

# First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

## ANNUAL REPORT January 1-December 31, 2022



*On Sunday, October 16, 2022 the congregation gathered for a combined Consecration Sunday service, dedicating their financial gifts for the year 2023. Afterwards everyone gathered outside for a Team FPC Tailgate and barbeque with lawn games.*

101 Bridgeboro Road • P.O. Box 868  
Moorestown, New Jersey 08057

Phone: (856) 235-1688 • Fax: (856) 234-3666 • [fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)

*(photo credit Jan Martin)*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents .....	page 1
Vision Statements .....	page 2
The 25 Ways.....	page 3
2022 Staff Directory .....	page 4
Boards of the Church .....	page 5
<b>Reports of the Leadership</b>	
Report of the Pastor and Head of Staff .....	pages 6-7
Report of the Associate Pastor.....	pages 8-9
Clerk of Session.....	page 10-11
New Members 2022 .....	page 11
Baptisms 2022.....	page 11
Necrology Report: Member Deaths 2022.....	page 11
<b>Reports of the Session Committees</b>	
Adult Spiritual Formation .....	page 12
Discipleship Committee.....	page 13
Discipling Children and Youth Ministries	
Step by Step Christian Preschool .....	pages 14-15
Director of Family and Children's Ministries .....	pages 16-18
Director of Family and Youth Ministries.....	pages 19-20
Membership & Nurture Committee.....	page 22
Missions Committee.....	pages 23-26
Missions Disbursements .....	page 24-26
Music Committee .....	page 27
Nominating Committee .....	page 42
Personnel Committee.....	page 43-44
Prayer Committee .....	page 45-46
Stewardship Committee .....	page 47-48
Technology and Communications Committee .....	page 49-50
Worship Committee; Contemporary Worship .....	page 51-53
<b>Report of the Board of Deacons .....</b>	<b>pages 54-58</b>
<b>Reports of Church Ministries</b>	
NEW: The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden.....	page 59-61
Presbyterian Women.....	page 62-63
Floral Guild .....	page 64
Stephen Ministry .....	page 65
<b>Financial Reports</b>	
Report of the Director of Administration .....	page 66-67
Report of the Board of Trustees.....	page 68-72
Trustees Property Committee .....	page 73-76
2023 Adopted Budget .....	page 77
2022 Statement of Financial Position.....	pages 78-79
Assets.....	page 78
Liabilities and Fund Balances .....	page 79

## VISION STATEMENTS

At the January 28, 2020 Session meeting, new vision, mission, and why statements were approved. These statements have been carefully crafted and will serve as our “guides” for all we do here at First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown. We invite you read them thoughtfully, come back to them often, and use them to guide and reinforce activities in worship, programming, outreach, and all phases of church life.

### VISION STATEMENT

We aspire to be beacons of God’s love and truth, growing together in faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to:

- Worship God faithfully
- Connect Spiritually
- Serve Christ locally and globally.

### WHY STATEMENT

We follow the Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind ... [and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

(Matthew 22:37, 39 NRSV)



## THE 25 WAYS

As people who've experienced the merciful welcome of Jesus Christ, we belong to Him and to one another. In our desire to grow deeper in our faith, stronger in our love, and more effective in our service, we've outlined the following *ways* based on God's Word, to be the foundation for creating a culture or an atmosphere "thick with love." They're not rules or laws to be obeyed but rather the *ways* we train, remind, and encourage one another to be the church. Every week we will focus on one way in worship, in meetings, in rehearsals, in small groups, in our interactions. A complete listing of these principles and what they mean can be found throughout the church building, and on our website [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org). Each week the Way of the Week is shared in committee meetings, gatherings, on the weekly bulletins, in communications, and illustrated in an individual graphic image.

Way	Ways Concept
1.	Be Third
2.	Speak the Truth with Love
3.	Listen Generously
4.	Always Encourage and Celebrate
5.	Assume Positive Intent
6.	Forgive . . . Again
7.	Celebrate our Unity, Savor our Diversity
8.	Jump In
9.	Pray First and Pray Again
10.	Join Hands
11.	Make Others at Home Here
12.	Own Our Church
13.	Open Doors for Others to Lead
14.	Grow Faith
15.	Welcome Change
16.	Give Cheerfully
17.	Show Who You Really Are
18.	Ask for Help
19.	Accept and Don't Cast Stones
20.	Find Strength in Belonging
21.	You're Sent, Now Go
22.	Rest and Reflect
23.	Worship with Your Whole Self
24.	Tell Your Story
25.	Rejoice Always

## STAFF DIRECTORY 2022

Allen, Rev. Wes.....	Associate Pastor
Asciutto, Holly .....	Director of Family and Children's Ministries
Bass, Martin.....	Associate Director, Ministry of Music and the Arts
Caraballo, Sam.....	Maintenance Assistant
Cashmer, Steve.....	Groundskeeper
Coombe, Amy.....	Nursery Coordinator
De la Cruz, Fausto.....	Property Team
Duffy, Barbara .....	Webmaster and IT Specialist
Fauvell, Dave .....	Interim Senior High Youth Director
Gage, Earl.....	Director of Administration
Gunsallus, Kathy .....	Associate Director of Music
Jagiela, Linda.....	Director of Outreach
Krott, Joel.....	Director of Music
Mackey, Alison.....	Administrative Assistant
Margerum, Chelsea .....	Hospitality Helper
Margerum, Steve.....	Property Supervisor
Martin, Michael .....	Music Intern
Maxted, Luke .....	Interim Youth Director
Martin, Jan.....	Office Manager/Admin. Assistant, Pastor
McBride, Ann.....	Clerk of Session
Roberts, John.....	Interim Youth Director
Rykaczewski, Grace .....	Music Intern
Slane, Angie .....	Administrative Assistant
Spencer, Rev. Stuart .....	Pastor and Head of Staff
Vandergrift, Norman .....	Accounting Manager

**Step by Step Christian Preschool:** Director Amy Delgado; **Teachers:** Cheryl Craft, Donna Clark, Carol Clark, Helen Dominy, Jonnene Dunne, Rachel Howell, Jessica LaGrou, Jennifer Landesman, Lauren Muhlschlegel, Tina Rosser, Arlene Walker, Christine Woltjen; Administrative Assistant Kristi Illum

**Office Volunteers:** Sherrell Fitts, Lissa Herman, Susan Kenuk, Donna Leatherman, Winnie Lyall, Nancy Meyer, Jane Murphy, Sue Piper, Betty Schurmann, Joyce Wenzke

### With grateful appreciation for your ministry and servant's heart

Kelly LePenske .....	Director of Congregational Ministries
Paul Savage.....	Seminary Intern 2021-22
Jonnene Dunne.....	Preschool Administrative Assistant
Rachel Howell.....	Step by Step Christian Preschool Teacher
Luke Maxted .....	Interim senior high youth director
Grace Rykaczewski .....	Music Intern
Fausto de la Cruz .....	Property team

# Boards of the Church 2025

## Elders

### Class of 2023

Gary Bender  
Nancy Chumney  
Pam Engle  
Kevin Fauvell  
Gayle Payne  
Dave Rebuck  
Joyce Peacock

### Class of 2024

Paul Booker  
Leonard Fitts  
Peg Madorno  
Kristen Perkowski  
Sarah Rotter  
Gil Warren  
Jim Wiggans

### Class of 2025

Rebecca Castellanos  
Lorenzo Eagles  
Cheryl Gaskill  
Paul Grossmann  
Matt Livingston  
Frank Manion  
Joyce Wenzke

Clerk of Session: Ann McBride

## Deacons

### Class of 2023

Mike Hock  
Karen Hynoski  
Caroline Joyce  
Jeff Mason  
Mike McNeil  
Susan Shaffer  
Vicki Terry  
Bobbi Voglesong

### Class of 2024

Alice Conley  
Janet D'Angelo  
Kourtney de la Cruz  
Steve Drzaszcz  
Sarah Harper  
Gail Sorin  
Susan Winner  
Jason Rose

### Class of 2025

Jenna Cole  
Andrew Ehala  
Laurie LaMonica  
Rachel Long  
Diane Samuel  
Jonathan Schramm  
Tamara Trzeciak  
JoAnn Reynik

Moderator: Kourtney de la Cruz

## Trustees

### Class of 2023

Jeff Legath  
Patrick McIlroy  
Bill Mueller  
Mike Ramage

### Class of 2024

Brian Catanella  
Bill Conner  
Rich Corbin  
Paul Lewis

### Class of 2025

Wendy Dougherty  
John Miller  
Matt Moxhay  
Mike Welch

President: Jeff Legath  
Vice President/Budget Chair: Mike Ramage

Secretary: Wendy Dougherty  
Treasurer: Bill Conner

*Updated 8/1/2022*



# REPORTS OF THE LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

## REPORT OF THE PASTOR / HEAD OF STAFF

Rev. Stuart H. Spencer

**For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”**

**- Matthew 18: 20, NLT**

The COVID pandemic disrupted our ability to gather as a church. Like nearly all congregations across the country, we were limited for a time from physically being in the same room. Thankfully, we’re gathering together more often and more easily than a year or two ago.

When reviewing 2022, I was struck that as recently as last summer, we were still masking from a reasonable concern for our mutual health. It was Sunday, July 17, 2022 that we dropped nearly all restrictions on masking, singing and eating. Thank God! How good it’s been to resume those crucial activities that, in so many ways, make us a church.

In an excellent article on the website of the Christian Coalition, Jonathan Leeman wrote helpfully about the significance of our gatherings. *“The weekly gathering of a church is an expression of Jesus’ greater heavenly gathering or the universal church. We gather in order to represent heaven’s rule and judgments, establish a visible outpost of Christ’s kingdom, testify to the King, identify citizens of the kingdom, form a people, mobilize a people, and exalt the King. A church becomes a church in the gathering.”* <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-church-gathered/> Jonathan Leeman’s description of what happens when we assemble as God’s people is a powerful reminder to me of the blessing and strength I find whenever I’m together with those I love and need in the Body of Christ, here at FPC Moorestown.

I remain grateful for the technology that has allowed us to gather virtually since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. We’ve rightly and wisely invested in our live stream equipment and become proficient with Zoom. I lead a weekly Men’s Bible Study on Wednesday mornings and one participant named Chuck lives in Elizabeth, NJ. Chuck is so grateful to have a group of brothers in Christ that he sees once a week.

*“We gather in order to represent heaven’s rule and judgments, establish a visible outpost of Christ’s kingdom, testify to the King, identify citizens of the kingdom, form a people, mobilize a people, and exalt the King.”* I refer again to the article I quoted above because I think the verbs used by Jonathan Leeman provide me with a 2023 road map for us.

- We gather to **represent heaven’s rule and judgments [and to] establish a visible outpost of Christ’s kingdom.** I believe this happens every time we meet to worship God. This is the reason that our worship is the most important thing we do weekly. Whatever else we do, from educational ministries to mission, is meant to flow from and back again to this chief reason for our gathering.
- We gather to **identify citizens of the kingdom, form a people, [and] mobilize a people.** As we continue to learn how to re-gather, the act of mobilizing a people is especially important for us. When we mobilize for the sake of sharing the gospel and caring for the needs of our community

and region, we'll grow in health and vitality. Thom Rainer, the founder and CEO of Church Answers, wrote his conviction for congregations like ours after the pandemic, *"If churches are not making focused, intentional and regular efforts to reach their communities, they will die."* His words both warn and inspire me at the same time. I'm looking forward to sharing with you at our Annual Meeting the newly approved plans for the Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden (see page 59 for this church ministry).

- We gather to **exalt the King**. I need to be regularly reminded that Jesus is my King, the one and only King. I have to be reminded that Jesus is King and I'm not. Regular, gathered worship offers this essential reminder to us. Eugene Peterson once wrote about how worship helps me to be relieved of the bondage I have to myself.

*"Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God. Worship is the time and place that we assign for deliberate attentiveness to God . . . because our self-importance is so insidiously relentless that if we don't deliberately interrupt ourselves regularly, we have no chance of attending to him at all at other times and in other places."*

Remember this rich insight the next time you gather in Miller Commons or the Sanctuary to worship God.

I'm so grateful that I get to gather with you for worship, Sunday after Sunday. I'm thankful for the wonderful staff and lay leaders God has gathered around me to serve God, our community and you, the congregation of FPC Moorestown. I look forward to all that God will do among us this year as we gather.





## REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Wes Allen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It continues to be a privilege and honor to serve as First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown's Associate Pastor. Each day I have the joyful pleasure of working alongside a faithful and passionate team of staff and volunteers eager to serve the people of this church and our neighbors. As you read through our *2022 Annual Report* I trust you will discover the same joy and take note the many different ways the Spirit of the Lord is at work throughout our community. I would like to highlight a few items I found to be particularly rewarding, encouraging, and exciting in this past year.



In 2022 we focused on our digital footprint by partnering with Advance Your Ministry, a Canadian based Christian digital-marketing company. Since partnering with AYM, we have seen a drastic increase in our webpage and live stream traffic. With AYM we have focused on celebrating and advertising opportunities for worship, choir and youth participation and our local and global mission work. I am enthusiastic about the opportunities we have to utilize this more to engage members of our community in 2023, including encouraging in person participation and online giving. A pandemic blessing has been our need to take our digital presence seriously. I am in debt to Barbara Duffy for all the work she puts in to making sure we have a continuous and ever-changing online presence!



This past year I was able to participate in my first Vacation Bible School as associate pastor. I will not lie, my favorite part was bowling for kids on the slip and slide. It was refreshing and exciting to see so many young people (including student volunteers) gathered together to learn about Jesus. Holly did an incredible job with the materials and, as usual, had an unbelievable set and decorations. Walking into the Miller Commons Lobby you would have thought you were in an aquarium. I want to encourage our members to assist with VBS in 2023, the week of and to prepare!

The last week of July and first week of August FPC Moorestown sent eight (8) young people to Camp Johnsonburg, a Presbyterian Church (USA) camp in northwestern New Jersey. In 2023 we hope to send more youth and their friends to learn about Jesus' unrelenting and unconditional love for them.



In 2022 we began gaining some positive momentum with Adult Spiritual Formation (ASF) after nearly facing extinction during the early days of the pandemic. You can see all of the opportunities offered by reviewing our Adult Spiritual Formation report on page 12. If you have any topics

or ideas we would love to hear from you. In 2023 we look forward to growing our Adult Spiritual Formation leadership team and expanding our offerings.

This past year, responsibility for planning and running our annual day of service, Church Has Left the Building (CHLTB) shifted to the Board of Deacons. In prior years our missions committee planned the event. We tried to connect CHLTB with our Stewardship / Giving theme of “Live to Give” based on the book *Wonder Drug*, co-authored by FPC’s own Steve Trzeciak.

For 2022 we offered several opportunities to serve both on a Saturday and/or Sunday. In addition, we tried to provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities; including opportunities for people to purchase supplies or drop off items for other projects earlier in the week. You can read more about all of the opportunities in the Deacons report on page 54. Church Has Left The Building is a great opportunity to invite friends and family members who may not have a connection with First Presbyterian Church or any church for that matter. I encourage you to participate in 2023 and invite all your neighbors!



