

2023 Annual Report to the Congregation

January 28, 2024

**Congregational Meeting and Annual Meeting of the
Corporation**

**New Hope Presbyterian Church
of South Buncombe, Inc.**

**3070 Sweeten Creek Road,
Asheville, North Carolina**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

**New Hope Presbyterian Church of South Buncombe, Inc.
Asheville, North Carolina
January 22, 2023**

Rev. Kim Wells, moderator, convened the meeting of the congregation and the annual meeting of the Corporation in the church sanctuary following the worship service. She opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the clerk as secretary to record the proceedings as required by the Book of Order. The secretary declared there was a quorum (20 or more active members).

Minutes of the 2022 Congregational Meetings

- The moderator announced that the minutes of the congregational meeting in 2022 are included in the Annual Report to the Congregation. The minutes were approved by the Session and are provided for information.

State of the Church Report

1. Reports Available Online

- The 2022 Annual Report to the Congregation is provided through the church's website and in the e-news. Hard copies are available to members who want one. The Report includes the minutes of the 2022 Congregational Meetings and the meeting of the Corporation, annual reports from the Clerk, the Deacons and the committees of the Session: Building and Grounds, Faith Formation, Finance & Administration, Justice and Reconciliation, Outreach, Personnel, and Worship.
- The New Leaders Guide is also available on the website and was in the e-news.
- The 2022 Statistical Report to Presbytery is available online.

2. In-person reports:

- Finance and Administration
 - The pastor thanked Mike Garrett for serving as treasurer and for the time and effort he has spent with the church's finances, including becoming familiar with an update of the flock base computer system. She stated that Terri Carpenter will chair the Finance and Administration Committee in 2023 and George Bauernfeind will serve as treasurer.
 - Mike Garrett reported on the year-end financial statement for 2022; the year ended with a deficit of \$77.
 - The budget for 2023, approved by the Session, is \$206,400. The budget total includes reductions in expenses as well as transferring \$7000 from investments for revenue to cover raises for the pastor and staff.
 - He reminded members that continued regular contributions help the Finance Committee with month-to-month planning.
 - The church has no debt and the reserves can be compared to a savings account.

- Personnel
 - Terms of Call for the Pastor. The Pastor excused herself for this portion of the meeting and Bonnie Runkle, chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the Terms of Call for the Pastor. The total compensation reflects a 4% increase along with the associated Board of Pensions increases; reimbursable expenses decreased to \$1500. The total cost to the church is \$98,530.
 - Five days of paid sick leave was added for the pastor and all staff.
 - When the Pastor returned to the meeting, she expressed her deep appreciation and gratitude for their generosity and support.
 - Raises for the Music Director and the Church Administrator are reflected in the 2023 budget.

Moderator's Report

- The moderator again expressed her gratitude for pastoring New Hope and the dedication of the members. She reminded members that everyone has an important role in our community of faith.

Adjournment of the Congregational meeting. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Spann, Clerk

Kim Wells, Pastor

Meeting of the Corporation

The President stated that there was no business conducted by the Corporation during 2022. Corporation business usually consists of legal decisions regarding major issues with the church.

Elders are the trustees of the Corporation and the officers are elected by the Session.

The officers of the Corporation for 2023 are

Bonnie Runkle, President
Susan Maveety, Vice-President
Nancy Spann, Secretary
George Bauernfeind, Treasurer

Copies of the Leaders' Guide were available in the narthex.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the pastor.

Nancy Spann, Secretary

Clerk's 2023 Annual Report

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation was held January 22, 2023.

