

# Silver Spring Presbyterian Church 2023 Annual Report



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## THE PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT—January, 2024

Rev. Don Wahlig, Senior Pastor, Head of Staff

As I reflect back on my eighth year here at SSPC, I continued to be filled with gratitude for the ministry God has called us to undertake together. We are a special congregation, deeply faithful across so many areas of our Christian witness. We are truly a family of faith working together to share the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ. Our congregation is as faithful a group of Christian disciples as any I have ever been privileged to serve. Thank you for the privilege!

In the past, I have offered a detailed recap and analysis of the many things that happen here at SSPC during the course of the year, but this year I would like to focus on the bigger picture to show how we are living out our 5 core values in order to live into 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.**

Our 5 Core Values are, as you know:

**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, critical to our continued growth.

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

#### 1. Worship and Evangelism

Worship has been the highlight of this past year, which is exactly as it should be. We are blessed by the work of our Worship Committee chaired ably and well by Elders Carol Bogar and Bethany Kavulich. Worship is the reason we exist, and with the help of our talented worship team we do it very well, as reflected in our consistent worship attendance. Our regular use of lay liturgists of all generations, the many offerings of our members' and friends' musical gifts, and the overall joy of our praise are evidence of the high degree of congregational engagement in worship. We are all indebted to our Director of Music, Dr. Kyle Weary, our Music Associate, Tracy Wieseman, our organist, Erica Ickes and all the various musicians and ensembles they lead and support.

We were also blessed with some outstanding visitors to our pulpit this past year. In addition to Rev. John Green and Paul Burkhart (what a blessing you both are!), we welcomed the Rev. Iain May, my Doctor of Ministry colleague from the Church of Scotland. As many of you have told me, Iain and Ann's visit, including their participation in our CE and Fellowship activities, was a powerful reminder of our Scottish Presbyterian roots. Speaking of preaching, the emphasis on sermon series which I began a few years ago also seems to be well-received. Lisa and I will continue to offer sermon series this coming year to help to convey God's Word within the longer arc of the biblical narratives, an approach which has proven to be effective.

We are also indebted to Ryan Edwards, whose technology skills enable us, via the live stream of both services, to share worship with our members who are homebound or out of town. The livestream is also the means of reaching out to prospective new members. Much like house-hunting these days, the first stop for the majority of our new members is our Internet presence, including, and especially, our live and recorded worship services.

Speaking of reaching potential new members, our membership committee has shifted its focus this past year to attracting visitors and potential new members through the use of online advertising via Google Ads. This advertising is inexpensive and highly targeted. We use it primarily in the seasons of Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas, as well as when there are special activities to highlight like VBS. Our new Enlighten Newsletter, coordinated by our members Heather McCarthy and Amy Meadows in partnership with Associate Pastor Lisa Chase, has proven to be well-received with a consistently high open rate. Thanks also to Rev. Chase and our Youth Director Bryan Corbin, who are promoting our various events, activities and services on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. A recent uptick in interest in our new members class is evidence that all of this externally focused communication is working. There is more to be done in this area, including participating in online neighborhood forums.

Technology has certainly been a boon to evangelism in our congregation as it has in many others. However, when it comes to evangelism, the most powerful tool remains the personal invitation. Every new member who joins our congregation is asked, among other things, to invite two friends to church in the coming year. That applies to our longer-term members, too. **Have you invited a friend or two to church to experience the vibrant worship, welcoming fellowship, and strong mission that make SSPC who we are? Please do.**

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

There has never been a time in my tenure here when our preschool families have been welcomed into the life of the church as warmly and effectively as they were this past year. Many thanks to Preschool Director Emily Cocores, Rev. Lisa Chase, and Elder Scott Pepperman for being present in the preschool and communicating church activities and events directly with them. In addition, we are trying a new Sunday School class for preschoolers which has attracted interest from younger families, including some preschool parents. Emily Cocores and Rev. Chase have also

incorporated many of our preschool families – both parents and children – in our special events, especially Vacation Bible School.

### **3. Christian Education: Small Groups and New Technology**

Under the leadership of Rev. Chase, our Small Group ministries are also building. This past year, Lisa launched a series of small group classes, led by our lay leaders and pastors. The point of these small groups is to better connect our members with one another and to God through participation in groups in which they can share a common interest. I led the Faith and Work small group this past fall in which a dozen participants ranging in age from 23 to 68 discussed their experience of being Christs' disciples in their workplace. The focus was on Martin Luther's understanding of the Priesthood of All Believers and the Reformed doctrine of vocation. The group went very well and is the subject of my doctoral dissertation that I am currently writing.

Lisa and I also co-taught a well-attended series in Lent on the popular Christian video series called "The Chosen". For the first time ever, we conducted the class both on-line and in-person. Despite a few hiccups, it worked well and we plan to do this again this coming year. This has also prompted us to order new hybrid technology for Room 204 so that adult Sunday School and Session meetings can be conducted in a hybrid set-up, both in-person and on Zoom. Much as our live-streaming capability for the Gathering and the Traditional worship services has increased overall attendance, we are hopeful that the same will be true for Christian Education programs, as well.

Speaking of new technology, a generous gift from a friend of the congregation has made it possible for us to order a Smart Board for use in Room 202-203 to facilitate a new Sunday School initiative Lisa is organizing called Youth Church. This is a program that is still taking shape, but we expect that it will be a mixture of worship, Bible exercises and games, and hands-on craft activity. Smart Boards are used in most schools these days because they allow for interaction with online content as well as interactive student participation. Children of all ages are comfortable learning through technological means and our hope is that this increased interactivity will help our children's and youth Sunday school program continue to rebuild in size and in effectiveness with regard to developing a commitment to understanding and living the gospel, after the disruption caused by COVID. This is part of a broader effort to determine what other churches, both within and outside of our own denomination, are doing to attract and engage young families, children and youth. There will be more to say about this in the coming months.

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

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

It is no secret that churches everywhere, including both non-denominational and denominational varieties, Protestant as well as Catholic, are facing historic membership declines as the overall culture becomes increasingly secular. We have been comparatively fortunate to hold relatively steady in terms of membership and actually

grow in terms of worship attendance, but our demographics are such that a decade from now we are likely to face serious challenges, if not before. Accordingly, we are acting now to provide greater financial stability to help us through what will certainly be leaner times ahead, much as Joseph stored-up wheat in the years of great bounty to make it through the lean years he saw coming.

As of January 2024, the SSPC Endowment balance is a little more than \$600,000. The Endowment is comprised of three funds which support pastoral staffing, buildings and grounds costs, and our operating budget. While we are blessed with many generous givers to the Silver Spring Endowment through participation in the 1734 Silver Spring Legacy Society, we will need a good deal more than that to reach our goal. 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 God's love with all. The remainder of the investment income would be returned to the endowment so that it would continue to build. This is a model used by many institutions who find that it works well in achieving their mission and it will work well here at SSPC, too.

This past June, the Commitment, Legacy, and Endowment Committee held another luncheon to celebrate those who have participated in the 1734 Legacy Society through their estate planning and direct cash giving of at least \$1,734 to the Endowment funds. Plans are now in place to hold another 1734 celebration dinner on May 15<sup>th</sup> of this year. **Have you made a gift to the 1734 Legacy Society this year? Thanks to all who have.**

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

Despite a projected deficit for the year just past, we have managed to end the year with a surplus, thanks to the generous and grateful giving of our members and friends, and our disciplined spending by the various committees, overseen by our Finance Committee under the leadership of Gary Hollinger and Gary Karkuff as well as the able help of Treasurer Don Winning and Betsy Neilson. Our stewardship efforts during the Season of Commitment were simply outstanding this year. Many thanks are due to the members of the Commitment, Legacy, and Endowment Committee, chaired by Jim Anderson and Bill Resser. We all owe them a considerable debt of gratitude.

### **Equally, we must thank our very generous members – and that means you!**

Dozens of our members continue to increase their pledges as they follow the road to tithing by gradually increasing their giving each year. 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. Beth and I have increased our pledge to \$12,000 as a tithe of our income. If you have yet to experience the joy of moving toward tithing, please contact me and I will be happy to help you devise a plan to do so. It is an exhilarating, faith-building experience.

We also adopted a new committee budgeting process this year in which committees developed their 2024 budgets beginning in May. Each committee was challenged to

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think about new programs that would be faithful to our 5 core values, together with the cost of implementing them. These programs were then built into the proposed 2024 budget and presented to the congregation for their consideration in prayerfully planning their 2024 pledge. This is the best way I know to make sure that we are faithful in following God's vision according to our values. After some necessary trimming in December, our Session, based on the work of the Finance Committee and our Treasurer, Don Winning, created and approved the 2024 budget as you see it today. Many thanks to all of them for doing the difficult work of creating a budget for the coming year which is both faithful and prudent.

### **Summary and Thanks to the Staff**

I conclude with a heartfelt thank you to our staff and the Personnel Committee who support us, especially co-chairs Emily Krebs and Forrest Adams. **What a great team!** We work very hard, and we know how to have fun together, too. I have said numerous times, having been a member of the staff at four different churches, our staff here at SSPC is the most effective and most cohesive staff of which I have ever been a part. 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 to be part of such a good staff.

Speaking of which, **please mark your calendar for Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> when, during the 10:00 coffee hour, we will celebrate Diane Rabold's 25<sup>th</sup> work anniversary** here at SSPC! The Personnel Committee with the help of others is planning for this event now.

