



**2023**

**Reports of Church Life**

## **Worship and Music**

**From:** Shawn Portell

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Subject:** annual report bullet points

**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 9:54:13 AM

### **Worship and Music**

- Celebrated 27 years of the "Music in a Great Place" series that has hosted hundreds of diverse groups of guest musicians and concerts since its inception.
- Continued our "Artist in Residence" relationship with Stony Hill Brass Quintet for a second year.
- Continued our relationship with the Intercultural Music Initiative that promotes the music of lesser known composers and composers of color. Concerts featured several St. Louis premieres of new instrumental works.
- Our entire WGPC Chancel Choir sang Michael John Trotta's "Seven Last Words" for Good Friday and David von Kampen's "Christmas Cantata" (once again inviting our choir friends from Glendale Presbyterian to join us).
- Continued an ongoing emphasis of musical diversity in worship with our congregation, choirs and music guests singing and playing music, hymns and songs both ancient and modern with organ, piano, choir, handbells, and worship band.
- Began a new music relationship with our WGPC Early Childhood Center teaching 2 different music classes per week with the 4- and 5-year old.

## Faith Formation

**From:** Pete Putnam

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Subject:** annual report bullet points

**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023

**Faith Formation** ministries nurture the planting, growth, and development of lifelong faith for believers of ALL ages.

- The Nursery provides a caring place for the youngest disciples to enjoy while parents can be nourished during Sunday Worship.
- After the Scripture Conversation, kids in preschool through third grade attend Sunday School during Sunday worship.
- Sunday afternoons at WGPC are full of life and energy! Celebration (3rd-5th grade) and Celtics meet in renovated spaces near the Youth Lounge for fun and fellowship.
- All youth and their leaders (and families!) enjoy dinner on Sunday afternoons. The dinners are provided by volunteers as a ministry to the youth.
- Agape Fellowship has deepened the faith of our high school students. The 2023 Mission Trip served a variety of missions in Kentucky.
- Matt Miller, our former student pastor, has joined the staff as Director of Youth Ministry.
- Adult Faith Formation is varied and rich, providing different options for deepening faith. Lectionary discussion before and the main Adult Education Series after worship are the cornerstones. New this year were a pair of 3-week-long Small Group sessions and "Making a Home for Faith," a discussion about parenting and faith formation.
- Refurbished spaces such as the Gathering Spot, the ECC's Little Learners and STEAM Rooms, and the new Children's Ministry Rooms (by the Youth Lounge) have enhanced Faith Formation experiences.

## Deacons' Report

**From:** Jane Fairbanks

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Subject:** annual report bullet points

**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023

### 2023 Deacons' Report

#### Keeping in Touch

- Identified members who are unable to regularly attend worship, and made contact with these members via home visits and phone calls. This year they made 174 visits which included bringing gifts of conversation, plants, cards, treats, and crafts made by our Sunday School children.
- Arranged sanctuary flowers into smaller bouquets to take to members who are in need of cheer. This year we delivered Sunday flowers to 162 members.
- Mailed sermons to those unable to access online worship.
- Provided meal ministry for members

#### Hospitality

- Kicked off the church year with the return of Chris' Pancakes
- Hosted the presbytery luncheon for the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness on August 23
- Provided Sunday snacks following each worship service
- New member reception and October celebration
- Hosted Deacons' Christmas Luncheon
- Provided hot chocolate and gave out ornament kits for the community Webster Holiday Walk
- Baked cookies and hosted the Deacons' Christmas Cookie Reception
- Sponsored the annual church picnic
- Provided cookies to funeral/memorial service receptions
- Provided food for the Mission Sunday dinner
- Scheduled servers and bread bakers for communion

#### Life Transitions

- Recognized and held a reception for twelve 50 and 60-year members on June 30
- Recognized high school and college seniors during church service
- Celebrated one newborn with a rose in the pulpit
- Worked with members needing guidance with the Memorial Garden
- Provided new members with a WGPC Christmas tree ornament

#### Red Cross blood drives

\*June, September, and December

## **Mission/Advocacy/Environmental Stewardship**

**From:** Beth Kazlauskas

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Subject:** annual report bullet points

**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023

### **Mission/Advocacy/Environmental Stewardship**

We are fortunate to have a congregation that is passionate about mission outreach, environmental stewardship, and advocating for justice for all. Some highlights in 2023 include:

- An intergenerational furniture build for Home Sweet Home, and a women's volunteer outing to their warehouse.
- Over 100 volunteers of all ages helping to pack meals with Rise Against Hunger.
- Continuing our quiet ministry of delivering healthy snacks to all schools in the Webster Groves School District twice a year.
- Our hands-on Mission Weekend with 116 members of all ages volunteering for 13 projects over the weekend for a total of 256 volunteer hours worked! Projects included tasks such as property and park cleanup, building dressers, packing lunches, and spreading mulch.
- The ongoing gift of our Mission Endowment Fund that provides approximately \$30,000 in investment income each year for the Commission to support a variety of needs around the community and world. Gifts this year ranged from \$10,000 to the PC(USA) fund to help in Ukraine, to \$3,142 to help Old Community Baptist Church with their wheelchair lift.
- Renewed involvement from our young adults in a variety of mission activities.
- An amazing gun violence awareness march coordinated by the Advocacy Team with over 300 community members in attendance.
- Two thoughtful speakers on environmental issues - Doug Williams from Saint Louis University presented on Air Quality, and Rebecca Hankins from Forest ReLeaf presented about the importance of trees and green space in urban areas.
- The expansion of our native garden beds around church, and the hard work of those who planted and watered to add beauty to our property.
- The Environmental Stewardship committee that leads us in our recycling efforts through Christmas light recycling and a variety of bins in our Mission Hub and in the kitchen.
- The Mission of Choice collection in honor of Pastor Ed that raised approximately \$2,650 for several mission partners and church needs.
- The continued gift of our relationship with our friends from Afghanistan.

## **Advocacy 2023 Annual Report**

**From:** Julie Burchett

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Subject:** annual report bullet points

**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023

### **Advocacy 2023 Annual Report**

- Hosted monthly education hours and film club discussions with hands-on actions and communicated about other opportunities to further Advocacy priorities and Matthew 25 pillars
- Continued collaboration with Churches Together for Justice on voting rights, gun violence prevention, initiative petition and Fair Wages and Family Health initiative
- Attended Jefferson City Lobby Days for Moms Demand Action, MO Voter Protection Coalition, ACLU, and PROMO (transgender rights)
- Planned and held 1st Annual Community Wear Orange - Gun Violence Prevention Awareness March and Rally. Over 300 people attend!
- Coordinated 'walking float' for Webster Groves 4th of July Parade with Voting Rights for All theme.
- Hosted Presbytery Luncheon for visiting Rev. Jimmie Hawkins and community organization leaders we collaborate with on gun violence prevention and on voting rights protection
- Led Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery discussion on Gun Violence Prevention and How to Get Your Church More Involved; accepted invitations to speak about this topic to other denomination's churches
- Reimagined Advocacy Team work for 2023-2024 resulting in monthly meetings on priority topics to educate congregation; followed by actions and advocacy that members can take related to the topic (Why Advocacy?, Food Insecurity, Affordable Housing, and Racism and the Criminal Justice System - Fall 2023)
- Coordinated and sponsored Guns to Gardens Gun Surrender Event after taking part in Presbyterian Peace Fellowship cohort training.
- Collaborated with Churches Together for Justice to sponsor St. Louis metro participation in National Candlelight Vigil for Gun Violence Survivors and Victims for congregations and community with participants lining Lockwood Avenue.

## Stewardship

**From:** Janice Seele

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 4:21 PM

### Stewardship

- This year's campaign theme was "Rooted in Love, Generosity Abounds", adapting the church's general theme of "Rooted in Grace, Love Abounds". Thank you cards were printed with the theme logo.
- The web site was edited to make the giving pages easier to find and navigate.
- The Children's Campaign was launched, with a goal of raising money for bee hives through Heifer International.
- Speakers from several agencies supported by the church spoke in the weeks during Minute for Mission before Consecration Sunday.
- Pledges came in at \$\_\_\_\_ vs. \$\_\_\_\_ during last year's campaign.
- We received \_\_\_\_ new pledges, with \_\_\_\_ families increasing their pledge vs. last

## Endowment Committee Highlights

**From:** David Fleisher

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Date:** November 13, 2023

### Endowment Committee Highlights for AR

- Updated WGPC Endowment booklet and documentation and procedures for legacy gifts
- Continued to discuss opportunities for legacy giving through Minute for Mission talks and Friday Flash articles
- Updated WGPC documentation and procedures for legacy gifts
- Obtained information from congregation on future financial continuing education topics that may be of interest
- Managed investment of endowment and other restricted funds consistent with Investment Policy Guidelines

