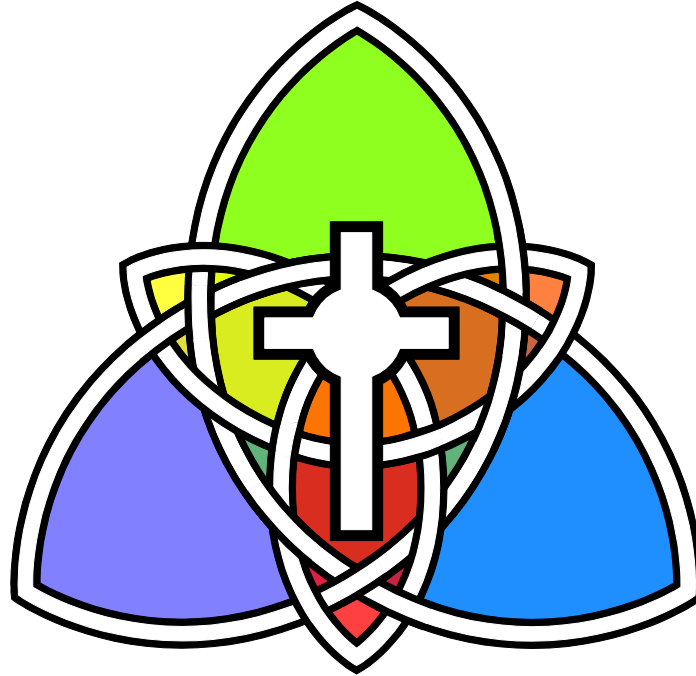


ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

January 1—December 31, 2020

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 14, 2021
1:00 p.m. via Zoom



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
EMAIL: fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINISTRY STRUCTURE OF FPC-N	4
STAFF REPORT—Pastor Steve Brundage’s Retirement	5
SESSION AND THE MINISTRIES OF FPC	
Clerk’s Report	6-8
Officers by Class	7
Ecclesiastical Events	8
Membership Statistics	8
FROM OUR MINISTRIES	
BELONGING MINISTRY	
Board of Deacons	9
Stephen Ministry	9
Presbyterian Women	10-12
COORDINATING MINISTRY	
Human Resources	13
Administrative Support / Computer Support	14
Church Officer Nominating	15
Stewardship	15
Finance	16-17
Memorials & Bequests	17
2020-2021 Finance Data Comparison	18
Legacy Gifts & Investments Report	20-22
LEARNING MINISTRY	
Adult Education	23
Boy Scout Program	23
Trinity Youth Group	24
Confirmation	24
Children’s Education	25
SUPPORTING MINISTRY	
Board of Trustees	26
Westminster Management	27
WITNESSING MINISTRY	
Mission and Outreach	28
Local Mission Partners	29
Mission Co-Workers	30
Dinanga Church and School Update	31
Hope Dining Room	32
First Saturday Breakfast	32
Helping Hand	33
Mission and Outreach Financial Report	34
WORSHIPING MINISTRY	
Worship and Music	35-36
Staff Report—Praise Team Music Leader—Larry Benson	37-38
Staff Report—Handbell Director—Steve Breffitt	39
Staff, Worship and Administrative Team	40



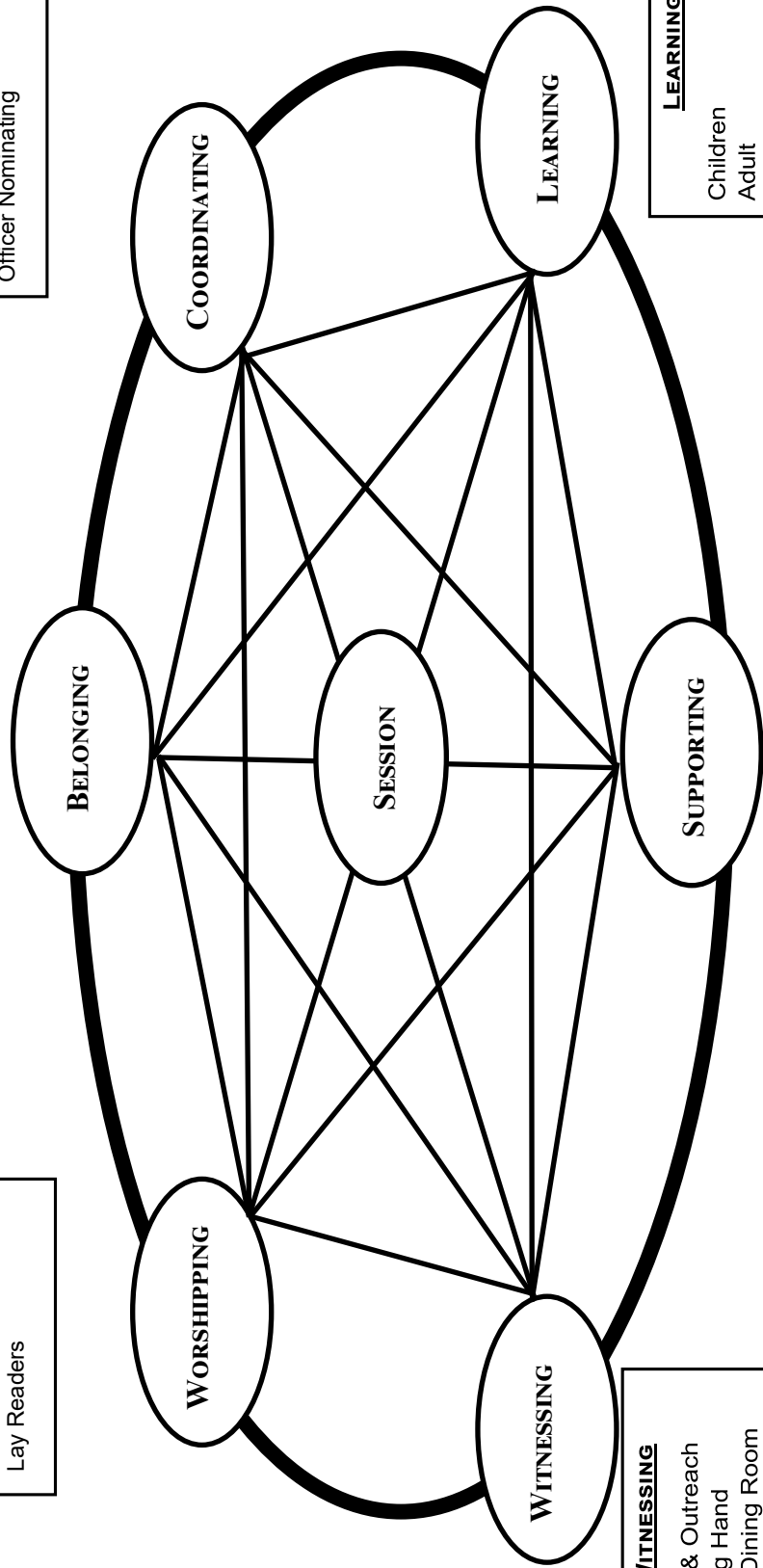
Ministry Structure of First Presbyterian Church-Newark, DE



- WORSHIPPING**
- Worship Planning
 - Chancel Guild
 - Chancel Choir
 - Carillon Ringers
 - Children/Youth Choir
 - Communion
 - Ushers
 - Greeters
 - Praise Team
 - Lay Readers

- BELONGING**
- Presbyterian Women
 - Board of Deacons
 - Hospital Visits
 - Home Communion
 - Flowers
 - Fellowship
 - Bereavement
 - Cards

- COORDINATING**
- Human Resources
 - Finance
 - Administrative Support
 - Stewardship
 - Memorials & Bequests
 - Membership
 - Volunteer Resources
 - Legacy Gifts & Investment
 - Officer Nominating

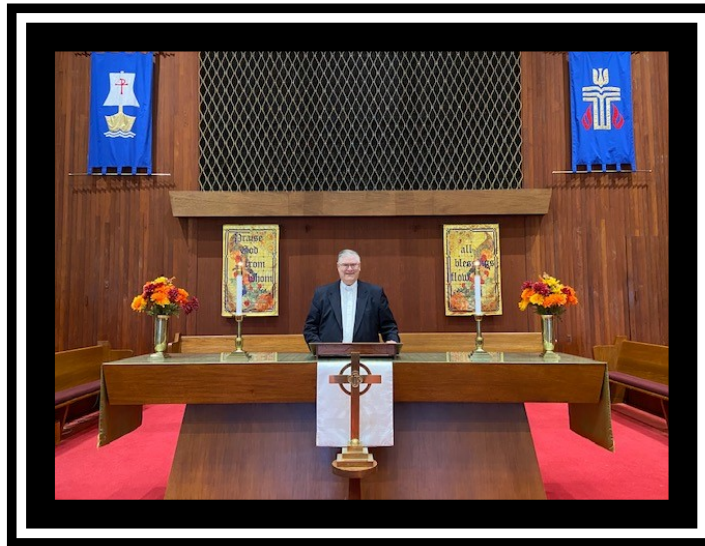


- WITNESSING**
- Mission & Outreach
 - Helping Hand
 - Hope Dining Room
 - PCUSA Offerings
 - Code Purple
 - 1st Saturday Breakfast
 - Habitat For Humanity
 - Vitality
 - Website Support

- SUPPORTING**
- Trustees
 - Handy Person's Club
 - Remembrance Garden
 - Counters
 - Westminster Management
 - Insurance
 - Property and Grounds
 - Sanctuary/ Memorial Hall

- LEARNING**
- Children
 - Adult
 - Fellowship Bible Study
 - Library
 - Scouting
 - Men's Monday Lunch
 - Trinity Middle School
 - Trinity High School

Pastor Steve's Retirement



Dave and Karen Baker shared memories from the church members.



Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan from New Castle Presbytery presented Pastor Steve with his Honorably Retired Certificate.

SESSION AND THE MINISTRIES OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—NEWARK

Clerk's Report

Nancy Lewis

Session began 2020 continuing our efforts supporting the Sanctuary Renovation Team as they worked to determine the correct way to redesign our worship space.

Session also continued the Unglued Project for several months until urgent matters regarding the Coronavirus and the resignation of Pastor Steve Brundage began to take center stage in importance.

The Session has thoughtfully determined the best ways we can continue to serve our church, continue to be a welcoming ministry and still keep our congregants safe through this pandemic.

