

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
CONGREGATION

2023

VISION

As a congregation, we strive to listen for God's guidance. Shaped by scripture and prayer, our vision for our church is as follows: "Celebrating Christ and serving community at 6th and Lincoln and throughout the world." We celebrate Christ through joyful worship, faithful teaching and learning, accepting and loving fellowship. We serve community by opening our hearts with acts of hospitality and compassion, offering God's reconciling peace, freedom, and justice. We strive to seek God's will and live by Christ's example.

IN OUR VISION we...

- invite and welcome all God's children;
- build and nurture relationships through our love, prayer, support, and acceptance of one another;
- engage our hearts and minds in meaningful worship and lifelong spiritual learning;
- assist and advocate for those in need;
- strive to be good stewards of God's creation



SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT



I entered 2023 with only four months under my belt as the church's senior pastor. As a result, this year of ministry at First Presbyterian was full of curiosity and questions. "Why would Heifer Market involve someone kissing a pig?" "You grew up in Brazil, and that's only an hour away?" "The Fritts organ, I've heard of that; is it near the appendix or the spleen?" "Wait, you're not kidding—the pastor really used to kiss a pig?"

This hasn't been an ideal time to begin a new call. Covid threw everything for a loop; every church had its normal rhythms and flows disrupted. This was even more true for our church here, with the previous senior pastor, Andy Kort, stepping down in early 2020 for another call. Andy and our transitional associate pastor, Kelley Jepsen, overlapped on the job by one day, with Kelley extracting as much institutional knowledge as she could in those few short hours. Of course, plenty of that knowledge went out the window as the pandemic demanded innovation and flexibility (which Kelley provided in spades). As a result, this year has been full of learning and re-learning. Just when I've thought I understand an age-old FPC practice, I'll discover it was a recent addition. Members will tell me about how things used to be done before covid, and their memories couldn't be more contradictory. All of this made for a good exercise in humility.

It also made for an outstanding time to begin a new call. I'd characterize the past year in the church as a time of reassessing and rebuilding. We've given attention to policies and procedures that undergird our community; we've brushed up language and programs to become more hospitable to visitors and new members; we've given renewed focus to our mission and have begun to ask, what's leading us forward or drawing us deeper, and what's holding us back or getting in the way. I'm reminded of Jesus saying, "Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Matt 13:52). In some areas, we've returned to old ways. In others, we've taken on something new. In all things, we've sought to keep Christ at the center and to follow his liberating, life-giving lead.

It's been beautiful to behold the congregation leaning in to curiosity, asking questions with no simple answers, sharing honestly of dreams and disappointments, and embracing experiments in change in pursuit of transformation. I've been sincerely impressed by how eager and willing the church has been to take up self-reflection and consider new possibilities. We might wish for easy stability and a smooth-sailing status quo, but the work we've given ourselves to flows out of our Reformed heritage and identity. We are a people "reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God in the power of the Spirit." Our major Tradition calls us to hold our minor traditions lightly. When we stay in step with Word and Spirit, we find ourselves in the adventure of discipleship, the drama of Christ making all things new.

I continue to feel such pride and joy and gratitude to be a pastor of this church and to be your pastor. Thank you for your prayers and your support and your love. To God be all glory!

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Tommy". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Pastor Tommy

TRANSITIONAL ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT



Wow – another wonderful year of ministry together. Every year I am struck by how quickly time seems to move and yet, looking back, we have done so much! We have many things to celebrate from this and I wanted to share some of the highlights from my assigned areas of Christian Education, Membership, the Racial Justice Task Force and the Deacons.

Christian Education continues to be a strong offering here at FPC. I'll let you read more in their report, but some of the highlights for me were our intergenerational vacation bible school dinners, youth weekend at Pyoca, and our Lenten book study with Fairlawn and FPC Columbus. As usual, we continued to have exceptional speakers in Faith Forum and I was glad to co-lead our Advent and Lent classes with Pastor Tommy.

The Membership Committee did some wonderful work that stretched beyond the usual offerings. We enjoyed an ice cream social to kick off the program year, hosted a couple of very delicious potlucks, and worked hard at continuing to refine our new members class. Importantly, we took a half day at the end of the year to intentionally dream and plan for the year(s) ahead. No ideas around welcome and hospitality were too big or too small to consider!

The Racial Justice Task Force began the year with a wonderful, full-day retreat in March. Over 35 people were there to talk about different ways in which the congregation can infuse racial justice work into the many aspects of the church. We spent time discerning next steps and connecting with the local school system. In October, we hosted a community workshop on Interrupting Racism for Children. To cap off the end of the year, we transitioned from a task force into a ministry team.

Deacons saw the biggest shift this year as we moved to a ministry teams model. The main change was in creating a Grief Support Team and working towards offering bereavement support to our congregation. The other teams, Hospitality and Outreach, encompass many of the existing deacon ministry areas, but offer a group approach to getting the work done. We look forward to next year as we work to refine the care and compassion ministries of this church.

On a personal note, I am grateful to have gotten the opportunity to travel with congregation members to Posoltega, Nicaragua for two weeks this summer! What a wonderful (and hot!) experience to see how our longtime partnership continues to live on. I also attended my second week of CREDO with the board of pensions. In the fall, I began a Doctorate of Ministry program at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) in Indianapolis. All of these great opportunities were thanks to FPC's commitment to further education for me, and I am so very grateful.

As another year together passes, there is so much to give thanks for. It is an honor, privilege, and joy to do ministry with you First Presbyterian Church!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kelley".

Rev. Kelley Jepsen, Transitional Associate Pastor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2023 marked another busy year in the life of faith formation. In January, we tried switching our programming time with some success in some areas and challenges in others. With classes now beginning after worship at 11:15 our families found that this offered the later start time while also keeping the time at church a little shorter so that family time could still be had later in the day. Some challenges with this exist, especially with our adult programming and we look toward 2024 as a way of adjusting some of those challenges. We successfully held an intergenerational Vacation Bible School opportunity in July and had a hugely successful downtown Trick or Treat event this fall. Our Faith Forum offered many deeply meaningful opportunities for our adults as well. The following items are the accomplishments of the committee from this year:

- Met regularly from January through December 2023
- Supported the Matthew 25 Initiative through educational opportunities
- Offered in person Sunday school opportunities for ALL age groups: Godly Play (Pre-K through 4th grade) Youth (5th-12th) and Faith Forum for Adult Education
- Continued to offer youth programming when families were able to attend
- Participated in the West Virginia Mission Trip
- Rev. Kelley Jepsen, Karen Hahn, helped organize a small planning team to lead an intergeneration VBS event focused on the needs of Every Living Thing
- Joanie Blackwell organized and recruited volunteers to participate in Downtown Trick or Treat
- Rev. Kelley Jepsen continued a college book group after worship on Sundays
- Led family activities at the Advent Event
- Rev. Tommy Grimm and Rev. Kelley Jepsen offered an Advent Bible Study on Sundays during Advent

I would like to thank the members of our Christian Education Committee for their commitment to providing faith formation opportunities to the families of First Presbyterian Church. The members are as follows:

Children's Education Subcommittee

Karen Hahn
Kathy Hollinger

Carol McGregor
Joanie Blackwell

Youth Subcommittee

Mary Burch Ratliff
Megan Becker

Nathan Earnest
Mary Beth Novy

Adult Education Subcommittee

Gary Crow
Alan Edmonds

Laura Gardner
Susie VanDoren



Also, our ministry would be ever so much more difficult without the partnership in ministry of Rev. Kelley Jepsen. I would like to thank her for her guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the last year and a half as we have journeyed together in new ways.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hahn, 2023 Chair of Christian Education



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee has continued to work this year to attract new people to our church as well as provide programs and activities for our members.

The committee has been divided into three ministries:

The Welcome Ministry focuses on greeters, the Welcome Center, signage, advertising, and tours of the church.

The Communication Ministry deals with visitor follow-up, Inquirer's Class, Opportunity for Involvement handouts, and communication between committee, staff and the congregation.

