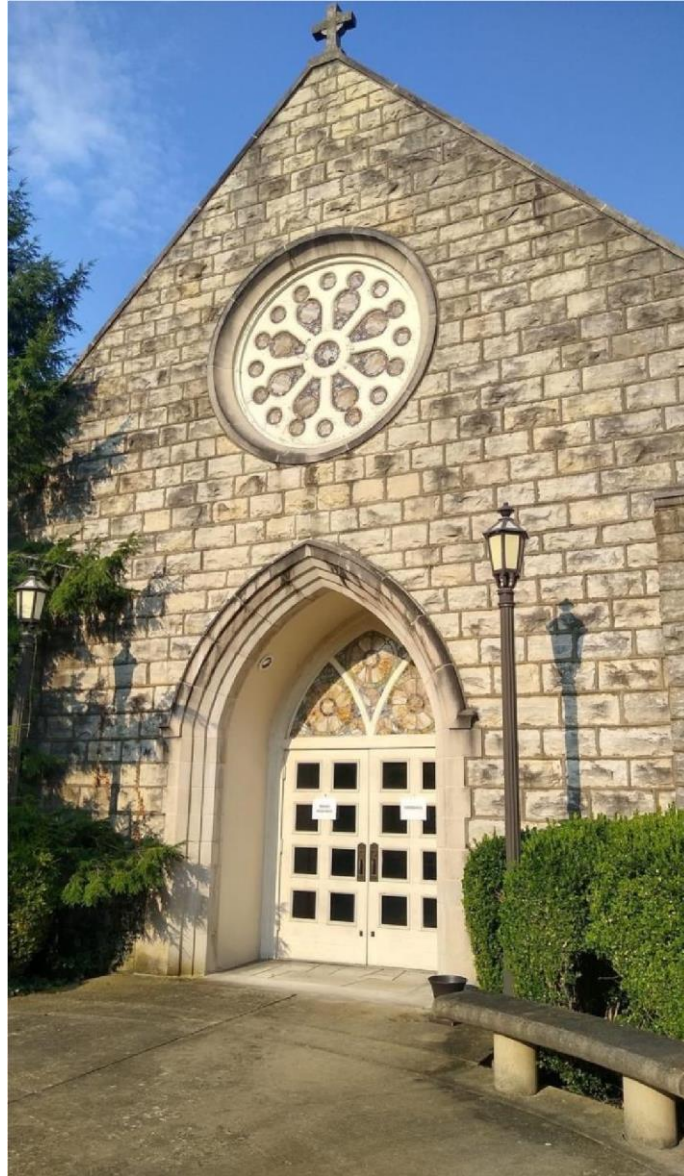


CRESCENT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2023 Annual Report



February 2024

CRESCENT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 142 CRESCENT AVENUE, LOUISVILLE, KY 40206

From the Pastor.....

I write this letter 3 weeks into my 'call' at Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church. I am still getting to know people, family connections, spiritual needs, how CHPC works, and the resources either available or lacking in the community. As I don't have a previous year's report to share, I thought I would share a poem I found which speaks to finding hope out of the darkness. As we look toward the future and living into what it means to be the Body of Christ, I pray our ministry seeks and puts into action God's justice, mercy, and love. Ask yourself: How does how I live today, change the world for a better tomorrow?

**Blessings,
Pastor Tami Recob**

Four-Wall Christians

Poet: Greta Zwaan, © 1994 (adapted)

We think not of our neighbor, or pain in other lands,
We have to make a living, achieve our goals and plans.
We go to church each Sunday, like Christians ought to do,
But after every service, we haven't changed our view.

We live so isolated, so far from hurt and pain;
We stifle our own conscience time and time again.
But what if a "RWANDA" should happen in our land?
And we should feel that heartache, and need that helping hand?

Would we think that a Christian, who had the means and power
Should send relief and comfort in our most desperate hour?
If mortar shells were falling and bombs dropped everywhere,
Would all we want other Christians to do is just kneel down in prayer?

I'd think we'd want assistance, involvement and concern,
With no thought of repayment or favors to return.
Not just a token offering, not just a passing glance,
But genuine love and caring; a new start, a new chance.

Become a burden-bearer, become a caring friend,
Stretch forth your hand in mercy, just let your life be spent.
The things that are important are what God gives to you,
And how you use that talent makes God's message true.

Session

Submitted by Polly Cushman, Clerk of Session

2023 Session Members: Marsha Berry, Harrie Buecker, Barbara Hedspeth, Jack Marcum, Don Mead, Eva Stimson. Dave Bush began the year as an Elder. However, he resigned in April when he was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Later, Dana Walker was elected to fill out the year's term. The Rev. Dr. Peggy Hinds, the Transitional Pastor, was Moderator from January until she retired in October, and the Rev. Paul Seebeck, the Bridge Pastor, was Moderator in November and December.

The Session began the year by welcoming newly elected members Dave Bush and Eva Stimson and saying thank you to outgoing officers. We were able to have our retreat at Sisters of Loretto. It was a time of discussing the future of Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church and the method to call a new pastor.

In the first several months, a process of reviewing the total membership roll was begun, with the goal of finding out how many people currently consider CHPC their home church. Letters were drafted by Peggy, revised and approved by the Session, and sent out in April to people who had not attended in over a year. They were given the choice of keeping their names on the roll, being placed on the inactive roll, or being removed from the roll completely. After a second letter in early summer, those who had not responded to either letter were placed on the inactive roll.

In the spring, Peggy led several discussions on the book, Part Time is Plenty: Thriving without Full-Time Clergy, by G. Jeffrey MacDonald. The Session agreed that a part-time pastor would probably be sufficient for CHPC at this time, with the drop in membership and a lower budget. Later, Peggy led an informal congregational meeting after church for the congregation members also to discuss part-time ministry. In the early fall, the Session voted to serve as the Pastoral Nominating Committee and to search for a Stated Supply Part-Time Pastor. We conducted several Zoom interviews and two in-person interviews, with the intention of having a final vote in January on whom to call as pastor.

