



Southport Presbyterian Church 2022 Annual Report



The Reverend Robert H. Lapp, Interim Pastor
The Reverend Joanna E. Hipp, Associate Pastor
1025 East Moore Street
Southport, North Carolina 28461
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www.southportpresbyterian.com

Our Vision

*is to be an accepting spiritual home for all,
actively glorifying God,
sharing in the love of Jesus Christ and
witnessing to the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Our Core Values

*Celebrating a God whose love never fails,
Embracing and supporting all people at any stage of life
Nurturing growth in each unique faith journey
Serving others with humility, compassion and justice*

Our Mission

*as disciples of Jesus Christ and led by the Spirit, we are committed to:
Deepening our relationship with God and each other
Discerning God's will for our church
Caring for our neighbor and one another
Cherishing differences knowing we are united in faith
Acting as faithful stewards in God's abundance.*

All are welcome here!

*What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8*

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Interim Pastor's Report – Reverend Robert H. Lapp

Dear SPC family,

My heart is filled with gratitude for the faithfulness of this congregation – its members, leaders, and staff. It is a privilege and a joy to serve as your interim pastor and to have celebrated the 35th anniversary of my ordination with you. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

This next year will be an exciting one as we celebrate our 125th anniversary as a congregation and prepare to welcome SPC's next installed pastor. May we remember that our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new!

Here are some of examples of your faithfulness in 2022:

- Thanks to your generosity the Living the Vision Capital Campaign surpassed its goal. Which means we were able to reduce the mortgage, complete two important building projects - sound upgrades in the sanctuary and paving the parking lot, and fund new mission initiatives – scholarships through Brunswick Community College and partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build a home.
- The Balcony Team worked hard to better understand the culture of SPC and made reports to the Session and to the Pastor Nominating Committee. Their work will be beneficial as the church moves forward in its next chapter in mission and ministry.
- As we learned to live with covid-19, we were grateful for the Reopening Task Force who helped the Session navigate the challenges that the pandemic put before us.
- SPC continues to welcome guests and new members into our fellowship and to assimilate them into the life of the church.
- Despite an economic downturn, SPC remained faithful in making and fulfilling their financial pledges.
- SPC celebrated Laurie Russ's 15 years of dedicated service as the music director.
- A new piano for the sanctuary was purchased after the previous one could no longer be repaired.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee was elected and began their work and solicited the congregation's input using a church-wide survey. The report indicated that SPC is a congregation that has high energy and satisfaction for our ministry and that there is a passion for worship, mission, and ministries with families. Copies of the report are available in the library.
- Five families had a much brighter Christmas and will receive ongoing support through the new year because of your generosity.

There is so much more that I could share but let me close with a couple of stories that exemplify the “can do” spirit of SPC. A storm passed through one night and split the crape myrtle tree in the memorial garden and by noon the next day the tree had been pruned, braced and the debris stacked to be hauled off. Another example is when the fire alarm system malfunctioned and a part needed to be ordered, members stepped up to take shifts overnight until the system could be repaired. I could go on and on with many other stories like these that bear witness to your love for God and your love for this church and community.

Thank you for the privilege and joy of serving as your interim pastor.

Faithfully yours,
Robert H. Lapp
Interim Pastor

Associate Pastor's Report – Reverend Joanna E. Hipp

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

~1 Cor. 12:12 and 17

I give thanks to God for my ministry at Southport Presbyterian church. I am fortunate to work alongside Robert Lapp, Laurie Russ, Ilona Smith and Ray Dickerson. Further, I give thanks for this congregation and community, and for the care you have offered me this year. Below are some highlights of my ministry here.

Board of Deacons: Every month the Deacons of the congregation meet to attend to the work of the church, including Worship, Congregational Care, and Fellowship and Welcome.

Worship: As associate pastor, I provide worship leadership weekly and preach regularly. I also had the opportunity to preach three times on Ocean Isle Beach with Shallotte Presbyterian at the 8:30 am summer service, and to be a guest preacher at Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church and First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, DE.

Pastoral Care: In addition to pastoral visits, I send birthday cards and prayer cards to our community.

Children, Youth and Families: The school year got off to a great start with the blessing of the backpacks. We have returned to in-person children's church for our Pre-K and elementary school youth. We have a stellar Confirmation class that meets twice a month, and I am thankful for the mentors who support our students. The children and youth led a wonderful worship service in December telling us the story of Christmas. I am excited that rising 9th through 12th graders will attend Montreat Youth Conference in the summer of 2023!

Adult Education: Our Reading Race Book Group continues to meet weekly. This past year we read *Wilmington's Lie* to learn more about our own history as we approach the 125th anniversary of the church.

Mission: We continue to support one another and those in our community. We have a new partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and we are sponsoring a home build for a local family in Southport. SPC is also sponsoring a student with a two-year scholarship, including tuition, books, etc., at Brunswick County Community College.

Fellowship & Welcome and Bakers Dozen: We have returned to fellowship time twice a month, with gratitude to our wonderful Bakers Dozen. For the first time since 2019, we were able to gather for a Christmas lunch.

Administration, Communication, and Technology: I am deeply grateful to our amazing technology team. Thanks to their work, we have Zoom worship services that are then posted on our website and on our Facebook page every week. We have also been working on developing a new website through Worship Times.

Continuing Education: This year I completed two courses through Coach Approach Skill Training: Coach Training and Mentor Coaching. I am now a trained coach.

Presbyterian Church (USA): The life of the congregation is interwoven into the broader life of the church. I serve on the Strategic Planning and Organization Review Committee and as the moderator of an administrative commission of the Presbytery. On a national level, I served on the General

Assembly Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation. I was a resource person for this committee and gave a report to the General Assembly at our national gathering over the summer.

