

“Meeting people at their point of need; inviting all into a dynamic relationship with Christ.”

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ANNUAL REPORT

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**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHARLESTON**

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Second Presbyterian
CHURCH OF CHARLESTON

**A DYNAMIC CHRIST-CENTERED CONGREGATION
MEETING PEOPLE AT THEIR POINT OF NEED, INVITING
ALL INTO A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Note from Your Pastor.....	2
What We Believe	3
Church Leaders.....	4
Slate of Nominees	5-7
Life of the Church	8-9
Music & Worship	10-11
Christian Education	13-15
Missions	16-17
Diaconate	18-20
Connections	21
SPK.....	23
Finance.....	24
Property	24

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Charleston, SC 29403

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ANNUAL REPORT 2022

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ –

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2022. You will find the story of a particular part of the body of Christ, the Second Presbyterian Church – a narrative that bears witness to the efforts over the past two years actually of individuals and a congregation seeking to be obedient - being church and doin' church in the shadow

of a world pandemic, and cultural trends that could be disheartening but that we know the power of the one to whom we belong!

I pray that you'll be encouraged and inspired. I pray that you will see yourself, your friends and your family in the pictures and in the story. That you will see the evidence of a congregation with diversity, spiritual purpose, vitality and joy. A congregation that punches above its weight in the community and beyond.

And you will see our challenges. We are not immune to the trends the larger church faces in patterns of attendance or support. May we all be moved to greater service this coming year as we continue to live into God's great narrative here at the Second Presbyterian Church.

With joy in being your pastor and in great anticipation –





WHAT WE BELIEVE

ROOTS

We affirm the central truths of historic Reformed and Biblical Christian faith, seeing ourselves in a long line of generations taking part in the endless conversation between God and people. We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the voices of many who have come before us, inspired by God to pass along their poems, stories, accounts, and letters of response and relationship with each other and the living God. To know where we are going, we have to know where we have been.

REDEMPTION

We trust that God wants to bring about a new humanity by redeeming every part of us. We embrace the salvation Jesus offers as the only hope for the healing of our relationships with God, each other, ourselves and creation. We believe that all of life is spiritual, and that all of our fears, failures, and brokenness can be restored and made whole. We value the process of our journeys because we want to be fully integrated people—with all our mind, body, soul, emotions and experiences offered together to God.

CALLING

We have great confidence that God will restore all of creation under the authority of Christ. We believe that every church has to ask the question: "How are we called to live out that future reality today?" We want to constantly explore, question, and wrestle with new and creative ways to live out and communicate the teachings of Jesus. Since we see ourselves as much called to new living as Abraham was when he was called out of the Babylonian city of Ur, change is expected and rebirth is welcomed.

COMMUNITY

We value the image of God in all people, everywhere. We believe that we were created to live deeply with one another; carrying each other's burdens, sharing our resources, praying for and confessing our sins to each other, suffering and celebrating together. It is in these honest, loving relationships that God transforms us, and truth of Christ's promises becomes a reality. The way of Jesus cannot be lived alone.

SERVING

We believe that Jesus is God in human form, and that the church is God's ongoing presence in the world. Led by the Spirit of God, we are passionate about relieving suffering and fighting injustice by joining the God of the oppressed in living out the transforming message of the resurrected Jesus. Jesus calls his church to be a compelling force for good in the world, and we believe that the church is at its best when it serves, sacrifices and loves, caring about the things God cares about. We were created to live for something larger than ourselves.

CELEBRATING

We take great joy in partnering with God to change the world, embracing the truth that all of life is sacred, hope is real and that tomorrow can be better than today. We celebrate the divine in the daily, pursue lives of hope, reflect gratitude, and renew ourselves in worship. God invites everyone everywhere into this way of life, and we believe it is the best possible way to live.



ELDERS

Class of 2022 | Gary Jaffe, Aled Pritchard, Felicia Sanders

Class of 2023 | Jessica Brock, Sarah Mitchell

Class of 2024 | Ken Carrington, Brittany Jones, Patterson Smith, Nathan Walker

DEACONS

Class of 2022 | Sara Gouldon, Sue Henderson, Lucie Medbery, Nicole Schuerman, George Smythe

Class of 2023 | Sue Barnett, Sally Caithness (Walker), Carol Howe, David B King, Erin Mellen

Class of 2024 | Kelsey Cochrane, Jim Kimmett, Dawn McCready, Debbie Smith

NOMINATING TEAM

2022 | Jessica Brock, Sydney Derrick, Domonique German, Brad Milner, Sarah Mitchell, Jordyn Pritchard, Nicole Schuerman, and Cress Darwin (ex-officio)

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

Spence Roddy, President

Patterson Smith, Vice President

Peggy Hay, Secretary



SLATE OF NOMINEES

Deacons, Class of 2025 | Sue Henderson, Cynthia LaRoche, Lucie Medbery, Nicole Schuerman