The Programing Ministry works with small groups, social activities and special events both at the church and off-campus.

This year the committee hosted the Easter all-church brunch and the Ice Cream Social as well as coordinating members going to the Hank Ruff concert. The committee added large outdoor banners advertising Holy Week and Christmas services. Two Inquirer's classes were held resulting in 23 new members joining the church family.



This year we had a planning session to identify and prioritize plans for the coming year(s). We plan to reach out to groups to better assess how we can help with people's faith journey and connection with the church.

We look forward, this next year, to welcome others to our church as well as providing meaningful activities and programs for our members.

Many thanks to the hard-working people who provide the hands, heart, and voices to God's work: Carol Avenson, Sue Connell, Gail Dunning, Maggie Knust, Jo Ann Main, Dave Schwandt, and Julie Strycker

Respectively Submitted

Jo Ann Main, Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members: Randall Burcham, Jane Gallagher, Kathy Hollinger, Sherry Knighton-Schwandt, Carol McGregor, Nate Nickel, Julie Strycker

The committee began its work in April when it was asked to consider nominees for vacant leadership positions.

The following FPC members accepted the nomination for the following vacant positions:

Elder: Wes Ratliff – completed Deb Prenkert’s term (2023)

Deacons: John Connell – will complete Brian Pokornik’s term (2025)

Cedar Rabun – will complete Bob Baird’s term (2025)

The Nominating Committee began to consider the full slate of nominees for elder and deacon positions beginning January 2024. The committee devoted themselves to prayer regarding members who would be asked to serve as leaders of the church.

The Nominating Committee was pleased to recommend the following slate of nominees for elders and deacons. All nominees were approved by the congregation at a congregational meeting on October 22, 2023, and January 14, 2024, respectively.

Nominees for Deacon – class of 2026:

- 1) John Connell (beginning a 3-year term)
- 2) Judy Dillon
- 3) Bailey Fassler
- 4) Laura Kucera

Nominee for Deacon – class of 2025:

- 1) Todd Wright – fulfilling the term of John Connell (approved by the congregation on 1/14/2024)

Nominees for Elder – class of 2026:

- 1) Kathy Hollinger
- 2) Steve Schechter
- 3) Lynn Schenck
- 4) Derek Voskuil
- 5) Michael Williams (approved by the congregation on 1/14/2024)

The committee discussed the process used to identify and nominate members to leadership positions in the church, highlighting the steps that worked well or required revision. There was

consensus that FPC is blessed with people who work hard to care for each other, the community, as well as working together towards goals aligned with the church's mission.

In early 2024, the committee will prepare a one-page document that outlines the role and responsibilities/expectations for elders and deacons. The document will include testimonials from those who are serving or who have served in the past. In addition, the document will make clear the expectations for chairing a standing committee and/or serving on a standing committee.

The committee also thought it was important to keep Session involved by asking them each year to supply their recommendations for elders and deacons. We will also ask for nominations from the congregation through a variety of messaging. Tommy suggested installing a suggestion box where members can nominate throughout the year rather than once at the congregational meeting.

Election of 2024 Nominating Committee:

Following the Book of Order, the Church Nominating Committee shall consist of the pastor as a non-voting, ex officio member, plus seven voting members, as follows: (a) five active members of the Church (excluding current members of the Session), who shall be elected by the congregation...Members of the Committee shall be eligible for reelection; provided, however, that no voting member of the Committee shall serve more than three years consecutively.

Nominating Committee Nominees for 2024

Randall Burcham
Jane Gallagher
Sherry Knighton-Schwandt
Mary McClellan
Carol McGregor
Nate Nickel
Julie Stryker

The congregation approved the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee at a congregational meeting held on January 14, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Knighton-Schwandt, chair

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Committee members: Elder Don Hanna (chair), Pastor Tommy Grimm (ex-officio), Debbi Conkle, Elder Dan Conkle, Ginny Coppedge, Jim Coppedge, Judy Fulford, David Giedroc, Elder Sarah Nickel, Allan Sather, Ann Schechter, and Dan Watts. Pastor Kelley Jepson served as pastoral liaison for the early part of the year. She also participated in the Posoltega mission trip.

The Outreach Committee of First Presbyterian Church is an active committee, providing opportunities for service, and encouraging participation in programs that reach out to the community locally, nationally, and internationally as we share God's love and compassion with those in need. Our budget also helps to provide financial support to agencies and partners who do the demanding work of serving those in need daily.

We consider how our volunteer opportunities fit the current mission of FPC, while emphasizing social justice ministries, and the concerns of our members. We look for future mission initiatives that reflect the core values and beliefs of the congregation and can engage people in the larger local community.

We acknowledge the importance of keeping the congregation and the community informed of our work. The committee views the "Living Together" e-mail notice to the congregation as a time to provide "Outreach Opportunities" with information on the various activities of the agencies we support. These can be requests for financial assistance, donations of food, supplies, and volunteer help. We also provide information on special needs caused by recent events. We leave it to the members of the congregation to decide if any of the requests are of interest. We make every effort to limit these requests to those we deem to be most important.

Accomplishments Our dedicated volunteers and donors are the driving force for our accomplishments. The committee thanks every one of them. A summary of our activities in 2023 is listed below. You may contact anyone listed in this report if you have an interest in participating in these activities.



Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) – The Outreach / Mission committee of FPC has agreed to partner with MCUM to help with their Compass Early Learning Center. We reached out to MCUM earlier this Spring as the committee was searching for opportunities to implement our Matthew 25 initiative to provide books for children to help both in dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Thanks to the generous donation from a member of the congregation we were able to fund this program.

FPC members, through weekly donations placed in the MCUM box and our scheduled food drives, contributed 1,349 pounds of food, and supplies in 2023. Thanks to Judy Fulford for

delivering those items to MCUM's food pantry. Three members of FPC serve on the Board of MCUM with one member serving as chairman during 2023.

Area 10 Agency on Aging – Many members of First Presbyterian Church volunteered throughout 2023 to help individuals served by Area 10 Agency on Aging. Every month, 26 individuals, organized by Allan Edmonds and Gail Dunning, helped bag and deliver groceries to low-income, homebound elderly residents, through the Mobile Food Pantry at 2420 East 3rd St. In April, and again in November, volunteers of all ages eagerly unloaded buses filled with food to help restock the pantry shelves as part of the Stuff-a-Bus program. In September, members donated canned goods and financial donations for the food pantry. And, to end the year, Ginny and Jim Coppedge provided all that was needed to make the congregation aware of the Angel Tree event, with members generously providing brightly wrapped gifts, and FPC children making Christmas cards and ornaments, for each of the 40 residents of Area 10 housing units. There were so many willing volunteers to deliver good nutrition, a smiling face, and joy to the low-income elderly in our community!



Wheeler Mission – Wheeler provides year-round shelter, meals, and life skill classes to homeless men and are expanding their services in Bloomington. We continued our hands-on project of providing 120 sack lunches one day each month. A group of 12 FPC members / families each participated by preparing 10 lunches for delivery to the church parking lot and then on to Wheeler. We are following new health department rules on food preparation and are making the sandwiches in the church kitchen. Thanks to Dan Watts for coordinating and keeping us informed and to Debbi Conkle for help with the delivery.



Refugee Immigration – The refugee committee continued to support the Idris family throughout 2023. Yaser, the father, received a good promotion at Cook Polymer Technology. Rouchan, the mother, continued to study English in the MCCSC program at Broadview. Akram, the oldest boy, is studying for his HSE exams in the prep program at Broadview. Jamal, the middle son, is doing very well academically and as a JV soccer player at BHSN. Taysir, the youngest boy, is thriving at Fairview. The Idris family is now helping

other Syrian refugees adjust to life in Bloomington.

In addition, FPC members made generous contributions toward the back-to-school clothing needs of the three boys. The Outreach Committee arranged for a grant of \$500 from the local

Peace Offering funds to cover the costs of green card physical exams for the entire family. The refugee committee provided Christmas gift cards for the family. Our thanks to Ann Schechter for her tireless work to coordinate this group. This project has been one of the most labor-intensive volunteer jobs members of the committee have ever assumed, but it has also been one of the most rewarding.