1. The Session had eleven Stated Meetings, two Congregational Meetings, and two email meetings/decisions. Minutes of all meetings are on file.
2. Nine ruling elders comprised the 2023 Session. Following are the ministries of the Session and the chairs of those ministries:
 - Clerk: Nancy Spann
 - Building and Grounds: Bunk Spann (non-active elder)
 - Congregational Life: Margaret Marsh and Woody Ferrell
 - Faith Formation: Virginia Hebert
 - Finance and Administration: Terri Carpenter
 - Justice and Reconciliation: Jean Moxley
 - Outreach: Susan Maveety
 - Personnel: Bonnie Runkle
 - Worship: Andy Morse
3. Nine ruling elders will comprise the 2024 Session. Ministries and chairs for 2024 are:
 - Clerk: Nancy Spann
 - Building and Grounds: Bunk Spann (non-active elder)
 - Congregational Life: Woody Farrell and Nan Riley
 - Faith Formation: Russ Moxley, convenor
 - Finance and Administration: Terri Carpenter
 - Justice and Reconciliation: Jean Moxley
 - Outreach: Susan Maveety and Virginia Hebert
 - Personnel: Barbara McLean
 - Worship: Andy Morse
4. Margaret Marsh and Bonnie Runkle rotated off the Session. Nan Riley and Barbara McLean were elected to three-year terms for the Class of 2026.
5. Two Sessional committees with specific topics continued. The Nominating Committee chaired by Margaret Marsh and the Earth Care Committee chaired by Janet Black were active.
6. George Bauernfeind was elected treasurer for 2023.
7. Officers of the Corporation for 2023 were: Bonnie Runkle, President; Susan Maveety, Vice-Chair; Nancy Spann, Secretary; and George Bauernfeind, Treasurer.
8. Officers of the Corporation for 2024 are: Terri Carpenter, President; Susan Maveety, Vice-Chair; Nancy Spann, Secretary; and George Bauernfeind, Treasurer.
9. The Session welcomed 24 new members during the year:
 - Elizabeth Costlow by Reaffirmation of Faith
 - Patricia Grace from Keystone United Methodist Church in Keystone Heights, Florida
 - Dianne Graeber from First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir, NC
 - Sandra Hopkins from Jubilee Community Church
 - Don Johnson from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC

Martha Johnson from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC
Anne Justice from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC
Walter Justice from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC
Deborah Kramer by Reaffirmation of Faith
Greg Kramer by Reaffirmation of Faith
Carolyn Ledford from First Christian Church, Black Mountain, NC
Dick Manz from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC
Peggy Manz from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC
Barbara McLean from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC
Jim McLean from Grace Covenant PC, Asheville, NC
Larry Miller by Reaffirmation of Faith
Judy Morrison from First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, NC
Cal Reid from Potomac PC, Potomac, Maryland
Elsie Reid from Potomac PC, Potomac, Maryland
Gary Shue by Reaffirmation of Faith
Judy Shue by Reaffirmation of Faith
Daniel Simmons from King Moravian Church, King, NC
Colin Smith by Reaffirmation of Faith
John Wineberg by Reaffirmation of Faith

10. Retired Clergy Associate changes

Martha Rowlett and John Ledford were added
Roberta Martin was removed by order of the Session

10. Transferred: Mary Jo Limbird to Shepherd of the Sierra Presbyterian Church, Loomis, California

11. The following persons were removed from the membership by order of the Session:

Abby Bates; Mike and Susan Garrett; Richard and Judy Green; Rob Reneger; Janet, Dan, and Trevor Manning; Barbara and John Kenny; Lynn Young

12. Six members passed away during the year:

Sonya Williams – June 22, 2023
Jean Fesperman -March 3, 2023
Jim Clow – October 12, 2023
Jane Meeks -October 13, 2023
Pat Price- October 21-2023
Jeanne Morelock – December 20, 2023

13. Ken Meeks retired as Associate Clergy Member and was celebrated and honored for his service to the Diaconate and to the church.

14. Six Deacons served during 2023: Bill Carpenter, Joy Lee Eppes, Janet Farrell, Ann Moorefield, Elaine Morse, and Karen Ward.

15. Elaine Morse and Joy Lee Eppes rotated off the Diaconate at the end of 2023.
Cal Reid and Tom Fife were elected to serve a three-year term for the Class of 2026.

