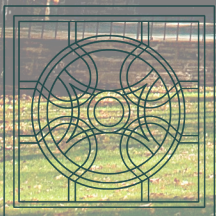


**2022**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Letter from the Moderator	2
Session Update	5
Deacons and Senior Adult Ministry	7
Children’s Education	8
Youth Ministry	9
Adult Education	10
Church Life	10
Theology on Tap and Parents on Tap	11
Music and Arts	12
Social Witness/Matthew 25	14
Flower Guild	16
Center on the Hill	17
Forum on the Hill	18
PCCH Preschool	18
Personnel	19
Administrator’s Report and Property Update	20
Stewardship	21
Finance and Treasurer’s Report	22
Investment Committee	22
2023 Budget and 2022 Recap	23

# LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR



Dear members and friends of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill,

## What was 2022?

- A Year of Transition? Yes!
- A Year of Re-emergence? Yes!
- A Year of Matthew 25? Yes!
- A Year of the Phillies Almost Winning the World Series? Yes!

I will remember 2022 as the year when we sought to find a groove after the worst of the Covid pandemic, seeking to discover the right balance between returning to some familiar practices while living into new ones.

Our in-person worship numbers continued to rise, as did the numbers of children and youth.

At the same time, it's clear that the pandemic gave some the opportunity to revisit their worship attendance habits, while others are participating in worship through our livestream.

When I talk with people about all of this, two key words keep popping up, "relationships" and "engagement." What does this look like for us?

2022 was also a year of significant personnel transition.

- Ken Lovett, our fabulous Organist and Associate Director of Music, retired after a distinguished career. A fine musician, Ken was also a valued liturgical partner and colleague.
- Roberta Kearney served as our Interim Associate Pastor for a 12-month term, providing faithful leadership to our children's and adult education programs. We thank Roberta for her service and wish her well in her new call.
- In November we learned that Brian Russo will move to Grace Presbyterian Church in Jenkintown. We are grateful for Brian's long and faithful ministry with us, and for the important relationships he forged with many across the spectrum. We wish him every blessing in this new ministry.
- We welcomed Jeffrey DeVault as our new Organist and Associate Director of Music in the fall. Jeff hit the ground running with grace. His musicianship and presence are very welcome additions to our life together.
- We are grateful that Megan Petero has agreed to help shepherd both our youth and children's programs through this season of transition. Megan has a great relational spirit and is working faithfully, with great teams of advisors and teachers, to keep things moving ahead.
- In the fall, the Session named Cynthia Jarvis as pastor emeritus, honoring her longtime, distinguished leadership at PCCH. I am grateful to Cindy for her friendship and support.

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# LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR CONTINUED

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Clearly, among other things, 2023 will be a year of continued transition, but also a time when we welcome new leadership to help provide wisdom and guidance in our ongoing re-emergence.

Our Matthew 25 commitment continued to take root and grow. This is important work for us. In October, we held our first Day of Service, a time to work on service projects but also build congregational connections. It was wildly successful!

We also held a series of luncheons over the fall – I presented on my Lilly Endowment grant work, and we welcomed others to help us consider the shape of our social witness ministry.

We continued to welcome greater numbers of guests each Sunday, seeking to provide a hospitable space for them to explore their faith.

Financially, 2022 was a unique year. The Session adopted a budget with an intentional deficit built in, centered on personnel commitments. By the end of the year, we had succeeded in eliminating that budget – through your support and prudent management.

Pledge results for 2023 are improved over the past several years. That is great news! Thank you!

Also – I got Covid...twice. Enough of that!

I continue to be grateful for this call to serve this congregation in this season. We have been blessed with an abundance of gifts – a great staff team, a deepening sense of call to serve our broader communities, your generous support, a beautiful building that is in good shape, people continuing to show up to ask big questions of faith and life.

I will make no predictions about the Phillies' World Series chances! I will predict, however, that as the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill continues to re-emerge and experience transition, that God will call us to new and exciting ventures, as we engage and build relationships and seek to serve God in the spirit of Matthew 25.

Faithfully,  
John Wilkinson

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## OWINTIER CHARLES

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We remember with deep gratitude our friend and colleague Owintier Charles, who died on March 13, 2022.

Owintier served the church and preschool with extraordinary devotion over many years, and we miss her greatly.

Please continue to keep her family in your prayers.