## Finance Annual Report Preparation

**From:** Furtick, Ryan C.

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 7:25 AM

### Finance Annual Report Preparation

- Established the financial review committee that performed the review of the 2022 WGPC financials
- Applied for the Employee Retention Tax Credit (\$276,045), with the help of Anders CPAs + Advisors

## Personnel Commission Summary

**From:** Tim Currinder

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 7:25 AM

### Personnel Commission Summary

- Revised Personnel Manual for staff
- Redesigned staff evaluation forms and completed performance reviews
- Updated all staff Job Descriptions to realize uniform content & format
- Coordinated with Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to create salary/benefit parameters for new role
- Created two new Director level part time positions for Youth and Children's Ministries
- Planned and conducted staff appreciation event(s)

## Property Committee Highlights

**From:** Jean Magre

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 7:25 AM

### Property Committee Highlights: The committee

- Initiated a long-range plan for maintenance and anticipated replacement of major components in our church's service systems, including future budgeting needs.
- Extended partnership agreement with City of Webster Groves for three years to lease parking spaces in the lot across Moody Ave, with provisions for annual rent increases.
- Purchased and installed new HVAC equipment and new heating controls and equipment to improve comfort levels in ECC and nearby spaces.
- Replaced stair railing and repaired related masonry damage at the Lockwood Avenue entrance.
- Recent mud jacking of concrete slabs along the west exterior to resolve water infiltration problems in the Longmire Room and basement spaces.
- Coordinated with the property management committee, the chapel renovation committee and the environmental stewardship committee regarding interior and exterior plans and improvements.
- Accomplished ongoing repairs and improvements for HVAC, weather proofing, plumbing, electrical and lighting systems throughout our aging structures.



## Chapel Renovation

**From:** Thomas B. Tobin

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:43 AM

### Chapel Renovation dot points are below:

- Following many discernment meetings by the Chapel Renovation Committee, we retained Killeen Studio Architects to develop both a Chapel Renovation Plan and a Master Plan for WGPC
- Representatives from Killeen Studio Architects have met with the Committee and spent hours at WGPC discussing the thoughts of the Committee and analyzing the structure
- Killeen Studio Architects have submitted a pricing set of plans and drawings setting forth their ideas for the Chapel Renovation which includes the Parlor, Conference Room, part of Fellowship hall and a redesigned front entry
- The Committee has asked Killeen Studio Architects to provide cost estimates for all aspects of construction
- After several more meetings, discussions and review of plans and drawings, the Committee anticipates having a final plan to present to Session and the congregation in a series of programs in the late winter or early spring of 2024

## 2023 Trustee Report

**From:** Thomas B. Tobin

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Sent:** February 9, 2024

2023 has been a busy year for the Board of Trustees. Many of our members and activities are mentioned throughout the Annual Report. I have noted some of the highlights below and look forward to an equally satisfying, busy and rewarding 2024.

- The Church finished the 2023 financial year in positive territory. The 2024 budget was submitted to and approved by Session and the anticipated challenge amount is less than the 2023 budget.
- The Property and House Committee has replaced and improved additional HVAC units, among other projects and has developed a priority list for additional longer-term projects.
- The new Property Management group has obtained tenants for several spaces in the education building which is now producing positive income for the Church.
- The Chapel Committee will be meeting with our architects and two contractors in late February to begin the process of collecting information on the cost of the Chapel renovation project.
- Various Trustees are also active on the Memorial Garden, Personnel, Stewardship, Endowment and Nominating Committees providing monthly updates on those activities.
- We expect to consider the recommendations from the Binzel Bequest Discernment Committee in 2024.

## **Early Childhood Center**

**From:** Summer K

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:23 AM

**To:** Jan Scheurer

**Subject:** ECC info for annual report

### **The Early Childhood Center (ECC) is thriving:**

- Enrollment is currently at 60 students with new families expressing interest
- We are fully staffed and 3 classrooms have a waitlist
- The Little Learners Program added a 3<sup>rd</sup> day as an option for families
- Lunch Bunch is offered Monday-Thursday for 3/4s class and Junior Kindergarten. Opportunities for the 2/3s class to attend will be offered in the spring.
- Music class added for 3/4s class and Junior Kindergarten
- Yoga class for all students in our preschool program
- Dedicated STEAM teacher for Junior Kindergarten on Fridays
- ECC Library is complete and ready for students to check out books.
- Participating in UMKC Quality Assurance Report Program to offer continuing professional development for teachers