



# 2025 Silver Spring Presbyterian Church Annual Report

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# PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

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Rev. Dr. Don Wahlig, Senior Pastor, Head of Staff

Ten years ago, almost to the day, I was called to serve as your Senior Pastor, and I am as grateful for this calling now as I was then. It is a blessing to lead the SSPC family of faith in serving Jesus Christ!

As always, we are guided in everything we do by God's vision for us, that we would become more and more of **a grace-filled family of faith sharing Christ's love with all**. In so doing, we keep foremost in our minds the 5 Core Values that Session identified in 2023, and which we are confident will keep us faithful to our Mission Statement – see below for a refresher!

## SSPC MISSION STATEMENT:

**Our Mission** is to love and praise God, love and nurture our church family, and love and serve our neighbors,

**through** worship, prayer, fellowship, education, hands-on work, financial support and compassionate care,

**in order to** follow Jesus and make known the Kingdom of Heaven.

## SSPC VALUES:

**Glorify God:** Glorify and praise God through worship, discipling, sharing faith and serving with love

**Show Compassion:** Compassion expressed as care and concern for all

**Share Hospitality:** Inclusive hospitality through welcome, acceptance and fellowship

**Nurture Relationships:** Nurture relationships through respect, support and communication

**Steward God's Gifts:** Faithful stewardship of all God's gifts

Our 5 Core Values are helping us achieve our vision by guiding our actions and decisions, especially with regard to two long-term strategic objectives, both critical to our continued growth.

They are:

## **Strategic Goal #1. Reach out to new families of all generations.**

### **1. Worship and Evangelism**

Worship is the single most important thing we do, and the reason we exist. With the support of our dedicated Worship Committee and our gifted worship team, we continue to uphold the tradition of excellence which has been the hallmark of SSPC worship for many years. I am grateful to my partner in ministry and worship, Rev. Lisa Chase. She and I continue to plan and conduct vibrant worship, including the coordination of sermon series to which the congregation responds so well.

In addition to preaching, sacred music is a key component of our worship, of course. This year, we said a fond farewell to our Director of Music, Dr. Kyle Weary. We were glad to welcome Tracy Wieseman into that role, having previously served as our Music Associate. Tracy has done a terrific job and it is a pleasure to work with her. As always, Erica Ickes and all our various musicians and ensembles have blessed us by offering their talents. On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to pick up the trombone again after many years and participate in the Silver Spring Brass Ensemble!

As always, we are indebted to Ryan Edwards, whose gifts with audio and streaming technology allow us to live stream both services. We continue to have roughly 300 worshipers on a given Sunday, 2/3 of which are in person and 1/3 are online. Online worship has of course become essential to serve our members who are homebound or out of town, as well as those prospective members who wish to taste our worship before attending in person.

Speaking of new members, we have been blessed this year with several. Please continue to keep an eye on the New Member board in the Gathering Place where we post their profiles. I am also pleased to see that we have no less than 4 retired PCUSA clergy who worship with us on a regular basis. I hope that means that we are doing something right, and I do believe that we are!

Under the leadership of the Membership Committee, and with the help of CE and the CORE youth, we continue the Meal with a Mission ministry. Three times / year we invite both members and the community to participate in this combined fellowship / mission event. In the most recent one in November, we received and delivered over 2,200 pounds of food to New Hope Ministries.

Finally, many thanks to Pastor Lisa, Heather McCarthy and Amy Meadows for coordinating the Enlighten Newsletter. They have done a fantastic job. After several years, Heather and Amy are both stepping down this year. We are grateful to Brad Bumstead who will take their place as Editor.

## **2. Preschool Integration with the life of the congregation**

This continues to be a challenge. We have had varying success in attracting our preschool families and other area families to events like the Easter Egg hunt, Trunk or Treat, and VBS. However, it seems clear that their interest stops there. Nevertheless, we will continue to invite them to all our programs and activities.

## **3. Christian Education**

The CE Committee has done a terrific job in offering ongoing classes / Bible studies for adults. In addition, our new Pathfinders young adult ministry has gotten off the ground and continues to meet regularly for both Bible study and social events. Thanks to Ty Headley and Sarah Neville, and John and Kat Goff for leading this ministry.

During Lent, Lisa and I co-taught a well-attended series on the book and video series by Rev. Adam Hamilton called “The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World.” Lisa and I are making plans now for the upcoming Lenten Wednesday evening series. The focus will be spiritual reflection and discernment, which Lisa has been studying as she pursues certification in Spiritual Direction through Moravian University School of Theology.

On Sunday mornings, Lisa and our wonderful volunteer teachers continue to offer Sunday School for ages 2-7, and another class for children ages 8 and above. Like many churches, we have found it to be a challenge to rebuild our pre-COVID Sunday School program. Our CE Committee, Pastor Lisa, and our volunteer teachers are doing a very good job of meeting this challenge.

## **Strategic Goal #2. Build a stable financial base for future ministries.**

### **1. Continue to grow the SSPC Endowment**

As we approached the end of 2025, the SSPC Endowment exceeded \$1 million for the first time. This is a major milestone and an increase of roughly \$200,000 over the year prior. The number of contributors continues to increase, as does the number of repeat contributors. The Endowment is comprised of three funds which support pastoral staffing, buildings and grounds costs, and our operating budget. The goal is to increase the endowment to a level at which a portion of the income from invested capital can be used sometime far in the future to provide the financial resources required to undertake current and new vibrant ministries that share Christ’s love with all. The remainder of the investment income would be returned to the endowment so that it would continue to build.

## **2. Continue to grow our giving through a robust Season of Commitment.**

Pledged and unpledged giving remain healthy, and we will once again finish the year with a surplus, thanks to the generous and grateful giving of our members and friends, judicious and wise spending of designated funds, and disciplined spending by the various committees. Dozens of our members continue to increase their pledges as they follow the road to tithing by gradually increasing their giving each year. As I have said repeatedly, our financial giving to God's work here at SSPC is one of the surest signs of our spiritual maturity and a reliable indicator of a growing relationship with God.

### ***Thanks to the Staff***

We are blessed by our very effective and cohesive staff, and the Personnel Committee who support us. We work very hard, and we have fun together, too! As I have said before, I have served on the staff of four different congregations. Our staff here at SSPC is the finest of them all. In every respect, we are a team, and a high-functioning team. We truly enjoy one another, we support one another, and we celebrate one another. It is a pleasure and blessing to be part of such a good staff.

This year we welcomed two new staff members. In July, we welcomed Austin Shoop as our new Director of Youth. Austin hit the ground running and is doing a terrific job. In August, we said a reluctant and fond farewell to our Music Director, Kyle Weary. In September, we celebrated the promotion of our Music Associate, Tracy Wieseman, as she became our new Director of Music.

Finally, I am grateful to the congregation for your support as I recovered from surgery for appendicitis and a perforated bowel a few weeks before Christmas. Your cards and messages of and prayers were a blessing as I continue to heal. Another example of how well prayer works!

Blessings,

Don

# ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Lisa S. Chase, Associate Pastor

*Silver Spring Presbyterian Church seeks to be a grace-filled family of faith, sharing Christ's love with all.*

The year 2025 was marked by steady ministry with deepened engagement with members and the community, and a continued commitment to living into what we believe is a shared vision of **being a grace-filled family of faith, sharing Christ love with all**. Everything that I set out to implement as associate pastor in 2025 was guided by that statement. As associate pastor, I am involved in Christian education, the Deacon Board, pastoral care, fellowship, missions, worship and strategic events to foster the spiritual and relational life of the SSPC congregation.

The information in this report captures key events and efforts in my work as associate pastor. I also was engaged in regular pastoral care contacts and ministry, and I preached once a month, on average. The prayer card ministry also is meaningful, where I gather with another member or two in person, and pray over 30 members each week or so, then we send out personalized prayer cards.

In January 2025, after thoughtful conversations with several women in the church, I developed and lead a seven-week class on **Women in the Bible** on Sundays after the Gathering service. This course explored the realities of women's lives under Levitical law that shaped and constrained their daily experience. The course also examined their courage and faithfulness. We listened to a couple of contemporary orthodox Jewish couples who described living within the boundaries set by the Torah. The course was carefully researched, and was well-received. During the 2025 Lenten Season, Don and I taught a four-week Lenten Series, based on Adam Hamilton's book, **The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World**.

Our children's and youth Church continue to be a faithful and consistent presence. We now have technology implemented, where the youth can interact with the lessons through a Smartboard, as they do in their regular secular education experience. The pre-K/K class is now in its third year, and remains a place of stability and care offering our youngest members a loving introduction to faith and community, and reflecting our commitment to nurturing faith across generations. We are blessed to have a wonderful team of faithful and committed individuals to help lead this class. In June, we led a delightful evening VBS titled, "Jesus Saves," inspired by confirmand Jayme Whittle. This fully CE-collaborated effort featured stories how God saved people from danger in the Old Testament; the New Testament stories featured

how Jesus healed – “saved” broken lives. VBS 2025 brought our youth and volunteers together in joyful and fun ways. Helping to direct VBS is one of the highlights of my ministry, as I get to work with an amazing, talented, kind and wonderful group of volunteers!

Palm Sunday 2025 was a wonderful day on several levels. We confirmed six outstanding young people, who were taught by veteran and award-winning educator, ruling elder Diane Lupia, and myself. The Confirmation course ran from September 2024 through Lent 2025; the classes were carefully designed for key developmental levels, using memory games, music and interactive learning to help the young people retain the material in accessible ways. Confirmation reflects our commitment to nurturing faith in our youth with intention, creativity, and respect for the spiritual development of our young people. Diane and I have planned the course for Confirmation 2026, which we will begin this Spring after Easter. I appreciate deeply Elder Diane Lupia’s partnership in the confirmation program – we make a great team!

