

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION

January 1-December 31, 2024



God's Kingdom encompasses all that God desires to bring and to do on earth through God's people. The Kingdom was central and primary in Jesus' teaching. As we commit to growing God's Kingdom, every member and friend of FPC Moorestown is invited into a covenant with four commitments:

I Will Pray: I pray regularly for the ministry and mission of FPC Moorestown.

I Will Invite: I will invite people into the life of FPC Moorestown, ultimately to know, follow, and serve Jesus.

I Will Serve: With my time and using my talents, I participate in the ministry and mission of FPC Moorestown.

I Will Give: I financially support the work of FPC Moorestown with intentional sometimes sacrificial giving.

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The 25 Ways

In our desire to grow deeper in our faith, stronger in our love, and more effective in our service, we've outlined the following ways based on God's Word, to be the foundation for creating a culture or an atmosphere "thick with love." They're not rules or laws to be obeyed but rather the ways we train, remind, and encourage one another to be the church. Every week we focus on one way in worship, in meetings, in rehearsals, in small groups, in our interactions.

A complete listing of the principles and what they mean can be found throughout the church building, and on our website. Each week the Way of the Week is shared in committee meetings, gatherings, on the weekly worship guides, in communications and illustrated in an individual graphic image.

Way	Ways Concept
Way 1	Be Third
Way 2	Speak the Truth with Love
Way 3	Listen Generously
Way 4	Always Encourage and Celebrate
Way 5	Assume Positive Intent
Way 6	Forgive ... Again
Way 7	Celebrate our Unity, Savor our Diversity
Way 8	Jump In
Way 9	Pray First and Pray Again
Way 10	Join Hands
Way 11	Make Others at Home Here
Way 12	Own Our Church
Way 13	Open Doors for Others to Lead
Way 14	Grow Faith
Way 15	Welcome Change
Way 16	Give Cheerfully
Way 17	Show Who You Really Are
Way 18	Ask For Help
Way 19	Accept and Don't Cast Stones
Way 20	Find Strength in Belonging
Way 21	You're Sent, Now Go
Way 22	Rest and Reflect
Way 23	Worship with Your Whole Self
Way 24	Tell Your Story
Way 25	Rejoice Always

Staff Member	Title
Allen, Rev. Wes	Associate Pastor, Contemporary Worship Leader
Asciutto, Holly	Director of Family and Children’s Ministries
Caraballo, Sam	Maintenance Assistant
Contreras, Angel	Maintenance Assistant
Delgado, Amy	Director, Step by Step Christian Preschool
Duffy, Barbara	Webmaster and IT Specialist, Cemetery Support
Fauvell, Dave	Director of Youth Ministry
Gage, Earl	Director of Administration
Gaskill, Cheryl	Purchasing Volunteer
Gunsallus, Kathy	Associate Director of Music
Hanna, Jean Marie	Administrative Assistant (temp placement)
Illum, Kristy	Administrative Assistant, Step by Step Preschool
Jagiela, Linda	Director of Outreach
Krott, Joel	Director of Music
Mackey, Alison	Administrative Assistant
Margerum, Chelsea	Nursery Caregiver
Margerum, Steve	Property Supervisor
Martin, Jan	Office Manager, Admin. Assistant Pastor
McBride, Ann	Clerk of Session
Spencer, Rev. Stuart	Pastor and Head of Staff
Vandergrift, Norman	Accounting Manager

With grateful appreciation for your ministry and servant heart

Steve Cashmer (Groundskeeper), Frances Chavarria (Administrative Assistant), Amy Coombe (Nursery Coordinator), and Linda Jagiela (Director of Outreach)

Step by Step Christian Preschool

Staff: Director Amy Delgado; Administrative Assistant: Kristi Illum. **Teachers:** Carol Clark, Donna Clark, Mary Colbeck, Cheryl Craft, Helen Dominy, Rachel Howell, Kristi Illum, Jessica LaGrou, Lauren Muhlschlegel, Tina Rosser, Jenna Tickner, Tamara Trzeciak, Arlene Walker, and Christine Woltjen

Church Office Volunteers

Sherrell Fitts, Lissa Herman, Susan Kenuk, Jean Kunkel, Donna Leatherman, Winnie Lyall, Jane Murphy, Sue Piper, Betty Schurmann, Peggy Valora, and Joyce Wenzke

Boards of the Church

Elders

Class of 2024

Paul Booker
Leonard Fitts
Peg Madorno
Kristen Perkowski
Sarah Rotter
Gil Warren
Jim Wiggins

Class of 2025

Rebecca Castellanos
Lorenzo Eagles
Cheryl Gaskill
Paul Grossmann
Matt Livingston
Frank Manion
Joyce Wenzke

Class of 2026

Pam Engle
Gayle Payne
Melody Ransom
Dave Rebuck
Ginny Weber

Clerk of Session: Ann McBride

Deacons

Class of 2024

Alice Conley
Janet D'Angelo
Kourtney de la Cruz
Steve Drzaszcz
Gail Sorin
Susan Winner
Jason Rose

Class of 2025

Jenna Cole
Andrew Ehala
Laurie LaMonica
Rachel Long
Diane Samuel
Tamara Trzeciak
Jo Ann Reynik
Helen Dominy

Class of 2026

Dave Barr
Karen Hynoski
Mike McNeil
Susan Shaffer
Bobbi Vogelsong
Jessica Zorn
Alex Wilkie
Owen Dietz

Moderator: Kourtney de la Cruz

Trustees

Class of 2024

Brian Catanella
Bill Conner
Rich Corbin
Paul Lewis

Class of 2025

Wendy Dougherty
John Miller
Matt Moxhay
Mike Welch

Class of 2026

Pete Honeyford
Joe Molloy
Bill Mueller
Tim Powell

President: Pete Honeyford; Vice President: Bill Mueller; Secretary: Wendy Dougherty;
Treasurer: Bill Conner

Updated 8/7/2023

Church Committees and Ministry Areas 2024

(2024 chairs listed in parentheses)

Ministry Area	Church Leaders
Session Committees	
Adult Spiritual Formation Committee	Elders Lorenzo Eagles and Paul Gordon
Communications Committee (NEW)	Elders Steve Shaffer and Paul Grossmann
Discipleship and Prayer Committee	Elder Pam Engle and Jim Cole (Joyce Peacock)
Discipling Children & Youth Committee	Elder Cheryl Gaskill
Membership & Nurture Committee	Elders Gayle Payne and Joyce Wenzke
Missions Committee	Elders Kristen Perkowski and Jean Kunkel (Peg Madorno)
Music Committee	Elder Melody Ransom (Becky Castellanos)
Nominating Committee	Elder Matt Livingston (Gil Warren)
Personnel Committee	Elder Dave Rebuck (Jim Wiggans)
Stewardship Committee	Elder Ginny Weber
Technology Committee	Elder Frank Manion
Worship Committee	Elder Kevin Fauvell (Paul Booker)
Boards of the Church	
Session	Moderator Rev. Stuart Spencer Elder Ann McBride, Clerk of Session
Board of Deacons	Moderator Owen Dietz (Kourtney de la Cruz)
Board of Trustees	President Jeff Legath (Pete Honeyford)
Church Ministries	
Floral Guild	Fran Green (Worship oversight)
Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden	Leslie Spencer (Deacons oversight)
Presbyterian Women	Moderator Edith McFalls
Stephen Ministry	Doris Kahley

REPORTS OF THE LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

Report of the Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Stuart Spencer

I've walked into about five casinos in the course of my life. I've never placed a single dollar down for a bet. Gambling isn't my thing. That said, I'll use some gambling language for my 2024 Annual Report. You need to understand that I'm pushing all my ministry chips on three things: One, growing the Kingdom of God; two, creating disciples who make disciples and three, FROG, Fully Relying Upon God.

Grow the Kingdom. In 2024, Wes and I preached a lot about the Kingdom of God. We did two sermon series about the Kingdom, at the start of the year and as our stewardship focus in the fall. I felt like God's Kingdom kept appearing in most of my sermons, and for good reason. If Jesus preached and taught about the Kingdom of God and little else, then maybe I should too. By way of review, the Kingdom of God isn't tied to any one nation; it dynamically began in Jesus' ministry and extended from His followers to us. God's Kingdom carries God's desire and promise to touch, heal, renew and restore what's been broken and lost through human sin and brokenness. I've asked you to make four commitments. It's not an overstatement to say that the present health and future flourishing of FPC Moorestown depends upon you doing these four things: Pray. Invite. Serve and Give. <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/grow-the-kingdom/>



Creating Disciples Who Make Disciples. Jesus offers only one option from the faith menu He extends to any child, young person or adult. The only item on Jesus' menu is this. *Follow me.* He doesn't offer us the choice to believe in Him, live our lives however we so please and go to Heaven when we die. That's not a selection you'll find on Jesus' menu. The Gospel of Matthew records His final command or the only menu option available to you. **Make disciples of all nations.** A disciple is one who follows Jesus to become like Him and to live and speak and act as He did. This year during the Lenten season, we offer you a golden opportunity to learn how to be a disciple through our Practicing the Way study.

FROG (Fully Rely On God). Years ago, there was a woman in the church I served who lived in Yardley, Pennsylvania on the banks of the Delaware River. She was a CPA and her office was in her home. I'm not exaggerating when I tell you that she has hundreds of stuffed frogs throughout her home and office. Whenever I visited her, she would point to the frogs and say to me, "Pastor, you need to fully rely on God." She was right. I do and so do you. The challenges that we face together are great. I know that I'm not smart enough and I don't know enough to figure out the answers. I don't know that I have the answers, other than to point to a frog and say to myself, our Staff, our Session, Deacons and Trustees, Let's fully rely on God. For me, that mostly means that seeking God in prayer.



I told you once in a sermon that the average American Christians spends less than a minute in prayer a day. The average American pastor spends less than five minutes a day in prayer. Not me. My own prayer life has expanded significantly not because I'm a better Christian but I'm desperate for God's wisdom, strength and help. I find God's sufficient grace as I seek Him often.

This coming May 2025 marks my seventh anniversary of the start of my ministry here. I'm excited and grateful for my coming sabbatical. I remain honored and thankful to be your Pastor.

Sabbatical Plans for Stuart Spencer**April 28 – May 5, May 19 to August 20, 2025 – 15 weeks**

Sabbatical Leave for pastors and church educators is usually a planned time of spiritual enhancement for ministry and mission. Sabbatical Leave is an extension of the Biblical concept of a Sabbath day and a Sabbath year for renewal. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and changed activity and an occasion for the recovery and renewal of vital energies. From our Presbytery's Policy on Sabbatical Leave (PPSL 2008)

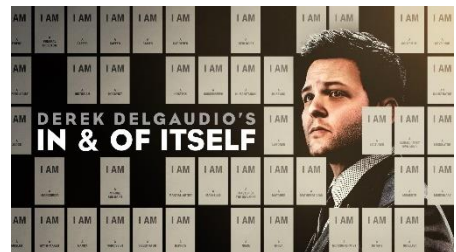
I'm excited for a season for rest, renewal and recharge. Mark John Comer, a pastor and author says that the spiritual journey begins with rest. *"When I offer spiritual direction to people, I often begin by prescribing sleep, margin, time off work—rest. Because chronically exhausted, sleep-deprived, over-busy people are not loving, peaceful and full of joy."* While I'm *not* exhausted, depleted, or burned out, I welcome and desire a period of rest. I'm certain that the chief benefit of this Sabbatical is that I'll return to my ministry here and my family and friends, rested and renewed.

What will make your heart sing? What will bring you renewal in a season of rest? I'm energized by both questions as I've thought of my sabbatical. My simple answer is spending time with the significant men of my life, with a major, two-week exception for my wife, Leslie.

There's a backstory. In August of 2017, my youngest son, Miles and I saw a play in New York City called "In and Of Itself." It was a one-person show featuring Derek DelGaudio, a magician and visual artist. The performance included some of Derek's amazing magical skills, though it wasn't strictly a magic show. It was a play about the performer's identity. When Miles and I entered the theatre's lobby, we found a thousand white cards with various statements of identity. For example, "I am a fixer." "I am the life of the party." "I am a joker."

I walked around, looking for a card that best described me. Then, I saw it. That card got me thinking first of my two older brothers, Blake and Scott. Though I'm the youngest of the three, for years I've carried loving interest and concern for their lives and families, as they have had for me and mine. At the time, my Dad was still alive and while I was his son and not his brother, I've had the same, close connection with him. My mind went to other men from my life who aren't related to me but usually because of our shared faith in Jesus, those men are like brothers to me. As the father of two sons, Sam and Miles, I am their father, but I share this brotherly concern for them.

At the end of the play, Derek DelGaudio invited anyone from the audience of about 200, who took the identity card assignment seriously to stand up. Some sixty people stood, including me. From the stage, Derek pointed at each person and told him or her the identity card they had selected. He looked at me and said, "You are your brother's keeper." How did he, how could he know the identities of all those people? I haven't a clue. However, it matters more to me that I know who I am. *I am my brother's keeper.* (By the way, Hulu has an outstanding film of this show. It's called In and Of Itself)



With my Sabbatical, I'd schedule for time with about twelve or so men including my two sons, Sam and Miles, my two brothers, Blake and Scott; and a few other men who are like brothers to me, including Dr. Jonathan

Miller. I've planned something fun and interesting with each one. We'll share a great time, even an adventure together, but also time for a conversation that would include:

- a straightforward expression of my appreciation and gratitude for each one
- inviting and asking each man to reflect on what they've seen in me and found in our relationship
- I'd ask each "brother" this question: how can I be a better son, or brother, or friend or colleague to them?

The major break from time with these beloved brothers is a two-week trip with my wife, Leslie to walk 50 miles of a Pilgrim Walk in England.

