



Reports of Church Life

2022 Annual Report of
the Congregation and the Association





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Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

In our beautifully designed annual report, we glimpse the beauty of what God creates at WGPC. The pictures reveal the delight of our engagement in the work of Jesus Christ. These are not stock photos from the internet; they are disciples at work! Take them in, for in the midst of a broken world they remind us God's faithfulness brings grace, hope, and joy. I invite you to take a look!

In 2022, we were reshaped by the Holy Spirit. The congregational survey about our future and mission was analyzed by the Session and the Mission Study Team and we set our course to do the following:

- formed the associate pastor nominating committee to search for an associate pastor
- hired Michelle Lepak, our new Director of Welcome and Involvement
- welcomed Matt Miller, our Student Pastor
- worked to find architects to renovate the chapel
- completed the asset mapping event and Design Charette with Partners for Sacred Places to determine the best utilization of the empty space in the education building
- converted the library to the Mission Hub
- renovated the old office space to create the Gathering Spot

Jesus Christ is at work at WGPC! We give thanks for the gift of energy and enthusiasm inspired by the dedication of so many disciples who follow him – all of which leads to the joy pictured at WGPC!

Peace and blessings!

- Ed



Clerk of Session

Happy New Year! I am deeply grateful to proclaim that Webster Groves Presbyterian Church has not only survived another year, but we have also thrived! It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as your Clerk of Session and to complete my second term as an elder as well. The Session, comprised of 20 elected ruling elders and moderated by Rev. Ed Zumwinkel, III, met dutifully each month (and more) to fulfill its responsibilities to Jesus Christ and to this congregation. This group has demonstrated incredible fortitude, devotion, intelligence, faith, love, and care in the process of their work. All meetings have continued in hybrid form as many of our members still feel more comfortable participating virtually.

This year we, as a congregation, have accomplished a great deal, and it seems fitting to list some of our most notable activities here for your review. The Pastor's report and reports from commissions will certainly expand on many of these! The enthusiastic engagement of our members and staff is joyfully evident here:

- 8 new members and 4 confirmands joined WGPC in 2022
- Challenge budget passed in January, 2022 and has been met successfully
- Virtual worship participation as well as in-person worship attendance increased
- Mission Study and staffing plan completed, with the help of the Congregational Assessment by Holy Cow!
- Partners for Sacred Places provided an Asset Mapping experience and supported a Design Charette, with several architects participating
- Youth Mission Trip to Chicago – 7 youth, 3 adults attended
- Growth of youth programs with volunteer leadership and Youth Ministry Intern Matt Miller from Eden Seminary
- Growth of children's and adult Sunday school programs with volunteer leadership and guest instructors
- Pastoral support from our Theologian in Residence, Susan Andrews, and Parish Associate, Jim Poinsette
- Election of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and the search has begun
- Michelle Lepak hired as our Director of Welcome and Involvement
- Transformation of our former library and office spaces into the new Mission Hub and Gathering Spot
- Summer Kohring hired as Director of the Early Childhood Center, and incredible growth in these education programs with volunteer support
- Focus group discussions among members younger than 45 years of age helping us to further understand the needs of our church going forward
- Election of new class of officers

Thank you for electing me again as your Clerk of Session for 2023. I hope to continue to serve this congregation as Jesus Christ would have me do.

Yours in Christ,
Carrie Rao, Clerk of Session



Worship Arts

2022 Report from the Director of Music Ministries/Organist

- + Celebrated 25 years of the "Music in a Great Place" series with diverse groups of guest musicians and concerts that included: string trios, hammered dulcimer, brass quintets, bluegrass bands, and choral organizations.
- + Began an on-going relationship with Stony Hill Brass Quintet as our first "artists in residence" in four unique worship services.
- + Good Friday - Michael John Trotta's "Seven Last Words" was sung by a small ensemble of our Chancel Choir in a first ever performance of the piece with organ and MIDI instruments choreographed by organist Shawn Portell
- + Continued our collaboration with Glendale Presbyterian Church and many friends from St. Louis Metro Singers for Lessons and Carols.
- + Dozens of members participation in the creation of congregational art projects for Lent and Christmas
- + Continued - as always for the past 26 years - emphasis on musical diversity in worship with our congregation, choirs and music guests singing and playing music, hymns and songs both ancient and modern (and everything in between) with organ, piano, choirs, handbells, children and worship band and guests giving you one of the most diverse church music programs in STL.