Christian Education and programs for our youth was greatly enhanced by the hiring of Austin Shoop, who is our new Youth Director, who leads CORE and implements programming for our young people in a spirit of fun and faithfulness. ‘He’s bussin – No CAP!’ (Gen Alpha-ese).

Spring also saw the return of the women's tea, the first held in several years. The early April event was well planned by a team of volunteers, and well attended, offering both fellowship and meaningful engagement. We invited a guest speaker from the organization Peace Promise, which seeks to help women involved in the sex industry find more appropriate and self-respecting employment.

During the summer months, in addition to preparing for VBS, which was a truly an all-hands-on-deck experience that offered Christian education at its best, I implemented our new Care Communities, which are similar to the Deacon Zones. A great thank-you to Jill Handshew who encouraged us to consider adding this level of care and connection, to Bill Vipperman, who established the Communities through a program on Realm, to Carol Anderson for her leadership in this effort, and to our many Care Community Captains. Carol and Jim Anderson hosted a lovely brunch for all the captains who could attend and be trained. The communities are being utilized by our members, and this effort is a great help to Don and to me regarding the many pastoral care concerns of the church. The Care Communities are under the Deacon Ministry, one of the best ministries of SSPC, and I am honored to staff the board. Megan Crompton accepted to call to moderate the Deacon Board, and she’s



outstanding and a joy to work with, as are all the Deacons at SSPC, who do so much to provide compassionate care, meals, prayers, cards, - so, so much for the well-being of the congregation. And that delicious coffee on Sunday mornings! Beloved Shawn Marshall, deacon moderator for several years has graciously agreed to continue to serve on the Deacons Board.

The Care Communities have been and will become a significant strength of the church. The captains were carefully selected and serve with compassion and thoughtful leadership. Their work will nurture relationships across the congregation. I am profoundly grateful to all who serve this way.

The fall was busy and I participated in Rally Day, Meals with a Mission, and the ROAR at home effort. My husband Randall enjoyed volunteering with the ROAR team in his hometown of Asheville, NC, and also participating with ROAR work at home, cleaning the many outside lights around the property, and assisting with other endeavors. With respect to print and electronic communications, I designed and distributed several **Enlighten** Newsletters. After three years of expert leadership, editing and writing, co-editors Heather McCarthy and Amy Meadows stepped down, and we are grateful for their service in this area. We are blessed to have Brad Bumsted, a highly acclaimed, respected and award-winning journalist to be our new **Enlighten** editor. His expertise will further and strengthen this communication ministry.

October 2025 was ushered in by gorgeous fall foliage colors, which stayed with us a while. In early October, Worship and CE joined forces to host our fourth annual Drive-Thru Blessing of the Animals, where the CORE members prayed over cats and dogs, and provided bags of treats and scarves.

Also in the fall, Fellowship planned our second annual Veterans Day reception, which was a beautiful event, complete with a Color Guard, and a presentation from the Veterans Tiny Homes, located in Harrisburg. Also in the fall, I began planning for our Christmas Eve services.

The 2025 Christmas Eve service featured an original presentation that I wrote early Christmas Day 2024 morning. Titled "Looking for Christmas," the narrated piece featured themes of sacrificial love, transformed lives, and God's Grace through Jesus Christ, based on works of literature, song and film. We closed the service with the traditional Christmas Tableau, featuring new Magi and Father Christmas

costumes, lovingly and creatively made by our quilters group. Mandy and Syd Bevenour, and Rev. Dr. David Roquemore on guitar, led the beautiful music.

In an effort to bring laughter and joyful reflection upon the beautiful and meaningful work of pastoring a lively and compassionate church, I have begun writing short stories based on my life as a Christian Educator and pastor, wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend, and gathering stories from members and other pastors, to develop a literary serial, which can be read on the bulletin board. If you like authors Jan Karon, Phillip Gulley, Garrison Keillor, and Pat Conroy, you will want to check by the bulletin board to read the newest update. Each story is left on the board for 2-3 weeks, and members are encouraged to submit their own. It is my hope this endeavor will strengthen our shared stories and bonds of our faith community. I hope to further my story-telling gifts through sermon writing and preaching, which I do once a month, on average.

With respect to my work within the greater Central PA community and Presbytery, I continue to attend Mechanicsburg Lions Club meetings, and I hope to be able to become more involved in some of their outreach efforts. I continue to serve on Presbytery's PJC, I guest moderated Faith Immanuel's session for 19 months until they called a talented new pastor, and I am continuing to serve the Presbytery this way by serving as Moderator for Hope United Presbyterian Church in Dauphin, PA. I find great satisfaction serving the church and the Presbytery this way. I was also selected to be one of the Presbytery's commissioners for GA 2026, which will be held in the Cheese Capital of the world – Wisconsin, this summer.

Finally, in the Spring of 2025, I embarked upon a program offered by Moravian University to earn my certification in Spiritual Direction. When I graduate in May of 2026, I will be a certified Spiritual Director, and I look forward to offering meaningful classes at SSPC to our members.

I am grateful beyond words to be your associate pastor, and look forward to serving SSPC in another year of fruitful, compassionate, meaningful, creative and engaging ministry. I am grateful for my partner in ministry, Don Wahlig, who continues to teach me much in leadership and strategic planning, and for the committee chair people and volunteers of the committees I staff.

Respectfully submitted, with gratitude and Christ's love,

Rev. Lisa Chase, Associate Pastor

# DIRECTOR OF YOUTH

## A Year of Transition & Triumph

2025 has been a year of profound growth, not just for our youth, but for me personally. I began the year serving as a Youth Partner and ended it as your Youth Director—a dream I've held since I was a teenager attending Core myself. It is a genuine honor to serve this congregation and our young people in the capacity of Youth director.

## Spiritual Milestones & Mentorship

One of the greatest highlights of my year was serving as a co-mentor alongside **John Fider** for **RJ Holt**. Watching RJ grow in faith and maturity has been incredibly rewarding. This year's Confirmation class was a "full circle" moment for me; having been confirmed here in 2013, standing by as **RJ, Brynn, Jaime, Morgan, Charlotte, and Kyla** were confirmed was a powerful reminder of the longevity of our ministry.

## The Call to Leadership

The first half of the year was defined by collaboration. Alongside the other Youth Partners, we navigated the leadership of **Core** and the planning of **Youth Sunday**. Despite an unexpected snowstorm, the youth's hard work on scripts and roles came to fruition in two incredible youth Sunday services.

In June, after a vetting process by the search team, I officially accepted the role of Youth Director. My mission since day one has been to **"meet them where they are."** This year, that looked like:

- Cheering on **RJ Holt** and **Kate Hall** at their Chorus concert.
- Standing on the sidelines for **Brayden Pierce** and **Matthew Ringquist** during their football games.

Building a presence in their lives outside the church walls fosters a stronger community within them. In 2026 I plan to continue this initiative as I seek to be present in the lives of our young people.

## Curriculum & Core Programming

Pastor Lisa provided a fantastic curriculum that gave me a lot of awesome ideas on how to construct my lessons. While looking through the curriculum I found a four-week series titled **"Unlikely Heroes,"** focusing on figures who proved God can use anyone:

| Week | Biblical Figure | Key Takeaway  |
|------|-----------------|---|
| 1    | Josiah          | Leadership has no age limit (the 8-year-old King).  |
| 2    | Ehud            | God uses our unique traits (the left-handed Judge). |
| 3    | Deborah & Jael  | Courage and victory through unexpected means.       |
| 4    | Gideon          | God's strength is made perfect in our weakness.     |

When I was creating my lessons for the youth, I thought of including a Gen Alpha/GenZ lesson interpretation at the end of the lesson which summarized the lesson using popular slang these generations use on the daily. Please see my Gen Alpha/GenZ lesson translation below for my lesson on Josiah.

“Okay **chat**, peep this story about **Josiah**. He was only **eight years old** when he became king. Imagine! While other kings—like his dad and grandpa—were acting **sus** and setting up idols, which is basically worshipping stuff other than God, Josiah had that main character **Aura**.

Those old kings were a total **Opp** to God. They were leading the nation into **delulu** behavior! But Josiah? He had that true **Rizz** for God.

### Josiah's Epic Flex

When Josiah was old enough to really step up, he decided it was time to clean house.

- He **flexed** his faith by tearing down all those fake idols. Anything that was more important than God? Gone. This is the **tea**: if anything in your life becomes an idol—even good stuff like sports or games—it needs to take a backseat. Put God first, always.
- He restored the temple and found the **Book of the Law** (the Bible!). This proved that being **young** doesn't mean you can't lead and change things.
- The **Bottom Line** is that God doesn't care about your age or if you get picked

last in gym class. If the world thinks you're small, God sees you as a big deal with **bussin'** plans for you.

So, don't let anyone look down on you just because you're young. Remember **1 Timothy 4:12**. You've got that spiritual **Rizz** to do great things for God *right now*.

Any questions about getting that spiritual Aura like Josiah?"

### **Mission & Outreach: Faith in Action**

Our youth haven't just been learning; they've been doing.

- **The Laundry Ministry:** We launched this new initiative with massive success, raising over \$700 to provide laundry cards to neighbors in need.
- **CROP Walk:** We saw our largest turnout in years, contributing to the **\$40,000+** raised locally to fight hunger.
- **Fall Faire:** Our youth served at the Fall Faire by handling traffic control, games, and cashier duties with excellence.

### **Fellowship & Community Building**

**Trunk or Treat** saw me dress up as Mr. Clean, which is my youth-appointed nickname here at Silver Spring. The Youth and members of Christian Ed handed out candy and had a positive impact on families who attended.