I'll begin my sabbatical with a CREDO retreat (April 28-May 25, 2025). The Board of Pensions of the PCUSA sponsors weeklong retreats. CREDO is an in-person, weeklong conference focused on pastors' wholeness and well-being. Each CREDO conference is led by a team of experienced faculty who guide participants in a visioning and discernment process through four key areas of well-being: spiritual, vocational, physical and emotional health, and financial. The conference I'll attend is specially designed for late-career pastors.

Wes Allen, my dear and trusted colleague, gets the opportunity to be Head of Staff for four months. Rev. Dick Herman is available to assist Wes, mostly by leading worship with him on Sunday mornings, but also being there to help with funerals, hospital visits and preaching. In addition to the fine preaching of Pastors Allen and Herman, Wes and I will plan for three or four guest preachers with different voices for the congregation to hear at this time. For the congregation, as I share my experiences, I hope they too will be inspired and instructed by what I learn and experience.



Grace and Peace to you all,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the work God is doing in and through our congregation. It is a joy and privilege to serve as your Associate Pastor, walking alongside each of you in faith, worship, and service. Together, aided by the Holy Spirit, we are building a vibrant community that embodies Christ's love and grace.

Ministry Highlights

1. Pastoral Care and Sacraments:

- Administered the sacrament of Holy Communion to beloved members and friends of our congregation at the Evergreens and in their homes, ensuring that the sacraments remain accessible to all.
- Officiated numerous funerals of cherished church and community members. These services were sacred moments to honor lives well-lived and to offer comfort through God's promise of resurrection in Christ.
- Officiated several weddings this year – including the marriage of Rev. Kundan Nasir at Renault Winery and Matt Schaeffer (brother of Kevin Schaeffer).

2. Spiritual Formation & Worship:

- Hosted the **Couples Retreat** in Cape May, where Dr. Paul Booker led meaningful sessions that enriched marriages and deepened spiritual connections.
- Held a somber and reflective **September 11 service** at the cemetery cross honoring the lives lost 23 years ago on September 11, 2001.
- Led a five-week class, **God's Good News about Politics**, fostering rich discussions about living out our faith in a complex world.
- Continue to lead music at the **contemporary worship** service on Sunday mornings alongside Matt Russell. While it has proved extremely difficult to secure reliable volunteer musicians we have made some positive strides in assembling a consistent and talented band. This past year I have focused my efforts on creating arrangements of Gospel songs from the 1940s-1970s and introduced them to the congregation alongside other popular and more familiar contemporary Christian music.
- Co-directed a dramatic retelling of the Passion narrative alongside Deacon Alex Wilkie on **Maundy Thursday**.
- Coordinated the Lenten Study entitled: **"Meeting Jesus at the Table."** Led a small group at the home of Jeff and Jenny Legath last year.
- Led daily devotions and interacted with students and visitors during **Vacation Bible School**.

3. Community Engagement:

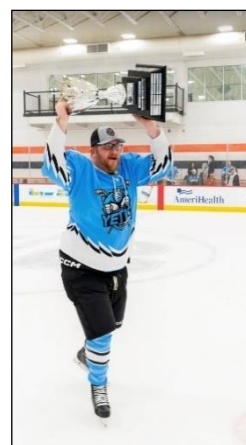
- Strengthened our partnership with MEND (Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development), exploring ways our congregation can better serve their residents through shared initiatives and support.
- Performed with my band, The Trophy Husbands, at the 65th Annual Strawberry Festival and several other events in Moorestown including Porchfest and the Summer Concert Series at the Moorestown Community House. Our biggest gig to date was opening on October 4th for the Howard University Gospel Choir. What a great evening celebrating Gospel music (the roots of Rock and Soul).
- Served as a chaplain for 4 days last summer at Camp Johnsonburg.

4. Leadership and Mentorship:

- Provided guidance and encouragement to new officers during their training and welcomed new members into our church family through the Inquirers Class.
- Continued to lead the Administrative Commission on behalf of the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey; charged with overseeing the merger of Burlington and Willingboro Presbyterian Churches.
- Served the Presbytery of Southern New Jersey as a mentor for newly ordained and installed Rev. Kundan Nasir, pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Brigantine, NJ.
- Serve as a board member on behalf of our presbytery for Camp Johnsonburg where I moderate the camp's Program Committee.
- Began working with Stuart Spencer and Dick Herman to coordinate coverage while Stuart is on sabbatical in 2025.

Family and Personal Updates

On the personal front, I give thanks for gradual improvements in my sleep health and for the joy of engaging in activities that restore my spirit, such as playing hockey with the 2024 UAHL Rusty Cup championship team; The Yetis. While an ill-fated dive into the boards reminded me that I am no longer 20 years old, the camaraderie and exercise have been a blessing!



Our family is thriving in this season of growth and activity. Jen continues to excel in her substitute teaching role at Moorestown's Upper Elementary School, touching lives with her kindness and skill. Jen, alongside co-chairs Laurie LaMonica and Kristen Perkowski, did a fabulous job coordinating the Strawberry Festival. Jen also helps with worship slides periodically for the contemporary service and continues to serve on Wednesday evenings at Family Dinner.



Vivian and Jacob are embracing new opportunities and challenges—Vivian began high school in Moorestown where she confidently began playing field hockey and began training for lacrosse (this is the first time Vivian has done a sport besides dance). Jen and I are so proud of her confidence and willingness to try new things. Jacob has gone all in on hockey and began playing for Maple Shade Street Hockey. He excels in goal and has been consistently developing as a player outside the net. At church Vivian has been providing vocals alongside the contemporary praise team and Jacob has been a faithful and regular helper in running the contemporary service live stream.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your prayers, support, and partnership in ministry. From serving meals to decorating fellowship spaces, from participating in Bible studies to offering a kind word, you are the hands and feet of Christ. Together, we are living out our mission to glorify God and transform lives through His Spirit.

May we continue to seek God's guidance and respond to His call with faith and courage in this New Year. Thank you for the honor of serving alongside you.

The Session's greatest responsibility at FPC Moorestown is to provide spiritual leadership to the staff and the congregation. Our meetings emphasize prayer and seeking God's will for the Church in all we do. We are faced with difficult challenges but, in most part, we rejoice in the privilege to work together in unity and commitment for the good of God's people. In all we do, we endeavor to follow these statements:

VISION: To be beacons of God's love and truth, growing together in faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

MISSION: Our mission is to:

Worship God faithfully
Connect Spiritually
Serve Christ locally and globally

WHY: We follow the Great Commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... [and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

~ Matthew 22:37,39 NRSV

Most of Session's work this past year has revolved around our "Grow the Kingdom" initiative. The Long Range Planning Committee, chaired by Elder Paul Grossmann, has spearheaded this important effort. Some of the results of this initiative we have enjoyed to date:

- The creation of two new Session Committees: the Communications Committee and the Community Engagement Committee.
- The evolution of our "Welcome Centers" in the Narthex and the Commons Lobby.
- The establishment of the *Grow the Kingdom Fund*, born from an extraordinary gift from generous members.
- Commitments from a large number of members to pledge to: "I will Pray, I will Invite, I will Serve and I will Give".
- The creation of "job descriptions" for many of the volunteer needs of the church in an effort to promote more volunteerism within our church community.

In addition to the work of preparing for the church's future, Session welcomed 14 new members into our congregation, as well as reinstating 2 previous members. We celebrated the baptism of 3 children and mourned the death of 14 of our saints. A total of 16 other members left our rolls through moving away and/or moving on to other churches. As of the end of December 2024, our membership was 765 which represents a net decline of 19 compared to last year. We have enjoyed a slow but steady return of vibrant in-person attendance in worship after suffering a stark decline due to the pandemic.

Another important act of Session this year was to approve a Sabbatical for Rev. Spencer for 2025. Please pray for him and his family and for our church as we prepare to carry on ministry in his absence.

On a personal note, it is my hope and prayer to find a volunteer willing to take over as Clerk of Session in June of 2025. After service for almost 5 years, I feel it is time to pass on the role to another.

Please continue to pray for all within our church leadership. And don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor to church!

New Members 2024

Audrey Drummonds
Ryan Sharp
Chrissy Brown
Kathryn Eagles
Loren Eagles
Sharon Budka
Taylor Letts
Evan Letts
Katie Ferroni
Cindy Saint Cyr
Rebecca Greenhow
Justin Greenhow
Jack Evans
Sherry Evans

Reinstated 2024

Delaney (Honeyford) Cushing
Kevin Schaeffer

Baptisms 2024

Aliyah Alene Dover
Virginia Mae Schoenhaus
Aubrey Marie Letts

Necrology Report 2024

Dawn Fuss
Al Wenzke
Stephen Smith (50+ year member)
Rita Plant (50+ year member)
Elinor Shoop (60+ year member)
Robert Hill
Alice Lang
Sam Speers
Michael O'Connor (40+ year member)
George Noakes (50+ year member)
Dr. James S. Armstrong
Donald Sikora
Jon Sandeen
Betsy Gildehaus (Elder, 50+ year member)

REPORTS FROM THE SESSION COMMITTEES

Adult Spiritual Formation Committee

Elder Lorenzo Eagles and Elder Paul Gordon, Chairs; Rev. Wes Allen, Staff Liaison

The Adult Spiritual Formation (ASF) committee has seen a lot of changes over this past year! Steve Shaffer joined the group, which previously consisted of Paul Gordon, Lorenzo Eagles and Lissa Herman. In addition, Paul was elected by Stuart to move into the co-chair position with Lorenzo Eagles (who is still a very active driving force for the committee). Everyone in the group has been contributing in very important ways, Paul, Lorenzo and Lissa are still splitting the teaching responsibilities (with help from a number of volunteers, see details in the class list below!), Steve Shaffer has been helping with tracking attendance and all four (as well as Wes Allen) meet monthly to discuss a number of topics, including class offerings, outside of class activities and support groups for the community. Below are listed what we have done in each of these areas this past year.

Class Offerings

Spring 2024: 1 Corinthians

This 16-week study, led by Lissa, Lorenzo and Paul, focused not only on the written words of 1 Corinthians but also the history and environment of the city, the reception of the letter from the people receiving it and the application to First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, which, it turns out, is not that different than the church in Corinth. N.T. Wright's book, *1 Corinthians for Everyone*, was a major influence for all three teachers. Average attendance was approximately 35 people.

Summer 2024: Drop in and Discuss

During the modified summer schedule, ASF met after the conclusion of the morning service. This group met to read the Scripture from the sermon and discuss personal takeaways from the Pastor's message. Average attendance was approximately 15 people.

Fall 2024: Philippians

This 8-week study led by Lissa, Lorenzo and Paul, once again highlighted the similarities between Moorestown and an ancient church, this time Philippi. We were challenged by Paul's love for this congregation and his thankfulness for them. We worked together to figure out how FPC Moorestown could be described more like the Philippian church and discovered that it starts with being Christ and others centered. N.T. Wright's book, *Paul for Everyone*, was a major influence for all three teachers. Average attendance was approximately 35 people.

Advent 2024: Study of the Jesse Tree

Lissa Herman led a five-week study of the Jesse Tree stained glass window located in St. Mary's Priory in Wales. With Lissa's guidance, many volunteers from the class presented about different members of the Jesse Tree and led small group discussions about the importance of that member's presence in the tree. The ultimate goal was to discover why the artist (Helen Whittaker) included each individual that

she did: what importance they had to Jesus' genealogy and, consequently, to us. Average attendance was approximately 30 people.

Adult Spiritual Formation Teams

Prayer Team

The ASF committee created a team that is specifically designed to field prayer requests from the ASF community, pray for them and keep them in the minds and hearts of the community. This group, led by Kathy Eagles, continues to uphold our community before the Lord in prayer.

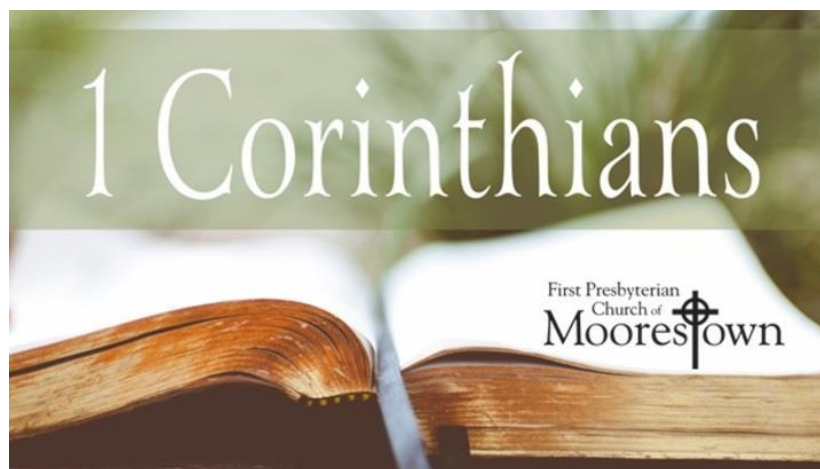
Bridge Team

Another team that was created this past year is called the bridge team. This team, led by Lissa Herman, meets to create and plan ideas to bridge the Sunday-to-Sunday gap. The idea is that, as a real community, we shouldn't be happy only seeing each other once a week for an hour. This group was heavily involved in the Eagles watch party that was held on November 10th, the breakfast on November 17th, and the open house at the Herman's that was held on 12/29.

Attendance Team

This team is very much still a work in progress, but the general idea is that we need to be reaching out when we don't see our brothers and sisters in Christ for a while. Again, the idea here is that real community members care about each other and how each individual is doing, so we should be checking in regularly on all those with whom we worship.

As you can see, the Adult Spiritual Formation (ASF) community has been busy this year and has made changes to the way we do things, but the goal remains the same year after year: creating a loving, Christ-centered community that wants to be together, not just to sit through a forty-five minute class, but to walk the Christian way together.



Communications Committee

Elder Paul Grossmann and Elder Steve Shaffer

A new Session committee formed in July, 2024, the Communications Committee is currently made up of Paul Grossman and Steve Shaffer, who serve as co-chairs.

