



2023

ANNUAL

REPORT



2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, Florida
34237

www.firstpressarasota.org

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Pastor's Letter Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

Dear Friends,

2023 was an encouraging year. Our worship attendance increased, our giving increased and our serving others increased over the previous year. And, even though we lost 31 members through death, moves, and transfers of membership, we also welcomed 14 new members into our church family. We have a lot to be thankful for.

The highlights of the year for me were:

- the trip to Cuba in February to spend a week with the members of Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church, taking with us 1,500 pounds of much-needed supplies and coming home with hearts full of hope and love;
- being installed as your new pastor;
- leading confirmation class for our fun and amazing junior high and senior high youth;
- giving weekly children's sermons on the stage at the New Song service;
- paddling in a dragon boat at Nathan Benderson Park on a brutally hot July afternoon with other dehydrated members to celebrate our "Step in the Boat" Sunday School theme;
- celebrating Ron and Jinny Miller's faithful shepherding of our ministry with the children and families of Brentwood Elementary School;
- kayaking around Little Sarasota Bay with a group from the church, with a stop at the Turtle Beach Grill before heading home;
- the Rise Against Hunger event in December in which over seventy volunteers packed 14,000 meals to be sent overseas;
- teaching my Wednesday Bible study; and
- watching our children tell the Christmas story at the Family Christmas Eve service.

Spread upon these pages you will read about the things that I mentioned, and more. I hope also you will take the time to read through these reports of what God is doing in our midst. I hope that you will join me in rejoicing in the lives that are being changed through our work and worship. Especially if that life is yours.

The apostle Paul captures my thoughts about you perfectly when he writes:

"I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers." -Ephesians 1:16-19

Keep love First,



Music Ministry

Steven Phillips, Director of Music

As Director of Music, I am privileged to work with many talented and dedicated people, including our music teams, tech team, officers, members, and staff.

I want to start by thanking our choir members, who give their time and talents each week. I'm equally grateful for the New Song Band for their faithful leadership, and for the band's co-leader, Ted Eastmoore.

As our church continues to grow beyond the pandemic, we have begun to find a new stride in our choir and our band. We continue to invite talented guest musicians to enrich our services on a regular basis. Oak Street Stage, our community outreach venue, is now becoming more feasible, as we hosted one concert last Spring with the Lubben Brothers Band, and one concert by virtuoso jazz pianist David Meder and his outstanding band.

A highlight of 2023 was the annual Celtic Christmas concert on Friday, December 8. Last Fall our choir officers, chaired by Susan McDonald, made the decision to invite a partnership with the civic choir Musica Sacra, whom I also direct, making a total choir of nearly 50 singers. Our Celtic instrumentalists were the multi-talented Lubben Brothers of West Palm Beach, joined by other stellar players from the area. Movement and color came with the Riverview High School Highland Dancers, and from our own dancer-choreographer, James Jordan. With a more-than-capacity audience, the need has been demonstrated for two performances in 2024, which are slated for December 13 and 14, 2024.

I'd like to celebrate the role that FPC has come to play in our city as an incubator for the arts. Through the exacting logistical work of our Operations Manager, Rachel Martin, about a dozen performing arts organizations regularly use our campus as a venue, making us the most arts-positive church in Sarasota. For this reason, we have begun to envision a more organized way of nurturing relationships and welcoming arts-loving people into our spiritual family. In the upcoming year, we plan to design and implement the FPC Arts Advocate Program, which will rely heavily on interested church members to act as hosts to our local arts organizations and to the thousands of people who enter our doors for events.

I conclude by commending our Worship and Music Committee, under co-chairs Frank Frey, and Jeff Bartell which has worked tirelessly to provide our services with ushers, communion elements, and wise and timely oversight.

I am grateful to be part of this loving spiritual community!

First Presbyterian Preschool

Clare Carter, Director

We are celebrating seventy-five years of early childhood education! In September 1947, Pastor J. Lowery Bowman and the session of First Presbyterian Church proposed the development of a weekday kindergarten. The school opened, providing preschool education in a Christian setting for forty-eight students under the direction of Mrs. Nell Horton and three dedicated teachers.

At that time, Sarasota County did not offer kindergarten, and the school became an immediate success. Today, we are grateful to our church for supporting and believing in this critical children's ministry as a service to our church and the families of our community.

The need for early childhood education has evolved over the years, and our preschool has, too. With the opening of public kindergartens in the early 1970s, the preschool evaluated the community's needs, added classes for younger children, and extended the hours to make high-quality care available to working parents. With the opening of more daycare centers, afternoon enrollment dropped, and we returned to concentrating on morning classes for children two-and-a-half years old through the pre-kindergarten year.

In 2005, Florida implemented a free voluntary pre-kindergarten for four and five year olds, and the preschool again needed to access the program. In 2010, we began to offer parenting classes, and in 2014, we opened a new preschool class for two year-olds.

Parent Educators, Emily Weitekamp and Evan Morgan, facilitate our parenting classes called Small Beginnings. The classes focus on parenting topics such as understanding typical child development, behaviors related to development, toileting, feeding, play at each stage of development and its importance, the parent-child relationship, and self-care. They are structured to facilitate parents connecting and developing a strong web of support.

Our preschool community is a place for parents to find support and make connections. In addition to offering our students the highest quality early childhood education and parenting support for young families, we provide screenings for speech, language, and occupational therapy. We are blessed to have a relationship with an occupational therapist and a speech and language pathologist who offer free screenings for all our students.

It has taken three years to rebuild our program after the pandemic, and today, we are happy to report we have sixty-five students and a staff of sixteen. And last April, we were thrilled to celebrate our seventy-fifth anniversary!

We are grateful to First Presbyterian Church for providing us a home and feel blessed for the church's commitment to our community's children and families. It's clear that Jesus' reminder to "let the little children come" has been the guiding principle during the past seventy-five years.

Health and Wholeness Ministry

Cheryl Track, RN-BC, Faith Community Nurse

We believe every life is a sacred gift from God. We believe health and wholeness is a part of the human unity that is inspired through the body, mind and spirit.

I was faithfully supported by the Health and Wholeness Ministry Team comprised of Karen Eastmoore and Jinny Miller. Although we no longer met regularly, we continued to focus on caring for and connecting with the congregation and community. The Care Team consisting of Pastor Tim Boggess, Rev. Doug DeCelle, Michael Fingerle, and Pat Higgins met weekly via Zoom, and then reached out by phone or visit to those with health care needs. The Care Team collaborated with the Deacons and Stephen Ministers in providing congregational care.

