2017 was a year of challenge and change for our world, our country, and even for our church. But with challenges come the chance for dialogue and for learning that can bring opportunities for growth. As the Body of Christ, we commit ourselves to stick together through good times and hard ones. Montview ends this year with 112 new members received (the largest number we’ve received in recent years) and financially we close the year well in the black (see page 12). The search for our next Minister for Youth and Families is on schedule and during this time of transition, the parents of our youth are more engaged than ever—thanks to our amazing Youth Committee. The Session formed a task force to clarify the role of the Executive Director. The search is now under way and on schedule to have a new Executive Director of Operations and Finance in place as early as April, 2018.

We heard your request to have clearer communication about what is happening around the church and to be informed about Session’s work. We hope you’ve noticed our weekly “Note From” emails, in which we will keep you up to date on all things Montview. Additionally, our hope is to start holding quarterly listening sessions with Elders to provide a chance for greater dialogue between leaders and members.

We will continue to emphasize four key initiatives in 2018 as outlined in our “State of the Church” address on January 7, 2018.

We’ve coined them:

**Race** – An on-going, honest assessment of racism and white privilege in ourselves, our communities, and our church;

**Space** – An intentional focus on the care and stewardship of our historic building, leading to the development of a Master Plan and Capital Campaign;

**Breadth** – A focus on programming opportunities to better connect members of our congregation. Wednesday Night Life is an example of a program that fosters inter-generational relationships through a casual dinner and multi-age programming.

**Depth** – A greater focus on deepening individuals’ spiritual lives through small group opportunities for the leader development of laity. We are now in year two of the Faith Leader program, which takes eight people on a 28-week journey of exploring and deepening one’s faith.

There is much for which to be grateful! Montview is teeming with activities, and you will see some of the highlights in the pages that follow. This church is blessed with countless caring, committed members who in ways large and small make Montview a special place. So thank you, to all of you who give your time, your treasure, and your hearts in the service of Christ Jesus. May the coming year be one of deepened relationships with God, self, and one another.

In peace and hope,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTMAS EVE</td>
<td>681 (3 pm), 707 (5 pm), 792 (7:30 pm), 317 (11 pm), 2,497 (Total)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **325** total adult Christian education attendees
- **112** new members joined
- **42** women attended the March retreat in Estes Park
- **$8,000** provided in emergency relief in our community

**Montview hosted several special guest lecturers**, including:
- Walter Brueggemann
- Nadia Bolz-Weber
- Jane Vennard

**MUSIC**
- **11,000** miles traveled by our Westminster Choir Colorado Luther Chorale singers during their Germany Tour
- **100+ ANTHEMS** sung by our Westminster Choir in Sunday worship
- **2-FOLD INCREASE** in Timbrel Choir enrollment
- **200+** Montview & St. Andrew’s singers performed en masse the music of Stephen Paulus

**FRY-BROWN**
The Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown—professor, theologian, and author—spoke about ‘Living Boldly with Compassion and Justice in Uncertain Times’ for the Montview Distinguished Lecture Series in November. This event included a discussion with noted panelists: Rev. Dr. Tom Wolfe, President of Iliff; Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing, Jr., New Hope Baptist; Rabbi Adam Morris, Temple Micah; Rev. Dr. Dawn Riley Duval, Soul2Soul consultant, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, Denver chapter.
MONTVIEW 2017 AT A GLANCE

29 children Sunday School teachers & 16 childcare providers work with children aged birth to 5th grade

208 children highest single Sunday total

134 children average Sunday School & Childcare attendance

62 children children participated in the Christmas Eve Family Services with parts from readers to stars

36 children 4th Grade Bibles were presented November 2017

120 children children participated in the Summer Sacred Art Program with half of these coming from the greater community

3,600 Homeless Packets assembled in 2017

20,000 total since the program began

29 YOUTH youth participated in Confirmation

22 YOUTH youth went to Pine Ridge, South Dakota (MOB)

26 YOUTH youth went to Ghost Ranch (JAM)

5 BUILDING girl scout troops meet at Montview weekly

3 BUILDING boy scout troops meet at Montview weekly

25 BUILDING monthly volunteers help with weekday church office tasks

10 & 12 BUILDING concerts from outside groups

30 BUILDING monthly volunteers help run Sunday services

12 BUILDING meetings Montview hosts on an average day & up to 4 meetings in the same room (the Sextons reset the room each time)

4000 BUILDING people walk through Montview’s doors each week

600 BUILDING homeless women we house and feed a year (100 every other month)
A Remarkable Year for Children’s Ministry!

The first thing to share about 2017 is that our Sunday School and childcare programs continue to thrive because of our exceptional volunteer teachers and professional childcare providers. We have 29 volunteer teachers and 16 care providers. We are deeply grateful for each one!