Early in my ministry at FPC Moorestown, Stuart and I began discussing the idea of using our property to house a Community Garden, something both Leslie Spencer and Jen Allen were interested in as well. As conversations continued a steering team was assembled. We visited several gardens throughout Central and Southern New Jersey, including one at First Presbyterian Church of Salem, a garden in Camden and Princeton Seminary’s Farminary. Since the early days, the concept and plan has involved to something I believe will be a great way to connect with unchurched members in our community and provide food for people in our community facing food insecurity. Read more about it on page 59.

I am grateful for a wonderful 2022 and hopeful for an incredible 2023!



## REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION

### Elder Ann McBride

This year of 2022 has been a year of prayer and gratitude as we moved slowly beyond our pandemic restrictions. It is a blessing to experience “normal” as we worship and fellowship together as a church family.

Session is especially thankful for the leadership of our Moderator, Pastor and Head of Staff, **Stuart Spencer** and for the gift of our Associate Pastor **Wes Allen**. Their ministry leadership has been invaluable.

Session welcomed six (6) new members into our church family during this year, including three (3) from the CREDO confirmation class. We celebrated the baptism of two children and learned of the deaths of 16 of our dear saints, many of whom were long-time members. As of the end of 2022, our membership was 790. The membership rolls now, more than any time in the recent past, reflect a more accurate measure of members who are truly active. We are grateful for the faithful work of our Membership Committee in culling the rolls.

The average worship attendance for 2022 is very difficult to measure, considering many of our worship opportunities remain virtual and the year was full of in-person schedule and COVID protocol changes – especially early on in the year. A rough calculation of in-person attendance average (172/Sunday) and live stream hits (160/Sunday) gives us a total of 332/Sunday.

Most of Session’s energy this year was focused on monitoring the COVID protocols and visioning and striving to define the “new normal” post-pandemic. The elders are grateful for the Deacons and Trustees and all of the lay leadership who tirelessly endeavored to serve the Lord and this church under extraordinary circumstances. Our emphasis on prayer and discipleship has certainly been the foundation on which we are able to maintain our focus on leaning on God’s wisdom and strength and not our own.

Session continued to stay steeped in our “25 Ways” this year and we continue to encourage you to keep these Ways in the forefront of discussion at your committee meetings and in your homes. These Ways have proven to be a vital part of ministry that continue to bless us. A new video series of the “Ways” presented by various members and friends of our congregation was a highlight to this aspect of our ministry together this year.



Please continue to pray for your Session members and all in leadership in the coming year. We also ask for prayers for Elder **Gary Bender** and his wife, **Nancy**, as Gary continues to recover from a serious automobile accident.

*continued*

**NEW MEMBERS 2022**

**Karli Omlor**  
**Jonathan Nawrocki**  
**Jack Cramner**  
**Cara Dempster**  
**Evan Dempster**  
**Xian “Winnie” Jiang**

**BAPTISMS**

**Hailey Jane Brady**  
**Brynn Kennedy Cole**

**NECROLOGY REPORT (listed in date order)**

**Joyce Connell** (Elder, 50+ year member)

**Cleo Longacre**

**Annette Emerson** (Elder, 50+ year member)

**Carl Livingston**

**Doris C. Brown**

**James MacIntyre**

**Barbara Ritter** (50+ year member)

**Art Beard**

**Richard Meyers**

**Bob Blieler** (60+ year member)

**Arlene Bernard** (Deacon, 49 year member)

**Gilbert Goering**

**Nancy O’Connor**

**Julia Greenhalgh**

**June Armstrong** (40 year member)

**LaVonne “Vonnie” Camp** (Elder, 50+ year member)

**Betty Alspach** (60+ year member)

## REPORTS FROM THE SESSION COMMITTEES

### REPORT OF ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Elder Lorenzo Eagles and Elder Sarah Rotter, Chairs

Rev. Wes Allen, Staff Liaison

#### The Way of a Pilgrim – Lent 2022

First Presbyterian Church's 2022 Lenten Study focused on developing a more intentional prayer life. The nineteenth century book *The Way of a Pilgrim & The Pilgrim Continues His Way*, served as a guide for conversation, along with other resources from the Bible and the reformed tradition. We had approximately seven (7) Lenten Small Groups meeting weekly with an average participation of about 13 people, this included a group meeting during the Sunday morning church education hour.

#### Live to Give – Fall 2022

In September and October we discussed the book *Wonder Drug* by **Drs. Steve Trzeciak** and **Anthony Mazzarelli**. The book, while written for a secular audience, discussed the importance of the practicing empathy and generosity. Small groups discussed weekly the seven prescriptions championed by the authors and looked at scriptural parallels. We had approximately five (5) small groups with an average size of 10 persons, this included a group meeting weekly during the church school hour.



#### Fostering a Spirit of Reconciliation – Exploring the Belhar Confession of Faith

This group met weekly via Zoom for six weeks in January and February 2022. The group discussed explored the origins of the Belhar Confession of Faith that was adopted by the PCUSA in 2016 and the confessions implications for the 21<sup>st</sup> century church. The class was co-led by **Dr. Leslie Spencer** and **Rev. Wes Allen**.

#### Called to Reconciliation

This six-week small group study read Jay Augustine's book *Called to Reconciliation* over the course of 5 weeks in July and August 2022. Augustine challenges the Church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, arguing that the church is called to action in making known salvific, social and civil reconciliation. The class was co-led by **Dr. Leslie Spencer** and **Rev. Wes Allen**.

#### Adult Spiritual Formation – 2022

- **Gathering Seriously | Reflecting on the Word** - Elder **Lorenzo Eagles** led a weekly Bible study on Sunday mornings throughout most of 2022. This study corresponded with the sermon text and message and sought to aid congregants in daily application.
- **C.S. Lewis – The Narnian** – Lissa Herman led this three-week study on the person and writings of author and theologian C.S. Lewis. This class set up our Advent in Narnia study.
- **Advent in Narnia** – This four-week discussion in the winter explored several parallels and themes shared between Advent and Lewis' book *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*.



## REPORT OF DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

### Elder Joyce Peacock, Chair

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go therefore and make disciples...teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you ...***  
*Matthew 28:18-20*

A Discipleship Committee has been formed for the purpose of praying together, seeking the Spirit's guidance for growing discipleship among our congregants, community and beyond in the surrounding communities as we propose and promote initiatives.

The Team of Joyce Peacock, Chair; Paul Gordon, Kelly Eagles, Liz Hagan, Ann McBride, Pete Honeyford with Harris A. Ransom hoping to join when his college obligations permit, will be meeting regularly throughout 2023.

**DBS - Discovery Bible Study** is a simple but effective way to seek and hear from God through Scripture. The most common reason for not sharing faith is, "I don't know enough." With DBS, the 'playing field' is leveled and God is the teacher, simply asking Him to be so at the beginning of each gathering. The leader guides the time together and all questions/comments are directed to the Biblical text, rather than other sources, teachings or passages, relying on the Spirit to meet each one at his/her personal level, whether simply an interested Person of Peace (PoP), a new believer, long time follower, or Biblical scholar. Amazing insights are the norm in a 'safe,' reproducible environment, all the while encouraging praise/thankfulness/worship, compassion/intercession/ministry, accountability/obedience, immersion in Scripture, reliance on the Spirit, and replication. Would YOU like to be taught by God Himself?

- In April 2022, a training weekend by Richard Williams, CEO of Compassion for Life, was offered regarding Discipleship Making Movements, discipling world-wide that makes disciples who then make disciples. Central, after extensive prayer, is DBS. Members of FPC staff and congregation, as well as 5 other churches in our region, were represented.
- 3 enthusiastic youth DBS groups completed the core study plus more, meeting regularly under the leadership of **Joel Krott, Melissa Corbin, Tamara Trzeciak, and Adrienne Barr.**
- An adult group trained through modeling by Joel in the summer.
- Two small groups used the format to learn for themselves the effectiveness of DBS.
- New groups of youth, as well as two adult groups begin in January 2023, with more to follow.

#### **PRAYER—**

- In conjunction with the Prayer Teams throughout the week, specific prayer for the discipling initiative and offerings at FPC Moorestown has been ongoing.
- Members of FPC Moorestown have been praying Tuesday mornings with a broader group focusing on teaching, disciple making and the Harvest Prayer taught by Jesus to His disciples.
- Thursday lunch time Zoom prayer led by our pastors **Stuart** and **Wes** was initiated, focusing on FPC discipling. Consider joining from 12:30-1:00 pm. Link available through the church office.
- Distribution of Pray the Word for Your Church: 31 Prayers That Seek God's Purposes and Power by Tiece L. King began in December in preparation for one of the initiatives to be launched at the January 2023 Leadership Retreat.
- Prayer partners with a heart for discipleship and desire for more compassionate interaction are welcome!

## REPORT OF DISCIPLING CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

### Elder Cheryl Gaskill, Chair

1. Step by Step Christian Preschool
2. Family and Children's Ministries
3. Family and Youth Ministries

## REPORT OF STEP BY STEP CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

### Amy Delgado, Director

2022 saw the end of a successful preschool year and the beginning of a new one. Throughout January to June, there were many fun and interactive activities and experiences for our children and families; some of which were a Zumba pajama day, monthly chapels, Parent-Teacher Conferences, a leprechaun hunt, science experiments, Bible stories, PreK graduation -- which saw our biggest attendance yet -- end of year picnic and extended school year activities. We opened registration in January for the 2022-23 school year and had many families signing up for the fall start. The playground saw upgrades with new swings, rockers, a rock climber and a twirler with the help of the church. We spent time outdoors and time getting to know each other through snack time. The preschool was awarded the NJ Hiring and Retention Bonus Grant and a Stabilization Grant. These grants were given to licensed daycares in the state of New Jersey who were in good standing, completed certain trainings and applied by the deadline.

Over the summer, the Director planned for the upcoming fall start without the same state ordered COVID protocols that had been in place since 2020. Going back to a more well-known and much loved typical preschool day was a great joy to the staff and parents! Supplies were ordered, class lists finalized and in-services/ trainings held with the staff to ensure a great September start. Prior to school starting, a Parent Orientation was held. Both the director and the staff met with parents to review the Parent Handbook and address expectations for the year.

September was both challenging and busy. We welcomed new and returning students and began new routines. By October, we were in a nice groove with both schedules and adjustments. The Moorestown firemen came for their annual fire safety visit with our students and we held a Halloween parade and invited parents to attend. In November, we were able to have our Thanksgiving Feast all together and were able to give thanks to God for our friends, family and a return to our usual feast. Parents were invited to attend at the end of the feast and were treated to songs from their children. In December, we learned about Jesus coming to Earth as a baby and celebrated his birth. Our 3s classes enjoyed a wonderful day making gingerbread houses with their parents in Fellowship Hall and it was a special time. Our other classes had parties and sang Christmas songs to their parents one day. Late December saw the addition of a shade cover in the playground and a second playground twirler we were able to purchase with the Stabilization Grant from the State of New Jersey. Each month, we learned about God from **Mrs. Holly** and even had a special chapel time once with **Pastor Wes**. Our 2022 was blessed at Step by Step Christian Preschool and we were able to give back to First Presbyterian Church financially as God had blessed us.

As has been the case for years, Step by Step Christian Preschool's staff was top notch. The ability for the staff to carry on their jobs with the highest level of care, expertise, professionalism, and joy was noted and celebrated. Each member continued to go above and beyond their specified role while giving the best of themselves to their work at Step by Step Christian Preschool. **Arlene Walker** (head teacher), **Carol Clark**, **Donna Clark**, **Cheryl Craft**, **Amy Delgado**, **Helen Dominy**, **Jonnene Dunne**, **Rachel Howell**, **Kristi Illum**, **Jessica LaGrou**, **Jennifer Landesman**, **Lauren Muhlschlegel**, **Tina Rosser**, and **Christine Woltjen** all worked in the spring. Mrs. Howell left a few weeks early to take a new full time job and did not return in the fall and Mrs. Dunne left after the school year to focus on her other part time job. Mrs. Illum took over Mrs. Dunne's job and adjusted exceptionally well.

As always, the maintenance crew of the church continued to help the preschool. **Steve Margerum** along with **Steve Cashmer** and **Sam Caraballo** always did what it took to make sure the preschool's spaces were clean, safe and ready to go. **Bryan Gaskill** helped as well during his part time work. Thank you Steve and crew for all you do to help the preschool! We appreciate all you do in all the small and big ways!!

In addition, I would like to thank the Preschool Board for its tireless work in monitoring the preschool and for being willing to meet monthly for our meetings. Your time and commitment was very appreciated.

Throughout the year, students at Step by Step Christian Preschool thrived. God continued to bless our little preschool. Our financial needs were met, our staff remained healthy and our students grew academically, socially and spiritually. May God continue to bless Step by Step Christian Preschool.



## REPORT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Holly Asciutto, Director

2022 was a blessed year for Children and Family Ministries. We delved deeper into our faith, building upon our previous knowledge. One unique gift of meeting our children face to face each week is the opportunity I have to watch them grow physically, emotionally, and, best of all, spiritually. It is a blessing to watch what God is doing in their lives and continue building Christ-centered relationships with them and their families. Providing them with discipleship resources is one of many ways First Pres cares for families and children. One of my joys is the interaction and, at times, counseling of our children and their families. I continue to work with families that face challenges with school, family health issues, or emotional and financial stressors that affect the children. Being able to help families in their time of need, whether it is to provide an outlet to talk, listen generously, pray first and pray again or offer insight, is very rewarding and a gift to me in supporting these families. I pray that families know they can find strength in belonging and that as children age out of Children's Ministries, they are still part of the family of God and FPC Moorestown.

For Lent, I made a Lent-in-a-Bag kit for families to journey through Lent together with devotions and activities. Lent is a time for all of us to put



aside time and dive deeper into the origin of our faith and need for a Savior. The annual Easter celebration on the Saturday before Palm Sunday happened with many teen helpers that hid eggs and guided children. Our teens at First Pres are genuinely amazing and always willing to step back into Children's Ministries to serve our younger members.

**Growing Faith:** In Kingdom Kids (K-3rd), we have had three community children who heard about the program and began to attend regularly. They had no previous connection to our church or any students. I find it brave for these children to walk into a brand new program without their parents or prior connection. Now they are thriving and have made friends who are helping to teach them about the love of God. Our groups are very connected and pray and support each other without my prompting. God is moving in our children. These new family members bring with them wondering and searching questions that help move the group into deeper conversations and a deeper understanding of God's Word and His mighty love for us.

In Crossing Zone (grades 4th-6th), we have had a similar year with three community children regularly attending, that have also helped to move conversations into deeper levels. I am grateful for God's provision of growth and the Spirit's direction with Wednesday night fellowship groups. I am also thankful that Family Dinner is back! Not only does Michael Georgetti's food fill our stomachs, but he is gracious and generous to us as a church. What a blessing! I am also grateful for **Jonathan Nawrocki, Katie Donahue, and Will Gaskill**, all helpers on Wednesday night with Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone (all previous attenders of the groups). They make lasting friendships with our children and give them positive Christian role models.

In Wednesday night fellowship groups, scripture lessons teach us who God is and how he moves in our lives. We do crafts to help us remember that God is always with us. And sometimes, we do a service project to be the hands and feet of Jesus sharing His love with others. (1 John 4:19)



"We love because He first loved us.") And finally, we play games. Our children are learning that church-family life can be fun too! In spring 2022, for the first time as our end-of-year party, we had inflatables in our front yard. This drew some excitement from some community members that passed by, and some of these children came and stayed. Some of those community children are attending our fellowship groups consistently and attended Vacation Bible School.