Elders, Class of 2025 | Brad Milner, Stuart Cochrane, Felicia Sanders, David Savard

Elders, Class of 2023 | Wendy Jewell, Lucas Willoughby

Nominating Team for 2023 | Rev. Cress Darwin (ex-officio), Sydney Derrick, Domonique German, Brittany Jones (session), Lucie Medbery (diaconate), Sarah Mitchell (session), Aled Pritchard, Debbie Smith



Stuart Cochrane has been a member of Second Presbyterian since about two weeks before everything went virtual in 2020. He has been married to Kelsey since July 2017. He graduated NC State in 2014, been a SSgt in USAF reserves for seven years, and has worked at JW Aluminum for four years. Stuart enjoys reading, working on airplanes, fishing, NC State sports, and spending time with friends and family.



Sydney Derrick grew up in Beaufort and graduated from College of Charleston. More than a decade later, she made her way back to the coast after a stint in Columbia, where she met and married her husband Josh. They have a daughter, Anna, and a new son Walt. In her work life, she handles communications & wellness programs for a small health insurance broker, is a metadata and research assistant with Avery Research Center, and is getting her master’s degree in library and information science. In her spare time, she loves paddle boarding, running, and the beach.



Domonique German has taught youth Sunday school for years, both at Mother Emanuel AME and at Second since 2016 and she became a member in 2019. She and her husband Fred live in North Charleston. She is on the board of the Tywanza Sanders Legacy Foundation and serves as treasurer.



Sue Henderson has been Director of the Second Presbyterian Kindergarten since 1977. She has served as an elder and as a deacon at Second and on the Christian Education Committee. She has been on the Boards of The Charleston Museum and Life Management. Sue is a graduate of The College of Charleston and has taught kindergarten for 35 years.



Wendelin (Wendy) Jewell and her husband, Bill relocated to Summerville after 25 years in Louisville, KY raising their two daughters. Although she still works PRN in her previous career as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at Brighton Park Emergency Department, the move allowed her to pursue some lifelong interests as well. She is trying to build a new career in Real Estate, while volunteering for the Low Country Marine Mammal Network on Kiawah Island and tutoring middle school students in math at Cane Bay. In her free time she enjoys walking and biking.



SLATE OF NOMINEES



Brittany Jones is originally from Spartanburg, SC. She first started coming to Second Presbyterian in 2006, when she attended the College of Charleston and MUSC College of Pharmacy. After graduating residency in 2012, she was lucky enough to stay on at MUSC as a clinical pharmacist. Brittany officially joined the Second Presbyterian family in 2018 and has been part of the Young Adults Bible Study and Women's Podcast Group. She lives in North Charleston with her husband Matt, daughters Ember and Madison. In her spare time, she loves reading, scrapbooking, live music, and going to hockey games.



Cynthia Dabney La Roche was born and raised in Camden and brought up in the First Baptist Church there where she was very active. She attended USC Columbia and graduated from Midlands Tech as a respiratory therapist in 1981 and was married a week later and was married for 23 years. She joined Second Presbyterian when her daughter was married here. She was attracted to the friendliness and diversity of the congregation. Her job involves working mostly with chronically ill and dying patients, as well as newborns. She is often in the position to witness and pray with and for patients. She loves her job and the chance God has given her to be a steward for His word.



Lucie Medbery grew up in the Disciples of Christ Church (Texas). She and Chuck settled in Kansas City for more than 20 years and retired in 2015 to Charleston, Chuck's hometown. This is their "family church," where their children were baptized and where their daughter got married. She is a retired teacher and has been involved in an outreach program with the Gibbes Museum of Art.



Brad Milner was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a graduate of University of Georgia, and lives on James Island. Brad's children, Bradshaw and Buckley, went to SPK and he has served on Session, as chairman of the Grounds Committee and the Men's Society and is currently involved in the Men's Bible Study.



Sarah Mitchell - After twenty plus years in St. Louis, Sarah and her husband, Marion, moved to Wadmalaw in 2011 and joined the Second family in 2012. She taught high school math and currently tutors at the Shaw Center. She enjoys conferences, crafts, and the bell choir.



Aled Pritchard was born and raised in Scotland and grew up in the Presbyterian church. He met his wife, Jordyn, while traveling in 2007 and immigrated when they married in 2008. They moved to Charleston in 2010 and found a home at Second Presbyterian in 2014. He enjoys traveling, rugby, and watching Everton and UGA football. Aled and Jordyn live in West Ashley with their three children.



SLATE OF NOMINEES



Felicia Sanders is a native of Charleston, is married, and has 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Felicia enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and caring for others. She is a faithful member of Second Presbyterian and gets great comfort from attending Bible study and working in the church. On June 17, 2015, Felicia was at Bible study along with 11 others, including her son Tywanza, Aunt Susie, and granddaughter. Tragically her son, aunt, and 7 others died. Since that fateful day, Felicia has been healing, caring for her granddaughter, and attending to speaking engagements related to the shooting at Emanuel.