**Fall Lock-In,** we've prioritized making the church a place of joy. Our night at the Sports Emporium—filled with laser tag and go-karts—followed by a late-night Sheetz run and games of *Ghost in the Graveyard*, created memories that further bind this group together.

### **Looking Forward to 2026**

Whether I am leading the Welcome, *Time with Children* or delivering the *Pastoral Prayer* in the Traditional or Gathering services, I am constantly seeking to refine my craft to better serve SSPC. 2025 was a foundation-building year, and I am eager to see how God moves in our youth in 2026.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Austin Shoop, Youth Director

# BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and overall management and protection of the physical assets of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church (SSPC). This includes the church's real and personal property, including the Meiting House and the Christian Education Building, the Manse, the Waugh Wilson House (Silver Spring Retreat Center [SSRC]) and grounds, the cemetery, and the church's roadways, parking lots, and grounds (collectively, the Campus).

In addition to the many regular and recurring Campus maintenance demands, in 2025, the B&G Committee completed several special projects and notable events involving both hired contractors and volunteers. A list of accomplishments in no particular order is as follows:

- Installed four guideposts next to the driveway curve near the Peace Garden. This helps protect the recent improvements to the Peace Garden and the Columbarium.
- Conducted Spring and Fall workdays attended by many dedicated volunteers.
- Installed new door hardware and security locks on the Chapel exterior door. This permits more regular use of the door.
- Repaired broken glass on entrance driveway lights.
- Cleared leaves and walnuts from CE Building roof drains.
- Replaced the Manse storm door.
- Replaced the north door on the Garage.
- Cleaned all exterior windows in the Meiting House, CE Building, Manse, and Retreat Center.
- Replaced fifty feet of parging on the inside of the Cemetery wall.
- Contracted to repair 34 gravestones during the summer of 2026.
- Repaired the wingwall at the Preschool entrance to the CE Building.
- Removed a large honeybee hive from the eaves of the Retreat Center
- Exterminated a large yellow jacket hive from the attic area over the CE Building large kitchen.

- Identified deficiencies with the 35-year-old well pump and motor that supplies water for the CE Building and developed replacement plan for 2026.
- Placed a granite and bronze memorial at the grave of Ann Marshall Dill Witherspoon Walker in honor of her second marriage to John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- Cleaned up the area around James Silver's Spring.
- Cleaned the Gym floor and Gathering Place floor with a rented floor cleaning machine.
- Repaired deteriorated sections of the parking lot.
- Obtained new property insurance for the SSPC campus.
- Removed multiple large hazardous trees and branches near the Manse, playground, and parking lot.
- Cleared fallen trees and debris from Trindle Spring Run from James Silver's Spring upstream to the SSRC.
- Trimmed trees and removed those that posed a danger to life and property.
- Purchased a new upright residential freezer for the large kitchen.
- Replaced several smoke alarms, repaired an exit/emergency light, and replaced all batteries in the SSRC.
- Replaced the US flags in the Cemetery.
- RegROUTED the joint around the Meiting House doors.
- Replaced ceiling lights in multiple locations in the CE Building.
- Planted new shrubbery to replace plants that died.
- Improved grading along the sidewalk to the Chapel entrance.
- Re-glazed garage windows at the Retreat Center.
- Repaired the organ and tuned the piano in the Meiting House.
- Repaired and replaced sink plumbing in several sinks in the pre-school area.
- Replaced the floor in the large kitchen.
- Constructed additional closets in the hallway outside of the gym.

- Installed ground fabric and river rock along back wall of the preschool under the roof overhang.
- Completed grading improvements in the Cemetery by filling low areas with topsoil.
- Planned the construction of a new handicapped accessible bathroom adjacent to the existing bathrooms near the gym. Project is to be constructed in 2026.

The B&G committee is thankful for those who have faithfully stepped up with their financial support to maintain the church facilities. In addition, we are fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers who are always ready to share their time and talents when called upon. SSPC Sexton, John Clegg, saved SSPC thousands of dollars in 2025 with his watchful eye and expertise on HVAC systems, electrical and security system wiring, and computer cabling. His oversight and interaction with contractors were critical in keeping costs down and on track with the B&G budget. SSPC and the B&G Committee are especially thankful for John's behind-the-scenes dedication and work throughout the Campus. Also, many thanks to the "Old Girl" tractor whose horsepower is worth just as many hands during the workdays. May she keep tending to the SSPC grounds.

*Buildings and Grounds Committee members and participants:*

Alan Flenner (co-chair)

Fred Voigt (co-chair)

Jerry Schnell (Treasurer)

John Ake

Terry Reed

Terry Jones

Rodger Hoke

Karen Karkuff

Stefan Karkuff

Nancy Gawlas

Mike Gawlas

Diane Rabold

Rev. Don Wahlig

John Clegg, (SSPC Sexton)



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Christian Education Committee (CE) supports the worship life of our congregation by helping Silver Spring members and friends address our inherent hunger to know and love God with our minds as well as our hearts. The year 2025 was a full, active year for our CE programs and activities. We had many successful events, and the year was exciting and full. We were truly blessed as a committee and program.

CE youth began the 2025 year with our annual trip to the Christian Youth Retreat in Manheim, Pennsylvania, called Zeteo. It was a great presentation and weekend of worship, watching the drama and music. Plans for attending the 2026 presentation are already in the works.

CE youth followed up the trip to Zeteo with the presentation of Youth Sunday providing a drama at both services. The youth also carried out all other functions for the service.

During the Lenten season in 2025, the Sunday School made special gifts assembled by our Sunday School youth and Sunday School teachers. They were delivered to those members who cannot attend services at the church.

The Annual Easter Egg hunt was set up and conducted by CE and the SSPC Preschool. We had over 100 children in attendance, along with the Easter Bunny. Hundreds of eggs were distributed by members of CORE and hundreds of pictures were taken on a beautiful day at the church!

Our teachers were once again thanked and recognized for the past year with gift cards and greeting cards. We wanted to thank all the teachers and partners who gave of their time to continue to bless our congregation with their gifts of teaching and nurturing faith formation.

The CE youth held two “Parent Drop-Off” nights in 2025. The first before Mother’s Day and the second during Advent. Both were successful with a record of eleven children from SSPC and the Preschool at our Advent event. We enjoyed snacks, children’s movies, play in the gym and crafts. We are planning two more in 2026, for Mother’s Day and again during Advent.

CE Youth sponsored the End of School Bash in early June at the gym. Hamburgers and hot dogs were cooked and an old-fashioned barbecue with music in the gym helped end our CE school year. With assistance from Fellowship members, it was a tremendous success and music provided by a DJ kicked off the summer.

The Christian Education Committee along with Pastor Lisa Chase, decided to conduct our own VBS again in 2025. With approximately 45 students attending from SSPC, the Preschool and the local neighborhoods, it was amazing. Many of the youth of the church helped, along with several adults, and did an excellent job. Plans are already being made for VBS 2026 to be held during the daytime. Watch for announcements, sign up and help— you will love it!

CE, along with Membership, helped to present the 2025 Rally Day. Several members were present at a table for CE and helped with the cooking for a simple potluck lunch after the presentations. All enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship, food, and fun.

During the beginning of the school year, we again held a service of “Blessing of the Backpacks” as students began another difficult year, along with teachers, administrators, and bus drivers. This annual event was back live and very well received. CE Youth provided back to school packets of supplies for the backpacks.

The Committee was pleased to again this year present Bibles to our second-grade students and any students that missed getting Bibles in the previous year. Beautiful youth Bibles were presented to the students. CE Committee member Scott Pepperman made the presentation during both services with the promise, if the students “wore” them out, we would replace them!

During the Advent Season, CE Youth again sponsored the Advent Feast and Festival in early December and Christmas Breakfast on Christmas Eve morning. The Advent Feast and Festival included seasonal music and a real ham dinner with all the fixings. CE partnered with Fellowship as we honored members of the Choir and their many years of service. Our own Mandy and Sydney Bevenour provided the music, and we again did an amateur presentation of the “Twelve Days of Christmas” and the always fun “Ugly Sweater Contest”. Christmas breakfast was a full breakfast, attended by forty-five members of the congregation. Both were magnificent events to provide fellowship during the Christmas season.

CE closed the year with the Christmas Eve pageant, presented by Pastor Lisa, and several members of the CE Committee and members of the congregation. The presentation featured many of our young children in costume and told the story of the birth of Jesus, along with the appearance of Father Christmas. Prior to the Christmas Eve services, the CE Youth and members of our Confirmation Class cleaned, repaired, and then placed and replaced the luminaries around the driveways and front of the church.

Sunday School for children and adults continue to be a priority not only on Sunday afternoons, but also with adult Monday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon classes. The Committee looks forward to celebrating these events again in 2025 and more! In God's Peace.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Scott Pepperman, Christian Education Co-Chair

# CIRCLE REBEKAH

At SSPC we have a small group of Presbyterian women called Circle Rebekah. We meet at 1:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month from September to May for a Bible Study in person in the Chapel and simultaneously on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Some of our members bring a sack lunch and eat together in the Parlor at 12:15. Around 12:40 we share a dessert with anyone who would like to join us before moving over to the Zoom Room for Bible study.

From January to May, we utilized and discussed the Horizon's Bible Study 2024-2025 entitled *"Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation"* by Patricia K. Tull.

Starting in September, we began the Horizon's Bible Study 2025-2026 entitled *"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"* by Rhashell D. Hunter.

Our 2025 mission project was to donate money to a ministry which helps women who have been rescued from the sex traffic industry, Peace Promise.

