



Springdale Presbyterian Church

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# Annual Report 2021

7812 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40241 | 502.425.1760 | [springdalechurch.org](http://springdalechurch.org)



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## CHURCH STATISTICS

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**Total Members:**

252

**New members:**

Cary Martin  
Trace Martin  
Kinsley Yaden  
Sullivan Yaden

**Baptisms:**

None

**Member deaths:**

Leo Link, 2/16/2021  
Robert Mendel, 1/6/2021  
Ellen Parks, 5/18/2021  
Bette Vaughan, 7/30/2021  
Patricia Whittingham, 1/30/2021  
Rick Whittingham, 3/29/2021  
Charles Wilson, 9/28/2021

**The Session – Elders in Active Service**

Class of 2022

Mark Levdahl  
Weldon Maisch  
Jean Podbelsek  
George Sherrard

Class of 2023

Katherine Bradbery  
Jean Hainer  
Frankie Moore  
Matt Sanders

Class of 2024

Susan Cohen  
Scott Furkin  
Jim Van Daalen  
Cathy Weishaar



# Staff reports

**Pastor**, Dwain Lee

**Music Director**, Warren Broome

**Parish Visitors**, Greg Cohen & Dottie Willis

**Children's Ministry Coordinator**, Joyce Ochs

**Youth Coordinator**, Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo





## PASTOR'S REPORT

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In the first sentence of last year's Pastor's annual report, I wrote that "2020 was possibly the most unusual year in the history of our congregation." That was arguably true, but I suspect that 2021 certainly ranked in the top five as well, as we continued to adjust to a pandemic that was in some ways even more frustrating in its uncertainty, and continually morphing safety protocols and recommendations for gatherings. The following is just a very brief summary of pastoral activities during this tumultuous time.

### **Worship:**

On Pentecost Sunday, we resumed in-person worship, while firmly committing to continue online live streaming. This was primarily in order to do all that we could to emphasize that we are all part of this church family, whether we were able to worship together in person on Sunday mornings or not. Throughout this entire two-year experience, though, we also recognized the importance of being available for worship online in general, as part of our growth and outreach efforts.

Planning and leading worship that is designed for both in-person and online participants has different technical, visual, and even liturgical considerations from either a service intended to be only in-person or one only to be accessed online. This past year, we worked diligently to find new paths to planning, leading, and presenting our worship to be as meaningful, and accessible as possible given this new, expanded way of understanding what worship entails.

I think that as part of our annual meeting, and of the Pastor's Report, it's important to offer a special debt of thanks to some people in particular, whose volunteer services in making our worship happen have been absolutely invaluable:

1. Anne Locke – Anne has served this congregation for seventeen years, faithfully prepared and/or running the slides for our worship services, both pre-Covid and during Covid. Anne's work doing this has been so very important, and so much appreciated, during this time. Anne has recently decided to step down from this volunteer service, and that can't happen without notice and a sincere, heartfelt thank you for all these years of incredible effort.
2. Jane Jones – this is a belated recognition, but no less a heartfelt one as the one I'm offering Anne. Jane was the other part of the duo of people who prepared worship slides on a weekly basis for many years. Jane stepped down from this role when Covid first hit, and we failed to recognize and thank her last year for her service.
3. Larry Weishaar – By this time, you know that the technical aspect of planning and presenting our worship services for optimum effect both in-person and online has gotten far more complicated than it had been in the past. Both our video and audio needs and knowledge have increased dramatically, requiring more minds and hands than had previously been the case. One of those minds, and two of those hands, belong

to Larry Weishaar. As our needs have shifted, Larry stepped in to serve as volunteer in our technical booth, learning new skills and sharpening existing ones. Larry's service during these times has been invaluable, and I want to also especially recognize and thank Larry for his service to the congregation.

### **Pastoral Care**

As with everything else, continually shifting recommendations for in-person contact continued to play havoc with our efforts to be physically present with members, although this past year was better than the previous one. Whenever possible, I continued to make pastoral care visitations to people at home, in hospitals, rehab facilities, etc., as well as meeting with a number of members in office consultations. I will admit that there were times when, out of a desire to respect a person's privacy during some troubles, and not being sure of whether a visit would be welcomed or advisable, I erred by not making a couple of visits in particular that in retrospect, I should have, and I deeply regret that. Even in non-pandemic times, finding the right balance between being present and allowing space and privacy can be a difficult calculus. I think that in general, I usually get it right, or at least close to right. Other times, I get it wrong. If I did get it wrong with you this past year, I regret it and am sorry. Just know that if it happened, it was out of a respect for privacy, not a lack of care or concern. I always ask and hope for your prayers to help me to discern the right paths as I continue to try to be the best and most effective pastor to you.

### **Staff Notes:**

I consider myself blessed and very fortunate to work with such a gifted and committed staff. Everyone, without exception, is serving the needs of this congregation admirably and to the glory of God. Warren, Leah, Edwin, Joyce, Dottie, and Greg are all a blessing to this congregation, and I'm a better pastor, and better person, for knowing and having the privilege of working with them all.

As mentioned in last year's report, Joyce Ochs had agreed to step in as Children's Ministry Coordinator, and she has done a stellar job at it, even despite the ongoing pandemic. As the year closed, Joyce indicated a desire to step down from the coordinator's position. I want to especially thank Joyce for her amazing efforts this past year. She has been a remarkable, caring, and gifted person in this position, and I hope that she will continue in some capacity assisting with our children's ministries from time to time. For the rest of my life, any time I hear the greeting "Namaste!" I'll think fondly of Joyce.

In light of Joyce's impending departure from staff, we conducted a search to find the right person at the right time for us to coordinate our children's ministries, and as you learned just this week, we have hired Nell Herring as Coordinator of Children's and Special Ministries. Over the coming weeks, I'm sure that you'll get to know Nell, and you'll soon see why we feel that she is a wonderful addition to the Springdale staff and church family.

