



ANNUAL REPORT

Receive Love. Give Love. Repeat.

www.BurkePresChurch.org



“Don’t call it a list!” One of my favorite sermons is from Fred Craddock. He was referring to some griping pastors who didn’t like to preach on the “lists” in Scripture. Lists, like genealogies or the extensive roster of friends highlighted by the Apostle Paul. Craddock pushed back, noting that each and every name in those so-called “lists” was a story of courage, faithfulness and God’s surprising action. Paul didn’t call it a list: Aquila and Priscilla, they risked their necks for me. Andronicus and Junias, we were in jail together. Shoot, they’re great Christians. There’s Mary. Mary worked hard. She was there when everybody else quit. Then Craddock encouraged all of us to write down some names, on a scrap of paper, the edge of the bulletin, wherever, names of those people in your life. Hold on to it. Put it in your car. Update it when you need to. This list is the community of mercy and wisdom, compassion and connection that sustains you and breathes the breath of heaven into your particular corner of God’s earth.

In many ways, this annual report is our church’s list. We write the moments of this past year into the record of the church so that we never forget God’s generosity with us, so that we remember the people who drove into the night countless times to enact love in the world, and so that never fall into the despairing lie that we are alone.

Likewise, your bank statement at home is no generic list of numbers. It represents your house, food, health, time with family, leisure, tithe, savings, and support for what you care about. The church budget is like that. Elders of the church make a moral statement about what we believe God is calling us to be and do in the coming year: warm welcome, spiritual nourishment through communion and Scripture, sabbath and deep friendship, Christ-like action to stand with the vulnerable, dependable giving to community and global mission, and who knows how many cups of coffee.

It takes deep discernment to steward these gifts, in lean times and in plenty. They are far more than line items.

We live in the generosity of God. We attempt to live up to the example and name of Christ. We are propelled by the winds of the spirit. Far from some dot matrix print out of people who didn’t want to make any mistakes. May this annual report be a record of the bracing hopes of a church that trusted God more than any fear and “held fast to that which is good.”

And as Paul often said, “every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.”

Bella



Highlights of 2024 from Church Officers

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The many capable hands of the Worship Team’s church staff and volunteers are the reason many people look forward to worship at BPC. Look around the Meeting House (and online) during a Sunday morning service and you will see an intergenerational congregation eager to be together praising and praying, singing and speaking, listening and learning. Senior Pastor Becca Messman, Music Director Julianne Erbrecht, and Accompanist Wei-Han Wu expertly guide that time of worship so all who are gathered there are graced through word, music, and even moments of silence. Other staff members who frequently lead in worship are Parish Associate Catherine Taylor and Interim Youth Director Kyle Putnam.

The worship volunteers working behind the scenes are affectionately called the “nuts and bolts” of this ministry. The detailed tasks they complete from week to week and season to season are in many ways heroic, and go mostly unnoticed, but these volunteers continue steadfastly to help in the creation of beautiful and inspiring worship services.

**Accompanist
Wei-Han Wu**

Worship services, weddings, and funerals were filled with beautifully prepared piano selections, as well as hymn and anthem accompaniments. Throughout the liturgical year Wei-Han’s masterful piano skills and undeniable musicality fully enriched our time of worship together.



**Audio System Coordinator
Jerry Reece**

“We operated it for every worship service and a handful of special services (e.g., funerals, IMPACT Home Concert, Longest Night, etc.). There were no major changes to the system itself except for the speaker mounted in the narthex. If the sound is noticed by anyone, it’s generally because something went wrong.”



**Communion Coordinator
BJ Sadtler**

2024 - The position of Communion coordinator was created, and BJ Sadtler volunteered to fill it. The number of communion servers expanded to include all members and baptized youth to better reflect the makeup of our congregation. Jocelyn Callister and Anne Tidaback faithfully continued to set the table for communion.
2025 - “To include a wide variety of members and youth in serving communion, and to coordinate when possible with lay leaders.”



**Director of Music
Julianne Erbrecht**

2024 Highlights -
March - Combined choirs with First Baptist Vienna for Maundy Thursday (at FBC)
April - hiring of Elliott Godinez and the reboot of the handbell choir
April 14 - Hosting GenOut Chorus
April 21 - Rainbow Connection leads throughout the service at 9am
June 20 - IMPACT Home Concert
Nov. 10 - Worship Festival (Combined Choirs)
Dec. 15 - Chancel Choir cantata



WORSHIP MINISTRY, continued

**Flower Guild Coordinator
Jan Smith**

The Flower Guild continued to serve beautifully and added a couple of volunteers this year. Easter flowers and the outdoor cross were stunning. We were able to add a Christmas tree in the Gathering Space this season with hopes for new and creative ways to decorate it.



**Special Services Coordinator
Diane Shannon**

Assistance was provided for several services: Longest Night, (lighting and sound), Christmas Eve (luminaries and a meal for staff and families). And 250+ handheld candles were prepped for Christmas Eve.



**Lay Leader Coordinator
Beatrice Squire**

During the 2024 term, more youth were added to the Lay Leaders roster. Many Lay Leaders participate in other church activities, such as the choir. Especially helpful was input from Julianne Erbrecht, the Director of Music Ministries, as to dates and services at which different groups/choirs sing. This permitted individuals better control and flexibility of their schedule, and allowed them to Lay Lead and sing at the same service.



**Weddings and Funerals
Coordinator
Linda Greenlees**

BPC continued to be prepared to offer a welcoming space for those who celebrate new lives together and those who grieve a life which has passed. Funerals and weddings require meeting with families, coordinating with caterers/deacons, coordinating with clergy and office staff, and setting the Gathering Space as well as the Meeting House. In 2024 we hosted four funerals, but no weddings.