We welcome all women of the church to join us whenever you are available, either in person or on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Krebs

# COMMITMENT, LEGACY AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Commitment Legacy and Endowment (CLE) Committee is charged with encouraging and guiding all members of Silver Spring in their support of God's work here. The foundation of our committee's approach to carrying out this charge is our belief that stewardship of our time, talent and financial resources is truly a life-long spiritual discipline; a journey during which each of us is called to respond with gratitude to God's love in proportion to the blessings we have received.

The CLE Committee is responsible for both encouraging our members' support of Silver Spring's current ministry and mission through the annual commitment/stewardship program, as well as our future, by encouraging legacy giving (through wills and trusts) and contributions to Silver Spring's endowment funds, with priority to growing the **1734 Legacy Society**-eligible funds.

The following members and staff comprise the CLE Committee: Bill Resser (co-chair), Jim Anderson (co-chair), Jim Bogar, John Carroll, Art Glockner, Maryan McCormick, Lin Pomeroy, Steve Rexford, Bill Vipperman and Rev. Dr. Don Wahlig.

## **2026 Season of Commitment**

This year's Season of Commitment began on Sunday, October 26, and culminated with Commitment Sunday on November 16. In conjunction therewith, CLE Co-Chair Bill Resser took the lead in developing **SSPC's 2026 Financial Narrative**, which described in detail, the dreams, plans and goals of our Session committees in 2026 and the resources needed to achieve them in furtherance of our vision of seeking to be a grace-filled family of faith, sharing Christ's love with all. Each of us is called by Christ to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) **SSPC's 2026 Financial Narrative** told the story of how we are striving to fulfill Christ's greatest commandment through the allocation of resources, respectively, to: ***loving and praising God; loving and nurturing our church family; and loving and serving our neighbors.***

Beginning on October 26, and on the next two Sundays, these members of our congregation shared compelling, inspiring personal reflections on their commitment to continue their support of Silver Spring's ministry and mission: Shannon Leary,

Jerry and Judith Schnell, Ty Headley and Sarah Neville. Our Season of Commitment concluded with worship on November 16, when we consecrated our 2026 stewardship commitments.

### **The 1734 Legacy Society**

Another important focus of the CLE Committee is promoting and supporting the **1734 Legacy Society**, which was established in 2018 to provide the means to establish a multi-million-dollar endowment through contributions to three of Silver Spring's permanent funds: **The Fund for the Living Word** and **The Buildings and Grounds Fund**, both administered by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) in Harrisburg; and **The Heritage Fund**, administered by the Presbyterian Foundation.

A percentage of the distributions from **The Fund for the Living Word** will be used to support praising and worshipping God; a percentage of the distributions from **The Buildings and Grounds Fund** will be used to maintain our property and buildings; and a percentage of the distributions from **The Heritage Fund** is used to support the general operations of the church, when needed, as determined by Session. The principal of each of these funds will remain in the endowment and continue to grow.

Individual members, couples or families who contribute a minimum of \$1734 in cash, stocks or bonds, or who arrange through their estate plan for donations totaling a minimum of \$1,734 to one or more of these permanent funds will be recognized as members of the **1734 Legacy Society**. In 2025 we introduced and encouraged the concept of donating to our endowment funds in honor or memory of loved ones and a number of people did so. While SSPC is fortunate to have a number of legacy funds available to support our church's ministry and mission, it was determined that limiting **1734 Legacy Society** eligibility to those who contribute to these three permanent funds, thereby prioritizing contributions to these funds, is the best way to grow the SSPC endowment.

The Annual Meeting of the **1734 Legacy Society** was held on Wednesday evening, May 14, as the members got together for some sweet and savory treats and to honor the society members' financial support of our three primary endowment funds. New members who joined the 1734 Legacy Society since the 2024 meeting were honored: Loren Alexis, Bill Pierce and Rick Pierce (in memory of their mother Mary Lou Pierce

McLain); Bob and Bonnie Davis; Ed and Jan Maurer; Barb and Tim Wiggin; Jim Worden and Barb Worden (given by Jim to honor her life).

We're very pleased to report that on September 30, 2025 the three permanent 1734 Legacy Society-eligible funds reached an important milestone – a total balance of \$1,028,151!

In addition, fourteen individuals or couples have made a bequest in their wills or trusts directing that some portion of their estate be invested in one or more of the 1734 Legacy Society funds upon their passing. This is a very significant step on our way to achieving our total fund balance goal of approximately \$6Million we feel we need to help fund praising and worshipping God, maintaining and enhancing our buildings and grounds and carrying out our other important work of Christian Education, fellowship and community outreach/mission. We want to thank those committed Christians whose vision, hard work and generosity helped us achieve this key milestone and position Silver Spring for a bright and impactful future. We still have a way to go on our journey to \$6Million. If you'd like to learn more about the 1734 Legacy Society or how you can help us continue to move forward and grow, please go to <https://www.silverspring.org/1734-legacy-society>

As of December 31, 2025, the **TFEC Fund for the Living Word** had a balance of approximately \$382,039, the **TFEC Buildings and Grounds Fund** had a balance of approximately \$364,998, and **The Heritage Fund**, administered by the Presbyterian Foundation, had a balance of approximately \$293,533, for a total of \$1,040,570.

### **An Invitation**

The CLE Committee is always looking for new members who would like to help us in working to support SSPC's ministry and mission. Please consider joining us!

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Resser and Jim Anderson  
Co-chairs  
Commitment, Legacy and Endowment Committee

# DEACONS

The Board of Deacons faithfully served the congregation throughout 2025 by providing spiritual care and support rooted in compassion and service. Through prayer, outreach and acts of care, the Deacons worked to meet the needs of our church family and community while supporting the mission and ministry of the church.

Our budget and expenses continue to be overseen by Treasurer, Susan Evans. The Board of Deacons uses allocated funds to serve the members in traditional ways and to meet the needs of both congregants and the community as presented to the Deacons. Deacons provide coffee after services, at funeral gatherings and all other church events. Greeting cards for birthdays, get well and sympathy cards are all expensed through the Deacon budget. These two factors reflect the greatest expenses. This past year \$1178.60 was spent on coffee and supplies and \$179.55 on cards.

Expenses related to the Stephen Ministry are also part of our budget. Discretionary outreach to both members and those in the community as identified in need are made through Giant gift cards and the deacons discretionary fund. Stephen Ministers also provide grief booklets.

New for 2025 was the implementation of Care Communities under the leadership of Associate Pastor Lisa, Elder Bill Vipperman and Carol Anderson. Care Communities at SSPC are neighborhood-based networks designed to help church members in the same or nearby communities. Each Care Community has one captain who coordinates meals, childcare, pastoral outreach and support from deacons and other church members.

**Deacon Care Groups** continue to do great work. Activities are as follows:

**Communications** – Chair, Jenny Bell

This group sends various cards year-round to SSPC members celebrating birthdays, births, expressing sympathy and get well. During 2025 the following cards were sent: Birthday, 575; Thinking of You/Get Well, 90; and Sympathy, 21; New



Baby/Anniversary 5. Cards sent by both Pastors are also expensed through the Deacon budget.

**Community Service** – Chair, Claudia Brown and Heather McCarthy

Our Angel Tree was extremely successful again in 2025. One hundred and five gifts were distributed among four schools in the Cumberland Valley School District to children in need. Deep appreciation was expressed by counselors and parents involved. The generosity of our SSPC members allows us to continue this important project. Thank you to the Deacons and others who assisted in this huge undertaking with organizing, completing tags, and delivering the gifts in a timely manner.

**Care Outreach** – Chairs, Charlie Dagino and Holly Lawrence

This group provides meals, childcare and transportation to church members and families who need support during a health crisis, family loss, or other times of need. The committee is made up of Deacons, our Associate Pastor and members of the congregation who have offered their time and talents to help others. In 2025 members of the Care Committee provided many meals to Silver Spring families ranging from a single meal to multiple meals over several weeks.

Transportation to health appointments was provided to several congregants. Numerous contacts were made during the year to check in on members by phone, email and in person to see if they needed any support and to let them know their church family was thinking of them. Our homebound members are also contacted throughout the year with notes, calls and gifts at Christmas and Easter.

**Transition** – Chair, Shawn Marshall

The Transition committee has crocheted prayer shawls, lap afghans, chemo caps, newborn hats and prayer squares available to support families in times of need. These items offer comfort to those facing health challenges or celebrating new beginnings. Deacons delivered over ten shawls, four baby hats and several “prayer squares.” Other church members have also delivered shawls to nursing homes or friends in need as an outreach opportunity. The Deacons continue to use this ministry as a means to stay in touch and offer support. The Deacons recently provided a gift card to our volunteer Dottie Lewis who generously makes our crocheted items, as a gesture of thanks.

**Funeral Luncheons** – Chair, Christa Lenk

Members of the congregation wishing to have a funeral lunch at the church are contacted by the chair and advised of procedures. Families are given a list of various

local caterers who will provide food. Table setups are coordinated with the assistance of our Sexton, John Clegg. Deacons volunteer during the luncheon providing beverages, flowers, set up and clean up. Depending upon the size of the luncheon, assistance is provided by two to four Deacon volunteers for approximately four hours. Five funeral lunches were held at the church in 2025.

Pastor Lisa Chase continues to bring support, compassion and leadership to the Board of Deacons. She continues to bring new ideas for greater efficiency, and her congregational updates greatly help the Deacons identify potential needs throughout the church.

Monthly Deacon meetings continue to be hybrid although we believe in person meetings do offer a greater opportunity for collaborative efforts.

Deacons also provide volunteers for the Fall Faire and Meal with a Mission. The Tinner/Fehr scholarship is overseen by the Deacons providing a scholarship for students in our church who are pursuing college degrees in health care. Deacons are representatives to the following committees and provide input and assistance as needed.