### **Community Outreach**

This past year was in one sense a sad one, in that it was determined that reopening our preschool was not a viable option. The preschool had been instrumental in the lives and childhood development of literally generations of people. The good that it did in the lives of its students, teachers, and parents, grandparents, and other caregivers, will not be soon forgotten, and it will have a ripple effect in all of our lives. For decades, the preschool was one of our congregation's most visible and important examples of our community outreach and connection, and an important element of our commitment to serving children and families.

However, it quickly became clear that even while we mourned the end of our role as a preschool provider, God was opening other doors. In a series of events that some might consider coincidence, but I attribute to the movement and guidance of God, two things happened that will have a positive effect, and yet untold community benefit, for years to come.

First, a number of our members felt called to continue our commitment to serving children and families by establishing a food pantry/free grocery store. Occupying part of the former preschool in our newly termed "Program Wing," the pantry will offer foods typically found at food pantries, but will also offer foods, health & beauty products, cleaning products, and other items that are often not available at food pantries and that aren't eligible to purchase through SNAP benefits. In addition, the pantry will offer its users the ability to obtain free children's books, toys, arts & crafts materials, and possibly even tutoring and homework assistance, in an adjacent room.

Second, this past year we began a partnership with the Louisville Civic Orchestra. The LCO is now based here at Springdale, with weekly rehearsals taking place in the Fellowship Hall. They will offer four free concerts at the church annually and will provide additional special musicians in selected worship services several times per year. This is a remarkable relationship that cements our commitment to supporting the arts as an important aspect of God's having designed us as co-creators of beauty, in every sense, in this world, and supporting music as being especially spiritually uplifting. At the same time, it provides additional depth in our worship music planning.

Both of these community outreach developments are truly exciting to consider as we move into this and future years.

In summary, this past year, like so many others, was one of gains and losses, successes and failures. But the ultimate feeling that I held in my heart and mind at the close of 2021 was hope – hope for all of us as individuals, and hope for us in our life together as a church family. We continue to be in the midst of change, caused by the pandemic and otherwise. Thinking about where our congregation is at this moment, I could hardly imagine a more hopeful and optimistic position for a congregation to be as it looks to the future.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Your Springdale Music Ministry strives to prepare and present Blended music selections designed to enhance our worship services and to be in accord with the lectionary passages and general theme of each week.

The Springdale choir meets on Wednesday evenings to rehearse and prepare their music for each Sunday and upcoming events.

The Aris&Shine Singers meet on Tuesday evening to prepare to bring you contemporary praise music that compliments the theme of each worship service.

The Belles and Beaux, our handbell choir meets on Monday evenings and rehearses music for regular participation in our worship services. They also presented our annual Chili and Chimes program to a receptive audience.

We are thankful for our many talented members for their special musical offerings; Debbie Martin-Herrell and Leah Link-Ulrich, Scott Furkin, Kenny Pritchett and George Yu, and to our liturgical dancer Carole Simpson.

Thank you to our wonderful congregation for your continued support of our ministry. Another cabaret is upcoming around Mardi Gras and other special events are forthcoming.

Peace and Harmony,

Warren Broome

## PARISH VISITORS' REPORT

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Parish Visitors—Greg Cohen and Dottie Willis—served together during 2021 to support Springdale members experiencing life challenges and health crises. During the first half of 2021 as the Covid Pandemic prevented both in-person worship and in-person visits, our interactions with the SPC family were mostly by phone calls, emails, texts, Zooms, Face Times, and prayer notes. Even when senior living centers were closed, however, we continued to deliver books, cards, or flowers to quarantined members as a reminder of Springdale's continuing love for them. After in-person worship resumed, we also resumed our personal visitation in homes, hospitals, rehab and residential care centers.

In 2021, Parish Visitors began using an Excel spreadsheet to improve pastoral care communication. In our weekly Parish Visitor meeting with Dwain Lee (now held on Mondays at 9:30 AM) we review this record of individual needs, pray about personal and group concerns, and give thanks for members' birthdays and anniversaries. In addition, Parish Visitors attend staff meetings. We continue to compose the SPC Prayer Chain, which is emailed weekly to 24 caring individuals who offer prayers, send cards, and help support our church family and community.

Monthly, either Greg or Dottie meet with the Congregational Care Ministry Team. We report our pastoral care activities to Congregational Care and participate in the committee's special projects such as card care and food ministry. We have also collaborated with Donna Sheffer, the coordinator of Springdale's Food Ministry program, who contacts volunteers to prepare or deliver food to SPC members as needed.

During the first six months of 2021, when Coronavirus risk prevented large-group gatherings, Greg Cohen organized a small, socially-distanced, monthly prayer group in Fellowship Hall to support Springdale men. Greg remains active in the Men's Bible Study, which has returned to in-person meetings on the first Saturday of each month for breakfast and spiritual nurture.

From January-May, 2021, Dottie Willis facilitated twice weekly Alone-Together Zoom meetings and composed the *Alone-Together Gazette*, emailed monthly to Springdale members. Now Alone-Together provides a variety of activities during each month: an in-person lunch-and-learn workshop, a Zoom session, and an afternoon of bridge games. Just as this group has supported seniors living alone, Alone-Together members have also contributed their support to Tandem, an app designed to increase communication between teenagers and older adults. In addition, Alone-Together seamstresses, Jane Jones and Janet Parker, created quilted caddies for Springdale's members who depend upon walkers for mobility. During another challenging pandemic year, Alone-Together has become a mission with a mission to spread love within and beyond our congregation.

