
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Pastor's Report

Oh my. What to write about 2020?

If ever there were a year I would like to write this letter in a truly future-oriented way, this is it. As 2020 drew to a close, there was no shortage of expressions across a variety of media that we would not be sorry to see the back of it.

We lost beloved members of our church to Covid-19. Still other beloved friends and family came to the end of this life without our being able to be with them.

Services moved entirely online. Fellowship moved to Zoom. Giving moved out of the plate and onto the web or into the mail. We adapted, and you adapted with us.

Through the pages of this report, you'll see the ways that our congregation – both our leaders and our members – found ways to share authentic expressions of church. Our committees sought new ways to do things. Our members attended our offerings. Everyone pulled together to keep our church on solid ground financially throughout this pandemic. I am proud – deeply proud – that in a year when non-profits struggled, we kept all of our mission commitments. There was never a moment when we even considered the possibility of doing otherwise.

No, I'm not sorry 2020 is over, but it would be one-dimensional not to notice the ways that we have been church to one another, and to the city of Philadelphia. We have much for which to be grateful.

Looking ahead, I wouldn't dare to try to predict much of how the year will unfold, but I'd like to take this opportunity to reiterate the commitments you can expect from your leaders. First, we will always be honest about what we are thinking regarding the safety of our members and staff. Our protocols don't change from month to month unless the science does, but you can be sure that as soon as anything changes, you'll be advised. Second, you can count on us to continue to put the same thought and care into our online services that we would our in-person services.

Finally, one thing I say with complete confidence: Whatever the future holds, we will continue to be church to one another, and to the city of Philadelphia.

I give thanks to God for each of you, and I cannot wait until that day we are together again.

Soli deo gloria,

Dr. Baron Mullis, Pastor

| INSIDE | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Agenda | 2 |
| Session | 3 |
| Deacons | 3 |
| Christian Education | 4 |
| Facilities | 7 |
| Membership & Evangelism | 8 |
| Missions | 9 |
| Personnel | 10 |
| Risk Management | 10 |
| Stewardship & Budget | 10 |
| Worship | 11 |
| Operating Budget Summary | 13 |
| Endowment Budget Summary | 14 |
| Capital Budget Summary | 14 |
| Designated Funds Summary | 15 |
| Select Balance Sheet Items | 15 |

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
February 14, 2021**

1. **Call** The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis

2. **Constituting Prayer**

3. **Appointment of Clerk/Establishment of Quorum** Rebecca Melley, Clerk of Session

4. **Presentation of Annual Report**

5. **Report of the Stewardship & Budget Committee**
 Treasurer's Report 2019 Craig Boddorff
 Church Budget 2020 Mac McLarin

6. **Report of the 2020 Officer Nominating Committee** Cynthia Decrucq, Chair
 Nominees for the Class of 2024 (unless otherwise indicated):

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Elders:</i> Reggie Amoa Doug Boyd Susy Christensen Carol Cook Shellie Unger Jordana Woodford | <i>Deacons:</i> Anne Futterer João Magalhaes Michael Smith Bill Swoope Maryellen van Royen Klaas Walhout (2023) |
|--|--|

7. **Election of At-Large Members of the 2021 Nominating Committee** Dr. Mullis
 At-large Members: Kay Keenze
 Ellen Rapsher
 Emily Roan
 Chris Tibbs

8. **Corporation Meeting** Heather Coyne, President

9. **Adjourn with Closing Prayer** Dr. Mullis

The Session
Rebecca Melley, Clerk

The Session in 2020 has focused on keeping the church—its worship, Christian education, missions, and stewardship—steady during a pandemic that, this time last year, we could scarcely have imagined.

In mid-March, guided by the City of Philadelphia’s recommendation that large gatherings be canceled to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (and similar recommendations of and restrictions imposed by neighboring counties and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), the Session approved the closure of the church building, including the cancelation of in-person worship services and other activities. From that time through the present, the church went “virtual”—online worship services, communion, Sunday School, board and committee meetings, fellowship activities, holiday celebrations, new member classes, baptisms, and memorial services. As you’ll read in the following reports, the Session committees, the Deacons, and the staff of the church rose immediately to the challenge of maintaining our church community—and the rhythms of the liturgical seasons—even while we, the congregation, have remained physically apart from one another.

In June, the Session examined and approved for ordination and installation the new classes of elders and deacons. The new class of elders is the first since the functions of trustees were assumed by Session (by recommendation of the Session adopted by the congregation in November 2019), and Session has adopted a new, broader committee structure to ensure that all necessary functions are covered. Then, in July, Session elected the corporate officers of the church (as was done by the Trustees in prior years): Heather Coyne, President; Craig Boddorff, Treasurer; and Rebecca Melley, Secretary.

