

Annual Report 2021



John McMillan Presbyterian Church

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Pastor Jeff's Annual Report for 2021

I think we can all say that 2021 was another year of challenges. The country continued to struggle with COVID 19 and the varied, and sometimes confusing, recommendations on how it would be managed. The country underwent an "insurrection" trying to overturn the 2020 election and so politics continued to put folks on edge. It seemed that the level of frustration and angst among the people kept our irritation fuses short and easily lit. Yet, things at JMPC were relatively stable with our Christian love and grace keeping us on the task of proclaiming the Gospel.

Let's take a look at 2021.

While it might appear with the reduction in church activities that the staff is not as busy as in non-pandemic times, that is not the case. Though we were working at home for some of 2021, we were still working hard to keep up with our responsibilities. The staff met weekly to plan worship, monitor finances, provide pastoral care, keep in communication with the Session, Deacons and the congregation. I also serve on the Presbytery Executive Committee and was the co-chair for the past two years. I also serve on the Board of Directors of Baptist Senior Families (formerly Baptist Homes Society) and chaired that board for the past five years. I am also serving on an administrative commission for Presbytery investigating certain activities at a member church.

During 2020 we were worshipping in the parking lot until December when the weather got too cold to continue. The worship team lead worship from the sanctuary and streamed it online. There was a plethora of glitches that caused a good amount of frustration among the worship leaders and those who were watching online. Our response was to hire Jacqueline Druga and recruit volunteer Kay Zawicki to take over the technology in the sanctuary. Their efforts resulted in a steady improvement of the online experience. We returned to the parking lot for Lent and Easter and who could forget our snowy Maundy Thursday service when a blizzard coated me during the service and communion was iced bread and frozen wine. I know I won't.

Vaccination came along and the rate of the spread of the virus dropped. Hospitalizations went down. The death rate dropped. We decided to open the sanctuary for in-person worship in June following the CDC Guidelines as our safety measures. Attendance was very good until the Delta and Omicron waves arrived. While we did not close the church, we recommended that fellowship take place in the parking lot and that masks be kept on in the sanctuary. I-person attendance dropped though online viewership stayed strong. Nevertheless, we worshipped well. Attendance, with the combination of in-person and online attendance increased! The choir returned, smaller but stronger. We began to share communion. We baptized babies. We remained a worshipping community.

Christian Education was still on hiatus until September. That did not stop VBS! VBS was in-person, outside and in the evening. It was well attended and enjoyed by the kids as they learned about Jesus and the Bible. Then as Kick Off Sunday approached, we decided to fully

open the church for our usual programs. Children's Church restarted. ABC' of the Bible restarted. Adult Bible study restarted. The kids put on their Christmas Pageant. We had the Christmas Concert. Two services on Christmas Eve. We also had a confirmation class of five young adults.

The Christmas Affair was cancelled for another year due to the late year virus surge. The International Ministry Team did go to Chiapas as part of an "all-star" mission team. We built two houses for two homeless families. Our youth group travelled to Erie to work with the homeless population there. We participated in all four PCUSA special offerings. We sponsored a Blood Drive. We delivered 65 coats along with shoes and gloves to Duquesne from our Angel Tree campaign. We took gently used items to Duquesne for their Blessings Store. I participated in the Blessing of the City at Easter with the Christian Associates of Southwestern Pa. and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

We elected our new church officers. These new officers all agreed to serve even in the middle of the pandemic.

Elders:

Joe Smith, Cheryl Davies and Chris Altmeyer joined Jessica Scott, Jeff Woolstencroft, Nathan Knopp, Emily Shubilla, Michelle Chenevert and Steve Masley.

Deacons:

Toni Sulkowski, Devon Serena, Dan Zearley and Susan Zearley joined Karen Timko, Linda Pelan, Marielle Brown, Grace Bogdon, Deanna Kovell and Judy Willison.

The building and grounds have been reopened and we have also redesigned the library into the "Library Café". We also had a church "clean-up" day where we disposed of many unused items and general clutter that has gathered over the years. The Children's Church room was refurbished as well. We have plans to update the rest rooms in the near future.

Finances were more problematic than what we had hoped. Our expenses exceeded our income by \$50,000. While JMPC has the financial ability to handle that for one year, we need to do better in terms of financial support for our missions and ministries. While our Stewardship Campaign was well done and inspiring, the pledges for 2022 were disappointing. This issue will be reviewed, and recommendations made for future fundraising. In the meantime, we will reduce expenditures.

It was with regret that we had to say goodbye to Pastor Matt on October 24. Matt accepted a call to be the Pastor of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, PA. Matt's departure leaves a very large hole in our staff as he was responsible for many of our missions and ministries. He is missed greatly by our youth group. The Session appointed a search committee to find a successor for Matt. We are hopeful that we will have someone in place soon.

All in all, 2021 has been a stressful, yet hopeful, year at JMPC. Who knows what's going to happen in 2021? Not me. But this I do know.

'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.'