Children attended "Make Waves" Vacation Bible School from June 27-July 1, 2022. It was beautiful to see the halls alive with approximately 95 students ages 5-11 who learned about the love of God from many of our congregational members and over 40 teens. We are so thankful for the consistent dedication of our VBS staff to share the Gospel with community children. The teens this year were exceptional, very dedicated, and averaged the youngest group so far. This is a testament to the maturity and devotion of our teens this year. Our annual slip and slide is back, and the new pastor in town (**Wes Allen**) took a trip down with his children and others. We had great fun learning about Jesus and His love and care for us.



We kicked off Sunday School in September with a Pancake and Pajama Sunday. The chocolate chip pancakes were a huge hit. This year I took on an additional age group to help integrate a transition into youth ministries for our 6th graders by implementing a combination of children's ministry and youth ministry Sunday School class (6th-8<sup>th</sup> graders). This class meets in the youth space upstairs on Sunday mornings during the education hour. Leslie Spencer and Philip Jagiela lead in creative ways that help

students dive deeper into what our faith means in everyday life. These students love having time before class to use the youth space for fun and connection.

We had the annual Christmas Party that **Leslie Spencer** and **Philip Jagiela** (6th-8th grade teachers) and our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class kindly organized in December. This is always a wonderful time for the children to hear the Christmas story in a fun and creative way. Lastly, we had decided at our planning meeting in August that consistent attendance while teaching is essential for our student's spiritual health. To that end, the Sunday School calendar was altered and included dates that, in previous years, were canceled such as 9:30 a.m. combined worship, Fifth Sundays etc. This has been a good change for the benefit of our families. We are so grateful for all our teachers: **Jenny Legath** and **Karen Alecxih**, who share Bible stories and crafts with our littlest ones in kindergarten-second grade; **Tamara Trzeciak** and **Lori Bell**, who teach our middle-class third-fifth grades with Legos and role-play; and **Leslie Spencer** and **Philip Jagiela** who teach 6th-8th grade.

I continue to oversee the nursery that has returned to full operation on Sunday mornings. **Amy Coombe** is our coordinator and **Katie Donahue** helps at times as we have had a full house of children in recent weeks. I pray our families know and appreciate all Amy does; we are grateful for her care of our little ones.

I continue my duties on the school board of Step by Step Christian Preschool and three chapels a month. **Amy Delgado** works hard to benefit all our students while being mindful of sharing our Ways of the Week with the teachers and staff.

The Gingerbread House event was virtual again this year. Pictures are on the Facebook page!



This year I took on a project connecting our Advent adult and children devotions. Since Narnia was a themed devotional, we had a movie night and showed *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. This came after encouraging parents to read the book by C.S. Lewis to their children in August. I offered resources and different versions of the book for all ages and families.

I created Advent devotionals and posted them on the Family Ministries Facebook page. Finally, all this culminated in a special Narnia Night in Fellowship Hall. With the help of Steve Margerum, I created a space that moved participants through Narnia with detailed reminders of what was in the book. Families entered Fellowship Hall through a beautiful wardrobe built out of reclaimed wood by Steve Margerum. It really was a masterpiece and felt real and magical! You could pick up a scavenger hunt game as you entered to find all things Narnia and that pointed to Aslan. As you



emerged from the wardrobe, you entered a winter wonderland with artificial snow and a lamppost that led you through a forest to some Turkish delight, tea, and other treats served by Mr. Tumnus (Linda Jagiela), followed by the White Witch's sleigh, also built by Steve, that you could sit in and take a photo with the White

Witch (Jen Allen). Next were winter crafts with Gail Sorin and Angie Slane and spring crafts with Alivia Nawrocki. Lastly was Aslan's camp and tent, where you could take a picture with Aslan (Wes Allen) before you exited. What a team of helpers!! I am grateful to **Steve Margerum, Sam Caraballo, Linda Jagiela, Jen Allen, Wes Allen, Gail Sorin, Alivia Nawrocki, Angie Slane,** and **Patrick McIlroy** (photographer). It was a fabulous night!



With God's help, I continue to create, love our kids, and move forward into 2023. Always looking to our Lord and Savior for guidance as He goes before me, walks alongside me, and hems me in behind.

I am humbled, blessed, and grateful to serve FPC Moorestown's families. God is gracious to me.

*"You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head."*

- Psalm 139:5

## REPORT OF FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

### Cheryl Gaskill, Chair, Discipling Children and Youth

2022 marked a post-pandemic return to more "normal" youth ministry activities.

During the first half of the year, our Middle School youth group was led by Urban Promise Fellow Luke Maxted, with additional leadership support from myself, Liz Greene, seminary intern Paul Savage, and Pastor Spencer. Dave Fauvell continued to lead the Senior High youth group with additional leadership support from Luke Maxted, Sami Fauvell, and Carl Krott.

In May, we bade farewell to Luke and his family as they returned to the UK to launch Urban Promise UK in East London, as well as to Paul Savage as he concluded his internship with us



and his time at Princeton Seminary. In late summer 2022, we welcomed **John Roberts** (area director of Young Life Burlington County) to an interim youth director role on a limited part-time basis. John leads our Middle School youth group on Wednesday evenings with additional leadership support from myself, **Liz Greene, Chelsea Margerum, Delaney Cushing, Sarah Roberts,** and **Pastor Spencer**. He leads the Senior High youth group on Sunday evenings with additional leadership support from **Dave Fauvell, Sami Fauvell, Carl Krott, Ryan Denmark,** and **Chelsea Margerum**.

The Senior High youth group was able to participate in youth group retreats at Lake Champion twice in 2022, once in February, and again in early December as a joint retreat with Young Life.

In addition to our weekly youth group meetings, Discovery Bible Study groups have been popular with a significant number of our high school students. The DBS program seeks to engage participants to seek a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by reading stories from the Bible together and exploring three key questions:

- (1) What does this story tell us about God?*
- (2) What does this story tell me about ourselves (humans)?*
- (3) Since God has taught us today, what behavior must you change? ("I Will" statement)*

The first group of high schoolers to participate in DBS was led by Joel Krott and Melissa Corbin beginning in the summer of 2020. The group completed the original 28-week DBS curriculum and decided to continue meeting. In early summer of 2022, that group's regular meetings drew to a close, as it consisted primarily of students who graduated from high school in June and would be heading off to college in the fall. In addition to this original group, a second Discovery Bible Study group of younger high school students has been meeting with **Joel** and **Sandra Krott** since the summer of 2021. A third DBS group of high school girls met with **Tamara Trzeciak** and **Adrienne Barr** during the 2021-2022 school year. Thanks be to God for Joel, Sandra, Melissa, Tamara, and Adrienne for their dedication and ministry to our youth!

In the spring of 2022, **Pastor Wes Allen** led a Credo confirmation class, and the congregation welcomed three new young members into our church membership in June. As of this writing, five young high school-aged men are participating in a new Credo class for 2023.

In terms of outreach, over 50 college students received care packages this fall as part of the Church Has Left The Building service project. Thank you to all who volunteered to assemble these packages, which included handwritten notes of encouragement for each student.

The search for a permanent Youth Director has proved to be daunting for a number of reasons, including a nationwide dearth of candidates seeking to serve in youth ministry, cultural differences, and financial challenges. While the absence of a full-time director since February of 2020 has certainly presented its difficulties, I am thankful for God's provision of faithful leaders who love the Lord and our young people and who are committed to walking beside them as they seek to know who this Jesus is that we speak of.

This seems like an excellent time to remind our church family of the vows that each one of us takes when we, as a church family, baptize babies and young children. ***In participating in the sacrament of baptism, we promise to pray and provide support for parents, to love these children, and to model for them what it means to be a disciple, so that - from their earliest days of memory - our young people might see the***

***face of Jesus mirrored in us.*** I encourage each of you to pray about this and to contemplate what this means to you. How have you developed relationships with our young people? When was the last time you struck up a conversation with a teen? Attended a youth choir concert? Led a Sunday School class? Sent a note of encouragement to a youth worship leader? What gifts has God entrusted you with and how can you share them with our children, youth, and young adults?



If you need help with this, I encourage you to reach out to myself or a member of our pastoral or program staff. We would be happy to help you explore the possible ways in which you can be a blessing to our young people (*and in turn you will surely be blessed as well!!*).

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

*- 1 Peter 4:10*



### **REPORT OF THE YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE** **Michael Hock, Chair**

We continue our search and our team continues to meet to review potential candidates. We are in final discussions with a candidate and are hopeful that an agreement may come later this spring.





## REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE COMMITTEE

### Elder Gayle Payne and Elder Joyce Wenzke (for Gary Bender), Co-Chairs

**Committee members:** Gary Bender, Mary Christensen, Eric Davis, Sherrell Fitts, Hank Heidler, Jan Martin, Karen Molloy, Gayle Payne, Joyce Wenzke, Rev. Wes Allen

The committee shifted to in-person meetings this year from Zoom and welcomed the return of Mary Christiansen to the group.

Our committee was particularly grieved by the terrible accident involving our co-chair **Gary Bender**. We continue to pray earnestly and with strong confidence for Gary's recovery.

With gratitude we welcome Joyce Wenzke to assume the position of co-chair. Her years of experience and gracious demeanor are invaluable assets to our committee.

- We reached a huge milestone with the completion of the committee's years-long mission to review and update our church membership rolls. We are indebted to Hank Heidler and to Joyce Wenzke who have persevered and spearheaded our efforts to contact **every inactive member** of FPC Moorestown with letters, emails and/or personal phone calls. This culling will result in significant financial savings as the Per Capita payments are reduced and reflects a more accurate depiction of our membership rolls.
- With great affection, appreciation and respect for his exemplary leadership and diligence, we celebrated **Hank Heidler's** retirement with a farewell party. The committee hopes to avoid collapsing into the void as we move forward without him. **Joyce Wenzke** will succeed Hank as our competent new guide as we continue to monitor membership rolls.
- For 2023, the committee's focus expands to Nurture as we look ahead, including care for new members and plans for additional Inquirers' classes in 2023 and partnering with other Committees on Session to share our mutual goals for church growth.
- **New Members:** On April 24, 2022, we welcomed three young people from the CREDO confirmation class as members of the church: **Karli Omlor**, **Jonathan Nawrocki** and **Jack Cramner**. In November, the Membership Committee presented an Inquirers class led by **Stuart Spencer** and **Wes Allen** for those looking to learn more about FPC Moorestown and possibly join the congregation. Joining the congregation were **Cara Dempster**, **Evan Dempster**, and **Xian "Winnie" Jiang**.





**REPORT OF THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Elder Kristen Perkowski and Eder Peg Madorno, Chairs**  
**Linda Jagiela, Director of Outreach**

**Mission Committee:** Michael Baker, Steve Engle, Donna Leatherman; John Pierce; Jennifer Allen; Sally Bishop; Kathy McIlroy; Laurie Lamonica; Wendy Dougherty (Trustee Representative); Sarah Harper; Jean Kunkel; Alice Conley (Deacon Representative), Kourtney de la Cruz

**Overview**

In 2022, as the country came out of the pandemic, the mission committee continued to meet monthly via Zoom and in person part of the year with a hybrid option allowing those who were still not comfortable meeting in person to participate. The continuing challenges of the pandemic saw the mission committee continuing to pivot in order to involve the entire congregation in the missions of the church while supporting those in the mission field. Those activities included:

***Mission Trips***

***Malawi***

**Linda Jagiela** traveled with Urban Promise International in February to Malawi visiting their twelve ministries including the four we support. She learned how hard life was during the pandemic for the ministries and those they serve. UPI fellows who have returned home and created these ministries after training at UPI in the United States for one or two years and receiving a Masters' degree in organizational leadership are doing amazing work.

***Greece***

**Kristen Perkowski, Linda Jagiela, Philip Jagiela, Jim Clinton, Pat Joyner, Susan Kenuk, Jean Kunkel, Margaret Dealy, and Debra Heller** visited Athens and Katerini, Greece in November. They visited Helping Hands Ministries in Athens and Perichoresis Ministries in Katerini. PC USA missionary, Nadia Ayoub, works with these organizations, which focus on helping immigrant, and asylum seekers navigate the transition to Greek life. The organizations offer feeding programs, language education, housing, clothing and other support.

***Virtual Mission Fair: The Great Commission-Beat the Rain Malawi***

Adults and children in the congregation participated during the month of May in a Malawi focused mission fair which included "Beat the Rain-Malawi" a themed game that included a daily devotional for the month, a take home board game, and adult and children's videos from our Malawi missionaries.



***Mission class at VBS***

Vacation Bible School students experienced Malawi this year. Urban Promise International Malawi, Fellows, Hamilton Banda and Maggie Sikwese, assisted the committee in teaching this year's class. The class taught on the third floor included a life-size Malawi House and village scenes. Following Mission May's Malawi theme, the class played a giant version of the "Beat the Rain -Malawi" game. Students learned about the lives of the missionaries in Malawi and the challenges they face daily.

***Barrel Collections for Urban Promise Love Driven Ministries Salima, Malawi***

In December, Missionary, Ishmael Adam, shipped the three full barrels of school supplies, books for the new community library and sports equipment to Malawi. They should arrive by May.

### ***Alternative Gift Market***

The Alternative Gift Market continues to be a holiday staple. Congregant Sophia Gandy, created a beautiful image for our card. The market raised \$3635 to support our missionaries.



### ***Carol's House***

Missionaries occupied Carol's House the entire year and will continue through 2023. Fees collected covered all expenses with the exception of the purchase of two new sofas at a cost of \$700.

### ***Fundraising—Strawberry Festival/hamburger stand***

After a hiatus, the Strawberry Festival hamburger stand reopened with the addition of pizza. The mission committee and church volunteers raised \$1,664. These funds were sent to Haiti Outreach Ministries. Additionally, the committee hosted a Dine and Donate event at Iron Hill Brewery and raised \$373 which was sent to Urban Promise International Mercy Care Malawi.

### ***Major changes to roster***

The mission committee through a due diligence process elected to discontinue support to Urban Mosaic (Mexico) and My Brother's Keeper (Camden, New Jersey). The decision to do this was after much consideration and great sadness.

### ***Emerging Missions and other funding***

In 2022, the trustees informed the Mission Committee that through a bequest an additional \$20,000 allocated to the Missions. At the end of the year, some of that funding remained. The mission committee voted to return \$10,000 of those funds to assist in alleviating the church's year-end budget deficit. Additionally, in anticipation of a reduced 2023 budget and in order continue supporting our rostered missionaries, the mission committee paid forward \$14,482 to address the shortfall.