West Virginia Mission – A combination of youth and adults traveled to West Virginia in June as our normal mission trip is back on track for the second year in a row after a two-year pause for Covid. The group worked on a variety of projects on home repair and improvements. Thanks to Michael Williams and Kelley Jepsen for their coordination and work on this project. We are in the planning phase for the trip in June 2024.

Posoltega, Nicaragua Mission – After a gap of six years due to political unrest and the Covid pandemic, 11 FPC members and friends traveled to Posoltega on a summer mission trip. Among other projects, we repaired, replaced, and painted the tables and benches in the Comedor Infantil, which houses a hot-lunch program for children, and we helped build a small house for a needy young woman and her mother. No less important, we renewed and



enhanced FPC's 30-year relationship with the Jesus of Nazareth Parish and with the Posoltega community. Funding for the trip came from the FPC budget, from coffee cart proceeds (from the sale of Equal Exchange products), from Bloomington-Posoltega Sister Cities, and from generous individual donations.

Throughout the year, FPC provided ongoing financial support for the Posoltega parish and for the FPC-sponsored music school for children. Designated donations funded nineteen college scholarships for Posoltegens. Koinonia's highly successful Christmas Store provided enhanced funding this year for our annual Posoltega Christmas project, bringing Christmas joy to even more of the impoverished children of our sister church.

Habitat for Humanity – FPC is well-represented in our local Habitat for Humanity organization, with one member serving as CEO, another on the board of directors, and others as committee members and volunteer builders. In the future, we hope the church can participate in an all-faith build.

Shalom/Beacon Inc. – First Presbyterian Church supported Beacon Shalom Center (620 S. Walnut St., Bloomington) in two specific ways: A monetary pledge and a donation of \$520 from the youth Souper Bowl fundraiser. Secondly, the congregation continues to make donations of gently used clothing, shoes, and toiletries to Beacon via a donation box in the church throughout the year. They have opportunities for volunteer help, but we have not had an organized group working there since they discontinued food service on the weekends. The



Outreach Committee is grateful for the ongoing efforts of the congregation which make a difference in the unhoused population of Bloomington. Allan Sather, who volunteers at Shalom, is our liaison to the organization.

Pat Riggins Red Cross Blood Drives – We provide a safe, convenient location for FPC members and the local community to donate blood. The Red Cross appreciates this beneficial use of our facility. This year we added two

more collection dates to the calendar, bringing the total to five collections. This allowed us to collect 197 units of blood, which is a new record for FPC. Our thanks to Don Hollinger for coordinating this important activity. We also want to acknowledge the effort of the volunteers who greet and process the donors, and to all who gave blood.

Heifer Market – Our 35th annual market was held on Sunday, October 29. The event raised \$10,912 for Heifer International to provide farming families around the world with the tools and resources they need to thrive. Flexibility was key for this year's market. We moved inside to Lyman Hall due to predicted cold rain and were ably led by Hallie and Addie Schmucker, taking over for their mother. Michael Williams provided his usual assistance. Heifer Market provides our members and the local community with an opportunity to come together around pens filled with farm animals and tables filled with information and gift cards to support Heifer International. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with set-up and staffed the tables to collect the donations.

PCUSA Special Offerings – In coordination with PCUSA, the Outreach committee conducts three special offerings each year. Other offerings are held for specific needs as they occur. Giving in 2023 totaled: One Great Hour of Sharing – \$3,675; Peace & Global Witness - \$1,826 (\$456 staying local), Christmas Joy - \$3,564.

Other projects – This year Outreach joined with the other committees that organize the “Hanging of the Greens” to add a supplemental food drive we joyfully called “Bringing of the Beans.” The food collected, 79 cans of beans, was donated to our MCUM effort.

Budget The Outreach/Mission budget for 2023 was \$29,260. This is an increase of 9.7% or \$2,950 over 2022, for which we are grateful for Session's approval. Although less than in years past, it provided a budget amount closer to the expected receipts in the FPC general fund. This allowed the church to make disbursements on a monthly or quarterly basis. It is extremely helpful for our partner agencies to receive the church's support on a regular basis. Moving forward, we continue to hope and pray that the church can provide additional Outreach funding in the future, to better care for the “least of these” in our midst. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received. In addition to the line item budget, we also get contributions from Heifer Market, PCUSA special collections, and other sources.

The 2023 budget by line item is listed below:

Area 10 Agency on Aging	\$1,200
Beacon, Inc (Shalom)	\$1,200
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,200
Mission Trips	\$7,000
Monroe Co. United Ministries (MCUM)	\$7,500
Posoltega Music	\$3,960
Posoltega Parish	\$2,400
Wheeler Mission	\$1,200
Presbytery of Ohio Valley	\$3,600
TOTAL	\$29,260

Thank you to both Rev. Tommy Grimm and Rev. Kelley Jepsen who have provided valuable guidance and support as pastoral liaisons to this committee, and my thanks to all the members of the committee who have stepped forward in every instance to provide help and assistance wherever it was needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Hanna, chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members: Gary Crow, Rev. Tommy Grimm, Nancy Nelson, Michael Rauh, and Kevin Tevault.

- We welcomed two new members of staff: Communications Director Kirma Swords and Music Director Ryan Rogers.
- After some deliberation, we recommended a 3% increase in pay for all current staff.
- We worked on a new Transitional Associate Pastor Agreement for Pastor Jepsen.
- We worked on the Narrative Budget.
- We oversaw an increase in the hourly pay of our Child Care Coordinator and child care workers.
- We oversaw a new FSA (flexible spending account) program for our full-time clergy and staff.
- We provided feedback on a new revised version of the church's Child Protection Policy.
- We solicited funds and distributed Christmas gifts to staff and held the annual staff luncheon at Uptown Café in December.

Respectfully submitted
Michael Rauh, Chair



FPC Staff

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Bill Jones, Co-Chair, Mike Riggle, Co-Chair, Steve Creech, Judy Dillon, Recording Secretary, Tom Dillon, Don Hollinger, Michael Williams, Randall Burcham, Garth Goodlett, Christopher Goss, Richard Darling, Allan Edmonds, John Connell, Sue Connell, Jack Peterman, Steve Berry, Custodian, Rev. Sang-Tae Lee, KPC Representative, Rev. Tommy Grimm, FPC Pastor.

Overview:

The original FPC building is now nearly 124 years old. The 1954 Walker Hall addition is now 70 years old and most of the existing infrastructure in FPC facilities was installed during the addition of Lyman Hall in 1990. FPC facilities have been diligently maintained and well-managed through the years. However, meeting the needs of FPC, the Korean Presbyterian Church, and many community groups introduces significant challenges to an older building with an aging infrastructure.

The heating, ventilation and cooling system (HVAC) continues to be the greatest concern. The HVAC system is approximately 34 years old and many of the components have functioned much longer than their anticipated mechanical lives. If not properly addressed, failures to the HVAC system in the future will threaten the ability to conduct worship activities and the service ministry of FPC to many community groups.

With the support of the FPC Session, the Property Management Committee (PMC) is actively working with Halstead Architects from Indianapolis to complete a comprehensive facility assessment of the FPC facilities and infrastructure. This assessment will include a detailed description of current problems that need to be addressed along with recommendations and cost estimates to be shared with the congregation. The HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems will be included in this assessment.

Projects Completed During 2023 by the PMC:

The following is a list of some of the more significant projects completed by the PMC during 2022:

JANUARY

1. **Battery Clock** - A new battery clock for the Narthex was donated by a church member and was installed above the Welcome Center bulletin boards.
2. **Narthex and Nursery Room Video Systems** - The flat panel televisions located in the Narthex and Nursery areas were previously connected to the security camera system and lost audio functionality when the church began live streaming services over the internet. Using existing CAT 5 wiring and HDMI / CAT 5 converters, the systems now

have both video and audio and are able to receive video and audio broadcasts of the sanctuary services.