Again, this year at Montview Church our children have opportunities to learn many things. Our children can learn that they are accepted, celebrated, and loved as unique and special by our staff, volunteers, and congregation. They can learn about the Bible and how it can guide their lives and decisions. They can learn about the work of love in all relationships and in service to those in need. Our children join the greater church in assembling and giving homeless packets and by donating items such as food, coins, winter clothing, and diapers to our mission projects throughout the year. The children of our congregation can learn about our worship tradition and participate in the sanctuary often as readers, acolytes, Communion servers, choir members, Pulpit Players members, and as eager participants in Word to the Children with the co-pastors each week! On Sunday mornings, our children can realize that their faith is an ever-evolving and foundational part of their lives on each day of each week.

This year we have a new curriculum for grades 1-5. It is a rotational model with cooking, art, mission, spiritual practices, games, and storytelling/drama components. The children have commented that they enjoy the added variety. During our six-week curriculum units, the classes are in different rooms doing different activities around the same Bible story with the same teachers and classmates. It is a good balance of known and unknown aspects each week!

A new event in 2017 was our celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 19. Kindergarteners from Stedman and Park Hill Elementary Schools in our neighborhood met on the steps outside our sanctuary to sing “We Shall Overcome” together. There was not a dry eye among the adults who attended. The children then moved into Montview Church for a program and snacks. This was the first of many community outreach and social justice plans for children at Montview. Our interfaith summer arts program, Summer Sacred Art, served 120 children from our Montview and greater communities in 2017. Sacred Art is a joyful and respectful exploration of world religions, individual creativity, and group cooperation and kindness.

We give thanks for the children and parents we serve in this faith community. Montview Church continues to be a great place to be a child!

Sandy Prouty,
Minister of Children and Families
Montview Children in 2017
“The New Guy”

My first introduction to the youth group of Montview Church was on a Sunday when I was invited to experience a full day of worship and community. There could not have been a more perfect Sunday for me to attend. The youth were preparing to give their presentation on their summer trips, and I had time to gather with them and learn some names and hear about their experience at Ghost Ranch and Pine Ridge. When everything was set up in Fellowship Hall, the youth showed me the short cut through the basement to the sanctuary, and we ran up the stairs to the balcony to watch one of the greatest youth involvements in a worship service I have ever seen. Props were lifted, costumes assembled, and voices were lifted up as the youth acted out the story of *Jonah and the Whale* for one of the yearly Pulpit Players performances. I had been told that this would be happening, but words did it no justice. What I saw that day was truly amazing, and I knew without a doubt this was a youth group I would be honored to work with.

Nearly three months into my tenure at Montview Church, my view has not changed. We have laughed, played, exchanged Christmas presents, and grown together as a group. This is a youth group that has a deep history within the walls of this church, and a big part of that history are the summer work trips. Here are a few words from two of our youth about how those summer trips went:

Schuyler Saint-Phard: (MOB Pine Ridge trip, June 2017) “The work trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, was one I will never forget. It was so amazing to listen to the Native American Indian Lakotas tell us their stories and to help restore their homes. During our time off, we would go outside to the playground and play with the local kids. It was beautiful how close all the high schoolers got during bonding activities as well as when we ventured to Mount Rushmore and a hot spring. It was overall an experience to write home about, and I am so looking forward to the next work trip.”

Shana Saint-Phard: (JAM Ghost Ranch trip, July 2017) “Going on a work trip, one probably would think that I would like to talk about how we worked our tails off cleaning libraries for the Native American people, or making a mural out of borders to catch rain to irrigate crops in the scalding hot sun. But the community that was built while working and just being together trumps all of this. Our trip started with being shoved into a van with a bunch of middle schoolers who barely knew each other, but when we came out six hours later we were acting as if we had known each other since right out of the womb. I truly cherish and love my peers who I went with and learned so much about. I know I’ve made some great friends and the best memories.”

