



Springdale Presbyterian Church

Annual Report 2020

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PASTOR'S REPORT

Hi, friends,

To put it mildly, 2020 was possibly the most unusual year in the history of our congregation. The following is just a very brief summary of pastoral activities during this tumultuous time.

Worship:

In-person worship was suspended due to the pandemic, in accordance with recommendations from national and state health officials. With hardly more than a week's notice, we made arrangements to live stream worship services online, reconfiguring the sanctuary layout in order to accommodate the basic equipment and expertise that we had at the time.

When the closure began, we thought that perhaps it would pass over quickly, and we'd be able to be back in the sanctuary by Easter. That obviously didn't happen, which also eliminated our annual time of worship and fellowship together with our friends at Grace Hope Presbyterian on Easter Sunday. As the year progressed, our technical knowledge grew – as did the disappointing realization that this closure was going to be longer than anyone had originally imagined. We also learned that even while the live streaming began out of pandemic necessity, it was also allowing more people to participate in worship – former members who had moved away who could now join us online for worship, as well as new visitors who had just found us online. Given those realities, we moved to install better, permanent cameras and equipment, which enabled us to essentially return to our traditional sanctuary layout and to create a better worship experience overall. We recognized that live streaming worship is a valuable tool in our congregation carrying out its mission to the community and beyond, and we will continue to live stream our services after we resume in-person worship in the sanctuary. As we had time to experiment with online worship, we found creative ways to carry out all of the various elements of worship, including administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Over time, we were able to incorporate "virtual liturgists," expanding the number of people who participated in each worship service, including more participation by our youth.

By October, we began to have in-person, socially distant outdoor worship services. These began with participating in the Presbytery-wide "Witness for Justice," a response to the unjust killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others. We built on that first attempt, conducting brief weekly in-person outdoor services throughout Lent and Christmas Eve, including several conducted jointly with the Rabbouni Catholic Community. Also during Lent, we were able to set up our labyrinth in the Fellowship Hall for self-guided labyrinth walks.

To be sure, this has been a very challenging year as we tried to find the best possible response to provide worship in a meaningful and respectful way, consistent with our Presbyterian understanding of worship, and to offer services that are accessible to, and that resonate with, as many of our members and participants as possible. I think that we did as good a job as we could have, and better than many other congregations, even while acknowledging the unfortunate reality that online worship was either inaccessible to, or simply didn't provide spiritual nurture for, some of our members. I can only say that throughout this past year, and as we move into the new year while still under pandemic conditions, wherever we succeeded in worship and wherever we failed, we did the best that we could given the situation.

Pastoral Care

In conjunction with the Parish Visitors, I continued to make visitations to people at home, in hospitals, rehab facilities, etc., as well as meeting with a number of members in office consultations. Obviously, with the lockdowns of many facilities, Covid-19 curtailed some of these activities completely after March. However, once we moved throughout the year, and we could find ways to do socially distant “porch visits,” “window visits,” etc., in order to try to stay as connected as possible with people, the number of home visits I made actually increased compared with the previous year.

Staff Notes:

This past year, we said goodbye to Spiritual Nurture Coordinator Christa McCarrick. For the time being, I will be assuming Christa’s former responsibilities related to adult spiritual nurture; and spiritual nurture for children ages birth through 12 will be coordinated by Joyce Ochs, who is joining our staff as a part-time interim Children’s Ministry Coordinator. I’m very excited about the possibility of being more directly involved in our adult educational/spiritual nurture offerings and activities, something that I’d been more directly involved with in previous pastoral settings. We’ve already got some interesting things set up, and in conversation with a number of people both in-house and beyond, I think that this should be an interesting and enjoyable year for our adult spiritual nurture activities, both on Sundays and other times during the week; and both remotely via Zoom and hopefully by the second half of the year, in person again. You’ve also undoubtedly enjoyed Joyce’s children’s message and music for our children during Sunday worship. Joyce is already working hard at finding ways to connect with the kids and their parents and to coordinate meaningful and engaging children’s ministry. Other staff members – Dr. Warren Broome, Leah Bradley, Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo, Greg Cohen, and Dottie Willis, continued to provide remarkable service and support to our congregation throughout the year, even under the current pandemic constraints.

