



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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*Receive Love. Give Love. Repeat.*

# REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The year 2025 at Burke Presbyterian was one of growth, courage and exploration. We remember it as the year that brought us Diane Maloney, many new faces in the congregation, and joyfully full Sunday mornings. There were brave conversations about the world around us about Israel/Palestine, immigration, faith and politics. Hosting the hypothermia shelter led to community meals which kept us sharing food with neighbors, kept those relationships happening, all year long. Extending the hours of the preschool allowed us to honor what our neighbors need. And we explored! What if we moved the chairs around? What if staff took time to rest? What if we dug into the Bible afresh? What if we went to the Carolinas, Kenya and Iona? We focused on the budget without obsessing and began to see past the building debt. We explored topics of death and grief without despairing and equipped ourselves with tools that steadied us through losses. (I hate cancer!) We ended the year with our largest Christmas Eve services in many years, some 724 people holding candles and singing *Silent Night* together.

An annual report is not just fiduciary homework and flipping to next year's budget. It is our story. It can remind us that we have been nervous before and the Spirit's faithfulness blew us away. It can encourage us to pursue Christ's vision more boldly. And maybe, since most of us will read this around Valentine's Day, this is a love letter to God and to the people of this world. "Dear God, we love you. We wanted to hear from you, and we did. So, here's the artwork we made for you with the tools you gave us. And in the year to come, help us to listen."

Thank you, friends, for being part of this church with me!

In Christ,

*Becca*



# Highlights of 2025 from our Church Officers

## Evangelism

In 2025 we continued to welcome folks to BPC in a variety of ways. Greeters are often the first people to say “Good Morning” to people as they arrive for worship. That welcome is important! Greeters began using a new SignUpGenius system in late 2025. We welcome anyone who would like to participate in the life of the church in this way.

In 2025 we also began a new way to gather people outside of Sunday worship by offering Create and Connect once a month. One Tuesday evening each month people are invited to bring whatever creative thing they are working on - - needlepoint, knitting, watercolor, clay, etc. - -and work on their project alongside others. Beautiful things are created each time we gather; however, the most important and lovely creation is the conversation shared and the strengthening of community. We hope you find some time to join us in 2026.

- Submitted by Susan Ariale, Elder



## Nominations

The 2025 nominating committee is happy to announce eight new deacons and two new elders. We still have one elder position open and are also seeking individuals for the 2026 nominating committee. Is God calling you to serve? We help members discern where the Holy Spirit is calling them for service at BPC. Our committee’s nominations are critical to maintain continuity in leadership of the church. If you are interested or know just the right person to recommend, please contact Elder Teresa Weaver at [terweaver@aol.com](mailto:terweaver@aol.com).

- Submitted by Teresa Weaver, Elder

# Mission

We are called to give our tithes and offerings to God. The Mission Committee takes the 10% tithe of BPC giving (in 2025 this was \$112,000) and makes sure it is well used.

Our goal is to spend it in approximate thirds:

- 1/3 for local and national needs (the Lamb Center, ECHO, Crop Walk, Christ House, emergency food/gas/utilities needs for members and neighbors, Hypothermia, youth retreats, children's ministries, Arise at GMU, Homestretch, affordable housing at Fairfax Presbyterian, VICPP, VOICE, etc.)
- 1/3 for international needs (Bread for the World, Bikes for the World, Kibwezi and Malawi needs, Ukraine, support for surgeon with Christian Health Service Corps, Walking with Africans, etc.)
- 1/3 sent to the Presbytery for help with disaster relief and other National Capital Presbytery (NCP) aid

In addition to taking care of BPC's tithe, we are privileged to assist with offerings of the congregation beyond the tithe.