**Usher Coordinator
Mike Williams**

Our awesome ushers completed tasks well before and after each worship service, and always did so with a warm smile and a willing heart. They diligently continued to be the "front door" for all who attended worship, and they ensured the safety of every person throughout the building. A special training was held March 2024 for new and current ushers to reinforce the importance of paying detailed attention while setting up and taking down for worship, and also to review the tech side of being an usher. And Mike is in need of additional ushers. He encourages you (and your family!) to join the BPC usher team.



**Worship Design Coordinator
Lucinda Sexton**

Creating a sensory-rich worship
The Danish word "hygge" was borrowed to invoke cozy winter worship with home-baked muffins, coffee, and cocoa in the Meeting House. All were invited to wear comfortable, casual clothing. "Pixar and Popcorn" was a summer sermon series inviting us to enjoy worship with popcorn and lemonade in the Meeting House. Vacation Bible School inspired an installation of colorful fabric draped from the Meeting House ceiling; doves and colored tulle framed the chancel. "Grounded" was the Fall sermon series and stewardship theme. Andrea Ham created a "roots" paper cut-out hanging for the chancel, as well as a wall display outside the Meeting House.



WORSHIP MINISTRY, continued

**Video System Coordinator -
Jim Schoonmaker**

- Fully implemented the new Meeting House AV multi-camera system and trained all operators (with each assigned to one Sunday per month).
- Began improvement of the worship service “experience” to be as complete as seen online, initially by inserting the camera shot of the kids sitting on the floor for Bridges to Worship onto the monitors.
- Installed additional speaker in Meeting House.
- Upgraded to 4K Apple TVs in all video monitor-equipped rooms (Gathering Space, Library, Classrooms - not including Preschool) to allow viewing of the MH AV switched feed that goes to Zoom and YouTube.
- Added video monitor with Apple TV to Kitchen to allow volunteers there to monitor the MH AV switched feed.

- Submitted by Sherrie Brady, Elder



**Handbell Choir Director -
Elliott Godinez**

Elliott Godinez earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Illinois State University in 2017. He recently graduated with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from George Mason University. Currently, he teaches music at a local elementary school.

Elliott was hired at BPC in early 2025. He led the handbell choir and played percussion at the Worship Festival.

The handbell choir offered a special “Carols and Handbells” Sunday school during the Advent season.



Handbell Choir Lunch



Bridges to Worship

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Spiritual Growth activities focus on providing space for developing spiritually, while at the same time connecting deeply as community. To reach these goals a variety of opportunities were offered for Adult Spiritual Growth this year.

Our foundational space for offering these opportunities is during the Sunday School Hour between services. This year we continued the meaningful “Sunday Morning Scriptures” series led by Judy Ruud, which provides an enriching space to reflect on the scripture of the week, prior to the sermon. Becca often joins, which brings an added dimension to the class. At various times throughout the year it was offered both in-person and also via Zoom as a way to include as many people as possible. We also offered many other classes covering a variety of topics as additional choices. Oasis, a parent group started from last year’s “Good Inside” book study, is exploring the ways that technology is reshaping childhood through the book “The Opt-Out Family” by Erin Loechner. In January we concluded our “Seeking the Word” series started in 2023 that connected us to our creative spirit through reflective writing and poetry, led by Ed Sadtler and Jean Strohl. Following this, Ron Wiersma, with help from Kay Taylor and Becca, brought us into a welcoming space, rich with insights, to discuss Social and Self Isolation. In March, Rev. Teri Ott, editor of Presbyterian Outlook magazine, spoke on “Outlook on the PC(USA)” and continued the conversation after worship focusing on “Necessary Risks – when Christians need to speak out on hard topics.” Throughout the year, some very personal topics were explored through the Sacred Crossings Series. Christine Reimers, Hospice Nurse Patti Brockmeir, Deryl Fleming, Becca, and others helped us explore themes including Hospice Care, Grief, Wills, and other subjects viewed from both a practical and spiritual perspective. Several follow-up “Sacred Circles” sessions were interwoven between these offerings to allow a space for discussing and reflecting further.

BPC is known for doing a new thing – but this year we certainly tackled doing some hard things. With the continued conflict in Israel and Gaza, there was a strong desire to hear a dialog from both sides. The Rev. Fahed AbuAkel and Rabbi Michael Holzman were invited to share perspectives during our Sacred Listening Series on the crisis. Another hot topic this year was the election. We held a series on Faith and Politics, led by John Ariale, Tom Wickham, and guest speaker Rev. Dr. Roger Gench, who shared a presentation on Christianity and Democracy. Special Election Day meditations and calming activities were also held to support our community.

The Spiritual Growth Team worked together to seek out opportunities to offer multi-generational sessions on first Sundays, including service projects such as the Glasgow Middle School food- packing project and Lasagna Love, several Cereal Bar Sundays, Praying in Color, and Crop Walk Activities. These continued up through Advent, including the always popular Breakfast with St Nick, ornament making, and wreath making activities. Adult Spiritual Growth also hosted poet Kathleen O’Toole as our special guest on The Longest Night Sunday. She fed weary hearts with her Sunday School session, “Joy is the Gift: Singing in the Dark. We look forward to finding ways to connect and grow with you in 2025!



YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH

2024 was a year of transition for the BPC Youth Program. In March we welcomed out Interim Director of Youth, Kyle Putnam. Kyle hit the ground running. His first night with us was the celebration dinner after our third March Mission Madness and within the first several months he was shepherding a group of middle schoolers to Massanetta and a group of high schoolers to Montreat. Throughout the year Kyle has been instrumental in helping our youth program continue to grow in numbers and energy post-pandemic. There will be a celebration of Kyle's time with us at the end of February.

Meanwhile our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) worked tirelessly for the past year to help us find the correct person to be the permanent replacement for Adam Ogg. After many meetings, interviews, and group discernment sessions the APNC selected Diane Maloney as that person. In March Diane will begin her stint with BPC as the Director for Youth Ministry. She is, however, close to being ordained and will then become an Associate Pastor, still focusing on youth but with broader responsibilities.

These are exciting times in Youth Ministry. We are grateful for the gifts bestowed upon us by Kyle during his tenure and we look forward with great anticipation to the beginning of our time with Diane Maloney.

Spring Highlights:

- March Mission Madness – Over 50 participants. Serving a dozen different groups
- Confirmation Retreat at Massanetta
- Confirmation of 10 youth! –Charlotte Cook, Emily Cook, Caroline Cotovsky, Keren Dankwa, Adelaide Freund, Grace Messman, Charlie Murray, Calvin Reece, Daniel Visser, Genevieve Visser

Summer Highlights:

- Youth Sunday with messages from the pulpit from two of our graduating seniors
- Middle School Spiritual Retreat at Massanetta Springs
- Senior High Spiritual Retreat in Montreat, NC
- IMPACT Tour to Toronto
- IMPACT brunch (offsite) – welcomed rising 7th graders

Fall Highlights:

- Kickoff event with color dust competition
- Lock-in at BPC
- Intergenerational Thanksgiving Meal
- IMPACT sponsor-a-bus seat fundraiser
- Spiritual retreat at Accotink Riverfront Cottages attended by 17 youth

Winter Highlights:

- Coat drive and distribution, in partnership with Cornerstones
- Montreat College Conference
- Snow Tubing at Massanutten Resort and lock-in attended by 25 youth



Color Dust Competition



Youth fun!



Confirmation



Fall Retreat

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In 2024, BPC's Children's Ministry continued to focus on cultivating rhythms of faith in the lives of our kids and their families. We have beloved weekly rhythms, when we gather on Wednesdays for Rainbow, and on Sundays for worship, Godly Play, Stepping Stones, and Sunday School. We've implemented a new monthly rhythm when our Godly Play kids return to the Meeting House on first Sundays to celebrate communion with the whole congregation. And we strive to keep our kids plugged into the liturgical year, as we move through seasons of growth, mystery, and celebration. We believe a focus on foundational ministry anchors our children in the beautifully ordinary rhythms of faith and helps us be the church together.

But we do love a good event, especially when it helps us build community and welcome newcomers! We met for three days of VBS over the summer and explored what the Bible tells us about loving our neighbors. Our 4th-6th graders had so much fun getting to know each other during our annual bowling night and movie night, and we finished 2024 with the happy, delicious pairing of the Little Shoppe and a pancake breakfast. This past year, we also began offering multi-generational Sunday School on first Sundays, and these gatherings have become a monthly staple for fellowship, creativity, and outreach across a wide range of ministries. On these first Sundays, we've gathered kids and adults alike for Godly Play, packed snacks for students at Glasgow Middle School (funded in part by our Little Shoppe proceeds!), transformed our prayers into art with Praying in Color, made trail mix bags for the CROP Walk, crafted our own Christmas ornaments, and ate lots and lots of cereal.

Through story, play, and wonder, we engage in and make meaning of the Biblical story and learn how to be together in community. We are so thankful for the smallest ones among us, who give us a glimpse of the kingdom of God every time we're together.

Burke Presbyterian Church Preschool continues to be a thriving, close-knit community, and the teaching staff reflects the love and diversity that BPC values. The staff represent a wide range of age and experience, neurodiversity, racial and cultural diversity, as well gender and orientation diversity that underscores BPC's commitment to the More Light Presbyterian mission. Over the past year, director Anndra Rowland has implemented a school readiness curriculum written to advance in tandem with the children's chronological and developmental ages, and BPCP's amazing teachers have put in tremendous effort to implement it with fidelity. The teachers are such a blessing to the school community, and the love that they radiate for the children shines in the faces of their kiddos!



Rainbow!



VBS friends



Preschool Greetings

- Submitted by Beth Ann Clare, Elder



Godly Play create time



Bowling Night



Recreation at Rainbow



BPC Preschool Trunk or Treat



Godly Play



VBS Songs



Rainbow Choirs



VBS 2024

COMMUNITY LIFE

Community life is the social underpinnings of BPC. This ministry partners with the people and programs of the church to offer fun and fellowship, and become a better community.

This year, we continued to work with Sheila Steel and our wonderful coffee, tea, and lemonade volunteers to provide beverages each Sunday morning as a welcoming refreshment. These volunteers also cared for our coffee accessories and supplies.

After a listening meeting around Community Table in late 2023, we transitioned this BPC-only, on-site ministry to Community Meals, in coordination with FACETS. A big thank you to Fabiola Green and Mara Ashby for taking the reigns to continue this effort to serve the community in a different format.

Popsicle parties to welcome the summer worship schedule offered children and adults a sweet treat.

We changed up the church picnic in 2024, planning to hold it on-site under the trees in our wooded corner of Burke. But, the weather had other plans and a rainy day sent us indoors to our beautiful Gathering Space. The change created a cozy

community of connection. Many volunteers helped with potluck food and Mission BBQ. As a way to give back, there was the opportunity to pack snack bags for Glasgow Middle School. There was fun, food, and frivolity for all.