JMPC OFFICERS FOR 2022

Elders

Class of 2022 – Michelle Chenevert, Steve Masley, Emily Shubilla

Class of 2023 – Nathan Knopp, Jessica Scott, Jeff Wolstoncroft

Class of 2024 – Chris Altmeyer, Cheryl Davies, Joe Smith

Deacons

Class of 2022 – Deanna Kovell, Judy Willison, Grace Bogdon (serving January 2021 – June 2022)

Class of 2023 – Marielle Brown, Linda Pelan, Karen Timko

Class of 2024 – Devon Serena, Toni Sulkowski, Dan Zearley, Susan Zearley

CONC (Church Officer Nominating Committee)

From the Congregation at Large – Betsy Gilbert, Charlie Previs, and Lynn Willison

From the Board of Deacons – Toni Sulkowski

From the Session – Jessica Scott, Chairperson, and Joe Smith

Corporate Officers of JMPC for 2022

President	Jeff Wolstoncroft
Secretary	Cindy Fast
Treasurer	Chris Todd
Corporate Counsel	Betty Dillon
Financial Secretary	Leslie Bogdon
Accountant	Nancy Miller
Payroll Secretary	Leslie Bogdon

2021 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Active Members 12/31/20 375

Gains for 2021

Profession of Faith,
Reaffirmation, Restoration

 17 & under 5

 18 & over 0

Letter of Transfer 0

Other gains 0

TOTAL GAINS + 5

SUBTOTAL = 380

Losses for 2021

Letter of Transfer 0

Death 6

Other 7

TOTAL LOSSES - 13

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 12/31/21 = **367**

Female Members 214

Male Members 153

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 and Under - 59 Ages 56-70 95

Ages 26-40 70 71 and over 76

Ages 41-55 67

2021 Baptisms

Child 3 Adult 0

Outreach Pillar 2021 Annual Report

The Outreach Pillar is represented by Michelle Chenevert, Jessica Braden-Rogers and Jessica Scott. Through various ministry teams, this pillar connects our church to different organizations that can benefit from the gifts the congregation of JMPC has to offer.

The Mission Ministry Team

The Mission ministry team seeks to discover the mission needs and opportunities within God's community and to facilitate involvement of members and friends to promote God's love through service. This committee provides support, funding and volunteer time to many worthy causes. In 2021, we primarily focused on our partnerships with Duquesne and SHIM. In October we did a diaper drive and in December a coat drive (over 65 hats & coats collected!) to support Duquesne. We also held a blood drive in November with Vitalant where Vitalant donated \$15 to SHIM for each blood donation. Another blood drive is scheduled for May 2022.

The Christmas Affair Ministry Team

Unfortunately the Christmas Affair was cancelled in 2021 due to the pandemic. We hope and expect it to occur in 2022. This ministry team is led currently by two co-chairs with the assistance of Darlene Pauley who recruits the crafters. The purpose of this ministry team is to organize and manage the Christmas Affair each November to raise funds for mission agencies supported by JMPC.

The Disaster Relief Ministry Team

The purpose of this ministry team is to provide community disaster assistance on an as-needed basis.

The Special Offering Ministry Team

The purpose of this ministry team is to plan and carry out the collection of the four PCUSA special offerings:

- *Peace and Global Witness
- *Christmas Joy
- *Pentecost
- *One Great Hour of Sharing

These offerings must be promoted with PCUSA provided materials (sent automatically) and collected on the appropriate Sunday.

The International Mission Ministry Team

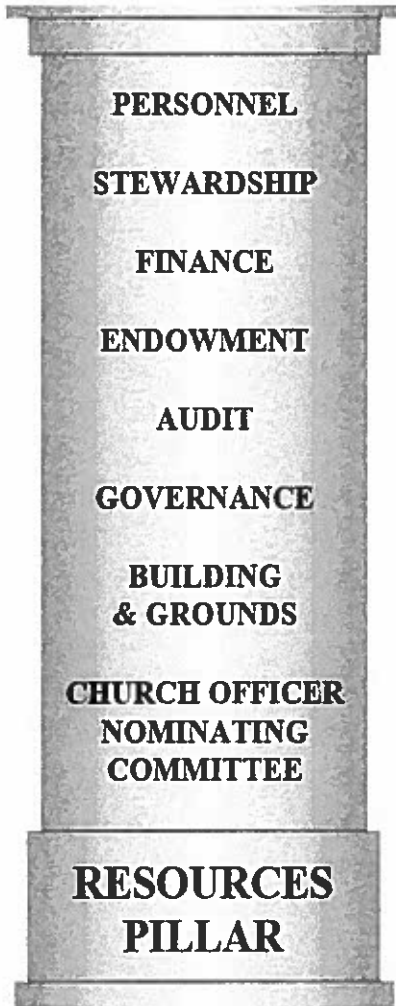
This ministry team is led by Pastor Jeff. The purpose of this ministry team is to plan and undertake foreign mission trips. In 2021, a team went to Chiapas, Mexico.

The Communications Ministry Team

This ministry team's function is to plan and carry out the promotion of JMPC to members and the general public via the website, social media and local publications.

The SHIM Garden Ministry Team

This ministry team is currently led by Carolyn Brow, This team farms the SHIM Garden which supplies fresh produce to the South Hills Interfaith Movement food pantry. In 2021 the garden produced over 1000 pounds of fresh, organic vegetables.