Dottie Willis

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

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### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

1. **Prepare/deliver Children's Sermons** (research, compose, coordinate song with Warren, get necessary visual photos to tech)
  - Secure teen acolyte for lighting Christ Candle during prelude
  - Secure teen/child help to carry bread forward in preparation for communion
2. **Prepare Sunday School lessons** (coordinate with Sunday scripture, locate appropriate children's Bible stories, prepare, run off activity sheets, prepare a hands-on game or craft)
  - Turn on live-stream TV in children's classroom
  - Prepare classroom (games, craft supplies, etc.)
  - Prepare MusicMaker songs/rhythm activities with Warren
3. **MusicMakers Children's Choir: 11:30-11:40**
4. **Sunday School time: 11:30-12:15**
5. Attend weekly Staff meetings

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Revised/updated birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade children's roster
- Became familiar with in-house curriculum, resources, books, Children's Bibles, ZOOM set-up, etc.
- Met with Meg Rift (PCUSA Curriculum Editor) about curriculum options
- Led several MusicMaker Choir/Sunday School classes on Saturday mornings during Covid spring/summer. Masks were worn and social distancing was observed. We sang 2 times during worship. During worship we "kind of" social distanced for the singing. I had 4 middle schoolers help with the singing.
- Attended several webinars with PCUSA and watched utube w/Roger Hishioka *Sticky Faith*
- Met with former Sunday School teachers for brainstorm session
- Created and distributed *Supertime TableTalk* and *Advent TableTalk* flip booklets
- Made masks for each child, using "Jesus Loves Me" fabric
- Conducted "Drive-By Photo Shoot" home visits
- Met with Confirmation Class at Edwin's invitation
- Led two Women's Circle meetings, one by ZOOM and one in-person
- Recruited Carole Simpson for several creative dance routines with children during worship
- Wrote several articles and entries for Springdale RoofLines

- Set up “Children’s Worship Activities” area in Gathering Area for use in the sanctuary during worship
- Attended monthly Session Meetings with prepared monthly Session Report
- Organized/labelled/repurposed several Christian Worship storage areas with excellent, on-going help from Cathy Longstreet
- Moved all children’s (birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade) activities to main floor hallway classroom and nursery. Organized and discarded *many* old toys, materials, furniture from the classroom and nursery.
- Re-purposed downstairs “fishbowl” room into meeting room for small-group meetings
- Recruited Barb Link for bulletin board designs and construction
- Spent *numerous* hours/days sorting, discarding, labelling, organizing, supply room behind small kitchen on main floor and former storage room adjoining Fellowship Hall. This is an ongoing activity!
- Began planning of Springdale Pre-School Recognition Luncheon on August 22, following worship.
  - Recognition format
  - Advertising/announcing event
  - Gathering names of former staff, teachers, board members, and students
  - Approach Fellowship Committee about food arrangements

NOTE: With untimely onset of a kidney stone, Dottie Willis graciously took over this event.

- Created an “Activity Table” at the back of the sanctuary with sanitizer and activity packets for children 5 years-5<sup>th</sup> grade as an option to sitting with parents during worship. We had done this previously and it worked well.
- Organized “Parade of Palms” with children and their parents for Palm Sunday
- Wrote and produced “1<sup>st</sup> Annual Springdale Christmas Pageant” with Springdale children and several other children available. We lost several to Covid at the last minute. Made a semi-permanent lighted/star backdrop which will be saved for future use. The pageant wove scripture readings with excerpts from a *Children’s First Christmas Story* book. Script is on file in file cabinet in Spiritual Nurture storage room behind small kitchen. Hope to expand in 2022. (NOTE: We had attempted an outdoor Christmas Pageant in 2020; very strong winds and freezing weather caused a very abbreviated attempt which resulted in eight freezing children huddled in a canvas “lean-to” for about 6 minutes while scripture was read)
- Prepared for and led Lessons & Carols Worship Service on Sunday, December 26, 10 AM.

#### **Correspondence with parents:**

- Provided numerous emails/hardcopy letters, text messages (these work best!), reminders, schedules, “encouragement for participation”, surveys, etc. to parents.
- Wrote several emails to children relating church opportunities

**Social distance -home visits**

- During the spring and fall I made outside/masked home visits with children and took packets which contained activities, crafts, small gifts

**TO DO:**

- Set up a worship space in classroom for weekly prayer, gratitude, sharing time---a safe-place for children to express themselves. I hope to have families donate, white cloth, battery-operated "Christ candle", candle holder, chalice/plate, to create family ownership in this classroom worship space.
- Assess/rearrange costume-props room upstairs behind the Chapel. Consider moving all props & costumes to main-floor closet or room, allowing Rabbouni to use the entire upper floor.
- File ALL Sunday School lesson plans in file cabinet in storage room behind small kitchen.

**Respectfully submitted by JOYce Ochs, Birth-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spiritual Nurture Coordinator,  
1/15/2021-1/15/2022**

**Faithful helpers:** Leah Bradley, Cathy Longstreet, Warren Broome, Dwain Lee, Dottie Willis, Barb Link, Eddie Riddle, Larry Weishaar, Stan Hankins and many others!



## YOUTH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

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In last year's report, I shared part of the process of developing our Confirmation program, the curriculum used and the classes for 2021. Amid all the challenges related to Covid 19 we were able to complete the process of Confirmation culminating with 4 youth being confirmed. After more than 4 months of online classes and 12 sessions, the 4 new members of our church presented their Statement of Faith and were interviewed by the Session. During our classes we focused on preparing youth to authentically answer the traditional membership questions:

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
- Who is your Lord and Savior?
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple obeying his word and showing his love?
- Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

The curriculum equipped the youth to employ the study of Scripture, tradition, and church, to tell their own story as Christian believers in the context of their experiences.

We provided each youth with a personal journal for their use during and after confirmation classes which was essential for group work and personal reflection. Also, we provided each household and Mentor with a Home/Mentor Guide that connected important adults to the student's experience. We are extremely grateful for the work of our four mentors, Larry Weishaar, Katherine Bradbery, Wendy Mullins and Flor Vélez-Díaz. Thanks to their help and the commitment, Sully Yaden, Kinsley Yaden, Cary Martin and Trace Martin were welcomed as members of our church last year.