One of the most important Community Life efforts in 2024 was interviewing people in our congregation who are in or near the LGBTQIA+ community. Their insights were compiled to provide Session with information and guidance on how BPC could become a more inclusive and affirming church. This effort led to BPC membership in More Light Presbyterians and other actions.

- Submitted by Amanda Deaton, Elder

EVANGELISM

The focus for our Evangelism ministry in 2024 was to continue meeting people where they are, and welcoming them in through the doors of BPC. Our wonderful greeters and ushers are part of this effort.

The BPC website is a primary way of reaching people, and the Website Team meets quarterly to oversee maintenance and updating of website content and graphics. We are grateful for Office and Communications Manager Nicole Sheely's tremendous work and upkeep on the site on a day-to-day basis, and know that this effort has paid off with attracting potential new members and carrying BPC's message to the world.

While the position of Evangelism Elder was vacant for the early part of the year, Landy Brown stepped up to fill the role in the fall. Her contributions were greatly appreciated.



FACILITIES

Throughout 2024, our BPC Facility has once again been maintained and improved by the Fix-It Team, Woodchucks, Polar Bears, and the Staff, with early mornings, late nights, only a little bit of blood, some sweat and lots of love.

Many thanks go out to all those helpers who were instrumental in achieving all this in 2024:

- Keeping up with the work to trim trees, move leaves, plant and care for greenery, install doors and appropriate knobs, hang decorations, meet with vendors, repair, paint, and generally keep up the facility and grounds,
- Replaced sections of the cemetery fence that were bent broken or damaged
- Installed new flooring in the music and work rooms
- Resurfaced the parking lots
- Added a handrail along the steps from the lower parking lot
- Replaced fan coil units and repaired many of our HVAC systems
- Recovered and sealed most of our roofs, putting a stop to all our leaks!

In 2025, we intend to continue making improvements and repairs, including these projects:

- Upgrade the lighting in the Meeting House and around the exterior of the building with LEDs
- Replace the skirting, gutters and heater on the Cottage
- Continue to replace aged parts of the HVAC system
- Update furniture in the Director of Youth Ministry office
- Addressing other concerns as they arise

If you find yourself looking for ways to help the church – or you want to avoid your own home-maintenance projects – come join us! There are projects for all skill-levels and schedule availability.

Let Jocelyn Callister know if you'd like to help.

- Submitted by Jocelyn Callister, Elder



Fix It Team



New Flooring



"Pringle" slide maintenance



Advent setup

DEACONS

Our Board of Deacons had another very active year engaging with the BPC Community. As usual, the deacons reached out through visits, phone calls, emails, flower deliveries, texts, rides, hospitals, grocery and meal deliveries, prayers and cards. Each year the volume of concerns is slightly different, and this past year was marked by supporting an unusual number of surgeries and a growing number of caregivers across our congregation, in addition to listening and supporting diagnoses, illnesses, mental health challenges and other concerns. We joyfully helped celebrate many births, baptisms, birthdays, anniversaries, new jobs, weddings and retirements as well.

During 2024, the deacons hosted Sacred Crossings, a set of five workshops to raise awareness around end-of-life issues for discernment and planning. In April, we heard from BPC's Christine Reimers, a hospice chaplain, about what hospice is and is not. A few weeks later, hospice nurse Patricia Brockmeier shed light on what end stages look like and how to plan and talk with family and friends about our end stage health wishes. In May, Deryl Fleming led a discussion about the many facets of grief and how to listen to someone going through it. Then in the fall, guest speaker George Boisse from Fairfax Funeral Home walked through prearrangements for funerals. The series ended in November, with visitor and content expert attorney Catherine Schott Murray's guided discussion on estate planning.

Over the past year, the deacons coordinated nine meal trains to provide home-cooked meals to families going through recovery, significant illness and grief. The deacons led and supported six celebrations of life, each tailored to meet the unique needs and desires of the family to best honor the deceased. These meal deliveries and receptions could not have been possible without partnership with BPC's wonderful group of volunteers and we greatly appreciate how ready and willing this community is to support our friends in need.

A highlight of the deacon year continues to be hosting the December retiree Christmas party. This event is marked by music, games, fellowship and laughter. We also continued our senior- to-senior letter writing program, which provides opportunities to pass wisdom from those blessed in years to recent BPC high school and college graduates.

It is a joy to have the opportunity to serve this wonderful community. As we embark on a new year with many new deacons and Karyn Niles taking the helm as Moderator, we are excited to see how, in conjunction with our wonderful Pastor Becca, this caring arm of the Presbyterian Church continues to flourish at BPC.

- Submitted by Amy Biehl, Moderator and Heather Wickham, Moderator



OFFICE OPERATIONS

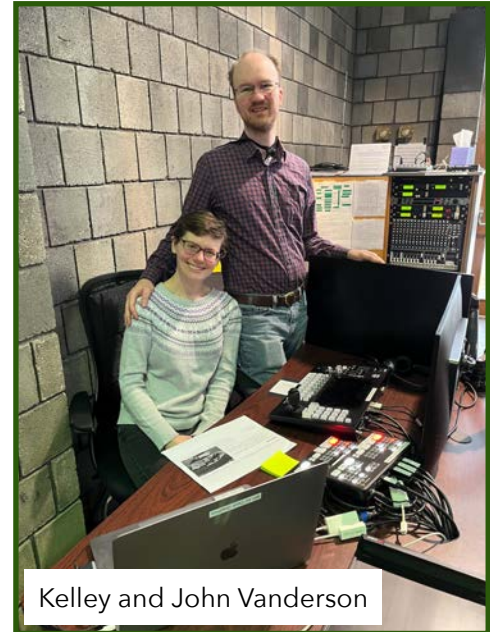
The Office Operations ministry provides support for the church computers, TVs, phones, printers, postage, and works together with the Facilities ministry to provide internet, A/V functions and Wi-Fi throughout the church. We also oversee the IT support contract for managed services for pastors, staff, Session, Deacons, Preschool and various committees. Due to the expansion of the Meeting House AV (MH AV) system, oversight of the MH Sound operation transferred from Facilities to Office Operations during the year.

