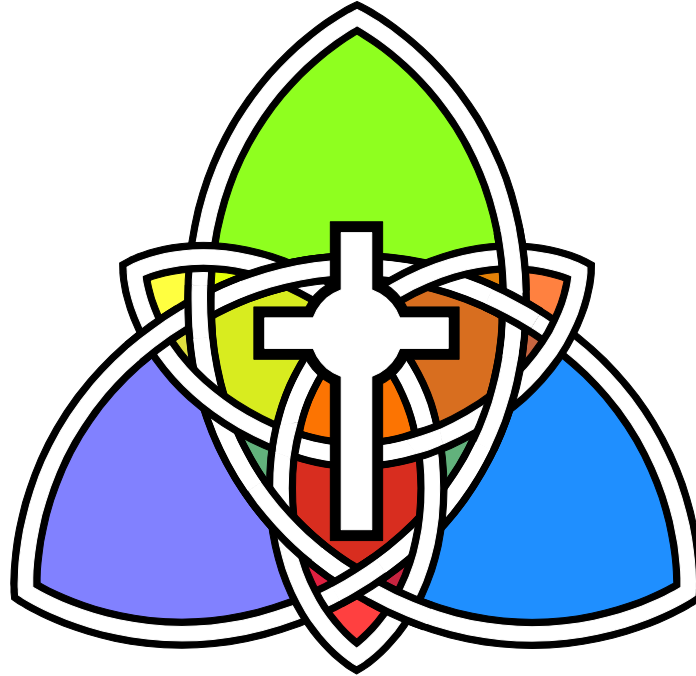


*ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION*

January 1—December 31, 2021

Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 30, 2022



*Worship Grow Serve*

*A nurturing community in Jesus Christ  
reflecting God's love for the world  
as we Worship, Grow and Serve.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—NEWARK  
292 WEST MAIN STREET  
NEWARK, DE 19711

WEBSITE: [www.firstpresnewark.org](http://www.firstpresnewark.org)  
EMAIL: [fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org)

## **Foreword**

In this congregational report, our committees and leaders provide summaries of church accomplishments during 2021. These summaries are great testaments to the dedication of our members who, in voice and deed, further the work of our church and its mission. I believe you will agree with me that the accomplishments are most laudable. The summaries also relate the issues encountered this past year, primarily caused by the pandemic. I applaud the resilience shown by our church community to forge ahead despite the obstacles that we have encountered. I encourage you to read the summaries. I believe you will find inspiration and encouragement that our church's work goes on and is filled with great opportunities to serve the Lord.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric

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## PASTOR'S REPORT



Dear Friends,

Thanks to everyone for the support and care I have felt from all of you. And I gratefully acknowledge all the efforts that have been put forward to keep the church running and bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the community.

I started in March and immediately we headed into Lent and Easter. Larry Peterson joined us on the organ prior to Easter and the Praise Team, as always, supplied much of the music and the Easter season went well. During the fall, much to the joy of everyone, we welcomed back the choir, which began to sing and again bless us with their musical gifts and talent. I also want to thank our office administrator, Cindy Rogers, for both her institutional knowledge and willingness to go the extra mile in the work that is before us. Also, because of the work of many individuals of the church, we were able to broadcast all the services live on YouTube so that those who could not join us physically were able to be with us online. During the year church attendance has also grown averaging over 100 in December.

As I have thought about my own message to the congregation, I feel truly fortunate to be associated with a church that exhibits great friendship and dedication to the community and its members. Our church has a long and rich history of serving the Newark area community. We are blessed with facilities and assets that provide great opportunity and promise. However, as your interim pastor for almost a year, I would be remiss in not bringing some of my observations and concerns to your attention. I believe these concerns, if not addressed, affect the sustainability of the future of the First Presbyterian Church of Newark, which we deeply love. I ask that you pray and think about these concerns.

In June, training was held for Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. And in October we held a 6-hour session retreat to study church structure, identify challenges facing the church, and look toward the future. As we look to the future, we will begin the program of Vital (a program of the Presbyterian Church USA) that will help us address the 7 points of a vital congregation:

Lifelong discipleship formation, Intentional authentic evangelism, Outward focus of Christ's love for the world, Empower servant leadership, Spirit-inspired worship, and Caring relationships.

(For greater detail: <https://pres-outlook.org/2021/12/7-marks-of-vital-congregations/>)

As I arrived it was clear that Westminster House was in a state of crisis. People were sleeping, living, and smoking in the house at

night. The trustees and the session took on the job of installing an enhanced security system to ensure the safety of the facility, the recovering community, and assure access only at proper times. There are still many challenges to be addressed at Westminster including a new roof and a failing fire suppression system which will soon need to be addressed.

Perhaps the greatest challenge with Westminster House is its future. It is our largest mission and outreach activity. However, its operation and our relationship with its various groups needs a serious overhaul. Also, in an atmosphere of long-term constrained financial resources and a smaller church membership, can the Church support Westminster at the current funding level and provide active church member participation in managing the facility? Especially when faced with several large expenses for the physical building as well? Our budget for 2022 fully supports its activities, but this level of support may not be sustainable indefinitely.

Working with all the committees and groups of the church has been a wonderful and challenging experience for me. Often, we can have up to 8 to 10 meetings in a week which can be very time consuming. There have been quite a few funerals as well. However, this has been an excellent way to get to know the way this congregation does its work, yet it also provided insight as to how diluted our leadership efforts have become due to declining membership.

Over the last 12 years, church membership has shrunk from 501 members to 256. At the same time the congregation has aged, with most of the congregation over 75 years old. This has put a great strain on filling the current church's administrative structure (elders, deacons, trustees, finance, legacy and investments, worship, music planning team, PW, adult education, children's learning, vitality, and Westminster House board). This is the largest structure I have ever experienced. This structure was created in 2010 when membership was much larger. Trying to find a way forward, while being able to do the work of the church with an aging congregation, will be part of the planning that all the church leaders will need to take on. It is essential that we find ways to better utilize our scarce people resources and find efficiency in decision-making.

As an example, the nominating committee was asked in late September to fill two partial term vacancies for the deacons and one for an elder. It took nearly 3 months and many meetings to find members of the church that could fill these positions. As we head into the new year, there will be more positions to be filled for trustees, deacons, and all the other committees and organizations of the church. We will also need to form a Mission Review Committee as part of calling a new pastor, and ultimately need to form a Pastoral Nominating committee. With the organizational structure the church has in place, it will be very difficult to fill all the positions that will be needed to continue the work of the church. Given our church size, it is essential to streamline our functions and administrative structure.

I have also observed that policy direction and decision-making is not always understood by our members. I need to point out that the PCUSA constitution states that Session has these responsibilities--not the pastor or other person in a position of influence. Consequently, and as expressed to me by various member, there are issues that were not addressed nor even brought to Session's attention. On behalf of Session, I want to assure you that Session takes its responsibilities seriously and is fully prepared to make decisions. As a church body, we all need to support these decisions recognizing, as Presbyterians, we are pledged to unity and support of policy and decisions even though we may personally not agree. That said, Session should not work in a vacuum. It needs unencumbered input from its members and committees and wants to hear your views. Session wants to be transparent and be informed but needs your assistance by making direct contact through Session elders, by writing, or by attending a Session meeting.

Finally, I believe that the greatest challenge for this church is to work together to enhance our Sunday worship service experience. For 10 years the church had two separate services, one more contemporary and the later service was more traditional. During this time, both services experienced a decrease in attendance. When COVID hit the church moved to one service at 10:00am which made it possible to go live on YouTube. As the two services were brought together, there have been, understandably, some strong feelings expressed

concerning the structure and content of our worship service. It is as if two different congregations met at different times in the same building.

In this regard, some members feel that the church can only grow with a traditional service and others with a contemporary service. I profoundly believe that God is challenging the good people of this church to work together to find a balance between traditional and contemporary points of view. In the Gospel of Mark 3:25, Jesus states, "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." The Apostle Paul speaks of a congregation as the body of Christ on earth. For Paul each member of the body is essential for healthy working of the body. This is a challenging time for all churches. Currently, we truly need to learn to work together to find a constructive and harmonious way for this church to move into the future. I believe we will soar like an eagle when we work together to create worship for our Lord. I also believe that we will be like a bird with a broken wing unable to leave the ground if we do not learn this lesson.