From these youth I have heard some of the greatest questions about faith and scripture I have ever heard. I’ve seen and heard the youth involvement in worship with lifting up of singing voices to opening two of the Christmas Eve services in the Call to Worship. I cannot wait for what the future holds. This winter we will go on trips to the mountains for some snow fun. We will begin confirmation and learn about the Christian faith and Presbyterian tradition. In the summer, JAM will attend Ghost Ranch and MOB will go to Chicago to do an urban mission trip with The Door Network. Through these experiences, I know that the youth will grow closer together and form bonds that will last for years to come.

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington
Temporary Youth Ministry Coordinator
2017 and Beyond

Dear friends,

It is now two-and-a-half years since I became your Minister of Music, and still I am often amazed and inspired by our volunteers’ dedication that makes our Worship, Music & Arts program possible. Some highlights from 2017 include:

- The Music of Stephen Paulus: a collaborative concert between Montview’s Westminster Choir and St. Andrew United Methodist Church’s Chancel Choir. Over 200 singers participated, with performances for both worship communities.
- The 2nd Annual John Kuzma Young Composers Prize, awarded to Jadrian Tarver of Atlanta, Georgia. The combined children’s and youth choirs premiered his composition, “Gloria!” at our spring concert.
- The world premiere of American composer Nancy Galbraith’s Missa Mysteriorum for Choir and Orchestra. Composer Galbraith attended the concert and presented a Q&A session for our choir—offering a unique opportunity for our choristers to interact with a living female composer.
- Continued operation of our Montview Conservatory of Music, including after-school Orff classes with new instructors Donna Frederickson and Becki Taylor.
- 20 singers from the Westminster Choir joined 40 singers from the choirs of Wellshire Presbyterian and Bethany Lutheran churches, creating the Colorado Luther Chorale. In June, we traveled to the Czech Republic and Germany for a 10-day concert tour in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- Two Pulpit Players in-worship presentations, as well as Musique and Masque’s four show, full production of “Honk!” with over 100 volunteer cast and crew of all ages participating.
- Creation of a new youth handbell group and a two-fold increase in Timbrel Choir enrollment and participation.
- Inclusion of more classical music written by female composers, featuring at least one piece a month sung by the Westminster Choir.
- In-worship celebration of Barbara Hulac’s 40 incredible years as our Organist and Associate Minister of Music.
- Our annual Christmas Concert, titled “A Great British Christmas,” with nearly 700 audience members; Lessons & Carols, led by our entire music program in Sunday Morning worship; and Christmas Eve, with the Westminster Choir leading three worship services!!
- And finally, our most important contribution: continued music presentations at all of our worship services, with nearly 100 pieces sung by our Westminster Choir, along with our children’s, youth hand bell choirs. In addition, we presented soloists, duets, and assorted chamber groups singing and playing music from the Renaissance Era to Jazz and Bluegrass (and everything in-between).

Here are some of our 2018 plans:

- Our Timbrel Choir will collaborate with the CU Boulder Men’s Chorus in a concert performance of John Kuzma’s new composition, “Ecstatic Voices,” Saturday evening, February 18, at Montview.
- A special lenten Evensong service, Sunday evening, February 25, featuring the organ and Westminster Choir.
- Another joyful “Agape-Latte” coffeehouse fundraiser, with our Jubilate Singers and Youth Bells, raising money for the youth mission trip: Sunday evening, March 18.
- The 3rd Annual John Kuzma Young Composers Award, along with our Spring Concert performance of Dvorak’s Mass in D.
- Completion of our organ re-leathering project, as well as restoration of our recently acquired double manual harpsichord.
- And the inspiring music we are privileged to make together each and every Sunday in worship - without a doubt, the music making that is the most impactful to us.

Thank you for all YOU do to support our music program—it is a joy and honor to be Montview’s Minster of Music.

With gratitude and peace,
Adam Waite, Minister of Music
Mission in Action

The Mission Life Committee worked diligently in 2017 to fine tune the role of mission at Montview. The committee held a strategic planning session in July, and several new members joined the committee to help guide our work locally and globally, as well as within the historic Montview building. Together we crafted a new mission statement which reads: The Mission Life Committee of Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church responds to God’s call by educating, equipping, and inspiring the congregation to respectfully listen and learn as we develop collaborative relationships that address the needs of our community and the world.