Shawn Portell
Director of Music Ministries/Organist



Faith Formation Commission

Opportunities for Faith Formation have grown during 2022 including these highlights:

- Children gather weekly after worship to learn, sing, and pray during Sunday School. Together with them, we have all grown from the Scripture Conversation during worship, from this fall's "Peanut Butter Pyramid" service project, and the annual Christmas Pageant.
- Newly refurbished spaces in our church support families with the youngest children. The nursery is reopened and available weekly. The Gathering Spot is a new, comfortable refuge for anyone who needs a quiet space to relax or something to read while at church.
- Youth have grown as individuals and as a group with weekly fellowship groups. Celtics (middle school) and Agape (high school) meet on Sunday afternoon and evening and share a meal together each week. Agape's annual Mission Trip to Chicago was meaningful for all involved.
- Adults have several options each week to deepen their faith. New lectionary-guided discussion sessions occur before worship on Sunday. A variety of faith topics are explored during Adult Education after worship. There are also weekly Bible or Book Studies to nourish your mind and heart.
- The Safe Sanctuary program was renewed to protect all children, youth and vulnerable people within our faith community.

Submitted by Pete Putnam



Mission Outreach Commission

(page 1 of 2)

Thank you so much to all who supported our Mission Outreach ministries through their time and financial contributions in 2022. We were so grateful to be able to serve our community more in person this year, and we look forward to the opportunities 2023 will bring.

A few of the items that we would particularly like to celebrate are:

- **Our new Mission Hub.** In 2022 we were given the gift of a new space as the former library was transformed into the Mission Hub. This allows us to highlight our mission work and share all that our church supports. We are so pleased to have this opportunity to better share the good news about all that we are able to accomplish when we work together. We hope each member will stop by to spend time reflecting on our work. Please feel free to share any ideas that you have for information you would like to see.
- **The gratitude that we feel towards our church family for your continued support of our mission outreach ministries.** A few highlights of our mission work this year include: \$110,000 given to our four Meyer Grant partners for the final year of our education/development grants; a Lenten collection of household items for Home Sweet Home as well as gifts from Mission Endowment to provide much needed mattresses and support for a new partnership with Ferguson-Florissant School District; continuing our very vibrant relationship with our Afghan friends (thank you, thank you to our Core Team of Sue Scott, Sue Davis and Noreen Mayfield as well as the other key volunteers); a Pack the Backpack event during the summer to provide 25 filled backpacks to Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition; a new relationship with Sanctuary In the Ordinary and a \$10,000 gift to support affordable housing; collecting 1,175.6 pounds of fresh produce to share with families served by Isaiah 58 Ministries as well as gifts to provide new shelving and to celebrate their 50th year of serving the community; a \$9,000 gift from our congregation to the PC(USA) Disaster Assistance response to the hurricanes in Florida and Latin America, and almost \$9,000 worth of gifts provided to the community through our Giving Tree. Thank you!!
- **Our hands-on Mission Weekend in October.** Each year our Mission Weekend is a highlight for our commission and many of our members. This year we had 110 members volunteer for 12 projects giving 214 hours to our community! We gave blood, cleaned up an overgrown property for Sanctuary In the Ordinary (SITO), sorted items in the Home Sweet Home warehouse, painted shelves for the Early Childhood Center, distributed information about bird safety with Dark Sky, donated canned goods for Webster Rock Hill Ministries' food pantry, organized the Sunday School rooms, wrote cards to members and friends, sorted and organized items at Isaiah 58 Ministries, packed sack lunches for those served by St. Patrick Center, baked desserts, and enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship at Sunday evening's dinner. We also heard a fantastic Minute for Mission during worship from Jeff Buck, the executive director of SITO. Thank you to all who joined us for one of our favorite weekends of the year!



