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ANNUAL REPORT



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHARLESTON

2NDPC.ORG



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..... 3
What We Believe 5
Church Leaders..... 7
By the Numbers 8
Life of the Church 9
Music & Worship 10
Christian Education 17
Missions 20
Hospitality..... 23
Care Team 24
Connections 25
SPK 26
Property 28
Finance..... 29

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

342 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403

843.723.9237
2ndpc.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ –

Please read this report carefully. You'll note many of the pictures bear witness to the pandemic that still raged, but when not covered by masks you'll see the smiles of your community gathering in obedience, in purpose, for fellowship and ...fun!



Our decisions were guided by medical authorities. Our caution was blessed – and our boldness in developing new ways to proclaim the 'ol' story' of Jesus and his love reached many beyond the walls and have borne fruit for God's realm.

As you page through, you'll see evidence of the challenges we face, but you'll see that we face them together as we follow Jesus.

Share the book. Share the story. Invite any and all into a dynamic relationship with Jesus. It's what we get to do!

With great joy in being your pastor and in great anticipation –



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 2NDPC.ORG/CONNECT



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.



**"GOD IS LOVE AND THOSE WHO ABIDE IN LOVE ABIDE
IN GOD AND GOD ABIDES IN THEM."**

1 John 4:16





CHURCH LEADERS

ELDERS

Class of 2023 | Jessica Brock, Wendy Jewell, Sarah Mitchell, Lucas Willoughby

Class of 2024 | Ken Carrington, Brittany Jones, Patterson Smith, Chris Olson

Class of 2025 | Brad Milner, Stuart Cochrane, Felicia Sanders, Wendy Jewell

DEACONS

Class of 2023 | Sue Barnett, Carol Howe, David B King, Erin Mellen, Judy Olson

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

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

NOMINATING TEAM

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

SLATE OF NOMINEES

Elder for Class of 2025 | Wendy Jewell

Elders for Class of 2026 | Jessica Brock, Sharon Hoffman, Bill Holley, Tim Killen

Deacon for Class of 2026 | Carol Howe, David King, Judy Olson, Melissa Yates

Nominating Team for 2024 | Gary Jaffe, Katie Luciano, Aled Pritchard, Nicole Schuerman, Wendy Jewell (session), Brittany Jones (session), Lucie Medbery (diaconate), Rev. Cress Darwin (ex-officio)