David Savard retired and moved home to Charleston after 31 years with Westinghouse Electric and Eaton Corporation. During his career, he held positions focused on driving process improvements, building organizational capability and triggering business growth. David holds a degree in mechanical engineering and accounting from Duke and an MBA in industrial marketing from George Washington. An amateur pianist, composer and author, David has been a long-term member of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions team as well as serving as a director of the Pittsburgh Opera where he chaired the education committee and served as president of the opera guild. At home in Charleston, David is a member of the missions committee at Second Presbyterian, where he sings in the choir, and is chairman of the board of Hands of Christ. David is on the executive committee of the College of Charleston School of the Arts Dean's Council, serves on the communications committee of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League, and is vice-chair of the marketing and development committee of the Charleston Symphony.



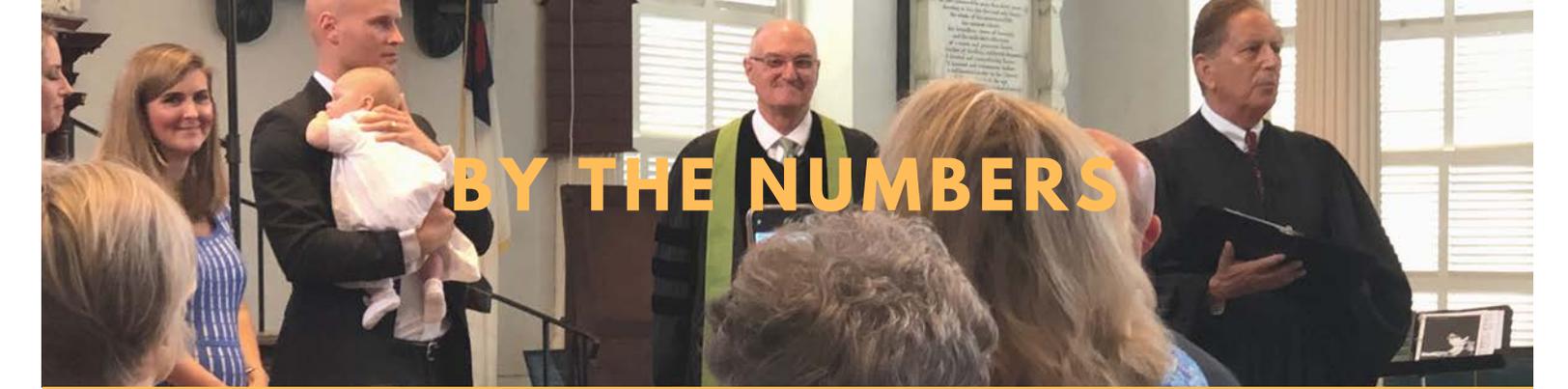
Nicole Schuerman moved to Charleston in 2016, joined Second in 2017 and has since frequently served as our greeter on Sunday mornings. She grew up in the Presbyterian Church in Illinois and loves to travel and read.



Debbie Smith is a native of Charleston and is retired from MUSC. She has been a member of Second Presbyterian Church since 1985 and has served and volunteered in various ways throughout the years. She is an avid gardener, enjoys word games, playing in the bell choir, travel and spending time with family and friends. Debbie has also volunteered her time in the community tutoring young children in reading. She lives on James Island with her husband of 46 years, Patterson and their two Chihuahuas. She has two grown children.



Lucas Willoughby is from the small town of Nichols, South Carolina. After completion of nursing school at Liberty University, he became a travel nurse and worked from New York to California. He made his way back to South Carolina and settled in Charleston in 2009. Lucas is a Nurse Anesthetist and is currently working at the VA. He and his wife Carrie attend Second Presbyterian with their 2 girls, Alice and Betty. Alice currently attends SPK and Betty will start next year. The family lives downtown and loves walking to activities. Lucas enjoys gardening, cooking, and spending time with family.