- The mission of the Communications Committee is to sustain, improve, and develop communication both within the First Presbyterian Church community and outside of the FPC community as we encourage, support, and communicate Grow the Kingdom initiatives and other news and information about our church.
- During meetings in the past months, the co-chairs have evaluated the various ways that FPC Moorestown communicates information and news. We appreciated the assistance of Jan Martin in gathering information, reviewing information, and evaluating various means of communication with us.
- The Communications Committee has focused its work in several areas. For example, we are reviewing public signage outside of the church, signage within the church, as well as public signs in the community. Another area of review has been the hard copies of materials like the Weekly Bulletin, the *Connections* newsletters, and other publications. Eager to make the best use of technology, we hope that emails and texts are helpful and that social media like Facebook and Instagram can be utilized when appropriate and helpful. We have discussed QR codes as a possible means of sharing and accessing detailed information, if they would be beneficial. Adding color to pictures and including graphics in various means of communication might be helpful, as well.
- Overall, the Communications Committee strives to organize and simplify the vast amount of information that is already provided on our church's website, eblasts, Welcome Desk, worship guides, tables and desks, flyers, and even on the walls throughout the church.
- Aside from **sharing** information with others, our hope is that the church will continue to **respond** to questions effectively and to provide feedback when necessary.
- The Communications Committee believes that FPC Moorestown already communicates very well. Our goal is to see how and where we can communicate even more clearly and effectively. In order to further good communication, we of course welcome ideas, questions, and suggestions from the FPC community. *If you have skills in mass communications, especially social media, we would appreciate your active participation on our Communications team. Feel free to call Paul Grossmann (609-330-3214) or Steve Shaffer (856-287-3627).*



Step by Step Christian PreschoolDirector Amy Delgado

Step by Step Christian Preschool had another successful year serving both the families who as a mission of First Presbyterian Church and the families who chose to send their children to the preschool. Below is a snapshot into all the parts of our preschool.

2.5s

Mrs. Craft, Mrs. Woltjen and Mrs. D. Clark work in the 2.5s classes helping our littlest students bloom and become independent. Each month, they work to promote a community of sharing, taking turns, following directions and so much more. They do daily circle time, projects and a snack time where the children take turns bringing snacks for others. Mrs. Craft teaches lessons from the Bible and you can always here the children saying AMEN at snack time. Mrs. Craft works hard at having the children learn to be independent. They use utensils (often children serve themselves the snack of the day) and practice manners during snack time. During our cold months, the teachers can be seen helping their students learn the “flip trick” to get their coats on and many even learn to zipper. Mrs. Craft also potty trains many students. Parents have said that their children use the potty at Step by Step but not at home! If you remember potty training, that is saying something!! They go outside on nature walks or to the playground every day and often talk of their outdoor adventures.

3s

Each week, our 3s classes pick a letter and introduce their lessons around this letter. Their literature, projects, experiments and more all go hand in hand with the letter. Each 3s class does small group and large group work, snack time (the snack person gets to be the line leader too!), play time, playground, bible lessons, circle time (filled with calendar, stories, weather and lots of learning) and more. These classes are busy and fun! The teachers are amazing.

From January-June, we had two classes of our 3-year-olds. Mrs. Muhlschlegel and Mrs. C. Clark worked in one class and Mrs. Tickner, Mrs. Illum and Mrs. Colbeck (for our Marvelous Monday class) worked in the other. They were great teams who helped the children get ready for PreK.

Starting in September, we added a third 3s class and our teams shifted. Mrs. Muhlschlegel and Mrs. Illum are a team, Mrs. Tickner and Mrs. C. Clark are the second and Mrs. Trzeciak and Mrs. Colbeck are our third team. Mrs. Trzeciak has been an incredible addition to our team. The children and parents all love her and she has fit in seamlessly with the staff. Our 3s team of teachers all love their job and work very hard to ensure their students have the best preschool experience. Each class has their own personality, and each is excellent!

PreK

Our PreK classes work hard at preparing our students for kindergarten. Mrs. Walker and Mrs. D. Clark work in one class and Mrs. LaGrou and Mrs. Dominy work in the other class. Both Mrs. Walker and Mrs. LaGrou went to observe a kindergarten class in the spring to make certain they were preparing their current students for the transition to kindergarten. One class was in Moorestown and one was in Cinnaminson and both reported that our children were well prepared for the next step. The staff in PreK plans together to make sure they are on the same page for the overall picture, but each class has their own special feel. PreK children play together, work together and individually, practice writing skills in a variety of ways, do experiments, make crafts from Bible lessons and complete math problems. Our teachers in PreK work hard to maximize a wonderful atmosphere of fun and learning. Each staff member works diligently to engage with every child in our preschool in an effort to know every child in the building. It is this sense of community that makes Step by Step a special place.

Families:

Step by Step Christian Preschool has many opportunities for families to get involved. From room parent to guest reader, we love having our families come in to help us out. The families at Step by Step are top notch and love what is offered. Many, many times, parents (both current and previous) reach out with words of gratitude for the program.

Some of our highlights from the year include:

- End of Year Picnic, Graduation, Storybook Land, Mother’s Day Events, PreK runners, Easter Egg Hunts, St. Patrick’s Day scavenger hunts, PJ day, Christmas performances, Gingerbread Day, Thanksgiving Feast and performances, Halloween parade and performances, Pumpkin and Apple Picking trip, Whole school activities, Book Fair, Family Fun Night and Chapel.
- Every month, Chapel is taught by Ms. Holly (or Pastor Wes). We enjoy hearing the stories and learning the songs. Each song usually involves some sort of movement and the preschoolers love it. Ms. Holly often sees if we can sing these songs a little faster than the last time and it is a time of fun and joy while the children are learning about God’s love.

THANK YOU:

So much of what we do is made possible and easier by the Property Team’s work. Thank you to Steve, Sam and Angel along with the summer crew as well!!! THANK YOU.

In addition, I would like to thank the Preschool Board. Your volunteer time and dedication to Step by Step was very appreciated.

I would like to thank God, who has blessed Step by Step Christian Preschool for over 50 years.



*"And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people."
~ Luke 2:52*

Wednesday Fellowship Groups: Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (4-6th) as well as Family Dinners occur on Wednesday nights throughout the program year.

- In Kingdom Kids, we have been learning about how important we are to Jesus and that He knows all about us as our creator. We continue to add to our little family as friends enjoy bringing friends.
- In Crossing Zone, we have been studying God's attributes. He is Holy, Just, Wise, Infinite, Merciful, etc. Part of understanding who God is means we define these words and try to find ways to see God in our everyday lives. Our goal is to see who God is and spot when He works in our lives. Our numbers are steady and continue to increase.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was June 24-28, 2024. The theme was Race to the Finish! "... and let us keep on running the race marked out for us. Let us keep looking to Jesus..." We borrowed the Paris Olympics theme and reminded children of their value in Jesus which empowers us to do great things in His name. Registration this year was around 125 registrants, K-6th grade. And about 48 volunteers, most of which are teens, who generously give of their summer vacation time. VBS 2025 planning has already begun. If you would like to see what it is all about and experience the blessings that come with sharing the love of Jesus with kids, contact Holly.



Nursery

The nursery is available on Sunday from 8:45 am-12:00 noon. During the summer hours are 8:45-10:30 am. I maintain the staff hiring, scheduling, payroll, and implementation of policies and procedures in the nursery. Chelsea Margerum continues as our Sunday coordinator.

Sunday School

Sunday School is for all children ages 4 years- 6th grade. We have been blessed with wonderful teacher volunteers. Children are learning that the Bible is one continuous story pointing to the Promise (Jesus). In our 4 yrs old -1st grade we are blessed with Jenny Legath and Karen Alecxih. Our 2nd and 3rd graders are blessed with Donna Doulong, Melody Ransom, and Lori Bell. 4th-6th grade is blessed with Leslie Spencer and Philip Jagiela. This year we did a group Advent project where we learned about Chrismons and the history and meaning behind the symbols. Then we created our own Chrismon and hung them on a tree in the Commons Lobby. It was quite a project, and they looked so beautiful during the Christmas season. Closer to Christmas we were treated to a skit about the birth of Jesus performed by our 4th-6th grade class and then cupcakes that were fully edible and had baby Jesus on top. As a church, we are blessed beyond measure by each one of these teachers and the love and creativity they bring. Please stop by the classes some time to express your gratitude.

Step by Step Christian Preschool

I LOVE that I get to spend time each day with our preschool teachers and kids. We are blessed with a fantastic staff and such wonderful kids. Amy Delgado continues to run things seamlessly and with such love and care for

all. Chapel time with the children and teachers is a highlight of my week. The children love to sing praises to God and act out Bible stories.

Special Events

- Created Lenten boxes with devotionals for families.
- Easter celebrations were held on Wednesday nights to reach more children. We hid eggs in the church and then read about the resurrection story.
- Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone shared fun, laughs and fellowship during their annual end of year parties on and off campus, many blessings were shared during both events.
- Vacation Bible School was a huge success as we continue to reach children in the community with Gods love.
- In August we had our Paint Wars. There are pictures and I believe I was targeted relentlessly.
- Sunday School, Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone and Family Dinner Kick OFF.
- Bible Sunday for 3rd graders, 4 children received a Bible and a special keepsake bookmark during each of the worship services. I also distributed a reading plan that they received with a letter reminding them of the treasure of the Word of God. I had one student complete the reading plan and asked for another. We also commissioned our teachers.
- On Consecration Sunday October 13th we had a craft table for the kids, and they had the chance to create a special cupcake.
- Created Advent boxes with Jesse tree DIY ornaments. This went along with the adult Sunday School class that taught the Jesse Tree.
- On December 6th I created a Night in Bethlehem event. Part of our church was transformed into a city with shoppes for kids and families to explore and think about what it was like in Jesus' time. They made something in each shop to take home to remember their time. We had four teens that dressed in costumes and acted out a story from the life of Jesus. It all ended at the manger where the story was to be read and then hot chocolate and cookies.
- Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone Christmas parties, the birth of Jesus was celebrated during these meeting times and a lot of love was shared. Sunday School had their party with a skit and the fun dance for the Twelve Dyas of Christmas.

It has been a wonderful year serving a Mighty God who holds all things together! I cannot wait to see what God has in store for 2025. Stay tuned!



During 2020-2022, the LRPC focused on post-COVID “re-opening” of our church, in a timely and safe manner. In 2023, this committee led development of plans to enhance the Discipleship and Sustainability of our church. Ideas generated by six teams, composed of over 60 stakeholders from Session, Deacons, Trustees, staff and lay persons, evolved into our **Grow the Kingdom** (GtK) initiatives, which were adopted by Session in September 2023. Since then, the LRPC focused its efforts on defining activities and organizational changes which would help our congregation accomplish the 30 goals that were defined by the Grow the Kingdom program.

In 2024, LRPC Grow The Kingdom activities included:

- **Sunday: End to End Excellence Team**, composed of Elders from Worship, Music, Adult Spiritual Formation, Discipling Children & Youth and LRPC plus a representative from Contemporary Worship. In May 2024, this team made two recommendations, adopted by Session, to re-enforce our commitment to Sunday School through better focus on start and stop times and reducing the number of “Single Service Sundays.” Since May 2024, this team has been discussing how to better engage “young families” and make FPC Moorestown a more attractive church home for them.
- **Session Organization.** In July 2024, the LRPC made proposals to enhance Session’s ability and effectiveness to Grow the Kingdom and improve church operations. Session adopted several of these recommendations including:
 - Creation of two Session Committees – The **Communication Committee** (charged with enhancing the content and delivery of FPC Moorestown messaging) and the **Community Engagement Committee** (charged with enhancing connections within our membership and with our local community).
 - Moving **Technology Committee** activity under the Long Range Planning Committee
 - Asking LRPC to lead the investigation into a potential FPC Moorestown **Fellows Program**
- **LRPC – Other 2024-2025 activities**
 - **GtK focus** – help Session committees to include GtK initiatives in their Mission-Objectives statements.
 - Support efforts of the new **Communications** and **Community Engagement** committees.
 - Support Budget Committee development of **3-year rolling Budget** Outlook (with objective for Balanced Operational Budget in 2026.)
 - Develop, Collect, and Report **FPC Metrics** that are meaningful and easy to understand.

The enthusiasm and creativity of the Long Range Planning Committee members in addressing “big picture” issues, has helped our church address Grow the Kingdom needs. I would like to thank Nancy Chumney, Rick Dougherty, Tim Powell, Ginny Weber, and Norm Vandergrift, as well as Elders Leonard Fitts and Frank Manion for their time, insights and contributions, and encourage anyone who has an interest in Long Term Planning to contact Paul Grossmann at 609-330-3214.



Membership and Nurture Committee

Elder Gayle Payne and Elder Joyce Wenzke, Co-Chairs

Our committed team of volunteers, include Mary Christensen, Eric Davis, Sherrell Fitts, Jan Martin, Karen Molloy, plus our Staff Advisor Wes Allen. We desire to SERVE our congregation.

The **Inquirers classes** are hosted by the Membership Committee. The series of classes begins with our committee hosting prospective members at our Wednesday Night Family dinners. This has proven to be very popular and a wonderful way to draw folks into the life of our church, complete with kids and noise and lots of casual fellowship. Following the dinners, the group moves into the Hayes Room to begin their introduction into membership at FPC Moorestown. Pastors Stuart Spencer and Wes Allen lead this Meet and Greet session on Wednesday which is followed by an in-depth presentation on Saturday morning with the Pastors.