The Ministry's Community Outreach

- January: 17 attended Stop the Bleed.
- May: I participated in Blessing of the Hands at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.
- June: 11 people were screened and 7 units of blood and 2 units platelets were collected at the SunCoast Blood Centers Drive.
- September: 10 people were screened and 9 units of blood were collected at the SunCoast Blood Centers Drive.
- October: 14 attended a CPR class.
- October: I participated in the Mission Fair at First Presbyterian.
- September: I met with Stephen Ministers to share community resources.
- December: 14 people were screened and 14 units of blood were collected at the SunCoast Blood Centers Drive.
- December: I attended the Meet and Greet for the new class of deacons.
- The Depression, Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) continued to hold weekly support groups, at First Presbyterian.
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) continued to meet at First Presbyterian, offering a 12-week Family-to-Family Class both in person and online.

The Ministry's Care to the Congregation

- 285 phone calls were made to parishioners and received 74 phone calls from parishioners.
- Made 43 referrals to resources in the community.
- Provided 18 series of *Journeying through Grief*.
- Made 5 home, 45 facility, 17 hospital, and 2 hospice visits.
- Provided transportation for 6 parishioners.
- Gave prayer shawls to 12 people.
- Attended weekly care team meetings and monthly faith community nurse meetings.
- Provided monthly articles for *News at First* as well as correlating information posted in bathrooms.
- Checked two AEDs and two first aid boxes.
- Continued to served as the health professional resource to Deacons, Stephen Ministry, and First Presbyterian Preschool.

Business Affairs Committee

Mary Willis and Bob Wrobel, Co-Moderators

The Business Affairs Committee recommends to the Session the allocation of our financial resources to accomplish the mission of FPC and strives to provide an inviting, functioning and safe church campus for the congregation and guests.

Property Ministry Team

Team members included Victor Garraus, Sexton Darwin Goldsmith, and staff liaison, Operations Manger, Rachel Martin. Darwin Goldsmith continued to be a valued member of our staff exhibiting a mastery of the skills required to maintain our large and aging campus. Continued thanks go to Victor Garraus and Scott McLeod who volunteered so much of their time working tirelessly to maintain our campus. Darwin, Victor, and Scott were joined for a spring clean-up by a team of volunteers refreshing plantings, clearing trash, and spreading mulch throughout the campus.

At our January 2023 Business Affairs meeting, we determined that getting back-to-basics would be a guiding principle for the year. The first step in that direction was to take on the fiscal and physical challenge of replacing existing windows in the administration buildings and education wing with hurricane-rated windows. After lengthy discussions, a review of the risks involved and numerous vendor quotes, a decision was made, and deposit given to Mullet Aluminum to secure the order with expectation on delivery in October and installation in December. The project is coming to completion with the new windows improving the safety, security, and appearance of our church buildings. We look forward to a reduction in our energy costs as well.

Under Rachel's leadership, we have expanded the use of our campus by both non-profit and for-profit organizations. Always seeking mission-aligned opportunities, Rachel has had significant success in increasing our revenues from rental of unused space to offset ever-increasing costs associated with utilities, repairs, and maintenance of our campus. We are home to an ever-expanding list of arts organizations for rehearsals, performances, and concerts including the recent Perlman Music Program Suncoast, when students from all over the county used classrooms as rehearsal space for several days, culminating in an evening concert. Additionally, we are a much-needed site for weekly and monthly meetings of several self-help groups under the guidance of Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse. Our outreach to the food insecure continues through our weekly All-Faiths Food Bank distribution program. In recent weeks, volunteers from our extended church family serves more than 100 families providing food for more than 242 people. Of equal importance was the opportunity to serve God and our neighbors, by sharing time, good will, and some much-needed food.

While waiting for the new windows, our property team was busy with roof leaks and air conditioning issues. In July we switched to a new HVAC vendor who has more expertise in our type of HVAC system. With the guidance of AAPair, our AC system has been repaired and upgraded with an investment of over \$50,000. With these necessary improvements we now have a workable system in place as well as a valued partner in its maintenance.

A solution to a long-standing issue with access to the chancel in the sanctuary for those with mobility challenges presented itself in the form of a chair lift. The combined efforts of our staff, elders and committee members have resulted in the installation of an ADA compliant chair lift allowing access to our members and guests. The stair lift was paid for with memorial funds.

Finance Ministry Team

Team members include Reva Mitchell, Stephen Mitchell, Ric Saba, Larry Schaper, and new members Andy Copa and Wendy Miller.

Coming off a challenging 2022, and a reduced budget for 2023 forecasting continued shortfalls, the finance team determined to get back-to-basics by examining our assets. The initial action to simplify online giving reduced redundancies while directing funds to areas in greatest need. In partnership with session and committee members, a review of balance sheet accounts noted as Temporarily Restricted, resulted in securing needed funding for programs while meeting their noted restrictions. Looking for additional revenue, Treasurer, Reva Mitchell, and new team member, Andy Copa, took on investing as we noted rising interest rates. Assisted by Lisa Garcia, Finance Manager, the diversification that included investing current assets in T-Bills and CDs and improving interest provided by existing relationships, increased our interest income by \$40,425 or 700% while establishing our compliance with FDIC regulations. Asset review continued as new team member Wendy Miller reviewed funds held as memorial donations and opportunities to employ those gifts while honoring memories of loved ones. The installation of the chancel chair lift is an example of her work. Working with the preschool board and staff with all recognizing the ever-increasing costs of managing our beautiful campus, we received a commitment from the preschool to contribute to the common area maintenance of our shared use space. The amount contributed for 2023 was \$12,000 increasing to \$18,000 for 2024 targeting a 10% of costs ceiling with future contributions determined through the budget process.

Calendar year 2023 summarized financial information is presented in the financial section of this report. It must be noted that from a financial perspective we had a very good year finishing with pledges in excess of budget and both the church and the preschool operating in the black and ahead of budget.

Reva Mitchell, Treasurer, and Lisa Garcia, Finance Manager, provided the accounting associated with the receipt of pledges, other revenue, expenses, and payment of invoices. The annual audit was prepared by Kenneth F. Kandefer, certified public accountant.

The budget for 2024 was approved by session at the December 2023 meeting.