Now I thank the individual staff members. What a terrific addition to the staff Associate Pastor Lisa Chase has been! When Bill Vipperman was chairing the search committee that brought Lisa to us, I told him, above all else, we are looking for someone who will be a good partner in pastoral ministry. Lisa has been exactly that. I am grateful to her for her many, creative gifts which have enriched our worship and energized the programs for which she is responsible, especially her work with families of children and youth. Equally, I am grateful to our gifted Director of Music, Dr. Kyle Weary who is so very humble, and so very talented. Kyle is an absolute pleasure to work with. Likewise, I am grateful to our Music Associate Tracy Wieseman, whose vocal and piano skills are such a blessing to us all. We are also very grateful to Erica Ickes, our talented organist whose musical skill, unflappable nature, and dedication are a true blessing. When it comes to our Youth Ministry, Bryan Corbin has done an outstanding job leading our CORE youth program, as well as helping Lisa and me lead worship. We are grateful, too, to Ryan Edwards who has made our online ministry possible. Ryan is also a critical resource for the growing number of technology-related projects which are increasingly important to our congregational growth. Many, many thanks to Priscilla Biller, who celebrates her 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary at SSPC this year. Priscilla keeps the office (and me!) organized, even as she oversees a cadre of office volunteers (thank you Tracy Bryan, Terri Kemmer, Jean Smith, Mary Jane Jones and Connie Spangler!). She also takes on any number of projects which stretch her and help us all be more effective. Thanks, too, to Diane Rabold, our Business Manager who keeps the numbers straight, and to our Sexton John Clegg. Both Diane and John are always ready to be of help for the numerous requests they receive from all directions.

They do this graciously and with a smile. Our gratitude runs equally deep for Emily Cocores, whose leadership of the preschool is top-notch. **Thank you to all the staff for helping make SSPC the special place it is!**

Finally, many of you continue to ask about my progress in the Doctor of Ministry program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This month I am writing the first draft of the 30,000-word dissertation that will, after another round of editing and corrections, be approved in March so that I can graduate at the end of May. It is going well and I am 2/3 of the way through the first draft. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers!

Blessings,

Don



## THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

From the Associate Pastor, the Rev. Lisa Strong Chase, MBA, MDiv.

2023 was my first full year at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church. It was indeed an incredibly good year, filled with Small Group implementation and another successful Vacation Bible School, among other accomplishments. These accomplishments could not have been achieved without the assistance of great volunteers and the guidance and support of Senior Pastor Don Wahlig.

I thank our Lord every day for being able to serve our congregation in ministry.

In this annual report, I will break down associate pastor activities by category: Children, Youth and Family Ministries, Small Group Ministries, Pastoral Care, Worship, and other duties as assigned. I am staff liaison for the following committees: Christian Education, Deacons, Earth Care, Fellowship, and Missions.

With the church's core values at the forefront of my mind, much has been accomplished this year. The Core Values are:

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

**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

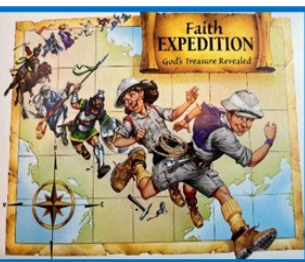
**Stewarding God's Gifts:** Faithful stewardship of all God's gifts

### *Children, Youth and Family Ministries-Christian Education*

January 2023 began with careful planning for Vacation Bible School (VBS), which was held in June 2023. Our theme this year was Faith Expedition, and it was a terrific success! VBS had about 72 children attend, and a number of youth and adults volunteered. We had

close to 100 people involved (children who attended each day, and counting those who baked cookies, built sets, and who volunteered the first day).

What a wonderful experience and God was certainly glorified. We learned much about faith! We're already planning for 2024's VBS (Mission (im)Possible: Operation



Restoration) and I even have an idea for 2025 sketched out.



***Glorify and praising God through discipling, worship, sharing faith and serving with love, nurturing relationships, and sharing hospitality.***

### **Sunday School and Confirmation**

Scott Pepperman recruited Sunday School teachers for both youth and adult classes, and Sunday School for the 2023-2024 academic year, which began September 17th. Our loving, energetic and wonderful teachers patiently guide the children through lectionary-based lessons, and Scott led an adult class using Max Lucado's work. Before the Christmas holidays, we decided to go with the Dwell curriculum for the children and youth. Our children and youth decorated treasure boxes to give to our homebound members and to anyone hospitalized over the Christmas holidays. These boxes held 30 laminated scriptures individuals could use as devotions each day.

I am thrilled that I am able to help Kris Carpinello, Jean Smith and Susan Neville teach Sunday school to our youth this past year. I've also begun a Preschool Sunday School class for little ones during the Sunday School hour.

**Confirmation-** In winter and spring of 2023 veteran educator Diane Lupia and I continued to lead confirmation classes. On May 7, 2023, Max Miller, Brayden Pierce, Matthew Ringquist and Lilly Taylor were confirmed as members of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, during a beautiful church service that included them reading their faith statements. That was such a special service and day! We are planning for another confirmation class in the fall of 2024. I held a confirmation celebration party at my home on May 21<sup>st</sup>, which included the confirmands and their family members, and youth leaders. Diane Lupia and I are planning for another confirmation class in the fall of 2024.



**Earth Care-** a component of Christian Education, continues to provide excellent guidance on how to better care for God's Creation. I attend those meetings as I am able, and I try to participate in all of our Earth Care events on our campus.

***Core Values: Glorifying and praising God through discipling, showing care and concern, sharing faith, and serving with love, nurturing relationships, sharing hospitality, and stewardship of all God's gifts***

### **Other Christian Education-Related Events**



**Spring Fling and Dance Party:** The CE committee sponsored a Spring Fling-Dance Party in late April 2023, completed with dance lessons provided by Ellen Frey and Lisa Chase. Dance-loving members of the church joined the afternoon's fun.

### **End of School Summer Bash – held in June 2023.**

**Family Fun/Rally Day -September 10, 2023** – Annual Rally Day, which was a combined committee event, was wonderful, with our second annual table-decorating contest, tables that were judged by visiting Pastor Iain May and Don Wahlig. We had hoped to have a bouncy house and dunk tank, but there was a threat of thunderstorms, and we had to cancel those amenities so we would not be out \$700. Still, everyone had fun catching up over lunch and the informative tables. My better half, Randall Chase, took a photograph of the congregation.



**SSPC Halloween Spook-tacular** – Christian Education joined forces with Fellowship for our annual Halloween party, which was held on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Advent Feast and Festival & Christmas Morning Breakfast**— CE organized the Advent Feast and Festival and the Christmas Eve Morning Breakfast, which I attended. Both were well attended by members. Scott Pepperman secured a DJ, who played Christmas music and carols, and we performed the 12 Days of Christmas, a time-honored tradition. I helped prepare pancakes along with other youth leaders for the Christmas Eve Morning Breakfast before church. The meal was delicious, and it was wonderful to see the church family seated together for Christmas Eve morning before the 11 am service.

**Christmas Play – Christmas Eve 5:30 pm Service**-This year's Family Christmas Eve service involved grown-ups providing the program, which was titled "Michael Mouse – I gave HIM my all." It was a sweet, child-focused program that I have been involved in at a couple of other churches, and I was so happy people were game to perform it here at SSPC. Small children really enjoyed hearing grown-ups delivering their lines, but with heavily accented animal voices. Kate Hall was Michael Mouse, who learned about giving Jesus his all, supported by a wise Owl (John Shoop), and beautifully narrated by Scott Pepperman. Other cast members were Don, Susan Neville, Laura Shoop, and me.

### ***Bethany Village Christian Education Outreach***

In 2023, we presented two programs at Bethany Village. In February 2023, Don Wahlig, Lucy Vaughan, and I presented "Being God's Valentine," which included a reflection on 1 Corinthians 13 followed by songs and hymns. In December 2023, I presented a presentation on the Images of Christmas, which also included singing Christmas Carols, accompanied by Lucy Vaughan. These two programs included sharing a meal together in the Bethany Village Bistro. We plan to do more there in 2024.

***Core Values: Glorifying and praising God through discipling, worship, sharing faith and serving with hospitality.***

### ***Youth Ministries CORE***

CORE is directed by Bryan Corbin, whose creativity, coordination, calm demeanor, and dry wit bless the program. CORE youth group meets most Sundays throughout the year, including the summer months. Please refer to Bryan's individual report for Youth Ministries. I attend CORE meetings at least once a month; I was able to attend Zeteo,

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work with their Backyard Missions outreach, etc. It is always so special to be with these outstanding teenagers!

**Core Values: Glorify and praising God through worship, discipling, sharing faith, showing compassion and care, serving with love, nurturing relationships, and sharing hospitality.**

## Small Group Ministries

Don and I developed a framework for an expanding Small Group Ministries, which began in earnest in late January 2023. In preparing for the framework, Don and I met with SSPC's current and past small group leaders to get an idea about best practices. I recruited members for a Small Group Leadership team, which helped oversee the small groups by providing guidance, support, and ideas for small groups. We based this program on a Small Group Resource, ***Small Groups with a Purpose***, written by Steven Gladden.