# SESSION UPDATE

## Elders Class of 2023

Linda Amsterdam  
Rebecca Bernstein  
Gregory Dickinson  
Robert Fles  
Kathryn Krantz  
Katherine Magid  
Christen Webber  
Kevin Welsh

## Elders Class of 2024

Jill Bown  
Jack Evans  
Lisa Guyer  
Kate Houstoun  
James Lutz  
Jim Spause  
Margaret R. Spencer  
Beth Nell Vaccaro

## Elders Class of 2025

Shannon Cavanaugh  
J. Matthew Eastman  
B. Graeme Frazier  
Ryan Mann  
William Murphy  
Michelle Shachtman  
Taylor Slaughter  
Harry M. Spaeth



## Baptisms

Adelaide Atkinson  
Esther Finbow  
Douglas Olson III

## Deaths

Joann Berlin  
Ann Donahue  
John Loughridge  
Evelyn McCauley  
J. Edward Mitinger  
Rujean Mitinger  
Edward Pringle  
Robert Stewart  
Louise Taylor

# SESSION UPDATE CONTINUED

## Ushers Team 1

Kevin Raphael (Lead Usher)  
Emily Camp McCahery  
Carolyn Manwaring  
Ray McCahery  
Sarah Elizabeth Wright

## Ushers Team 2

Harry Spaeth (Lead Usher)  
Troy Foxworth  
Graeme Frazier  
Jason Jones  
Barbara Olson  
Beth Wrigley

## Ushers Team 3

Bill Cobb (Lead Usher)  
Robert Bausman  
Peter Cooke  
Doug Olson  
Dom Rebeck

## Ushers Team 4

Joan Demme (Lead Usher)  
Shannon Cavanaugh  
James Cupp  
Michelle Shachtman  
Robert Shachtman  
Barbara Spause



## Office Volunteers

Vee Barrett  
Barbara Keeler  
Sharon Kelly  
Liz Podraza  
Alison Rudolf  
Sue Shuchat



# DEACONS & SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Covid disrupted many of the things we normally set out to do, but this past year we were able to return to our post greeting at the doors as we gather for worship on Sunday, offering meals to those in need, hosting our Deacons Brunch, and delivering flowers to our senior population to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, as well as celebrating the seasons of Christmas and Easter.

The Deacons have been, and remain, dedicated to delivering pastoral care to those who have fallen sick or who have been beset by injury or malady.

## Deacons Class of 2023

Rebecca Schock DePasquale  
Sara Eastman  
Deborah Evans  
Courtney Franklin  
Trish Franklin  
Jane Kaufman  
Kristin Lawton  
Edie Russo  
Beth Deskins Vaccaro

## Deacons Class of 2024

Kelly Baughman  
Beverly Heimbach  
Lyn Huertgen  
Jane McGill  
Amy Raphael  
Dominick Rebeck

## Deacons Class of 2025

Emily Barth  
Mark Bernstein  
Catherine Brzozowski  
Emily Camp McCahery  
Beth DeSoo  
Becky Frazier  
Barbara Olson  
Linda Pettengill  
Deborah Robinson  
Sarah Elizabeth Wright



# CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

- Our program became fully immersed in the Godly Play curriculum. This curriculum involves tactile lessons and fosters creative independence.
- Roberta Kearney, in her role as Interim Associate Pastor, coordinated children's ministry programming from November 2021 to November 2022. She is now serving as the Interim Pastor at the Pottstown Presbyterian Church. We are excited for her and thank her for her ministry with us.
- Megan Petero became Acting Coordinator of Children's Ministry in November 2022.
- The children participated in the PCCH Day of Service by decorating sandwich bags for the PB&Js being made for Face to Face.
- We had an Advent wreath-making and Christmas craft activity after worship on December 11, 2022. Families were able to make a wreath to light at home, as well as Christmas cards and other fun items!
- The children and youth put on a wonderful Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Thank you for all the hard work put in by the children, youth, parents, and other adult volunteers – it certainly paid off!



- Please see the Joyful Noise section in this report for more information about our amazing children's choir!
- We're looking forward to an equally meaningful and blessed 2023!

*Michelle Shachtman, Shannon Cavanaugh, Gregory Dickinson, Rebecca DePasquale, Dom Rebeck, Sarah Wright, Julie Snyder Bishop (Joyful Noise), Megan Petero (staff)*





# YOUTH MINISTRY



The pandemic would have been a perfect excuse for numbers to go down, and enthusiasm for each other's company to dwindle, but that was not the case with our youth. This group of young people are simply amazing. They have endured so much; they have had to deal head-on with uncertainty and loss; and yet, they preserved and remained hopeful, and in doing so, were able to claim a more substantive understanding of what it means to be in fellowship with each other.

They were able to return to some routines of old, while creating new traditions to be carried onward into the future. They went on two college trips (to Boston and Washington

D.C.), and were able to spend a week in Detroit on a summer mission trip, where they helped feed the homeless and the hungry. In addition to being the leading participants at our Christmas Pageant, they also led an incredible Youth Sunday Worship service, where two youth delivered a powerful message on unity in the face of our nation's ever-widening fault-lines of division.