Miscellaneous Thoughts

While navigating the challenges of serving as a pastor in “Covid Time,” I was curious if I could gain insights from our congregational records from the time of the Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918. Sadly, there wasn’t really any specific commentary about it in the records we had. That was disappointing; I wish that there was some record of how Springdale got through those times.

Even during the closure of in-person worship, our congregation received two new members – Sharon Kutz-Mellem, who joined via a Zoom connection; and Priscilla “Pris” Veatch, who joined our small worship team in person, stayed socially distant, and was received in person. Both were joyful events.

Looking at last year’s annual report, I note that we had recently enacted our new Emergency Response Plan. This plan ended up being far more comprehensive than was originally considered – still, as it turns out, the largest emergency we faced this past year was something even our very good ERP never dreamt of. I only mention the plan again this year to say that due to the suspension of in person worship, meetings, and other activities at the church building, implementation of the plan was also put on hold. We’ll implement it whenever we’re all back together again.

One thing that might seem small, but that I was very pleased about, was that this past year – a year marked by continual death and loss – we were able to plant a memorial tree, recognizing and memorializing all of that loss, whether that loss be actual loss of life, or of connectedness and fellowship, or of some other type. At the same time, the memorial tree, itself a literal sign of life arising out of the tragedy, serves as a new Advent/Christmas tree, which, in its being lit every year from now on, will be a symbolic beacon of

light arising out of sadness, loss, and tragedy. I think that's a good metaphor for much of what we experience in our journey of faith.

None of us ever dreamt that 2020 would be the year that it was, on multiple fronts. Looking forward to this current year, I'll refrain from making any predictions. However, I will say that even given our setbacks and losses in 2020, Springdale Presbyterian remains strong and healthy. Our connectedness as a church family – a community of faith – has, I believe, been strengthened by all that we've been enduring. We've found new ways to do things that will serve us well in the future. And while our national demographics are still stacked against churches and all other "joiner-based" organizations, I think we're positioned to continue to do very well. Will we grow? Will we shrink? That, I do not know. But I do know that we will continue to discern and carry out the mission that God has planned and put in place for us, as we all look forward to our life together as a post-Covid church.

Grace and peace,
Dwain

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Musical Notes

Your music ministry had a successful year with the choirs and hand bells enhancing our Sunday services. We had a fun Cabaret and the hand bells presented a fun concert.

Our faithful singers and instrumentalists kept our in-stream services lively and refreshing during this long pandemic period.

We look forward to a virtual cabaret soon and a special Valentine's Day concert entitled The Many Aspects of Love featuring Gillian Hollis, Laurie Kraus, and Warren Broome. Set your Facebook dial for 5:00 On Feb. 14!

PARISH VISITORS' REPORT

Parish Visitors—Greg Cohen and Dottie Willis—served together during 2020 to provide caring communication and spiritual support for Springdale members, especially individuals experiencing life challenges and health crises. We began the past year by doing personal visitation of our congregation in homes, hospitals, rehab centers, assisted living centers, and nursing homes, where we also supported caregivers who passed long hours with suffering relatives. We even waited with church members during a relative's surgery or celebrated with individuals following the birth of a new baby. Along with Pastor Dwain Lee, we participated in a meaningful home communion service with Scottie Theiss and her loved ones as Scottie neared the end of her life journey.

Greg and Dottie connected with the SPC family by phone calls, emails, texts, and prayer notes, documenting a record of our personal contacts to discuss during Pastoral Care meetings. Each Tuesday morning, before attending church staff meetings, we met together with Pastor Dwain Lee to pray about individual and congregational concerns. We also gave thanks for members' birthdays and anniversaries. Weekly, the Parish Visitors also compiled a list of names requesting special prayers and then emailed this roster to the SPC Prayer Chain, 15 caring volunteers who also offer prayers, send cards, and share love within our church family and community.

Monthly, either Greg or Dottie arranged to meet with the Congregational Care Ministry Team, reporting to them on our pastoral care activities and seeking feedback on our ministry. We often collaborated with Donna Sheffer, coordinator of the church's Food Ministry program. When needed, Donna called upon a long list of volunteers to prepare or deliver food to SPC members. Both Parish Visitors also contributed to the SPC Food Ministry.