3. **Toilet Repairs** - New parts were installed as needed in toilets identified for repair in the bathrooms outside Room 7 and the women's restroom across from the Treasurer's Office on the lower level and in the bathrooms located across from the entrance to Lyman Hall. A total of six toilets were restored to good working order.

FEBRUARY

4. **Lyman Hall Projector System** - The LCD Projector in Lyman Hall was successfully restarted and reset in time for the Youth Group Souper Bowl event. We were able to successfully stream the morning worship service and the youth group used it to watch the Super Bowl that night.
5. **Toilet Repairs** - A new handle and flapper were replaced in one of the toilets in the Men's Restroom outside Lyman Hall.

MARCH

6. **Parlor Corner Repair** - The damaged wall corner at the door leading to the sanctuary was rebuilt and repainted in the existing room color. The corner was then covered with a clear plastic protective cover.
7. **Paper Towel Dispenser** - A new paper towel dispenser was installed in the women's restroom across from the Treasurer's Office.
8. **Bell Choir Room** - The water-damaged drywall in the Bell Choir Room was removed and replaced. The walls were then taped, covered with spackle, and sanded. The new drywall was then primed and the room was painted. Outlets and switches were replaced with new white ones and brushed stainless steel covers were installed.
9. **Auxiliary Parking Lot Gate** - A cable and padlock were installed and the gate is now locked in the "open" position. The gate can be closed and secured at any time.

MAY



Bell Choir Room - New laminate flooring and vinyl baseboards were installed.

JUNE

- 10. Bell Choir Room** - New 2 x 2 ceiling tiles were installed and existing wood shelving used for hymnal storage was properly reinforced.

JULY

- 11. Protective Fencing** - Protective fencing was installed around the 6th Street flower bed to prevent rabbits from damaging the rose bushes.
- 12. Wi-Fi Network Upgrade** - PC Max of Bloomington upgraded the FPC Wi-Fi by replacing the internet router switch and all internet access points in the building. The access point serving Rooms 5 and 7 was also relocated to better serve Room 7. An additional access point was installed in the Main Office. This upgrade resulted in much faster wireless internet speeds for users throughout the building.

AUGUST

- 13. Lyman Hall Roof Repair** - Caulking of the capstones and flashings on the Lyman Hall roof and the capstones on top of the stairwell between Lyman Hall and Walker Hall was completed in mid-August. In early September, diverters were installed in the northwest and northeast corners of Lyman Hall. These corner diverters fit behind the flashing and are designed to prevent water from going above and behind the flashing during a hard rainstorm. During the installation on the northeast corner, a hole in the roof about an inch in diameter was found behind the flashing.
- 14. Toilet Repair** - A new waterline hose, a gasket for the tank and bowl connection, and a Fluidmaster float were replaced in the Men's handicap stall toilet across from the entrance to Lyman Hall.

SEPTEMBER

15. **Bathroom Repairs** - A loose partition in the women's bathroom across from the entrance to Lyman Hall was secured and the FluidMaster in the toilet stall was unclogged.
16. **Speakers for the Chancel** - Don Hollinger completed the necessary cuts to the Chancel floor to install utility boxes for the new monitor speakers. Chuck Mulry pulled the necessary wiring to the boxes with the help of Steve Berry and Olivia Porter, our soundboard operator, helped identify the connection to the soundboard. The new monitor speakers, donated by church members, should provide long-awaited audio support to members seated on the Chancel during services.
17. **Staircase Outer Wall Weatherproofing** - The outer concrete block walls of the staircase connecting the Narthex to Walker Hall were covered with a weatherproofing product called Thoroseal to prevent water infiltration through the concrete blocks and grout lines during heavy rainstorms.



OCTOBER

18. **Steeple Vents** - Set screws on the south, west, and north vents to the steeple have been adjusted and the lower blades repositioned to prevent rain from being blown into the steeple during strong storms. This will address water infiltration concerns while allowing proper ventilation.

19. **Sleeping Mats** - Mike Davis, Executive Director of PYOCA was contacted to see if there would be interest in having the sleeping mats that had gone unused for several years for use with PYOCA groups. The mats were removed from the church storage area, cleaned, sanitized, and donated to PYOCA on October 23. All 19 mats were in great condition and will be used by junior high attendees at PYOCA events.

NOVEMBER

20. **Door Closers** - On November 3, Indiana Door replaced door closers on the west end of Room 7, the Kitchen, and the Lincoln Street wooden entrance doors.



21. **MPI Solar Panel Project** - MPI Solar and Alexander Electric completed the installation of 20 solar panels on top of Walker Hall and the panels started feeding electricity into the electrical panel in Room 7 on November 17. The solar panels were funded through a \$25,000 grant from the City of

Bloomington. The cost to connect the solar panels to the church's electrical system was \$3,707, which was covered by a donation from a church member.

22. **Narthex TV Replacement** - A new LG 43" 4K UHD TV was purchased and installed in the Narthex on November 20. The cost of the new TV, which included a 3-year warranty, was \$289 and was covered by a donation from a church member.

DECEMBER

23. **Toilet Repair** - A new Fluidmaster was installed in the middle toilet in the Women's Restroom across from the entrance to Lyman Hall on December 1.

24. **Outdoor Lighting at Lincoln Street Entrances** - New LED light bulbs were installed in the existing light fixtures at the Lincoln Street entrances and on the northeast corner of the building.

25. **Sanctuary Air Handler Repair** - Following a report of a low-temperature Sanctuary on December 10, Commercial Service identified and replaced a faulty transducer that triggers heating coils to come on in one of the air handlers serving the Sanctuary.

26. **Choir Room Air Handler Repair** - On December 20, Commercial Service identified and replaced a seized fan motor in the air handler that serves the Treasurer's Office, the Choir Room, and the Sacred Grounds Room.

Honorable Mention:

The PMC is fortunate to have many outstanding members who work diligently and contribute countless hours to maintaining the church facilities. Their efforts are too numerous to mention and frequently go undocumented. It is necessary, however, to give special recognition to

several members of the PMC. We would like to recognize the efforts of Steve Berry for his daily work to keep the facilities clean and for his watchful eye on the church grounds; Allan Edmonds for his leadership in obtaining a grant from the City of Bloomington for the installation of solar panels on Walker Hall; Don Hollinger for his continued work on the proposed columbarium project; Steve Creech for his guidance and continued contributions on larger projects including the Bell Choir Room and Staircase Waterproofing; Judy Dillon for her continued diligence in documenting the minutes of PMC meetings; and Tom Dillon for his continued leadership, monitoring and management of the HVAC system.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Riggle, Co-chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The 2023 theme the stewardship committee had adopted and worked under was "Transformational Giving". This theme was very appropriate for the past year with several processes that changed for what will help FPC in the future. This report is meant to provide a very high level of items our church has done, has in place and challenges we continue to face.

On behalf of the stewardship committee, we wish to say THANK YOU for the generosity of our members with their finances, time, and ingenuity. Our congregation has continued to show what we can do. During 2023 we continued to reduce debt, serve our communities and have plans to build our cash reserves. Please refer to the treasurer's reports for specific details.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the work that was done by our committee. These individuals have shared their time, expertise, and devotion to move FPC forward. When you see the following people, please do say thank you to them. Without their help we would not be in nearly as good of a position as we are now. Jean Brown, Boyd Hahn, Bill McGregor, Lynn Schenck, Tom Schwandt and Cathy Walker. Please also say a huge thank you to our treasurer, Mary McClellan, and pastor Tommy Grimm. We are truly blessed with their leadership!

Here are some of the key highlights of the year.

