



Presbyterian Church of Wilmington

2023 Annual Report

840 Timber Glen Drive
Wilmington, OH 45177

www.pcwilmington.org

Office (937) 382.2185
office@pcwilmington.org

Table of Contents

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION	3
Office Hours	3
Deadlines	3
Phone Numbers.....	3
Staff and E-mail Addresses.....	3
Recurring Meetings.....	3
PASTOR’S REPORT.....	4
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES	5
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	6
SESSION	7
BOARD OF DEACONS	8
BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....	9
TIMBER FAITH PRESCHOOL.....	10
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	11
EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM	12
MISSION MINISTRY TEAM	13
PERSONNEL MINISTRY TEAM	14
WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM.....	14
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)	16
BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.....	17
FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM.....	18

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 1 PM

Deadlines

Bulletin Announcements: Thursday prior to Sunday's service

Phone Numbers

Church Office: (937) 382-2185

Staff and E-mail Addresses

Pastor,

Office, Mary Zaycosky: office@pcwilmington.org

Finance, Cristina Lewis: finance@pcwilmington.org

Christian Education, Sara Maus: christianeducation@pcwilmington.org

Timber Faith Preschool Director, Sara Maus: timberfaithpreschool@frontier.com

Treasurer, Bruce Saunders: bruce Saunders1949@gmail.com

Music Director, Jennifer Burgess: jenburgess07@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Pam Barrett: hankcat@cinci.rr.com

Recurring Meetings

Blanket Bunch	Mondays	1 PM
Evangelism Ministry Team	3rd Monday	11 AM
Finance Ministry Team	3rd Monday	4 PM
Worship Ministry Team	2nd Sunday	11 AM
Mission Ministry Team	3rd Tuesday	10:30 AM
Board of Deacons	2nd Wednesday	5:15 PM
Timber Faith Preschool Board	3rd Monday	4 PM
Board of Trustees	2nd Thursday	7 PM
Session	4th Monday	4PM

PASTOR'S REPORT 2023

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES 2023

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
The Presbyterian Church of Wilmington
February 12, 2023, 11:11am

Moderator Pastor Stan Gockel opened the meeting with prayer, declaring a quorum was present.

The following members who died in 2022 were remembered:

Avery Bennett 7/17

Anna Mae Rosenow 8/16

Kitty Werner 8/28

Sandy Wiget 9/18

Richard Klingensmith 9/30

Shirley Hansen 10/10

A memorial hymn *“For All the Saints”* was sung in their honor.

Pastor Stan reviewed the 2022 Annual Report which was previously distributed to members and asked for questions from the congregation.

Mary Todd Hardeman congratulated Sara Maus, Preschool Director, for obtaining a grant from the state of Ohio’s Covid Fund. She also questioned what the funds could be used for and the time line for spending. Bruce Saunders responded that the funds can be used for preschool salaries, school equipment & flooring, security, and other items in the church which are used by the preschool.

Bruce Saunders, Treasurer, commented on the 12/31/22 Treasurer’s Report

The 2023 budget has a deficit of \$75,726. This is based on educated estimates from committees.

The current “Pastor Fund” savings has a balance of \$48,076. This was established as a savings account anticipating the hiring of an installed pastor.

Capital Asset Replacement (CAR) Fund has a balance of \$15,291.

Mortgage will be paid in full May 2026.

Please increase giving when possible to help with expenses.

Anita Wantz moved to approve, second by Jo Miller, to accept the 2022 reports as presented. Motion approved.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business – Slate of Officers for The Presbyterian Church of Wilmington Corporation – Claudia Fowler moved to approve, Mark Hess seconded, motion approved.

Dave Miller – President

Pam Barrett – Secretary

Bruce Saunders – Treasurer

Claudia Fowler moved to close the meeting, second by Jim Gillette. Pastor Stan closed the meeting with the Benediction and closing hymn *“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Stan Gockel, Moderator

Pam Barrett, Clerk

Nominating Committee 2023

The 2023 Nominating Committee was composed of 3 elders, 1 trustee, 1 deacon and 3 members at large.