Resources Pillar 2021 Annual Report

The Resources Pillar of Session was staffed by Joe Pelan, Jeff Wolstoncroft, and Steve Masley and serves to coordinate the activities associated with the personnel, property, and financial resources of the church. Through various ministry teams this pillar ensures that adequate funds are made available and effectively administered to support its mission statement.

It also makes certain that the Church operates according to its established bylaws and its staff consistently meets the expectations set forth in stated job descriptions and performance objectives and that its ministry teams, are adequately staffed and engaged to discern, nurture, govern, and guide.

Finally, "Resources" ensures that the building and its surrounding property are maintained and improved in a manner that is safe, pleasing, and functional. The most important and essential functions were all addressed by dedicated staff and volunteers as the pandemic continued to provide ongoing challenges. The following is a summary of each of these ministry team's functions and accomplishments over the past year.

Personnel Ministry Team

Workings of the Personnel Ministry Team are included in its own section of the Annual Report. Thanks to Dan Depra for several years of leadership and to Jeff Wolstoncroft for representing session.

Governance Ministry Team

The Team consists of Dan Zearley and Wayne Fast. Collaboration is conducted on an as-needed basis. The Governance Ministry Team reviews and makes recommendations to Session on JMPC bylaw changes and interpretations as well as other administrative procedures. In 2021 the team collaborated on the following:

- Reviewed "Risk Guidance" regarding outside group usage of church facilities.
- Provided revisions to the bylaws in accordance with the proposed Session proposal (pending Congregation approval) to elect new officers to start August 1st to coincide with the program year.

Church Officer Nominating Committee Ministry Team

The purpose of this Team is to seek out new members of the congregation who are called to be leaders and officers of the church. The Team is comprised of individuals from the congregation at-large, the Deacons, and Session. Thanks to this year's team chaired by Emily Shubila and assisted by Jessica Scott both from Session, Lynn Willison representing the Deacons and Betsy Gilbert, Charlie Previs, and Donna Kovell from the congregation. Their efforts ensured that church leadership positions have been adequately filled.

Stewardship Ministry Team

It is an honor to be part of the stewardship mission team for 2021. Our team consisted of Emily Shubilla, Michelle Chenevert, Charlie Previs and myself.

We began meeting in September of 2021 and prayerfully came together on a theme for the stewardship campaign “**Changing lives**”. We discussed how being a member of JMPC has changed our lives and how having the opportunity to be involved with the missions of JMPC has changed the lives of others.

We worked on gathering volunteers from the congregation, and others involved in the church, to share testimonies on how JMPC has changed their lives. Working with Jackie Druga and Kaylin Zawicki we were able to make testimonial videos called **60 seconds of stewardship**.

The stewardship campaign spanned six weeks. During that time I spoke to the congregation about our campaign as well as testimonials every Sunday. We completed our campaign by sending out pledge cards via email and regular mail, encouraging giving from the congregation for the upcoming year church missions. At the end of the campaign, we celebrated the gifts of the church with a pizza party in the Fellowship Hall on 11-21-21.

At present, we have received pledges in the amount of \$272,600 from 74 of a possible 216 giving units. We have encouraged 100% giving from our congregation throughout our campaign, and it's never too late to make a pledge to the church by contacting Leslie Bogdon in the church office.

Finally, I want to thank all the people who have pledged. We are so blessed by you all.

Doug Mickey, Stewardship Team

Audit Ministry Team

This Team is staffed by Ray Kells and Karen Timko and has the primary function of performing the annual audit of the financial books which includes a review of the church’s expenses and income procedures. The following is a summary of the audit team’s findings:

The audit committee has completed their annual review of the established procedures of the incoming funds, disbursement of funds and bank reconciliations for our current bank accounts.

Do to the Covid 19 restrictions, the majority of income came to the church via mail or The Presbyterian Foundation. The procedures for handling the incoming funds are strong and we found no discrepancies. All 12 months were tested. We tested all 12 months of cash disbursements and found no major issues. All payments were made as the result of approval by the Pastor, Assistant Pastor, member of the Session or by contract that the church has with numerous vendors. Paid utility bills are reviewed by a member of the Resource Pillar for reasonableness. The major expenditure for the sanctuary displays and video system with camera were approved by the Session at their June meeting. The amount approved exceeds the amount spent to date.

Recommendation: As of 12/31/2020 the Designated Funds represented 30% of JMPC’s Total Assets. We recommend that the members of each Pillar review the Funds they are responsible for and provide an explanation for any changes that take place and provide them to the Church Accountant to include with the month end financial statements. In the first quarter of 2021 it has increased \$7,000.

Endowment Ministry Team

The Endowment Ministry Team is responsible for providing guidance and recommendations for investing JMPC's endowment fund. The current Committee members are: Doug Mickey, Gary Cartwright, and Glen Siniaski. Workings of this Team are included in its own section of the Annual Report.

Finance Ministry Team

This Team is led by Chris Todd and assisted by the Church Treasurer, Jim Hinerman. Upon Jim's planned resignation as Treasurer in August, Chris then took on that additional responsibility. The principal responsibilities of the team are to analyze, clarify, and organize financial information in order that Session can be informed and updated by a monthly financial report.

