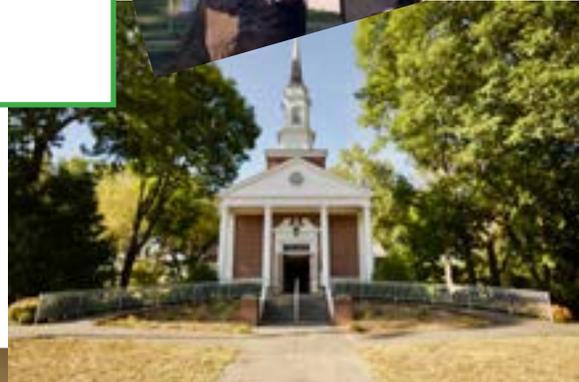
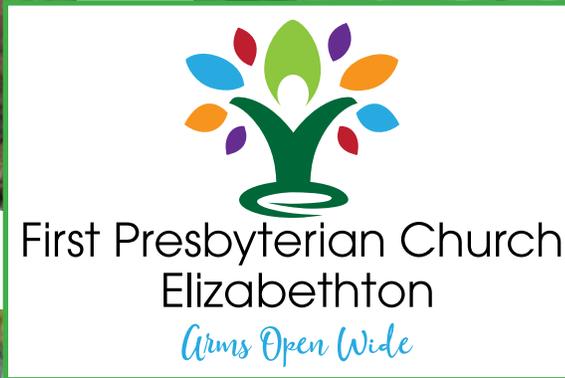
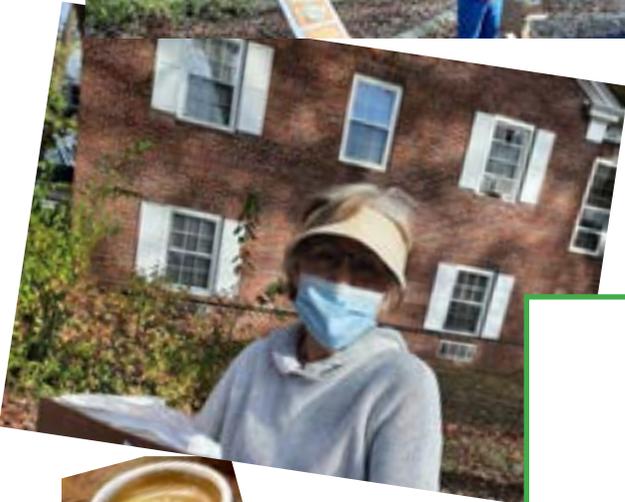


First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethton

Arms Open Wide

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



FPCE invites you to become a part of our fellowship as we worship God and serve others in the spirit of Jesus Christ. With a commitment to achieving a just and peaceful world community - our congregation welcomes those of every age, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnic identity.

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Pastor's Report

Dear Friends,

525,600 minutes. How do you measure a year? (who is singing along with some "Rent"?) 2020 was the year that seemed, in many ways, to drag out every...single...minute...as we learned to adapt to mask wearing, social distancing, remote learning, YouTube church, and plenty of other markers of 2020 we will never forget. Yes. It was a long year.



After starting off with several exciting events (a banner dedication celebrating the completion of six handmade worship banners now hanging in the sanctuary, a youth Sunday that had us dancing around the sanctuary to Pharrell Williams' song "Happy"), we closed down the sanctuary to in-person worship beginning on Sunday, 15 March 2020. We continued leading worship from the sanctuary and live-streaming it for the next few weeks as COVID-19 cases increased around the country. Then, beginning on Palm Sunday (5 April 2020), we transitioned to fully remote worship for the rest of the year.

For me, this year has entailed learning some new skills not taught in seminary, like how to do video production and editing, how to preach to a camera when no one is around, how to run meetings from a computer (not to mention how to help a 7th grader with his algebra as he sits 6 feet away on the couch!). The adjustments to COVID life were challenging for many of us. But the result of our collective efforts has been a vibrant online community gathering each Sunday morning for worship, sending in photos for passing the peace, and chatting with one another in YouTube. Others have worked to keep our church community going remotely with Adult Forum (David Roane), Meditation Group (Bill Kirkwood), Virtual Youth Group (Amber Athon), Thursdays with Jesus, and other online meetings.

While doing everything online may not be the way most of us would choose to do church, having a safe and meaningful way to gather for worship and other events has helped us to engage with people who found or connected with us through our online presence. We have added 5 new members since closing the church for COVID, four of whom I have still not yet met in person (though hope to do so in 2021!) I am deeply grateful for this community and the efforts you all have made to help us stay connected as a church family. I can honestly say that watching worship together on Sunday mornings, joining in the chat and getting to say "good morning" to you all, has been one of the sustaining blessings for me during this season.

About a week ago, YouTube sent me an email with our church's 2020 statistics on it. Last year, our YouTube videos racked up 128,063 minutes of viewing. We added 128 new subscribers to our YouTube channel, and our videos have been shared with others 133 times in 2020.

As we look forward to 2021, I am excited to return to some in person events at later this year. When and how that happens has not yet been decided, but we have made some significant investments in audio and video technology for streaming in 2020 and are committed to maintaining a robust online presence even after the church re-opens.

