

First Presbyterian Church – Conroe

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 5, 2023

AGENDA

Distribution of Annual Reports for 2022-2023

Determination of a Quorum

Call to Order and Opening Prayer
Purpose of Meeting

Financial Results for 2022

General Budget for 2023

Change in Terms of Call

Highlights from Annual Report

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Call for Adjournment



First Presbyterian Church

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Conroe, TX 77304

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March 5, 2023

Dear Friends,

I have been at this work for a long time – 25 years as a full-time pastor, including 10 years here in Conroe – and I have never seen anything like this. Having served on boards and committees in local communities, regional governing bodies, and at national meetings, I have never heard of a congregation like ours.

There are no words to tell of the gratitude I have for our congregation or the joy I receive because of you. This is a peculiar moment, with me away from the church for several months as I work to recover from a difficult surgery. In my absence, the work of our congregation continues to thrive.

If you are not yet a part of a committee or ministry team in our congregation, this is your invitation to join in our exciting work. On the first Sunday of the month, our committees and ministry teams meet at 12:30. A light lunch is provided, and childcare is available, all at no cost to you. You may join these teams simply by showing up and attending a meeting.

Please take time to read through this 2022-2023 Annual Report. Look and see for yourself the exciting and energetic work of our congregation. Then decide where you believe that you can contribute to the life of the church. This is not just an invitation for you to do more work. This is an opportunity for you to see the powerful life of the church up close.

It's one thing to hear that we feed those who are hungry. It's different when you hand someone a plate of food. It's one thing to hear about the hand-crafted caps that are enclosed in boxes given to seafarers. It's different when you learn to make the caps and to know that you are blessing someone doing difficult work. It's one thing to hear about the church's financial standing throughout the year. It's different to see for yourself how each dollar is spent carefully with a focus on and care for the work that we are called to do.

These are only a few examples, but you will find many more in this Annual Report. Please take time to read about our committees and ministry teams, and about the excitement and creativity in their work. We are grateful for you and for your important part in the life of the church.

With much love and respect,

The Reverend Dr. David H. Green

2022 FINANCIAL RESULTS

	Budgeted	Actual	Change
Revenue	\$737,165	\$760,840	+ 4.0%
Expenses	\$763,245	\$746,840	- 1.6%

Restricted Funds Revenue Received (excl. FF) \$127,132

Mission Related: \$60,953

Restricted Funds Revenue Disbursed (excl. FF) \$170,106

Mission Related: \$66,429

Restricted Funds Balance (end 2021) \$353,634

Restricted Funds Balance (end 2022) \$310,659

Checking Account(s) Balance (end 2021) \$413,484

Checking/Savings Account(s) Balance (end 2022) \$326,973

Committed Funds (end 2022) \$174,609

Forever Fund Contributions (2022) \$10,806

Forever Fund Current Market Value (end 2022) \$326,577

Forever Fund Earning (2022) \$12,219

Forever Fund Earnings Delivered to Church (2022) \$0

Year-End Total Loan Principal Outstanding \$2,362,833

Loan Principal Repayment in 2022 \$93,027

2023 GENERAL BUDGET

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Total Revenue	\$737,163	\$760,840	\$738,582
Pledges	591,113	605,050	590,132
Freewill	123,000	129,305	126,000
Other	23,050	26,485	22,450
 Total Expenses	 \$763,243	 \$746,839	 \$751,428
Operating Expenses	\$523,455	\$523,341	\$525,506
Building & Grounds	154,100	171,911	169,550
Administration	37,800	38,657	40,400
Personnel	331,555	312,772	315,556
Debt Reduction	\$205,787	\$194,037	\$190,442
Loan Administration Charges	3,030	2,411	0
Loan Interest Payments	124,500	98,600	131,617
Loan Principal Payments	78,258	93,027	58,805
Program	\$34,000	\$29,461	\$35,500
Worship	7,400	9,443	9,200
Discipleship	14,200	10,792	13,200
Fellowship	5,500	4,745	5,500
Health & Wholeness	200	0	200
Caring & Prayer	1,200	128	1,200
Membership/Inviting	3,300	4,280	4,000
Presbyterian Women	1,800	73	1,800
Session	400	0	400
 Net Subtotal	 (\$26,080)	 \$14,001	 (\$12,846)
(Revenue – Expenses)			
Budget Deficit Offset			
Budget Deficit Fund:	\$26,080		\$12,846
 Overall Net Total	 \$0	 \$0	 \$0
 No. of Pledges	 105		82

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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: Fred Kate, Jay Hammonds, David Green (Pastor), Cheryl Nichols (Chair)

2022:

Finance

Revenues:

As shown in the financial section of this Annual Report, we ended 2022 with positive net income of about \$14,000, which was significantly better than the (\$26,000) planned deficit. Our revenues were about \$761,000, or about \$24,000 greater than budgeted; expenses of \$747,000 were about \$17,000 less than budgeted. This outcome is due to the grace of God, your generosity, and planned financial management.