In mid-March, 2020, the Coronavirus forced Springdale to discontinue in-person gatherings and worship. However, the Parish Visitors' mission did not end. Instead, our roles became even more vital and our time commitments increased as we faced the challenge of finding new ways to maintain close contact with SPC members while remaining apart physically because of a global pandemic.

Parish Visitors continued to attend both staff meetings and Congregational Care meetings, conducted online from March, 2020-December, 2020. Greg and Dottie increased their numbers of phone calls, cards, texts, and emails. Additionally, we turned to FaceTime and Zoom for making virtual visits. We could not enter nursing homes and residence facilities; but we did drop off books, letters, and, during the summer, even flowers to quarantined members as a reminder of our congregation's continuing care for each of them.

Since April, 2020, Dottie Willis has facilitated Zoom meetings at least twice per week for Springdale's Alone-Together group, averaging nine persons in attendance at each session. Participation continues to grow. Zoom gatherings have not only helped Alone-Together members survive months of self-quarantine; they have deepened friendships and strengthened ties among this group for seniors started 15 months ago by Janet Parker. From May to December, 2020, Alone-Together members also donned masks and reunited monthly at parks, botanical gardens, and parking lot worship services. Dottie expanded the *Alone-Together Gazette*, formerly a one-page newsletter informing participants about upcoming field trips and meetings, to promote personal communication between all members of the Springdale family. The *Gazette* will continue to be emailed to all members until SPC can safely reunite and worship together again.

Coronavirus risks prevented large-group gatherings such as the Mature Men's luncheons and popular monthly Bible study and breakfast for SPC men. So Greg Cohen conceived a safer alternative plan to support participants. Greg contacted men who previously enjoyed these fellowship opportunities and invited them instead to take part in a small and socially distant prayer group on the first Saturday of each month in Fellowship Hall. During summer and fall months when weather permitted, Greg Cohen also arranged outdoor pastoral house calls that enabled Dwain Lee as well as the two Parish Visitors to make safe in-person visits. A special memory from these patio visits occurred on July 15, when Dwain, Dottie, and Greg met on the Mendells' deck with Shirley and Bob to celebrate Bob Mendell's 95th birthday with cupcakes and birthday hats.

Throughout our world and within our church, 2020 was a difficult year, full of loss and grief. The planting of Springdale's Memorial Tree is a fitting tribute to commemorate all lives lost during the global pandemic. We are still awaiting a time when it is safe to honor together the lives of Springdale saints who died during the pandemic. During the past year, Parish Visitors worked with Wayne Willis, who conducted two meetings of the SPC Grief Support Group. One in-person gathering took place in Fellowship Hall in June. A second Grief Consortium was offered via Zoom in December.

SPIRITUAL NURTURE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The year began normal. We had our first meeting on February 10th. We discussed the Lenten season and with our annual Eggvent. Its scope, reason and who to invite were decided and preparations would be on its way. However due to a World Pandemic this event was unable to happen.

A new member joined our meeting Mahnaz who told of her understanding of a introduction to US culture. She has recently moved from a mostly Muslim country to the US. She explained that so much of our culture is rooted in our religious beliefs. People from different places around the world may not understand these assumed cultural religious assumptions. She suggested we host lessons about the underlying Christian beliefs that our country is built upon. We were in talks about how to do this with out breaking (EACM) Eastern Area Community Ministry partner rules. This fine line where their can rightly blend into the other, in itself is an issue. There is not separation of Religion and Government for many countries.

Christa and Dwain have been working on a comprehensive Plan of Caring and Faith Development for Children and Youth. The ministry team also discussed other ways we could develop and promote Spiritual Nurture programs to young adults. Mark Levdahl was noticing that we do not do enough to minister to collage aged students or young adults. He shared his own experiences as a young man. He said we need to pay more attention to this demographic.

Our Next meeting was in June. Many changes had taken place and hard decisions were being made. The Pandemic that closed down our country in March was still on going. We had a reprieve due to the nice weather. We were able to meet again and plan for further ministry with the health restrictions. No further in person Worship, classes or events could happen. We turned our attention to some adaptive ways of ministering we had experimented with. Internet meetings where we could talk and see each other was working for Learn and Serve Classes via Zoom. Most church business has been handled this way. Worship has been broadcasted with the use of Facebook and YouTube. This is ok but not meeting all the needs of our congregation. We decided to create small groups. 10 people who could meet outside to support one another. Christa started coordinating this effort over the next few months.