We ended the year as we began it, by welcoming a newly elected officer for 2024, Soni Castleberry. Beth Yeager, another newly elected officer, was unable to attend because of illness. We gathered at Gail DeMarsh's home for dinner and examination of these candidates. Soni was installed on December 17. Beth was examined and then installed in January.

Communication

2023 Communication Committee Participants: Soni Castleberry, Gayle Collins, Janine Linder, Patti Marcum (co-chair), Eva Stimson (co-chair), and CHPC staff Peggy Hinds and Megan Cahill

The Communication Committee met regularly through September 2023. In September, we agreed that the committee has done good work in updating and prioritizing communication and that it is no longer needed. Task forces can take on specific projects, such as creating a pictorial directory. The committee worked in the following areas in 2023, and individual members will continue to be involved as needs arise:

CHPC Website: CHPC's website is designed for both internal and external communication of our identity as a congregation. The Communication Committee provided Megan Cahill, administrative assistant, with updates and suggestions to improve the website and communicate the importance of worship, prayer, and mission in our congregation.

CHPC Directory: The directory is a valuable tool to help us stay connected with our church community. A major update of the directory, authorized by the Session, was completed in 2023 by staff and members of the Communication Committee. The new directory contains only names and contact information for members who have been active in some way over the past year or who requested to remain on the active list. Names and contact information for all those who did not respond to a letter and follow-up emails from the church office, or who requested to be dropped from the roll of active members, have been moved to a "friends list." These folks will still receive pastoral care if needed and their contact information is available from the church office by request.

CHPC Calendar: A church calendar of activities is available from CHPC's website. Members are encouraged to notify the church office of dates, times, and places of church activities.

Westminster Weekly: Westminster Weekly provides church members with information about our life together. Communication Committee members continue to write articles, proofread, and compile the list of birthdays.

CHPC Facebook: CHPC has both a public and private Facebook page. The pastor and administrative assistant approve content. Submission of content and pictures is encouraged and has increased in 2023.

Worship

During part of 2023, CHPC had an Interlude Time, and the Committees did not meet. The Worship Committee had fewer members than other committees. During the year Rev. Dr. Peggy Hinds was serving as the Transitional Pastor. She retired in October, and the Rev. Paul Seebeck became our Bridge Pastor. Also, David Gibson began the year as Director of Music and then retired in July. Ken Cordle became our Director of Music in September. Most of the services were planned by the Pastor and the Music Director.

An Advent Task Force was created in November. They successfully planned the decorating of the sanctuary. They also found volunteers to light the Advent Calendar and helped plan the Christmas Eve Service.

Nurture

Submitted by Soni Castleberry

Committee Members in 2023: Soni Castleberry, chair; Bev Machin; and Eva Stimson, session liaison

The Nurture Committee struggled during the first half of the year to coordinate the activities assigned to it with only three active members. Fortunately, we could rely on the help of other members and friends of the congregation to coordinate Youth Group and Scholarship Fund activities. And sadly, on Oct. 7, we grieved the death of beloved committee member Bev Machin who went to be with Jesus not long after having heart surgery. Bev had faithfully served on this committee for several years as well as being actively involved in our Zoom children's Sunday school. Bev was a strong advocate for Christian education, especially for children, and was always an active participant in what our committee did. We miss her greatly.

Youth Group

Following up on last year's late summer start-up of a renewed Youth Group, the Rev. Rebecca Barnes, Chris Bischoff and Luis Kemmerle blessed our church and our youth with their time and talents to coordinate a full year of youth activities.

- Two youth attended regularly plus two or three more depending upon the activity. These included attending the annual worship and picnic at Cedar Ridge, sharing a meal or snack while enjoying a picnic in the park, a visit to Joe Huber's Family Farm & Restaurant, a trip to an Indiana cave, Halloween sightseeing on Hillcrest Avenue, movie watching, roller skating, and most importantly the support for each other by regular check-ins. A retreat at the end of April at Cedar Ridge proved to be a great bonding time as the youth celebrated the year thus far and planned for more activities later in the year after the summer hiatus. The youth had such a good time at the camp that they recommended that the optional portion of the Pentecost offering be given to the camp. We were grateful to Nick Kissell and Isabel Husk for lighting candles on the Advent wreath. We are happy youth are continuing to find meaning in being together and growing in their support for one another and their relationships with the adults on the youth team.

Christian Education

- Until Pentecost and again after Labor Day, Eva Stimson, Jerry Van Marter, Luke Van Marter and his puppet "Sid," and Bev Machin faithfully led children's Sunday school classes via Zoom and the PC(USA)'s "Growing in Grace & Gratitude" curriculum for ages 8-10 (although some children were outside that range). Children learned from Bible stories from the Old and New Testament. As usual, Sid often misunderstood lessons but the children were quick to correct him. Four children from different families attended one or more sessions. One of these was new to CHPC and two are only associated with CHPC through Sunday school.
- Hunter Farrell, formerly affiliated with CHPC, and his co-author, Balajiedlang Khylllep, led a Zoom study in February of their book Freeing Congregational Mission and two members of our Guatemalan Connection group led one session. Several adults attended.

- On Mar. 26, Rev. Eliane Menezes, mission co-worker in Guatemala, visited and talked with the four adults in attendance at a 9:45 a.m. Sunday school class about her ministry with women.
- During March and early April, Pastor Peggy led four sessions at 5 p.m. on Sundays on the topic of “Community.” An average of six adults attended weekly.
- On Apr. 2, Rev. Dr. John Odom, general presbyter for Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, led a class, attended by 11 adults, on what he learned during his Sept.-Dec. 2022 sabbatical visit to the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church in England, Wales, and Scotland, and in his mediation training through the Lombard Mennonites.