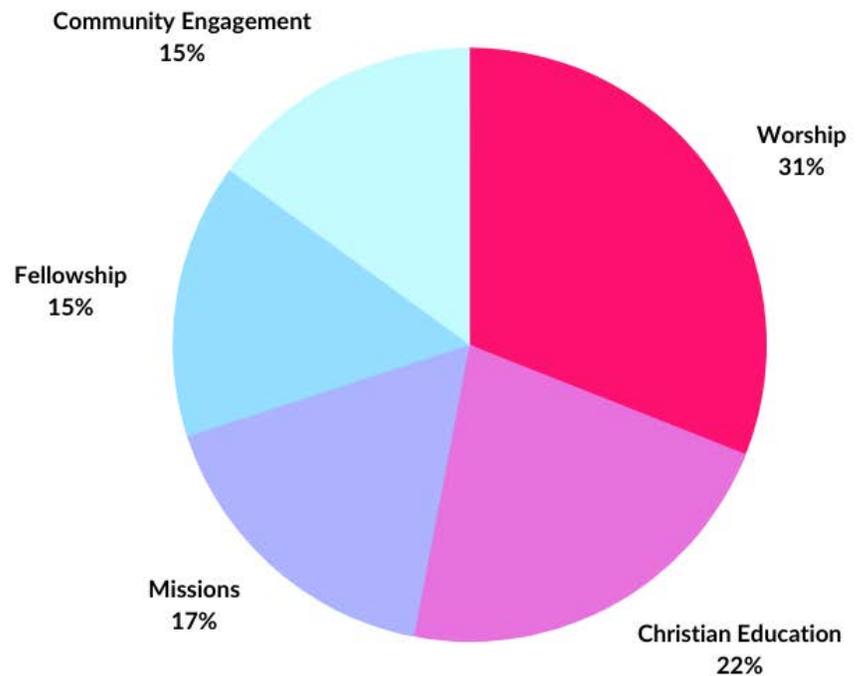
BY THE NUMBERS

2021 Church Statistical Report

Membership: 246
New Members: 8
Baptisms: 9

Certificate Transfer Loss: 1
Deaths: 5
Other Losses: 1

A narrative budget reveals the impact of your personal giving at and through Second Presbyterian Church because a budget is more than paying bills and funding an institution, it is doing the work of Christ. The story of the narrative budget unfolds in the pages of the annual report.



Narrative Budget

FUELING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

LIFE OF THE CHURCH



WORSHIP

Sunday worship, online church and special services

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Spiritual development opportunities for all ages on Sundays and midweek

MISSIONS

Meeting local, national and global organizations at their point of need

FELLOWSHIP

Providing opportunities for fellowship through hospitality, pastoral care and special events

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Providing use of the church space for the wider community



The life of the church is reflected within Second Presbyterian through worship, fellowship, Christian education and missions opportunities and as the body of Christ out in the world through our everyday lives. We get to respond to needs directly through community partnerships, special offerings, partnering with missionaries around the world. Through service and giving we get to engaging our congregation, including our children in the care of our neighbors at home and abroad. Your generous giving and volunteer hours also allow Second Pres to be an integral part of the community, opening our doors for concerts, special services and panel discussions, to house the Second Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool and camps like Vacation Bible School and Camp Wanza, and to provide rehearsal space for Charleston Gospel Choir and office space to Colour of Music Festival and Charleston Academy of Music.

Make sure you are signed up to receive our snapshot emails and follow the church social media channels to catch a glimpse of the work that goes on at and through Second Presbyterian Church throughout the year.

FIND LINKS AT WWW.2NDPC.ORG/CONNECT

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

There has been much music at our church since the onset of the COVID epidemic, as follows:

March - October 2020 – a quintet from our choir recorded groups of anthems every few weeks, which were then presented in our weekly livestream services. In October, 2020 we resumed in-person services, and the choir sang weekly, masked and distanced, and in special services for Christmas Eve 2020; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve, 2021. We have been singing without masks since the beginning of March, 2022.

We have had several guest musicians during these past two years: Regina Yost, flutist; Abigail Kent, harp; Micah and Rachel Gangwer, Graham Jones, Elaina Gable, Nina Sandberg, Elise Pickford, and Maria Savalyeva, strings; trumpeters Sue Messersmith, Christian Connell, Abby Jones, Kyle Lane, Katie Banish, and Grant Cordé; several guest singers as soloists or to supplement the choir; Grace Ramsay and Michelle Lincoln, gospel singers, and Anna Brock, gospel pianist. Members Clay Brock, violin and Nathan Walker, guitar, shared their gifts in the service.

This Holy Week we resumed our Community Maundy Thursday service and welcomed participation from Zion-Olivet and New Tabernacle Fourth Baptist churches. We hope to resume the Community Thanksgiving this year.

SANCTUARY CHOIR from Lee Lingle: I am extremely proud of the choir at Second Presbyterian. As I reflect on the past year I am still on a spiritual high from the amazing performance of three movements of Five Mystical Songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams, just this past Easter Sunday. I look forward to the remaining two movements in the coming weeks. During Advent we performed The Magnificat by Carl Theodore Pachelbel, and also works with Abby Kent on Harp. Shortly thereafter the women of the choir were also featured with the talented Abby performing Pablo Casal's Eucaristica.



My three favorite services here have to be the Community Thanksgiving Service along with Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday. All three are musical highlights of the year. The Maundy Thursday and Community Thanksgiving services involve our fellow area congregations and choirs and is an absolutely unique and fulfilling musical experience. Christmas music has always been my absolute favorite and the Choir always works extra hard to perform multiple moving works for the Christmas Eve service. I encourage any who have not been to these special services before to consider attending.