- Worship-Melanie Pepperman
- Health Ministries-Lisa Chase and Melanie Pepperman
- Youth Groups-Lily Taylor
- Membership & Manna Project – Shannon Leary
- Nominating-Heather McCarthy
- Coffee-Matt Wieseman
- Session-All Deacons rotating

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Crompton  
Deacon Moderator

# DONATION SALES PROGRAM

The SSPC Donation Sales Program achieved a net profit of \$12,000 in 2025. This is an increase of 95% over the profit of \$6,200 in 2024. Throughout the year, approximately 170 items were sold through the program. Donations came from members of the congregation, through both the Donation Sales program and the Fall Faire.

Notably, about 15% of the program's profit came from items donated to the Fall Faire, while the other 85% came from items donated directly to the Donation Sales program. Because of the congregation's surprising response to our call for donations in February, the volume of listed items increased significantly from 350 to 600, with a few hundred more items we didn't have the resources to process and are currently awaiting review.

About 25 households donated to the program. Eight made numerous contributions and account for most of the revenue and items. Four households went through a downsizing process and account for over 50% of the items listed. Thanks to Nancy Kauh, Lynne Jackson, Sue Spangler, The Hudsons, Brickers, Babiarz, and Kavulichs.

My deepest gratitude goes out to everyone who contributed to the program's success. This includes those who donated items to the sales program and the Fall Faire, as well as the Fall Faire volunteers who helped identify high-value items that could be listed online. Your collective efforts not only contributed to the financial success of the program but also strengthened our church community through fellowship and shared purpose. Special thanks to Don Winning, Denny Bell, and Jonathan Service who helped clean out houses and take carloads of clothing to the Bethesda Mission.

## **2026 Outlook**

This coming year is uncertain due to the lack of volunteer resources. We have tried to fill a need in our congregation which would benefit all involved, but that requires awareness, donations, and volunteers. With your continued support and generosity, we believe the SSPC Donation Sales Program could continue to grow and provide even greater financial benefits to support our mission.

If you are interested in learning more or contributing to the SSPC Donation Sales Program, please reach out to the church office or Tony Kren.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Silver Spring Presbyterian Church's mission.

In gratitude,  
Anthony Kren  
SSPC Donation Sales Program Coordinator

# EARTH CARE

The Earth Care team maintains its commitment to healthy environmental practices that impact church life, and completing earth-friendly projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. In 2025, we assisted the spring and fall workday crew, weeding, mulching, and raking leaves, among other outdoor cleanup activities. In April many of us attended the Adult Forum led by Rev. Kevin Long, who spoke on the importance of Ecological Justice. Tanya Wagner also wrote an article for the weekly newsletter on the importance of choosing native plants when gardening. Earth Care team provided altar arrangements and window plants for Earth Care Sunday, with flowers and plants native to the US and found abundantly in Pennsylvania. This summer Lara Schlitter led a small team to clean up the children's play area, removing weeds ahead of the upcoming school year. Following Lara's recommendations, the Earth Care team made an agreement with Buildings and Grounds to maintain the children's play area without herbicide use, to reduce children's exposure to ground chemicals.

We continue to monitor and manage several garden plots across campus, including the wildflower meadow by the old volleyball court, a small garden near the CE entrance, a half-acre of no-mow zone behind the Manse, as well as the Peace Garden. Tanya Wagner and Bill Schneider are solely responsible for maintaining the Peace Garden for all to enjoy. At Rally Day, we held a table to recruit new members, showcase the work we've accomplished, and highlight some eco-friendly household products that we use in our homes. Kathy Henderson regularly contributes eco-friendly tips to the Friday Announcements. Finally, we continue to dispose of the church's used batteries at Battery Warehouse, the only safe battery depository in the county. This effort is led by Claudia Brown.

We continue to maintain our status as an Earth Care Congregation and look forward to new and exciting projects in 2026!

Respectfully submitted,  
Stefan Karkuff

# FALL FAIRE

Fall Faire 2025 brought together volunteers of all ages who contributed to making the event a success for our congregation, community and neighbors. Our doors opened at 8:00 am for the community to enjoy the White Elephant, crafts, homemade lunch, fresh sticky buns and apple dumplings, baked goods and the successful Silent Auction and Children's Activities.

We decreased the amount of White Elephant items displayed and eliminated books in order to accommodate the smaller volunteer pool. We added a "special preview sale" on Friday morning, exclusively for Pre School parents who came and purchased almost \$1,000 worth of items in the Boutique Treasures in the Gathering Place.

Revenues were \$12,999.86 expenses were \$1,793.26, resulting in a net profit of \$11,096.60.

Many, many hands made our Fall Faire a successful event and much appreciation is extended for all the many hours of time donated. Moving forward, the current chairs, Karen Karkuff and Nancy Gawlas are stepping down. In order to keep the Fall Faire going, new chairs are going to have to volunteer.

# FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

## **Fellowship Mission Statement**

The Fellowship Committee Mission is to host events and activities around food that foster a sense of church community in an atmosphere that encourages meaningful interrelationships & interconnectedness through a variety of fun shared experiences that promote feelings of belonging and inclusion.

**Fellowship Committee hosted 9 events in 2025, the same number of events as the previous year.**

## **Palm Sunday Reception**

**April 2nd** - The Palm Sunday reception was a great success, with about 95 people attending. The Gathering Place was decorated for Easter and other colorful spring decor. The committee served a variety of finger foods and punch. The event was well attended.

## **Mother's Day & Recognition Sunday Reception, between the 2 services**

**May 11th** – Two cakes were provided along with Spring décor. Attendance at the reception was less than expected, even though the reception was announced at the beginning of the 1st service. About 70 people attended the reception.

## **Father's Day Cake Reception, between the 2 services.**

**June 15th** – Two cakes were provided along with candy and pretzels + decorations. Attendance at the reception was less than expected again...and many people did not come inside at all, even though the reception was announced at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> service. About 50 people attended the reception.

## **Congregational End-of-Summer Picnic luncheon between the 2 services.**

**August 31<sup>st</sup>** - The End-of-Summer picnic was well received with over 100 people in attendance. The gym was decorated with red and white checkered table covers and fresh flowers on every table. CE and the Youth assisted with the event. The food

table was serving up beef BBQ sandwiches and Beef Hotdogs, baked beans, deviled eggs, and all the standard picnic sides.

### **Rally Day Event**

**Sept. 19th** - The Fellowship Committee showed their Team Spirit with a blue & white Penn State Tailgate theme, complete with a display board of Fellowship events and handouts of upcoming events. The committee only signed up two volunteers to help with future events, but we had fun.

### **Veterans Reception on Sunday, between the 2 services**

**Nov 9th** - The Veterans Event on Nov. 9th was a huge success! We had quite a gathering to celebrate our veterans. We had a flag color guard from the Legion Post to kick things off. Elizabeth Bentzel read her new poem, Steve Rexford talked about the Veterans Outreach of PA (VOPA) and the Tiny House, and Rev. Lisa was master of ceremonies. Mike Reardon from the VOPA was there too with the Tiny House community. There was a Tiny House display outside in the parking lot for people to tour. Each Veteran in our congregation had a plaque in their honor and flag around the windows. There was also a slide show of Veterans in our congregation with pictures and descriptions from their military service. There was a cake reception after the ceremony and much conversation.

### **December – Elf on the Shelf Fun Activity**

For the entire month of December, 2 elves were hidden around the church building for people to find and then re-hide for the next person to find. The elves moved around quite a lot. Fun for every age.

### **Choir Christmas Cantata Reception and Recognition Ceremony**

**Dec 14th** - CE and Fellowship hosted the Advent Feast & Festival meal after the worship service and after the Choir recognition event in the Gym to honor the Choir. The Choir Recognition was a huge success with every member of the Choir receiving a Certificate of Appreciation. The ceremony started with a speech that Scott Pepperman read about the dedication of the choir members. The presentation of thirty-eight certificates was done in order by the number of years of service on the choir, from newest to longest serving members. The ceremony culminated with the two longest serving members with 47 years of service: Lucy Vaughan and Jim Anderson.

The reception itself started with citrus punch and two dessert tables full of cookies and other treats. Fellowship provided the punch and dessert table and everything for the recognition ceremony. CE provided the ham dinner. Approximately ninety-seven people attended the luncheon, but over one hundred people were in attendance for the Recognition ceremony.

### **Christmas Cookie Social**

**Dec. 21st** – A cookie social was hosted in the Gathering Place between the two services the Sunday before Christmas. The event was well attended by approximately 90 people. The tables were decorated for the holiday with centerpieces and poinsettias. A variety of cookies were provided along with coffee and conversation.

In addition to all the activities listed above, the committee continues to keep the Fellowship paper pantry closet stocked with plates, cups, napkins, utensils, and table covers that are used by various other committees and programs of the church.

Fellowship Committee: Ellen Frey and Carol Service, Co-Chairs

Tracy Bryan, Claudia Brown, Kathy Yinger, Kathryn Ressler, Diana Gray, Dale Darkes, Mary Jane Jones, Jane Bishop, Lisa Chase, Fred Shatto and Gail Bumsted.



# FINANCE COMMITTEE

The following is a summary of the activities and actions of the Finance Committee for 2025:

1. Worked with Session and Committees to prepare a detailed budget for 2026.
2. Monitored income and expenses throughout the year, reporting detailed line-by-line results to the Session and providing weekly summaries to the membership.
3. Monitored investments with assistance of our Treasurer and reinvested funds as necessary and appropriate.

## 2025 Financial Summary

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Total Budgeted Revenue:   | \$987,826.17   |
| Total Budgeted Expenses:  | \$987,826.17   |
| Actual Operating Revenue: | \$1,048,623.27 |
| Actual Expenses:          | \$973,610.54   |

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Karkuff and Gary Hollinger

Co-chairs, Finance Committee

# THE GATHERING SERVICE

The Gathering Service at SSPC is our contemporary service, held each Sunday morning in the Chapel. This service was begun by members of congregation and pastors over 14 years ago, due to the need to serve young families, young adults and children in our church and community.