Along with acquiring some new televangelism skills in 2020, I continue to serve on the board for Holston Presbytery Camp and Conference Center (FPCe elder Jim Austin is the director there) and also serve as a member of the Holston Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission. I was the minister commissioner for Holston Presbytery to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA--the first General Assembly ever held entirely online. Even during the quarantine, I was privileged to officiate 3 weddings - all outdoors! As has been the case in past years, some of those weddings were for people unconnected to FPCe, but who reached out looking for an open and inclusive minister. I continue to give thanks that part of our church's outreach is trying to embody God's love for all people, full of acceptance, without judgment, and welcoming all "with open arms."

As always, I am so grateful for our church family, and for your support of my family. I am honored to be a part of a progressive Christian community in this place, to share in the witness of this church to the larger community, and to work together with you as we strive to join in co-creating the kin-dom of heaven in this place. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2021!



Clerk of Session Report

Session Meetings

Regularly scheduled meetings were in person for January and March, transferring to virtual Zoom meetings for May, July, September and November.

Holston Presbytery Meetings

As many other events were canceled so was the way of the Presbytery Meetings. Kathy Wing attended 7 March and reported on the meeting at the following session meeting. An online Presbytery meeting was held on 1 December 2020 with Lydia Roane serving as elder commissioner.

New Members

Scott Gurdak and Jim Sutton requested transfer from Garden Presbyterian in Jupiter and Jane Bond requested transfer of membership from First Christian Johnson City. Scott, Jim and Jane were welcomed to membership and introduced to the congregation on November 8 virtually.

Holy Communion

Communion was observed on the following dates: 5 January 2020 (Epiphany), 2 February 2020, 1 March 2020

The remaining dates in 2020 were observed remotely as members and Rev Dr. Wyatt participated together in time via our worship broadcast: 12 April 2020 (Easter), 31 May 2020 (Pentecost), 6 September 2020, 4 October 2020 (World Communion Day), 1 November 2020 (All Saints' Day), 6 December 2020 (Advent)

Deaths

Deaths recorded in 2020 include Elder Amy Willingham (d. 24 June 2020), Deacon Tony Hedrick (d. 18 April 2020), and Jeanne Keurschner (d. 11 October 2020). We also lost friends of the congregation James (Jay) Mills and Julie Martin.

Baptisms

No baptisms were noted in 2020.

Births

No births were noted in 2020.

Marriages

We are happy to congratulate Niko Armstrong and Tristan Watts who were married October 21, 2020 on the church grounds, Rev. Dr. Wyatt officiating.

2021 Elected Officers:

Session		
Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Roddy Bird	Charles Faust	Jim Austin
Bobbie Connelly	Ginger Oaks	Keven Edin
Cheri Miller	David Roane	Jeff Wardeska
Mike Rose	Julia Rogers	Kathy Wing
Deacons		
Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Richard Brosmore	Melody Faust	Nancy Barrigar
Carol Ann McElwee	Lucinda Flodin	Lydia Roane
Brenda Wardeska	Merry Miller	Jane Wyatt

Ordination of 2021 Elders & Deacons

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, 25 October 2020 to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect members to serve as deacons and elders. The following were nominated and duly elected: For elder, class of 2023 - Jim Austin, Keven Edin, Jeff Wardeska, and Kathy Wing; for elder, class of 2021 - Mike Rose; for deacon, class of 2023 - Nancy Barrigar, Lydia Roane, and Jane Wyatt; for deacon, class of 2021 - Brenda Wardeska

FPCe Members

As of 31 December 2020 our congregation has 157 members on the active roll.

Respectfully Submitted, Rebecca Nunley, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons Report

The Board of Deacons served 98 individuals or families during 2020. Deacons met challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic caused by reaching out regularly to people on their Care Lists through phone calls, emails, and cards. MealTrain was an active ministry, also.

Deacons managed the Prayer List for the weekly eNews. A new column, Joys and Blessings, was added to foster connections among the congregation.

The Board of Deacons was represented by Carol Ann McElwee on the church Nominating Committee. Lydia Roane served as Liaison from the Session.

We mourned the loss of our dear friend and Deacon, Tony Hedrick, who passed away on April 20, 2020.

We thank members and friends of FPCe for their support in our ministry. Their compassion and generosity were inspiring.

Respectfully submitted: Lee Kirkwood (Moderator), Richard Brosmore, Melody Faust, Lucinda Flodin, Tony Hedrick, Carol Ann McElwee, Merry Miller, Jill Oxendine, and Lydia Roane (Liaison)

Youth Director's Report

With a switch to a greater online presence as we ceased in person worship, FPCe social media saw much growth. FPCe's top Instagram post of 2020 reached 180% more people than the top post of 2019. In March, the FPCe Facebook page saw a 70% increase in followers. This large jump was followed by a steady increase throughout the year, leading to an overall 113% increase in the amount of people who follow FPCe's Facebook page. Our congregation has utilized the FPCe Facebook group as an online community hub where information, funny photos, expressions of grief, and sweet memories have been shared between church siblings during this period of isolation.