This coming year is going to be full of challenges as we go through the process of preparing for a permanent pastor. The process prescribed by our denomination is that a church goes through a period of self-evaluation and discernment of its future. As previously mentioned, we will be using Vital Congregations to fulfill this requirement. This process will help us to collectively address these issues. They are not easily addressed however they are not unsurmountable. With God's grace and guidance, our church will be

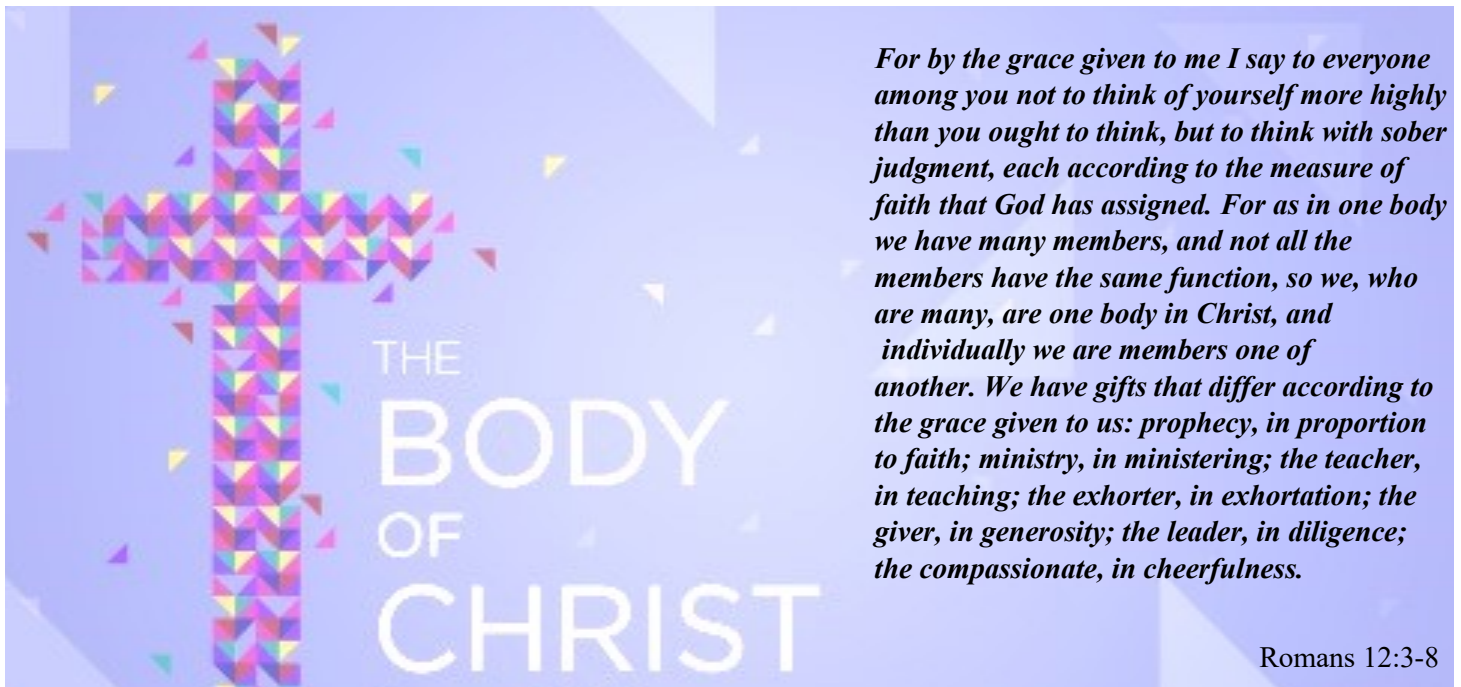
stronger. I look forward to being with you as we undertake the challenges.

In closing, this is a wonderful church filled with amazing and very talented people. The many different committees, boards, and organizations of the church have shown great strength and resilience through a second year of the COVID pandemic that is sweeping across the world. It has been a difficult year, filled with formidable challenges and surprises, both good and bad. Many people, not just those in our

congregation, but across the world, are exhausted by this relentless virus that is straining every aspect of our lives. And yet, in the middle of it all, we have been able to continue to worship the Lord and find joy together on Sunday morning. Well done good and faithful servants – says our Lord!

In the love of Our Living Savior,  
Jesus Christ,

Pastor Eric



*For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.*

Romans 12:3-8

# SESSION AND THE MINISTRIES OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—NEWARK

## *Clerk's Report*

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Nancy Lewis

This year has been a difficult year for the Church because of the challenges we have faced during the Corona Virus pandemic. Pastor Steve Brundage began a well deserved retirement., and we transitioned to new leadership in January.

We started the year with Rev. Dave Lovelace as our Bridge Pastor, and then welcomed the Rev Eric Markman as Interim Pastor. Session continued our efforts to support the Sanctuary Renovation Team and shared the progress of their work with the congregation through meetings and communications.

As we face the changes brought on by the COVID pandemic, our first thoughts have been ways to safeguard our congregation from the effects of the Corona Virus, and its new variants. We continue to be diligent in safeguarding worship. All participants are encouraged to wear masks while in the service.

The Session has thoughtfully determined the best ways we can continue to serve our church, and continue to be a welcoming ministry Church services have returned to 10 am on Sunday. All our services are now streamed live on YouTube, and also available for viewing later. We have found that this system is a blessing for many people who find it difficult or dangerous to attend church in person..

Session has implemented a Comment box, in the Narthex, which has generated many thoughtful suggestions. We are working on responding to them.

Rev Eric Markman held training for all Session members in June, and we also had a Session retreat in October. We were able to learn the fundamentals of a Presbyterian Elder's responsibilities, and begin the process of preparing our church to start the New Pastor process.

We plan to implement the Vital Congregations program from Presbytery to help us determine our path forward.

In October we joined with Jewish Family Services to welcome two families from Afghanistan to Newark. We have formed a Circle of Care for these families Our church members donated over \$2,000 in cash and gift cards for the two families. Other members of the Circle of Care group provide transportation, teach cultural adjustment, and gather donations for the families. It has been a very rewarding experience, and more people are invited to join our Circle of Care.

Like last year, this coming year will be a challenge for our church, but we are confident that we are thoughtfully following our promise to faithfully watch over the members of the congregation and provide for their worship, nurture and service.

## **LIST OF OFFICERS BY CLASS**

**SESSION**    **CLERK OF SESSION**—Nancy Lewis

**Class of 2022:** Nancy Lewis, Jim Newsom, Jim Pierson-Perry

**Class of 2023:** Greg Hills, Mimi Lovelace, Don Tancredi

**Class of 2024:** Melody Bock, Pat Nelson, Bob Wunder

**DEACONS**    **MODERATOR:** Jane Moore    **VICE MODERATOR:** Norma Salomon

**Class of 2022:** Judy Agnello, Jan Huckleberry, Lois Huggins, Bob Wenner

**Class of 2023:** Angela Abankwa-Opoku, Nancy Boulden, Anne Lewis, Norma Salomon

**Class of 2024:** Rosemarie Beron, Jane Moore, Pat Steele, Nancy Stevens

**TRUSTEES**    **PRESIDENT:** Ron Olson    **VICE PRESIDENT:** Ken Lewis

**Class of 2022:** Ann Ferreira, Bill Lewis, Ron Olson, Scott Sheldon

**Class of 2023:** John Bock, Francis Kwansa, Ken Lewis, Jynx Stevenson

**Class of 2024:** Jim Annett, Joe Challburg, Jerry Holt, Kern Piser

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

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### **ECCLESIASTICAL EVENTS - 2021**

#### **INFANT BAPTISMS**

Liam Isaiah Onyameba Opoku—son of Walter and Angela Abankwa Opoku—November 14, 2021

#### **IN MEMORIAM OF OUR MEMBERS**

Florence (Polly) Vaught—December 25, 2020

Betty Bergendahl—January 10, 2021

Barbara Seibert—March 25, 2021

Rebecca Wilburn—March 26, 2021

J. Philip Brighton—April 23, 2021

Joan Franklin—August 6, 2021

William Thomson—November 5, 2021



# Clerk's Report

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## NEW MEMBERS FOR 2021

### Baptism

### Transfer of Certificate

none

### Reaffirmation and Profession of Faith

Jennifer Dube

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

**Active Members as of December 31, 2020 - 290**

### **Members Gained during 2021**

Profession of Faith	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	0
Certificate of Transfer	0
All Other Gains	2
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>3</b>

### **Member Losses in 2021**

Certificate of Transfer	0
Death	7
To Heritage / Inactive Roll	0
All Other Losses	30
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>37</b>

**Total Active Member as of December 31, 2021 - 256**

**Female Active Members: 156**

**Male Active Members: 100**

The Session's policy at First Presbyterian Church (FPC-N) is to maintain on the Active Rolls all our members who have moved or retired, assisted or nursing care, and are no longer able to participate in the work and worship of the church, unless they join another church or ask to be removed. They are thus entitled to all the benefits of membership and pastoral care, and will continue to receive the Heartbeat.

