

First Presbyterian Church – Conroe

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 7, 2021

AGENDA

Distribution of Annual Reports for 2020-2021

Determination of a Quorum

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Purpose of Meeting

Financial Results for 2020

General Budget for 2021

Change in Terms of Call

Trustees' Report (Cara Wood)

Highlights from Annual Report

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Call for Adjournment



First Presbyterian Church

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March 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

This past year was difficult for all of us, but taking time to look back and to reflect on the life of our congregation has been profoundly encouraging for me. Hopefully, it will be encouraging for you too.

At this time last year, we were excited about the growing programs and activities of the church. Our facilities were filled with worship and work, with programs and people, and with laughter and love. Then, in an instant, it all changed. Our staff worked to close up most of our buildings, including our kitchens and classrooms. On Easter Sunday, we were allowed to have only a few people in the Sanctuary.

That time was hard for our staff, and undoubtedly for you too. But through all of this, something amazing happened. When we were unable to open the doors of the church, you carried the work of the church with you. Our worship services transitioned to online venues. Bible studies met in Zoom Rooms and by telephone. Quilters worked at home. In ways that could not have been imagined a year ago, you continued to work for the Glory of God.

In this Annual Report, you can read about our committees and ministry teams, and about the creativity that found new ways to keep moving forward. Personally, I found these reports to be encouraging and uplifting. From beginning to end, you will see that the life of this congregation matters and is making a difference. You will also see that you are an important part of your church.

This year, 2021, will continue to be unpredictable and surprising, but not all surprises are bad. This may be the year that you decide to try something new and different. You will find a lot of opportunity in your church. And even after a hard year, you will find a lot of reason to be encouraged.

As I wrote one year ago, this truly is a marvelous time in the life of our congregation.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David H. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive.

The Reverend Dr. David H. Green

2020 FINANCIAL RESULTS

	Budgeted	Actual	Change
Revenue	\$751,840	\$747,824	- 0.5%
Expenses	\$751,835	\$719,564	- 4.3%
Restricted Funds Revenue Received (excl. FF)		\$ 169,501	
Mission Related: \$41,537			
Restricted Funds Revenue Disbursed (excl. FF)		\$ 76,807	
Mission Related: \$30,223			
Restricted Funds Balance (end 2019)		\$ 88,304	
Restricted Funds Balance (end 2020)		\$ 178,543	
Checking Account(s) Balance (end 2019)		\$ 180,656	
Checking/Savings Account(s) Balance (end 2020)		\$ 273,889	
Committed Funds (end 2020)		\$ 181,235	
Forever Fund (Contributions in 2020)		\$ 25,100	
Forever Fund Current Market Value (end 2020)		\$ 171,332	
Forever Fund Earnings Delivered to Church (2020)		\$ 471	
Year-End Total Loan Principal Outstanding		\$2,454,553	
Loan Principal Repayment in 2020		\$ 75,875	

2021 GENERAL BUDGET

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Total Revenue	\$751,840	\$747,824	\$703,500
Pledges	618,140	615,670	558,000
Freewill	96,300	109,098	116,000
Other	37,400	23,056	29,500
Total Expenses	\$751,834	\$719,564	\$741,834
Operating Expenses	\$510,627	\$484,281	\$500,948
Building & Grounds	148,200	140,151	137,740
Administration	27,300	27,620	30,600
Personnel	334,627	316,509	332,608
Debt Reduction	\$204,857	\$208,177	\$205,586
Loan Administration Charges	2,100	5,420	2,830
Loan Interest Payments	126,883	126,889	126,038
Loan Principal Payments	75,874	75,868	76,718
Program	\$ 36,850	\$ 27,106	\$ 35,300
Worship	8,400	9,560	8,000
Discipleship	15,300	12,503	15,200
Fellowship	6,500	2,491	5,500
Health & Wholeness	200	70	200
Caring & Prayer	1,350	70	1,200
Membership/Inviting	3,000	2,204	3,000
Presbyterian Women	1,600	0	1,800
Session	400	208	400
Net Subtotal (Revenue – Expenses)	\$6	\$28,260	(\$38,334)

Budget Deficit Offset

Carryover From 2020 Budget Surplus	\$15,406
SBA Covid-19 Payroll Protection Plan Loan	\$33,962

Overall Net Total **\$11,064**

No. of Pledges 2020: 131 2021: 98

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2020-2021 Annual Report

Mission: Lead the personnel, stewardship, financial health, and legal compliance of our church so that we are sufficient to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and the world.

Members: Ron Bailey, Fred Kate, Cara Wood, David Green (Pastor), Jay Swoboda (Chair)
Members who departed the committee in 2020: Joanne Deaver, Mickey Deison, Todd Harrell, David Perciful

Overview and Plans

Through generous financial support, we ended 2020 within 1% of our planned budget, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bless you all for your faithful support of our church.

With careful control of our spending, we ended 2020 with expenses 4% less than plan, giving us a \$25,000 surplus.

In lieu of pay raises, we compensated our staff again this year with bonuses based on our actual financial condition, allowing us to recognize them for their efforts and dedication. They took the pandemic and all the special precautions, considerations, and adaptations in stride and brought us through. Thank you, team, for a heroic effort and successful year.

We applied for and received \$33,992 in loans under the Payroll Protection Program of the federal government. Through judicious spending and good financial controls, we met the requirements for forgiveness of this loan. Thank you to Fred Kate, David Green and others who worked to make this a success.