Due to the Coronavirus, church services began to be held on Saturdays, with only minimal people in attendance. This allowed for them to record and make recordings available to the congregation on Sunday mornings. The services were led by the Praise Band, with a combination of

traditional and Praise worship. The recorded services were uploaded on our YouTube channel, and distributed to the congregation on Sunday mornings. We have invested in new AV equipment which will allow us to advance our audio and video capabilities.

In July, Pastor Steve Brundage announced his retirement effective 12/31/2020. This required our Session to begin Presbytery procedures to give Pastor Steve our best wishes and find his successor. John Balaguer, from the Committee On Ministry, was assigned by Presbytery to help us through the process.

We founded two committees, one to celebrate Pastor Steve's ministry here at First Presbyterian Church of Newark, and one to find an Interim Pastor.

We were able to hold a celebration in the sanctuary which was attended by many church members. Those who attended remained socially

distanced and wore masks, and the celebration was recorded and sent to the entire congregation.

Our Interim Pastor Search committee began meeting, and we wrote up our requirements for an Interim Pastor and began reviewing applications.

To provide consistency in our worship life, Session signed a contract with Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace, as our Bridge Pastor, until the new Interim Pastor can start working with us.

Our Session also signed and sent to Presbytery the official Covenant of Closure with Pastor Steve Brundage.

This has been a very busy and challenging year 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 2021

Charlie Collier
Sarah Huckleberry
Ann Roybal

Class of 2022

Nancy Lewis
Jim Newsom
Jim Pierson-Perry

Class of 2023

Dave Baker
Greg Hills

DEACONS

Class of 2021

Rosemarie Beron
Lorraine Conner
Ted Koser
Jane Moore

Class of 2022

Denise Hall
Jan Huckleberry
Lois Huggins

Class of 2023

Angela Abankwa-Opoku
Steven Choi
Anne Lewis
Norma Salomon

TRUSTEES

Class of 2021

Joe Challburg
Jan Fickeissen
Jerry Holt
Kern Piser

Class of 2022

Bill Lewis
Nancy Mellvaine
Ron Olson
Scott Sheldon

Class of 2023

John Bock
Francis Kwansa
Ken Lewis

Clerk's Report

Nancy Lewis

ECCLESIASTICAL EVENTS - 2020

INFANT BAPTISMS

Lola Nash Guyton, daughter of James and Stacie Guyton on December 13, 2020

IN MEMORIAM OF OUR MEMBERS

Arthur Knapp	1/7/2020
William Boyer	2/26/2020
Alice Wimberly	3/1/2020
Claire Pearson	4/26/2020
Robert Sheaffer	6/19/2020
Anthony Vuolo	7/5/2020
Shirley Kitson	7/8/2020
Priscilla Crowder	8/17/2020
Carolyn Smith	9/26/2020
Robert Thompson	9/29/2020
Barbara Banks	10/17/2020
Elaine Hearne	10/22/2020
Robert McAlpine	11/17/2020
Winifred Koffenberger	11/18/2020
Donald Murtagh	11/30/2020
Tom Bergendahl	12/5/2020

Clerk's Report

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2020

Baptism

Lola Nash Guyton

Transfer of Certificate

Jeffrey Rogers
Cindy Rogers

Reaffirmation and Profession of Faith

Holly Blackburn
Logan Blackburn
Bailey Boyd
Miranda Farnum
Ava Ferry
Grace Ferry

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Active Members as of December 31, 2019 - 410

Members Gained during 2020

Profession of Faith	6
Reaffirmation of Faith	0
Certificate of Transfer	2
<u>All Other Gains</u>	
Total Gains	8

Member Losses in 2020

Certificate of Transfer	4
Death	16
To Heritage / Inactive Roll	0
<u>All Other Losses</u>	<u>108</u>
Total Losses	128

Total Active Member as of December 31, 2020 - 290

Female Active Members: 171

Male Active Members: 119

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 - 103

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, 2020 - 393

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, 2020 - 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, 2020 - 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 2020 - 152
(2019 Average Attendance – 149)

Board of Deacons

Jane Moore, Moderator

Members: Angela Abankwa-Opoku, Rosemarie Beron, Steven Choi, Lorraine Conner, Denise Hall, Jan Huckleberry, Lois Huggins, Ted Koser, Anne Lewis, Jane Moore, and Norma Salomon.

The Board of Deacons works together to serve the members of our congregation. Deacons interact with other groups in our church. We have liaisons to Session, Human Resource Committee, Westminster Committee, and a representative on Nominating Committee.

We have been unable for most of this year, due to Coronavirus, to visit members in the hospital or in rehab facilities or in their homes. Nor have we been able to serve Home Communion or deliver flowers. This year, instead of delivering poinsettias at Christmas, we delivered small decorated Christmas trees made by

Rosemarie Beron which were gratefully received by members who are homebound or are in nursing homes. We also purchased two Kindle Fires to share with members who did not have computer access so that they could watch our Sunday service. Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, Congratulations, Christmas, and Birthday cards were also sent to members to lift their spirits.

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.

Memorial Receptions are typically organized by the Board of Deacons. This year a small number of memorial services were held in the

Memorial Garden or in the sanctuary with no food being served.

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 and any special concerns with the rest of the Deacons. We are blessed to have a group of individuals who are so willing to share their time, this year by Zoom, and their compassion to serve our church community, especially in this time of isolation and international health crisis.

We were saddened by the loss of one of our members, Bob McAlpine, who passed away in November. We celebrated his life by sharing memories of him at our December meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Moore, Moderator

Stephen Ministry

Doris Brewer

Leaders: Rev. Steven Brundage (Adviser), Doris Brewer (Congregational Liaison and Leader Team Coordinator), Greg Hills (Co-Referral/ Peer Support Coordinator), Nancy Stevens (Co-Peer Support Coordinator/ Leader Team minutes Recorder/ Treasurer).

Ministers: Nancy Black, Lorraine Conner, Evelyn Hayes, Paula Honda, Jane Moore and Laura Tuttle.

This has been a unique year because of Covid-19 and its impact on our

lives. Keeping social distancing, wearing masks and restrictions on gathering required new approaches in an effort to keep communication lines open and to accomplish as much of our mission as possible. Zoom meetings became the order of the day, and sometimes meeting was not possible. Phone calls, cards and emails became our primary means of outreach along with our church's media. Our opportunities for in-person contact and our ability to provide cozy cases, prayer shawls and lending comfort quilts were severely

curtailed. Like everyone else, we did what we could when we could. As this church moves toward significant changes, the Stephen Ministers stand ready to help

This congregation's continued prayers for and support of this vital and rewarding ministry are deeply appreciated. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Stephen Ministry,

Doris R. Brewer

Presbyterian Women

Vickie Pierson-Perry, Ann Roybal, Co-Moderators



Presbyterian Women (PW) is an organization open to all women of Christian faith.

This year we have five circles, each with different meeting times during the day or evening. Four of the circles are studying the book *Preach It Sister* written by our past choir director and organist Joanne Hensch. The other circle is doing the Bible study “Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments” from Horizons magazine.

As an association we continue to be faithful to our purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study
- To support the mission of the church worldwide
- To work for justice and peace
- To build an inclusive community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church USA and witnesses to the promise of “God’s kingdom.”

First Presbyterian Church Newark has the largest number of Presbyterian Women members in the New Castle Presbytery. We currently have 69 members, along with our Special Sisters—members unable to participate in our meetings whom we continue to cherish.

Although forced to curtail our usual activities throughout the year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we learned

to embrace technology and were able to maintain our group meetings and fellowship through Zoom meetings, email and telephone check-ins, and love at a distance.

Presbyterian Women continued to support local outreach organizations. Monetary gifts were made to:

- Newark Senior Center (for their Meals on Wheels program)
- Newark Area Welfare
- Hope Dining Hall
- Friendship House / Empowerment Center

PW’s generosity also was demonstrated through contributions to the Presbytery outreach and national mission projects. The Thank offering and the Birthday offering go to support missions in the United States as well as overseas. The Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and least coins of many countries to support grants for special projects of evangelism, service, and relief throughout the world.

In addition to monetary support, some PW members knitted prayer shawls that were distributed by the Stephen Ministry, baby blankets, scarves for children and adults, and hats for children at the A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children, as well as for adults at the Hope Dining Room Hall and the Helen Graham Cancer Center. PW members made and donated face masks, as well as collected calendars for the prison ministry

and personal care items for the Newark Empowerment Center. PW also provided rosebuds to honor new babies born to church members.

New officers were installed by Nancy Stevens through a Zoom meeting. Those serving are:

- Co-Moderators: Vickie Pierson-Perry and Ann Roybal
- Vice-Moderator: Carol Olson
- Past Moderators: Rosemarie Beron and Anne Lewis
- Moderator-Elect: Sandy Wenner
- Treasurer: Darlene Newsom
- Secretary: Lorraine Conner
- Coordinator of Communications: Jane McAlpine
- Fellowship: Ann Ferreira
- Historian: Stephanie Birdsall
- Missions: Peggy Hester
- Rosebud: Nancy Stevens
- Search Committee: Nancy Stevens
- Circle Leaders: Judy Baker, Rosemarie Beron, Jackie Evers, Shirley Hills, Faithe Koser, Anne Lewis, Carolyn Morton, Carol Olson, Pat Steele, and Sandy Wenner

Ann and Vickie offer their heartfelt thanks to our PW Coordinating Team and especially to Cindy Rogers for all of their help in these trying times.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Pierson-Perry and Ann Roybal

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men”

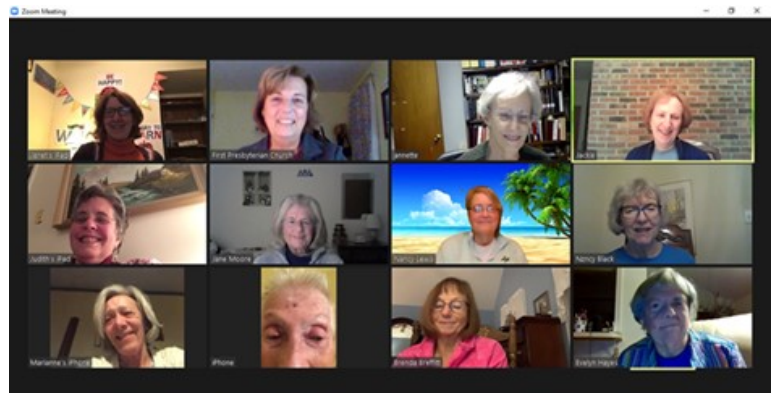
Colossians 3:23

Presbyterian Women (financial page)