This ministry is aided by the volunteer Technical Advisory Board (TAB) which meets monthly with this Elder to provide advice and counsel for all church areas. (One example - supporting Personnel, sending Holly Walsh and Nicole Sheely to the CDM+ Annual Users Conference & Training in Lexington, KY in September.)

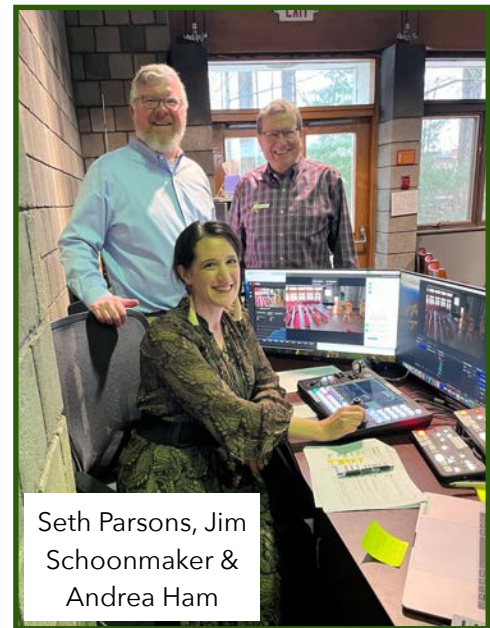
As detailed extensively in last year's report, the most visible project of the Office Operations ministry is the new 3-camera MH AV system (i.e. the big brown desk next to the sound system in the back corner of the MH), which we switched over to in October 2023. This system is primarily used for the live stream of the 10 or 11:15am Sunday service on Zoom and YouTube, which this year averaged 29 devices connected per Sunday (and each device is often watched by more than one person). This year's highlights: the live Sunday stream is now available on all church video monitors (Gathering Space, Library, classrooms, etc.); new Library audio amplifier that stays powered on; video monitor for Kitchen; digital clock on MH back wall that is synced to internet; switching device to show the MH cameras on the MH monitors where needed (initially with Bridges to Worship and Baptisms). Our goal is to ensure that those in the MH can see the service as well as those online. Interestingly, it seems that many of our new members became familiar with BPC through our Zoom and/or YouTube. This system was also used this year for other events in the MH that required streaming. The system is staffed entirely by volunteers, and late this year two members departed for other opportunities, so we are actively seeking replacements.

Continued thanks to Holly Walsh, Director of Finance and Business Administration, and Nicole Sheely, Office and Communications Manager, for keeping Office Operations operating, remaining behind the scenes to help everything we do run seamlessly and working closely with our ever-faithful volunteers.

- Submitted by Jim Schoonmaker, Elder for Office Operations



Kelley and John Vanderson



Seth Parsons, Jim Schoonmaker & Andrea Ham

MISSION

2024 began with a Social Witness team led by Nancy Morrison participating in January's annual Day for All People in Richmond, organized by Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). BPC members exercised their faith in action by meeting with their delegates and senators and advocating for VICPP legislative agenda issues. Rev. Becca, Nancy Morrison, and Eva Thorp report that they plan to convene a Virginia General Assembly (GA) report out meeting at BPC this year, after the 2025 GA.

Joy in January came with Nancy Morrison informing the Mission Ministry team of good news from "C", our Homestretch adopted parent. At the end of 2023, "C" had earned her GED, passed the U.S. citizenship exam, and became a naturalized citizen.

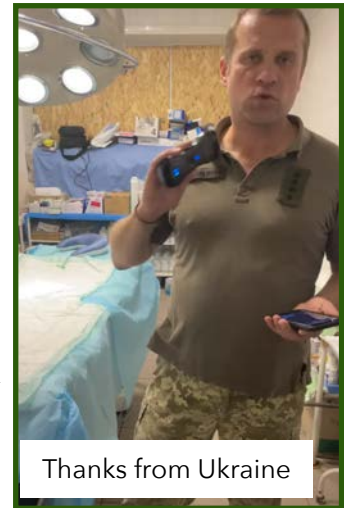
In February, Marcy Stennes and Mara Ashby led BPC's renewed hosting of the Hypothermia program. The new Gathering Space, professional kitchen, and enthusiastic response of volunteers from BPC resulted in a joyful week for BPC hosting our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In the spring, Mission Ministry team on the recommendation of James Munthali, met via Zoom with Dr. Beth Steubing, surgeon, surgeon trainer, and missionary working in Malawi. This resulted in the Mission Ministry team voting to commit funds to support her work.

April, BPC fulfilled our \$16,400 pledge to the Glebe View/Homestretch Affordable Housing project at Fairfax Presbyterian. This was the result of the wise recommendation by the Love One Another Campaign (LOA) committee and BPC member commitment resulting in 10 percent of LOA donations committed to affordable housing ministry efforts. Marcy Stennes and Jean Buffardi provided the Mission Ministry team with regular updates on project progress and BPC was represented at the groundbreaking ceremony in September. May brought Mother's Day and our annual Tumaini offering where BPC members donated a record amount to support Orphan Care in Kibwezi.