(Mission Outreach Commission page 2 of 2)

- **The hard work and gifts shared by the Environmental Stewardship Committee and the Advocacy Team.** Two very important aspects of our Mission Outreach ministry are the environmental and advocacy ministries. These two committees function independently and exist because of the members who share a passion for taking care of our earth and working towards justice for all. Thank you to all who serve and put in hundreds of hours lifting up this work.

The 2022 Mission Outreach Commission: Greta Buck, Lily Johnston, Jean Magre, Diane McCullough, Joanna Van Der Tuin, Betsy Wacker, Julie Wood (moderator), Sara Yates and Beth Kazlauskas, Mission Outreach Coordinator. The Environmental Stewardship Committee is currently chaired by Dennis Wacker, and the Advocacy Team is chaired by Janice Seele and Julie Burchett.



Environmental Stewardship

1. WGPC is participating in an ongoing Air Quality Monitoring Program with Metropolitan Congregations United who has partnered with The Nature Conservancy/Wash U./Missouri Dept. of Conservation, among others, to create a database of air quality issues. This included a very informative presentation about the topic by Beth Gutzler and Tyler Cargill during the education hour.
2. WGPC's work on environmental issues was highlighted in a recent Sierra Club-Eastern Missouri Group newsletter thanks to Deb Grossman!
3. We distributed Dark Sky information to 100 households on Mission Weekend to help birds traveling through our area.
4. We continue to work on our native garden at the north end of the parking lot – a source of community outreach and benefit to many pollinators.
5. Single Stream recycling bins are now available in the kitchen for church use.

Environmental Stewardship Committee: Dennis Wacker chair, Laurie Goodfellow, Deborah Grossman, Janice Hanson, Cindy Lueder, Diane McCullough, Jan Phillips, Leslie Quarles, Denise Thomas, Nancy Wagner, Mia Walters, Beth Kazlauskas



Advocacy Team

(page 1 of 3)

The Advocacy Team takes its lead from Micah 6:8, “...to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” In response, we strive to act for social change and promote justice for all God’s people following the principles of acting according to Biblical imperatives as we understand them, addressing issues supported by PCUSA programs and statements, and integrating our efforts with and supporting the priorities of the WGPC Mission Commission.

Advocacy has a goal of education and shares information and opportunities for action from local, state and national non-partisan social justice organizations (i.e. the League of Women Voters, Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, Moms Demand Action and more), along with information from our own PCUSA. The team plans presentations and events in support of Advocacy focus areas. If there is an official position taken by the Advocacy team, the Advocacy team (approximately 75 members of the congregation who have opted in to the monthly advocacy newsletters) are polled. Controversial issues, or those where the church itself is asked to take a position, are taken to Session for their vote.

During 2022, the focus of the Advocacy team centered upon addressing systemic racism, voting rights and access, gun violence prevention, and poverty with an emphasis on housing.

A Save Our Democracy vigil was held on January 6 in conjunction with churches across the nation. The vigil included scriptures, prayers, and ringing of bells. Approximately 30 congregation members attended this vigil.

The Advocacy team held regular discussions of films that highlight social justice history and issues around the team’s focuses. In 2022, these films included *The Murder of Emmett Till*, *The Social Dilemma*, *The Color of Medicine: The Story of Homer G. Phillips Hospital*, *McCarthy*, *Rigged*, and *The U.S. and the Holocaust*.

In January, the team led a presentation about the Afghan refugee issue in St. Louis and the opportunities to become involved through the International Institute and Welcome Neighbor. Following this presentation, a core team of Sue Davis, Noreen Mayfield and Sue Davis, surrounded by a supporting team of WGPC members, took on the role of family partners. See the Mission Report for more information.

Some members attended the Metropolitan Congregations United Annual Meeting in January to gain more information about the group’s actions and goals, as we consider a proposal to join in their social justice work.

Our Advocacy Team is an active member of Churches Together for Justice - a group of local churches who are active in social justice issues and actions. This group has increased to ten different denominations this year - including Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Catholic, and UCC.