Special Recognitions Within the Liturgical Year of the Church

- Lent -- Eva revised last year’s materials for families with children and made them available online via a link in the Westminster Weekly email. Peggy also invited five members to write Lenten devotionals, one for each week.
- Pentecost – We worked with the Outreach Committee to plan a full day of activities for May 28. A 25% portion of the worship offering was designated for Cedar Ridge Camp. We also recognized three graduates – Alek Kissell from high school, Noah Wilding from U of L’s Speed School of Engineering, and Dalen Payton from Northern Kentucky University. We also thanked our four Sunday school teachers (plus Sid-the-puppet), for their work. Those present were given gifts and cards of congratulations or gratitude, and others were delivered to their homes. About 30 people attended a potluck luncheon in Henry Young Fellowship Hall after worship, nonperishable items were collected for United Crescent Hill Ministries, and about 10 folks also joined in flute and drum music and red-themed snacks on the plaza. Although we had taken leaflets to about 100 houses near the church to invite our neighbors, none came to join us this time.
- Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany– Our committee encouraged participation in all services planned by the Worship Committee and staff. We appreciated their invitation to the youth group to be worship leaders for one week in Advent.

Fellowship Opportunities

Our ability to offer activities was severely limited this year due to a lack of energy and ideas from our committee. We asked members and friends to plan their own outings and invite others to join them. Allen and Stu Bridgman Jr. encouraged folks to join CHPCers at El Tarasco for lunch on Saturdays and at other restaurants after worship on Sundays, and a few came.

Our usual August worship and picnic outdoors at Cedar Ridge Camp again proved to be a well-attended and fun event. We co-sponsored this with the Worship Council. Our new music director, Ken Cordle, was with us for the first time. Pastor Peggy preached, Marsha Berry and Claudia Foulkes were worship leaders, Doug Yeager played his flutes, and Jerry Van Marter and Ben Langley were back at the grill.

Scholarship Funds

- Three funds are administered by our committee and recommendations approved by Session. These include the Fred Woosley and John Leake Scholarship Funds to help students with expenses for post-high school education either in college or trade school. The Jean Leake Youth Fund provides resources to help church families send their children to Cedar Ridge Camp or other local camps for summer enrichment activities. We greatly appreciated the willingness of Patti Marcum to again coordinate the application and disbursement efforts for all three funds; Bob Abrams and Lucy D. Steilberg to review and recommend applications for Session approval, and Alan Pauw for his oversight. Seven full-time students associated with our church were granted \$1,000 scholarships, but sadly no applications were received for camperships.

More Support for Children

Work continued to get the nursery ready for children who may come one day. Patti Marcum took on this project and did a wonderful job cleaning and preparing the space. Two “Pack and Play” style cribs were added as well as some more up-to-date activity pieces. Members also reviewed and edited a Child Protection Policy recommended by Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. Session later approved it with our changes. Patti, Eva, and Soni also cleaned out the art closet in the Youth Room and Soni donated many boxes of supplies to the ACE Project which works with children and families affected by gun violence.

Hiatus for Committees and New Nurturers Needed

We value your ideas and welcome your help with Nurture Committee’s work. With Pastor Peggy’s encouragement, we stopped meeting during the last half of the year. We know, however, that the work of this committee will go on in some form. Please read the Westminster Weekly email and listen to Sunday morning announcements to learn more about opportunities for 2024.

Outreach

Submitted by Don Mead

2023 Committee Members: Don Mead (Chair), Eva Stimson, Dana Walker, Ben Langley, Perry Chang, Claudia Foulkes, Lucy Steilberg

Guns to Gardens Louisville

Since its origins in a youth/adult Sunday school class at Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church in 2018, Guns to Gardens Louisville (formerly the Gun Violence Prevention Team) has grown to include people from various faith and community groups. G2G Louisville seeks ways to address the growing problem of gun violence in our community and nation. We are inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah (2:4): “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.”

Here are highlights of our work in 2023:

- Organized 2 safe-surrender events allowing people to turn in unwanted guns to be cut up with chop saws. June 11 event at Douglass Blvd. Christian Church brought in 20 guns.

November 18 event at Westwood Presbyterian Church (our first event in West Louisville) brought in 5 guns to be disabled, including our first assault weapon.

- Worked with local blacksmith Craig Kaviar, a member of the Temple, who is transforming the gun pieces into gardening tools, art, and jewelry. Garden tools have been presented to Governor Steve Beshear, Police Chief Jackie Gwinn-Villaroel, and Sacred Earth Community Garden, among others.
- Received a grant from the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation to purchase Kroger gift cards to give to people who surrender guns at future events.
- Organized 3 community prayer vigils at CHPC following mass shootings last April.
- Organized a Community Book Read and panel discussion of *The Second Amendment: A Biography* at Crescent Hill Baptist Church January 30, 2024.
- Increased media coverage of our vigils and events, including articles in the New York Times and Courier Journal and interviews with all 4 local TV stations, plus KET.
- Participated in Action Circles sponsored by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship to share information with other groups in the national Guns to Gardens movement.
- Cultivated connections with local groups including the Louisville Alliance for Sustainable Gun Violence Reduction and Metro Louisville's Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods.
- Changed name and began working toward filing for incorporation as a nonprofit.

Spirit of Sophia

Spirit of Sophia served over 300 women in 2023 through both in-person and virtual programming. We held four-day retreats; two-day workshops and one 4-part workshop; two monthly circles throughout the year; one 4-part book study; one special service; one Women Create fundraising program that showcased the work of 14 women artists; and prepared for an event with renown Joan Chittister that had to be postponed to April of 2024 due to her health.

Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church sponsored our day retreat "A Feminine Web of Inter-Being" with Victoria Looz, an eco-spiritual theologian, in February of 2023, and is an on-going partner with Spirit of Sophia for the quarterly services: "A Contemplative Service for Healing and Hope" held at CHPC. Spirit of Sophia, a women's spirituality center, is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit and a member of the PCUSA 1001 New Worshipping Communities. Contact: Dana Sue Walker dana@spiritofsophia.org.

Build-a-Bed

In February 2023, Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church provided beds for children in our community by hosting a Build-A-Bed event, where 25 beds were built for children identified by the Jefferson County Public Schools Office of Community Support Services. CHPC then joined 25 other organizations/congregations in the city-wide event to build 125 beds. At a third event in December, CHPC collaborated with First Christian Church of Louisville to build 25 beds. Each bed came with a mattress, set of sheets, pillow, blanket or quilt, teddy bear, bedtime book, toothpaste, and toothbrush. What a beautiful way to reach outside the walls of our church, providing beds for children in our community!

Guatemala Connection

Although representatives of neither Crescent Hill nor our Guatemalan partner presbytery – the Q'eqchi' Estoreño Izabal Presbytery – visited the other in person this past year, a number of activities

highlighted 2023 for the Guatemalan Connection team and the 14-year-old partnership between CHPC and Estoreño Presbytery.

In January 2023 - on the one-year anniversary of Ramiro Quib Caal, pastor of Estoreño's Arca de Noe church, going to be with Our Gracious God - half a dozen Crescent Hill folks, a couple of former Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Guatemala mission co-workers, and four members of Ramiro's family held an online vigil in his memory on Zoom. Ramiro's widow, Elvia, ended the moving Zoom encounter with a heartfelt closing prayer. We all miss Ramiro.

Undergoing an even more arduous process than usual, Crescent Hill and Estoreño Presbytery took the whole summer to complete our usual annual financial transaction. Out of the Crescent Hill 2023 line-item budget, Crescent Hill donated \$1,500 to Estoreño Presbytery, along with a 10-percent tithe of \$150 to the national Guatemalan Presbyterian church. Thank you for your generosity, Crescent Hill folks!

Crescent Hill and its Guatemalan Connection folks have been involved off and on in the PC(USA) Guatemala Mission Network, made up mainly of folks from PC(USA) presbyteries with partnerships with Guatemalan presbyteries. Half a dozen plus times CHPC folks have been involved in gatherings of this network – sometimes in the United States and sometimes in Guatemala. In November the network got together for the third time in greater Louisville. A couple of Guatemalan Connection folks were able to participate in these gatherings. Highlights included hearing an update on the political situation in Guatemala (where a peaceful transfer of power from one president to another was in doubt) and hearing about some of the different projects and ministries Presbyterians in other parts of the United States have been involved in with their Guatemalan partners. Some insights and information from the gathering were shared with CHPC colleagues.

Throughout the year, Guatemalan Connection and Estoreño Presbytery folks stayed in touch via phone, Facebook Messenger message, and video. They kept each other up-to-date on news, prayed for specific concerns for each other, and brought these specific concerns to their broader congregation(s). Crescent Hill folks informed counterparts about pastoral leadership transitions at Crescent Hill. Estoreño folks shared pictures and videos of the renovation/expansion of the buildings of several of the presbytery's churches, the continued involvement of Estoreño folks in the new-ish Q'eqchi' synod, and the ordination of the first woman as the pastor of an Estoreño Presbytery congregation.

As in the past: Just as Estoreño Presbytery churches pray for Crescent Hill regularly, Crescent Hill prayed in worship each week for a different congregation or ministry of Estoreño Presbytery. Guatemalan Connection folks held off on planning or doing a Crescent Hill visit to Guatemala, but stayed in touch with folks from the congregation who might be interested in the future.

Earth Care

The Earth Care Team of Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church is focused on helping the congregation and the community to recognize the need for living in a sustainable manner. This year, the congregation as a whole and many members individually looked for positive ways of helping God's Earth. We renewed CHPC's memberships this year with Interfaith Power & Light as well as with Presbyterians for Earth Care. We shared articles through email.



In March, the Stewardship Committee brought to the Session an idea to eliminate the three streetlights that the church maintains, one on the street and two in the parking lot. They suggested putting in motion sensors for the parking lot as an alternative. This change would save electricity as well as provide more darkness for insects and nocturnal animals. However, the light on the street is the only light in the neighborhood besides the one the city maintains on the corner. The neighbors on all sides of the church felt strongly that this would make the area more dangerous for cars and for people walking at night. After several months of exploring the idea, the Session decided not to make the change.

The Earth Care team helped plan and lead the service for Earth Day Sunday April 26. We provided some of the liturgy, and four members helped lead during the service. The sermon was given by the Rev. Rebecca Barnes and focused on caring for the earth. Many other services also highlighted ecology.

Youth and youth leaders regularly gathered in local parks to enjoy God's creation. In the spring they had a day-retreat at our presbytery camp with a theme on "trees" from various spiritual traditions as they hiked, and in the fall they took a trip to explore a local cave.

Because of the pandemic, we went several years without the Garden Camp, held in CHPC's garden. However, this year, Stephen Bartlett led the camp the week of June 12 through 16. The camp was co-sponsored by Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville. Seven children ages 7 to 13 spent a week learning about gardening, cooking, and processing food. They also had fun hiking and appreciating God's creation.

Our church was one of eight congregations in Mid-Kentucky Presbytery that received national recognition for installing free EV charging stations this year. The presbytery won a prestigious Electric Vehicle Leader award for partnering with Evolve Kentucky to help eight of its congregations install charging stations. The national honor comes from Interfaith Power & Light, as part of its 2023 "Cool Congregations Challenge," an annual contest that recognizes churches around the U.S. for working to reduce their carbon footprint and to create models of sustainability.