Stewardship Ministry Team

With the inspiration of our Pastor Tim Boggess and leadership provided by Beth Byron Reasoner and David Householder, session elders took on the responsibility for the challenge of raising funds through our annual giving campaign. While the entire process was streamlined and timeline truncated, the challenge was great. Pastor Tim set the goal at an increase in pledge income of 20% for a target of \$880,000. Recalling the tale of *The Boys in the Boat* and its message of pulling together to achieve never imagined results, we were all asked to “get in the boat” and respond to God’s call to give generously. And you did...

Pastor Tim has shared that the response from leadership and the congregation with pledging and pledging at an increased amount has been very encouraging. As of January 19, 2024 we had received pledges of \$884,463 from 183 pledges. Please know that having been gifted with a huge response to this call, your session and staff will continue to examine every expenditure and revenue opportunity and will make the challenging decisions necessary to continue to be honored by your faith and trust.

Education and Formation Committee

Carrie Mills and Emily Weitekamp - Co-Moderators

The Education and Formation Committee provides Christian growth opportunities to people of all ages, through relationship-building with Christ and others to learn and share about their faith journey, wherever they are.

Children and Youth Education and Formation:

We began the year continuing the *Follow Me* curriculum, which teaches biblical practices for faithful living in four to six-week units. Pastor Tim, along with mentors George Chorba, Leah Cotter, Susan DeWyngaert, and Mariah Martin, began leading five of our youth in a confirmation class that culminated on Youth Sunday in May.

In February, we celebrated Preschool Sunday by showcasing stations of “play-based learning” in the courtyard and around the fellowship hall in between services. Our committee has worked hard to strengthen the relationship between the church and preschool this year, inviting preschool families to attend church events whenever possible.

In June, we partnered with Cedarkirk to host Traveling Day Camp. Approximately 40 children participated with six youth volunteering.

Sunday School classes began again in August, kicked off by the annual Backpack Blessings and a Rally Day themed “Step in the Boat.” The committee chose a new curriculum titled *Living the Word*, which follows the Narrative Lectionary that Pastor Tim is using to guide his sermon schedule. Sunday school classes are broken into three groups: PreK to 2nd, 3rd to 5th, and middle/high school youth.

We ended the year with a beautiful Family Christmas Eve Service coordinated by Leah Cotter and the youth, with the help of parent volunteers.

Adult Education and Formation:

The Academy for Christian Discipleship continued with many opportunities for our adult learners. John Parks’s adult class began in January, discussing six short stories to discover what they reveal about the human condition. Beginning in February, Janet Olschewsky and Michael Fingerle led a class titled “From Age-ing to Sage-ing” on Zoom, which explored a profound new vision of growing older. In April, Leah Cotter facilitated a book discussion on *To Be Made Well* by Amy Julia Becker during the fellowship hour on Sundays. Through Zoom, Elaine Barnett taught *Reading the Bible for Understanding* in the spring, *The Prophets Still Speak* over the summer, and *Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John* in the fall. Over the summer, we launched another “FPC Reads” with *The Boys and The Boat*. Readers gathered to discuss the book informally during the coffee hour, and we hosted a culminating Dragon Boat outing at Benderson Park in August.

Intergenerational

We successfully coordinated three annual holiday celebrations with the Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Carving Festival, and the Advent Workshop.

We hosted Rise Against Hunger in December with approximately 75 volunteers, where we packed 14,000 meals!

We are grateful for those who have given their time and talents to guide our mission throughout the year. In addition to the adult class educators, we appreciate the work of our children and youth class teachers: Clare Carter, Lydia Chapdelain, Leah Cotter, Christine Harrington, Mariah Martin, Scott McLeod, Sandi Soper, Emily Weitekamp and substitutes Rebecca Clissold, Rich Dulaney, and Shelley Watson.

Members of the committee were Elaine Barnett, Leah Cotter, Rebecca Clissold, Christine Harrington, Mariah Martin, Rose Monahan, Sandi Soper, with co-moderators Carrie Mills and Emily Weitekamp, and staff liaison Rachel Martin.

Congregational Nominating Committee *Dick Clapp and Karen Olson, Co-moderators*

To maintain our representative form of government, the Congregational Nominating Committee thoughtfully proposes a slate of Christ-centered candidates for consideration by the congregation to fill leadership positions at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota; and as needed, various search committees.

The Nominating Committee considers and proposes a slate of nominees to fulfill the offices of elder (whose charge is one of leadership, discernment, and spiritual development of the church), and deacon (whose role is that of compassion, witness, service, and sharing the love of Jesus Christ). The Nominating Committee also recommends members for the following year's Nominating Committee whose members are charged with seeking individuals who are ready to answer the call to serve.

The committee met with the pastor to review the guidance, position descriptions and the process of calling/emailing/meeting with potential nominees. The committee initially met weekly via Zoom in March to identify and nominate elders, deacons, and at-large members of the Nominating Committee to lead First Presbyterian Church. Information on the positions descriptions was shared with potential nominees.

The Congregational Meeting was held on September 10, 2023. The Nominating Committee presented five members as potential elders in the class of 2026 along with one member for the class of 2025, four members to fill the deacon class for 2026 along with one member for the class of 2025, and nine at-large members to serve on the Nominating Committee. The congregation approved all of the nominees.

The 2023 Nominating Committee members were Elders Dick Clapp and Karen Olson, co-moderators and at-large members Elaine Barnett, Ed Clissold, Kay Dunn, Pat Higgins, Scott McLeod, Virginia "Jinny" Miller, Carolyn Simmons, and Sandi Soper. One member resigned to accept an unexpired term as elder. There was no deacon representative. We are thankful to each of them for their work and dedication on this committee and for their contributions to the life and leadership of our church.

Membership and Fellowship Committee

Sue Nurczyk and Sue Hargis Spigel, Co-moderators

The mission of the Membership and Fellowship Committee is to be intentional about attracting and welcoming new members while engaging the congregation and community in activities that promote Christian fellowship within the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

In 2023, the committee provided a variety of refreshments on Sundays at the 10:00 fellowship hour. We always searched for ways to provide a welcoming atmosphere for members and guests.

As in 2022, committee members sent birthday greetings to members of the congregation either by email or U.S. Mail. For mailed cards, we used the church's return address, which apprised church staff of returned or outdated addresses.

Committee members and helpers provided refreshments and cleanup before and after the Fellowship hour at 10:00 every Sunday. This is held between the two regular services, or after single service Sundays.