We ended 2022 with a balance of about \$311,000 in Restricted Fund Accounts. Of this balance, \$137,000 is not designated for a particular purpose and can be used for other expenditures if necessary.

The Forever Fund balance ended the year with a current market value of about \$327,000. Contributions for the year were \$11,400, and earnings were about \$12,000. Our current rate of return is about 3.5%.

Our online giving continues to represent a significant part of our revenue. In 2022, it amounted to about 6% of total revenue.

Debt refinancing:

In 2022, we refinanced our existing church building loan with the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP); by doing this we were able to include funds for a project to eliminate our leaking roof problem; in addition to being able to fund a viable solution to the roof issue, our new loan will save us about \$1,250 in monthly loan payments, which is a definite win-win. Finally, the roof project included funds to refurbish the church steeple and cross, which now look terrific. The \$2,465,000 loan funds (interest rate of 5.36%, adjustable after 5 years) were used as follows: about \$2,270,000 to pay off the TMI bonds plus compound interest, and about \$195,000 to finance the payment of the roof repairs and building improvements.

Our total loan principal outstanding at December 31, 2022 is about \$2,363,000, which is comprised of the PILP Building loan and the PILP Energy Loan.

Other Cost-Saving measures:

In 2022, FPC changed on-line giving providers from Acceptiva to Subsplash; this move was made because of reduced transaction costs (2.4% versus 3.8%) and increased versatility (transactions can now be made using personal electronic devices as well as the church website).

Cost savings from the energy reduction project (new high efficiency A.C. units, LED lighting, and programmable thermostats) completed in 2018 continue to increase as the price of electricity increases; in 2022, we saved over \$1,700 monthly versus what we would have paid if we were still using electricity at the same pre-project level; note that our monthly loan payment is \$1,080, so we are essentially making money.

Personnel

As of the end of October, Sharon VanSchuyver moved to Oklahoma, and Sharon currently remotely performs publication and admin duties. Jane Corbit and Jackye Cannon have resumed their bookkeeping duties, while Yvonne Rose was promoted to Office Manager. Stephanie Cooke is now serving as Music Director and Rolethial McKelvey was hired as Pianist.

General

We continue to work closely with Presbyterian Day School to review their accounting and operations. PDS obtained a significant grant (about \$430,000) from the Texas Workforce Commission, and we review their expenditures and reporting. About \$100,000 of the TWC funds are being used for new playground equipment. Our committee also helped review and provide input to the PDS budget.

Goals for 2023:

With respect to finance, we plan to explore obtaining new sources of revenue. We have used a third party to file with the IRS for an Employee Retention Credit. This relates to wages paid to retain employees during set dates of the pandemic. The third party estimates that FPC is eligible to receive \$70,000 in credits. The third party will receive 15% of whatever FPC receives. We will also continue to look at how best to invest funds and reduce expenses to manage FPC resources.

With respect to legal compliance, we plan to review corporate bylaws to ensure that they reflect our church structure while following Texas state law.

We plan to review our stewardship process to determine how we can conduct stewardship throughout the year, rather than just at year-end.

For personnel, we will conduct staff reviews and determine ways to further show staff appreciation.

Four additional overall goals include 1) establishing a committee calendar to track committee activities, 2) reviewing FPC policies and procedures, 3) involving other church members in our committee, and 4) having joint committee meetings to have a better understanding of church operations and activities.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

We began the year with what could have been a total disaster were it not for members of the Janitorial Staff looking at the condition of the floors and evaluating them for waxing potential. When entering the hallway close to the Administrative offices and Nursery, they found water on the floor about a ¼" deep. Upon further investigation it was determined that a water filter had burst close to the ice making machine in the "Old Kitchen" and water had been running for quite some time without anyone noticing.

The flooding would have been much worse than it was had it not been for the janitorial staff. Once the flooding was detected, Cindy Watson and her crew did everything they could to mitigate the damage. Once Pastor Green and the Building and Grounds team were apprised of the situation, they contacted ServePro, a professional flooding recovery team, and the church's insurance company. The recovery process was started by determining the extent of the damage and doing mold remediation, as well as removal of drywall, and drying of the spaces impacted by the water intrusion. Once that was done, along with the processes of replacing drywall and painting, the walls were completed and the base boards were replaced, so the church could return to normal.



Old kitchen pantry



Standing rainwater after storm, before drainage solution was applied.

One of the projects we completed this past year was our drainage project. As you may remember in 2021, we started with resolving the drainage issues of the church by creating a patio like structure that would move the water generated off the roof of the rear main building. What we have found is that over the years, since the building was built, the contour of the landscape around the building has lost much of its slope away from the building. The unfortunate sloping, due in large part to the massive amounts of mulch that have been used over the years, has reversed the contour of the earth toward the building. Water coming off the roof flows into the building through the weep holes, not away from the building as it should. The solution: remove the vegetation and earth to a point below the level of the weep holes, recontour the slope to allow water to flow away from the structure, and ensure the drainage catch basins are low enough to effectively catch the runoff and direct the flow away from areas that might cause damage. The work on this project was completed by Army Landscaping. This company continues to do work around the church property.



