



Springdale Presbyterian Church

Annual Report 2023

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CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

NEW MEMBERS: we received new members into the congregation in 2023:

Rachel Hendricks Imam	2/26
Tanya Khaled Imam	2/26
Ryan O'Hare	2/26
Sarah O'Hare	2/26
Bob Mellem	4/2
Renee Moffett	4/2
Nancy Saxe Patton	6/4
Evan Gribbins	10/22
Barabara Taylor	10/29
Bob Taylor	10/29
Ann Chapman	11/16

BAPTISMS:

Tanya Khaled Imam	2/26
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MEMBER DEATHS: we grieve the deaths of members:

Florence Ehrig	2/15
Lisa Weaver	8/16
Joseph Backert	11/8
Alexander McCatty	11/25

LETTERS OF TRANSFER: at their request, we have transferred the following memberships:

Ruth Wilder	5/25
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MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ROLLS 9-7-23: these members have been removed from the rolls as active members after contacting them due to non-participation in the life of the church (either in attendance, financial, contact, or otherwise).

Name	Last Attended
Marilyn Dewart	2/17/16 (deceased)
Gwenyth Dutton	5/17/15
Glen Dutton	5/17/15
Kelly Finerty	10/20/13
Jeanadair (BJ) Fisher	2/14/10 (deceased)
Richard Johnson	8/11/19
David McIntrye	12/14/16
Jennifer McIntrye	3/20/16
Mike Miller	4/5/15
Andrea Murphy	5/10/15

Thurman Parks	12/24/08
Brad Pruitt	6/19/19
Jennifer Pruitt	12/2/18
Jonathan Ratliff	6/15/15
Rebecca Ratliff	6/15/15
Alexander Revell	6/4/17
Angela Revell	7/2/17
Courtney Revell	5/14/17
Ethan Revell	6/4/17
Thomas Revell	5/14/17
Cheryl Roberts	10/20/16
Patricia Rogers	8/15/18
Lindsey Satterthwaite	2/24/16
Ramona Simone	8/11/19
Teresa Waggener	7/29/18
Douglas Young	2022 (deceased)

TOTAL DELETED FROM ROLLS = 26

THE SESSION: ELDERS IN ACTIVE SERVICE

CLASS OF 2024

Susan Cohen
 Scott Furkin
 Jim Van Daalen
 Cathy Weishaar

CLASS of 2025

Susan Hankins
 Jane Jones
 Andy Martin
 Greg Nickels

CLASS OF 2026

Joy Cashman
 Evan Gribbins
 Jim Mayfield
 Lisa Hebert
 Trace Martin (Youth Representative)

PASTOR'S REPORT

Hi friends,

For us at Springdale, the year 2023 was one of solidifying the positive changes that began the previous year. We've now made things like The Link, preparing meals for Hope Village, serving as the home of the LCO, and other positive recent changes, a regular and familiar part of our congregational life together. That doesn't mean that we rested on our laurels – far from it – but I think that every so often, congregations need a year like this past one for good overall health.

One obvious thing that was different is that I was gone for a considerable length of time during the summer, on sabbatical. I've told people that it wasn't until I was several weeks into that time of renewal that I fully recognized just how much it was needed, and how immensely valuable it was to me, to have that brief "pause" in day-in, day-out pastoral duties. The tradition of periodic sabbatical has always been a part of our Presbyterian tradition, and a good one, and I think that it is even more significant for pastors as they're still not far removed from the trauma of leading a congregation through a pandemic, which none of us – staff or congregation was trained or had any rule book for. My time of sabbatical gave me physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual restoration, and a renewed hope, optimism, energy, and excitement about my call. For the ability to have taken this sabbatical, I am and will always be very grateful to you all.

As in every year, 2023 posed some challenges to us. One of the primary challenges for us was financial, as we continue to move into a different congregational demographic. We began to recognize that our congregational wealth and resources for needed and effective ministry consisted of more than just what numbers we saw on our annual budget, and we began to move into a more realistic and wholistic accounting of how our congregation lives into its mission and ministry. Those kinds of recalibrations can come with some uncertainty and anxiousness, but as I said in last year's annual report, throughout the past year we showed that we were, by virtually all applicable metrics a healthy, vibrant congregation, and as we have now begun the new year, that position remains stable, if not even improving.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Dwain Lee
January 18, 2024

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The music program of Springdale enjoyed a successful year of enhancing our worship services,

The Springdale Choir along with the womens and mens ensembles presented music that was true to the lectionary and season of the church year. Choral readings added to that enhancement. The choir also presented its annual Cabaret show based on the theme "Life Is...".