- This year we extended these classes to Sunday mornings to include a class with meeting leaders of our various ministries. A small group setting allows the prospective members a chance to meet and ask questions and connect with their areas of interest.
- We continue the tradition of meeting with the Session Elders the following Sunday and provide time for presentation of the prospects' Statements of Faith. It is always interesting to hear what brought these individuals to our church - the Strawberry Festival, the music programs, sometimes special programs like Vacation Bible School, or a Bible Study. They affirm their agreement with the tenets of FPC Moorestown.
- In 2024 we hosted two Inquirers classes (Fall and Spring) and received a total of **14** into membership: Chrissy Brown, Sharon Budka, Audrey Drummonds, Kathryn Eagles, Loren Eagles, Jack Evans, Sherry Evans, Katie Ferroni, Justin Greenhow, Rebecca Greenhow, Evan Letts, Taylor Letts, Cindy Saint Cyr, and Ryan Sharp. This year we reinstated two members: Delaney Honeyford Cushing, and Kevin Schaeffer.

We continued our efforts to Nurture our congregation through the **Ice Cream Social**. In addition to introducing the newest members to the congregation, in July we honored those in our congregation who have worshiped at FPC for 50 years! The newest and the oldest were highlighted over ice cream sundaes! We are ever grateful to the Deacons and Tamara Trzeciak for their support of this project. We could not do it without them.

The challenge of **tracking our members** continues and we are so grateful to committee members like Karen Molloy who sends hand-written notes and follows up with those who have not been in attendance. We are blessed by the work of Hank Heidler who faithfully monitors attendance electronically. Signing in every Sunday is a small gesture for most, but a HUGE help to us!

According to our Clerk of Session, we currently have 765 members. We are anticipating that the newest initiative that opens our Lenten studies to the community will result in new faces, new believers, and will truly Grow the Kingdom.

Missions Committee

Elder Kristen Perkowski and Elder Jean Kunkel, Co-Chairs; Linda Jagiela, Director of Outreach, Staff Liaison

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” ~ Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

Missions Committee: Kristen Perkowski, Jean Kunkel, Margaret Madorno, Steve Engle, Donna Leatherman, John Pierce, Jennifer Allen, Kathy McIlroy, Sally Bishop, Laurie LaMonica, Wendy Dougherty, Alice Conley, Pat Joyner, Dan Scannell, Vicky Terry, Debby Gerhardt

Overview

The mission committee met ten times this year both in person and virtually. Throughout the year, we had missionaries attend our meetings both in person or via zoom to provide updates on their ministries and request appeals for various projects. We continue our commitment to utilize an intentional “hands on” approach with our mission efforts, giving the congregation many opportunities to get involved in our efforts and to get to know our missionaries. These efforts included mission trips, fundraising events, dinners and volunteer opportunities. Our Director of Outreach, Linda Jagiela, was instrumental in facilitating these opportunities and sadly, resigned in November to pursue other employment. We are forever grateful for her commitment over the last 7 years to grow the missions program at FPC Moorestown. Our Mission partners were notified of Linda’s resignation, and the committee has been communicating with them both via email and by telephone.

Mission Trips (Urban Promise Honduras (Linda Jagiela, Philip Jagiela, Jim Clinton, Margaret Dealy))

A team traveled to UP Honduras during the UP summer camp week to learn more about their ministry. The team assisted in the afterschool and summer camp programs, seeing how this ministry is spreading the Gospel and were treated to the local sites and foods. The team commented that this ministry was the epitome of the Urban Promise model and has continued to grow since it was started. Prior to the trip, multiple fundraising efforts occurred including a honey sale, Dine & Donate at Iron Hill Brewery in both spring and fall, Miles to Missions, and a bake sale. In addition, \$800+ from the proceeds of the food tent at the Strawberry Festival were used to donate new computers to this ministry.

Mission class at VBS

Vacation Bible School missions’ class students learned about what it means to be a missionary, specifically learning about the story of Eric Liddell, the Olympic athlete who became a missionary. Ishmael Adams from Love Driven Ministries in Malawi also assisted and the VBS Collection went to soccer balls to send to Malawi. The children participated in “Christmas in July” packing 35 boxes for Operation Christmas Child and learning about this ministry and how it helps children around the globe.

Alternative Gift Market

Our Alternative Gift Market allows congregants to purchase tribute gifts for their friends and loved ones while gifting our mission efforts locally and around the world. Alternative giving raised \$4,445 for our missionaries. Praise the Lord! Pam Engle created the beautiful artwork for this year’s card.



Missions Connections

The Mission Committee published a spring and fall issue of *Missions Connections* keeping our congregation informed throughout the year about our mission efforts.

Carol's House (The Mission House)

Carol's House remained occupied with various missionaries the entire year and is committed for the entire year of 2025 and 2026. Four years ago, an anonymous donor committed to giving \$125,000 for Carol's house over a five-year period. We have received the fourth installment this year toward that commitment. This generous donation allows us to host missionaries who have come off the mission field for various reasons to stay at an affordable rate without taxing the church's budget. The monthly rent charged was raised slightly and cable was removed for cost effectiveness. Maintenance performed on the house included: new sump pumps, new water heater and new refrigerator.

Missionwares / Grace Boutique

The Missionwares store has officially been transformed into the Grace Boutique. This space will offer items that are not covered by SNAP benefits, including but not limited to diapers, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, make-up, cleaning supplies, etc. We were so thankful for the hard work of our property team to repair and restore the space for this new ministry! From donations from congregants, a donation from Becca Neindorff from the collection made at her installment dinner becoming the moderator of the Presbytery for South Jersey, and through obtaining donations from organizations like Distributing Dignity, the Diaper Bank and Good 360, the store has been filled. We were able to show the space to the Moorestown Ministerium during their fall meeting held here at FPC Moorestown and are currently working with them to set specific hours for the store to be open. During this time, the store has been utilized for individuals in need to "shop" as the need has arisen.

Additional Fundraising and Mission activities

The mission committee hosted a watch party and spaghetti dinner to celebrate Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM) 35th anniversary in May. The banquet was held in North Carolina but guests were able to be a part of the party via live stream viewing. A free will offering was collected and sent to HOM along with \$1,000 from emerging missions to celebrate this milestone and continue to assist this great need in a desperate community suffering from much political unrest this year.

We operated the Strawberry Festival food stand in June raising \$3,817, \$831 went to computers for UP Honduras and \$2986 for Haiti Outreach Ministries. We had three opportunities this summer to volunteer at the Children's Fresh Air Home in Wildwood. Eleven volunteers assisted over these three occasions to serve groups from North Philadelphia, Camden and Urban Promise. This ministry provides a day of fresh air, fun and fellowship down the shore for inner city students.

In August, we hosted a dinner for Urban Promise for volunteers from Aberdeen Baptist church who were coming to serve for the week. Linda oversaw the meal prep and served meals along with volunteers at the Urban Promise Summit in November for two days serving three meals and snacks to over 200 attendees.

In November for the second year, FPC Moorestown served as a drop off location for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. For eight days, 40 volunteers staffed Miller Commons' lobby collecting shoeboxes and then packing them into large shipping boxes. We collected over 1167 boxes with 137 of them donated by our congregation. We loaded up trucks and cars to take them to the collection point where they were filled into

tractor-trailers to head to a sorting location. Remaining emerging missions funds at the end of the year were sent to Presbyterian Disaster Relief to assist in the areas in the Southeast affected by Hurricane Helene and Milton that occurred in the fall 2024.

Disbursements 2024

Ministry 2024	Budget \$220,000
Kennedy, Darren (Outreach Foundation)	3000
Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) Embangweni Hospital Malawi	4000
Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) Good Shepard Hospital Congo	8000
Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) Holy Cross Hospital Haiti	6000
New Church Development Egypt (Outreach Foundation)	2000
Outreach Foundation Cairo Seminary Egypt	4000
Presbytery of WJ Ayoub, Nadia	4000
Antioch - Wehmeyer, Donald and Martha	1000
Coalition of Christian Outreach (CCO) - Walker, Beth	6000
CRU - Cassel, Joe	5000
Glad Tidings India (GTi Hope)	12000
Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM)	12000
Hekima Place	5000
Hekima Place University Scholarships	2000
Hope Alive Clinic Haiti	5000
Operation Mobilization USA - Hendricks, Jim and Stephanie	5000
Services along the Nile - Soliman, Dr. Emad	5000
SNEHA Primary/High School India (Global Development)	8000
Urban Promise Honduras	8000
Urban Promise International Malawi (Love Driven, Seeds of Promise, Rise)	10000
Urban Promise International Yamba	5000
Urban Promise International CALM	8000
Urban Promise International UPSEL Leadership Training/Fellows	5000
Camden Forward School (students) Urban Promise	15000
Camden Forward School (gifts) Urban Promise	200
Children's Fresh Air Home	5000
Christian Caring Center	5000
Feeding 5000	5000
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	5000
Intervarsity	3000
Options for Women	5000
Seeds of Hope	5000
UP After School Outreach	7000
UP High School Academy - Teen Leaders/Trekkers	7000
UP Summer Camps	7000
UP Summit Dinner/Summer Interns	300
Young Life	6000
Admin of Missions and Outreach travel/mission trips	5000
Alternative Gift	500
Emergency assistance to Missionaries/emerging	6000
TOTAL	\$222,000

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you-I whom you have delivered.
Psalms 71:23

Committee Members: Greg Connlain, Jean Gandy, Tom Gilman, Amit Joshi, Joel Krott, Laurie LaMonica, Ann McBride and Melody Harper Ransom

The Music Committee continues to contribute to the spiritual dimensions of our worship experiences. The music program at FPC Moorestown has continued to sustain its vibrancy. Our gratitude goes out to the dedicated leadership of Joel Krott. Mr. Krott encourages a dignified and reverent concept of worship and fosters spiritual development in all with whom he works.

Kathy Gunsallus accompanies the Adult Choir and Choristers. Kathy also directs the Bell Choir. Her responsibilities include organ and piano accompaniment and her assistance with choir directing. We are very grateful for Kathy's professional contribution to our music program and especially for her generous, and positive spirit.

Choir is an adjunct to **Christian Education**. There is a consistent effort to thoroughly understand the Scriptural content of all the musical pieces and to apply them to life.

The support of many youth choir mothers assisted Mr. Krott with rebuilding and recruiting for the youth music ministry. Stewardship of these parents' time is deeply appreciated.

God plays for keeps, and work done by and through Him is eternal. The Music Committee is appreciative of this group of supportive youth choir member-parents. We as members of the FPC of Moorestown know and appreciate the efforts of our choirs and choir parents, who's offering intent to honor God and edify His people. The choirs include: (Primary Choir (K and 1st grade), Junior Choir (2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders), Choristers (5th-8th graders), Chapel Choir (9th-12th graders) and the Adult Choir. Members of the Bell Choir are under Kathy Gunsallus' purview.

We are grateful to our **volunteer accompanists**, Carol Manion, Sawyer McNab, and Rachel Ferguson. We depend on the faithful assistance of Alison Mackey in the church office for administrative support.

Special Events concerts include an Epiphany Concert in January, a Palm Sunday concert featuring the West Jersey Orchestra and Adult Choir featuring the Rutter "Gloria". The resumption of youth choir with orchestra in May, and a concert featuring many of our musicians in solo performances and two youth choirs.

The Music Committee assists with administrative responsibilities of our music program and collaborates behind the scenes to help bring the beautiful church music to us each week. We collaborate with the **Worship Committee** to assure our visions are in sync. We are grateful to all who participated.

As a committee of Session, the Personnel Team provides guidance and support for the church clergy and staff. We also serve as liaison between the Session and staff. Those on the team are available to the full-time staff on an as-needed basis, assisting in a variety of ways. At the end of the year, we had filled all committee member positions, including representatives from the Board of Trustees and the Deacons: Alecia Connlain, Bill Mueller, Matt Moxhay, Jim Wiggins, Steve Shaffer, Karen Hynoski, Stuart Spencer (*ex officio*) and Dave Rebuck (Chair). We meet monthly and otherwise as needed. All meetings this past year were via electronic means.

At the end of 2024, the staff at FPC Moorestown was composed of one ordained Senior Pastor, one ordained Associate Pastor, nine additional full-time employees and two additional part-time employees and two vacant part time positions (The Administrator of Outreach and Administrative Assistant). Amy Delgado is employed by the Church to lead its Step-by-Step staffing which includes an additional 9 part time employees employed by FPC Moorestown. Finally, FPC employs 14 additional contracted workers who are engaged to perform various specialized and technical services for the congregation. The expenses incurred for all personnel costs to support the church's programs amount to two-thirds of FPC Moorestown's annual budget.

Changes this past year were as follows:

- Hired Angel Contreras as a full time Maintenance Assistant to replace Steve Cashmer following Steve's unanticipated death.
- Accepted the resignation of Linda Jagiela as Administrator of Outreach and converted the position from full time to part time.

The Personnel Committee was involved in the following initiatives in 2024:

1. Members of the team continued efforts in forging closer relationships supporting full-time church staff. The team drafted policy guidance for its use in performing liaison engagements with all full time and part time employees.
2. The team remained focused on the safety and well-being of the church staff.
3. A formal process was continued again this year to provide meaningful performance feedback to the senior pastor.
4. Updates to the staff organization chart were finalized this year, which included input provided by the team. The Table of Organization presenting the names and titles for full time, part time and contracted workers was distributed to Session.
5. The team has been involved with review of the updated *Child and Personal Protection Policy* manual prepared for church staff. This document will be made available to all staff members early in 2025.
6. The team has spent considerable effort discussing the personnel budget. As the largest line item in the overall church budget, discerning a way to meet the salaries and benefits portion of the budget for our staff was of utmost importance. A Compensation Schedule listing the salary and costs incurred for each fringe benefit provided to each full-time, part-time and contracted worker was distributed to Session.

7. The team provided input associated with annual staff reviews for 2024 and budget considerations for staff compensation in 2025.
8. The team engaged in discussions associated with the healthcare packages offered by the church to the pastors and all other full-time employees.
9. The team reviewed and approved the request for sabbatical leave during calendar year 2025 from Pastor Spencer. The team continues to work with other committees on a plan to ensure the continuity of operations in the pastor's absence, especially during the time period from mid-May through the end of August.

The team is critically aware of the need to recruit and select people to fill its two existing vacancies. Planning with the representatives from the Missions Committee and the Deacons to identify their needs has begun. Current job descriptions are under review. Once those tasks are completed representatives will commence the selection process with direct impact from all impacted stakeholders.