Actions our church has coordinated and/or participated in through Churches Together for Justice include:

*Interviewing and reporting on Webster Groves School Board candidates on equity issues



(Advocacy Team page 2 of 3)

In addition to Churches Together for Justice, other organizations our Advocacy Team has collaborated with this year include:

WeCan -West County Action Network
Alliance for Interracial Dignity
League of Women Voters
North Webster Neighborhood Coalition
MOEEP - Missouri Equity Education Partners
Webster Groves School District
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition
St. Louis Area Voter Protection Coalition
St. Louis Area Voter Protection Coalition Disinformation Committee
Metropolitan Congregations United
St. Francis Xavier Photo ID Project
Ashreif Photo ID Group
Washington University Brown School of Social Work
Moms Demand Action
Everytown for Gun Safety

Advocacy showed support for the annual Gun Violence Prevention/Wear Orange Day by sharing information in a Minute for Mission and asking the congregation to wear orange on June 3rd. The congregation was given contact information and was encouraged to contact their legislators to ask for their support of common-sense gun laws. Orange ribbons were distributed to the congregation to draw attention to the great need for gun violence prevention.

Because this was an election year, many of the team's energies were devoted to promoting voting rights and access, understanding that our laws and how our chosen legislators vote is largely how justice is served. All of God's people are entitled to have their voices heard in our country's democracy. Following the attack on the Capital on January 6th, Advocacy sponsored a Misinformation and Disinformation education series in February, sharing information about how to parse out valid from false information in broadcast and social media, with tips on how to help stop the spread of mis and disinformation. This was presented in conjunction with a theological background on the importance of truth in our faith.

Several Advocacy Team members walked along with Churches Together for Justice in the annual 4th of July parade with the theme, "Get Out the Vote". Advocacy invited members of many of the groups listed above to march in the parade with us. The total number of marchers was over 100!

In the fall, the Advocacy Team hosted an evening presentation by Denise Leiberman, General Counsel of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. Denise discussed the recently passed voting laws, many of which place restrictions on voting access, and shared ways in which our community could get involved. Following the presentation, members signed up with the state to become voting registrars. Advocacy coordinated various voting activities for our congregation and our collaborating partners listed above. signed up to work the polls, transport people to polling places, participate in Get Out the Vote activities, call senior assisted living communities to make sure their residents had the proper photo ID so they could vote, placing Voter



(Advocacy Team page 3 of 3)

Protection Help signs at every polling place in the city of St. Louis, and to assist in other voting access support. Prior to the November elections, the Advocacy team then hosted a series of Get Out the Vote letter and postcard writing pizza parties at church, with 33 individuals from our congregation and other congregations in Churches Together for Justice participation. We were happy to have WGPC families participate as well as several prospective members who expressed support for our church's advocacy efforts. Over 1350 postcards were written and sent as well as 250 letters reminding citizens to get out and vote.

Because our local elected officials make so many decisions that directly impact us, Advocacy and Churches Together for Justice hosted a Webster Groves mayoral candidate forum. This was an informational event open to the entire community. Approximately 140 community members attended and were given an opportunity to submit questions to be answered by the candidates.

Our Advocacy Team was invited to speak about our activities on the local radio KWRH as well as being interviewed about our work for a Metropolitan Congregations United podcast.

We took part in a Social Justice Symposium sponsored by Peace UCC in April. We coordinated and provided the "take action" section of the symposium. We provided packets of voter registration and voting information which were distributed and hung on doorknobs by small groups of symposium participants to Webster Groves/Rock Hill residents.

Black Lives Matter vigils continue every Friday evening with several loyal congregation members showing up each week. Small actions can cause ripples that we may not see as we continue doing God's work.

Advocacy members took part in the annual Voting Rights Lobby Day in Jefferson City in May where we met and talked with our elected officials and had some enlightening conversations.

Advocacy team members attended a presentation on Crime in St. Louis County by Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell. Possible actions on this issue are being considered.

As laws in Missouri changed, Advocacy members were trained to help people obtain photo IDs. We worked with Ashreif and St. Francis Xavier Photo ID program at St. Louis University. We are currently discussing the long-term possibility of opening a Photo ID Clinic sponsored by WGPC and Churches Together for Justice.

All church members are invited to opt-in to the monthly Advocacy Opportunities newsletter and participate in Advocacy educational and hands-on events. With the support of our strong congregation, we can help bring about social justice for all God's people.