Each year the mission committee designates a portion of the budget to emerging missions. These funds are used to fund items that may occur due to weather related disasters, one-time needs of missionaries or other extraordinary items that may occur. The committee funded the following through emerging missions in 2022:

- UPI Love Driven Ministries \$1,200 to be utilized for shipping cost of 3 drums of supplies and \$3000 for farm equipment, supplies, fertilizer, soil and seed
- World Central Kitchen \$5,000 to support Hurricane Ian Relief victims
- Rise Malawi \$900 to make electrical/plumping repairs.
- GTi Hope Bore \$3000 Bore wells
- Helping Hands Ministries in Athens, Greece \$500 to support programs
- Perichoresis Ministries in Katerini, Greece \$2000 to support programs
- Haiti Outreach Ministries, Hope Alive Clinic and the Medical Benevolence Foundation each received \$1000 to support feeding programs

Missions funds were distributed as follows:

Organization	Amount
Kennedy, Darren (Outreach Foundation)	3000
Medical Benevolence Foundation Embangweni Hospital Malawi	4000
Medical Benevolence Foundation Good Shepard Hospital Congo	8000
Medical Benevolence Holy Cross Hospital Haiti	6000

New Church Development Egypt (Outreach Foundation)	2000
Outreach Foundation Cairo Seminary Egypt	4000
Presbytery of WJ Ayoub, Nadia	4000
Antioch - McReynolds, Chris	2000
Antioch - Wehmeyer, Donald and Martha	2000
Coalition for Christian Outreach - Walker, Beth (COO)	6000
CRU - Cassel, Joe	6000
Glad Tidings India	12000
Haiti Outreach Ministries	12000
Hekima Place	5000
Hekima Place University Scholarships	2000
Hope Alive Clinic Haiti	5000
Operation Mobilization USA -Hendricks, Jim and Stephanie	5000
Services along the Nile - Soliman, Dr. Emad	5000
SNEHA Primary/High School India (Global Development)	8000
TEAM- Miller, Jeff /Geri	5000
Urban Promise Honduras	8000
Urban Promise International Malawi	10000
Urban Promise International Yamba	5000
Urban Promise International Calm	8000
Urban Promise Intl UPSEL Leadership Training/Fellows	10000
Urban Promise UK	5000
Camden Forward School (students) Urban Promise	15000
Camden Forward School Urban Promise banquet	400
Children's Fresh Air Home	5000
Christian Caring Center	5000
Feeding 5000	5000
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	5000
InterVarsity	3000
Options for Women	5000
Seeds of Hope	5000
UP after school Outreach	7000
UP High School Academy-Teen Leaders/Trekkers	8000
UP Summer Camps	7500
Church Has Left The Building	2006
Young Life	6000
Admin., mission trips, program	6132
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$237,038</b>
Emerging	23582
TOTAL Budget	<b>\$260,620</b>
Bequest	20000
Total budget plus bequest	<b>\$280,620</b>

Emerging disbursements	
UPI Love Driven	1200
UPI Love Driven	3000
World Central Kitchen	5000
Rise Malawi	900
GTi Hope	3000
Helping Hands Greece	500
Perichoresis Ministry Greece	2500
HOM	1000
Hope Alive	1000
MBF Haiti	1000
Other disbursements	
return to church to defray shortfall	10000
2023 budget shortfall (prepayments to ministries)	14482
<b>Total Disbursement</b>	<b>\$43,582</b>



## REPORT OF THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

### Elder Rebecca Castellanos, Chair

*Psalm 95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

**Committee Members:** Nancy Bender, Greg Connlain, Kathy Gunsallus, Joel Krott, Laurie LaMonica, Ann McBride, Joann Nawrocki, Peg Pierce, and Melody Ransom

The music committee contributes to the spiritual dimensions of our worship experiences. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the music program at FPC Moorestown has sustained vibrancy. Our gratitude goes out to the dedicated leadership of **Joel Krott**. Mr. Krott was honored in January 2022 with a congregational gathering celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary here at FPC. **Sam Scheibe** and **James Roman**, two previous music interns, wrote an anthem for organ accompaniment in honor of Joel's anniversary. Joel's continuous uninterrupted efforts in leading our vocal musicians to participate in glorifying our God is unmatched. We are blessed with his energetic and spirited interest in sustaining the choir programs. Mr. Krott encourages spiritual development and influence over all with whom he works.

**Kathy Gunsallus** accompanies the Adult and Chapel Choirs, and directs the Bell Choir. Her responsibilities include organ and piano accompaniment and assisting with choir directing. We are very grateful for Kathy's professional contribution to our music program and especially for her generous spirit.

**Martin Bass** and his wife **Christine** contribute in the contemporary worship service. Their music leadership at this service sustains those in attendance under Martin's purview. We are grateful for Martin's musical leadership and his various contributions to our live stream and recorded worship elements.

Choir is an adjunct to Christian Education. There is a consistent effort to thoroughly understand the Scriptural content of all the pieces and apply

them to life. The support of many youth choir mothers assisted Mr. Krott with rebuilding and recruiting for the youth music ministry. Stewardship of these parents' time and assistance was a call and a privilege. The Youth choir retreat was April 29-May 1 on our campus as the Pineland Retreat Center had yet to recover from the pandemic. God plays for keeps, and work done by and through Him is eternal. The music committee is appreciative of this group of supportive youth choir parents. We as members of FPC Moorestown know well the efforts of our choirs, leadership and listening pleasures reflect a qualitative element beyond a quantity of singers in the program.

We believe God used our choir vocalists to continue singing through the pandemic obstacles. The music committee believes the rewards to singers and listeners were in many ways greater because sacrifice had been involved. The FPC choirs include: Primary Choir (K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade); Junior Choir (2-3-4<sup>th</sup> graders); Choristers (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade); Chapel Choir (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade), and Adult Choir.

We are grateful to our accompanists, **Nancy Bender, Carol Benner, Rebecca Neindorff, Carol Manion** and **Karen Molloy**. We depend on the faithful assistance of **Alison Mackey** in the church office for administrative support.

Special Events concerts in 2022 included an Epiphany Concert in January, a concert of organ in October from James Roman, and a December West Jersey Chamber Music Society choral performance. The Music Committee assists with administrative responsibilities of our music program and collaborates behind the scenes to help bring the beautiful church music to us each week. We collaborate with the Worship Committee to assure our visions are in sync. We are grateful for all who participate.



## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Gil Warren, Chair

Through much prayer and searching for God's will, the Nominating Committee was able to find souls eager and willing to serve our church as Elders, Deacons and Trustees for the Class of 2025. We thank God for those that accepted this call!

As the committee begins its work to fill the Class of 2026, we are sad to see a couple of long term members of our committee move on to serving in other aspects of the church. A special thanks to both **Susan Masiko** and **Kathy McIlroy** for their service on this committee. If you are interested in joining our committee for the coming year, please reach out to Gil Warren.

As for finding who God is calling to serve for the Class of 2026, some board members whose current term is expiring will be eligible to serve a second term. However we will need to find additional candidates for all three (3) boards. We covet your prayers for the committee and ask you to prayerfully consider anyone you know, including possibly yourself, that would be a candidate to serve as an Elder, Deacon or Trustee.

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact one of the committee members listed below with the person's name and for what board you feel they would be able to serve. An online nomination form is also available through the church's website and event page.

And as always, please continue to pray for the Committee as we seek God's guidance through this important process.

Members of the Nominating Committee were:

- Gil Warren – Chair, Elder, Stewardship
- Matt Livingston - Elder
- Joyce Wenzke – Membership
- Jason Rose – Deacon
- Rich Corbin – Trustee
- Susan Masiko – Membership, Presbyterian Women
- Kathy McIlroy - Missions



## REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### Elder Jim Wiggans, Chair

As a committee of Session, the Personnel Team continues to provide guidance and support for the church clergy and staff. Those on the team are available to the full-time staff on an as-needed basis, assisting in a variety of ways. Currently, we have seven members: **Brian Catanella, Alecia Connlain, Michael Hock, Jeff Legath, Matt Moxhay, Dave Rebuck, Stuart Spencer** (*ex officio*) and **Jim Wiggans** (Chair). We meet on a monthly basis and otherwise as needed. All meetings last year were via electronic means.

With our work, we celebrate **Way of the Week #8, Jump In: *Life is full of unexpected problems and needs, large and small. Pay attention to moments when God calls you to action, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary the situation may be. See “disruptions” as invitations to share Christ’s love. Write a note. Visit the sick or the grieving. Share a meal.*** Members of the Team do not hesitate to “Jump In” when important matters arise. We view our staff and their continued well-being as integral to the success of the church. The congregation is blessed to have their continued service.

As of the end of 2022, the staff at FPC Moorestown was composed of one ordained Senior Pastor, one ordained Associate Pastor, ten additional full-time employees and a total of sixteen part-time employees. Staffing changes this past year were as follows:

- Resignation of **Luke Maxted** as temporary youth leader
- Under a temporary services contract, hired an Interim Director of Youth Ministries
- Changed one temporary at-will employee to full-time
- Modified one part-time staff member from temporary to permanent; and another from part-time permanent to full-time, permanent

The Personnel Committee was involved in the following initiatives in 2022:

1. Members of the Team continued efforts in forging closer relationships supporting full-time church staff.
2. The Team remained focused on church and staff safety in the face of the continued pandemic.
3. The Team continued to support the committee seeking a permanent youth director.
4. A formal process was initiated this year to provide meaningful performance feedback to the senior pastor.
5. Updates to the staff organization chart were finalized this year, which included input provided by the Team.
6. The Team has been involved with review of the revised policies and procedures manual prepared for church staff. The document has been forwarded to all staff members.
7. The Team provided input associated with annual staff reviews for 2022 and budget considerations for staff in 2023.

The pandemic continues to present challenges to society in general and of course, to the church. During this past year, members of the clergy and staff continued to find creative ways to adapt and even thrive despite these circumstances. The Personnel Team continues to be aware of the dynamic nature of the pandemic. We are prepared to make adjustments as necessary into next year. We are appreciative of everyone’s continued understanding and willingness to help discern an appropriate way ahead.

Again this year, the committee is especially grateful for the assistance afforded by **Earl Gage**. His feedback and knowledge of day-to-day operational matters with the staff are of great value during our discussions.

Also of note are the efforts of **Becky Castellanos**, who has rotated off the Team following several years of service. In addition, we welcomed new member **Brian Catanella**, who has provided fresh perspective to our discussions.

Members of the committee continue to demonstrate continual appreciation and concern for the staff at FPC Moorestown. The church certainly benefits from their talents and expertise. I look forward to another year of their support for the church.



## REPORT OF THE PRAYER COMMITTEE

### Elder Pam Engle, Chair

*“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” - Colossians 4:2*

**Committee/Prayer Team Members:** Nancy Burkley, Jim Cole, Melissa Corbin, Steve Engle, Pam Engle, Joyce Peacock, Joe Winston, Arlita Winston. We also welcomed a new member to the committee, Jan Amos.

**Purpose Statement:** The Prayer Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown has been formed to exalt Christ through initiatives that encourage intimacy in prayer as we meet to pray and see the Lord’s guidance regarding what is on His heart to grow us as a praying body of disciples.

**Prayer Times and Leaders:** Praying for our church, the greater church, the nation, the world, as well as prayer requests that are received. Meeting by Zoom or at the church. Contact Pam Engle to join or for more details.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ○ Sundays 9:30 am   | Jim Cole                                      |
| (available to pray in the Prayer Chapel with anyone following the 8:30 worship) |   |
| ○ Mondays 9-10 am   | Jim Cole (Prayer Chapel)                      |
| ○ Tuesdays 9:10 am  | Jim Cole and Jan Amos (Prayer Chapel)         |
| ○ Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 pm  | Winstons and Engles (Zoom – to be resumed)    |
| ○ Thursdays 12:30-1:00 pm   | Pray for discipling with the Pastors (Zoom)   |
| ○ Thursdays 7:00-7:30 pm  | Prayer Service with the Pastors (live stream) |

#### ACTIVITIES FOR 2022:

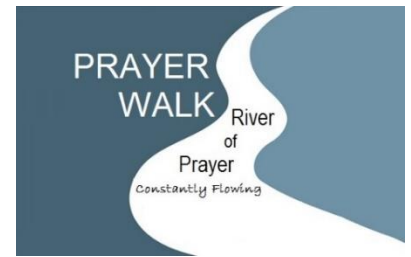
**Prayer Chain** – congregants can text any member of the Team to share immediate or urgent prayer requests.

**Online Prayer Request Form** – Easy to use! Found on FPC Moorestown’s website on the drop-down bar under Ministries; Prayer and Discipleship then scroll to “Visit Our Prayer Team Page”. Each of the team members receive the requests immediately as well as the pastors. Requests can be anonymous if preferred.

**DBS (Discovery Bible Study)** – Ed Gross joined us again at the home of Steve and Tamara Trzeciak to discuss further the Discovery Bible Study and discipleship. The committee prays regularly for these youth discipling groups, led by **Joel** and **Sandy Krott** and **Melissa Corbin**, and the newer group led by **Adrienne Barr** and **Tamara Trzeciak**.

**Sunday Morning Prayer with a Team Member** – will be available in the Prayer Room following the 8:30 a.m. traditional worship service for those with requests and who would like prayer. We are still in the process of setting this up. (We are thankful for Jim Cole and his faithfulness for being in the Prayer Room).

**Prayer Walk** – a spring **Prayer Walk/Drive with Continental Breakfast**. A small group met outdoors on the Van Camp Porch for breakfast and fellowship. Participants then walked/drove to locations of their choosing (examples of individuals' choosing were: their own neighborhoods or towns; area schools; Main Street; area churches; etc.). We would like to see more participation in the walks next year!



**National Day of Prayer** – congregants were encouraged to join our nation in prayer on the first Thursday in May (May 5<sup>th</sup>). A **Prayer Vigil** was held prior to the National Day of Prayer.

**Evening Prayer on the Porch** – this summer the congregation was encouraged to attend a quiet time of prayer “in the cool of the day” (when God walked with Adam and Eve) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. for 30-45 minutes. All who attended were blessed and appreciated the time to gather for prayer requests.

**Prayer Vigil – 12-hour Prayer Vigils** were held several times throughout the year including **Vigil for Consecration Sunday (stewardship) and The Church Has Left the Building**. A prayer guide was sent to all who participated.

**Advent Devotional Delivery** – a short Advent Devotional written by Billy Graham was delivered to members of our congregation. A letter of encouragement and a bookmark were included. Due to a shortage of people available to deliver (illnesses, travel, etc.) we did not distribute as many this year.

As we focus on prayer and growing our members, we are encouraged by how the Lord is guiding us. We would love to have more people involved. I would like to encourage you to call me (Pam Engle) for information and to find out ways join us.

*Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*  
- Ephesians 6:18





## REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Elder Nancy Chumney, Chair

**Committee:** Janet D'Angelo, Frank Manion, Jan Martin, Matt Moxhay, Steve Shaffer, Norm Vandergrift, Gil Warren

**Stewardship Program:** The Stewardship Committee leads our fall giving campaign to secure the financial resources that allow FPC Moorestown to plan and prioritize how it will minister to our congregation, to our community and beyond, for the coming year. While 2022 was not without challenges, our FPC family continues to amaze us with their generosity and spirit. On October 16, 2022, we gathered for combined worship on Consecration Sunday, celebrated our ability to give, and enjoyed a fun potluck meal and outdoor "tailgate" fellowship. This year, we discussed the book "Wonder Drug" in our Stewardship small groups. We agreed that "living to give" is the embodiment of "loving your neighbor", the true "Wonder Drug."

The below chart summarizes FPC Moorestown's pledging history over the past five years.