Over the years, the service has changed in many ways. Prior to COVID, the service was conducted in our Fellowship Hall. The liturgy of the service has also changed over the years, as different pastors passed through our church.

Currently the service mirrors very closely the liturgy we use in our Traditional Service. The most important differences are the music of our Praise Band and the interactive involvement and emotion of the members of the congregation who attend. As the years progress, many other changes may be needed. For example, we are now live streaming the service.

This service also has the most children in attendance and on any given Sunday, they could make up 20% of the total attendees. If you are a young family looking for a contemporary service, relaxed, educational, full of conversation and Christianity, we invite you to attend. All are welcome! In God's Peace.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Pepperman

# HEALTH MINISTRY

The Health Ministry Committee of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church is a group of believers, skilled in health care, who work collaboratively to promote the health of individuals and the congregation as a whole. We offer specific medical support when needed.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month is blood pressure Sunday. A member of the Health Ministry team will be available to meet with you from 10:00 to 10:45 am to monitor your pressure. Confidential records are maintained so that members may track their blood pressure over time.

Our group oversees Silver Spring Presbyterian's emergency equipment. We ensure the automatic defibrillators are powered and ready for use when needed. All first aid kits are checked regularly for completeness and the replacement of expired items.

We maintain a supply of home healthcare items and equipment, including walkers, wheelchairs, and crutches. If a member needs such items, please call the church office, and you will be put in touch with a member of the Health Ministry team.

In 2025, Health Ministry also sponsored a forum entitled "Healthy Aging Through All Decades of Life." The programs were coordinated and developed by Mike and Nancy Gawlas. The Forums, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, were well received, with an average attendance of 30 members. We plan to continue the forums in 2026.

Members of the Health Ministry Team are: Bill Cook, Mike and Nancy Gawlas, Ken Harm, B.J. Lopez, Melanie Pepperman, Mary Poague Rexford, and Chris Winning.

Respectfully submitted,

The Health Ministry Committee

# LIFE CHANGES IN 2025

## **Births**

Avery Emma Goff  
Daughter of John and Kathleen Goff

Born August 29, 2025

## ***Member Deaths***

Scott DeHart  
George Russell  
Lori Scandle  
Verneda Hollinger  
June Duke  
Peter Richter  
Lynne Jackson

April 1, 2025  
July 16, 2025  
August 8, 2025  
August 12, 2025  
September 6, 2025  
October 18, 2025  
December 20, 2025

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This past year the Membership Committee focused on ways for SSPC to support our membership, to connect with the community, and to provide outreach and service programs. Our main goals are to serve our congregation and to attract new members. We continue to explore the use of all types of media to keep members and the community informed of the vibrant worship community of SSPC.

## **Digital Strategies**

- We currently utilize Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor. With the help of Bill Vipperman, we used Mission Insight to identify a target group of our surrounding community in order to do a mass mailing of postcards with information about the programs at SSPC.
- We continue to encourage members to utilize Realm and to upload pictures for the directory.

It is likely that we can make a printed directory from Realm for those who would prefer a text copy of the church directory. However, we need more members to upload their pictures for this to work.

## **Member and Community Connections**

- Rally Day continues to be effective in presenting all the committees and activities of the church. It serves as a kickoff to the fall activities and Sunday school.
- We work hard to encourage members to contribute their share of the church's per capita obligation to Presbytery. We had the giving "thermometer" in the Gathering Place. We used emails, written communications, and Minute for Missions to communicate about the per capita.
- We also advertised church activities through posters and handouts.
- We continue to support young adult activities in the Church and budget money to do so. We are partnering with Christian Education in doing this.

## **Meal with a Mission:**

There were three Meals with a Mission in 2025. On March 19, 2025, we assembled hygiene kits for Mission Central; on April 15, 2025, we assembled laundry supply kits for Downtown Daily Bread; and on November 19, 2025, we assembled emergency food boxes for New Hope Ministries. All were well attended by members of the congregation and guests from the community. Donations of needed items were substantial, and we more than met our goals for each Meal with a Mission.

## **Manna Project**

The Manna project continues to line up volunteers who deliver bread to repeat visitors and potential new members.

## **Members**

The church membership rolls were at 532 for 2025. There were 4 new members who joined SSPC in 2025. There were 6 confirmands in 2025.

# MISSION COMMITTEE

Mission outreach is an important emphasis of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church (SSPC). In addition to the Mission Committee, various committees, task forces and individuals within the church accomplish mission outreach. This includes the South Africa Partnership Committee, Reach Out and Rebuild (ROAR), Downtown Daily Bread volunteers, New Hope Ministries volunteers, Rebuilding Together participants, Handy Helpers, Beacon Clinic, etc. During 2025, the Mission Committee served as stewards of gifts by generous members of SSPC as well as non-members. Our members contribute time, talent, energy and distribution of funding for many charitable agencies. These actions demonstrate a strong commitment by SSPC congregants to doing God's work in feeding, sheltering and caring for those who are less fortunate.

We managed both monetary donations and/or hands-on projects throughout central Pennsylvania, the Gulf Coast and internationally to South Africa and Syria/Lebanon/Iraq areas. The Mission Committee supports approximately thirty agencies that provide humanitarian services to senior citizens, disabled individuals, working class families, homeless and disadvantaged people.

The service these agencies provide include daily meals and shelter for homeless individuals; serving the spiritual, social and physical needs of migrant workers; providing safe affordable housing; providing meals to the elderly and shut-in; providing rent/ mortgage assistance; providing assistance for utilities to keep families safe and warm; providing assistance for transportation; supporting a mobile food pantry; providing emergency humanitarian aid to those in need including; emergency shelter; providing case management assistance for homeless/almost homeless; provide PPL/fuel oil assistance; providing emergency medication assistance and food vouchers; coordinating services for those affected by crime and incarceration; providing permanent housing for men who have been chronically homeless with a mental illness; serving meals for people facing food insecurity throughout central Pennsylvania; providing listening, comfort, counsel, spiritual guidance and a reminder of God's saving love to individuals who work at or use the Carlisle area truck stops; providing free home repair and modification services to low-income homeowners; providing (locally and throughout the country) relief for those in need caused by a natural disaster; providing emergency assistance for sudden, unexpected emergencies locally; supporting the empowerment of those who are experiencing domestic violence; studying the religious needs of the community and devising plans through which these needs can be met; providing support for Syria/Lebanon/Iraq families displaced by the war; providing a free faith-based primary health care clinic; providing diapers, period supplies and other basic needs

to underserved families; providing free 24/7 confidential listening, health and human services information and referral; providing assistance getting runaway children/teens off the streets; supporting our partner church in South Africa.

Also, many members of the congregation volunteer their time working at many of these local agencies as well as performing hands-on home repairs for both congregants and neighbors.

## ***Hands-On***

### **ROAR Winter Mission Report**

During the week of February 03 through 07, 2025, 26 members and friends of Silver Spring worked with Big Bend Habitat for Humanity in Tallahassee, Florida working on homes for Habitat partner families. We worked on three sites; two new build homes and the new Habitat Restore. At one home we installed vinyl siding, soffits, insulated, applied fire seal in openings in the framing, installed blocking for cabinets, and cleaned out brush on the property. We also built door, window, and porch headers for three new homes. In addition, we built structural elements for wall framing for three future homes and some sawhorses. Part of the Team went to another home to do some trim work, touch up paint, hang window blinds and install shelving. Others worked at the new Habitat Restore painting some structure, painting and assembling metal shelving units, reframed two door openings and installed two doors with locksets and trim casing. All in all, it was a safe and productive week for the ROAR Team.

### **August Mission Report**

The SSPC ROAR Team spent the week of August 04 through 08, 2025 in Asheville, N.C. working with Asheville Habitat for Humanity in their Glenn Bridge community. The Team of 16 volunteers were divided into work groups on six homes. The homes ranged from almost complete and ready for dedication to a home with a ladder for access and no windows or doors. The scope of work accomplished during the work week was extensive and greatly appreciated by the Habitat crew and the Habitat partner families who will take ownership of those homes.

### **ROAR at Home**

The volunteers for the ROAR at Home week did a lot of mundane maintenance items around the church properties. They cleaned the glass panels in the pole mounted site lights, caulked joints in the concrete, removed a deteriorated door from the church garage and installed a new door, painted doors and door trim at the Retreat Center, to mention a few.



*“The ROAR team is thankful for the prayerful support of the Congregation as the Team represents Silver Spring Church showing Christ’s love to our brothers and sisters, our neighbors wherever we are called to serve.”*

Terry Reed, ROAR Team leader

## **Rebuilding Together Projects**

SSPC has had an active partnership with Rebuilding Together for many years. Our House Captains and their team of volunteers completed numerous projects assisting area residents who were in need. Last year SSPC had 4 house captains: Dan Henderson, Roy McLain, Bill Moore and Terry Reed.

Dan Henderson and Roy McLain with help from two other volunteers, tore out an old tub and installed a new tub with extensive new bathroom plumbing as well as extensive drywall repair and painting at a home in Enola. This was 4 volunteers for about 124 manhours.

Roy McLain reported his crew worked on a split-level home in Carlisle where they installed two grab bars and two stair railings. They also replaced a shower diverter and replaced a toilet seat. Total 7-man hours for Roy and two volunteers.

Bill Moore’s project included replacing a rusted side prime door and transferring latch and deadbolt to new door. Remove and reset toilet, replacing flange and shim toilet to level. Installed 3 smoke detectors. Replaced 2 exhaust vents (old ones were broken, allowing air to infiltrate through the exhaust vents). Total man hours: 16.0 for Bill and 2 volunteers.