Utilizing past historical data and information gained from the Stewardship Campaign, an operating budget is prepared for Session approval. Ministry Teams within the pillars are provided funds based on their justified input, the availability of funds, and finally the approval of Session. Overall, the financial condition of the church can be considered stable.

Three teams of money counters led by Jim McCalmont ensure that contributions/monies are properly tabulated and assigned to the appropriate general and designated accounts. The activity also includes a timely bank deposit and reconciliation. The following represents the counters approved by session for 2022:

Team A

- Jim McCalmont
- Linda McCalmont
- Don Fickter

Team B

- Don Ewing
- Joyce Ewing
- Dan Zearley

Team C

- Larry Mickey
- Donna Kovell
- Steve Masley

Substitutes

- Jim Dillon
- Betty Dillon
- Ray Kells

Building and Grounds Ministry Team

The goal is to provide an environment to help facilitate and enhance the various activities and ministries performed at the church, including but not limited to, corporate worship and spiritual development, Christian education, preschool, youth group and VBS, fellowship, and community outreach.

Many of the maintenance and light construction activities are performed by a group known as the Fix-It-Fellowship which meets at least monthly and sometimes more often as needs arise. Opportunities exist for individuals of all skill levels to share their talents. F.I.F. continues to effect repairs to plumbing, lighting, electrical, and interior and exterior surface related issues as required. This group supplements contracted driveway/parking lot snow removal with sidewalk clearing and salting as well as supplementing grass mowing with shrub and grass trimming, weeding and leaf removal during the spring through fall growing season. Other significant contributors to outside maintenance and beautification are the Ellises, Davies, Nowaks, Pelans, Ewings, and Pam Dobos.

This ministry continually strives to make cost effective building and property decisions and to implement and utilize new technologies as they become available. An example is the recent retrofitting of LED lighting in the Christian Education wing hallways. Longer life LED bulbs offer the added advantage of lower power consumption resulting in a less than one year payback on bulb cost.

Utility usage and associated contracts are continually monitored to ensure pricing is best available and usage is within established norms. A three-year natural gas commodity contract with Dominion Energy Solutions was recently signed. The contract offers early termination with no penalties when pricing becomes more favorable. Other contracts/contractors are monitored for performance and pricing; i.e., snow removal, lawn mowing, trash collection, custodial services, pest control, and the automated fire alarm system, etc.

Team contributors Jim Ellis, Scott Nowak, Wayne Fast, Dan Zearley, Chris Altmeyer family, James and Emily Shubilla, Rick Brow, Jim Willison, Steve Masley, Dave Dowdell, Joe Pelan, Matt Scott, bring a wide and varied range of skills to this ministry. The expertise and passion they bring to this ministry provides for many cost-effective solutions which enable us to better utilize our funds for community outreach and spiritual growth. The following is a listing of the past year's significant projects:

- GFIs installed in kitchen per Cincinnati Insurance recommendation.
- Pine trees trimmed at driveway curve for visibility.
- Main and front entrances cleaned and trimmed prior to Easter.
- Two dozen shingles replaced on 26-year-old Fellowship Hall roof.
- Replaced rear boiler piping motor, coupling, and system regulator.
- Replaced front boiler relay Christian Education hallway area.
- Landscaped area and repaired and painted driveway entrance sign.
- Purchased chain saw to remove fallen, encroaching, and diseased trees on property (stored in garden shed).
- Removed outside worship structure.
- Miscellaneous restroom plumbing repairs.
- Four window ACs installed in Preschool/Christian Education area.
- Project prioritization and methodology system implemented.

B&G (Cont.)

- Interior Church clean-up, Aug. 28.
- Numerous fluorescent lights/ballasts replaced in Christian Education wing.
- Retrofitted 52 fluorescent 4' lights with LEDS in Christian Education hallways and restrooms. Less than one year payback on bulb cost.
- Pole lights replaced by W.P.P. Co.
- Floor lines painted in Fellowship Hall for pickleball.
- Seven large trees that were encroaching neighboring properties and electric lines or were diseased were removed by Sideline Tree Service.
- Natural gas commodity contract signed with Dominion Energy Solutions to take advantage of favorable pricing and flexible termination policy.

Planned/Ongoing:

- Library Cafe is 95% complete. Stools received and chairs still remain on order (Feb. 2022 delivery).
- Repair/replace roof evaluation (fellowship hall, office, narthex) underway.
- Restroom upgrades.
- Rear boiler controls evaluation.
- Solar panel feasibility study.
- LED lighting plan for CE wing classrooms.

Warmly in Christ,
Steve Masley, Chairman

ENDOWMENT TEAM ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

The Endowment Ministry Team is a sub-committee of the **Resource Pillar** and responsible for providing guidance and recommendations for investing JMPC's endowment fund. The current Committee members are: Glen Siniawski, Doug Mickey and Gary Cartwright.