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

President | Spence Roddy

Vice President | Patterson Smith

Secretary | Peggy Pinckney



BY THE NUMBERS

2022 CHURCH STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership: 231

New Members: 12

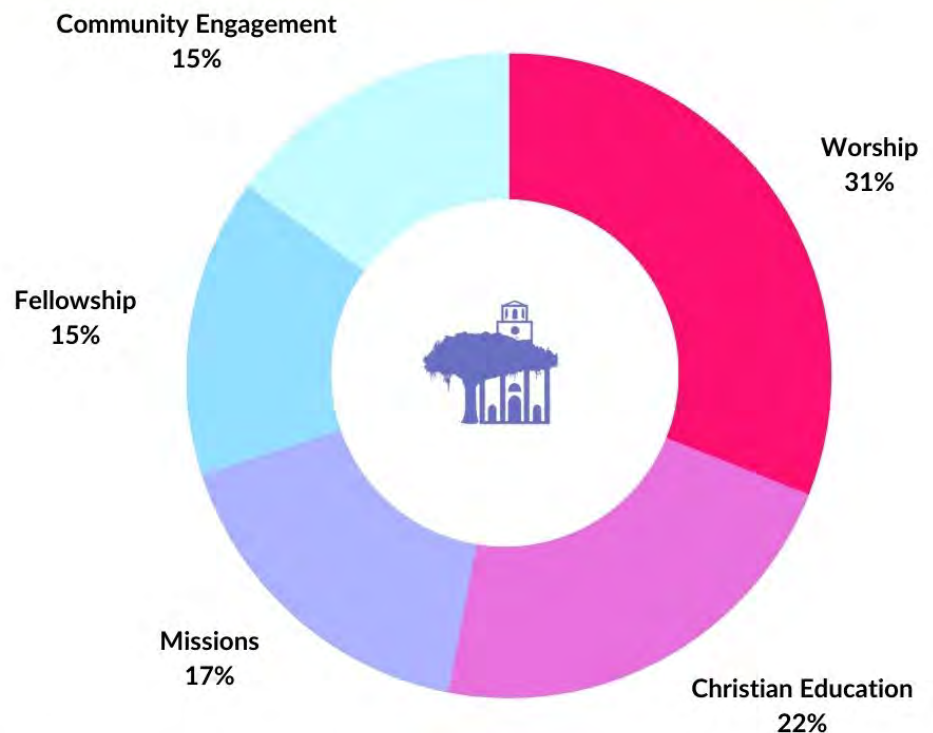
Baptisms: 7

Certificate Transfer Loss: 2

Deaths: 4

Other Losses: 21

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 Taylor Festival Choir and office space to Colour of Music Festival and Charleston Academy of Music.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP TEAM

Your Music and Worship team works with the pastor in planning all worship experiences of Second Presbyterian Church. The Music and Worship team roster includes; Sarah Mitchell, Wendy Jewell, Erin Mellen, Carol Howe, Peggy Pickney, Felicia Sanders and Judy Olson. Ex-officio members include Dr. Julia Harlow, Lee Lingle and Ken Carrington. We would encourage anyone who has ideas on deepening the spiritual experience of our worship and music, is able to attend three fourths of our meetings and available to assist with our weekly and special services please contact Wendy Jewell. The roster for voting purposes will close July 1st for the 2023-2024 calendar year. Everyone is always welcome to attend any meeting throughout the year to offer input.

Ushering Protocol- “People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but people will never forget the way you made them feel.” - Maya Angelou. Christianity and hospitality go hand in hand, so each person who enters God’s house needs to feel welcomed and cared for. This initial responsibility falls to our ushers as the face of the church. Therefore, being ready to serve others by being welcoming, covering any need that may arise and remaining alert to respond in case of an emergency are our duties. Ushering teams have been formed for the remainder of 2023, however eight slots remain if you are able to serve four Sundays yet this year please contact Wendy Jewell. It is a great way to meet new people!

Safety- To improve our readiness, we have purchased new first aid kits, one for each building and a second AED to be hung near the restroom in the Sanctuary building. The education building has an AED in the lower hall way, where new pads have been purchased.



“People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but people will never forget the way you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou

Parents with Infants- In order to meet the needs of our growing number of parents with young children, we have placed a rocking chair in the narthex so a child may be comforted without the parent having to miss the service. We hope to have a foldable changing table available in the sanctuary building as well in the near future.

New Sound System- We purchased a new audio/visual system for the Sanctuary this past November. Ken Carrington and Rob McCready have meticulously installed it and are training people to operate. We now have five cameras that can capture any event during a service. This will make a video package available to a competitive price for all weddings, concerts etc... held in our Sanctuary. It will also allow live streaming to our community across the country. And if anyone is shopping for a church online it would be awesome if we had more people sitting toward the center of the church to show we are alive and growing. It also lends itself to passing the peace and participating in singing.





Incorporation of Presbyterian Creeds- In The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions, the church declares to its members and to the world what it is, what it believes and what it resolves to do. Each creed comes from a particular time, place and circumstance in history and are intended to guide the church in its study of the scriptures and direct the church in maintaining sound doctrines. We have included The Theological Declaration of Barmen, The Confession of 1967, A Brief Statement of Faith, the Belhar Confession in addition to the Apostle's Creed thus far in our services. Each has a clarification to our beliefs in direct response to the injustices of the time. A symposium was held in November for all who were interested in learning more. The Presbyterian Theoacademy offers additional tutorials on the various creeds and catechisms that can be viewed on YouTube or offered if there is an interest. It would also make a good weekly group study.

Music- Gospel Sundays are well received and additional requests have been made to further the range of instrumentation and songs we sing. If you play an instrument and would like to share your talent in worship please contact Dr. Julia Harlow. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Lee Lingle.

