

# 2023 Annual Report



## Annual Meeting of the Congregation First Presbyterian Church

20 Kings Highway East  
Haddonfield NJ 08033

**AGENDA**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**HADDONFIELD ANNUAL MEETING OF**  
**THE CONGREGATION & CORPORATION**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.**

1. Open with Prayer
2. Approve Minutes
3. New Business
  - a. Approve Pastors' Terms of Call
  - b. Discuss Vision, Mission, and Core Values statements
  - c. Reports
    - i. Statistical Report
    - ii. Deacons
    - iii. Presbyterian Women
    - iv. Preschool
    - v. Stephen Ministry
    - vi. Marketing Committee
    - vii. Governance
    - viii. Justice & Advocacy
    - ix. Property Committee
    - x. Worship & Music
    - xi. Investments
    - xii. Finance Committee
    - xiii. Treasurer's Report
    - xiv. Senior Pastor
    - xv. Associate Pastor
    - xvi. Minister of Music
4. *In Memoriam*
5. Close with Prayer and Adjourn

**MINUTES**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 11, 2023**

The Annual Congregational meeting was held on the above date in the Sanctuary. The Rev. Dr. Marvin Lindsay called the meeting to order at 11:07 am with prayer. A quorum of 10% was present as declared by the Recording Clerk acting as Secretary Pro-tem. The Recording Clerk certified that adequate notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with the congregation's and Presbytery's rules for minimum public notice of its meetings.

The Moderator, Pastor Marvin opened the meeting with prayer. He then explained the purpose of the Annual Meeting and the agenda for the meeting.

Pastor Marvin and the congregation acknowledged "All the Saints" who have gone before us in the past year. We continued our tradition of singing "For All The Saints" in their memory.

First agenda item was to approve minutes of Congregational Meetings that have occurred during the past year. They appeared in the first pages of the Annual Report. **Motion to approve the Minutes was MSC. (Motion made, seconded and carries).**

The next agenda item was to approve the Terms of Call for the ordained staff. Pastor Marvin pointed out that his Terms of Call did not change for 2023. The Terms for Call for Pastor Nikki included a 2.5% salary increase, the same that the rest of the staff received. **Motion to approve the Terms of Call was MSC.**

Pastor Marvin reviewed reports from various committees and entities of the church. He mentioned that Presbyterian Women are "really getting it done!" Warren Pross presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of our Treasurer Corey Crumley. He also presented the budget for the first 6 months of 2023. An 18 month budget will be prepared after Session has completed the Project Regeneration exercise. Discussion/Q&A occurred.

Lorraine Gormley-Devine, Chair of the Governance Committee was next on the agenda. Lorraine discussed changes in the by-laws that need congregational approval. The first change was the addition of a Recording Clerk of Session to support the Stated Clerk of Session. The second was to change the name of our Presbytery to The Presbytery *for* Southern Jersey. The third was to change our policy regarding Electronic Session and Congregational Meetings. The change would allow

Electronic and/or Hybrid meetings for any reason, not just on an emergency basis. The last change would be to include our commitment to conducting an annual financial review (not an audit) in the by-laws. **Motion to accept these changes to the by-laws was made and carried.**

Finally the Governance Committee made a motion to ratify the minutes of meetings held electronically from March 2020 to present. Motion made and carried. Pastor Marvin gave an overview of Project Regeneration.

**Motion to adjourn was MSC.** Pastor Nikki closed the meeting with prayer at 11:53 am.

### Congregation Meeting to Elect Officers Sunday, April 30, 2023

A Congregation meeting was held on the above date in the Sanctuary. The Rev. Dr. Marvin Lindsay called the meeting to order at 11:05 am with prayer. A quorum of 10% was present as declared by the Recording Clerk of Session. The Clerk certified that adequate notice of the call has been given in accordance with the congregation's and Presbytery's rules for minimum public notice of its meetings. The Moderator, Pastor Marvin opened the meeting with prayer. He then explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hear a report from the Nominating Committee re: Deacon Nominations.

Lesley Kirsch, Nominating Committee Chairperson made opening remarks and noted the backgrounds of the three nominees for Deacon. Lesley moved that the following Deacons be elected:

- Kathi Bell
- Terry Carpenter
- Pete Hurd

Pastor Marvin called for any nominations from the floor. There were none. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the **Motion to Approve the Officer**

**Candidates. It was approved by acclamation. Motion to Adjourn was approved at 11:09 am** and Pastor Marvin adjourned us with prayer.

### First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield Congregation Meeting Sunday, December 17, 2023

Due notice having been given; the Congregation meeting was held on the above date in the Sanctuary. Moderator, Rev. Marvin Lindsay called the meeting to order at 10:54am with prayer. A quorum of 10% was present. The purpose of the meeting was to elect church officers for 2024. Lesley Kirsch, Nominating Committee Co-Chair, presented the slate of Officers.

#### DEACONS Class of 2026

Jessica DiVietro, Mike Liggera, Peg Manochi, Liz Olson, Sophia Oswald, John Reed, Lindsay Sommers, John Wackes

#### ELDERS Class of 2026

Vani Elgart, Lee Federline, Brian McGlade, Margaret O'Neil, Gene Spinelli, Rich Woodland

#### **On motion, the Deacon and Elder Classes of 2026 were Approved** by the

Congregation. Pastor Marvin thanked the nominating committee for their efforts in preparing the slate of officers. **Motion to adjourn meeting was Approved.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am. Marvin led us in prayer to close the meeting.

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Pastor.

Minutes recorded & submitted by Judy Blank, Clerk of Session.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Approval of Pastors' Terms of Call Senior Pastor Terms of Call

Salary & Housing	\$125,373
SECA Relief	\$9,591
Medical and Pension Dues	\$51,468

Professional Expenses	\$3,750
4 Weeks of Vacation	
2 Weeks Continuing Education	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$190,182</b>

#### **Associate Pastor Terms of Call**

Salary & Housing)	\$82,747
Pension/Medical	\$29,196
SECA Relief	\$6,330
Professional Allowance	\$3,000
Medical Allowance (to offset medical deductible)	\$1,712
Continuing Education	\$750
4 Weeks of Vacation	
2 Weeks of Continuing Education	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$123,735</b>

The terms of call include a 3.5% COLA as recommended by the Personnel Committee and Session.

### **REPORTS**

#### **2023 Clerk's Report**

##### **Membership**

Prior Active Members 673

##### **Gains**

Certificate 3  
 Youth Professions 11  
 Professions & Reaffirmations 12  
 Total Gains 26

##### **Losses**

Certificate 1  
 Deaths 9  
 Deleted for any Other Reason 33  
 Total Losses 43

**Total Ending Active Members 656**

##### **Additional Information**

Baptisms 12

#### **The Board of Deacons**

The purpose of the Board of Deacons is to share in the love of Jesus by ministering to those in distress or need. During the pandemic the Board was unable to meet in person, and many Deacon priorities of

interacting with members could not be met. The Board began meeting in person, joyfully and with full engagement, in January of 2023. The first meetings were spent in determining the most pressing concerns in fulfilling Deacon responsibilities. The Rev. Nikki Passante offered pastoral guidance as the Board of Deacons navigated the intricacies of developing new and strengthening ongoing ministries.