Submitted by Julie Burchett



Director of Welcome and Involvement

I joined the staff in September 2022 to serve the church by coordinating the welcome and involvement ministries. What I have discovered in my short tenure is that Webster Groves Presbyterian is blessed with enthusiastic and caring members that are dedicated to the commissions of the session. It is an exciting time to be a part of things here.

Information gathered by the Mission Study has been thoughtfully discerned and is guiding our mission and priorities. People are looking for meaningful connections and we strive to warmly welcome all and offer many opportunities to build friendships and faith life.

In the fall of 2022, Welcome and Involvement has been involved in recruiting new volunteers to return 'post-COVID'. Church Mice have reconvened and we have updated the donation envelopes stocked in the pews with the Mission Study logo. We hosted the kick-off concert for the Webster Jazz Fest and sponsored the Songs to Save Democracy event at The Sheldon. The holiday season included the Old Webster Holiday Open House, Advent Café Potluck, Congregational Christmas Luncheon, and the Deacons Reception.

As we look forward to 2023, churchwide events like potluck brunches are returning and groups including Women of A Certain Age are re-forming with positive results. Plans are underway to reveal the newly remodeled and renamed spaces The Gathering Spot and the Mission Hub. An Empty Nesters Cocktail Hour is planned for late January to welcome back some folks we haven't seen since the pandemic started. A church wide event in early March is being planned to showcase all the wonderful things happening at WGPC and invite members to participate in Lenten small groups designed to build deeper relationships with the church and each other.

I can't wait to see what else unfolds in 2023!

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Lepak
Director of Welcome and Involvement.



Deacons

As always, the Deacons had a busy year. Early in the year, each Deacon was assigned several church members to stay in contact with. They found that some people liked/needed frequent contact, and others were doing just fine on their own.

Deacons (along with others) often take on many roles. You may see them greeting congregants as they enter church on Sunday mornings, ushering, taking the offering, and preparing and serving communion. They take chancel flowers to shut-ins and other folks who could use a little extra cheer and a short visit.

After the Sunday morning service, the Deacons host the “coffee hour” (although we serve tea, water, and Kool aid as well.) The morning beverages are always accompanied with sweet treats, usually homemade by the Deacons and other helpers.

In May, the Deacons hosted an outdoor picnic. A special highlight for the kids was the bubble machine. The kids were delighted chasing the bubbles and the adults loved hearing the sound of the children’s sweet giggles.

In June, Deacons sent graduation cards and gift cards to recent graduates.

In November, several Deacons, along with Michelle Lepek, our new Director of Welcome and Involvement, hosted our booth for the Webster Christmas Walk. Volunteers served LOTS of hot chocolate and other goodies, shared church information and passed out make-your-own ornaments kits.

As the Christmas holidays came along, Deacons delivered poinsettias to many shut-ins.

December brought two annual events planned and hosted by the Deacons: the Christmas Luncheon and the Christmas reception—both with lots of goodies and great food!

It was a busy and exciting year for the Board of Deacons!

Submitted by Judy Weng



Dinner with Friends

Dinners with Friends was not active in early 2022 due to the pandemic, however we resumed this activity with a Pot Luck in Fellowship Hall in October and sixteen dinners are scheduled to take place in the spring of 2023. We are very pleased to have 65 individuals participating.

Meals Ministry

Meals Ministry has been very active this year. Our team of 35 men and women have delivered more than 70 meals to members of our church family. We also prepared a good number of side dishes for a young adult picnic. (This is not necessarily part of Meals Ministry but when asked if we could help, the team responded.) We always appreciate having others join our team. The more of us who participate the better.

Reports submitted by Betsy Wacker



2022 Finance Report

*charts based on 1/15/2023 data

The faithful of WGPC have continued to share God’s blessings in this year of economic uncertainty, sharing their gifts with this community and others in need.

During 2022, we received total revenues of \$1,123,462. These revenues consisted of \$933,215 in pledged gifts and \$106,863 of prepaid pledges. In addition, we received \$8,183 in 2022 from families who honored 2021 pledges. These gifts resulted in contributions \$140,000 over budgeted pledges. See the attached chart titled: **2022 General Fund Revenue**.