The youth started off 2020 busy: ice skating, bowling, volunteering at ARM, a lock-in, youth Sunday, and a youth retreat at Holston camp all before switching to online worship. Youth Forum has continued on Zoom, and over the course of the year some new friends have joined in when visiting regular attendees homes. We have played "Among Us," chess, JackBox games, and Scattergories together alongside wondering about Wisdom literature, socializing about our weeks in quarantine, and commiserating about trying to keep up with online school. The youth continue to express hopes for the return of in person church events.

Respectfully Submitted, Amber Athon, Youth and Social Media Coordinator (amber@fpcelizabethton.org / (678)-544-9638)

Music Leadership Team's Report

The progression of the pandemic resulted in the altering of traditional worship. Approximately half of a worship service involves music. From the Prelude to the Postlude, music is an essential part of worship. Following a couple months of "live" streaming at 11:00 am on Sundays, services transitioned into "recorded" services and will likely continue through a portion of 2021. All the hymns, preludes, etc., have been prepared by the Music Team. Special Music has been recorded either at the church or provided from the homes of our congregants.

The variety of music contributed by our church family has been inspiring. Whether a vocal selection by Heidi Faust from Sweden, or a music selection prepared locally, our Sunday Services have been musically involved. Joan Denny and Roddy Bird continue to provide music from the piano and organ. Further, the contributions from other churches mentioned in the Worship Committee Report enhanced the services.

Although in-person Choir Rehearsals were abruptly halted, the choir did meet by Zoom every week for a few months then met every other week. Maintaining this connection has been significant. The choir has provided music (music is sent to choir members with instructions, they record their voice, then send to the Choir Director who arranges the voices that is prepared for worship). The plan is to provide more “choral pieces” in the weeks ahead. Also, as Vice Moderator of the Holston Presbytery, I asked our choir to prepare a virtual choral piece to be used for worship of the Presbytery’s December meeting.

The Music Team did approve the redirection of budgeted music funds to be used for the purchase of technical equipment for the “virtual worship” preparation. This has been significant in permitting our Pastor to better prepare the worship services. His skill with this new equipment has resulted in a professional feel for our worship. The purchase of a heater/humidifier was installed in the sanctuary piano. This was an essential preventive maintenance installation that will insure the care of the piano with changing temperatures and humidity.

It was our goal to provide Virtual Services that are reflective of our regular worship calendar. The music for Easter, Church annual Christmas Dinner, and Christmas Eve Service all assisted in maintaining the feel of our church family experiencing a sense of normalcy.

To all those who contributed to our music during this challenging year of worship, THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted, Music Leadership Team (Roddy Bird, Joan Denny, Paul Gabinet)

2020 Treasurer’s Report

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TREASURER’S REPORT

DECEMBER 2020

ACCOUNT BALANCES

(as of 31 December 2020)

BANK ACCOUNTS	Balance
Checking	\$ 43,212.22
Money Market	\$ 48,486.45
Cash	\$ 281.70
Total Banking	\$ 92,340.37

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

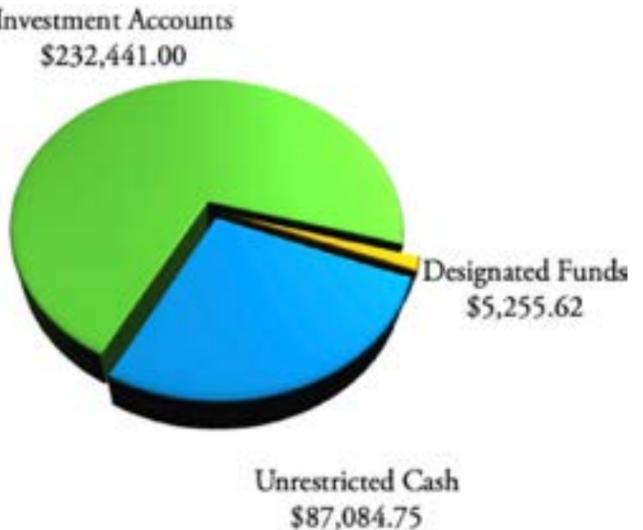
New Covenant - Nelson	\$ 23,969.00
New Covenant - Ruth Johns	\$ 172,135.00
Edward Jones - Ruth Johns	\$ 36,337.00
Total Investments	\$ 232,441.00

TOTAL ASSETS

DESIGNATED / RESTRICTED FUNDS

Adult Forum	\$ 1,437.17
Mary Stuart Bowman Library Fund	\$ 534.62
Memorial Fund	\$ 649.00
Flower Fund	\$ 510.27
Peacemaking	\$ 1,321.35
Youth Activities Fund	\$ 803.21
Total Designated Funds	\$ 5,255.62

EQUITY (Assets minus Designated Funds)



\$ 319,525.75

EveryONE Counts

Food for the Multitude	\$ 845.00
Area Resource Ministry	\$ 932.00
Shepherd’s Inn	\$ 964.00
Living Waters for the World	\$ 946.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 369.00
Total for 2020:	\$ 4,056.00