Deacons were enthusiastic and energized to begin to address the most important concerns, with a complete update to the Deacon Handbook providing a framework. A determination was made that the Board had fallen prey to becoming a fundraising arm of the church, which was not in accordance with the mission and purpose of Deacons. Deacons worked closely with the (newly formulated) Mission Committee to transfer both left over funds as well as administration of those funds to the Mission Committee. The transfer is now complete, and congregational giving that went to the Deacons funding in the past now goes directly to the Mission Committee. Most, if not all, of the organizations that received funding from Deacons are now continuing to receive such funding through Mission. Resumption of Deacon pre-pandemic activities continued and were adapted throughout the year. Deacons strongly supported the resumption of Hospitality through after-worship receptions.

Summer receptions resumed in Fellowship Hall with volunteers of not only Deacons but of interested members who were not on a board at present. The receptions were kept simple and were warmly received by the congregation, and the board voted to continue them in the newly renovated Bean church parlor in the fall. After a few missteps and experimentation of ways to accomplish a

reception that would not put too great a burden on the hospitality volunteers, a Hospitality Ministry was established and has approximately 20 individuals and families. A Signup Genius was set up to make it easier to volunteer, which has proven to be wildly successful. We now have continuous after-worship receptions, with funding from a Deacon money market fund. Volunteers do not have to bake or purchase anything since treats and other supplies have been made readily available, but many do, to the delight of church members!

Church members who no longer drive and who need a ride to Sunday morning church or other church activities now use a newly devised telephone system to make a request, calling the church office at 856 429-1960 and dialing 103 to leave a voice message. Those messages are checked by the chair of the deacon Transportation Committee, Sophia Oswald, on a weekly basis, who sends out the requests to all Deacons as well as other church members who have volunteered to provide transportation. Once requests are met, the chair confirms with the person or persons requesting a ride. The system is working well, and most weeks anyone who needs transportation can get it.

Deacons handle ushering duties under the direction of the chair of the Ushering Committee Larry Rugen. Requests for ushers are sent out through Ministry Scheduling Pro to all Deacons on a weekly basis. Many members of the Ushering Committee are not currently Deacons, and anyone in the church family may volunteer to be an usher. Duties are outlined in the MSP app when it is sent out. A larger issue to that someone is needed to unlock the church doors on Sunday mornings and to lock them again after morning services and other activities are done for the day. There are currently only 2-3 people who do this important job on Sunday mornings, and

more volunteers are needed to assist. Anyone interested may contact either Joan Fiorella at [jmfiorella@gmail.com](mailto:jmfiorella@gmail.com) or Larry Rugen at [rugenman@verizon.net](mailto:rugenman@verizon.net).

The Care and Share Committee, under the direction of Deacon Rich Kouhopt, provides meals to any member who requests meal assistance, including after an illness, surgery or hospital stay, grief experience, or any other area of need. A dedicated and extensive team of church members receive notification of meal requests and sign up according to their availability. This Committee has been operating efficiently and with wholehearted commitment to meet the needs of the church family.

The weekly coordination of working with a local florist to arrange for flowers in the church on Sundays has transitioned from Betsy Anderson to Deacon Diane Thorne. Deacon Terry Carpenter will now recruit Deacons to deliver flowers to members who can no longer attend church services in person.

Interfaith Caregivers, although not a deacon committee, receives non-financial support and a monthly update on Interfaith's activities. Deacons also volunteered their time and resources throughout the year for various events including Marvin's installation, thank you reception for Betsy Anderson, Bean parlor dedication, Consecration Sunday, and decorating the church for the holidays. The Deacons look forward to creating new opportunities to share in Jesus' all-encompassing love and compassion.

Joan Fiorella  
Deacon Moderator  
February, 2024

### Presbyterian Women (PW)

The purpose of Presbyterian Women is to build a caring community of women through prayer and bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to

work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the PC(USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. It is a purpose to which these extraordinary and dedicated women remind themselves regularly and strive to fulfill.

To satisfy the pledge to study the Bible PW uses the yearly Horizons Bible Study. The 2023-2024 study is Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir. Within the pages of this study, Olive Mahabir invites us to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel According to Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts, "one story in two parts," demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope filled.

There are three thriving Circles in PW working together as well as independently on mission and service projects of interest to each circle. Ruth Circle made child's knotted fleece blankets to distribute to single mother homes, walker totes and lap robes for nursing homes, and Serenity shawls. Over 70 cotton dresses were made by the Ruth Circle and presented to Beatrice Wangai and Eneless Chikandira from UrbanPromise for them to take back to organizations in Africa. At the Interfaith Caregivers Holiday Fair, in December items were sold to help raise money for supplies for Ruth Circle and Quilters as well as missions PW supports. Esther and Elizabeth Circles are actively involved in the Horizon's Bible Study as well as independent mission projects. In addition, two Walking Groups join for the

purpose of enjoying the outdoors and the company of one another as well as getting a little exercise. One group involves slow and steady walks at Crow's Woods while a more energetic group walks a little longer and a little faster meeting at the church portico for walks about town.

For the past five years PW has participated in the UrbanPromise Student Sponsorship Program. Founded in 1997, Urban Promise Academy (9-12) offers Camden youth a unique schooling opportunity with a low teacher to student ratio, a family-style learning environment, an emphasis on community service, and experiential and expeditionary learning. UrbanPromise Academy currently boasts a 98% graduation rate and sees 93% of graduates enter college. UrbanPromise Academy educates approximately 150 Camden-area youth each year offering a challenging curriculum with an emphasis on experiential learning and character development. In 2023 PW continued their support of now sophomore Siani Marroquin.

Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive. More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need.

Since April 2016, PW has continued to support Kiva with loans. An initial outlay of \$2500 in loans from Esther Gray's memorial funding has expanded financial access to these under served communities. For the year 2023, we have made nine (9) loans, totaling \$800, to women in 3 countries. These countries include Georgia (6), Vietnam, and Jordan (2). All of these loans were for the purpose of higher education. During this year there was one loan completely repaid. This loan was made to Yasmeeen in Jordan, to help her pay her university tuition fees for a bachelor's

degree in education. She wants to become a teacher and is a sophomore year student who is halfway toward her graduation. As money is repaid, new loans are made, and thus the cycle continues. As in years past, most of these loans were for the purpose of education, and others for housing, health, and food.

Mission giving consisted of contributions to PW Worldwide Mission, PW of West Jersey Presbytery, Blanket Appeal, the Thank Offering, Birthday Offering and Fellowship of the Least Coin. PW's mission giving is made possible by pledges, memorial gifts, and contributions from PW members as well as fundraising activities such as the Strawberry Festival, and the Blanket Appeal. The Strawberry Festival was again held after the hiatus for the pandemic. Many enjoyed the desserts and the music provided by the choir and individuals thanks to Peter Liebensberger and Lucas Brown. PW actively supported some charities' fundraising efforts. A booth was purchased at the InterFaith Caregivers Holiday Fair. Equal Exchange products were sold as well as handmade items by the Ruth Circle.