Other Offerings totaled \$15,279, while Other Income, which includes rent, interest and trust income, totaled \$68,106. Endowment funds other than those coming from our pre-approved spending ratio which reduce expenses are not reported as income/available funds on our budget and financial statements.

Net expenditures for the year (after taking into account specific endowment funds that reduced gross expenditures) totaled \$1,087,035. Our gross expenses were partially offset by endowment funds, \$84,828 from our general permanent endowment fund, and \$349,610 of which came from specific endowment funds, including mission, building and music. See the chart entitled **2022 General Fund Expense** to see how the budget supports the business of the church.

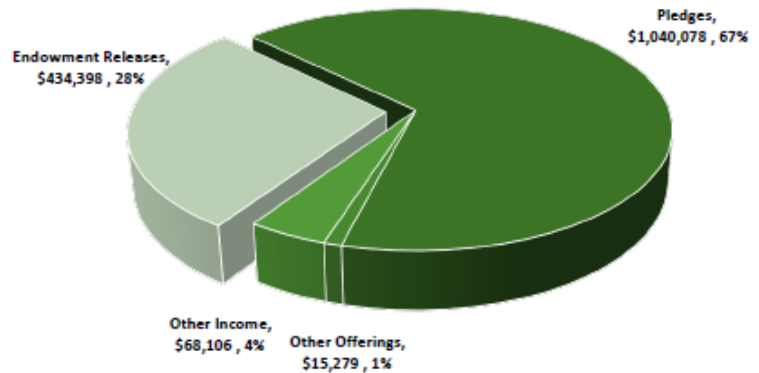
The 2022 year ended with a General Fund budget surplus of approximately \$36,000. This is a wonderful accomplishment, as our initial 2022 budget projected a challenge of \$161,000.

WGPC was blessed to continue to utilize unrestricted bequest funds received in previous years. The discernment process for funds in the amount of \$360,000 from the Binzel gift will occur in 2023.

The **2023 budget** with total expenditures of \$1,429,159 was approved by Session on January 17, 2022. This budget will be supplemented by General Endowment funds (spending ratio) in the amount of \$80,000 as well as programmatic endowment funds (donor restricted) as appropriate and applicable.

/jls 1/18/23

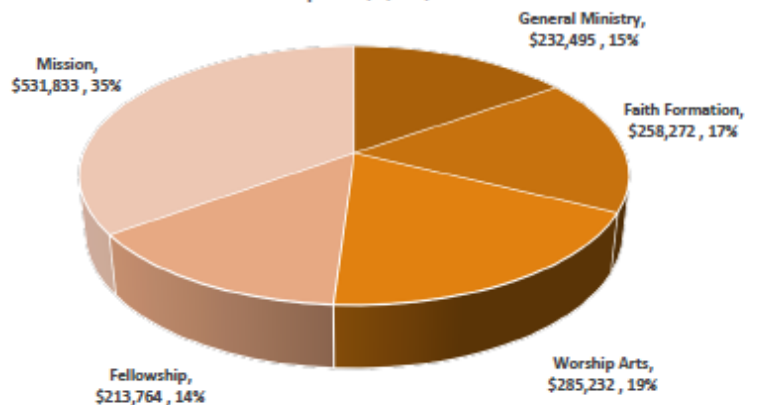
2022 General Fund Revenue
Total Income \$1,557,861



God Loves A Cheerful Giver

2 Corinthians 9:7

2022 General Fund Expense
Total Expense \$1,521,596





Planned Giving and Endowment Foundation Board (PGEF)

The Endowment Foundation was established January 1990 as a vehicle for the investment and management of the WGPC Endowment Foundation Funds. The PGEF Board has fiduciary responsibility to oversee and manage the investments as required by the Foundation Constitution. The Church Business Administrator assists in the facilitation of the Board's work.

There are nine permanently restricted Foundation Funds with the Board having investment responsibility for eight of the funds. Balances for the three largest funds as of 12/31/22 were General Fund - \$2,073,125, Mission Fund - \$617,780 and Building Maintenance Fund - \$570,962. The total year-end balance for the eight funds was \$3,620,010. The ninth fund is the Mission Coordinator Fund which, due to donor wishes, is invested in Vanguard Wellington Admiral shares. The proceeds from the fund are earmarked for the Mission Coordinator's salary with an end-of-year fund balance of \$572,659.

