth/young adults legally documented, provides assistance for tuition & education related expenses, and for the cost of applying for DACA renewal. *This total includes money <u>designated</u> by church families.	
Discovery Gardens Preschool	*\$4,171
Preschool program of the PUSD welcoming all young children, including those who are developmentally challenged. Our donated dollars support the needs of low income families needing tuition assistance. *This total includes \$3,471 net receipts from our July Pancake Breakfast.	
Frontera de Cristo	\$400
An ecumenical border ministry in Aqua Prieta, Mexico ministering to migrants on the Mexican/American border. (Douglas, AZ and Aqua Prieta, Mexico)	
Habitat for Humanity	\$482
With the help of the home's future occupants, constructs homes for those families living below the Federal Poverty Level in the Prescott area.	
Living Tree	\$95
Preschool program for children and parents of low income families.	
Local Family in Need	*\$2,900
*This total was given as <u>designated</u> money by church families.	
Launch Pad	\$95
Provides tutoring and programming for teenagers in the Prescott area.	

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OUTREACH & MISSION continued

People Who Care	\$100
Provides assistance to those who are homebound and need help with such needs as shopping and transportation.	
Prescott Shelter Services (PASS)	*\$2,910
Provides shelter for homeless women and children. We provide a monthly hot meal for PASS guests. *This total includes <u>designated</u> money contributed by church families.	
Prescott College	\$200
Freedom Education Fund to assist DACA students attending the college.	
Prescott United Methodist Church.....	\$225
\$200 for Christmas gifts for children/youth of low income families. \$25 to help pay the cost of security officers at September Immigration panel co-sponsored by our congregation.	
Prescott Unified School District	\$190
Resource Center providing school supplies for low income families.	
Salvation Army.....	\$400
"Operation Deep Freeze", providing Emergency Shelter for those who are homeless and needing shelter when temperatures fall below 32 degrees.	
Shadow Rock UCC Church/Phoenix.....	*\$795
Ministries to legally documented immigrants arriving in the Phoenix area. Provides shelter, food, and help with transportation. *This total includes <u>designated</u> contributions made by church families.	
Yavapai Community College.....	\$200
A special fund established to assist DACA students at Yavapai College.	
Yavapai Food Bank.....	*\$1,135
\$735 for "Back to School" backpacks/school supplies for children/youth of low income families. \$400 for Christmas gifts for children/youth of low income families. *This total include <u>designated</u> money given by church families.	
TOTAL Local/Regional mission projects/programs.....	<u>\$21,976</u>

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OUTREACH & MISSION continued

National/Global Mission Projects/Programs

Neighbors in Need	\$814
UCC Special Offering with donations supporting ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.	
National Disaster Relief	\$100
A <u>designated</u> contribution to the UCC Hurricane Relief Fund.	
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$979
UCC Special Offering with donations supporting Health, Education, and Agricultural Programs, Refugee Camp ministries, and Natural Disaster Relief.	
Strengthen the Church	\$752
UCC Special Offering with donations supporting seed money for new church development and for creative ministries directed to young adults & families.	
Our Church's Wider Mission (Administration/Planning/Programming).....	*\$4,038
*Includes \$3,600 under SW Conference Support in Operations Budget	
Total National/Global Mission dollars.....	<u>\$6,683</u>
Total Mission Outreach Expenditures (Local, National, Global).....	<u>\$28,659</u>

Gary Gard, Missions Chair

CALLED TO CARE

In 2019 Call to Care currently has seven members. We are grateful for our members and all of their contributions, Yoichi Matsumoto (Co-chair), Natalie Brummer (Co-chair), Rev. Harry Strong (Co-chair), Carol Sue Linson, Wendy Michael, & Rev. Shirley Williams. We are very grateful to Patty Lantrip for all of her time and dedication to preparing cards and bulletins for those who were home bound, ill, or experiencing loss of a loved one. We were all saddened by Patty's departure, she will truly be missed. Rev. Harry Strong graciously volunteered to take over her duties.

We continue to visit our homebound members weekly. Pastor Jay Wilcher provides the committee of congregants that are in the hospital, who have fallen ill, or have other current needs via email. This communication is very beneficial as it provides on going follow up by all who are visiting.

We are so grateful for Carol Sue Linson making phone calls to those who where sick and home bound. Updating the other CTC members of any new needs that may have arisen.

Rev. Harry Strong graciously mailed Cards and bulletins to those sick or home bound. He also checked and provided weekly updates from the Prayer request box to the CTC team via email. Harry also filled in at Las Fuentes for Pete Norum during his vacation, providing a Bible study for the residents. He has also filled in as Co-chair when needed.

Yoichi Matsumoto has so compassionately visited our home bound and those in the hospital. Providing excellent communication to the CTC members of each person's status. We are sad to see Yoichi leave our group as a Co-chair. We are forever grateful for his care and compassion as he served on the CTC committee.

We are grateful to have Rev. Shirley Williams providing prayer support for all requests.

