**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SWEET HOLLOW**

**95 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, MELVILLE, NY 11747**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**January 31, 2021**

**Moderator:** The Reverend Matthew Means

**Agenda**

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Order**

**Appointment of Secretary**

*Clerk of Session, Monica Van Houten*

**Communication**

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Fellowship & Outreach & Mission Committee Page 13

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Nominating Committee N/A

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**Reading and approval of the minutes of the meeting**

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjourn**

 **Pastoral Annual Report**

Years ago, I remember that when church people were asked why they didn’t do something, the response often was “We’ve never done it that way before”. Why not use fake flowers on the altar? Why don’t we have more hymns? “Because we’ve never done it that way before”.

But this year we are not laughing – so much of what we have done we have never done before. And so much of what we previously did we no longer can do. No hugs or handshakes after worship. Gone are the coffee hour and fund-raiser dinners. For me, no home or hospital visits or interaction with the children. No singing in the church (probably the hardest Covid restriction). For the year 2020, it is true “we’ve never done church like this before”.

Although the Covid19 virus and the resulting shutting down of our church was probably the hardest problem facing our congregation, the leaving of Pastor Meg was certainly right behind it in the list of hardships faced by PCSH in 2020. I attended some of the Sunday worship services after the shutdown and was impressed with her ability to create a new way to worship and preach. Sharing the Word and interacting with people – including the children – made her presence here so special.

The last Baptism before the shutdown was done by Pastor Meg as she then welcomed Everton Cox as the newest member of our church. It’s interesting that reopening the church on September 27th was also a Baptism –Owen Douglas Moder.

Since then, we have held worship in the sanctuary with many members joining us on zoom thanks to the expertise and work of Bill Von Brook. Others have stepped up to read, help with Communion, decorate the church for Christmas, participate in Prayer Circle, be on the Pastoral Nominating Committee and keep in touch with members.

As we celebrate our faith this morning, we must all consider what portion of our time, talent and treasure we will share with God’s church here in Sweet Hollow. The root of our sharing should be our thankfulness for all we have received:

We ask for a piece of sand and he gives us a beach.

We ask for a drop of water and he gives us an ocean.

We ask for time and he gives us life eternal.

And it is so easy for us to fall in love with the gift

 And forget the giver.

 (Edward Farrell)

My prayer for Sweet Hollow Church is that you walk in God’s grace, grow in faith, and share His love with all you meet.

Rev. Joan Finck

**CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS for 2020**

**Membership as of December 31, 2019 101**

Losses:

Removal by certificate of transfer 0

Deaths 2

Other Session Removals 1

 -3

Additions:

Joined – confirmation class 0

Certificate of transfer 0

Affirmation of Faith 1

 +1

**Membership as of December 31, 2020 99**

Baptisms:

Children 1

Adults 1

Total **2**

Entered the Church Triumphant

William Walter (April 22, 2020)

Alice Wansor (September 11, 2020)

*“Happy are those who from now on die in the service of the Lord!” “Yes indeed!” answers the Spirit. “They will enjoy rest from their hard work, because the results of their service go with them.”*

 *-Revelation*

**Treasurer’s Report 2020**

2020 has been an interesting year here at Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church. 2021 will likely be a challenging year, filled with many important decisions to be made as to the direction of the church and how we can reduce our operating deficit in order to secure the future of our “little church with the big heart” …

Money is a tool God uses to help us live and love like Jesus. Regardless of how much—or how little—money you have, God is at work in your life through your circumstances. He is leading you to a deeper trust in him. This is exactly what we see in the Philippians 4:11-12:

*"Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need."*

During 2020 our building use revenue was down $41,000 and unfortunately at this time there is no way to determine what the shortfall will be in 2021. Since COVID-19 is severely prevalent in our daily lives, we know that the impact will be extreme once again. Pledges, donations and fundraising were down $80,800 from last year which was to be expected due to the pandemic and no large, one-time donations like we received in 2019. We know that our members are hurting both spiritually and financially, but we continue to come together as a congregation either in person or via zoom to worship together. Our money market was reduced by $16,000 for cash flow in 2020.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Treasurer's Report |  |
|  |  |  | Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church |  |
|  |  |  | Account Balances |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bank Accounts** |  | **2020** | **2019** |
|  | Checking |  | $13,430.00 | $918.93 |
|  | Mission Exchange |  | $1,125.00 |
|  | Money Market | $91,858.30 | $108,113.19 |
|  | Presbyterian USA |  | $0.00 |
|  | Savings |  | $14.56 | $14.82 |
|  | **Total Bank Accounts** | **$105,302.86** | **$110,171.94** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  Treasurer's Report |  |  |
|  |  Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church |  |  |
|  |  Income / Expenses |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Code** | **Category** | **2020** | **2019** |
| 4000 | Income |  |  |
| 4001 | Pledge Income | 84,794.10 | 95,246.44 |
| 4002 | Donations | 2,253.00 | 65,640.56 |
| 4003 | Loose Plate Donations | 542.25 | 2,869.52 |
| 4004 | Building Use | 20,279.00 | 61,385.00 |
| 4006 | Other Income | 870.77 | 6,960.54 |
| 4007 | Fundraising | 1,388.42 | 6,065.15 |
| 4008 | OGHS | 611.00 | 1,096.29 |
| 4009 | Per Capita | 1,450.83 | 1,564.02 |
| 4010 | Interest Income | 778.96 | 2,135.73 |
| 4013 | Holiday Income | 712.00 | xxx |
|  - - -  | Refugee Distribution Grant | xxx | 5,000.00 |
|  - - - | Roof Fund | xxx | 10.00 |
|  - - - | From Mission Exchange | xxx | 12,574.84 |
|  - - - | From Money Market | xxx | 42,000.00 |
|  - - -  | Sunday School |  | 158.00 |
| **4000** | **Total Income** | **113,680.33** | **302,706.09** |
|  | **Total Income** | **113,680.33** | **302,706.09** |
|  | **Gross Profit** | **113,680.33** | **302,706.09** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5000 | Pastor Compensation/Expenses |  |  |
| 5001 | Pastor Compensation | 15,809.00 | 34,124.30 |
| 5002 | SECA | 2,215.28 | xxx |
| 5003 | Pastor Paid 403B | 2,000.00 | 10,399.96 |
| 5004 | Pension/Medical/Dental | 10,667.64 | 30,684.61 |
| 5005 | Church Paid 403B | 1,416.65 | xxx |
| 5006 | Professional Expenses | 572.97 | 1,262.98 |
| 5008 | Utility | 200.00 | 2,620.01 |
| 5009 | Auto | xxx | 460.30 |
| **5000** | **Total Pastor Compensation/Expenses** | **32,881.54** | **79,552.16** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5100 | Staff |  |   |
| 5101 | Music Minister | 9,945.00 | 11,651.52 |
| 5102 | Secretary | 14,290.01 | 13,034.49 |
| 5104 | Guest Minster | 4,675.00 | 300.00 |
| 5106 | Guest Organist & Soloists | 125.00 | 725.00 |
|  - - - | Treasurer | xxx | 2,974.00 |
|  - - -  | Nursery Assistant | xxx | 425.00 |
| 5107 | Custodial Services | 1,825.00 | 11,290.00 |
| 5108 | Social Security & Federal Taxes | 8,133.12 | 23,478.87 |
| 5109 | Workers Compensation | 1,039.00 | 1,330.00 |
|  - - - | SWT NYS Department Tax | xxx | 3,869.39 |
| 5110 | NYS Department of Taxation - Unemployment | 521.39 | 2,420.46 |
| **5100** | **Total Staff** | **40,553.52** | **71,498.73** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5200 | Property - Manse |  |  |
| 5201 | Manse | 427.18 | 1,675.00 |
| 5202 | Sanctuary, Christian Education & Offices | 9,332.63 | 20,588.61 |
| **5200** | **Total Property - Manse** | **9,759.81** | **22,263.61** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5300 | Utilities |  |  |
| 5301 | Fuel Oil | 6,070.22 | 10,962.35 |
| 5302 | Cable/Internet | 1,870.55 | 1,834.60 |
| 5303 | Water | 167.30 | 70.40 |
| 5304 | Electric | 3,900.78 | 4,516.33 |
| 5306 | Insurance | 10,032.89 | 12,207.50 |
| 5307 | Refuse & Snow Removal | 1,608.48 | 5,416.03 |
| 5308 | Manse Gas | 1,248.59 | xxx |
| 5309 | Manse Water | 34.05 | xxx |
| 5310 | Manse Electric | 1,134.42 | xxx |
| **5300** | **Total Utilities** | **26,067.28** | **35,007.21** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5400 | Mission |  |  |
| 5401 | Per Capita | 3,766.95 | 4,527.95 |
| 5402 | Unified Mission Support | 4,530.00 | 458.00 |
|  - - - | OGHS | xxx | 1,092.29 |
| 5403 | Salary Supplement | 495.00 | xxx |
| **5400** | **Total Mission** | **8,791.95** | **6,078.24** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5000 | Office |  |  |
| 5500 | Office Expenses | xxx | 1,770.00 |
| 5501 | Supplies, Printing & Postage | 867.09 | 345.00 |
| 5502 | Printer Lease & Maintenance | 989.62 | 2,037.36 |
| **5500** | **Total Office Expenses** | **1,856.71** | **4,152.36** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5600 | Program Expenses |  |  |
| 5601 | Bank Charges | 369.78 | 332.27 |
| 5602 | Worship/Music/Piano/Organ | 671.13 | 639.22 |
| 5603 | Flowers | 42.05 | 1,297.40 |
|  | To Checking | xxx | 54,574.84 |
| **5600** | **Total Program Expenses** | **1,082.96** | **56,843.73** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Expenses** | **120,993.77** | **275,396.04** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Net Operating Income** | **-7,313.44** | **27,310.05** |
|  | **Net Income** | **-7,313.44** | **27,310.05** |