The goal of the endowment fund is to generate current income that will be given to a different church committee each year to spend on a special project of the committee's choosing. The funds are to be invested to generate an amount of income that is consistent with the goal of protecting principal, however small short-term fluctuations are acceptable.

Since December 2011, the funds have been invested in the New Covenant Income Fund. This is a conservative, income producing fund that makes investment decisions consistent with the social-witness principles adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and, accordingly, may limit investments in companies involved in gambling, alcohol and firearm related securities. During 2021 the committee reviewed investment options and recommended that the endowment remain invested in this fund. The Resource Pillar agree with this recommendation.

The performance of the fund by year for 2021 and since the initial investment in the New Covenant Fund (December 2011) is as follows:

	2021	Since Initial Investment
Beginning account value	\$121,392.42	\$0.00
Income	\$0	\$9965.17
Distribution of income	\$2270.85	\$777.71
Change in value of principle:		
Investment Gain / loss:	-\$4324.60	\$2933.05
- Additional Contributions	\$2960.00	\$108622.74
Ending account value	\$122,298.67	\$122298.67

During 2021, income from the Endowment remained in the fund. To determine how to best use the income generated during 2021, Resource Pillar will work with Session Pillars to identify special projects or activities where the income can be used to advance our mission as God's people. The principle will remain invested and not withdrawn unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

The Endowment Ministry Team and the Resources Pillar will continue to monitor the performance of the Endowment to ensure it is invested appropriately to meet the stated goals.

The Endowment Ministry Team asks our church members to prayerfully consider making an investment in the future of our church through a donation in the name of a loved one, when preparing your estate planning, making a contribution from your tax refund or a general gift.

JMPC Personnel Ministry Team 2021 Annual Report

According to the PCUSA Book of Order (G-10.0102) *“The session... has the responsibility... to provide for the administration of the program of the church, including employment of nonordained staff, with concern for equal employment opportunity, fair employment practices, personnel policies, and the annual review of the adequacy of compensation for all staff, including all employees.”*

The Personnel Ministry Team (PMT) advises the Resource Pillar of Session and Pastor Jeff, as head-of-staff, to provide an orderly, focused and considerate way to maintain a healthy work environment at JMPC. The PMT manages JMPC’s employment-related issues such as recommending job descriptions, maintaining personnel files and policies, facilitating annual staff and Pastor performance evaluations, recommending compensation adjustments to Session, encouraging professional growth and development, and supporting our pastors and staff.

PMT MEMBERSHIP:

This year, PMT experienced a member transition with Dan DePra remaining as chair and Jeff Wolstoncroft serving as our link to the Resources Pillar.

For 2022, Jeff will serve as PMT chair and we are actively seeking two new members to serve on our team. Please contact Pastor Jeff or Jeff Wolstoncroft (724-971-3430) if you are interested.

NOTABLE 2021 PMT ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Processed Associate Pastor Matt Fricker’s termination as he accepted the call for Pastor at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church.
- Conducted 2021 annual performance evaluations as follows:
 - Pillars and Deacons evaluated Senior Pastor with input from ministry teams.
 - Senior Pastor conducted performance evaluations for staff.
- Compiled 2021 evaluations and worked with the Finance Team to recommend compensation adjustments for Session consideration and approval.
- After Session approval, updated JMPC’s Board of Pensions employer profile and 2022 salary/benefits selections for Senior Pastor.
- Prepared Pastor Jeff’s 2022 Terms of Call for our annual congregational meeting.

Many thanks to Pillar and Deacon leadership who provided thoughtful and constructive feedback for 2021 evaluations. Also, thanks to the Finance Team, Resource Pillar, and Pastor Jeff for their patience, cooperation, helpful suggestions, and faithfulness throughout the past year.

As always, we recognize our hard-working JMPC staff – Leslie, Caroline and Elisabeth. Their professionalism, reliability and dedication to JPMC continues to bless us all.

Yours in Christ, Dan DePra - Chair, Personnel Ministry Team

Stewardship Annual Report for 2021

It is an honor to be part of the stewardship mission team. Our team consisted of Emily Shubilla, Michelle Chenevert, Charlie Previs and myself.

We began meeting in September of 2021 and prayerfully came together on a theme for the stewardship campaign “**Changing lives**”. We discussed how being a member of JMPC has changed our lives and how having the opportunity to be involved with the missions of JMPC has changed the lives of others.

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Finally, I want to thank all the people who have pledged. We are so blessed by you all.

Doug Mickey

Stewardship Team

Spiritual Development Annual Report 2021

2021 was a year of reimagining, reopening, and restarting. The Spiritual Development Team consisting of Connie Smith, Emily Shubilla (chair), and Nathan Knopp, worked hard this year to keep our church's worship, education, and fellowship intact and flourishing.

WORSHIP

After a long closure, we reopened the doors to the sanctuary and began in-person worship again. We hired a new technical person, Jackie Druga, and assistant, Kay Zawicki, to maintain our online worship and streaming services as well as to boost our presence on social media. We have also reinstated communion with some health modifications in mind. We are back to having baptisms and special services, and sponsoring flowers. We thank the standardized worship team, Cindy Fast, Dave Dowdell, Carolyn Brow, Susan Zearley, Pam Dobos, Toni Sulkowski, and Sarah Douglas for helping rethink how to worship in the safest ways. We also thank our head usher, Dave Dowdell, our communion organizers, Cindy Fast and Judy Gaudelli, and our banner and decoration leader, Jane Voligny and flower organizers, Cindy Fast and Steve Masley.