We are always looking to add more members to our choir family. It is such a special opportunity to come together to create something greater than we can on our own to glorify God. We have a lot of fun while working hard at this and welcome anyone of any ability to join us. All that is required is a love of music and a desire to sing. Please send me a message at lee.lingle@2ndpc.org if you are interested in joining us. Working with such wonderful musicians here at Second Presbyterian is an honor and privilege.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR from Director Clarissa Rider: The Children's Choir has been steadily improving this year, despite not exactly having a regular schedule. The children learn the music fairly quickly. On average, we have 6 children per rehearsal. Since we resumed rehearsals in October, 2021, the children have sung in the service 5 times, including the Christmas pageant. My goals for the 2022-23 year are to teach them some music basics (to include music note flashcards), to have a more set schedule for working with them, and to increase the number of children at rehearsals every Sunday.



BELL CHOIR:

Our bell choir resumed rehearsals in 2021; has rehearsed and played in the service approximately monthly, and continues to be an inspiring and close-knit group. Clarissa Rider joined the bell choir this year.

CONCERTS:

While COVID necessitated the cancellation of some visiting choirs, we were able to host the Stillman College Choir in March, 2022 and will have the choir of Wake Forest University in the service May 8th. We have been a concert venue for the College of Charleston and Taylor Festival Choirs, as well as Chamber Music Charleston, Eric Pickford, violin and flute, and Abigail Kent, harp, to name a few. In 2021 we hosted four concerts for Piccolo Spoleto and are on track to have six here this year for Piccolo 2022.



Charleston Academy of Music continues to be very active here, and has held numerous student recitals and competitions in our sanctuary and chapel. They are a Charleston's Choice winner for Best Music Instruction in town, so it is wonderful to have them on our premises.

Charleston Gospel Choir recently resumed rehearsals after COVID, and we look forward to more gospel music in the service in the

coming months. The Colour of Music Festival for African-American classical music and musicians is also headquartered here at Second, an organization with a growing national presence.

Our music program welcomes persons who wish to sing, play bells, or contribute their other musical talents. Please contact Lee, Clarissa or me at jharlow@2ndpc.org if you would like to be involved in any of our choirs or to play an instrument in the service. I would encourage all also to visit the Music page on the church website (www.2ndpc.org/music) to hear some of our anthems.

While this entry is lengthy, I hope it will have conveyed an idea of how important music is to Second Presbyterian, and thus also Second's importance to the larger cultural community of Charleston and beyond.

Dr. Julia Harlow, Director of Music and Organist
 Lee Lingle, Sanctuary Choir Director
 Clarissa Rider, Children's Choir Director





CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The pandemic obviously changed a lot of things for Christian Education, and we were gratefully able to adapt to the needs of the time. This year, however, with much consideration, we began the difficult task of reintegrating our programs back to accommodate in-person settings.

Sunday school for children resumed in the education building at 9:30 a.m. in September where Robbie Staubes teaches. We have welcomed parent volunteers in the nursery this year and we've had so many willing helpers for which we are grateful. We are looking forward to hiring another nursery worker for Sunday school and church soon because we did lose one of our college workers. We look forward to meeting needs and providing opportunities for fun and spiritual development in the next academic year.

Children's Chapel has been a wonderful addition this year. After Children's Time during the service each Sunday children are invited to Chapel for a time of fun and faith formation to learn songs, Bible basics, and how worship is a continuous response to God's grace.

We have also incorporated Children & Youth Sundays each month. We welcome the children's choir, a youth liturgist, children and youth ushers, and their help with a "lemonade stand" to benefit missions or Christian education initiatives on the portico after church on these special Sundays. The children have helped to bring awareness and raise funds for Thornwell, Souperbowl Sunday and Tywanza Sanders Legacy Foundation, and Walk for Water so far and held a bake sale in November which raised over \$900 which will go toward CE initiatives like VBS and fixing up the youth room.

We have been able to get back to in-person events too this year. In October we hosted a Trunk-or-Treat which we held in conjunction with SPK this year. The parking lot was full, the candy overflowed and SPK families and so many congregants decorated cars and dressed up for the event. The event was a success on many levels and some youth helped and stayed for pizza and s'mores. We look forward to more partnerships with SPK during the upcoming year.



Our children's Christmas pageant was able to return to the service in December with some COVID considerations. It was designed to work with limited practice because of the need for limited contact due to COVID. We were able to find a time for rehearsal and fun though. The week before the pageant we hosted Advent crafts in the park after church with pageant practice followed by a lunch that the hospitality committee helped to provide. I hope that this year we can start sooner and therefor have a more meaningful show.

Upon the request of Mary Driver as part of the CE committee, we added a family-friendly Christmas Eve service ahead of the usual midnight service. We had our youth sing during the prelude and any child was able to join in for a processional pageant at the beginning of the service. This service was a resounding success.

The COVID surge in January set back some things for 2022. We started the year with the disappointing reality of needing to cancel in-person programming in January, but things came back together in February. While Sunday school numbers have been small, there was an opportunity for youth to gather for a Lent Sunday school study and Chapel attendance has rebounded over the weeks. For the first time in 3 years we were able to host SPK Sunday with our preschool children and families.