Membership and Fellowship oversaw three potluck brunches/lunches: February 19, April 2 (Palm Sunday), and October 1 (World Communion Sunday). This included setting up, decorating, preparing food and beverages, receiving food from the congregation, and cleaning. Another major reception (cookies and punch) was held in the evening, after the Celtic Christmas concert and involved the same set of tasks for the committee as previously mentioned.

February 19: On Jazz Sunday, an omelet and brunch potluck was enjoyed.

March 19: An elegant installation reception with a charcuterie buffet by Jenn Stutler was held for Rev. Dr. Tim Boggess. We had a large group participating from inside and outside of FPC.

April 2: Palm Sunday: Two new families from Brentwood and four from preschool attended the egg hunt, as a result of our targeted outreach to those two groups.

May 14: Mothers Day was acknowledged with the distribution of flowers.

September 9: A kayak outing event was organized with a lunch at a local restaurant after the paddle.

October 1: Potluck on World Communion Sunday, after the one 10:00 service

October 8: Tim's one-year anniversary at FPC was celebrated!

December 8: A cookies and punch reception was held after Celtic Christmas concert.

December 10: Snacks from the 10:00 coffee hour were provided to the hosted Inquirers' Class. Six inquirers became new members and indicated their areas of interest in church service.

Many thanks go to our helpers: Becky Fingerle, Victor Garraus, Darwin Goldsmith, Janet Griffiths, Pam Mathes, Wendy Miller, Sue Pantling, Carol Papa, Mary Willis, and many others who made our many activities possible!

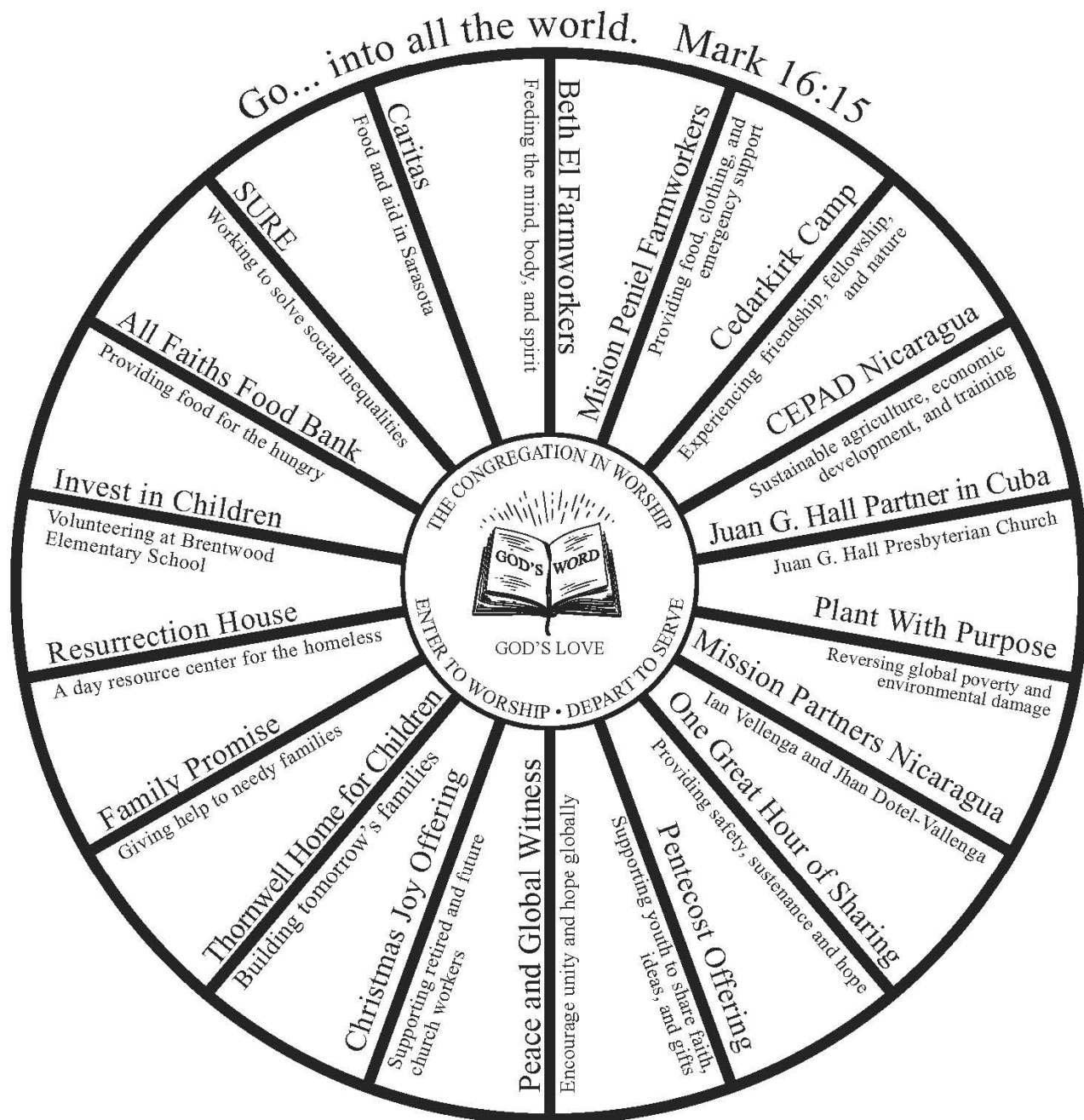
Members: Marcia Schaper, Joanne Simons, Sandi Soper, and Jenn Stutler.

Mission and Justice Committee

David Householder and Marvin Miller - Co-moderators

The Mission and Justice committee offers tangible opportunities for our congregation to work with local and global mission partners to feed the hungry, help the poor, and advocate for those who have no voice, furthering peace and justice through awareness and action in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Below is a pictorial description of our congregation's mission and outreach ministry, with worship, God's Word and Love at the center. The Mission and Justice Committee is given the task to responsibly distribute and support, with funds, time, and talent, the mission endeavors depicted by the spokes of the wheel, reaching out to local and global needs. We thank you, our congregation, for all you have given to support these many endeavors, and the spreading of God's Word and Love to the world.