### **Current Baptized Roll as of December 31, 2020 - 105**

The baptized roll includes individuals who have professed their faith in Christ but have not yet become members of the congregation. They also include the children or grandchildren of active members, as well as the children of the pastors who may have been baptized elsewhere.

### **Total adherents of First Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2021 - 361**

The Total Adherents of FPC-N is the sum of the Active Members and the Baptized Rolls.

### **Heritage Members / Inactive Members as of December 31, 2021 - 296**

Inactive members are individuals who are no longer participating in the life of FPC-N and have not established a relationship with another church, nor have they requested to be deleted from the rolls. They are entitled to pastoral care but they may not vote at Congregational Meetings.

### **Associate Members as of December 31, 2021 - 1**

Associate members are individuals who maintain their membership in their "home church" but who are given the benefits of being active members except for the right to vote at congregational meetings.

**Average Worship Attendance for 2021 - not available due do to COVID**  
(2020 Average Attendance – 152)

## *Board of Deacons*

### **Jane Moore, Moderator**

**Members:** Angela Abankwa-Opoku, Judy Agnello, Rosemarie Beron, Nancy Boulden, Nancy Lewis, Jan Huckleberry, Lois Huggins, Anne Lewis, Jane Moore, Norma Salomon, Pat Steele, Nancy Stevens, Bob Wenner.

The Board of Deacons works together to serve the members of our congregation. Deacons also interact with other groups in our church. Hence we have liaisons to Session, Human Resource Committee, Westminster Committee, and a representative on Nominating Committee. This year we've selected a Deacon to be on the church Bylaws Review Committee. A Deacon also serves as a liturgist one Sunday a month. We support our sister church in Dinanga by prayer and we recently provided financial support for urgent surgery for a woman in Pastor Tshibuabua's congregation.

We welcomed Interim Pastor Eric Markman to our meeting in April and Deacons attended Deacon training in June, led by Pastor Eric. He also leads us in a book discussion of [The Presbyterian Deacon: An Essential Guide](#) each month at our meetings. In June we started to meet again in person and we provide a zoom connection for those unable to attend.

We have been unable for much of this year to visit members in the hospital or in rehab facilities or in their homes. We have not been able to serve Home Communion but did begin to deliver flowers starting in

May. This past year, instead of delivering poinsettias at Christmas, we delivered handmade Angels by Rosemarie Beron or chocolate to members who are homebound or are in nursing homes.

Bereavement, Thinking of You, Get Well, Sympathy, and New Baby cards were sent to members to mark significant occasions.

Fellowship ordinarily is a special gift that the Deacons share with our congregation. This year, however, we were unable to provide the annual Strawberry Picnic or Harvest Festival. We are hoping to resume those fellowship activities next year starting with the Strawberry Picnic in June. We did participate in serving Punch on the Lawn this summer and we worked with Stephen Ministers to provide a "Pass the Peace" conversation time after the church service so that members could see and converse with one another from January to May.

Memorial Receptions were resumed this year and organized by the Board of Deacons. Numerous receptions took place in Memorial Hall, the largest of which was in honor of Winnie Koffenberger.

Anne Lewis organized the events and the Deacons provided cookies and helped serve and clean up.

The Board of Deacons is a caring ministry which tries to reach out to the entire congregation. We did so this year by each Deacon taking a portion of the names of congregation members and calling them on a regular basis. We shared their prayer requests with the Pastor, special concerns with the rest of the Deacons and changes in information with Cindy Rogers. Nancy Boulden took the lead in organizing the call structure and also in arranging for rides for our members needing to go to doctor appointments and medical treatments. She also took charge on behalf of the Deacons in leading the prayer group on Wednesday mornings.

Nancy and Rev. Beth Thomas started a Grief Support Group to meet Sundays after church in person and by Zoom. Together they led a Blue Christmas Service in December for those suffering loss of loved ones. All of these activities served to broaden the outreach of the Deacons to our congregation.



# Presbyterian Women

Sandy Wenner, Pam Wunder, Co-Moderators



Presbyterian Women (PW), open to all Christian women, is the largest PW in the New Castle County Presbytery (NCCP) with 63 sisters and 13 special sisters. After a year of meetings via Zoom, we were thrilled to meet in the parking lot to install new officers in June.

Five Circles meet monthly on Zoom or hybrid to study the book Always Before Me by our own Joanne Reitz Hench.

After COVID postponed our May Fair in 2020 and 2021, we came together in October for a Fall Festival and raised a record amount of money for Hope Dining Room, Newark Area Welfare, and the Newark Empowerment Center.

At our general meeting in October, Cathy Higgins and Meg Burich from NCCP gave a presentation of their Guatemala Partnership project. Throughout October, PW collected enough funds to purchase 3 cows for women served by this partnership.

A Little Food Pantry was constructed and installed along the driveway in front of Westminster House. Initially stocked by PW, it will be maintained in partnership with the community under the premise of “Take what you need; Give what you can.”

Mounds of school supplies were collected for Albert Jones Elementary School, knitters lovingly knitted prayer shawls & hats and thinking of you cards were sent to local nursing homes. We made monetary donations to our Afghan refugee families, the Networks Program, the Dinanga Computer Lab and Bibles for the Congo.

Our Christmas program, “Jesus is born, Light of the World” included light themed stories and wonderful Christmas music provided by our own Carillon Ringers and the recorder group, DeBlokFluiters.



# COORDINATING MINISTRY

## *Human Resources*

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### **Jerry Holt**

The Human Resources Committee (HR) recognizes the continuing efforts and thoughtful initiatives of our entire staff: Interim Pastor Eric Markman, Acting Handbell Director Steve Breffitt, Praise Team Music Leader Larry Benson, Sunday School Music Leader Jynx Stevenson while she filled this roll, and Office Manager Cindy Rogers, as well as the Praise Service Musicians and the Nursery Workers and all volunteers, as the church completes another year.

We continue to thank Steve Breffitt for continuing to lead our Handbell Ringers as Acting Director. Steve continues to serve as an unpaid volunteer. The Ringers regularly have an active role in the music of FPC-N and add significantly to our worship experience.

In September 2020, Choir Director and Organist Katherine Harris left us for personal reasons. During the worst of the pandemic, the Worship

and HR Committees agreed that having a replacement was not advisable. However, a search is now underway as conditions support.

Two part-time positions were added in 2021- an Office Assistant for part of the year and a Sound Technician for the worship service. A search for a part-time custodian was not successful; another attempt will be considered next year. Volunteer efforts that help avoid added hires are greatly appreciated.

Annually, HR makes budget recommendations to the Finance Committee and the Session and works with the Finance Committee to complete the Session-approved Human Resources Budget for the year.

This year, HR continued our work to assure job descriptions address current congregational needs. On a

continuing basis, the Committee works to resolve personnel issues and concerns within the church in a timely, effective manner. We welcome your feedback, comments, suggestions, and concerns regarding staff personnel.

In alphabetical order, the present committee members are Jim Annett (at large), Evelyn Hayes (at large), Jerry Holt (representing Trustees), Nancy Lewis (representing Session), Jane Moore (representing Deacons), and Jim Wilburn (at large). Interim Pastor Eric is also a member. More volunteers will be welcome.

# *Administrative Support*

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**Cindy Rogers**

**Team Members: Cindy Rogers, Chair, Bob Black, Harvey Conner, Jan Fickeissen, Jim Newsom, Matt Reyne.**

The Administrative Support Committee oversees and supports the administrative operations of the church. Under the direction of our Office Manager, Cindy Rogers, the church office prepares church reports, bulletins, and communications to the membership. The church office oversees our facility and office support contracts, purchasing of supplies and equipment, and initiating payment of bills that are then sent to the finance team.

The Administrative Support Committee also monitors the equipment needs for office operations – copiers, computer systems and wifi network, software, and audio/visual. In addition, the committee prepares and recommends administrative procedures for the church and supports the hospitality purchases for the church.

2021 continued to present us with many COVID-related challenges. We continued to offer virtual services for worshipping at home and three Zoom and multimedia platforms so church committees could continue to meet both on Zoom and in Hybrid-style meetings.

In the Summer of 2021, we began reviewing our aging computer system and network in the office. We met with computer contractors that could assist us in determining our church needs and equipment so that we would be able to meet requirements for day-to-day and long-term church operations. We contracted with a new provider, Hilyard's, who is currently in the process of working to install a new system, network and upgraded software to carry us into the future. The administrative support team is very excited about having a new system that will provide more robust and up-to-date capabilities to

the staff and members, enhanced network security, and automated records storage.