Completed drainage project.
Regraded landscape contours.

Once the drainage issues were taken care of, our next focus was to replace the baseboards in the Sanctuary, as they were irreparably damaged by multiple exposures to water. The damaged areas were replaced as shown below.



New baseboard

Pull test



The next project was work on the roof. While we had solved the drainage issues, we were still getting water into the building. In preparation for getting the roof redone, we had to look at which was the best method of providing the church with a solution for the least amount of money. We felt the best solution was to re-cover the roof with new steel. We had three companies provide bids that were using processes that were wide-ranging. What we were looking for was a roofing product that would provide a warranted solution for at least 15 years. That requirement narrowed the field to two companies. David Perciful devised a product testing program to ferret out the top performer of the two companies. One of the criteria of success testing was a pull test. Using a fish scale, David was able to determine which product adhered the best to our current roofing material. Once this determination was made, we looked at company bids and how they performed during the testing phase of the selection process to determine which company would win the contract award. The roofing project finally got started the last week of December, with the cleaning of the roof and identifying the areas that were causing the leakage.

Our last project for 2022 was the upgrading of the electricity supply points in the FLC Kitchen and the gym. Due to funding, we were able to attack the project in stages. The first stage was to replace a broken garbage disposal and install a power outlet in the stage area that would allow the video projector to be plugged into a regular outlet (not an extension cord as was the practice in the past). Dr. Green can relay the issues surrounding the use of an extension cord, especially as it relates to fire safety inspectors. The second stage, which would have to be postponed until January, was to relocate power outlets from the floor under the two preparation tables to vertical posts along side the tables. The idea was to eliminate the need for the ladies working in the kitchen from having to crawl under the tables to plug in their electrical tools. We also moved the electrical connection points that were previously located under the serving table to a position above the serving table. Again, our intent was to eliminate the use of extension cords in the kitchen.

Jocelyn Comstock did an admirable job with limited resources to keep our landscaping looking good; however, this is not a single-person job. In the future, due to the size of the property, we are going to have to rely on a professional company to do the job, simply because the resource of volunteers has all but diminished. What this means is that if the members of the church want to have green lawns and floral-abundant garden beds, it is going to cost some serious dollars. Just giving y'all a heads up.

Lastly, I wish to thank the members of this committee: David Perciful, Steve Das, Tom Lowery, Roy Kessler, Jocelynn Comstock, David Henderson and Warren Taylor, for their aid in making this a successful year. In particular, I wish to especially thank David Perciful for his resourcefulness and perseverance in stepping up to the task, even after leaving the Session. Without David's help, I think we would be looking at a much different report.

Stephan Tibbetts, Committee Chair, Class of 2025

CARE AND PRAYER MINISTRY

Mission:

To provide encouragement, comfort, prayers and assist FPC members in times of bereavement, illness, and crisis; to promote health and wellness of the congregation; and to offer opportunities for individuals to receive and pray for one another and for the concerns of the church.

Members: Deck Yates, John Haller, Pat Hudson, (Martha Haines, Shirley Dukes, Cora Diamond, Glenna Lang when needed)

2022 Accomplishments:

1. Served In-home communion to home-bound members who requested it.
2. Visited members in the hospital, sometimes delivering prayer shawls.
3. Made follow-up telephone calls & sent cards to members post-surgery and bereavement events.
4. Emailed prayer concerns to list of those who wished to pray for serious member issues.
5. Continued men's prayer breakfast every two weeks.

2023 Goals:

1. Continue all the above.
2. Hold another CPR class.
3. Recruit new members to serve.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

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, Dena Sowden, Mark Sowden (Chair), Glenna Lang, Yvonne Rose, Virginia Tamborello, Anne Elms, Elizabeth Laletas

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 their 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.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Children's Ministry

1. Sunday School Attendance Averages:
 - Nursery – 2
 - Children – 2
 - Youth – 7
 - Adult – 70
2. Continued using Gospel Light Sunday School curriculum, Teachers report that they are pleased with the curriculum.
3. Coordinated a successful Easter Egg Hunt on April 17th for elementary children with the help of the Youth.
4. Helped PDS with a Pre-K graduation at the end of May.
5. Coordinated and participated in a successful VBS July 11-15. The theme was “Monumental”. Average attendance was 50 children with 16 youth volunteers and 28 adult volunteers. A “family night” was held on Thursday, July 14, and was attended by many of the VBS families. Bounce houses, games, hot dogs and fun were had by all.
6. The Pumpkin Patch was a huge success this year. The PDS joined in the fun with a wonderful Fall Festival on October 21st, complete with games, hayrides, face painting, a petting zoo and much, much more. We served hot dogs and popcorn and showed “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” to conclude the evening’s festivities. We had an enormous turnout! There was not a parking place to be found! A special note of thanks to the Spinks for the use of their tractor and trailer. The hayrides are always a big hit with the young and the young at heart.
7. Coordinated the annual Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 11th. In an effort to build bridges between FPC families and PDS families, the tradition has been to invite PDS children to join FPC Sunday School children in telling the story of Jesus' birth. The pageant was held during the church service, in what would normally be Children's Time.