What exciting and powerful words! This message is helping to lead our intention moving forward, while honoring the rich history of mission work at Montview over the past 100+ years. We spent time listening to and learning from Montview members in 2017 through a series of focus groups and in-depth conversations, asking what mission should look like—and discussing how we should carry out this important work. These conversations helped us define the guiding principles of mission at Montview, which emphasize:

1. Developing and sustaining long-term relationships while responding to short-term needs;
2. Emphasizing both local and global projects;
3. Offering work that is highly visible and accessible to the congregation;
4. Distributing funds through grants and individual asks, and donating space within the building;
5. Engaging the congregation in multi-generational and family-friendly opportunities;
6. Addressing social justice issues and emergency relief efforts; and
7. Developing an annual or multi-year initiative highlighting a specific theme.

We are grateful for our dedicated committee members and for each of you involved in the many mission programs at Montview. Read on to learn about some of the work supported by Montview in 2017.

Local Mission in 2017

Women’s Homelessness Initiative (WHI)
The WHI is a consortium of churches working through Capitol Hill United Ministries to give sanctuary and hospitality every night to women experiencing homelessness. Montview hosted 25 women on Monday nights every other month in 2017. An intergenerational volunteer team of supper clubs, book clubs, families with children, and others cook and serve dinner and build breakfast bags for these Montview guests. Other volunteers set up the cots in Fellowship Hall, offer one-on-one hospitality before bedtime, and spend the night to create a safe space for these women in crisis.

In 2017, the WHI program received a $4,000 grant from Montview for laundry expenses, equipment and supplies. Montview also hosted an orientation/training session for volunteers from all of the WHI sites. For more information contact Susie Pappas at susiepappas@hotmail.com or Clair Howell at camh45@comcast.net.

St Francis Apartments
In 2017 Montview members raised more than $11,000 for permanent housing at the new St. Francis Apartments at Cathedral Square where 50+ people experiencing homelessness will move into their new home in 2018. Montview also furnished all 50 units with shower curtains and bathroom materials through our “Shower Them with Love” campaign.

Habitat for Humanity
Montview members swung hammers, provided lunches for the construction crews, and donated more than $10,000 in 2017 to build a new four-bedroom, two-story home in Denver’s College View neighborhood for a family with four sons. Through Habitat for Humanity, Montview has helped hard-working, low-income families build their own homes—and dreams—for 17 years. Ellen West leads this Montview program, ellen.west@comcast.net.
**Montview Social Justice**

The Montview Social Justice Ministry advocates on behalf of struggling individuals and families in Colorado and beyond. We monitor legislation and take positions at the state and federal level in keeping with the teachings of Christ and the Office of Public Witness of our national Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). We are a member of Together Colorado, a non-partisan, multiracial, multi-faith community organization; the PICO national network, which also advocates on justice issues; and More Light Presbyterians, working toward the full participation of LGBTQ people in the life, ministry and witness of the PCUSA.

In 2017, MSJM opposed bills to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which could deny coverage to 600,000 Coloradans, including the disabled and those with pre-existing conditions. We encourage Montview members and friends to sign up for our email alerts, sent especially when important legislation is before Congress or the Colorado Legislature. Contact Peggy Gonder at peggy@gonderpr.com or Karen Timmons at karenjtimmons@comcast.net.

**Stedman Elementary School**

Montview supports fundraising and volunteer efforts at Stedman Elementary, a DPS school eight blocks north of Montview where 85 percent of the multi-ethnic families qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Stedman received a $1,500 grant from Montview in 2017. Our members supported the school supply drive in the fall, as well as food drives for Stedman families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Others on the Stedman team volunteer at the school for special activities, such as the book fair. Contact Karen Timmons at karenjtimmons@comcast.net to get involved.

**Homeless Packet Project**

Montview filled its 20,000th homeless packet in 2017! Few missions could be simpler: food, water and human contact. Church members from age 3 to 85 are involved in packet assembly, distribution, and the knitting of headbands that are added to the packets in the winter months. Others donate money to keep the supplies flowing. This program received a $2,000 grant from the Mission Life Committee in 2017, enabling Montview members to provide mission outreach on a daily and often spontaneous basis, engaging with the homeless of Denver while going about the responsibilities of our lives. Contact Doug Easton at douglaseaston@comcast.net to get involved.