For 2021, the technology portion of our budget was stretched dramatically, but under budget, to cover the costs to make church programs successful and to allow us to upgrade existing computers and defer the additional cost of purchasing new computers for the office. We also under-spent areas for hospitality and supplies due to the building closure-for events and activities.

Cindy Roger, Office Manager, and the administrative team want you to know that your thoughts and ideas are always welcome! Please reach out to any of the committee members with suggestions that will assist us in meeting congregational, committee, and operational needs.





## **Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC)**

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**Bob Wunder**

The Church Officer Nominating Committee (COMC) found two Deacons and one Session Member to fill vacated offices in 2021.

There are no current vacancies. The CONC will begin looking for candidates to fill expiring terms in the spring.

Anyone interested in serving on Session, Deacons or Trustees should contact a member of the committee (Jackie Evers, Lois Huggins, Francis Kwansa, Nancy Lewis, Vicki Pierson-Perry, Nancy Stevens and Bob Wunder).

## **Stewardship**

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**Don Tancredi**

**The Stewardship Committee, in 2021, is composed of: Don Tancredi, chair, Jim Newsom, Jim Pierson-Perry**

The stewardship committee would like to thank everyone for their VIF pledges for 2021, and also for their continued support for all of our mission fund raisers throughout the year such as Dananga.

VIF pledges surpassed 2020 by \$87,000 with giving units increasing more contributions. We thank you for that! We are still short of having a balanced budget but are blessed by God and have faith that he will continue to guide us in making the right decisions on how to use the gifts given by you in pleasing Him.

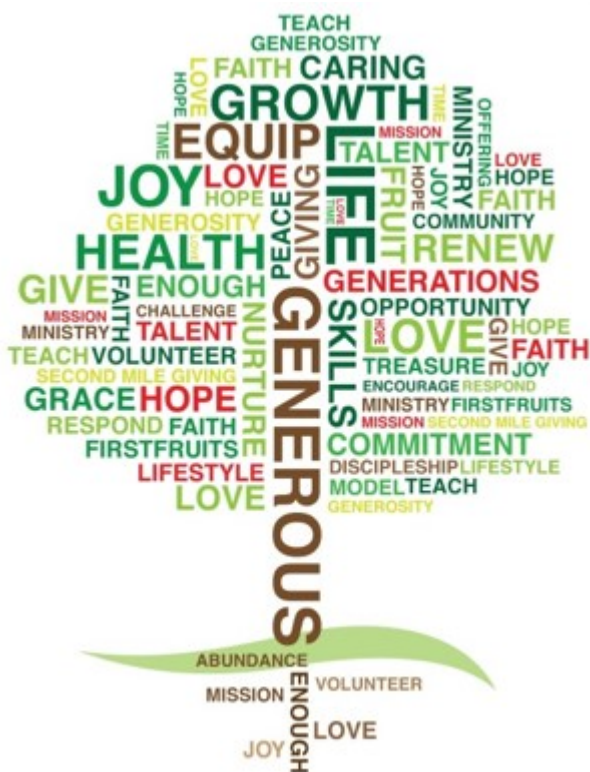
## **Strengthening FPC/ UD/Newark Community Linkages Team**

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Francis Kwansa, Evelyn Hayes,  
Ann Roybal and Pat Nelson

Francis Kwansa has led an exploration of ways FPC might provide mentoring and support to first-generation UD students. Kasandra Moye, Director, UD's Center for Black Culture, suggested that learning more about effective financial management and wealth creation strategies would meet a need for many college students. Francis Kwansa has led similar groups in the past, and in 2022 will be starting a small group involving UD students and FPC members. We are continuing our work with Leann Moore, Executive Director of The Newark Partnership, on a *Newark Community Conversations Series* planning group. Set for a hybrid launch in 2022 -- and designed to involve a variety of churches -- this series will begin with how to talk with people who disagree with you. Topics and events will focus on issues relating to diversity, equity and inclusion in our community -- including environmental justice and affordable housing.

We are keeping alert for ways we might partner in joint activities with nearby AME and Presbyterian-affiliated Black churches. We will continue to explore ways you can get involved in this work. Please let one of us know if you are interested.



# Finance

Bob Black, Treasurer / Assisted by Jim Newsom, Assistant Treasurer

**Committee Members: Bob Black, Jim Annett, Dave Berkebile, Tom Brockenbrough, Harvey Conner, Joe Huggins, Jim Newsom, and Don Tancredi. Ad Hoc member Ron Olsen, Trustee-President.**

The Finance Committee advises the Session and Ministries on all financial matters of the Church. The Committee meets each month and reviews the Church's finances and operations including:

- Income and expenses
- Financial statements
- Assets and liabilities comparisons
- Asset reconciliations
- Investments
- Treasurer's reports

The Committee also has responsibility for development and monitoring of the annual Church budget. Additionally, it evaluates project proposals from other committees for impact on the budget and recommends funding sources from our assets to Session.

**Overall, the financial condition of the Church is very sound.** Our assets are at a record level, up 90.4% from the end of 2021. As others have mentioned, 2021 remained very unusual due to COVID-19. It was a challenging year as we moved through the church's financial year. Regarding the operating budget (see page 18), the most encouraging fact was that instead of a downturn in budgeted income from our smaller membership's giving, we had a small 1.22% upturn when compared to 2020. Unfortunately, we had significant loss of income from the recovering community that uses our Westminster House facility for their programs. To keep this loss from overwhelming us, our spending, where practical, was significantly curtailed as we did in 2020.

Shown in the chart below are our six ministries which compose the expense portion of the annual budget. As you might expect our largest percentage savings was in our Learning Ministry. About 61.5% of their budget was underspent because of that program being shut down until the Fall.

Monetarily, the Coordinating Ministry is our largest ministry budgeted at \$227,550 (55% of budget). Within Coordinating, Human Resources is our largest cost element and area of savings, largely because our Choir Director – Organist position remained unfilled. Larry Peterson filled in that role starting in March. There was some minor other position-related underspending that led to the Coordinating Ministry underspending \$12,916.

The bottom-line in the five other operating ministries was under-budget spending of \$39,528. Belonging(\$1,004), Learning (\$3,154), Trustees (\$33,687), Witnessing (\$527) and Worshipping (\$1,157). (See chart)

Perhaps the greatest overall concern during any year is whether VIF (Venture in Faith) income, which lagged in 2020, would meet our expense budget needs. Usually, VIF accounts for about 75% of our income. Fortunately, this year VIF contributions were projected to be above budget for the last 70 % of the year (beyond mid-April). As stated

Expense	Jan - Dec 21	Budget	% of Budget Used	Under Spending	
<b>BELONGING MINISTRY</b>	96.00	1,100	8.73%	1,004	91.27%
<b>COORDINATING MINISTRY</b>	214,633.63	227,550	94.32%	12,916	5.68%
<b>LEARNING MINISTRY</b>	1,970.86	5,125	38.46%	3,154	61.54%
<b>TRUSTEES</b>	109,732.64	143,420	76.51%	33,687	23.49%
<b>WITNESSING MINISTRY</b>	25,766.48	26,293	98.0%	527	2.0%
<b>WORSHIPPING MINISTRY</b>	7,528.11	8,685	86.68%	1,157	13.32%
<b>Total Expense</b>	359,727.72	412,173	87.28%	52,445	12.72%

we actually exceeded 2020 VIF by \$4,122.

Because of this situation of more income than expenses for 2021, we had a net income of positive \$31,428. This positive income added to our reserves (equity) by a corresponding amount. In the 2021 budget, we had planned on using \$50,708 of anticipated (85%) reserves. However, based on actual 2021 data none was used, growing reserves from \$21,741 to \$91,070. It should be noted that in 2021 the reserves benefited from the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan program forgiveness of \$37,900 as well as a positive net income. A small portion (22.4%) of all reserves is budgeted for use in 2022 to balance 2022 expenses.

This annualized 2022 budget (see next page 18 for more detail) totals \$452,000, with an expense budget increase of \$92,227 (25.7%) over 2021 actual expenses. The estimated income budget is higher by \$60,884 (15.6%). However, it depends on balancing expenses by usage of \$20,382 only (22%) in equity usage. This is because many of the major 2022 income items are expected to be higher in 2022.

When compared to 2021 actual, the 2022 budget provides for an overall increase of \$56,159 for the Human Resources needs, it is 50.4% of the total church budget. In comparing the 2022 budget to actual 2021, one must remember for 2021 we only had a partial restoration of church services when compared to "normal times" with the Choir Director – Organist position. The 2022 budget

has a return to "normal" for the entire year. The 2022 budget includes some upward staff pay rate adjustments, and some added part-time positions as recommended by our Human Resources Committee.