Individual families were getting snail mail letters. We had to determine if the virus was spread due to touch surfaces. With it decided that mail was safe more material could be distributed this way. VBS could not happen in the traditional way but could be done with care packages being dropped off and mail sent. We decided to continue this avenue and uses it as best we could. VBS and weekly summer mailings were sent out with age related material for kids and parents. Crafts lesson plan and worksheets were sent out. Other activity ideas and supplies were delivered on door steps and care packages mailed.

As time marched on and the virus continued to spread and grow, we decided not to meet again for an end of year meeting. Most of our large programming could not happen. There was no

Advent dinner to organize. Worship Ministry leaders decided that we could have outdoor Worship services for Advent. Christa created material for people to do crafts in their own homes, in leu of the Advent Crafts with singing and dinner at the Church.

YOUTH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Last year annual report began by celebrating what a marvelous year 2019 was for our church's youth. 2019 was a year of many events and new activities with the youth. As you might imagine, 2020 had some differences. Many of the activities, events and projects were, changed, modified or completely canceled due to the pandemic. We engaged in new alternatives to connect with our young people. Despite not being able to see each other in person, technological means were an essential tool for maintaining contact with all.

Below is a recount of the events and opportunities we were able to hold during 2020.

- Puerto Rico Conversation
 - Right before the decision of social distancing, we had a group of close to 30 people who participated in a conversation about the earthquakes that are still affecting the island of Puerto Rico. The group included people from the church and the community.
- Tech Together
 - By a request from the Alone Together group, our youth participated in a Tech event where they helped with understanding and managing their tech equipment from members of the Alone Together group.
- Souper Bowl
 - Every year our youth organizes and lead the Souper Bowl Sunday. Last year this fundraising event raised \$250 and many canned goods for the Portland Avenue Mission.
- Rock Climb
 - Our last in person activity before social distancing we had the opportunity to do rock climbing. Both youth and adults went to do rock climbing at Climb Nulu. We had a wonderful time with both youth and parents participating.
- Graduation events
 - Due to the restrictions we had to reimagining new ways to celebrate the achievements of our graduates. Together with the Youth Task Force we worked on ways to celebrate and congratulate our graduates. We prepared yard signs to put in front of the church and one for each graduate to put in their houses. We sent contact information of our graduates to the church's members and invite

them to send cards, letters or gifts. We also had a moment of recognition during worship.

- In coordination with the parents we did a drive by visit to celebrate the graduations of 3 of our youths, Mara, Tess and Jo.
- Confirmation 2021
 - In coordination with the Youth Task Force and Pastor Edwin in creating the Confirmation process to begin January 2021.
 - Met with parents through zoom to discuss youth activities and confirmation process. As a result of the conversation we have 4 youth who are going to be part of the confirmation process. We also spoke about the possibility of doing additional social distance activities with the youth. We are attaching more information to this report.
- Check-Ins
 - Understanding the need to safeguard our youth and adults we started having weekly check-ins with our youth. We met every Sunday at 11:30 for 30 to 40 minutes. We met to talk about the week and school. We also did other activities, including playing games online.
- Food Donation Drive
 - During the month of November our youth organized and food donation drive for thanksgiving. The food collected, (two full minivans) was taken to Portland Presbyterian Church. The youth and parents had the opportunity to visit the facilities and learn about the work of the church with the community.
- Youth Participation During Worship
 - A few weeks after we started live streaming, we were able to incorporate participation from our youth during each of the worships.
- Additional work at church
 - In response to the changes related to worship and live streaming, my role has shifted to 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.

BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

DESCRIPTION

The SPC Building and Ground Ministry Team oversees the care and maintenance of the church's property and the facilities.

THE PAST YEAR

Much of the work of the B & G team is spent on "behind the scenes" projects such as building maintenance, repairs, building updates, property management, and making sure general plumbing, HVAC, roof, and electrical systems are maintained. Some of the larger and more noticeable projects that were completed in 2020 are listed below.