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Conroy, Treasurer

**Budget and Stewardship Committee**

To all that have pledged and donated this year, thank you for your continued generosity! We wouldn’t be the “Little Church with the Big Heart” without you and your time, talents and treasures supporting all the good work that we do! Our Stewardship theme this year is the Creation Story); “In the be-ginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). Sweet Hollow has a rare opportunity for rebirth, regeneration, reformation, and reinvigoration in the coming year. What do we want Sweet Hollow to be? We all have a voice. The future of Sweet Hollow is difficult to see, however, there is much to be thankful for. Despite closing the church in March, our 2020 pledge income exceeded the pledged amount by $3,000.00, for a total of $84,794.10. Thus far in 2021, despite a delayed start to our Stewardship campaign, we have received 8 pledges for a total of $22,340.00. Thanks be to God for your continued support! Our building use income has been greatly. We received building use income of $20,279.00 last year compared with $61,385.00 in 2019. Praise the Lord! Together we even fund-raised $1388.42. Praise the Lord! Please consider required minimum distributions (RMD), endowments and other estate financial planning vehicles for Sweet Hollow, along with the various ways we can give freely of our time, talents, and treasures to the Sweet Hollow community. We cannot begin to rest now; we must continue to be bold and spread the good news about Jesus; engage your family and friends in discussion about the joy of membership at Sweet Hollow. We are a small church with dedicated members who have an opportunity to make a big difference if we do it together. Each one of us matters greatly here.