I give thanks that through all of this, God is guiding us. I am excited to continue walking this journey alongside each of you, as we discern together, how we continue to be called to serve God and one another in love.

In gratitude,
Rev. Joanna E. Hipp
Associate Pastor

Pastor Nominating Committee Annual Report

MEMBERS: Rick Barton, Kathy Bird, Allison Blau, Jennie Bryan, Sharon Byrum, Don Daily, Tom Krieger, Doug Morrill, Carson Williams. Hannah Vaughan, who is serving as SPC's liaison from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, and Robert Lapp are also participating as advisors.

The PNC held its first meeting on June 29. Kathy Bird and Sharon Byrum were selected as co-chairs, Jennie Bryan as secretary, and Carson Williams as internet coordinator.

Since then, we have sought to familiarize ourselves with the step-by-step call process, discern the leadership needs of SPC, and strive to write the Ministry Information Form.

In order to discern the leadership needs of SPC, in October the PNC enlisted the services of Holy Cow! Consulting who administered a Congregational Assessment Tool to collect input and insights from our congregation. With 140 responses, we were designated a high-energy - high-satisfaction church. The survey results enabled PNC to glean useful information for our pastor search. Additionally, valuable input was gathered through Appreciative Inquiry at a Leadership Retreat in August. A Quickinsite Report was also commissioned to learn more about the demographics within a 15-mile radius of Southport.

With all of the above information in hand, we are now in the process of completing the Ministry Information Form. Once completed, we will seek the necessary approvals and continue our search process.

As we travel through this search process, keeping the congregation informed is also a priority. A poster indicating where we are in the process is in the Narthex and we intend to provide updates regularly in the Wednesday e-blast newsletters.

We very much appreciate prayers as we seek guidance in discerning God's will for SPC.

Kathy Bird and Sharon Byrum
Co-chairs

2022 SESSION - ELDERS

Class of 2022

Mike Blau
Suzanne Hayes
Joe Lhotsky
Jude Skowron

Class of 2023

Rick Barton
Kurt Bryan
Erik Hedblom
Bob Lambert

Class of 2024

Bob Blaber
Nora Dziuban
Julia Hill
Carson Williams

2022 BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2022

Carolyn Thomae
Rita Wissinger

Class of 2023

Maggie Lhotsky
Ardene Noss

Class of 2024

Sally Barton
Brooke Deutsch
Marianne Edwards

SESSION

Elder Ministries

Administration
Adult Education
Building and Grounds
Children, Youth and Family
Finance and Stewardship
Mission
Clerk of Session
Moderator

Mike Blau, Julia Hill
Bob Blaber, Nora Dziuban
Joe Lhotsky, Erik Hedblom
Suzanne Hayes, Kurt Bryan
Jude Skowron, Rick Barton
Bob Lambert, Carson Williams
Carol Hazelton
Robert Lapp

Elder Liaisons to Special Committees

Personnel
Stewardship
Nominating

Suzanne Hayes
Rick Barton, Jude Skowron
Kurt Bryan

Deacon Ministries

Congregational Care
Fellowship/Welcome
Worship
Moderator

Carolyn Thomae, Marianne Edwards
Ardene Noss, Maggie Lhotsky
Joe Lhotsky, Rita Wissinger
Joanna Hipp

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION - 2022

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Jude Skowron
Joe Lhotsky
Gary Phipps/John Schmuhl
Carol Hazelton

CLERK'S REPORT

Active Members December 2021	283
Affiliate Members December 2021	27
Total Membership December 2021	310

New Members Received	11
Affiliate Members Received	--

Deceased Active Members: (6)

Lynn Pfeiffer, Ruth Lawrence, Walfred Johansen, Cynthia Evans,
Thomas Powell, Dorothy Douglas

Deceased Affiliate Members: (3)

Robert Marshall, Sam Furiness, Dick Harvey

Transfer: (2)

Matt Pfeiffer
Patricia Kelley

Removed by member request

Cheryl Ludwig (1)

Active Members December 2022	285
Affiliate Members December 2022	24
Total Membership as of December 31, 2022	309

MINISTRY AREAS

Administration and Communications Ministry

The Mission of the Administration and Communication Ministry is to serve God through nurturing, supporting, and celebrating the other ministries of the church and staff by providing efficient operations needed to administer the church and communicate our messages, while meeting the needs of staff, the Session, and members in communicating various ministries of Southport Presbyterian Church.

This 2022 year has been a year of normalcy with indoor church worship and meetings. We continue to use zoom as a way for those that prefer not to attend various meetings and to worship on Sunday mornings in person. We are grateful for the leadership of our church staff: Interim Pastor Robert Lapp, Associate Pastor Joanna Hipp, Director of Music Laurie Russ, Office Administrator Ilona Smith, and our Finance Secretary Ray Dickerson.

The Ministry is well served through the dedication, talent, and knowledge of our members: Michael Blau and Julia Hill, Elders; Pat de Barros, Peg Johnson, Ginny Prunty, and Carol Hazelton.

In January our new phone system was installed allowing our staff and volunteers a more professional business system that enhances their communication with each other and those calling the church to be directed to a specific line to reach the staff needed.

The “Meeting Owl Pro” was purchased and implemented in 2022. The device has a 360-degree camera, microphone, and speaker and can be easily connected to a computer. It creates the experience of in-person participation for hybrid teams and integrates with Zoom. The camera picks up and turns to whoever is speaking in the room. It is ideal for those attending the meeting both in person or at home. This device is available for all ministries to use.