- We coordinated the removal of 2 large trees on the property. One, an Ash tree just off the entrance into Klein Chapel and the other, an Oak just off the back entrance to the kitchen on south side of church.
- We rebuilt the window sills of all of the windows of Klein Chapel.
- We added a GFI receptacle outside near the church sign.
- We oversaw (And continue until final completion) an Eagle Scout project that includes the installation of a swing just outside the playground area, near the praying hands.
- We rebuilt the original "Little Free Library" and got both repainted and "spruced up".
- We had a successful fall "Clean Up Day". Got a lot of support and assistance.

UPCOMING IN 2020

The B & G team will continue to focus on the repairs, preventive actions and maintenance of our building. We plan to obtain proposals for the painting of all exterior surfaces that are painted.

B & G TEAM MEMBERS

Eddie Riddle, Bruce Bunger, Dan Botula, Steve Martiny**, Larry Weishaar*, Greg Nickels, Greg Buelt, Rick Davis and Dave Butke.

* denotes Session member

** denotes Chairperson

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

New members – We received new members into the congregation in 2019:

Rick Davis
Sandy Davis
Sharon Kutz-Mellem

Baptisms

None

Member deaths – We grieve the deaths of members:

Don Ward
Hank Ridsdale
Alan Guild

Letters of transfer – At their request we have transferred the following memberships:

None

Moved to inactive – The following members were moved to the inactive rolls for one-year due to lack of involvement

None

Removed from the rolls – Upon their request

None

The Session – Elders in Active Service

2020	2021	2022
Joy Cashman	Sarah Abraham	Mark Levdahl
Cathy Longstreet	Debbie Bungler	Weldon Maisch
Mary Pace	David Erhart	Jean Podbelsek
Dallas Skiles	Larry Weishaar	George Sherrard

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Parks, Clerk of Session

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

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), 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 to invite them to reconnect with us by joining our live stream worship services).
- Prepare and deliver meals to church members experiencing life's challenges or joys. We have 21 meal preparers and 7 meal delivery volunteers. Donna Sheffer continues to be our Meal Ministry Coordinator. Due to the contact and safety issues related to the coronavirus, we implemented a '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. Large gatherings have not been permitted at Springdale since March 2020, so 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 2021.
- 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 2020 but hope to continue with this special form of fellowship and fundraising in the latter part of 2021.

- Offer interesting and relative material for lively discussion at the Hot Topics Book Club. They meet once a month on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 3:00. With current in-person restrictions, they meet via a Zoom call facilitated by Dottie Willis. Dayle Darby 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).
- Provide support and assistance as needed to the Alone-Together Group (facilitated by Janet Parker, Dottie Willis, and Greg Cohen) as they continue to connect members facing the challenges of growing older, through two weekly Zoom meetings offering information, helpful tips, pearls of wisdom, resources, and new and old friendships. They also provide congregational outreach by organizing projects to show special care for each other and others in the church.
- Prepare and serve a beautifully laid out bereavement refreshment table for members and their family at Springdale hosted funeral services. A team of dedicated volunteers provide a variety of finger foods and assorted munchies at the loss of a church member. Due to the restrictions of the coronavirus, we are currently unable to offer this to our members. We hope to resume this service sometime in 2021.

Team members having served in the last year include: Joy Cashman, Donna Sheffer, Leslie Phillips, Judy Riddle, Cathy Weishaar, Sarah Abraham (Session Liaison), and our Parish Visitors: Dottie Willis, and Greg Cohen.

Respectively submitted by Cathy Weishaar, Chair

CREATION CARE MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

Team members: Hester Haick, Stan Hankins, Jane Jones, Marcia Jumblatt, Mary Pace, Debbie Bunger

Creation Care started the year with a brainstorming session with representatives from Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church and PCUSA Earth Care Associate Jessica Maudlin, to understand what earth care initiatives other churches are taking and to bring forth ideas for a potential forum to be hosted by SPC. We learned that as of last year, there were 263 certified earth care congregations and 45 more applications received in the first part of the year. Springdale has just completed six years as a certified earth care congregation, by meeting objectives outlined by PCUSA. These objectives include education for youth and adults, worship, outreach to the community, and energy and materials conservation in our facilities. These objectives have been met not just by Creation Care team, but by all of us at SPC, individuals and ministry teams alike, as we make choices to better care for the environment.