Pledges are down for 2021 due to COVID, several deaths in our congregation and other extenuating circumstances. With your faithful support through your pledges, considerable planning and adding in the remaining 2020 surplus after staff compensation and the PPP funds, we are presenting a tight but strong budget with a projected \$10,364 surplus for 2021. Thank you again to Fred Kate for all his efforts making this work.

We did a review of the Presbyterian Day School (PDS) finances and found they had lost money for each of the previous two (2) years. We established a PDS Ministry Team, under the Session, to regain oversight and leadership to provide for the sustainable operation of this valuable ministry. Karen Clark generously agreed to undertake leadership of this committee.

We expanded our online giving and ability to accept payments by credit card and continue to make this more user friendly and convenient.

We are also forming a Future Task Force to evaluate our church's resources and property and determine the best and highest use to reduce debt and provide sustainable financial support to allow us to continue doing Christ's work in our community and in the world.

We will approach these initiatives and activities through the lenses of Reconnecting, Rebuilding and Restoring.

Thank you for your continued support and your prayers for wisdom and discernment.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

2020-2021 Annual Report

Members: Steve Tibbetts (Chair); Steve Das; Paul Evans; Allen Haines; David Henderson; Roy Kessler; Tom Lowery; Warren Taylor; David Green

1. Landscaping

Roy Kessler - Landscaping issues - Roy discussed the accomplishments of his committee of Master Gardeners and others. He reviewed what plantings had been done, the formalizing of the garden around the flagpole and addition of steppingstones to that area.

During the meeting, we also discussed the issues of water drainage and how to eliminate the entrance of water to the Sanctuary through the weep holes. The problem is a complex issue, with much discussion that centered around getting all the members of the committee on the same page. From this discussion we came up with a couple of actions for Landscaping.

#1 Remove the bull rock down to a level that is about 2-3 inches below the weep holes.

#2 Address the issue of the old established bushes that sit nearest the southwest wall. Due to their age and size, we think that the root structure from these plants has caused some of the problems by holding the mulch that was placed around them in such a manner as to have built up the earth level closest to the church and filled the bull rock spaces to make its task of draining water ineffectual. #3 After determining if removal is necessary, redo the landscape in that area with drainage as the number one priority in the choice of plantings that should go into that area that will help to prevent the repeat of flooding of the building during torrential rainstorms.

2. Ground Repair

Paul Evans is going to address where his plan of action is and when the project will be completed. **This project has taken on new urgency.** Paul informed the committee that his plan was moving forward. He has been working with Allen Haines who has contacted a couple of Awning Contractors to give us estimates on two 4 x 8-foot awnings that will protect the emergency exit door to the northeast side of the Sanctuary and the Emergency exit nearest the area becoming known as the Columbarium. Additionally, Paul informed us he has a benefactor who is willing to take care of the financial issues regarding the manufacture and installation of these two awnings, which should assist in reducing water intrusion. After some additional discussion, Paul has decided to back away from the ground repair issues and defer that activity back the Building and Grounds Committee. From this discussion there were four action items.

Action #1 - Contact "Gardenmania" to determine whether the church still has an active contract with them regarding the cleaning of the gutters and downspouts of the church. If that contract has expired, then determine if they are interested in rebidding the contract.

Action #2 - Work with Allen Haines to determine if a person he knows that does excavating and concrete removal would be interested in assisting with the removal of the sidewalk joining the two entryways at the rear of the church. Once the concrete is removed, the earth needs to be sloped to allow for the required drainage of the area.

Action #3 - Locate Concrete contractors to provide estimates for concreting the area of concern, keeping ADA requirements for emergency egress in mind while providing the necessary drainage for the building.

Action #4 - Locate a commercial guttering contractor to evaluate our current guttering system and add additional right-sized down spouts that will discharge water efficiently enough to prevent issues like those seen in IMG_0502.jpg. (our understanding is that this particular gutter has been blocked for a number of years, or at least long enough to allow a small tree to start growing in the sediment residing in the gutters above the downspout.)

3. Roof Repairs

Steve Tibbetts - Current status of repaired roof.

I reported that while Turnbull Roofing had repaired the roof in the areas of the "Bistro" and Family Life Center, during the hard rains that occurred within the past couple of weeks showed us areas where the leaks still persist. Turnbull Roofing responded as they said they would and sent out one of their workers to inspect the damage, I was told that the owner of Turnbull would be in touch with us this week (12/7/2020). Repairs were executed during the week of 12/14/2020.

4. PDS Report

David Henderson - PDS current status - David reported that the only issue out of the meeting with the PDS Team, were the continued roof leaks.

Action: #1 - It is the intent of Building and Grounds to address these leaks this coming year. While the School Management wants us to replace ceiling tiles, we need to leave those damaged by water intrusion because that is only place, we can start our investigation as to where the water is coming from. If there is to be an inspection of some sort before we can get our leak investigation moving, we will move forward with replacing those water damaged tiles.

5. Pew Investigating Committee

Tom Lowery talked about the pews that are to be installed in the Sanctuary. He indicated that the pews will be bolted to the floor with some type of apparatus that will allow the pews to be moved when ceiling maintenance is required.

Action #1 - Work with Brandon to determine the location of the overhead cameras, with the idea that perhaps several of the pews could be shortened to accommodate the location and positioning of the church's staging to service camera's and stage lighting.

6. Mission Trip

The youth of the church did us a great service this year, they worked on the landscaping around the church and painted the portable building located at the rear of the church. Building and Grounds aided in the preservation of this piece of our property by installing a new roof, which should add 20 years to the life of that structure.