At the end of our confirmation class, our youth decided to get involved in a mission project in response to an invitation from the Mission Ministry. Empowered by an initial donation from the Mission Ministry, the youth held several fundraisers in order to support a RIP Medical Debt Campaign to help eradicate medical debt at pennies on the dollar.

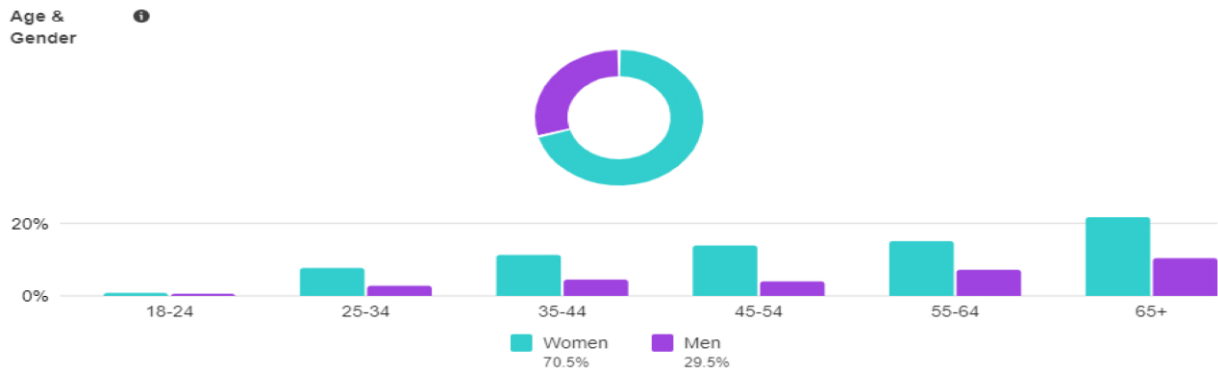
Due to Covid we had a limited number of fundraisers, including the Pumpkin contest, the Chili, Chocolate and Chimes event, the Christmas giftwrapping, and the cups/mugs sale sponsored by Katherine Bradbery. Thanks to these events and the support of the church members we were able to raise over \$800 dollars. We plan to continue the campaign this year to raise additional funds.

In addition to these activities our youth met regularly at church to participate in several youth activities which included icebreaker activities, pumpkin carving, participation during Reformation Sunday as well as other Sundays, Thanksgiving lunch, game night and several other online activities.

As indicated in my report last year, I have engaged in additional projects in response to the changes related to worship and live streaming in our church. As a result, my role has shifted to also accommodate the emerging needs of the congregation. I have expanded my knowledge base to sharpen skills in live streaming, digital recording, computer building and design, audiovisual equipment selection and the associated software. As a result, we are now able to stream our worship services in YouTube, Facebook, and the SPC Website.

During the past year I have provided multiple trainings in the use of our audio-visual system to several people in our congregation. We have also made presentations to other congregations that have shown interest in conducting online services. In this role I have also provided streaming and recording services for the Louisville Civil Orchestra concerts.

**Overview of the Audience we have reached:**



**Top**

**Countries**

United States



Puerto Rico



Jamaica



Kenya



Colombia



Dominican Republic



Haiti



Iraq



Japan



South Korea





## Committee reports

**Building & Grounds**, Larry Weishaar, chair

**Congregational Care**, Cathy Weishaar, chair

**Creation & Sustainability**, Debbie Bunger, chair

**Disability & Faith Inclusion**, Jean Podbelsek, chair

**Endowment**, Rob Locke, chair

**Fellowship & Hospitality**, Jean Podbelsek & Frankie Moore, co-chairs

**Finance**, George Sherrard, chair

**Growth & Outreach**, Mark Hebert, chair

**Mission & Social Witness**, Steve Bradbery, chair

**Personnel**, David Erhart, chair

**Worship & Arts**, Debbie Martin-Herrell, chair

## BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT

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### Description

The SPC Building and Grounds committee oversees the care and maintenance of the church's property and facilities.

### The Past Year

As usual, much of what B & G does is "behind the scenes" stuff. However, during 2021, we were able to secure a reputable painter and get the entire outside of the church painted. This was the first time all of the outside has been painted in just over 20 years, since our major capital project. Along with the painting we also got several areas of trim or siding, and soffits repaired or replaced. The painters even pressure-washed all of the building as well as our 2 Free Little Libraries and the SPC Sign out front.

Other projects or tasks completed during 2021 include, but is not limited to:

- Initiated the identification and labeling of each circuit and switch/receptacle throughout the church
- Installation of the TV monitors in the sanctuary as well as connecting the monitor at the Welcome Station to the live stream broadcast of our services.
- Helped coordinate the accommodations currently being used by the Louisville Civic Orchestra.
- Removed 3 rows of pews at the front of the sanctuary to better place our choir and musical equipment.
- Had the entire church "re-keyed" for additional security purposes.
- Created a passage between 2 of the former pre-school rooms to better accommodate our soon to be operating "Dare to Care" program.
- Coordinated both a springtime and winter "Clean Up Days" with members of SPC as well as some Rabbouni members.
- Coordinated the installation of 3 Ionization type Air Purifiers into our heating and air conditioning systems.

### Upcoming in 2022

This team will continue to be responsive to maintenance and repair issues as well as work to best manage our building and its facilities.