Final Pledging 2018	Final Pledging 2019	Final Pledging 2020	Final Pledging 2021	Final Pledging 2022
196	198	185	194	190
\$ 1,539,346	\$ 1,581,800	\$1,450,488	\$ 1,501,200	\$ 1,390,350

**Giving Opportunities** throughout the year include:

Offering	January-December	Pledging	October
Blanket Sunday	January	Alternative Gift Market	December
Per Capita	February	Christmas Offerings	December
One Great Hour of Sharing	Palm Sunday	Manger Sunday	December
Legacy Sunday (Wills)	June	Flower Fund	Year Round
September 12 <sup>th</sup> Fund	September	Missionwares	Year Round
Deacons Fund	October	Service Pledge, Time, and Talent	Year Round

Our church members have many opportunities to support our church through financial gifts, time and talents. We encourage you to join in and share your gifts in meaningful ways. Please fill out the service pledge form, make your interests known. Volunteer for a committee or board. Try something new!

**Per Capita:** We support the greater body of our church through our Per Capita contribution to the Presbytery each year. The Membership Committee has worked diligently to review our rolls for accuracy. Our 2022 assessment was based on the 2020 membership (1,009 members @\$38.75/person). 286 of our members contributed per capita (\$11,081) with 48 opting out. That left a balance of \$26,158 to be paid by the church.

**Jump In** – There is no better way to connect or to reconnect with your church family then by working together. Whether you have a few hours or more, please jump in. Your church needs you!



## Consecration Sunday



Sunday, October 16, 2022, 9:30 am

# LIVE TO GIVE



## REPORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Elder Frank Manion, Chair

The Technology and Communications Committee has had a BUSY year as the congregation continues to utilize and rely on several virtual platforms for worship, prayer services, group meetings, eblast communications, and educational opportunities. A few highlights:

- **Establishing committee routine meetings.** Elder Manion took over the committee in the summer from Elders **Jenny Revucky** and **Merritt Wikle**. Elder Revucky has “graduated” as part of the Session class of 2022 and Elder Wikle has, sadly for us, moved out of the area. The committee was not meeting in person during the COVID pandemic. We have begun to establish routine meetings of at least once a quarter. The committee met twice during the fall months.
- **Staffing:** With the departure of Merritt Wikle and with **Harris A. Ransom** off to college, it became imperative that we address the staffing of the audio and video live stream of the two Sunday services as well as special events. After discussions with **Pastor Spencer**, it was concluded by both staff and the committee that we need a quality production. Consequently, we have contracted with DFX, one of our vendors, to provide professional video production support for the contemporary service. We have trained additional personnel on both audio and video for the traditional and special services.
- **Sound System in Sanctuary:** The microphone systems in the rear of the sanctuary have been upgraded to improved condenser microphones. The good news is that we already owned these microphones – they had been donated to the church some years ago and apparently removed some time back. While it was necessary to replace some of the sound cable in the sanctuary attic, this was included in our service contract with our A/V vendor ReThink. Improved sound quality can now be heard online and in our recorded material.
- **Communications:** We have seen a constant increase in our social media outreach. Facebook/Instagram posts are done almost daily highlighting events, giving links and details about upcoming services and meetings, and posting of videos and pictures about ‘happenings’ at the church. Our website is updated regularly and is a constantly growing source of materials and information for our members and the community. We link current events pages to the website, Friday e-blast, Church Center app, and *Connections*, and post *Connections*, bulletins and sermon series recordings.
- **Live stream viewership** remains strong. Our monthly statistical reports show that even though FPC Moorestown has returned to two in-person services, the numbers of people ‘tuning in’ is substantial. We are live streaming weddings and memorial services (an option particularly appreciated by families during COVID times) and find that people from far off regions and countries are watching. Examples of the statistics and comparisons to last year are as follows:
  - Our four Christmas Eve Services totaled 321 unique views on BoxCast/YouTube – in 2021 our total was 206 unique views.
  - The Longest Night service had 102 unique views; last year it had 24 unique views.
  - A video of the song "Go Tell It on the Mountain" cut from our December 4, 2022 "Now Arriving: the Kingdom" Contemporary Service and performed by our Worship Team with **Wes Allen** on harmonica was posted on Facebook and totaled 502 views. <https://youtu.be/eUQIwmZ08V0>



**We can always use volunteers for technology help!** There are far more possibilities (better Wi-Fi for example, hybrid conference rooms, and robust infrastructure) that can be implemented more efficiently, at lower cost, and sooner with more Tech volunteers. We have paid positions to produce streams in vMix software for the Sanctuary and Commons but are also looking to provide additional operators. We often need production for funeral and wedding coverages—there is a fee paid for those duties in some cases. Training is available!



## REPORT OF THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

### Elders Paul Booker and Kevin Fauvell, Chairs

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name, worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.*

- Psalm 29:2

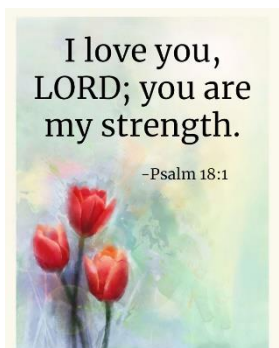
**Committee Members:** Nancy Bender, Paul Booker, Steve Connlain, Kevin Fauvell, John Miller, Melody Ransom, JoAnn Reynik, Vicki Terry

#### **Mission and Responsibilities:**

The overall mission of the Worship Committee is to support and oversee worship as presented in our church. The Worship Committee works in conjunction with the staff and when needed, the various committees of Session. Primary focus is on the preaching of the Word, celebration of the sacraments, and corporate prayer through song and music. Specific responsibilities include the arranging of protocols for communion, participation of elders in services, the review of requests for baptisms and weddings with the submittal to Session for approval, coordinating the use of ushers for worship and special services, the approval of pulpit supply, and working with the music committee supporting the essential role of music during worship.

#### **Overview:**

It has been inspiring to work in concert with a committee, staff, and members of Session, who were steadfastly committed to upholding the essential tenets of Christian worship especially during challenging and shifting circumstances brought about by the pandemic. According to our Presbyterian heritage, worship should joyfully resound all praise, glory, and power to a triune God as always grounded in Scripture and guided by the Holy Spirit. A commitment to this ideal by all those involved in the planning and implementation of worship was faithful. AW Tozer echoed the outcome of implementing and conducting worship in unison, “Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So, one hundred worshipers meeting together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be...”. What joy we all experienced in preparing for and participating in worship.



It was our hope and prayer that the challenges to worship imparted by the pandemic would have significantly lifted this year. To a degree this was evidenced but not enough. The safety and health concerns of all those attending and participating worship contributed to the design and implementation of worship protocols.

Throughout the year, the committee recommended the use of wafer/juice individual cups in administering communion. **Vicki Terry**, with the assistance of **Melody Ransom**, **Harris Ransom**, **Rumi Sinunu** and **Peggy Valora**, worked diligently to set up communion using different approaches insuring the safety of all congregants. Reintroduced in the fall was communion by intinction where congregants came



forward and received the elements. They were handed wafer/juice cups and communion was administered in unison and corporately. The committee's hope was to reintroduce traditional protocols as safety concerns lifted, however new strains of COVID and increases in reported transmissions blocked this change.

The committee recommended that the use of outdoor venues, weather permitting, be used as a safe alternative for worship. When appropriate these venues were utilized. The Christmas Eve service that evolved out of the pandemic was scheduled for 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm on December 23rd. Unfortunately, inclement weather forced the services indoors.



Christmas Eve services were scheduled for 4:00 pm (Family Service), 6:00 pm (Traditional Lessons and Carols), 8:30 PM (Communion) and 11:00 pm (Choirs/Lessons and Carols). It was encouraging to see the services more widely attended in contrast to the last several years.

**Steve Connlain** and **John Miller**, even with a reduction in the number of ushers participating, insured that the duties of the ushers were carried out in an orderly fashion. As the year progressed and congregants began to return to in-person worship, ushers reinstituted taking collections at the pews.

Congregants continued to gradually increase in-person attendance. The Contemporary Service under the leadership of **Martin** and **Christine Bass** witnessed congregants returning as did the traditional service with music under the leadership of **Joel Krott**. Choir members were allowed to remove masks and the difficulty in singing with masks on was relinquished.

The committee continued to address the evaluation of worship times, the potential of scheduling a smaller service at 10:30 am, or reconfiguring worship times. The committee is aware that many congregants find it difficult to be at the traditional service at 8:30 am. These concerns continue to be addressed and a plan to impact on the problem will be forthcoming over the next months.

It was recommended that the committee's responsibility of overseeing the approval of weddings be documented and included in the church's *Policy and Procedure Manual*. Session, following the recommendation of the Worship Committee, is responsible for the final approval of weddings.

Throughout the year the committee worked to review and study protocols in worship adhering to Scripture and the Reformed tradition of the Presbyterian Church. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to infant baptism and that dedication of children as an alternative is not aligned to our tradition and Reformed theology. Additionally, the use of music during weddings that does not conform to Scripture or the dignity of the ceremony will be discouraged. These recommendations were provided to Session. Pastoral staff will continue to counsel those seeking other approaches for infants in baptism. Music used during wedding ceremonies is not to contradict Scripture and Reformed Christian principles. This will be addressed with sensitivity by our pastoral staff.

*continued*

It is our hope that we continue to see an increase in in-person worship attendance as the threat of COVID minimizes. The committee is so grateful to the Technology Committee who has worked tirelessly in establishing and managing live stream worship. The pandemic has ushered in new approaches in bringing worship to those who are challenged in attending church services. The committee will continue to be responsive to these needs and will provide worship that is worthy of God's praise and glory.

## **CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP REPORT**

### **Martin Bass, Contemporary Worship Leader**

The Contemporary Service in Miller Commons continues to grow! Two of my old friends, master bass player **Don Stevens** and **Barry Overton**, our drummer, have stepped in to form the core of the rhythm section. Our subs include **Curtis Blain** and **Dennis James** on drums, as well as **Kinnley (Kalane) Williams** on Bass.

We are blessed to include on our worship team **Winnie Jiang** and **Steve Drzaszcz** and **Michelle Davis** who offer weekly vocals with **Cheryl Stevens**. We are grateful for **Rebecca Neindorff** on piano and my wife **Christine Bass** on keyboard, as well as **Pastor Wes Allen** on electric guitar (and harmonica!). **Alice Conley** with subs **Jeremy Rotter** and **Greg Connlain** continues to serve doing the onscreen lyrics, with **Taylor Adair** on the audio.

My weekly duties include setting up the Sunday morning visuals on the computer as well as leading worship rehearsal, worship leading, selecting music, video recording and editing video of the weekly prayer service in Miller Commons. Monitor repairs have been made to the sound system and the lighting system has also been repaired this year. The new camera in Miller Commons has greatly improved the quality of the live stream video online. Taylor has also done much to improve the audio quality online. It is exciting to see people returning to live services and more importantly singing! God is doing great things.



# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Kourtney de la Cruz, Moderator

The Board of Deacons serves members of the congregation as well as our local community, attempting to put into practice the love and compassion of Jesus. The board is composed of 24 Deacons and is organized in three areas: (1) Providing for Ministry, (2) Performing for Ministry, and (3) Promoting Ministry. All members of the congregation are invited to join the Deacons as we strive to accomplish the mission as set forth in the Book of Order and as outlined in Scripture.

## Board of Deacons Structure 2021-2022

### Providing for Ministry

<b>Moderator</b>	Kourtney de la Cruz
<b>Vice-Moderator</b>	Jonathan Schramm
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jenna Cole
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jeff Mason
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Bobbi Voglesong
<b>Staff Representative</b>	Wes Allen

### Performing Ministry

- **Community Welfare** – Works with and supports service organizations such as Homeless Hospitality Network, Church World Service, Christmas Angel Tree and Christian Caring Center. **Coordinator: Caroline Joyce**
- **Hospitality** – Receptions and special events. Prepares and serves food for congregational luncheons, organizes Fifth Sunday receptions, and may be called on to assist with other church functions. **Coordinator: Tamara Trzeciak**
- **Hunger** – Projects dealing with food for the hungry. Oversees food drives, Thanksgiving turkey drive, and food baskets for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. **Coordinators: Jenna Cole, Diane Samuel, and Susan Shaffer**
- **Local Benevolence** – Gathers and collates financial data and mission statements from local charities to determine need and viability of the organizations under consideration for financial support. There are occasions when principals of the charities are interviewed in the data gathering process. The board periodically reviews funding and budget information to make disbursement recommendations to Session. **Coordinators: Jeff Mason (Chair) and Jenna Cole**
- **Visitation and Care** - Coordinates care visits and connects to those members in need; oversees transportation needs; supervises flower delivery for Christmas and Easter flowers, as well as third Sundays; and organizes Meal Trains for those members experiencing life-changing events. **Coordinators: JoAnn Reynik, Rachel Long, Gail Sorin, Bobbi Voglesong**
- **Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network)** – Works with Family Promise contact to oversee our hosting weeks, coordinates the scheduled weeks, and organizes volunteers for cooking, hosting and driving during our weeks. Sets up and breaks down the church for our guests. **Coordinators: Andrew Ehala**

- **Church Has Left the Building** – Coordinate annual church-wide service event. Cast vision and structure for the day, coordinate projects and volunteer service with ministries. **Coordinators:** Mike McNeil and Susan Shaffer

### Session, Trustee and Committee Representation:

Each month a representative of the Board of Deacons attends Session and Trustee meetings. Several Session committees, such as General Budget, Nominating, Membership, Personnel, Prayer, Stewardship and Missions also have a representative from Deacons as one of their members.

General Budget	Karen Hynoski
Trustee Representative	Karen Hynoski
Nominating Committee	Paul Gordon
Personnel Representative	Mike Hock
Missions Representative	Alice Conley
Stewardship Representative	Janet D’Angelo
Technology Representative	Steve Drzaszcz

**The Board of Deacons** is an active organization that does the work of our Lord by reaching out to our congregation and community. The Board of Deacons encourages members of the congregation to participate in Deacon Stewardship activities.

Throughout the year the **Corresponding Secretary** sent cards and letters to members and friends of our church. We offered encouragement, comfort and sympathy, and celebration for birthdays, birth announcements and promotions. We also sent thank you notes to speakers and visiting guests.

### Community Welfare:

The Community Welfare Committee works with various service organizations to lend support to those in need in our community. Recent programs included Blanket Sunday, in partnership with Church World Service; Manger Sunday, assisting Oaks Integrated Care; and a holiday gift drive supporting the Christian Caring Center.

### Hospitality:

The Hospitality Committee organizes and hosts events and receptions for the congregation. In the past this has included organizing the Congregational Luncheon, our volunteers serving ice cream and strawberries at the Strawberry Festival, and our contribution to the Fifth Sunday. In 2022, the committee was able to organize Fifth Sunday receptions and organize support for the Strawberry Festival. The committee is always on standby, ready to provide meals or refreshments for special events and last year looked for new ways to create fellowship opportunities for the congregation that did not involve food until restrictions eased.



### **Hunger Committee:**

The Hunger Committee coordinated the collection and delivery of non-perishable food items for the Ministerium Food Pantry at the Lutheran Church in Moorestown. The committee organized food drives at First Presbyterian throughout the year in order to stock the food pantry, including a food drive around Thanksgiving with local Moorestown soccer teams to assist with local food banks. The Hunger Committee also coordinated a toiletry drive and other non-food related items for local pantries. For Easter, the committee sent Acme gift cards to various households in the area (many being MEND residents in Moorestown) that needed extra help around the holiday seasons.



### **Local Benevolence Committee (LBC):**

Through the research and commitment of the Local Benevolence Committee, the Deacon Board financially supported several local non-profit organizations. This committee supports Christian charities but also provides funding to local groups doing the Lord's work within programs that cannot declare His work as part of their goals due to receiving federal or local government funding.