Columbarium Update: All activity on the Columbarium is on hold until we can get the drainage issues outside totally resolved. Recent heavy wind-driven rains have allowed rainwater to flow into the building and follow the contour of the wall where it seeps under the wall to the room containing the Columbarium. Hence, there will be no work done in the Columbarium until the outside drainage issue is resolved. If work outside cannot be completed to eliminate the flow of water into the building, then the recommendation from Building & Ground is that the Columbarium Committee should consider placing this item outside in an area that would be appropriate for such an artifact.

Two significant repairs occurred this past year, one of which was the hot water system for the restrooms in the gym being repaired. The folks that participate in Family Promise and the members of our Youth Group (when on the property for a lock-in) can now have hot showers... a condition Mark Sowden thoroughly enjoys, or so I am told. The second significant repair was done to the gym entry doors. One door was damaged during the last Sew-a-Thon. We replaced the door frame and all four closure mechanisms, so that they can be locked open if necessary. Mechanical limits are on the door as well as a heavier gauge steel door frame, which should prevent even the most determined individual from causing the major structural damage as was done in the past.

CARE AND PRAYER MINISTRY

2020-2021 Annual Report

Mission:

To provide encouragement, comfort, prayer, and assistance to FPC members in times of bereavement, illness, and crisis. To promote health and wellness of the congregation and to offer opportunities to receive and pray for one another and for the concerns of the church. To serve Communion at home to members who need this care.

Members:

Deck Yates (Chair), Betty Blott, Cora Diamond, Martha Haines

Accomplishments:

- This committee was formed immediately prior to the 2020 COVID-19 restrictions.
- Although we have not been able to deliver Communion to 15-20 of our members who are shut-ins this year, we have endeavored to stay in touch with them via telephone when possible. It is our intention to resume at-home Communion services when circumstances and health guidelines permit.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

2020-2021 Annual Report

Mission: To encourage people to meet in Small Groups and Sunday School classes for fellowship, encouragement, edification, training, prayer, and study of the Bible and to aid people in developing meaningful interpersonal relationships, and to experience the love of God as manifested within the Body of Christ through such fellowship.

Discipleship Ministry Team: Anne Spinks (Chair), Dena Sowden, Mark Sowden, Glenna Lang, Yvonne Rose, Mike Garrison and Virginia Tamborello

Youth Ministry Team:

(Reports to Discipleship for oversight and approval of their recommendations and decisions)

Volunteer Youth Director: Mark Sowden

Youth Parent Advisory Committee: Mark Sowden (chair), Dena Sowden, Jr. & Sr. High Parents

Vision: To empower, equip, and train youth to be the future leaders of the church through discipleship.

Children's Ministry Team:

(Reports to Discipleship for oversight and approval of their recommendations and decisions)

Vision: To create a safe place for parents to bring their children where the little ones will be given the opportunity to encounter God, learn faith and Biblical essentials, and experience a loving community that cares about their spiritual and emotional growth.

Essentials to achieve this vision:

1. To teach a love for the Bible.
2. To teach how to talk to God through prayer.
3. To make children aware of what God is doing in their midst.
4. To model God's love to each other through Christ.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Children's Ministry

1. **Sunday School Attendance Averages:**
 - Nursery – 2 (No nursery offered during the months of March-September, during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic)
 - Children – 4 (Online Zoom, Intermediate classes only. No in-person Elementary attendance)
 - Youth – 4 (No Youth in-person Sunday School during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, March-October)
 - Adult -- 9 (Several Sunday School classes were put on hold during the COVID-19 Pandemic indefinitely, others resumed online via Zoom after a short break)
2. Continued using Gospel Light Sunday School curriculum, David C Cook offered digital curriculum for ease of online transition. Teachers report that they are pleased with the curriculum.
3. The annual Easter Egg Hunt for elementary children was cancelled due to being in the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
4. Continued Tues/Wed/Thurs Online Chapel Time and Songs with Dena Sowden, Brandon Folts and Janet Klem when in-person classes were cancelled for PDS and kept going through the end of May.
5. Coordinated and participated in a semi-successful Online VBS July 6 - 10. The theme was "Rocky Railway". Average online attendance was 10 children with 7 in-person volunteers, Mark Sowden, Dena Sowden, Alex Williams, Kyle Williams, Abby Stewart, Anna McNamara plus Debra Redden for Imagination Station and Dana Corbit providing pre-recorded Bible Adventure Stories. "Stay on Track Packs" were provided with the supplies needed for Imagination Station, Bible Buddies and VBS shirts the week prior to VBS. VBS is definitely more successful in-person than virtual. No Day Camper VBS Activities or Family Night.
6. Resumed Family Movie Nights to kick off Pumpkin Patch, serving hot dogs and popcorn on third Saturdays beginning in October, with average attendance around 20 people. Shirley Dukes coordinated help with refreshments and desserts during the October meeting, which was used as a Meeting of the Congregation. The October Movie Night had an attendance around 80 people +/-, including guests from the community.
7. Coordinated the first Annual Pumpkin Patch, which was a great success. The Patch was open Tuesday-Sunday, from 12:00-7:00 p.m., during the month of October (10/17-10/31). There was also a Trunk or Treat on 10/31, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with S'mores and hayrides from 6:00-8:00 p.m., hosting the entire group from Freedom Place. The Pumpkin Patch served as a location for at least one marriage proposal and one birth announcement, several photo shoots, and PDS class pictures. The hayride and weekend refreshments were a huge hit. Thanks to the Spinks for the use of their trailer, the Grahams for providing hay, Mark Sowden and Jay Swoboda for giving hayrides, Kristi Swoboda and Donna Stewart for sales, and to the Fellowship Committee for providing assistance and refreshments.
8. Mark Sowden and Dena Sowden coordinated a 48-Hour Getaway in lieu of the Youth Group participating in Conclaves in 2020. The Baileys provided the use of their condo in Galveston. The weekend was a moving and emotional event. This took place during the weekend of 10/24 through 10/25/2020.