Concretely demonstrating that the life and work of the church has continued through the pandemic, we happily welcomed fourteen new members in 2020 (ten of whom joined during the summer when the church building was closed): Heidi Artigue, Guilherme Siquiera de Carvalho, Elizabeth Collins, Michelle Davidson, Edward Higgins, Westcott Higgins, Lauren Jones, Mackenzie Jones, Matthew Knouse, Frank Paone, Amy Poe, Jennifer Rich, Alex Sandoval, and Klaas Walhout. And we rejoiced in two infant baptisms!

During 2020, Session mourned the many lives lost to the pandemic, as well as the deaths of longtime members Ellen Decker, Patricia Quigg, Mary and George Schneider, and Horace (Ike) Williams.

In the following pages, you will find reports from each of the committees of Session. These, in many ways, reflect the heart and soul of the Session’s work and provide additional detail about the life and work of the church in 2020.

The Board of Deacons
Dave Huting, Moderator

The year started off with immense excitement about all of the important and fulfilling responsibilities that the Deacons were prepared to carry out. In January and February, we hosted the annual meeting luncheon, brunches, and fellowship hours after both services. The Deacons were off to a good start.

Suddenly, we had to refocus how we would do outreach and minister to our congregation in light of the closure of our building. The pandemic shut-down gave us the opportunity to think creatively about how to connect with our members.

(see *Deacons* on page 4)

(Deacons, continued from page 3)

We started by hosting fellowship Zoom gatherings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. These started with a question for the evening which we all got a chance to talk about in the group. Within a couple of months, we started the Zoom meet-ups with daily devotions from the Presbyterian Church (USA) daily prayer app. We continued these meet-ups for several months until the Christian Education Committee began offering virtual evening programs.

We divided the Deacons into two groups in October: ongoing membership outreach, and holiday outreach. With these two groups, led by Jean Witmer and Rebekah Horowitz, we sent Christmas Cards to all members and delicious cookies to our homebound members. We were thrilled that the Women of Wit and Wisdom and the Session joined with us in connecting with our congregation. Together with the Worship Committee, we sent a wonderful Christmas CD featuring our choir and organ to all of our members. Finally, we organized with the Session to reach every member by phone calls, cards, and emails. Each of these activities was well-received.

The Deacons tried a variety of methods to ensure that our congregation stays connected while it is not safe to gather in person. Some of these ideas proved so successful, that we may still do them once we reopen for in person worship and fellowship.

Along with the Congregational Care Team, we made a concerted effort to be in touch with our homebound members by making calls and sending cards. Our Minister for Congregational Care, Rev. Jerry Foote, produces a report each month for the Deacons and Session. We would encourage all of you to make calls and send cards. If you would like a the list of our homebound members to send cards, please email me at dhuting55@gmail.com.

The video recording of services for weekly worship added an interesting twist to decorating the sanctuary for each season. The displays needed to be larger for the cameras, and we even had to change them out for seasonal colors more than once in a day to get parts of services of differing seasons recorded well ahead of their actual Sunday viewing. Deacon Bill Swoope spent countless hours planning how and decorating the sanctuary.

Deacons also assembled our Christmas Tree in the windows of Buttonwood Hall, and adorned garland on the Walnut Street railings, so the Center City community could see that First Church is still active and witnessing in Philadelphia.

Our Deacons are a caring and committed group. I always have a full heart at the end of every meeting and fellowship event where we all play an important role.

Adult Christian Education Committee

Carol Cook, Chair

The Adult CE committee ably adapted to a double challenge in 2020, with social justice issues coming to the forefront in our community and in the nation as a whole, and with the turn-around in the way classes are presented due to the Covid-19 pandemic and closing of the church building. Traditional in-person classes stopped in mid-March, and online programming began a month later. The transition was made possible only with the stellar assistance of staff, and the CE Committee is grateful for their timely and effective work in making it possible. The year's classes and special programs, described below, show the range of topics that the committee explored, often in partnership with other church groups, as well as organizations and individuals outside the church.

(see Adult CE on page 5)

(Adult CE, continued from page 4)

January - February

Lectionary bible studies were held on January 5, 12, and 26. The CE Committee had a supporting role in the Conversations Worth Having weekend, which was dedicated to the topic of “Learning to Disengage from Bias.” On January 19, there was a screening of *Backs Against the Wall: The Story of Howard Thurman*, a documentary film about the theologian, poet, and civil rights leader who used religious expression to help ignite social change

February is Interfaith Month, and a four-part series under the organizing theme of Civil Conversations was held on Sunday mornings, and in conjunction with the Mission Committee. The series was comprised of a presentation by Standing with Iraqi Christians (SWIC), a talk on Iraq by FPC member Michael Horowitz, and two classes on the art and practice of Civil Conversations, a model for tolerant conversations developed by Interfaith Philadelphia. On February 16, Interfaith Philadelphia Ambassador Rev. Jesse Garner spoke about Interfaith’s Year of Civil Conversations initiative, and the model for convening meaningful conversations designed to bring us more understanding of each other, in the midst of times and voices that would have us turning away from one another. On the following Sunday, Bruce Rapsher, Carol Cook, and Diane Rogers further explored the practice with class participants.