The Ministry has been working with Worship Times to create a new church website. Worship Times works exclusively with religious institutions. Our home page will be easier to navigate and modify. The website will have updated information relating to the church and various ministries. We anticipate that Worship Times will be hosting our new website in late January 2023.

In conjunction with the Living the Vision and Stewardship campaigns, the committee embarked on a two-year development project that was designed to give members an opportunity to access a database/directory containing all the ways they can be involved and give time and talents at SPC. It was designed to be a resource for elders, deacons, and committee chairs to use when they need volunteers or specific skills/talents for their ministries. It can be updated when a member’s availability changes or new members are added. The Opportunities for Involvement volunteer form and directory can be accessed on the website to be completed and submitted.

In addition to completing a Records Retention schedule, the Administration/Communication Ministry also set up a Google online storage account for electronic records retention, including SPC worship videos and photos for use with the website and Facebook.

SPC increased its online presence on Facebook in 2022 with weekly posts of our worship service sermons and music highlights as well as news posts and photos reflecting ministries and activities.

Respectfully submitted by
Julia Hill, Elder

Adult Christian Education Ministry

Mission Statement

Faith Formation is a lifelong spiritual journey that deepens and strengthens our connections to God by providing new and profound insights through classes, book studies, small groups, ministries, and fellowship opportunities. Faith Formation energizes our confidence and capacity to act as faithful disciples of Christ, in our ever-changing world.

2022 Adult Christian Education Ministry Roster

Nora Dziuban, Elder and Bob Blaber, Elder, co-chairs; Pat Stephens, Paul Brown, Judy Wetzig, Kate de Barros, Carol Snyder and Deward Douglas

2022 Programs & Activities

- Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. This class, led by Bob and Bobbie D'Reaux, explores the day's sermon in a small group format. This class started meeting again post-Covid in September 2022
- Forum Class:
 - Feb. 13 – Mar. 6: The Case for Heaven by Lee Strobel, led by Kate de Barros
 - Mar. 13 – Apr. 3: One Breath at a Time – A Skeptic's Guide to Christian Meditation by J. Dana Trent, led by Robert Lapp
 - May 8 – 22: Being a Caregiver for Someone with Dementia, led by Carol Snyder
 - Sep. 11 – Oct. 2: Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman, led by Carol Snyder
 - Oct. 30 – Nov. 27: Being Presbyterian, led by Joanna Hipp and Robert Lapp
 - Nov. 27-Dec. 11: Adam Hamilton's Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas, led by Judy Wetzig
 - Jan. 8-29, 2023: Telling Secrets by Frederick Buechner, led by new class facilitator Candace Bland
- Men's Roundtable meets Wednesday mornings. They gather for study and conversation with one another in their faith journeys.
- The Disciple Bible Study group resumed.
- A Zoom discussion of Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy (Winner of 2021 Pulitzer Prize), led by Carol Snyder
- Several books and videos were added to the Church Library, available for checkout. These books support the Forum classes.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Dziuban Co-Chair of the Adult Christian Education Committee

Building and Grounds Ministry

MISSION STATEMENT

Building and Grounds Committee supports the mission and ministry of Southport Presbyterian Church by caring for the infrastructure and providing a comfortable and safe physical environment for congregational life.

BUILDINGS AND GROUND MEMBERS

Joe Lhotsky - Elder, Erik Hedblom – Elder. A big THANK YOU to the following for all that you do and have done: Al Yoshimura, Dave Gauck, Garland Lowe, Elizabeth Lambert, Bob Lambert, Jane Henderson, John Henderson, Gay Ausband, Ted Brewer, George McVeigh , Gary Phipps, Rick Barton, Sally Barton, Joann Aylor, Bob Bird, Kathy Bird, Bob Blaber, Sandy Blaber, Mike Blau, Allison Blau, Ken Brown, Mike Byers, Rick Cacchione, Mike Carneiro, Leslie Friedrich, Suzanne Hayes, Mike Hayes, Cheryl Himebauch, Jack Himebauch, Maggie Lhotsky, Holly Mayberry, Rick Mayberry, Ginny Prunty. And another big THANK YOU to Bob Lambert and Jude Skowron for taking trash and recycle containers to the curb and back.

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

A big THANK YOU to the Memorial Garden Committee members: Jane Henderson, Chair, Gay Ausband, Vice-Chair, Gibby Wilson, Recorder, Elizabeth Lambert, Treasurer, Cheryl Himebauch, Burial Coordinator, Joann Aylor, Karen Holbrook.

- Several plots were purchased by members of the congregation.
- A few pavers for the walkway were purchased this year.
- The large dogwood died and was removed by a tree service company.
- Two flowering Cherry trees were purchased. One was planted in honor of Rev. Dr. Ann Jahnes and the other to replace a Kousa Dogwood.
- Two drains from the gutters of the church roof were diverted through the Memorial Garden to the retention pond drains.
- Photos from the wedding of Ann and Bob Jahnes' daughter and son-in-law were taken in the Memorial Garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Henderson

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT TEAM

Girl Scouts meet on Monday evenings. Weight Watchers meet at our facilities 2 X per week- Tuesday evening and Thursday morning. Several HOAs have met in the Fellowship Hall. A movie company that was shooting nearby, used our facilities for cast and crew to gather and rest and relax.

BUILDING AND GROUNDSREPORT

In 2022 the Building and Grounds team addressed many varied projects.

- Arranged and signed a contract to provide Fire and Security protection for the church building with BFPE International on June 10, 2022. An annual on-site inspection and maintenance visit occurred on Tuesday, 11/29/2022.