16. The Session is grateful for the growth of the membership and the leadership of Pastor Kim.

Submitted by Elder Nancy Spann, Clerk

2023 Church Statistical Report

Church New Hope **PIN** 23383
Presbytery Western North Carolina
Address 3070 Sweeten Creek Rd, Asheville, NC 28803-2114
Phone 828-274-0191 **Fax**
Email officenewhope@gmail.com
Web Site newhopepcusaasheville.org



Membership			
Prior Active Members	104	Adjusted membership	103
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	16	Certificate	1
Youth Professions	0	Deaths	6
Professions & Reaffirmations	8	Deleted for any Other Reason	12
Total Gains	24	Total Losses	19
Total Ending Active Members	108		
Baptisms			
Presented by Others	0	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	67
At Confirmation	0	Friends of the Congregation	6
All Other	0	Ruling Elders on Session	9
		Do you have Deacons?	Yes
Age Distribution of Active Members			
17 & Under	0	People with Disabilities	
18 - 25	1	Hearing impairment	15
26 - 40	4	Sight impairment	10
41 - 55	4	Mobility impairment	11
56 - 70	23	Other impairment	8
Over 70	76		
Total Age Distribution	108	Gender Distribution	
		Women	70
		Men	38
		Non-Binary	
Youth in Congregation			
Age 4 and under		Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	0
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	1	High School (9th – 12th grade)	3
		Total Youth	4
Racial Ethnic			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian		Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	
Black/African American/African		White	
Middle Eastern/North African		Multiracial	
Hispanic/Latino-a	1	Total Racial Ethnic	1
Budgeted Income			
Budgeted Income	206,400		
Budgeted Expense			
Budgeted Expense	210,444		
Receipts			
Regular Contributions	226,071	Bequests	0
Capital Building Fund	15,965	Other Income	2,030
Investment Income	8,242	Subsidy or Aid	0
Expenditures			
Local Program	172,968	Investment Expenditures	53,555
Local Mission	16,933	Per Capita Apprt	4,800
Capital Expenditures	0	Other Mission	14,791

Building and Grounds Annual Report

Chairperson/s: Bunk Spann

Committee Members: Bill Epps, Bill Carpenter, Myron Lepro, Brad Russell

Number of Meetings: 5 with numerous email exchanges in the interim

Goals for Reporting Year

- Continue maintenance and clean up as needed
- Carry out special projects as approved by the Session

Accomplishments

- Collaborated with Jay Maveety on the installation of the new butterfly/bird garden on lower westside lawn
- Provided leadership for churchwide fall and spring cleanup days
- Applied spring time fertilizer and grub control
- Purchased and installed water control system for new butterfly/bird garden
- Planted seed and installed mulch in deep cuts on westside lawn
- Contracted with Gregg Electric to repair southside lighting fixture on roadside sign
- Continue to upgrade interior lighting system with light emitting diodes
- Replaced southside inside plastic window covering to reduce glare and enhance worship experience
- Added Daniel Simmons to the mowing teams and Herschel Lewis and Brad Russell to the Audio/Visual team.

Financial Activities

- Modified the 2023 budget request to better reflect actual expenses and expected increases

Thank yous

- To Bill Carpenter for providing the labor and often the leadership to complete several projects
- To Bill Epps for keeping the power equipment in good shape and ready to use
- To Myron Lepro for keeping the vendors on their toes regarding upgrades and repairs
- To Session for their continued support of B&G activities and budget

Goals for the Coming Year

- Recruit committee members(s) to replace at least one who is planning to retire from the committee
- Obtain cost estimates for replacing the Fellowship Hall carpet

Submitted by Bunk Spann, Chair

Congregational Life Ministry Team 2023 Annual Report

Chair: Margaret Marsh and Woody Ferrell

Committee Members: Woody Ferrell, Margaret Marsh and Nan Riley

Number of Meetings: Four

Goals for Reporting Year:

Our goals for the year were to continue engaging our congregation in fellowship and a variety of activities.