9. Coordinated the annual Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13. In an effort to build bridges between FPC families and PDS families, the tradition has become to invite PDS Kindergartners and Pre-Kindergartners to join FPC Sunday School children in telling the story of Jesus' birth. (For 2020, only Kinder age kids participated in order to limit the number of guests in the building) The pageant was held during the church service, in what would normally be Children's Time. It was broadcasted on Facebook Live and YouTube. Extra seating and assigned seats were used and limited guests to allow for proper social distancing.

Youth Ministry

1. Conducted Confirmation Class for six youth – Confirmation Sunday was held on May 24th (Alex Williams, Alison Spratt, Jeselyn Graham, Will Stewart, Henry Quekemeyer, Morgan Smith).
2. Monthly Youth activities for JH and SH students were very limited due to COVID-19.
3. Began "The Spark" Wednesday night meetings for fun, fellowship, and service. Average Youth attendance is +/- 17 Youth.
4. Coordinated the annual Chili Cook-off on Jan 26. Over \$7,600 was raised for the Youth Mission Trip expenses.
5. Conroe area-wide DNow cancelled due to COVID-19.
6. Limited participation in the Youth Presbytery Conclaves due to internal controversy in PYCC which youth leaders felt it was in the best interest of our youth to distance ourselves, three youth PYCC staffers and two adult PYCC staffers honored their obligation to the Conclaves weekends. 48 Hour Getaway in Galveston was done in place of Conclaves participation.
7. Five people served on the PYCC (Presbytery Youth Connection Council): Kyle Williams, Anna McNamara and Abby Stewart as youth and Mark Sowden and Dena Sowden as adult representatives.
8. The annual Youth Live and Silent Auction was cancelled due to COVID-19.
9. Recognized graduating seniors during worship on Father's Day, June 21. It was delayed from May due to COVID-19. The graduates received a gift from the church.
10. Sr High Mission Trip was cancelled due to COVID-19.
11. Conducted a successful Stay-at-Home Mission Trip here at FPC, where 13 youth, 1 young adult leader and 2 adults chaperones worked in coordination with Building & Grounds teams to clean the flower beds around the church grounds and scrape and paint the exterior storage building.
12. Youth led worship services on Youth Sunday, September 27th. The sermon was delivered by several youth.
13. Participated in several service projects: Assisted Building and Grounds Committee; Planted trees (donated by Roy Kessler) in public areas of Point Aquarius; served at the Soup Kitchen; decorated church Christmas Trees; Christmas Pageant and VBS.
14. Christmas with JH and SH lock-in was cancelled due to COVID-19.
15. Helped in countless ways on countless projects.

General Discipleship

1. Continued the concept of an 8-week Wednesday Night Live in the Spring. We had another session in the Fall, beginning with a Blood Drive for MD Anderson.
2. Conducted background checks on all teachers, VBS volunteers, and youth leaders.
3. Recognized Sunday School teachers in appreciation of their faithful dedication.
4. Used Youth in more worship services as Worship Leaders.

2020 OBJECTIVES

Children's Ministry

1. Continue to move in the direction of family ministry (resulting in spiritual transformation in the children) and find ways to involve parents in the discipleship process for the glory of God.
2. Plan more family events, gatherings, and seminars. Possibly have potluck lunches the first Sunday of the month.
3. Collaborate with PDS for programming events.
4. Grow and strengthen the Sunday School and WNL programs to the point where splitting classes into smaller age ranges is necessary.
5. Conduct an Easter Egg Hunt.
6. Conduct a Confirmation Class and dinner.
7. Support and participate in VBS.
8. Continue the Drop & Shop, possibly more dates, Gingerbread House decorating, and Family Movie Nights.
9. Coordinate the annual Children's Christmas pageant, including the PDS Kindergartners and Pre-Kindergartners.
10. Expand and continue the Pumpkin Patch as an outreach to the community, but not as a fundraiser for the church.

Youth Ministry

1. Strengthen Youth Ministry through prayer, engaging curriculum, focused time, energy, parent involvement, and inviting new youth.
2. Continue to build relationships with other church youth groups in the area.
3. Coordinate fundraisers for Youth Mission Trips: Chili Cook-off, Youth Auction.
4. Fund and coordinate a combined Mission Trip to Milwaukee. Second Mission Trip to FPC Conroe.
5. Recognize graduating seniors.
6. Conduct Youth Sunday on the last Sunday in September and possibly expand Youth participation in worship.

General Discipleship

1. Complete OPS assigned to the Discipleship Committee.
2. Rebuild Children's Ministry/Sunday School Team.
3. Continue the development of additional WNL studies and Adult Sunday School classes.
4. Place brochures and maps to Sunday School Classes at the three entrances from the parking lot.

Church Bus Usage

- January - D-NOW, Soup Kitchen
- February - Conclaves I
- March - Conclaves II
- April - Easter Lock-in
- May - none
- June - none
- July - At Home Mission Trip, Youth Event
- August - none
- September - none
- October - Youth Event
- November - none
- December - Youth Event, Collect Donations

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE 2020-2021 Annual Report

Mission: To provide fellowship opportunities throughout the year and to provide opportunities for FPC members to participate in activities that build a foundation and relationships within our Christ-centered church.