Bruce Saunders – Elder - Chair

Allen Gano- Elder

Dave Miller – Trustee

Karen Standridge - At large - Deacon

Sherrill Graham– At large - Elder

Jean Lay - At large

Jo Miller - At large

Claudia Fowler- At large

This committee met weekly in October and November until all positions were filled. The nominating committee held their final meeting on November 14, 2023.

Seven members were present.

The committee nominated the following slate of officers for the class of 2026.

ELDERS CLASS OF 2026

Pam Barrett, Sherrill Graham, Connie Bailey (1 year), Janis Hollingsworth (Class of 2024, finishing the unexpired term of Anna Mae Rosenow)

DEACONS CLASS OF 2026

Jennie Mason, Sulyn Romer, Mia Hollingsworth

TRUSTEES CLASS OF 2026

Fayanne Saunders (1 year Term), Tim Haley

One position is still vacant.

TREASURER for 2024 - Bruce Saunders

Nominating Committee for 2024

Pam Barrett – Elder

Sherrill Graham – Elder

Karen Standridge – Deacon

Dave Miller – Trustee

Allen Gano – At large

Jo Miller – At large

Janie Wildoner – At large

The 2024 Nominating Committee will need two more at large members.

These candidates were elected at our November 26, 2023 congregational meeting and will be installed or ordained at a Sunday worship service in January 2024.

The Nominating committee recommended to the session that we amend our by-laws to reduce the size of Session and Board of Deacons to 9 members in 2024. The session approved that recommendation and the congregation voted to amend the by-laws in our October 15 congregational meeting.

The Nominating Committee nominated Dore Meinholtz, Brian Shidaker, Jeremy Burgess, Jean Haley and Bruce Saunders to the 5 member Pastor Nominating Committee. The congregation elected these people at our congregational meeting on October 15, 2023.

Bruce Saunders, Chair, Nominating Committee

SESSION 2023

Class of 2024

Debbie Hess
Janis Hollingsworth

Class of 2025

Jim Gillette
Sara Maus
Bruce Saunders
Tom Pierce

Class of 2026

Pam Barrett
Sherrill Graham (2nd term)
Connie Bailey (1 year)

Regular Session Meetings	10
Called Session Meetings	4
Congregational Meetings	2
Joint Session/Deacon/Trustee Meetings	0

Rev. Stan Gockel served as Stated Supply Pastor until April 30, 2023

Pulpit supply with filled by the Worship Committee utilizing church members and community friends

Outgoing Elder Mike Wallace was thanked for his service

Session elected Bruce Saunders as Treasurer; Pam Barrett as Clerk of Session

Confirmation class of three was welcomed on Palm Sunday

Church mortgage was paid in full in August

The Bicentennial anniversary of the church was celebrated during the month of October

Church members who passed in 2023:

Chris Hansen
Larry Bacon

Beginning Membership	103
New Members	0
Transferred Out	0
Confirmation	3
Deaths	2
Restored from Inactive	0
Removed to Inactive	0
Active Membership 2023	104

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Barrett, Clerk of Session

BOARD OF DEACONS 2023

Class of 2023

Jennie Mason
Ginger Wallace
Janie Wildoner (2nd term)
Pam Barrett (1 year)

Class of 2024

Ruth Curtis
Jane Dodd
Dawn Yeakley (2nd term)