Your Stewardship – Budget Committee

Jim Sommermeyer (Chair)

|  |
| --- |
| PCSH Budget 2021 |
|  | **Item** | **2020 Budget** | **2020 Actual** | **Budget 2021** |
| **Name:** |  | **Subtotal:** | **Subtotal:** | **Subtotal:** |
| **Pastor** |  | **94158** | **35298** | **49430** |
|  | **Salary & Pastor 403B** | 48724 | 17809 | 24362 |
|  | **Medical Account** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **403B Church Paid** | 0 | 1416 | 1400 |
|  | **SECA** | 5999 | 2215 | 3000 |
|  | **Pension/Medical/Dental** | 29219 | 10668 | 14610 |
|  | **Tax Deferred Investment** | 1000 | 0 | 500 |
|  | **Expenses** | 800 | 573 | 400 |
|  | **Study Leave** | 3116 | 0 | 1558 |
|  | **Manse Utility** | 3300 | 2617 | 2600 |
|  | **Auto**  | 2000 | 0 | 1000 |
| **Staff** |  | **61190** | **40553** | **57540** |
|  | **Music Minister** | 18000 | 9945 | 18000 |
|  | **Secretary** | 21065 | 14290 | 21065 |
|  | **Treasurer** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Guest Minister** | 5000 | 4675 | 7000 |
|  | **Nursery Assistant** | 1300 | 0 | 650 |
|  | **Guest Organist & Soloists** | 750 | 125 | 750 |
|  | **Custodial Service** | 10000 | 1825 | 5000 |
|  | **Social Security & Federal Taxes** | 2600 | 8133 | 2600 |
|  | **SWT NYS Dept Tax** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Worker’s Compensation** | 1875 | 1039 | 1875 |
|  | **NYS Unemployment Insurance** | 600 | 521 | 600 |
| **Property Maintenance** |  | **6500** | **9760** | **6500** |
|  | **Manse** | 2000 | 427 | 2000 |
|  | **Sanctuary, Christian Education and Offices** | 2000 | 9333 | 2000 |
|  | **Capital Improvement** | 2500 |   0 | 2500 |
| **Utilities** |  | **31382** | **23650** | **31382** |
|  | **Fuel** | 8000 | 6070 | 8000 |
|  | **Cable / Internet** | 1807 | 1871 | 1807 |
|  | **Water** | 175 | 167 | 175 |
|  | **Electric** | 4800 | 3901 | 4800 |
|  | **Manse Refuse & MTA Tax** | 400 | 0 | 400 |
|  | **Insurance** | 11000 | 10033 | 11000 |
|  | **Refuse & Snow Removal** | 5200 | 1608 | 5200 |
| **Mission** |  | **6508** | **8792** | **6508** |
|  | **Local Mission** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Presbytery Emergency Fund** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Per Capita** | 3808 | 3767 | 3808 |
|  | **United Mission** | 1000 | 5025 | 1000 |
|  | **Mission Team** | 1000 | 0 | 1000 |
|  | **Stewardship, Events** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Christian Education** | 700 | 0 | 700 |
|  | **OGHS** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Expenses** |  | **4300** | **1857** | **4300** |
|  | **Supplies, Printing & Postage** | 2800 | 867 | 2800 |
|  | **Printer Lease & Maintenance** | 1500 | 990 | 1500 |
| **Expenses** |  | **800** | **1083** | **800** |
|  | **Bank Charges & Fees** | 0 | 370 | 0 |
|  | **Worship/Music/Piano/Organ** | 800 | 671 | 800 |
|  | **Reimbursement - Flowers** | 0 | 42 | 0 |
|  | **Reimbursement - Christian Education** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Reimbursed Expenses** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Reimbursed Party Cleanup** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Security Deposit Refund** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Flower Fund** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | **Total** | **204838** | **120993** | **156460** |

Christian Education Committee

*Teaching the Bible in word and in deed*

There is probably no need that I preface this report by saying that the Covid-19 pandemic caused a dramatic change in plans for 2020 Christian Education. The year started off with high hopes and multiple children in attendance each week until Covid-19 shut us down the 3rd week in March.