The Belles and Beaux bell ensemble played throughout the church year for services and offered its annual Chili and Chimes concert.

We welcome new members to join us in either of these groups.

PARISH VISITORS' REPORT

Greg Cohen and Dottie Willis served Springdale Presbyterian Church (SPC) as Parish Visitors in 2023. Weekly we visited members in homes, hospitals, memory units, rehab and residential care centers; in addition, we met with individuals during times of personal crisis. We offered care through phone calls, emails, texts, cards, prayer notes, driving and food ministry as well. We traveled end-of-life journeys with dear SPC friends and families during 2023, the most difficult part of our mission. We collaborated to maintain consistent pastoral care throughout Dwain Lee's sabbatical.

Parish Visitors attended monthly Congregational Care Committee (CCC) meetings, where we reported the numbers of visits, calls, emails/ texts, etc. to keep this committee and the Springdale Session aware of our activities and our members' needs. Parish Visitors regularly communicated with Donna Sheffer, coordinator of Springdale's Food Ministry, to ensure that volunteers provided meals for SPC families when requested.

Beginning May, 2023, Greg and Dottie were tasked to log each contact made by Parish Visitors in the CDM+ system as a way to improve and archive visitation records. On Mondays, we met with Dwain Lee to review our previous week's visits and pray together for members' concerns. In addition, we emailed the weekly Prayer Chain to 24 SPC members who offered prayers, sent cards, and extended congregational care.

In addition to shared Parish Visitors' shared responsibilities, Dottie Willis also facilitated Alone-Together, a fellowship offering senior members opportunities for fun, learning, and service. This active group participated in monthly Zooms; honored SPC members with birthday luncheons; and coordinated a Thanksgiving meal collection for the Link Food Pantry. During the past year, Alone-Together initiated Crafternoon workshops to help prepare resources for the SPC Children's Ministry and to create Valentine, Easter, and Christmas gifts for homebound members. Alone-Together's monthly bridge games, coordinated by Donna Sheffer, as well as weekly Chair Yoga, led by Jill Warner, have enriched both the Springdale family and the local community. Greg attends the monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast, occasionally teaching the lesson or cooking the meal. Greg also coordinates the monthly Men's Luncheon.

As our congregation ages, the ministry of Parish Visitors continues to grow. Greg Cohen and Dottie Willis are indebted to Office Manager Leah Bradley, first responder to SPC calls, who alerted Parish Visitors—day-in and day-out—to urgent needs of individual members. It was our humbling honor to serve as representatives of the Springdale family's love in 2023.

PARISH ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

The bulk of my work in the role of Parish Associate for Immigrant Advocacy concentrated on assisting the Perez Serrano Family with the help of my husband Bob and many hands from this congregation and my circle of immigrant advocates. This work included housing and supporting them, getting Pedro back and forth to work, getting the children medical care, and dealing with the many steps of their asylum process. They received their work permits in June and thus received social security cards and were able to legally work in the United States. In July they moved into their own place which was generously outfitted by members of this congregation and the community at large.

Additional tasks included:

1. Joining the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLIN) which enables me to stay current on what is happening regarding laws affecting immigration. Under their umbrella I wrote several letters against bad laws being promoted by the Biden Administration.
2. I maintained contact with my connections at the border in Brownsville and McAllen Texas.
3. I maintained connection with La Casita and collected food items from my community circles and delivered to them.
4. In November I gave an Immigration presentation to the Christian Care Home.

Future Goals:

1. Explore with other immigration advocacy groups the possibility of launching a legal clinic to aid immigrants in filing asylum claims. This will involve:
 - a. Finding allies
 - b. Taking an intro to immigration law course and taking a six week course sponsored by CLIN in order to establish a legal clinic.
2. Explore the possibility of a mission trip with youth and adults or adults only from this congregation to the border.
3. Provide updates about immigration on a regular basis in Rooflines.

Finally, Immigration is a fluid process and depends strictly upon what congress does and who wins the 2024 election. There has been and will continue to be a strong anti-immigration movement in this nation which will affect the outcome of thousands of people like the Perez Serrano family who are legitimately seeking sanctuary and assistance from an over-extended system. Our prayers are needed for humane solutions.

Respectively Submitted—Sharon Kutz-Mellem

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT

Description

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

The Past Year

As we always state, much of what Building and Grounds`+ does is "behind the scenes" stuff. During 2023, we replaced two of our large roof-top air conditioner units. These units will operate much more efficiently than what was in use. Also, these have the potential to help with heating those areas, which can help reduce our dependence on our aging boiler system.