In 2023, the following Small Group programs were offered:



Foods of The Apostles (Bill Schneider and Tonya Wagner); Cold Case Christianity (offered late winter in 2023 and fall 2023, Revs. Chase and Burkhart); Scrapbooking (offered three times, and proving to be very popular, Melanie Pepperman!); Plant-based Foods (Lois and Scott DeHart); Aging healthily and gracefully (Karen and Gary Karkuff); Faith and Work (Don Wahlig) and Jesus All Day Long programs, by Beth Biery. These programs



were well-attended, and *much gratitude* is extended to the individuals who led them. We are working on Small Group offerings for 2024, and at the writing of this report, have at least three in place to begin soon. In addition, there were shorter, one-day programs offered, including Understanding the Pelvic Floor (Lisa Janson), and creating decorated pumpkin balls to sell at the Fall Faire. We plan to offer short, one-day programs as part of our Small Group Ministries in 2024, in addition to programs lasting several weeks.

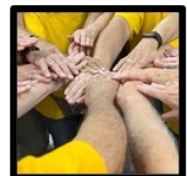
## Fellowship



I serve on the Fellowship Committee, which is incredibly organized and creative, with a deep sense of fun and community! I attended most of the Fellowship-directed functions in 2023, except when I was on vacation in late August 2023. The Fellowship Committee at SSPC is an extremely committed group of individuals, who do such an amazing job organizing events to bring the church community together.

## Missions

This year, I was able to become much more involved with our outstanding Mission Committee. I was able to go to Cairo, WVA with the ROAR team in early October and spend a few days working on places of worship. It was great to be





with everyone from SSPC and the Cairo community for a few days. As I write this report, I am getting ready to serve our sister church in New Castle, SA for about ten days with a small delegation from SSPC.



I was honored to play a role in 2023's Fall Faire, where I organized the Silent Auction component for Fall Faire. A shout-out to all those individuals and committees who donated a basket or service for the silent auction. The silent auction netted about \$1,700 for Fall Faire.

## **Pastoral Care**

Pertaining to pastoral care responsibilities, I serve with the Deacons and Stephen Ministry committees. Don and I share pastoral care duties, and we continue to provide pastoral care to those members in need on a weekly basis. Stephen Ministers, Health Ministries and Deacons also help with providing that important care to members.

**Stephen Ministry-** Stephen Ministry's leadership was assumed by Kathryn Ressler, who does an excellent job leading and facilitating their monthly meetings and providing compassionate care. Kathryn and the team of current Stephen Ministers are providing important care to recipients and are training new Stephen Ministers. We recognized the Ministry at a service in 2023, and there are regular Stay and Pray sessions established after a worship service. Stephen Ministries organized and facilitated a beautiful Blue Christmas Service in December, in which Don and I participated.



**Health Ministries-** Health Ministries is an important component of our Pastoral Care outreach. The committee is comprised of a group of faith-filled individuals, skilled in areas of health care, who work collaboratively for the health of individuals and of the congregation as a whole. They provide Blood Pressure Sundays on the second Sunday of each month, they keep watch over the equipment for which they are responsible: automatic defibrillators, first aid kits, wheelchairs, medical supply closet, calibrating the blood pressure cuffs, etc.

Health Ministries cares for our congregation by taking two-week periods of being "On Call." If a medical event occurs and someone has a problem or a family member needs to report an issue with one of our members, a call will come into the church office. At that time, Priscilla, Lisa, or Don take the call, and if it is a medical issue, notify the "On Call" team member and they take it from there. The Health Ministries team also manages the process if anyone from the greater community needs to borrow our medical equipment.

**Core Values: *Glorify and praising God through discipling, sharing faith, showing compassion, serving with love, nurturing relationships, and sharing hospitality.***

## **Worship**

I preached, on average, more than once a month in 2023. I also sing in the Sanctuary Choir and participate regularly in worship when I am not preaching. I am honored and blessed to serve with Don, Bryan Corbin, the praise, and liturgical leaders in worship

services, and it is a blessing and honor to work with Don as we baptized children, commission volunteers, and honor those individuals who have joined the church triumphant.

***Core Values: Glorify and praising God through worship, discipling, sharing faith, serving with love, nurturing relationships, and sharing hospitality.***

### **Other duties serving our Church Community**

**Newsletter:** The Enlightened newsletter is produced by a team of editors and proof-readers (Amy Meadows and Heather McCarthy), designer (me) and proofreader, Priscilla. We are circulating to the entire membership, and so far, we have had at least a 70 percent open rate. After each quarter's Enlighten Newsletter is produced, I then edit it down and send a special version with upcoming events to our families in the Preschool, which Preschool Director Emily Cocores sends out through the Remind App. We sent out two Advent-event-oriented Enlightened Newsletters, and that was very helpful reminding people of important programs and services during Advent and Christmas. We had a large turnout of people at our three Christmas Eve services!

**Birthday cards:** Each month, Don and I send birthday cards to our SSPC children and youth (through age 18), with personal, faith-filled and encouraging messages on each card. We also send out a birthday card to our sweet children in the Preschool, along with Mrs. Cocores, each month. I seek out beautiful cards, purchase them, and manage the process of getting them out.

**2023 Lenten Series:** I co-led our 2023 Lenten Series with Don, which included watching the first season of "The Chosen."

**1734 Annual Meeting:** It was an honor to be a speaker at this annual event in May 2023, as we reviewed the accomplishments of 2022-2023.

**Oral Histories:** Beth Wahlig and I have three completed and they are now online. They are excellent. We hope to do more in 2024. This is a labor of love for me.

**SSPC Preschool:** I am honored to be able to volunteer a couple of hours each week in our award-winning preschool, as I am able, helping the precious children with crafting, or playing educational games with them. In addition, Scott Pepperman and I serve coffee to families twice a month, as they drop off their children in Preschool. We look forward to doing this each month!

**Continuing Education:** Thanks to Continuing Education provisions, I was able to fulfill a dream of many, many years to study the Scots Confession in Edinburgh, and learned much about their use of the Westminster Catechism/Confession. (The Scots Confession is considered a secondary confession in the Church of Scotland).

**The greater community-** I regularly attend Presbytery meetings, and I am currently serving on the disciplinary committee. I hope to serve in another capacity this upcoming year. I am also a member of the Mechanicsburg Lions Club.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve you and Silver Spring Presbyterian Church as your Associate Pastor.

May God continue to bless you – Pastor Lisa Chase

## DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dear SSPC Family, it has been an amazing year, full of love and joy. Even in the hard times, we come together to support one another in ways only the body of Christ can.

Our Youth Ministry Leadership Team continues to be phenomenal. Thank you to all who have joined the team, the youth and I appreciate you more than words can say. The team, youth and I have had a great time this past year! We have been successful in living into our values allowing us to meet our mission and continually strive towards our vision.

We confirmed our visioning documents as follows:

**Mission: CORE Youth Ministry connects students and adults as we become more faithful disciples of Christ while growing spiritually, serving others, and having fun.**

### **List of CORE values:**

- **Christ-Centered:** We seek to have an authentic relationship with Jesus and each other, remembering that God is the source of everything we are and do. We are saved by God's grace through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
- **Love:** We love through compassion, concern, and care for others because Christ first loved us.
- **Welcome:** We model God's grace by understanding the needs of students and ensuring everyone feels safe and accepted, no matter where they are on their faith journey.
- **Fun:** Together we build a climate where everyone can be themselves while experiencing structured chaos filled with joy.
- **Spiritual Growth:** We intentionally learn about our faith, explore our gifts, and encourage everyone to be lifelong disciples of Christ.
- **Service:** We put our gifts into action by being the hands and feet of Christ, joining in God's work by serving others and caring for God's creation.

**Vision: To be a youth ministry that unites students, congregation members, and staff in an environment of acceptance and authenticity as we learn and share Christ's love with all.**

I want to take a moment to describe our CORE Youth Group nights. We have a short check in time to see how everyone is doing. Sometimes this includes a highs and lows conversation. Then we have a lesson for 45-60 minutes. We enjoyed many video series this

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year, most of which were from Next Step Ministries. We saw magicians, ice rock climbers, sky divers, ATV drivers, missionaries, service workers, pastors, rappers, artists, and more. All of them had this in common: a burning desire to share the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ with all they encounter. It was truly awe inspiring to see how they fit their faith into their lives whether it was extreme sports to artistic expression to mission work.

We had plenty of awesome events! We started the year with our annual Youth Sunday which takes all of January and most of February to prepare. This past year, we focused on Moses, his transformation into a leader, and how we, too, can be transformed by God. In February, we also went to our favorite winter retreat, Zeteo! We had a Lock-in, one of our staple events, which does not really hold up to its name. We went to Sports Emporium this time. Of course, there was the traditional Sheetz run. We played plenty of games to keep us awake and busy. We also took a trip to Dave and Busters, and multiple escape rooms! We had a phenomenal Backyard Mission trip. We were able to help church members and local ministries. There are many ways the youth are involved at the church as well—from helping with church workdays to tending the victory garden to being a lay liturgist for worship and more. We helped stuff Easter Eggs and set up the dunk tank. We also helped with the amazing VBS and Christmas Eve programs. We helped raise ~\$23,000 for the Mechanicsburg/West Shore Crop Hunger Walk. Of course, we continued the tradition of helping with the luminaries for Christmas Eve. Hopefully we can have the Live Nativity next year!