**Nursery:** Sincerest thanks to Francine James who provided Nursery Care each week for our youngest in attendance.

**Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 5**: Melissa D’Angelo, Carol Keil, Niaja Mowatt and Frank Sansone rotated as Sunday School leaders with Frank taking on the responsibility for all aspects of our continuing Sunday School **mission project** wherein the children assembled 40 bag lunches each 2nd Sunday of the month. The lunches were distributed through **Family Service League** to the homeless in our community. **Sunday School lessons** were based on Jesus’ Parables of the Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Prodigal Son. We continued to use the *Workshop Rotation Method,* teaching each story over 4-5 multiple weeks with activities ranging from cooking, arts and crafts and games to stimulate and engage the children.

**Adult Bible Study:** From January through mid- March, Pastor Meg Flanagan led the weekly *Prayer Circle* gathering in the church Parlor each Wednesday morning at 10am. Part of each gathering included Bible study using the *Lectio Divina* method to listen to a particular Bible passage read aloud several times, prayerfully considering what words or phrases “spoke” to each one present, then shared in discussion with others in the group. When Covid-19 restrictions curtailed our ability to meet in person, Pastor Meg continued to lead the gathering, remotely via *Zoom*, each Wednesday until her departure in May.

Since May the *Prayer Circle* has continued to gather remotely each week. *Zoom* has allowed the group attendance to grow in number. We currently use the resource *Looking into the lectionary,* a commentary provided by *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine, as the basis for weekly Bible discussion. The fellowship of prayer for each other, for our church and for our world has been an immeasurable blessing in the lives of all who participate and for whom we pray. If you are not already signing in on Wednesday mornings at 10am, please consider joining us. Contact Carol Keil at c1keil@aol.com for information regarding the *Zoom* link.

**Church events/Fundraising:** The Sunday School Pancake Breakfast was held on Sunday March 1, 2020. We are grateful for the help of all the families who helped with setup, preparing the pancakes and especially in clean-up of this fun annual event. The “Free Will Offering” of $235.00 was donated to Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund.

Please see details in the Fellowship and Outreach & Mission report for other jointly supported activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Keil

**Fellowship and Outreach & Mission Committee**

**Fellowship and Outreach**

Sweet Hollow enjoys a variety of enriching Fellowship and Outreach events, including fundraisers, throughout any given year, which all provide a wonderful opportunity for strengthening our relationships with each other through Christian fellowship.

***Women for Women (W4W)***is open to all women age 18 and older, as we participate in events such as the Scavenger Hunt, the Ladies High Tea and Christmas Decorating. Events are usually held on the first Monday of each month (subject to change), from October through June. W4W doesn’t meet in January and February. On Monday, March 2nd, W4W enjoyed Movie Night, as we saw the updated version of “Emma.” Thank you to Sukey Walter for organizing this event, and for serving as co-chairperson with Maureen Sansone.

***Farewell “Drive Bye” for Pastor Meg and Her Family***-While faced with unimaginable circum- stances under which to say goodbye to our beloved pastor, on Saturday, May 2nd, we were blessed with a beautiful, sunny day as a caravan of 27 cars, comprised of Sweet Hollow members and friends, assembled to say their farewells to Pastor Meg, Pastor Adam, Huck, and Finch at the Manse. We are so grateful for our time together with Pastor Meg, and we wish the Fischer-Flannagan family all the best for this new chapter.Sincere gratitude to the Von Brook family for their coordination and assistance, and for overseeing this Farewell “Drive Bye”.

**Fundraising**

The ***Sunday School Plant Sale*** was held at Sweet Hollow on Saturday, May 30th. This was our church family’s first event following the pandemic lockdown. For those members and friends who attended, the time spent together was priceless. Many thanks to Joan Sommermeyer for coordinating and leading this event, and to Carol & Otto Keil for providing an array of beautiful plants, flowers, vegetables, herbs, etc. from their nursery. Additional thanks to all those who assisted with the planning of and sales at this event.

**Mission Committee**

During 2020, the call to help others was perhaps more urgent than ever before in modern history and is anticipated to continue in the future. Those ministries which Sweet Hollow has been honored to support answered that call and changed lives, by providing hope during a time when hope was in scarce supply.