EDUCATION

We have also reopened the nursery. Our 2 contactors, Sarah Westland and Ruth Cobbett worked September and October. Ruth decided to resign on good terms and Sarah has been on her own November and December. Nursery attendance has been very low, but we decided that this service is valuable and will continue in 2022 with a newly hired contractor.

Children's Church participation has been steadily growing. We have welcomed the children into the Sanctuary and have had Noisy Offerings and a birthday party for Jesus. Thank you to our teachers Caitlin Smith, Emily Shubilla, Jessica Scott, and Michelle Chenevert.

Although Pastor Matt was promoted at another church, our Youth Group is staying active. The leaders, Caitlin Smith and Megan Sherry, are working hard to keep this program successful and preparing it for new leadership. Jimmy Dykstra was hired by Pastor Matt at his new church and we thank him for all he has done for our church. The leaders met in the fall and are looking forward to the upcoming year. Kid's Klub has also been meeting weekly under the leadership of Judy Lipp, Kevin Hollerich, and Dulaney Scott and having a lot of fun. We are hoping to increase attendance for this program by continuing to send letters and reach out to families to encourage them to join us.

The adults in our congregation have also had many educational opportunities including ABCs of the Bible lead by Dan and Susan Zearley and Hugh Given and Brown Bag Bible Study, the After-Dinner Bible study, and mid-week meditations all led by Pastor Jeff. All of these have been well received and the attendants are happy to be back together.

MUSIC

The Choir and Bell Choir have been producing beautiful music in the sanctuary and they are continuing to amaze us with their talents. We thank Carolyn Brow and Elisabeth Jefferies for the success of these programs.

FELLOWSHIP AND EVENTS

The membership team did not have a New Members class this year, but is planning one for 2022.

We enjoyed a hot dog and chili luncheon for Kick-off Sunday and multiple coffee hours sponsored by the Fellowship Team, Connie and Joe Smith, Nancy Page, Judy Gaudelli, and Linda Pelan. The Fellowship Team also hosted a gathering for Matt's sendoff that was very special and appreciated.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt also happened and was great fun. We had in 2 weeks before Easter with 2 time slots and around 50 children attended. Thank you Betsy Gilbert and Emily Shubilla for organizing this.

Vacation Bible School, led by Emily Shubilla and MaryBeth Deckard, took place in June with modifications and changes. We did almost the entire thing outside and in the evening and had 60 participants and many volunteers. We also provided 4 at home kits for kids who could not attend.

In the Fall, we had a great Fall Festival sponsored by the Choir and Children's Church with food, music, Trunk or Treat, games, karaoke, etc. We welcomed a lot of families and will be making this an annual event.

In November, we confirmed 6 more members into JMPC and celebrated with them with a dinner provided by the Fellowship Team. We celebrated Thanksgiving with a special service and a dinner sponsored by Kids Klub, the Youth Group, and the Fellowship Team.

In December, we enjoyed celebrating Advent weekly, having 2 Christmas services and having the Christmas Pageant and concert with Potluck. We had the Pageant the last Sunday before Christmas during service and our participation was around 15 kids, 3 youth members, and 2 adult volunteers. It was loved as usual and the volunteers are looking forward to next year already.

OTHER

Pastor Matt decided to accept a new position as a Senior Pastor. He will be missed and finding a replacement will be a challenge. We created a search committee to take on this task consisting of Jim Hinerman (chair), Nathan Knopp, Alex Sherbak, Michelle Chenevert, Chris Todd, Janet Dykstra, and Megan Sherry. The group met a few times and established 2 job descriptions and a salary structure for the position. We are hopeful to find someone soon.

We look forward to 2022 and know it will be a great year filled with worship, education, and fellowship.

Submitted by Connie Smith, Emily Shubilla, and Nathan Knopp.

Annual Report for 2021

from Music Director

Our music department had a challenging start to 2021 but we ended the year with a somewhat normal schedule. We started our year off with outside worship then moved indoors with online worship when it was too cold. We then moved back outside when the temperatures were more favorable. During these times we formed quartets to sing anthems and lead hymns. We were also able to bring Elisabeth back into worship playing the electronic piano. In June, we were able to resume indoor in person worship. At that time, we resumed regular choir and handbell practice. We were able to have the choir and bells lead worship. During July and August, we had a good selection of soloists as we normally do. In September we resumed our normal choir and bell rehearsal and performance schedules.

In October the choir sponsored the Fall Festival which included music, games, food and Trunk-or-Treat. This event was very well attended.

In December we held our annual Christmas Concert and potluck dinner. This event was not as well attended as usual but was successful as far as the quality of the music and the dinner were concerned. We were able to include musicians from many generations and skill levels. The choir sang, the bells rang and the band played. We included soloists and a storyteller.

We ended our musical year on Christmas Eve with the choir, bells and band all playing and singing.