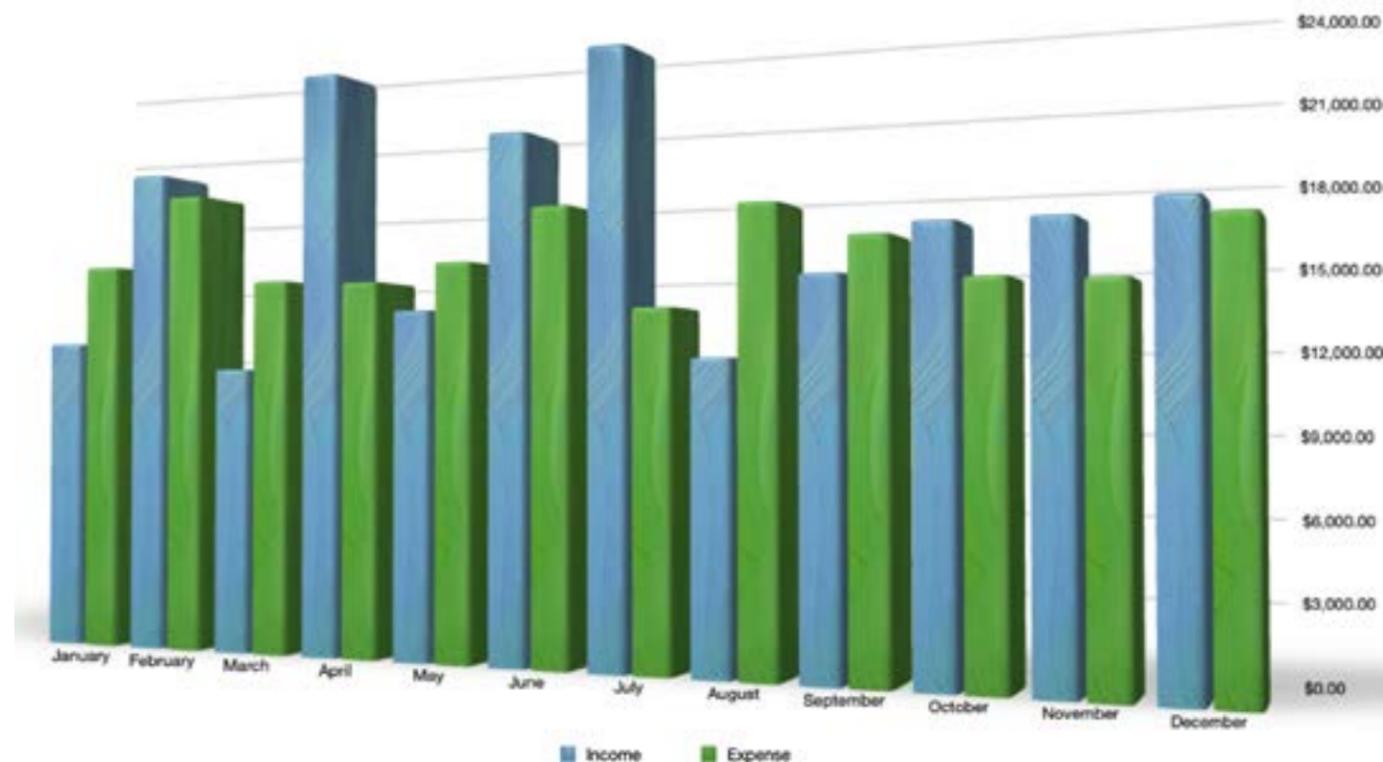
2020 Income & Expenses

GENERAL FUND	2020 ANNUAL	2019 ANNUAL
INCOME		
Contributions	\$ 182,325.78	\$ 174,585.30
Interest income - checking	\$ 120.27	\$ 117.62
Interest income - money market	\$ 102.23	\$ 134.20
Ruth Johns dividends	\$ 2,683.61	\$ 2,685.54
Tom Dixon distributions	\$ 17,157.40	\$ 17,391.17
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 202,389.29	\$ 194,913.83
EXPENSES		
Difference	\$ 10,843.96	\$ 11,139.19
General Fund Current Balance	\$ 10,843.96	

2020 Monthly Average

Income:	\$ 16,865.77
Expenses	\$ 15,962.11

2020 MONTHLY
INCOME VS EXPENSES



2021 Narrative Budget

Worship and Music

“Worship the Lord with gladness” Psalm 100:2

Worship at FPCe is special! We wrestle thoughtfully with questions of life, calling, and God; we meditate, sing and pray together; we welcome everyone to worship with us just as they are—to love and be loved. Around 30% of our budget supports FPCe’s worship and music program.

Spiritual Formation

“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” Mark 10:15

We come to FPCe to learn, to grow, to practice together a path of healing and wholeness for ourselves and our world. Around 12% of our budget makes possible a Sunday forum for youth, regular youth activities led by our new Director for Youth, our always enlightening Adult Forum, the Thursdays with Jesus book discussion group, and the Wednesday evening Meditation Gathering.