For Father's Day in June, BPC had a special offering for Ukraine and raised funds to provide medical supplies and medical equipment for humanitarian support for persons wounded in the war in Ukraine. We used the funds raised as a match, and applied for and received a matching grant from National Capital Presbytery, to further our humanitarian support in Ukraine.

In June, under the leadership of Eva Thorp, Mara Ashby, and Fabiola Green, BPC committed to providing a monthly Community Meal dinner out in the community on the first Wednesday evening of each month in partnership with FACETS. Since starting the Community Meals project, meal needs have grown from 150 to 185 persons. Community Meals is the second mission project that is possible because of the LOA commitment, with 10 percent of LOA donations directed toward nutrition and nurturance needs of our neighbors.



MISSION

July 2024 saw BPC host a VOICE meeting where BPC rejoined as a VOICE member organization. In the fall, 40 BPC members participated in the VOICE Behavioral Health Assembly, a record number for BPC member participation.

A highlight of the summer, Kibwezi work camp saw a number of members who had never been to Kibwezi had traveled with the team, resulting in new vigor for the ongoing ministry.

In September, Nancy Morrison orchestrated a Mission Ministry fair to recruit new leadership and other volunteers for hands-on local mission projects. This resulted in new leaders and volunteers and renewed BPC commitment and energy to sustain our Christ House meal ministry and sweater project, Snacks and Backpacks, and VOICE and Crop Walk leadership.

Also in September, Kathy Fleming organized an ECHO food drive in connection with a shredding event at BPC. The event led to collection of 2071 pounds of food out of the 5927 total pounds BPC collected for ECHO in 2024.

In October, BPC conducted a special offering for Hurricane Helene relief and sent the funds to Western North Carolina human service organizations and pet adoption agencies.

In November, BPC once again hosted CROP Walk under the faithful leadership of Amy Stidham and her dedicated team.

Throughout the year, Nancy Morrison kept the congregation well informed of Social Witness opportunities throughout our area including those organized by VOICE, VICPP, and the National Capital Presbytery. Nancy, Eva Thorp and Rev. Becca have discussions about holding an after General Assembly.

In December, for the 39th year, BPC members donated 83 new sweaters and hosted a meal on Dec. 14 at Christ House. Continuing the BPC tradition, our members donated gifts for children at ECHO, filled stockings for Bethany Center, and donated gifts for our Homestretch family, which were most appreciated by "C" and her children. We ended the year with BPC members generously purchasing Alternative Gifts to support our local and international mission projects.

As I write this annual report, I am offering prayers of thanks that Mary Vander Maten has answered the call and is most excited to be nominated to serve as BPC's next Mission Elder. The past three years leading the Mission Ministry team has been a real highlight of my life. Thank you to all the dedicated Mission Ministry team members who supported me every step of the way and thanks be to God for all the blessings of continued projects and new projects your Mission Ministry is supporting locally and internationally, in Christ's name, through BPC.



Kibwezi Team



CROP Walk



Mission Fair

VOCATIONS

In 2024, the Vocations ministry continued close coordination with the Evangelism ministry to identify church visitors and gather contact information for follow up. A database was used to share up-to-date visitor information among pastors, staff, and Vocations and Evangelism elders. We worked together to connect with these people and help them develop closer ties with BPC.

Focus group research and anecdotes indicate that the BPC website is key to bringing us new members, and most visit our website before they attend church in person or online for the first time. The site is focused on inviting people to learn about BPC, easing their first visit, making them feel welcome and consider joining the church. The Vocations ministry is part of the ongoing BPC Web Team.

In 2024, the Vocations ministry held in-person spring and fall Exploring Membership classes to welcome new friends and families. With a 3-week curriculum and the use of a “BPC 101” booklet, participants were led by Pastor Becca to explore Presbyterian theology and governance as well as the story of BPC and ways to make this place your home. As a result, 24 adults and their families chose to join BPC by proclamation of faith, baptism, or transfer in 2024 and we continue to keep them engaged and connected. We will offer more classes in 2025, with the first beginning in February.

The Vocations ministry’s web-based Let’s Get Connected form gathers information from members and friends who wish to share ways they would like to be involved with BPC in everything from ushering to teaching to Bible study to liturgy to tech support to music to gardening. Information shared has led to service opportunities, leadership nominations, idea sharing, and small group memberships. It has also helped our pastors, staff, and church leadership better know a church family of uniquely gifted individuals. Information from the Let’s Get Connected database feeds directly into church volunteer opportunities.

The Vocations elder serves as BPC’s volunteer coordinator, sharing information about members’ interests, abilities, and passions with the appropriate elders who then incorporate these volunteers into their ministries.

In 2025, the Vocations Ministry anticipates welcoming more new friends, and connecting all of us with opportunities to serve, learn, gather, and grow.



- Submitted by Anita Pesses, Elder

SMALL GROUPS

Receive love, Give love, Repeat. This mantra, that we so often quote here at BPC, is a way of life. The receiving of love, the giving of love and the repeating that we can carry out into our community often begins in small groups. The small groups help to make BPC “home/community” vs. a church you visit only on Sundays or occasionally. The Small Groups at BPC come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes and fall into so many different mission areas. Where have you found your place to call home within the greater BPC community? Is it in a small group that has gathered for years and welcomes new

members all the time, or is it in a small group that meets for a specific activity that may be short term? Is your “home” in a choir, working in mission on the Crop Walk or getting ready for a VOICE meeting? Is it Hypothermia, Christ House, Kibwezi, being a part of meal team for Youth Connections or Rainbow, serving as a tutor in Snacks and Backpacks? Perhaps, caring for our facility as a Woodchuck, Polar Bear or as a member of the “Fix-it” team, or are you a member of an ongoing Bible Study or a short term book study? All our small groups are open to new members at any time.