1. Pastor Grimm asked our committee to read "New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program" and challenged our thinking of our stewardship campaign. The theme of "Transformational Giving" came from this source. Several changes came from this year that we believe will make an impact for our giving.
 - a. Stewardship campaign became generosity campaign.
 - b. Generosity campaign started much earlier with several individuals and families providing short vignettes of "Why I/we give..." beginning in October and culminating with a guest speaker, The Rev. Dr. Andrew Pomerville, 11th President of Louisville Seminary, speaking to our congregation on Celebration Sunday, November 5th.
 - c. We asked committees to provide a visual interpretation along with percentages of four tentpoles themes we identified. The visual interpretation was sent to the congregation to complement the annual line itemized budget proposal.
 - d. After Dr. Pomerville's service we gathered as a group for a lunch requesting pledge cards to be turned in. As a committee the ideal is to know how much is being pledged to build a budget for the following year. Historically, we have done the opposite of building an "aspirational" budget hoping/believing we will receive the needed money to fulfill the obligations. We did have approximately 130 people attend the lunch. Based on early numbers the number of total pledges received and amount of money pledged is up by a good margin

compared to the previous four years. The hope is to have more of the congregation pledging/gifting with larger amounts.

2. Internally, there was a commitment to improve our reports for data tracking. Multiple people were involved in this process (Mary McClellan, Pastor Grimm, Jean Brown, Cathy Walker) to improve transparency and efficiency. We now have a balance sheet along with gain/loss report to support past reports of payroll, special funds, and general funds.
3. Mission and outreach continued their efforts to maintain the budget. We were able to continue to support our programs and communities through regular giving and special offerings. Posoltega support, Heifer market, West Virginia trip along with other endeavors continue to allow us to spread God's love.
4. We have reduced our total indebtedness. A major goal of our committee was to have a downtown physical presence to have a place to worship and serve God and our community for generations to come. We understand that people do not give to budgets, but to causes. With our church, we do have a chunk of money that must be devoted to its upkeep, maintenance, and renovation.
 - a. As of December 31, a parking lot mortgage of \$145,953 remains serviced by a parking lot fund totaling \$56,239, leaving a net debt of \$89,714.
 - b. We also have a goal to make sure we build up the emergency savings for the church. Just like individuals, the church needs to plan for several months of cash in case something would happen. We close out 2023 with \$144,210.27 in reserve funds -- roughly, the equivalent to 2.5 months of 2023 church operations.
5. We had a special FPC Larry Crowe Property Taskforce created to define our process of how to sell the property at the best price. Our church has been good stewards of the land, but it is time to place it in the hands of the next steward. By selling the property this money will be extremely helpful for FPC to get needed improvements. Dan Conkle and Bill McGregor have taken this assignment and will have a lot to report during the 2024 year.
6. We have an older building that requires improvement. In 2024, there will be much more communication via the Property Committee on what the church needs to do to remain viable in this location and continue its mission as a downtown church. The cost will be significant and to help fund this effort, the Capital Campaign Task Force applied for a sizeable grant from Sacred Places Indiana. The competition was very stiff and unfortunately, we have since learned that our project was not approved. While this was very disappointing, we gathered a lot of information that will help us going forward. Indeed, the proposal, completed in record time under the leadership of Lynn Schenk, may serve us well as we consider applying for other grants and loans required to finance the work we know must be completed in a timely fashion, but on our own schedule with our own financial plan. There will be much more to come on this very important topic.

7. We did not meet our budget. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we received \$566,299. However, we spent \$584,678. Both of these amounts were less than our 2023 budget of \$632,419, resulting in our ending 2023 with a budget deficit of \$18,379. The actual impact on cash was less because we began 2023 with a \$16,198 surplus from 2022. So, the net impact on cash was much less with the cash shortfall being \$2,181.
 - a. Our breakdown of money received was \$519,998 from pledges, \$4,713 from plate offerings, \$13,416 from building rent, and \$28,172 from miscellaneous receipts. The overwhelming majority of our costs were payroll (\$390,796) and property (\$102,071). 78% of our current budget (\$492,867 out of \$632,419) was devoted to take care of our people and building.
 - b. The 2024 proposed budget is \$636,950. While we fell short in 2023, we generated a surplus in 2022. Additionally, we are very encouraged by the increase in number of pledges received to date and amounts pledged for 2024. We are optimistic we will achieve our budget in 2024.

At the end of December, we have received pledges totaling \$430,000 or 71% of our 2024 budget. This is significantly larger than what we had on hand at this time in 2023. And we are continuing to receive pledges. Our capacity to celebrate Christ and serve community here and beyond is based on member contributions of both time and money. We are blessed in so many ways. One can see from the other committee reports there are plenty of opportunities for members to participate. We are a very active church. There are also many ways members can provide financial support to our mission. Some of these include:

1. Making a pledge. It isn't too late. Electronic pledge cards are available at: <https://forms.gle/vNFEvxpsH8giztBy9> or a paper card may be obtained from our Treasurer, Mary McClellan. Pledging helps us know what to expect and when so that we can better plan.
2. Contributing money electronically or by dropping it in the collection plate on Sunday.
3. Making a qualified charitable donation (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) if the member is eligible. QCDs are only available for members who are 70.5 years or older and may reduce their taxable income. However, the money must come directly from a member's IRA to the church. It cannot go to the member first. A qualified charitable donation can also help you satisfy a member's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if the member is required to take one. Why would a member want to do this? It accomplishes several things.
 - a. QCDs satisfy part or all of any RMD.
 - b. While withdrawals from IRAs are taxable, QCDs have NO TAXES on them.
 - c. Members can make up to \$100,000 in QCDs per year.
 - d. While Mary McClellan or members of the stewardship committee can help members with the process for making a QCD, we cannot provide financial, tax, or legal advice. We recommend members consult with

their financial advisor, the administrator of their IRA, their accountant, or attorney before making a QCD as there are specific rules that affect these donations and the rules are subject to change.

4. Members may also include the church in their estate plans and/or wills. While one can designate a specific amount, many people don't know how much money will be available. So, it is quite common to designate a percentage of the value of an account or the estate. Today our members benefit from the contributions and investments made by those who came before them. This is an opportunity to do the same for future members and help ensure the continuation of our mission. While we can provide information on the process to interested members, we do not know what is right for any specific member or a member's family and cannot provide legal or financial advice. We encourage interested members to consult with their families and estate attorney before making such a commitment.

We begin 2024 with faith and hope for the new challenges and achievements to come. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we thank the congregation for its continued help and support. May God bless us all and peace to our world!

In Christ,
Joel Schneider
Stewardship Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: Karen Watts (Chair), Linda Giedroc (through September), Marjorie Hinton, Mary Jensen, Laura Kucera, Kathy Norris, Nancy Swank, Saundra Tracy (Secretary), and Cathy Walker; Music Director Alex Koppel (through June), Revs. Tommy Grimm and Kelley Jepsen. The Committee welcomed Music Directory Ryan Rogers in September.

Committee responsibilities include those functions that support worship services for both regular Sunday services as well as special days of worship around Lent and Advent. These functions include offerings of music, preparation for communion, provision for ushers, liturgists, acolytes & advent candle lighters, arranging for sanctuary flowers, sanctuary prep and decoration (Lent, World Communion Sunday, All Saints' Day and Advent), and coordinating seasonal vestments. Additionally, the Committee is responsible for policies addressing weddings and funerals/memorial services and supporting both, with multiple funerals and memorial services during the year. The wedding brochure is being updated by a small group that includes Mary Jensen from the Worship Committee. Decorating the church and sanctuary for Advent (and removal of decorations), although promoted and organized by the Worship Committee, depends upon a number of churchwide volunteers to provide the manpower and creativity for these activities and the Committee thanks them for their contributions.

Music director Alex Koppel left in June after three fulfilling years at FPC. Representatives of the Personnel and Worship committees and adult choir members conducted a successful job search for his replacement, resulting in the enthusiastic hiring of Ryan Rogers. Five Choral Scholars serve as anchors for the growing adult choir as they explore classical and familiar choral offerings. We have had the good fortune to retain Dr. Chris Young as our exceptional organist/pianist, with Dr. Marilyn Keiser as his occasional substitute.

Expanded worship service considerations were discussed, with the decision to continue a single Worship service on Sunday mornings. Worship time was retained at 10:00 am throughout the year, with Christian Education opportunities beginning at 11:15 in the fall. Following discussions about ways to make worship more inviting, inclusive, meaningful and creative for FPC congregants, additional special services were implemented. Taizé-inspired Good Friday, Thanksgiving and The Longest Night (December) services were added to our more traditional Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services.