In 2020, we took over responsibility for the landscaped beds from the Building and Grounds team. We obtained a detailed plan from Margaret Shea, owner of Dropseed Nursery, a nursery focusing on native flora, to replace exotic shrubs and flowers with native plants. (Native plants feed a greater number of our native insects and pollinators because they have co-evolved together.) We planted a mixed native flower bed next to the front entrance, added native trumpet vine to the ledge on the west side of the chapel, and with the help of Boy Scouts, led by Hunter Holsclaw, and Building and Grounds, planted native sweet spire shrub along the side entrance, replacing the holly bushes. We also added a couple of native plants to the memorial garden and removed and replaced invasive shrubs next to the street with native virburnum. We were pleased to find that our work paid off with visits from Monarch caterpillars feeding on the milkweed and a chrysalis in the bed next to the front walk.

The team met monthly for outside maintenance of the gardens and took turns watering the beds; this was a nice opportunity for fellowship and outdoor activity during these pandemic times.

We welcome others who are interested in Creation Care to join us, as part of the team or on a project basis. Our meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of every month at 10 a.m. Please contact Debbie Bunger or any member of our team if you are interested in joining us.

DISABILITY ISSUES AND FAITH INCLUSION REPORT

This group exists for the purpose of being mindful and pro-active re: accessibility needs for people within our congregation. We focus on the rights of ALL members and visitors to have full accessibility in our church life. We are an “arm” of the Congregational Care ministry and have existed since 2001, when the group was started on an informal basis.

Present members of this group are Jean Hainer, Kay Sherrard, Milt Tyree, Larry Weishaar, and Jean Podbelsek. The group met on Zoom three times in 2020: April 20, August 12, and November 12.

Though 2020 seemed like an unusually long year, our report will be shorter than usual because we have not been having in-person worship services since mid-March. Most of the usual “duties” of this group have been “put on hold.” One of our main tasks this past year has been to “bolster” each other, as several group members had personal health problems and there were several family deaths. Much of our meeting times were spent in sharing our joys and concerns for members and friends of our Springdale family. Milt Tyree offered his services to anyone who needed help in learning to access church services on Zoom.

When in-person worship services resume, we will be ready to help with accessibility issues in the church building. Please let any of the group members know if you are aware of a problem or need that might be met by this group.

The group will meet again via Zoom in February or March. Think about joining us!

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 2019 Distribution	\$9,030
Fund Value 12/31/2018	\$164,649
Fund Value 12/31/2019	\$187,647
Fund Value 12/31/2020	\$205,111
Average 3 Yr. Account.....	\$185,802
2020 Distributable Amount (5% of 3 yr. Avg.)	\$9,290

Report submitted by the Endowment Trustees and Committee Members:

Sarah Abraham (2020), Secretary
 Mike Coomes (2022)
 Paige Erhart (2020)
 Loren Hincker (2021)

Rob Locke (2022), Chair
 Al Nocito, Treasurer
 Kay Sherrard (2021)

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

2020 has not been a normal year by any means. 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 Preschool, and 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 provides 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 weekly basis until Covid rules prevented us from gathering together in person. The frequency was changed to twice a month with two Finance team members coming into the church office to take care of the mailed in checks in a Covid healthy way.

Members do other internal reviews on an as needed basis.

Actions taken during 2020 include:

Phillip Swartzentruber agreed to replace Dennis McNulty as Treasurer.

We reviewed our procedures for counting and recording donations to the Memorial fund or Endowment fund.

We established on the church's website an on-line giving capability with the Presbytery Foundation during the year. General offering and memorial fund choices were initially provided and late in the year Endowment fund and special offering choices were added. Several members and friends of the church are now using this feature.

The Finance team worked together to secure a forgivable PPP loan the government made available to businesses and nonprofits through their banks. The preschool portion was used to pay preschool staff salaries through mid-November after the preschool suspended its classes in March. The church's portion will be used to offset the revenue shortfalls we experienced in 2020. The forgiveness of the loan has been delayed to 2021 by the banks waiting for the final

government directions on what we are required to file with the banks. We have gathered and shared with the bank the information the bank has asked for.