This includes:

- Time and energy and groceries for ECHO food pantry (thanks to Kathy Fleming for the Shred Event and Jean Buffardi for many deliveries)
- Time and energy and groceries for Christ House meals (thanks to the Cotovsky family for organization)
- Time and energy and funds for the Crop Walk (thanks to Amy Stidham and her great team)
- Time and energy and food for the Hypothermia program (thanks to Mara Ashby and Marcy Stennes and a host of volunteers)
- Time and energy and food for monthly Community Meals (thanks to Mara Ashby, Eva Thorp, Charlie Gates, Roger Sabin and many others)
- Time and energy and food for monthly Lamb Center breakfasts (thanks to Mission Committee)
- Time and energy and 138 (!) sweaters for Christ House residents (thanks to Kay Taylor and so many donors)
- Special offering for Ukraine and matching NCP grant (thanks to Anton Lukyanenko and James Munthali and donors), \$18,000 plus \$5,000 from NCP
- Time and energy making 95 stockings for N Street Village/Bethany Women's Center (thanks to Emily and Charlotte Cook and their family, and many donors)
- Funds for Mother's Day offering for Tumaini orphanage (thanks to Susan Kipp and David Smith and generous donors), over \$20,000



Hypothermia



Bethany Stocking Collection

- Time and energy helping our Homestretch family (thanks to Nancy Morrison and others)
- Time and energy packing snacks for Glasgow Middle School (thanks to Arlene Decina, Beth Ann Clare, Andrea Ham, Nicole Sheely, Kim Marin and many children and families)
- Funds for Alternative Gifts to further assist our Mission projects (thanks to Jill Moore and her team), over \$9,000
- Time and energy organizing all the help and visits to Kibwezi and Malawi (thanks to David Smith, Susan Kipp and James Munthali and many others)
- Time and energy for social witness in Fairfax and Richmond through VICPP - Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy - and VOICE - Virginians Organized for Interfaith and Community Engagement (thanks to Eva Thorp, Nancy Morrison and Becca Messman)
- Funds spent purchasing chocolate and coffee, to help world farmers (thanks to happy buyers)

- Submitted by Mary Vander Maten, Elder



Community Meals Prep



Christ House Pillar of Hope



Kibwezi



Kibwezi



Christ House Sweater collection



CROP Walk

# Community Life

The Community Life Ministry is an integral part of the life of BPC, partnering with both longtime and new church members as well as members of the surrounding community to provide opportunities for fun, fellowship, and meaningful engagement. Through these efforts, the ministry continues to strengthen connections within the church and the broader community.

This year, we transitioned from Sheila Steele, who previously did a wonderful job overseeing the coffee ministry, and joined forces by working closely with Laura Martin, who has stepped up and done an excellent job managing the kitchen. Her responsibilities have included ordering supplies, maintaining inventory, restocking essential church items such as coffee and paper products used by various ministries, and co-managing the coffee ministry with me.

A new online-based volunteer system utilizes SignUpGenius, allowing members to sign up to serve on designated days. While we initially experienced challenges with insufficient coffee during the second service, this transition is expected to ensure coverage for both services and provide additional support for cleanup after the second service.

On August 24, the ministry successfully held the church picnic, which brought members together in a public-style church gathering. The event featured outdoor activities for children and provided a welcoming space for fellowship among members.

Additionally, we hosted an Intercultural Potluck on March 30, which brought together church members from diverse cultural backgrounds to share traditional cuisines, celebrate cultural heritage, and strengthen fellowship within the congregation. This event offered an opportunity for members to interact and build relationships. The gathering was further enriched by beautiful music from the Cameroonian Presbyterian Youth Choir from Maryland.

Looking ahead, the Community Life Ministry will continue collaborating with church leadership, ministry partners, and members to develop new activities, strengthen community engagement, and support the continued growth of the ministry.

- Submitted by Liz Ngongbo, Elder



Kids play table at potluck



All Church Picnic



Cameroonian Choir

## Adult Spiritual Growth

Adult Spiritual Growth activities focus on providing space for developing spiritually, while at the same time connecting deeply as community. A variety of spiritual growth opportunities were offered.