**Central Visitation Program (CVP)**

Montview is a member of the Central Visitation Program mission partnership through Denver Presbytery, along with Central Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Brighton. CVP provides reduced-fee supervised parenting times for low-income families in conflict. Montview members serve as volunteer supervisors and board members, and participate in various fundraising efforts. Contact Becky Demcovitz at demcovitz@msn.com.

**Empowering Incarcerated Women:**

For the past several years, concerned Montview members and clergy have been working to raise awareness and educate the congregation about the issues surrounding gun violence. In February 2017, the Session took the important step of approving Montview becoming an endorsing member of Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence, an ecumenical group of congregations focused on this issue. Montview hosted two CFCU meetings in 2017, and outside speakers presented Sunday morning programs on current and proposed legislation related to gun safety in Colorado, gun safety in the home, and awareness and prevention of suicide. As part of CFCU’s Rapid Response Network, many Montview members contact state and federal legislators regarding gun-related legislation. Contact Susie Pappas at susiepappas@hotmail.com.

**Senior Support Services**

A day shelter for hungry and homeless seniors, Senior Support serves three meals a day and provides individual case management for clients. Montview provided support via a $1,500 grant and volunteer opportunities in 2017. Contact Shirley Burkhart at sabhiggins@q.com.
Global Mission in 2017

Nepal
Montview’s mission presence in Nepal has roots that run deep. Since 2000, nearly 200 Montview and community members have participated in Nepal work trips and have raised nearly $500,000 for scholarships, teachers, and computers at the Mary Ward Schools, nine village water projects, various health initiatives, land for the Nutrition Rehabilitation Hospital in Kathmandu and earthquake relief. In 2017 a cardiac team led by Montview’s Fred Grover, MD, of the University of Colorado Heart Team made its 11th trip to Nepal with funding from the Thoracic Surgery Foundation and from the Edwards Bioscience Foundation: Every Heart Beat Matters. They provided continuing medical education and assisted in operations at two major heart centers. They also helped to provide portable echo machines, iPads and other equipment, as well as funding for transportation to remote clinics to identify patients in need of heart surgery.

A second Montview team, led by Lynn Hetterich and Lindy Doty, spent time in a rural village completing a Multiple Use Water System project. Afternoons were spent engaged with village children through games and activities. Week two was spent in classrooms at the Mary Ward School presenting lesson plans based on a Peace Corp curriculum called GLOW: Girls Leading Our World, which introduced concepts of self-esteem, nutrition and health, gender, dreams and aspirations, and leadership. To learn more about Montview’s rich history in Nepal, contact frederick.grover@ucdenver.edu, lynn@teamhetterich.com or LindyDoty@aol.com.

Uganda
The Musana Community Development Organization was created when a team of Ugandan and Boulder students at CU discovered 162 children living at an orphanage in the worst conditions imaginable. Today, Musana has grown to include a primary school, secondary school, health center, café/guest house, and women’s skill development center. Musana received a $2,000 grant from Montview in 2017 that is helping to build a second campus, and in August a four-member team led by Jeff and Marilynn Ackermann traveled to Uganda to present a leadership development workshop with 16 heads of departments at Musana. Contact Marilynn Ackermann to learn more, marilynn.ackermann@gmail.com.

Sudan
The Seeds of South Sudan organization was founded by a former Lost Boy of Sudan, Arok Garang, one of the thousands of children who fled the genocide of entire villages in Sudan. In 2001, Arok escaped the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya and immigrated to the United States, where he remains committed to rescuing and educating 100 orphaned children trapped in the camp. Today 65 students in primary and high schools and six college students (including two in medical school) are being sponsored by supporters of Seeds of South Sudan. These students will be the “Seeds” for a new generation of leadership in South Sudan. Montview granted $2,000 to this program in 2017, and several members each pledged $1,200 to sponsor a student. Additionally, a capital campaign is underway to fund the purchase of a permanent “Home Base” for students to return to during the school break months. Contact John Gonder at john.gonder@gonderpr.com.
Mexico
Located in Puebla, Mexico, IPODERAC serves 72 orphaned boys in six houses where 12 boys of similar age live, do their homework together, and learn personal development skills. In 2017, IPODERAC broke ground on a similar home for girls on land donated by the City of Atlixco. Placement of the utility infrastructure has begun, and fundraising efforts continue for the new houses and associated buildings. Montview is helping to ensure homeless girls will have the same opportunity to have a home, obtain an education, and receive occupational training in any area they choose, along with skills for an independent, self-sufficient life. A Montview-led trip to IPODERAC is being planned for 2018. To learn more, contact Mary Buckley at marygbuckley@mac.com.