The Mission and Justice Committee members are: Dave Householder and Marvin Miller, co-chairs, Michael Brown, Barbara Chase, Ron and Jinny Miller, Rachel Martin, Dorothy Murphy, Bill Rickloff, Susan Sanderson, Joanne Simons, Sue Hargis Spigel, Jay Swick

Personnel Committee

Beth Byron-Reasoner and Carol Papa, Co-moderators

The mission of the personnel committee is to support, guide, and encourage all church staff, address staff concerns, and recognize the contributions and dedication of their service to God and the congregation.

October 2023 marked the one-year anniversary of Rev. Tim Boggess as our pastor and head of staff. First Presbyterian Church has benefitted from his wonderful and capable leadership. We are so glad he and his wife, Heather, are part of our church family!

When it became clear that the 2023 budget would not support three full-time office staff, a very difficult decision was made to eliminate the Assistant to the Pastor position. In January, it was with great sadness we said goodbye to Pam Schweitzer.

In February, Steven Phillips requested to step down as Director of Congregational Care so he could focus solely on music. He continued to lead as the Director of Music Ministries, sharing his talents and skills, not only the chancel choir and the New Song band, but also with the congregation and community.

In addition to providing support and guidance to all the committees, church groups and church activities, Rachel Martin, Operations Manager, and Lisa Garcia, Finance Manager, took on many of the tasks once handled by the Assistant to the Pastor. We are grateful for their faithful and dedicated service and for all the ways they support the ministries of the church.

Jimi Camastro, Tech Manager, worked with a team of volunteers to meet the audio-visual needs for both our in-person and online services. He also shared his musical talents, when needed, as a guitarist in the New Song band.

Darwin Goldsmith worked with staff and committee members to make our facilities welcoming to all who come onto the campus. Electrical power was recently added to his work shed, which will make his work even more efficient. Our church campus looks fantastic!

Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, provided direction for the Health and Wholeness Ministry Program and our Congregational Care Team - Doug DeCelle, Pat Higgins, Michael Fingerle and Tim Boggess - to offer support and care to congregational members in their time of need.

Special thanks to committee members Adam Martin, Jean Martin, Jean Raskin, and Kay Steinman. Their valuable experience is most appreciated, and we thank them for serving the church in this capacity.

Worship and Music Committee

Frank Frey and Jeff Bartell Co-moderators

The Worship and Music Committee works with staff in planning and supporting worship that enables the congregation to glorify God through worship.

In 2023, the Worship and Music Committee continued to work closely with session to discern the safest practices for worship due to COVID-19 while holding traditional, contemporary, and online services. Our worship continued to be filled with inspirational music and songs of faith as we immersed ourselves in God's Word and celebrated at the table.

On March 19, 2023, we installed our new Pastor and head of staff, the Reverend Doctor Timothy T. Boggess. Steven Phillips, Director of Music Ministries, along with our dedicated church staff, continued to work with our new Pastor, who led the way throughout the year in reviewing and changing our order of worship.

Our congregation was blessed with the gifts and talents of the chancel choir, New Song band, handbell choir, and talented guest musicians.

We gathered during the Lenten season for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and a joyful Easter morning celebrating our risen Lord. On Youth Sunday, our youth leaders reminded us that God's love is perfected in us and that we are creators invited by God to do everything in his name. Rally Sunday and Backpack Blessing ushered in the new school year for the children.

We celebrated World Communion Sunday in October, and Pastor Tim Boggess introduced us to this year's stewardship campaign. In his sermon "Boys in the Boat," he focused on inviting everyone to get in the boat and row together across the finish line to attain our Stewardship goal.

On All Saints' Sunday, we paused to remember the lives of those who passed away this year. The Advent season began with the Hanging of the Greens, intergenerational Advent workshop, and a joyful Celtic Christmas concert. We celebrated Christmas Eve with a family service at 4:00 p.m. and a traditional communion and candlelight service at 7:00 p.m.

A special "thank you" goes to the Worship and Music Committee members, church staff, chancel choir, New Song band, tech team, liturgists, ushers/greeters, and guest musicians who faithfully served during the past year.

2023 Worship and Music Committee Members included Co-moderators Jeff Bartell and Frank Frey; members Ed Holbrook, James Jordan, Susan McDonald, and Lisa Saba; and staff Pastor Tim Boggess and Steven Phillips.

Board of Deacons Patricia Feeney, Moderator

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the deacons are a connected community of servants, called to minister to those in need, to the sick, and to any who need special care, both within and beyond the community of faith.

Class of 2023

Pat Feeney
Mariah Martin
Susan McDonald
Denver Stutler

Class of 2024

Bob Bittner (deceased)
Steve Fantauzzo
Beth Knopik
Tom Singleton
Susan McDonald

Class of 2025

Jill Cardinal
Susan Beach Carter
Pamela Mathes
Marcia Schaper

The deacons met on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm by Zoom. Susan McDonald served as the secretary and Mariah Martin maintained the spreadsheet of the LAMBS and the contact that was made by their deacon shepherd. Tom Singleton attended to the Care Notes. Thom Olshewsky and others continued to coordinate distribution of the flowers.

The deacons were assisted in their ministry by Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse. Rachel Martin assisted in coordination of activities. This support group was very valuable in helping the deacons carry out their mission.

Responsibilities of the deacons include visiting with and maintaining ongoing contact with the LAMBS (limited access members who are unable to attend church regularly), offering communion to LAMBS if requested, occasionally delivering flowers to LAMBS and others, telephoning, and sending cards. Deacons also assist with memorial services and receptions, maintaining Care Notes displayed throughout the church, and delivering "We Care" cards, signed by members of the congregation, to those who have been in the hospital.

Before hurricane season, the deacons assisted Cheryl Track in contacting LAMBS to see if any of them had PSN numbers (Persons With Special Needs) or needed to register. Those who qualify, by county code, may be eligible for county services.

In September the deacons assisted Beth Knopik with an event in the Fellowship Hall to promote her book, *Beyond the Rainbow - a Mother's Journey Through Grief and Grace*.

The deacons lost a valued member, Bob Bittner, who passed away in November. Bob loved being a deacon and was serving his second term.

On December 10, a Mingle and Jingle social event was held in the courtyard by Fellowship Hall. It was an opportunity to meet the Deacon class of 2026 and say thank you to the deacons who have completed their terms and to those who are continuing,

Stephen Ministry Michael Fingerle, Stephen Ministry Leader

The mission of Stephen Ministry is to provide compassionate, spiritual care in an ongoing relationship for people who are hurting so that they can experience Christ's healing love in their lives.