8. FPC helped with the PDS Christmas Program on December 8th, entitled “Someone Has A Birthday!” which was livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Youth Ministry

1. Continued “The Spark” Wednesday night meetings for fun, fellowship, and service. Average youth attendance is +/- 10 youth.
2. Coordinated the annual Chili Cook-off on February 6th. More than \$14,000 was raised for the Youth Mission Trip expenses.
3. The annual Youth Live and Silent Auction was held on April 24, 2022, where we raised more than \$9,000 to offset Youth Mission Trip expenses. Words cannot express the gratitude the youth feel for the tremendous generosity and love from our church family.
4. We honored our mothers with a Mother’s Day Brunch on May 8th. Brunch was provided and several men helped with serving brunch with two seatings. One between early service and Sunday School, and a second after the 11 a.m. Service.
5. Recognized graduating seniors during worship on May 15. The graduates received a gift from the church.
6. Sr & Jr High Mission Trip was to Fairbanks, Alaska from June 4-11. It was a trip of a lifetime. The youth assisted with the insulating and weatherproofing of a combination warehouse/homeless shelter. A homeless shelter takes on a whole new meaning in a climate that sees temperatures below freezing for several months during the year. Mark Sowden, Dena Sowden and Amy Folts chaperoned the event.
7. Conducted a successful Mission At Home week here at FPC, from July 24-28. The youth worked on a variety of projects around the church that included cleaning out the outside storage building, replacing the toilet seats in all bathrooms throughout the church, trimming the trees, cleaning up the area around the outdoor chapel and began construction on the Memorial Brick pathway. The youth also assisted in converting some of the PDS classrooms to adult Sunday School classrooms and cleaned out several of the existing classrooms. The youth also weeded the PDS playground and trimmed trees around the property. The youth leveled and cleaned out the flower bed around the flagpole to make it easier to maintain. A very special thank you to the kitchen staff for providing our delicious dinners, and the Pastor and Mrs. Green for waking up at a crude hour to provide a hot breakfast each morning.
8. The Youth Praise Band continues to provide worship music on most Sunday mornings prior to the 11:00 service. They also provided music for the Chili Cook-Off, Youth Auction and the Mission At Home week.
9. The youth continue to assist in various projects around the church, coordinating with the Building and Grounds Committee to serve whenever and wherever needed.
10. The annual Easter Lock-In was held Apr 16-17 with the traditional showing of “The Passion Of The Christ”. During the lock-in, the youth stuffed and prepared all the Easter Eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning.
11. Christmas Progressive Dinner was held during the Christmas lock-in Dec. 10-11. The Greens provided appetizers, the Spinks provided dinner, and the Folts provided dessert. Instead of white elephant, we had a Wright Family Christmas gift game.
12. The Youth have taken a more active role in the 11:00 Sunday worship services, with the lighting and extinguishing of the candles, assisting in the offertory and as Worship Leaders on a regular basis.

General Discipleship

1. Conducted background checks on all teachers, VBS Volunteers, and Youth leaders.
2. Recognized Sunday School teachers in appreciation of their faithful dedication.
3. Used Youth in more worship services as Worship Leaders.

2023 OBJECTIVES

Children's Ministry

1. Continue to move in the direction of family ministry, resulting in spiritual transformation in the children and finding ways to involve parents in the discipleship process for the glory of God.
2. Plan more family events, gatherings and seminars. Possibly potluck lunches the first Sunday of the month or third Sunday to accommodate Session meetings.
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 with more dates, Gingerbread House decorating, and Family Movie Nights on special occasions.
9. Coordinate the annual Children's Christmas Pageant, including the PDS children and families.
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. Include PDS families.
4. Fund and coordinate a combined Mission Trip Colorado Springs, Co. 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.
7. Expand Youth Praise Band to include upcoming youth as seniors leave for college.

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

- March – n/a
- April – Easter Lock-in
- July – n/a
- August – At Home Mission Trip
- September – n/a
- October – Youth Lock-In
- November – n/a
- December – Progressive Dinner

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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 all age groups of First Presbyterian Church – Conroe.

Committee Members: Audrey Christie (Chair), Shirley Dukes, Liz Kessler, Robbie Ganek, Leona Cowie, Ina Webb, Marty Taylor, Neva Hammond, Pat Voorhees, Paul Ivison, Steve Tibbetts, Susan Das and Dana Corbit.