- 2 false Fire Alarms occurred at approximately 4 am on 11/21/2022 and 12/19/2022. The 11/21 details were as follows... the DRY system sensed a pressure variance and enabled the alarm. The fire department was alerted and personnel from the church were notified. The cause was a malfunctioning gasket assembly that needed replacement. A replacement gasket was ordered and arrived the next day. In the meantime, as the building's fire alarm system was not working, a FIREWATCH condition required that we have someone in the church and that they monitor the entire building until parts were replaced and fire alarm system brought back to operation. Members of the congregation stepped up and monitored the building from 2 PM, 11/21 to Noon, 11/22 when the system was brought back online. The second time, 12/19/2022, the cause may have been external as water pressure in the area varied substantially that evening and early morning (according to firefighters on site). BFPE was called and they adjusted the pressure and settings. All was returned to normal by 1 PM.
- Southeastern HVAC was on site for semi-annual inspections of HVAC units on May 25 and Nov 30. The second of the seven (7) units (vintage 2005) serving the narthex and sanctuary failed and was replaced on Dec 21. It is anticipated that the remaining five units will need to be replaced over the next few years.
- Panels were installed at the beginning of the year to absorb sound at back and sides of Sanctuary.
- The parking lot was prepped beginning in February. Bob Lambert and Joe Lhotsky applied weed killer over several periods to insure that weeds would not continue to grow thru asphalt. The parking lot was surfaced with asphalt and painted and blocked for parking during June by the contractor.
- In the spring we created a plan to address the weeding and maintenance of the various tree and shrub beds throughout the church grounds. Ginny Prunty created a page for us on the church's website to identify the different beds available throughout the church grounds and allow members of the congregation to sign up and adopt the bed and agree to keep it weed-free and tidy throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Thank you to all that participated and kept the grounds looking 'dandy'.
- A drainage problem on the Memorial Garden side of the narthex was identified. The solution was to add a drain line from the two (2) downspouts to existing catch basins that are attached to drain lines that run to the pond. Also, we found it necessary to add sandbags to the area behind the holly tree. While this has improved the situation, we are not sure it is the complete solution. We will continue to monitor to see if further repairs are needed.
- During November a large team of volunteers laid down approximately 125 bales of pine straw and 12 yards of mulch. All were purchased from Hoffman Eco-Works.

- During November we also managed to pressure wash and apply a cleaning solution to remove the unsightly algae and green mold from the exteriors of the building facing Stuart Street and Moore Street. A big thank you to Bob Bird for the use of his pressure washer and spraying talents.

We would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers for their faithful service this past year.

Respectfully Submitted
Joe Lhotsky – Elder
Erik Hedblom - Elder

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

The CYF committee's mission is to connect people of all ages to the love of Jesus Christ, and to each other and the community.

In the first half of 2022, we offered Zoom Sunday School for elementary-age children using the *Growing in God's Grace* curriculum. Starting in the fall we began meeting in person using the same curriculum. Thank you to teachers Phyllis Falkenstein, Maggie Lhotsky, and Suzanne Hayes as well as Candace Bland who taught once we met in person.

Nursery care was offered throughout the year by volunteers coordinated by Judy Wetzig. Thank you to all of the volunteers as well as a big thanks to Judy.

In the fall we began offering a confirmation class led by Pastor Joanna. We also began a middle school class taught by Laura Nettles and Judy Wetzig.

We provide children's activity bags to be used during worship. The bags contain coloring books, activity pads, books, small toys, and crayons to keep the younger children engaged during worship until they are dismissed to Sunday School.

The children collected donations for the food pantry during Souper Bowl Sunday. We had an Easter Festival where children hunt for eggs, do an Easter craft, have snacks, and learn about the Easter story. We held a dinner and movie night in the fall. The children and youth led worship and presented a pageant in December.

During the summer we provided a week of Vacation Bible School. We had 18 children participate in *Knights of the North Castle*. This year we held VBS in the evening and provided dinner to the children. Thank you so much to all of our wonderful volunteers.

Thank you to the committee for all of their hard work this past year. The committee includes Kurt Bryan (Elder), Phyllis Falkenstein, Wendy McIver, Laura Nettles, and Judy Wetzig with Pastor Joanna guiding us.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Hayes, Elder Chair, CYF

Congregational Care Ministry

Mission Statement: "To minister to those in need: to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress within the greater church family by offering pastoral care and comfort. This ministry includes visiting those members who are homebound, in assisted living facilities, in skilled nursing facilities or in hospital or rehabilitation settings. It also includes praying for, sending cards, bringing meals, providing volunteer transportation, and providing help in emergency situations to church members and the community."

Congregational Care Ministry Team Members: Carolyn Thomae, chairperson, Marianne Edwards (Deacons); Pat Atwater, Martha Brown, Charlotte Duncan, Marcia Fetter, Gail Gray, Barbara Griffin, Gail Hedgecock, Grace Lee, Carol Morrill, Jason Nettles, Patsy Straub, Linda York.

2022 was a busy year for our committee. After nearly two years of the COVID Pandemic, we resumed normal activities. In addition to offering support and maintaining contact with SPC members via telephone calls, cards, notes, prayers, texts, and emails we were able to make personal visits. Four quilts made by a church member and several prayer shawls from the knitting group were personally delivered. Dozens of meals were delivered to members and others in the community recovering from illness, surgeries, or to those going through stressful situations through our Meal Ministry from homemade frozen meals prepared by church members. The utilization of gift cards to local restaurants, which started last year, was continued this year with twelve cards sent to members as a part of the Meal Ministry.