Other projects or tasks completed during 2023 include, but is not limited to:

- Had to have the contractor back to connect the addition to the drainage system under Klein Chapel (In the youth area). The work completed by the contractor added the trench and drainage, but it did not connect to the other work they provided a few years prior. This should prevent any future drain-related issues in that part of our building.
- Replaced damaged studs in walls associated with above and finished walls.
- Installed a camera system (RING) at 4 of the exterior doors and in the upper gathering area, giving office staff the capability to monitor as well as review who is or has entered at these main locations.
- We were contacted by JCPS regarding the traffic build up along Brownsboro Rd near Norton Elementary. Specifically a request to allow family members picking up their children from Norton to be able to wait in our parking lot to relieve heavy traffic on both Brownsboro Rd and Barbour Lane. Negotiations and planning are still in the works.
- Coordinated both a springtime and winter "Clean Up Days" with members of SPC as well as some Rabbouni members.

Upcoming in 2024

We will replace the defective air conditioning system that serves the area behind Klein Chapel and the Youth Area in the basement.

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 (Session Liaison), Eddie Riddle, Tomas Aguilera (Rabbouni Representative) and Larry Weishaar (Chair)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE REPORT

Mission Statement: The Congregational Care team seeks 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 numerous 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 fifteen card-senders who send one thinking of you card per month to members unable to attend services (for health reasons or other restrictive conditions), also to the homebound via the Congregational Care team to send uplifting cards at Valentine's, Halloween and Christmas, to those experiencing some sort of physical conditions (illness, surgery, etc.), the death of a loved one, having a significant birthday or anniversary, as well as those welcoming a new baby.
- Prepare and deliver meals to church members experiencing life's challenges or joys. We have eighteen meal preparers and five delivery volunteers. Donna Sheffer continues to be our Meal Ministry Coordinator.
- Prepare and serve a beautifully laid out refreshment table for members and their family members at Springdale-hosted funeral and visitation services. Barb Link continues to serve as the Bereavement Reception Coordinator. She recruits and leads a team of 8-10 devoted volunteers who provide a variety of finger foods and assorted munchies for bereavement services.
- Review the membership rolls and contact distant members by phone call, card, or letter. The Congregational Care team encourages members who have been inactive in the work and worship of Springdale to reconnect through our in-person services and activities, or via our live stream services. If those members show no indication of reconnection, the Congregational Care team evaluates them for removal from the church rolls and submits the names to Session for approval. During the Covid epidemic and months afterward, this process was on hold. We resumed the process last year. Per recommendation of the Congregation Care team, Session approved twenty-four inactive members for removal in 2023.

- Provide support for the Hot Topics Book Club. This is another outlet available for fellowship at Springdale. Established by Dayle Darby as former chair of Congregational Care, they offer interesting and relative material sparking lively discussions on current topics.
- Work closely with Springdale's Parish Visitors (Greg Cohen and Dottie Willis) who provide calls, tests, emails, prayer notes, food ministry, transportation, hospital visits, nursing home and home visits and home communion to our members.
- Provide as needed assistance to the Alone-Together group, facilitated by Janet Parker and Dottie Willis. This form of congregational outreach connects members facing the challenges of growing older by offering information, helpful tips, pearls of wisdom, resources, activities and projects and new and old friendships. They are a close and connected group.
- Initiate the practice of listing member's birthdays in the weekly newsletter and displaying their names on the overhead TV monitors during church services (Thank you Leah for your valuable part in this). Providing birthday information affords people the opportunity to make an in-person birthday wish or to reach out to the birthday person by phone call, text, email, or card.

Team members having served in 2023 include Donna Sheffer, Leslie Phillips, Judy Riddle and Cathy Weishaar, as well as our Parish Visitor's, Dottie Willis, and Greg Cohen.

Submitted by Cathy Weishaar, Chair

CREATION & SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Springdale has completed eight years as a certified PCUSA Creation Care Congregation. We have achieved this goal by meeting targeted objectives in four areas of focus: worship, education, outreach, and facilities management.

Worship. For Lent, we inserted the “Tread Lightly for Lent” calendar with environmental themes into our weekly newsletter. For Earth Day, we showed a PowerPoint of flora and fauna from team members’ yards, reflecting the seasons, while the choir sang “For the Beauty of the Earth.” We included PEC’s Advent devotional in our newsletter.