Class of 2025

Jennie Mason (2nd term)
Sulyn Romer
Mia Hollingsworth

- Jennie Mason served as Head Deacon, assisted by Karen Standridge
- Committee assignments: Meals-Dawn Yeakley, Kay Johnston, Jennie Mason; Funerals-Jane Dodd, Pam Barrett; Kitchen supplies-Ginger Wallace, Nancy Miller
- Home communion resumed in May with teams of two deacons or elders serving.
- Send greeting cards (holiday, birthday, thinking of you) as needed.
- Purchased new pump coffee pots for Sunday coffee hour.
- Prepared receptions for Confirmation class in April and graduating seniors in May.
- Hosted a farewell carry-in luncheon in April for Pastor Stan Gockel for his retirement.
- Hosted carry in breakfast before Easter Sunday worship.
- Distributed carnations to all women on Mother's Day.
- Hosted a carry-in to promote fellowship in August.
- Assisted Bicentennial Committee by serving at the celebration luncheon following worship on October 29.
- Packed and delivered Christmas cookie boxes to designated church members.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Barrett, Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023

The Trustees were: Jeremy Burgess, Tim Haley, Mark Hess, Marty Mason, Dore Meinholtz, Dave Miller (head trustee), Fayanne Saunders, Steve Yeakley. Tom Pierce was Session representative.

We thank all the others who did things with us and for us...came to the work day.... reviewed contracts for us. ..donated things....and did things even when we aren't looking.

In no particular order

Odds and ends of things, some small, some not small, were done. Fabric patch on a pew, staining the termite patch on a post, cleaning outdoor pots, spraying ants in Fellowship Hall, putting a broken Christmas tree back together . . .

There's always a faucet somewhere that leaks, a light ballast the needs replacing, gutters that need unclogging, and occasionally a tree that needs to be cut down and up or a pile of branches that needs to go away or a small playset that goes wandering when the winds are strong enough.

Some of the not so small included Marty fixing the rotted window frames in the choir/sound rooms, Dave and Tim replacing light bulbs in the parking lot (yes, some of them still don't work, but it's not the bulbs), waxing the kitchen floor, Dave and Bruce Barrett replacing the outside building lights and their sensors, Jeremy getting the internet in the lower level to work, and continually working on the sound system and everything else electronic which includes replacing the computers in the office, Mark painting the Pastor's office, etc.

Regular checks and maintenance were done on the elevator, the dish washer, the furnace filters, the thermostat temperatures.

Contracts were reviewed, and some changed – elevator maintenance and fire system maintenance have been changed. The termite killers have pleased us and their contract was renewed.

Outside . . . The Haley's continue to do a magnificent job of taking care of the mowing and much more outside.

Pests we can't seem to get rid of, the bamboo, ground hogs, and termites. Apparently the bamboo cannot be killed, just cut back now and then. The termites at least do eat the bait, so we apparently have just one colony now instead of two. This is progress. Unfortunately, ground hogs are smarter than termites, and ignore the apples and other tempting goodies left for them in traps. The Church has a lot of land, so we will have ground hogs, and do have them in quantity here and there. We are still trying to find a way to encourage them to at least spend most of their time a bit further from the building.

Still to come . . . Yes, the lights. Parking lot, and Sanctuary. Much as we'd rather not have to, sometimes we just need to get a professional with the right tools, and Spiderman skills.

Respectfully submitted, by Dore Meinholtz

TIMBER FAITH PRESCHOOL 2023

In January of 2023 we were supporting 2 2-day classes; The Duck class met on Wednesday/Friday and the Frog class met on Tuesday and Thursday. Our staff began with 2-day teachers Pam Roe, Tammy Allen and Mary Smith (co-teaching in both classes).

The 3-day pre-K classes met on Monday all together, then ½ met Wednesday, and Friday and the other ½ met Tuesday and Thursday. The teachers were Sara Swindler-Stevenson, Patricia Hicks, and Sasha Lykins and Sara Maus.

Enrollment was 16 for 2-day and 24 for 3 day.

Timber Faith Board for the 21-22 and 22-23 is made up of: President Marci Huelskamp, Finance Leslie Holbrook, Social Events Alisha Borton, Secretary Andrea Fillipovich. Rachel Jarman is the member at large. We meet monthly for review of policies, procedures and enrollment, and any issues that are relevant to the safe operation of the preschool.