A critical part of sustaining our budget is to continue supporting our mission activities, both in our local community and abroad. This includes our long tradition of supporting the recovering community through the Westminster House ministry. Our financial support for Westminster House is for utilities, custodial services, maintenance, and insurance.

As stated above, the Finance Committee remains concerned that VIF income will not keep pace with operating expenses in the future. Balancing expenses and income have been a long-standing operating principle of our Church. Although our assets are considerable, some of these assets are restricted by donors to be used for special purposes.

Hence, restricted assets cannot be fully used to support the operating budget. This creates the situation of having to use our reserves (equity) and a portion of unrestricted assets to balance the budget. In the annualized 2022 budget about 16.9% of our income comes from those reserves and unrestricted assets. These same sources provided only about 2.5% of 2021's actual income. One can see (Page 18) that our income is still predominately controlled by our VIF giving goal of \$343,200 expected to be \$2,235 (0.66%) more than 2021's actual

increased VIF amount. When compared to 2020 the VIF giving rose in 2021 by \$4,122 or 1.22%.

**Therefore, members are encouraged, if possible, to increase their level of VIF giving, so we can minimize the use of reserves (equity) and any excessive drawdown of unrestricted invested assets. This is essential as we continue to shrink in total membership.**

Total assets at the end of 2021 were \$2,776,830, a yearly increase of \$1,318,493 after the usage of assets. Most of this increase in assets is due to the Church being the recipient of a very large unrestricted bequest in July. The use of these monies is to be determined by our Session. It is from that this new bequest, named the "Ralph Jones/Carolyn Smith Fund" (Father and Daughter) that earnings of \$41,400 will be systematically withdrawn to help "balance" income with 2022 expenses through the year.

The Finance Committee has been successfully working again this year with the Legacy Gift and Investment Committee (LG&I), a Committee of Session. This committee has a separate report in this annual report. Dave Berkebille is chair of LG&I and also a member of the Finance Committee. So, first-hand communication is received at our meetings on the LG&I activities related to legacy giving, investing, and utilization of the Church's invested assets.

Last, a discussion of our indebtedness. We were forgiven for the SBA COVID-19 PPP related



loan. We have paid in full the 2014 Memorial Hall Roof replacement loan. We only have one current loan. That loan from 2017 is held by the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility at a 2.0% interest rate and is for the new Sanctuary HVAC System. The anticipated pay-off is in mid-2032 at \$13,800/yr.

The Finance Committee wants to extend its appreciation to the Congregation for continuing to

faithfully support our Church. Please remember if you want more budget detail and information to contact me **Bob Black -Treasurer**

The Finance Committee wants to extend its appreciation to Ron Olson for faithfully organizing the weekly counters and to the rest of the counting team, Steve Hardwick, Matt Reyne, Steve Breffitt, Joe Huggins, Francis Kwansa, Ann Ferreira, Kevin

Thomson, Don Tancredi and Kathy Tancredi. And to Harvey Conner for his dedicated work as the Finance Secretary.

A very special thanks goes out to Centenarian **Tom Brockenbrough** who has decided to retire from the Finance Committee. Tom has served the church in many ways over his very long and productive lifetime. His wise counsel and sage advice have been greatly appreciated.



***Thank You Tom!***

**First Presbyterian Church - Newark ~ Session Budget Comparisons**

INCOME	2021	2022		Change Comments
	Actual	Annual Budget	Increase (Decrease) from Actual 2021	
VIF				
Checks-Incl. PayPal Net 2021 (\$11,416)	330,090	332,325	2,235	
Cash	10,875	10,875	0	
Total VIF	340,966	343,200	2,235	Increase 0.66% ~ 1/2 of 2021's Increase
Agency Contributions				
Westminster House	10,116	10,290	174	
Other Agencies (Sanctuary & Mem. Hall)	2,237	1,500	(737)	
Total Agency Contributions	12,353	11,790	(563)	Decreased 4.5% User Uncertainties
Equity from Prior Years	0	20,382	20,382	Amount Required To "Balance Budget"
Interest	492	280	(212)	Interest rates continue to fall
Credit Card Rewards	1,500	1,190	(310)	Less Spending = Less rewards
Designated Endowed Income	4,826	3,950	(876)	Neutral Item - Income = Expenses
Investment Funds Earnings				
Restricted ("Beds" Landscaping)	900	900	0	
Restricted ("Newark" Mission)	3,623	3,623	0	
Unrestricted Fund Earnings (Started in 2019)	9,862	55,885	46,023	Higher Total Fund Balances
Eastman Fund (LG&I Est'd Usage Limit)	831	250	(581)	Some funding was used in 2021
Ministry Fund (LG&I Est'd Usage Limit)	6,924	2,750	(4,174)	Some funding was used in 2021
Misc Refunds	50	0	(50)	
Special Gift	7,880	7,500	(380)	Decreased 4.8% Uncertainties
Miscellaneous Income (Recovery & Memorial Gift)	950	300	(650)	Lower "Recovery" received in 2021
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>391,156.19</b>	<b>452,000</b>	<b>60,844</b>	<b>Increase 15.6%</b>
EXPENSES	Actual	Annual Budget	Increase (Decrease) from Actual 2021	Comments Change - >\$1,000
COORDINATING MINISTRY				
Stewardship	682	1,000	318	
Session & Child Safety Administration	21,746	16,992	-4,754	Lower Per Capita
Finance / Office	20,514	32,300	11,786	Extra IT cost for system upgrades
Human Resources (Personnel)	171,692	227,851	56,159	Increased Staff and Employee Rates
Total Coordinating	214,634	278,143	63,509	Increase 29.6%
BELONGING MINISTRY (Deacons)				
Bereavement & Subscriptions	96	700	604	
Emergency Fund & Fellowship	0	200	200	
Stephen Ministry - General Operational	0	0	0	
Total Belonging	96	900	804	Increase 838% Programs Restarting
LEARNING MINISTRY				
Adult Learning	603	1,500	897	
Children's Education	1,140	1,450	310	
Library	0	270	270	
Nursery	0	700	700	
Vacation Bible School	0	650	650	
Youth Council	228	1,550	1,322	Program Restarting
Total Learning	1,971	6,120	4,149	Increase 210% Programs Restarting
SUPPORTING MINISTRY (Trustees)				
Sanctuary & Memorial Hall	84,464	93,374	8,910	More Full Year Usage
Westminster House	25,269	35,670	10,401	More Full Year Usage & Upgrades
Total Trustees	109,733	129,044	19,311	Increase 17.7%
WITNESSING MINISTRY				
Church Growth	1,143	1,900	757	
Mission & Outreach	24,624	27,093	2,469	Added Dinanga School Support
Total Witnessing	25,766	28,993	3,227	Increase 12.5%
WORSHIPING MINISTRY				
Chancel Guild	839	0	(839)	
Special Services	82	350	268	
Traditional - Worship	3,037	4,450	1,413	Consolidated Two Expense Accts
Contemporary - Worship	25	0	(25)	
Worship - General	3,545	4,000	455	
Total Worshiping	7,528	8,800	1,272	Increase 16.9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>359,727.72</b>	<b>452,000</b>	<b>92,272</b>	<b>Increase 25.7%</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 31,428</b>	<b>-</b>		

# *Memorials and Bequests*

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Bob Black, Treasurer

The Memorials & Bequests Committee is currently un-chaired. **The work of the committee still continues with the support of Cindy Rogers (Office Manager), Bob Black (Treasurer), and Harvey Conner (Financial Secretary).**

Cindy currently is acknowledging each memorial contribution to the giver and to a relative of the deceased. The Treasurer maintains individual memorial records and watches out and recommends expenditures in accordance with Memorials & Bequest general guidelines. The Financial Secretary assures that transactions are recorded in the overall giving database. Jointly they work together to follow the essentials and church policy

**A chairperson of the Committee is desired to relieve workload on office staff. You could do it! A more detailed report of the activities is available from Bob Black. The yearly summary follows:**

In 2021 the only item directly funded by Memorials was \$952 for a new Audio/Video media center with a large (70") screen TV, cart, and associated cables etc. This media center was used by many groups in Memorial Hall during 2021 and many more are expected to use it in the future.

Most of these funds were provided by the Rebecca (Becky) Wilburn fund which fully depleted that

account. The remaining portion of the expense was withdrawn from the undesignated general account. That account which holds all previous (2020 and earlier) gifting that was not identified for a specific purpose was updated last in early 2021. Those memorial accounts which added monies during 2021 and with no designated purpose will, by this same practice, be transferred to the same undesignated general holding account in early 2022.