I am so excited to continue integrating the youth further into the church through service and fellowship. I am honored to walk with the youth as they come into their own. I am also ecstatic to further assist in deepening the students' faith through CORE Youth Ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Corbin, Director of Youth Ministry



## **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. 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.

In addition to the many regular and recurring maintenance demands of the church campus and buildings, the B&G Committee also undertook a number of projects and events including the employment of contracts and the help of volunteers:

- Installed decorative metal chain fencing around the Columbarium and Peace Garden.
- Conducted spring and fall workdays attended by many dedicated volunteers.
- Repaired one of the heat pumps serving the Meiting House.
- Installed a new heat pump system at Meiting House.
- Repaired the hardware on the Gathering Place doors.
- Developed additional security protocols.
- Replaced the dishwasher in the parlor kitchen.
- Installed a fan hood and back splash at the Manse.
- Repaired the porch lighting at the Manse.
- Performed repairs in the cart storage room in the Christian Education Building.
- Repaired doors in the storage garage.
- Repaired picnic tables at the SSRC.
- Repaired hardware on the exterior gym doors.
- Coordinated a Homeland Security Evaluation for the Meiting House and CE Building.
- Repaired the electronic sign along Silver Spring Road.
- Cleaned up the area around James Silver's spring.
- Resurfaced parking lot areas.
- Improved SSRC driveway.
- Switched electrical supply carriers for the church to reduce the rate.
- Repaired the electric range in main kitchen.
- Repaired chairs in the Gathering Place.
- Installed shades on the skylights in the skylight room.

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- Replaced the well pump and expansion tank at the Manse.
- Trimmed trees and removed those that posed a danger to life and property.
- Replaced several smoke alarms in the SSRC and replaced all batteries.
- Replaced the US flags in the Cemetery.
- Graded and seeded that area around the Columbarium/Peace Garden.
- Replaced a bathroom exhaust fan.
- Repaired numerous bird holes in the exterior walls of the CE Building.
- Purchased two antique drop leaf tables for the Meiting House to replace modern school tables.
- Repaired fascia that had blown off the SSRC.
- Installed aluminum fascia wraps on all rake boards at the Manse.
- Added additional gutter guards at the Manse.
- Removed the obsolete stairlift from the SSRC.
- Cleaned the windows at the MH and CE Building
- Cleaned the SSRC chimney.
- Generally maintained the grounds, including grass cutting, weeding and pruning, raking, and brush cutting.

The B&G committee is thankful for those who have faithfully stepped up with their financial support of the maintenance needs of the church facilities, as well as the many dedicated volunteers who are always ready to share their time and talents when called upon.

*Buildings and Grounds Committee members and participants:*

John Ake (co-chair)

Alan Flenner (co-chair)

Jerry Schnell (chair emeritus)

Terry Reed

Terry Jones

Fred Voigt

Rodger Hoke

Karen Karkuff

Stefan Karkuff

Nancy Gawlas

Mike Gawlas

Diane Rabold

Rev. Don Wahlig

## 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 2023 was a full, active year for our CE programs and activities. We had many successes and a few backsteps, but the year was exciting and full. We were truly blessed as a committee and program.

During Lenten season in 2023, the Sunday School made wooden crosses, decorated with colorful paper and designs. The crosses were displayed all around the church, and 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 eighty 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!

CE initiated a new idea in 2023 in early spring, a Victory Garden! The idea was to form and plant a garden on church grounds and grow vegetables and flowers. The produce will be harvested and given to local charities and food banks. It was a dry, tough year for the garden and the critters got to our plants, but we will try again in 2024 and make our Victory Garden victorious!

CE youth also sponsored a new event, a “Spring Fling” in early spring in 2023. A dinner of mostly salads, of all kinds were provided in a pot-luck dinner, donated by our church members. Music was provided by a DJ and Pastor Lisa and Ellen Frey taught and led us in a variety of dances like the Foxtrot, line dancing, etc.

Our teachers were once again thanked and recognized for the past year, presented 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.

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 2023. With approximately seventy-two 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 2024, to be held both during the day and the evening. Watch for announcements, sign up and help—you will love it!

During the beginning of the school year, we again held a service of blessing 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. Co-chairs Drew Crompton and Scott Pepperman made the presentation during both services with the promise, if the students “wore” them out, we would replace them!

The Committee sponsored two bus trips to Sight and Sound in Lancaster, to see the presentation of both “MOSES” and “The Miracle of Christmas!” Over thirty members of our congregation and other congregations traveled to the Theatre and then enjoyed fellowship and lunch at Shady Maple and Diener’s Family Smorgasbords, also located in Lancaster. A wonderful time was had by all, and plans are being made for a trip back in 2024 to see the presentation of “DANIEL.” Watch for announcements in early 2024!

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. Christmas breakfast was a full breakfast, attended by eighty members of the congregation. Both were magnificent events to provide fellowship during the Christmas season.

CE Youth were also busy sponsoring a “Parent Drop-Off” night during early December. Several families brought their children to the church and CE Youth and Adults provided a pizza dinner, arts and crafts and games in the gym. CE Youth are planning a similar event for the 2024 Valentine’s Day.

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 of

“Michael Mouse” about a mouse present at the birth of Jesus, was a huge hit! It was done in the style of the old “Prairie Home Companion Show,” with actors and a narrator and music. It was an evening to remember and helped to begin a wonderful Christmas week-end celebration.

The Committee looks forward to celebrating these events again in 2024 and more!

In God’s Peace.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,  
Drew Crompton and Scott Pepperman, Christian Education Co-Chairs

## 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 Chapel for bible study.

From January to May, we utilized and discussed the Horizon's Bible Study 2022-2023 entitled "*Celebrating Sabbath – Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*" by Carol M. Bechtel.

From September thru the current month, our group has been studying the Horizon's Bible Study 2023-2024 entitled "*Scared Encounters – The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*" by Olive Mahabir.

**Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter:** God calls us to make ourselves available for God's purpose.

**The Exorcism in Gerasa:** Jesus' presence and human vulnerability can result in a personal and communal transformation.

**A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ:** Jesus calls us out of the shadows and claims us as his own.

**Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus:** Jesus calls us to value the role of each person in the community of faith.

**A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus:** Jesus challenges us to overcome our prejudices, embrace others, and invite all people into the community of faith.

**A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus:** God calls us to affirm that each person is a child of God who should be treated with dignity and equity.

**An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus:** The Word of God is an essential tool for expanding the reign of God.

**Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship:** Baptism connects us to God and the community of faith.

**People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples:** The community of faith relies on the power of Jesus Christ in times of crisis.

We also conducted a service project by collecting feminine hygiene products for the homeless in Harrisburg to be distributed through Valley Youth House. We welcome all women of the church to join us whenever they 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 toward tithing 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 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 Viperman and Rev. Don Wahlig.

### **2023 Season of Commitment**

This year's Season of Commitment began on Sunday, October 1, and culminated with Commitment Sunday, which was also Reformation Sunday, on October 29. In conjunction therewith, CLE Co-Chair Bill Resser took the lead in developing **SSPC's 2024 Financial Narrative**, which described in detail, our Session's plans and goals for 2024 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. This document told the story of how we are striving to fulfill Christ's greatest commandment through the allocation of resources, respectively, to: **loving and worshipping God; loving and serving our members; and loving and serving our neighbors.**

Beginning on October 8, and on the next two Sundays, members of our congregation shared personal messages about one of these aspects of Silver Spring's ministry and mission. On October 8, the Rev. Alexander Craighead, in the person of Steve Rexford, returned to Silver Spring to have a fascinating conversation with Rev. Wahlig, during which he reminded us that our congregation has been faithfully loving and worshipping God at this special place by James Silver's spring for nearly 290 years, and shared his confidence for a bright future. On October 15, Emily Krebs focused specifically on how we allocate

our resources to loving and serving our members, and on October 22, Karen Karkuff shared a beautiful message on the ways we strive to love and serve our neighbors.

Our communications highlighted some of Session's plans for 2024, including salary and benefit increases for our staff, replacing our old phone system and some heat pumps, performing monument and slate repair in our historic cemetery, substantially increasing our financial support of local social service organizations, and upgrading our IT system for The Gathering. Members who have yet to begin their journey on the "Road to Tithing," as we have called it, were invited to determine their current giving percentage and to then prayerfully consider increasing it by 1% of their income each year until reaching 10%. The 2024 Stewardship Commitment Form contained a link to SSPC's website that enabled members to make the financial portion of their 2024 commitments online, and members were invited to also consider making a commitment of their time and talent.

Our Season of Commitment concluded with worship on October 29, when we consecrated our 2024 stewardship commitments. As of January 11, 2024, stewardship commitments had been received pledging \$671,523 to support SSPC's ministry and mission in 2024, including commitments from 68 members/families who pledged to increase their giving in 2024, and an additional 15 commitments from members/families who had not made a financial stewardship commitment for 2023.

### **The 1734 Legacy Society**

The **1734 Legacy Society** 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 our ministry, mission and worship; 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.

As explained in June 27, 2018 correspondence to the congregation, individual members, couples or families who contribute a minimum of \$1734 in cash, stocks or bonds, or who make arrangements through their estate plans for donations totaling a minimum of

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\$1,734 to one or more of these permanent funds will be recognized as members of the **1734 Legacy Society**. 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 May 17, 2023. The meeting included an overview of the all of SSPC's Permanent Funds, including a detailed report on the fund balances, total contributions, and contributions by year for the three **1734 Legacy Society**-eligible funds. In addition, the attendees were updated on all of the discussion topics from the 2022 Annual Meeting, and CLE Committee initiatives for 2023.