Our Christmas program was delayed to January 19th due to staff illness. A wonderful Winter Program was held and enjoyed by all.

Our classes celebrated Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and Graduation with parties. We went on a field trip to Murphy Farms and rode on a wagon and saw the cows. We celebrated Donuts with Dad and had a Mother's Day tea.

Graduation was May 16th and celebrated by all families.

School for the 2023-2024 school year started with 1 Pre-K class led by Sarah Swindler-Stevenson, Pat Hicks, and Sasha Lykins. 14 students are enrolled. The Duck class began with 12 students led by Tammy Allen and Mary Smith and the Frog class also had 12 students led by Pam Roe and Mary Smith. Sara Maus did not teach a class but was the full-time director.

Another Pandemic grant was received for \$34,800.

The Parent Board has Marci Huelskamp as president, Andrea Fillipovich, Karli Pennington, Sarah Whittington, Rachel Jarman.

There were 2 students who did not return in 2024 after Christmas break.

The Christmas program was held December 14th to a full house.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Maus

Director Timber Faith Preschool

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2023

I continued leading Sunday School with mixed age children. I presented the children's message each week during the service. We use the Children's Bulletins as a guide for our lessons. They follow the lectionary. Jack Romer is my assistant teacher and substitute. We have an average of 4 each week, with a high of 10 students.

Three high school graduates were honored in May: Eric Maus, Phillip Fulton, and Dirk Rinehart.

VBS was held in June. Our theme was Twists & Turns and we shared décor with the Sabina Church of Christ. It was a very fun week!!

In August, to coincide with school starting, we held a Blessing of the Backpack and special prayers for each student.

Acolytes were trained as needed. They are Hannah Burgess, Mia and Mileigh Hollingsworth, Lila and Austin Wagenseller, Malea Beam, and Tad Shidaker.

April 2nd was the confirmation for Mia Hollingsworth, Malea Beam and Connor Burgess. Mia was also baptized.

With Stan's retirement I led service several times, including Christmas eve morning and evening.

I facilitated an Advent Book study that met in Dec. and Jan. for 6 weeks Advent in Plain Sight by Jill Duffield. It was well attended (10 per day and 5 per evening).

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Maus

Director of Christian Education

EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM 2023

Committee: Mike Wallace, Debbie Hess

In our February meeting we spent some time on the questions, “What does Session expect from us? We also spent some time discussing our role, how we can minister to the congregation (socially as well as spiritually). We had hoped to begin an Evangelistic Moment once a month during church service, maybe reading a short scripture, or sharing a story with the congregation concerning evangelism. This happened a couple of times but not to the extent we had hoped. We organized for Debbie to hold a women’s group meeting, and Mike to organize a men’s group meeting for social gatherings. Mike also started speaking with David Miller to help update our picture wall in Fellowship Hall. That project moved into the Bicentennial Committee, and that project was well accepted. We presented the idea of our church supporting a Missionary, but that thought was tabled for a different time. It was discussed to have a second greeter in the Narthex to present everyone entering with their name tag, or giving people without one a blank one to fill out. We felt this was an excellent way to greet visitors. Also discussed was book study, Prayer walk, and Sunday prayers before church service.

In March we learned the Men’s group started meeting monthly for lunch and had a good turnout each month. The Women’s meeting was in March at Debbie Hess’ home for lunch/social hour. We did establish a time to study Prayer Walk, but that did not come to fruition, hopefully it will happen in 2024.

In April we started prayer before the Church service and lasted several Sundays. It just is not a good time to encourage people to come and pray for the service, the congregation, and needs of our church. The Worship Committee is attentive to visitors to our church on Sundays, and working hard to continue conversation with them. Debbie has worked with David Miller and John Romer to get the Picture wall complete. We discussed and began planning to move one of our summer Sunday worships to the Park.