Please continue to support them in all the ways you do. They both need it and deserve it!

*Ryan Mann (chair), Amy Raphael, Beth Lutz, Beth Vaccaro, Dom Rebeck, Jeannette Quirus, Kevin Welsh, Mark Bernstein, Megan Petero (staff)*



# ADULT EDUCATION

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The purpose of the Adult Education Committee is to provide resources that foster spiritual growth in our congregation. In 2022 we continued meeting in person for Second Hour discussions that challenged us to examine our faith and how we are called to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

Some highlights of 2022 include:

The PCCH Book Club:

We began the year continuing our reading of *400 Souls*, faithfully exploring our nation's painful history of racism and oppression while looking at the impact of that history on society today and our ongoing struggle for equality.

In the fall, we transitioned to *Braiding Sweetgrass*, which explores the relationship between humankind and our planet from the perspective of an indigenous scientist.

In our series "Caring for God's Creation" we continued to explore our responsibility to live sustainably through discussions on food, water, and community development.

We engaged in a timely discussion on equity and equality in education.

We continued to unpack the impact that the pandemic has had on our lives and society in a series of forums.

Brian led the youth as they shared their experiences of school and life during the pandemic.

Adults shared stories of their own lives during the pandemic and as they re-emerged into this new "normal."

John led us on a discussion of the "post-pandemic" church.

*Greg Dickinson (chair), Bob Fles, Alison Rudolf, Donald Todd, Sarah Wright*

# CHURCH LIFE

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The Church Life Committee was active in the first half of the year and then curtailed activities a bit in the second half of the year.

Sandy and George Connelly hosted a wonderful and festive Derby Party in May – a great time was had by all.

We had a record turnout for an IronPigs game in August – great game and a great time. Thanks to Clarke Woodruff for coordinating.

The committee provided logistical support for Melody and Comedy and for the June all-church picnic.

We also hosted several Saturday brunches for prospective members, a great way to connect with guests.

If you'd like to help out with social events, please contact the church office.

*Jeff Podraza (chair, January – June), Houstoun, Kate Liz Podraza, Mark Bernstein, Martha Agate, Rebecca Bernstein, Edie Russo, Ryan Mann, Jim Spause,*



# THEOLOGY ON TAP

At the turn of the calendar we returned to the Upper Room at Campbell's Place, and began re-meeting in person for our Tuesday evening discussions. It was so wonderful to be back around bar and table together, and the conversations we shared and topics we wrestled with were some of our best and most profound.

If you would like to engage in conversations such as: *The Modern Christian Family; The Future of the Church; God's Role in Evolution and Medicine; etc.*, then circle the third Tuesday of every month on your calendar, and join us at Campbell's Place at 7:30 p.m.



# PARENTS ON TAP

In the Fall of 2022, Brian kicked off a new small group called "Parents on Tap." The initial idea was for parents (of children still at home) to meet outside the church and talk about all the challenges the pandemic caused to our life at home, and specifically, how it affected our kids socially, emotionally and spiritually. As the group continued to meet, our conversations extended to such topics like sexual identity, peer pressure, anxieties and fears, hopes and dreams, etc. Parents today live such busy lives, complicated by condensed free-time and over-crowded schedules. Having a place and time to meet, to pause and listen and share with others in similar situations, was both enjoyable and helpful.

# MUSIC AND ARTS



The Gallery Choir had another wonderful year of music making and leading worship in 2022. We welcomed our new Organist and Associate Director of Music Jeffrey DeVault to the staff, and elevated Julie Snyder to Director of Children's and Youth Music.

Some of the year's highlights:

- In April, we enjoyed our annual Melody and Comedy evening with a silent auction in April, presented by the Music and Arts Committee.
- In June, we had a combined concert with the Drexel University Chorus and Gallery Choir at PCCH in June, featuring music of Lewis Spratlan and Edie Hill
- In October, we hosted a concert with the Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster David Kim, the soloists of the PCCH Gallery Choir, and accompanist Jeffrey DeVault
- In November, we hosted Souls Shot Portrait Project weekend with an opening reception for the sixth annual Souls Shot Portrait Project exhibition and a performance of T.L. da Victoria's *Requiem* during Sunday worship.
- The sanctuary was the site of several performances by Piffaro, Tempesta di Mare, the Pennsylvania Girlchoir, and the now three-time Grammy-winning choir The Crossing.