Again, this year, the committee is especially grateful for the assistance provided by the many unpaid volunteers that provide essential support for the numerous programs that define our congregation's services to its members and our community at large. Consistent with the goals presented through the Church's Grow the Kingdom initiatives we will continue to identify discipleship opportunities and seek additional volunteers who have an appreciation and genuine concern for the well-being of the church and its programs. The church certainly benefits from their time, talents, and expertise. All church staff and members of the congregation benefit greatly from their service.



Elder Pam Engle, Chair of Prayer and Elder Jim Cole, Chair of Discipleship

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” - Colossians 4:2

Committee/Prayer Team Members: Nancy Burkley, Jim Cole, Melissa Corbin, Steve and Pam Engle, Joyce Peacock, Joe and Arlita Winston, Jan Amos, Jeff Erbig, Pete Honeyford (discipleship).

Purpose Statement: The Prayer and Discipleship Committees of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown has been formed to exalt Christ through initiatives that encourage growth in disciple making and intimacy in prayer as we meet to pray and see the Lord’s guidance regarding what is on His heart to grow us as a praying body of disciples.

Prayer Times and Leaders: Praying for our church, the greater church, the nation, the world, as well as prayer requests that are received.

Sundays 9:30 am	Jim Cole (available to pray in the Prayer Chapel following 9:00 worship)
Mondays 9-10 am	Jim Cole (Prayer Chapel)
Tuesdays 9:10 am	Jim Cole and Jan Amos (by Zoom)
Thursdays 12:30-1:00 pm	Pray for discipling with the Pastors (Zoom)
Thursdays 7:00-7:30 pm	Prayer Service with the Pastors (live stream/recorded)

Prayer Committee Report:

Prayer – As a major part of each of our committee meetings, we pray for the Discipleship initiatives; the church staff, pastors, and their families; church family and current requests; our communities, state and nation as well as Christians around the world as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayer Team – The Prayer Committee members make up the Prayer Team and respond immediately to prayer requests (texted or received from online form). We commit to pray for the individuals/situations and to keep requests confidential.

Prayer Chain – congregants can text any member of the Team to share immediate or urgent prayer requests. These requests will immediately be communicated to the Prayer Team.

Online Prayer Request Form – Easy to use! FPC Moorestown’s website: the drop-down bar under Ministries; Prayer and Discipleship then scroll to “Visit Our Prayer Team Page”. Pastors and Prayer Team members receive requests immediately.

Prayer Room – The Prayer Room is available to anyone for a quiet time of prayer. Team members will be happy to meet with anyone at his/her request. Prayer Request cards are available, checked regularly and passed on to the Prayer Team.

Sunday Mornings Pray with a Team Member – Jim Cole is available Sunday mornings in the Prayer Room following the 9:00 worship service for those with requests and who would like prayer.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING 2024

- **National Day of Prayer May 2nd** – The congregation was encouraged to join our nation in prayer on the 1st Thursday in May for a light breakfast and time of prayer on the VanCamp Porch.
- **Evening Prayer on the Porch** – this summer the congregation was encouraged to attend a quiet time of prayer “in the cool of the day” (when God walked with Adam and Eve) on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:00-8:00. All who attended were blessed and appreciated the time to gather for prayer requests.

- **Consecration Sunday (Stewardship)** In October we held a 12-hour Prayer Vigil to pray for this event. Participants used the church website to register for 30-minute time slots. A prayer guide/suggestions was available to all who participated.
- **Advent Devotional** – Because the Advent Devotional was so well received last year, including appreciation for the youth that participated, the committee decided to focus on our youth with 15 young people committing to write a daily devotion. Special artwork was also included by Natalie Olsen and Hannah Walker. Copies were distributed throughout the church (the Nartex, Miller Commons lobby, the church office) and offered online on the church website.
- **Men’s Prayer Breakfasts and Women’s Saturday Morning Prayer** – Pastor Stuart organized regular Saturday morning breakfasts throughout the year for men to fellowship and learn more about prayer. At the request of many women to meeting regularly, we are now meeting quarterly for the Women’s Saturday Morning Prayer. The ladies attending have appreciated the morning hours to come together and for quiet reflection.
- **November 13th Guest Speaker** – Rev. Cliff Jones was invited to speak on the exciting Disciple-Making work being done in India. Rev. Jones is involved with disciple making both here and in India.
- **Christmas Eve Services** – 500 copies of “Prayer to Start Your Day” were ordered as handouts following each worship service. These were paid for from a memorial gift given by Ruth Stotsenburg’s cousin. We will continue to do something similar for Easter.

Discipleship Committee

Elder Jim Cole

Matthew 37-40

When asked about the greatest commandments, Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”

The Disciple Group is part of the prayer Committee and is engaged in prayer, Discovery Bible Study, Engagement Program, speakers from missionary trips, visitation, and other groups that need volunteers such as adult bible study, evening gatherings –family dinners, week-end football, Sunday dinners and other activities that welcome youth, neighbors, and visitors.

Our primary mission is to reach out to those seeking to find faith in Jesus and to help them during their search.

Committee – Nancy Chumney, Steve Emerson, Janet D’Angelo, Jan Martin, Matt Moxhay, Kevin Schaeffer, Steve Shaffer, Norm Vandergrift, Gil Warren, Ginny Weber

Stewardship Program – The Stewardship team was responsible for the following:

- Per Capita – Month of February
- Legacy Giving/Wills Emphasis – June 4, 2024
- September 12th Fund – September 15, 2024
- Consecration Sunday – October 13, 2024
- Giving Tuesday – November 28, 2024

The theme for the Consecration Sunday 2024 was **Grow the Kingdom**. One hundred and eighty-five families committed \$1,402,000 to support and continue the ministries of the church for 2024. Total giving continues to increase as we seek to **Grow the Kingdom**.

Below is a chart of the Stewardship giving for the past five years:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
# giving units	185	194	190	177	185
Total pledged	\$1,450,488	\$1,501,200	\$1,390,350	\$1,382,000	\$1,402,000

**Based on 12/31/2024 Data*

Legacy Giving/Wills Emphasis was highlighted in June. Bob Morris, a long-time member, who serves on the investment committee, spoke about the value of Legacy giving and how it has sustained FPC Moorestown. Many of the repairs to our buildings and the closure of the budget gap in 2024 is due to the Legacy gifts from our many faithful members – Would you consider leaving a legacy gift?

September 12, 1888, FPC Moorestown was formed on September 12th, 1888. Over thirty years ago, with a long-term vision, The Reverend Dr. Bryant Kirkland with Treasurer, Jim Honan, began the September 12th Endowment fund. Each year, financial contributions to the fund are invested to provide money for long-term stability to the operation of FPC Moorestown. An annual distribution from the September 12th Fund is calculated as 4% of a rolling average of the prior five-year end values. This allows for a consistent and growing annual contribution to the Church operating budget. Each year the congregation celebrates the church’s anniversary year. For example, in our upcoming 137th year, we can each celebrate with a gift of \$13.70; \$137.00; 1370.00 or \$13,700; etc. Through the vision of those who have come before us, the September 12th fund provided \$64,00 to our 2024 annual budget. In 2025, it is slated to provide \$75,000. We thank the congregation for their continued support of this critical fund.

Giving Tuesday For the second year, the Stewardship Committee participated in Giving Tuesday. This is a global event where millions of people give generously to support local causes. The donations received help to cover the deficit.

Per Capita - We ask that each member pay their per capita (\$38.75) to support the broader church or to opt out. The cost in 2024 paid to Presbytery was \$28,676. Two hundred eighty-five members contributed \$12,818 to that total therefore the cost to our budget was \$15,858.

Thank you to the entire church family for your continued support of FPC Moorestown!

The Technology & Communications Committee supports the church's ministry and mission by providing the technical infrastructure for the preaching of the Word. An extensive set of technology platforms is used in support of worship, prayer services, group meetings, special events, and educational opportunities. We provide both the technology support and the volunteer personnel to manage the audio and visual systems, as well as virtual worship and special events through the live streaming. In addition, the committee oversees the overall computer Wi-Fi network for the church, as well as much of the general computing functions that support the church's administrative functions.

A few highlights from 2024:

- **Communications:** Facebook/Instagram posts are done daily highlighting events, giving links and details about upcoming services and meetings, and posting of videos and pictures about 'happenings' at the church. Our website is updated regularly and is a constantly growing source of materials and information for our members and the community. We link current events to the website, Friday e-blast, and Church Center app, and we post the *Connections* and sermon series recordings. As of November 2024 we had 1,001 followers on Facebook, and our website had 29,251 views.
- **Live Streaming of Worship:** Viewership remains strong at approximately 159 viewers per Sunday. Our reports show that even though FPC Moorestown has returned to two in-person services, the numbers of people 'tuning in' are substantial. We are live streaming weddings and memorial services (an option particularly appreciated by families) and find that people from far off regions and countries are watching. These figures do not include weddings, funerals and other special events.
- **Sanctuary Audio/Visual Systems Upgrades:** In December 2024, the audio system in the main Sanctuary received a significant upgrade in the form of a Behringer X32 audio mixer. This is identical to the mixer used in Miller Commons for the Contemporary Service. Over the next few months we expect to see better and more consistent sound, both in the sanctuary and on the live stream. By using similar equipment for both the traditional and contemporary services it will be much easier for volunteer sound operators to assist with either service as needed. Additionally, the use of the new mixer allowed us to retire a number of legacy computers used in the service, thus cutting our support costs for the hardware and software. A new Shure MX418/C microphone was also installed in the pulpit to address ongoing sound issues. Thanks to these upgrades, live stream viewers, as well as people in the sanctuary, have reported substantially improved sound quality. Many thanks to Taylor Adair, Steve Drzaszcz, Jonathan Nawrocki, Joshua Leonard and Harris Ransom for hours spent learning and installing these new components.
- **General Technology Upgrades:** A major upgrade of the church's Wi-fi network was done in early 2024. While signal strength is greatly improved, there is still room for improvement. The committee will be examining ways to improve on campus Wi-fi still further in 2025. During 2024 we also received an anonymous donation that allowed us to replace 10 outdated desktop computers for use by the office staff and volunteers. Several more desktops will be replaced with appropriate equipment, either new desktops or laptops, in 2025. Additionally, due to end of support from Microsoft for prior operating system versions, all of our computers will need to be upgraded to Windows 11 before October of 2025. The computer upgrades described above are necessary for the transition to the new version of Windows.

- **General Improvements in Technology Management:** We have made substantial progress in reducing “crisis management” issues during this year. We now have better processes and operating procedures in place that has reduced problems with audio and video, both internally and on the live stream feeds. The upgrades to the audiovisual equipment and microphones have also contributed to improved stability.
- **Volunteers:** Five new volunteers joined the team this year, including audio operator Joshua Leonard, and live stream operators Dalton Ryan, Michael Boone, and Jacob Allen in the Contemporary Worship. In addition, Taylor Adair has provided us with considerable expertise in audio/visual equipment specification, selection, configuration and management. Alice Conley continues as the regular visuals operator in the Contemporary service. Jeremy Rotter and Jen Allen have also filled in to this position.

Please note: We can always use additional volunteers for technology help! There are far more possibilities (better Wi-Fi for example, hybrid conference rooms, and robust infrastructure) that can be implemented more efficiently, at lower cost, and sooner with more Tech volunteers. We have volunteer and paid opportunities available for our audio and video/live stream needs, it's great experience for anyone, especially those in high school. If you have a tech savvy family member or friend who might be interested, please let the church office know.



Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name, worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

~ Psalm 29:2

Committee Members: Nancy Bender, Paul Booker, Steve Conlain, Kevin Fauvell, John Miller, Melody Ransom, Joann Reynik, Vicki Terry

Mission and Responsibilities of the Worship Committee:

The overall mission of the Worship Committee is to support and oversee worship as presented in our church. The Worship Committee works in conjunction with the staff and when needed the various committees of Session. Primary focus is on the preaching of the word, celebration of the sacraments, and corporate prayer through song and music. Specific responsibilities include the arranging of protocols for communion, participation of Elders in services, the review of requests for Baptisms and weddings with the submittal to Session for approval, coordinating the use of ushers for worship and special services, the approval of pulpit supply, and working with the music committee supporting the essential role of music during worship.

Overview:

It has been inspiring to work in concert with a committee, staff, and members of Session, who were steadfastly committed to upholding the essential tenets of Christian worship. According to our Presbyterian heritage, worship should joyfully resound all praise, glory, and power to a triune God as always grounded in Scripture and guided by the Holy Spirit. A commitment to this ideal by all those involved in the planning and implementation of worship was faithful. This ideal has seen us through a pandemic and the shifting requirements of holding effective corporate worship.

We are continuing to transition from the pandemic mindset, but realize that to a degree, we have a new paradigm for worship; remote and in person attendance. In person attendance has increased consistently over the past year, but not significantly. We continue to monitor attendance both online and in person.

Early on in 2024, the committee continued the use of wafer/juice individual cups in administering communion. Vicki Terry with the assistance of Melody Ransom, Harris Ransom, Rumi Sinunu and Peggy Valora worked diligently to set up communion using different approaches insuring the safety of all congregants. We successfully reintroduced communion by intinction in the fall of 2024, where congregants came forward and received the elements. The committee also scheduled the continuation of ordained teams to now serve communion at select services over the Advent season.

Christmas Eve services were scheduled for 4:00 pm (Family Service), 6:00 pm (Traditional Lessons and Carols) 8:30 PM (Communion) and 11:00 pm (Chapel Choir/Lessons and Carols) for 2024. It was encouraging to see the services more widely attended in contrast to the last several years.



Ushers

Steve Connlain and John Miller, have been instrumental in adding to the number of usher teams participating in our weekly services and have insured that the duties of the ushers were carried out in an orderly fashion. As the year progressed and congregants began to return to in-person worship, ushers reinstated taking collections at the pews.