Our May meeting finalized some of the planning that Debbie was doing for our Worship in the Park. It was held at J.W.Denver Memorial Park on July 9. Our first annual Worship in the Park was a big success with 57 attendees, including 23 visitors. Thirteen year old Owen and 11-year old Will Brockman playing the guitar and banjo from Centerville joined the worship service by leading us in several familiar Gospel Songs in BlueGrass style. Sara Maus’ message, the Gospel Songs and carry-in picnic was a hit. All-in – all a wonderful worship service.

The September meeting brought thoughts on our church partnering with other churches to do a “build a bed”. On May 18, 2024 we will be building 20 beds through the Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a national organization, in our church parking lot. We are partnering with the following churches to help cover the \$3,500.00 needed to build the beds and to also recruit volunteers to work at the actual bed build. The Methodist, Quakers, First Christian Church, and Faith Lutheran. Debbie joined with Robin DeWine from Xenia United and Steve Hegwood from the Covenant Presbyterian church of Springboro to submit a grant to the Presbytery of the Miami Valley Network Support & Grants Committee. Debbie requested \$1000.00 to help cover the cost of this project. We organized a plan for the Spring Prayer Walking classes, then actually prayer walking our neighborhood.

We know we need more people on our committee so we can help other committees do their part for our church. We felt this was a good year for growth with our committee and needed to find ways to do more. We would like to do book studies, support a missionary, more community outreach, and so much more.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Wallace

MISSION MINISTRY TEAM 2023

Team Members: Pam Barrett, Sara Maus, Nancy Miller, Fayanne Saunders, Connie Bailey, Jo Miller.

The second Thursday of each month, 125 meals were prepared for Sugartree Ministries by a cooking team headed by Fayanne Saunders and Pam Barrett with Jo Miller, Mary and Carl Zaycosky, Bruce Barrett, and Connie Bailey. Cookies were donated by a team of church volunteers for each of these meals. A schedule of two volunteers of various church members deliver dinner to the Clinton County Homeless Shelter once a month on the third Thursday of each month.

The fourth monthly lunch is also provided to Sugartree Ministries from the church members headed by Pam and Bruce Barrett, Nancy and Dave Miller.

January: Goals for the year discussed. Fayanne agreed to coordinate the 2023 schedule for meals for the Clinton County Homeless shelter.

February: No meeting.

March: Met in the new Clinton County Resource Center which is at 94 N. South Street. Andrew Conarro, Lead Youth Advocate explained the needs of the program and gave us a tour of their large facility. Items were dropped off during the month that were needed including men's dress pants for the youth applying for jobs.

April: No meeting.

May: Prepared for Tag Sale.

June: Camp Kirkmont scholarship were offered.

July: Met for organizing an August/September food drive to help two local nonprofit agencies for five collection Sundays. A list of foods needed will be given to the congregation. Discussed having a blanket drive again in November. The third Thursday of each month will be a Bunco Night in Fellowship Hall at 6:00. Proceeds from a \$5 entry fee will be used for mission; Eva Botts note cards will be placed for sale in the narthex for missions also selling for \$7.50.

August: Glue sticks and erasers were collected for a community donation drive providing backpacks or school supplies for Clinton County youth. In May we received notice that the grant from Northminister Mission Fund of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley was approved and the \$5,000 that was requested was received this month.

September: The Homeless Shelter and Sugartree Ministries received 492 pounds of needed food. A Blanket Drive will be collected in the month of November. Bunco nights have been successful and the total to date from this is \$345. Mission contributed \$100 to the Hope House at their annual fundraiser event at the Murphy Theater.

October: No meeting.

November: 32 Blankets were donated and delivered to Sugartree Ministries by the Millers.

December: Met to submit the Mission Committee budget- \$100 was sent to Wilmington Ministerial Association. The \$5,000 grant which the Mission Team greatly appreciate, was included in the budget. Planned a shampoo drive for Your Father's Kitchen in February as the need is great.