Offering- On the back of each pew we now have an array of ways to contribute your offering through our online servicing platform Realm® via text or online or Venmo QR code.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Jewell
Chair of Music and Worship





CHRISTMAS EVE



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING, MAUNDY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

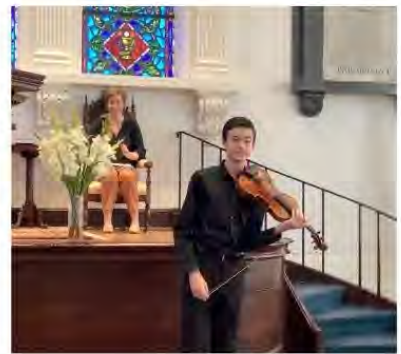


MUSIC AND WORSHIP

We've had a busy musical year since last year's annual report. The choir has sung in services nearly every week. This year the choir also provided music for special services: our Community Thanksgiving Service, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We have begun a monthly Gospel music service (fourth Sunday) and have had nine of those, featuring guest vocalist and keyboard. The bell choir has played in service approximately monthly. We have new members in both choir (Alex Treyz) and the bell choir (Katie Luciano and Sally McDuffie) and we continue to have fun and meaningful learning experiences in both. We are always open for new members in the choir and bell choir; please contact Lee Lingle or me for more information. Prior music knowledge isn't really necessary - you can have fun and learn at the same time.

Our soprano section leader / children's choir director Clarissa Rider recently resigned to return to graduate school, and we're grateful for her years with us. We have had freelance singers and are searching for a more permanent replacement.

We had guest instrumentalists in the service 14 times this past year, 10 of those were free "thank you" performances from young musicians who used our facilities for concerts or recording sessions. We hosted the Choir of Wake Forest University, NC in May, '22 for a concert and service, and the CSU flute choir in November. We hosted several concerts for Piccolo Spoleto in 2022, as well as for the C of C Choir and Taylor Festival professional choir. We just recently hosted three senior recitals for students at College of Charleston, and last June, a concert in honor of Denmark Vesey.



As Charleston Academy of Music is in residence here, we have many young musicians and their families coming and going weekly for lessons, classes and studio recitals. Second Presbyterian Church is becoming known as a music hub in Charleston. Musicians who play in our sanctuary consistently comment on the fine acoustics.

Coming up, we hope to have an outdoor service (weather permitting) on May 14th. We will host Boston area classical pianist Dr. Young Woong Cho, in concert on May 23rd at 7:00 pm and in the service on May 21st. The Charleston Gospel Choir, also in residence here, will provide music for the June 4th service. We will continue to have some guest instrumentalists before the summer break. Music continues to be an important part of worship here at Second.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Julia Harlow
Director of Music



I continue to be humbled and in awe of the dedication and hard work of the members of the Second Presbyterian Choir. As I write this I am reflecting most on the moving services of the Lenten season culminating in an incredible Easter service celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death. The choir's two largest offerings in the year are both evening services, Maundy Thursday Tenebrae and Christmas Eve. The choir works really hard for these services and continually provides spiritually moving music at these services. I encourage everyone to attend next year's services, if you are not already in the habit of doing so!



As we continue to move forward in post-Covid music-making, I am pleased to report that the choir is growing once again. We have welcomed Alex Treyz into our fold and recently, Robbie Staubes has joyfully added her voice once again. That being said, we are always looking to add more singers of any ability to our choir family.



All that is required is a desire to sing in praise of Christ. Rehearsals are Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 pm. Email me or call me if you would care to join us!

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Lingle
Chancel Choir Director