Terry Reed reported his crew worked on a home that needed extensive work. The SSPC Rebuilding Team did the following: replaced a bedroom floor that had collapsed: repaired the steps to the entrance deck and repaired the deck: removed deteriorated exterior doors and installed new door systems: repaired the deteriorated bathroom floor and installed a new finished floor system: repaired a roof leak: repaired the bathroom ceiling damaged by a roof leak: built and installed a new bottom lens for a skylight. Lost track of the volunteer hours on this one.

In total Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg had 123 volunteers who helped 47 households [75 family members ages 3-89]: 28-Dauphin County; 14-Cumberland County and 5 in Perry County. The average age of the homeowner was 63. The average age of the volunteers was over 75.

## **2025 Handy Helpers Report**

The Handy Helpers program is intended to function as an outreach service of the Silver Spring Presbyterian Church and its Mission Committee to provide assistance

to Church members, attendees and/or their families/neighbors. The requested work usually involves home maintenance, repair, or for someone to act as an advisor for issues that can be resolved at the homeowner's property in one half-day. Some services are as simple as replacing a light bulb in a ceiling light, helping to unclog a toilet, pruning shrubs or rides to the doctor or airport. Some projects may be more complex such as replacing bath faucets, painting a fence, or minor cosmetic care to the house. Obviously, this is not a complete list as there are many other tasks that are included. The last 3 years, Handy helpers have been involved with an average of 43 different projects per year. 2025 was a very busy year as 48 projects were completed and 109 SSPC volunteers participated with a total of 424 man hours of work.

The Handy Helper team includes 25 members: 20 from SSPC plus 5 non-members or friends of the church. It is coordinated by Jonathan Service and Roy McLain.

### **Feed My Starving Children**

Twenty-two SSPC volunteers participated in the Feed My Starving Children's "MobilePack" event held March 7-8. The volunteers helped pack over 200,000 meals. Forty-seven boxes (10,512 meals) were shipped to El Salvador, and 972 boxes (209,952 meals) were shipped to Haiti. For 2026, Feed My Starving Children is being added to our annual support list.

### **Fall Faire Gift Basket**

Connie Spangler was the winner of the Mission Committee sponsored work basket at the 2025 Fall Faire. Most of the work Connie requested has been completed, however she is considering having our crew replace porch carpet in the spring.

### **SPECIAL OFFERINGS 2025**

SSPC has five special offerings each year. Two of the offerings, Peacemaking and Pentecost, send a portion of the money collected to the General Assembly and Carlisle Presbytery. The remaining portion remains at Silver Spring for a use designated by the Mission Committee. The Peacemaking Offering was \$1911. Our portion, \$477.75, went to Christian Churches United; \$477.75 went to the Carlisle Presbytery; and \$955.50 went to PCUSA. The Pentecost Offering was \$1489. Our portion was \$595.60 went to Christian Churches United for Project ASK; \$893.40 went to Carlisle Presbytery. The Mission Sunday offering that is collected on Mission Sunday is designated to the Mission Needs Fund to support ongoing mission work locally, regionally, nationally or internationally This year's offering was \$1450, \$1000 of which was sent to Feed My Starving Children for our Mobile Pack contribution. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering generated \$4384.00 which helps fund disaster relief, refugee assistance and development aid through PCUSA. The Christmas Joy Offering provides funding support for retired Presbyterian Church staffing in times of need and for Presbyterian-sponsored racial/ethnic schools and

totalled \$2451. This amount was collected in December of 2025, but it is not possible to forward it by the end of the fiscal year and is not dispersed until January of the following year (2026).

### **Denominational Support**

A total of \$16356.94 was given to the PCUSA General Assembly, Synod, and Carlisle Presbytery through the various special offerings and the Presbytery Shared Giving.

### **South Africa Partnership**

They are planning to build a Sunday school room and facilities to be used as outreach to their community. The soup kitchen has expanded and continues to provide healthy meals to the community. We continue this wonderful relationship with our third world sisters and brothers supporting them in their efforts and look forward to maintaining our close ties that benefit all of us.

### **Missionary Support**

This year our missionary Support fund amount of \$2156 was sent to the Revs. Elmarie and Scott Parker who work in the Syria/Lebanon/Iraq areas assisting families displaced by the war.

## ***OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES 2025***

### **Truck Stop Ministry**

On December 1st, 32 SSPC members joined together to bake 292 dozen chocolate chip cookies for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. These cookies were placed in bags of six cookies with a special Christmas note from SSPC congregation.

### ***ONGOING AGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT***

During 2025, SSPC supported 27 charitable agencies through regular donations. SSPC congregants, through their time and talents, also support these local agencies with countless volunteer hours. The following is a list of those agencies and contributions:

Presbytery Shared Giving - \$6892

Downtown Daily Bread - \$3000

Harrisburg Area Food Pantry - \$1725

Fruit Belt Farm Workers - \$1035

Habitat for Humanity Harrisburg - \$862

Perry Housing Partnership - \$862  
Meals on Wheels - \$1380  
New Hope Ministries - \$1293  
Christian Churches United - \$2000  
South Central PA Food Bank - \$862  
Truck Stop Ministry - \$1035  
ROAR/Winter Trip - \$10000  
ROAR/Regional Trip - \$3699  
South Africa Foreign Mission - \$2923  
Support/Disaster Relief - \$1552  
Emergency Assistance - \$1207  
Cumberland / Perry Domestic Violence - \$1121  
Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches - \$100  
Missionary Support - \$2156  
Beacon Medical Clinic - \$6000  
Rebuilding Together - \$862  
Healthy Steps Diaper Bank - \$862  
Contact Helpline - \$345  
Handy Helpers - \$0  
Family Promise - \$1000  
Valley Youth Housing - \$1000  
Veterans Outreach of PA - \$1000

### **ONE-TIME FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Following the devastating flooding in North Carolina, the Mission committee designated a donation of \$1000 to Samaritans Purse since they were already on the ground in the Boone and Ashville areas providing support.

## **PROJECTED 2026 ACTIVITIES**

During 2026, the Mission Committee will continue to work with the partner agencies we support to assist them to meet their goals. SSPC members will continue to provide hands-on support to the agencies we currently support financially. We will continue to strive to expand assistance to other agencies including emergency disaster relief as deemed necessary. The ROAR team plans to continue our mission trips in 2026; Handy Helpers will continue to assist members of the congregations; SSPC Campus Maintenance Volunteers will continue to help maintain our campus, and Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg volunteers will continue to build or rehab houses locally for those in need.

## **IN-CLOSING**

Although the specific agencies supported by SSPC may change from year to year, the Mission Committee remains committed to providing strong community outreach support for less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ. We strive to make a significant impact on the wellbeing of others through organized agencies and hands-on projects. Praise God for giving all of us the needed energy, skill, time and patience to make a difference in many lives as we serve as the hands and feet of Christ. As God has richly blessed us, he also calls us to be a blessing unto others.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Moore and John Carroll, Mission Committee Co-Chairs

# MUSIC MINISTRY

2025 was a successful year of transition as Kyle departed and Tracy stepped into the role as Director of Music here at SSPC. We are blessed with a talented and hard-working group of musicians in the Sanctuary Choir, Gathering Band, and Intergenerational Choir. Amanda Bevenour has beautifully stepped into Tracy's previous role as the leader of the Intergenerational Choir. The Intergenerational Choir sings a few times a year, either in the Gathering or the Traditional Service.

The Sanctuary Choir averages 25-30 members most Sundays. The choir was accompanied by an orchestra for our Good Friday Service and by a brass ensemble for our Easter Service. The annual Christmas Cantata, "Rhapsody in Bluegrass", was presented on December 14, 2025, with a large attendance in worship. This Cantata was accompanied by a small Bluegrass ensemble and was well-received by all. The Gathering Band has expanded in size with the addition of three new volunteer members. We added a few new songs this year, including two requested by members of the congregation.

I look forward to this coming year as we continue to explore more ways to incorporate music into our services here at SSPC.

Tracy Wieseman

Director of Music

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each year the Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying open leadership positions called by the congregation, as well as positions appointed by Session. The committee meets early in the year to address this responsibility, and also as needed throughout the year to fill vacancies that may arise due to a variety of reasons. Members of the congregation are invited to consider their own gifts and callings for leadership positions by contacting current Ruling Elders / Committee Chairs or identifying themselves to the Nominating Committee.

Our meetings were held in person and over Zoom.

The candidates nominated and approved in 2025 are listed below:

## **Nominating Committee** (Term of Three Years, not to exceed two consecutive terms)

Kris Carpinello (2nd term as co-chair)

Nancy Gawlas (2nd term)

Kathy Henderson (2nd term)

Diane Lupia (1st term as co-chair)

Sally McGaffin (2nd term)

Connie Spangler (2nd term)

Lucy Vaughan (2nd term)

Don Wahlig

## **Ruling Elder** (Term of Three Years, not to exceed two consecutive terms)

### **Class of 2028**

Mission - John Carroll

Membership - Susan Neville

Nominating – Diane Lupia

Personnel – Forrest Adams

Worship – Ashley Ringquist

## **Youth Representative to Session** (Term of One Year)

Brynn Hipp

**Deacons** (term of Two Years, not to exceed three consecutive terms)

**Class of 2027**

Rick Campomizzi

Megan Crompton (Moderator)

Judy La Pointe

Holly Lawrence

Sarah Neville

Eleanor Resser

**Youth Deacon**

Lilly Taylor

Respectively submitted,

Kris Carpinello (Co-Chair)

Diane Lupia (Co-Chair)



# PERSONNEL

During 2025 the Personnel Committee was comprised of: Forrest Adams (co-chair), Drew Compton (co-chair) replacing Clint Coldren who had to resign for personal reasons. Don Wahlig (Head of Staff), and the following members-at-large: Betsy Neilson, Emily Krebs, and Dave Dagle.