Respectively submitted, *Connie Bailey, Chair*

PERSONNEL MINISTRY 2023

The Personnel Committee was composed of Elders Bruce Saunders, Allen Gano and Debbie Hess. The Personnel Committee completed re-writing job descriptions for all paid employees. This was done with input from each staff member and several committee meetings to review each document.

The personnel committee hired Rochelle Adams as our new custodian this year. An annual review was held for each staff member by two or more personnel committee members.

The personnel committee works closely with the finance committee to review staff salaries and pastor compensation.

The personnel committee recommended a 3% raise to all paid employees in 2024. The session approved that recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elder Bruce Saunders, Chairperson

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM 2023

Members: Janis Hollingsworth, Elder, Chair
Jim Gillette, Elder Sara Maus, Elder Dore Meinholtz, Trustee Rep. Jo Miller, At-large
Jen Burgess, Vocal & Bell Choir Director Liz McAllister, Organist

Worship committee members have worked this year to plan all aspects of Sunday morning services. These responsibilities include scheduling participants in the services, especially pulpit supply after Pastor Stan's retirement in April. We thank these faithful members who have led our services so lovingly: Sara Maus, Doc Monteos, Brad Showen, David Wantz, Mike Wallace, Debbie Hess and visiting ministers, Steve Wetterhan, Dave Hinman, and our own Bob Wade.

A special thank you goes to Reverend Jim Graham for leading us the first Sunday of each month and for answering the many questions we have had.

The committee, along with many helping hands, decorated and undecorated the Sanctuary and church building for Lent, Heritage month (which included our bicentennial) and Advent.

(WORSHIP CONTINUED)

Worship committee planned several special services throughout the year that included:

Ash Wednesday with imposition of ashes

Palm Sunday when the children entered waving palms

A Confirmation ceremony for 3 Confirmands: Connor Burgess, Malea Beam, and Mia Hollingsworth

Maundy Thursday with communion

Easter Sunday morning when a beautiful lily-draped cross and white paraments greeted us

A summer worship service at the park in Wilmington with special music by Will & Owen Brockman and their banjos

Heritage month's services began with bagpipes on October 1, 2023 and wrapped up with a wonderful sermon highlighting people and events of the last 200 years by Brad Showen. A lovely meal planned by Pam Barrett and Fayanne Saunders followed

All Saints' Day was a lovely service with candle lighting to remember family member Laurie Gillette and all others who have passed this year

Advent services began on December 1st as the congregation decorated the Sanctuary tree and sang many beautiful hymns. The lighting of the Advent candles each week was part of an Advent program entitled "Christ Be Our Light" led by Jen Burgess and the vocal and bell choirs. Readers each week included: Jim & Mary Lou Hunt, Judi & Brian Shidaker, Dawn & Steve Yeakley, Bruce & Fayanne Saunders, David & Anita Wantz Family

Elder Sara Maus lead a beautiful Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols with readers: Mary Zaycosky, Mia Hollingsworth, Jeremy Burgess, Dore Meinholtz, Claudia Fowler. The service concluded with the lighting of individual candles and singing "Silent Night"

Our worship services were made especially joyful by our vocal and bell choirs led by Jen Burgess. Special music is often performed by Liz McAllister, our organist extraordinaire and her talented special musicians: Jen & Jeremy Burgess, Rick Johnston, Hannah Burgess, Sandy Kaup, Mia Hollingsworth.

Worship committee thanks:

Bruce Saunders, Jeremy Burgess, Connor Burgess for manning the sound room and live-streaming each week's service on Facebook.

Blanket Bunch for making hymnal book marks.

Dave Miller and the Trustees for repairing and making items that make our jobs easier.