The Transportation Ministry provided rides to doctor's appointments for members and to the relative of a member confined to a nursing facility for visitation.

In May, Stephen Ministry gave a presentation to our committee members so that we might help identify those who may need assistance in coping with various issues.

Additional projects for this year included delivering a Spring Snack Mix in April and a Thanksgiving Blessings Mix in November to new members, members in nursing facilities, and others. Forty-eight snack bags assembled by committee member, Patsy Straub, were delivered to members. This Ministry placed flowers on grave sites in the Memorial Garden for All Saints Day in November. Our Ministry revived after a two-year absence due to the pandemic, a Christmas Caroling event. Eighteen SPC members journeyed to senior facilities to sing with residents.

An ambitious new project led by the Congregational Care Ministry was the first-ever Red Cross Blood Drive held at SPC in December. Committee member, Gail Hedgecock, worked to make this a huge success which brought out 50 donors having the potential of saving 141 lives. The plan is for this to become an ongoing event at SPC.

This Ministry continues to play an important role at SPC. Committee members help to facilitate the care of the whole congregation and will seek new ways to provide care as the church membership grows.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Thomae, Marianne Edwards, Co-chairs 2022

Fellowship and Welcome Ministry

MISSION STATEMENT

Southport Presbyterian Church extends a warm and welcoming invitation to join us in participating in fellowship as the heart of the congregation. The Fellowship / Welcome Ministry seeks to engage our new members, as well as our current church family to join us in hospitality activities in the life and works of the church, to unite us, and embrace each other as children of God. Simply stated our goal is to be united and strong in Christian fellowship and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Fellowship / Welcome Members:

Maggie Lhotsky, chairperson, Deacon, Sally Barton, Deacon, Ardene Noss, Deacon, Jane Henderson, Bob Lee, George McVeigh, Elizabeth Lambert, Kathy Robson.

Report

In 2022 the Fellowship/Welcome Ministry eased back into several activities that had been on hold due to COVID. We sponsored the following:

- “Sharing the Table” – took place in both Spring and Fall. Although we did not have the number of groups we had “pre-COVID”, the congregation seems to enjoy gathering in these small groups for fellowship and delicious food.
- “Super Bowl Sunday” – was February 6 and we offered “Soup to Go”. We had a nice variety of soups and almost all were claimed. The few leftovers were placed in the freezer for Congregational Care. The donations of canned goods and money were given to the food pantry.
- Beach Night-June, July, and August – Attendance varied but always fun to get together.
- We provided lunch for the SOICF Lenten service on April 6.
- Fellowship Time after worship was resumed in the summer on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with pre-packaged purchased snacks. In September, the Bakers Dozen groups began baking once again for Fellowship.
- We had 3 Inquirers Gatherings and welcomed 11 new members. Our committee has been sending cards to visitors throughout the year. We also developed a new mission statement to reflect the merging of the Fellowship and Welcome committees.
- We hosted a Christmas Luncheon, on Sunday, December 11, following the worship service. The cost was \$15/adult, \$5 for children 6-12, and free for children under 6. The maximum cost for a family with children 6-12 was \$30. We had 99 people sign-up but planned for 105. Coastal Catering and Events provided the food. 2019 was the last time we had the Christmas Luncheon so everyone enjoyed being together once again at this special time of the year.

I would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers for their faithful service this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maggie Lhotsky

Finance Ministry

Mission Statement

With the best interests of the congregation in mind, the Finance Ministry oversees the financial activities of SPC.

- We serve as advisors to session on all fiscal matters
- Report to both session and the congregation on financial activities
- Review income and expenses for all ministries and committees monthly
- Oversee the annual stewardship campaign
- Participate in other fundraising and capital campaigns
- Manage church investments

Operating Budget

The operating budget faced several headwinds. 2022 was marked by increases in inflation combined with declines in the stock market which impacted people across the country. In addition, our LTV Capital Campaign was highly successful but likely impacted annual pledge results. Pledge income was more than \$496,000 on a budget of \$510,050. Loose plate and non-pledge income of \$26,742 exceeded the expectation of \$22,260. Rental income was \$11,175 on a budget of \$8000 and the \$5774 recorded as other income was a PILP mortgage rebate/sales tax.

The Budget called for \$16,962 of the Associate Pastors Reserve to be reallocated to other expenses. At year-end, the session approved a recommendation to deplete the Associate Pastor Reserve of the remaining \$2600 and draw \$2902 from the endowment fund to offset the budget shortfall. This reserve fund is no longer needed because the Associate Pastor's Terms of Call are funded through the budget.

Expenses were well managed despite inflationary cost increases coming in \$3325 under the budget of \$566,272.

While annual pledge results were less than hoped for, it is important to note the congregation contributed \$545,998 in annual gifts plus \$281,590 during the LTV Capital Campaign. In total, our congregation contributed nearly \$830,000 which is remarkable in a year of financial challenges.

Key items in the outflow of cash beyond normal operating expenses included paving the parking lot, the purchase of a new piano, improving the sound system and Zoom capabilities, and new partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, Brunswick Community College, and Brunswick Coalition for Housing. PPP funds of just under \$50,000 were allocated to Mission and spent wisely.