Service to the Community & World

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Loaves and Fishes. . . Area Resource Ministry . . . Shepherd’s Inn . . . Holston Camp . . . Boroko Village . . . Presbyterian Disaster Relief . . . Five Cents a Meal . . . Living Waters for the World . . . ETSU UKirk Campus Ministry. Serving Christ beyond our walls is the heartbeat of FPCe. About 13% of our budget supports this good work.

Care and Engagement

“Offer hospitality to one another...” 1 Peter 4:9

Through our deacons’ ministry of care, through countless acts of love and kindness, FPCe offers love, comfort and hope to everyone in our church family. And we grow closer through much-loved events in the church calendar, such as dinner on the grounds and the annual retreat (events we hope to once again celebrate in 2021!). About 10% of the budget funds care and engagement of our members.

Facilities

I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” Psalm 122:1

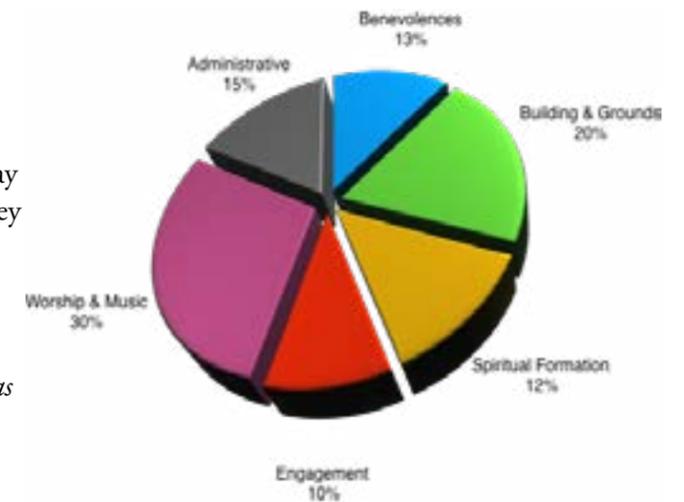
About 20% of FPCe’s budget ensures that we have a safe, sound and beautiful place to worship, study and celebrate together. But the building and grounds budget does so much more: Although the building remained closed for much of 2020, it has been and will continue to be used by many groups outside the church, including the LGBTQ+ Social Gathering, Catholic worship with Fr. Michael, Friends of Roan Mountain, yoga and exercise classes, Carter Co. Democratic Women’s panel, Shepherd’s Inn, Holston Camp board, ARM and the ETSU Mandolin Orchestra.

Administration

“God will meet all your needs according to the riches of God’s glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

God lives in the details! The administrative portion of our budget—a little under 15%—covers the countless things that need to happen for our church to operate.

****Copies of the 2021 general operating budget with line items are available by contacting David Roane, SFP Moderator**



Building & Grounds Report

The recollection of the contributions from Buildings and Grounds for 2020 is as with everything else are a blur at best. Many people have participated with the ongoing maintenance on their own in both small and large ways. Some of the larger concerns were the removal of fallen tree limbs on our neighbor's property, repair of the large pot hole in the parking lot. Along with the ongoing care of the flower beds, leaf removal on the ground and in the gutters, interior concerns of upgrading the video systems and roof repairs to fix a leak were addressed.

One of the brighter notes was the establishment of our Arboretum. The labeling and provision for QR scanning of the various trees that the church has historically work so hard to maintain is much appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Rose, Moderator

Community Life Report

Due to the rather unusual year that 2020 turned out to be, almost all of the usual social events that normally occur during the year were canceled due to the pandemic. We did have a few "Bean"ediction events the first two months of 2020, but all else will wait until church resumes in 2021.

We look forward to 2021 when our church family can enjoy dinners for eight, our church retreat, dinner on the grounds, the gratitude dinner, the progressive dinner, and the big Christmas dinner that we all enjoy.

"Bean"ediction: This is a second Sunday social held after church on the second Sunday of each month and hosted by different committee moderators. It represents an opportunity for informal fellowship after church.

Acknowledgments: Community Life would like to thank the committee moderators who hosted the "bean"edictions.

Respectfully Submitted, Julie Wade (Moderator), Leo and Janice Barnett, Jennifer and John Gardner, Roddy Bird and Wayland Dykes, Tony Hedrick, Mike Rose, Suzanne Moody, Helen Sue Brown, Roddy Bird (elder liaison)

Community Outreach Report

The Community Outreach team seeks to encourage and coordinate outreach to the local community. This is done largely through the following local agencies and ministries: ARM (Assistance and Resources Ministry), FFTM (Food for the Multitude), and the Shepherd's Inn (a safe house for women and children).

The Community Outreach Committee continued to function during 2020. The weekly, "Every One Counts" offerings continued as well as donations and volunteers from FPCe. Each of the above ministries applied for and received Hunger Relief Grants from Holston Presbytery for 2020, and each of these organizations has applied for Hunger Relief Grants for the upcoming fiscal year.

Due to COVID-19, Food for the Multitude has partnered with Loaves and Fishes, an outreach ministry of River's Edge Fellowship in Elizabethton. This organization provides hot meals 5 nights/week for those in need. To assist in this effort, individuals from FPCe, with help from Brown's Chapel, are providing casseroles monthly. Kathy Wing and Julia Rogers coordinate the FPCe participation in this mission.