March - April

Wednesday lunch and evening programs for the Lenten series “Unpacking Everyday Bias: Continuing the Conversation” were held in March. The series was designed to build on the Learning to Disengage Bias theme of the Conversations Worth Having workshop in January, and facilitator Dr. Eve Higginbotham led the development of the curriculum for this initiative. Discussion leaders Baron Mullis, Barbara Chaapel, Ken Ross, and Delores Brisbon received training from Dr. Higginbotham. The first two weeks of the series, which included “Brown Bag Lunch and Conversation” at noon, and “Soup and Conversation” evenings from 6:30 to 7:30, were held before pandemic restrictions closed the church building.

Barbara Chaapel led two Lenten classes using the spiritual practice of lectio divina, focusing on the lectionary texts for each Sunday, on March 1 and 8 at the church. The remainder of the five-part series was cancelled due to the pandemic. Barbara ably led the transition to the Zoom platform with lectio divina classes on the three Wednesdays evenings after Easter, on April 15, 22, and 29.

May – August

A nine-week online bible study “Pioneer Women Reflect on Women of the Bible” debuted in early May and concluded on July 1. The series was initiated in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. Cindy Jarvis and Barbara Chaapel, whose inspired leadership and organizational skills were behind the success of the series, invited women throughout the country to prepare a video presentation on a biblical ‘pioneer woman’. At least two other churches in the region organized study groups around the videos, and written study guides were created by a minister in one of the churches. (The videos remain posted on the FPC website, and the study guides are still available.)

A four-week Lectio Divina series was held from July 22 to August 12, led by Barbara Chaapel.

In August, the Christian Education program co-sponsored with the Mission Committee three educational programs for the Gun Violence Protection Task Force. Members of the Session and the CE Committee were invited to join in. Interfaith Philadelphia gave a training on Civil Conversations, and

(see Adult CE on page 6)

(Adult CE, continued from page 5)

Adam Garber, Executive Director of CeasefirePA, presented two educational sessions on gun violence and solutions for its prevention.

September - October

The fall program started with a lunchtime midweek bible study led by Dr. Baron Mullis. The series, titled “Bible Breaks with Baron,” was composed of short lessons on some of the Biblical texts that have been used to marginalize people through the years. The four-week series was held on Tuesdays September 22 through October 13.

An evening program on October 8, *The Battle for the Ballot: Early Voices in Social Justice*, featured a presentation to mark the anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, cosponsored by the Women of Wit & Wisdom fellowship group. Guest speaker Mary Walton, a Philadelphia resident and former Inquirer journalist, talked about Alice Paul, the suffrage leader whose efforts were instrumental in the amendment’s ratification and whose effective strategies have influenced more recent protest movements. Ms. Walton is the author of *A Woman’s Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot*.

On October 21 and 28th at noon, Ken Ross presented on the 1934 Theological Declaration of Barmen, contained in the Book of Confession, which was a call to resistance against the theological claims of the Nazi state. (Videos of these two sessions are posted on the FPC website.)

November - December

The anti-bias task force hosted three Sunday discussion forums on November 8, 15, and 22. Dr. Baron Mullis had convened an informal group of interested church members, under the Adult CE Committee, to consider an educational approach for understanding bias. The initial plan was to revive the *Unpacking Everyday Bias* series halted in March, but the events in May that resonated throughout the nation resulted in a changed environment. More was needed to address the uncertainties and concerns felt by the congregation and community at large. The forums provided an opportunity for attendees to reflect on the issues of bias and race that have come to the forefront in this difficult year.

Barbara Chaapel led a four-class *lectio divina* series beginning on Wednesday, November 25 and ending on December 16, providing an opportunity to reflect on scripture in Advent.

The members of the Adult CE Committee are Barbara Chaapel, Carol Cook (Chair), Mac McLarin, Cynthia Olds, Diane Rogers, Ken Ross, and Dr. Baron Mullis (ex officio).

Children’s CE: Faith Formation of Children and Families

Karen Marston, Chair

We strived to keep our Children’s Christian Education fun and engaging during the challenging times of 2020. As our world changed and we moved to a virtual platform, we continued our family-oriented Celebration Service but decided to keep it more engaging for our children by having the Scripture reading and short lesson told by two of our older children, Reagan and Wyatt Buzan (ages 11 and 10). Reagan and Wyatt have attended our Celebration Service since its inception and they have helped our children’s worship experience be meaningful and inspiring to all ages. We also incorporated a Craft Time at the end of each Celebration Service to provide our younger members with an opportunity to make the scripture reading come alive with a hands-on activity.