Education/Spiritual Nurture. For Earth Day, we asked our congregation to commit to eight earth care initiatives: reduce use of plastic bags; use re-usable drink bottles; use earth-friendly cleaning and laundry products; reduce clothing purchases; move to battery-powered tools; plant native trees, shrubs; avoid chemical pesticides; compost kitchen and yard waste. For two weeks, we featured a display of alternative products along with sign-up sheets asking our congregation to commit. We followed this up with a bulletin board as a reminder of the commitments. We used our weekly newsletter to provide a variety of articles: acceptable items for recycling at our church; interviews with members who own electric vehicles; conserving energy. Several in our team attended a lecture by Doug Tallamy, entomologist and well-known author and speaker on the importance of native plants and will be offering a listen and learn program in January 2024. A member shared the story of metamorphosis by showing our youth monarch chrysalises and caterpillars. Our book club read several books on the environment, including The Heat Will Kill You First by Jeff Godell and Under a White Sky by Elizabeth Kolbert.

Outreach. Springdale hosted the annual Ramblers Garden Club sale in our front lawn and our members donated plants. We also served as a weekly pick-up point for A Place on Earth CSA, owned by Carden Willis. Our creation care team member, Stan Hankins, volunteers regularly at the CSA farm. As indicated by road signage, Springdale adopted a highway many years ago and our men’s breakfast group picks up trash along a section of Highway 22 near the church. We provided a poster for our fall committee fair, asking our congregation to be conscious of our carbon footprint and to join our team.

Facilities. Creation Care team and several additional members watered and maintained the church’s garden. We replaced damaged shrubs along the foundation, planted 150 spring bulbs and a white oak tree (which ranks the highest of our native species in supporting insect larvae.) Creation Care hosted our coffee hour one Sunday in November to demonstrate using reusable plates and cups. We continue to encourage the use of reusables with all groups using the church.

Team members: David Burkholder, Helen Burkholder, Hester Haick, Stan Hankins, Jane Jones (Session Liaison), Allan Podbelsek, Jill Warner, Dwain Lee, Debbie Bunger (Chairperson).

Our thanks and appreciation to those members who helped us water the gardens: Scott Furkin, Mary Pace, and Sandy Gillespie. ***Please consider joining our team on an ongoing or project basis. We would love to have you!***

DISABILITY & FAITH INCLUSION REPORT

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.

This group was started on an informal basis in 2001 and has met regularly in recent years. In 2022, the group became an official Session committee. Present members are Jean Hainer, Leah Link-Ulrich, Jean Podbelsek, Kay Sherrard, Milt Tyree, Larry Weishaar, and Ellie Woertz. Session liaison is Jim Van Daalen, but he has been unable to attend our meetings due to his work schedule. Meeting dates in 2023 were on January 17, March 28, June 11, and October 17. Meetings are generally held every three months. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 9.

Springdale currently has a wheelchair available for use as needed at each door of the church. We also have a “loaning” process available for any church family member who needs a wheelchair, walker, knee scooter, or cane for a length of time. We also have automatic electronic doors at two entrances; ear buds and a hearing loop available that attendees may use. A defibrillator and two de-chokers (adult and child size) are also located in the church building, as well as an updated first aid kit. The middle hand rail at the base of the sanctuary steps has been found to be helpful to people who help with worship services or prepare communion, and we are doing our best to keep it installed for each Sunday service. Side hand rails are also beneficial.

Milt Tyree has offered to lead several classes in the spring (with the help of committee members) related to the important topic of the need for people to be valued and supported in their aging journeys. Milt has done much study and has much work experience in the area of social role valorization, and he has much expertise in leading this work. Classes will be held in May. More news of this plan will be made in the future via Rooflines. Stay tuned for updates!

Respectfully 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 which merged with Charles Schwab & Co in September of 2020. 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.

As of 12/31/2023 the asset allocation was as follows:

Equities	81.25%
Fixed Income	17.50%
Cash	01.25%
2023 Investment return/(loss) = 18.39%	

Fund Values and Distributions

Amount of 2022 Distribution	\$10,349
Fund Value 12/31/2021	\$231,276
Fund Value 12/31/2022	\$184,526
Fund Value 12/31/2023	\$206,755

Average 3 Yr. Account	\$207,519
2023 Distributable Amount (5% of 3 yr. Avg.)	\$10,376

Report submitted by the Endowment Trustees and Committee Members:

Nancy Skiles (2024) secretary; Loren Hincker (2024); Rob Locke (2025) chair; Bruce Bunger (2025); Bob Mellem (2026); Milt Tyree (2026); Al Nocito, Advisor

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

In 2023 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.

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. Note we have terminated our MCM contract since they were purchased by another firm and increased their monthly charge significantly. We plan to use CDM+ software for our 2024 accounting needs.