Report prepared by Darlene Newsom

2021 PW BUDGET

P W Income and Expenses 2021 -2016	Budget 2021	Estimate 10/1-12/31	Actual 9/30/2020	Budget 2020	Actual 2019	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
INCOME							
Circles:							
Contributions	2000	1,000	809	\$4,000	\$3,968	\$1,747	\$3,476
Educational Materials/Expenses	840	0	0	1,000	0	561	60
Special Offerings for Presbytery							
Thank/Health Ministry	400	400	0	400	556	378	576
Least Coin	64	25	89	150	219	145	219
Spring Fundraiser – 2021	1000	0	0	2,000	2,541	2,948	3,138
Boskov Fund Raiser	100	100	0	325	625	250	485
Interest	0	0	7	16	15	12	3
Miscellaneous Donations	0	0	0	0	250	379	1,856
Transfer in/out savings acct prior years					(2,000)	0	125
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,404	\$1,525	\$905	\$7,891	\$6,174	\$6,420	\$9,938
EXPENSES							
P.W. N.C. Presbytery							
Pledge	1200	400	1,200	\$1,600	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,600
Per Capita	136	0	150	150	152	156	160
Birthday Fund	75	0	100	100	100	100	100
Special Offerings Sent to Presbytery							
Thank/Health Ministry	400	400		400	556	378	576
Least Coin	64	25	89	150	219	145	219
Other Benevolences							
Newark Welfare	650	650	0	700	650	650	650
Hope Dining Room	650	0	750	700	650	850	650
Food Bank of Delaware	0	0		0	0	0	0
Friendship Hse Empowerment Ctr	650	650	0	700	650	650	650
First Pres. Youth Work Camp	0	0	0	750	750	750	750
Administrative Expenses:							
Fund Raiser Expenses	200	0	282	500	674	0	590
Program/Hospitality	300	0	0	450	350	295	350
Educational Materials/Expenses	840	0	0	1,000	0	991	0
Moderator/Communications	150	0	0	150	132	85	50
Rosebuds/vases for infants	25	0	0	125	43	115	18
Supplies	20	0	0	30	0	32	40
Historian	20	0	0	25	0	25	0
Scholarships Accural	0	0	0	200	200	200	200
Holiday Gifts for Staff	100	200	0	200	200	350	345
Kitchen Supplies	0	0	0	25	58	25	0
Acct Review (\$50 Hope DR in lieu of)	25	0	0	75	75	50	50
Miscellaneous-check images	24	0	24	61	435	0	1,344
Unplanned	0	0	350	0	0	1,209	70
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,529	\$2,325	\$2,945	\$8,091	\$7,294	\$8,656	\$8,412
TOTAL INCOME				\$7,891	\$6,174	\$6,420	\$9,938



2020 PW Local Giving

Benevolences	Amount
Newark Welfare	\$650.00
Hope Dining Room	750.00
Friendship House/Empowerment Center	650.00
Newark Area Welfare/Meals on Wheels	100.00

SUBTOTAL FOR BENEVOLENCES: \$2,150.00

Knitted Items	Number of Items	Estimated Cost Per Item *	Total Cost
Facemasks	133	\$8.00	\$1,064.00
Baby hats	17	5.00	85.00
Chemo therapy hats	16	8.00	128.00
Newborn caps	3	5.00	15.00
Baby blankets	9	15.00	135.00
Child scarves	6	7.00	42.00
Adult scarf	1	10.00	10.00

*Based on selling prices at Newark Senior Center.

SUBTOTAL FOR KNITTED ITEMS: \$1,479.00

Prison Ministries	
Donations of calendars	\$514.00

Empowerment Center	
Personal, travel-size bath items	\$50.00



COORDINATING MINISTRY

Human Resources

Jerry Holt

The Human Resources Committee (HR) recognizes the continuing efforts and thoughtful initiatives of our entire staff: Pastor/Head of Staff Steve Brundage during his last year, Choir Director and Organist Katherine Harris before her resignation, Acting Handbell Director Steve Breffitt, Praise Team Music Leader Larry Benson, Sunday School Music Leader Jynx Stevenson, and Office Manager Cindy Rogers, as well as the Praise Service Musicians and the Nursery Workers, 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.

We also wish to thank Paula Honda for her continuing presence as a Sign

Language Interpreter at our Traditional Worship Service.

In September, Choir Director and Organist Katherine Harris left us for personal reasons. Given the uncertainty as to when we can resume collective worship The Worship and HR Committees have agreed that having a replacement before next fall is not advisable.

Two part-time positions have been added to start in 2021: an Office Assistant and a Sound Technician who will aid the Praise Team.

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 upgraded its process for conducting staff personnel

appraisal reviews, and in the coming year we will continue 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). Pastor Steve Brundage was a member before his retirement.

HR thanks Jim McNeely and Tom Shaw for their years of dedicated service as chair and secretary, respectively.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Holt, Chair*

Administrative Support

Cindy Rogers

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

The Administrative Support Committee continues to oversee and support the administrative operations of the church. It monitors the various support equipment needs for office operations – copiers, computers, software, wi-fi, networks, and audio/visual. In addition, the committee oversees administrative procedures, recommends and supports information technology, and supports the hospitality purchases for the building.

2020 presented us with many challenges due to COVID. We moved rather quickly into the virtual world in support of worship and our committees to ensure we were

staying connected to the members. We changed meeting platforms to Zoom, and now maintain three Zoom accounts to support the church and their committees.

In March, we worked with several committees to establish online giving with PayPal, setting up our new YouTube channel, recording worship services and changing our weekly Communicator as our main online correspondence to our members.

We were fortunate to have volunteers and office help during the closures. Ongoing projects, such as the library reorganization, were completed. Working with trustees, we have developed an electronic asset inventory with pictures for our insurance files.

The technology portion of our budget was stretched dramatically to cover the costs to make many of these programs successful. We also had many under-spent areas for hospitality and supplies due to the building closure to events and activities. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome! Please reach out to any of the committee members with your thoughts and ideas that will assist us in meeting congregational, committee, and operational needs.



Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC)

Charlie Collier

On the chart to the right, the officers elected by the Congregation have been either ordained and installed or installed and are presently serving as noted. We are indebted to those who completed their terms in office and thank them for their diligent and completion of service.

We will be starting to search for volunteers to fill the vacancies shortly and for the terms to be completed this spring. Please prayerfully consider your talents, time and God's Purpose for you, as we may be contact you with these important opportunities for service. If you have a desire to serve, feel free to contact any CONC member with your questions and concerns.

Church Officer Nominating Committee Results						
New Officers		Class	Term	Comment	Ord Composition	
Session	Dave Baker	2023	2		Session	Women, 4 Men
	VACANT	2023				in each Class
	Greg Hills	2023	1			- First Term
	Jim Newsom	2022	1			Second Term
Deacons	Steven Choi	2023	2		Deacons	Women, 3 Men
	Ann Lewis	2023	2			each 3 Class
	Angela Opoku	2023	1			- First Term
	Norma Salomon	2023	1			Second Term
Trustees	Francis Kwansa	2023	2		Trustees	Women 10 Men
	Nancy McIlvaine	2022	2	2nd 1 Yr		each of 3 Class
	Scott Sheldon	2022	1	2nd 1 Yr		- First Term
	Ken Lewis	2023	1			Second Term
	John Bock	2023	1			
	VACANT	2023				
CONC At-Large	Jackie Evers	2021	2		CONC At-Large	3 Women
	Nancy Lewis	2021	3			in each Term
	Vicki Pierson-Perry	2021	1			
Comments:						
1. All Classes are not filled (Session & Trustees - 1 Vacancy each)						
2. As a composite of the Boards 16 Women and 17 Men						
3. Leaving Office						
Session : Faithe Koser, Evelyn Hayes						
Deacons: Mallory Hill, Willee Short						
Trustees: Jim Annett, James Newsome, Don Tancredi,						
4. CONC for 20/21		Carlton Tappan	Nancy Stevens	Lois Huggins		
		Nancy Lewis	Francis Kwansa	Steve Brundage		
		Jackie Evers	Charlie Collier			

Stewardship

Charlie Collier

The Stewardship Committee, in 2020, is composed of: Charles Collier and Jim Newsom.

The Stewardship Committee would like to extend a thank you to all who have committed to the support of First Church's work among ourselves, our community, our denominations and the world. It is through your generosity, that we are able to help achieve our mission as directed by God through His Son Jesus Christ. As you commit, you serve Christ.

The 2020 campaign has just been completed with 47 giving units committing \$179,968.00. Although down slightly from last year (61 units, \$226,974), some giving units

continue to make significant QCD pledges and other new personal financial opportunities as an alternative to our traditional VIF campaign. This has been a year replete with problems never experienced in our lifetime. In addition to worshipping away from the sanctuary, we have been staying away from the facilities and using other means for contact. As a rough breakdown, 46% of the funds were committed via weekly contributions, 21% monthly and 33% via annual commitments. Through all this, the average giving per unit has increased by 3% This giving pattern closely matches last years performance. The Finance Committee is tallying the impact of

these commitments for an anticipated income from which the 2021 budget will be based. Should you wish to submit a pledge or revise your commitment feel free to call Charles Collier with your confidential desires, I will help as best I can.

The Stewardship Committee continues to have several problems during the year with membership. The committee is presently in search of additional volunteers to help with this important aspect of congregational life. If you feel a calling, please feel free to contact Charles Collier with your concerns and questions, they will be most welcome.

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 basically sound. Our assets are at a record, level up **13.9%** from the end of 2019. As others have mentioned 2020 was a very unusual and challenging year including managing the church's finances. We had a about a 14% downturn in budgeted income from our membership's giving as well as loss of income from the recovering community that uses our Westminster House facility for their programs. To keep this loss in income from not overwhelming

financial position, our spending, where possible, was significantly curtailed. Cindy Rogers, our Office Manager, and the Trustees looked at expense items from top to bottom to trim services and expenditures. Examples of cutting back included custodial (cleaning) services and waste pickups of trash and recycling. As one would expect, **our largest percentage savings was in our Learning Ministry about 81% as these programs were essentially closed.** There were savings in our largest cost element, Human Resources (HR), because of our Choir Director – Organist resigning in mid-year. However, we incurred some unplanned expenses **(\$20,531)** related to Pastor Steve's retirement at year-end and his unused vacation and study leave. Because some monies **(\$7,400)** were able to be withdrawn from Pastor's Continuing Education balance sheet fund. This resulted in **the HR expense item being slightly under budget by about 1%** but the balance sheet fund was effectively emptied. Bottom-line in the five other operating ministries, **the under-budget spending exceeded \$54,680.**

Four of the five ministries had under-budget expenses that exceeded \$2,600: (Trustees (\$38.45K), Learning (\$10.07K), Witnessing (\$2.80K) and Worshipping (\$2.63K) (see chart below.)