### B & G Team Members

Greg Buelt, Bruce Bunger, Dave Butke, Leah Bradley, Rick Davis, Greg Nickels, Eddie Riddle and Larry Weishaar

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE REPORT

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Mission Statement: We are called to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by offering caring, meaningful, and personal relationships to those within our community as they encounter life's joys and challenges. *"I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you so you must love one another."* John 13:34

We endeavor to live out our mission statement to serve and provide for the needs of our church community on an ongoing basis. The services and outreach provided under Congregational Care cannot be done by this team alone. It truly does require a village. With the loving help of many volunteers in our church, we have been able to:

- Send cards, through our different forms of card care ministry, to the homebound via a team of 15 card-senders who send one thinking-of-you card per month to members unable to attend services, also to the homebound via the Congregational Care team to send uplifting cards at Valentine's, Halloween and Christmas, to students and school workers (to recognize the difficulties and challenges presented to them as they traverse in-person schooling or non-traditional instruction to let them know we are thinking and praying for them in these unusual times and throughout the school year), to those experiencing some sort of physical condition (illness, surgery, etc.), the death of a loved one, having a significant birthday or anniversary, as well as to those welcoming a new baby.
- Review the membership rolls and contact distant members by phone call, card, or letter. During these unusual pandemic times, we suspended sending letters to anyone on our list for removal from our rolls for non-participation (two years or more). We determined that a better action would be to reach out and let them know that Springdale continues to be an active congregation and invite them to reconnect with us at our resumed in-person services or through our live stream services.
- Prepare and deliver meals to church members experiencing life's challenges or joys. We have twenty-one meal preparers and seven meal delivery volunteers. Donna Sheffer continues to be our Meal Ministry Coordinator. Due to the contact and safety issues related to the coronavirus, we continue to employ the 'revised meal delivery protocol' using CDC safety and social distancing guidelines.
- In years past, we coordinated and held two blood drives per year for the American Red Cross, one in March and one in September. Because of safety concerns and the rising coronavirus numbers, we did not hold any blood drives at Springdale this past year. We hope to be able to resume this community service sometime in the latter part of 2022.
- Host an annual luncheon/fundraiser, open to all members, offering a catered meal, a vibrant speaker, and door prizes. Once again, due to the coronavirus, we did not hold a luncheon in 2021 but hope to resume this special form of fellowship and fundraising in the latter part of 2022 or the spring of 2023.
- Provide support for the Hot Topics Book Club. Hot Topics is another outlet available for fellowship at Springdale and was established by Dayle Darby as former chair of Congregational Care. They offer interesting and relative material sparking lively

discussions on current topics. They meet once a month on the first Monday of the month at 2 pm. Dayle is the discussion leader.

- Work closely with Springdale's Parish Visitor's (Greg Cohen and Dottie Willis) who provide calls, texts, emails, prayer notes, Face Time, food ministry, hospital visits, nursing home and home visits, and home communion to our members (using revised methods of safety and social distancing related to COVID 19 when necessary).
- Provide support and assistance as needed to the Alone-Together Group (facilitated by Janet Parker, and Dottie Willis). The group continues to connect members facing the challenges of growing older by offering information, helpful tips, pearls of wisdom, resources, and new and old friendships. They also provide congregational outreach by organizing projects to show exceptional care for each other and others in the church. The Alone-Together group resumed meeting for in-person brown bag lunches and monthly bridge games in June of 2021 (when the church returned to in-person worship). And they continued to hold their monthly Zoom meeting. They are a close and connected group. Recently however, the Alone-Together group resumed meeting via weekly Zoom calls rather than in-person meetings to avoid exposure to the surging Covid virus.
- Prepare and serve a beautifully laid out bereavement refreshment table for members and their family at Springdale-hosted funeral services. A team of resolute volunteers provide a variety of finger foods and assorted munchies at the visitation or funeral service of a church member. Due to the restrictions of the coronavirus, we were unable to offer this to our members until the fall of 2021. Currently, with Covid numbers rising, we will offer this service on a case-by-case determination. (Barb Link has been this mission's coordinator for ten plus years. She is stepping down as coordinator but will continue to help when able. We are in search of a new coordinator for that future time when we can resume offering this service in full).

Team members having served in the last year include Donna Sheffer, Leslie Phillips, Judy Riddle, Cathy Weishaar, Sarah Abraham (Session Liaison), and our Parish Visitors: Dottie Willis, and Greg Cohen. Sarah Abraham will rotate off the Session at the end of 2021 and Cathy Weishaar will become the Session liaison for 2022.

Respectively submitted by Cathy Weishaar, Chair



## CREATION & SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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Creation Care is pleased to announce that Springdale has completed its sixth year as an Earth Care Congregation. This recognition was accomplished through the efforts of various of Springdale's teams and individuals as we worked to incorporate awareness of and care for God's creation through worship, education, spiritual nurture, and outreach.

We started the year with a Learn & Serve zoom video by Dr. Doug Tallamy, a well-known entomologist and writer, who spoke on "Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home" concerning the importance of planting native species. We followed up with a series of articles for Rooflines to include "Backyard National Park" (an idea by Doug Tallamy to create interest in planting natives by posting one's native-planted garden space on a centralized, public map) , information on native plants in Springdale's gardens, the importance of oak trees as larval hosts, and the benefits of "leaving the leaves" in fall.

To reduce, re-use, and recycle, we added new signage for recycle bins, amended our building rental contract to request that re-usable supplies be used, and replaced disposable coffee and drink cups with reusable cups.

We attended a virtual four-part Presbyterian Climate Advocate series to discuss the consequences of unmitigated climate change, connections between climate change and environmental justice, and the PCUSA's support for carbon fee and dividend advocacy. We shared break-out sessions to understand what other churches were doing toward these efforts.

The Worship Team included the Earth Care pledge in four video-recorded sessions of members in their gardens, beehive, and creek.

Our group of our talented fabric artists worked off and on for over a year during the pandemic to create beautiful new Ordinary Time banners that speak to God's creation.

We had one of the best jobs of the pandemic by enjoying fellowship outdoors in Springdale's gardens. We labeled plantings in the gardens at request of several members, maintained the gardens on site, and watered weekly throughout the growing season. We planted a new pollinator garden around the Praying Hands carving.

Our Finance Team changed their deposit activity and began scanning in checks, creating fewer trips to church and lessening their carbon footprint.