*Taylor Slaughter (chair), Mark Bernstein, Mark Conti, Joan Demme, Harry M. Spaeth, Jim Spause, Margaret R. Spencer, Rebecca Thornburgh, Beth Nell Vaccaro, Daniel Spratlan, Jeffrey DeVault, Julie Snyder, and John Wilkinson (staff)*



## Children and Youth Music

Our Children's and Youth Music Ministries continued to flourish in 2022. *Joyful Noise*, our children's choir, met weekly after worship for rehearsals and sang in worship each month during the school year. In rehearsals, the children continue to work on vocal technique, ensemble singing, sacred song repertoire in a variety of styles, understanding the connection between our song texts and the scriptures, and learning the musical components of our worship service. Joyful Noise also performed a *Little Mermaid* medley in our Melody and Comedy fundraiser in April.

Our *Youth Choir* began meeting weekly in September under Julie Snyder's direction. This small but capable group of singers sang several times in worship with Joyful Noise this fall and is preparing several anthems on its own

for the upcoming months. Several of the members of the Youth Choir have contributed musically to the worship service through instrumental preludes, and one member has also joined the Gallery Choir. Engaging the youth more actively in the musical life of the church is a continued goal of the music staff.

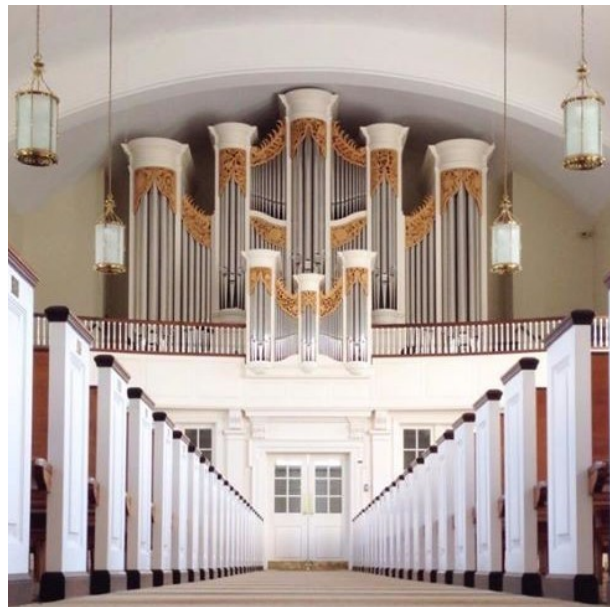
Both Joyful Noise and Youth Choir were an integral part of our Christmas Eve pageant service. The combined group of over 25 singers led two of the hymns and sang an offertory anthem.

*Julie Snyder, Director*

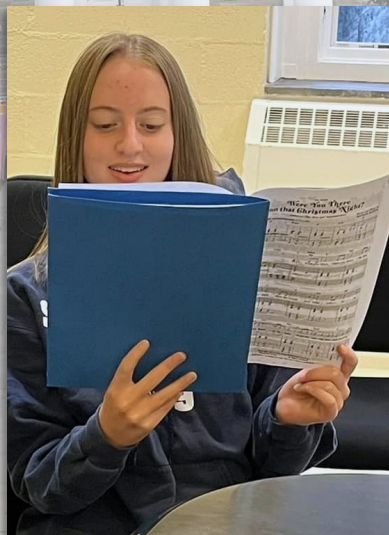
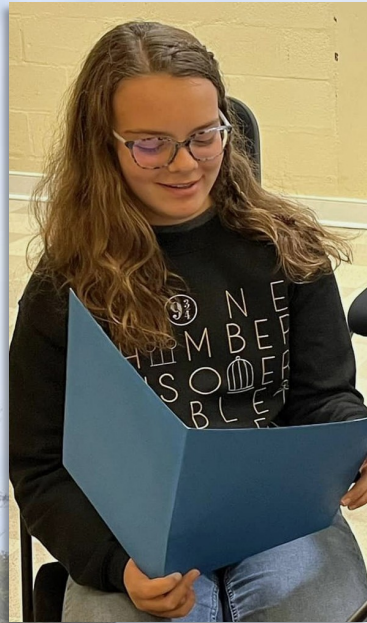
## Organist and Associate Director of Music

I am truly honored and grateful to be your new Organist and Associate Music Director. Not only has the congregation been so warm and welcoming, but also working with the incredible staff and being part of a phenomenal music program has been a joy. It has been a busy and exciting four months since I began the job. Some highlights:

- I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our Mander organ. Ken Lovett was wonderful to help me get acclimated with this fine instrument. The organ blower needed repair and was removed, rebuilt, and reinstalled in early 2023. In addition, our organ technicians have informed us that future refurbishments will eventually be necessary due to age and use.
- Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra David Kim and I gave a recital in October to an enthusiastic audience. We were joined by the soloists of the Gallery Choir for the program.
- A climate control system was installed on the Steinway piano to help protect the instrument from dry air in the winter and humidity in the summer. My longtime piano tuner, Don Roberts, now services all of the pianos at the church.



