

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

The Presbyterian Church was founded in 1784 in a log building a few blocks from its current location. The congregation has a long, deep history of ministry in Danville and beyond, including creating Centre College, seeding Second Presbyterian Church and forming Danville Theological Seminary, which would become Louisville Theological Seminary. Since that log building, the church has moved to the corner of Main and 5th Streets. The church has grown from a wood frame building when it first moved to its current footprint. The growth occurred in three main projects, 1930, 1955 and the other in 1996. These projects included an education building, fellowship hall, kitchen gym and total renovation of the sanctuary.

At what some members consider the height of the ministry, The Presbyterian Church boasted 350 worshippers. This occurred after the unification of First and Second Presbyterian when the Northern and Southern churches reunited. During this time the church was an integral part of the leadership of the town. It had a thriving Christian Education program for all ages and its mission was felt locally and globally. Today, the church averages 200 in worship when the 8:30 and 11:00 services are added together and is a leader in the Soups On Us ministry, Presbyterian Hunger Program and other local and global missions. While any congregation has no end of stories, achievements and legends to share, we pay particular interest to the last decade or so of the congregation's history. In 2010 the congregation completed a significant capitol and mission campaign. The church continues to have a well thought of music program, a youth group that is partnering with other denominations, a strong Stephen Ministry program and changed its children's ministry to a Godly Play curriculum.

BY THE NUMBERS

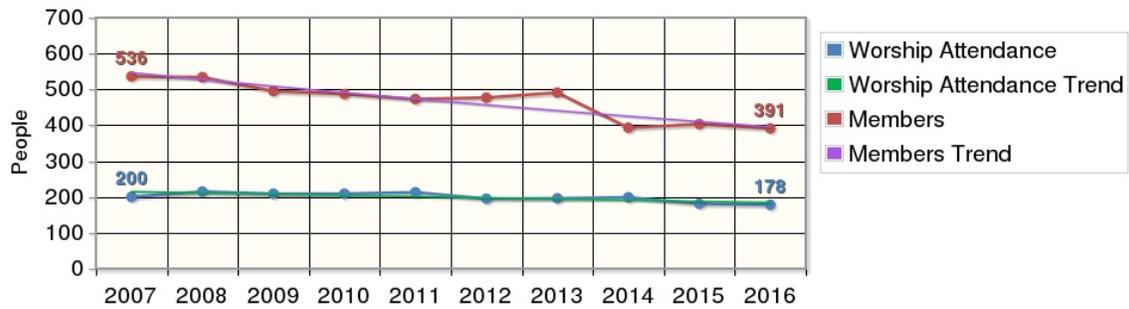
Your congregational history includes lives, words, songs and achievements that defy measurement. But this report, you may already have noticed, dwells on data – numbers, numbers, and numbers! Why do we seem so interested in numbers? In part, we pay attention to numbers because they help us track changes over time; they show growth or decline in giving or attendance, along with other information that signals the trends of the last decade that seem to impact your congregation. Numbers are *not the only* measure of vitality. Yet numbers provide insight into the ways people engage with your congregation.

TEN-YEAR TRENDS

Let's look at Average Worship Attendance over the last ten years. Trends in attendance offer other clues about the health of the congregation.

As demonstrated in the following chart, the congregation has experienced **DECLINE** in Average Worship Attendance (AWA) and Membership over the past 10 years. Average Worship Attendance is the most helpful measurement of member engagement in a congregation, so we pay special attention to this figure. This data is compiled from the past 10 years of your congregation's reports to the *Yearbook and Directory*.

Membership/Average Worship Attendance

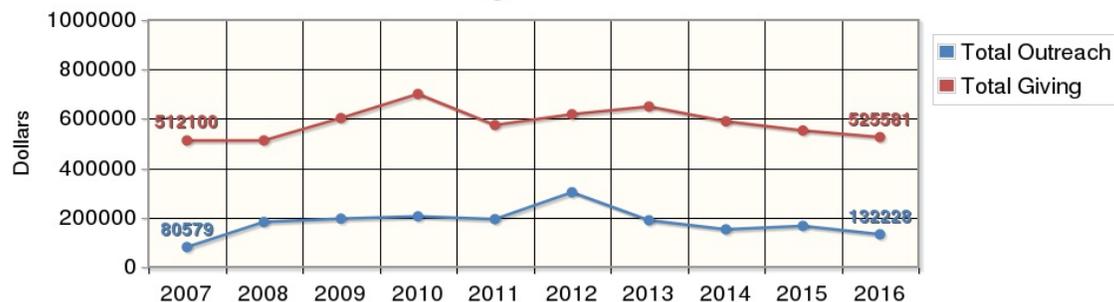


Your congregation's growth/decline trends do not happen in a vacuum. It should be noted that the community in which the church serves has **grown** by 10.5 percent during this same period. This reflects a possible disconnect to the community that should raise concerns for the congregation.