In the spring, one of the Session members approached the Earth Care team about ways to fund installing solar panels on one of our buildings. Polly Cushman agreed to investigate this problem. She attended Interfaith Power & Light's Summer Solstice Webinar on Solar Financing for Congregations.

Another member viewed this same webinar later. Polly investigated the possibility of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), explained in the webinar.

After much exploration, she learned that in 2017 Kentucky had joined four other states to make PPAs illegal. We will look for other ways to finance solar panels in the future.

The Earth Care Pledge says we “will celebrate God’s grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.” The CHPC Earth Care Team continues to follow God’s calling. During the coming year, we hope to continue raising awareness of the wonder and beauty provided to us by God. We recognize the critical urgency of restoring God’s creation so all beings can enjoy this gift.

Other Areas of Outreach Work

CHPC provided support for several other outreach activities in our community and in the national church. Locally, we continued our support for United Crescent Hill Ministries and La Casita. We provided financial support for Cedar Ridge Camp, where we also engaged in worship and retreats. We made contributions to our denomination’s Shared Mission Support Program, as well as gifts in honor of Mission Co-Workers Christi and Jeff Boyd, serving in Central Africa, and Eliane Menezes, serving in Guatemala, and also to each of the denomination’s four special offerings.

It is good to remember that, during this time of stress and transitions at CHPC, our outreach to the community and to the rest of the world has remained strong and vibrant. We thank God for that, and trust that we will grow in this work in 2024.

Submitted by Donald Mead, Chair of Outreach Committee, using material supplied by Eva Stimson, Dana Walker, Ben Langley, Perry Chang, and Polly Cushman

Personnel

Submitted by Marsha Berry

2023 Committee Members: Marsha Berry (Chair), Andrea Trautwein, Barbara Hedspeth, and Teri Lloyd

Achievements of the Personnel Committee this year included:

- Reviewed and updated the Administrative Assistant’s job description and the Music Director’s job description.
- Reviewed and updated Personnel Policies.
- Posted two positions due to openings for the Administrative Assistant and the Music Director positions. Candidates were screened, interviewed, and recommended to session for hire.
- Completed the performance review of the Administrative Assistant.

The Personnel Committee looks forward to continuing to review practices in 2024.

Presbyterian Women

Submitted by Diana Stephen

During 2023, the primary project of the Presbyterian Women's Circle was to memorialize our dear Izzy Jones. Upon learning that Izzy's granddaughter, Rachael, was to be ordained as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Circle purchased a stole and attached a memorial. Both the stole and the pastor's edition of the *Book of Common Worship* were delivered to Rachael. A special thank you is expressed to Gayle Trautwein, Joanne Cybulski, and Polly Cushman for their work on this project. Below is a picture of the stole with the special memorial affixed to its inside.



The Circle also:

- Concluded our Bible study, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*;
- Began our new Bible study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*;
- Welcomed Paul Seebeck, Bridge Pastor and Ken Cordle, Music Director;
- Shared our mission giving of \$1,874 with: World Mission, Least Coin, UCHM. Wayside Christian Mission, Cedar Ridge Camp, Dare to Care, Uspiritus, Buckhorn, LaCasita, LPTS Bookends, Church Women United, Habitat for Humanity;
- Attended the new Bible study orientation, led by Janice Catron;
- Delighted in the fact that Carol Mead is now serving on the Board of the Furlough Home. See note at the end of this report regarding the Furlough Home;
- Gave thanks for Gayle Trautwein's years of service on the Board of the Furlough Home;
- Gifted CHPC staff and others with Christmas cookies;
- Prayed especially for CHPC, its Session and staff during this time of transition.

Consider becoming part of the Circle. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room in the back building. We pray, study the Bible, care for one another as well as others, and have lots of fun. We are always delighted to expand the Circle.

The Furlough Home Report (from Carol Mead)

Presbyterian Women (PW) has always been very involved in the Furlough home, financially and in many hours of time and energy. Gayle Trautwein has been on the Board for many years and has given many years of dedicated service. She is now passing it on to Carol Mead who will represent CHPC and its PW.

The furlough home that was situated on the campus of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary was taken down a few years ago, and it is being replaced by a new building.

The name is being changed from Furlough Home to The Sanctuary--a Center for Global Engagement (CGE). The purpose shall be a global engagement center to mutually witness God's work, shall be a home away from home from their fields of service for mission co-workers, mission personnel, and international church workers of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and shall cooperate in supporting programs in worldwide.

There will be a temporary apartment available before the plans for building a new place on the property of the John Knox Presbyterian Church begin, possibly in the Fall of 2025.

Building Use Task Force

Submitted by Eva Stimson

Task Force Members: Barbara Hedspeth, Ben Langley, Eva Stimson

In 2023, the Session authorized formation of a Building Use Task Force to explore such questions as: How is God calling us to use our building and grounds? How might our physical space be a resource for mission and outreach to the community?

The task force began meeting in June and is working to update building use policies and procedures. Several members of the task force met with Derek Penwell, pastor of Douglass Boulevard Christian Church, who gave us a tour of their facilities and talked about the various ministries located there, including a weekly outdoor farmers' market, a school, a day care, and a feeding program. Douglass Blvd. Church has also hosted two Guns to Gardens safe-surrender events.

In the past year, CHPC made its facilities available to Bunbury Theatre for rehearsals and to the American Printing House for the Blind for rehearsals and a performance. Ginny Brown has begun leading a weekly chair yoga class in the back building, with average attendance of about a dozen people.