Godly Play, based on Montessori principles which focuses on helping children explore their faith through story continues to be a part of our curriculum and we have used a few lessons for virtual

(see Children’s CE on page 7)

(Children's CE, continued from page 6)

Sunday School classes that we posted online twice a month in the fall. In addition, with the help of our Music Director and Organist, Andrew Senn, we are supplementing our Sunday School offerings with Children's Music.

Throughout 2020, we have provided worship care packages, as well as our traditional Christmas Book to our children. We have looked for opportunities for our young families to stay engaged with participating in our Easter and Pentecost videos, as well as, the lighting of our Advent Candle and the telling of the Birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. As we begin 2021, we are asking families to participate by presenting our Call to Worship. This is a wonderful way to stay connected and see our youngest members as they grow.

Although we have missed many of our fun normal activities – field trips, play dates, holiday parties and movie nights – we have great hope that we will be back to normal soon. In the meantime, we managed a fun socially distanced hay ride field trip in the fall, as well as Zoom Baking Candy Cane Cookies in December.

Our hope is to keep our young families immersed in faith through story and music throughout 2021. We are grateful for and thank Dr. Baron Mullis and Rev. Megan LeCluyse for their leadership. We are extremely appreciative of all the hard work by so many who work tirelessly to make certain our children's worship experience continues throughout these challenging times. A very special thanks to Patti Sassoli, who works absolute wonders putting together the video clips for the Celebration Service and Craft Time; Suzanne Riemann, who puts together so many wonderful care packages for our families; Andrew Senn, whose musical directorship is unmatched; and Becky Yep, who continues being a wonderful Sunday School teacher. And, special thanks to Calli Graver whose angelic voice truly makes the Celebration Service a gift to all who view it each week. Finally, a special thanks to my children Reagan and Wyatt, who have persevered through many video "retakes" to make our scripture lessons come alive each week.

Facilities Committee

Heather Coyne and Carolyn Crego, Co-chairs

As most on-site church activities screeched to a halt due to the pandemic, so too did most maintenance and capital projects. We were, however, able to complete masonry and roofing projects already in process. This brings the construction portion of our second \$1.4M PILP loan to completion. We will begin to pay down this loan in early 2021. Though the project schedule stretched out due to the pandemic, it feels good to have Phase 1 of the FAMP completed.

All but one of the 2020 capital projects have shifted to 2021. Thanks to our Church Administrator, Suzanne Riemann, and her persistence with finding contractors, the rear canopy that covers the ramped entrance was repainted and looking great. Throughout the year smaller maintenance issues were resolved as typical of any older building. Looking forward, we are in process of replacing the 21st Street door and installing an updated and integrated security system. This will include security cameras as well as keyless access to the building.

This past year as worship went virtual, church leadership realized that it is important to improve our technology to enable hybrid services in the future. Our goal is to be able to both livestream services and provide for virtual presentations and meetings. We know how much people miss being together but we also want to be as flexible and accommodating to everyone's safety. This will also give those who travel or cannot make it to Center City a way to join virtually. (There is no getting out of

(see Facilities on page 8)

(Facilities, continued from page 7)

meetings now!)

We would like to thank our committee members for continuing to keep us moving forward. Jeannie Boehner for progressing the door and security work in planning since her time on Trustees, Karl Miller for engaging with PECO, PGW, and PWD to monitor use and look for money-saving incentives, Jen Gay for being the behind-the-scenes IT support that is so needed in this virtual world, and Sue Riemann for keeping it ALL together. To the congregation, we appreciate your love and dedication to our building.

The members of the Facilities Committee are Heather Coyne and Carolyn Crego, Co-chairs; Jeannie Boehner, Karl Miller, Jen Gay, and Sue Riemann.

Membership & Evangelism Committee

Larry Slagle, Chair

The Membership & Evangelism Committee (M&E) exists to welcome visitors and newer attendees and encourage and integrate them into the life of the church. One of the goals of this ministry is that this will facilitate the membership process to add new members to the First Presbyterian family.

2020 was a year of adjusting to a new temporary reality. However, the committee continued to provide oversight for fellowship/affinity groups and held one virtual new members class. The August new members class was a highlight of the year adding ten new members to our fellowship.

The committee had to say goodbye to our staff liaison Rev. Sarah Weisiger when she accepted another call to ministry apart from First Church. Sarah's guidance was very significant and all of her many contributions cannot be chronicled here but to name a few she was a tremendous welcome of visitors, cared deeply for the integration of newer attendees into the life of the body, had a wonderful heart to reach those who might "slip between the cracks", and so many more gifts. Another significant legacy will be her establishment of a more formal new members class and reception of new members into the body. Her presence is certainly missed. We are fortunate to have Dr. Baron Mullis step in as our staff liaison moving forward.