Accomplishments:

- St. Patrick's Day luncheon on Sunday, March 19th with a menu of Corn Beef and Cabbage, Irish Stew and Vegetarian Shepard's Pie.
- Sunday luncheon on April 16th with the Guatemala team presenting a slideshow highlighting their recent trip to El Divino Salvador.
- Revival of Summer Spirit:
 - Pentecost Sunday luncheon, May 28 to start our Summer Spirit activities
 - Tourist Baseball game, Wednesday, June 21
 - Attended the play, "Church Basement Ladies" July 1, at SART, Mars Hill
 - Summer Sunday luncheon, July 16th
 - An Evening of Arts, Music and Theology at Montreat, Tuesday, July 25
 - Annual Lake Julian Picnic, Sunday August 27
 - Evening of Music at the Arboretum, Thursday, September
- Saturday Craft time every other month with Nan Riley and Jan Fife.
- Planned and introduced a Pilgrimage to Scotland for September 2024
- Updated our Pictorial Directory
- Assisted the Stewardship Committee with the Sunday, October 15 Stewardship kickoff luncheon.
- Thanksgiving Sunday luncheon, November 19 with Eric Doss from Progressive Pilgrimage joining us to discuss and answer questions about trip to Scotland.
- Sunday, Christmas Eve morning bunch

Financial Activity

We provided \$500 toward the \$1000 deposit for the trip to Scotland. Because of donations at our various luncheons, we were able to stay within our budget.

Thank You

Appreciation was extended to many who volunteered to help with the various activities during the year.

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee.

The goals for 2024 are to continue engaging our congregation in various activities that will give us an opportunity to fellowship and to know each other better.

Submitted by Margaret Marsh and Woody Ferrell, Co-Chairs

Faith Formation Committee 2023 Annual Report

Chairperson: Virginia Hebert

Committee Members/Attendees: Russ Moxley, Advisor to Session
Pastor Kim Wells, Ex Officio Member

Number of Meetings: Approximately Six (6) In-Person/Zoom Meetings; Numerous Planning Phone Calls, Emails, Texts

Goals for Reporting Year:

To provide opportunities throughout the year for congregants to grow in their knowledge of the Christian faith as well as to develop deeper relationships with God and each other through study and discussion. Specifically, the Committee set out to do the following:

1. Initiate pilot small groups.
2. Coordinate an event/study with Justice & Reconciliation with a focus on social justice.
3. Facilitate a Lenten study.
4. Facilitate an evening study during Easter season that continues the themes from Journey to Wholeness.
5. Facilitate a Summer Spirit book or faith tradition study.
6. Facilitate one-two study groups in the Fall.
7. Facilitate an Advent study.

Accomplishments:

- Pastor Kim Wells instructed high school student Emily Neel using the Sparkhouse curriculum at weekly meetings during the spring semester.
- Pastor Kim, Virginia Hebert, and Russ Moxley facilitated a Lenten study group using Teri McDowell Ott's devotion series, *Inward Work for Outward Living*.
- Russ Moxley facilitated a "Practice Resurrection" discussion group for several weeks following Easter.
- Virginia Hebert facilitated summer and fall studies of Rachel Held Evan's *Wholehearted Faith* over the course of several Thursday evenings.
- Russ Moxley, collaborating with Margaret Marsh with Congregational Life, planned a pilgrimage to Scotland/Isle of Iona through Progressive Pilgrimage to take place in Fall 2024.
- Russ Moxley facilitated a four-week Sunday morning class studying Celtic Spirituality. John Phillip Newell's *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul* served as the primary curriculum.
- Pastor Kim Wells provided electronic materials for personal study during the Advent season.

Financial Activity:

Overall budget of \$200.00; no funds were utilized.

Thank You:

- To Laura Brown, Bill Carpenter, Susan Lang, Margaret Marsh, Barbara McLean, and Cal Reid for joining a planning/brainstorm session to assist Committee members in discerning our next steps for Faith Formation.
- To our various participants – we are grateful that there are too many to name this year! – for their willingness to dig deep within themselves and share their experiences with great authenticity and vulnerability.