*Jeffrey DeVault, Organist & Associate Director of Music*





# SOCIAL WITNESS / MATTHEW 25

This year we continued our efforts to figure out how to best serve our partners in a world emerging from the pandemic. In-person volunteer opportunities remained limited, but our congregation continued to bear witness to God's love through mission work to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, witness lives lost to gun violence, bring joy to children in poverty, welcome refugees, provide a safe harbor for victims of domestic violence, educate children, free the innocent, and so much more.

We continued our ongoing efforts to feed the hungry by collecting food for distribution to Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry throughout the year. We also continued our involvement with Face to Face by providing "to go" lunches and by joining together several times throughout the year to make ziti in our church's kitchen. We brought joy to children in poverty with one of our favorite activities – the PIHN backpack drive. We provided over 60 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in PIHN's program to help make back-to-school a bit easier. Our partnership with West Kensington Ministry has continued to grow with several programs throughout the year, one of which being sponsorship and volunteering at their annual golf outing. This fall, the Social Witness Committee kicked off the

program year with an all-church Day of Service in October. After church, we all gathered in Widener Hall, the kitchen, and front lawn to work together on multiple projects including ziti and sandwich making for Face to Face, sorting clothes for a warmth drive for West Kensington, and setting up the Memorial to the Lost on the front lawn. During the Christmas season, in partnership with the Preschool, we collected gifts for 45 children through ACHIEVEability and collected and sorted reverse advent boxes for Face to Face, Family Promise, Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, and West Kensington Ministry. We continued to support our many partners financially including Heeding God's Call, Dawn's Place, Centurion Ministries, Broad Street Ministry, and Souls Shot. We are excited to return to more in-person service projects and are planning a return to Face to Face in February.

*Beth Vaccaro (chair, June-December), Melissa Montgomery (chair, January-June), Jeff Podraza, Liz Podraza, Suzan Wilcox, Rebecca Bernstein, Susan Burnell, Laura Brobyn, Bob Fles, Margaret Spencer, Emily McCahery, John Wilkinson (staff)*





# FLOWER GUILD



The mission of the Flower Guild is to bring the beauty of God's world into our worship space, on Sundays, on holidays and for special events like Homecoming and Brian's farewell party.

We appreciate the continued support from our members and friends who donated to the Flower Fund in remembrance of loved ones throughout 2022.

## Guild Members

Jill Bown  
Cathy Brzozowski  
Katie Connelly  
Sandy Connelly  
Alison Elison (new member)  
Debby Evans  
Barbara Frazier  
Linnea Johnson  
Jane Kaufman  
Barbara Olson  
Linda Pettengill  
Liz Podraza  
Alison Rudolf  
Sue Shuchat  
Barrett Stewart  
Mary Anne VanBlarcom  
Susan White  
Suzan Willcox

In August, we presented the Second Annual Arranging for Kids in conjunction with Summer Bible Camp at Night. Our campers were given fresh flowers and created some lovely arrangements to take home. Thanks to Diane Cornely for coordinating.

A weekly project of the Flower Guild is providing small arrangements for the Deacons to take to homebound or hospitalized members. These arrangements are put together directly after church using flowers from the large sanctuary pedestal arrangements. Additional arrangements are made to place in other locations around the church. Our 18 members work in teams of two each week. Interested in getting involved with Flower Guild? No experience is required. Training and mentorship is provided. For more information, email Grace Stewart ([glstewart1@verizon.net](mailto:glstewart1@verizon.net)) or Diane Cornely ([dcornely7@gmail.com](mailto:dcornely7@gmail.com)).

Thanks go to our intrepid and talented guild members who create the beautiful sanctuary arrangements and special decorations throughout the year.

*Grace Stewart and Diane Cornely (chairs)*



# CENTER ON THE HILL



Funds from the grant we received from the Covenant Fund of the Presbytery in 2021 continued to support us throughout 2022 by helping many seniors from our surrounding communities participate in some of our paid programs that they would not have been able to afford otherwise, including our class ‘Making a Tile Mosaic,’ offered by the Mosaic Society of Philadelphia, which resulted in a permanent tile mosaic in the entryway of the Center. Thanks to the generous grant, this year over 200 people were able to participate in programs that we offered at a reduced cost.