Ethiopia
Ethiopia Reads has been establishing libraries for children, donating books, supporting the publishing of local language books, and training librarians and educators around children’s literacy in Ethiopia since 2003. Ethiopia has 50 million children under 18 and an extreme shortage of available books to read, especially in Ethiopia’s own languages.

In 2017, Montview provided $6,000 in grant funding and made possible the publication of five titles created bilingually by Ready Set Go Books, printing 10,000 copies that will be distributed to 60 Ethiopian schools. For more information, contact Leah Oliver at leahcnoliver@yahoo.com.

Mission Within the Building in 2017

Pastors’ Discretionary Fund
In addition to the budgeted grant funding for more than a dozen local and global organizations, Montview also provided $8,000 in 2017 to our church members and neighbors in need of emergency assistance for things like groceries, utilities, or rent.

Space Sharing
We share our historic building with several community organizations and waive the fees as part of our mission programming. Some of the groups sharing our space at Montview include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, AA, Centus Counseling, the Parental Alienation Syndrome Support Group, Together Colorado, League of Women’s Voters, and the Montview Preschool.
Annual Financial Report 2017*

2017 Top Line / Bottom Line Summary – vs. Budget and vs. Prior Year

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<th>Budget</th>
<th>Var.</th>
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Financial Comparisons and Trends

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<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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(4) Personnel as a % of Total Expenses 68.03% 66.72% 67.32% 68.04%

(5) Surplus / Deficit for the Year $ 59,649 $ 58,428 $ < 16,576> $ 35,560

*Information compiled and provided by Craig Maginness, Montview Church Treasurer

In December, we asked, if you were able, to help make sure we ended the year financially strong, and we did just that. We will begin 2018 well in the black, and your generosity is a reflection of your love for this place and your confidence in your Session and staff. As a result, Montview Church steps into a new year ready to shine as brightly as ever – continuing to reflect God’s love and hope for the world. Thousands of lives are touched and made better by the ministries of this church. The hungry are fed. The homeless find not just shelter, but kindness. The grieving are comforted. Lifelong friendships are formed. Children are taught that they are God’s beloved. Faith in Jesus is deepened. Hearts and eyes are opened. And God’s praise is sung, with inspiring beauty, every Sunday. So Clover and I want to say thank you for the privilege of being your pastors. God is at work in this place...and we look forward to what new things God has in store for Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church.

(from Pastor Ian’s sermon on January 7, 2018)
Board of Deacons Annual Report Summary

Prepared by Ellen Oakes, Board of Deacons Moderator, Edited by Rev. Clover Beal

Deacons are nominated by the Officer Nominating Committee (ONC), elected to the Board of Deacons at a congregational meeting, and installed as Deacons during a church service. As stated in the Book of Order, “It is the duty of the Deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress.”

Class of 2017: Lee Buchmann, Andrea Fuller, Steve Hetterich, Christy Honnen, Sandy Kieft, George Moseley and Ellen Oakes
Class of 2018: Michael Bufton, Paul Heitzenrater, Debbie Kennedy, Todd Rembe, Pat Shepard, Mark Shin, Nancy Van Burgel and Kristin Kwong
Class of 2019: Matt Brenton, Johann Chanin, Pete Cvietusa, Leigh Flanagan, Julie Evans, Mary Mitchell, Craig Parent and Rob Price

What’s New?
In 2017, the Deacons embarked on new ministries:

More Light Church – Deacon Leads: Todd Rembe and Nancy Van Burgel; Elder Deb Saint-Phard
In March 2017, the Deacons began considering how to be more explicitly welcoming and inclusive to our LGBTQ community at Montview and beyond. Pastor Clover Beal, Deacons Todd Rembe and Nancy Van Burgel, and Elder Deb Saint-Phard gathered to brainstorm ideas. After researching the possibilities, and with the support of the Deacons, they proposed to the Session in May that Montview become a More Light Church. The Session enthusiastically approved the proposal. Since then, the More Light symbol has been added to the Sunday bulletins, and two successful Montview LGBTQ social events have occurred. One of this group’s goals includes hosting educational forums on Sunday mornings to increase our Biblical understanding and compassion for those in the LGBTQ community.