Another unspeakable loss was that of long-time committee member George Schneider. We deeply grieve his passing. His multitude of commitment areas at First Church are impacted by his loss. He loved to welcome new attendees and was one of our most ardent ambassadors at the fellowship hour to welcome visitors. His deep love for First Church compelled him to serve the committee in anyway needed. From helping at Outfest to distributing gifts at the 21st Street door, George could always be counted on and is greatly missed.

Prior to the shutdown in March, the ministries were off to a flourishing start for the year. The newly energized greeting program under the care of Suellen Smith created a very warm and welcoming environment to our worship attendees. The newly formed GenX group had begun meeting, fpcQ had hosted a wonderful pasta-making demonstration and feast featuring David McKibben and Stefano Coratella, the Twenties and Thirties (T&T) under the outstanding leadership of Annie LeCluyse had its well-attended brunches and regular weekly gatherings, the Women of Wit and Wisdom had their typically wonderful year of programming planned, The Band of Boomers ended 2019 with a very successful Christmas gathering and looked forward to special outings in 2020, work had begun on ministering to families with young children.

As we transitioned to virtual program some groups have adapted more regularly than others. All

(see M&E on page 9)

(M&E, continued from page 8)

of the groups have had some type of activity but the T&Ts have been most consistent with weekly gatherings and the committee is grateful to Annie for her faithful leadership. The committee also planned a church-wide “Biscuits with Baron” virtual fellowship which was well attended and followed by another demonstration of cookies, shortbread, and beverages by members of the congregation.

Looking into 2021 we hope, of course, for a return to in-person gathering. In the meantime we continue to support the ongoing ministries under our care and plan to hold more church-wide fellowships via Zoom.

Committee members are: Gui Carvalho, Michelle Davidson, Kayla Krystek, Lester Morris, Suellen Smith, Shellie & Richard Unger, and William Swoope.

Missions Committee

Andrea Bowman, Chair

The challenges that our world, nation, and community faced in 2020 were also, on a much smaller scale, reflected in the actions of the Missions Committee.

Our usual volunteer activities (such as Habitat or the Casserole Blitzes) were curtailed, due to prohibitions around gathering, as well as our Minutes for Mission, Red Cross blood drive, and trips to visit our FPCP grant-supported partners and learn more, first-hand, about their activities. But we also had the opportunity to partner more closely with Zia, in its food initiatives, as it needed a new base for its food collection and distribution, which FPCP and its volunteers (for accessing the space on a weekly basis) were able to provide.

Meanwhile, the committee composition changed in 2020, with “old” members, Andrea Bowman and Crystal Reeck, being joined by Kay Keenze and Amy Jared (in January 2020) and Jen Johnson, Ina Mexhitaj, and Chris Tibbs (in July).

The Gun Violence Task Force, under the auspices of the Missions Committee, was officially launched in 2020. While many of its planned initiatives couldn’t occur due to the pandemic, the wildly escalated gun violence numbers from 2020, in Philadelphia and throughout the U.S., gave extra impetus to the focus of the Task Force. Its aim is to coordinate FPCP efforts and to: 1) emphasize that being against gun violence is not the same as being against responsible gun ownership; 2) determine how best to identify, learn from, and use available educational resources and organizations addressing gun violence; and 3) promote civil, informed discourse between varying viewpoints and seek a common understanding that improves our community.

To that end, we were pleased to partner with the Adult Christian Education Committee to offer a number of virtual discussion opportunities, towards the end of 2020, related to the film “Trigger” and James Atwood’s book, *America and Its Guns*.

The Missions Committee spent a great deal of time considering and discussing grant applications this year and a number of new groups were added to our grantees in 2020, with the total number of funded organizations and funding levels remaining about the same. Time was also spent reviewing and tweaking the grant application forms to make them more user-friendly and meaningful, for the grantees and the grantor committee.

Finally, we are profoundly appreciative of the trust put in us to advance the work and faith of our church through our committee efforts and we look forward to further sharing our gifts and commitment in 2021 – and even doing so, at least on occasion, in person!

Personnel Committee

Cynthia Decrucq, Chair

As for most, 2020 was a quiet year for the Personnel Committee. No sooner had the Committee finished revising the job description for the Nursery Aides, the threat of COVID 19 was upon us and Session took the necessary step of closing the Church. Since that time, the Committee has focused on staff support and is pleased to report that no lay offs were necessary. We look forward to a more active 2021. Members of the Personnel Committee are Andrea Bowman, Rebecca Melley, Stella Tsai, Cynthia Decrucq, Chairperson, and Dr. Baron Mullis, ex officio.