Congregants continued to gradually increase in-person attendance. The Contemporary Service under the leadership of Rev. Wes Allen witnessed congregants returning as did the Traditional Service with music under the leadership of Joel Krott. The variety of choirs under Joel Krott's direction continue to thrive and represent a significant ministry to those participating; especially our youth.

The committee continued to evaluate worship times and impacts on Sunday School with the current decision remaining with 9 AM Traditional Services and 11 AM Contemporary Services. Sunday School continues to function in the 10:15 to 11:00 AM time frame. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the schedule as established.

It was recommended that the committee's responsibility of overseeing the approval of weddings be documented and included in the church's Policy and Procedure Manual. Session, following the recommendation of the Worship Committee, is responsible for the final approval of weddings.

Protocols of Worship

Throughout the year the committee worked to review and study protocols in worship adhering to Scripture and the Reformed tradition of the Presbyterian Church. The committee reaffirmed our commitment to infant Baptism, but we continue to discuss the additional value of a dedication/celebration service, where Baptism has not yet been scheduled by parents for their children yet. Pastoral staff will continue to counsel those seeking other approaches for infants in Baptism. Music used during wedding ceremonies is not to contradict Scripture and Reformed Christian principles and they remain engaged directly in ongoing discussions.

It is our hope that we continue to see an increase in in-person worship as we move forward.

The committee is so grateful to the Technology Committee who has worked tirelessly in establishing and managing live stream worship. As noted previously, the pandemic has ushered in new approaches in bringing worship to those who are challenged in attending church services. The committee will endeavor to remain responsive to the needs of the congregation and will provide worship that is worthy of God's praise and glory.



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown's 11:00 AM contemporary service continues to thrive, averaging between 65-70 people each week. The service has a very high retention rate throughout the duration of worship; though the majority of people do arrive between 5 and 10 minutes late for varying reasons. By the end of worship the room is fuller than when we began. The service's strength is its intergenerational diversity with numerous families regularly in attendance.

In 2024 we learned that consistency in musicianship is critical to fostering a meaningful worship experience. While we still utilize volunteers in a number of areas we found it necessary to supplement regularly with musical worship leadership and the rhythm section (bass and drums). We balance this by having one stripped down service per month, which gives a number of our musicians a break. Matt Russell has largely led worship on the Sundays I preach. Matt was referred to me from a high school friend who leads worship at a church in Gloucester County. Matt is a multi-instrumentalist with a great voice and heart for worship. Matt also brings several years of worship leading experience in various church contexts, which provides some fresh insights and perspectives to incorporate into the worship experience.

This past year we upgraded our monitor system to Behringer P-16 units. This allows each musician and vocalist to control their own monitors. This allows us to practice before the service more efficiently without needing to stop practice to have the audio technician adjust levels accordingly. This has also allowed us to focus on the mix feeding the livestream. The majority of visitors to FPCM first view services online before attending in person - making the audio on the livestream a much needed area of focus. Additionally, we have begun training a team of audio engineers and live stream operators to assist in both services (see technology report for more details).

We have enjoyed a great deal of variety in musical selections - leading the congregation in 89-different songs throughout the year. After the October 4th Howard University Gospel Choir concert I began listening with more frequency to old gospel songs from the 1940-70s. It's been a fun experiment modernizing the arrangements to fit our capabilities. Through the end of the year these gospel songs included, "Sinnerman," an old spiritual reimagined by jazz musician Nina Simone; two Philadelphia based gospel / soul groups The O'Jays ("Put Your Hands Together") and the Dixie Hummingbirds ("Moving On"); "Must Be Jesus" by the Southern Tones (R&B musician Ray Charles admittedly stole the melody for his hit song "I Got a Woman." Our top 10 most frequently played songs were "Glorious Day" by Kristian Stanfill; "Graves to Gardens" by Brandon Lake; "Blessed Be Your Name" by Matt and Beth Redman; "Come Lord Jesus (Even So Come) by Chris Tomlin; "We Believe" by Newsboys; "Everybody Praise the Lord" by Lincoln Brewster (fun fact: Brewster was the lead guitarist in Steve Perry's band after leaving the band "Journey"); "Rest on Us" by Brandon Lake; "Revelation Song" by Jennie Lee Riddle; "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" by Matt Redman; Hosanna (Praise is Rising) by Paul Baloche (fun fact: Paul Baloche grew up in Maple Shade).



REPORTS FROM CHURCH MINISTRIES

Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden

Leslie Spencer

Leslie Spencer, Coordinator; Board of Deacons Oversight

Under the oversight of the Board of Deacons, the 7-member MSCG planning committee meets monthly throughout the year to oversee all aspects of growing, harvesting and distributing produce from the garden.

The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden achieved the following in 2024:

1. We harvested over 650 pounds of produce that was delivered to our two recipient organizations: the Ministerium Food Pantry and the Our Lady of Good Counsel meal delivery program.
2. Backyard Gardens, our garden building team, removed all grass, extended in-ground beds and added wood chipped paths to remaining areas. This increased the growing area and eliminated the need for mowing the small grassy areas in the garden.
3. Backyard Gardens built a durable, custom storage shed in the garden and a three-bin compost system along the exterior fence.
4. We grew flowers in addition to vegetables and were able to provide cut flowers to our donation sites in July through October. Donation site staff were appreciative of the flowers and reported that the recipients enjoyed them.
5. We implemented a strategy for crop selection, planting and maintenance that maximized the output of vegetables that are in the greatest demand by those who receive them.

The goal of the Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden is to be self-supported through donations and fundraising. Funding sources to support the 2024 budget of \$7,081 came from two fundraisers sponsored by the Garden committee, individual donations from church members, a generous donation from the Deacons Fund, and in-kind and cash donations from local businesses.

In addition to our ongoing goals of raising and distributing produce to those in need, new goals for the MSCG in 2025 include:

1. Recruit and hire a paid summer intern to assist the committee in planting and maintaining the garden, and scheduling and mentoring a larger team of volunteers to harvest produce.
2. Expand the hours for volunteers to assist with the harvesting of produce, particularly in July through September. Recruit high school students and others needing documented volunteer hours.



All women who are members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are considered part of Presbyterian Women (PW). Further all women in the community who support the purpose of PW are welcome and encouraged to participate in all activities whether they are a member of our congregation, belong to another church or are without a church home. Presbyterian Women has a history dating back more than 200 years. Two centuries later, women have a voice in the church and in the world.

At First Presbyterian Church Moorestown, our PW has three Circles which are considered small group Bible studies. Circles meet on different days, at different times, once a month, to accommodate the needs of the women of the church. We are currently studying "Let Justice Roll Down" using the PW/Horizon Bible Study. We are learning about God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation. In the beginning of the year, we studied "Sacred Encounters," the power and presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts. Circle 1 started the year studying "Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy. Discovering the Grace of Lament" by Mark Vroegop. They are now using the book "A Sheep Remembers" by David B. Calhoun as their study. In addition, a fourth Circle is service oriented, aiding various ministries.

Our Circles meet for three yearly PW Gatherings. The **Winter Gathering** was on March 11, 2024. The theme was where do we serve. 12 women from our church shared where they serve within and outside of the church The **Spring Gathering** was on June 10, 2024. The theme was "Inspired by Her." Three teams of women spoke about how they were inspired by their team partner. The teams were Karin Miller and Karina Rotter; Kristin Zorn and Jess Zorn; and Arlita Winston and Gayle Payne. The **Fall Gathering** was held on September 16, 2024. Barbara Lewis taught the first chapter of our Horizons Bible study "Environmental Justice" from the study "Let Justice Roll Down."

PW has three bulletin boards within the church to decorate. We change the decorations three times a year following the seasons of the church.



PW was challenged to again bake and serve 300 cakes for the Strawberry Festival in June. We are not sure of the number but we baked enough to provide for all in attendance and then some with much help from our friends church-wide.

In late November we did one of our favorite things; we decorated the Chrismon tree in the Sanctuary. These Chrismons were created more than 50 years ago by members of FPC Moorestown PW.

We continued our Missions work in financially supporting the PW Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly through our pledge, and contributed to grants in the US and internationally through the Thank, Birthday, and Least Coin offerings. Our Coordinating Team voted to support ministries that help women (and their children) in acute need. This means they receive immediate shelter and assistance in times of crisis. These two missions' groups are Dawn's Place, for women rescued from sex trafficking and Good Counsel Home, for women who are pregnant and homeless. This year we held a bazaar to raise money for these two organizations. It was a huge success raising over \$3,000.00.



We also support a child through an organization called Little Children of the World. Their mission is to help develop Christian communities for the world’s children at risk. Through them we support Hesekiel Agbon, a ten-year-old boy in the Philippines. We provide for his Christian education and his families medical coverage.

The **Knitting Network** created handmade items scarves, hats, mittens, bereavement sets, prayer shawls and blankets that were distributed to people in need. The network provided tangible comfort and loving support to many in 2024 by donating

- 23 scarves
- 28 pairs of mittens
- 23 hats
- 11 preemie blankets
- 4 prayer shawls
- 1 blanket
- 1 head band



This group sold items at our Bazaar and also the annual **Mitten Tree** was up again this year. All money donated went towards our two missions.

Some of Presbyterian Women’s accomplishments this past year were:

- Updated the trifold brochure for the year 2024-2025 – this will be given to all new members and will be available around the church
- Published the *PW Yearbook* in August for the 2024-2025 year
- Staged a successful Holiday Bazaar on November 16, 2024
- Served 3 dinners for the men at Seeds of Hope
- Installed a new treasurer Ginny Lewis
- Sorted through the tablecloths and other items in the closet of Room 8. We gave away the bedding that was previously used for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) to a local animal shelter. We organized and discarded many items and reorganized the closet.

FPC Moorestown Presbyterian Women have made the following Mission donations

Mission	Amount Given
Good Counsel Home	\$2,237.00
Dawn’s Place	\$2,237.00
Little Children of the World	\$557.00
PW of the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey	\$1,200.00
Thank Offering	\$346.00
Birthday Offering	\$265.00
Least Coin	\$85.00
Total	\$6,927.00

Mission:

To provide fresh floral arrangements for each pedestal flanking the pulpit in the sanctuary during the Traditional Worship service, transferred to the Commons for the Contemporary Worship at 11:00 a.m., as well as smaller arrangements for the commons lobby and reception desk in the main office. Additionally, baptismal families are presented with a single stem rose and specialty displays are created for Harvest Sunday, Good Friday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent (poinsettias), and Easter Sunday (spring plants). The Guild is responsible for design and maintenance of artificial Christmas greens adorning the sanctuary from the start of Advent through Epiphany January 6. Pulpit arrangements are often funded/donated in memory of a deceased family member or friend of a congregant.

Membership:

12 active members work either alone or in tandem each week to create designs. Church family members of all flower-arranging abilities are welcome to join, guided by a learn-as-you-go philosophy; experienced designers mentoring those new to the craft. Members sign up to lead or assist in arranging on a quarterly basis. Balanced participation is the goal, with no member assuming too much or too little responsibility; however, vacations, other obligations, and illness can create disparity, which is assumed and not problematic.

Process:

The Director of the Guild, Fran Green, is responsible for assembling the schedule on a quarterly basis, then sharing with all members and church office staff (Jan Martin/Alison Mackey), as well as serving as point-person for any issues that arise with regard to the guild, e.g. use of pulpit flowers for a Saturday funeral, date/time of delivery of plants for display in sanctuary, need for baptismal roses. Members unable to fulfill their obligations are responsible for finding a replacement or arranging for a switch, which must be communicated to the office staff for proper notation in the bulletin. If a member is too ill or otherwise indisposed to cover vacancy, then the director is notified to find a replacement. Flowers are purchased weekly by an agreed upon member of assigned duo (usually leader), with assembly of arrangements taking place in the Commons kitchen at a mutually agreed upon time, either on Friday or Saturday. The cost of flowers and other essential supplies, e.g. floral foam/containers is reimbursed by the church, up to \$90/week, via submission of completed expense form and receipts to Norm Vandergrift, who then issues payment of the specified amount.



Budget:

The limit to weekly spending is \$90 which, if met 49 Sundays per year, would amount to \$4,410 outlay from collected funds. Since the flowers are paid for by dedicated donations, this figure isn't firm and spending as little as possible for quality materials is encouraged. If a team goes over budget, it is their responsibility to absorb additional cost. This year, the guild came in well under budget, claiming only \$1,457 of \$3,895 in donations. Some members pick up containers/supplies as a gift to the church.

Doris Kahley, Stephen Leader; Rev. Wes Allen, Staff Liaison

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ
~ Galatians 6:2*

Stephen Ministers are members of FPC who have received 50 hours of training to provide high-quality, one-on-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

FPC Moorestown has had many dozen Stephen Ministers across the three decades-plus of our involvement in the ministry. Currently we have sixteen active Stephen Ministers. During the year nine Stephen Ministers were serving Care Receivers. Unfortunately, by the end of the year, two Care Receivers have gone to be with the Lord. We are always looking for more of those who could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister. If you know of someone, talk to them and ask them if they would consider having a Stephen Minister.

In April of 2024 FPC Moorestown commissioned four newly-trained Stephen Ministers. One of our leaders has retired after many years of service, and one has stepped back from serving for now due to health issues. This brings our leadership to four (4) Stephen leaders plus Pastor Wes Allen. In September, we held a one-day retreat at the church to help our group be more cohesive and all but one Stephen Minister attended.

We also have a ministry of grief where we send a series of grief booklets provided by Stephen Ministry to those who have lost loved ones. These popular "Journeying Through Grief" booklets are sent throughout the year to support those experiencing grief.

A Stephen Minister provides a 'safe place' for a person to talk, when your world has crashed, when you still need to talk and your family is tired of listening, when your head is spinning with the demands of life or you can't evaluate the options before you, or even identify what they are. Our Stephen Ministers are passionate about caring for, listening to, and praying for you. At the same time, we know that only God provides the cure.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation, contact Pastor Wes Allen (Staff Liaison), or Stephen Leaders Doris Kahley at (609) 220-8163 or Peg Pierce at (609) 330-0623.