Springdale's book club kept environmental concerns top-of-mind by reading Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer, How to Avoid a Climate Disaster by Bill Gates, and Regeneration by Paul Hawken.

Our Go Team and Advent Team created several earth friendly crafts for Advent celebration attendees: orange pomanders, pinecone birdfeeders, and bulbs of amaryllis for planting.

We look forward to the coming year as we focus on the small differences that we, as individuals, can make in caring for creation, and invite those interested to join us, either as part of an ongoing team effort or on a project basis.

Meeting Time: The first Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Gathering Space

Creation Care Team members: Sandy Gillespie, Hester Haick, Stan Hankins, Jane Jones, Mary Pace, Jill Warner, and Debbie Bunger

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Bunger, Chairperson

## DISABILITY & FAITH INCLUSION REPORT

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This group exists for the purpose of mindfully and proactively raising awareness and implementing policies to welcome and provide inclusion of ALL people within our community of faith to have full accessibility in our church life, regardless of their level of physical, mental, or other abilities.

The group was started on an informal basis in 2001 and is now, as of January 1, becoming a full-fledged committee within the Session. Present group members are Jean Hainer, Kay Sherrard, Milt Tyree, Larry Weishaar, and Jean Podbelsek.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the group met only two times—on March 9 and September 9. Both meetings were conducted via Zoom. A planned December meeting had to be canceled due to scheduling problems.

In addition to the above-listed meetings, on April 25 Milt Tyree led a Zoom Learn and Serve adult class (following worship service) entitled “A Place of Belonging,” which dealt with the universality of a need to belong by individuals with significant disabilities in faith communities. This program was based on an article written by a Vanderbilt University special education professor. Disabilities group members had read the article and participated in the discussion. The program may be repeated “in person” at a future time.

We have worked at providing needed wheelchairs near all church doors during this past year. We now have four of them, with one located at each door. We have had one of them provided for us by a church member several months ago.

In early 2022, this group will become a “committee” and will become a regular part of Session ministry teams/committees so will be an even more central part of our church. It will enable this group to be involved in leading a Sunday worship service, providing a guest speaker, and/or leading an adult church school class, as well as being involved in the upcoming capital campaign. Providing hearing devices via the sound system is on our “wish list.”

Submitted by Jean Podbelsek, chairperson

## ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

Springdale’s Endowment Fund [“Fund”] was established October 10, 1984, with money from sale of the manse. The Fund is established and maintained, as provided in the provisions of the Book of Order Chapter 4 Section G-4.0201 Property as a Tool for Mission.

The Session can request that the Fund distribute monies each year to be used for the general purposes of the mission of the Church, including, but not limited to, in that definition of purpose, expenditures in the missionary field and the field of theological education and improvement and additions to church physical facilities; provided, however, that insofar as possible, the Fund shall be used for special purposes or projects which would not ordinarily be possible to accomplish through the regular stewardship program and other regular income of the Church.

The intent of the Fund is long range in nature and has been interpreted as subscribing to the basic concept of an Endowment, that is, the preservation and growth of the corpus while utilizing the income as required to fulfill the original intent. Except for an extreme emergency, no money will be distributed if the balance is \$125,000 or less. The congregation of Springdale Presbyterian Church realizes that in times of diminishing sources of income, and/or in an emergency, the Session has the authority to distribute corpus to assure the continuance of the Church and its ministry.

In March of 2016 all Endowment monies were transferred from the New Covenant Mutual Funds to a brokerage account at TD Ameritrade. The Trustees have adopted an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) to manage and monitor the investment portfolio. Detailed investment reports and relevant documents are available upon request. The Trustees meet quarterly to review the portfolio in accordance with the IPS.

### Fund Values and Distributions

Amount of 2020 Distribution .....	\$9,290
Fund Value 12/31/2019 .....	\$187,647
Fund Value 12/31/2020 .....	\$205,111
Fund Value 12/31/2021 .....	\$231,276
Average 3 Yr. Account .....	\$208.011
2021 Distributable Amount (5% of 3 yr. Avg.) .....	\$10,401

Report submitted by the Endowment Trustees and Committee Members:	Rob Locke (2022), Chair Al Nocito, Treasurer
Kay Sherrard (2021)	
Mike Coomes (2022)	
Susan Cohen (2023)	
Nancy Lewis (2023),	
Loren Hincker (2024)	

## FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY REPORT

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The fellowship ministry team “sprang into action” soon after in-person worship services resumed on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Weekly “lemonade on the lawn” was begun in the front parking lot after worship services on June 13, with lemonade and “treats” being served each week, hosted by congregational volunteers. This schedule continued until mid-October, which was later than usual, but being outside seemed safer than meeting in the gathering area while COVID-19 was still “moving among us.”

Springdale fellowship hall has now become the “home base” for the Louisville Civic Orchestra. On July 21, the fellowship ministry team hosted a reception in the lower level gathering area with lemonade and various snack foods to welcome the orchestra (of nearly 60 members). Orchestra members openly appreciated the event. The orchestra invited Springdale members to be present for their first “whole group” practice in 16 months following the reception. Many church volunteers helped to prepare for the event.

On August 22, the ministry team was in charge of providing food for a recognition luncheon for staff, families, and former students of the Springdale Pre-School, which had closed during the pandemic after 60 years of serving children and families in our community. Because of COVID still being present, the group was decided (after several meetings) to serve box lunches (from Zaxby’s) and store-bought cupcakes instead of having a potluck.

Both kitchens (lower level and main floor) needed to be decluttered, re-organized, and cleaned. A group of hard-working volunteers (including Leah Bradley!) worked for two hours once weekly in July and August to get the job done, and now shelves and drawers have correct labels on them so that people using the kitchens are able to locate what they need. During this time we met with Debbie Bunger of Creation Care team to be sure we were using mainly “earth-friendly” supplies. Debbie helped us purchase new coffee mugs and drinking glasses and gave us information about what supplies we should/should not be using.