Additionally, it should be noted that there were earlier monies gifted for two persons totaling \$650. These funds were transferred during 2021 from memorial accounts to Special Funds on our Balance Sheet at the request of the donors or a surviving family member. Transferred to Friends of Music was \$175. The remainder (\$475) was directed into the Carillon Ringers account.

The bottom line, in early 2022, is that there will be only two continuing designated funds with monies totaling \$700 that will be active. The rest of the monies will be in the undesignated general holding account totaling \$6,816.

The names of the nine persons for which memorial funds were received in 2021 in alphabetical order were: Philip Brighton, Sharon Camac, Priscilla Crowder, Joan Franklin, Winifred (Winnie) Koffenberger, Robert McAlpine, William Raker, Thordis Searl, and Rebecca (Becky) Wilburn.

In regard to the following bequests that have been on the monthly treasurer's reports, including the December 2021 report that will be posted in the Narthex in mid-January:

The only active pseudo bequest-like account is from the Barbara Banks estate of \$10,000 of undesignated funds in 2021. This account is discussed in more detail in the Legacy Gifts & Investments Committee report (page 20). Simply stated, in early 2022 these funds will be assigned to the undesignated General Investment Fund and be removed from the monthly balance sheet reporting.

The other active pseudo bequest listed account at yearend 2021 is the Ralph Jones (Adjustment). These monies \$9,990 are really assets that were received as the closeout of the Ralph Jones /Carolyn Smith estate account from Wells Fargo. These funds will be assigned to the R. Jones/C. Smith undesignated Fund also in early 2022. It also will be removed from the monthly balance sheet of the treasurer's report. Monitoring of these monies in 2022 will be the responsibility of the Legacy Gifts & Investments Committee.

# Legacy Gifts and Investments

Dave Berkebile

Committee members are: **Dave Berkebile, Committee Chair, Sandy Boyce, Francis Kwanza, Marianne Piser and Mark Sisk.**

The status of the funds on December 31, 2021 is as follows:

## Funds managed by FPC-N

### Summary Report for Legacy Gifts & Investment Funds:

Value at the start of 2021: \$1,225,332.63  
Amount gifted during 2021: \$939,990.39  
Amount spent during 2021: \$30,603.81  
Earned during 2021: \$301,846.97  
Value at the end of 2021: \$2,502,642.15

During 2021 two Legacy Gifts were received by FPC-N. The first of these gifts was the Jones/Smith Fund from a trust set up by Ralph Jones for the benefit of his daughter Carolyn Smith and left by Carolyn for the benefit of FPC-N. The second was a gift from the estate of Barbara Banks. The church is very grateful for the generosity of these church members who included of the church in their financial planning. It is because of gifts such as these that FPC-N is able to continue our support for the missions we have chosen.

Jones/Smith Fund	\$996,066.36
General Investment Fund	\$685,636.15
Koffenberger Ministry Fund	\$150,153.82
Gliwa Physical Property Fund	\$145,831.60
Searl Local Missions Fund	\$124,879.60
Gliwa Future Development Fund	\$89,774.85
FP Church Fund	\$63,595.95
Searl Landscaping Fund	\$30,944.35
Eastman Fund	\$15,265.16
Banks Fund	\$10,000.00

## Funds Managed by the Presbyterian Foundation

Koffenberger Outreach Endowment	\$102,445.85
Koffenberger Permanent Endowment	\$88,048.46

Some of these funds have restrictions on how we can use the monies generated by the funds, but the majority of the funds are not restricted. Neither of the new funds (Jones/Smith gift and the Banks gift) have restrictions on what part of our FPC-N budget we can spend monies from these funds. Information on restrictions have been detailed in previous annual reports.

The LG&I Committee recommended the use of \$34,091.69 in the budget for 2021 from the funds we control. For the 2022 budget we have recommended \$75,491.69 be used from the funds we control.



# LEARNING MINISTRY

## *Adult Christian Education*

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### **Melody Bock**

Under Melody Bock's leadership, the Adult Learning Committee soldiered on in the pandemic.

The Adult Learning Committee is composed of Melody Bock (President), Marian Bowen (secretary), Jim McNeely, JoAnne McNeely, Barbara Winter, Dave Lovelace and Phyllis Sisk.

In the winter and spring, we offered two courses. Virtual classes were held with Zoom. The study was held on Sunday evenings. The first class was "Job, A Story of Unlikely Joy" by Lisa Harper. The next class was during Lent; it was Adam Hamilton's "24Hours That Changed the World". After Lent, Dr. Culley (a retired Classics professor at University of Delaware) taught:

- The Pool of Bethesda
- The Galilee Boat
- Apologetics 101 (existence of God, nature of causality, evidence of design, uniqueness of Christianity)
- Messiah in Prophecy (examples of many such in the Old Testament)
- Word Search (the complexity of DNA such that each molecule can be read on multiple levels to provide instructions for making protein)
- Solomon's Splendor (archaeological evidence that the biblical claims of his wealth are well founded)

Using the fall/winter course material "The Ordinary Ways of God: Inside the Book of Ruth" by David H. Roseberry. This class has been led by a combination of

Pastor Eric, Melody Bock, and David Lovelace.

We are looking for a teacher to lead a study addressing the issue of how Jesus would live and would want us to live our lives in today's world as a Christian with a particular emphasis on racial and social injustice. If you are interested in leading such a class, please contact a member of the Adult Learning Committee.

There were no special theater outings (e.g., Sight & Sound's Queen Esther) this year because of the pandemic. Future theater events will be initiated by the Vitality Committee.

Respectfully Submitted by JoAnne McNeely

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## *Boy Scout Program*

**Matt Reyne, Chartered Organization Representative**

The Boy Scout Program of First Presbyterian Church overcame many difficulties in 2021. Troop 56 continued to have weekly Troop meetings and monthly Adult Committee meeting via Zoom. The Scouts participated in a number of outdoor service projects during the Summer months and even went to Summer Camp while observing all applicable COVID-19 safety protocols.

Troop 56 indoor meetings resumed in October with 15 Scouts and 3 Adult Leaders again while observing all applicable COVID-19 safety protocols. The Cub Pack meeting did not resume again in the Fall as only 5 families have expressed interest. Almost everyone continues to be concerned about spread of the virus in large group setting.



The Boy Scout Program at First Presbyterian Church - Newark finally completed the 77<sup>th</sup> year of providing a traditional and relevant learning experiences for young girls and boys. First Presbyterian Church – Newark has re-chartered Cub Pack 56 and Troop 56 for the year 2022 and is looking forward to the resumption of a normal full program of activities by mid-year 2022.

# *Children's Education*

**Greg Hills and Darlene Newsom Co-Chairs**

Sunday School for Kindergarten through Grade 5 opened in mid-October after a long closure because of the COVID pandemic. COVID safety precautions have been in place such as social distancing, wearing masks, and new air purifiers in each room used. In addition, all teachers and assistants have shown proof of COVID vaccinations, have passed a background check, and agreed to the church's Child & Youth Safety Policy.

Sunday School meets every Sunday, from 10-11am, during the worship service in the Lower Sanctuary. Sunday School has a new look. There is one class with two teachers and one assistant each Sunday.

Sunday School starts with a prerecorded video message from Pastor Eric, who introduces the lesson. Next, we break into younger and older groups for the Bible lesson followed by a discussion and then accompanying activities.

One activity the children have been working on is greeting cards. During October and November, the children made Thanksgiving cards and in December they made Christmas cards. The cards were sent to our members who are not able to come to church.

The children took a lot of pride in completing their holiday cards and enjoyed the feeling of doing something for others.

We continue to use the PC(USA) curriculum, Growth in Grace and Gratitude. This curriculum encourages children to not only learn Biblical stories but also think about how the lessons apply to their lives.

The Children's Learning Committee includes:

Greg Hills and Darlene Newsom-  
Co-chairs

Pam Wunder

Faithe Koser

Ann Roybal

Carol Olson

Janet Belles

Ann Ferreira

Rosemarie Beron

Mimi Lovelace

Sandy Wenner

Peggy Hester

Jennifer Bedford



## *Board of Trustees*

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### **Ron Olson, President**

**Trustee are Jim Annett, John Bock, Joe Challburg, Ann Ferreira, Jerry Holt, Francis Kwansa, Bill Lewis, Ken Lewis, Ron Olson, Kern Piser, Scott Sheldon and Jynx Stevenson.**

The trustees remain busy maintaining and running the church facilities.