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

We considered a recommendation to start using a gift card vendor that rebates a percentage of the gift card to the church. We authorized a test to be done during the Christmas season to help us determine whether members would find this capability attractive. We expect to review the test results later in 2021. The test needs several iterations for people to alter their purchasing habits.

We worked with the Stewardship campaign team to provide preliminary 2020 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 month. We developed several drafts and updates of the 2021 budget after receiving funding requests from the ministry teams and session and updates from the Stewardship campaign. A final 2021 budget was approved by Session in December.

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, Al Nocito, Gil Gillespie, Sarah Abraham and George Sherrard.

Respectively submitted,

George Sherrard, chairperson

GROWTH & OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

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, Eric Michalsen, Cathy Weishaar, George Sherrard (session liaison)

Our action items, like those of others, were limited by COVID but here are some of the highlights of 2020:

Began sending postcards to families buying homes in zip codes close to Springdale. John Fischbach is a realtor who send 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.

Anne Locke began going through the thousands of photos we have on a hard drive to get them in some sort of searchable and findable order. Dave Dockstader has been putting his photos on a cloud-based server and labeling them in a way that they are easier to find. Anne is using the photos for presentations during Worship.

A “Congratulations Graduates” banner was purchased and 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.

Dave Dockstader videotaped and posted video of all sermons and other parts of the weekly services on line (pre-COVID)

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

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

Dwain Lee and other members were active participants in rallies for Justice and Peace over the summer

The group continued to hold every other meeting at El Nopal (pre-COVID), providing a nice way to socialize as well as conduct business.

We look forward to 2021 when we can safely get together again.

MISSION MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

- KYRM: Refugee sponsorship funds applied to Covid 19 needs of other Mission partners
- PORTLAND: PACT has moved and is reorganizing. We continue to support it as an emerging ministry.
- Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice: La Casita has become a full Mission partner
- Eastern Area Community Ministries: The English Second Language Program is operating with remote learning.
- We continue to support Habitat for Humanity, Belleview/Brooklawn (formerly Uspiritus), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbytery Initiatives, and 3 Missionaries.

PERSONNEL MINISTRY TEAM 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 THE PAST YEAR

In 2020, the ministry team worked with the Session and Finance Team to establish budget goals. The team solicited feedback from the Congregation for the Pastor and Music Director.

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
- Evaluated and transitioned duties of Spiritual Nurture Coordinator
- Made recommendation regarding structure and relationship between SPC and Springdale Preschool
- Worked with Finance Team to determine benefit offerings for staff

UPCOMING IN THE NEXT YEAR

A review of the Employee Handbook will occur in 2021 to ensure a match to current staffing arrangements and needs.

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.

PRESCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Children and grandchildren of many SPC members began their lifelong love of learning in the SPC Preschool, which was established in 1960. Serving on the 2020 Springdale Preschool Advisory Board were Carie Salot, Jennifer Pruitt, Lora Coomes, Angela Nichols, Lisa Hebert, Sharon Shelton, Dottie Willis, and Christa McCarrick, SPC liaison.

Teachers began the new year with an annual salary increase of 3%. Board Treasurer Sharon Shelton aligned Preschool's budgets (previously based on an academic year) to coincide with the SPC calendar-year budget. Springdale Preschool LLC has utilized the same payroll service as Springdale Presbyterian Church. Enrollment-based tuition in partnership with SPC enabled Springdale Preschool to remain financially strong.

In March, 2020, however, Springdale Preschool had to close its doors. Governor Andy Beshear mandated closing all Kentucky schools because of Covid-19. Although teachers did offer online enrichment, in-person classes did not resume because of the pandemic. Monthly tuition was refunded to families. Kindergarteners celebrated a drive-by graduation ceremony. Because of emergency small business grants to SPC, faculty continued to receive some of their anticipated salary during the school's closure.