PW was able to fulfill Special Mission Giving commitments from reserves, Donations were made to the Wildwood Fresh Air Home, Aselsi (Guatemala Milk Fund), InterFaith Caregivers, Caring Hearts Ministry, St. Wilfrid's Ministry, Feed My Starving Children, Joseph's House, and Your Food Shelf.

PW continues its mission to sell products through the Equal Exchange Project. Equal Exchange products are organic, fairly traded and grown by small farms. This project, which includes selling a variety of coffees, teas, olive oil and chocolate bars, assists small farmers in Central America, Asia, Africa, and our own country in receiving a fair price for their

products enabling their families to have a better living.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, PW opened a booth at the InterFaith Caregivers Holiday Fair. It was an opportunity to sell Equal Exchange products, meet people and enjoy the day. The Equal Exchange Shop is open each Sunday morning in the parlor. Although not a fundraiser but a mission project the Equal Exchange Project does generate a very modest income. Those monies are added to the mission budget. The Women's Prison Ministry continued its support of the women confined to the Camden County Correctional Facility. Team members are now able to meet with the women twice a month in person at the facility. A total of seventy bags were filled as Christmas gifts to the women. Weekly video updates from ASELSI Ministries in Chichicastenango, Guatemala were shared with the circle members. ASELSI is the Association Equipping the Saints International (a Guatemalan ministry) focused on training leaders and serving the poor. Their ministry includes the Guatemala Milk Project which PW supports.

In December PW offered a Quilling Workshop in which participants were taught the art of paper quilling by Trish, an accomplished quilling artist from Philadelphia. Participants made colorful, curled paper designs on blank cards. All were delighted with what they had learned and produced.

In March a Staff Appreciation Brunch was held in the newly renovated Bean Parlor To thank the staff for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

In April PW created a Pinwheel Garden to bring awareness to the issue of child abuse. Children created the garden. Pinwheels were purchased from Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey as a donation of \$100. The agency works to build a brighter

future for children by promoting Great Childhoods, positive parenting, and healthy child development.

The Spring Luncheon was held at Kunkel's Restaurant. Invitations were sent to members and other PWs in the presbytery. Pastor Marvin and Laura Lindsey and Nikki Passante were guests. Pastor Marvin returned thanks. The speaker was Rebecca Bryan. Becky spoke about her work with the Office of Resilience in the NJ Department of Children and Families. Officers installed were Virginia Ritchie (Recording Secretary), Joan Miller (Corresponding Secretary), Virginia Dowd (Treasurer), Kae Freetz and Carol Carty (Search Team), and Joan Miller, Carol Carty, Peggy Spellmeyer, Sally O'Brien and Virginia Ritchie (Circle Leaders). It was a lovely event.  
Submitted by Judy Grantham  
Moderator

### Preschool Program

The Preschool celebrated 53 years of serving families with young children from Haddonfield, Haddon Township, Cherry Hill and surrounding communities. First Presbyterian Church Preschool, as a ministry of the church, shares God's love with the children and their families. In January 2023, there were 235 children enrolled in our nursery school program. In September 2023, we enrolled 259 children in our program! Our enrollment has steadily increased since 2021. We offer classes for children ages 16 months - 6 years old. Additional class offerings include specialty classes, STREAM and Discovery days as well as creative classes -Music, Art, Movement, and Yoga for children ages 3-6. Forty-four dedicated and caring staff members provide a wonderful academic and social experience in a loving atmosphere at First Presbyterian Preschool.

A priority for this school year is to encourage and embrace a journey in acceptance and diversity. Keeping our

minds open to changing our methods allows us to grow as educators, ensuring that we are offering the best support for young children. This year we chose to forgo the traditional 3's and 4's Thanksgiving programs that were held for years. Considering the more complete picture of Thanksgiving, we made the conscious decision to discontinue teaching the myth of harmony and peace that has been taught for so many years. Instead, teachers focused on the concept of thankfulness, celebrating unity and traditions of families, the food we have, and the manners we use. Classes came together to have feasts and celebrate the things we are all grateful for.

In April, our 3-year-old classes will participate in a Spring Program that focuses on concepts they've learned throughout the year. Parents will be invited to celebrate their children and how much they've grown throughout the year!

In the month of December, our 4-year-old and transitional kindergarten classes participated in our annual Christmas Pageant. Sharing the glory, the wonder, the miracle and secrets of this special time of year continues to be a highlight of our year!

This school year we re-established a class for children ages 1 year 4 months - 1 year 7 months. This Blue Balloons class meets one day a week and provides children with a positive introduction to forming social relationships while apart from their primary caregivers. They sing, play, enjoy time with their first friends, have snack, and visit the playground. An additional section of our Kindergarten Enrichment class was also added this school year.

The number of days our Kindergarten age children could attend programs was increased based on parent feedback/need. This age group now has the option to attend STREAM and/or a Discovery Day in addition to the Dreamcatcher, 3-day program. The



STREAM class engages children in several science units of study, including Force and Motion, Outer Space, Liquids and Solids, the Human Body, and Earth Science. Class time consists of direct instruction, hands-on science experiments, and center/exploration time. The Discovery curriculum is geography based. This class travels the globe to different countries! Class time is spent learning about the geographical location and unique cultures. Each year more and more preschool children and their families join Church programs like choir. This year we have approximately 9 students in the Cherub choir!

As in past years, student tuition pays all programs expenses: Salaries for staff members, rent, classroom materials, toys/equipment, office supplies, telephone, publicity, maintenance fees, preschool cleaning, etc.

#### **Gifts to the Preschool: \$2,565**

“Thank you” to the Nussbaum Family (current teacher), the Doe Family (current preschool family), the Giuffre Family (current preschool family), the Hathaway Family (current preschool family), the Kirby Family (retired preschool teacher) and the Sizer Family (preschool alumni.)

#### **Area Improvements - \$21,550**

The Preschool made several significant area improvements throughout this year. Building security was upgraded with the installation of the Door Access System. This includes monitors with audio/visual capabilities and remote unlocking entry. Many necessary improvements were made to our ever-popular playground. The top portion of the playground was regraded to alleviate retaining wall pressure, mulch and sand were replaced. The Manse fence was repaired. The playground signs were revised and replaced. Playground equipment was repaired and painted.

#### **School Programs - \$16,259**

A variety of school programs were held. In the spring, we enjoyed a visit with alpacas from Morning Glori Farm. In May, our classes hosted Mother’s Day celebrations where special moments were shared. We held our annual 4’s and Transitional Kindergarten End of School Year Program. As always, the slide show was a true highlight! In the fall, Quiver Farm provided the Egg Hatching experience for our preschoolers, Parent-Sharing Night was held, Halloween Parades and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus were enjoyed by all! Each year we provide 2 teacher in-services as well as monthly staff meetings.

#### **Preschool Fundraising - \$7,345.11**

Fundraising supports improvements to the Church and the Preschool. Our annual Spring Flower Sale continues to be one of our most popular fundraisers. In March, we held our first Book Fair with Inkwood books. Teachers volunteered as guest readers while families visited the bookstore and shopped. A percentage of sales was donated to the preschool. In October, we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pumpkin Raffle for Halloween, where the preschool staff painted pumpkins that were raffled off during our Halloween parades. First Presbyterian Church Preschool t-shirt sale and Mabel’s Labels are on-going fundraisers. You can’t miss our preschool children wearing these bright green shirts around town! Sue Heindel’s exercise class also continues to contribute to our fundraising efforts each year.