Some of the specific ongoing Small Groups at BPC are:

- Bible and Bagels (meets twice a month on Wednesday mornings)
- Monday Night Women’s Bible Study (4th Monday of the month at church and via Zoom... follows the Presbyterian Women’s Study)
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meeting at church and via Zoom for a deep dive into the Bible)
- A couple of long established “K” groups (began as married couple groups)
- Leaves of Grace Book Club (meets once per month on a Sunday afternoon)
- Nightingales (a Bible study/book club which meets in person or via zoom depending on the needs of the group)
- Men of Burke (Saturday mornings, twice a month... once in person and once via Zoom)
- A hiking group that gathers in warmer weather

This year we have also had a variety of short-term Small Group gatherings... a Tables of Eight Lenten study last spring and a joyous Advent Wreath Making workshop and luncheon this winter. Looking ahead, please plan on joining us as we walk through Lent with a book study in preparation for Easter, a Resurrection Breakfast and a new Creative Circle. Anita Pesses, Elder for Vocations, and I work together closely to help people find their “home” within BPC. If you are looking for a small group that will help turn BPC into your home or have an idea for a Small Group, please reach out to me and I will help you get settled or a new group started.



Bible & Bagels enjoying our Tea Ministry

- Submitted by Meg Ross, Elder

PERSONNEL

BPC is lucky to have amazing staff who make our church a truly special place that strives to honor and serve God in our lives, in our community, and in the world. Our staff includes the following people:

- Becca Messman, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
- Kyle Putnam, Interim Director of Youth Ministries
- Julianne Erbrecht, Director of Music Ministries
- Arlene Decina, Director of Spiritual Growth Ministries
- Holly Walsh, Director of Finance and Business Administration
- Nicole Sheely, Office & Communications Manager
- Anndra Rowland, Preschool Director
- Wei-Han Wu, Pianist
- Elliott Godinez, Handbell Choir Director
- Catherine Taylor, Parish Associate

These special individuals work tirelessly and joyfully to make our church run. I am so thankful for them.

When writing last year's annual report, a search had been initiated for a Director of the Handbell Choir. We hired Elliott Godinez for the position and he has been working with handbell choir for almost a year!

When writing last year's annual report, BPC was also just pulling together the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC), which is ending its important work in identifying the next permanent Director of Youth Ministries. This position is an important hire for the church, and I am thankful for the APNC's dutiful work to identify the best person for this role. The following folks comprised the APNC:

- Chuck Miller, Co-Chair
- Laura Mayo, Co-Chair
- Emily Cook
- Drew Erbrecht
- Kathy Fleming
- Fabiola Green
- Greg Lygon
- Linh Warren



Personnel

Julianne Erbrecht proposed a 2025 sabbatical to the Personnel Committee. Her comprehensive proposal outlined how she would use the sabbatical after 22 years of dedicated service to make music, learn, and rest. The sabbatical will also give her opportunity to attend worship in other churches. The Personnel Committee approved Julianne's proposal. Julianne designed the sabbatical to support her growth and development as the Director of Music Ministries. The learning and ideas Julianne gains will enhance worship and music at BPC. We encourage the congregation to wish Julianne well as she takes her sabbatical during the summer of 2025.



As Elder for Personnel, I work closely with the Personnel Committee to stay in touch with staff and complete all things personnel. The following individuals make up the Personnel Committee:

- Seth Parsons
- Dan Herrema
- Becca Messman
- Chuck Miller
- Lois Page
- Anne Tidaback
- Nancy Wulf

I am very appreciative for all the support and guidance these folks provide. Unfortunately, Chuck Miller has moved out of town, so we are on the lookout for a new member to join the Personnel Committee. If you are passionate about supporting our church's exceptional staff and are interested in getting more involved at BPC, you can reach out to Seth (spars00@gmail.com).

- Submitted by Seth Parsons, Elder

NOMINATIONS

The 2024 nominating committee filled the vacancies of three elders and found nine deacons. We want thank Amy Biehl and Heather Wickham for moderating the deacons. Thank you to Dave and Laurie Roberts for such a moving testimony and thank you to the APNC for their continued hard work and discernment. The nominating committee is looking for additional members for 2025. What is it we do? We help members discern where the holy spirit is calling them for service at BPC. We try to be the megaphone to amplify the call. Our committee's nominations are critical to maintain continuity in leadership of the church. If you are interested, please contact Elder Teresa Weaver at terweaver@aol.com.

- Submitted by Teresa Weaver, Elder

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

The Stewardship and Finance team is tasked with monitoring the budget process throughout the course of the year, creating the stewardship campaign in the fall, leading the budget creation process for the coming year, and monitoring the overall health of BPC's financial situation. In 2024, we focused on making updates to the budget as needed, and building a strong stewardship message. Here are some highlights:

Overall Spending

In 2024 we received more in pledge income than we anticipated, which is wonderful news. We collected more than we anticipated, which contributes to a surplus in the 2024 budget. This surplus is being used to fund our 2025 budget. This is the third year that a surplus has funded the next year's budget. One of the ways to view this surplus is through the lens of generosity – our congregation has been regularly giving more than the overall pledged amount. We often receive gifts in December that we have chosen to use for next year's spending. We are so grateful for all of the ways that people give to support BPC. The church budget is the product of many hands, and we are grateful to have such an engaged congregation.