In addition, Bill Resser presented on the concepts of a leaving 'final gift' to SSPC by designating a percentage of one's estate be given to SSPC, and the Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). Discussion followed on these and earlier topics.

As of December 31, 2023, the TFEC **Fund for the Living Word** has a balance of approximately \$187,217, the TFEC **Buildings and Grounds Fund** has a balance of approximately \$167,329; and **The Heritage Fund**, administered by the Presbyterian Foundation, has a balance of approximately \$247,797.

### **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

## BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons continues to be busy with the congregation and in the church. We are blessed to have our Associate Pastor, Lisa Chase, as our leader and role model. Lisa's updates on our congregants each month help the Deacons recognize potential needs throughout the church. Our meetings continue to be hybrid although we believe in person does offer a greater opportunity for collaborative ideas. Our budget and expenses continue to be overseen by Treasurer, Susan Evans. Deacons operated with the same funds allotted in the 2022 budget. These funds provide for the coffee after services, needs of congregants, and are used for outreach in the community.

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

### Communications – Chair, Melanie Pepperman

This group sends various cards year-round to SSPC members celebrating birthdays, births, expressing get well, thinking of you, and sympathy. The number of cards sent during 2023 were as follows: 645 Birthday, 98 Get Well/Thinking of You, 18 Sympathy, 3 Births and 6 significant anniversaries/birthdays. This year the purchase of additional cards for our Pastors to send as needed was also included in the Deacon budget.

### Community Service – Chair, Claudia Brown

Community Service provides gift cards for needy families who approach the church for help. Our Angel Tree, which is a huge undertaking, was extremely successful in 2023. Over one hundred gifts were distributed among five schools in the Cumberland Valley School District to children in need. We received notes and emails of appreciation from the counselors at all the schools. The generosity of our members allows us to continue this important project. We also thank the Deacons who assisted with organizing, completing tags, and ultimately delivering the gifts.

### Care Outreach – Chairs, Roxanne and Charlie Dagino

This group provides meals, childcare and transportation to church members and families who need support during a health crisis, family loss, or other time 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 2023 members of the Care Committee provided meals to nine Silver Spring families ranging from a single meal to multiple meals over several weeks. Transportation to health appointments was provided to three 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, Megan Crompton

The Transition committee provides members who have had a life altering event with a hand crocheted item. Members who have experienced a health issue or death are approached with a prayer shawl or lap afghan blanket. Transition also reaches out to grandparents and parents celebrating a birth with the gift of baby hats. Nine members accepted the gift of a prayer shawl/chemo cap. Three baby hats were gifted to those celebrating a birth.

### 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. The 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. This year three funeral lunches were held at the church.

In addition to our Care Groups, the Deacons provide coffee for both services and volunteers for the Fall Faire. 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 provide representatives to the following committees and provide input and assistance as needed.

Worship—Melanie Pepperman  
Health Ministries—Lisa Chase and Melanie Pepperman  
Youth Groups—Nick Pierce  
Membership & Manna Project— Mary Jane Voigt  
Nominating—John Shoop  
Coffee—Matt Wieseman  
Session—Rotating Deacons

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Marshall

Deacon Moderator, 2023-2024

## EARTH CARE TEAM



The Earth Care team continues to keep busy with an assortment of projects. In 2023, we continued our monthly meetings over Zoom. This continues to be the most efficient way for our group to convene. Our first project was centered around Earth Day in April, where we hosted an on-campus event to showcase spotted lanternfly traps. We demonstrated construction of traps that can be placed on trees to help stop the spread of these invasive insects. Several trees around campus were armed with a trap, and participants could make their own to bring home. We had about 15 participants. We also coordinated with Children's Education to support a demonstration Community Garden. Both Earth Care and CE, along with the senior high fellowship and continuous care by Glen Weber, transformed a small plot behind Waugh Wilson into a garden complete with deer fencing. We have about 20 participants. The garden was planted with transplants started by the preschoolers in early spring. Unfortunately our garden was unproductive in 2023 due to lack of rain and smaller pests getting inside the fence and eating our plants. We plan to address our 2023 issues and try again in 2024!

In May we added to our native plant garden under the preschool windows that faces the playground. Lara Schlitter purchased a shade-tolerant grass called Pennsylvania Sedge. We planted over 40 plugs and watered these young plants during the dry summer. The hope is they will spread on their own to revegetate the bare ground that exists under the preschool windows.

Our existing pollinator meadow continues to flourish by the old volleyball court. This year half the meadow was mown on Fall Work Day to save some dead standing wildflower stalks that are overwintering homes for native insects. Leaving the stand unmown will not affect the floral display in 2024. Bill Schneider and Tanya Wager continued their maintenance of the Peace Garden, adding new plants as needed.

We submitted articles to the monthly Enlighten newsletter on various environmental topics including monarch migration, American Marten reintroduction in Pennsylvania, and living with a bald-faced hornet nest. Kathy Henderson continues to provide earth care tips and tricks to the weekly announcements.

For the Fall Faire, the Earth Care team contributed a silent auction basket filled with earth-friendly products that we've promoted to our congregation over the years. Our basket sold for \$45.

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We continue to maintain our status as an Earth Care Congregation and look forward to new and exciting projects in 2024! We are already committed to host a talk on environmental injustice as part of a new monthly educational series called Courageous Conversations. Silver Spring Presbyterian Church will host our talk in June. We also look forward to a new water filling station in the gym that was originally brainstormed by our group and approved by B&G for installation in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stefan Karkuff

## **FALL FAIRE**

Fall Faire 2023 once again brought together volunteers of all ages who all contributed to making the event a success for our congregation, community and neighbors. With all elements in place and ready to go, we experienced a rainy day which necessitated canceling the hayride and pumpkin patch. All other components, including children's games, were successfully brought inside.

Our traditional components of White Elephant, crafts, homemade lunch and baked goods were enhanced with the addition of the Silent Auction (which was a huge success), fresh floral arrangements, Facebook Marketplace and perennial sales.

Revenues were \$12,734.76, expenses were \$3,118.01, resulting in a net profit of \$9,795.35.

Many, many hands made our Fall Faire a successful event and much appreciation is extended for all the many hours of time donated.

Respectfully,

Karen Karkuff for the committee

Nancy Gawlas

Bonnie Davis

Lisa Janson

Linda Azen

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

### **Fellowship Mission Statement**

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

### **February 12th – Heart to Heart Jazz Luncheon** with live band and Valentine theme.

The Heart to Heart Jazz Luncheon was a huge success with about 85 people in attendance. Fellowship served: salad, chicken cordon bleu, vegan tofu loaf, cheesy scalloped potatoes and peas on the SSPC china, with linen table covers and centerpieces. The banquet hall looked lovely. The Band was fantastic - The Noah Spangler Quartet Jazz band. The decor had a Valentine theme, including a photo booth. There were also Valentine hearts and trivia questions on each table. The Valentine hearts were for people to put what they love most about SSPC. Then the hearts were displayed around the Gym, and later moved into the Gathering Place for people to see them.

### **April 2nd – Palm Sunday Brunch reception**

The Palm Sunday reception was a great success, with about 100 people attending. The Gathering Place was decorated for Easter with a large Easter egg tree, potted tulips and other colorful spring decor. The committee served a variety of homemade hot and cold finger foods and punch. The event was well attended.

### **August 27th – Congregational End-of-Summer Brunch Social** between the 2 services.

The End-of-Summer brunch social was well received. The Gathering Place was decorated with a beach theme. Beach umbrellas, flip flops, beach towels, shells were part of the décor, along with six yellow paper sun shapes hanging from the ceiling. The place looked very festive. The committee served a variety of homemade hot and cold finger foods and pudding for about 65 people.

A Summer Vacation fun bulletin board display was set-up for the month of August, for people to post their summer adventures – the fun places they went and fun things they did that summer. The purpose of this was as a conversation starter, to get people to know each other better, and encourage conversation.

### **September 10<sup>th</sup> – Rally Day event**

The Fellowship Committee showed their Team Spirit with a blue & white Penn State tailgate theme, complete with a display board of Fellowship events, pom poms and a PSU

style chant – “We Are Fellowship”! There was even a CD playing the Penn State Marching Band. The committee signed up several volunteers to help with events! Most of all we had FUN!

**September 17<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Welcome Dinner** for Rev. Iain and Ann May

The Welcome Dinner featured a potluck with hamburgers and veggie burgers. 72 people attended this event. The attendees brought their best salads, side dishes and desserts, so the spread was impressive. We had quite a selection. Rev. & Mrs. May seemed quite happy with the food.

After dinner, Rev. Iain showed us his slide show about his church in South Leith, his ministry, the differences between our church and his, about his community, Edinburgh, and Scotland in general, and about the historical Christian significance of the region. Rev. Iain did a fantastic job with the slide show/discussion, and fielding questions. A vase of sunflowers was presented to the Mays as a Thank You. This event was well attended and very much enjoyed.

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – Children’s Halloween Party**

The committee hosted a well thought-out and staffed event. We only had 17 children attending this event, despite the fact that close to 200 were invited. The invite went out to 97 children from Vacation Bible school + all the Preschool children + our church families were invited...so the attendance numbers were very disappointing, but the Committee did a fantastic job, planning and executing the event. Part of the reason for the low attendance is that it had rained the previous 2 weekends, and it was sunny on our party day. Many families had outdoor things they wanted to do. Everyone that came had a great time. Fellowship will not be hosting this event in the future but may assist.

**Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – Fall Fireside Dinner at WW Retreat Center @ 4 PM –  
Fall/apple theme dinner.**

This event was a huge success! There were over 70 people in attendance – inside the WW Retreat house. The committee had to get creative and make extra dining space in two of the bedrooms. Normally, the house only has seating for 42 people. The house was fully decorated for fall, and the cosy fireplace had a lovely display of flickering candles and fresh greens.

The committee served pulled pork, vegan BBQ, candied sweet potatoes and green beans with home made apple crisp for dessert. The main event was the history talks



and tours provided by Terry Reed and Jay Ledvina, giving attendees an overview of the scope of work and effort that went into rehabilitating the structure into the grand Retreat Center it is today. The history talks were held in three different areas in the house, so everyone could hear them. This was a very well-received event.

**December 10<sup>th</sup> – Choir Christmas Cantata Reception**

The committee hosted a lovely reception after the Choir Cantata for about 80 people. There were a variety of homemade brownies, cookies, and other tasty treats and a festive holiday punch. The serving tables were decorated with lovely centerpieces full of fresh greens and holly. Along with the poinsettias, the Gathering Place looked lovely as people conversed while enjoying the holiday treats.

During the whole month of December, the Committee hosted the “Elf on the Shelf” activity for everyone to participate and have fun moving the Elf around the church for others to find.

**December 17<sup>th</sup> – Live Nativity Assistance** – Event was cancelled by the Worship Committee due to inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Frey and Carol Service  
Co-chairs, Fellowship Committee

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The following is a summary of the activities and actions of the Finance Committee for 2023:

1. Worked with Session and Committees to prepare a detailed budget for 2024.
2. Monitored income and expenses throughout the year, reporting detailed line-by-line results to the Session and providing weekly summaries to the membership.

### 2023 Financial Summary

Total Budgeted Revenue: \$860,085.17

Total Budgeted Expenses: \$890,572.58

Actual Operating Revenue: \$998,440.54

Actual Expenses: \$942,427.76

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Karkuff and Gary Hollinger  
Co-chairs, Finance Committee

## **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 12 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 of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church is alive and well. We are a group of believers, skilled in areas of health care, who work collaboratively for the health of individuals and of the congregation as a whole.

The second Sunday of each month is Blood Pressure Sunday. A member of the Health Ministry Team will be available to meet you from 10–10:45 am to monitor your pressure.

Our group oversees our emergency equipment to make sure that the Automatic Defibrillators are powered and ready to be used if/when necessary. Our blood pressure cuffs are recalibrated on a regular basis. All of our first aid kits are checked on a regular basis to restock and remove expired items.

We have a very full medical supply closet for our church membership should anyone need items for home care. If there are items needed for anyone in our congregation, please call the church office and you will be put in touch with a member of the Health Ministry team. A new forum entitled *Healthy Aging Through all Decades of Life* has been implemented by Mike and Nancy Gawlas. The third Sunday of the first 6 months in 2024 will be the days of their presentations. The first session was a huge success and we encourage everyone to attend.

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

Respectively submitted,  
Mary Poague Rexford, Health Ministry Coordinator

## **INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR**

The Intergenerational Choir meets during the first 10-15 minutes of Sunday School and is run by Tracy Wieseman. The Intergenerational Choir is a choir for all ages. The members of the Intergenerational Choir enjoy sharing their love of music through singing with each other and with the congregation. We perform on the last Sunday of the month during the school year. The Intergenerational Choir alternates between services and enjoyed singing with the Sanctuary Choir in the annual Christmas cantata in December 2023.

We will continue to alternate between the Traditional and Gathering Services in 2024. We hope to continue to grow as more people at SSPC hear our music and will continue to include opportunities for the congregation to sing along with us during our performances.

Submitted by,

Tracy L. Wieseman

Music Associate-SSPC

## LIFE CHANGES IN 2023

### Weddings

Kendra Ferguson and Thomas Castanzo	March 4, 2023
Delinda Harper and Todd Biedermann	August 11, 2023
Alix Chronister and John Fider	October 21, 2023

### Member Deaths

Ken Swatt	February 23, 2023
Ralph Tygard	March 9, 2023
Marie Smith	March 19, 2023
Vera Brechbiel	November 23, 2023

### Deaths of Friends and Family

David “Ez” Flory	February 2, 2023
Lee Cavanaugh	February 3, 2023
Patricia Black	February 27, 2023
Ron Baker	March 20, 2023
Laura Delmato	March 16, 2023
Joshua Scandle	April 2, 2023
Joe Neville	April 6, 2023
Donald Hunt	June 1, 2023
Ada Jones	June 2, 2023
Jack Knuttila	June 2, 2023
David LeRoy	June 22, 2023
Robert Bivens	July 30, 2023
Annabelle Saylor	August 13, 2023
Patsy Vipperman	August 16, 2023
Ed Ebersole	August 21, 2023
Barbara McCarthy	September 3, 2023
Wilbert Griffith	September 10, 2023
Dorothy Thumma	October 20, 2023
Ann Biery	November 6, 2023
Regina Walsh	November 17, 2023
Frank Haley	December 15, 2023

## **LIVE NATIVITY**

Preparations were made to provide a new Live Nativity experience on December 17 this year. Unfortunately, we had to cancel yet again for exactly the same inclement weather which included several inches of rain and high winds! As an alternative we decided to have a nativity with live characters in costume between the two Christmas Eve services. Many thanks go to the entire Ringquist family for stepping up on short notice to play the parts of Mary, Joseph, the angel Gabriel, and two shepherds (with only stuffed sheep!). Bryan Corbin and our youth set a beautiful stage with luminaries lighting the drive. Many thanks to Terry Reed, Dave Gray, Jay Ledvina, and Kyle Weary for setting up the stable, lighting, music and hanging the star from the roof.

The response we received from those in attendance Christmas Eve was very positive.

Respectfully,  
Suellen Ledvina

SOLA DEO GLORIA

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

This past year the Membership Committee continued focus on strategies to reach prospective members through printed materials, social media, and local community websites. The committee also looked at resources to connect with current members.

### **Digital Strategies**

- Produced another member testimonial video highlighting what attracted this family to SSPC, how the church supports their faith journey, and how they have plugged into ministries here.
- Continued the development of Google advertising to help increase in-person and online attendance of our worship services.
- Worked with church staff to enrich our presence on Facebook; this year the church expanded its social media presence to Instagram.
- Explored the possibility of reaching out to the community via local websites and communication forums.
- Encouraged the congregation to upload photographs of themselves to the directory on Realm.
- Started to explore the possibility of printing a directory from Realm for those who would prefer a text copy of the church directory.

### **Member and Community Connections**

- Continued production of the Enlighten newsletter that highlights church events, groups and activities of specific interest to young adults, families with children, and recent (or soon-to-be) empty nesters.
- Rally Day continues to be success. This year a video with photos of church life was projected on the monitor in the Gathering Place—all the church committees contributed photos that reflected their activities.
- Promoted the per-capita apportionment and its importance to the church. Letters were sent explaining the per-capita and encouraging individuals to contribute. Our goal was to have 40% of the congregation contribute; above 48% contributed. Next year we hope to surpass 50%. Proposed strategies, in addition to letters, include having it added as an item on the pledge cards and giving a button or sticker saying “I contributed my per-capita.”
- Developed cards that list upcoming activities and services. They were distributed at Fall Faire. The cards for Advent and Christmas were distributed by Lisa Chase and Shawn

*Cont. on next page*



Marshall to the households in the new neighborhood behind the church. Cards have been made for Lent and Holy Week activities.

- Posters listing activities and services are being placed at the entrance to the Gym and the entrance to the preschool.
- A trifold brochure is being developed to give to prospective members that highlights the multigenerational programs and activities of the church.
- Supported Scott Pepperman’s work to introduce new member name tags that are easier to read.

### **Manna Project**

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

### **New Members**

- There were nine new members who joined Silver Spring in 2023. There were four confirmands. Our new members this past year are: Ed Maurer, Jan Maurer, Bob Buyers, John Crompton, Josiah Montgomery, Maxwell Miller, Brayden Pierce, Matthew Ringquist, and Lilliana Taylor.

Silver Spring Active Roll Membership
Silver Spring Active Member Roll, as of December 31, 2022 – 544
Number of Members Added to the Active Roll in 2023 – 9
Number of Members Removed from the Active Roll in 2023– 9
Silver Spring Active Member Roll, as of December 31, 2023 – 544

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Davis and Susan Neville, Co-Chairs

## 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 and Handy Helpers.

During 2023, 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, Maine, the Gulf Coast and internationally to South Africa and Madagascar.

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 over approximately 152,000 people 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 the Madagascar Fruit Tree planting agriculture project and their Health Improvement program; 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 & 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**

Thirty-four volunteers worked on three projects from 29 January-4 February 2023 at the Gainesville Florida Habitat for Humanity new build construction site. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> year of ROAR trips.

### **ROAR MATE (Mission At The Eastward)**

Due to a last minute cancellation of the housing arrangements this trip had to be postponed until 2024.

### **ROAR Fall Mission Trip to Cairo WV Summary**

Twenty-three volunteers worked on repairing 6 churches in the area. Worked on bathrooms, installed siding, rebuilt ramps, built partitions and installed an interior door, rebuilt an exterior door on one shed and tore down one shed. Terry noted that 3 of these small churches contributed \$700 for construction materials and the cost for some of the meals for the ROAR team.