The main way we achieve this continues to be offering a wide variety of options throughout the year for adults during Sunday School. "Sunday Morning Scriptures" continued as a weekly Sunday morning Bible study to reflect on the scripture of the week, prior to the sermon. We also tried to offer one to two other classes to choose from each Sunday. This year we held some thought-provoking options: we wrestled with "Faith & Science" and heard testimonial stories of how our faith journeys came to intersect in the "I Grew Up..." series, which delved into the Presbyterian, Catholic, and Evangelical roots of our members.

We explored faith in action across the world, hearing from Dr. Beth Steubing Adams about her efforts at the Nkhoma Teaching hospital in Malawi, as well as from James Munthali and Ed Parker on how their involvement with The Walking with Africans Foundation fights widespread, deep-seated poverty in Kenya. On the other side of the globe, BPC members explored Reformation history and Celtic Christianity in the "thin places" of Iona and upon their return, shared their experiences including contemplative prayer and music with us.

Wonder and creativity were sparked through our periodic offering of Godly Play for Adults and Youth, and in our "Seeking the Word" sessions. "Letters from Love" and "Fear and Faith" reminded us that writing can be a spiritual practice of listening and receiving, one that helps us to find wisdom from within.

Occasionally, Sunday morning's service wasn't enough to fully satiate our appetite for learning on a topic, and Pastor Becca conducted deep dives and even revisited her "Once Upon Every Time" sermon series during Sunday School.

In a continued effort to build deeper connections, we continued offering multi-generational sessions on first-Sundays and partnered with Small Groups. Oasis was offered during Sunday School as a weekly gathering of parents seeking a respite and friendship. We also formed small groups for our Lenton book study on *The Message of Jesus*, by Adam Hamilton, culminating in a BPC-wide celebratory Resurrection Breakfast. This was such a well-attended series that we offered a second small group study in the fall for Hamilton's book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. Once again, we brought the small groups together during the series, this time to hear about Luke from Dr. F. Scott Spencer, the editor of the SBL New Testament Study Bible and the author of many New Testament commentaries.

In partnership with the Deacons, "Sacred Crossings – Preparing your Final Gifts" was a meaningful workshop that provided sacred space to think about "when death comes" and to talk about what we wish our loved ones might know.

In partnership with Social Justice, we hosted Faith, Justice, and Immigration where BPC member Brian Murray, a Senior Partner at Murray Osario, an immigration law firm representing Kilmar Abrego Garcia, led us in a discussion about immigration law basics, common misconceptions, and thoughts on how to respond to the Kilmar case.

An opportunity to experience our indoor Labyrinth, involving walking, contemplation, prayer, and other quiet activities, was available monthly to those seeking a personal and peaceful spiritual activity. We look forward to finding ways to connect and grow with you in 2026!

- Submitted by Andrea Ham, Elder

# Worship

Worship isn't just the numbers. How many people attend worship? Does every coordinator have enough volunteers? How many handheld candles should we order? Why are the two main doorways into the Meeting House not used fully? How many church Bibles need repair?

Numbers are frequently discussed at worship team meetings, and the tracking of those numbers is important, but a larger theme is also at work throughout every one of those discussions. The BPC worship coordinators care deeply about "setting the table" for all worship services so that every congregant feels welcome, and every congregant has the opportunity to connect with God and the BPC community.

Many thanks to these Worship Team coordinators who led the way through 2025:

- Audio Tech - Jerry Reece
- Communion - BJ Sadtler
- Flower Guild - Jan Smith
- Lay Leaders - Beatrice Squire
- Special Services - Diana Shannon
- Ushers - Mike Williams
- Visual Tech/Online Worship - Jim Schoonmaker
- Worship Design - Lucinda Sexton

The year's worship services were filled with creative Sermon Series themes stretching our understanding and curiosity. The music of choirs, soloists, and the congregation was woven throughout worship, filling our hearts and minds with a sense of wonder.

The summer months saw BPC "doing a new thing" while Director of Music Julianne was on sabbatical. Chairs were reconfigured, the piano was relocated, and the Summer Choir sang from the back of the room. A guest worship leader, Paul Vasile, gently led the congregation into less familiar ways of singing together. An online survey about these new experiences was completed by many congregants. It was a summer of awakening as we rejuvenated our congregational singing.