Perhaps the greatest overall concern during 2020 was whether VIF income, which lagged 2019 throughout the entire year except for the third quarter, would meet our expense budget needs. **Unfortunately, VIF contributions did not materialize to the level that we anticipated for 2020. Overall, the year-end VIF was \$28,656 below our budget goal of \$365,500 which was \$26,274 (6.7%) below that achieved in 2019. Total VIF in 2020 fell 14.02% from 2019's value.** In addition to lower VIF and Agency Contributions in 2020, Special Gifts and interest from bank accounts were less than anticipated. On a positive note, we did not have to use any of the principal in our investment assets. It is important to note that there are similar fiscal concerns for future years.

		2020		
EXPENSES		Actual	Annual Budget	Actual - Budget
1	COORDINATING MINISTRY	273,423	272,016	1,407
	BELONGING MINISTRY (Deacons)	563	1,300	(737)
	LEARNING MINISTRY	2,357	12,425	(10,068)
	SUPPORTING MINISTRY (Trustees)	111,094	149,550	(38,456)
	WITNESSING MINISTRY	41,273	44,068	(2,795)
	WORSHIPPING MINISTRY	5,709	8,335	(2,626)
	TOTAL EXPENSE	434,418	487,694	(53,276)

Notes:

- COORDINATING MINISTRY over budget because of unbudgeted expense for A/V equipment (\$3,883) and unplanned HR changes.

Because of this situation of less income than expenses for 2020, we had a net income of negative \$22,094. In effect, this shortfall drew down our reserves (equity) by a corresponding amount. In the 2020 budget, we had planned on using \$43,000 of reserves. However, based on actual 2020 data only about 51% was used, shrinking reserves from **\$43,836 to \$21,741.** A major portion (~85%) of all reserves is budgeted for use in 2021 to balance 2021 expenses. Some of these are funds from the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan program. The entire amount of the loan **\$37,900** is expected to be fully credited in our books after receipt of full forgiveness in early 2021.

This annualized 2021 budget (see **page 19**) totals **\$412,173**, with an expense budget decrease of **\$22,245 (5.1%)** under 2020 actual expenses. The estimated income budget is lower by the same amount; however it depends on balancing expenses by usage of **\$28,614** in additional equity. This is because many of the major 2021 income items are expected to be lower in 2021.

When compared to 2020 actual the 2021 budget provides for an overall decrease of 21.7% for the Human Resources needs, our largest expense line. In comparing the 2021 budget to actual 2020, one must remember for 2020 we only funded our previous Choir Director – Organist for a portion of year but had other one-time expenses for retired Pastor Steve as discussed above. The 2021 budget includes, some upward staff pay rate adjustments and some added part-time positions as recommended

by our Human Resources Committee. There are, of course, new estimated expenses for Bridge Pastor (**Dave Lovelace**) and our expected Interim Pastor.

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, insurance, and coffee supplies.

As stated above, the Finance Committee remains concerned that income will not keep pace with operating expenses beyond 2021.

Balancing expenses and income have been a long-standing operating principle of our Church. Although our assets are considerable, many of these assets were restricted by donors to be used for special purposes. Hence, restricted assets cannot be 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 2021 budget about **15.8%** of our income comes from those two sources. These same sources provided only about **8.4%** of 2020's income. One can see (Page 19) that our income is still predominately controlled by our VIF giving goal of **\$313,250** expected to be about \$23,594 (**7.0%**) less than 2020's actual amount.

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.

Total assets at the end of 2020 were **\$1,458,337.35** a yearly increase of **\$178,313** after the usage of assets (see **GL & I report on Page 20**). Also, during the year, the Church was the recipient of additional monies from an unrestricted bequest first distributed in 2017. The use of these monies is to be determined by our Session. It is from that total asset, dubbed "General Investment Fund" that some earnings monies will be withdrawn to help "balance" income with expenses as the year progresses.

The Finance Committee has been successfully working this full year with the Legacy Gift and Investment Committee (LG&I), a Committee of Session. This committee has a separate report in this annual report as well as additional detail in the Financial Annual Report. **Dave Berkebile** is chair of **LG&I** and also 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.

Presently, **the Church has three loans which are our only debts and are discussed in detail in the Financial Annual Report.** The first loan, under the **SBA PPP** program discussed above, is anticipated to be forgiven early in 2021. The second loan from 2014 with PCUSA has a 3.5% interest rate for the Memorial

Hall Roof replacement and has an anticipated pay-off in mid-2022. The third 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.

The Finance Committee wants to extend its appreciation to the Congregation for continuing to faithfully support our Church.

Remember, if you want more budget detail and Treasurer's comments; refer to the Financial Annual Report. Still more

information can be obtained from the **Church Treasurer – Bob Black – Phone: (302) 737-4686 or email: blackre2@firstpresnewark.org**

Memorials and Bequests

Bob Black, Treasurer

The Memorials & Bequests Committee is currently un-chaired since Lauren Stayton resigned in 2019 after many years of faithful service, several while residing out of the Newark area, **Thank You Lauren!** We would also like to thank Betty Hoagey and Phyllis and Paul Biddle for their assistance during the transition.

The work of the committee still continues with the support of Cindy Rogers (Office Manager) and 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 in an attempt to follow the essentials and the (Session approved) MAP.

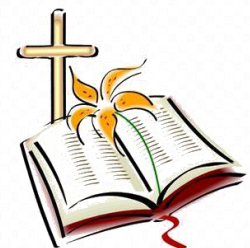
A chairperson of the Committee is desired to relieve some effort on office staff, you could do it!

A detailed report of the activity in 2020 is provided in the Annual Financial Report. In 2020 the only item funded by Memorials was **\$2,000** that helped fund the enhanced Audio/Visual equipment for the Saturday morning recordings of the "Sunday" virtual worship service.

These funds were withdrawn from the Mary Eva and Bob Kerr (PA System) fund, which fully depleted that account. According to our standard practice any gifting not identified to a specific purpose will be transferred in early 2021 to the general account. The bottom line, in early 2021, is that there will be

only two designated funds with monies totaling \$400 that will be active. The rest of the monies will be in the general fund. Additionally, some of the specified purpose funds have related Special Funds on the balance sheet that will receive those gifted monies \$1,150 in early 2021.

There are no active bequests below \$10,000 being overseen by the committee at this time.



**Session Budget Report
2020 and 2021 Budget Comparisons**

INCOME	2020	2021	
	Actual	Annual Budget	Increase (Decrease) from Actual 2020
VIF			
Checks and PayPal (\$12,821 in 2020)	327,383	303,789	(23,594)
Cash	9,461	9,461	(0)
Total VIF	336,844	313,250	(23,594)
Agency Contributions			
Westminster House - Agencies	24,969	25,000	31
WH Mgt Usage Offset	1,000	0	(1,000)
Other Agencies (Sanctuary & Memorial Hall)	2,200	1,600	(600)
Total Agency Contributions	28,169	26,600	(1,569)
1 Equity from Prior Years (2020 AMT needed to "Balance")	\$ 22,094	\$ 50,708	28,614
Interest	2,320	780	(1,540)
Credit Card Rewards	1,210	1,500	290
Designated Endowed Income	5,026	3,950	(1,076)
Investment Earnings & Principal			
Restricted Landscaping (Beds)	890	900	10
Restricted Newark Area Mission	3,520	3,623	103
Unrestricted Earnings	9,858	9,862	4
Unrestricted Principal	0	0	0
Total Investment Earnings & Principal	14,268	14,385	117
Dormant Balance Sheet Funds Closeout	1,064	0	(1,064)
Eastman Fund	0	0	0
Ministry Fund	9,883	0	(9,883)
Miscellaneous Refunds	1,202	50	(1,152)
Special Gift	12,339	0	(12,339)
Miscellaneous Income (Building Usage & Others)	0	950	950
TOTAL INCOME	434,418	412,173	(22,245)
EXPENSES	Actual	Annual Budget	Increase (Decrease) from Actual 2020
COORDINATING MINISTRY			
Stewardship	893	1,000	107
Session & Child Safety Administration	10,072	12,718	2,646
Finance / Office	16,766	21,450	4,684
Human Resources (Personnel)	245,692	192,382	(53,310)
Total Coordinating	273,423	227,550	(45,873)
BELONGING MINISTRY (Deacons)			
Emergency Fund	0	0	0
Bereavement & Subscriptions	441	700	259
Fellowship	100	200	100
Stephen Ministry - General, New Initiatives & Training	22	200	178
Total Belonging	563	1,100	537
LEARNING MINISTRY			
Adult Learning	815	1,800	985
Children's Education	654	1,500	846
Library	165	275	110
Nursery	0	100	100
Vacation Bible School	0	0	0
Youth Council	722	1,450	728
Total Learning	2,357	5,125	2,768
SUPPORTING MINISTRY (Trustees)			
Facilities Management			
Sanctuary & Memorial Hall	77,266	94,780	17,514
Westminster House	33,628	48,640	14,812
Total Trustees	111,094	143,420	32,326
WITNESSING MINISTRY			
Church Growth (Vitality)	1,926	2,200	274
Mission & Outreach	39,347	24,093	(15,254)
Total Witnessing	41,273	26,293	(14,980)
WORSHIPING MINISTRY			
Chancel Guild	164	300	136
Special Services	48	310	262
Traditional - Worship	2,855	4,150	1,295
Contemporary - Worship	244	350	106
Worship - General	2,397	3,575	1,178
Total Worshiping	5,709	8,685	2,976
TOTAL EXPENSE	434,418	412,173	(22,245)
NET INCOME	\$0	\$0	

1 Equity budgeted in 2021 includes PPP Loan of \$37,900 to be forgiven in 2021. Budgeted 2021 residual AMT is \$8,933.

Legacy Gifts and Investments

Dave Berkebile

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

The Legacy Gifts and Investments (LG&I) Committee is charged with managing the investments of and distributions from the Legacy Gift Funds that have been given to FPC-N over the years. We are striving to be good stewards of these gifts and to use them as the donors intended. We have sought and received expert guidance from the Presbyterian Foundation and the Presbytery Trustees and we are following the guidance of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act that instruct how to manage monies from such legacy gifts. Our Policies and Procedures document, approved by Session, directs us to follow the law and the stated intend of the donors of these gifts.