The Center on the Hill, the place for active adults at PCCH, spent its twelfth year offering a variety of programs, events and activities that enriched the lives of the seniors in Chestnut Hill and our surrounding communities. January of 2022 marked the return to fully in-person programs and activities. We also continued to maintain an online presence for those still wanting to participate from home. While we no longer offered live streamed events and classes, we did begin recording many of our wellness lectures and speakers, as well as continuing to post fitness videos, watch and learn presentations, interactive games, art lessons, community resources and more, online completely free for anyone to access on our website.

February 2023 marks my fourth anniversary as Director of the Center on the Hill. I am profoundly grateful for the continued opportunity to serve this community each year. I could not do it without all the church staff who support the Center, and our instructors, partners and volunteers who make programs and events possible. The Center on the Hill and the community we serve continue to flourish and grow each season through our combined efforts. I am looking forward to a vibrant and busy year ahead at the Center.

*Mariangela Saavedra,  
Director, the Center on the Hill*

Active adults returned robustly in April, May and June, and we often found ourselves with waitlists for many activities as group size limits were still in place as part of our Covid protocols. It was so rewarding to see so many people returning to take part in our programs, such as:

- tai chi classes
- ‘Golden Yoga’ classes
- health and wellness lectures
- play readings
- classes in the basics of Android phones and iPhone/iPad
- watercolor painting
- bingo, bunco, qigong, and trivia game sessions
- ‘Name That Tune’ games
- computer classes
- cooking classes for diabetes and nutrition
- grief counseling
- ‘Learning to Look at Art’ classes
- ‘Well Spouse’ and Alzheimer’s support groups



# FORUM ON THE HILL

The Forum on the Hill is a monthly event (September-June) presented in collaboration with the Center on the Hill which appeals to our neighbors and the members of PCCH as well. It is a part of the church's outreach efforts and is a means to offer relevant and thought provoking information presented by speakers who are knowledgeable and accomplished in their particular fields. PCCH's history of inviting guest speakers goes back nearly forty years.

2022 began with speakers including Kathleen Barron, L. J. Rasi and Danny Rivera discussing *The Impact of the Opioid Crisis on a Community*, and Dr. Jason Karlawish talking about his book *The Problem of Alzheimer's*. In the spring the Rev. Dr. Beth Shalom Hessel presented on *The Right to Be American: Japanese Americans and World War II* and world musician Michael Kraus shared his stories of being A

*Modern Renaissance Man*. The Fall forums featured the Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson speaking about *The Post-Pandemic Church*, author Josh Hitchens talking about his book *Haunted History of Philadelphia*, and the Executive Director of Mural Arts Philadelphia Jane Golden came to share information about this vibrant city program now entering its third decade of work in our city.

The Forum continues to seek speakers who can engage our attendees in conversations and share dialogue about their topics. Each presentation is recorded and streamed online after the event takes place for people who cannot attend in person and want to engage with us online.

*Mariangela Saavedra, Coordinator*

# PCCH PRESCHOOL

The best first school experience can be found at Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill Preschool. Our expert faculty, strong traditions, beautiful new playground, and dedicated families mean that our children experience a well-rounded, developmentally-appropriate, and fully nurturing education. This year, we have 79 students enrolled in six classrooms. Next year, we hope to have closer to 90 students enrolled in seven classrooms.

Some highlights of the year:



- Specials teachers returned. Our children have weekly music, soccer, and ballet classes taught by qualified teachers in these fields.
- On-campus experiential learning opportunities included visits from Briar Bush Nature Center, the Philadelphia Goat Project, and the Fire Department of Philadelphia.
- Our teachers re-committed to early childhood best practices and the implementation of the following curricula: Singapore Math, Core Knowledge, Handwriting without Tears, Heggerty Reading, and Wilson Phonics.
- We have collaborated with the Center on the Hill for trick or treating, saying grace at their



Thanksgiving program, and decorating their Christmas tree.

- Our parents' committee has been hosting great family and parent-only events to strengthen our community.
- We have helped three of our teachers off-set the cost of finishing their bachelor's and master's degrees.
- At this point in the year, 73% of our eligible students are re-enrolling for next year and almost all of our admissions inquiries are referred by our current families.



*Diana Rodgers, Interim Director*

*Christen Webber (chair), Jill Bown, Lisa Guyer, Lyn Huertgen, Kristin Lawton, Liz Podraza, Becky Welsh, Beth Vaccaro*

## PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee is charged with overseeing our diverse staff and working with the Pastor on all matters relating to human resources. This typically includes position descriptions, compensation matters and benefits for the staff. The committee is grateful for the staff and its outstanding work. We will look for continued ways to support these talented people.