**Sharing Bags for Tri-CYA (Tri Community Youth Agency)**, a private, not-for-profit community based agency dedicated to supporting the growth and development of youth and their families, were put up in the sanctuary in January, for food pantry items and personal care items. Thank you to all those who donated, and special thanks to Jane Beller for bringing the Sharing Bags to Tri CYA.

In August, in lieu of Sharing Bags, which are traditionally put up in the sanctuary for school supplies and healthy snacks, Jane Beller graciously offered to accept donations of those items, as well as gift cards and cash, at her home. A Drop Off Event was also held at Sweet Hollow on Saturday, August 29th, with Jane accepting donations. Jane periodically delivered the donations to Tri CYA. Sincere gratitude to Jane for her steadfast dedication to this ministry.

**Souper Bowl of Caring-**This national movement, which started over 30 years ago, ran from Super Bowl Sunday and continued up through the end of February. Non-perishable food donations, as well as monetary donations, were delivered to the Huntington Community Food Council. Special thanks to all those who donated, and to those who delivered the donations.

Starting in late March***, Project HOPE (Helping Other People Eat)***, together with ***Helping Hands Rescue Mission, St. Hugh’s Parish Outreach, Tri-CYA and Family Service League***, coordinated their efforts by providing beans, rice, eggs and milk to those in need in the Huntington Station community, and partnered with St. John’s Episcopal Church to provide nearly 1,000 simple meals to the homeless and those without cooking facilities. Sweet Hollow members were asked to donate to this ministry, which continued for much of the remainder of the year.

Many natural disasters unfolded before our eyes this past year; specifically, vicious Hurricane Laura in Louisiana and Texas in late August, and unrelenting wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington in early September. We were blessed to help our brothers and sisters by donating to organizations such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the American Red Cross, and the United Way.

November is the time of the year when Sweet Hollow typically runs a Clothing Drive to benefit veterans through Beacon House. In lieu of having church members drop off clothing donations at church, food and personal care donations were accepted at the Girl Scouts Donation Drive for Veterans & Local Food Pantries on November 7th at the South Huntington Public Library.

For the holiday season, we radiated the love of the baby Jesus by encouraging Sweet Hollow members to donate to Madonna Heights Services, Project HOPE, Interfaith Nutrition Network and Help-A-Family-Newsday Charities. Alternative Gift Giving to Doctors Without Borders, Heifer International and World Vision International provided Sweet Hollow members with unique gift ideas while striving to help others.

May the upcoming year provide Sweet Hollow with many opportunities through which to shine a light into the darkness, and to truly make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fellowship and Outreach & Mission Committee

**House and Property Committee**

   On behalf of this committee, I would like to extend a very warm thanks to all who participated in working on the buildings and grounds in 2020.

 Some projects occurred in the year 2020

* Ed Conroy changed out the windows in the CEB hall vestibule.
* Existing light fixtures at the CEB hall vestibule were upgraded with LED drivers and LED lamps as well as the addition of Occupancy sensors in our effort to conserve energy.
* Window latches in the sanctuary hall were replaced on the windows thanks to Ed Conroy.
* The manse lawn was mowed weekly by Bob Reiser.
* Thank you for the efforts of Leroy Mowatt and Everton Cox for their help in cleaning up the front gardens of the Manse.
* The Manse was cleaned after Meg and Family headed out by Jill Conroy and Monica Van Houten.
* Centro Missionero took the time to clean the gardens throughout the Church property as well as repair and expand the sprinkler system for the immediate front lawn.
* The front beds were kept maintained with the help of Jean Cavanaugh and Joe Moder. And the front flowers pots by Carol Keil and her family. (If others assisted and were not mentioned, I apologize.)

The past year has been a challenge for all but as the days pass our Church and Manse need continued care and attention. I assure you the upkeep cannot be handled by one or two people.

We need support in the coming year and are hopeful that our faithful family will be at the ready.