2022 ACTIVITIES:

- We participated, along with the Discipleship and the WNL Kitchen Crew, in the 12th Annual Chili Cook-off by providing cornbread and drinks for everyone. This was accomplished with excellent assistance from our FPC Youth.
- In April, we were able to provide breakfast for the Easter Sunrise Service. Later that morning, we provided punch and “Bird Nest” cookies for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- In conjunction with Discipleship Ministry, dinner was provided for the Youth Auction Fundraiser for Mission Trips.
- On May 15, a reception was held for (Graduating) Senior Recognition Sunday.
- On the 4th of July, ice cream and toppings were provided in the Narthex after the Worship Service.
- August 14 brought Sunday School Rally Day and we held a potluck. In October, we participated with the Kitchen Crew and PW to assist with the 3rd Annual Pumpkin Patch.
- 2022 ended with the Cookie Reception following the Children's Christmas Pageant and the 6th Annual Christmas Eve Cocoa & Cookies event at both Christmas services.
- Lunch was prepared throughout the year for the monthly meetings of our various ministry teams.

In August, we were delighted to welcome delivery of a new commercial range for the FLC Kitchen. It has a Griddle/ Broiler and several features that will expand our cooking abilities and make cleaning much easier.

2023 GOALS:

1. Continued support of our Youth Ministry events.
2. Continued participation in annual events.
3. Work with other Ministries to present church-wide activities; e.g. providing lunches for Building and Grounds activities, such as Landscaping Day and Church Work Days, as well as Prayer Breakfast with Prayer and Care.
4. Explore the feasibility of re-instituting Day Trips and having a Mystery Dinner Theatre.

The Fellowship Team holds very few in-person meetings. Most of our business is communicated in-person while working together on projects or electronically.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey G Christie, Chair
Shirley M. Dukes

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL) KITCHEN CREW

Wednesday Night Live has had a successful and fun 2022 Fall and 2023 Winter Sessions, providing a variety of home-cooked meals for 40-50 FPC congregants attending the dinners. The total cost of the meal is \$5.00 per person, with those over 89 and under 12 years of age eating at no charge. Dinner is served at 5:00 p.m. The number of volunteers for the kitchen crew has increased this year, with the welcomed addition of Al Bosse and Pat Hudson.

Before each session, we meet to select menus for the coming weeks and to enlist volunteers who will take the lead each week. That person is responsible for adjusting the chosen recipes to meet the number of attendees expected and to shop for the ingredients.

The dedicated members of the team meet for eight weeks during each session. The role of lead chef rotates among several of the team. We meet on Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. to prepare the evening's meal. Clean up is completed by 7-7:30 p.m.

We continue to provide take-out portions for those needing that service. This includes providing meals for Family Promise once during each session.

Once again, we partnered with Fellowship and the Youth on several events, e.g. the Annual Chili Cook-off, the Annual Youth Auction event, Youth Home Mission Trip meals, and the 3rd Annual Pumpkin Patch.

The Fall 2022 session was closed out with our annual Thanksgiving Feast, which was very well attended. This 2023 Winter session will end with our traditional Pancake Supper. The kitchen will close until September for WNL, but since many of the members are also active on the Fellowship team, we will continue to serve in other areas.

Anyone who is interested in participating in this fun and talented team is more than welcome. We rarely hold scheduled meetings since we are together each week and complete our business during those times. Our goal is to provide fellowship, fun, and good food for our FPC family.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Dukes,
Kitchen Crew

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mission:

To assimilate new members into the body of Christ at First Presbyterian Church of Conroe through “First Step” orientation classes and New Member Gatherings; to initiate new approaches to help bring people to FPC-Conroe; to provide opportunities for involvement in church activities for all members.

Committee Members:

Steve Scheffler (Chair), Betty Blott, Henry Blott, Michael Dwyer, Gordon Juhl, Dena Sowden, Judy Weinburger, Susan Young

Accomplishments 2022:

- The committee enhanced the Visitor and Member Information forms that were added in 2021-22 to the Sunday bulletin in an effort to track and update contact information for individuals attending worship. The committee made sure that this information is included during the welcome/announcements portion of the worship service.
- The committee successfully re-established the “First Steps” orientation for new and prospective members, which was held in November 2022. The next “First Steps” event is tentatively scheduled for late May, pending Rev. Green’s return from FMLA.
- The committee successfully re-established the New Member Dinner, which was held at Rev. Green’s home in March 2022 and November 2022. These dinners averaged 12-14 in attendance, including six new members in the Spring and five new members in the Fall. Additionally, members of the Membership Committee also attended the dinners.
- Continued to send birthday cards every month to children at Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services (PCHAS). Special thanks to Betty Blott and Judy Weinburger for taking on this project.
- Moved FPC advertising from Conroe Courier newspaper to Impact magazine.
- In October, the Membership Committee began collecting the attendance pad registration information, which had been suspended during COVID in 2020 and 2021. The committee has recruited a member, Paula Shepherd, to work with the front office staff to input the attendance data in the Church Windows software, which is expected to begin in February 2023.
- In late 2022 and early 2023, the Committee worked with the youth and PDS to arrange for floats in Conroe’s annual Go Texan Parade, which attracts more than 1,000 attendees in the downtown area. The goal is to raise visibility for FPC and PDS while having fun and celebrating the start of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Goals from 2022 that were not accomplished:

- Create an updated church directory (postponed to 2023)
- Updating the church roster
- Sending cards to shut-ins
- Design a board for members’ name tags (to help members remember to wear their name tags)
- Staff Welcome Desk and supply greeters at worship service (this is coordinated by the Worship Committee)

Goals for 2023:

- Recruit and integrate new members onto the Membership Committee.
- Publish a new church directory by the end of the year; begin collecting updated member contact information for a 2023-24 directory.
- Re-establish the record-keeping and input of member/visitor participation in worship services.
- Assess previous advertising and promotion efforts to recruit new members and participation in church events and activities; create a plan and budget for advertising FPC Conroe in the local community that can be tracked. This should include social media, Google search and display ads, mixed with more traditional advertising in Community Impact, Courier and other outlets.
- Continue the “First Steps” orientation classes for prospective and new members. In 2022, after almost two years without such events, the Membership Committee re-instituted this with an event in the Fall.
- Continue the New Member Gatherings for our new members. The Membership committee provides a casual dinner for 12-15 individuals, including new members, Dr. and Mrs. Green, and committee members. We intend to hold two such gatherings in 2023 (one in the late Spring and one in late Fall) to connect with new church members and become better acquainted.
- Continue to send birthday cards to the children at Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services, monthly

2022 Member Statistics:

(based on approved Session minutes from 2022)

New Members: 10

Baptisms: 0

Deaths: 14

Transfers: 0

MISSION MINISTRY

Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Missions

Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you.

Missions Committee – 2022:

The FPC Missions committee includes four permanent members: Penny Bell, Catherine Scheffler, Tom Young, and Bobby Ezell. The total FPC Mission effort operates by the works of groups of autonomous FPC members who have defined and responded to the needs of those in our community and to the needs of those in the larger community of faith.

Missions Support – 2022:

Among those 2022 FPC projects providing food for the homeless include:

Salvation Army - In 2022, FPC provided a team of from eight to ten members who each Monday either took 75 sack lunches to Salvation Army or who took food and cooked at the Salvation Army site, providing approximately 75-100 lunches. The total annual number of Salvation Army lunches provided by FPC in 2022 totals near 4,000 (52 weeks x 75).

CHOP - In 2022, two FPC volunteers coordinated providing food once each month at the new CHOP facility on Foster Drive. Church members working in monthly teams took 75 sack lunches each month for a total of 900 meals per year. (Improvements underway at the CHOP facility may soon allow hot meals to be prepared there.)

Family Promise - In 2022, FPC volunteers, approximately each six weeks, provided overnight chaperones at Family Promise. In addition, FPC volunteers provided evening and breakfast meals for those staying at Family Promise. Depending upon the number of Family Promise residents, the number of meals provided to Family Promise residents is approximately 1,000 per year.

In 2022, FPC provided approximately 6,000 meals in total to the three institutions listed above.

Food Bank - In 2022, FPC members organized a committee to group food and supplies at the local food bank for distribution in the Montgomery County area.

Sunday School Classroom projects - In 2022, one FPC Sunday School class and one small group class initiated a Mission Project, providing funds for the chickens for the hungry worldwide, providing monetary support for an individual college student involved in a Mission focus, and providing support of the youth Chili Cook-off.

Missions Special Collections – 2022:

Easter One Great Hour of Sharing - The Easter collection goes to the One Great Hour of Sharing in support of hunger programs worldwide.

Missions - One Sunday collection goes to the FPC Missions programs to reimburse those who provided food for the different homeless programs.

Christmas Joy Offerings - This offering goes to retired Presbyterian Church workers in need of housing and goes to needy students attending Presbyterian schools.

Missions – 2023:

The FPC Missions committee and other FPC members are considering several additional areas of local support in 2023. Among those:

- *A Saturday church-wide day of community support*—The project would include the development of community needs that could be addressed by available church members and available money to make the project happen. A date in late-Spring has been considered.
- *Adding Angel Reach* to the list of the needy supported by FPC—Angel Reach is a local Montgomery County organization that provides housing, career development, and counseling to youngsters who have not been successfully placed for adoption and who have aged out of foster care. Angel Reach also supports a kinship program. Angel Reach owns a number of temporary housing options for homeless young people who have aged out of foster care.