#### **Grants - \$81,823**

In 2023, the grants earned were funded by the Federal American Rescue Plan and the NJ Revitalization Fund. The Hiring and Retention Bonus (\$44,262) was dispersed between teachers who completed the grant requirements. A portion of the Stabilization Grant in the amount of \$37,561

was also dispersed between staff as required.

<b>Annual Expenses:</b>
Rent to Church - \$62,0778
Salaries - \$495,794
Preschool Taxes - \$40,127
QuickBooks Payments/Fees - \$15,004
Room Cleaning - \$31,070
Classroom Materials - \$9,936
Management Materials - \$16,112
Preschool telephone, copier, computer - \$8,924
Insurance- \$10,469
Publicity - \$1,197

### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry provides structured, high-quality, one-to-one support and Christ-Centered care to people coping with any major event in their lives that causes pain and suffering.

Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield launched in January, 2022, with the training of three congregation members (Carol Carty, Lisa Hurd and Joyce Stout) as Stephen Leaders. Together with Rev. Nikki Passante, the team has worked to implement this ministry of Christian caregiving and it continues to grow and thrive.

Our first two Stephen Ministers, Donna George and Paul Sommers underwent 50 hours of training with the leadership team. The training materials developed by Stephen Ministry-St. Louis are comprehensive and psychologically based, allowing trainees to put into practice what they've learned through role play, case studies and other practical applications. This training enables them to offer grace-based acceptance in a patient, non-judgmental and confidential relationship with care receivers who are given the space to recognize, accept and express their feelings.

Donna and Paul were commissioned as Stephen Ministers in May, 2023. Shortly thereafter, Rev. Passante matched them with two Care Receivers from within the congregation and the caring process began. Donna and Paul have been meeting with their care receivers once a week for an hour for the past 8 months and have also been actively engaged with the ongoing Supervision/Continuing Education process, which takes place at the church twice a month for about 2 hours. Supervision is a highly-structured process involving all of the Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers, giving the Stephen Ministers the opportunity to share the progress they're making with their Care Receivers (whose identities remain confidential), discuss any challenges they're facing and receive support and affirmation from the rest of the group. God blessed our church with two Stephen Ministers whose training and ability to support their Care Receivers in an empathetic, non-judgmental fashion has led to the formation of trusting relationships. Our motto is "Stephen Ministers do the caregiving, but God does the cure-giving." God is truly working through these individuals as they offer their care, concern and trained listening ear to their care receivers.

The Stephen Leader team hosted two information sessions and conducted other recruitment efforts for the next class of Stephen Ministers during the summer months. Deb Nussbaum and Larry Rugen answered the call and entered the training program in November. Training sessions take place bi-weekly in the Stephen Ministry office and will wrap up this summer when Larry and Deb will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. In addition to conducting the training and supervision sessions, the leadership team continues to meet at least once a month to review progress and plan for the future of the program. Members of the Stephen

Ministry team were honored to participate in the Christmas Eve morning “Blue Christmas” service of wholeness and healing, by anointing members of the congregation with oil and offering a blessing. It was a very powerful experience. As our team of Stephen Ministers expands, we are looking to build our leadership foundation and will soon be seeking to add one or more Stephen Leaders to our team. A description of the role of

Stephen Leaders and information about the leadership training program will soon be posted on the Stephen Ministry page on the church’s website. If you’d like to have a conversation about the role and responsibilities of a Stephen Leader, find out what the training program is like, etc. please reach out to one of the Stephen Leaders, below. Take it from us; the experience is life-changing and faith-deepening!

We will be seeking to add to our team of Stephen Ministers, since there are so many within the congregation who could benefit from the care Stephen Ministry provides. Another round of information sessions will be held this summer with a training class starting in the fall.

Please keep our ministry in your prayers, as we seek to support those in our congregation who are facing life’s challenges. Let us know if you’re aware of someone who could use the support of a Stephen Minister and also be in touch if you would like more information about becoming a Stephen Minister or a Stephen Leader.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Stephen Leadership team:

Carol Carty  
Lisa Hurd  
Rev. Nikki Passante  
Joyce Stout

## Marketing

Marketing and Outreach  
2023 was a busy time for the M&O. We reached out to new members and encouraged them to get involved in the church, some even joined our committee. We reminded session members to reach out to their care groups at least quarterly. The chair was part of a monthly community non-profit group that meets monthly and promoted themselves through the community. Part of the outreach ensured our events were added to the library’s calendar. Another part was helpful in just knowing what was happening in the town. This allowed us to participate in the annual Fall festival where we were able to reach out to members of the community who might not know all we have to offer. We reached out to “Haddonfield Today”, “The Haddonfield Sun”, “The Retrospect” and “Haddonfield Living” regarding church events. We advertised our Easter and Christmas services in the Retrospect. Flyers were hung throughout the town publicizing concerts. We exchanged artwork hanging in the hall so congregation members and those visiting saw us an active church; and the art would not grow stale.

We worked with Anne Vial, the former office administrator, in creating trifold pamphlets to be left in the church pews to let visitors and congregation members alike know what was happening in the life of the church. We created lawn banners for church events to let the public know we are open. We held open houses so members of the community could see the beauty of our sanctuary and our stained-glass windows.

Each member was assigned to a local church to research what they were up to, and what was successful for them. The idea was to bring ideas we may not have thought of back to the committee and then eventually to session or the proper committee chair.

As a committee we started to rework the interior signage. Unfortunately, this was a much larger task than one would think. All we managed to do was update the signage in the elevator. The rest of the signage in the church remains very much out of date. It is hoped that maybe this is an issue that the property community can address.

We discussed the wearing of tag, where these name tags could be stored week to week to be less of an eyesore than the previous tags were. We decided to start small and issue small nametags that could easily fit in purse or wallet and distribute them to session and deacons.