Stephen Ministry remains a truly wonderful resource for our congregation given the commitment, training, and dedication of the Stephen Ministers to provide care in a confidential way for our church members. The ministry team has worked to expand our care and commitment to First Presbyterian Church even while facing difficulties affecting many aspects of our church community. Sadly, we lost three team members in 2023. Both Barbara Andrews and Dick Wigton moved away from Sarasota. More devastating to us was the illness and death of a dear Stephen Minister Bob Bittner.

2023 also saw us add to our team with the addition of Paul Urbanick as a trained Stephen Minister who transferred his membership from Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. We are also excited to add a new Stephen Ministry Leader, Sandi Soper. She completed her training and was installed by our congregation in September.

In 2024, we are looking to add new ministers to our team and increase our ability to walk along side those in our congregation who are hurting and in need of Christ's healing. We appreciate our Church community's prayers and support for our work.

Stephen Ministry Team Members:

Leaders: Janet Olshewsky, Sandi Soper, Michael Fingerle

Stephen Ministers: Barbara Chase, Terri Runk, Paul Urbanick.

Presbyterian Women (PW)
Elaine Barnett, Jinny Miller, Flossie Paul, Betsy Taylor
Leadership Team

This year PW decided to reorganize though we continue to be led by the PW purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

*To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,
To support the mission of the church worldwide,
To work for justice and peace and
To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witness to the promise of God's Kingdom.*

In our restructuring, we joined the Education and Formation committee with Elaine Barnett as our member on the committee. We continue our Bible study using the PW/Horizons Bible study guide, Sacred Encounters. Lessons are led by a rotation of members monthly via zoom. In addition we added an in-person Bible study to be held Sundays February 18 - March 24. This will be led by Rev. R.C. Smith and Rev. Susan DeWyngaert.

Also in our restructuring, Jinny Miller joined the Mission and Justice committee. Jinny Miller and Betsy Taylor had a successful booth at the Mission Fair in October and were able to renew interest in what's happening with PW. Jinny encouraged the committee to host a seed-packing event with *Hope Seeds* at the church on February 8, 2024. Another project being planned is to make hygiene kits for Mision Peniel in the spring of 2024.

PW has been thankful for the FPC support of the Birthday Offering and the Thank Offering. We collected \$652.70 for the Birthday Offering and \$1382.00 for the Thank Offering.

Active Membership 12-31-22	<u>545</u>	Baptisms	(6)	James (Jim) Murphy Bonnie Strickland Quigg Warnecke
Active Membership Gains (14)		McCausey, Lincoln Stottlemeyer, Eleanor Watson, Lochlan Watson, Oliver		
<u>New Active Members:</u>				In Memoriam
Profession & Reaffirmation	(13)	Weitekamp, Charlie Mae		- Affiliates and Friends
Transfer of Membership	(1)	Weitekamp, Wells		Susan Pavelchak
Profession & Baptism	(0)			Charles Bernier
Affiliates changed to Active membership	(0)	New Active Members (14)		Charlotte Davis-Freidman
Restoration of members	(0)	Star Allen Caroline Clissold Daniel Clissold Jaidyn McAlister Kaitlyn McAlister		Thomas Friedman
Active Membership Losses (31)		Henry Mills		Don Wright
Deaths	(17)	June Romero Stanley Romero		
Transfer of Membership	(9)	Hans Schmeits		
Removed from Active Roll	(5)	Kim Schmeits Linda Smith		
Active Membership 12-31-23	528	Alison Stottlemeyer Seth Stottlemeyer Paul Urbanick		
Member Funerals	9	Affiliates changed to Active membership	(0)	
Non-Member Funerals	1	Restoration of Membership	(0)	
Member Weddings	0	New Affiliate Members	(0)	
Non-Member Weddings	0	In Memoriam - Members	(17)	
Births	0	John Allen Ted Beattie Robert (Bob) Bittner Weston (Wes) Burquest Jr, John Fisher Alma Fleck Donald (Don) Fleming Audrey (Tish) Goodale Raymond (Scott) Griffith Mike Groninger Jean Hall Doris Harff Linda Hollen Natalie Marsh		
Average Total Weekly Worship Attendance	254			

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 2023
FLOSSIE PAUL, TREASURER**

GENERAL FUND BALANCE		\$ 654.30
MARY ALICE MURPHY ACCOUNT		\$4,593.29
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS		
Donations, Pledges		<u>\$2,649.70</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$7,897.29
GENERAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS		
World Mission		
Presbyterian Mission Pledge	\$ 100.00	
Synod membership	\$ 70.00	
Birthday Offering	\$ 652.70	
Thank Offering 2022	\$ 565.00	
Thank Offering 2023	\$1382.00	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND MISSION GIVING		(\$2769.70)
MISCELLANEOUS AND OPERATIOG EXPENSES		
Gifts to office staff		\$400.00
Reimbursements - supplies		<u>\$244.50</u>
		<u>(\$644.50)</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS DISBURSED		(\$3414.20)
GENERAL FUND BALANCE		<u>\$4,483.09</u>

Balance January 1, 2023 - Endowment Allocation and Other Investments		\$ 227,096.55
Receipts		97,996.33
Disbursements		
Scholarships	3,336.00	
All Faiths Food Bank - Campaign Against Summer Hunger	3,000.00	
Benevolence Gifts	2,600.00	
Youth Summer Trips	2,082.36	
Repairs to 605 Payne Parkway	4,260.24	
Mullet Aluminum windows deposit (completed in 2024)	112,496.46	
AAP Air replace coils in chiller	36,719.96	
General Fund	41,919.61	
Total DISBURSEMENTS		206,414.63
Total Endowment Allocation and Other Investments December 31, 2023		\$ 118,678.25

The endowment allocation and other investments short term (ST)/long term (LT) is in the following financial institution: Fidelity Investments


Endowment Allocation Balances 12/31/23

Mission & Ministry	\$ 3,002.73	
Helen Anderson - Hungry Children	7,006.94	
Permanent Property & Building	-	
Capital Campaign Property & Building	-	
Coulter/HoeperII Music Scholarhsip	4,896.33	
Snyder Music Scholarship	15,034.88	
Cowden/Hoeper I College Scholarship	190.61	
Janette Barr - Scholarship	4,830.24	
Presbyterian Women	4,164.72	
Cathryn Herron Scholarship	15,276.31	
General	-	
		54,402.76
Other Investment Balances 12/31/23		
Emergency Property Repairs	22,144.70	
Property - Imagine the Future CC	27,082.69	
Pastoral Benevolence Fund	12,425.99	
New Library - Room 204	1,474.56	
J. Barr Trust	1,147.55	
Total OTHER INVESTMENTS ST/LT		64,275.49
Total Endowment Allocation and Other Investments ST/LT		\$ 118,678.25