Finance team members and others take an active role in counting, recording and depositing the regular offering and other revenues. We count 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 2023 include:

First, we mourn the loss of Bernie Backert to a long, courageous battle with cancer. One of Bernie Backert last of many good deeds for the Finance committee, as he was retiring, was to find a capable replacement in Mary Ann Meaney. Mary Ann, who has a CPA and long experience with nonprofit organizations, has not only caught on quickly, but has led the effort to move our accounting software to CDM+. CDM+ has no additional cost because we were using its church management functions already.

We have worked with the new food pantry committee members to develop simple ways to keep track of food donations and monetary donations and the resulting food distribution. In 2023, in accordance to new accounting guidelines, we started to recognize in kind (food, et al) donations in revenue and expenses. We estimate weight and use the per pound costs DARE to CARE uses for its food distributions. This can give us a better idea of what Springdale is doing to help our community and can help with grant writing and budgeting needs. We do not, at this

time, recognize in our financial statements donated labor or use of building space. This is something we need to consider the value of doing during 2024.

We received some donations in stock this year and revisited and refined our procedures for processing this type of donation.

We provided forms for ministry teams to present their budget requests and to allocate them by quarter. Using these forms, we provided preliminary 2024 budget revenue and expense information and charts for the Stewardship campaign. We developed several drafts and updates of the 2024 budget after receiving funding requests from the ministry teams and session and updates from the Stewardship campaign. A final 2024 budget was approved by Session this past December.

We welcomed Jane Jones as a new member this past year and would welcome others who have an interest in helping maintain the financial well-being of the church. We were sorry to see Jean Hainer have to leave our committee at the end of the year for family care reasons. Three new counters, David Butke, Weldon Maisch, and Hester Haick helped with counting this year and Jane Jones joined later in the year when Hester was in rehab. We could really use a new counter to reduce our counting duties to once a month. (Joining the Finance team is not required)

We continued to investigate whether Springdale is eligible for government funds available in the Economic Recovery Acts of 2020 and 2021. The act is to help organizations who lost revenue during the covid pandemic or were affected by government restrictions due to the pandemic. We then hired ADP to file amended Springdale payroll tax returns for those quarters affected by government restrictions. Further government clarification shows that we need to withdraw at least one quarter's amendment. Government review and approval of the amended returns is slow because of the quantity and quality of the filings. They stopped accepting new amendments after ADP's filing of the amended Springdale payroll tax returns.

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

Team members during 2023 included session liaison Jean Hainer, Financial Secretary Mary Ann Meaney, Treasurer Phillip Swartzentruber, Leah Bradley, David Butke, Gil Gillespie, Jane Jones, Sarah Abraham and George Sherrard.

Respectively submitted,

George Sherrard, chairperson

Annual Report Expense Categories	2024 Budget
Building and Grounds	\$ 103,000
Growth and Communication	1,600
Creation Care	500
Congregational Care	475
Fellowship	650
Direct Missions	70,500
Special Offering Missions	9,000
Mission - Link Food Pantry - in Kind	31,000
Office Administration	19,150
Per Capita Assessment	6,175
Personnel	282,179
Spiritual Nurture	6,450
Session/ Stewardship	200
Worship and Music	4,250
Total Expense Budget	\$ 535,129

GROWTH & OUTREACH REPORT

The mission and goal of the Growth and Outreach (GO!) ministry team is to help Springdale Presbyterian Church (SPC) become a more invitational and welcoming church by equipping members to share the love of God with those God brings across our paths or through the doors at SPC. The team works through partnership with other committees and SPC staff to develop strategies which strengthen connections between members of the congregation, neighbors, friends, and the community. We do this by identifying innovative approaches for effective communication as well as planning and participating in community-building events. Active members of the team include Andy Martin (session liaison), Katherine Bradbery, David Burkholder, Helen Burkholder, Mark Hebert, Rachel Imam, Tanya Imam, Anne Locke (current chair), Barb Mayfield, Jim Mayfield, Gina Meester, Evan Gribbons, Brie Sanders, and Matt Sanders. We are guided by the SPC motto – Open, Loving, Thinking, Doing.

One of the key community partnerships GO! supports each year is SPC's participation in Pride events in the local area. In 2023, this again included both the June Kentuckiana Pride Parade and the September Louisville Pride Festival – both events were amazing community outreach opportunities and were well attended. Other GO! planned and supported community events included:

- Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University
- Raising money for the Food Pantry through the sale of SPC t-shirts
- Congregation-wide community picnics in April and October
- Christmas caroling in early December
- A community health fair with Norton clinicians providing free well-being checks (early 2024)

To stay connected and grow as a congregation, GO! encouraged new and old practices for communication.