As a result of financial contributions from FPC Moorestown and the efforts of the Local Benevolence Committee, there is good work being accomplished locally that might not otherwise happen. The Deacons' budgeted distribution of \$24,820 helped these organizations operate to provide an increased level of care to those they serve.

In 2022, the Deacon Board initiated discovery and planning meetings to transform our approach in managing the financial support for charities. Our primary goal is to make our donations more game changing for the community we serve.

### **Key steps in the plan:**

- Vet the current list of charities receiving financial support through personal contact designed to inform us about how the organization used the money, what needs they may have and how we can connect with them as a believing church entity.
- Reduce the number of charities we support allowing us to make larger contributions to the organizations we retain.
- Adopt a Grant Award approach to assigning budget dollars to each organization.

*continued*



The list of non-profit charities supported by Local Benevolence in 2022:

- Good Samaritan /St. Vincent DePaul
- Moorestown Friends Enrichment
- Camp No Worries
- Christian Caring Center
- Contact Burlington County
- Family Promise
- Feeding 5000
- Cathedral Kitchen
- MoorKids
- CCD - Emergency & Comm. Service
- CCD - Providence House
- MEND
- Arc of Burlington County
- The Tender
- Foster the Family

**Visitation and Care:**

The Visitation and Care Committee supports our members and some non-members who are in need of care, due to many different circumstances. They visit nursing facilities, convalescent homes, hospitals, and shut-ins. When asked, they supply transportation to church functions, and doctor visits. This year, we were able to continue our flower deliveries (on a monthly basis) to those needing a care visit. Committee members also reached out to our older adults with phone calls and notes or cards. We coordinated the



delivery of Christmas poinsettias and Easter flowers to those in need. The Meal Train ministry has been very active this year, organizing and providing hundreds of meals to those members in need of care. Our Deacons and many dedicated volunteers from our congregation prepared and delivered these meals to families suffering an illness, surgery, or loss of a loved one. This committee actively seeks and welcomes those who would like to help with our flower deliveries and meal preparation throughout the year.

**Family Promise (formerly IHN):**

The Family Promise program continues to be the only known resource in Burlington County for homeless families who are working and trying to support themselves. We were not able to host this year due to shifts in ministry operations but did provide assistance for housing and meals throughout the year.

The Board of Deacons is an active organization which does the work of our Lord by reaching out to our congregation and community. We encourage all members to join us in this important work.

**Church Has Left The Building:**

**Steering Committee:** Wes Allen, Laurie LaMonica, Jenn Allen, Kourtney De La Cruz, Susan Shaffer, Bobbi Voglesong, Mike McNeil

**Date:** October 30, 2022

## Concepts on Event Support:

- Steering committee met monthly through summer
- Each event would have a senior member/Lead of the Church assigned for control, communication / POC for Organization and recruit for that specific event
- Communication to members, drive sign-up, emails, church services announcements, sign-up tables pre-post services
- Barb Duffy coordinated website/Church Center app, social media
- Expand to 2-day event to allow flexibility and to sites closed on Sundays
- Pat worked on busing Evergreens help with the Care Package Assembly on Saturday, October 29th and Sunday, October 30th.
- Original plan included BBQ/celebration mid-day Sunday as items were dropped off / completed



**Organization Identification** – Selected by previous relationship with Church or members of Church. Each CHLTB member was assigned 2-3 organizations to contact and conduct a review where we discussed: 1) Saturday & Sunday availability avoiding our commitment until follow-up 2) Discussion what's possible/understanding their commitment 3) Project descriptions, what was done in the past 4) How people they can accommodate? Children / Age restrictions 5) Physical Limitations i.e. standing time, walking distance, max weights being lifted... 6) Supplies they provide 6) Supplies/Costs we need to cover 7) Time frame / drop-off

**Event:** 160 members of the congregation involved, 130 signed up in advance

1. *Feeding 5000:* Mt. Laurel food prep & Delivery Philadelphia (indoor & outdoor)
2. *Moorestown Parks & Recreation:* Strawbridge Lake-Mulch, Weed & Clean Up (outdoor)
3. *College Student Care Packages*
4. *Urban Promise:*
  - a. Welcome Bags for Urban Promise International Visitors
  - b. Urban Promise Painting Urban Promise After-School Program Supplies – pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils, non-perishable snacks, crafts, etc..
  - c. Urban Promise Cleaning
5. *Christian Caring Center*
  - a. Homemade casseroles that could be frozen- a number of members made 20+ casseroles and Madelyn picked these up.
  - b. Hygiene kits (combined with Seeds of Hope)- Over 60 members assembling over 950 hygiene kits. Steering team packaged all of the kits in boxes and had them ready for pickup. Bulk of CHLTB's spending was toward Kit supplies
6. *Seeds of Hope:* See above, Christian Caring Center Hygiene kits
7. *Foster the Family:* Members baked goods for foster families. Due to communication errors, the baked goods went to another cause.

# REPORTS FROM CHURCH MINISTRIES

## NEW: REPORT OF THE MUSTARD SEED COOPERATIVE GARDEN

Coming to First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown in the spring of 2023

Leslie Spencer, Coordinator; Board of Deacons Oversight

### Background

In August 2022, Pastor Stuart Spencer initiated a task force to explore interest in the creation of a cooperative garden at FPC Moorestown. The task force met regularly to dream and pray, learn and plan and included church and Staff members.

### Mission, Vision and Why Statement

*Our Mission:* The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden, hosted by FPC Moorestown, provides fresh foods to promote the well-being of everyone in our community. We look to join hands with our Moorestown Ministerium churches and other members of our community to nourish and nurture our neighbors by raising and sharing fresh produce. Children, youth, young adults and their families are encouraged to come to help tend the gardens and enjoy this beautiful place. In addition to fresh produce, we cook and provide ideas for delicious meals using what comes from the garden.

*Our Vision:* We offer a beautiful garden to gather people from our church family and community to grow, prepare and enjoy fresh foods with everyone and anyone in our community, ensuring that all have access to nutritious produce.

*Our Why:* We desire to be fruitful followers of Jesus: "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15: 5)

### First Year Goals and Timeline

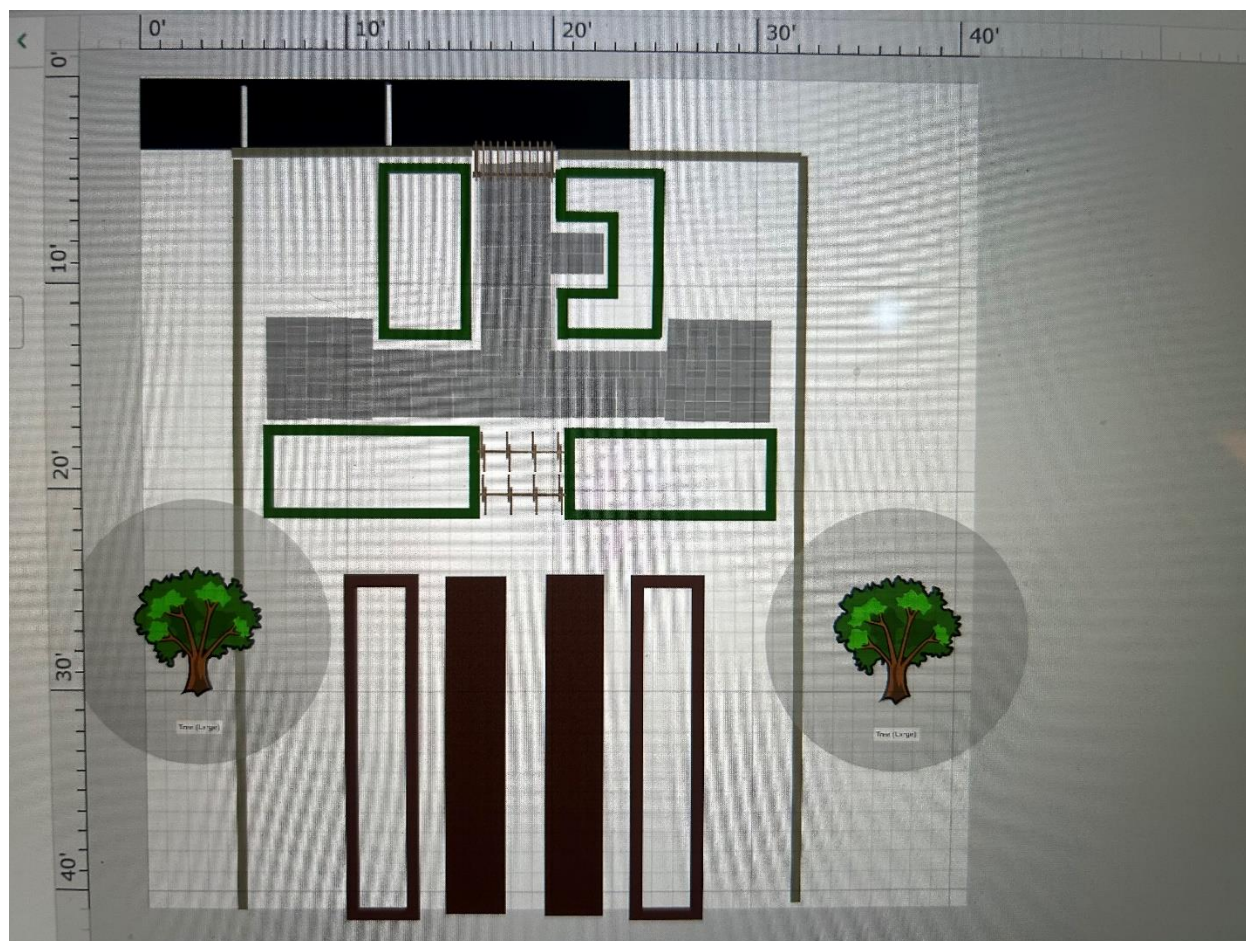
We believe it is important in the first year to set modest and realistic goals so that our church can experience success and build enthusiasm for the growth of the garden ministry.

- **Goal 1:** Construct durable, high-quality raised garden beds on a section of the church property with access to sunlight and a water source. Construct an attractive fence to protect the garden from animals eating the produce. The garden will be designed to be accessible to people of all abilities and to be a beautiful addition to the labyrinth and fire pit areas, forming a park where people can relax in nature.
- **Goal 2:** Successfully grow a selection of popular crops in the spring, summer and fall of 2023 to be shared for free with all who attend FPC Moorestown through special events planned during the growing season.
- **Goal 3:** Engage church members of all ages in the garden through education, training and coordinated garden care and maintenance activities.
- **Goal 4:** Share the produce for free with congregants and community members.

### Diagram of Proposed Garden – At the back of Main Parking Lot near the Labyrinth

The garden is designed to meet three goals. First, it will use the space efficiently for maximal food production. Second, the garden will be aesthetically attractive and inviting. Future plans include adding benches and picnic tables for people to sit and enjoy the space. Third, the garden is designed to be accessible to people of all ability levels, including those who use wheelchairs or other assistive devices. Raised beds will allow those who are unable to bend down to the ground to participate in gardening. Kneeling benches will be built on the sides of the raised beds.

There will be an arbor entrance way to the garden. Next to the entrance, there will be a wheelchair accessible bed to the left. Between the two back beds there will be an arch trellis that will also serve as an entranceway into the next part of the garden. At the back will be two 3 x 20-foot in-ground beds. There will be a fence around the garden with room to expand to accommodate two additional in-ground beds.



### Funding Sources

Year 1 garden construction and implementation costs will be covered by two sources of donations to FPC Moorestown that are separate from the general fund. The Memorial Fund was designated for improvements to the physical property of the church.

A second source of funding was pledged by a member toward the construction of the garden.



## Help Wanted and Welcome

We are starting small our first year so that we can learn what works best and develop a solid team of volunteers. We envision the garden ministry growing in the coming years to produce more food to feed our neighbors and to provide a variety of educational and training experiences for children, teens and adults.

Would you like to volunteer to participate in the garden this year? We are looking for people interested in planting, tending and harvesting the garden. We also need volunteers to help with communication (i.e. website updates, newsletters, social media posts) and to help plan our outreach and educational programs. You're invited to complete a brief survey at our Annual Meeting and online indicating your interests. Find the survey at: <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/people/forms/493210>.

Please attend an interest meeting on **Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** in room 3-4 to learn more. Contact Leslie Spencer at 215-584-7659 or [spencer@rowan.edu](mailto:spencer@rowan.edu) with your questions.





## REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Edith McFalls, Moderator**

All women who are members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are considered part of Presbyterian Women (PW). Further all women in the community who support the purpose of PW are welcome and encouraged to participate in all activities whether they are a member of our congregation, belong to another church or are without a church home. Presbyterian Women has a history dating back more than 200 years. Two centuries later, women have a voice in the church and in the world.

At First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, our PW has four **Circles** which are considered small group Bible studies. Circles meet on different days, at different times, once a month, to accommodate the needs of the women of the church. We are currently studying “Celebrating Sabbath” using the PW/Horizon Bible Study. We are learning about accepting God’s gift of rest and delight. In the beginning of the year, we studied “What My Grandmothers Taught Me, Learning from the women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus.” An additional fifth Circle is service oriented, aiding various ministries.

Our Circles meet for three yearly **Gatherings**. The Winter Gathering was on January 31, 2022. The speaker was **Kelly Maxted** whose presentation was titled “When God Says Go”. The Spring Gathering was on June 20. The speaker was **Michelle Fessler** from Providence House. At the Fall Gathering on September 19, 2022 we installed new officers, moderator **Edith McFalls** and secretary **Fran Green**. The speaker was **Jan Amos** presenting lesson one from our study “Celebrating Sabbath.”



Presbyterian Women have three bulletin boards within the church to decorate. We change the decorations three (3) times a year following the seasons of the church.

PW was challenged to again bake and serve 300 cakes for the Strawberry Festival, which returned in June 2022. We are not sure of the number but we baked or bought enough to provide for all in attendance and then some with much help from our friends church-wide.

In late November we did one of our favorite things; we decorated the **Chrismon** tree in the Sanctuary.

We continued our **Missions** work in financially supporting the PW Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly through our pledge, and contributed to grants in the US and internationally through the Thank, Birthday, and Least Coin offerings. Our Coordinating Team voted to support ministries that help women (and their children) in acute need. This means they receive immediate shelter and assistance in times of crisis. These three Missions groups include: **Dawn's Place**, for women rescued from sex trafficking; **Good Counsel Home**, for women who are pregnant and homeless; **Providence House**, for women escaping domestic violence.

We support a child through an organization called Little Children of the World. Their mission is to help develop Christian communities for the world's children at risk. Through them we support **Hesekiel Agbon**, a seven-year-old boy in the Philippines. We provide for his education and his families medical coverage.

A tree was donated to FPC Moorestown PW to honor all women that have been moderators. We had a dedication ceremony in September 2022.

The **Knitting Network** created handmade items (scarves, hats, mittens, bereavement sets, prayer shawls and blankets) that were distributed to Urban Promise for their African Mission. The network sold some of their creation collecting \$458.00 to support our missions. The network provided tangible comfort and loving support to many in 2022 by donating 6 shawls, 1 sweater, 2 lap robes, 30 baby hats, 8 bereavement blankets and 1 baby blanket.