Hospital and Rehabilitation Facility Visitation – Lead Deacon: Johann Chanin
The Deacons are collaborating with Peter Hulac and Pastor Ian Cummins to determine whether there is a need for Deacons to visit those in the hospital or rehab centers as an adjunct to the visits by the clergy and Peter.

Established Ministries
Soul Food – Lead Deacons: Andrea Fuller and Paul Heitzenrater
Soul Food had four cooking dates this past year where an average of four dozen meals were prepared per session. In addition to meals prepared for families within Montview, meals were prepared for families in need at Stedman Elementary School, where 80% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Three to four meals are delivered per week to Stedman Elementary families.

Fellowship Events for Congregation – Lead Deacon: Leigh Flanagan
This year’s events included a Chili Cook-Off, Deacon BBQ, Pizza and Ice Cream Social, Pumpkin Carving, and Fellowship Snacks on Sundays.

New Member / Membership – Lead Deacon: Pat Shepard
The Deacon membership team has worked diligently to follow-up with new members to help them feel welcome and to get involved with various ministries in the church.

Extended Communion – Lead Deacon: Johann Chanin
Montview Minister of Visitation Peter Hulac invited the Deacons to participate in extended communion visitations to Montview members who are no longer able to come to church. Peter provided an overview of extended communion and training to the current Deacons. Extended serving of communion takes the celebration of communion of the gathered congregation following the church service to homebound members.

Greeter Teams – Leader: Pat Shepard
Pat Shepard continues to manage this team of 39 members.

Flower Delivery – Lead Deacon: Leigh Flanagan
Deacons and other members of the congregation deliver the two chancel flower arrangements each week.

Deacons’ Fund
The purpose of the Deacon Fund is to provide short-term financial assistance to Montview members and staff in emergency situations such as paying a utility bill, rent, or medical bill. The recipient is not required to pay back the gift. The use of Deacon Funds is at the discretion of the Deacon Moderator and Vice-Moderator in conversation with the co-pastors. The fifth Sunday of a month is considered Deacon Sunday. Contributions are received that go into the Deacons Fund. The Joyful Noise Offering idea originated with the Deacons and is supported through the Children’s Ministry programs by Sandy Prouty. The children participate in Deacon Sunday by making a Joyful Noise while bringing their banks forward and emptying their coins into a metal dish at the Children’s sermon.
2017 Membership Stats

Membership info:

2017 Admissions
Letter of Transfer .................................................. 12
Profession & Baptism ............................................. 4
Profession of Faith .................................................. 28
Reaffirmation of Faith ............................................. 49
Restored to Rolls, .................................................. 10
TOTAL .......................................................... (including 25 confirmands) 112

2017 Dismissions
Letter of Transfer .................................................. 5
To Inactive .......................................................... 2
Deletions ............................................................ 13
Deaths ............................................................. 19
TOTAL ............................................................. 39

Total membership as of December 31, 2017 ......................... 1477
Average Sunday attendance ........................................ 535

Montview Memorial Library

The church library was organized in 1948. In 1991, it moved to a newly created room off the Heritage Center. The library is open during church hours and contains a large number of children’s picture books. Adult books span the spectrum with the Bible, theology, devotionals, ethics, and other Christian categories having the most titles. New books are purchased each year and displayed separately. Several shelves contain books published by Montview members. It is hopeful that the library will continue to serve its faithful readers while attracting new people to one of the largest collection of books by a church in the Denver area.

This year, we lost a dear friend of Montview’s library. Donna Beck, our lead “librarian” for many years, loved education (a former teacher) and especially loved to see children enjoying our books. We give thanks for her life and her love for Montview and the library.
STATEMENT OF MISSION

We believe that the love of God surrounds us. Our call is to nurture this love in ourselves and each other. Through prayer, worship, education, outreach, and mission, we seek to foster spiritual fulfillment, community, tolerance, peace, non-violence, and social justice. We dedicate ourselves and our church to follow the Spirit of Christ by word and deed. (Adopted by Session, July 1998)