We thank Don Tancredi for volunteering to help us as the Facilities Manager and working on contracts as we move into a period of renovation in both the sanctuary and Memorial Hall.

This year we were forced by the state COVID policies to shut down Westminster Hall to the recovering

community, which brought to light security issues that we have been overlooking. To rectify this we replaced the entry door with autolocking system using key fobs for entry. This gives the office complete control of Westminster's access. We also added new cameras inside and out, with motion detectors in every room an night. All emergency doors now have exit alarms.

We continue to stay busy at Westminster House and in the sanctuary in our continued effort to improve energy efficiency by moving to LED lighting.

I also wish to thank all the people involved in both the spring and fall

cleaning. Thanks to all who were there and a special thanks to the scouts and other young people **and** their leaders and parents that helped to made these events so successful. We also want to thank Scott Sheldon who acquired blue stones from Steve Brundage before he moved and with the help Rudy's Landscaping team has given us a new walkway between the Sanctuary and Westminster.

With an eye to future with the help of many other groups, we have rewired Memorial Hall to support a network that allows for more events and groups to use "Zoom". This is also part of a total network upgrade.

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## *Westminster Management*

### **John Bock, President**

Westminster House continues to make a difference in the lives of the men and women who attend meetings for help and support of themselves and to help others with their recovery. It remains a success due to the continued support of our Session, Trustees and the Westminster Management Board for what is our largest mission for this Church. We have about 40 different groups, with over 200 meetings every month. These groups include Gambler's Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and support for the families affected by these

abuses. There are other groups for gambling, overeating, depression, anxiety, and for help, support and understanding for families who have lost a loved one through suicide and drug use.

Due to COVID and the building closures, Westminster House groups began holding their meetings via Zoom. Fortunately we were able to complete some critical security upgrades within the building which gave us the infrastructure and controls so meetings have restarted. We are back to supporting the full range of in-person meetings.

In addition, toward the end of 2021, the State of Delaware identified COVID relief funds for Not For Profit organizations. We identified several critical improvements/projects for Westminster House and submitted a request to the State fund these items. We are hopeful our request will be granted and we can fund and implement these essential projects for Westminster House in 2022.

## *Mission & Outreach*

Sarah Huckleberry, Jim Annett and Bob Black

The Mission and Outreach Committee is an umbrella group for the mission work done by many people at First Presbyterian Church. A primary function of the committee is to distribute funds designated for mission through the Venture in Faith budget for local mission and the Congo, as well as several special funds. The committee also distributes earnings received from a number of permanent endowments dedicated to the mission work of the church.

Through contributions made by church members, Mission and Outreach was able to provide financial support to Newark Empowerment Center (go-bags pictures below), Habitat for Humanity, Meeting Ground, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Newark Area Welfare. This year because of the posthumous generosity of Thordis Searl, we have been able to continue our generous financial support to our local partners.

We sent funds several times to support our Congo partnership with the Dinanga Church. We aided the Good Shepherd Hospital in Kanan-

ga through our regular giving to the Medical Benevolence Foundation of the Presbyterian Church.

We held three special offerings, One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter, the Peace and Global Witness offering in October, and the Christmas Joy offering. The Peace offering was collected on World Communion Sunday.

Mission & Outreach sponsored the Alternative Gift Market again this year. The congregation's support was wonderful. Currently our calculations for the Alternative Gift Market is \$2,620 but that is not finalized. The organizations thank you!

Internationally, we supported the school of the Dinanga Church, our sister church, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo when we collected money in the fall for the beginning of the school year. We are helping them plan and raise funds for a computer lab for their school. A computer lab would enable many young people to pursue higher education, high school and college. A big push was made this year and we have

collected \$12,941 for the lab project. We especially thank the youth group for their generous \$6,000 donation to the cause.

We continued to support Bob and Kristi Rice in South Sudan. We kept on supporting our mission co-workers; Dennis and Maribel Smith in Argentina and Doug Dicks from Israel-Palestine.

Our church remains involved in Code Purple but we did not host this year due to COVID. Many of the area homeless are instead being housed in a local hotel.

The first Saturday breakfast program has hopes to resume after COVID is over.

We are very thankful for the many members who generously support the mission work of our church. Many members of church give generously of their time and money to the following organizations, Hope Dining Room, Meeting Ground, Newark Area Welfare, and Newark Empowerment Center. The members of our church continue to support those in the most need as seen by the kindness of their donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Please remember if you want a full fiscal break-down of our church's Mission and Outreach to any organization supported in 2021 you may contact **Bob Black - Treasurer**



Members of FPC-N Assembling 200 go-bags for the Newark Homeless.



# Local Mission Partners

## Habitat for Humanity New Castle County



Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical, grassroots Christian ministry with the goal of eliminating poverty housing. Unwilling to accept the fact that millions of people live without adequate shelter, Habitat challenges individuals, churches, companies, foundations, and other organizations to join in partnership with the poor, to change the conditions in which they live. Houses are built or renovated using as much volunteer labor and donated materials as possible. They use the concept of "Biblical economics" and sell the house to a family in need (too poor to secure a bank loan) with no profit and no interest. The cost of the house is repaid over a fixed time; these payments are then recycled to build more houses. The homeowners are required to participate in the construction of their own new home to help other prospective homeowners build their houses.

## Hope Dining Room

The Hope Dining Room is a response to the human need for food served with dignity. We offer help to those in need. All who are hungry and in need of a hot meal can come to the Hope Dining Room. We will ask no questions. Only God can judge a person's true need. The Hope Dining Room is simply an instrument of His power and grace. The Hope Dining Room is located in the social room of the Kingswood United Methodist Church on Marrows Road and Brookside Boulevard in Newark, Delaware. A noon meal is served every weekday from 12 to 1 PM.



## Newark Area Welfare Committee



## Newark Area Welfare Committee

Newark Area Welfare Committee is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to being a good neighbor to those in our own area who are in need. They maintain a food closet that provides a family with a week's supply of food. They provide emergency assistance for necessities such as rent or utilities, or a motel for temporary housing. They provide shoes for children and adults. At Christmas, boxes containing a frozen turkey with canned and fresh food for a family for a week are distributed. Val's Needy Family Fund is a part of NAWC and provides food for the hungry throughout the year. Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at Newark United Methodist Church. Please join us.

## Newark Empowerment Center

A collaboration ministry of the Friendship House in the Newark Homeless Coalition, the center is committed to find the best means possible to assist the homeless in our Newark area. The center, located at United Methodist Church, 69 East Main St., is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 PM. It is staffed by the Friendship House professionals and volunteers from over 20 Newark faith communities.



## Meeting Ground



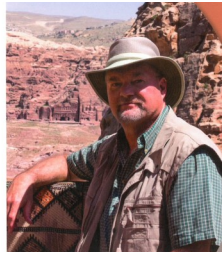
Meeting Ground is a faith-based organization that has responded to the needs of homeless people in Maryland and Delaware since 1981. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness will find temporary 'safe haven' in our services. Using faith-based values, our guests can regroup and get their lives back in order with the help and support of a caring community.

## Mission Co-Workers

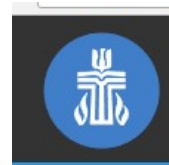
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**Rev. Bob and  
Kristi Rice**  
*Serving Christ  
together in South  
Sudan*



**Doug Dicks**  
*Serving Christ in  
Israel  
and Palestine*



Bob and Kristi serve alongside partners in ministry in South Sudan. Bob teaches theology and ethics at Nile Theological College, training future pastors and leaders. Kristi serves as economic development advisor for community development projects of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. They are encouraged that the church in South Sudan seeks to be a light for Christ and a voice for peace in the midst of suffering and conflict. Bob and Kristi seek to empower and encourage the churches in South Sudan in living out the gospel and ministering holistically to their communities. They are based in Juba, South Sudan.

Doug facilitates relationships between PC(USA) congregations and the church's mission partners in Israel and Palestine, and he resources Presbyterian groups who visit the region. He cultivates connections that encourage Middle Eastern Christians and inspire U.S. Presbyterians. Following the Prince of Peace, Christians in the Middle East work tirelessly for reconciliation and render valuable service to people of all faiths. In his role, Doug says he strives to express the broader Christian calling to "employ the unique gifts, talents, and skills that we possess to further God's reign here on earth." He draws strength from the Presbyterian commitment to "Christ's ministries of teaching, healing, and evangelizing and the church's faithfulness to Christ's example of advocacy for the impoverished, the hungry, and the oppressed."