2022 Operating Results and 2023 Plan

	2022		2023	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	100%
<u>Income</u>	566,272	562,947	564,164	
Pledge Income	510,050	496,092	500,396	88.8%
Past Pledge	1,000	700	1,000	0.2%
Non Pledge/Loose Plate	22,260	26,742	24,500	4.3%
Rent Income	8,000	11,175	12,000	2.1%
Other Income	8,000	5,774	7,000	1.2%
From Reserves	16,962	22,464	19,268	3.4%

Note: \$23,332 from Reserve in 2023 is for Special Local Missions resulting from LTV Capital Campaign

	2022		2023	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	100%
<u>Expenses</u>	566,272	562,947	564,164	
Administration	313,491	316,674	326,855	57.9%
Building and Grounds	45,350	49,365	49,450	8.8%
Children, Youth, Family	5,167	2,939	5,950	1.1%
Christian Education	1,700	1,147	1,700	0.3%
Mission	67,900	62,445	56,350	10.0%
Fellowship Welcoming	4,650	1,068	4,500	0.8%
Congregational Care	500	537	820	0.1%
Stephen Ministry	1,206	915	1,206	0.2%
Worship	7,275	8,790	8,300	1.5%
Long Range Planning	12,000	12,000	2,000	0.4%
Mortgage	104,483	104,483	104,483	18.5%
Finance	2,550	2,584	2,550	0.4%

Investments

Funds that are not used for budgeted operating expenses are invested in long-term conservative, blended stock/bond funds as well the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP). Our investment funds are classified as either restricted (endowments) or unrestricted. Earnings from endowments flow directly into Reserve Funds. Session may authorize expenditures of unrestricted funds.

Investments are reviewed monthly and decisions made to adjust the course with a conservative strategy rather than attempting to time the swings of the market.

Investment Funds

	<u>Dec 31, 2021.</u>	<u>Dec 31, 2022</u>
Restricted:		
Endowment Fund	24,575	21,095
Harper/Haynie Piano	25,577	-
Unrestricted:		
General Reserve Fund	91,680	78,594 (insurance Deductible)
Capital Expense Fund	57,874	56,134 (Capital Replacements)
Memorial Donations	17,726	6,021
Special Local Mission	62,387	46,322
Living the Vision	4,361	57,201
Pastor Nominating	-0-	18,460

Our total investment dollars exceed \$285,000. While the LTV Capital Campaign already allocated funds to Capital Expenses and Mission, any further incoming funds from pledge contributions will be used to reduce the mortgage.

Capital Expenditures

2022 capital expenditures were funded primarily by \$120,000 from the LTV Capital Campaign. Notable expenditures included paving the parking lot (\$38,000), improving the sound system and Zoom capability (\$65,000) and replacing the sanctuary piano (\$45,000). At year-end the second of six HVAC air-handling units had to be replaced at the cost of \$8000. The General Reserve set up to cover insurance deductibles is \$78,594 and capital reserve for replacing assets is \$26,134.

Stewardship Campaign

The stewardship campaign faced multiple challenges following a successful LTV Capital Campaign, inflationary pressures, and stock market declines impacting our members. Pledges came in at \$500,396 vs last year's \$496,092 actual. Since almost 84% of our expenses are fixed expenses, the Mission budget has been reduced from \$67,900 last year to \$56,350 in 2023. It should be noted Mission did receive \$60,000 from the LTV Capital Campaign as well as close to \$50,000 from PPP COVID funds. We very much appreciate the generosity of our members. We are a Giving Church.

Living the Vision – the 2020 Capital Campaign

The Living the Vision task force completed its work in 2022 by exceeding our goal of raising pledges totaling \$600,000. This task force had its first meeting in May of 2020 and worked its way through the COVID pandemic, the retirement of Ann Jahnes as Senior Pastor in 2021, and the economic challenges of 2021 and 2022. Informational meetings were held throughout February 2022 and the public campaign began in March 2022 with the final commitment Sunday being April 24, 2022. As of 12/31/2022 pledges total \$623,490 and total cash received of \$291,490.

We acknowledge the hard work of our task force to bring this to a successful conclusion. Task force members were Gay Ausband, Rick Barton, Jennie Bryan, Kurt Bryan, Clint Clampitt, Pat de Barros, Don Daily, Linda Daily, Sandra Griffith, Tom Krieger, Ginny Prunty, Ric Wetzig and Rita Wissinger. In addition, Robert Lapp and Ilona Smith contributed hours of effort to bring this to fruition.

Thanks to the generosity and faithfulness of our members, almost half of the total pledge dollars have been received, enabling us to fully fund the 10% to mission and 20% to the capital projects promised. We are already seeing the results of the campaign with the completion of the audio-visual enhancements discussed last year and the rest of the parking lot, \$60,000 has been funded to the Mission Ministry for projects that they are working diligently to establish. We have also made additional principal reductions to the mortgage and all future receipts will be applied to the principal balance of the mortgage.

Finance Committee Members

Many thanks to the 2022 Finance/Stewardship Ministry Members who contributed their time and talents. Jude Skowron, Elder; Mike Hayes (Investment Advisor), Don Daily (Projects), Ric Wetzig (LTV Capital Campaign), Gary Phipps (Treasurer), Rick Barton (Secretary and Stewardship Campaign), and Pastor Lapp. Ray Dickerson as our Bookkeeper continues to be a great asset. Special thanks to Jude and Gary who are rotating off and welcoming Holly Mayberry as Secretary, John Schmuhl as Treasurer, and Mike Byers as incoming members.

Respectively Submitted,
Rick Barton, Elder

Mission Ministry

Mission Statement:

The Mission Committee's objective is to foster a united witness by encouraging, resourcing and facilitating involvement in local, national and international missions and bringing the love of Christ into the world through both word and deed.