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





TRUNK OR TREAT



BAKE SALE



SPK SUNDAY



EASTER EGG HUNT



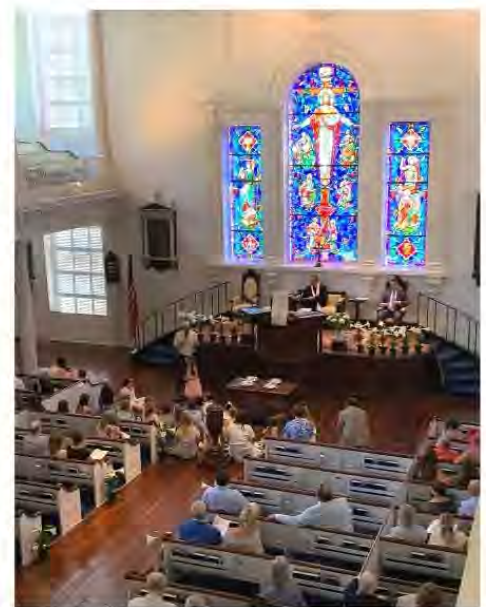
CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Looking at the pandemic in the rear-view mirror has made things easier and more difficult at the same time. This year we began the task of getting back to normal with a whole new set of norms. Sunday school for children resumed in the education building at 9:30 a.m. in September, but we quickly lost our long-time bible school teacher. We have welcomed parent volunteers in the nursery this year and we've had so many willing helpers for which we are grateful. We did hire a new nursery worker for Sunday school to replace the student worker we had. We now have one "adult" worker, as well as the new college aged Sunday employee. Children's Chapel has continued to grow this year. After Children's Time during the service each Sunday children are, once again, 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. Christian education initiatives on the portico after church on special Sundays. The children have helped to bring awareness and raise funds for Thornwell, Souper bowl Sunday and Tywanza Sanders Legacy Foundation. We also pushed for Walk for Water and held a bake sale which raised over \$500 which will go toward CE initiatives like VBS and fixing up the youth room. Speaking of the youth room, it has been fixed up to include a basketball shooting game, ping-pong, air hockey, and foosball. We have been able to get back to in-person events too this year, including a monthly Kid's Night at the church. In October we again hosted a Trunk-or-Treat which we held in conjunction with SPK. The parking lot was full, the candy overflowed and SPK families and so many congregants decorated cars and dressed up for the event. 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 limited COVID considerations. It was designed to work with limited practice because of the need for limited contact. We were able to find a time for rehearsal and fun though. We continued a family-friendly Christmas Eve service Christmas Eve afternoon. 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. 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. Poor weather forced us both indoors and out, but it still ended up being a wonderful community event.

I do hope to get back to recording "Children's Time" from our Sunday church service. The additional video uploads should help on many levels.

This semester we have been busy with planning and coordinating things for Vacation Bible School for the week of July 10th, 2023. Please sign up, invite people and volunteer if you're available those mornings. We need the congregation to make this meaningful community event possible! We have begun blocking time for both adults and children for the fall and next summer. If you have a student interested in youth summer camps, please let me know and we will get you the information. As an adult, if you are interested in Montreat or Bethelwoods, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Carrington
Director of Children and Youth CE



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

We were able to continue many of our small groups in person this year that had developed on Zoom during the pandemic. So many relationships have blossomed over the last few years that has made for a wonderful transition to readily invite new people into fellowship and meaningful conversation, growing closer to God and one another. If you haven't had the chance to attend a small group, I encourage you to come sometime. They are great spaces to be known and nurtured.



On Sunday mornings, Sue Henderson led a group that will continue meeting into May. This study continues 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.

Book Club is back! Second Edition Book Club began meeting again in early 2023 for the first time since the pandemic. So far they have read *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright and *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson. Their next read is *By the Rivers of Babylon* by local author Mary Glickman. Sallie Schuh helped run and make book selections for the Book Club for many years and was excited about getting the group back together when it was time. She would love to know that the group is back together enjoying a good book and each other's company again. If you want more information about the group, please contact Fred Schuh or Peggy Pinckney.

Advent devotions in 2022 went out weekly following the seasonal themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Each devotional was inspired by our 2020 Zoom Advent lessons adapted from *Shadow and Light* by Tsh Oxenreider and *In Light and Darkness* published by Illustrated Ministries.

The weekly Lenten emails were reflections based on selections from the study guide *Bless the Lent We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Emails and midweek small group discussions were developed from this book and study guide and it proved to be a meaningful journey through the season of Lent.

I continue to thoroughly enjoy working with small group leaders to develop curriculum and build community around the good news of the gospel. I am grateful for each of you who have been a part of the conversations and belonging offered through these community spaces.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Pritchard
Director of Community and Communications



Intergenerational Women's Bible Study

From September to May, women from all ages met monthly at Robbie Staubes' home to consider and discuss the significance of the Sabbath, using the 2022-2023 PW/Horizons Bible Study program entitled "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight," by Carol M. Bechtel. The nine lessons in this program (led by different participants) fostered discussions of how honoring the Sabbath informed and strengthened each woman's spiritual journey. These monthly meetings provided an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship.