Deacons

Submitted by Soni Castleberry

Deacons in 2023: Allen Bridgman (4th year), Soni Castleberry (2nd of 2 years), Shannon Langley (2nd of 2 years), and Gail DeMarsh (1st of 2 years)

2023 was the 15-year anniversary of our church reinstating the position of deacon in 2008. Through those years deacons have served well and changed their practices to meet the needs of their times. This year your deacons continued to live into the realities of the change approved last year to reduce our numbers to four. Although the congregation is smaller too, the aging of our members and friends, seems to have made the need for care still great. In January, deacons met with the Rev. Tara Reck, pastor at Anchorage Presbyterian, at the urging of our interim the Rev. Peggy Hinds. The idea was to

give us some information on how a larger church with more deacons handles its responsibilities. It gave us an interesting perspective in that their deacons do not attempt to serve the whole church but focus on the neediest persons usually about 20. This led us to evaluate what we can do and how to do it.

In the April 27 issue of Westminster Weekly, deacons updated everyone in the church about what we typically could offer:

- Hospital or home visits in collaboration with the family and pastor.
- Offers of a meal or two while recuperating, or a prayer shawl to provide warmth and comfort.
- Remembrance (a card, phone call, or email) for illnesses, times of sympathy, birthdays, milestone anniversaries, and other times of special celebration.
- On occasion, deacons may also assist members who have smaller support systems, with rides to a doctor's office or therapy.
- Receptions following a memorial service by providing and serving additional refreshments provided by the family (including catered food arranged and paid for by the family).

Each of us deacons have monthly Care Teams with other members and friends who are asked to help address special needs in the congregation. Fortunately, some of those team members are often able to assist. This is so important as we deacons believe that we are called to be catalysts for care, not trying to do everything.

Many in our congregation continued to be impacted by COVID-19, various influenzas, and other communicable diseases. Several persons also had surgeries, rehabilitations, and moves to different living situations as they dealt with storm damage to their usual homes or needed higher levels of care. Many also dealt with more personal needs and caregiving for family members, all of whom may have faced mental health crises, car accidents, marital conflicts and separations, financial issues, homelessness, and other life struggles. And grief over our church changes still impacted our congregation as folks worked to feel at peace with their own feelings and losses within our membership.

Pastor Peggy worked with us to address these needs and encouraged us to send a deacon to each monthly session meeting to help strengthen community between the two leadership groups. She also attended our meetings when possible and helped to celebrate the joys and losses of life. On July 30, we helped the family of our beloved Bob Abrams celebrate 100 years of life at an after-church reception. And later in the year, we helped families remember two wonderful women dear to our congregation – Sue Krause (died 9/15/23) and Beverly Machin (died 10/7/23) – at receptions after their memorial services.

Pastor Peggy retired in October, and we celebrated her longtime ministry, two of them with us as our interim, at a reception coordinated by deacons in collaboration with session and other church members. Two weeks later, we joined in joy that one of our clergy members, the Rev. Paul Seebeck, began a four-month assignment as a bridge pastor until session selects a new pastor for our church in 2024.

Other accomplishments this year included:

- Met on Zoom monthly, and each of served at least twice as Deacon-of-the-Month.
- Worked with church staff to keep our directory and birthday list updated.
- Served as worship leader on Sunday mornings by pouring the baptismal water, reading prayers and scriptures, and leading the “Prayers of the People.”
- Submitted articles to church staff for inclusion in Tuesday’s Always in Prayer email.
- Coordinated refreshments for congregational gatherings.
- Cleaned deacon’s freezer and disconnected it for a hiatus until there is a greater need for stored meals, and cleaned out/reorganized the Deacon’s storage closet.

Shannon Langley represented us on the 2023 Nominating Committee. Claudia Foulkes and Patti Marcum will begin two-year terms in 2024 and Shannon agreed to serve a 3rd year as deacon. She followed the pattern set by Allen Bridgman who is now ending her deacon term of two full back-to-back two-year terms. What gratitude we have for these commitments.

With only four deacons it is always a huge help to have other members of the congregation who speak up and offer to help with receptions, meals to homebound members, and any other expressions of help. If you can help in 2024, feel free to email the deacons at: deacons@crescenthill.church to volunteer.

Stewardship of God’s Resources

Submitted by Stewart Bridgman

For 2023, the following individuals were members of the Stewardship Committee for at least part of the year: Stewart Bridgman (chair), Jack Marcum (Treasurer), Alan Pauw, and David Wilding.

The Stewardship Committee oversees two major areas in the life of the congregation: (1) finances and (2) building/grounds. Here are some highlights from the year in each area.

Finances

- A budget of \$177,411 was approved for 2023. The amount designated for pastor and staff was \$114,338, leaving \$46,2724 for operations, \$7,450 for programs and \$9,350 for mission partnerships.
- We invested some of our reserves in certificates of deposit staggered quarterly.
- Led by the acting treasurer, Stewardship carried out the annual financial stewardship campaign in November and December. A total of \$164,490 in pledges were received.
- The committee put together a 2024 budget totaling \$166,151. (Session approved this budget in early 2024).
- We utilized a tax accounting company to lower stress on the current treasurer and improve quality of reports. However, we agreed to switch providers as the first provider needed oversight.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to use a new Insurance vendor was found thanks to the work of Alan Pauw.
- Members of the committee planned clean up days in April, September, and October.
- Water testing revealed a problem with lead pipes in the sanctuary building. As a temporary fix, bottled water was made available in the narthex, and the water fountains were turned off. The cost of replacing pipes is approximately \$10,000. (The pipes in the back building are fine.).
- Given financial problems, the committee decided not to replace the choir room's broken, air conditioner. A window AC unit was installed instead.
- We provide keys to anyone needing to use the back building,
- As a cost saving and safety measure, the committee recommended that worship be held only by Zoom following a snowstorm.
- The committee reviewed several requests for building use by outside groups. We have rented our space to Bunbury theater and the Blind School.