In mid-October, fellowship coffees in the gathering area began, with coffee and “goodies” being served each Sunday following worship. “Simplicity” of snacks (such as store-bought cookies, fruits, and crackers/cheese) has been encouraged so that volunteers will not find the duty “overwhelming,” as had sometimes occurred in the past. This plan continued through Sunday, December 26, and will continue into the new year, with various volunteers serving. Larry Weishaar has posted a laminated sign to assist people making coffee.

Plans were underway to host a congregation-wide Advent Event potluck (along with art activities) on Sunday, December 12. Planning meetings had been held and sign-ups had begun, when again COVID “stepped in” and changed the plans! It was decided that a potluck was not “safe” at the time, so we opted for a Zaxby’s box lunch for people to take home after they had gone to fellowship hall to pick up packets or work on Advent art activities. Unfortunately,

Zaxby's had forgotten to deliver our order and was very late in arriving. So, some people did not receive a lunch. For those who stayed on, they not only got a lunch but also a freshly-baked chocolate chip cookie, still warm from the oven! (Zaxby's did not charge us for any of the lunches.)

Many people have given of their time and energy to this team this past year. Donna Sheffer, Susan Cohen, and Brenda McGavic have been team members. Hester Haick and Eddie Riddle (and Leah B.) also helped much with the kitchen cleaning. Many people have served as food/drink servers/volunteers. Ellie Woertz, seminary intern, did a great job as chairperson of the Advent Event.

A priority for our team in 2022 will be to communicate with various groups that use the kitchens. In this way we can all work together to keep the kitchens clean and fully accessible to all groups that use them.

Submitted by Jean Podbelsek, chairperson  
Frankie Moore, co-chairperson

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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In 2021 we have been in what people call “interesting times”. However, the Finance team continued to do its regular duties, which are the following:

The Finance Team oversees the financial and business functions of the church, serving as a resource for recommendations to and actions by the session. The team meets monthly to review and examine the financial reports related to the General Fund for operations, the Endowment, and Memorial Funds as well as other funds designated for special purposes. We continued to include and deal with the Preschool until we closed the Preschool accounts late in the year.

The maintenance of the monthly financial reporting has been outsourced to the MCM accounting firm, which is a mid-sized firm that can provide backup and is experienced in non-profit accounting. The Financial Secretary and administrative assistant provide MCM with the financial transactions on a monthly basis and, in coordination with the Finance Team, the accounts to use and the desired reporting formats. The Treasurer reviews the financial transactions for proper authorization and approves their payment.

Finance team members take an active role in counting, recording and depositing the regular offering and other revenues. This was done on a biweekly basis until we started gathering together in person. We then resumed our counting on a weekly basis after the church service.

We work with the various committees to develop a monthly budget for the following year and provide preliminary budget numbers for the annual stewardship campaign. Part of our monthly financial review involves understanding actual spending deviations from budget and providing feedback to the committees and session when necessary.

Members do other internal reviews on an as needed basis.

### **Actions taken during 2021 include:**

2021 started off with some unwanted excitement. A few members reported that the contribution reports we sent out did not match their records. More reports came in and by mid-January we realized mailed in checks were being stolen. We soon learned these checks were being cashed without endorsements at other banks. We had the churches mail sent to a private post office box, promoted our online giving capability and filed a police report. We kept a record of the missing checks and worked with the members and their banks to process the forms necessary to recover the money. Most of the money has been recovered, but a few checks are still waiting for the endorsing banks to remit their money. In May a criminal ring was arrested in Florida that had been caught stealing checks from over 300 churches across the country. One of our church’s checks was identified among the stolen checks. We have since installed a mailbox with a lock and started using a direct check deposit capability provided by our bank.

The Finance team had to supply more paperwork to secure the forgiveness of the PPP loan the government made available to businesses and nonprofits through their banks in 2020. We also looked into applying for a second PPP loan and found that the church did not qualify. The forgiveness was finally approved in July.

We met with our insurance agent and are following up on his recommendation that all our building users and contract employees have workmen's compensation and liability coverage.

We continued to work with the preschool board in providing them the financial information they needed to reach their decision on how to proceed with the preschool.

We worked with the Stewardship campaign team to provide preliminary 2021 budget revenue and expense information and charts and then follow up on campaign results.

We provided forms for ministry teams to present their budget requests and to allocate them by quarter. We developed several drafts and updates of the 2022 budget after receiving funding requests from the ministry teams and session and updates from the Stewardship campaign. A final 2022 budget was approved by Session in December.

We welcomed Jean Hainer as a new member this past year and would welcome others who have an interest in helping maintain the financial wellbeing of the church.

We provided advice and assistance on various other items as needed.

Team members during 2020 included session liaison Dallas Skiles, Financial Secretary Bernie Backert, Treasurer Phillip Swartzentruber, Leah Bradley, Al Nocito, Gil Gillespie, Jean Hainer, Sarah Abraham and George Sherrard.

Respectively submitted,

George Sherrard, chairperson



<b>Annual Report Expense Categories</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Building and Grounds	\$ <b>89,551</b>
Growth and Communication	<b>2,100</b>
Creation Care Congregational Care	<b>550</b> <b>1,340</b>
Fellowship	<b>650</b>
Direct Missions	<b>98,210</b>
Special Offering Missions	<b>10,000</b>
Office Administration	<b>26,865</b>
Per Capita Assessment	<b>6,983</b>
Personnel	<b>259,300</b>
Spiritual Nurture	<b>12,700</b>
Session/ Stewardship	<b>450</b>
Worship and Music	<b>7,850</b>
<b>Total Expense Budget</b>	<b>\$ 516,549</b>

## GROWTH & OUTREACH REPORT

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The Growth and Outreach ministry team continues to plan events and develop strategies to get neighbors, friends and other potential members through the doors at Springdale. The team also looked for ways to share more information to Springdale members and about Springdale activities.