Attention to worship-related issues included the co-sponsorship of a "Firearm-free" policy for FPC with the support of the Property Committee, following research and discussion of the PC (USA) policies and recommendations. Session approved the following motion: Individuals (other than law enforcement officers) are prohibited from carrying firearms into the First Presbyterian Church facility. Appropriate signage has been posted on outside doors and on the office window. Emergency preparedness issues are being updated for the ushers.

Attendance for in-person services in 2023 averaged 120 people/regular Sunday service. All regular services were available both in person and online due to our ability to employ a person who has primary responsibility for live streaming. Live streaming of Sunday services averaged 37 views on Sunday morning, with indications that online views outside of Sunday service times reached an average of 35 views/service. Attendance at special services increased in 2023, with a total of 207 Christmas Eve attendees for the two services compared to 155 in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Watts, Chair



BOARD OF DEACONS

2023 officers: Julia Strycker-moderator
Kim Gray-vice moderator
Meagan Williams-secretary

Class:

2023: Christopher Goss, Kim Gray, David Grossman, Mikaela Coppedge, Ava Schneider

2024: Lynn Barrett, Andy Chickedantz, Julie Strycker, Meagan Williams

2025: Connie Cleary, John Connell, Maggie Knust, Cedar Rabun

The Deacons reorganized this year with Rev Kelley Jepsen's guidance and support.

We organized the individual ministries under three "umbrella" ministries; Outreach, Hospitality, and Grief Support. Grief Support is a new ministry. The goal of the reorganization is that we can work together as teams, and even though one of us may concentrate on a particular part of the larger umbrella, we have our team to support our efforts.

Virginia Baude care card ministry remains a stand-alone ministry. Virginia sent out 292 cards in 2023.

Hospitality

Hospitality includes Coffee Hour, Funeral and Memorial Receptions, Bread for the Journey, Transportation, and 50- year membership. Lynn Barrett is the deacon overseeing Coffee Hour, Kim Gray was the deacon overseeing Funeral and Memorial receptions. Jim Earnest continues to work on the 50-year membership ministry. Bread for the Journey is often provided by John Connell.

Bread for the Journey: 6 loaves of bread were given out in 2023

Coffee Hour/Coffee Hour Purchases: Lynn has been successful in getting volunteers to host Coffee Hour. She would like to expand the group of regular volunteers so the same people are not the only ones hosting coffee hour. Lynn inventoried all of our paper plates, cups, and napkins. She has been trying to work through our supply of Styrofoam cups and then will eliminate their usage. The deacon budget provides the funds for coffee, juice, and cheese. Volunteers provide baked goods, half and half and coffee creamer.

Funeral/Memorial Receptions: Kim organized 5 receptions. We have many wonderful volunteers who help with the receptions and provide food and flowers.

Transportation: We have not had much luck in finding members to regularly provide transportation to members. Although we did provide transportation a couple of times during the year.

Outreach:

Outreach includes meals, flower delivery, prayer shawls, College Care Packages, and items for rent. Julie Strycker is the deacon supervising meals, Andy Chickedantz is the deacon supervising flower delivery with Kelley's help. Meagan and Ava worked together on the College care packages, Sandra Tracy and Julie supervised the delivery of shawls. Ava supervised the items for rent.

Meals:

Julie supervised getting meals for 4 members. We are blessed with wonderful volunteers who step up to provide meals for members in need.

Flower Delivery:

Andy supervised delivery of Sunday flowers to 25 different members of our congregation. Andy could use additional volunteers to deliver flowers after church on Sundays.

College Care packages:

Meagan, with Ava's assistance, prepared 25 care packages and left them in the Narthex. Discussion of mailing the packages to out of town members.

Items for rent:

Ava was never contacted about rental items needed. However, several members helped themselves to necessary items.

Prayer Shawls: Julie Strycker and Sandra Tracy

Co-ministry with Sandra Tracy coordinating knitting / crocheters to make the prayer shawls) 12 prayer shawls were given to members or friends of the church to provide comfort and support.

Sandra sets quarterly gatherings for the needle crafters to come together to share how many were given out, any responses received back, what we are working on and to have a social time for the group to come together.

Rosebuds:

No rosebuds were given this year.

Grief Support:

Is a new ministry that focuses on helping bereaved members through their first year without their loved one. Rev Kelley purchased sets of Stephen Ministries *Journeying Through Grief*. Each set contains 4 booklets that focus on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that time. Connie Cleary, Christopher Goss, Maggie Knust, and John Connell comprise this team of deacons. They sent out 22 *Journeying Through Grief* booklets to 8 members. Cards were sent to each of the 8 members commemorating the one-year anniversary of their loved ones.

Individual members of the team send cards with the booklets and sometimes just a card to let the person know they are thinking of them.

Grief group: This is a group that is being started with Rev. Kelley's help. Rev Wendy Vanderzee is helping us to set this group up and has volunteered to lead it with the assistance of new deacon, Bailey Fassler.

Visitation : The deacons have agreed that visitation is the responsibility of each of the deacons. Kelley asks for volunteers each month to visit particular members. This system appears to be working well.

Moderator role: As moderator I "run" meetings and set the agenda. Lynn Barrett is the deacon moderator for 2024-2025

We have agreed to have rotating deacons meet with the elders to keep the lines of communication open each month.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Strycker, Moderator

MUSIC PROGRAM

The FPC Music Department had an exciting Fall semester! In addition to welcoming a new Music Director, the last few months saw several fruitful collaborations. FPC Choir collaborated with many instrumentalists, including from within our congregation, and with our Bell Choir to present a wide array of diverse repertoire during worship and within the greater Bloomington community.

We are particularly proud of our choral offerings for All Saints'/All Souls' Sunday, which included Rupert Gough's *Requiem*, an arrangement of Maurice Ravel's famous *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, and Mark Patterson's *Song of Assurance* with flute and cello. Another highlight of our semester was our collaboration with a string quintet—featuring Mary Beth Novy on cello—for our Christmas Eve offerings at the 5:30 pm service. We are looking forward to collaborating with other musicians in our community in 2024!

If you have an interest in music-making at FPC, now is a great time to join the FPC Music Program! The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir are looking to recruit new members who love connecting with others through music. Our goal is to uplift our worship services with song, and you can be a part of this exciting musical community! While reading music is a plus, it is not a requirement—all our welcome! For more information, email Ryan Rogers at ryan@fpcbloomington.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Rogers, Music Director



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Coordinating Team

Moderator:	Ginny Coppedge
Immediate Past Moderator:	Karen Watts
Vice Moderator:	Ann Schechter
Recording Secretary:	Judy Dillon
Corresponding Secretary:	Ruth Holman
Treasurer:	Gail Dunning
Church Women United Representative:	Carol Peterman
Circle Leaders:	
Circle Mary:	Kathy Hollinger
Koinonia Circle:	Gail Dunning
Luncheon/Fellowship Circle:	On hold for the present

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an organization that includes all women in the FPC community. PW Coordinating Team and Circle meetings were held in person and on Zoom throughout the year dependent on weather. We were delighted to be able to have many more in person meetings this year, with the dormancy of Covid.

Coordinating Team meetings were held quarterly. Koinonia and Circle Mary meetings were held monthly. New members were welcomed to both groups. Circle Mary continued their Bible studies. Koinonia contributed money for the menus prepared for those going on the West Virginia mission trip and prepared for the annual Christmas Store/Auction held in person in early December. Kent Honeycutt donated 50 of Anne's nativities and a church stained glass window that they owned to the Christmas Store this year. This gracious gift significantly increased the amount given to Posoltega for Christmas gifts to \$1500, with extra funds going to selected children-oriented local charitable organizations. These included MCUM, Salvation Army, Middleway House, and New Hope.