Members: Elders Bob Lambert and Carson Williams; Laura Cacchione, Jane Henderson, Julia Hill, Peg Johnson, Sue Meyer, Doug Morrill, and Bob Bird.

The Mission Ministry began 2022 with great optimism and enthusiasm as more pandemic-related restrictions were relaxed. Our commitment to community outreach is an integral part of our vision, mission, and core values. We feel and pursue a special calling to reach out to those on the margins facing challenges of food insecurity, affordable housing, and educational opportunity. Through our church's continued generosity and financial commitment, we were able to increase our financial support for the organizations that we have supported in the past. These include:

- Community Counseling Center helps returning veterans, newly released prisoners, and all who need assistance to successfully transition back into our communities.
- Samara's Village is a community-based nonprofit (501(c)3) organization, the first and only of its kind in Brunswick County; targeting the problematic teen pregnancy rates in Brunswick County.
- Matthew's Ministry is a private, non-sectarian children's food backpack program serving youth in our county who are food insecure.
- Southport/Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship Human Needs fund provides emergency financial needs including housing, utilities, and medicine.
- Children's Hope Alliance helps more than 3,500 children across North Carolina, providing a caring home for abused or neglected children, as well as early childhood development for low-income families, counseling services, and foster family programs.

- Hope Harbor Home is a domestic violence shelter in Brunswick County, providing a caring and comfortable refuge where women and children can feel safe, find support, and use goal-setting techniques to plan for the future. Basic assistance is offered for needs like medicine, food, clothing, baby supplies, and emergency transportation.
- Lower Cape Fear Life Care provides healthcare, assistance, and education to support patients and families facing the challenges of a life-limiting illness.
- New Hope Clinic provides basic medical and dental care, diagnostic services, and prescription drugs at no cost to low-income, uninsured residents of Brunswick County.
- Providence Home offers a nurturing atmosphere of safety, food, clothing, and shelter to youth who need a short-term, safe haven. It is open to youth who cannot remain with their families due to their high-risk environment.
- Southport/Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship Food Pantry located in Boiling Spring Lakes provides local families and individuals with donated food and provisions.
- Amani Children's Foundation supports infants orphaned by poverty and AIDS. Hand-painted ceramic beads crafted by Kenyan artisans are purchased to make jewelry. 100% of proceeds support New Life Home Orphanage in Kenya.

On-going Mission activities include:

In conjunction with the Southport/Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship (SOIICF), we provide weekly devotions during the month of February at the Southport Rehabilitation Center

The Community Assistance Team volunteers assist local homeowners to do minor repairs to homes and properties as well as help prepare for severe weather events.

The Mission Ministry continues to provide opportunities for congregational involvement through the following programs:

Southport Elementary School's "Back to School" drive to help teachers replenish school supplies to carry them through the rest of the school year.

Rise Against Hunger is a hands-on meal-packing event that provides church members with a way to lend a helping hand to people facing hunger across the globe.

Meal Ministry provides home-cooked meals for those recovering from illness, surgery, or other life struggles.

The Mission team provided a Thanksgiving meal for the residents of Coastal Villas, a local senior housing facility, along with support throughout the year.

Souper Bowl Sunday offering collects money and food on Super Bowl Sunday. All the donations are donated to the Food Pantry to support our local community.

The SOIICF Walk raises awareness and money for hunger relief for our neighbors in need. The Angel Tree program provides Christmas gifts for five local families with children that would not otherwise have anything to open on Christmas morning. Mission members also maintain contact with the families throughout the year to provide support, cheer, and spiritual guidance during holidays and special occasions.

The Benevolence Fund was expanded and continues to provide emergency financial assistance to families and individuals who otherwise cannot pay for rent, heat, electricity, water, or transportation.

New Mission Initiatives:

Brunswick Community College Scholarship – SPC sponsors a student with a two-year scholarship to cover the cost of tuition. We also cover the cost of books and incidental needs when needed.

Brunswick Partnership for Housing – A local volunteer, non-profit organization seeking to provide transitional housing and a stable living environment to homeless families who need a safe place to live, work, and raise their families while they get back on their feet.

Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry that partners with community members to build housing in our county. SPC is sponsoring a home build here in Southport for a local family. Members of our congregation who wish to volunteer will be given the opportunity to participate in workdays and to periodically provide lunch for the workers on site.

Your church’s Mission Ministry will continue to seek out those who are underserved and explore avenues of support for our brothers and sisters in Christ with compassion and humility.

Bob Lambert, Elder

Worship Ministry

The Mission of the Worship Ministry is to honor and profess the Triune God as our Lord and to help bring our family of faith close to God through praise, prayer, confession, reading and hearing the Word, preaching, music, song, and dance, sacraments, and special services. Worship Ministry members support and assist our Interim Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Music Director as they plan and implement meaningful worship for our church.

The year has definitely been a year of new beginnings. Pastor Robert Lapp reminded the congregation in his 2021 Annual Report the following: “It would be so tempting to become nostalgic and want to go back to the way things were, but we can’t because the church and the world have changed. It is not the same. God is calling us into a future that God is shaping-a new beginning. Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new!” Pastor Joanna Hipp in her 2021 annual report reminded us “I do not know what our year ahead will bring, but I see God at work. In word and deed, I give thanks for all we can do together.as we discern together how we continue to be called to serve God and one another in love.” Using these thoughts as a guide, early in the year the staff opened Worship Ministry meeting with these guiding questions: (1) As we prepare to come out of COVID, what changes will we experience? (2) What will worship service look and feel like? The committee studied Isaiah 43:18-19 to help us focus on how worship can and will enhance our journey as disciples of Christ.