Fellowship Committee: Shirley Dukes (Chair). Liz Kessler, Audrey Christie, Robbie Ganek, Leona Cowie, Donna Stewart, Ine Webb, Neva Hammond, Dana Corbitt, Pat Voorhees, Barb Barton.

2020 Activities and Accomplishments:

Due to the restrictions mandated by the Covid-19 pandemic, Fellowship activities in early Spring of 2020 were greatly curtailed. We did participate in the January 2020 Chili Cook-off, in conjunction with the Discipleship Committee, by preparing cornbread and beverages. Also, we did present a Mystery Dinner Theater in February. This was a catered dinner preceded with appetizers. The role players were members of the congregation. It was a fun-filled and highly successful event. Then COVID-19 hit!

We were inactive until May, at which time we went outdoors for an Ice Cream Social to honor and recognize our new confirmands. July saw us providing dinners for our youth during their week-long FPC Home Mission trip. In September, we cooked dinners for the Spark youth meetings until Wednesday Night Live Dinners commenced. On September 13, we celebrated Sunday School Rally day with a punch and cookie reception in the Family Life Center. In early October, we joyously facilitated a wedding reception for our own Josh Green, eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. David Green. A new event for us in October was the FPC Pumpkin Patch. We provided cookies and apple cider on the weekends for the crowds attending. Also, in October, we sadly said goodbye to our long-time custodian Hugo Barrera, facilitating a family reception in the Family Life Center gym. Fortunately, in December, we were able to hold the annual Children's Christmas Pageant Cookie-Punch-Cocoa celebration. That was followed on December 24 with our now annual Christmas Eve Cookies-and-Cocoa event in the Narthex.

January 2021 once again saw us participating with Discipleship for the well-attended 11th Annual Chili Cook-off.

2021 Goals and Objectives: Dependent on Pandemic Guidelines.

1. Continue to assist and support our Youth Ministries events.
2. Facilitate and assist with Graduation Appreciation dinner for FPC graduating high school seniors.
3. Coordinate and assist with Confirmation Class dinners.
4. Present an evening Mystery Dinner Theater as an intergenerational event.
5. Participate in church-wide activities in conjunction with other ministries, e.g., Prayer breakfast(s) with the Prayer and Care Committee, future Mission Committee fund-raising events, etc.
6. Increase participation in events involving other Ministry teams.
7. Continue Day Trip events.

This team has very few called meetings. Most communication is in person or electronically.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley M. Dukes, Fellowship Ministry Chair

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL)

2020-2021 Annual Report

The Wednesday Night kitchen Crew consists of fourteen dedicated members, men and women, who loyally come together to prepare dinners on Wednesday Night in the Fall and early Spring and provide wholesome home-cooked meals for our FPC family. Great fellowship is enjoyed among the Crew members and the diners relish the friendship they experience.

This year's Covid-19 pandemic has altered our procedures somewhat. We commenced the dinners on September 30, 2020 and provided them weekly, culminating in the traditional Thanksgiving Feast on November 18, 2020. We operated under the pandemic guidelines including social distancing, individual packaging of food items where applicable and the limiting the number of attendees. Diners were asked to make dinner reservations either on-line on the FPC website or phoning the FPC office. We added a drive through/pick-up feature. One could choose to dine on-site or take out. The cost of the dinner remained at \$4.00 with exceptions for those over 75 years of age or under 13 years. These meals were gratis. In the fall we served 151 meals. Gluten-free options were available.

The 2021 season began January 13th and will end March 3rd. We will be operating again on the above-described guidelines. Our annual Pancake dinner is scheduled for February 17th.

During the year we have partnered with Fellowship and Discipleship for events e.g., Chili Cook-off, Pumpkin Patch and Youth events and functions.

We have had the privilege to provide food for Family Promise when they were residing with FPC, as well as sharing our excess with Freedom Place. Many meals were sent to homebound members.

Most members of the Kitchen Crew are also members of the Fellowship Ministry Team. We have added two new members this year and welcome any FPC member who would like to join us. We do not have regularly scheduled meetings since we are often together and conduct our business and make our plans during those times. We look forward to the day when we can all be able to sit down together for dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley M. Dukes, Kitchen Crew

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

2020-2021 Annual Report

Members: Sharon Walker, Judy Weinburger, Mike Dwyer, Gordon Juhl, Ednelza Henderson, Susan Young, Anna McNamara, Abby Stewart, Donna Stewart

Mission: Initiate new approaches to bring people to First Presbyterian Church. Tracking new member participation in worship, Sunday school, group activities and opportunities to volunteer for church activities.

Accomplishments 2020:

Goals that were set for 2020 were not met mainly due to the pandemic restrictions.

Goals not completed:

First Steps class for new members.

Schedule quarterly new member gatherings.

Continue to collect attendance sheets.

Take pictures of new members.

Provide visitor information cards at the Welcome Desk.

Continue to send birthday cards to the children at Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

Recruit greeters for both services.

Update the church membership roster for church windows.

Identify various ways to make FPC, recognized and known in the community in order to bring new members into the church.

Goals for 2021

(Praying we will move forward with the goals)

1. Schedule First Steps for new member orientation classes, as needed or quarterly.
2. Establish a tracking system through the internet, i.e., possibly area where members could check box if they attended church on Face Book or You Tube.
3. New members pictures posted in bulletin or "The Link".
4. Design new visitor forms to hand out at the Welcome Desk.
5. Continue sending birthday cards to the children at the Presbyterian Children's Home and Service. Also, initiate new programs they are starting for the children.
6. Update church directory. The previous company has gone out of business and for now make a new phone directory listing name and addresses etc. only.
7. Design and send out cards thanking visitors for visiting our church.
8. Design a handout for new members, including a small gift, i.e., bookmark with church information included refrigerator magnet.
9. Follow-up calls to visitors.
10. Assign committee to staff the Welcome Center.
11. Ask for volunteers to completely update bulletin board in hallway.
12. Complete lighting of the steeple.
13. Transferring all ads into "Impact" magazine.