The Personnel Committee provides oversight for personnel matters. It recommends salary and benefits for staff and oversees the budget for office supplies. It ensures that employees have a current job description and that annual performance reviews are conducted for all staff by the appropriate supervisor. The performance review of the Head of Staff is conducted by the co-chairs of the Personnel Committee. The committee also maintains the Employee Handbook and its section of the Leadership Handbook.

In early 2025 Elder Drew Compton convened a search committee for the replacement of Bryan Corbin. The committee recommended that Session hire Austin Shoop as Youth Director. He began work on July 1, 2025.

This past summer the committee reluctantly accepted Kyle Weary's resignation as Music Director. We interviewed and determined Tracy Wieseman, Music Associate, would be the new Music Director. The position was expanded to include the tasks of the Music Associate.

On August 24<sup>th</sup> the Personnel Committee hosted a good-bye celebration for the congregation to express their appreciation for Kyle's music ministry.

On September 16th an employee appreciation luncheon was given for the daytime staff, including the Preschool teachers.

GUSTO, a new payroll system, was installed at the end of 2025. It was a major change for the Business Manager, Diane Rabold, and Besty Neilson, our Assistant Treasurer and in-house Realm expert.

Respectfully submitted,  
Forrest Adams and Drew Compton (Co-chairs)

# PRAYER CHAIN

Members of the congregation of SSPC conduct a prayer chain, as needed, on a routine basis. The routine depends on the need of the church and its members. Currently the prayer chain is distributed to approximately 60 members, who pray and send prayers to those in need.

We pray for both concerns and joys of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We start each prayer chain with a Bible verse and end with a brief prayer, based on that Bible verse. We pray for health and peace and strength and miracles, and we have seen all come to fruition!

If you would like to join the prayer chain, simply contact the church office and let them know and you will be added. It is a faithful and easy way to serve, to be the hands and feet of Christ here on earth. In God's Peace.

Respectfully,

Scott Pepperman

[puppytrainer52@aol.com](mailto:puppytrainer52@aol.com)

# PRESCHOOL

Over the past year, our school has continued to thrive in enrollment and community engagement while also navigating significant operational challenges, primarily related to staffing and student support needs.

At the beginning of the year and throughout last spring and fall, the school was operating smoothly with full classes and strong family participation. Enrollment remained healthy, and classroom routines were well-established. As the year progressed, however, staffing became the primary challenge we faced.

This year brought an increase in the number of students requiring additional classroom support. We view this as a blessing and an opportunity, as supporting learners at every level of need is central to our mission and values. At the same time, this shift required us to recruit and fill additional support positions, which placed strain on staffing capacity and reduced the availability of substitute teachers. The resulting ripple effects have required increased flexibility, creativity, and resilience from our staff.

In addition to these structural challenges, we experienced unexpected staffing changes. One staff member needed to leave mid-year to care for her husband due to serious health concerns. We fully supported this decision and are grateful for her contributions to our community. We also have a long-standing staff member completing her final year with us, as she plans to step away in the fall. While these transitions are difficult, we are approaching them with care and thoughtful planning.

Weather disruptions, particularly significant snowfall, further complicated scheduling and staffing this year. Despite these interruptions, the school remained focused on maintaining consistency and clear communication with families.

There were also many bright spots worth celebrating. Our first-ever Nashville Night fundraiser was both financially successful and deeply affirming for our community. It exceeded expectations, generated meaningful support for the school, and created a joyful sense of connection among families. Parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive—so much so that many requested similar events throughout the year. While quarterly events are not feasible, we are excited to make this fundraiser an annual tradition moving forward.

We are also pleased with the strength of our newer teachers. They have integrated beautifully into the school culture, and we have received consistent, positive feedback from families regarding their professionalism, warmth, and effectiveness in the classroom.

In summary, this year has required adaptability and perseverance, particularly in the area of staffing. Even so, the school remains strong, mission-driven, and well-supported by its

families and community. We are grateful for the dedication of our staff, the trust of our parents, and the continued guidance and support of Session as we look ahead to the coming year.

This year's dedicated SSPC Preschool staff includes:

|                |               |                        |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Sandy Aanensen | Carrie Ball   | Emily Dougherty        |
| Erinn Blasco   | Lauren Brown  | Candace Paul           |
| Alison Calzada | Jen Gibson    | Laurie Keatting-Duttry |
| Becky Kocher   | Shelly Maffei | Kelley Hernandez       |
| Sue Martinelli | Karen Ott     |                        |
| Anna Sharp     | Tiffany Smith |                        |
| Sally Martin   | Tricia Yost   |                        |

In Christ's Service and a love for education,

Emily Cocores

# SILVER SPRING RETREAT CENTER

The Silver Spring Retreat Center is a welcoming, comfortable and very busy facility. We demonstrated our Mission of Hospitality through opening our doors to diverse groups throughout 2025. The total number of groups checked in and stayed was 77. Most all our weekends were occupied, with many groups filling the weekdays. Looking at 2026, all our weekends are now booked up through the end of June. As of the end of 2025, the Retreat Center nearly broke even, just \$1,500 in the red between revenue generated from rentals and expenses.

Some significant developments in 2025 included:

1. The Building and Grounds Committee continued to keep maintenance projects updated and their timely attention to items that need repair is greatly appreciated. They perform routine maintenance on smoke alarms, fix plumbing issues, repair broken places and help guests at all kinds of varied hours! Jerry Schnell reglazed garage windows, Terry Reed purchased a new grill, Fred Voigt tended to many emergency calls.
3. Our cleaning crew from CIT provided reliable, timely cleaning between reservations. Susan Bruner cleaned if the check outs were on the weekend. Lin Pomeroy and MJ Voigt greeted guests at check in when Karen was out of town.
4. Groups are diverse. Mission groups coming to town to do work, local churches of all denominations, weddings, baby showers, birthday parties, SSPC groups, Sewing and Quilting groups, Youth Groups, Yoga retreats, scrapbooking retreats, family holiday gatherings and corporate meetings all make up the diverse guest list at the Retreat Center.

We are blessed to be able to maintain this ongoing mission to those in our community.

Please come visit, become a volunteer or recommend the space to someone you know.

With gratitude,

Karen Karkuff  
Retreat Center Manager

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry celebrated its 50th year as it was founded in 1975. Since then, more than 14,000 congregations have enrolled in Stephen Ministry across the United States and Canada, and more than 600,000 lay people have received Stephen Minister training.

We are fortunate at Silver Spring to have a team of highly trained individuals who have been chosen to provide high-quality, one-to-one Christ-centered caring ministry to those who are hurting due to a life challenge or struggle. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets once a week with that person to listen, care, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support for as long as is necessary. Although the weekly support ends when both the care receiver and Stephen Minister are in agreement, often this bond continues in lasting friendship.

In 2025, our team has worked with eight people. Three of the relationships have closed with five still remaining. Our team has met with care receivers on an average of over a one to two year period. Stephen Ministers at Silver Spring help to carry out our stated values to share Christ's love with others.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn Ressler, SSPC Stephen Ministry Leader

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee is comprised of the following members: BJ Lopez and Ashley Ringquist (Co-Chairs), Rev. Dr. Don Wahlig (Head of Staff), Tracy Wieseman (Director of Music Ministry), Carol Bogar, Bob Davis, Pat Ferris, Margaret Glockner, Diana Gray, Kathryn Ressler, Teena Russell, Lucy Vaughan, and Melanie Pepperman (Deacon Representative).

The committee is responsible for coordinating and scheduling liturgists, ushers, pulpit supply, communion preparers, and communion servers for both Sunday worship services and special events. In support of these roles, the committee provides detailed written instructions for ushers, communion preparers, and servers, updating these directions as needed to ensure consistency and clarity in worship leadership.

In addition, the committee reviews and renews worship-related policies, including those pertaining to weddings, funerals, baptisms, and pulpit supply. Any recommended changes are presented to the Session for review and approval.

Silver Spring continues to offer two distinct worship services each Sunday: A Traditional Service at 9:00 am in the Meeting House featuring traditional hymns, and a Gathering Service at 11:00 am in the Chapel, led by the Gathering Band and offering contemporary music. Both services are live streamed to the congregation and guests via the internet, extending our worship beyond the church walls.

The committee works closely with and supports our pastors, welcoming open communication as we strive to make worship at Silver Spring meaningful and engaging. We also welcome suggestions from members of the congregation and value their input as we seek to improve worship services and introduce new ideas that enhance worship for all ages.

Throughout the year, the Worship Committee supported and coordinated several special events, including Rally Day, Fall Faire, World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday, Hymn Sing Sunday, Strawberry and Ice Cream Social, and the Blessing of the Animals.

The committee also assisted in organizing and supporting seasonal worship services and events:

**Lent**

- Provided ushers for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services
- Organized a simple supper and communion for Maundy Thursday

**Advent**

- Organized the Hanging of the Greens by decorating the buildings and grounds for the Advent season
- Provided ushers for Christmas Eve services
- Prepared candles for Christmas Eve worship
- Purchased artificial Christmas trees
- Supported Live Nativity
- Coordinated Taking Down of the Greens, Advent and Christmas decorations

The Worship Committee extends special thanks to staff members Priscilla Biller, John Clegg, and Diane Rabold for their continued support and partnership throughout the year. We also offer our sincere appreciation to the members of the congregation who volunteered their time and talents to support the many worship services and activities.

Respectfully submitted,

BJ Lopez and Ashley Ringquist  
Worship Committee Co-Chairs