The numbers will continue to be collected as BPC grows and changes, but know that behind every number are people who care and do their utmost to "set the table" of God's love for all who worship with our faith community.



- Submitted by Sherrie Brady, Elder

# Youth Spiritual Growth

2025 was the first year for our Director of Youth Ministry Diane Maloney and, oh my, are we lucky to have her. Diane has brought organization, stellar programming, and relationship building to our Youth Ministry. Under Diane's leadership the weekly Youth Connection gatherings are buzzing with revitalized energy and many new youth faces. She instituted an exciting new approach to confirmation class, tying participation in church events into the overall body of material. She is maintaining the traditions that have made BPC youth programming great while injecting her own ideas such as more collaboration with the youth of other congregations.



Massanetta

## Winter Highlights:

- Montreat college conference
- Snow Tubing at Massanutten Ski Resort
- IMPACT sponsored Board Game Day

## Spring Highlights:

- March Mission Madness – Over 50 participants; a dozen different groups served
- Confirmation of 6 youth! – Claire Cotovsky, Ella Deaton, Ellie DeVaughn, Nelson Doll, Charles Ferrar, and Brennan Telfer.
- High Ropes Event at Sandy Springs Adventure Park



Fall Kick Off

## Summer Highlights:

- Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs
- Youth Conference for High School Students in Montreat, NC
- IMPACT Tour to the Carolinas and Home Concert



Fall Retreat

## Fall Highlights:

- Kickoff event with color dust competition
- IMPACT sponsored Ice Cream Social
- Intergenerational Thanksgiving Meal
- BPC Fall Retreat focused on creation and sabbath at Lake Anna with 11 students
- Keep Awake Retreat for High School youth focused on the PC(USA) Matthew 25 initiative at Massanetta Springs



Montreat

- Submitted by Geoff Marin, Elder

# Children's Ministry

In 2025, 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. Our kids participate in the monthly rhythm of communion, when they return early from Godly Play on first Sundays to share in the Lord's supper with the whole congregation. And, as always, we strive to keep our kids plugged into the rhythmic

circle of the liturgical year as we move through seasons of growth, mystery, and celebration. We believe a focus on sustained, foundational ministry anchors our children in the beautifully ordinary rhythms of faith and helps us practice being the church together.

But that's not to say that we don't love a good event, especially when it helps us build community and welcome newcomers! In April, our children's choirs led the congregation in worship through a beautiful, vibrant presentation of the musical *Storms*. We met for three days of VBS over the summer and explored what the Bible tells us about cultivating the kingdom of God. Our 4th-6th graders had so much fun getting to know each other during our annual bowling night and movie night, and we finished 2025 with the happy, delicious pairing of the Little Shoppe and a pancake breakfast. We've continued our 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!), shared a Resurrection Breakfast, baked cookies for Community Meals, assembled lasagnas for foster families, baked scones to share with neighbors, made trail mix for the CROP Walk, and ate lots of cereal. (BPC loves to minister through food!)

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.

- Submitted by Beth Ann Clare, Elder





Rainbow Choir practice



Godly Play

## Preschool Ministry

Burke Presbyterian Church Preschool remains a thriving, close-knit community, with a teaching staff that reflects the love, inclusion, and diversity valued by BPC. Over the past year, a key focus has been on aligning preschool activities and curriculum with the church's broader mission and ministries. In February, students learned about housing insecurity and made placemats and set the dinner tables for guests of the Hypothermia Shelter. This past fall, children learned about food insecurity through the "hunger monster" concept and collected 804 pounds of food—approximately the weight of a full-grown bear!—for ECHO.



Preschool Staff

The preschoolers' capacity to engage with these complex topics and respond with empathy is remarkable. By learning about real-world challenges, reflecting on how this new information fits into their own understanding, and sharing these experiences with their families and the wider community, we aim to nurture a generation of informed, open-minded, solution-focused problem solvers—and, above all, kind human beings.