-Lucie Medbery

Inclusive Community Group

The monthly Tuesday small group, our LGBTQ+ focused gathering, has enjoyed fellowship and fantastic conversation during its second year meeting. This group discusses theology and Christian life as LGBTQ+ and ally people, using the More Life Presbyterian lectio divina and other topics of meaning to the group. We saw over 30 participants in the 2022 Charleston Pride!

-Sarah Harbin Coleman

Thursday Night Bible Study

In the second year of this Bible study, we met weekly and discussed a variety of subjects. We met many weeks at the the Pritchards' home, a few weeks at group members Emma and Katie's home, and public spaces, including restaurants for dinner. We had a core group of six members regularly attend, with a couple more occasionally attending. We discussed a range of topics such as Christian Nationalism, Advent, Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Black History Month (including the stories posted on the church website,) social justice, a seven week Lent Study by Kate Bowler, and we are finishing with various group members choosing the topic and leading discussion for the month of May. This group has become a safe space for a community of believers to come together and make sense of what is happening in the world. Group members have shared personal experiences and personal struggles in a supportive environment. We grappled with scripture and how it applies to our experience in the world today. It has truly been a privilege and blessing to lead this group of amazing people.

-Amy L. King





MISSIONS

- As in the Easter season of every year, we at Second Presbyterian joined others of the PC(USA) in the One Great Hour of Sharing. This gift feeds the hungry around the world, aids in repairs in disaster areas, and helps those in crisis in self-development projects.
- On Mother's Day, we remembered those living in the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina who have outlived their retirement savings. With other churches around the state, we gave to allow them to stay on in their living quarters.
- At the end of May, we were thrilled to have the Seconds Please Tea Room back in business. This is a way we raise funds for specific local and global mission projects. We were able to send checks to Star Gospel Mission, where homeless men get a place to stay, good meals, and a fresh start in this Christ-centered place, to Sea Island Hunger Awareness Foundation, which supports several meals and grocery programs, and to the Shaw Center down the street, serving neighborhood children and youth. Our church has for most of MBF's sixty years supported this medical missions organization, started by medical missionaries who realized the necessity of training local medical personnel. We hosted in October a doctor from Malawi and learned from him some of the new ways that training is being carried out in Africa. We were able to send funds to support that work. We are also participating in a small way in Bible translations in Nigeria. "Our" mission co-workers Sonia and Steve Dettweiler of Wycliffe Bible Translators report about their work in making the Gospel available in the many, many languages of that country. Another check went to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, aiding in hurricane/cyclone damaged areas of the world.
- The Pentecost offering, usually in June, is the second of our four denomination-wide special offerings. The emphasis is support for work with children and youth. A portion of the offering can be retained for use by the congregation, and ours was used for Vacation Bible School.

*Jesus said,
 "I was hungry and you fed me,
 I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
 I was homeless and you gave me a room,
 I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
 I was sick and you stopped to visit,
 I was in prison and you came to me...
 Whenever you did one of these things to
 someone overlooked or ignored,
 that was me - you did it to me."*

Matthew 25: 35, 36, 40 (MSG)



- As summer progressed, we began preparing for the Hands of Christ event, when we give out school clothing and supplies to children in kindergarten through grade 8. The congregation gave an abundance of supplies or money to buy more of what was needed, and the clothing was supplied by the purchasing team at Westminster Presbyterian, central to all the distribution churches. On distribution day the first week-end in August, with David Savard as site coordinator, each child was greeted by her/his “personal shopper”, and they made the rounds of the different stations to pick out their clothing and supplies. This is a meaningful way to volunteer for the Kingdom of God. This year our distribution will be on August 12th; so look for the sign-up poster!
- On the first Sunday of October, we celebrated Worldwide Communion and also gave to the third church-wide special offering, Peace and Global Witness. Again a portion stayed with our congregation, and we passed that on to the Tywanza Sanders Legacy Foundation for scholarships going to students who write of their hope and plans for reconciliation.
- November is Remember Thornwell Month. Thornwell has expanded its work as a home for orphans to being a center for building strong families. We gave our offerings of support on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
- In December, the fourth church-wide special offering, Christmas Joy, was given the Sunday before Christmas. This goes to retired pastors and other church workers who find themselves in need of extra support for an emergency or other life change. It also goes to students in Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools who are preparing for serving in the church.
- In March, we came full circle as we “Walked for Water” to support Water Mission. Twenty-one members signed up to join Team Captain Jessica Brock in the Second to None team. They raised over \$1000 to support this local organization which does so much around the world to help people have safe drinking water!