- Throughout the year, the team evaluated Springdale's outreach materials, social media, and online presence with the goal of ensuring clear communication of SPCs programs and culture of inclusion.
- Social media community standards were finalized and added to social media sites.
- An electronic church picture directory was created by Leah. This directory is updated regularly and can be printed on demand anytime someone wants a fresh copy.
- GO! connected with folks new to SPC including writing introductions through Rooflines articles.
- NEW this year, GO! connected with existing members of the congregation to have member profiles included in Rooflines.
- GO! connected with other committees to encourage monthly Roof Lines updates to encourage more communication and awareness within the congregation.

- The text notification system continues to send out regular digital reminders about SPC church live worship and events (anyone can get Springdale updates and reminders through text alerts events by texting Springdale to 502-425-1760).

GO! has laid a foundation for 2024 to continue partnership with other SPC committees and SPC staff to develop strategies which strengthen connections between members of the congregation, neighbors, friends, and the community. The current plan includes programs and approaches to ensure ALL who interact with SPC experience the love of God.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Springdale's Little Free Library stewards worked to keep our offerings in both the adult and youth book boxes current by changing them out twice per month. We received many books from Springdale members and our neighborhood and because of this abundance we were able to share with the broader community:

- Portland Community ministries
- Habitat, via Friends of the Library – books to fill children's bookcases (for new homeowners)
- Locust Grove for their book sales
- The Grand Senior Living

Our library is a nice resource and full of books. Please feel free to enjoy the books in the LFLs and in the chapel and save a trip to the library.

Thanks to this year's stewards: Jayne Babbitt, Susan Cohen, Hester Haick, Jane Jones, Kay Levdahl, Debbie Martin-Herrell, Eddie Riddle, Judy Riddle, Donna Sheffer, Debbie Bunger. Special thanks to Eddie and Judy for their frequent attention to the LFLs and managing our book supply.

Are you interested in being a steward? Please contact Debbie Bunger

Submitted by Debbie Bunger

MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Fund receives contributions given in the name of a deceased relative or friend to acknowledge and honor that person's place in the church and in the heart of the donor. Each donation is recognized by a note to the donor and recorded in a book on display in the Gathering Area.

Memorial Fund gifts are used to obtain items of permanent and meaningful nature for use in the church. In 2023, these funds were used to purchase Godly Play materials, used by children in fifth grade and younger, and five new security cameras, mounted at our four main doors and in the Gathering Area.

In general, a committee or ministry in the church will request funds for a one-time purchase of an item outside of its normal budget. Upon approval by the Memorial Fund committee, funds are released and used to enhance our congregational life.

As of December 31, 2023, the Memorial Fund balance was \$15,171.28.

Submitted by:

Karen Miller

Judy Riddle

Jackie Ridsdale

MISSION & SOCIAL WITNESS REPORT

Springdale continues to financially support its traditional Mission Partners: Habitat for Humanity, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Eastern Area Community Ministries (EACM), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Brooklawn/ Brookwood home for children and youth in Anchorage, KY, La Casita, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Program, Portland Avenue Community Trust (PACT), Change Today/Change Tomorrow, Hope Village, and our own Link Food Pantry that is very successful and in its second year. Springdale participated in the Mid-Ky presbytery Mission Project for Hygiene Health Kits which are sent to disaster areas here in the US and internationally. Through people supplying the items and creating the kits, thousands of disaster survivors receive these much needed items.

Springdale supports several international and local initiatives: Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, the Presbyterian Church USA, Forman Christian College in Pakistan, and Mission Co-Workers serving along the US Mexico Border, Costa Rica, and Taiwan. Springdale also participates in our denomination's four special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Witness, Pentecost, and the Christmas Joy Offering.

Hands-on mission efforts include participating in the building of Habitat for Humanity's Presbyterian House; this year Springdale volunteers resettled a family of ten who came from Turkey and Syria, PACT, and EACM. SPC members provide food and clothing for PACT's outreach center. For EACM, Springdale hosts English as a Second Language classes in the lower level of our church, and one of our members is an ESL teacher. In addition, SPC members generously supported the Angel Tree Program by purchasing, wrapping, and delivering Christmas gifts for 25 children, who have a parent or close relative who is in prison.

In 2023 Springdale's Link Food Pantry celebrated the beginning of its second year providing food for approximately 50 families -- over 100 people are provided for each time the pantry is open. Recipients are able to choose the items they need and are very grateful for the food they receive. The congregation is donating very generously to help stock the pantry. Some meats and produce are also obtained from Dare to Care and other food stores and sources. Link Food Pantry is staffed by many Springdale volunteers. The Link is open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Residents of Hope Village will continue to receive a hot meal cooked by Springdale volunteers in the months that contain a fifth Sunday. All ingredients are donated by the congregation. The casseroles are assembled on Saturday in the church kitchen and are baked and delivered to Hope Village on Sunday before 12:30.