Some of PW accomplishments included:

- Provided a Thanksgiving meal to a family
- Kept the Blessing Box at FPC Moorestown filled
- Collected items for the Atlantic City Rescue Mission
- Collected socks and underwear for Seeds of Hope
- Made 44 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Relief
- Collected socks for Christian Caring Center
- Provided gift cards for Uber and Lyft to Providence House

FPC Moorestown Presbyterian Women have made the following Mission donations:

<b>Mission</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Urban Promise International UK, Kelly Maxted's Honorarium	\$100.00
Good Counsel Home contributed by Beverly PW	\$545.00
Dawn's Place	\$408.00
Providence House	\$144.00
Little Children of the World	\$484.81
Presbyterian Women of South Jersey	\$1,200.00
Thank Offering	\$412.00
Birthday Offering	\$152.00
Least Coin	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,465.81</b>

## REPORT OF THE FLORAL GUILD

Fran Green, Chair

**Mission:** To provide fresh floral arrangements for each pedestal flanking the pulpit in the sanctuary during the early worship service, transferred to Miller Commons for the contemporary service at 11:00 a.m., as well as smaller arrangements for the Commons Lobby and reception desk in the main office. Additionally, baptismal families are presented with a single stem rose and specialty displays are created for Harvest Sunday, Good Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Manger Sunday, poinsettias), and Easter Sunday (spring plants). The Guild is responsible for design and maintenance of artificial Christmas greens adorning the sanctuary from the start of Advent through January 6. Arrangements are often funded/donated in memory of a deceased family member or friend of a congregant.

**Membership:** 10 active, talented members work either alone or in tandem each week to create designs. Church family members of all flower-arranging abilities are welcome to join, guided by a learn-as-you-go philosophy; experienced designers mentoring those new to the craft. Members sign-up to lead or assist in arranging on a quarterly basis. Balanced participation is the goal, with no member assuming too much or too little responsibility; however, vacations, other obligations, and illness can create disparity, which is assumed and not problematic.

**Process:** The Director of the Guild, **Fran Green**, is responsible for assembling the schedule on a quarterly basis, then sharing with all members and church office staff (**Jan Martin/Alison Mackey**), as well as serving as point-person for any issues that arise with regard to the guild, e.g. use of pulpit flowers for a Saturday funeral, date/time of delivery of plants for display in sanctuary, need for baptismal roses. Members unable to fulfill their obligations are responsible for finding a replacement or arranging for a switch, which must be communicated to the office staff for proper notation in the bulletin. If a member is too ill or otherwise indisposed to cover vacancy, then the director is notified to find replacement. Flowers are purchased weekly by agreed upon member of assigned duo (usually leader), with assembly of arrangements taking place in the Commons Kitchen at a mutually agreed upon time, either on Friday or Saturday. The cost of flowers and other essential supplies, e.g. floral foam/containers is reimbursed, up to \$90/week, via submission of completed expense form and receipts to **Norm Vandergrift**, who then issues payment of specified amount.



**Budget:** The limit to weekly spending is \$90 which, if met 50 Sundays per year, would amount to \$4,500 outlay from collected funds. Since the flowers are paid for by dedicated donations, this figure isn't firm and spending as little as possible for quality materials is encouraged. If a team goes over-budget, it is their responsibility to absorb additional cost. This year, the guild came in well under-budget, claiming only \$1,497 of \$2,760 in donations. Some members pick up containers/supplies as a gift to the church.

**Future Considerations:** Pre COVID, from September through May, the Guild met every month or two for a live demonstration of an arranging technique or style, usually on a Friday morning; at Christmas and the end-of-the-year, culminating in an informal luncheon. These demos were usually led by an experienced member of the group, but a guest speaker was occasionally featured. In place of live learning, members have occasionally shared instructional videos prepared by professional floral designers. We hope to revive the floral workshops this spring in order to attract new members.

## REPORT OF STEPHEN MINISTRY

**Doris Kahley, Stephen Leader**

**Rev. Wes Allen, Staff Liaison**

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ  
(Galatians 6:2).*

Stephen Ministers are members of FPC Moorestown who have received 50 hours of training to provide high-quality, one-on-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing a myriad of difficulties.

FPC Moorestown has had many dozen Stephen Ministers across the three decades of our involvement in the ministry. Currently we have fourteen active Stephen Ministers, ten of whom are serving Care Receivers.

In April of 2022 FPC Moorestown commissioned five newly-trained Stephen Ministers. In addition, Pastor Wes Allen completed the Bridge Leader's Training Course, a live, interactive online training experience that prepared him to serve as a Stephen Leader. He assisted our Stephen Leaders and Ministers in teaching the course to our trainees.

A Stephen Minister provides a 'safe place' for you to talk, when your world has crashed; when you still need to talk and your family is tired of listening; when your head is spinning with the demands of life; or you can't evaluate the options before you, or even identify what they are. Our Stephen Ministers are passionate about caring for, listening to, and praying for you. At the same time we know that only God provides the cure.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation, contact Pastor Wes Allen, or Stephen Leaders Doris Kahley (609) 220-8163 or Peg Pierce (856) 429-3752.



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Earl Gage

It is my pleasure to write this annual report each year to give you as members of the congregation the broader picture of the business side of the Church. Obviously, the core mission of the Church is to spread the word of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and to minister to the flock in many varied and caring ways. We are here to celebrate the Holy seasons, rejoice together at weddings, and to mourn as a family when it is time for a friend or loved one to take their final journey. Most importantly we are there to develop a closer relationship with Jesus. Pastor Spencer and Pastor Allen, along with our program directors, staff and volunteers, work tirelessly to offer every opportunity from the very young, to the more seasoned of us the opportunity to rejoice in the goodness and mercy of the Lord and his teachings.

Behind the scenes, the far less glamorous work is done. The bills have to be paid, most staff appreciate a paycheck, the facility needs to be kept in good and safe repair, we have to contend with insurance folks, fire marshal inspections, permits, leaking pipes, investments, IT issues, set up and take down of rooms, scheduling events, and the list goes on and on. That is my job along with the staff to keep God's House in order, and to support the pastors and program staff to the best of our abilities. Our success is when most of you don't know how the stuff gets done, just that it does.

My joy is the privilege of working with a very dedicated and talented program and administrative staff. My joy is the privilege of working with a tremendous group of faithful, talented and dedicated lay leaders and developing a respect for them as people and friends. My joy is the honor of serving with **Stuart** and **Wes** as they minister to the people and support them in every way possible.

2022 began with the church in a strong financial position as we began to emerge from the pandemic and resume most of our programing, and special events. Slowly we returned to in person worship, coffee hours, normal choir rehearsals, etc. Reinstating the Strawberry Festival in June 2022 seemed to be our statement to the community that we were back, followed closely by a very successful Vacation Bible School which at least in my opinion meant we had resumed business as usual.



In various reports throughout this publication you will see in greater detail the many events, property improvements, Session, Deacon and Trustee activities, financial reports, the many groups that both independently and together matter so much in the life of our congregation. As we continue to build momentum, we do face some financial struggles going forward. Jeff Legath, Trustee president, has outlined that struggle very well in his report on page 68. And once again, just as when we struggled during the pandemic, you as a congregation have answered the call and will continue to answer the call to support this great Church and what it stands for in God's kingdom.

*continued*



There is much to be joyous and thankful for. I thank God for our dedicated administrative staff including **Norman Vandergrift, Steve Margerum, Steve Cashmer, Sam Caraballo, Jan Martin, Alison Mackey, Barb Duffy** and **Angie Slane**. Thank you all for your dedication, faith and intelligence for working with me to keep the lights on.

We have all struggled, but through our struggles, God has made us stronger. Facing challenges has made us develop new ways of ministering virtually and made us focus on what is really important, worshiping God. Advances in technology mean that wherever we are we can participate in our Sunday services, book clubs, small groups, and Bible studies which are all flourishing. The Mission Committee is supporting our missionaries and helping those less fortunate. **Joel Krott** and **Martin Bass** have been able to continue to provide beautiful and inspirational music. Our Youth and Children's groups led by **Holly Asciutto, John Roberts** and **Dave Fauvell** are successful as our young people search for God's truth in a divided society. There is much hope that in 2023 we can continue to serve God as a faithful church in his name.

In closing, I am proud that we have individually and collectively done our best to ensure the long-term success of this church. Working together in faith and love, overcoming the challenges, finding innovative ways to function, and never once forgetting that we do it all in His name.

It is my honor to serve as your administrator. May God bless you all.



## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeff Legath, President

### Officers

President	Jeff Legath
Vice President	Michael Ramage
Secretary	Wendy Dougherty
Treasurer	William Conner

### Committee Chairs

Budget	Michael Ramage
Investment/Endowment	William Mueller
Property	Paul Lewis/Rich Corbin

The mission of the Board of Trustees is to support the overarching mission of the Church to bring the word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ to our congregation and communities. The Board provides fiduciary oversight and guidance for the Church's staff and Session to help promote the long-term stability and best interests of the Church, including specifically:

- Financial guidance to promote the stability of the Church's budget and finances;
- Management of and investment strategy for restricted funds and other investments of the Church; and
- Guidance for the care and maintenance of the facilities and properties owned and controlled by the Church.

The Trustees fulfill this mission through active committees of the Board, working collaboratively with other leadership groups including the Session, Deacons, Missions, Personnel and Stewardship Committees and other groups, and by offering guidance to the Administrator and CFO of the Church.

The Church entered 2022 financially strong and well positioned as we continued to emerge from the pandemic, beginning the year with a substantial carry forward of available funds. Church activities were not entirely back to normal, but slowly we were making our way back. By spring staff had primarily returned to the office and we were able to host the first Strawberry Festival in two years, and attendance at in-person services slowly but gradually increased as the year progressed. Despite these encouraging steps, by late fall of 2022 we were informed by a few of our larger donors that they would not be able to fulfill their 2022 pledges and were substantially decreasing their anticipated pledges for 2023.

In light of this information, on behalf of the Board of Trustees I addressed the congregation on November 6, 2022 outlining with full transparency the financial situation we were facing and requested the congregation's help in ending 2022 as strong as possible. I further encouraged the congregation to reconsider their pledge amounts for 2023. Our congregation responded as they always have when faced with challenges, magnificently. Over \$100,000



was added to previously submitted pledges for 2022 and/or 2023, and close to \$100,000 was received for year-end budget help and Christmas Green offering.

The results of that funding appeal were nothing short of awe-inspiring and reflect the faith and generous spirit of our congregation. In doing so, we were further able to preserve the entirety of the previously approved 2022 budget and fulfill all of the obligations of the Church without making abrupt changes to Church programs or existing commitments. The responses to our year-end funding appeals clearly showed God's grace in providing for our mission and leave us in a more stable financial position going into 2023 than previously projected. This strong support has allowed the Church to not only close the projected deficit in 2022 but to have a carry forward, or surplus, of \$47,000 for use in our 2023 budget and projected 2023 deficit. Note that this result includes the benefit of \$73,000 in year-end budget assistance allocated from remaining bequest funds, but still represents a remarkable recovery from the loss of approximately \$200,000 of previously pledged funds not received in 2022, and more than doubles the projected carry-forward of \$22,000 contained in the 2023 budget (which projection had already reflected some of the increased 2022 pledges we received in response to our funding appeals).



### **2023 BUDGET**

The 2023 budget team is led by the chair of our Budget Committee and Vice President of the Board, **Mike Ramage**, with strong support from Treasurer **Bill Conner** and the rest of the committee. As soon as we began our budget work for 2023, we learned the news of the change in our financial situation from reduced 2022 estimates of giving. After coming out of the pandemic financially stable, with these



reductions in expected giving we faced a substantial shortfall in projected income for 2023. With the hard work of the entire budget team, we have presented and Session adopted a workable budget for 2023. Quickly the budget team agreed that the main objective was to preserve the core mission of our church, including programs and staff, along with our commitment to Missions. We had to authorize the potential use of an unprecedented amount of restricted fund support in order to present a budget that met this goal. This action, although temporarily preserving our core mission, is not sustainable long term and should not be considered a panacea for budget discussions going into 2024.

The full impact of these financial changes means that every department is contending in real time with a decrease in their 2023 allocations from 2022. Every department has to work together and share in these necessary reductions in order to provide for the core mission of our church in a fiscally responsible manner. The overall difference in projected 2023 income remains almost \$200,000 less than final 2022 income, and that includes the substantial use of restricted funds and increases in 2023 estimates of giving made in response to our year-end financial appeals.

The budget team, with the guidance of Session and Trustees, will work throughout 2023 to address the long-term implications of this decrease in available monies and how we can successfully prepare for 2024

while still effectively providing for our programs and staff needs. No decisions are taken lightly or should be made hastily (especially given that 2022 year-end giving has stabilized our financial position and given us time to assess our situation fully), but hard decisions will have to be considered and potentially made as 2023 progresses. Working collaboratively in the next several months to address this challenge, the Budget Team will hold meetings in the first half of 2023 and make any recommendations it believes are needed to the Trustees and Session in order to prayerfully address our new financial reality.

Closing out 2022 strong and meeting our year end obligations was a remarkable example of careful planning, active financial management and most importantly the unwavering generosity and dedication of our congregation. Here are the summary 2022 financial results (including the impact of budget relief donated or applied from the bequest funds prior to year-end):

## 2022 Financial Results

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	Difference
Revenue	\$ 2,165,500	\$ 2,194,401	\$28,901
Expenses	\$ 2,157,757	\$ 2,146,937	(\$10,820)
Ending Balance		\$47,464	

## INVESTMENTS

The Investment Committee, led by chair **Bill Mueller** and with detailed analysis and support throughout from Treasurer **Bill Conner** and the rest of the committee, oversaw our investment portfolio with a steady hand during a volatile year. The Investment Committee targets an investment allocation of approximately 65% equity and 35% fixed income funds. Investments are invested with Vanguard including passively and actively managed equity and bond funds and money market alternatives. Based on the 5-year rolling average value of our managed assets for the September 12<sup>th</sup> and Cemetery funds, a 4% distribution of each fund is taken each year as revenue from other income for our annual budget and utilized to meet operating expenses. The annual contributions contributed \$58,380 for 2022 operating expenses and are budgeted to contribute \$60,000 in 2023. See below for highlights of our 2022 restricted fund balances and performance:

## Funds

Fund	Ending Balance	Change	Return (%)
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 1,614,618	-\$ 254,737	(-13.63%)
Perpetual Cemetery	164,477	-\$25,085	(-13.23%)
Rawlings/Robins (Trustee Funds)	81,968	-\$4,209	(-4.88%)
Fleming (Congregational Activities)	74,912	-\$3,847	(-4.88%)
Spencer/Powell (Pastor Housing)	380,094	-43,889	(-10.14%)
Music	15,419	-2,577	(-14.32%)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,331,488</b>	<b>-\$333,344</b>	<b>(-12.51%)</b>

The Investment Committee believes the above investment results, while challenging, are at least consistent with or better than market returns for the period. For comparison purposes, during 2022 the Vanguard S&P 500 tracking fund (VFAIX) experienced a negative return of (18.5) % annualized for 2022, and the Vanguard Total Bond Market ETF (BND) experienced a negative return of (13.12) % annualized for 2022.