During May, June, and July, members of the Advisory Board met to deliberate when and how Springdale Preschool should reopen. In addition to a surging pandemic, we confronted two insurmountable obstacles: 1) low school enrollment that would make operation fiscally impossible and 2) stringent new state regulations due to the pandemic that required hiring more staff, purchasing new equipment, remodeling school space, and providing additional janitorial services. We drafted a letter to the Session with our serious concerns, offering a tentative recommendation that Springdale Preschool postpone operations until the 2021-2022 academic year. After a thorough discussion, Session members concurred with the Advisory Board's conclusion. Board members met again with George Sherrard, Bernie Backert, and David Ehrhart, who volunteered legal and financial expertise that helped in settling Preschool business. In August, 2020, both students' families and SPC members were informed that Springdale Preschool would remain closed for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Springdale Preschool Advisory Board members plan to meet again in April, 2021, to reassess the safety of resuming classes and to re-evaluate issues that forced us to suspend operation of Springdale Preschool.

Submitted by Dottie Willis, Interim Co-Chair of Springdale Preschool Advisory Board

SPIRITUAL NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

The year began normal. We had our first meeting on February 10th. We discussed the Lenten season and with our annual Eggvent. Its scope, reason and who to invite were decided and preparations would be on its way. However due to a World Pandemic this event was unable to happen.

A new member joined our meeting Mahnaz who told of her understanding of a introduction to US culture. She has recently moved from a mostly Muslim country to the US. She explained that so much of our culture is rooted in our religious beliefs. People from different places around the world may not understand these assumed cultural religious assumptions. She suggested we host lessons about the underlying Christian beliefs that our country is built upon. We were in talks about how to do this with out breaking (EACM) Eastern Area Community Ministry partner rules. This fine line where their can rightly blend into the other, in itself is an issue. There is not separation of Religion and Government for many countries.

Christa and Dwain have been working on a comprehensive Plan of Caring and Faith Development for Children and Youth. The ministry team also discussed other ways we could develop and promote Spiritual Nurture programs to young adults. Mark Levdahl was noticing that we do not do enough to minister to collage aged students or young adults. He shared his own experiences as a young man. He said we need to pay more attention to this demographic.

Our Next meeting was in June. Many changes had taken place and hard decisions were being made. The Pandemic that closed down our country in March was still on going. We had a reprieve due to the nice weather. We were able to meet again and plan for further ministry with the health restrictions. No further in person Worship, classes or events could happen. We turned our attention to some adaptive ways of ministering we had experimented with. Internet meetings where we could talk and see each other was working for Learn and Serve Classes via Zoom. Most church business has been handled this way. Worship has been broadcasted with the use of Facebook and YouTube. This is ok but not meeting all the needs of our congregation. We decided to create small groups. 10 people who could meet outside to support one another. Christa started coordinating this effort over the next few months.

Individual families were getting snail mail letters. We had to determine if the virus was spread due to touch surfaces. With it decided that mail was safe more material could be distributed this way. VBS could not happen in the traditional way but could be done with care packages being dropped off and mail sent. We decided to continue this avenue and uses it as best we could. VBS and weekly summer mailings were sent out with age related material for kids and parents. Crafts lesson plan and worksheets were sent out. Other activity ideas and supplies were delivered on door steps and care packages mailed.

As time marched on and the virus continued to spread and grow, we decided not to meet again for an end of year meeting. Most of our large programming could not happen. There was no Advent dinner to organize. Worship Ministry leaders decided that we could have outdoor Worship services for Advent. Christa created material for people to do crafts in their own homes, in leu of the Advent Crafts with singing and dinner at the Church.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

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 2020

Activities and special worship experiences in 2020:

In February and early March, the Worship team was making plans to implement changes to the bulletins and communion in order to reduce waste and simplify worship preparation. We were receiving updates from the group working on new banners featuring a creation care theme. Then, Covid hit, and churches stopped in-person worship. With online services, most worship decisions have been staff-based but the Worship team has consulted on planning. New equipment has improved the online worship experience which requires audio, video and streaming technology and each week a different skeleton crew leads the service in music and liturgy. The Worship team met virtually several times with representatives of Rabbouni in order to plan for advent gatherings and to create a festive atmosphere outside the church. The weekly outdoor services gave members of both congregations a meaningful way to spend Advent. As challenging as 2020 was, a positive thing has come from our virtual worship – long time members who have moved away have been able to join us for worship!

UPCOMING IN 2021

During 2021, the Worship Ministry Team will be involved in the planning for our eventual return to worshipping in person.

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