This has been a challenging, yet very uplifting year! Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Hollingsworth

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2023 / BLANKET BUNCH

Officers: Moderator – Jo Miller
Secretary—Fayanne Saunders
Treasurer—Pam Barrett
Assistant Treasurer – Nancy Miller

Activities included:

Members gathered at noon on Monday in Fellowship Hall for lunch and fellowship.
The decision was made to cancel the annual Homespun Christmas bazaar. Income would be replaced by an all-church yard sale in the summer with proceeds going to mission.
The Executive Committee met quarterly to distribute mission funds.
Income was generated through:
the sales of handmade cards made by Eva Botts and Fayanne Saunders
donations made from Bunco
the sale of snuggle bunnies (bazaar project)
Members helped Hospice by decorating 25 tabletop Christmas trees.
Approved the purchase of three 6ft. folding tables for fellowship hall.
Approved \$100 for the purchase of books/stuffies for the CC Homeless Shelter.
Purchased \$200 (approved in Dec. 2022) diapers for Sugartree Ministries.

Mission

Local

\$75 to CCYC (Clinton County Youth Council) per our annual March commitment
\$100 towards Sugartree Ministries June golf outing/fundraiser
\$100 towards Harvest of Gold June golf outing/fundraiser
\$100 towards Habitat for Humanity golf outing
\$125 towards CC Health Alliance golf outing
\$100 Hope House
\$200 to Clinton County Resource Center
\$200 to Clinton County Homeless Shelter
\$200 for the HoHo Shop which provides toys for local children
\$100 to WAMA (Wilmington Area Ministerial Association)
\$600 (\$200 each) Graduation scholarships for Eric Maus, Phillip Fulton, & Dirk Rinehart
\$500 Timber Faith preschool scholarship fund

National

\$200 to Matthew 25 Ministries Mississippi Tornado Relief

Respectfully submitted,
Fayanne Saunders, secretary

Bicentennial Project Committee 2022 & 2023 Annual Reports

Committee Members

Debbie Hess – Facilitator

Jeremy Burgess, Judy Gano, Bruce Saunders, Stan Gockel (until retirement in April of 2023)

The Bicentennial Project Committee was approved by Session and began meeting in April of 2022 to plan upcoming projects and events to celebrate the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington's 200th Anniversary. The first purpose of this project was to preserve the oral history of the members of the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington and develop a vision for our future through videotaped podcasts. Bruce served as the moderator of these sessions and asked three general open-ended questions during the tapings which began on August 9, 2022.

What are some of your memories of the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington?

How has your journey of faith been affected by your involvement with the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington?

How do you visualize our church five years from now? How do we get there?

All members of the congregation were invited to participate. Invitations were made in person, from the pulpit, and through letters mailed to all church family members. We had 14 members agree to participate. They were Jean Lay, Pat and Cliff Curtis, Mike & Pat Wallace, Mary Lou & Jim Hunt, Ruth Curtis, Janie Wildoner, Jen Burgess, Nancy & Dave Miller, Claudia Fowler and Ginger Wallace.

The committee reviewed the written transcripts of the interviews and made recommendations as to what information should be included in our final videos. Jeremy edited and did the final production of eight videos: Past Places of Worship, Our Current Church Home, Missions and Ministries, Church Talents, A Caring Congregation, Why We Come, Growing the Church, and Leading into The Future. We began our 10 weeklong bicentennial celebration on August 20, 2023, by showing the first video after the church service. In addition, all the videos were put on our church website as they were viewed each week.

The second project the committee facilitated was updating church family members' pictures. Debbie worked closely with Dave Miller and John Romer to organize this effort. Church families were all contacted by phone with an opportunity to schedule a time during one of three Sundays after church when Dave and John took pictures. This resulted in 60 pictures being taken which included pictures of families or individual members of our congregation as well as the Session, Deacons, Trustees, Vocal Choir, Sunday School Children, Christian Education Director, and Administrative Assistant. These pictures are displayed in Fellowship Hall. An all-church family picture was taken after church on Sunday, September 17. Carolyn Wagenseller helped with the selection for the frame and hanging this picture along with past church and church family pictures in the narthex. Debbie will add a list of the names of people in the current church family picture later in 2024.