MISSION MINISTRY 2020-2021 Annual Report

Purpose: Our Mission Ministry is dedicated to serving God and mankind... putting our faith into action, spreading the Gospel with generosity and compassion, and helping those persons with physical, spiritual, emotional, and hunger issues.

Objective: To strive to develop more hearts for Mission within the congregation at FPC Conroe.

Our Mission Ministry remained successfully active in 2020, despite the strangeness of this pandemic year. Some of our efforts were:

One Great Hour of Sharing - This Easter special offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and their worldwide responders, as well as supporting the Presbyterian Hunger Programs nationally. Our efforts added \$2,850. to this nationwide PCUSA campaign, a 68% increase over the previous year!

Mission Sunday - In 2020, our focus for this special offering was to provide financial support to help remedy the Covid burden placed upon the Montgomery County Food Bank. We were more than successful, raising over \$9,200.

Presbytery Grants - We applied for and won two grants of \$2,000 each during 2020:

- 1) An Outreach Grant to support the purchase of foods and supplies for our "FPC Homeless Project" partners: Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Family Promise, and Compassion United (CHOP).
- 2) A Social Justice grant to support our work with Freedom Place, providing shelter, hope, and life skills training to victims of human trafficking.

FPC Homeless Project – We surpassed our goals by providing over 9,100 meals this year to the local homeless population, providing Family Promise clients with lodging, training, and meals, providing Salvation Army "Covid brown-bag" lunches, providing Conroe House of Prayer "Covid/brown bag" breakfasts, and providing Freedom Place with our resources used for refuge and training.

In addition, because of the generosity of those congregational volunteers who purchase the foods and supplies for the Homeless Project partners and do NOT request reimbursement from Mission Funds, we were able to distribute \$6,000 to the SA Soup Kitchen, Family Promise, and Compassion United/CHOP.

Christmas Joy Offering - On behalf of retired Presbyterian Church workers in need of housing, food, and healthcare because of natural disasters or illness, and also on behalf of students in need while attending Presbyterian schools, this Christmas Eve tradition resulted in our being able to donate \$1,800 to PCUSA for use with these causes.

Special Contributions - We are blessed to be supported by our congregation in ways not shown above. For these "extra" contributions, we are indebted to the outstanding Mission work of 1) our Youth, 2) our

Mission Sewing Group, 3) the Seafarer's Ministry Team at Christmas, and 4) those individuals, Small Groups, Women's Organizations, and Sunday School Classes who provide funds, food, and hours of volunteering to the unfortunate homeless and displaced.

Fund-raising efforts - Since 2016, our Mission Ministry Team, because of necessary stresses upon the Church budget regarding debt service for construction costs, has become proactive in finding ways to raise extra funds to be used for Missions and thereby help to alleviate this financial pressure on the church budget. We are proud to report that, because of the generosity of our congregation in responding to our fundraising efforts on Mission Sunday, the diligence of our team in applying for and winning grants, and the "pass the hat" or "fill the shoebox" efforts, we were able to provide over \$13,000 to various causes in 2020. This, of course, does not include the many hours of time spent by our volunteers.

This proactive plan is working well, and we can be proud that our Mission efforts are being rewarded and are proceeding strongly. This plan was originally designed to exhaust funds at year end 2025. However, it now appears that, if we can continue to creatively manage our funds in this or a similar manner, we can grow our Mission work indefinitely.

2020 Mission Partners

Benevolent Missions International – We provide volunteers to this local agency, which supplies eye surgery, medications, eye exams, and glasses to the underserved in Fiji and Belize. (For more information, contact Tom and Susan Young, Chuck and Janet Pohla, Glenn and Anne Elms, Pat Vorhees.)

Compassion United/Conroe House of Prayer – We provide financial assistance for our volunteers to purchase, prepare, and serve breakfast at this local outreach to the homeless. (For more information, contact Team Captains Henry and Betty Blott, Ron and Margie Bailey, Bobby Ezell, Gordon and Susan Juhl, Jerry and Ine Webb, Tom and Susan Young.)

Family Promise of Montgomery County – We supply volunteers to organize our church building for week-long visits where we provide shelter, meals, transportation, training, and compassionate assistance to homeless families with children. (For more information, contact Jean and Danny Ball, or Donna and John Fisher.)

Freedom Place – We provide funds, Mission Sewing Group Love Bags, and volunteer hours to this effort to find, retrieve, and restore victims of human and sex trafficking in the Houston area. (For more information, contact Sally DeStefano.)

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen – We supply financial assistance to our volunteers to purchase, prepare, and serve lunch for the Salvation Army's outreach to the homeless. (For more information, contact Team Captains Roy and Liz Kessler, Bobby Ezell, Ron and Karen Hethershaw, Larry and Cindy Bailey, John and Suzie King, and Dana Corbit for Youth.)

Salvation Army Bell Ringers – We supply volunteers to man a Salvation Army collection stand during the Christmas Season. (For more information, contact Donna and John Fisher.)

The Seafarer's Shoe Box Ministry – Our Presbyterian Women organization sponsors the collection of funds for goods to be packed in shoe boxes and delivered to merchant seamen docking at the Port of Houston during November and December. (For more information., contact Susan Buckley.)