Thanks again to Frank Sansone and Bill Von Brook for weekly mowing of the Church Grounds.

 Sincerest Regards,

 William C. Von Brook

 Committee Chair

**Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee meets and reviews Sweet Hollow’s paid employees: Not Installed Pastors, Church Administrator and Music Director.

In March, as the virus lock down started, Administrator Lori Kevelos’s position was temporarily placed on hiatus; fortunately, Lori did qualify for unemployment compensation. After our last live service on March 15th, our Music Director Rachel Fogel’s position also was unfortunately placed on hiatus.

The Committee was informed in March by Pastor Flannagan that she had accepted a Call at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Greenville, North Carolina. Her last day with Sweet Hollow was May3rd.

When the Session approved the Covid-19 plan, for the Church to reopen, we were able to ask Lori to come back in September to resume her job at full time hours. Without a pastor to lead us, we were fortunate that Pastor Joan Finck was available, having just completed work as a Part Time Temporary Pastor at Baldwin Presbyterian Church. Pastor Joan was hired with Session’s approval to work 25 hours a week, to include Sunday Service, and participation with the weekly Prayer Group Ministry. Pastor Joan is currently contracted with Sweet Hollow through Feb 1st.

Our first live service was held on September 27th. Pastor Joan lead the service and Rachel Fogel resumed her role as Music Director.

The Session and Committee must acknowledge our gratitude for Pastor Flannagan’s 5 years as our Pastor. The Session is grateful to her this year for overseeing the implementation of the new position of Church Administrator, responsible for the building, finances, and office operations. We would also like to thank Pastor Flannagan for her stewardship of our Church when she had no staff, and for her coordination and preparation of the weekly on-line service.

Thank you, Rachel, for your sacrifice of income when the restrictions on music in service started, your music leadership with the Choir before the restrictions, and since the reopening, the ingenious ways live, and recorded music has been played and presented in weekly Service.

Thank you, Lori, for your first year as our Church Administrator. During this difficult past year, with the pastor leaving, and the challenges the virus caused to the Churches normal way of operating, you have fulfilled your jobs responsibilities admirably.

We would also like to thank Pastor Joan Finck for enthusiastically accepting the position of Temporary Part-Time Supply Pastor, and for her preparation for and leadership of the worship service each week.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Sansone (Chairperson)

**Worship Committee**

At the start of 2020, January, February, and March worship continued as usual until the COVID 19 Pandemic hit and we were forced into the virtual worship setting. Music and sermons were delivered from the Sweet Hollow sanctuary until the departure of Pastor Meg Flannagan. Sweet Hollow then joined Old First Presbyterian Church in Huntington in their virtual worship. A core group continued to meet for the virtual Sweet Hollow coffee hour following worship services.

The end of September brought back hope and joy when the Sweet Hollow sanctuary reopened for worship with limited capacity. Committee on Ministry approved the pulpit assignment of Reverend Joan Finck as a short-term pulpit supply pastor. Christmas 2020, like everything else may have looked very different than past years, but the spirit, message and music joyously abounded as it has in the past.

Pastoral Nominating Committee

Committee Members:

Jane Beller

Jean Cavanaugh

Melissa D’Angelo

Carol Keil

Niaja Mowatt

Carol Schiffmacher

Joan Sommermeyer, Chair

The Presbytery of Long Island, Committee on Ministry, approved the Ministerial Information Form in October 2020. Following approval, it took some time for the forms to be uploaded onto the PCUSA Leadership Database. Pastoral Information Forms were matched with Sweet Hollow and a list of candidates was generated. With much prayer and great discernment, the committee narrowed down from a field of twenty or so matches to five or six initial choices. The Committee developed interview questions around the following topics:

 Sermon and Worship

Mission and Community

Church Growth

Personal and Spiritual Growth

Resume based questions

Initial interviews were set up and the committee continues its prayerful diligence in its search for a pastor to present to the Sweet Hollow membership for consideration.

I personally thank the PNC Committee for their tireless efforts in their work on this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Sommermeyer