In December, the chair was informed that the committee was deemed unnecessary as a session committee, and all of this would be handled by the church administrator.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margot Dark

## Governance

Highlights of activities in Governance Committee in 2023:

- Discussions in Committee and with Church staff regarding most accessible way to publish Manual of Administrative Operations. It was decided to publish on the Church's website and Section 2 containing many Church historical documents has been uploaded. Discussion concerning formatting to allow ease of use and updates.
- In 2023 Committee committed to meeting twice a month in 2023 with aspirational goal of completing Church's Manual of Administrative Operations, mandate by the Presbyterian Book of Order, in early 2024.
- Completed following sections of MAO:
  - Section 1 – Introduction

- Section 2 – Church Structure – uploaded on website
- Section 3 – Worship – Complete
- Section 4 – Calendar – complete
- Section 5 – Nominating – essentially complete
- Section 6 – Membership – complete
- Approved Section 7 (Handbook for Elders).
- Section 8 – Deacon handbook
  - Competed/adopted updates to Church By-Laws, Elder Handbook and the Standing Rules
  - Finalized the Session's Elder Handbook to be distributed to Session in 2024
  - Finalize/updated Church By-Laws and Standing Rules for 2023 Congregation Meeting. By-law amendments included:
    - o the addition of the role of the Recording Secretary,
    - o the requirement that a financial audit take place every 5 years,
    - o provisions covering electronic and hybrid meetings, and
    - o recognition of our Presbytery's name change.
  - Prepared an omnibus motion for Session and Congregation Meeting affirming actions taken/approved at virtual/hybrid meetings during pandemic shut-downs/virtual meeting
  - Discussed & answered a number of governance questions from Session members/Committees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Oswald, MD - Chairperson,  
Governance Committee  
Lorraine Gormley-Devine, Esq. - outgoing  
Chairperson, Governance Committee

## Justice and Advocacy (JAC)

Throughout 2023, members of the Justice and Advocacy Committee continued to provide opportunities for our members

to learn about urgent social justice issues, take meaningful actions and engage with other communities. The new Social Justice page on the church website offers Action Alerts and links for quick access to the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness and other resources.

September was Suicide Prevention Month. Information on the new 988 help line, the New Jersey Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) and preventing teen suicide were part of what was available at JAC's Rally Day table, on the bulletin boards and on-line. JAC shared PC(USA)'s call to action to end gun violence with the congregation. We continue to pray and work toward ending the crisis of gun violence in America.

Our congregation was fortunate to be invited to a wide variety of events. The Celebration of Things Gone Right in honor of the 60th anniversary of the March for Freedom and Jobs and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at Oaklyn Baptist Church gave us a chance to meet people from a dozen different churches and some amazing high school students from around the region. The theme of HOPE came to us through great music, art work, moving readings and witness. At GreenFaith meetings guest speakers shared local and national efforts to respond to environmental issues including creating eco-friendly yards to save pollinators; securing the right to clean air and water for all people; eliminating the negative impact of fossil fuels; raising awareness of projects that will harm minority communities; understanding the dangers of micro-plastics; and bringing a wide range of faith communities together to protect God's Creation. Seats on a bus to New York were offered during Climate Action Week at the UN.

Through Embracing Race-the Conversation we were able to speak with Richard Rothstein, the author of The Color

of Law. Presenters bring their expertise and the diverse participants get to interact and engage in pleasant conversations. A special PATCO train took us to the PRIDE Day parade in Haddon Twp.

Fair housing and the long process of becoming a naturalized US citizen were topics at recent League of Women Voters meetings including a presentation by the director of the Burlington County Immigration field office. First hand, bi-partisan sources of information are critical if we are to discern how God wants us to vote and communicate with those empowered to make changes in any area.

Any member of the congregation is welcome to attend JAC meetings. The committee welcomes your input and hopes everyone takes advantage of opportunities to learn and take action towards true justice for all God's children and His creation. Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Brown, JAC chairperson

### Property

In 2023, the Property Committee moved forward with a number of projects to maintain and improve the church's buildings and grounds. The major efforts:

Parking lot - Management of the parking lots reverted to the church in July after extensive negotiations with borough, which cancelled its 30-year-old contract to manage the parking lots and parking permits. The committee created a system to issue permits, collect parking revenue and control parking. By year's end, about \$10,600 had been collected in parking fees. The money will be used to maintain the lots and pay for snow removal.

Wezner House - An extended family of seven Ukrainian refugees moved in March into the upper floors of the Wezner House at 20 Chestnut Street, following painting and renovations. Our new neighbors, Natalia, Tetiana, Ira, Kirill, Kola, Sophia, and Mark, are a welcome

addition. The first floor of the building continues to house Interfaith Caregivers. Landscaping improvements – Landscaping was improved in the front and side of church and in the main parking lot. Chancel railings – Handrails were installed on the front steps of the sanctuary to provide safer access to the pulpits. The railings were handcrafted to match the existing woodwork.

Handicapped access – Handicapped parking access was improved with new curb cuts and signage in the parking lot adjacent to the Education Building.

Building Fund – Without a dedicated source of income, the Building Fund was nearly depleted by year's end, with a year-end balance of about \$28,500. Session may need to address additional funding in 2024.

The Property Committee and Building Manager Travis Bogetti are grateful to the congregation for its support and contributions, which have allowed us to maintain and improve the spaces where we worship and serve.

Paul Nussbaum, Chair

Mike Adkins, Bonnie Bell, Chuck Bell, Peter Hurd, Lesley Kirsch, Janet Lehman, Wayne McAllister, Marisa McGovern, Margaret O'Neil, Rev. Marvin Lindsay, *ex officio*, Rev. Nikki Passante, *ex officio*

### Worship and Music

Our principal work in 2023 was the consideration and adoption of the new Presbyterian hymnal *Glory to God*. A motion to adopt was approved by Session in October with the understanding that the cost of "directors' editions" and pew copies would be paid by individual donations from church members wishing to honor or memorialize family members and/or friends. Bookplates including the names of donors and honorees will be placed in the pew copies.

The ongoing work of the committee included preparing for Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas with flowers and special decorations. In so doing we recognized the need to reconstitute a Sanctuary Guild to carry out such plans. That process is ongoing. We are considering the "reinstitution" of family's ringing the tower bells after worship on Sunday. And this year we did ring the tower bells in memory of those lost on 9/11 as has been our practice.

The music department applied for and received the Zydek grant for another year, and planned for three special concerts including Kathryn Dark's string quartet.

We look forward to supporting our newly revised Vision and Mission statements and a successful launch of our "Sailboat Church."

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Westermaier, Chair

### Investments

The Investment Committee holds quarterly meetings with our advisor, Mr. Alan Blender from Ameriprise, and includes Bill Wright and Jim Hoobler. We are planning our next meeting to be in the next month or so to review our portfolio and discuss current market conditions and strategies. 2022 was a very challenging year as The Investment Fund balances ended the year down substantially. We concluded this year with an aggregate/ all-inclusive fund balance of \$531,739; while the Investment Account we oversee ended the year with a balance of \$514,693, down from \$785,331 in 2021; but it should be noted that we withdrew \$165,000 for budgetary purposes. Consistent with prior years our investment strategy remains in the range of a 60% Equity/40% Fixed Income split and we will continue to rebalance to that position throughout the year.

James L. Hoobler,  
Investment Chair

## Treasurer's Report

2023 was another year of financial challenges at First Presbyterian of Haddonfield. For 2023 our giving budget was based on our recent giving history instead of our aspired giving, and as such, we were able to exceed our giving budget for the first time in several years. Unfortunately, our expenses still exceeded our revenue. FPCCH received employee retention credits of approximately \$350,000, which replenished reserves that had been drawn down from to fund our operating deficits over the past several years. The Session began the process of exploring Project Regeneration, a vital step in aligning

our income and expenditures going forward, as the pandemic era special funding opportunities have come to an end.