The Easter Egg Hunt was supported by small groups who helped to stuff eggs and the congregation who brought in candy. It ended up being a wonderful community event.

This semester we have been busy with planning and coordinating things for Vacation Bible School for June 13-16, 2022. Please sign up, invite people and volunteer if you're available those mornings. We need the congregation to make this meaningful community event possible!

The past two years Bethelwoods and Montreat opportunities have been lost to COVID but we have some middle and high schoolers attending Montreat this summer. If you have a student interested in youth summer camps please let me know and we will get you information for this July. We are already working on 2023 plans for Bethelwoods and Montreat.

Over the past year I have started to record "children's time" videos and it is my hope that during the relative downtime of the summer I can add to our online children's sermon presence.

I hope that we might get back to a Wednesday church night in the future and we are looking forward to fun opportunities for fellowship which will hopefully include food trucks, movie nights, and game nights. We are excited about what the future holds, and it has been a joy to spend time with the children of Second Presbyterian this year.

- Ken Carrington, Director of Children and Youth



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult small groups are a great way to get involved, grow spiritually, and build relationships.

We continued to host a few small groups over Zoom at the beginning of the school year with the podcast group led by Mary Driver and Brittany Jones, the men's Friday morning Bible study led by Aled Pritchard, and Advent and Lent studies were offered online midweek as the semester progressed. The men's group continues to host an online option as they have members from out-of-state, but all other small groups are now maintained in person.



Grown out of some Zoom small groups, an intergenerational Presbyterian Women's Circle started meeting monthly on Robbie Staubes' porch in September. The time of fellowship and study has been a wonderful opportunity bringing together long-term members, newer members, and visitors alike. The group benefits from the great consideration of Sarah Mitchell, Lucie Medbery and Robbie Staubes who have shared the responsibility of leading this study of *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*.

After much time, prolonged by the pandemic, an LGBTQ small group finally started meeting in October 2021 under the leadership of Sarah Harbin and Jordyn Pritchard. This community small group meets monthly with a focus on LGBTQ issues and the Church.

We have two ongoing weekly small groups at this time, both of which are currently reading *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans. The Thursday night small group is led by Amy King and started in September by meeting each week in members' backyards around Charleston to discuss current issues and the beatitudes before starting a book study this semester meeting. The men's morning Bible study meets Fridays at 6 a.m. in the conference room with a Zoom option to accommodate multiple out-of-state members. Before *Wholehearted Faith*, they read and discussed Tim Keller's *The Reason for God* and *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life* by Rabbi Harold Kushner.

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in the yellow room, Sue Henderson leads a group through *The Present Word*, an adult Bible study curriculum that goes through the Bible over a six-year period. Each quarter works its way through different books of the Bible and focuses on a different theme to discover a deeper meaning of scripture and how it is relevant to our world today. During Lent this Sunday school class used the time for devotions and discussion based on a selection of Kate Bowler's *Good Enough* devotions.

The *Good Enough* devotionals also fueled our Lenten church devotional reflections written by Margaret Fleming, Bill Jewell, Jordyn Pritchard, and Dan Tenpas. We also enjoyed Advent devotional emails from Margaret Fleming this year.

- Jordyn Pritchard, Director of Community and Communications

MISSIONS

The Mission Team of David Savard, Joel Dettweiler, Patterson Smith, Marion Mitchell, Cathy Hinson, and Sarah Mitchell will welcome anyone who would like to join.

The Mission Team continues to be governed by Matthew 25:35-40. And as we are in the season of the One Great Hour of Sharing, we hear the words of Isaiah 58, "You shall be called Repairers of the Breach", as we provide relief from natural and human caused disasters and support for the poor and oppressed. The other denomination-wide special offerings we join are next the Pentecost offering in June, nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come - children, youth, and young adults. The portion that we retain goes to our VBS. Then the Peace and Global Witness offering is received on World Communion Sunday in October, with our retained portion going to the Tywanza Sanders Legacy Foundation. The Christmas Joy special offering is received the Sunday before Christmas.

The Mothers' Day Offering, received throughout the state, supports those residents of the Presbyterian (Retirement) Communities of South Carolina who have outlived their savings. The Thornwell offering, received in November, supports Thornwell's work in building strong families as well as in helping children and youth who need a family. Our Hands of Christ offering in July supports our presbytery-wide mission to supply school clothing and school supplies to children whose families cannot afford them. We are thrilled that this year Second Church will again be a location for distribution of clothing and supplies, with ample opportunity for volunteers to participate.

In March, the "Second to None" team from our church participated in the Walk for Water, a fundraiser and educational experience held by Water Mission. The team, captained by Jessica Brock and family, along with more than a dozen other walkers and donors raised almost \$800 for this organization, which helps villagers all over the world provide safe, clean water for their people.