On October 1, our 2023 Bicentennial Celebration invited the Caledonian Pipes and Drums to play before, during, and after the service. We appreciated Stan's support and encouragement to include this as part of our celebration. Bruce Saunders gave a summary of the Presbyterian Church Scottish Heritage. Videos continued to be shown after church throughout the month of October. Our Heritage/Bicentennial celebration month concluded with lunch after church on Sunday October 29 prepared by Fyanne Saunders and Pam Barrett. Judy organized and arranged the decorations for this celebration luncheon.

The final two projects are still underway. Debbie is contacting all individuals by phone, text, and/or email to update the information in our current church directory. Once this task is completed, our Administrative Assistant, Mary Zaycosky, will add the current church family pictures to this directory. In addition, Mary Lou and Jim Hunt are collecting items for our time capsule. This capsule will be closed around October 2024 to allow time for additional activities to be included. This would include but not be limited to pictures and information about our May 18, 2024, collaborative effort with the Methodist, Quaker, Lutheran, and First Christian Church to build 20 beds for children in Clinton County through the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project, our 2nd Annual Worship in the Park service, and the installation of our new pastor. The time capsule will be placed somewhere inside the church to allow easy access for future generations.

All praise and glory to Jesus Christ who has led our congregation for 200 years and supported this project to preserve the history of our service to Him. With His guidance, the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington will be celebrating its 250th anniversary in October 2073.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Hess

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Stewardship Campaign for 2023 Summary

The stewardship campaign of the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington started very early in 2023. Stewardship usually is addressed in October, but this year we challenged our congregation to a much bigger task than the yearly budget. This was our bicentennial year. We used this 200th anniversary of our church to complete a financial promise we made in 2000. That promise was to pay off our mortgage. The campaign theme of "Mortgage Free in 23" was suggested by retiring pastor, Stan Gockel. The Mortgage Free in 23 campaign was announced in Sunday worship on May 6. Our mortgage balance stood at \$160,000. With the combined efforts of our generous congregation and an anonymous donor, we collected \$166,345. We hoped to pay off the mortgage by October during our bicentennial celebrations, but we exceeded our goal and made our last payment on August 16th. We held a mortgage burning ceremony during worship to celebrate our accomplishment.

Not only did we pay off our mortgage, but contributed an overage of \$24,928 to the Capital Asset Replacement Fund to cover future repair and replacement of church equipment such as HV/AC, lighting, etc.

Many thanks to our generous congregation and anonymous donor for making this goal a reality.

When we engage a new pastor in 2024, it will be much more financially comfortable to fund the pastor position without having to make a \$4,500 mortgage payment to make each month.

We also need to thank our congregation for being so faithful in stewardship during the COVID months when church was closed but the congregation kept on giving. That extra money was set aside in a New Pastor Fund. The fund now stands at \$61,076.

The final totals for 2023's campaign were:

Pledges = \$148,080

Giving Units: 43

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Saunders, Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Information Included:

Financial Information Included with this report:

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023

2023 Income/Expense Statement for All funds, except Timber Faith, including 2023 budget.

2022 Income/Expense Statement for Timber Faith Preschool, including 2023 budget.

Consolidated Fund Activity Report, showing the activity in all funds during 2023.

Assumptions Used in Developing the 2023 Budget:

Most income and expense items are based on information received from ministry teams, actual year to date income and expense, pledges received, etc.

Pledge comparison

2019: 67 pledges totaling \$205,436 (\$3,066 average/ pledging unit)

2020: 52 pledges totaling \$175,784 (\$3,380 average/ pledging unit)

2021: 46 pledges totaling \$160,725 (\$3,494 average / pledging unit)

2022: 42 pledges totaling \$146,480 (\$3,437 average/ pledging unit)

2023: 43 pledges totaling \$148,080 (\$3,443 average/pledging unit)

It is assumed that the church will participate in all four PC(USA) Special Offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking and Christmas Joy. Donations marked for these special offerings and the Per Capita Assessment will flow through to the Presbytery.