### **Rebuilding Together Projects**

SSPC has had an active partnership with Rebuilding Together for many years. Our House Captains and their team of volunteers completed several projects for Rebuilding Together in 2023 assisting area residents who were in need. The following is a list of the completed projects:

- Doris's mobile home in Carlisle required several projects and extensive man hours. A new exterior landing and stairs were constructed. An old tub/shower was removed and replaced with a new walk-in shower. They removed a rotted living room floor and replaced it with new flooring. The team also installed a new exterior door.
- In William's Enola Condo, they replaced an old tub/shower combo with an easy access walk-in shower. They also had to replace and finish all drywall and trim throughout the bathroom.

- Betty's mobile home in Carlisle needed some weatherizing. They removed a broken window and installed a new replacement window. They also removed broken storm windows and repaired the window framing before installing new storm windows.
- Dorie's mobile home in Carlisle required some additional mobility items. They installed a comfort height toilet and three safety grab bars in various locations.
- At Dave's mobile home in Mechanicsburg they removed the poor condition bathroom floor and installed new sub flooring and finished floor materials. Braces were installed under the bathroom floor to add stability to that area. Broken window replaced with a new window. We built a new porch and steps at the exterior door adjacent to the master bedroom. Repairs were made to existing steps, the back door and the ramp at the front door. The old rusted chimney cap was removed and a new cap was installed.
- At Cynthia's home in Mechanicsburg, we installed three motion sensor lights at strategic locations on the porch at her back door. Installed a railing on the steps at her front door. Removed the broken accordion door at the master bath and installed a new accordion door. Installed a cordless doorbell system. Replaced two ground fault receptacles in the kitchen. Installed two smoke/carbonization detectors. Repaired skirting on the front of the home.
- Work at Holly's house in Mechanicsburg Boro included replacement of the main water shutoff valve for the house, replacement of drain piping under the kitchen and bathroom sinks, running an electric snake through the kitchen drain to unclog same, new sprayer nozzle at the kitchen sink, new faucet on the bathroom sink and flex connections for hot and cold water, new Fluid-master flush valve in the toilet, a new storm door and new glass pane in the front door. A plumber was needed to change out the main water shut off valve and to re-plumb the drains at the kitchen and bathroom sinks.

The above projects were completed by 19 SSPC volunteers for a total of 793 hours.

### **2022 Handy Helpers Report**

Handy Helpers (HH) was organized and initiated by the Mission Committee to help meet the property maintenance and changing lifestyle needs of SSPC members, attendees and their neighbors. Our Handy Helper participants were very busy this year. Thirteen Handy Helpers performed approximately 277 Man hours of work completing 45 different projects for ten different Church members. Also, the Handy Helpers received a request to assist a local non-church member family with emergent home repairs. These repairs were completed using HH volunteers and the materials paid for using Mission Needs funds.

### **Feed My Starving Children**

Sixteen volunteers participated in the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event held March 16-18. The volunteers helped pack over 100,000 meals which will be distributed to

starving children worldwide.

### **Fall Fair Gift Basket**

Mr. Doug Barrick was the winner of the Mission Committee sponsored work basket at the Fall Fair. Due to scheduling problems this work will be completed in the spring of 2024.

### **SPECIAL OFFERINGS 2022**

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 \$2,460.00. Our portion \$615 went towards the prevention of human trafficking; \$615.00 went to the Carlisle Presbytery; and \$1230.00 went to PCUSA.

The Pentecost Offering was \$1656 Our portion was \$662 went to the Valley Youth House; \$994 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.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering generated \$4204.00 which helps fund disaster relief, refugee assistance and development aid through the 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 totaled \$2582.00. This amount was collected in December of 2023 but it is not possible to forward it by the end of the fiscal year and is not dispersed until the January of the following year (2024).

### **Denominational Support**

A total of \$11,345.00 was given to the PCUSA General Assembly, Synod, and Carlisle Presbytery through the various special offerings and the Presbytery Shared Giving.

### **South Africa Partnership**

2023 was a year of planning and preparation for our 20+ year relationship with our sister church, Madadeni-Newcastle Congregation of the Uniting Presbyterian Church. The South Africa Task Force worked throughout the year communicating with our partners through

Zoom and Email to plan travel in 2024 and to budget for the expenses. The members of the New Castle Uniting Presbyterian Church will be hosting 4 Silver Spring travelers, February 1-13, 2024. Rev. Lisa Chase, Randall Chase and Susan and Sarah Neville will be representing our congregation on this journey. Travel arrangements were made during 2023 for this trip. They will be housed with families of the church and eat at their tables. They will tour the region and the other outpost churches. They will attend and participate in two worship services. They will work with the children of the church and will conduct a modified VBS for them.

In August/September of 2024 SSPC will host a delegation of South African Travelers in our homes and church. Plans for these expenses were made in 2023.

We are blessed to continue this vibrant and close relationship with our sisters and brothers, supporting them in their efforts and look forward to this upcoming year of travel and renewing our bonds.

### **Missionary Support**

This year our missionary Support fund amount of \$2500 was split between Madagascar Health Work and Madagascar Fruit Tree Work. The Turk Family through PCUSA administers those two Missionary Programs.

### **OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES 2023**

#### **Truck Stop Ministry**

Six Mission Committee members and fourteen SSPC volunteers baked, packaged, labeled and delivered approximately 200 dozen chocolate chip cookies to the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry as part of the annual Roy McLain/SSPC local Christmas Mission project. These cookies are distributed to truck drivers during the holiday season.

### **ONGOING AGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

During 2023, SSPC supported 27 charitable agencies through regular donations. SSPC congregants through their time and talents also support these local agencies.

The following is a list of those agencies and contributions:

Presbytery shared Giving - \$3687

Downtown Daily Bread - \$2750

Ecumenical Food Pantry - \$1000

Fruit Belt Farm Workers - \$600

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Habitat for Humanity Harrisburg - \$500  
Habitat for Humanity Cumberland Valley - \$500  
Perry Housing Partnership - \$500  
Meals on Wheels - \$800  
New Hope Ministries - \$747  
Christian Churches United - \$100  
South Central PA Food Bank - \$500  
Truck Stop Ministry - \$600  
ROAR/Winter Trip - \$8620  
ROAR/Regional Trip - \$8416  
South Africa Foreign Mission - \$4259  
Support/Disaster Relief - \$900  
Emergency Assistance - \$700  
ROAR Mate - \$1000  
Cumberland / Perry Domestic Violence - \$650  
Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches - \$100  
Missionary Support - \$2500  
Beacon Medical Clinic - \$3250  
Rebuilding Together - \$500  
Healthy Steps Diaper Bank - \$500  
Contact Helpline - \$200  
Handy Helpers - \$325

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

Family Promise - \$1000

### **PROJECTED 2024 ACTIVITIES**

During 2024, 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 nine of the agencies we currently support financially. We will continue to strive to expand assistance to other agencies. The ROAR team plans three mission trips in 2024; Handy Helpers will continue to assist members of the congregations; and Rebuilding Together volunteers will continue to build or rehab houses locally for the needy.

### **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. Glory be to 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 of Christ. Hallelujah!

Respectfully Submitted by Fred Shatto and Cheryl Moore  
Mission Committee Co-Chairs



## MUSIC MINISTRY

2023 was a year of growth, and a continued rethinking of our music ministry at SSPC. I consider 2023 another successful one for music for Silver Spring Presbyterian Church! SSPC is blessed with a talented and dedicated group of people that work hard to make beautiful music each and every week. With new members joining us, the Sanctuary Choir is averaging 25-30 members on a “full” Sunday morning!

The annual Christmas Cantata was presented on December 10, 2023 with a large attendance at the service. The choir presented “Images of Adoration,” a Cantata accompanied by an orchestra that joined us for the Sunday morning offering of the Cantata.

Overall, it has been an exciting year at SSPC for music as Tracy and I will continue to explore new opportunities for growth within the music program, and am always open to new ideas.

Kyle continues to direct the Gathering Band for the Gathering Service, while Tracy leads the band during the summer months. The band continues to strive to bring more people to know Jesus. We have added new click tracks to round out our sound and have continued to add more music to our repertoire.

In the seven years that I’ve been at SSPC, I feel blessed to be a part of God’s work at Silver Spring and I look forward to what is in store in the coming year.

Musically Yours,

Kyle J. Weary, 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.

All of our meetings were held in person.

The candidates nominated and approved in 2023 are listed below:

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (Term of One Year, with no more than 3 consecutive terms)

Jim Anderson (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

Bill Cook (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

Nancy Gawlas (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

Kathy Henderson (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Sally McGaffin (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

Lucy Vaughan (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

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

#### **Class of 2026**

Buildings & Grounds	Alan Flenner
Commitment	Jim Anderson
Fellowship	Ellen Frey
Fellowship	Carol Service
Finance	Gary Karkuff
IT	Bill Vipperman
Membership	Bob Davis
Mission	Cheryl Moore

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

Brady Miller

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

**Class of 2025**

Megan Crompton

Roxanne Dagino

Ashley Dierich

Holly Lawrence

Chris Sebring

**Youth Deacon**

Nicholas Pierce

Respectively submitted,

Kris Carpinello (Co-Chair)

Diane Lupia (Co-Chair)

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

During 2023 the Personnel Committee was comprised of: Emily Krebs (co-chair), Forrest Adams (co-chair), Don Wahlig (Head of Staff), and the following members-at-large: Betsy Neilson 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 review of the Head of Staff is conducted by the co-chairs of the Personnel Committee.