To learn more about Presbyterian Mission Workers, visit:  
[www.pcusa.org/worldmission](http://www.pcusa.org/worldmission)

# *Our Sister Church—Dinanga Parish*

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**Jim Annett**

FPCN has been engaged with our sister church this year with spiritual and financial support. We have been exchanging prayer requests with each other and we have provided financial support to assist with expenses for the school needs, tuition assistance for some students, church needs (including musical instruments, new chairs, communion, and Sunday school materials), assistance to widows and for famine relief and natural disasters, and other expenses.

Pastor Tshibuabua has described the following as some ideas on future prospects for our thoughts:

1. For the Dinanga school:
  - a. Complete the office annex for the secondary school.
  - b. Provide more assistance to teachers.
  - c. Make the Dinanga School very strong regardless of the competition with other schools.
  - d. Incorporate the school into and be supported by the Congolese State school system.
  - e. Realization of the computer lab project at Dinanga School, which will hopefully include a section for cutting and sewing machines for the training of young women and mothers.
2. For the Dinanga Church:
  - a. Construction of the office annex to the Church with some money from the general support of FPCN and local contributions.
  - b. Secure the church with metal doors to protect property (chairs, music instruments, etc)
  - c. Reorganize Sunday school for children, revitalize groups of young people, and the training of Sunday school monitors within the parish.
  - d. Organize refresher training sessions for capacity building (quarterly) of session members, Deacons, women, youth, lay, choir, evangelism and development leaders.
  - e. Renewal of work manuals and Christian literature for the above-mentioned groups.
  - f. Provide the church with a large quantity of Tshiluba Presbyterian songbooks.
  - g. Lobbying with the politico-administrative authorities in the fight against rain induced erosion, which threatens our neighborhood with huge ditches and loss of land.
3. For Improka (the printing company in Kananga):
  - a. Completion of the Tshiluba Bible project. Funds (\$50,000) have been sent by the New Castle Presbytery to the South Korean publisher for 5,000 Bibles in the Tshiluba language for distribution throughout the CPC denomination.
  - b. In conjunction with the Tshiluba Bible project, printing Christian literature, in the sectors of Christian education (young people, laities, women, children, etc.)
4. About my family
  - a. Need prayers for my new married life and two children's successes in college studies.
5. For the Kananga Presbytery:
  - a. The ambition to acquire land for the new parishes, the construction of the temples and the office of the Presbytery.
6. For our country, the D R Congo:
  - a. Need for prayer for peace in the east of the country
  - b. The improvement of the social conditions of the Congolese people

## *Hope Dining Room*

### **Willee Short**

Hope Dining Room has been able to weather the COVID epidemic. With masks, hats and gloves we take turns feeding 30 to 45 people each month. We serve them our hot “Presbyterian Pasta”, salad, roll, piece of fruit and dessert in a bag to be eaten at home. Only 5 people are permitted in the kitchen, so we take turns each month. The clients are very grateful and are always thanking our church for helping out during this difficult time.

We wrapped socks and 40 hats knit by Rosemarie Beron (we are a very grateful group, thanks, Rosemarie) and the few socks that were left over

we took to the Empowerment Center as we do with leftover food. We spent \$981.26 on food this year ( \$81.77 per month). That was much less because we have fewer people. Our contributions were also down because we had money left from the previous year and had no financial needs.

Members of our team are:  
Stephanie Birdsall, Greg Hill, Kathleen Jolly, Jane McAlpine, Janet Myers, Vickie and Jim Pierson -Perry, Willee and Paul Short, Pat Steele

Our thanks to this dedicated group of people who always serve with a big smile and bring happiness to our clients.



## *Helping Hand*

### **Sheila Anderson, Steve Hardwick, and Jynx Stevenson**



### *Food for the Hungry, Hope for the Homeless*

Helping Hand is a longstanding activity of First Presbyterian Church that collects groceries for several local agencies that provide food and/or shelter to those in need in our community. We are currently collecting for three agencies. Meeting Ground’s Wayfarer’s House, located in Elkton, provides transitional residential shelter services for women and single parents with children experiencing a period of homelessness.

Newark Area Welfare food closet maintains a well-stocked food cupboard at the Newark United Methodist Church that serves people in need in the community.

Kingswood Methodist maintains a food closet, which provides food to families in the community, as well as clients of Hope Dining Room. Despite an erratic schedule in 2021, due to the pandemic, the committee restarted regular collections in September. The last 3 collections in 2022 averaged 25 bags of groceries, which was comparable to pre-pandemic levels. Over the course of 2022, the congregation donated \$1852.50 in cash and checks to the three agencies Helping Hand supports. These monetary donations are often used by the agencies to purchase perishable items (milk, bread, etc.) that are impractical to collect.

We would like to thank all the people who have made donations over the course of the year. We also want to thank Cindy Rogers, who has helped us with notices in the bulletin, notices in the Communicator, provided bins for collections outside the office, and provided leadership and direction when it was needed.

We appreciate your continued support in 2022.

## *Worship*

**Carol Olson**

The current members of the Worship Committee are: Jim Annett, Larry Benson, Steve Breffitt, Interim Pastor Eric Markman, Carolyn Morton, Carol Olson (Chair), Jim Pierson-Perry, Cindy Rodgers, Norma Salomon, and Don Tancredi. We thank Carol Aftosmis for her many years of leadership and dedication as the past Chair of the Worship Committee. May God be with you.

Our church is currently in a transitional period, including our worship experiences. 2021 started out with Pastor Dave Lovelace as our Bridge Pastor after Pastor Steve Brundage's retirement. Pastor Eric Markman joined us as our Interim Pastor in March. Larry Peterson returned part-time in April to play the organ and also restarted the chancel choir in September.

Session recently reaffirmed that we will continue with our combined worship service format, utilizing all musical and liturgical groups as appropriate to best support the weekly message.

Going forward, we are actively seeking a permanent choir director and organist. Depending on the applicants, it may be one combined position or two separate ones. For now, Larry will continue to direct the choir while Sue Fuhrman will take over on the organ.

We restarted communion by intinction in November but returned to use of individual elements due to the recent uptick in COVID cases. Despite all this, our worship services have continued without pause and the church's spiritual needs have been met. Thanks be to God!

Worship services continue to be available as video recordings through our church's YouTube channel. This capability was expanded in March to add livestreaming, so that remote viewers may watch services in real time. More recently, this option was made available for other sanctuary-

based events such as funerals, baptisms, PW programs, etc. and has been well received. The AV work is supported by our AV Tech Matt Bowen and a newly formed team of volunteer videographers: John Bock, Dave Evers, Ted Koser, and Jeff Rogers. We thank them for enabling expanded outreach of our services and events to those unable to attend in person, as well as those who may be looking for a church to attend.

A final upgrade to the AV system was completed in December with installation of a new speaker system to significantly improve audio quality and clarity throughout the sanctuary. Through use of local resources and donations, we were able to complete this work for a fraction of the original cost estimate by a major vendor.

The Praise Band expanded this year with addition of Trevor Boulden (vocals), Griff Campbell (guitar and drums), Kern Piser (vocals), and Myles Thompson (vocals and piano). In addition to the Praise Band, the Choir and Carillon Ringers are active and integral elements of our worship services. We are always looking for new members. If you have any interest in joining one or more of our musical teams, please contact Larry Benson (Praise Band), Steve Breffitt (Carillon Ringers), or Larry Peterson (choir).



# ***Staff, Worship and Administrative Team***

## **Interim Pastor**

**Rev. Eric Markman**

ericmarkman@firstpresnewark.org

## **Worship Team**

**Larry Benson, Praise Team Music Leader**

larrybenson@firstpresnewark.org

**Steve Breffitt, Handbell Director**

stevebreffitt@firstpersnewark.org

**Joe Huggins, Ron Olson Tom Shaw and Bob Wenner, Head Ushers**

**Paula Honda, Sign Language Interpreter**

## **Administration Team**

**Cindy Rogers, Office Manager**

cindyrogers@firstpresnewark.org

**Bob Black, Treasurer**

blackre2@firstpresnewark.org

**Nancy Lewis, Clerk of Session**

**Jane Moore, Moderator Board of Deacons**

**Ron Olson, President, Board of Trustees**

**John Bock, President, Westminster Management**

**Sandy Wenner, Pam Wunder, Co-Moderators, Presbyterian Women**

pw@firstpresnewark.org

## **Nursery Staff**

Julles Stevenson

## **Mission Co-Workers**

South Sudan: Bob and Kristi Rice

Israel & Palestine: Doug Dicks

## **Sister Congregation**

Dinanga Presbyterian Church

Democratic Republic of Congo

**A Stephen Ministry Congregation**