The PGEF Board appoints two committees: Planned Giving and Long Range Financial Planning. Planned Giving is entrusted with informing church members about planned giving options. This was accomplished in 2022 by providing information about giving options and conducting educational classes and meetings. In May 2022 PGEF hosted Rev. Joseph Moore of the Presbyterian Foundation for 2 days in May. On Saturday, Rev. Moore presented to the Stewardship and the Endowment boards. On Sunday, he preached and conducted a presentation during the Adult Education hour. Later in the year, the board hosted Beth McCarter and Craig Campbell who presented on Legacy giving. Materials from each presentation are available in the business office. It is the hope of the board to continue to host presentations of interest during 2023, as well as to present several Minutes for Mission.

Long Range Planning finalized implementation of the comprehensive Investment Policy Statement (IPS) which began as a process in 2020. Stock/bond holdings of 70%/30% are maintained in Vanguard 500 Index Fund (all stock) and Vanguard Core Bond Fund. In addition, funds held in New Covenant Growth Fund maintain 20% of endowment funds in socially responsible investments (SRI) and environmental-social-governance (ESG) parameters subscribed to by our Presbytery.

It is anticipated that the unrestricted gift of \$383,000, (less the \$25,000 allocated to the General Fund and moved in 2022) from the Virginia Binzel estate will be discerned in 2023. Until discernment is completed, those funds are held in short-term investments.

The PGEF Board is grateful for all legacy gifts and bequests and encourages the support of Church members to the extent they determine appropriate in their individual legacy plans. Please contact our Business Administrator with questions or interest in making a gift to support WGPC.

Your Endowment Committee

David L. Fleisher, Chair
David Miyazaki, Secretary
Emmy McClelland
Don Oliver, Trustee Rep

Steve Seele
Cece Strand
Joanna Van Der Tuin, Session Rep

*Respectfully submitted,
JLS 1/15/2023*



Stewardship Commission

The Stewardship Commission started the year with an inspiring visit from Rev. Joseph Moore from Presbyterian Foundation. He provided us with many useful ideas, many of which focused on Generosity and messages to foster generosity within our congregation. We looked at several resources during our initial meeting in May and chose the theme “Devoted to Generosity” based on Acts 9:36-42. This passage tells the story of Tabitha (or Dorcas) and her devotion to helping people in her community.

Over the next several months, we met often via Zoom to plan content and a timeline for our campaign. We made the decision to focus on the services provided to our community and our members made possible by the generosity of our members. We continued the practice sending letters from church organizations, the pastor, and the Stewardship Commission. We sent reminder e-mails and made phone calls to those who had not yet responded by mid-November. We continued the practice of maintaining a detailed timeline including responsibilities of Commission members.

Several new initiatives were implemented.

- Monthly Call for Offering speakers were recruited
- Speakers from the agencies and programs we support
- A Generosity Team with representatives from church organizations was formed
- Pledge cards for children and youth were distributed
- Pledge cards were collected on newly named Consecration Sunday
- Handwritten thank you notes were sent to those who pledged for 2023

This congregation has been extremely generous in its support of the mission of WGPC. As of January 4, 2023, we are thankful to report that pledges have surpassed \$965,000, surpassing last year by over \$60,000 and we expect a few more pledges during January. WGPC has received 24 new pledges and over 60 families have increased their pledge. 172 families have pledged their financial support for 2023. WGPC has surely proven itself as being devoted to generosity. Thank you for all your dedication both in time and money.

Your Stewardship Team,

Carol Ault, Jo Gierse, Steve Hanson, Debbie Miali, Bill Richards, Jim Roberts, Bob Weng (chair)



Early Childhood Center

- Enrollment is currently holding strong at 50 students with new families continuing to show interest daily
- Summer Kohring has taken over as the ECC Program Director
- 4 new teachers have been hired in the midst of a very challenging time to find part time workers
- The old Kid's Day Out classroom was renovated and a sink was installed, allowing for the use of this much larger space for the Little Learner's class
- The old Little Learner's classroom is being turned into a children's library

Respectfully submitted by,

Emily Odum