We welcome any member of Second to join the Mission Team. There are so many ways to serve Christ as we serve his people. Please contact Sarah or Marion Mitchell, Joel Dettweiler, Patterson Smith, or David Savard.

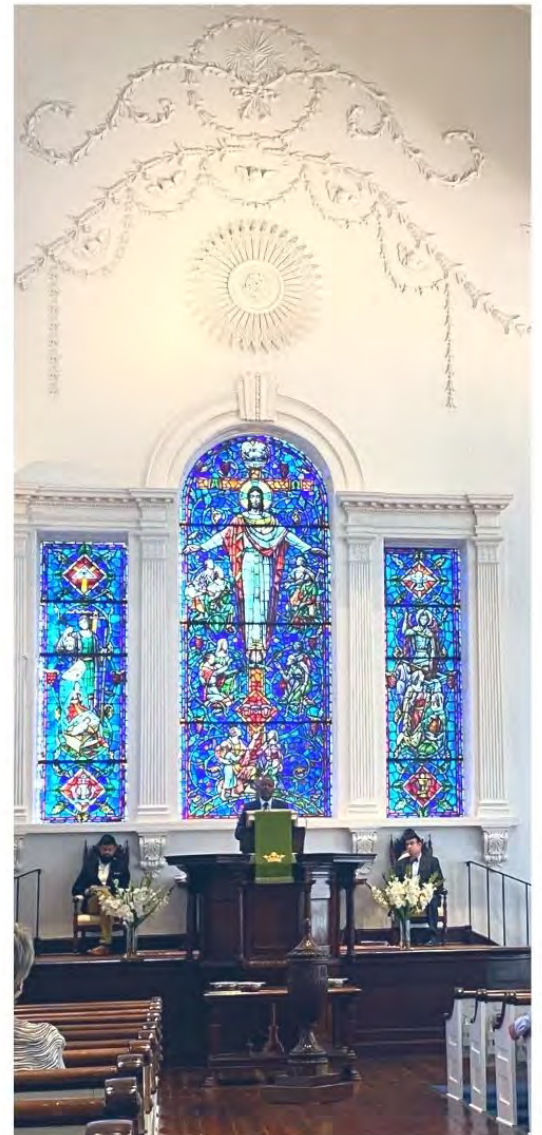
Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Mitchell
Chair of Missions



TEA ROOM MISSIONS FUNDRAISER



TAG SALE



WORSHIPPING WITH YOUTH MISSION & MBF

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality committee is an arm of the diaconate. The committee is responsible for providing and serving refreshments after church each week. We also organize other meals and activities throughout the year, usually on a quarterly basis.

In September we kicked off Homecoming Sunday with a reception. In December we provided refreshments during the installation of the Christmas tree. In January we hosted "Souper Bowl Sunday" – a meal of soup and salads as a Second Sunday lunch theme. In March we provided a reception for Kindergarten Sunday for the families and guests of SPK. Also in March the team made a meal for Wednesday night supper. In April we will have a Palm Sunday picnic in the park.

The entire diaconate brings and contributes food for these events. Often we will put out a donation basket to offset the costs associated (paper products, etc)

Further events are in discussion and will be presented to the communication team as information is available.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Howe
Hospitality chair



PALM SUNDAY PICNIC





SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH



CARE TEAM

The goal of the Congregational Care Committee (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 and/or support with whatever comes their way. We help our congregation through difficult times, and we celebrate the many joys along the way as well.

Over the past year the Committee has assisted with transportation to and from Church & doctor's appointments. We have provided meals and visitation in the home and hospital. The Committee also sends encouraging notes and cards and reaches out to members with telephone calls, an email or text. We continually contact homebound members and offer support to those that may need encouragement through a difficult time.

The Committee hopes to develop new ways to increase the care and interactions of our Church family. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to participate in Congregational Care Committee activities throughout the year. The Committee includes members of the Diaconate as well as members from the congregation at large.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Smith
Care Team Chair

CONNECTIONS

The Connections Committee continued to find ways on how to reach out to the community and to members to disseminate what we are doing at Second Presbyterian. For current and new members, we were able to create a survey to match up members with their interest areas. We appreciate everyone who has filled out the survey as this has proven very helpful. You can continue to find the survey on the church website.