Mortgage Update

Congregants pledged \$852,000 in funds over the course of 3 years to our Love One Another campaign to retire our mortgage debt. 2024 was the end of the 2nd year for that campaign. We have been using those funds to pay down the principal on the church's mortgage. A 10% tithe on funds we have received has been paid to the three identified beneficiaries: 18% to Preschool Scholarships, 32% to Community Table, 50% to the Affordable Housing Initiative. In 2024 we paid down \$472,097.28 in principal on the mortgage and paid \$26,957.89 in interest. Since our first mortgage P&I payment in November 2021, we have reduced our monthly payment from \$8,514.21 per month to \$3,032.22 as of December 2024; resulting in a reduction of \$5,481.99 per month on our mortgage payment. Our current mortgage balance as of 12/31/24 is \$452,394.20; it was previously \$1,405,000 in November 2021.



Stewardship Campaign

In October we began our stewardship campaign with the theme "Grounded in Gratitude". We heard from four different church members about their experiences at BPC and how the church makes a difference in their lives. We are blessed to be part of such a generous community. We saw an increase in number of pledges in the stewardship campaign this year. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to BPC – we rely on donations from our congregation to support the ministries of the church. Your commitments fuel the BPC ministries to continue their important work in the world. Thank you!

- Submitted by Jessie Doll, Elder

2025 Program Budget

Income		\$1,349,386.00
Pledges		\$1,130,786.00
Loose Offerings		\$20,600.00
Building Use		\$7,000.00
Interest/Dividends		\$10,000.00
Per Capita		\$6,000.00
Online Processing Fees		\$5,000.00
2024 Surplus		\$170,000.00
Expenditures		\$1,331,011.00
Personnel Ministry	Personnel	\$543,346.00
	Benefits/Admin	\$162,330.00
Worship Ministry		\$17,450.00
Children's Ministry	Children's Education	\$5,000.00
	General Administration	\$3,908.00
Spiritual Growth Ministry	Adult Education	\$3,620.00
	Youth Education	\$31,500.00
Congregational Care Ministry	Community Life	\$3,450.00
	Small Groups	\$350.00
Vocations Ministry		\$300.00
Outreach Ministry (Mission)		\$112,200.00
Communications Ministry		\$3,858.00
Facilities Ministry	Utilities	\$40,800.00
	Maintenance	\$133,600.00
	Office	\$81,090.00
	Transfer to Major Maintenance	\$80,000.00
Stewardship	Presbytery Per Capita	\$30,039.00
	Insurance	\$28,059.00
	Stewardship	\$12,527.00
	Mortgage Payments	\$36,384.00
Session		\$600.00
Board of Deacons		\$600.00
Difference		\$18,375.00



Church Picnic



Christ House Meals



CROP Walk



Daybreak



Chancel Choir



Hypothermia



Special Worship music



VOICE Caucus



Godly Play team



Rainbow Music



Youth Connections



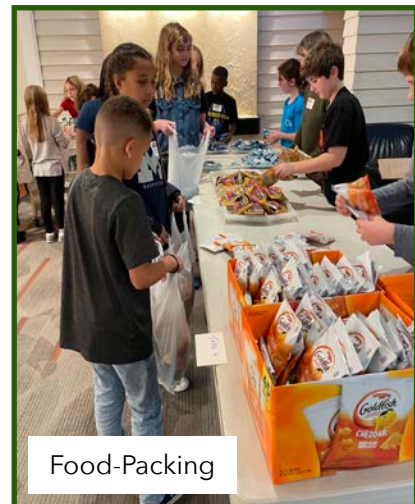
Canasta



Community Meals



Fix-It Team



Food-Packing



Kitchen Volunteers



VBS Worship

Elders, Deacons, and Staff

Elders - 2024

Sherrie Brady	Elder for Worship
Jocelyn Callister	Elder for Facilities
Beth Ann Clare	Elder for Children's Spiritual Growth
Amanda Deaton	Elder for Community Life
Jessie Doll	Elder for Stewardship & Finance
Andrea Ham	Elder for Adult Spiritual Growth
Teresa Weaver	Elder for Nominations
Susan Lydick	Elder for Missions
Geoff Marin	Elder for Youth Spiritual Growth
Seth Parsons	Elder for Personnel
Anita Pesses	Elder for Vocations
Gene Peters	Clerk of Session
Meg Ross	Elder for Small Groups
Jim Schoonmaker	Elder for Office Operations
Vacant	Elder for Evangelism

Deacons - 2024

Amy Biehl, moderator
Jean Buffardi
Jenny Childress
Robbie Cohen
Nancy Cox
Christina Eppink
Kathy Fleming
Catherine Gillespie
Linda Greenlees
Randy Lee
Sarah Ngongbo
Karyn Niles
David Roberts
Laurie Roberts
Brian Sugden
Heather Wickham

Staff

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Becca Messman

Parish Associate

Rev. Catherine Taylor

Director of Spiritual Growth

Arlene Decina

Director of Music Ministries

Julianne Erbrecht

Director of Finance and Business

Administration

Holly Walsh

Interim Youth Director

Kyle Putnam

Office and Communications Manager

Nicole Sheely

Preschool Director

Anndra Rowland

Pianist

Wei-Han Wu

Handbell Choir Director

Elliott Godinez



5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
703-764-0456
www.BurkePresChurch.org