Risk Management

Morgan Minturn and Elaine Rothbauer, Co-chairs

The Risk Management Committee is new in 2020 and joins overlapping committees from both Session and Trustees. The responsibilities of the Risk Management Committee include oversight of audit, insurance and records. The members of the committee are Morgan Minturn and Elaine Rothbauer, Co-chairs. Karl Miller chaired the Audit Committee, but will be stepping down from the committee.

With great assistance from Karl Miller, we were able to finalize the 2018 financial review undertaken by our outside accounting firm. We also conducted an internal audit of FPC's general procedures relating to finance and oversight of cash and spending, as recommended by the Philadelphia Presbytery. We appreciate Jen Johnson's assistance as an independent member for that review. We plan to re-visit this internal audit process annually to ensure we are following best practices.

On the insurance front, we conducted a review and update of FPC's current policies. We continue to participate in the Property and Casualty Insurance Program for the Presbytery of Philadelphia which was designed by the Presbytery Insurance Committee and Sovereign Insurance Group. Coverage is provided by Church Mutual Insurance.

Stewardship & Budget

Mac McLarin, Chair

The role of the Stewardship & Budget committee is to ensure that First Presbyterian Church provides adequate funding for its mission and programs.

Like everyone else in 2020, we never envisioned having to carry out our tasks solely through Zoom, emails, and phone calls! But the business of the church must go on; and so, like everyone else, we adapted.

We approved a new Privacy Policy ([see our website](#)) and expanded the role of the Annual Giving Chair. We added PayPal to our electronic giving options. We created a new endowment subcommittee to more closely manage our investment policies, our relationship with our endowment manager (Vanguard), and our mortgage loans from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP).

There was concern last spring about the financial impact of the looming pandemic shutdown. The committee and Session had to consider all emergency funding options so the church could be prepared for the worst. We consulted our church treasurer on numerous occasions for detailed predictions of cash flow. There were a number of quickly arranged Zoom calls. But the worst never happened as congregational giving remained steady.

In light of all of the economic uncertainty we started our 2021 planning & budgeting process earlier than usual. Our "bottom up" budgeting process begins with our respective committee chairs

(see S&B on page 11)

(S&B, continued from page 10)

who have the tough job of determining how to maintain our ministries and mission focus and the funding required, all during the uncertainty of a pandemic.

Likewise the Annual Giving campaign was more focused and personal. The Together In Hope, Giving In Love theme was captured and communicated through a series of short videos and then supplemented by extensive personal contact. Again the congregation responded very generously; we received 121 pledges for a total of \$414, 303 (as of January 19), indicating the strong commitment of our congregation in spite of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

So how was 2020 financially? One unexpected word during a pandemic: amazing. We finished the year with a \$68k surplus in the Operating Fund (after forecasting a small deficit) due to phenomenal congregational giving (107% of budget) and reduced expenses (89% of Budget) in part due to the closure of the church buildings in March. There was also a reduction in Personnel expenditures due to the departure of our Minister for Membership Development and Faith Formation, Rev. Sarah Weisiger. Our 2020 Operating budget included a 3.5% draw on the endowment, but due to the budget surplus, the draw was effectively 2.6%. Most of our 2020 Capital projects were deferred due to the pandemic. The endowment performed well in 2020, starting the year at \$8.1MM and ending at \$9.4MM.

Our 2021 Operating Budget keeps Personnel and Mission spending level with 2020. Other expenses are forecast to be down due to building closure, some expenses will rise with an anticipated mid-year reopening of the building, and in some cases more spending is prudent in 2021 (such as Insurance and Maintenance). We also have a modest (\$58k) Capital Expenditures budget for 2021.

Planned Giving did not have any events this year due to the pandemic, but the church is the beneficiary of bequests from the estates of Benjamin & Patricia Quigg and George & Mary Schneider. These gifts will help further the witness of our congregation at 21st & Walnut Streets, and around the world through our mission programs and PCUSA giving. We are incredibly grateful for these gifts.

So what lies ahead? Hope. We all look forward to the reopening of the church building and the additional fellowship opportunities that will follow. We continue to strive to be good stewards of our financial resources. The members of the Stewardship & Budget Committee are Reggie Amoa, Heidi Artigue, Craig Boddorff, Heather Coyne, Dave Huting, Mac McLarin (Chair), George Nutty, Patti Sassoli, and Dr. Baron Mullis (ex officio).

Worship Committee

Evelyn Schwartz and Stella Tsai, Co-chairs

In spite of the circumstances and the challenges faced by our staff this year our services have continued to be enriching and thought provoking under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis, our Director of Music Andrew Senn and our Celebration! Team Leader, Rev. Megan LeCluyse.

The Worship Committee met in person January through March and then in May we started virtual meetings. Susy Christensen chaired the meetings through June. Evelyn Schwartz and Stella Tsai became co-chairs of the committee in July.