PASTORS

During the year 2022, The Reverend Robert H. Lapp and The Reverend Joanna E. Hipp were leaders in their service to the church and congregation. Their weekly worship messages were

focused on our loving God. The weekly messages offered comfort, hope, and security that God is in control leading not only SPC and the world to new things. Our pastors along with Laurie, Director of Music, have devoted themselves to a caring and loving ministry to our church. Thank you all for your support not only to the congregation but to the Worship Ministry members. Guest ministries were The Reverend Sid Batts and The Reverend Bob Lee.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Laurie Russ, Director of Music, continues to provide outstanding leadership in the area of music. The choir and guest musicians provide inspirational and creative music as part of the worship services. The Worship staff works to make all components of worship meaningful and rich in songs. On September 18, SPC experienced the beautiful sounds of a new piano. It was a joyous occasion for the music program and our church. On July 4th we celebrated with Laurie her service of 15 years as Music Director at SPC. Thank you, Laurie, for your dedication to SPC.

GREETERS

Coordinator Jean Brown continues to work with volunteer greeters. The duties consist of welcoming attendees during the Sunday services, assisting when needed during the services, and assisting people when leaving. Jean does an excellent job welcoming and keeping track of visitors.

EUCCHARIST MINISTRY

With the dedication of Laura Cacchione, the Eucharist Ministry was re-established for the first time since COVID. A team of two serves communion to homebound and people living in retirement communities who cannot attend church. This key ministry demonstrates our church's care for all of its members.

LIGHTS, SOUNDS, VIDEO, RECORDING

This area of Worship has become a vital component of Worship services. Erick Hedblom and his staff provide all of the technology needed to make sure all is working for members in the sanctuary as well as Zoom. The new system definitely is a plus for SPC. Erick and his team are so appreciated and dedicated to sharing their knowledge and gifts.

LITURGICAL ART

Liturgical artist and coordinator of liturgical art, Ginger Hedblom provides us with creative artwork to enhance our worship services and the sanctuary. She provides artistic work for each of the church seasons and helps all of us appreciate the beautiful world God has created. SPC is certainly blessed that Ginger is willing to share her talents with us.

USHERS

Mike Hill coordinator for Ushers continues to use a combination of "Sign Up Genius" and personal contact to obtain Ushers for Sunday services and special services. Ushers greet each attendee and provide bulletins for the services. So thankful Mike is willing to share his expertise in this area of service to SPC.

COMMUNION

Communion since COVID has definitely been a challenge to the church; however, due to Joe Lhotsy's commitment, Communion is now served by intinction starting with World Communion

Sunday. Participants have a choice of intinction or the individual elements. All bread is gluten-free as well as free of other allergic components. Joe continues to recruit teams of people to prepare Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Thanks to Joe and Maggie Lhotsky for preparing Communion during COVID.

LITURGIST

Two liturgists are recruited by Linda Wetterman when needed for services. One person leads the Call to Worship and the second person reads the first scripture. Many of the new members are joining this committee. Linda is so dedicated to enhancing worship.

HIGHLIGHTS

During Lent, SPC hosted the SOICF Lenten Service on Wednesday, April 6 followed by a luncheon. In-person Maundy Thursday Service was held with Communion. Easter Sunrise Service took place at the Landing Community with light refreshments hosted by the Landing neighbors. Thank you to Meg and Paul Aswell and Brooke Deutsch for organizing the sunrise service. The 11:00 am Easter service was held in person.

It was exciting to be back in the sanctuary for in-person Advent and Christmas celebrations. This year we enjoyed the Children's Christmas Pageant, Christmas Cantata, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion services at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Christmas Day Worship service was an informal service held in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted by,
Brooke Deutsch, Deacon
Rita Wissinger, Deacon

Presbyterian Women

Southport Presbyterian Women have begun to plan the calendar for the new year 2023. The meeting is scheduled for January 24, when nominations for new officers will take place. Over the past year 2022, PW has suspended regular meetings. However, several events have taken place as we rekindle activity.

1. A scholarship was awarded to Eli Hedblom in the amount of \$500.
2. We had a cake sale with Margaret Rudd Realty. There were 40 cakes submitted by PW with a total profit of \$1470.
3. Circles continue to provide meals for Hospice monthly.
4. We had a Fashion Show/Meet and Greet event that took place at Dorsett's "Pole Barn" on Airport Road. There were 65 people in attendance as we began to prepare for the activation of PW.
5. We have continued to support our regular missions throughout this time through contributions at circle meetings. These are itemized in our treasury report.
6. Our thanks and appreciation are extended to Pastor Robert Lapp and Pastor Joanna Hipp for their great support and help during our activities this year. We look forward to resuming activity with an agenda of mission and special events for all Presbyterian Women.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Kaufhold, Moderator Presbyterian Women, SPC

Presbyterian Women Southport Presbyterian Church
Annual Financial Report
2022

January 1, 2022 Starting Balance	\$11,593.54
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INCOME

Dues	\$	128.
Fellowship of the Least Coin		28.
PW Birthday Offering		-0-
PW Thank Offering		33.
Margaret Rudd Cake Sale		1470.
PW Welcome Breakfast		-0-
Scholarship		500.
Receptions		150.
Cookbooks		30.
Total Income		\$2339.

EXPENSES

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina		
Dues	\$	259.
Least Coin		28.
Receptions		443.
PW Welcome Breakfast		493.
Scholarship		500.
Miscellaneous to Judy Wetzig		
WOW, carseat, Samara's Village		40.
WOW, Memorial Garden		15.
Total Expenses		\$1778.

	BALANCE	\$12,154.54
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