Although he is not an "official" member of our CTC team, Pete Norum will continue to bless the happy, enthusiastic, residents at Las Fuentes with his monthly Bible studies.

Natalie Brummer joined the committee acting as Co-Chair with Yoichi. Natalie visits those who are homebound and in the hospital. Along with providing prayer support for all requests.

In 2020 Called to Care will have two Co-Chairs, Rev. Harry Strong and Natalie Brummer, and members Carol Sue Linson, Yoishi Matsumoto, and Rev Shirley Williams. We are very hopeful that others in the congregation will hear and follow the calling to join Called to Care this year. We look forward to a year of growth.

Blessing in Christ,

Yoichi Matsumoto, Natalie Brummer, and Rev. Harry Strong

Called to Care Co-chairs

STEWARDSHIP

THE 2019 THEME FOR STEWARDSHIP WAS “RIPPLES OF GENEROSITY.”

- ◇ Our budget for 2019 was: \$251,265
- ◇ 64 pledged units totaled \$97,247 and out of that we received \$89,557

THE THEME OF THE 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS “CELEBRATING 140 YEARS”

Since our birth in 1880 we have tried to be people of justice, compassion and inclusivity in our community beginning with our ministry to the Chinese who lived along Granite Creek. During 2019 we have continued that tradition in many ways including hosting a community wide forum on race relations, sponsoring a DACA student and standing up for refugees both at our nearby border and around the world.



The spirit is moving among us, thanks be to God. That movement is calling us to a deeper walk of faith with our leader Jesus of Nazareth. Our money is one part of that faith. Please prayerfully estimate what you believe God is leading you to, by faith, give to First Congregational Church of Prescott for the year of 2020.

We have collected 33 pledge units. This means that couples pledging together constitutes a single unit. Out of those pledges, 33 of them were Members of our church, with 10 additional units from Friends and Regular Attenders.

Here is the breakdown of the 2019 proposed budget and pledges:

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pledge Units (individuals & couples)	38	46	64	33
# of Members that Pledged	55	54	47	37
# of Friends & Regular Attendees that Pledged	8	12	17	10
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 65,462	\$ 97,020	\$ 97,274	\$ 78,660

EDUCATION

I held regular meetings with the children's teachers to get updates, suggestions, and questions. They all are positive about their classes, the parents, and the materials they use for lessons. I have had to spend very little money as they have an abundance of resources from past years. They are also creative in coming up with relevant projects. The children's handiwork is displayed on the bulletin boards in the basement near the classrooms.

The adult education portion of the position has not taken off, although several people who are enthusiastic about their own interests gave some interesting and moderately well attended workshops. I think encouraging and supporting individuals who want to present is a productive path.

As part of my role as education director, I have displayed books from the library in Perkins Hall. I change this to go with the seasons or selected topics.

I organized two "Nine 'n Dine" events. Both times drew about 36 people and four hosts. The feedback on these was positive.

Marti Garrison, Director of Christian Education

MUSIC

We are blessed with so many talented and creative people in our church. 2019 continued with great music from our two singing groups, the bell choir and our informal “Joyful Noise” group.

During Chancel Singers 2-month sabbatical in June and July, Pastor Jay was listing the upcoming Sundays by the musical theme. Yes, we had a rousing summer of music with Joyful Noise and Alter-Notes. Every Sunday had a theme and we were really able to stretch our creative wings and allow the music to speak to everyone.

Each Sunday brings new worship experiences through our ever-expanding music program. Many, many thanks to all of our creative, musical individuals that are the Body of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Osborn, Director of Music

FOUNDATION

JANUARY 13, 2020

The purpose of the Foundation is to receive, invest, manage, operate and distribute charitable gifts and other forms of property for the benefit of the sole member, The First Congregational Church of Prescott.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors. There are 7 elected members and two unelected members, the Pastor and the Chair of Physical Resources. The 2019 officers were Al Beeson, President, Angela Imbierowicz, Vice-President, Susan Lemons, Treasurer and Jim Christopher, Secretary.

Currently the Foundation assets are the funds deposited in local OneAZ Credit Union, funds in the United Church Funds and the Building leased to the Prescott Station. The total assets (un-audited) as of the end of 2019 were \$1,423,995. Of those funds the Building is \$513,340. Many of the funds are restricted. Of those funds there is approximately (un-audited) \$280,754 available.

In 2019 the Foundation provided \$108,000 in support of the Minister's Salary and the Christian Education program wages and expenses. The Foundation also pays for insurance, real estate taxes on the Prescott Station, the CPA who reviews the foundation books and other legal expenses.

Prescott Station has won another year of outstanding restaurant in the area and continues to be a wonderful tenant. This year the Prescott Station has had some water problems due to the rain and snow melt on the East side of the building. We are working with them to find a solution. There have also been issues with the sewer lines needing to be cleared often, as they are so old and under the parking lot.

Respectively submitted,

Susan Lemons

Treasurer.

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