The Mission Coworker whom our church helped to support in South Sudan, Leisa Wagstaff, has retired. The Mission Team has voted to support, and the Session has approved the support of Steve and Sonia Dettweiler in Nigeria, where they are working with a team of Nigerians to make translations of the Bible into the many different languages in that country. Our support goes through Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The Medical Benevolence Foundation, or just MBF, is another organization that Second Presbyterian has been working with for many decades. They support medical missions, historically all over the world, but more recently primarily in Haiti and several countries in Africa. We are planning for an event in the fall to celebrate our long connection with MBF and to learn more about the new model in medical missions.

Another opportunity for volunteers is the mission fundraiser "Seconds Please" Tea Room in May. We have been blessed in the past with generous amounts raised for missions local and international, and the outdoor "Sandwich Stop" fundraiser last year was an amazingly successful substitute. We look forward this year to being indoors again. Watch for more information about how to participate.

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:35-40



DIACONATE

Quarterly Meetings

July 2021 · October 2021 · January 2022 · April 2022

Summer/Fall 2021:

Officers of the Diaconate and Chairs of Committees elected. Deacon of the month list created. Joint meeting of the Diaconate and Session in September (deacons provide dinner).

Second Church Sandwich Stop (May 28 & 29th)

The annual Tea Room was not held due to indoor Covid restrictions. In an effort to raise funds for missions it was thought that a smaller outdoor event might work well. A fundraiser was approved by the Session and was organized by Debbie Smith, Dawn McCready & Carol Howe in support of our Missions Committee and the community. Members of the congregation served as volunteers. All items for this fundraiser were donated. Proceeds of approximately \$1,400 was raised in support of the Missions Committee of Second Church.

Second Chance Tag Sale (October 7th preview & October 8-9 general public)

This fundraiser was coordinated by Dawn McCready with assistance from Debbie Smith and Lucie Medbery. Throughout the month of September volunteers from the congregation helped organize the donated items for sale. Fundraiser was successful in raising approximately \$7,000 for the upkeep and beautification of our Church Graveyard. The Graveyard is an extension of Second Presbyterian Church as well as an important part of the community.



Winter/Spring 2021-22

- In honor of our Veterans, American Flags were placed along the center path of our Graveyard and at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Veterans Day – November 11th
- Receptions were held in the Fellowship Hall as requested by families after funeral services...December 2nd (Likes family), December 18th (Cook family), and January 28th (Luhn family). Receptions were organized by the Hospitality Committee (Carol Howe, Chair)
- Letter sent to Session on February 5th regarding proposals for upcoming events. Proposals were approved by Session.
- Sunday, April 3rd - Deacons assisted with reception for kindergarten families following Church service.
- Sunday, April 10th - Palm Sunday Picnic in the Park. Decision was made to have dinner inside due to the chilly weather. Well organized by our Hospitality Committee and was a lovely event, well attended and enjoyed by the congregation. Great fellowship and food.
- As well as the information listed above in our annual report, Deacons assist with small projects and help with the upkeep and beautification of our buildings and property. We are committed to working together to serve and care for our congregation and it is our hope that our Church will continue to grow and thrive for years to come.

- Debbie Smith, Moderator, and Dawn McCreedy, Co-Moderator



HOSPITALITY

The Deacons continue to supply and serve refreshments after the church service each week. All Deacons are encouraged to ask other friends and members to help them pour lemonade, etc. It is most efficient to have 2 servers, but one Deacon and one non deacon is acceptable. Let's try to get participation from the congregation at large to introduce them to the role of Deacons I The Deacon of the month can also be called upon if another person is needed.

The Deacons assisted SPK with a reception following Kindergarten Sunday on April 3. We hosted a new event a Palm Sunday Picnic which was moved to the fellowship hall instead of the park because of the weather, but it was a wonderful event with food provided by the deacons and Dawn and Debbie made the planned yard games work for fun inside.

Deacons will assist with funeral receptions, if requested by the families.

- Carol Howe



CARE TEAM

The goal of the Care Team is to strengthen bonds, love, and support for members of our Church family. We realize that the needs of the congregation are constantly changing and try our best to stay in touch with those that need help or support with whatever comes their way. Sometimes we help when times are difficult and at other times we help celebrate the many joys along the way. In the past our team assisted In transportation, provided meals, visited with members ... due to social distancing we were not able to visit as much as we have done in the past. However, the team continued to send encouraging notes and cards and reached out with telephone calls, an email or text. We contacted homebound members and offered support and hope to develop new ways to increase the care and interactions of our church family. Members of the congregation are invited to participate in Care Team activities.

- Debbie Smith

CONNECTIONS

This past year, we combined two committees, Communications and Assimilation, to form the Connections Committee. This committee is tasked with engaging and connecting people to the life of the church and the needs of the community. This change was beneficial in avoiding duplication of efforts by teams to help increase membership and involvement with events and services.