2022 was a year of transitions. In June, we celebrated Organist Ken Lovett's well-earned retirement and welcomed Jeffrey DeVault as our new organist. Jeff has been a great addition to our staff and we've all enjoyed hearing him play the organ and piano every Sunday morning. In October, Roberta Kearney, our Interim Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, moved on to her next call. In her place, Megan Petero has joined our staff on an interim/part time basis to support our Christian Education, and has been with our children on Sunday mornings. In November we learned that

Brian Russo, our longtime Associate Pastor for Youth and Senior Adults, accepted a call to become the pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church in Jenkintown beginning in January 2023. While we will miss Brian, we are thrilled that he has this opportunity to advance his career and know he will be a blessing for the members of Grace Church. We will be spending much of 2023 on the process of living into a new staffing model that meets our evolving needs.

*Kevin Welsh (chair), Rebecca Bernstein, Jill Bown, Kate Houstoun, Kate Magid, Christen Webber, John Wilkinson (staff)*



# CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

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2022 was a busy year at the church with both congregational and outside group activities returning in full force. Every day the church staff welcomes dozens of people for classes, meetings and rehearsals. A typical weekday morning at PCCH might find Diane Cornely and Grace Stewart beautifying the church inside and out, the Center on the Hill and the preschool buzzing with activity and vendors making deliveries and repairs to the building. No two days are ever the same at PCCH!

The building and property are in good condition as we start 2023. The sanctuary looks especially beautiful after having its windows and shutters sanded and painted over the summer. The repair of the organ blower is complete. Unfortunately, we have several leaks in the steeple. The exterior steeple repair will coincide with some upgrades to the T-Mobile cell tower housed within, minimizing any disruption to the church. We anticipate this work being

completed by the end of June. We are also hoping to replace the blinds in Widener Hall with automated roller shades this spring. If you ever notice something around the building in need of attention or repair, please don't hesitate to reach out to let me know.

The PCCH sanctuary and chapel continue to be popular performance spaces for area music and choral groups. The Crossing, the Pennsylvania Girlchoir, Piffaro, Tempesta di Mare, Philomusica, Philadelphia Women's Music Project and our very own Cantatas and Chamber Music concerts continue to be very popular. We have hosted ballroom dance classes, international folk dancing, the Royal Scottish Country Dancers, Allons Dancers, and a Bollywood, Indian Folk and Classical dance class. The Outdoor Gardeners, The Weeders and the Delaware Valley Rock Garden Society all held meetings here. 2022 also brought several Red Cross blood drives, various MALT (Mt. Airy Learning Tree) classes, Boy Scout leadership meetings, a Souls Shot exhibition, and weekly Weight Watchers, BNI and Rotary Club meetings. Our most recent addition is a Friday night AA meeting called Sober and Out. Please contact me if you know of a group who might make use of our facilities. We are always looking for new groups to host at PCCH.

I am grateful to be able to work alongside the incomparable and expert PCCH staff: Evelyn Carpenter, Felix Delgado, Mariangela Saavedra, Leslie Lefer, Donna Marcial, Joan Foster and her team, Debbie Lambeth and Rose Streets.

*Megan Cullen, Church Administrator*

*Property Committee: Jack Evans (chair), Bill Cobb, Matt Eastman, Megan Cullen (staff)*

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# STEWARDSHIP



The Stewardship Committee is responsible for overseeing the congregation's annual stewardship effort, culminating with Stewardship Sunday on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

This year, the committee chose a theme of 'A New and Right Spirit,' based on Psalm 51:10. Over the course of the fall, committee members and friends used this theme to reflect on various aspects of our congregational life and ways that pledge dollars support our ministry.

We made intentional efforts to reach out to current officers, new members, and those who had previously pledged but not recently. Those efforts all bore fruit.

As of the printing of this annual report, we have received 136 pledges for 2023, totaling \$533,931. This represents 12 new pledges and 15 returning pledges.

A huge word of thanks to Rebecca Thornburgh, who designed our lovely dove logo and all of the supporting stewardship materials. Her work is simply fantastic!

Thank you to all who pledge — your support makes our ministry possible.

*Matt Eastman (Chair), Mark Bernstein, Jim Lutz, Laurie Menyo, John Wilkinson (staff)*





# FINANCE & TREASURER'S REPORT

The Finance Committee and the Treasurer are responsible for overseeing the Operating Budget, the Senior Adult Ministry Budget, financial oversight of the Preschool, and the various restricted funds that help the Church in its mission. Once the budget is established for the year, the Finance Committee meets monthly to review our progress, and on an as-needed basis with a representative from Main Line Accounting, our third-party accountants. Cash flow management for the church is also reviewed and monitored to coordinate with the Investment Committee to time the draws from the endowment that need to take place. The Finance Committee's monthly review and any recommendations are then reported to Session regularly.