MISSION SEWING GROUP

Items made by the Mission Sewing Group

For First Presbyterian Church and Friends:

(Activities of Mission Sewing were severely restricted due to church closure and low attendance due to Covid restrictions)

16 Knitted/Crocheted "Prayer Shawls"

For the Community:

- **"It's My Very Own Bags of Love"**
 - ❖ 2022 Sew-a-thon cancelled due to Covid.
 - ❖ Donated 60 children's quilts to be given to children who are removed from their homes by CPS.
 - ❖ Donated 49 stuffed animals, 1 baby blanket and 1 fabric book.
- **Linus Connection Central Texas, Uvalde, Texas**
 - 20 children's quilts donated
- **Texas Children's Hospital**
 - 11 Baby Afghans
- **Montgomery County Animal Shelter**
 - 33 dog pillows
- **Area Nursing Homes**
 - 82 crocheted lap robes
 - 1 Alzheimer patient fidget mats
- **Houston Veterans Hospital**
 - 54 crocheted lap robes
- **Dan Duncan St. Luke's Cancer Center**
 - 42 crocheted cancer caps

For World-Wide Missions:

- **Caps to be included in the Seamen's Christmas boxes**
 - 100 Knitted/Crocheted Caps
- **Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI)**
 - (Mission trips to Moldova orphaned children suspended due to Covid) Mission trips planned to South Africa where crocheted caps and scarves will be given to school children.
- **Coupon Collection**
 - Collected many shoe boxes full of Manufacturers Coupons to be sent to bases around the world to benefit military families.

Submitted by:

Linda Harshbarger

Mission Sewing Co-coordinator with Liz Kessler

PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL MISSION TEAM

The goals for PDS Mission Team for 2022 – 2023 include:

- Maintain safety for children and staff.
- Providing a positive, pleasant, productive, kind environment for children, staff and parents.
- Offer appropriate instruction for the children.
- Continuing to support the collaboration between PDS and FPC on events/activities.
- Following established procedures for all financial matters.
- Expanding involvement of parents with activities offered by FPC as well as PDS.
- Increasing the enrollment by adding "Toddlers" class.
- Establishing a parent committee to provide input and support for PDS (nicknamed "The Dream Team").

As of February 2, 2023, PDS has 33 students in five classes – PreK, Three Years Old, Older Two Years Old, Younger Two Years Old, and Toddlers. In addition to the five teachers, there are four aides, an Administrative Assistant, and the Director to complete the staff. The FPC Christian Education Director works with the PDS staff and provides chapel for the children.

The grant from the Texas Workforce Commission has provided:

- Means to enhance marketing with the rental and display of a billboard at the intersection of Highway 105 and North Loop 336 (highly visible location for extensive traffic daily), continuous advertising in the *Impact* magazine, and advertising in the Conroe Courier.
- Extensive work on the facilities – painting walls; remodeling offices; providing motion-sensor lights, water, soap, and paper towels in the restrooms; cleaning and clearing playground area, power washing brick walls in the playground area and entry to Family Life Center; and electrical and plumbing issues in offices, bathrooms and laundry room.
- Replace and revitalize the playground area with new surfaces and playground equipment.
- Purchase new washer and dryer.
- Restock supplies for office and classes.
- Purchase two changing tables for use in the Toddler classrooms.
- Purchase "tablets" and "walkie-talkies" for each teacher to increase communication with office, parents, FPC staff and PDS staff (also instrumental in maintaining safety), record-keeping, and instructional planning.
- Ability to increase staff and staff salaries, as well as provide bonuses to staff.
- Ability to provide financial assistance to families meeting established criteria.

The cooperation and coordination of activities and events between the Church and PDS has been fantastic! During this year, the following events have involved children, staff and parents from PDS and FPC:

- VBS in the summer
- Monthly Reading to the Children by FPC members
- Fall Festival & Pumpkin Patch
- Trunk or Treat
- Christmas Pageant
- Chili Cookoff & Dessert Auction
- Go Texas Parade
- Rummage Sale
- Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt
- Book Fair

In addition, PDS has interspersed parent and student activities during the school day, such as: "Muffins with Moms," "Donuts with Special Dude," Storybook Parade, Thanksgiving Luncheon, Christmas Party with Santa, Valentine Party, and Dr. Seuss Day.

Registration for 2023-2024 School Year has just begun, and already 20 children are pre-registered. A new billboard will be displayed this Spring and additional signage will advertise PDS registration and events along North Loop 336 near the FPC entrances.

PDS is thriving, growing and shining every day! The artwork on the walls near the PDS office and restrooms enhances the atmosphere and sense of discovery for all the individuals, both young and young at heart, traveling through the area.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Mission:

The mission of our local Presbyterian Women group is to nurture our local congregation and international denomination through prayer, Bible study, and philanthropy. We support the mission of “the church” worldwide, which helps support justice and peace. We work to support a caring community of Presbyterian women that strengthens the Presbyterian church locally and worldwide as we witness to the promises of God.

Team Officers:

Dana Corbit-Moderator
Marty Taylor- Secretary
Linda Harshbarger-Treasurer
Marty Taylor-Honorary Life Membership
Joan Lowery- Membership
Marty Taylor-Funeral/Memorial Coordinator

Circle Leaders:

Lydia Circle- Glenna Lang and Robbie Ganek
Martha Circle- Jenny Peterson and Cindy Massey
Rebecca Circle-Jocelyn Comstock
Ruth Circle-Marty Taylor and Ann Johnson

The Presbyterian Women’s Team is composed of the Officers and Circle Leaders. Team meetings are held monthly except in December, June, and July. Circles meet from September through May.