The LG&I Committee decided to remain invested in the market during 2020 despite significant swings in the market valuations caused by COVID-19 uncertainties. We were able to do this because of our strategy of maintaining a portion of the funds in cash instruments to avoid having to sell investments in a down market. This strategy has paid significant dividends during the year as the value of our funds have grown despite the market swings and the significant amounts from the Legacy Gift Funds have contributed to the church budget during the year.

A final distribution from the estate of Marjorie Truitt were received in

2020 bringing the total of the Truitt fund to \$17,525.87. The Truitt fund was then merged into the General Investment Fund since both funds are based on unrestricted gifts.

During 2020, FPC-N received a legacy gift from the estate of Don Reiman. The initial distribution from this estate was \$23,196 but we will not know the final gift value until the tax issues have been settled and a small final distribution is received in 2021. This fund, like the Truitt fund, will eventually be merged into the General Investment Fund once the final distribution has been received. We maintained the monies from the Reiman estate in cash instruments during 2020 because of the fluctuations of the market.

Our thanks to Sandy Boyce for drafting and Rev. Brundage and Nancy Lewis for sending a thank you letter to the Reiman family (Laurel Reiman Hennerman) for this gift to FPC-N. Don Reiman cared about the missions of our church and contributed many hours of his time to help the church with our food collections and distributions. His generous gift will help us continue this work into the future.

During 2020, \$42,298.83 from our Legacy Fund were contributed to the budget of FPC-N. Of this \$13,800 was used to make payments on the loan for the HVAC System and \$28,498.83 was directed towards other programs and missions of the church.

The total amount, that the LG&I Committee has suggested is prudent to take from the legacy gift funds that we control for 2021, is \$34,091.69 plus the amount that is sent to us by the Presbyterian Foundation from the Outreach Endowment Fund and the Permanent Endowment Fund, which are automatically passed on to the church budget. This means we expect about \$40,000 of contributions from the Legacy Gifts Funds to FPC-N budget during 2021. Our recommendation is based on taking 4.5% of the value of the funds using a 12 running quarter averaging of the fund values.

Funds Under LG&I Watch

Fund	Value 12/31/20
General Investment Physical Properties	\$522,522.84
Ministry	\$120,153.03
Outreach Endowment	\$124,936.11
Local Missions	\$82,885.97
Permanent Endowment	\$102,369.59
Future Development	\$78,134.81
FP Church	\$73,669.61
Landscaping	\$57,923.70
Reiman	\$25,412.15
Eastman	\$23,196.00
Total value 12/31/20	\$1,225,332.63

The Truitt Fund was moved into the General Investment Fund during 2020

The Funds managed by the Legacy Gifts and Investment (LG&I) Committee, consist of donations that have been left to the church primarily in wills and trusts. We manage these assets for FPC-N by prudently investing them. Some are maintained by the Presbyterian Foundation which sends monies from the funds based on a percentage of the 20-running quarter averaging of funds values. Some are invested in Presbyterian New Covenant Funds and some are maintained in money instruments. We recommend an appropriate amount from each fund, to be used in the following year's church budget, that is consistent with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) which is the law in 49 states, including Delaware.

The Reiman Fund was established in 2020 through the generosity of Donald Reiman who remembered the church in his will. This fund carries no restrictions on how the church can use the monies. Because there are no restrictions on the fund, we expect to merge this fund into the General Investment Fund once the final distribution of this estate's assets is made in 2021. We continue to thank the Reiman family (Laurel Reiman Henneman family) for the gift of these funds. The Reiman Fund had \$23,196 in it on Dec. 31, 2020 and we expect a small final distribution when the tax settlement is completed in 2021. It is through gifts such as this that members can continue to contribute to the missions of this church when they are no longer physically with us. We encourage other members who love the church and have supported our missions to consider this kind of gift as part of their estate planning.

The other current Legacy Gift Funds are discussed below. The funds values shown are as of December 31, 2020.

General Investment Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$522,522.84

This fund was started in 2017 as a result of trusts from John and Betty Eldridge after the death of Jonathan Eldridge. It was initially called the New Fund and the name was changed in 2018. We merged the remainders of the Truitt Fund into this fund because all these funds can be used as the church wishes without end use restrictions. Some of this fund is maintained in money instruments to protect against a possible down market. During 2020, \$14,081.33 of monies from this fund were used for the church and its missions.

Ministry Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$124,936.11

This fund was established in 2014. The funds came with no legal documents with restrictions on use. However, through discussions with the widow of the donor it was felt that the donor would like the funds to be used for the Learning, Witnessing and Worshipping Ministries. There has been an emphasis on "new, exploratory and expanding" programs that are consistent with the overall purposes of these ministries. During 2020, \$9,983 of monies from this fund were used for the church. This included improvements to the audio-visual systems to improve our virtual worship services.

Physical Property Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$120,153.03

This fund was established in 1993 to be used solely for major maintenance and/or capital improvement projects. During 2020, \$4,760 of monies from this fund were used for payments on the HVAC loan debt.

Local Missions Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$102,369.59

This fund was established in 2018. Monies from this fund are to be used for local missions. Local in this case is defined as Newark area of Delaware and close by areas of Maryland and Pennsylvania. During 2020, \$3,520.00 of monies from this fund were used by our Outreach Committee for FPC-N local mission work.

Outreach Endowment Fund

Managed by the Presbyterian
Foundation Fund
\$82,885.97

This fund was established in 2007. Income from this fund is to be used to support increased mission beyond ourselves. The Outreach Endowment Fund is managed by the PCUSA Presbyterian Foundation which sends quarterly payment of the earnings of this fund to FPC-N. We distribute 100% of what we receive to our outreach missions as determined by our Mission and Outreach Committee. During 2020, \$3,305.21 of monies from this fund were used for the Outreach program of FPC-N.

Permanent Endowment Fund

Managed by the Presbyterian
Foundation Fund
\$78,134.81

This endowment fund was established in March 1991. Income only is to be used for mission outreach causes as determined by Session but can be used in any manner which furthers God's work using the same priorities as the "FP Church Fund." Income may be added to principal during this period. At the end of 30 years any and all accumulated funds may be used by the Session of First Church to enable God's work in the Newark community and throughout the world including establishment of a permanent endowment. Beyond 2022, no distributions of interest or principal for purposes outside what is stated is permitted unless the congregation approves (by 2/3 majority) such action at a stated meeting called solely for that purpose. During 2020, \$1,719.33 of monies from this fund were used for the outreach programs of FPC-N.

Future Development Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$73,669.61

This fund was established in 1998 by a church member as seed money to use the undeveloped portion of our campus to enhance the church's ability to attract young people to the church. In 2017, the family of the funding church member agreed that usage of this fund could be identical to guidelines of the "Physical Property Fund." During 2020, \$2,499.96 of monies from this fund were used to help pay off the loan for the HVAC project.

Landscaping Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$25,412.15

This fund, established in August of 2018, was a bequest from Thordis Searl. Monies from this fund are to be used for new landscaping and maintenance of existing beds and plantings. It cannot be used for mowing, lawn maintenance, grass cutting or the Remembrance Garden. During 2020, \$890 of monies from this fund were used by FPC-N Trustees for landscaping work on our grounds.

Eastman Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$14,128.82

This fund was established in 2008. It is intended (1) to support the Boy Scouts (partly for maintaining the Eastman Trail that was used then), (2) to support the youth program of FPC-N, and (3) to pay for travel when a missionary is visiting FPC-N. During 2020 no monies were requested from this fund. Historically this fund has paid for part of missionary travel and for the Boy Scouts.

FP Church Fund

Invested in New Covenant Funds
\$57,923.70

This fund was established in March 1991 to "enrich the mission of the congregation not to support the annual operating budget." Funding was partly from a portion of a major fund drive connected to the GA Bicentennial Fund Drive (referred to as the Shaping Our Future Fund) with some additional funding from individual families. It is open to additional funding by families. "Unrestricted income shall be used for; (1) outreach to meet human need in the community or worldwide, (2) the larger Presbyterian Church USA mission, (3) scholarships, loans, or grants for theological education, (4) capital improvements." During 2020, \$1,540.00 of monies from this fund were used for part of the HVAC loan repayment.

The value of all these Legacy Gift Funds, at the end of 2020, was \$1,225,332.63 and during 2020, \$42,298.83 of monies from these funds was used in support of FPC-N and our missions.

LEARNING MINISTRY

Adult Christian Education

JoAnne McNeely

After we lost our Adult Learning (AL) Committee Leader Pat Sankus in mid-2019, no one has replaced her as Leader for this entire year. The remaining members of the committee soldiered on anyway. Recently Melody Bock has joined us as the new AL Leader.

Led by our Pastor Steve Brundage, we had four adult studies on Sunday nights, each with a DVD and a lesson book. All meeting after early March were held by ZOOM participation. The classes were:

- Early March to April 5: "The Walk, Essential Practices for

Christian Life" by Adam Hamilton

- Early April to late May: "Feasts of the Bible, Seven Jewish Holidays" by Sam Nadler with Natalia Fomin
- June 28 to September 13: "Parables of Jesus" by the unforgettable R.C. Sproul
- November 8 to December 20: "Unafraid, Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times"

In addition to the above, we planned theater outings to "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theater and to the play "The Christmas Ship" at Bird-in-Hand.

Both were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No more will be scheduled until it is safe.

David Berkebile led a 9:00 am Sunday morning class that began in January and ended when the pandemic closed in-person meetings. The class studied Paul's Letter to the Romans, which Dave regarded as "the Gospel according to Paul".

Current members of the Adult Learning Committee are Melody Bock (Leader), Phyllis Sisk, JoAnne & Jim McNeely, Barbara Winter, and Marian Bowen.

Submitted by JoAnne McNeely

Boy Scout Program

Matt Reyne, Chartered Organization Representative

The Boy Scout Program of First Presbyterian Church started off with the usual Scouting programs for a typical scouting year, (Sub-sale fund raiser in January, Scout Sunday and the Blue Gold Dinner in February). And then Covid-19 showed up in Newark, DE and all scouting events and activities at FPC-Newark were cancelled. Cub Pack 56 conducted one last Pack Meeting and WEBLOS Cross-over outdoors in April.

Troop 56 continued to have weekly Troop meetings and monthly Adult Committee meeting via Zoom. The Boy Scouts participated in a number of outdoor service projects during

the Summer months while observing all of the applicable Covid-19 safety protocols. Troop meetings and Cub Pack Den meeting resumed again in September via Zoom and with limited outdoor activities.