Members: Mark Hebert, Anne Locke, Katherine Bradbery, Dave Dockstader, Stefan Granito, Cathy Weishaar, George Sherrard (session liaison) for a short time. Leah Bradley and Dwain Lee also met with the team on occasion and Leah, as always, has been a godsend for our group.

Our action items, like those of others, were limited by COVID but here are some of the highlights of 2021:

The team has been making a concerted effort to increase engagement on our Facebook page by posting more items and sharing with others. Leah Bradley, Edwin Gonzalez, Dwain Lee and others continued to update Springdale's Facebook page with photos and events. We are having good engagement on Facebook page.

Early in the year the GO Team, along with Leah and Dwain, made a concerted effort to update the web page, including the calendar and information about the church, services, leadership and contact information.

We continued sending postcards to families buying homes in zip codes close to Springdale. John Fischbach is a realtor who sends the list of homes purchased nearby each month. The team designed a postcard inviting the new neighbor to check out Springdale with the address, worship times and Facebook page to find live stream of Sunday worship. Leah Bradley is sending the cards each month.

A "Congratulations Graduates" banner was placed in front of the church in May and June to celebrate not only the Springdale kids who graduated from high school or college but all the grads in our area who didn't get a graduation ceremony due to COVID. The banner is generic and can be used in future years.

Anne Locke continues to head the team preparing announcements for our live, online service each Sunday. This has become an even more important way for SPC to keep in touch with its members and keep them informed about what is going on at church.

Andy Martin continued a text notification system for Springdale members – digital reminders about church live worship, events and the weekly livestreamed service.

Issues Classes resumed in-person in the fall with Congressman John Yarmuth and Dr. Jon Klein from UofL Medical School.

## MISSION & SOCIAL WITNESS REPORT

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“Plan and Coordinate ways the congregation lives together as Christ’s disciples in the world by feeding the hungry, healing the broken, and providing hospitality to the stranger; and by working to establish compassion, peace, justice, and equity for all of God’s people through social action and witness”

Members: Dayle Derby, Cathy Longstreet, Martha Long, Sandy Davies, Weldon Maisch (session liaison), Dwain Lee, Cliff Kirkpatrick, Steve Bradbery

Your Mission team supports a number of international, national and local initiatives:

- In addition to Mid-KY Presbytery Shared Mission Support, Springdale provided financial support for World Mission Co-Workers:
  - Mark Adams
  - Miriam Maldonado Escobar
  - Mark Hare & Jenny Bent
  - Emily & Jonathan Seitz

We also supported Foreman Christian College.

Our Key Mission Partners were:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and we supported the PDA Disaster Kit Project
- Brooklawn/Brookwood (Uspiritus/Centerstone)
- Eastern Area Community Ministries
  - English Second Language has returned to in class learning using space previously occupied by pre-school
- Habitat for Humanity
  - We participated in the Habitat build for David
- Kentucky Refugee Ministries/ Refugee Family Resettlement
  - Activities were severely hampered by a combination of COVID and the tragic situation in Afghanistan. As a result our efforts will be doubled in 2022.
- LaCasita
  - We have continued support financially and with food donations
- Angel Tree collections totaled \$1,225

Our Emerging Ministry Support was provided to:

- Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Change Today/Change Tomorrow
  - We provided additional financial support for Summer Block events and volunteered for the Bless the Block holiday program

Our goals for 2022 include extending support to more refugee families and, as a Matthew 25 church, expanding congregational vitality through community volunteering opportunities.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

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***The role of the Personnel Team is to insure the right people are in the right place, at the right time, with the right skill set, to fulfill the mission of SPC. We work to ensure that there is an environment that supports the development of staff and builds a culture of accountability.***

### **DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the team is to assist in the evaluation process for the staff at Springdale Presbyterian, as well as development of procedures for hiring new staff. Matters involving salaries, benefits, and other related to compensation of staff are determined, reviewed, or revised as needed.

### **DESCRIPTION OF MINISTRY IN THE PAST YEAR**

In 2021, the ministry team worked with the Session and Finance Team to establish budget goals.

The Personnel Team was involved in a number of activities related to staffing this past year, including the following:

- Provided support to the Pastor, Ministry Teams, and Session
- Continued transition related to the position of Spiritual Nurture Coordinator
- Worked with Finance Team to determine benefit offerings for staff

### **UPCOMING IN THE NEXT YEAR**

A review of church staff will occur in 2022 to ensure that the Church's current staffing arrangements and needs are being met.

The team will support the Pastor in the management of staff, along with the procedures and timelines for employee evaluations.

### **NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS**

Current team members include: Pastor Dwain Lee, Loren Hincker, Peggy Murphy, Leah Link-Ulrich, and David Erhart.

### **REPORT SUBMITTED BY**

Respectfully submitted by David A. Erhart.

## WORSHIP & ARTS REPORT

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### **DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the Worship Ministry Team at Springdale Presbyterian Church is to provide a means for individual and communal worship of God through the study and celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **DESCRIPTION OF MINISTRY IN 2021**

Activities and special worship experiences in 2021:

The Worship team helped plan and implement the return to in-person worship and worked with members of Rabbouni to decorate for Pentecost Sunday. We worked throughout the summer and fall contacting weekly volunteers and began scheduling the ushers, greeters, liturgists and communion servers again.

The Worship committee again coordinated with representatives of Rabbouni to decorate for advent in the sanctuary and Gathering Area and to create a festive atmosphere outside the church.

### **UPCOMING IN 2022**

During 2022, the Worship Committee will become the Worship and Arts Committee and will begin the process of implementing the changes to its mission and incorporating more arts into the worship experience at Springdale.

**NAMES OF MEMBERS:** Lisa Hebert, Jane Jones, Cathy Longstreet, Debbie Martin-Herrell and Joyce Ochs. Dwain Lee attends meetings and consults with the Worship Team.