Honorary Life Membership:

No new member for 2022 year. Will resume in 2023.

2022 Activities:

- Circles hold monthly meetings for devotion and Bible study.
- Circles held the Presbytery Spring Gathering on April 2, 2022. It was successful and hosted over 100 guests from multiple Presbytery congregations from Brenham and the Houston Area.
- Baptism boxes for infants and children are provided by Martha Haines.
- Over 100 Seamen’s boxes were prepared and gifted to the Houston International Seafarer’s Center in December. Susan Buckley and the Mission Sewing Group supervise this event.
- Benevolence Giving includes the PW Spring Birthday offering (\$87 for 2022), which goes to the Presbytery and benefits women and children ministry projects. The PW Thank Offering is collected each Fall (\$175 for 2022).
- Fellowship of the Least Coin is collected each month during Circle meetings and sent to Presbytery to support education for women through grants (\$32.32 for 2022).
- Members of our Circles further participate in serving the Salvation Army, Family Promise, local Meals on Wheels, Wednesday Night Live, Mission Sewing, Vacation Bible School, Fall Pumpkin Patch, youth fundraiser events and other outreach activities.
- Funeral/memorial receptions are provided if desired by families of both members and non- members. Circles provide cookies and punch for these receptions.
- Women new to the church are personally contacted and welcomed to pursue and join a circle.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry aspires to provide an opportunity for all to worship God, to learn and know Jesus Christ and character of God, and design mighty works, gospel and love for him through song, prayer, and inspirational words.

Accomplishments for 2022:

- Observed all special and Holy Days with service and music, prayer, and words of inspiration.
- We continued Communion with regular and gluten-free communion cups. The 8:30 service is 30-45 minutes and has Communion and prayer every Sunday, while the 11:00 is the full traditional service with Communion served the first Sunday of the month.
- Provided an opportunity to honor loved ones with flowers at Easter and Christmas.
- Provided an all-Saints Day service in October to honor those who passed away during the past year.
- Senior High youth are responsible for one worship service during the year.
- Used LED tea candles for the Christmas Eve services, so wax would not be spilled on our new pews.
- We have started passing the plate for offerings during the 11:00 service. The 8:30 service continues to use the Offering Boxes near the entrance of the Sanctuary.

Goals for 2023:

- Observe and provide all special and Holy days with service and music, prayer, and words of inspiration and special displays and activities.
- Provide an opportunity to honor loved ones with flowers at Easter and Christmas.
- Continue to have Senior High youth responsible for a worship service and participate in others.
- Continue the use of LED tea candles for Christmas Eve services.
- Worship meets as necessary and continues to look for new members.
- Reinstate the use of intinction for Communion.
- Prepare new payment schedule for Weddings.
- Continue our usual activities such as maintaining candles and banners, ushers, prepare Communion and various other items.

Let's Get Connected

In this *Annual Report*, you have read the vision of many ministries, and learned about many mission projects that our church members conduct. Our church's vision is to ***"Love God, invest in people, live generously."*** The following table lists the Session ministries, all of which are looking for participants. With each ministry, committee, or team, a contact person's phone number and email address are given. If that ministry, committee, or team interests you, or fits your gifts and passions, please contact the lead person and talk with him or her. Get connected; put your gifts and passions to use, and you will be blessed for it.

Ministry / Team	Contact Person	Phone	Email
Session Ministries			
Administration	Cheryl Nichols	540-521-2078	clnichols2014@gmail.com
Building & Grounds	Stephan Tibbetts	832-521-3798	WoodButcher17@outlook.com
Care & Prayer	Bob Shepherd	936-756-7779	pbshepherd@hotmail.com
Discipleship	Mark Sowden	281-728-8710	mark@crystalclearmortgage.com
Fellowship	Audrey Christie	562-334-6189	Scottishdawn@hotmail.com
Membership	Steve Scheffler	281-851-1690	scscheffler@sbcglobal.net
Missions	Bobby Ezell	936-539-9515	bobby.ezell@suddenlink.net
Mission Sewing	Linda Harshbarger/ Liz Kessler	281-610-6162 936-856-1403	lshbarger@aol.com ekessler4@suddenlink.net
Presbyterian Day School	Sharon Walker	936-273-1855	sswalker46@hotmail.com
Presbyterian Women	Dana Corbit	936-273-5480	danacorbit@gmail.com
WNL Cooking Team	Shirley Dukes Liz Kessler	936-760-8655 936-856-1403	parishrn@suddenlink.net ekessler4@suddenlink.net
Worship	Chuck & Janet Pohla	936-788-3214	janetandchuck201@yahoo.com

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