Unfortunately, the Luncheon/Fellowship Circle has not met this year due to illnesses of Carole Allen and Carol Peterman. An effort to start up a new group at both Bell Trace and Meadowood was not successful. Both facilities have overlapping similar programs already in place and starting another group was deemed inappropriate at this time. Ruth Holman, as Corresponding Secretary, sent out 53 greeting cards to many PW members who were home bound, in the hospital, or who had suffered a loss of a loved one, plus Welcome Cards to all new women joining the church.

A regular number of displays were maintained in the case in the Lyman Narthex. The faithful of PW can be seen serving at every funeral reception, program luncheon, or celebration. The highlights of our year were 2 fellowship luncheon and "getting to know you" program with the

women of 2nd Baptist and Bethel AME churches, who had invited us to visit with them earlier in the year. The group, since named Women of God, hope to work together for the good of Bloomington, on joint projects in the future.

PW continued very successful informal lunches at Hive restaurant, which we will plan again in 2024. PW planning team officers were installed at an Epiphany soup luncheon/carol sing, on Jan. 6, with handbell ringers Mary Beth Novy and Karin Coopersmith as guest musicians and Martin Burkhead as special soloist.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Coppedge, Moderator



PW FINANCIAL REPORT

		PW Balance on Hand	Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 977.16
	<u>YTD Receipts</u>			
Contributions:	7		\$ 600.00	
Birthday Offering				
Least Coin	2		\$ 71.40	
Thanksgiving Offering				
Memorial Contributions	1		\$ 50.00	
			Total YTD Receipts	\$ 721.40
	<u>YTD Disbursements</u>			
PW in the POV		Mission	\$ (225.00)	
PW in the POV		Cont. Fund	\$ (20.00)	
PW in the POV		Synod Lincoln Trails		
PW in the POV		Life Membership		
The Awards Center				
Church World Services via POV			\$ (50.00)	
Pyoca via POV			\$ (100.00)	
Church Women United of Monroe Cty.			\$ (50.00)	
MCUM			\$ (300.00)	
Teachers' Warehouse			\$ (50.00)	
PW in the POV	Least Coin		\$ (71.40)	
PW in the POV	Birthday			
PW in the POV	Thanksgiving			
Horizons Magazine	1		\$ (24.95)	
Programs/Luncheons	1		\$ (13.50)	
Mailings	YTD		\$ (75.00)	
			Total YTD Disbursements	\$ (979.85)
		PW Funds on Hand:	12/31/2023	\$718.71

COLUMBARIUM TASK FORCE

TASK FORCE MEMBERS: Jo Ann Main, co-chair, Don Hollinger, co-chair, Michael Williams, Doug Tracy, Gail Dunning, Tom Gardner

The Columbarium Task Force applied for and received a Resource & Planning grant for the Center for Congregations in October of 2022. The Grant has allowed the Task Force to seek formal legal advice, engage structural, architectural and landscape design individuals to develop site plans and construction drawings. The Grant also allows for the development of educational and promotional materials regarding the Columbarium project to be shared with the congregation during 2024.

The Task Force is planning a presentation to Session early in 2024 seeking permission to begin informing the congregation of this exciting potential addition to First Presbyterian Church.

I would like to thank all the members of the Task Force for their time, hard work and dedication to this project. This report is the first report on a project that was first envisioned in 2019. Tabled during the pandemic years and reenergized in 2022. Additionally, I would like to thank Tommy and Kelly for their contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Hollinger, Columbarium Task Force, Co-Chair

LARRY CROWE TASK FORCE

At the annual meeting of October 22, 2023, the FPC congregation voted to approve the sale of its Brown County retreat, known as the Larry Crowe property. This was a significant decision and not without controversy, given the strong attachment many in the church felt about the 23.01 acres located near highway 46 and the turn-off road to Yellowwood State Park. The property had been in the church's possession since 1971 when the church purchased for \$1.00 the land dedicated as a memorial to the young son lost to Ray and Miriam Crowe in 1965 as a result of a tragic car accident.

The vote followed a substantial period of discernment that was initiated by a faith forum presentation by Bill McGregor and Dan Conkle on May 14 at the Sunday morning Faith Forum. The presentation and discussion that followed focused on the nature of the property and the arguments that should be considered before deciding to sell the property. The 2023 arguments were framed by the same question posed by Robert Tully in his 1966 proposal: "Why does a church get involved in the outdoor real estate business?" His answer was that God's natural world could provide an area "...for a more adequate local church Christian Education program, "where outdoor camping, retreats, worship, and training (e.g., scouting programs) would strengthen the idea that man can be "...a co-worker with God in nature." Thus, Ray and Miriam Crowe purchased the property in 1966 for \$6,500 from the estate of Robert H. and Roxie Marlin in memory of Larry.

During the 1970's and 1980's church members took an active interest in the property, maintaining it and investing in improvements, most notably, the 1983 dedication of the 30X50' foot Dana Griffie Memorial Shelter (the pavilion covering a concrete slab furnished with picnic tables), along with the addition of a storage shed, pit toilet, and well water access. For a time, the property saw sunrise services, retreats, hikes on marked trails, Christmas tree sales by church youth, and at least one Boy Scout's Eagle Scout project. But over the past two decades, interest in using the Larry Crowe property declined, and the original cohort that maintained the property was succeeded by a smaller group of Property Committee people increasingly preoccupied with maintaining the downtown campus. Thus, the FPC Session has been faced for some time with the question of what to do with a possibly valuable, but largely unused, Brown County asset with continuing costs and maintenance requirements.

Bill McGregor and Dan Conkle were appointed early in the spring to serve on a task force to study the question of selling the property. They met with Steve and Peg Creech to tour the property and assess its condition since the timber sale of mature hickory and white oak in the fall 2022 that had been supervised by Steve. Dan also took the initiative of contacting Brian Thompson, a realtor with whom Dan had worked who proved helpful in acquiring comparable data that might indicate the potential value of the property. Dan and Bill were joined at the end of December by Tom Gardner who became the third member of the task force.

Since the October vote, the task force has examined real estate data comparable to the Larry Crowe property and contacted property owners whose land abuts the Larry Crowe boundary -- namely, the owners of the property to the south known as Rustic Elegance and the Somerset Lake Owners Association President along with the SLOA owners of property to the north, along Hickory Hill Road. Preliminary email exchanges are being used to organize a task force meeting early in 2024 with interested members of the SLOA.

The year concluded with the task force discussing the question of whether and how to pursue a private sale by marketing Larry Crowe to known and interested parties, or to recommend that Session approve hiring a professional realtor who would manage the sale for a standard 5% fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill McGregor

Dan Conkle

Tom Gardner

RACIAL JUSTICE TASKFORCE

Members: Sue Connell, Gary Crow, Allan Edmonds, Tom Gardner, David Giedroc, Pastor Tommy Grimm, Pastor Kelley Jepsen, Sherry Knighton-Schwandt, Grace Lally, Ryan Lally, Nick Swank

Racial Justice Winter Retreat:

The task force spent its time in January and February planning for and promoting the winter retreat held at Eagle Point on March 4. The overarching goal for the day was to use food and conversation to collectively identify ways that FPC can intentionally stand together to serve the marginalized, while building a foundation for enhanced inclusion and equity in our congregation and in our community.

The retreat provided participants an opportunity to contemplate their personal awareness of racism and explore thoughts and ideas on how FPC, as a white congregation, can take action to address structural racism in our community. The goal of the retreat was to empower church committees to increase their sensitivity to racial inequalities in our midst as we experience our faith journey individually and collectively as a congregation at FPC. All participants were engaged and eager to fulfill the church's commitment as a Matthew 25 congregation.

During the retreat, the Rev. Brian Harrington from the Louisville Theological Seminary was the guest speaker, challenging us to be an instrument for racial justice in our community which may require risk taking and engaging in ministry that would challenge our understanding of serving the least of these. Rev. Harrington also lead us in group discussion, connecting this work as "faithfulness to the Gospel." Everyone who was present had an added opportunity to work within their respective committee or circle to consider ways they can take action to address structural racism in our church and in our community. We also considered any roadblocks that could hinder our progress and envisioned ways to overcome those roadblocks.