Shepherd's Inn also experienced numerous challenges. All of their fundraisers were, of course, canceled, which reduced their funding by \$30,000. By May, the occupancy of women and children in the shelter surpassed their totals for an entire normal year.

It has been an especially busy year for ARM. ARM continues to serve approximately 600 families per month which totals more than 2,000 individuals. Each family receives a grocery cart full of food. The clothing pantry is closed due to COVID, and all services are drive through. One of ARM's great challenges this year has been a delivery vehicle. Our box truck needed more work and more money on a weekly basis; therefore, ARM purchased a reliable used box truck. This really strained the budget, but on December 15, 2020, a generous good Samaritan came to ARM and offered to pay off the truck. The staff and volunteers of ARM are continually awed by the generosity of this community.

The Community Outreach team participated in the High Five Blessings Event which was held in the First Presbyterian Parking Lot on November 14, 2020, under the direction of Ginger Oaks. Congregants and friends dropped off hygiene items, t-shirts, casseroles, and donations to support Loaves and Fishes, Shepherd's Inn, ARM, and the Veterans Clothing Closet. Safety protocols were in place. This event was highly successful, and there are hopes to repeat it in the coming months.

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Wing, Dawn Dutka, Stacey Cherwin, Susan Allen, Cheri Miller (Co-Moderator), and Julia Rogers (Co-Moderator).

Christian Education Report

Members of the 2020 Christian Education Committee were Bobbie Connelly, Melody Faust, Lydia Roane, Amber Athon and Rev. Dr. Brian Wyatt.

In accordance with public health recommendations and church-wide precautions during the Covid 19 pandemic, education and Youth programs were limited for the most part to electronic communications via Zoom.

Once the restrictions on in-person gatherings were in place beginning in March, processes were developed to allow the elementary children to meet intermittently with teacher Bobbie Connelly. Youth leader Amber Athon maintained electronic contact and meetings with young people. Adult Forum maintained the usual meeting time via Zoom hosted by David Roane. Thursdays with Jesus continued their meetings in the same format, lead by Rev. Wyatt. Bill Kirkwood continues to teach meditation on the electronic format.

It is gratifying to see the contacts and relationships of the classes continue even when gathering in person has not been feasible. We look forward to resuming with plans and activities as conditions allow in 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Roane, Moderators

Membership Report

The beginning of 2020 was busy for the Membership Team. We hosted with a celebratory “Bean”ediction in January honoring our 18 new members from 2019. We began 2 community-building projects--new name tags and an updated directory in Realm. Magnetic name tags were made, assembled, and organized in time for the Feb. “Bean”ediction. A special thanks goes to Mike Rose for creating attractive display racks to make them readily accessible. During Feb., photos were taken and added to the directory on Realm. There is more work to be done, but significant progress was made. The goal is to continue updating the Realm directory with photos and correct contact information and then to make some printed copies or a downloadable document file available.

During our Covid exile, it has been very encouraging to have numerous visitors joining our FPCE virtual worship services. In Nov., we introduced and welcomed 3 new members: Jane Bond, Scott Gurdak, and Jim Sutton.

This report is respectfully submitted in loving memory of and in gratitude for team member, Tony Hedrick. Kathy Wing (Moderator), Brenda Wardeska, Dawn Dutka, Sarah Wyatt

Peacemaking Report

The Peacemaking Team’s goal is to help enable the church to extend God’s peace to individuals, communities and Earth. The following activities were offered during the year to work toward this goal:

Ranked Choice Voting Workshop conducted by Carol Landis after church on February 9.

Carter County Tennessee Tree Day tree distribution at church on March 19, 20 and 21. Approximately 600 trees were distributed.

Established a **Church Arboretum** in May, complete with identification signs on trees and an entrance sign. Gary Barrigar and Larry Easterling, along with the assistance of Dr. Frosty Levy, worked on this project. Mike Rose designed the arboretum’s entrance sign. The arboretum is listed on Plantsmap, a mobile friendly website that hosts botanical collections world-wide. <https://www.plantsmap.com/organizations/25542/collections/35056>

Wheel of the Year Mediations during the church services, included Spring and Autumn Equinoxes, Summer and Winter Solstices and All Saints Day.

Monthly Peacemaking Notes in the church eNews.

FPCE endorsed the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**, which if passed, will drive down America’s carbon pollution and help bring climate change under control. <https://energyinnovationact.org/>

Our **Green Congregation** efforts are committed to Earth-friendly practices in all aspects of the church’s life and ministry. Recycling for church functions is part of this effort.

Flood Relief for Boroko Village contributions totaled \$1719.