REPORTS FROM THE BOARDS OF THE CHURCH

Board of Deacons

Moderator Owen Dietz

Rev. Wes Allen, Staff Liaison

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order defines the ministry of Deacons as one of "compassion, witness, and service." Deacons are called to serve the people of God, ministering to those in need, the sick, the friendless, and anyone in distress, both within the church and in the larger community. Deacons are to serve as a visible representation of Christ's care for the world, ensuring that the congregation's commitment to love and service is lived out in practical ways.

The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown are organized into four sub-committees: Community Welfare, Local Benevolence, Hospitality, and Visitation & Caring. The deacons meet monthly on Tuesday evenings in Fellowship Hall with a Zoom option.

Section 1: Community Welfare

The Community Welfare Committee demonstrated dedication to addressing the needs of the local community:

1. **Blanket Sunday and Manger Sunday:** These events provided essential resources to individuals and families in need.
2. **Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden:** Under Deacon oversight, the garden expanded its impact, donating *over 700 pounds* of produce to local food pantries and meal delivery programs in 2024. This initiative brought together volunteers of all ages and supported the community throughout the growing seasons.
3. **Thanksgiving Support:** Collaborated with local Boy Scout troops to collect canned goods and donated 56 turkeys to Your Food Shelf, making the holidays brighter for many families.
4. **Gift Card Distribution:** Partnered with local schools in Delran, Maple Shade, and Moorestown to distribute \$5,000 in Walmart, Target, and Amazon gift cards, offering critical support to families in need. These cards were then distributed by school guidance counselors to local families.

Section 2: Local Benevolence

The Local Benevolence Committee focused on strategic partnerships and financial contributions to maximize community impact:

1. **2024 Local Benevolence Allocations: \$500** was distributed to Feeding 5,000. Christian Caring Center, MEND, and The Tender each received **\$800**. Good Samaritan/St. Vincent de Paul, Moorestown Friends Enrichment, YMCA Camp No Worries, Contact Burlington County, Cathedral Kitchen, CCD – Emergency & Community Services, Family Promise of Burlington County, CCD - Providence House: Each received **\$2,000**.
2. **Streamlined Funding Process:** A new application process was introduced to ensure transparent and equitable fund distribution for 2025. Organizations are required to demonstrate the impact of funding, fostering accountability and stronger relationships with the church.

3. **Additional Funding Redistribution:** Since Church Has Left the Building was moved from October 2024 to March 2025, \$3,750 was redirected to Feeding 5000, MEND, and St. Vincent DePaul Society. Each organization received \$1,250 in additional funding.

Section 3: Hospitality

Efforts in hospitality nurtured meaningful connections within the church and community:

1. The Hospitality Committee played a vital role in organizing events like Fifth Sunday receptions, Congregational Luncheons, and the Strawberry Festival. They also supported events such as the New Member Ice Cream Social, fostering fellowship within the congregation.
2. The Hospitality team coordinates weekly deacons to welcome guests, visitors, and members on a weekly basis prior to the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services.

Section 4: Visitation and Caring

Focused on addressing individual and family needs, the Visitation and Caring Committee worked closely with community members:

1. **Transportation Support:** Volunteers provided transportation for members to attend church events and doctor visits, ensuring accessibility to necessary services.
2. **Flower Deliveries:** Deacons delivered flowers regularly, including poinsettias during Christmas and other seasonal arrangements, spreading comfort and joy.
3. **Meal Train Ministry:** Hundreds of meals were prepared and delivered to members experiencing life-changing events, with support from dedicated volunteers.
4. **Letter of Well Wishing Follow Up Cards:** The committee mails follow up notes of encouragement and prayer to individuals who have received letters of well wishing.

Additional Thoughts and Acknowledgments

This report reflects the commitment and compassion of the Board of Deacons in carrying out Christ's mission. Through their efforts, the church has significantly impacted both members from within our congregation and throughout the broader community.

Additionally, each year the Deacons allocate approximately \$2,500 for emergency assistance to be used at the discretion of the pastoral staff. While we direct all persons requesting resources to organizations we support like MEND, St. Vincent DePaul, and Family Promise, these funds have been lifelines for individuals and families in times of crisis while they are being connected to these organizations. In 2024 we provided hotel accommodations, assistance with medical bills, pre-paid cell phones and gift cards to over a dozen individuals.

Board of Trustees

President Jeff Legath

Jeff Legath, President; Earl Gage and Norman Vandergrift, Staff Liaisons

1. Report of the Board of Trustees
2. Report of the Church Administrator
3. Report of the Property Committee
4. Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024
5. 2025 Budget Approved by Budget Committee

Report of the Board of Trustees

President Jeff Legath

Officers

President	Jeff Legath
Vice President	Pete Honeyford
Secretary	Wendy Dougherty
Treasurer	William Conner

Committee Chairs

Budget	Jeff Legath
Investment/Endowment	William Mueller
Property	Pete Honeyford

The mission of the Board of Trustees is to support the overarching mission of the Church to bring the word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ to our congregation and communities. The Board provides fiduciary oversight and guidance for the Church's staff and Session to help promote the long-term stability and best interests of the Church, including specifically:

- Financial guidance to promote the stability of the Church's budget and finances
- Management of and investment strategy for restricted funds and other investments of the Church
- Oversight of the care and maintenance of the facilities and properties owned and controlled by the Church

The Trustees fulfill this mission through active committees of the Board, working collaboratively with other leadership groups including Session and Deacons, and various committees including Budget, Missions, Personnel, Long Range Planning and Stewardship. We offer various other Committees and groups support when needed. We also provide oversight to the Administrator and CFO of the Church.

The Church began 2024 in a much stronger position financially than we were entering 2023 and the previous years during the pandemic. We were able to provide a small carry forward into the year of \$30,000 and adopt a 2024 budget with no use of restricted funds beyond normally planned contributions to support the operations of the Church. This was a notable accomplishment and in stark contrast to 2023 and prior years during the Pandemic wherein we relied heavily on the use of bequests and restricted funds to manage budget deficits. The utilization of \$107,000 in restricted funds in 2023 set the groundwork for a successful transition to 2024, but special use of restricted funds beyond normally formulated contributions to our operating budget is not sustainable. The carryforward to begin 2024, coupled with voluntary measures to reduce personnel and other costs, allowed us to craft a 2024 budget without the use of restricted funds beyond normal formulary amounts

and operate against a modest projected deficit that we would ordinarily expect to make up during the year through careful cost management and the faithful giving of our congregation.

Despite this strong positioning, 2024 proved to be a larger challenge operationally for our Church than anticipated. Sadly, we tragically lost a valued member of our property staff, Steve Cashmer, after twenty years of service. Besides the emotional effect of losing our friend and colleague unexpectedly, this also necessitated outsourcing our grounds keeping which increased costs to the property budget. We also experienced unexpected Personnel costs related to handling and paying out final benefits to Steve and another departing employee. In addition to these one-time impacts which we would not expect to repeat in 2025, we also faced increasing inflation effects that increased the costs of operating our facilities, especially sharp increases in our utility costs. We also saw budgetary strains from excess costs incurred in other areas including Technology, Personnel, and insurance costs. All these factors combined greatly affected our year-end financial goals.

The Church did, however, continue to witness the magnificent generosity of our congregation. **Offerings** ended the year \$157,500 over our conservative budget but were still slightly lower than offerings received in 2023 and not enough to offset the increase in expenses and eliminate any deficit. A couple of giving categories such as plate offering and our Christmas Green and year-end budget help offerings did not match anticipated or prior year levels. On the very positive side, our pledged giving was very strong in 2024 and above expectations, reflecting the ongoing support for which we are so grateful from the faithful members of our congregation. We have also witnessed the commitment and generosity of our congregation from two new sources during 2024. First, we successfully established a **Capital Fund drive** bringing in over \$154,000 of additional giving in 2024, and we hope that our Capital Fund giving will continue annually to alleviate pressure on our operating budget.

Second, we will greatly benefit in the future from the establishment of our **Grow the Kingdom fund**. This fund was created and is being supported by the generosity of a family in our congregation who has committed to donating \$1,000,000 over a four-year period to support the growth of our Church. We have received the first \$250,000 of this pledge in 2024 and up to 10% of the fund may be used annually to support our budget and our external benevolence once a full \$1,000,000 has been donated (currently expected to be usable beginning in 2028 and thereafter). When you factor in these additional gifts to our Church in 2024, we received more donations and offerings than we have since prior to the Pandemic.

We are also benefitting operationally and strengthening our long-term resources through the strong performance of our **investment portfolio** in recent years, the results of which are detailed below. Our consistent investment strategy and strong performance of financial markets generally are resulting in healthy growth of our restricted funds, which increases both what is contributed annually to our operating budget and the resources we have to help deal with any future emergencies or contingencies (subject to complying with any purpose or use restrictions that we must honor when using our restricted funds).

In the end, excluding what we received for our Grow the Kingdom and Capital Funds and before application of supplemental budget help, our operations in 2024 resulted in an operating deficit that was approximately in-line with our budgeted deficit. We supplemented our 2024 results and eliminated our budget deficit entirely through the use of \$12,000 of additional earnings from our restricted funds and the temporary use of \$45,000 from our reserve fund, which we previously established with bequest funds and expect to replenish upon receipt of any future bequests.

Here is a synopsis of the 2024 financial results after accounting for the supplemental budget help:

2024 Financial Results

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Difference
Revenue	\$ 1,848,000	\$ 2,079,229	\$231,229
Expenses	\$ 1,901,968	\$ 2,075,535	\$173,567
Ending Balance/Surplus		\$3,694	

Before knowing final 2024 results, our budget team collaboratively formulated the 2025 budget based on the needs of the Church, understanding our limitations but clearly keeping all programs in place to further the Kingdom of God. The Trustees will continue to provide active financial management, adapting to changing financial times and helping Staff monitor and manage 2025 expenses as effectively as we can without hurting our programs. 2025 will likely provide its own challenges, but we were able to adopt a 2025 budget with a minimal projected deficit of under \$50,000 and with no budgeted support from restricted funds beyond the normal formulary amounts disbursed each year. If we manage expenses well, avoid one-time unexpected events that increased our costs in 2024, and continue to benefit from the unwavering generosity and support of our faithful congregation, we will hope and reasonably expect to eliminate the projected 2025 budget deficit. Longer term, as our congregation grows and the Grow the Kingdom Fund matures and becomes operational, we see a clear path forward to financial stability and balance.

INVESTMENTS

The Investment Committee, led by chair Bill Mueller and with detailed analysis and support throughout from Treasurer Bill Conner and the rest of the committee, oversaw our investment portfolio with a steady hand during a volatile year. The Investment Committee targets an investment allocation of approximately 65% equity and 35% fixed income funds. Investments are invested with Vanguard including passively and actively managed equity and bond funds and money market alternatives.

The committee is very excited about the donation and formulation of the Grow the Kingdom Fund. This is expected to be fully funded by 2027 and able to make direct contributions up to 10% of the value of the fund to the operating budget beginning with the 2028 Budget. This fund will not only ensure the stability of funding for Missions and our other forms of benevolence, but also fill any gaps in revenue up to the limit of the annual distribution. Our other restricted funds contribute annually to our operating budget based on the 5-year rolling average value of our managed assets.

For the September 12th and Cemetery funds, a distribution of 4% of their 5-year rolling average balances is taken each year to provide income for our annual budget and utilized to meet operating expenses. The average return in 2024 across all funds was 15%, growing the assets of the Church by \$373,532. The annual contributions contributed \$64,000 for 2024 operating expenses and are budgeted to contribute \$75,000 in 2025.

See this report for highlights of our 2024 restricted fund balances and performance results:

Funds

Fund	2024 Ending Balance	2024 Earnings	Return (%)
September 12 th	\$ 2,000,197	\$263,340	15%
Perpetual Cemetery	\$209,300	\$28,460	15%
Rawlings/Robbins (Trustee Funds)	\$61,069	\$5,853	10%
Fleming (Congregational Activities)	\$53,943	\$6,427	12%
Spencer/Powell (Pastor Housing)	\$406,139	\$51,432	14%
Church Operations	\$195,357	\$16,295	8%
Music	\$18,783	\$2,461	14%
Grow The Kingdom	\$251,791	\$1,325	
Brokerage Acct.	\$26,756	(\$2,063)	-17%
Grand Total	\$3,290,145	\$373,532	15%

PROPERTY

The Property Committee, led by its Chair and former Trustee President Pete Honeyford and assisted by our Property Supervisor Steve Margerum, oversaw many substantial projects in 2024. *Please see the following Report of the Property Committee summarizing property improvements and projects completed in 2024.*

In February of 2024 we had a Capital Fund Drive to raise much needed funds for larger projects throughout the facility. This Capital Fund relieves pressure on the operations budget and allows individuals to make contributions throughout the year. The property report details the projects funded this year, and a grand total of \$154,034 was received in capital donations.

Enormous credit is due to our talented property staff, in particular the leadership and dedicated efforts of our Property Supervisor, Steve Margerum. Many of the projects noted were performed in-house by our talented staff. We will continue to prioritize the safety and upkeep of our buildings and grounds in 2025. However, as mentioned above there are no monies allocated in our operating budget for 2025 capital expenses. A Capital Sunday will be held on February 23, 2025, to help fund the ongoing necessary capital projects to protect the health and safety of our congregation, staff and visitors and ensure the longevity and proper care of our Church.

OUTLOOK AND NEXT STEPS

In conclusion, we entered 2024 on sound financial footing and in many ways 2024 was a strong year. Our congregation, both through pledged offerings and special gifts such as the Capital Fund Drive and the Grow the Kingdom Fund, reached levels of giving not matched since at least 2019. A good portion of this giving was to restricted funds which are not immediately usable and that will only be utilized incrementally over many years, which still left us with a manageable 2024 operating deficit at year end which we were able to close primarily with reserve funds set aside just for this purpose.