During 2022 there were no special restricted fund transfers to assist the closing of 2022 beyond the normal annual distributions from the September 12<sup>th</sup> and Cemetery funds, a result that was only possible due to the generosity of our congregation at year-end. The remaining monies from a recent bequest (\$73,341) were authorized and transferred into the general budget for year-end obligations.

Note that the adopted 2023 budget does include a special transfer of up to \$107,000 of restricted funds, over and above the normal fund distribution of \$60,000 budgeted for 2023, for a total of \$167,000 of restricted fund budget help for 2023.

### **PROPERTY**

The Property Committee, led by current chair **Rich Corbin** and former chair **Paul Lewis**, oversaw many substantial projects in 2022. *Please see the attached detailed summary of property improvements and projects completed in 2022.* Enormous credit is due to our talented property staff, in particular the leadership and dedicated efforts of property supervisor **Steve Margerum**. The Trustees with Session approval were able to provide funding through bequest funds to improve many long-neglected property issues and deal with new, unexpected challenges and projects. Many of the projects noted were performed in-house by our talented staff.

We will continue to prioritize the safety and upkeep of our buildings and grounds in 2023 and make improvements to portions of our facilities where necessary to protect the health and safety of our workers and visitors and help ensure the longevity and proper care of our Church, while balancing this required spending with the elimination or deferral of non-critical improvements given the financial limitations facing our Church.



### **OUTLOOK AND NEXT STEPS**

In conclusion, 2022 was a year of both improved operations and engagement while presenting new revenue challenges; however, with strong leadership from Rev. Spencer and Rev. Allen, the hard and diligent work of Session and our Board, the generous faith and support of our congregation, and the support and leadership of the rest of our dedicated staff we have managed 2022 successfully and positioned our Church to navigate another potentially uniquely difficult year in 2023. While we have made great progress during 2022 and in our year-end fundraising efforts, we must recognize that under the current circumstances our Church is still potentially dependent on one-time budgetary assistance from non-operating sources (including bequests, special gifts and use of supplemental restricted funds) to keep



its finances balanced. In the long term, we must do what is necessary to develop the sustained ability to meet our annual budget without this type of special, one-time assistance. As a result, there is still much work to be done in 2023 and beyond.

That said, we should be proud of the accomplishments we have made, thanks to the amazing support of our congregation, to successfully navigate 2022 and prepare for an equally or more challenging 2023.

I am reminded of the following Way of the Week (#12):

**Own Our Church.** *The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Claim ownership of FPC Moorestown's mission and programs. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church-because you are!*

Together we have taken ownership of our Church and helped bring our Church not only through the pandemic but through surprise financial challenges as well. Together with the grace of God we will continue to do so.



## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES' PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Rich Corbin, Chair

**2022 Property Committee Members:** Rich Corbin (Chair), Paul Lewis, Patrick McIlroy, Mike Welch, Steve Margerum (Property Supervisor)

### Summary

The Property Committee oversaw many repairs, improvements, and upgrades to our facility and grounds in 2022. Many thanks to the Property Supervisor, **Steve Margerum**, and his team for their resolute efforts to address immediate issues as they arose and to tackle large-scale projects with determination and great attention to detail.

### Below is a list of the larger, more extensive projects that were completed in 2022

#### Replaced Step-by-Step Windows (all work completed in-house)

- The replacement of the old windows in the Step-by-Step preschools began in 2021. The last of the windows were replaced in 2022.

#### Removed and Replaced Knob & Tube Wiring

- Original knob and tube wiring located on the first and second floors of the mansion were removed and replaced with metal-encased wiring to bring it up to code.

#### Renovated Mansion 2nd Floor (all work completed in-house)

- Old furniture and carpeting in the choir director's office were removed. The furniture was replaced with new pieces. A new bookcase and shelf were built and installed. The hardwood floors under the old carpeting were in good shape, so it was decided that new carpeting would not be installed in the office. The floors were cleaned and polished.
- All rooms on the 2nd floor of the mansion, including the choir director's office, the choir practice room, the West Jersey Music Academy office, and the area at the top of the staircase outside the offices and choir room were patched and painted.
- A new outlet was added to the HVAC utility closet.
- All 2nd floor areas were thoroughly cleaned and put back into use before the beginning of choir practices in September.

#### Replaced Mansion Roof

- The old roof on the mansion was removed and a new roof was installed.

#### Removed Low Wall (all work completed in-house)

- The low wall located outside between Fellowship Hall and the Commons presented a tripping hazard and was cracked and in need of repair. It was removed to address potential safety issues.

*continued*

**Removed & Trimmed Trees (all work completed in-house)**

- Several trees located near the large parking lot and maintenance building were dead or dying and removed. Maintenance trimming of numerous other trees around the property was also completed.

**Repaired Double-Doors in the Hallway Leading to the Sanctuary (all work completed in-house)**

- The double doors were repaired and the threshold was replaced.

**Boiler & HVAC Repairs**

- HVAC repairs were completed during the year, as needed, to address air conditioning and heating issues.
- The church solicited maintenance quotes and hired a new HVAC general contractor to service the HVAC systems including the boilers and related pumps and controls.

**Other Projects Completed in 2022**

- Window well covers around the sanctuary, leading to the crawl space, were rebuilt and secured in place.
- A new fence was installed in the area next to the maintenance garage.
- The former tool room was repaired, painted and new carpet installed to convert it into office space.
- The cemetery entrance shrubs were removed and replaced with one larger shrub (transplanted from the big parking lot entrance) and placed on each side. The shrubs removed were relocated in front of the fence next to the garage.
- The cemetery entrance was power washed and cleaned.
- Two pieces of furniture (bookshelves) were built (in-house) for the Commons Lobby.
- The hallways outside room 3/4 and room 8 were painted.
- The rain garden located outside the sanctuary was cleaned up.
- The entrance signs to all parking lots were repaired and re-installed in better locations. Solar-powered lights were added.
- New receptacles were installed in the Narthex to eliminate extension cord use.
- The benches on the Commons porch and in the Wong Garden were sanded, cleaned, stained, and sealed.
- The exit signs outside classrooms were repaired and placed on a dedicated breaker.

**Building & Grounds Repairs and Improvements Planned for 2023 and Beyond****Building:**

- Maintain the boiler and HVAC maintenance schedules and complete repairs as necessary.
- Complete repairs to the walls and install molding in the first floor and West Jersey Music Academy office areas of the mansion.
- Replace the windows in room 3-4, the Missions office, and possibly the Hayes Room.
- Replace the carpeting in the main office, in the hallway outside room 3-4, and in the hallway outside room 8.

- Paint rooms 6, 7, and 8 and possibly carpet them.
- Paint the hallways in the preschool area.
- Repair the door across the hall from the entrance to room 3-4. There is some rust at the bottom near the threshold.
- Repair the double doors in the Narthex on the Bridgeboro Road side.
- Repair the doors leading into Miller Commons. Hinge brackets at the top of several doors need to be replaced and/or reconnected.
- Repair the mansion 3rd floor fire escape door (not flush to frame) and address area around the door which is likely allowing water into the building (visible on the ceiling around the chandelier).
- Repair and paint the walls and ceilings on the third floor of the mansion.
- Repair the bricks/mortar on the handicap ramp wall, the retaining wall around the Commons, and the wall at the entrance to the cemetery.
- Repair and paint the front porch and columns facing the point (intersection of Bridgeboro and Riverton Roads).
- Repair and paint exterior walls outside the kitchen area (where the dumpsters are stored).
- Repair and paint the two half columns outside of the Pre-School room 16 entrance.
- Paint the exterior of the mansion (particularly around all the 3rd floor windows) and the courtyard outside the pastor's office.
- Repair exterior molding above the Wong Garden and the sanctuary.
- Clean out the crawl spaces and address any moisture issues.
- Replace the fire alarm system with fully addressable units where needed.

#### **Grounds:**

- Generate and maintain a stormwater basin management plan and complete required annual inspection and reporting requirements.
- Regrade soil around the property to divert water away from the building. Add downspout extensions to divert water away from the building.
- Reseal parking lots and restripe lines.
- Lay a new asphalt driveway from the main parking lot to the kitchen area.
- Remove three additional dying trees on the property.
- Continue the cleaning and repair of the courtyard outside of the pastor's office.
- Overhaul the tractor.
- Coordinate with Missions to install a patio area in the courtyard outside of the pastor's office.
- Re-grade the playground grass area.





2023 Adopted Budget/Year End Finals					
	2021 Final	Adopted 2022 Budget	2022 Final	2023 Adopted Budget	
<b>Revenue</b>					
Offering-Pledged	\$ 1,590,118	\$ 1,445,000	\$ 1,467,851	\$ 1,358,797	
Offering-Postpaid Pledges	\$ 1,375	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,150	\$ 8,000	
Offering-Prepaid Pledges	\$ 28,561	\$ 25,000	\$ 4,681	\$ 5,500	
Offering-Unpledged	\$ 83,438	\$ 100,000	\$ 71,327	\$ 70,000	
Plate Offering	\$ 19,111	\$ 25,000	\$ 13,515	\$ 16,000	
Christmas Green/Budget Help	\$ 76,945	\$ 80,000	\$ 100,885	\$ 80,000	
Per Capita	\$ 12,785	\$ 12,500	\$ 11,081	\$ 12,500	
Miscellaneous Offering	\$ 19,413	\$ 35,000	\$ 8,043	\$ 6,000	
Step-By-Step	\$ 200,195	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,419	\$ 35,000	
Income Other	\$ 108,106	\$ 110,000	\$ 116,317	\$ 100,000	
Sept. 12th Earnings	\$ 52,187	\$ 58,000	\$ 58,380	\$ 60,000	
Spencer/Powell Housing	\$ -	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 53,500	
Balance Forward	\$ 31,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 136,411	\$ 22,000	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,223,234</b>	<b>\$ 2,165,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,021,060</b>	<b>\$ 1,827,297</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salary/Wages	\$ 959,890	\$ 909,690	\$ 874,507	\$ 912,000	
Benefits	\$ 290,382	\$ 299,947	\$ 288,062	\$ 299,546	
Staff Development/Scholarships	\$ 12,000	\$ 18,500	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$ 1,262,272</b>	<b>\$ 1,228,137</b>	<b>\$ 1,174,569</b>	<b>\$ 1,223,546</b>	
Missions Committee	\$ 250,425	\$ 260,620	\$ 274,309	\$ 215,000	
Special Missions Contribution		\$ 19,200	\$ 10,900	\$ -	
Missions Pass Through/Trips	\$ 27,807	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,425	\$ 5,000	
Deacons	\$ 45,858	\$ 50,000	\$ 41,289	\$ 37,000	
Presbyterian Women	\$ 4,518	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,024	\$ 2,000	
Denominational/Per Capita	\$ 39,758	\$ 39,800	\$ 37,240	\$ 30,000	
<b>Total Missions/Benevolence</b>	<b>\$ 368,366</b>	<b>\$ 376,620</b>	<b>\$ 379,187</b>	<b>\$ 289,000</b>	
Office/Administration	\$ 101,403	\$ 60,000	\$ 58,752	\$ 55,000	
Property Management/Cemetery	\$ 189,442	\$ 200,000	\$ 245,817	\$ 195,000	
Contingency Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	
Capital Fund	\$ 15,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 27,000	
Marketing			\$ 2,691	\$ -	
Tech/IT		\$ 62,000	\$ 75,573	\$ 62,000	
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$ 315,845</b>	<b>\$ 372,000</b>	<b>\$ 432,833</b>	<b>\$ 344,000</b>	
Adult Ministries	\$ 17,787	\$ 35,000	\$ 22,772	\$ 28,000	
Family Ministries	\$ 37,845	\$ 42,000	\$ 39,482	\$ 36,000	
Step-By-Step	\$ 20,131	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Music	\$ 21,601	\$ 30,000	\$ 22,107	\$ 20,000	
Pastoral Expenses	\$ 3,322	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,353	\$ 12,000	
Boards and Committees	\$ 39,165	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,346	\$ 7,500	
APNC	\$ 2,664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 142,515</b>	<b>\$ 124,000</b>	<b>\$ 106,060</b>	<b>\$ 103,500</b>	
<b>September 12th Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Fees Disbursed</b>		<b>\$ 40,000</b>	<b>\$ 44,288</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,104,834</b>	<b>\$ 2,157,757</b>	<b>\$ 2,146,937</b>	<b>\$ 1,980,046</b>	
<b>Fund Transfer/Deficit Reduction</b>	<b>\$ (18,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 173,341</b>	<b>\$ 53,500</b>	
<b>Total Net Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 1,973,596</b>	<b>\$ 1,926,546</b>	
<b>Difference Income/Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 136,400</b>	<b>\$ 13,750</b>	<b>\$ 47,464</b>	<b>\$ (99,249)</b>	

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**Fiscal Year January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022**

Account

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Cash**

Republic Checking	\$131,311
Truist Checking	\$22,495
Petty Cash	\$50
<b>Total Cash</b>	<hr/> \$153,856

**Restricted Assets**

Vanguard - Fed MM	\$249,029
Vanguard - Rawl & Robbins Fund	\$69,505
Vanguard - Fleming Fund	\$63,499
Vanguard - Sept. 12th Fund	\$1,563,289
Vanguard - Cemetery Fund	\$161,864
Vanguard - Spencer-Powell Fund	\$374,757
Vanguard - Easter Music Fund	\$15,195
<b>Total Restricted Assets</b>	<hr/> \$2,497,139

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<hr/> \$2,650,995
-----------------------------	-------------------

**Fixed Assets**

Land	\$1,093,100
Buildings	\$1,658,629
Buildings - New Construction	\$5,075,078
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	\$363,900
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<hr/> \$8,190,707

**Other Assets**

<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<hr/> \$0
---------------------------	-----------

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<hr/> \$10,841,702
---------------------	--------------------

Total Payroll Payables	<u>\$4,494</u>
Restricted	
Temporary Restricted Funds (Oper.)	
Education / Scholarship Fund	\$25,651
Temporary Operating Fund	\$66,589
Memorial Gifts Fund	\$29,275
Capital Operating Fund	\$47,171
Building Upgrade Fund	\$0
Mission House Fund	\$49,904
Temporary Carry Forward Fund	\$17,832
Nursery School Fund	\$30,579
Peacock Theo. Discourse Fund	\$12,966
Denmark Fund	\$14,999
Van Camp Fund	\$0
Arabic Ministry Fund	\$8,918
Total Temporary Restricted Funds (Oper.)	<u>\$303,885</u>
Perm. Restricted Funds (Inv.)	
Cemetery Perpetual Fund	\$122,803
Fleming Fund	\$28,322
Rawlings & Robbins Fund	\$41,449
September 12th Fund	\$1,593,225
Spencer Powell Fund	\$367,306
Reserve Fund	\$100,000
Easter Music Fund	\$15,195
Rorke Memorial Fund	\$26,895
Property & Contents Fund	\$8,190,707
Total Perm. Restricted Funds (Inv.)	<u>\$10,485,903</u>
Total Restricted	<u>\$10,789,788</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$10,794,282</u>
General Fund Balance	\$136,411
General Fund Balance-Current Year	(\$88,991)
General Fund Balance-Current Year-Total	<u>\$47,420</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL	<u>\$47,420</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	<u>\$10,841,702</u>

Be strong & courageous;  
do not be frightened  
or dismayed, for the  
LORD your God is with  
you wherever you go.

-Joshua 1:9



[BibleVerseImages.com](http://BibleVerseImages.com)