The task force noted their vision to focus much of its work on the ***educational disparities in K-12*** in outcomes and opportunities that continue to hold our students of color back in our county.

The task force reviewed the goals and action steps each committee discussed and presented at the retreat. Committee goals were shared with Session at its meeting on March 19. The task force made it clear to committee chairs their eagerness to provide support to committees that may need assistance to meet their goals.

Name Change:

The task force spent time discussing its future and best practices for integrating and sustaining the Matthew 25 mission. There was consensus that the task force had outgrown its initial goal to integrate racial justice into the fabric of FPC's mission. There was also consensus that

“spinning off” to a “Ministry Team” could provide opportunity for others to join the team if they are interested in racial justice, allow current task force members the opportunity to step away if so desired, and continue working with standing committees especially those that lack a representative from the team that can help support committee goals focused on systemic racial injustices. Sherry proposed the name change to Session at its November meeting and there was unanimous support.

School Partnership:

The team agreed to initiate a partnership with a local school to create more opportunities for children of color to thrive in the education system. Discussions have begun with administrators at Templeton Elementary School.

Workshops:

With funding from the Myrtle Collaboration, the task force offered a workshop called “Interrupting Racism for Children.” Led by Child Advocates in Indianapolis, the workshop was held on October 6 with the second date scheduled for February 9, 2024. The focus of the workshop is on how we interrupt racism in everyday practice. The workshop is also focused on the relationship between poverty and racism from a historical perspective as well as from a present-day perspective. The task force recruited participants from MCCSC, MCUM, BMFA, B&G Club and other church communities.

Events and Book Reads:

Events and book reads took place throughout the year, including multiple events during Black History Month, all of which were posted in “Life Together.” Select events are as follows:

- Promoting Racial Justice and Transparency in Indiana – March 25, MC Public Library
 - The Monroe County Prosecutor’s Office and the NAACP Monroe County Chapter are working together to improve prosecution in Monroe County.
- Fairview Elementary School Field Day – May 12 – attended by Gary and Judy Crow, Sherry Knighton-Schwandt
- Coordinated by FPC’s Presbyterian Women Circles, and Bethel AME Churches – lunch and speaker at Bethel – May 13
- Coordinated by FPC’s Presbyterian Women Circles, and Bethel AME Churches – lunch at FPC – October 21
- Discussion on Critical Race Theory – October 22 – MC Public Library
- Book Read – “Poverty, by America,”
 - Hosted by the Bloomington Multifaith Alliance, this book was read over 2 months in September and October with a capstone event on November 5.

Advocacy:

Bloomington Multifaith Alliance: Kelley, Sue, and Allan met with the BMFA each month to discuss collaborative approaches to breaking down systemic racism in our community. Kelley

and Sue were actively involved in the BMFA sub-committee called “Faith for Racial Equity Committee” with Kelley focused on Fairview Elementary School, and Sue focused on Templeton Elementary School.

Allan worked with a group to expose racially restricted covenants found in housing documents in Bloomington. Presentations were given in the community to increase awareness about these practices.

Turning Point, USA Petition –This petition requested that the Public Works Department grant permission to paint an “All Lives Matter” mural on the street that directly leads to IU’s Sample Gates. Turning Point, USA is highly influential in national politics, and is known for its watchlists of professors and school board members.

Ryan Lally developed a summary of the petition to inform the congregation of the meeting’s outcome which was published in “Life Together.”

Templeton Elementary School – Sue Connell purchased mums and ornamental kale to beautify the sanctuary and lend support to a school on which the task force is focused.

Indiana State Legislative Decisions: The team was kept apprised of decisions made by state legislators on public education and how they will impact inequity and marginalized students as it concerns funding and curriculum, especially.

Committee Work:

In collaboration with the Outreach Committee, a home literacy program, “My First Library,” through the Monroe County United Ministries Compass Early Learning Center was supported by a generous donation. Research indicates that engagement with literary materials in the home is a strong predictor of future educational attainment. The program will provide low-income students with one book each month from April through July 2024. The books focus on topics of inclusivity, cultural and racial diversity, and character building.

In collaboration with the Stewardship Committee, the task force submitted a budget request, narrative, and testimonials in support of the Generosity Campaign.

Task Force Assessment:

Funded by the Myrtle grant, each member of the task force engaged in an “Intercultural Development Inventory,” the goal of which was to measure our personal perspective on cultural differences. Each member will meet with consultant Barbara Wilson in 2024 followed by a group discussion to consider specific goals for the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Knighton-Schwandt, chair

CLERK'S REPORT

ELDERS SERVING ON SESSION FOR 2023

Class of 2023

Linda Giedroc
Karen Hahn
Sarah Nickel
Deb Prenkert
Joel Schneider
Wes Ratliff

Class of 2024

Megan Becker
Don Hanna
Bill McGregor
Mike Riggle
Sherry Knighton-Schwandt

Class of 2025

Dan Conkle
Sue Connell
Jane Gallagher
Michael Rauh
Karen Watts

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2023

Active Members at the Beginning of the Year: 319

Gains: 23 Losses: 10

Total Active Membership at the End of the Year: 332

IN MEMORIUM

Doris Figel
Anne Honeycutt
Dotti Riggins

Sharon Rout
Ed Runden

NEW MEMBERS

Angie Antrim
Beth Compton
Karen Edwards
Bailey Fassler
Mary Grimm
Betty Hayes
Dick Hayes
Marjorie Hinton

Laura Kucera
Ray Kucera
Carla Miller
Kay Moon
Evelyn Owens
Mitchell Owens
Eydie Peacher
Cedar Rabun

Will Rabun
Lynn Schenck
Rosalie Smith
Arch Voris
Angel Wang
Vera Weber
Todd Wright

BAPTISMS

Margot Edith Grimm

Quentin Thomas Owens

Respectfully submitted
Tom Gardner, Clerk of Session

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

ONB Primary	
General Fund	\$ (2,180.32)
Special Funds	<u>127,516.28</u>
Total ONB Primary	\$125,335.96
ONB Reserve	\$144,210.27
ONB Parking Lot	56,239.32
New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund	<u>95,064.31</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$420,849.86</u>

LIABILITIES

Restricted Funds	
Prepaid Pledges	\$ 54,174.19
Special Funds (Fund Balances)	127,516.28
Long-term Property	<u>14,400.00</u>
Total	\$141,916.28
Parking Lot Mortgage	<u>145,953.37</u>
Total Restricted Funds	\$342,043.84
Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$132,980.21</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$420,849.86</u>

Gain/Loss Report

	Income	Budget
Pledge	\$519,997.76	\$599,419.00
Plate	4,712.85	5,000.00
Building	13,415.93	18,000.00
Miscellaneous	28,159.05	10,000.00
Interest	<u>13.79</u>	<u> </u>
Total	\$ 566,299.38	\$632,419.00

	Expense	Budget
Mission & Outreach	\$ 26,810.62	\$ 29,260.00
Payroll	390,795.97	422,941.00
Programs	30,476.33	39,000.00
Property	102,071.21	112,219.00
Office & Administration	26,503.09	28,999.00
Miscellaneous	7,468.88	0.00
Bank Charges	<u>551.83</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$584,677.93	\$ 632,419.00

Expense Exceeds Income	\$ -18,378.55	\$ 0.00
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Note: FPC received funds in the amount of \$69,722.09 that were passed through to support programs such as the Heifer Market, Joy Offering, etc. and for payments for the Parking Lot Mortgage. These funds are not reflected in the statements above.

Respectfully submitted:
Mary McClellan, Treasurer

Life at First Presbyterian Church



Decorating the Church for Christmas



Men's Breakfast



Luncheon with the women of Second Baptist and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church



Downtown Halloween Trick or Treat



Music Students dancing for the FPC Mission trip to Posoltega, Nicaragua



Unstuffing the bus filled with food for the Area 10 food pantry



Faith Forum



Generosity Campaign Luncheon



West Virginia Mission Trip Team



West Virginia Mission Project



Christian Men's Retiree Group



Pancake Breakfast