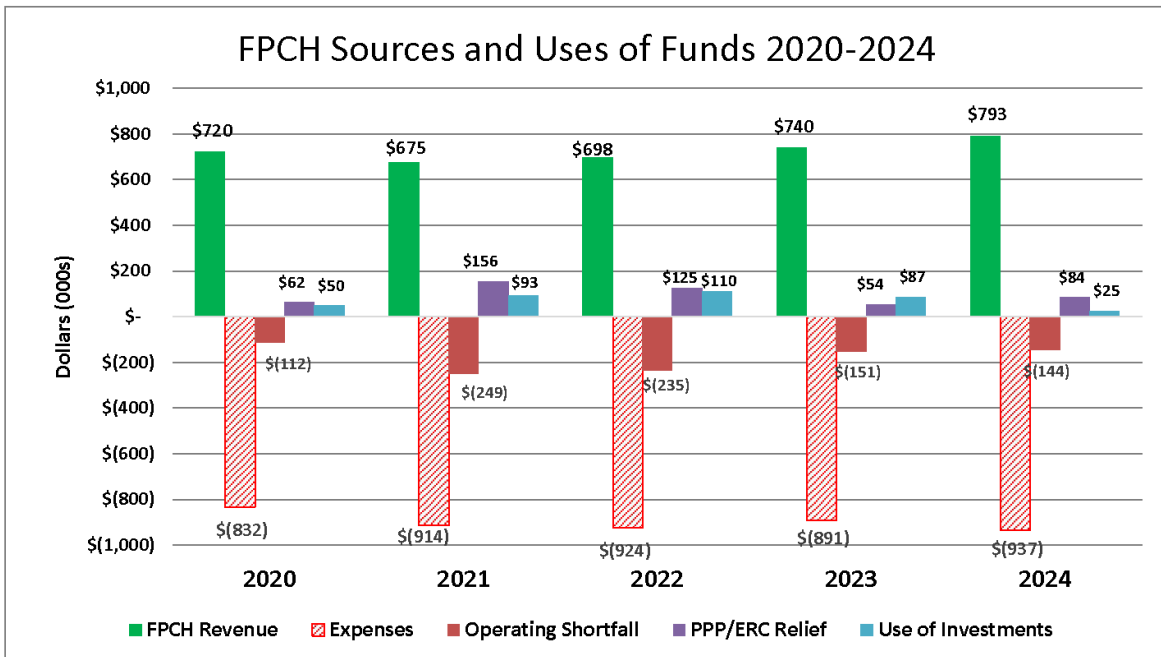
During 2023 Warren Pross stepped down from his position as Chair of the Finance Committee, we thank him for his service, and welcome Taylor Kamp into this role. Once again, on behalf of the Finance Committee, we would like to thank Kris Bean for her work throughout the year as we navigate these challenging times.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Corey Crumley  
Outgoing Treasurer

Sources of Operating Revenue	2022	2023
Envelope Giving	570,270	599,279
Loose Offering	10,453	12,242
Per Capita	12,862	9,361
Building Use Fees	15,628	11,955
Manse Rent	12,100	13,200
Preschool Rent	60,000	70,000
Wezner Rent		4,800
ERC Income		354,752
Zidek Grant		10,000
	681,313	1,085,589
Expenditures		
Total Administrative	33,049	37,270
Total Christian Formation	13,085	7,891
Total Marketing	350	1,296
Total Member Care	2,302	3,300
Total Outreach and Mission	39,486	34,911
Total Property	141,327	155,478
Total Salaries/Taxes/Benefits	694,512	644,258
Total Worship and Music	9,244	6,629
	933,355	891,033

## First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield Statement of Building Fund As of December 31, 2023

	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
FPCH Building Checking	28,460.24
Fixed Assets	
Buildings - 20 Chestnut	250,945.00
Buildings - Christian Ed	2,603,414.00
Buildings - Church	17,528,819.00
Buildings - Manse	482,310.00
Buildings - other	27,077.00
Equipment & Fixtures - Ch Ed	100,960.00
Equipment & Fixtures - Church	596,744.00
Equipment & Fixtures - Manse	444.00
Equipment & Fixtures - other	3,056.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 21,593,769.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$ 21,622,229.24





## STAFF REPORTS

### Marvin Lindsay, Senior Pastor

2023 was my first full year of ministry in Haddonfield, and the contained lots of firsts. I met many of you in your homes or at Saxbys for the very first time. I experienced my first Community Good Friday Service at the Methodist Church, my first Easter service at FPCH (along with singing the Hallelujah Chorus in a choir for the first time), and my first Strawberry Festival. In February I was warmly and formally received as your senior pastor in an installation service followed by a lovely reception. I am grateful to God for calling me to Haddonfield!

My most memorable experiences of 2023 were serving as an adult chaperone on the youth mission trip and co-teaching the Vacation Bible school lessons. In Tennessee I got to know members of the church, both youth and adults, a lot better. Together we made a difference in the lives of others. I also reconnected with my past. Mission trips were a key part of my faith formation as a teenager. Re-roofing a mobile home with fellow Christians helped me remember my sense of call. During Bible school I was continually impressed by the children's openness to the Gospel, their good questions, and the help that my co-teacher and other volunteers gave me. I was tired but grateful at the end of the week.

As your senior pastor I moderate session meetings and resource the following committees: Christian education, Personnel, Finance, Stewardship, Governance, Worship, and Nominating. We got some very good news in January. We applied for the Employee Retention Credit, a Covid-era relief measure, and we received over \$300,000 from the Federal Government. Some of those funds helped cover a deficit in the 2023 budget, while the remainder is now in a high interest account with Ameriprise, who manages the church's

investments. Pledges for 2024 were up \$18,000 or 4% over 2023. Thank you!

However, we continue to spend more than we take in. Last year we began Project Regeneration, a spiritual process facilitated by the Presbyterian Foundation that helps churches match their resources to their sense of mission. We read *Sailboat Church* by Joan Gray and were challenged to stop rowing (which leads to burnout) and start sailing by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. In July the Foundation presented us with a Giving Assessment and Spending Analysis of our finances. In brief, we are overly dependent on a handful of older households for giving; our personnel spending is higher than denominational norms, and our mission budget is lower than norms. That said, FPCH remains in the top 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of Presbyterian churches in terms of membership, worship attendance, and annual revenue.

The session held a morning retreat in August focused on our sense of identity. Out of that retreat came several months of work revising our vision, mission, and core values statements. In the Annual Meeting, you will get a chance to give your input on how the church should live out these statements over the next five years. A task force appointed by the session will be guided by these statements and your feedback as it develops a plan to reduce our deficit.

Other committee work: for Christian education I led a book study on Danya Ruttenberg's *On Repentance and Repair*, and led fall new member classes. I also assisted the committee in drafting a new Child Protection Policy. For Personnel, we hired two staff persons in 2023. Unfortunately, neither are with us in 2024. This was a disappointing experience, but a learning experience as well. Our Nominating Committee worked hard and presented a fine slate of elders and deacons to the congregation for approval. Neither class

contained 10, as our bylaws mandate. In my opinion, both boards need to be reduced in size to reflect the reality of the church's post-pandemic size, and because smaller boards can make decisions in a nimbler style. With the world changing as quickly as it is, we need to be nimble. The Worship Committee recommended we adopt *Glory to God* as our new congregational hymnal, and that process is unfolding. Our Governance Committee works diligently to ensure that everything is done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40).