Congregational giving is also an indicator of member engagement. We pay attention to this number because as participants deepen their level of engagement with the church, their giving usually follows. Often times this indicator lags behind the Average Worship Attendance figures. That is, worship attendance may decline or grow at a faster rate than giving.

During the past ten years, the congregation has reported **CONSISTENCY** in General Fund income. This is the total income received by the church. This is demonstrated on the following chart.

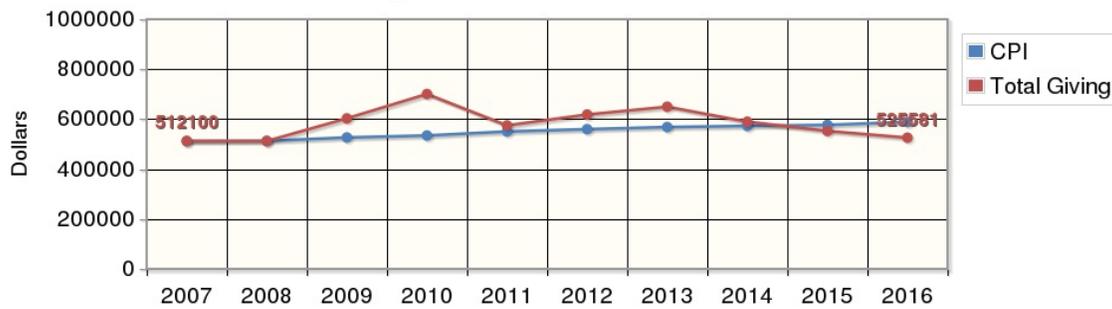
Total Giving and Total Outreach



Income figures alone do not tell the whole numbers story. It is important to measure the congregation's giving against the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to see if giving has kept pace with inflation over the past ten years. Because of inflation, it may be possible for a congregation to increase its revenue, but actually have fewer funds available for ministry.

The following chart demonstrates that congregational giving **HAS FALLEN OFF with the CPI over the past 2 years**. This indicates declining engagement.

Giving vs. Consumer Price Index



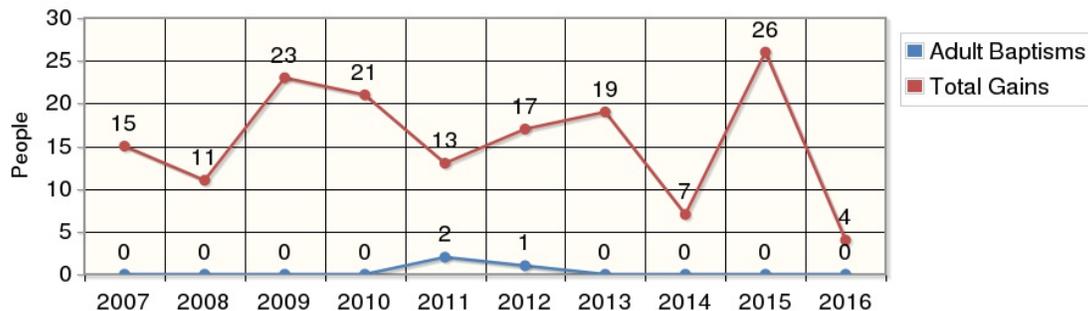
NEW PEOPLE

The final measurement of engagement in the past ten years is the number of additional people the church has welcomed. It is important to note the relationship between baptisms and transfers. Comparing these two figures demonstrates the congregation's passion for both reaching new Christians AND welcoming those who have already made their commitment to Christ. Healthy congregations show evidence in both areas.

The following chart **shows evidence of TRANSFERS, but few new BAPTISMS**. This indicates that the congregation has more concern in caring for those with some maturity in faith rather than seeking those who have not yet experienced the Gospel message themselves.

The congregation has not had a new baptism in the past 4 years.

New People



The ten-year indicators point to a church entering to slide. Numbers that had plateaued or even grown in the early part of the decade have declined in the last 2 to 3 years to several year lows. While it may appear that this is just beginning to happen, the conditions for these trends did not occur overnight. It will take effort and vision on the part of the congregation to reverse the downward trend.