A summary of 2022 financial results as well as the Session-approved budget for 2023 are included for review and comparison.

We recommended to the Session a 2022 budget that included a built-in deficit. We were grateful that over the year, your financial support and prudent management allowed us to eliminate that deficit, and we finished 2022 with a balanced budget.

Thanks to Linda Amsterdam for taking the treasurer mantle from Steve Bishop, and to Harry Spaeth for his unwavering oversight of our financial life.

Thank you one and all for your continued dedication to the financial stewardship of the Church.

*Linda Amsterdam (treasurer and chair), Steve Bishop, Christen Webber, Harry Spaeth, Jim Lutz, Graeme Frazier, John Wilkinson (staff)*



## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee continues to faithfully oversee the Endowment Funds of our church. Our committee is responsible for investments that are managed by Merrill Lynch and PNC.

The 2022 Endowment Funds provided funds of \$150,882.00 to support the operating budget and \$123,181.00 to support the Senior Adult ministry of the church. This past year continued to be a challenging year for the markets due to rising inflation and the significant increase in interest rates. The upcoming year will continue to be challenging as companies continue to fight wage

inflation and the possibility of lower earnings from many corporations.

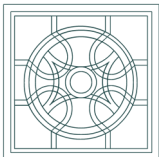
Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Investment Committee, please contact John Lawton at 215 527-5775. We meet four times a year on the fourth Monday after Quarter End to discuss performance and set strategic direction.

*John Lawton (chair), Stephen Bishop, Harry Spaeth, Mark Nottingham, Matt Abernethy, Richard Stewart, Linda Amsterdam, John Wilkinson (staff)*

# 2023 BUDGET AND 2022 RECAP

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
Congregational response	\$ 715,200.00	\$ 691,873.00	\$ 703,000.00
Building Use and Other Revenue	\$ 145,200.00	\$ 132,407.00	\$ 149,200.00
	<u>\$ 860,400.00</u>	<u>\$ 824,280.00</u>	<u>\$ 852,200.00</u>
Draws Against Endowment Income:			
Designated Draws	\$ 81,819.00	\$ 82,317.00	\$ 83,620.00
Other Draws	\$ 69,199.00	\$ 68,565.00	\$ 68,568.00
Total Endowment Draws	<u>\$ 151,018.00</u>	<u>\$ 150,882.00</u>	<u>\$ 152,188.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,011,418.00</b>	<b>\$ 975,162.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,004,388.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Ordained Ministers	\$ 209,830.00	\$ 325,864.00	\$ 335,824.00
Lay Personnel Salaries & Benefits	\$ 309,437.00	\$ 281,935.00	\$ 277,001.00
Other Personnel	\$ 58,477.00	\$ 61,732.00	\$ 63,977.00
Personnel Total	<u>\$ 577,744.00</u>	<u>\$ 669,531.00</u>	<u>\$ 676,802.00</u>
Music and the Arts	\$ 20,434.00	\$ 20,686.00	\$ 20,700.00
Church Life	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 7,890.00	\$ 12,500.00
Christian Education	\$ 16,950.00	\$ 20,034.00	\$ 14,550.00
Worship	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,640.00	\$ 7,000.00
Administration	\$ 104,500.00	\$ 83,486.00	\$ 102,000.00
Building and Grounds	\$ 204,570.00	\$ 164,118.00	\$ 170,200.00
Mission	\$ 73,520.00	\$ 65,250.00	\$ 82,020.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,011,418.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,034,635.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,085,772.00</b>
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	\$ -	\$ (59,473.00)	\$ (81,384.00)
FOOTNOTE ON BUDGET SHORTFALL COVERAGE:			
PPP Wave 2		\$ 38,046.00	\$ 38,027.00
Jones Bequest		\$ 20,223.00	
Schmidt Discretionary		\$ 1,204.00	
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 59,473.00</u>	<u>\$ 38,027.00</u>
<b>Senior Adult Ministry</b>			
Carry over previous year	\$ 11,690.00	\$ 11,952.00	\$ 11,952.00
Gifts/Grants	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,888.00	\$ 5,000.00
Other Income	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 31,787.00	\$ 13,000.00
Draw from SAM endowment	\$ 120,839.00	\$ 123,181.00	\$ 123,181.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 157,529.00</b>	<b>\$ 173,808.00</b>	<b>\$ 153,133.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 106,214.00	\$ 105,804.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 35,905.00	\$ 15,000.00
Contribution to Church Overhead	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 162,119.00</b>	<b>\$ 140,804.00</b>
<b>Revenues in Excess of Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,529.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,689.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,329.00</b>





Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill  
8855 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118

215.247.8855  
info@chestnuthillpres.org  
chestnuthillpres.org