Treasurers' Report

Submitted by Jack Marcum

2023 Budget

On the *income* side, Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church took in a total of \$173,244.31 for the budget, near the expected amount of \$177,411.04. Pledges came in at \$153,373.48, which was \$11,116.52 less than anticipated (\$164,490.00). Other income sources included pledge payments for prior years (\$3,100), non-pledge payments (named individuals who gave but did not pledge, \$8,517.30), building rental (\$3,085.00), interest earned (\$3,073.42, loose offerings (anonymous cash gifts, \$1,079.68), and per capita apportionment (\$828.62).

Expenses totaled \$155,063.28, or \$18,181.03 below income. This was largely due to lower salary expenses because of various staff changes. Salaries, benefits, and other staff costs were budgeted at \$114,338.20, but came in at only \$97,908.47. Other less-than-budgeted expenses came in the area of church programming: for the Pastor Nominating Committee (\$164.61 expended, \$3,000.00 budgeted), church committees (\$2,853.72 expended; \$4,350.00 budgeted); deacons (\$22.99; \$800.00); and session (\$211.72; \$1,000.00)

Other lower-than-anticipated expenses included insurance (\$8,418.50 expended, \$10,916.00 budgeted), utilities (\$18,710.07; \$20,500.00), and building maintenance (\$3,887.05; \$4,500.00). On the other hand, office supplies came in at \$3,779.50, or more than twice the budgeted amount of \$1,750.00.

Churchwide Special Offerings

During 2023 CHPC received donations of more than \$6,000 combined for the four churchwide special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as follows: One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, \$2,182.40; Peace & Global Witness Offering, \$1,453.50; Pentecost Offering, \$1,345.00; and Christmas Joy Offering, \$1,051.00.

Other Financial Highlights

The church received a bequest of \$27,120.76 in 2023, and memorial fund donations of \$25,600.00.

Budget vs Actuals

CRESCENT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH				
Budget vs Actuals December 2023				
	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget	Variance
	12/31/2023	12/31/2023		
Income				
40020 Pledges Received-Current Year	\$ 10,253.75	\$ 153,373.48	\$ 164,490.00	(\$ 11,116.52)
40030 Non-Pledge Received-Current Yr	\$ 220.00	\$ 8,517.30	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 517.30
40040 Pledges Received-Past Year		\$ 3,100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,900.00
40050 Loose Plate Received-Current Yr	\$ 175.03	\$ 1,079.68	\$ 700.00	\$ 379.68
40060 Per Capita Received	\$ 25.00	\$ 828.62	\$ 700.00	\$ 128.62
40080 Interest Earned	\$ 1,315.97	\$ 3,073.42	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 573.42
40090 Building Rental Income	\$ 950.00	\$ 3,085.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,785.00
40110 Miscellaneous	\$ 33.11	\$ 186.81	\$ 521.04	(\$ 334.23)
Total Income	\$ 12,972.86	\$ 173,244.31	\$ 177,411.04	(\$ 4,166.73)
Expenses				
60010 Pastor Salary	\$ -	\$ 15,633.39	\$ 19,000.00	(\$ 3,366.61)
60017 Pastor - Earned Benefits	\$ -	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	(\$ 2,500.00)
60020 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$ 3,316.67	\$ 17,533.33	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 1,533.33
60030 Pastor FICA Tax	\$ -	\$ 1,211.21	\$ 2,677.50	(\$ 1,466.29)
60050 Music Director Salary	\$ 1,783.20	\$ 12,702.46	\$ 14,196.00	(\$ 1,493.54)
60080 Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 2,215.36	\$ 17,353.77	\$ 25,550.42	(\$ 8,196.65)
60120 CHPC FICA Tax Portion/Salaries	\$ 182.83	\$ 2,364.02	\$ 2,464.28	(\$ 100.26)
60130 Property Technician & Custodian	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 16,900.00	\$ 16,900.00	\$ -
60140 Pulpit Supply	\$ 150.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 900.00	(\$ 450.00)
60150 Guest Music Supply	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 650.00	(\$ 50.00)
60170 Business Expense for Pastor	\$ 27.65	\$ 268.07	\$ 500.00	(\$ 231.93)
60180 Continuing Education for Pastor	\$ -	\$ 392.22	\$ 500.00	(\$ 107.78)
60190 Music Expenses	\$ 430.00	\$ 1,646.53	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 646.53
60210 Nurture Committee	\$ -	\$ 604.00	\$ 1,100.00	(\$ 496.00)
60220 Outreach Committee	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 250.00	(\$ 190.00)
60230 Stewardship Committee			\$ 1,000.00	(\$ 1,000.00)
60240 Worship Committee		\$ 543.19	\$ 1,000.00	(\$ 456.81)
60260 Deacon Committee		\$ 22.99	\$ 800.00	(\$ 777.01)