- Submitted by Anndra Rowland, Director

# Facilities

It was another busy year for the Facilities Team!

Nearly every week of the year, there's many things happening to keep our facility and grounds humming smoothly:

- The Fix-It Team gathers to address everything from replacing soiled carpet tiles in the coffee area to repairing Meeting House chairs and assembling furniture for the Preschool, and so many other little things along the way.
- From April through November, the Woodchucks gather on Saturday mornings to mow our grass and clear the sidewalks, gutters and parking lots of leaves and detritus.
- In the winter months, the Polar Bears watch the weather to make sure our drive- and walk-ways are cleared of ice and snow, making safe passage to the building for us all.
- And outside these times, various individuals are present to relight the oven pilot light, thaw the freezer, keep the fountains working, pull weeds in the gardens, stop long-flowing toilets, patch our leaky roof, and SO MUCH MORE!

Additionally, with the Major Maintenance Funds, in 2025 we:

- gave the Cottage a Refresh, including a new HVAC unit, resurfacing the ramp way and replacing damaged exterior panels
- upgraded the lighting in the MH and around the building exterior to LED bulbs
- replaced the FCUs in Becca and Diane's offices
- updated the furniture in Diane's office

And yet, that's not all! We also:

- got a new egress pathway laid by soon-to-be-Eagle Scout Connor Lygon
- installed exterior lighting around the property, including in the playground
- rebuilt the gate for the dumpster (thank you, John Warren!)
- had many dead or dying trees around the property removed
- rented our spaces out to our community, hosting large parties, many recitals, small group gatherings, and conference gatherings

If you are as excited about these projects as we are and would like to get involved with the Facilities Team, please reach out to me ([jocelyncallister@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyncallister@gmail.com)) - there is truly opportunity for any skill level, age, interest, or schedule to help keep everything working smoothly and looking great.



- Submitted by Jocelyn Callister, Elder



## Deacons

2025 was a very active year for the Board of Deacons. Deacons had more than 500 outreach efforts this past year (delivering flowers, visits, phone calls, cards, rides to appointments, etc.). These contacts included about one hundred in-person visits to members in hospitals, recovery centers and residences to visit support, deliver meals and flowers.

Deacons now have cards made for our sharing of flowers, with a supply kept in the Sacristy.

The deacons worked with staff and families to host six Celebrations of Life during 2025, catering to a wide set of needs. Feedback from supported families has been extremely positive. Laurie Roberts has been a key person in providing individually based support and follow up for each family.

The meal train led by the deacons continued to support families dealing with illnesses, surgeries, grief and recent births.

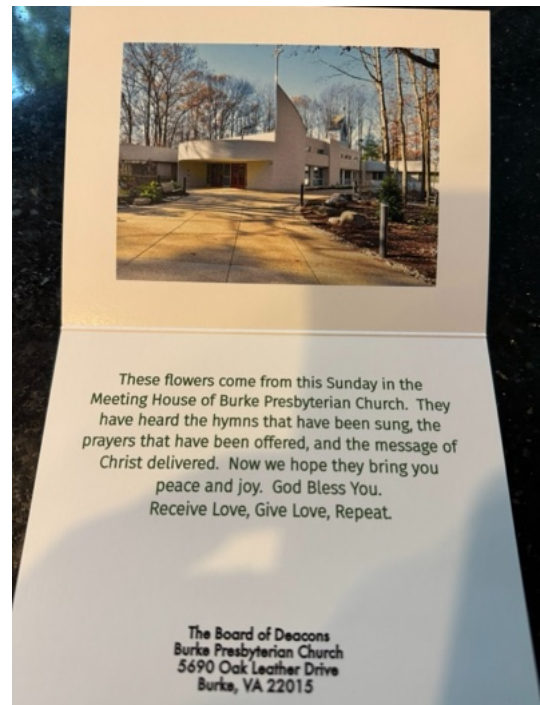
There was an increase in PIN fund requests and distributions —both small and more significant.