Misc: I attended presbytery meetings and preached for the installation service of Rev. Norlita Kaul in Bridgeton. I attended Boundary Training provided by the presbytery and spent my continuing education time on Leadership in Ministry, a program at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta that helps pastors think about leadership in light of Murray Bowen's family systems theory. I offered a prayer at the Haddonfield Baccalaureate Service in June and preached at the Community Thanksgiving Service we hosted in November. In December I started attending meetings of the Haddonfield Rotary (I was a Rotarian in Columbia, Missouri), and have since been received as a member. Grace and Peace to you,  
Marvin Lindsay

### **Nikki Perrine Passante, Associate Pastor**

Greetings and Grace and Peace to You! Each month I provide a written report to the session that highlights that month's ministry and activities. This Annual Report is a compilation of those reports along with some fun details and shows of gratitude.

#### **Major Projects & Ministries:**

##### Pastoral Care

I engage in regular pastoral counsel in-office, and visits to members in homes and hospitals. This year I visited approximately 170-190-ish people. To bolster the congregation, I regularly work

with and equip members to provide pastoral care through two programmatic arms of the church.

Deacons: I resource the Board of Deacons (in one way) by actively connecting individual needs with Deacon resources. Deacons have continued to refine their call and mission as the hands and feet of the church; and are actively claiming and developing a subcommittee structure, including volunteers, pitched toward helping in the following arenas:

- Visitation
- Transportation: Thank you to Katie Miller for setting-up an extension and voicemail within the church's phone system. Individuals needing rides to worship on Sunday may use this system to schedule a ride.
- Hospitality: Joan Fiorella has single-handedly marshaled a spirit of hospitality in our church with a volunteer base to boot. I will take a moment here to say thank-you to Joan for her most excellent leadership of the Deacons this year, and we are blessed to have you for at least one more.
- Care and Share: Thank you to Judy Sikora who managed Care and Share up until rotating off Deacons, and big thanks to Rich Kouhought for seamlessly stepping up and into this role, managing the demand and supply effortlessly. And thank you to all of you who provide meals to the people in our congregation and beyond. These are gifts of edible love.
- Ushering: Thank you to all of YOU who answered the call to be an usher, and just as importantly, you who learned how to use Ministry Scheduler Pro! Thank you to Kris Bean who manages the Ministry Scheduler Pro Software. Our Deacons are an example that

sometimes we are called to learn and do new things. I'm seeing the congregation benefit when we do new things.

### Stephen Ministry

Please refer to the Stephen Ministry Update included in the Annual Report packet.

- Leadership Team meets monthly.
- Stephen Ministers meet with Stephen Leaders for peer group supervision on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month for 2-hour sessions.
- We are in the process of teaching a new class of Ministers.

In the process of teaching, I've prepared and led modules on Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief, Caring for Those with Depression, Understanding Suicide-How to Help People Get the Care They Need, Confidentiality, Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources, Caring Between Visits, and Person of the Caregiver.

It is an honor and privilege to serve with our widening team. I owe gratitude and grace to our Stephen Leaders Lisa Hurd, Carol Carty and Joyce Stout; our Ministers Donna George and Paul Sommers, and thank you to our ministers Larry Rugen and Deb Nussbaum. I learn and grow from and with you all. Pray for the relationships our ministers are involved in.

### Christian Education (Adult).

Below are listed the educational opportunities for spiritual development that I led this year, in relative order of occurrence with approximate numbers of attendees.

April - October 2023: Genesis Bible Study/Thursdays/6:30 -Zoom.  
Genesis Bible Study continued throughout the summer with a solid average of 20 participants

June-August 2023: Summer Workshop Series (Sundays/Hospitality Center). A reprisal of requested topics and subjects relative to our faith life together, with 3 different emphases.

June: 'Prayer'(20-25)

July: 'The Art and Skill of Connecting' (7) (visiting & ushering). Stephen Ministry Information Sessions (X2)

August: 'Gun Violence' (9) (Presbyterian Outlook article).

September-October 2023:

Discovering God's Vision For Your Life, Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts/ Sundays - Hospitality Center/ 11:30-12:30. A Special Note: The Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts class wrapped up on Sunday, November 12th, with our final meeting in the Manse. The class averaged 17-22 attendees, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Most of the learning came through the facilitation of conversations between people who did not know each other. The best feedback I heard came from one of the participants who said, "I felt seen." The participants in the class felt strongly the material needs to be offered twice a year. I'll work with the Adult Ed. Team on the CE committee to bring this to fruition.

### Property

This year I spent a copious amount of time cleaning out storage spaces in the church; specifically, the 'Christian Ed Closet' on the first floor outside the church office (this allows volunteers to see what supplies are available to use, and also alerts Christian Ed to items that DON'T need to be purchased), The Confirmation Room Closets (same reason as above), Storage on 2R, Corner office on 2R (former office for the Senior Pastor). Stephen Ministry requires a space where ministers and leaders can meet for supervision twice monthly along with meetings with care receivers.

This year I spent a copious amount of time navigating Sunday mornings

without Mark Hall and the support he offered. In response to this employee shortage, I trained and provide support to ushers and all aspects of Sunday morning services, found volunteers for the locking and unlocking of doors on Sunday morning, trained volunteers on the locking and unlocking of doors and the turning on and off of lights throughout the church and the sanctuary, was available to answer questions, receive feedback, and handle unexpected events on Sunday mornings, was available to answer questions and receive feedback around daily access to the building, and continually worked with congregation members and staff to educate them about the process and the necessity of security.

With specific regard to the Manse, Marco and I are still thrilled to live there. Living next to the playground is sheer entertainment for both of us. We have one family (and don't get any ideas) that knocks on the back door to ask me to let Louise out because her son likes watching her in the backyard.

Part of 'Our Call,' Marco and I's if you will, is to entertain and to host. It has been limited because the Manse isn't accessible. This year property looked into a ramp, which isn't feasible due to a number of issues, both financially and in one sense structurally: If a ramp were built in the backyard, there would be no more backyard. This year, both Marco and I look forward to taking the opportunity to offer, again, the Manse as a place for the church to celebrate joys, and for us to offer hospitality.

Thank you, to Paul Nussbaum: who has chaired the Property committee faithfully for many years, and for all the work, support, time and energy spent on the Manse. Marco and I are both very grateful for your ministry Paul.  
Presbytery for Southern New Jersey

- Attended a boundary training session; a requirement for ministerial positions.
- Attend presbytery meetings.
- Preached at the March Presbytery meeting.
- Continued to serve on the Mission Committee for our presbytery.
- Presented the Narrative Budget for the Mission Committee to the presbytery for approval

#### Marketing

Thank you to Margot Dark for her excellent work on this committee, and especially her sharing of talents. Here we have an opportunity - the committee was 'folded' as Katie Miller was handling the marketing. With Katie's resignation, we no longer have a 'Katie' or a Marketing Committee.

#### Mission & JAC

I've met with the chairs for both groups have met with Caroline and Rita individually, chairs for both groups respectively, and haven't been able to come together for a committee meeting. I continue to support both these committees on the sidelines through the mission committee work of the presbytery and hosting educational events on behalf of JAC (gun violence).