The Church is also spiritually strong. Programs have mostly returned to full pre-pandemic participation, and there is a spirit of growth all around us. There is much to be proud of within this Church and a very strong hope

that we can continue to grow. However, as we do grow, we must be aware that all giving patterns are not static and are impacted by various events affecting our economy, our investment markets and our individual donors, and cost impacts in this inflationary environment will need to be managed successfully. Our challenge as leaders is to adapt as we grow and respond to any adverse impacts, to analyze the giving trends and not to fear change. As new members and leaders emerge we need to embrace their gifts and be willing to open the door to new leaders that will help us navigate the future over time.

We should be proud of the accomplishments we have made and give thanks to the amazing support of our congregation that allowed us to successfully navigate a challenging 2024 and prepare us for 2025 and beyond.

I am reminded of the following Way of the Week (#12):

Own Our Church. *The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Claim ownership of FPC Moorestown's mission and programs. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church - because you are!*

Together we have taken ownership of our Church and are working collaboratively to make sure that financially and spiritually we can continue to serve God and our Church. Together with the grace of God we will continue to do so.



2023 was a transitional year in the life of the Church for various reasons. However, with the hard work of leadership and the generosity of our congregation we really thought that we had figured it out as we began 2024 in a strong financial position. I am reminded of a quote *"Complacency is the forerunner of trouble"*. Well it did not take long for our world here in Moorestown to be shaken to the core. On a spring day in March we lost our long-time employee and good friend Steve Cashmer, suddenly and without any warning. He passed right here in Fellowship Hall just doing his job. I will be forever proud of our staff as we all jumped in to help, even though we were all in shock and that there was nothing any of us could do.

But this incident, which many of us are still struggling with, transformed a year that started well into a continuous struggle as we faced financial challenges, emotional challenges and a feeling of overall melancholy that permeated all we did. Yes, we had successes, a great Capital Fund drive earning more than \$154,000, and the establishment of the Grow the Kingdom Fund which looks to the future growth and stability of our Church with a yearly donation in the amount of \$250,000 for four years. Many successful projects and programs such as Vacation Bible School, the Howard University Choir, our great choirs and spiritually uplifting services, Wednesday night dinners, and the dedication of our members and many volunteers. All to the glory of God. But for me, it will always be the year that we lost Steve.

Steve was a quirky character, and I say that with affection. He wasn't a people person but if you were one of those that he cared about he would give you the shirt off of his back. He liked being outside riding the tractor. He liked being at the Church before the sun came up. He loved his family, especially his son, he was a good husband, father, brother and son, he loved animals. He would spend five hours just cutting the front "carpet" to make sure all of the lines were straight. He liked his headphones and his iced tea (Turkey Hill) and Cindi's soup. He was just a regular guy that spent almost twenty years working with us. And yet in an instant, he was gone.



The loss of Steve emphasized the point for me to understand what is really important in this church and in life. Budgets will come and go, will go up and go down, challenges will be met and overcome, the roof will always need replacing and the boilers won't work on a cold Sunday morning. But the gift of God is the people he has given to us. Our families, our friends, our co-workers, our members and just the casual folks that we interact with every single day.

So I urge you to review all of the reports in this annual document - we truly are an amazing testament of God's love. As you will see in the Trustee reports, many capital projects were completed by our hardworking and caring property staff. These upgrades and improvements ensure the comfort and safety of our facility. All of our program staff and the projects and special events that they led show almost a return to pre-COVID numbers in participation. Our program staff continues to highlight the love of Jesus through innovative and fun programs.

There is always more work to do, more projects to complete, and more people to reach. But I am eternally grateful for all of you who worship, serve, and attend our Church. I am honored and privileged to work here. But always remember what is important, we the people. Do not take for granted or become complacent for one minute about what really matters.

I miss that goofball!

2024 Property Committee Members: Rich Corbin/ Pete Honeyford (Chair), Paul Lewis, Jeff Mason, Patrick McIlroy, Mike Welch, Steve Margerum (Property Supervisor)

Summary

The Property Committee oversaw many repairs, improvements, and upgrades to our facility and grounds in 2024. The Property Supervisor, Steve Margerum, and his team very effectively addressed immediate issues as they arose and completed large-scale projects in an organized fashion with great attention to detail.

Every year presents challenges and opportunities, but this year we had to contend with a great loss in the passing of Steve Cashmer. His years of dedication and service to our church are immeasurable and immensely appreciated. His absence is sorely felt in many ways.

Below is a list of the larger, more extensive projects that were completed in 2024.

Large Parking Lot and two smaller lots sealing and striping.

The Large Parking Lot, Sanctuary Parking Lot, and Staff Parking lots were seal coated. The parking lines were also re-painted.

Exterior Wall Repairs outside of Kitchen

The exterior walls outside of the kitchen were in desperate need of repairs. The following work was performed:

- Power washed.
- Stripped and scraped loose paint
- Repaired holes and chips in the concrete blocks
- Removed old caulk around windows and replaced with waterproof caulk
- Painted with waterproof paint
- Added wood to the wall to protect against damage caused by the dumpsters



Sanctuary lawn re-grading

20 yards of topsoil was added to the sanctuary lawn by the entrance to the sanctuary lot to redirect rainwater away from the parking spots and toward the rain gardens as originally designed.

Mission House

The following Repairs were made to the Mission House (Carol's House):

- Two sump pumps were replaced
- Hot water heater was replaced
- Refrigerator was replaced along
- Replaced outlet behind the refrigerator

Removed & Trimmed Trees

A large tree in the Staff parking lot that showed itself to be dangerous along with four other trees around the property that were sick were removed. Additional trees were trimmed around the property.

Third Floor Repairs/Repainting

The following repairs were made to the third floor:

- Gaps around windows were sealed.
- Plaster walls and ceilings were repaired
- The exterior windows were stripped, sealed, primed and painted
- Flat roof area in front of windows coated and sealed
- Third Floor Fire Escape door - The third floor fire escape door was replaced along with the hardware. Upon installation of the door a leak that has been a nuisance for many years, the entry point was discovered and repaired during the installation.

Step-by-Step Repairs

The following repairs were made to Step by Step preschool:

- Room 15 bathroom - Replaced cracked toilet, replaced tiles that were peeling, replaced sink Faucet
- Room 16-Replaced the bathroom sink hardware, Replaced the countertop, Made and Added a coat hanging rack
- Repaired the Main Entrance double doors

Column outside side entrance to Step by Step Repairs

The two columns outside of Step by Step-side entrance were rotting and falling apart. The old, rotted wood was removed. The bases were modified. Cedar Wood block was cut and shaped to fit the area, they were then anchored in and sealed. The columns were then primed and painted.



Boiler & HVAC Repairs

Various HVAC repairs were completed during the year, as needed, to address air conditioning and heating issues. Repairs included a leak in a hot water pipe feeding the sanctuary area. The heat pump for the third-floor zone was replaced.

Other Projects Completed in 2024

- The small sign displaying worship times under the main sign at the point of Bridgeboro Road and Riverton Road was repainted and the worship times were updated.
- The property team power washed all the sidewalks around the Commons along with the front porch facing the point of Bridgeboro Road and Riverton Road
- 50 yards of mulch was put in around the property and an additional 30 yards in the playground
- 20 new perennial plants were installed in the raised garden beds along the Bridgeboro Road side of Miller Commons.
- The sanctuary windows were professionally cleaned inside and out
- Various asphalt repairs were made at the entrance to the sanctuary lot and other areas on property.
- Exterior doors to the basement were repaired
- A leak was discovered under the rear section of the large parking lot and repaired

Building & Grounds Repairs and Improvements Planned for 2025 and Beyond

The Property Committee is maintaining a list of high, medium, and low priority projects to be completed in the future.

Project	Priority
Multiple HVAC Unit replacement in the Commons	High
Three Large dying trees along Bridgeboro Road	High
Replace Windows in Room 2 and Room 3/4	High
Replace the 2 nd and 3 rd floor fire escape steps	High
Replace double door entrance to the Van Camp Porch	High
Replace the Windows in the Hayes room	High
Replace the windows in the Lounge	High
Replace Carpet in Main office	High
Bricks/pointing around the property - Repair/replace	High
Replace Carpet in Fellowship Hall	High
Replace windows in Missions office	Medium
Replace Second floor fire escape door	Medium
Replace Hallway carpet outside Room 3/4 and Room 8	Medium
Handicap ramp and porch railing	Medium
Repave driveway from the large parking lot to kitchen Alcove	Medium
Repave asphalt in front of the garage	Medium
Replace Garage roof	Medium
Staff entrance side up to the cemetery - Replace the fence along the neighboring properties	Low
Patio area outside of the Hayes room -- Repair/Regrade	Low
Repair/replace rotted molding around the building	Low
Rooms 6, 7, and 8 - Repaint	Low
Crawl space - Clean out and add dehumidifier or vapor barrier	Low
Repaint Commons Lobby porch	Low

Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Statement of Financial Position for Period 12 - December
Company#: 1 Name: First Presbyterian Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2024

<u>Account</u>	<u>YTD Current</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	
Fulton Checking	\$159,915
Truist Checking	\$21,097
Petty Cash	\$50
Total Cash	<u>\$181,063</u>
Restricted Assets	
Vanguard - Fed MM	\$261,889
Vanguard - Rawlings & Robbins Fund	\$60,922
Vanguard - Fleming Fund	\$54,369
Vanguard - Sept. 12th Fund	\$2,000,197
Vanguard - Cemetery Fund	\$209,300
Vanguard - Spencer-Powell Fund	\$406,139
Vanguard - Grow the Kingdom Fund	\$251,791
Vanguard - Easter Music Fund	\$18,783
Total Restricted Assets	<u>\$3,263,390</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$3,444,453</u>
Fixed Assets	
Land	\$1,093,100
Buildings	\$1,658,629
Buildings - New Construction	\$5,075,078
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	\$363,900
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$8,190,707</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$11,635,160</u>

Temporary Restricted Funds (Oper.)

Education / Scholarship Fund	\$42,861
Temporary Operating Fund	\$59,687
Memorial Gifts Fund	\$26,452
Capital Operating Fund	\$95,733
Mission House Fund	\$98,132
Temporary Carry Forward Fund	\$9,287
Nursery School Fund	\$32,875
Peacock Theo. Discourse Fund	\$13,141
Denmark Fund	\$15,289
Arabic Ministry Fund	\$38,036
Total Temporary Restricted Funds (Oper.)	\$431,495

Perm. Restricted Funds (Inv.)


Cemetery Perpetual Fund	\$171,839
Fleming Fund	\$19,192
Rawlings & Robbins Fund	\$32,866
September 12th Fund	\$2,033,667
Spencer Powell Fund	\$398,688
Grow the Kingdom Fund	\$251,887
Reserve Fund	\$55,000
Easter Music Fund	\$18,782
Rorke Memorial Fund	\$27,341
Property & Contents Fund	\$8,190,707
Total Perm. Restricted Funds (Inv.)	\$11,199,970

Total Restricted \$11,631,465

General Fund Balance 2023	\$30,245
General Fund Balance-Current Year	(\$26,550)
General Fund Balance-Current Year Total	<u>\$3,695</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL \$11,635,160

2025 ADOPTED BUDGET			
	2023 Adopted Budget	2024 Adopted Budget	2025 Adopted Budget
REVENUE			
Offering-Pledged	\$1,358,797	\$1,382,000	\$1,377,000
Offering-Postpaid Pledges	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Offering-Prepaid Pledges	\$5,500	\$6,000	\$5,000
Offering-Unpledged	\$70,000	\$55,000	\$40,000
Plate Offering	\$16,000	\$13,000	\$10,000
Christmas Green/Budget Help	\$80,000	\$90,000	\$100,000
Per Capita	\$12,500	\$11,000	\$13,000
Miscellaneous Offering	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
Step By Step	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$0
Income Other	\$100,000	\$137,000	\$155,000
September 12th	\$60,000	\$64,000	\$75,000
Spencer Powell	\$53,500	\$18,000	\$18,000
Youth Director	\$0	\$24,000	\$15,000
Sabbatical Help	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Educational Fund			\$10,000
Balance Forward	\$22,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,828,297	\$1,848,000	\$1,883,800
EXPENSES	\$299,456	\$282,168	\$224,635
Salary/Wages	\$912,000	\$867,800	\$859,904
Benefits	\$299,456	\$282,168	\$301,847
Staff Development/Scholarships	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$0
Total Compensation	\$1,223,456	\$1,160,968	\$1,161,751
Mission Committee	\$215,000	\$220,000	\$227,000
Mission Pass Through	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Deacons	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$33,000
Presbyterian Women	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$3,000
Per Capita	\$30,000	\$29,000	\$28,000
Total Mission/Benevolence	\$289,000	\$295,000	\$296,000
Office Administration	\$50,000	\$52,000	\$55,000
Property /Cemetery Management	\$195,000	\$200,000	\$220,000
Capital	\$27,000	\$3,000	\$0
Contingency/Insurance Deductible	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Tech/IT	\$62,000	\$60,000	\$62,000
Total Operations	\$344,000	\$320,000	\$342,000
Adult Ministries	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
Family Ministries	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$34,000
Music	\$20,000	\$22,500	\$22,500
Pastoral Expenses	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Boards and Committees	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Sabbatical Expenses			\$10,000
Total Program Expenses	\$103,000	\$106,000	\$114,000
Fees Disbursed	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Expenses	\$1,979,456	\$1,901,968	\$1,933,751
Restricted Fund Transfer	\$53,500	\$0	\$0
Reserve Fund Transfer			
Difference Income/Expenses	-\$97,659	-\$53,968	-\$49,951



Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and
with all your soul and
with all your mind and
with all your strength.

Mark 12:30

groverbeachchurchofchrist.com

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