The Boy Scout Program at First Presbyterian Church - Newark finally completed the 76th year of providing a traditional and relevant learning experiences for young girls and boys. The program endured some very difficult circumstances in 2020 and is looking forward to the resumption of a normal full program of activities by mid-2021.



Trinity Youth

Kathy Farnum

Winter:

Youth Sunday School was continuing with their FaithWeaver Now series using lessons from the New Testament such as “Joseph takes his family to safety in Egypt”, “Jesus is Baptized” all the way to “Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus”. Each Sunday we started off with a game or activity to look at the lesson from a different perspective, then we dived deeper into the scripture and tried to think of ways to use these ideas in our own life. As has been our tradition, we finished by holding hands and each of us offering up a personal prayer for the coming week.

Spring:

The Children’s Learning Committee decided that with the craziness of school going virtual and the youth being online all week for their schools, that they may not want to go online for Sunday School as well.

Fall:

All youth and college age kids were sent a packet containing a lesson about the history of Halloween and how Christians can celebrate it with Jesus in mind. This also had Dia de los Muertos Remembrance Prayer Activity plus candy to help lift their spirits.

For Thanksgiving, they were sent a packet entitled “Thanksgiving Not Just Food and Football” with history and ideas on being grateful. Also included were supplies for making an M&M turkey, where they were encouraged to give an M&M to someone in their family while thanking them for something specific.

In December they were sent a Christmas card with a sticker to remind them of the 4 themes of Advent: Peace, Love, Hope and Joy – the Reason for the Season!

Confirmation

Faithe Koser

In the Fall of 2020, Rev. Brundage published a schedule and goals for a rigorous Confirmation class. Six youth took the challenge by committing to three months of religious instruction with Rev. Brundage, followed by three months of studying the Gospel of Luke with their mentors, and then visiting a wide range of church services of many churches in the greater Newark area. The final step called for each confirmand to write a Faith Statement to be shared at the Confirmation ceremony at church in Spring 2020.

Just as the study of Luke was wrapping up, COVID-19 Health Orders prevented students and mentors from completing their

work in person. However, all student and mentor teams persevered and completed their tasks by online work.

Confirmants presented their faith statements to Session who examined them in a Zoom meeting. On June 14, 2020, Logan and Holly Blackburn, Bailee Boyd, Miranda Farnum, and Ava and Grace Ferry became church members during the worship service.



Students and their Mentors

Logan Blackburn- Scott Sheldon
Holly Blackburn- Faithe Koser
Bailee Boyd- Betty Hoagey
Miranda Farnum- Karen Baker
Ava and Grace Ferry- Greg Hills



Children's Education

Sarah Trembanis

The Children's Learning Committee (like every other committees and the church as a whole) spent most of 2020 adjusting to the pandemic. The pandemic introduced significant challenges for the committee's work to provide a Christ-centered education program for our youngest members and their families, given that all in-person Sunday School classes were suspended beginning in March 2020. The following report will outline our response to the pandemic.

January-early March 2020:

The first two and a half months of 2020 were dedicated to continuing the planned curriculum and theme of our 2019-2020 Sunday School, "Seeking God." Students met each week to study the word of God through readings, lessons, activities, and song. Plans had commenced for Lent and for our annual Easter activities.

March-May 2020:

As a result of the pandemic, the committee pivoted to meeting online via Zoom. The committee decided (after significant deliberation) that the best adaptation of our Sunday school program would be to provide electronic, weekly packets distributed by email that would include a link to a song, a letter from

each classroom's teachers, a Bible lesson, and age-appropriate activities. Given that all schools in Delaware were teaching via remote learning, the committee members agreed that Zoom Sunday School would be inappropriate and would contribute to Zoom fatigue for our families. The committee is deeply appreciative for the hard work of Cindy Rogers in compiling, formatting, and emailing these packets and for the Sunday School teachers for identifying and preparing materials.

Summer 2020:

At the conclusion of what would have been the normal Sunday school "year" the committee reflected on the packets and decided that weekly packets over the summer would not be welcomed by families. Instead, we moved to monthly packets with the goal of maintaining a connection with our families.

September -December 2020:

Based on what limited feedback we were able to receive and the continued uncertainties of the pandemic and remote/hybrid schooling, the committee decided to move away from weekly packets and to mailed physical packets connected with holidays.

Halloween and Thanksgiving packets (with a lesson, letter, activity, and candy/age-appropriate treat) were developed by the Sunday School and Youth teachers and mailed out to each child.

Faithe Koser proposed and led an initiative to provide each church family with an Advent toolkit, featuring a build your own nativity kit (our youngest members received a board book instead). These kits were a success and were welcomed by our families. We are currently exploring options for an Easter toolkit to be distributed in Spring and are planning a Valentine's Day mailing.



Conclusion:

The CLC worked valiantly under these new circumstances (as well as shifting scientific knowledge and shifting state and local restrictions) to maintain its connection with the children of the church and their families. The committee strove to strike the proper balance between outreach and overreach—supporting families during challenging and scary times without overwhelming them with additional "zooms" and other obligations. The committee prays that it has in a small way provided families with a reminder of God's love and the continuity of a church family in the absence of a physical presence.



Ron Olson

As we begin the 2021 church year, we look back on the accomplishments of 2020. The trustees remained busy maintaining and running the church facilities. We thank Don Tancredi for volunteering to help us as the Facilities Manager.

This year the church as a whole has faced the new challenge of COVID. Shutting down in the early part for year and going to a virtual service has cut into everyone's budgets and caused us to take a serious look at cost cutting measures. To that end we have renegotiated many of our maintenance contracts increasing our savings. Thanks to Cindy for her tireless efforts balancing inflating prices and projected decreasing revenues.

COVID 19 did give us a necessary opportunity to deep clean the upper and lower sanctuary and, when the Sunday school returns, they will find a sparkling-clean unused lower sanctuary.

Early this year we continued on our office improvement project. Last year's office project left us the utility area in back of the office unfinished. This year we completed that area. We removed the tiles in the area and had carpet squares installed along with a fresh coat of paint. Rudy Rameriz and his team helped us with this project. I am thankful for all those that helped with the heavy lifting and removal of the original floor.

This spring we undertook a major project to do more cleaning in the woods behind Memorial Hall. Several trees that presented a potential falling hazard were removed and we had the area graded and seeded. We repaired and extended the split rail fence along the front of the Memorial garden and extended it along the side of the parking lot toward the playground.

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 as the older lights fail and require replacement. We replaced the compressor in Room 4 that had rendered the room unusable. A new compressor was placed in the Utility Room to maintain the fire system. More work on the fire system in Westminster is required in the coming year as we work to seal leaks.

In safety, we have placed door sensors on doors leading to the lower sanctuary so the adults will be aware of someone entering the area after Sunday school has started. We have also replaced all the cameras in Memorial Hall to increase the clarity to high definition, thanks to Matt Reyne and Don Tancredi.



I also wish to thank all the people involved in the fall cleaning. We were unable to schedule a spring cleaning this year, leaving us with a mess for the fall. We had a large turnout and a very successful cleanup. Thanks to all who were there and a special thanks to the scouts and other young people, their leaders, and parents that helped to made the event so successful.

The Trustees continue to serve our church community as stewards of the Facility so that the church can continue in its mission to serve Newark and the Presbytery. If you see anything that needs our attention please notify Cindy, so it can be placed on our work list.



Westminster Management

Jim Annett



The Board of Directors, Acting President 2020 – **John Farnum**, Vice president – **Travers R.**, Secretary - **Anne P.** and Treasurer - **Ed Gliwa**, plus the “At Large Members” from both the Church and Recovering Community, met monthly to make plans and address any problems which arise.

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. Morale and attendance have generally improved this year. Some of the meetings are now packing the rooms.

The annual “Westminster House Recovery Sunday” service continues to be a special event. Members of the Recovering Community come and tell us the path that has led them to Westminster House, describe their continuing journey, and what Westminster continues to provide to them. We realize the effectiveness of this Mission. Another aspect which is equally, if not more important, is that we hear examples of how we can be deliberate about our lives,

make changes where we can, and have hope for our future. We may never be perfect, but we can be better.

Due to COVID and the building closures, Westminster House groups began holding their meetings via Zoom to support those in need of recovery services. No special events were held in the buildings this past year.

Westminster Management fundraising efforts are currently on hold and hope to restart in 2021.

WITNESSING MINISTRY

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, Habitat for Humanity, Meeting Ground, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Newark Area Welfare.

We sent funds several times to support our Congo partnership with the Dinanga Church. We aided the Good Shepherd Hospital in Kananga 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. 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. We continued to support Bob and Kristi Rice in

South Sudan. Unfortunately, they were unable to visit as planned due to injury. We are supporting our mission co-workers: Dennis and Maribel Smith in Argentina, who retired at the end of 2020, and Doug Dicks from Israel-Palestine.

We are very thankful for the many members who generously support the mission work of our church. Many members of the church give generously of their time and money to the following organizations: Hope Dining Room, Meeting Ground, Newark Area Welfare, Habitat for Humanity, 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.

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., it 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

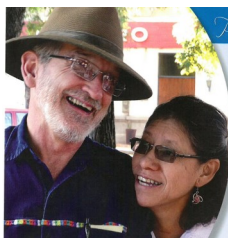
Meeting Ground is a faith-based organization that has responded to the needs of homeless people in Maryland and Delaware since 1981. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness will find temporary 'safe haven' in our services. Using faith-based values, our guests can regroup and get their lives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

Mission Co-Workers



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

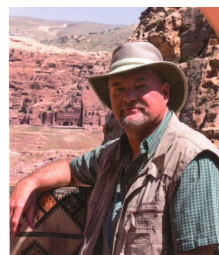
Bob and Kristi serve alongside partners in ministry in South Sudan. Bob teaches theology and ethics at Nile Theological College, training future pastors and leaders. Kristi serves as economic development advisor for community development projects of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. They 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.



**Dennis and
Maribel Smith**
*Serving Christ
together in South
America*

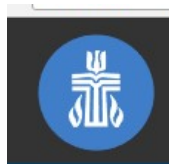
Dennis cultivates the PC (USA)'s Relationship with 15 historic mission partners in nine South American countries. Dennis shares their stories of faithful witness with congregations in the United States and shares with partners what he has learned in 40 years of ministry in Latin America. In addition, he supervises the other mission co-workers serving this region and accompanies the many PC (USA) presbyteries and congregations that have mission partnerships in South America.