Mission Sewing Group - See separate report for complete representation. (For more information, contact Joan Lowery.)

MISSION SEWING GROUP

2020 – 2021 Annual Report

Items made by the Mission Sewing Group

For First Presbyterian Church and Friends:

- 1 Knitted/Crocheted “Prayer Shawl”
- Ruffled “Lee’s Quilt” to earn \$1,305 for the Forever Fund
- 888 Masks
- 2 sets of Christmas tree napkins
- 2 Table runners (items sold and proceeds to benefit the Mission Sewing Group)
- 20 Christmas coasters (items sold and proceeds to benefit the Mission Sewing Group)
- Ruffled a quilt to raise \$1,655 for the Forever Fund, in the memory of Lee Cruikshank.

For the Community:

Herman Memorial Hospital – The Woodlands

464 Scrub caps for nurses, doctors, and staff

“It’s My Very Own Bags of Love”

- Held a Quilt-a-Thon on Feb 29th in which approximately 150 people participated.
- Donated 100 children’s quilts to be given to children who are removed from their homes by CPS.
- Collected \$235.00 at the Sew-a-Thon for “Bags of Love” to purchase needed items for the bags.
- Collected several bags full of toys and other items to be used to fill the “Bags of Love”.

Pregnancy Assistance Center North (PACN)

- 11 Knitted caps
- 1 Baby afghan
- 1 Crocheted bear
- Donated 100’s of yards of fabric to Montgomery County Assistance League and other charitable organizations.

Texas Children’s Hospital

- 12 Baby afghans
- 3 Crocheted caps

For World-Wide Missions:

- **Caps to be included in the Seafarer's Christmas boxes**

100 Knitted/Crocheted Caps

- **Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI), to be distributed to orphaned children in Moldova**

1037 Knitted/Crocheted Caps

571 Knitted/Crocheted Scarves

Submitted by:

Joan Lowery

Outgoing Mission Sewing Coordinator

PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

2020-2021 Annual Report

Director: Janet Klem

Purpose: The purpose of Presbyterian Day School shall be to minister, educate and nurture preschool and Kindergarten children of the church and the community through a weekday program with a Christian emphasis. The school's concern shall be for the total development of each child, spiritually, creatively, emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially. In addition, we strive to help each child grow in independence and social development, considering his or her own unique abilities and talents.

PDS Board by-laws were revised and a Ministry Team was formed.

Members on this team consist of (1) A member of the Session-Karen Clark, (2) The chairperson of the Church's Building and Grounds committee-David Henderson, (3) The chairperson of the Church's Administration and Personnel Ministry Team-Jay Swoboda, (4) The Director of Christian Education-Dena Sowden, (5) The Pastor of the Church - David Green.

Student and Staff Population: Currently, Presbyterian Day School has approximately 108 students and 20 staff members. We are currently full in all of our classes. Teachers must complete 24 hours of continuing education yearly, required by state licensing. All staff will be complete by February 2021. Director is required to complete 32 hours of continuing education yearly with an emphasis on leadership, management, and business skills. Substitute teachers are also required to complete 24 hours of training yearly.

2020-2021 Accomplishments:

Parents were invited once again to help spread mulch and add new sand to the sandboxes. We had an amazing turn out. We will continue to make this an annual event.

Our parents and staff seem to enjoy this time together. We were able to open our doors for our "First Day of School" on September 8th with approval from the session. Staff, children and parents were all extremely happy. We will continue to enforce safety practices provided through CDC and Licensing throughout the remainder of the school year.

Our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes still participated in our traditional Thanksgiving programs. Parents were invited (via Zoom) to watch their precious children. This was a success. Lauren Roper (Music teacher) taught all our classes their traditional Christmas songs; teachers recorded the children singing and parents received through video.

Our Kindergarten class had their first play "What Do Crocodiles Eat for Dinner?" in September. This was our very first Zoom production! It was a success!

Our Kindergarten class continues to be part of the FPC Christmas Pageant, sharing the story of “The Friendly Beast”. All of our Kindergarten families attended this special service.

Facebook is being monitored by staff member Janice Kuhl. Our families really enjoy the great posts that Janice provides.

This year our staff voted on sponsoring “Samaritan’s Purse-Operation Christmas Child” and “Blue Elf” (Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department) for our Christmas philanthropy. We had amazing participation for both. We are thankful for the generosity of our staff and families.

We continue to sponsor a child through Compassion International - Philanthropy Project

“Fiesta” plans have started. Due to COVID, we are unable to gather as a group this year but, our staff and parents are working together to create a safe way to raise money for PDS. Our parents love our school, and they want “Fiesta” to happen.

PDS curriculum and special programs continue.

- PDS is still offering Spanish and Music/Movement to all children.
- Science Lab continues Wednesdays for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten
- **“Happily, Ever After”** has been a success in our Pre-Kindergarten reading readiness program.
- **Super Kids** is still a tradition in our Kindergarten program.
- Kindergarten continues to celebrate the 100th day of school with special activities.
- Developmental Reading Assessment continues in Kindergarten.
- Mother Goose Curriculum is the program used in our three-year-old classes.
- Vision and Hearing Screening provided by Conroe Service League and Lions Club. They have been trained to screen our children safely this year. Special precautions are being taken.
- **Special Programs** are still a vital part of our school. Unfortunately, this year we have had to make several adjustments. We had to cancel some events and improvise on others. As stated earlier, Thanksgiving and Christmas programs were delivered through Zoom and video. We were able to have our Fire Truck visit for **Fire Prevention Month**, Santa was able to visit our children thanks to our parents who created a magical winter wonderland outside. The children absolutely loved it! I think our parents loved it too! Pajama Day is always a fun time. Science Fair and Pony rides are other special events that we will be able to safely accomplish. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, and our special Mother’s Day event. (Kindergarten only) Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Graduation.