Our last in-person Celebration! Service was March 8. The service resumed virtually on June 21 and continues to be a vibrant family friendly service with music, prayer and communion each week. The committee appreciates the work Reagan and Wyatt Buzan do every week with the scripture reading and craft project.

(see Worship on page 12)

(Worship, continued from page 11)

Our traditional service went virtual on March 15. Before the pandemic lockdown we were able to have 2 Choral Evensong and 2 services on Ash Wednesday. Last year we had 2 baptisms and 4 weddings. We had a guest minister on October 4 and on December 27 Rev. Megan LeCluyse and Rev. Buzzy LeCluyse shared the sermon duties.

Communion was served two times at our in-person services and in June we started having communion at our virtual service about once a month.

In May the committee formed a Building Re-opening Task Force co-chaired by Stella Tsai and Gary Christensen who give a report to Session each month regarding the status of the building re-opening.

Anita McLarin made beautiful red paraments for the chancel and Bill Swoope continues dressing the sanctuary as only Bill can do with silk flowers.

Current members of the committee are Rev. Barbara Chaapel, Dave Huting, Rev. Megan LeCluyse, Anita McLarin, Dr. Baron Mullis, Owen Robbins, Evelyn Schwartz (Co-Chair), Andrew Senn, William Swoope and Stella Tsai (Co-Chair).

Building Re-opening Task Force Report Gary Christensen & Stella Tsai, Co-chairs

Do you believe that God has blessed First Church, or that the church is made up of many members with a wide variety of gifts? The Building Reopening Task Force is a perfect example of both of these. The Task Force was established to evaluate the precautions and risks of re-opening of the church building for in-person worship and gatherings in a safe and responsible manner. It includes a physician who is currently working on COVID-19 treatments, a judge, our insurance contact, musicians and singers, a communications expert, an event planner, an engineer with a PhD in fluid mechanics, and our ministers. Availability and access to such diversity has ensured that all aspects have been considered when making recommendations, and exemplifies how richly First Church has been blessed.

A report from the Task Force can be found on our website (fpcphila.org/building-reopening-task-force-report). The recommendations in that report are reviewed on an ongoing basis. This includes assessment of the latest statistics (both positivity and vaccination) in our area, and any advances in the scientific understanding of COVID-19, and modifications to the recommendations are made as circumstances dictate and permit.

Our congregation has many questions about COVID-19. Dr. Dan Seekins, an immunologist who is on this task force, has volunteered to hold a COVID-19 information session for the congregation. This session is scheduled for March 10 at 7 pm. Further details will be provided in the church newsletter, in weekly mailings, and on the website.

Members of the task force are Stella Tsai (Co-chair), Gary Christensen (Co-chair), Rev. Megan LeCluyse, Dr. Baron Mullis, Sue Riemann, Owen Robbins, Elaine Rothbauer, Patti Sassoli, Dan Seekins, Andrew Senn, and Bill Swoope.

Operating Budget Summary

| 2019 & 2020 Operating Budget Results and 2021 Operating Budget | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| INCOME - Totals | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | 2021 |
| | Budget | Actual | % | Budget | Actual | % | Budget |
| General Giving | \$493,000 | \$506,066 | 103% | \$521,744 | \$548,090 | 105% | \$495,783 |
| Designated Offering | \$8,565 | \$7,123 | 83% | \$5,450 | \$3,586 | 66% | \$3,000 |
| Investment Income | \$418,821 | \$491,878 | 117% | \$410,180 | \$374,980 | 91% | \$398,561 |
| Other | \$20,225 | \$17,164 | 85% | \$14,146 | \$7,237 | 51% | \$7,246 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$940,611 | \$1,022,231 | 109% | \$951,520 | \$933,893 | 98% | \$904,590 |
| EXPENSES - Totals | Budget | Actual | % | Budget | Actual | % | Budget |
| Clergy & Presbytery | \$279,519 | \$287,312 | 103% | \$307,042 | \$278,065 | 91% | \$280,866 |
| Financial Services | \$7,400 | \$8,426 | 114% | \$4,600 | \$3,498 | 76% | \$4,800 |
| Worship & The Arts | \$151,123 | \$148,269 | 98% | \$153,055 | \$142,715 | 93% | \$151,255 |
| Congregational Needs | \$40,267 | \$30,057 | 75% | \$36,850 | \$12,138 | 33% | \$27,750 |
| Christian Education | \$14,074 | \$8,815 | 63% | \$18,949 | \$8,009 | 42% | \$15,583 |
| Office | \$97,387 | \$92,231 | 95% | \$103,064 | \$103,225 | 100% | \$103,864 |
| Building | \$221,072 | \$187,453 | 85% | \$254,088 | \$219,816 | 87% | \$259,003 |
| Mission & Benevolence | \$96,465 | \$95,635 | 99% | \$95,750 | \$93,836 | 98% | \$94,200 |
| Miscellaneous | \$7,000 | \$3,779 | 54% | \$3,500 | \$5,081 | 145% | \$4,750 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$914,307 | \$861,977 | 94% | \$976,898 | \$866,383 | 89% | \$942,071 |
| NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | \$26,304 | \$160,254 | 609% | \$(25,378) | \$67,510 | -266% | \$(37,481) |