Board of Deacons 2021 Annual Report

The Board of Deacons is called to serve the members of the congregation with love and compassion, showing empathy and love. We continued caring from a distance this year, as Covid was still a concern throughout the year.

We welcomed three new Deacons to serve with us in 2021. Karen Timko, Marielle Brown, and Linda Pelan enthusiastically joined our mission of caring for the members of JMPC.

Throughout 2021, Linda sent a multitude of greeting cards to people who were on the prayer list, as well as those who needed a pick-me-up. The Deacons also partnered with the John McMillan Preschool to distribute Valentine's Day cards to members who could use a little extra cheer.

Since we had Easter in the parking lot this year, the Deacons purchased Easter flowers to beautify the outdoor pulpit, then hand-delivered them to people on our care list. We also sent an Easter gift to a member in need.

For members who are grieving the loss of parents, children, or spouses, a booklet called "Journeying through Grief" is sent periodically to support them in their grieving process. Sue Pierson and Marielle coordinated the sending of these booklets.

Once we were back in the Sanctuary for worship, Lynn Willison and Marielle made sure that the planters at the main entrance of the church were filled with lovely plants. Judy Willison coordinated the Deacons' Caring Table, which sends cards, signed by the congregation, to those who are celebrating, sick, or injured.

The Pastor Jeff's request, the Deacons hosted a kickoff Sunday church picnic at Bethel Village Green. We grilled hot dogs and hamburgers with major help from both Jim Willisons. Karen brought lawn games to fuel the competitive side of the congregation, and attendees brought a side or dessert to share. We had a great turnout and an afternoon of fellowship.

The Deacons complied a Volunteer Survey to connect helpers to those who need help. Eleven people sent responses to let us know that they were willing and able to drive others to church or appointments, make meals for those in need, or make a dish for a funeral luncheon. The survey is still open and can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCTM6MD>.

The Deacons sent our yearly donations to Bethel Park Fire Department and Tri-County South EMS and maintained the AED equipment in the Narthex. We were staunch members of the JMPC prayer team, we took meals to those in need, and we contacted members as we pray through the directory. We hosted one funeral luncheon in 2021 for Carolyn Sulkowski. We sent congratulatory cards to graduates and sent gifts to college students at the end of the semesters.

We are very thankful for Lynn Willison, Sue Pierson, and Ray Pierson for their three years of service as they rotate off the Board of Deacons. Karen Timko has volunteered to be the Deacon's moderator for the coming year, and Judy Willison will continue as our secretary. We look forward to another year of serving and praying for the members of JMPC.

Respectfully,

Deanna Kovell – moderator

**John McMillan Preschool
Annual Report 2020-2021
Kim Doughty, Director**



The preschool is celebrating its 48th year of providing a nurturing early childhood education to the children of Bethel Park and surrounding communities. The information in this report summarizes the time from September 2020-May 2021.

Staffing:

Katie Strickland was the Teacher and Enid Campos the Assistant Teacher of our Pre-Kindergarten children, Melissa Kim was the Teacher of our MWF Four-year olds, Brooke Dudjak was the Teacher of our TThF Four-year olds, and Lisa Vilsack was the Teacher and Amelie Colletti was the Assistant Teacher of our Two Day and Three Day Three-year olds. Each day they brought new energy and meaningful learning activities to their classrooms, and always modeled God's love to their students.

Enrollment and Programming:

We had 40 children enrolled in morning preschool sessions as follows: Pre-K – 16, 4's – 14, 3's – 10.

Our teachers develop their lesson plans following a theme based curriculum guided by the PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood. Each day includes free play time, circle time, story time, center based learning, fine and gross motor play, prayer and snack. It is our goal to foster independence and self-esteem in each child as we guide them in developmentally appropriate learning. But always, we want them to know that each one of them is uniquely created and loved by God.

Pre-K and 4's: Lessons are planned to foster the development of specific skills that are essential for success in kindergarten. Children practice writing and cutting every day. They work on identifying upper and lower case letters and their sounds, as well as writing them. They learn to recognize the numbers 1-20 and write 1-10. The introduction of common sight words begins in November. Hands-on science exploration and discovery occurs weekly. Language and communication skills are used throughout the day and modeled by teachers. Field trips and visitors help to connect the curriculum to the world. And, by instilling a strong sense of classroom and school community, children develop a sense of citizenship and social responsibility at John McMillan Preschool that will later lead to a sense of responsibility to the world around them.

Two-day and Three-day 3's: The focus of our 3's curriculum is socialization and learning through play. Play and learning go hand in hand as the children choose from centers with learning activities (matching, counting, fine motor enhancement), building blocks, dramatic play and dress-up, art projects, manipulatives, musical instruments, etc. Children will learn shapes and colors, practice cutting, and work on identifying their names and recognizing the letters in their names. Exposure to the alphabet begins in January, as well as learning to write their first names. As the teachers interact with the children they will be intentionally modeling socialization throughout the day. Circle time is a chance to share and listen to others, and to ask questions. Gross motor time is a time to learn about taking turns, and snack time is a time to talk with friends and enjoy food together – very important social skills to learn. Play provides rich learning experiences which in turn build a foundation for success in school and life.