Summary of Restricted Accounts

January - December 2023

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	
DESIGNATED FUNDS:MISC.	
Choir Social Fund	Linnie Dalbeck - Stephen Ministry'
Cowden Smith Library Purchases	Linnie Dalbeck - Window Upgrade
Faith Focus/Pastoral Development	Memorial Garden Desig.Fd.
FFW/PDS John Cairns Memorial	Outreach Committee
Friends of Music Ministry	Salsbury - Designated Office Equip
Health Ministry	Stephen Ministry
Linnie Dalbeck - 605 Payne	Student Vocal Stipend
Linnie Dalbeck - Chldrn/Yth/Fam Initiative	Youth Trips
Total DESIGNATED FUNDS:MISC.	142,524.23
DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCES	
Good Samaritan	
Transportation	
Brentwood Blessing Trees	
Total DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCES	35,625.89
DESIGNATED MISSIONS	
Cuba - Communications	Invest in Children
Cuba Partnership	Mission Designated - General
FPC All Faiths	Thoughtful Giving
Interfaith Partners	
Total DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCES	20,911.33
MEMORIALS	
Jim Barnett Memorial	Andrew Millar Memorial
Bob Bittner Memorial	David Muir Memorial
Janet Clark Memorial	Kenneth Putt Memorial
Bill Fulton Memorial	June Raskin Memorial
Herron,Cathryn Mem.Schol.	Bob Rea Memorial
Jim Jackson Memorial	Natalie Smith Memorial
Memorial Fund General	
Total MEMORIALS	9,549.33
PRE-SCHOOL	
Preschool Retained Earnings	
Vicki Fry Scholarship Fund	
Total PRE-SCHOOL	325,255.00

 First Presbyterian Church						Annual
Summary of Revenues & Expenses P&L -Final	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget
January -December 2023	(2023)	(2023)	(2022)	(2023)	(2023)	(2024)
REVENUES						
GENERAL FUND						
GENERAL OFFERINGS	\$ 80,742.42	\$ 76,239.05	\$ 741,564.95	\$ 794,301.41	\$ 721,414.48	\$ 867,109.00
NON-PLEDGE OFFERINGS	38,709.54	22,621.66	82,304.79	99,741.02	90,000.00	62,000.00
FACILITY USE REIMBURSEMNT	4,370.00	1,750.00	15,706.00	33,445.00	21,000.00	31,000.00
ALL OTHER RECEIPTS	13,321.67	3,965.39	53,624.41	99,932.26	81,059.34	88,750.00
Total GENERAL FUND	137,143.63	104,576.10	893,200.15	1,027,419.69	913,473.82	1,048,859.00
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS						
CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY	-	-	4,700.00	4,680.00	3,000.00	4,900.00
MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES	-	-	-	-	5,750.00	-
SENIOR HIGH MINISTRIES	-	-	-	-	9,000.00	-
YOUTH MISSION TRIPS	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	-
SCHOLARSHIPS:S.H. & COLL.	-	-	3,085.00	3,336.00	2,500.00	5,004.00
ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY	-	-	70.00	-	-	-
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	-	-	5.30	-	-	-
PROPERTY & GROUNDS	-	-	-	280.00	-	-
RENTAL INCOME & EXPENSE REIMBU	-	-	2,116.16	2,237.18	2,300.00	-
NON-MISSION RELATED RENTAL	3,700.00	2,666.63	17,880.00	29,300.00	32,000.00	28,400.00
INCOME FROM DESIGNATED/RESTRIC	206.75	5,410.52	-	33,483.42	35,219.76	7,000.00
Total DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	3,906.75	8,077.15	27,856.46	73,316.60	91,769.76	45,304.00
Total REVENUES	141,050.38	112,653.25	921,056.61	1,100,736.29	1,005,243.58	1,094,163.00
EXPENSES						
MISSION & JUSTICE	9,772.05	12,060.23	27,029.88	27,580.13	27,650.00	33,700.00
PER CAPITA & UNIFIED	5,052.91	5,052.91	27,211.60	20,211.60	20,211.60	22,768.10
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	180.07	8.37	6,445.72	5,646.85	9,100.00	6,314.36
MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIPS	-	-	-	-	5,750.00	-
SENIOR HIGH TRIPS	-	-	-	-	9,000.00	-
YOUTH MISSION TRIPS	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	-
YOUTH EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP	-	66.63	247.79	512.57	2,400.00	1,400.00
COLLEGE PROGRAM/SCHOLARSHIPS	-	-	3,085.00	3,336.00	2,500.00	5,004.00
FAMILY/INTERGENERATIONAL	120.69	980.48	1,268.83	782.83	2,500.00	9,500.00
WORSHIP SERVICES	1,068.85	700.16	3,468.29	4,803.44	4,800.00	7,900.00
MUSIC SERVICES	5,257.90	10,793.96	19,841.76	37,787.64	37,600.00	37,600.00
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY	952.58	1,363.28	3,787.21	3,136.20	4,000.00	4,000.00
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	3,801.14	4,895.67	49,036.92	47,096.92	50,715.33	54,470.03
PROPERTY & GROUNDS	26,657.63	19,925.35	223,647.05	263,040.67	213,048.52	271,336.99
FINANCE	4,209.82	4,110.81	89,960.25	88,073.18	72,076.06	60,700.00
DEACONS	10.23	250.00	936.58	2,301.99	3,800.00	3,500.00
ADULT EDUCATION	39.50	241.63	1,195.60	708.93	1,000.00	1,000.00
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	-	-	-	344.13	200.00	400.00
STEWARDSHIP	63.00	-	1,138.35	1,236.99	1,200.00	1,200.00
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM	35.00	550.64	614.97	320.75	2,000.00	2,000.00
PERSONNEL						
HEAD OF STAFF	19,623.52	19,793.91	46,028.13	206,750.42	206,758.16	212,870.27
INTERIM PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF	-	-	120,562.53	-	-	-
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	-	11,143.84	-	-	26,288.75	-
DIRECTOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-	-	11,909.32	-	-	84,725.36
MUSIC	14,520.15	13,118.65	136,000.03	121,155.43	121,594.23	125,378.15
ADMINISTRATION	15,961.77	15,332.72	203,075.94	152,367.69	149,211.75	152,903.04
PROPERTY	3,836.65	3,100.32	24,294.49	29,349.73	26,869.44	35,266.14
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE	1,077.54	1,538.18	10,454.55	10,063.05	13,884.61	15,343.13
PERSONNEL GENERAL EXPENSES	1,278.82	1,013.92	11,272.00	17,161.39	12,276.60	14,074.40
Total EXPENSES	113,519.82	126,041.66	1,022,512.79	1,043,768.53	1,028,435.05	1,163,353.97
Net Total	27,530.56	(13,388.41)	(101,456.18)	56,967.76	(23,191.47)	(69,190.97)
Total OTHER REVENUES	1,846.00	-	40,012.22	14,818.70	-	-
Total OTHER EXPENDITURES	3,512.70	-	39,640.12	14,874.94	-	-
Net Operating Total	\$ 25,863.86	\$ (13,388.41)	\$ (101,084.08)	\$ 56,911.52	\$ (23,191.47)	\$ (69,190.97)
PRE-SCHOOL						
REVENUES	\$ 40,031.10	\$ 41,788.56	\$ 573,854.04	\$ 598,263.63	\$ 467,922.00	\$ 499,775.00
EXPENSES	139,237.52	52,580.11	573,854.04	598,263.63	470,302.00	578,720.75
Net Operating Total	\$ (99,206.42)	\$ (10,791.55)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,380.00)	\$ (78,945.75)