Some other highlights of 2023 Mission are the Lenten Calendar Project that provided large amounts of donated food for The Link Food Pantry with the motto of Forty items in forty days.

Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar, married co-workers who live on the border between Mexico and Arizona, visited our church in March. Mark delivered the sermon and they both led the Adult Education class after the worship service.

Springdale Presbyterian Church hosted Stitch in 2023 and the former refugees sold over \$1100 of their beautifully sewn items; they receive 100 percent of the proceeds.

KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES

The Kwidi family from Syria via Turkey has been successfully resettled though the head of the family is still awaiting his job placement. It was an unusual resettlement due to JCPS having no bus transportation available for the 8 children who quickly became bored. Fortunately, Springdale is full of willing helpers, and the family quickly had a team of 5 who provided them with English lessons, recreation, clothes, and guidance as they adjusted to life in Louisville.

Thank you to the more than 30 Springdale members who helped this wonderfully talented family settle in.

EACM – English second language

The number of classes continues to grow as the program addresses the needs of those seeking language skills. On-line and In-person person classes are offered at 4 different levels, and this year a beginning class was offered to address those who are already employed. Happily, we also celebrate the regular turnover of students who discover they speak well enough to join the work force in their chosen occupations.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

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 2023

The Personnel Team was involved in several activities related to staff issues at SPC this past year, including the following:

- Created and updated job descriptions.
- Successfully navigated the process of having our Pastor take and return from a sabbatical.
- Hired a financial secretary.
- Hired individuals for Children and Youth Spiritual Nurture roles.
- Navigated an unexpected extended absence of our Music Director.

UPCOMING IN 2024

A review of church Personnel Handbook will occur in 2024 to ensure that it reflects current law and best practices.

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

The team will solicit feedback through surveys to congregants on employee performance.

NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS

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

REPORT SUBMITTED BY

Leah Link-Ulrich

SPIRITUAL NURTURE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

In 2023, Spiritual Nurture and Education continued to serve the children, youth, and adults of the congregation and community through various educational offerings and special events. Halfway through the year, Joyce Ochs stepped down from her long-term position as Chair of the committee, being replaced by Tanya Imam.

Staff

In March, Rachel Imam and Katherine Bradbery were hired on a very-part-time basis (4 hours per week) to lead the children (birth-5th grade) and youth (6th-12th grades), respectively. After years of COVID closures and then staffing inconsistencies in 2022, this consistency in leadership allowed for the two age groups to finally reestablish a routine. Weekly, Springdale is currently welcoming about 8-10 children and 6-8 youth. Dwain Lee continues with responsibility for adult education offerings, and the Sunday morning adult study usually sees about 6-8 members.

*Rachel and Katherine would like to share their sincere thanks to the congregation for the generosity shown in purchasing **SO MANY** items off the Amazon Wish List for the kids and youth. The gifts have been put to great use!

Community Events and Special Activities

Spiritual Nurture again hosted the annual EggVent and Advent Event, with both being extremely well-attended. The 20+ children who attended the EggVent were invited to hunt for eggs, do crafts, bounce on the bounce house, and enjoy light refreshments; there was a good community turn-out for this event! The theme for the Advent Event was “Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace,” and 75 church members and friends, including nearly 20 children and youth, came to enjoy crafts, a potluck, caroling, and a visit from Santa! Spiritual Nurture also hosted the “Party at our Park” playground drop-off event over the summer, which gave the parents of 11 children a few hours to themselves while Springdale volunteers entertained the children.

Spiritual Nurture also hosted the “Doing Fair” in the fall, where 17 of Springdale’s ministry teams, organizations, clubs, etc. shared information about their missions and needs from the congregation. In 2023, Spiritual Nurture also offered Mother’s Day photos for families, a graduate recognition lunch, and Lenten devotional resources for families.

Worship/Sanctuary

Children remained a part of the weekly worship service, participating in the Children’s Message (lead by Rachel Imam or other volunteers). The children were also thrilled to sing songs during the services on Palm Sunday and Christmas Eve this year. In 2023, Spiritual Nurture facilitated the transition of the space in the back of the sanctuary from only a coloring table into what is now called the “Calm Corner,” which has tables to serve toddlers through adults, books and coloring materials, a rocking chair, a soft rug, fidget toys, and other quiet activities. Children

and adults are welcome to use this intergenerational space at any time during the worship service!