Alternative Christmas Giving contributions totaled: Shepherd’s Inn = \$1437.50, Kenya Project = \$652.50

Respectfully submitted, Gary Barrigar and Nancy Barrigar (Co-moderators) and members Aubrie Abernethy, Pat Buck, Kathe Crossley, Larry Easterling, Jim Gorny, Elaine Kolp, Carol Landis, Merry Miller, Gene Thune, Nancy Wood

Stewardship, Finance & Personnel

Stewardship

FPCe's annual stewardship campaign began in early-October and ended in mid-November. Unlike previous years, we were not able to come together at the end of that for our gratitude dinner, and so have missed the opportunity to share those blessings with one another in 2020. Our pledge theme for 2021 was "Everyone Loves a Cheerful Giver." Because of the pandemic, this year was the first time we did not send out pledge cards. Instead, Brian Wyatt created convenient giving and pledging forms for the church's website, and members and friends of FPCe addressed the congregation in recorded videos during our online Sunday services. Some members did not find the website to be as convenient as we had hoped, so if we are still operating remotely this coming fall, we will make adjustments. To date the church has received 47 pledges totaling \$158,236 for 2021. This amount is 99% of our targeted goal of \$160,000 and it surpasses the 2020 pledges of \$144,928. We are grateful for the generosity of many.

Finance

The finances for 2020 finished well despite the pandemic. Giving dipped early in the year, but picked back up after we got into the habit of online worship and giving. Happily, giving increased slightly beyond expectations for the year, and expenses were slightly reduced. We finished the year modestly, but respectably in the black.

Income and giving to the church did not look promising at the end of the first quarter of 2020, so we made the decision to apply for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan to partially cover payroll expenses. We received the loan and will apply for loan forgiveness at the earliest opportunity. We have taken steps to make sure that we have sufficient resources to pay the loan off immediately if it is not forgiven. Special credit for this effort goes to Rebecca Nunley.

The SFP committee submitted the 2021 budget to the Session who approved it at the amount of \$212,021.68, an 8% increase from last year. For perspective, it is \$10,000 less than our budget from 2016 when the amount pledge was \$106,000. Pastor Wyatt has provided significant assistance for our financial house being in good shape.

Personnel

We are grateful to the pastor and all the employees who have adapted to new ways of working during the pandemic. Everyone's job looked a little different in 2020, but we were able to keep the programs and ministries going despite the changes. There is no question that the sudden transition to online worship was a significant effort that fell mostly on the shoulders of our pastor. He put in incredibly long hours and went many weeks without a day off. The challenges of assembling our

weekly services were ably met by Brian Wyatt's excellent technology skills. Having visited several other church services over the past few months, it is apparent how well we are doing at FPCe. We offer a special thanks for all who have helped in all aspects of maintaining a quality service.

Respectfully Submitted: Members: Sue Farthing, Bill Kirkwood, Elaine Kolp (Treasurer), Rebecca Nunley, David Roane (Moderator)

Worship Report

We have all said it, "tired of it, go away Covid". But, life does not work that way, It has been roller coaster ride for many regardless if it was a boom this year or the shock of multiple losses. Creativity, resiliency and survival have been challenged. Yet, the resiliency of the human spirit during this year (2020) has also been remarkable, hopeful, and steadfast. Constructs, paradigm shifts, and concepts of humanness have been questioned with many of these in need of a rehabilitation work or redefinition.

On Jan 20, the Banner Project was dedicated. It was hard work and numerous people helped make the project a reality. Plus, others participated in the Sunday program itself. For that I cannot express my gratitude enough to those many individuals in this church. The theme was: Relationships are the Essence of Life (ND Walsh 1995): From the Cosmic level to the cellular level (Oaks, 1995). Each person that looks at a banner will project their own meaning. The Worship Committee encourages a church member in an exploration of the symbols on a banner of your choosing...or not. Some may find meaning in the depths of the symbols on a banner as potential pathways to the Divine and the ever present flow of the Divine in everyday life.

To bring The Book of Mamaw (maternal Grandmother) by Eugene Wolf to the church, The Worship Committee voted support for the program. Session members Rebecca Nunley, Cheri Miller, and myself presented the motion to Session. With Rebecca Nunley's financial backing it was approved.

The one person play seemed about Mr. Wolf's musical journey in becoming an artist. Because of his Mamaw's unconditional love and support, he grew in his work even though there were struggles, health challenges, but also life successes. Have you, the reader, ever experienced that kind of support? As George Appleton says in his poem, "Give me the freedom to grow so that I may become my true self.." This church has always supported that kind of inner growth. Jesus also supported spiritual transformation. However, due to the Pandemic, a new venue for The Book of Mamaw through the Flying Anvil Theater presented itself. Cheri Miller brought that information to the congregation. If you missed it, other online viewings might be available. Session also supported in 2020 an Arts Group as a subcommittee of the Worship Committee.

Much of the work of this years worship services has been on the shoulders of the Minister, The Rev. Dr Brian Wyatt and the Music Team. Session approved this year purchase of much needed technical equipment. Each week the church services became advanced and, even though stressful, these on-line YouTube services became more expressive and professional. The music team working in cooperation with the Minister just amazed us all each week. Thanks to Dr. Wyatt and several other ministers (Rev. Dr. Matt Fry, Norcross, GA; Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry, Jackson, MS; Rev. Dr. Dave Holmes, Calgary, AB) for shared services that created a sister church community. Much appreciation goes to Dr. Wyatt, Dr Paul Cabinet, Mrs. Joan Denney, Mr. Roddy Bird, and numerous musicians this year for outstanding church services. Sometimes it is enough to just say Wow! (for further details of the music program and musicians, please see the Director of Music's report.)