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

- Continue re-introducing Sunday morning classes as opportunities for learning. Initial topics include exploring overarching themes of the Bible and the Presbyterian reformed tradition.
- Continue the Thursday evening once-a-month study in a small group discussion format.
- Provide a “Care for Caregivers” seminar during the Lenten season.
- Continue with faith formation opportunities that center around the study of poetry.
- Facilitate a Summer Spirit book study, possibly in collaboration with the Justice & Reconciliation and Outreach committees.
- Execute the pilgrimage trip to Scotland/Isle of Iona.
- Provide study/discussion opportunities/materials during the Advent season.

Submitted by Elder Virginia Hebert, Chair

Finance And Administration Committee 2023 Annual Report

Chairperson: Terri Carpenter

Committee Members: Jay Maveety, George Bauernfeind, Robin Avant (Consulting), Kim Wells, Terri Carpenter

Number of Meetings: 12

Goals for Reporting Year:

- Continue progress on improving accuracy of Fund Balances
- Refine year-end closing and audit procedures

Accomplishments:

- Completed Fund Balance corrections
- Opened money market and moved excess checking account balances, improving investment income
- Successful 2024 Stewardship campaign with congregation pledging 97% of very ambitious goal
- Will go into 2024 with a surplus budget
- Made enormous progress in understanding how newest release of Flockbase works and developed procedures for its proper use
- Will complete 2023 with a surplus (destined for Capital Fund), without the need to dip into Investment Reserves to cover the budgeted deficit

Financial Activity:

- Completed 2023 with \$37,000 surplus (moved to Capital Fund bringing it positive)
- 2024 Budget contains a small surplus in contrast to 2023's deficit

Thank Yous:

- Susan Maveety for her work in reconstructing the 2022 year-end Fund Balances
- Robin Avant for her work in correcting and understanding Flockbase
- Kim and Stan Presley for their wonderful Stewardship luncheon
- George Bauernfeind and Robin Avant for the blessing of having two talented financial professionals
- Jay Maveety for his faithful service as Financial Secretary
- Our faithful Sunday counters: Belvin Freeman, Bonnie Runkle, Nancy Spann, Terri Carpenter and Susan Maveety
- Guest speakers for the Stewardship Campaign

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

- Complete audit of 2023
- Continue development of procedures aimed at improving transparency and security

Submitted by: Elder Terri Carpenter, Chair

Justice And Reconciliation 2023 Annual Report

Chairperson: Jean Moxley

Committee Members: Margot Coleman, Marlene Johnson, Bette Meyer, Janat Parker, Pastor Kim Wells, Ex Officio Member

Number of Meetings: Nine monthly meetings except January, July and December.

Goals for Reporting Year:

- **Reparations**
 - Educate ourselves, then plan ways to educate the congregation (perhaps in conjunction with Faith Formation)
 - Continue following what the City of Asheville, Racial Justice Coalition, Community Reparations Commission and other local groups are doing that may open up opportunities for our involvement
 - Continue researching potential recipients for our committee's reparations funding
 - Follow opportunities to continue building on partnerships we have already begun with Burton Street, Racial Justice Coalition, etc., as well as with other potential partners as they arise (Shiloh neighborhood, etc.)
- **Immigration**
 - Research the status of and provide support for El Refugio and its ministry to the families and friends of those detained at Stewart Detention Center

Programmatic Accomplishments

- Attended reparation meetings to learn how the Commission is progressing
- Attended a luncheon at the YWCA to learn about programs they have that help women of color with life skills
- Met with Ms. Copeland Rudolph to learn about reparations in the field of education of black students in Asheville City Schools. Ms. Rudolph and Dr. Amieris Lavender, chair of the Education Focus Group of the Reparations Commission, spoke to the congregation on October 29, 2023.
- Began discussion of showing the documentary "Black in Asheville" in cooperation with Givens Estates which will take place on February 1, 2024.
- Attended the showing of "The Big Payback" to learn about reparations that have been successful in other places in the U.S. Also attended the YWCA discussion about progress on education by the Reparations Commission.
- Collected 18 gas cards to help families traveling long distances to see loved ones at Stewart Detention Center.
- Worked on displaying more than one of our banners at a time at the front of the church. Still a work in progress.