60270 Session Expenses		\$ 211.72	\$ 1,000.00	(\$ 788.28)
60280 Presbytery of Mid-KY Per Capita		\$ 7,562.80	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,562.80
60290 Pastor Nominating Committee	\$ 164.61	\$ 164.61	\$ 3,000.00	(\$ 2,835.39)
60300 Mission Giving (per Outreach)	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 6,945.73	\$ 9,350.00	(\$ 2,404.27)
60307 Earth Care Team			\$ 100.00	(\$ 100.00)
60309 Guatemala Partnership		\$ 1,740.00		\$ 1,740.00
60400 Bldg Maint Supplies Repairs	\$ 731.97	\$ 3,887.05	\$ 4,500.00	(\$ 612.95)
60420 Equipment-New and Maintenance		\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00
60430 Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 8.43	\$ 225.25	\$ 306.84	(\$ 81.59)
60440 Office Supplies	\$ 564.26	\$ 3,779.50	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 2,029.50
60450 Utilities	\$ 1,206.34	\$ 18,710.07	\$ 20,500.00	(\$ 1,789.93)
60460 Bldg Insurance & Workers Comp		\$ 8,418.50	\$ 10,916.00	(\$ 2,497.50)
60480 Payroll, Online Giving & FSA Expense	\$ 421.94	\$ 2,232.87	\$ 2,500.00	(\$ 267.13)
Total Expenses	\$ 15,903.26	\$ 155,063.28	\$ 177,411.04	(\$ 22,347.76)
Net Operating Income	(\$ 2,930.40)	\$ 18,181.03	\$ -	\$ 18,181.03
Unbudgeted Income				
45000 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering-Received		\$ 2,182.40	\$ -	
45010 Peace and Global Witness Offering-Received		\$ 1,453.50	\$ -	
45020 Christmas Joy Offering-Received	\$ 1,051.00	\$ 1,051.00	\$ -	
45030 Pentecost Offering-Received		\$ 1,345.00	\$ -	
45040 United Crescent Hill Ministries-Received			\$ -	
45050 Miscellaneous Mission Giving-Received	\$ 30.00	\$ 140.00	\$ -	
Total Unbudgeted Income	\$ 1,081.00	\$ 6,171.90	\$ -	\$ -
Unbudgeted Expenses				
70010 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.		\$ 2,182.40		
70020 Peace and Global Witness Offering		\$ 1,453.50		
70030 Christmas Joy Offering		\$ 1,051.00		
70040 Pentecost Offering		\$ 1,345.00		
70050 United Crescent Hill Ministries				
70060 Miscellaneous Mission Giving		\$ 140.00		
Total Unbudgeted Expenses	\$ -	\$ 6,171.90	\$ -	\$ -

Balance Sheet

Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church (New)

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	Total	
	As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022 (PY)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
10200 Checking-Stock Yards Bank	41,305.86	76,768.92
10300 Money Market-Morgan Stanley	100,000.00	100,000.00
10400 Certificate of Deposit	100,000.00	
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 241,305.86	\$ 176,768.92
Total Current Assets	\$ 241,305.86	\$ 176,768.92
Other Assets		
11000 John Leake Scholarship-Covenant	50,000.00	50,000.00
12000 Woosley Scholarship-Covenant	50,000.00	50,000.00
13000 Jean Leake Youth Fund-Covenant	50,000.00	50,000.00
Total Other Assets	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 391,305.86	\$ 326,768.92
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
30100 403(b)	-1,200.00	0.00
30200 Flexible savings account	-533.08	-42.90
31000 Medicare Taxes	-109.65	0.00
31100 FICA Taxes	-261.01	0.00
31200 Federal Withholding Tax	-140.00	0.00
31250 Taxes unspecified	-390.05	-390.05
31400 Kentucky Withholding Tax	-183.44	0.00
31800 Louisville Withholding Tax	129.73	135.82
32200 Mission Giving for Disbursement	780.77	780.77
32201 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	20.00	0.00
32202 Peace and Global Offering Witness Offering	-0.01	0.00
32203 Christmas Joy Offering	0.00	0.05
32204 Pentecost Offering	716.00	716.00
32205 United Crescent Hill Ministries	-6.00	-6.00
32206 Miscellaneous Mission Giving	-530.11	101.18
Total 32200 Mission Giving for Disbursement	\$ 980.65	\$ 1,592.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	-\$ 1,706.85	\$ 1,294.87
Total Current Liabilities	-\$ 1,706.85	\$ 1,294.87
Total Liabilities	-\$ 1,706.85	\$ 1,294.87
Equity		
30000 Opening Balance Equity	2,772.93	2,772.93
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	-26,779.75	-211.64
34010 General Treasury**	72,002.42	71,802.42
34020 Special Gifts**	0.00	0.00

34040 Memorial Fund**	72,678.51	47,078.51
34050 Wills and Bequests**	65,870.89	38,750.13
34060 Contingency Fund**	0.00	0.00
34070 Community Children's Fund*	0.00	0.00
34080 Pastor's Service Fund	1,396.67	1,413.62
34090 Pastor DMin Scholarship	0.00	0.00
34110 Seminary Student Scholarship	0.00	0.00
34120 Reception Funds (Deacons)	643.26	643.26
34125 Men's Breakfast	72.00	72.00
34140 Organ Fund	10,026.43	9,776.43
34150 Hymnals Fund	0.00	0.00
34160 Prayer Garden Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
34165 Flower Fund	-1.92	123.08
34170 Art Exhibit Project Fund	0.00	0.00
34180 John Leake/Woosley-Interest	3,916.50	8,666.50
34190 Jean Leake Youth-Interest	1,494.11	1,965.29
34200 Youth Mission Trips	0.00	0.00
34210 Youth Fund Raising Fund	1,405.86	1,405.86
34230 Story Ministry	18.05	18.05
34240 Refugee Ministry Fund	682.97	682.97
34250 Food for Thought Ministry	0.00	0.00
34260 French Language Ministry	127.50	127.50
34270 Women's Retreat Fund	0.00	0.00
34280 Earth Care (Eco-Justice Vespers)	5,072.54	5,322.54
34285 Spirit of Sophia	0.00	0.00
34290 Guatemala Partnership Fund	4,474.60	4,474.60
34295 Nehemiah Project	-964.28	-964.28
34300 John Leake Schlrshp-Fund \$50K	50,000.00	50,000.00
34310 Jean Leake Schlrship Fund-\$50K	50,000.00	50,000.00
34320 Woosley Schlrshp Fund-\$50K	50,000.00	50,000.00
34330 Prepaid Pledge - Next Year	8,922.39	7,122.39
39000 Net Income	0.00	0.00
Net Revenue	18,181.03	-26,568.11
Total Equity	\$ 393,012.71	\$ 325,474.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 391,305.86	\$ 326,768.92