Deacons hosted several Sunday events with resources for discussing end of life under the “Sacred Crossings” umbrella, including one this fall on the gift of preparation for your family.

We also co-sponsored a workshop for displaced federal workers.

We enjoy a lively senior community, and the deacons were thrilled to host a Summer Senior Soiree as well as a Holiday party in December, attended by over 50 honored guests. We also continued our senior-to-senior letter writing program, which provides opportunities to pass wisdom to recent BPC high school and college graduates.

We are looking forward to supporting our community in 2026. Rudy Cohen has agreed to be co-moderator with Karyn Niles for the 2026 year.



–Submitted by Karyn Niles, 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. 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. (Examples - new PCI Compliance company, fire alarm monitoring system change.)

The most visible project of the Office Operations ministry is the 3-camera video and sound system in the back corner of the Meeting House, which is primarily used for live streaming the 10:00/11:15am Sunday service on Zoom and YouTube. Together, these currently average 29 devices connected per Sunday (and each device is often watched by more than one person).

This year, two new speakers were added in the old Narthex area. Our goal is to ensure that those in the Meeting House and those watching online can both fully experience our worship services. In fact, many of our new members became familiar with BPC through our streaming. This system is also used for other events in the Meeting House that require streaming. The system is staffed entirely by volunteers, and we are actively seeking additional folks.

Continued thanks to Holly Walsh, Director of Finance and Business Administration, and Nicole Sheely, Office and Communications Manager, for keeping Office Operations operating.

- Submitted by Jim Schoonmaker, Elder



Kelley and John Vanderson



Seth Parsons, Jim Schoonmaker & Andrea Ham

# Vocations

The Vocations ministry is focused on inviting people to learn about BPC, easing their first visit, making them feel welcome, moving toward exploration of membership in the church and connecting new members with ministries. In 2025 we continued to identify church visitors and gather contact and connection 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 Vocations ministry is part of the ongoing BPC Web Team.

In 2025, 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 our “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, 21 adults and their families chose to join BPC by proclamation of faith, baptism, or transfer in 2025. In November, families who joined the church during the year gathered for an informal luncheon for fellowship, engagement and connection. We will again offer Exploring Membership classes in 2026.

The Vocations ministry’s web-based Let’s Get Connected form gathers information from all of our 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 2026, 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

Small groups and gatherings are what help transition BPC from “just a church” to place of home and community. A place where friendships, love and faith can grow and flourish. A place of belonging, both to each other and to God. It is important for all members and friends to find a place to gather and grow outside of Sunday morning worship. It can be in a choir; on a facilities team such as the Fix it team or Polar Bears; on a Mission Team serving Christ House, Kibwezi or Hypothermia; working with the youth and children of our church or on a meal team at Youth Connections or Rainbow; or at a Bible study, Connect and Create, or Sunday School helping you to connect and grow here at BPC. Additional connections took root this year including a small group that made a pilgrimage to Scotland and another group to Kibwezi and a group that gathered to share about grief. Love, friendships and faith grew and flourished in these travels and conversations. Additional Small Group opportunities welcome new members.

- **Bible and Bagels** - meets twice a month on Wednesday mornings (Sheila Swenson)
- **Monday Night Women’s Bible Study** - 4th Monday of the month at church and via Zoom, following the Presbyterian Women’s Study (Jill Moore)
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** - often meeting at church and/or via Zoom for a deep dive into the Bible (Sherrie & Frank Brady)
- **Create and Connect** - one Tuesday a month from 7-9 pm (Susan Ariale)
- Long-established **K groups** - -began as couple groups
- **Leaves of Grace Book Club** - meets once per month on a Sunday afternoon (Lynn Miller)
- **Nightingales** - a Bible study/book club which meets in person or via Zoom depending on the needs of the group (Lynne Garvey-Hodge)
- **Men of Burke** - Saturday mornings, twice a month, once in person and once via Zoom (Dave Roberts)
- A **hiking group** that gathers in warmer weather (Andrea Ham)

Looking ahead to Lent, there will be a small group study of Jeff Chu’s book *Good Soil- The Education of an Accidental Farmhand* as well as an opportunity to engage with him as he speaks as part of our Distinguished Speakers series on March 15. We will also celebrate the Resurrection with a church wide breakfast between services on April 19.