Balance Sheet

December 2023

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

CHECKING

101115 - BayFirst - Operating	\$ 155,379.97	
101116 - BayFirst - Good Samaritan	32,080.53	187,460.50

PETTY CASH

105135 - Petty Cash (Office)	75.00	

Total CURRENT ASSETS		187,535.50
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INVESTMENTS

107115 - Fidelity Investments	209,323.67	
107136 - US Treasury Bill - 01/25/2024	298,989.00	
107138 - Morgan Stanley - CD 4/12/24	206,917.26	
107139 - Bank of America - CD 10/03/24	202,682.19	
107140 - JP Morgan Chase - CD 10/10/24	101,280.55	1,019,192.67

PREPAID ASSETS

130116 - Prepaid Insurance	20,243.50	
130163 - Prepaid - Audit Fee	2,550.00	22,793.50

FIXED ASSETS

CHURCH

151055 - Land/Buildings	3,447,304.82	
151056 - New Library - 2012	17,818.00	
151057 - Imagine the Future-Sanctuary	2,330,355.85	
151058 - Imagine the Future-Fellowship Hall	238,326.19	
151059 - Imagine the Future-Bldg&Grnd Imprv	654,462.13	
151060 - Furn/Fixtures	1,791,930.60	
151065 - Parking Lot	2,696,561.54	
151066 - Bell Tower	841,204.16	
154090 - Computer/Software/Office Equip	49,277.27	12,067,240.56

PAYNE LOT PROPERTIES

152069 - Payne Lot Prop.& 2036 Oak	374,544.64	
152075 - Furn/Fixtures	91,934.54	466,479.18

Total FIXED ASSETS		12,533,719.74
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Total ASSETS		13,763,241.41
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LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
201205 - Accounts Payable	9,649.95	
DEFERRED INCOME		
202201 - Prepaid Pledges	192,609.35	
202600 - Prepaid Preschool Tuition	35,645.00	
202806 - Deferred Wedding Income	200.00	
Total LIABILITIES		238,104.30
FUND BALANCE		
20Z02Z - General Fund Balance - FPC	281,961.82	
Excess Cash Received	56,911.52	
Total FUND BALANCE and Excess Cash Received		338,873.34
Restricted Funds		
Total TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	652,544.03	
Total PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	12,533,719.74	13,186,263.77
Total LIABILITIES, FUND BALANCE, & Restricted Funds		<u>\$ 13,763,241.41</u>

THE FOUNDATION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SARASOTA, INC.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

First Presbyterian Church first established endowment funds in 1992 to allow members and friends of the church an opportunity to provide long-term support of the church and its mission. In 2013, the Session authorized the formation of the Foundation for First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Inc. as a separate 501(c)(3) corporation and transferred the existing endowment funds to the Foundation.

The Foundation is managed by a board of seven directors who are members of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota. Four directors are appointed by the Session, and the remaining three are elected by the appointing directors.

The directors serving in 2023 were: Betsy Marshall (President), Michelle Young (Secretary), Rich Paul (Treasurer), Richard Clapp (Director), Ric Saba (Director), and Michael Brown (Director). The one remaining vacancy left by Beth Byron-Reasoner's resignation in 2022 remains to be filled by appointment of the Session.

In 2023, the Foundation primarily focused on keeping the membership informed about opportunities to give to the Foundation by brochures, mailings, and articles in church publications. In the coming years, the Foundation plans to steadily and more actively increase its profile in the giving of the church.

During 2023, the record-keeping and accounting functions of the Foundation were performed by a private accounting firm, Miles and Thirion, for continuity of service. The Foundation is very grateful to and relies on the assistance of the church's office staff as well.

In 2023, the Bylaws of the Foundation were amended to increase the annual distribution to 5% to meet the threshold for distributions from private foundations. Although the Foundation began operations as a public charity, the Foundation was advised by its accountant that its tax exempt classification was recently changed to a private foundation.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation is pleased to report that during 2023 distributions from its funds were made to the Session to further the ministries of the church as follows:

From the Scholarship Endowment Fund: \$7,085.52
From the Property Endowment Fund: \$11,353.94
From the Ministry and Benevolence Endowment Fund: \$11,039.67
From the General Endowment Fund: \$36,183.67
From the Temporary Fund sweep account: \$179.53

The following is a summary of the financial transactions of the Foundation in 2023:

Opening balance on January 1, 2023: \$1,344,684.39
Dividend and interest income: \$60,079.81
Donations received: \$4325.00
Distributions made: (\$65,842.33)
Accounting fees: (\$3,400.00)
Miscellaneous expense: (\$422.00)
Change in value: \$39,044.32
Ending balance December 31, 2023: \$1,378,469.19

As of December 31, 2023, the assets of the Foundation are held in a single account at Charles Schwab and are invested in a selected group of funds approved by the directors. The account activity is monitored by the Treasurer and overseen by the directors.