Financial Accomplishments

- Contributed \$1000 to Asheville City Schools Foundation for their Black Educator Excellence Program to support black educators working on degrees or certification
- Contributed \$500 to YWCA "Getting Ahead"
- Contributed \$500 to YWCA to "Light a Path Program"
- Contributed \$1000 to BeLoved Asheville, Faith 4 Justice and Racial Justice Coalition
- Contributed \$500 to El Refugio for their "Join Us at the Table" campaign

- Contributed \$325 to El Refugio from the contributions made for alternative giving cards

Thank Yous:

To Ms. Copeland Rudolph and Dr. Amieris Lavender for speaking to the congregation

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

- Research reparations opportunities for 2024
- Invite speakers to help us understand better what is happening with the reparations process in Asheville, especially as it has to do with education.
- Look for ways to assist with immigrants.

Submitted by: Elder Jean Moxley, Chair

Outreach Committee 2023 Annual Report

Chairperson: Susan Maveety

Committee Members:

Terri Carpenter, Susan Lang, Marlies Owen, Karen Ward, Margaret Marsh, and Elsie Reid

Number of Meetings: 9

Goals for Reporting Year:

- Promote Daily Change (previously 5 Cents a Meal) throughout the year
- Provide additional Outreach activities that will engage greater participation
- Renew covenant relationship with El Divino Salvador
- Conduct donation drives as needed for community

Accomplishments:

- Provided Fair Trade products for sale, coffee, tea, chocolate
- Participated in the SOUPER BOWL of Caring for the 25th year and hosted a soup sale which raised \$1,675 for MANNA Food bank.
- Maintained communication with sister church, El Divino Salvador, through What's App and Facebook messenger; virtual worship has allowed our Guatemalan community to participate in worship on a limited basis
- Renew covenant relationship with El Divino Salvador in January 2023 and provided 2 trips to Guatemala for 9 members
- Resumed monthly group volunteering to MANNA, but limited to 10 volunteers each month
- Publicized quarterly Hard to Recycle events
- Lutheran Services provided individual training to interested members who wanted to assist refugees in our area
- Introduced and successfully implemented the Epiphany canned food drive to benefit MANNA Foodbank

Financial Activity

- Alternative Giving during Advent to benefit Guatemala Children's Scholarships
- Gave a \$500 gift to Session of El Divino Salvador when visiting in Guatemala in both January and November
- The budgeted Outreach discretionary account of \$1,000 was used for Guatemala children scholarships (\$625) and Guatemala trip expenses (\$375)

Thank Yous:

- Carole Burnette and Kim Presley for preparing the soup for Souper Bowl Sunday
- Linda and Herschel Lewis for coordinating the monthly MANNA Foodbank volunteer effort.
- Janet Black and Susan Maveety who have become volunteer mentors with Lutheran Services helping refugees learn English

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

- Continue to promote Daily Change throughout the year

- Provide additional appropriate Outreach activities to provide greater participation of members
- Conduct donation drives as needed for community
- Promote the covenant relationship with our Guatemalan sister church, El Divino Salvador

Submitted by: Elder Susan Maveety, Chair

Personnel Committee 2023 Annual Report

Chairperson: Bonnie Runkle

Committee Members: Bunk Spann, Jean Moxley, Angela Lepro, Kim Wells

Number of Meetings: 4

Goals for Reporting Year

- Review and update performance review documents
- Review and update job descriptions following Covid

Accomplishments

- Reviewed and updated all three staff job descriptions
- Reviewed and updated staff yearly review forms

Financial Activity

- Submitted Personnel information for Green Church
- Submitted budget with 3% across the board staff increases
- Presented Terms of Call at annual congregational meeting

Thank Yous:

- Bunk Spann for more than 7 years of service
- Angela Lepro for bringing her knowledge of New Hope historical practices & all the assistance through her contacts
- Jean Moxley for her thoughtful suggestions and input into discussions

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

- Review current policies for accuracy and updating

Submitted by: Elder Bonnie Runkle, Chair

Worship Committee Annual Report 2023

Chairperson: Andy Morse

Committee Members : Kim Wells, Ruth Young, Janet Price-Farrell, Margot Coleman, Rob Blackwell, Elaine Morse; (streaming operators Terri Carpenter, Bonnie Runkle, Brad Russell, Andy Morse), (communion prep Kim Presley and Warren Presley), Sandra Hopkins (plant care taker), Liturgists and Communion servers.