Endowment Budget Summary

| 2019 & 2020 Endowment Budget Results and 2021 Endowment Budget | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | 2020 | | 2021 |
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Bequests & Memorial Gifts | \$ 500 | \$ 110,900 | \$ 4,500 |
| Interest - Money Markets | \$ 600 | \$ 857 | \$ 781 |
| Investment Gain | \$ 400,000 | \$ 1,241,474 | \$ 300,000 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 401,100 | \$ 1,353,231 | \$ 305,281 |
| EXPENSE | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Operational Support | \$ 272,076 | \$ 272,076 | \$ 287,861 |
| Capital Support | \$ 45,000 | \$ 13,661 | \$ 58,200 |
| Advisor Fees | \$ 22,547 | \$ 21,712 | \$ 24,285 |
| Investment Loss | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$ 339,623 | \$ 307,449 | \$ 370,346 |
| NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | \$ 61,477 | \$ 1,045,782 | \$ (65,065) |

Capital Budget Summary

| 2019 & 2020 Capital Budget Results and 2021 Capital Budget | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | 2020 | | 2021 |
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Donations from Congregation | | \$ 600 | |
| Support from the Endowment | \$ 45,000 | \$ 13,661 | \$ 58,200 |
| Bequests | | \$ 75,000 | |
| Interest received from PILP Investment | \$ 3,750 | \$ 6,399 | \$ 3,313 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 48,750 | \$ 95,660 | \$ 61,513 |
| EXPENSE | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Masonry Repair | | \$ 112,022 | |
| Roofing Repair | | \$ 24,997 | |
| Air Conditioning Unit Replacement | | \$ 6,000 | |
| Professional Fees - All | | \$ 6,190 | |
| Capital - Miscellaneous | | | |
| Door Replacement - 21 st Street | \$ 25,000.00 | | \$ 25,000 |
| Water Infiltration Remedy Buttonwood Hall | \$ 5,000.00 | | \$ 5,000 |
| Security Cameras | \$ 10,000.00 | | \$ 17,500 |
| Repaint Chancellor St Canopy | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 1,108 | \$ 5,000 |
| Livestreaming Capabilities | | | \$ 1,700 |
| MacColl Room AudioVisual Upgrades | | | \$ 4,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$ 45,000 | \$ 150,317 | \$ 58,200 |
| NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | \$ 3,750 | \$ (54,657) | \$ 3,313 |

Summary of Activity in Designated Funds

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ 924 |
| Special Programs | \$ 0 |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ 924 |

CLERGY HOUSING FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ 523,468 |
| Investment Gain Share | \$ 89,291 |
| Senior Minister Housing Allowance | \$ (24,000) |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ 588,759 |

HATFIELD CIRCUS FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ 39,413 |
| Investment Gain Share | \$ 6,715 |
| Camp Sojourner Support | \$ (1,000) |
| ending balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ 45,128 |

CONCERTS@FIRST FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ 20,978 |
| Donations | \$ 235 |
| Performer Payments | \$ (2,800) |
| Event Support / Tech | \$ (1,285) |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ 17,128 |

COLUMBARIUM FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ (44,781) |
| Designated Gifts | \$ 12,000 |
| Niche Payments | \$ 1,750 |
| Operating Costs | \$ (1,224) |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ (32,256) |

McCORMICK ORGAN FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ 160,661 |
| Investment Gain Share | \$ 27,407 |
| Instrument Maintenance | \$ (4,242) |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ 183,827 |

McCURDY MEMORIAL FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ 624 |
| Dividends Presbyterian Fndn. | \$ 2,135 |
| Special Musical Performance | \$ 0 |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ 2,758 |

MEMORIAL FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$0 |
| Memorial Gifts | \$1,225 |
| Transfer to Endowment | -\$1,225 |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$0 |

SCHNEIDER SPEAKERS FUND

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/20 | \$ 3,200 |
| Speaker Payments | \$ (2,000) |
| Designated Gifts | \$ 3,350 |
| Event Support | \$ (1,305) |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 | \$ 3,245 |

Select Balance Sheet Items as of December 31, 2020

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Endowment Value | \$ 9,462,355 |
| Endowment Encumbered Funds | \$ (817,713) |
| Loan from PILP | \$ (2,324,087) |
| PILP Investment | \$ 417,246 |