“Stay and Play”, our afterschool program, is still under supervision of Kathy Haines.

2021 Goals and Objectives

Keep staff, our children, and our families safe.

Keep staff updated on any changes in CDC/Licensing regulations.

Continue to pray for our staff and our families.

Invite families to participate in FPC special events.

Offer classes and provide programs that meet the needs of families in our community.

Place PDS announcements in FPC **"The Link"** when needed.

Lastly, I want to make sure that our PDS staff continues to realize their importance in this community and that it is a privilege to serve the families who have chosen to place their child/children in our care.

Principles of a Christian Day School

Teachers shall be willing to teach the principles of a Christian Day School.

Classes (3's-Kindergarten) will be visited by the Director for Chapel time on Mondays and Wednesdays to learn about stories in the Bible and sing praise and worship songs. They will hear about the love our Father in Heaven has for all of us.

Staff at PDS will be role models to our children and teach them how to be ***Disciples of Christ*** through their acts of kindness, patience and forgiveness. ***It is the goal of Presbyterian Day School to glorify God in all that we do and learn.***

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

2020-2021 Annual Report

Mission: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; support the mission of the church worldwide; work for justice and peace; and build an inclusive caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Team Officers: Pam Walker (Moderator), Dana Corbit (Co-Moderator), Sally DeStefano (Past Moderator), Marty Taylor (Secretary), Linda Harshbarger (Treasurer), Marty Taylor (Honorary Life membership), Judy Hughes/Karen Clark (Membership Chair), Marty Taylor (Funeral/Memorial Coordinator).

Circle Leaders:

Lydia Circle - Glenna Lang and Robbie Ganek
Martha Circle – Karen Clark and Judy Weinburger
Rebecca Circle – Barb Barton and Carolyn Shack
Ruth Circle – Marty Taylor and Ann Johnson

The Presbyterian Women's Team is comprised of the Officers and Circle Leaders. Team meetings are held monthly except December, June and July. Circles meet September – May, three in the morning and one in the evening to accommodate working women. The 2020-2021 Presbyterian Team year is from June – May.

Honorary Life Membership was not awarded in 2020; therefore, we will award two recipients in 2021.

2020 Activities:

- Circles hold monthly meetings for devotion and Bible study September-May. However, due to Covid beginning in March 2020, the meetings were held via Zoom.
- Gatherings are held in the Fall and Spring and are open to women of the church and their guests. We had agreed to serve as the Host Church for the PW Presbytery Spring Gathering and all preparations were in order, but it was cancelled due to Covid. The Fall Gathering normally held in November was also cancelled.
- Baptismal boxes for infants and children baptized in the church are provided, led by Martha Haines.
- Monthly birthday celebrations are held at the Conroe Health Center, with each circle providing assistance by serving and singing. Brandon Folts, Music Director, generously provides his time with song and keyboard to make this a memorable time for residents. These were cancelled due to Covid.
- 100 plus Seamen's Boxes were packed and delivered to the Houston International Seafarer's Center in November 2020. Items for the boxes were provided by the circle groups and others in the congregation, led by Susan Buckley. The Mission Sewing group provides knitted caps for these boxes.
- Benevolence Giving includes the Spring Gathering Birthday Offering (\$661 in 2020), which goes to Presbytery and benefits women and children mission projects. The Fall Gathering Thank Offering (\$655 in 2020) is distributed 1/3 to Presbytery and 2/3 to an annually selected local charity. Family Promise, which is led by Jean Ball, was selected this year and received \$435. Our church is one of the host congregations, which provides overnight lodging, meals and hospitality for up to five families at a time, for one week at a time, on a rotational basis.
- Ongoing support helping victims of sex trafficking is provided through Freedom Place, located in Montgomery County. Sally DeStefano leads this effort, which includes teaching life skills to rescued girls and coordinating

delivery of donations from various individuals from our church. She submitted and we received the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant from New Covenant Presbytery in the amount of \$2,000 for Freedom Place.

- Fellowship of the Least Coin is collected each month during Circle meetings and sent to Presbytery to support education for women through grants.
- Our women participate in many aspects of church life including Family Promise, Salvation Army, Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Wednesday Night Live, Mission Sewing, Vacation Bible School, and other Christian outreach activities.
- Circles have adopted various areas of the church for regular special TLC deep cleaning. They also wash the sanctuary shawls monthly.
- Funeral/Memorial receptions at the church are offered and provided if desired to families, both members and non-members. Circles provide cookies and punch for receptions.
- Women new to the church are personally contacted and welcomed.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

2020-2021 Annual Report

Covid in 2020 caused many things to change or stop; however, worship at First Presbyterian Church, Conroe, Texas did not change or stop! Regular worship continued each Sunday, and because necessary technology was already in place, we could easily provide worship for those unable to attend in person. For those who chose to attend, the Sanctuary was arranged following all safety guidelines that had been established. Monthly communion continued with pods containing white grape juice and a wafer. Our choir student interns continued to inspire us with music. Our average in-person attendance was approximately 55, with online participation usually 150-170. God's Word continued at FPC!

Our primary goal for 2021 will be to have our congregation back in the Sanctuary safely. We will continue to provide worship opportunities online for those who cannot attend.