I work closely with Anita Pesses, Elder for Vocations, to help people find the place that they can call home and that will help them grow here at BPC. If you are looking for a Small Group, or have an idea for a new one, please out reach to me and I will help get you settled, or a new group started.



## Personnel

BPC continues to be blessed with an exceptional staff who faithfully serve our congregation and community with care, professionalism, and deep commitment to our shared ministry. Their work sustains the daily life of the church and helps BPC live into its calling to honor and serve God in all that we do.

This year was marked by several important transitions and accomplishments. We celebrated and provided a positive send-off to Interim Director of Youth Ministries Kyle Putnam, giving thanks for his ministry and leadership. Additionally, we experienced a smooth and thoughtful onboarding of Diane Maloney, ensuring continuity and support during a season of change. The Personnel Committee worked intentionally to support staff through these transitions, prioritizing clarity, communication, and care.

Supporting staff remained a central focus throughout the year. We celebrated our staff regularly through monthly treats and occasional lunches as small but meaningful expressions of gratitude for their ongoing dedication. We were also pleased to support Julianne Erbrecht during her sabbatical, honoring her long tenure at BPC and affirming the importance of rest, renewal, and professional growth for our staff.

Behind the scenes, the Personnel Committee strengthened its internal work and systems. We created clearer roles for committee members related to staff celebrations, benefits, paperwork, and training, which helped us work more efficiently and consistently. We also completed a comprehensive update of the Personnel Handbook, ensuring that policies and procedures remain current, transparent, and supportive of both staff and the church.

In addition, the committee completed annual reviews for staff and worked closely with Session on matters related to budgeting and personnel management. This collaboration helped align staffing decisions with the broader mission, priorities, and financial stewardship of the church.

The Personnel Committee this year consisted of:

Seth Parsons  
 Dan Herrema  
 Lois Page  
 Anne Tidaback  
 Nancy Wulf  
 Tom Wickham

I am deeply grateful for the thoughtful, faithful work of this committee and for the trust and collaboration shared with Session and staff. It is a privilege to serve alongside people who care so deeply about supporting those who serve our church so faithfully.



## Budget & Finance

The generosity of Burke Presbyterian Church and the commitment of its members to bring our community into “In Good Company” (our 2025 Stewardship Campaign theme) continues to present fantastic opportunities for the church to carry the impact of the Triune’s Love beyond our doors. Missions was able to employ over \$200,000 in giving, from pledges, special offerings, and the Love One Another Campaign. Numerous special events and speakers were hosted, growing the awareness and Christian leadership of our congregants. Our youth enjoyed many opportunities to share their faith with our own church and communities beyond even our state borders. All of this was made possible through the giving of the church.

Budget & Finance Committee took a different approach to budgeting this year. Since COVID, we have been using excess giving from the previous year to close the budget difference between “revenue and expenses”. Given the many story lines of 2024 and 2025, we started to be concerned that the job market realities might have an unpredictable reduction in giving, which implies that a budget reliant on previous year giving might carry too much risk in the current year. We embarked on an effort to trim, challenge, and find creative alternatives to budget lines of the past in an effort to have a balanced, resilient budget that can then be more intentional with the application of end-of-year giving.

We made significant strides, while also accepting the challenge of an aging facility that requires expensive upkeep, a motivated church that always wants to do more, and a struggling community that calls for our help. We reduced the budget gap to a \$37,000 shortfall, down from \$160,000 in 2025, through several steps:

- We have decided to reduce the Major Maintenance Fund, or “rainy day fund,” from \$100,000 to \$50,000 in order to afford the much needed roof replacement over the Meeting House. The fund is a priority to replenish in the near future.
- We used our savings to pay off the remaining \$190,000 of the mortgage to relieve the pressure of the 2026 budget. We are building a long-term plan to replenish this savings.
- Elders and their committees looked at combining similar budget lines, which allows for a reduction in budgeted amount and flexibility to apply funds where needed.
- Mission was kept at 10% of tithes and offerings, as this was deemed one of the last bastions from which we should take money.