All year, we offered afternoon **Enrichment classes** that were very well received. These classes were offered one day a week for a various number of weeks and were open to different age groups. Classes started at 11:45am and ended at 2:15pm (includes 1 hour for lunch/play). With a full range of topics, there was something for everyone:

Fall 2020: Awesome Artists, STEM Storytime and Holiday Hoopla

Winter 2021: Green Thumb, Let's Go Exploring, Jumping Beans, Spanish

Children bring a peanut/tree nut free lunch from home and eat with their friends under a teacher's supervision. They also participate in gross motor play before their enrichment class.

Special monthly classes:

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to have our Library, Music or Science programs.

Chapel Time: Each month Pastor Matt Fricker teaches a Bible story to the children in the Sanctuary. The teachers reinforce this lesson in the classroom through art projects and re-telling the story throughout the month. Stories included Creation, Daniel and the Lions, Noah's Ark, the Nativity, the Lost Sheep, the Good Samaritan, Jonah and the Whale, the Easter Story, and Jesus Feeds Thousands. These were read from the Beginner's Bible, which was given to every newly enrolled student in October as a gift from John McMillan Presbyterian Church.

Field Trips:

In October, we took a fun schoolwide family field trip to Simmons Farm for a hayride, pumpkin picking, farm activities and apple cider.

In the spring, we went to the Springhouse Farm. The children were able to milk a cow, feed a baby calf, and learned how milk was pasteurized. The day ended with ice cream back at the country store.

School Visits:

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to have school visits this year.

Ice Cream Social and Graduation: The second week in May, we held combined our annual ice cream social and our graduation ceremony. The event was held outside and families brought their lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy a performance by the children.

Board of Directors:

The Preschool Board is traditionally made up of John McMillan Presbyterian Church members and Preschool parents. Jen Wolstoncrog, a church member and parent, served as President. Jen Zofchak, a preschool parent, served as Secretary. Hugh Given, Church member, served as Treasurer. Toni Sulkowski, Church member; Pam Dobos, Church member. The Board generally meets the second Tuesday of the month from September to May, with the exception of December and March.

Budget and Finances:

The 2020-20201 school year's income was cut short due to lower enrollment from the pandemic. The preschool had to close the month of December, due to the high transmission rate of the virus.

Due to successful fundraising and PPP loans, the preschool was able to issue tuition refunds to the families for the month that we were closed.

We have faith that God will continue to guide us in our work and decision making, and that John McMillan Preschool will continue to grow and prosper in His name.

Fundraisers:

In December and April, our Sarris Candy Sales were successful due to purchases made by Church members and Preschool families. The profit from the Christmas candy sale was \$2606 and the profit from the Easter candy sale was \$1,467. Again, we thank all who participated.

In May we combined the annual Ice Cream Social and Graduation. We raised \$2029

Outreach:

In an effort to teach our preschoolers the importance of helping others who are less fortunate, we participated in a monthly community service project. A committee of preschool parents were involved in the planning to collect and deliver items each month:

- October/November– Food pantry drive for SHIM– collected and delivered 200 items at 184 lbs
- November- Thanksgiving Cards for Vanadium Woods Village
- December – Winter Warmth Drive for the Duquesne Family Center
- January /February – Valentine's for Vanadium Woods Village and Valentine's for Mr. Roger's Foundation
- March – Pet Supplies for South Hills Pet Rescue

2021 Annual Report - Columbarium

During 2021, there were three interments (Frederic J. Jones, Christine A. Dooley, and David G. Todd). At the end of 2021, 26 of the 70 niches are reserved and 15 persons are interred in the Columbarium.

The Columbarium Board of Wayne Fast, Judy Gaudelli, and Steve Masley was approved by Session in 2015. The Columbarium Board manages the operation of the Columbarium, sale of niches and oversight of the Columbarium funds for perpetual care.

Through the generous gift of a former JMPC member, the Columbarium was dedicated on July 7, 2013 and provides JMPC members the opportunity to be memorialized.

Blessings,

Wayne Fast
(On behalf of the JMPC Columbarium Board)

2021 JMPC Audit Report

The audit committee has completed their annual review of the established procedures of the incoming funds, disbursement of funds and bank reconciliations for our current bank accounts.

The procedures for handling the incoming funds are strong and we found no discrepancies when following the information provided by the documents completed by the money counting teams to the bank statements. All 12 months were tested. Month end bank reconciliations are up to date.

All cash disbursements for the year 2021 were reviewed for established procedures and no major discrepancies were noted. It should be noted that as the result of the Covid – 19 restrictions, the majority of the disbursements were to vendors that JMPC have agreements with (Examples being grass cutting, snow removal, professional cleaning, pest control, trash removal, copy machines, and accounting) and the building utilities which are reviewed monthly by a member of the Resources Pillar.

We have also recommended that there should be on file in the church office for easy reference, signatures of all authorized personnel who approve disbursements, a list of recurring payments that do not have an authorization slip attached and copies of any documentation (contracts) that we have with vendors for services rendered.

Audit Committee,

Karen Timko

Ray Kells