Number of Meetings: 7 (including workdays)

Goals for 2023:

- Work on the lighting in the sanctuary. Needs more balance for different light conditions.
- Keep on keepin' on. Keep up the liturgical seasonal experiences people expect, meaning plan and work together supporting the Pastor.
- Recruit even more people to help with tasks like communion prep and setup on workdays for seasonal events.
- Refurbish the piano. There is extra money to help with this, but it is a priority because the current state of the instrument causes it to go out of tune frequently and the piano parts of the worship service (with an in-tune instrument) are essential to our experience.
- Try to get more plants in the "cross" end of the sanctuary. We have one veteran coming back to beautiful life right now, and it would be great to have a few more to give that end of the sanctuary an appeal to look at like it used to have. Would be great for the cameras too.
- Challenge the choir to incorporate more complex pieces this year.

Accomplishments:

- Supported joint in-person and online worship services for the whole year...every week
- Added to streaming operator team with 4 new people now rotating each month who monitor the streaming computer for software updates and security. Built on last year's changes to find better backgrounds views and sound online for our viewers
- Continued the liturgical seasonal experiences people expect, meaning planning and working together to support the Pastor
- Prepared worshipful backgrounds for both in-person worshipers and online, using resources such as a Sanctified Art and our own creativity
- Expanded seating from the worst of the pandemic era to accommodate many more post-pandemic in-person congregants for which we are very grateful
- Choir presented satisfying and inspirational programs for Easter and Advent, including talented guest artists; choir has 15 members, including 2 new regulars.
- Continued to work on and present new pieces that challenge the choir and inspire the congregation.
- Added new plants to sanctuary.
- Worked on plans for better sanctuary lighting with B & G.
- Encouraged and recruited new members to be involved in worship and the choir
- Continued to use online resources for visual and liturgical inspiration bulletin covers, (banners, slide show accompaniment etc.) where appropriate
- Engaged intern Janice Kominski to participate in worship activities, including preaching and serving communion

Financial Activity

- Worked with Finance and Administration to understand better accounts and functions for worship.
- Overall budget slightly increased to accommodate cost increases for sheet music and fees for guest soloists.
- Other expenses, including flowers, are being booked to one account (liturgical supplies) to simplify tracking.

Thank You:

- So Many....the Building and Grounds Committee first and foremost. We work together every week on our worship services, both for everyone in the room and for our viewers. B &G do all the camera work, setting the cameras up every week, hearing the Pastor's instructions patiently, making suggestions and working the controls input to the streaming computer every week.
- Everyone else...the names you see above plus Laura Brown, Kim Presley and Warren, everyone who is on the liturgist list and the communion server list, Jay Maveety, Susan Maveety, all the ushers, Terri Carpenter, Bonnie Runkle, Brad Russell, Herschel Lewis, Elaine Morse, the whole choir, and everyone who helps us round up cups every communion Sunday week. You're all on the team!

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

- Continue to support growth of in-person and online worshipers
- Work on the lighting in the sanctuary.
- Continue to keep up the liturgical seasonal experiences people expect, meaning plan and work together supporting the Pastor.
- Recruit even more people to help with tasks like communion prep and setup on workdays for seasonal events.
- Evaluate piano refurbishment: New tunings have dramatically improved piano's sound over a longer period. Tuner is preparing recommendations for longer term maintenance.
- Continue to evaluate and improve the music program (the choir has already begin rehearsing a Cantata for Advent in 2024)

Submitted by: Elder Andy Morse, Chair