Second Presbyterian has an active presence on social media with regular posts about what is upcoming. This helps coincide with the increase in streaming of our services due to the pandemic. There is a weekly snapshot e-newsletter that goes out regarding Sunday service as well as upcoming events. We had a unique opportunity for outreach to advertise through ads with Harris Teeter Pharmacy and increase the mail out flyers of upcoming events. In regards to specific events for the Connections Committee, an opportunities fair was held in September to increase interest and volunteers for each of the different committees at Second Presbyterian.

In the upcoming year, we hope to continue efforts of engagement as well as potentially inviting food trucks and local vendors to come to Wragg Square. The committee believes that this type of event is a great opportunity to support the community while also increasing interest in Second Presbyterian. For current members, we are finalizing a survey to send out now that we are in a place with the pandemic where we can finally, hopefully, plan ahead with more confidence. The results of this survey will help the committee determine the strengths and hidden talents of Second Presbyterian member to be able to help plan future events and increase involvement in the upcoming months and years. We appreciate all the support from members, old and new, so we can make this year even better!

- Brittany Jones





Second Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten has nearly completed our 45th year of offering young children in the Charleston Area a safe, happy environment for learning. We welcome children ages 18 months through five to participate in the program. Our teachers provide positive discipline and teaching skills. They take pride in making the classrooms inviting and in the careful planning of developmentally sound learning activities.

We have a very active Parents' Guild to help with events and fundraising.

- The Guild provides a special breakfast once a month for our teachers.
- Parents' Guild funds pay for safe and effective mosquito and gnat control.
- The Guild helps maintain the back entrance to the grounds and the play areas and this year added durable picnic tables for outside classroom activities.
- The Parents' contributed over \$12,000 to rebuild the playground apparatus.

The Weekday Program serves 64 children. The school is a Christ centered program and the Christian atmosphere is most visible on Wednesday mornings when we gather to worship in the Chapel. Parents sometimes join us at this joyful time to praise God through the Word, music, prayers and stories. Ken Carrington, provides a special child friendly teaching from the Bible and we sing, pray and praise! Pastor Cress is on hand also and gives our children the closing blessing. The church staff and the staff of the weekday program work closely together spread the gospel to young children. The school organized Kindergarten Sunday with special music lead by our music teacher, Ms. Sarah-Elizabeth Craw. Over 200 church members and kindergarten families were present for this celebration. Our Deacons provided assistance and wonderful food for the reception. What a joyful event!

Our staff worked diligently through the pandemic to keep our children and teachers safe. We had a great success at SPK and we had only a small number of cases that were carefully contained. We are proud of the way our families responded to some very strict policies. We have only recently removed our mask mandate and are enjoying the sight of many smiling faces at our school.

We are truly grateful to be a part of this fine program at Second Presbyterian Church.

- Sue Henderson and Erin Kerr, Co-Directors

School staff:

Sue Henderson and Erin Kerr: Co-Directors

Sarah Elizabeth Craw: Music and Spanish

Kristi Meeuwse: Kindergarten Teacher

Ken Carrington: Asst. Kindergarten Teacher

Allie Wilkins and Rachel Horne: Pre-K (4) teachers

Chris Bailey and Amy Prause: Preschool (3) teachers

Sue McManus, Mary Brown, Alston Knaus and Ellie Stoney : Preschool (2) teachers



FINANCE

The past year was a financial challenge for several reasons. Due to the pandemic, the church attendance was much reduced. As a consequence, tithes and giving was lower than budgeted. Our church finances are supported when required by a modest sum of long term investment funds. Even with the financial challenges of the prior year, no funds were withdrawn.

The session approved a new budget for 2022. It is balanced only due to projected withdrawal from the investment funds in the amount of \$90,259. Reductions from the investment funds over time threaten the financial security of the church.



In 2021, the good news was, the church received government assistance in the form of a grant specific to retain personnel. The result was an active ministry that sustained the importance of the church in God's kingdom. Today tenants are occupying most the vacant space and rental income help to meet property expenses. We will continue to be active in seeking this source of income. We only allow appropriate use, for example, the Charleston Academy of Music and the Colour of Music offices.

- Patterson Smith



PROPERTY

The exterior restoration of the bell tower and portico are complete. This work was funded by donations from the congregation and proceeds from the insurance company proceeds resulting from the fire loss on April 19, 2020. The work includes an upgrade of the fire suppression system as required by the City of Charleston Fire Marshall. A generous donation from a newly joined couple, Judy and Chris Olson, allowed the continuation of the exterior renovation. The additional restoration is on the Charlotte Street side of the church (photo from July 2021). Completion of this work will exhaust the available funds. Restoration of the remaining two sides of this sacred and historic Sanctuary must eventually be done in order to maintain the structure.

Prayerfully, with additional contributions, the work can continue. A dedicated construction crew is available and the restoration work will never be less expensive than it is now.

- Patterson Smith



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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