On August 30th, an employee appreciation luncheon was given for the daytime staff, including the Preschool teachers. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, an appreciation continental breakfast was held for the Sunday worship staff.

Clarification changes were made to the Employee Handbook.

The Sexton job description was finalized.

Preschool part-time positions include the director, teachers, assistant teachers, and floaters (aids who 'float' to where they are needed). This year three new positions were added. A Preschool Office Assistant to administer the record keeping and financial tracking for the Lunch Bunch program. A Preschool Business Assistant to track the documents required by PA DHS, tuition, and payroll. These functions were previously handled by the director. The director's on-site hours were subsequently reduced. Also, a Preschool Custodian was hired to handle the after-hours cleaning.

With the dismissal of the Preschool Advisory Board, the Preschool's accountability to the Session was transferred to the Personnel Committee which will retain oversight of the Preschool. Except for the 'called pastors', Session is the body to approve the hire and dismissal of employees. The Personnel Committee asked Session to simplify and expedite the process of hiring and dismissing employees of the Preschool. Session appointed the Co-chairs of the Personnel Committee as a standing commission of Session to authorize the staffing of positions under the Preschool Director. All new job descriptions for the Preschool must be approved by Session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Krebs and Forrest Adams (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**

## SSPC PRESCHOOL

SSPC Preschool has had a phenomenal year! The changes that we have made in relation to curriculum, staff, and community relationships have continued to thrill our families and we are so thankful to serve them.

In the past year, with the addition of office staff members, parents have a direct contact for tuition and extracurricular payments, while I am able to give my attention to curriculum, students and teachers in their classrooms. The benefit of having an office ‘team’ has made the position more effective and enjoyable for all involved.

While the year was not as profitable as we had estimated or hoped, our Pancake breakfast fundraiser helped immensely *and* proved to be a huge success for fellowship. We cannot wait to host it again this year on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

We have enjoyed the support of Session members and committees and are very thankful for their assistance! Our families truly enjoy Coffee Mornings with Scott Pepperman and Pastor Lisa. Thank you to Diane Lupia once again, for writing to our children from the “North Pole.” And lastly, thank you to Betsy Neilson and Jerry Schnell for their assistance with finances and DHS licensing.

We are looking forward to another productive registration month, as almost all of our classes are full! Our ongoing relationship with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit has given our families and their children additional Special Education support that we have not had previously. For this we are very grateful!

This year’s dedicated SSPC Preschool staff includes:

Sandy Aanensen	Nadia Angeles	Carrie Ball
Erinn Blasco	Lauren Brown	Alison Calzada
Jen Gibson	Laurie Keating-Duttry	Nicole Kusumba
Shelly Maffei	Sally Martin	Sue Martinelli
Becky Montney	Candace Paul	Anna Sharp
Tiffany Smith	Erin Stone	Kristin Wilson
Tricia Yost		

In Christ’s Service and a love for education,  
Emily Cocores

## **SILVER SPRING RETREAT CENTER (Waugh-Wilson House)**

The Silver Spring Retreat Center continued to provide excellent lodging and gathering facilities for groups in 2023. Total number of groups staying in 2023 was 89. This compares to 63 groups in 2022, 45 groups in 2021, 24 groups in 2020. A large part of this increase was due to Thrive Space, the homeschool group, who uses the Retreat Center during the spring and fall for classes on Tuesdays. They used it 21 times. Of the 52 weekends in 2023, 44 weekends were booked, so only 8 weekends, most of which were holidays, were still left for potential rentals. Five of the 44 of those cancelled, so 39 weekends of 52 were occupied.

A rate increase went into effect on February 1, 2023. This was the first rate increase in 9 years, since the Retreat Center opened. Some of our 2023 groups were booked prior to the rate increase, so they paid the former rates, but the rest paid the increased rates. Some significant developments in 2023 include:

1. New driveway paving. Roof and gutter repair. Window washing. Water softening equipment replacement.
2. The Building and Grounds Committee continued to keep maintenance projects updated and Glen Weber did a wonderful job daily of maintaining the very expansive grounds.
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 Kathy Furr greeted groups and provided services when Karen was out of town.
4. Groups are diverse. Mission groups coming to town to do work, local church denominations retreats, weddings, baby showers, SSPC groups, local business meetings, Sewing and Quilting groups, Youth Groups.

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 Coordinator

## **SOUTH AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP**

2023 was a year of planning and preparation for our 20+ year relationship with our sister church, Madadeni-Newcastle Congregation of the Uniting Presbyterian Church. The South Africa Task Force worked throughout the year communicating with our partners through Zoom and email to plan travel in 2024 and to budget for the expenses.

The members of the New Castle Uniting Presbyterian Church will be hosting four Silver Spring travelers, February 1-13, 2024. Rev. Lisa Chase, Randall Chase and Susan and Sarah Neville will be representing our congregation on this journey. Travel arrangements were made during 2023 for this trip. They will be housed with families of the church and eat at their tables. They will tour the region and the other outpost churches. They will attend and participate in two worship services. They will work with the children of the church and will conduct a modified VBS for them.

In August/September of 2024, SSPC will host a delegation of South African Travelers in our homes and church. Plans for these expenses were made in 2023.

We are blessed to continue this vibrant and close relationship with our sisters and brothers, supporting them in their efforts and look forward to this upcoming year of travel and renewing our bonds.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry had a good year of refocus and further developing our program. An updated description of Stephen Ministry was formulated for Silver Spring's website to broaden our congregation's understanding and to provide information to people in the community. To show how Stephen Ministers carry out the key components of Silver Spring's vision and values, a new testimony has been written that expresses this important correlation. Knowing that the values and purpose of Stephen Ministry so closely align with those of our church is invaluable to our team.

One of the Stephen Ministers was trained this past year to provide ongoing leadership for our Stephen Ministry team through the Bridge Leader's Training Course offered by Stephen Ministries St. Louis. Participants in this interactive ten week course are grouped in cohorts of about 20 people from congregations across the US and around the world. The course focuses on resources to use to strengthen each Stephen Ministry team to help them provide purposeful leadership and care.

Silver Spring's Stephen Ministry has been further enhanced this year with the guidance of our Associate Pastor, Rev. Lisa Chase, who was trained as a Stephen Minister therefore bringing an understanding of and experience with the underpinnings of the ministry. We are so grateful for her counsel and positive energy.

We initiated *Stay and Pray*, a time for anyone to stay after each of our Sunday church services and pray with one of our Stephen Ministers. We want to continue this monthly opportunity and hope that our congregation will begin to participate. God wants a relationship with each of us, and praying together invites the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the year, we have worked confidentially with members of our congregation to help them overcome problems that were causing emotional or spiritual pain.

Ending 2023 with a Blue Christmas Service was a beautiful way of sending a message of hope and remembrance to those for whom the holiday season can be a stressful time of difficulty and sadness. The Stephen Ministers were honored to provide a time and place of comfort and support to those who attended this service.

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Ressler  
Stephen Ministry Leader

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Silver Spring Presbyterian Church Worship Committee is comprised of the following members: Carol Bogar and Bethany Kavulich (co-chairs), Reverend Don Wahlig, (Head of Staff), Dr. Kyle Weary, (Director of Music Ministry), Pat Ferris, Bob Davis, Mary Lou McLain, Margaret Glockner, Kathryn Ressler, Teena Russell, Lucy Vaughan, Diana Gray, and Melanie Pepperman, Deacon Representative.

This committee enjoys the responsibilities of scheduling liturgists, ushers, pulpit supply, communion preparers, and communion servers for both Sunday services and special events. The committee provides detailed instructions for both ushers, communion preparers and servers. Directions are updated as needed.

We continue to provide both a Traditional Service at 9 am in the Meeting House, with traditional hymns and a Gathering service at 11 am in the Chapel, with our Gathering Band providing contemporary music. Both of our services are live streamed to our congregation and guests who may be watching.

We support our pastors and welcome communication with them in the continuation of making our services special at Silver Spring. In addition, we welcome suggestions from members of the congregation to share with the committee to improve worship services and introduce new ideas that further enhance our worship services for all ages.

Banners/ Communion Table Runners: With the help of the quilters, we have made new Communion Table Runners for the Gathering Service and are in the process of making banners for the Meeting House.

The committee supports the following special events: Rally Day, Fall Faire, World Communion Sunday, Reformation Sunday and Hymn Sing Sunday. A strawberry and ice cream social added to the festivities following the Outdoor Service on May 21st.

We approved and endorsed the *Drive – Thru Blessing of the Animals* for October 7<sup>th</sup>.

The committee assists in organizing and supporting the following worship services and events:

- Lent: Provide ushers for both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Services. Provided both a Simple Supper and Communion for Maundy Thursday.

*Cont. on next page*

- Advent: Organized the *Hanging of the Greens*, by decorating the buildings and grounds for the Season of Advent, provided ushers for Christmas Eve services, prepared the candles for Christmas Eve services, provide support for the Live Nativity and organized the *Taking down of the Greens*.

*The committee gives special thanks to our staff, Priscilla Biller, John Clegg and Diane Rabold for their continued support.*

*Special thanks is also extended to the congregation for volunteering to help with our many activities.*

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bogar and Bethany Kavulich, Worship Committee Co-chairs