Maribel serves in ministry in the home and she works as part of a network that treats post traumatic stress and seeks alternatives to violence.



Doug Dicks
*Serving Christ in
Israel
and Palestine*

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

Our Sister Church—Dinanga Parish

Jim Annett

This year's message is similar to last year's message but there is HOPE. There have been challenges and travails. Even though there is still some intermittent armed conflict, there is much less conflict and more stability, at the national and local level. There has also been conflict involving leadership challenges in the denomination, the Congolese Presbyterian Church (CPC). That was resolved after legal and political issues were resolved, including a court case in the capital Kinshasa. Soon after the CPC leadership conflict was resolved, the executive secretary of the CPC required medical treatments that had been deferred due to COVID-19 and was flown to Kinshasa. Pastor Tshidinda has fully recovered. Folks were very concerned about our presidential election and what examples it would set for African politicians. They prayed for our election.

The prevalence of COVID-19 has been relatively limited in Kananga, which is typical of most of Africa, which I believe is due to more limited transportation and less travel between areas. Pastor Tshibuabua recently emailed that there were 12 cases in Kananga (before August, there had been no identified cases in Kananga). The Kananga Presbytery has been leading the parish churches in communicating measures to limit transmission such as wearing masks, social distancing, and washing hands. There were shutdowns in Kananga earlier but church services and schools resumed in August. Schools have recently shut down again. Attendance at church services has been impacted and steps

are being taken to address this, such as a special concert by the youth choir and relaunch of a radio program.

Pastor Tshibuabua has had a very difficult year. His wife Chantal passed away in January, before their 30th wedding anniversary and before the 30th anniversary of the start of his ministry, after a protracted and difficult illness. This is a tremendous loss for him and his children, as well as the Dinanga parish and Kananga Presbytery, in which she was very active. During a recent presbytery meeting Pastor Tshibuabua was surprised to be replaced as the executive secretary after 25 years of service.

In December, Pastor Tshibuabua was appointed to assume the functions of Coordinator of the Presbyterian Coordination for Community Development for the CPC. In November, his daughter Stella, defended her thesis on Financial Resource Management at the University and it was accepted by the jury.

With regards to the Dinanga school, all 10 students who took the secondary school state exams in September have passed. The first is a young girl with 78%, one with 74%, four with 72%, one with 71%, and 69%, 63%, 61%. They want to go to the university. Three of them were the beneficiaries of the money from FPCN. They are thankful to their brothers and sisters of FPCN for their support of many years. In August, all 37 students who took the

state exams for the 6th grade passed the exam.

The 2020 - 2021 school year has picked up well since October 12. The distribution of the pupils is:

A. Primary School: Total number of students= 247; Girls= 110; Boys= 137

B. Secondary School: Total number of students= 140; Girls= 88; Boys= 52

Some of the news from the Dinanga parish sounds very familiar, e.g., some musical instruments are in good condition, but they don't have a generator. The amplifier is over 10 years old, and it can still work no matter how many times it has been repaired. And yet the sound system attracts many people, especially children and young people. The parish distributed corn flour to church members in July. Unfortunately, hunger is too often a real issue for them.



Hope Dining Room

Willee Short

The year started just fine and then it all ended. We served at Hope in January, February and March and then Hope closed. We made some lunches and took them to the Empowerment Center trying to help where we were able. Hope opened in June and we were first to serve. We made 50 bag lunches, turkey and cheese sandwiches, chips, fruit drops, protein bars, carrots, fruit and cookies. Big problem, 7 people arrived so back to the Empowerment center with the left overs.

The members picked up as time went by and in October we decided to serve hot meals, our world famous Presbyterian pasta, salad, fruit and cookies. In December, we had a gift of socks and a hat, knit by Rosemarie Beron for each client. We take turns serving and cooking since only 5 people can be in the kitchen. The clients are wonderful and seem

to come in smiling and have a few minutes to talk.

It has been a difficult year for all of us and adding to our distress, we lost three very important people – Carolyn Smith, Priscilla Crowder and Bob McAlpine. We know they are taking care of a heavenly Hope.

Members of our team are – Stephanie Birdsall, Greg Hills, Kathleen Jolly, Jane McAlpine, Janet Meyers, Vickie and Jim Pearson-Perry, Willee and Paul Short, Pat Steele, Carlton Tappan, and John Winter.

We thank these very dedicated members. They are always there to help and bring cheer to the clients.

This year we spent \$ 1,167 on food and our gifts and donations were \$1,906.

We thank everyone for all their donations, money, socks, hats and time. Stay safe!



First Saturday Breakfast

Darlene Newsom/Janet Huckleberry

For the first three months of 2020, we were able to provide breakfast for our recovering community at Westminster House in the usual way. However, we noted fewer people came each month. Beginning April 2020, we have canceled First Saturday Breakfast due to COVID. Due to our low attendance rate over the past year when breakfast was served, we are considering other ways to reach out to our friends at Westminster House once the COVID restrictions are lifted.

Helping Hand

Sheila Anderson and Steve Hardwick



Food for the Hungry, Hope for the Homeless

The HELPING HAND committee coordinates the collection of food, household necessities, and cash donations in partial support for three front-line local institutions that assist the poor, the homeless, and troubled persons in our corner of Delaware and Cecil County, Maryland. Once each month (except December), we collect and deliver in a regular monthly rotation to the following three groups.

Meeting Ground, a Presbyterian program that provides food, housing, assistance and counseling to individuals and families on both a temporary and long-term basis at five locations in or near Elkton, MD. Their clients include runaway young people, abused women and children, people fighting addictions, and those driven into homelessness by illness or loss of employment. Wayfarers' House serves as a food closet, providing food boxes for those who are hungry and in need of food in our community.

Newark Area Welfare, which began with the personal charitable gifts of concerned

citizens in the 1930's Depression, provides temporary help to those out of work or in immediate needs that cannot be met swiftly by governmental agencies. We help stock their food closet, located at the Newark United Methodist Church on East Main Street. Since the Newark Empowerment Center, where the homeless can receive hot noon meals and basic survival kits, has also been located at Newark United Methodist Church, the Food Closet also supplies the Center's clients with some of their food.

The Food Closet at Kingswood United Methodist Church, on Marrows Road near Route 4, is a volunteer service carried out by members of Kingswood and other churches. Kingswood opens its Food Closet to their Hope Dining Room clients, providing support primarily to homeless members of the community.

2020 Summary

In 2020, our activities were cut short after only two collections, due to COVID-19. Through Cindy and Jynx's leadership, we managed a

collection in November for Meeting Ground, which received generous support from the congregation.

The continued generous support from the congregation of FPC is greatly appreciated by the organizations we support. Providing a bag of groceries once a month is a simple, and very personal way to help others in our community who are in need. We thank all of you who have supported FPC's Helping Hand program and invite other worshipers to join us in 2021 in the work of this vital local mission.

The Helping Hand team depends upon the initiative of many from our congregation who always seem to step up to help when needed. In 2020, Jynx Stevenson and Sheila Anderson helped to organize, prepare, distribute bags, and transport food. We especially appreciate the support of Rev. Brundage and Cindy Rogers who help get the word out to the congregation and have provided the assistance that makes Helping Hand possible.

Mission and Outreach Financial Report

Prepared by Bob Black

Operating Budget Expense Summary		2020	2021	
		Actual	Annual Budget	Increase (Deor.) from Act. 2020
MISSION & OUTREACH				
	General Assembly	3,450.00	3,450.00	0.00
	Presbytery	4,050.00	4,050.00	0.00
1	Per Capita (based on active membership of 12/31/19 and NCP rates)	12,247.80	\$0	(12,247.80)
2	Locally Designated - Endowment Income	5,025.54	3,950.00	(1,075.54)
	Locally Designated - General Income	5,170.00	5,170.00	0.00
3	Mission Co-Workers	4,750.00	2,500.00	(2,250.00)
	Mission Partnership (Dinanga)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
	Dinanga School	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Alternative Gift Market	7.47	150.00	142.53
	Newark Area Mission Fund (Bequest - Established In 2019)	3,520.00	3,623.00	103.00
	Scouting Support	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Westminster 1st Saturday Breakfast	126.50	200.00	73.50
Total MISSION & OUTREACH		39,347.31	24,093.00	(15,254.31)

Notes:

- 1 This item moved to Coordinating to be monitored by Session. Expense for 2021 is \$12,218.00
- 2 Actual 2020 end of year budget expenses matched or exceeded income (see below), actual 2021 will as well, it is overall budget "neutral".
- 3 Number of Mission Co-Workers reduced to two, in 2019-2020 had been three Co-Workers. Many years ago we had as many of five Co-Workers.

Operating Budget Expense Detail		2020 Actual
Locally Designated - General Income (Monies actually distributed from Local Mission Balance Sheet Fund but tabulated here)		
	Congo Hospital (IMCK)	380.00
	Dinanga Parish General (May Include Transfer Costs, \$151 Moved to Balance Sheet Fund, i.e. Future Transfer))	281.00
	Habitat for Humanity	148.00
	Hope Dining Room FPC Committee	142.00
	Kingswood Food Closet	10.00
	Meeting Ground	311.00
	Newark Area Welfare	530.00
	Newark Empowerment Center	2,287.75
	PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers (AGMkt Funding Round-up to \$100 each to Dicks, Rice & Smith.)	190.00
	Presbyterian Disaster Relief - PDA - Undesignated	890.00
Total: Value less than Operating Budget of \$5,170, added \$0.25 to year-end fund value		5,169.75
Locally Designated - Endowment Income (Monies actually distributed from Endowment Balance Sheet Fund but tabulated here)		
	Congo Hospital (IMCK)	500.00
	Dinanga Parish School Support (Moved to Balance Sheet Fund, i.e. Future Transfer)	769.00
	Dinanga Parish General (Moved to Balance Sheet Fund, i.e. Future Transfer)	814.00
	Habitat for Humanity	500.00
	Hope Dining Room FPC Committee	53.00
	Meeting Ground	685.00
	Newark Area Welfare	1,189.00
	Newark Empowerment Center	866.00
	Presbyterian Disaster Relief - PDA - Undesignated	500.00
Total: Value distributed is above Actual 2020s Budget Income of \$5,025.54, \$850.46 decrease in year-end fund value		5,876.00
Newark Area Mission Fund (Bequest - Established In 2019)		
	Habitat for Humanity	152.00
	Hope Dining Room FPC Committee	146.00
	Meeting Ground	319.00
	Newark Area Welfare	1,400.00
	Newark Empowerment Center	1,503.00
Total: This is an "In and Out" Fund i.e. Income matches Expense		3,520.00
Mission Co-Workers		
	Doug Dicks (D#...222)	1,960.00
	Bob & Kristi Rice (D#...528)	1,960.00
	Dennis & Maribel Perez Smith (E#...481)	830.00
Total		4,750.00

Worship and Music

Carol Aftosmis

The members of the Worship Committee are: Carol Aftosmis, Jim Annett, Larry Benson, Steve Breffitt, Pastor Steve Brundage, Jim Pierson-Perry, Carolyn Morton, Norma Salomon, Cindy Rogers and Don Tancredi.