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 newsletter that goes out regarding Sunday service as well as upcoming events. Lastly this year, we had a unique opportunity to market through sending postcards to new people who recently moved to the Charleston area. We will continue this campaign on a regular basis to help spread the word and gain interest for new membership. In regards to specific events for the Connections Committee, an opportunities fair was held in September to increase interest and volunteers in each of the different committees at Second Presbyterian.

In the upcoming year, we hope to increase exposure to Second Presbyterian through our continued efforts above 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. We appreciate all the support from members, old and new, so we can make this year even better!

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Jones
Connections Committee chair



SIGN UP FOR CHURCH TEXT MESSAGES
TEXT @2PCCHURCH TO 81010

Second Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten has nearly completed our 46th 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. Our main fundraising event is the annual Christmas Wreath Sale and the Spring Auction.

- The Guild helps maintain the back entrance to the grounds and the play areas and this year provided funds for landscape improvements to the parking lot (over \$2,000.) The Guild also paid to replace the unsightly chain link fence so that we now have a consistent, attractive fence to enclose the play areas (\$1,500.) This spring a new security system is being installed on the school doors (\$3,700.) with funds provided by our Parents' Guild. We are very grateful for the fundraising efforts and contributions that our school family provides to help make the campus safe and attractive.
- The Guild provides special gifts and meals for our staff throughout the school year.
- Our parents provide for classroom improvements and fill teachers' wish list requests.

The Weekday Program serves 65 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 Morrison. 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 day!

We are 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 Morrison: Music

Sarah Elizabeth Crow: Discovery Time

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)





PROPERTY

The Property Committee is grateful for the restoration work completed at the sanctuary. We know you appreciate the clean and fresh appearance, as well. The financial support of everyone in the congregation was essential to the work to date. The committee is particularly thankful for three individuals who stepped forward with generous donations. The work on the sanctuary is not complete. The north side and the east side of the building have not been restored. The education building is also in need of attention. We are concerned about paint on windows and other trim. Some paint work was personally done by a member of the congregation and we recognize his hard work and give a great big thank you to Mark McKnight.

Respectfully submitted,

Property Committee chairs: Rob McCready & Patterson Smith



- The bulging wall on Charlotte Street that surrounds the church graveyard collapsed on November 17, 2022 after a period of rain and winds. That section of the wall had been cordoned off for many months and thankfully no one was injured and no cars were damaged. The bricks have been preserved for later use. In July 2022, the City Council approved the settlement between the City and our business neighbor The Dewberry Hotel and its owner John Dewberry to restore the compromised wall. With this agreement in place, the City, The Dewberry, and Second Presbyterian Church have been able to work toward the restoration of the wall without delay.
- The church bell tower restoration was completed in early 2022 and this substantial undertaking was recognized by the Historic Charleston Foundation. On April 28, 2022 Second Presbyterian was presented the Robert N.S. and Patti Foos Whitelaw Founders Award for restoration of the church bell tower and front portico. The Historic Charleston Foundation recognized the excellence of the repairs in both the correct historic materials used and the quality of the craftsmanship at their 75th Anniversary Charter Day Celebration.
- Work cleaning up Wragg Square and reconnecting it with the church began in late 2022 when The Charleston Arborist was kind enough to donate services to trim trees in the park. The revitalization of this neighborhood green space is made possible in memory of Patti McGee in conjunction with the city and Charleston Parks Conservancy. Many church members joined family and friends of Patti in a clean up day and lunch in February 2022 with more park clean up days in the future.



FINANCE

The Finance Committee has continued in its hard work to conduct the financial affairs of the church in good and proper order. We are happy to report that for the first quarter of 2023 the income and expenses are balanced. This is the result of catching up on 2022 pledges, increased attendance, increased offerings and partial restoration of the sanctuary. The finance committee is concerned that this will not be duplicated in the coming months. The summer months generally experience decreased giving and attendance. Please think of your church when you are not in attendance this summer. Please be generous in your giving so we may continue God's ministry in this place.

Respectfully submitted,
Finance Committee chairs:
Patterson Smith & Chris Olson





SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2022-APRIL 2023