Grace Place

In 2023, we celebrated the nursery being re-opened for a full year! It was cleaned and reorganized so that the space could be used for play *and* for education. The smaller room (with the window) now houses the majority of the toys and is a space used for active play. The larger room (with the bathroom) is now a calm space used for education, crafts, and quiet play. The nursery was staffed by workers from Family Tree for the first portion of the year, but we are thrilled that Lauren Mullins has now joined the staff as our nursery supervisor and she is assisted each week by an adult volunteer from the congregation.

Children (birth-5th grade)

In 2023, the children started using the Godly Play curriculum. This is a play-based approach to Christian education that teaches Bible stories with materials kids can put their hands on and open-ended questions that push children to form their own conclusions. Since the current group of kids is very young, Rachel is usually teaching the same lesson 3-4 weeks in a row (for maximum understanding) and it is typically paired with a related craft or activity. In 2023, the kids studied The Good Shepherd, Creation, Noah and the Ark, Abram and Sarai, Crossing the Red Sea, The Ten Best Ways to Live, The Mustard Seed, and Jesus' Birth.

Youth (6th-12th grades)

Springdale's youth resumed meeting about twice per month in 2023. Katherine led them through a study on "The Foundation of Prayer," using prayer journals and other tools to understand why and how we pray. In the summer, the youth met for a day-long retreat where they cleaned the youth room, painted rocks as part of their foundation study, visited church members, and went to Main Event! In addition to helping at various church events throughout the year, the youth also carved pumpkins as a fundraiser in October and stuffed 40 stockings for the children of The Link in December.

Adult Education

Sunday morning adult education started the year with a multi-part study of the Gospel of Matthew, to go along with the year's Lectionary focus. During Dwain's sabbatical, various classes were offered by volunteers from the congregation. In the fall, the group began a study on the book of Exodus, intended to lead to discussion about how diverse people and groups read and understand the messages found in these foundational texts. The Exodus series was followed by a study series based on the book "Father Abraham's Many Children," which prompted reexamination of the idea of the existence of a single, exclusionary group who are God's "Chosen People."

Men's Breakfast spent the year studying the Great Courses Curriculum on "Introduction to the New Testament," revised by Frank Hainer to fit into one year worth of lessons. They will move on to "Introduction to the Old Testament" in 2024. The Women's Bible Study group, led by Dottie Willis, continues monthly lunch meetings studying Sacred Encounters.

Looking forward:

In 2024, Spiritual Nurture plans to survey the congregation to find out what educational offerings would best serve Springdale's current population, and hopes to be able to act on those results. The team is also hoping to add at least one member who can attend our monthly meetings and report on/represent the adult education offerings, like adult Sunday school, Men's Breakfast, Women's Bible Study, etc. Session has allowed for Rachel and Katherine to double their hours in 2024 (8 hour per week, each).

Monthly Meetings:

Spiritual Nurture meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm in the Gathering Area. All are welcome to join!

Submitted by Rachel Imam, Children's Ministry Coordinator on behalf of:

Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team Members:

Tanya Imam, Chair

Susan Cohen, Session Representative

Paige Erhart, Rachel Imam, Katherine Bradbery

WORSHIP & ARTS REPORT

DESCRIPTION

Provide for appropriate and meaningful worship of God through the proclamation of the gospel as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; effectively using prayer, scripture, liturgy, preaching and other spoken word, and effective and creative use of music and other performing and visual arts in traditional and innovative ways in worship and the life of the congregation.

DESCRIPTION OF MINISTRY IN 2023

Activities and special worship experiences in 2023:

The Worship and Arts team helped plan and implement worship throughout the year. This committee is responsible for organizing and scheduling weekly volunteers who help make worship happen: ushers, greeters, liturgists and communion servers and preparers. We implemented a new process for promoting online and in-person offering including the creation of a QR code link for giving in the announcement slides and in the pews. Additionally, we addressed worship issues that arose during the year.

The Worship & Arts committee added new drapes and a wreath for the choir loft for Easter. We decorated outside, in the Gathering Area and choir loft for Pentecost. We coordinated the decorations for advent in the sanctuary and Gathering Area and created a festive atmosphere outside the church; received assistance from multiple SPC members and a group from the Rabbouni congregation.

UPCOMING IN 2024

During 2024, the Worship and Arts Committee will continue all current efforts. Decorative goals: update the Advent decorations and add a couple of new table cloths for the communion table.

NAMES OF MEMBERS: Katherine Bradbery (Session Liaison), Lisa Hebert, Jane Jones, Debbie Martin-Herrell. Additionally, Jill Warner adds her artistic talent to our decorative efforts. Dwain Lee attends meetings and consults with the Worship & Arts Committee. Leah Bradley provides guidance and helps implement many of our tasks.