#### Other and Extra:

- I put together worship and coordinated for World Communion Sunday, asking Eneless Chikandira, one of our newest members from Malawi, to assist with communion. She shared pieces of the liturgy in her native tongue.
- I coordinated the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on November 19th on behalf of the Haddonfield Council of Churches, held at FPCH.
- I attend clergy breakfasts regularly, delivered the Invocation for the 4th of July Festivities here in

Haddonfield, and went to a few town meetings.

- Participated with the Good Ladies in ministry at the Camden County Jail; underwent approx. 14 hours of online training, in addition to in-person training.
- Enjoyed events at the Haddon Fortnightly and a fundraiser for Interfaith Caregivers – we had a blast at the Roaring Twenties celebration they hosted.

Not included here is the immense privilege I had of officiating numerous services of witness to the Resurrection.

#### Thank-You:

- I owe huge thanks to Joan Fiorella. A girl couldn't ask for a better Deacon Moderator, and it is a joy to work with her in any and all circumstances. Thank you.
- I have tremendous gratitude and deep respect for Barb Sewell, who has been my right hand when it comes to Sunday morning set-up, and is willing to help me with whatever the task when I need it. Thank you.
- Larry Rugen has been equally invaluable and I could not manage Sundays without his presence. Both he and Barb have true servant hearts and spirits of humility – quiet strength. I learn a lot from them both. Thank you Larry.
- Thank you, Betsy Westermaier, for faithfully preparing communion every first Sunday of the month.
- I share great gratitude for Kris Bean; also Katie Miller regardless of her short tenure; Jim Peterson for being who he is.
- Thank you to Lindsay and Paul Sommers for seeing a need and filling it – by putting together a ministry- a space- for parents of young kids and families.

- Thank you to Rachel Davis.
- Thank you to all of my Bible Study participants who are brave enough to step out of their week for an hour to study with me. Studying the Bible as a discipline is a revolutionary act. You honor me.
- Thank you to Uxbridge who invited me to their yearly egg toss even though I'm a poor loser and Marco and I were out in the first round.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante

#### **Peter Leibensperger, Minister of Music**

In 2023, the music program's participation numbers held relatively steady. Our choir numbers were as follows: Cherub Choir, 16 members; Carol Choir, 4 members; Chapel Choir, 9 members; Thomas Sherrerd Memorial Choir, 12 members; Chancel Choir, 27 active members; Alleluia Bells, 7 members; Whitechapel Bells, 10 members; Kirk Ringers, 10 members; Moore Bells, 11 members. The Music Program extends its heartfelt gratitude to Marisa McGovern and the Preschool for allowing us to advertise our children's music program to the preschool parents via email for the first time this September. The families we added made the Cherub Choir our largest children's/youth ensemble this year! We look forward to continuing this trend.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each choir member who sang and rang this year. We also thank the volunteer soloists and instrumentalists for their regular participation in summer worship. Your music enriched our worship significantly.

The year was filled with beautiful anthems and special events that are only possible when there are dedicated and talented choir members, choir parents, and a supportive congregation. Some of these special events included the Thomas

Sherrerd Memorial Choir's NYC Trip, the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, the Candlelight Service, our Christmas Eve Drop-In Choir, our Pops Restrung concert on April 29th to raise money for the music program, the Strawberry Festival on June 2nd, and the Greater South Jersey Chorus Chamber Singers' concert on December 8th. Special thanks go to Margot Dark for organizing our Pops Restrung Concert on April 29th to benefit the music program. The concert featured imaginative String Quartet arrangements of modern pop songs. The quartet featured Alexandr Kislitsyn on first violin, Aisha Dossuova on second violin, our own Kathryn Dark on viola, and Branson Yeast on cello. Together, these musicians raised \$931.00 for our music program.

Special thanks also go to Nancy Ruth Wainwright for organizing our first Christmas Eve Drop-In Choir. Prior to Christmas, we made a recording of "Away in Manger" available to anyone who wished to download it and practice with it, and we invited all of the children in our community to memorize the recording and sing in an impromptu choir at our 4pm Christmas Eve Family Service. The choir was a success and resulted in a new family joining our program.

Special thanks go again to Nancy Ruth Wainwright for organizing our "Music on the Move" classes during VBS. In an attempt to familiarize the campers with our building and to show them some of the amazing features of our church, Nancy Ruth decided to teach our music classes in different parts of the building, giving us a chance to show the children places like the bell tower and the memorial garden. It was a great success, and the children enjoyed it thoroughly.

Special thanks also go to Lucas Brown for his brilliant improvisations and well-chosen preludes and postludes to celebrate the holidays and mark the

changing seasons. We are grateful for his incredible talents, which enliven our worship every week.

This year, the music program also benefitted from many generous contributions. We are extremely grateful to the Zidek Family Foundation, which enabled us to hire Loren Greer, our choral intern, Liz Olson, our Carol Choir accompanist, and Paula Meyer, our Cherub Choir accompanist. This grant also helped to cover the cost of hiring professional musicians throughout the year to enhance our worship. Several other generous gifts from congregants also helped us to hire musicians for Christmas and Easter, to purchase music for our various choirs, and to provide gloves for our ringers. Next year, we anticipate that we will need a gift of \$2500 to fix the organ. If you are interested in making a donation to that end, please contact me at:

[PLeibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:PLeibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org).

This year, Paula Meyer stepped down from her role as our Cherub Choir accompanist. Paula is a very talented musician, who shared her gifts with our congregation faithfully. We are sad to say goodbye, we thank her for her faithful service, and we wish her the very best in what God has in store for her.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to our music staff: Lucas Brown, our Principal Organist; Nancy Ruth Wainwright, our director of Cherub & Carol Choirs and Whitechapel Bell Choir; Loren Greer our choral intern; Rebecca Lentine, our Thomas Sherrerd and Chapel Choir accompanist; Liz Olson, our Carol Choir accompanist and our new Cherub Choir accompanist; and Paula Meyer, our (now retired) Cherub Choir accompanist. I am personally grateful to all of them for their hard work, dedication, and support. Respectfully submitted,  
Peter S. Leibensperger

## Memorial Meditation

### United with the Church Triumphant in 2023

Name	Date Joined	Date of Death
Helen Brotzman	02/02/1987	05/12/2023
Kathy Burmaster	04/07/1982	10/08/2023
Anne Cooley	03/19/1967	08/26/2023
Fran Friedrich	01/26/1997	01/04/2023
Diane Hadley		04/08/2023
Anthony Mascena	01/31/1965	03/03/2023
Allan Ritchie	01/25/1959	09/24/2023
Mary Stringfellow	01/01/1939	08/15/2023

#### FOR ALL THE SAINTS

For all the saints who from their labors rest  
 Who Thee by faith before the world confessed  
 Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast  
 Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
 Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023



From top left: 2023 Confirmands and mentors, Easter cross, Social Connection gathering, MLK Day of Service volunteers at St. Wilfrid's, singing at 2023 VBS, Stephen Ministers consecration, Youth Mission Trip participants, and the 2023 Advent Tableau.