On November 14th the High 5 Blessings (a drive thru) occurred at the church parking lot. Cheri Miller, Kathy Wing, and myself presented the High 5 Blessings motion to Session which was approved. This activity was for 5 toiletry items for ARM, 5 dollars, or 5 T-shirts for Homeless Veterans (Or all 3 Blessings!). The date coincided with the churches second Saturday of the month to provide casseroles by Food for the Multitude to support Loaves and Fishes. Donations and casseroles could be dropped off in one drive through and received by either an Elder or Deacon. This allowed an opportunity for church members to help our local community in donations and meals. The High 5 Blessing activity occurred while working in a safe, masked, and socially distanced gathering that was supported by the Building and Grounds committee members as well. A fine example of team work for a vision for the common good. Spiritual action is everyone's job regardless of a committee job description.

Respectfully Submitted, Ginger Oaks (Co-Moderator)

More Light Report

In the midst of the ongoing chaos of this world, we are still with you. Even as we roil from January 6th acts of terrorism in Washington, DC and in State Capitols where similar acts of insurrection took place, we are keenly aware that movements do not happen without resistance, and transformation does not happen without turmoil. What better day to bear witness to the destructive power of white supremacy than Epiphany, a day we celebrate the subversive and holy acts of resistance against a ruler whose thirst for power was so unquenchable that he lost his own humanity?

We continue to dream of a better world with you, and we affirm our commitment to co-create that world with you.

Like most groups in our church The More Light Group has been rolling with the punches and trying our best to adapt to the ever growing amount of changes this year has produced.

In April 2020, we lost one of our More Light founding members Tony Hedrick. Tony was an essen-

tial part of our church family. We miss him deeply.

We had our More Light Sunday via video stream. Carmie Cuda lead the service with other members of the group lending their talents. This was during the Black Lives movement. Which sparked an opening of conversations and debates.

The Pride Festival that was planned for Bristol this year was canceled, but many of our members participated in the Pride car parade.

The More Light group decided to postponed the weekend camp-out at the Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center till next year. Jane Woodside is spear heading a church cookbook to raise funds for kids to attend the camp next year.

Jane Woodside stepped down as co-chair of the More Light Group, to work more behind the scenes as a supporter and helper. Carmie Cuda stepped up to co-chair the group with Wayland Dykes.

Congratulations to Tristan Armstrong-Watts and Niko Armstong-Watts on their marriage on October 21, 2020, and Niko graduated from ETSU and Tristan started a career as a barber.

Roddy Bird and Wayland Dykes moved their flower shop, Roddy's Flowers to a new location and added five new employees. We are truly blessed.

We are looking forward to what 2021 will bring us.

Respectfully Submitted, Wayland Dykes

2021 Committee Moderators

2021 Officers were elected by the Session and are as follows:

- Clerk of Session: Bobbie Connelly
- Treasurer: Elaine Kolp

2021 Moderators for Committees were elected by the Session, and will be as follows:

- Building and Grounds: Mike Rose and Charles Faust (Co-Moderators)
- Christian Education: Keven Edin (Moderator)
- Community Life: Julie Wade (Moderator), Jim Austin (Session Liaison)
- Community Outreach: Julia Rogers and Cheri Miller (Co-Moderators)
- Membership: Kathy Wing (Moderator)
- Peacemaking: Gary & Nancy Barrigar (Co-Moderators), Cheri Miller (Liaison)
- Stewardship, Finance & Personnel: David Roane (Moderator)
- Worship: Roddy Bird and Ginger Oaks (Co-Moderators)

FPCe Mission Statement

With joyful hearts and open minds, we welcome all persons as diverse, unique, and individual expressions of the image of God as we:

Affirm the unconditional love of God for all people as expressed in the life of Jesus Christ.

Celebrate God's grace and creative work through ritual, sacrament, music, art, movement, and play.

Honor our Christian heritage while we explore the knowledge and wisdom of multiple religions, science, philosophy, humanities and psychology to deepen and enrich our spiritual journeys.

Nurture one another through fellowship and compassion in a community that seeks to offer wholeness.

Embody our faith through local ministries and in actions that promote environmental sustainability, peace, and justice for all people and Earth.

In awe and gratitude for the Divine Mystery that dwells within each of us and pervades our Universe, we seek to create a Christian community that honors our past, is vitally connected to our present, and looks with hope and vision to the generations after us.

First Presbyterian Church

Established 1782

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<p>Elaine Kolp, Treasurer elaine@fpcelizabethton.org 423.543.7737 (ext. 3) Wed, 1-6p</p>	<p>Music Leadership Team Paul Gabinet, choir director paulggabinet@gmail.com</p>
<p>Melody Faust, Care Coordinator faustcm@comcast.net Bobbie Connelly, Clerk of Session bobbie.connelly@gmail.com</p>	<p>Joan Denney, handbell director, keyboardist joanadenney@gmail.com Roddy Bird, keyboardist, organist tnflor2@aol.com</p>