2020 started out like most years – reviewing the Advent/Christmas season of 2019 and making plans for Lent. Then in March, the Coronavirus changed many things in our lives and in the life of the Church.

Pastor Steve, Cindy and Jeff Rogers, Jim Pierson-Perry and the Praise Band quickly adjusted to the changing needs of providing the Congregation with a Sunday Service that could be seen at home. Palm Sunday, April 4, was the first Sunday Service to be celebrated in this manner. The service was taped on Saturday morning in a closed sanctuary, edited and uploaded to YouTube for Sunday morning viewing. The regular Sunday bulletin for each service was emailed to the Congregation. On May 5, the Session approved this Unity Service format until September 2020, a deadline which was then extended through the end of 2020 or when the Coronavirus subsides.

Sunday Service, June 14, was celebrated with the swearing in of Church Officers and Trustees, 2020 Confirmation Class, Third Graders Bibles, and High School and College graduates. It was the first “live opening” when church members

were asked to attend the taping of services. As we settled into the pandemic and new procedures to follow the CDC requirements, a few people (about 25) started coming to the Saturday taping of the “Sunday Service.”

For those few who chose to come to the tapings or visit the Church office, the CDC requirements were followed. Guidelines were posted on all of the doors; social distancing markers were placed on the floors and the sanctuary pews were taped off according to the distancing standards; sanitation gel and unused masks were made available; and temperature scanning was enforced. Communion Elements evolved into Intinction of individual prefilled cups of juice and wafers.

The Communicator was emailed regularly, but the Heartbeat was discontinued until a future date. The Worship Team also emailed periodic surveys of the Congregation to learn if we were doing adequate communicating, what more we might do, and when the congregation might feel comfortable returning to services in the sanctuary.

As the months rolled by, the Audio-Visual Team worked with the Trustees and Sanctuary Renovation Team to install an improved video and sound system. They started taping in April with a single video recording device and limited audio that then had to be edited. As covered in the Sanctuary

Renovation yearend report, this project was successfully completed by December. A Sound Tech position was created to oversee the audio-visual recording of Sunday Services and special events.

The Church Choir went on hiatus in April due to the Coronavirus. Kathy Harris, our organist and Choir Director, was working with the Praise Team during the summer, but she accepted a new job in the fall. We were sorry to see her go and wish her all the best.

Long-time Head of the Chancel Guild, Lynn Reyne, retired at the end of the year. She and the Guild members are those behind-the-scene workers who make sure the Sanctuary has the proper Paraments, banners and the right color candles. Thank you for your service, Lynn. Norma Salomon is now leader of the Chancel Guild.

Pastor Steve’s Retirement “send off” had a “live and lively” audience. He has been our spiritual guide and leader for past 12 years. He gave great care in choosing his Sermon Series. He liked to have a Special focus each Sunday – it might be All Saint’s Day, Veteran’s Day, Boy Scout Sunday or Mother’s Day. We explored new ways to celebrate Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Thanksgiving with our Neighborhood Church Coalition. His enthusiasm for new endeavors has taken us on trips, intense Bible study, and planning for the care and

future of our sanctuary. His warmth and caring carried us through good times and bad. Best wishes for his new life on the West Coast.

We encourage you to reach out to any of us if you have a question, idea or would like to serve on the Committee.



Let us
WORSHIP
Together



Praise Team

Larry Benson, Leader

“The Times They Are A- Changin,” by Bob Dylan, certainly reflects the happenings of this year. Each person in this church has been affected by what is happening in the world. It has changed the way we communicate, worship, shop, work, and dress. We can’t shake hands, hug our children and grandchildren, or hug each other. There are limits to the numbers that can congregate together and who is allowed to sing. For safety purposes, we are told we must limit the number of people allowed in a store at a time, we must wear masks, and we must even follow a specific directional flow in the aisles.

Despite all of this, through the power of technology, we have maintained the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ here at First Presbyterian Church.

Here is a behind the scene glimpse at some of the technical improvements that have been made at the church over the past several months.

Since everything is recorded, equipment had to be purchased to accommodate this need. Microphones had to be purchased for added Praise Team members and a larger mixing board with extra channels to handle the extra feeds. Dozens of cables were bought and hidden to transfer all this data from one source to another. The piano needed to be “miked” so the sound could be picked up on the recording. Ceiling microphones, that haven’t been used in years, were reactivated (and actually worked!) to help record the bells and church organ. The Praise Team was moved from the

front center of the church to the choir risers to present a more aesthetically pleasing look.

We have met some of my personal goals in 2019. We now have a drummer/vocalist, a strong female voice, and a new guitarist. Alex Bock (drums/vocals), Melody Bock (vocals), and Griff Campbell (guitar) joined the praise team this year. Their added talents have raised the quality of our sound, both on the traditional hymns and contemporary music. There is now a permanent place for the set-up of the Praise Team eliminating the need to tear down and move equipment each week. We were in desperate need of a Sound Engineer to balance and coordinate the music and video. This position was filled with the hiring of Matt Bowen. Many of you know Matt as a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Welcome new members of the Praise Team.

I work with a great team of people. They are musically creative and bring to the table new ideas from material that moves and inspires them. Their commitment and involvement have made our sound more polished, professional, and POSSIBLE!

I would personally like to thank Dave Baker (bass guitar, baritone/bass vocals), Karen Baker (vocals, tambourine, and shaker). My special thanks to Steve Breffitt (drums and bass), who fills in when sickness, work, and vacations arise. I would certainly be remiss if I



didn’t give credit to Cindy Rogers, Office Manager, for her tireless effort in assembling all the necessary programs for the Saturday morning services and providing a theme based presentation at the front of the church.

Special thanks to Jim Pierson-Perry (piano and sometimes vocal), for spending countless hours viewing tutorials on mixing, editing, and video set-up. He did most, if not all, the running of all the cords and cables to make the recording possible for Saturday morning recordings. He contacted many vendors trying to procure the best prices for equipment purchased. Because of these achievements and excellence in service to the *Kingdom* ... the **Grammy Award for Producer of the Year** goes to Jim Pierson-Perry. Cheers, hand-clapping, and standing ovation!!

I was reminded of the power of a song as I read a story about WWI written in “Devotions for Advent”. The story told how one particular song quelled the conflict momentarily during Christmas in 1914. Both German and British troops were stationed along a 500-

mile front when the German soldiers began to sing “Stille Nacht.” The Brits joined in with “Silent Night.” The following day both sides put weapons aside and crossed no man’s land to wish each other “Merry Christmas.”

Traditional and contemporary music lifts the spirit and comforts the soul. So I will proclaim these words in closing:

“Jesus Messiah, name above all names.”

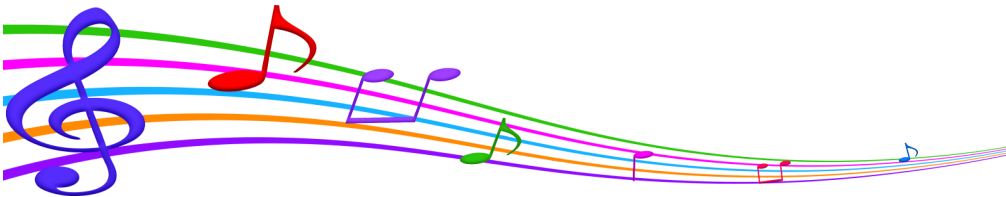
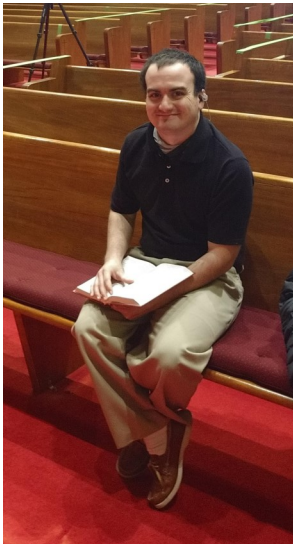
and

*“On Christ, the solid Rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand.”*

When asked about this plague that has infected our planet, let this be our collective response:

“Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

Amen



Carillon Ringers

Steve Breffitt, Director

The Carillon Ringers began 2020 with their usual enthusiasm for handbells, music, and Worship, and provided music selections each month – until March. Like most other activities, the Bells stopped rehearsing and sharing music in March. In August, I sent an email to the ringers to see who was interested in resuming to ring. I expected, and ordered music for, three to six ringers. To my surprise, I got immediate responses from a full handbell ensemble – they wanted to ring!

Since August, we have rehearsed weekly, and shared music for worship – all done with an emphasis on masks and social distancing.

Everyone wears a mask, and has their temperature checked when they arrive for rehearsals or worship recording. In a normal situation, ringers usually stand close enough to share certain bells - but not now. Every ringer has their own table, and no bells are shared. I regularly emphasize to all of them that, if they choose to, they can stop at any time. However, they still choose to be there!

Many thanks to all of the ringers who participated during 2020:

Stephanie Birdsall, Marian Bowen, Brenda Breffitt, Lavenia Civitella, Dave Evers, Jackie Evers, Marilyn Gennett, Rachel Gray, Dee Loux, Annette Mehan, Kristy Northrup,

Carol Olson, Lynn Strawhecker, Michelle Strickler, and Vicky Wallace.

Your dedication and enthusiasm are the reason for my continuing as a *volunteer, interim (8th year!)* Director.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Breffitt



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Vicki Pierson-Perry, Ann Roybal, Co-Moderators, Presbyterian Women

Nursery Staff

Kallie Shore, Megan Connell

Mission Co-Workers

Argentina: Dennis & Maribel Perez Smith
South Sudan: Bob and Kristi Rice
Israel & Palestine: Doug Dicks

Sister Congregation

Dinanga Presbyterian Church
Democratic Republic of Congo

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