### **Stewardship Campaign**

This year’s message “In Good Company” centered on the many impacts that our church’s time, talent, and treasure have made on our internal congregation, our local community, and our global family. Again, it is our generosity that allows us to have such an impact. It is the Good Company we keep that encourages each other to chip in. It is our wonderful talents to welcome others into our Good Company that grows the community of faith, spreading peace, love, and hope. As of February 3, we had received 168 pledges, with 20 new pledgers, pledging over \$1,039,623 – 85.9% of our goal of \$1,210,000. As pledges are our foundation for building the goals, strategies, and plans for 2026, this provides amazing insight. We pray that we will be able to close the \$200,000 difference, as we look to the challenges presented above. With almost 40% of the pledges being new pledging families or pledges above the targeted 7% increase, the message is strong that our generosity continues!

- Submitted by Andy Charles, Elder

# 2026 Program Budget

<b>Income</b>		<b>\$1,267,441.02</b>
Pledges		\$1,209,941.02
Loose Offerings		\$24,000.00
Building Use		\$9,000.00
Interest/Dividends		\$15,000.00
Per Capita		\$5,000.00
Online Processing Fees		\$4,500.00
10% Mission Adjustment		(\$126,744.10)
<b>2026 Adjusted Income</b>		<b>\$1,140,696.92</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>\$1,178,075.59</b>
Personnel Ministry	Personnel	\$564,643.21
	Benefits/Admin	\$156,787.38
Worship Ministry		\$15,875.00
Children's Ministry	Children's Education	\$4,600.00
	General Administration	\$3,700.00
Spiritual Growth Ministry	Adult Education	\$3,250.00
	Youth Education	\$32,000.00
Congregational Care Ministry	Community Life	\$4,250.00
	Small Groups	\$0.00
Vocations Ministry		\$500.00
Outreach Ministry (Mission)		<i>will be 10% of income</i>
Communications Ministry		\$2,500.00
Facilities Ministry	Utilities	\$43,800.00
	Maintenance	\$144,900.00
	Office	\$70,700.00
	Transfer to Major Maintenance	\$62,120.00
Stewardship	Presbytery Per Capita	\$32,050.00
	Insurance	\$21,500.00
	Stewardship	\$13,550.00
Session		\$950.00
Board of Deacons		\$400.00
<b>Difference</b>		<b>(\$37,378.67)</b>

# Elders, Deacons, and Staff

## Elders - 2025

Sherrie Brady	Elder for Worship
Jocelyn Callister	Elder for Facilities
Beth Ann Clare	Elder for Children's Spiritual Growth
Liz Ngongbo	Elder for Community Life
Andy Charles	Elder for Stewardship & Finance
Andrea Ham	Elder for Adult Spiritual Growth
Teresa Weaver	Elder for Nominations
Mary Vander Maten	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
Susan Ariale	Elder for Evangelism

## Deacons - 2025

Sheri Brown  
Jenny Childress  
Robbie Cohen  
Rudy Cohen  
Lisa Eustace  
Dave Hutchins  
Rick Jones  
Randy Lee  
Brian Murray  
Jill Murray  
Karyn Niles, moderator  
David Roberts  
Laurie Roberts  
Lucinda Sexton  
Diane Shannon  
Brian Sugden  
Jackie zVon

## Staff

### Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Becca Messman

### Director of Spiritual Growth

Arlene Decina

### Director of Music Ministries

Julianne Erbrecht

### Director of Finance and Business

#### Administration

Holly Walsh

### Director of Youth Ministries

Diane Maloney

### Office and Communications Manager

Nicole Sheely

### Preschool Director

Anndra Rowland

### Pianist

Wei-Han Wu

### Handbell Choir Director

Elliott Godinez

### Parish Associate

Rev. Catherine Taylor



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