

2023
Annual Report
of the
First Presbyterian Church
of Mena, Arkansas

REPORTS:

• Building and Grounds Committee	5
• Christian Education Committee	11
• Elders and Officers who Served in 2023	4
• Fellowship Committee	9
• Membership and Evangelism Committee	6
• Mission Committee	8
• Nominating Committee	15
• Of the Pastorate	2
• Presbyterian Women	14
• Stewardship, Finance and Administration Committee	16
• Worship Committee	10

2023 Pastor's Annual Report

*“... Then the righteous will answer him,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you something to drink?
When did we see you a stranger and invite you in,
or needing clothes and clothe you?
When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’*

*“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth,
whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine,
you did for me.’”*

(Matthew 25:37-40)

It is amazing to me that 8 ½ years have passed since my call to serve as your Transitional Pastor in June of 2015, and please know ... you guys don't look a single day over ten years older! (I did some quick calculations and realized that you guys have sat through more than 400 sermons with me in the pulpit, so I'm kinda surprised you don't look at least 20 years older by now! Me as well!)

Imagine my surprise when I was kicked out of the November session meeting – since I am the moderator, and all that – only to be brought back in to the sound of applause and an invitation to remove the “Transitional” portion of my title! I blushed and said, “I do!” An awfully long engagement, but the thought of “tying the knot” with you guys certainly makes me smile, and even shed a happy tear or two! Thank you for affirming my leadership, and recognizing my love for you, dear church family! The Installation Ceremony is to take place early in 2024.

The thought of losing the “Transitional” title reminds me of one of our first adventures together. When I first arrived among you, my job was to walk you through a mission study; the process of discovering “who God has called you to be as a church,” that is. A new church “Mission Statement” was to be the result, and you needed that statement: 1) so you, FPC Mena, could strive to live in to God's purpose as you understand it, and 2) so you could advertise your understanding of your purpose to potential called pastors (after all, you kinda' want to call a person who wants to live that mission with you, right?!)

A “Mission Study Team” was formed and they hosted congregational feedback gatherings so that all voices could be heard. After all the “decent and in order” proceedings were finalized, a new mission statement was rolled out in August of 2016:

FPC of Mena Mission Statement (Since 2016)

*"The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Mena, Arkansas,
is to make the Kingdom of God real
for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, poor, sick and prisoner."*

If you read the scripture at the top of this article, I'm sure you notice a similarity or two!

What a cool mission statement! You know, I would love to be a part of following a mission statement like that! How about you? (wink, wink!)

I elaborated on our mission statement in the 2016 Annual Reports, so I'm not going to here (and if you want to see that report, simply make it known). Having said that, I'll add that members of the Mission Study Team said that my first Lenten Sermon Series (it was called "The Way") was instrumental in the formation of the mission statement, because it reflected a great deal upon what Jesus had to say about "the Kingdom of God." Now, nine years later, I'm going to return to the ideas from that series for our 2024 Lenten series, to see if it can add fuel to the already burning "flame of the Spirit."

This will actually build on a sermon series that ended 2023 entitled, "The Master of Life," (AKA – "The Dust of the Rabbi") referring to Jesus as the One who has, indeed, "mastered life," so He knows how to do life, and He offers lots of "suggestions" for His disciples of every age.

To conclude: there is just one part of my 2016 Transitional Pastor's Annual Report that I would like to repeat here as 2023 ends. See if you can spot why!

"My call now is to help you, beloved folks of FPC, Mena, recognize and pursue your purpose. As long as I am here, I'm going to be a pretty tough taskmaster, because fulfillment of your mission in this world is incredibly important!

Your call now is twofold:

1. To make the Kingdom of God 'real' to those around you, and
2. To pursue spiritually gifted pastoral leadership who will help you live what you understand to be God's dream for you, as expressed in the new mission statement."

Blessings and Love! Pastor Bill

P. S. –

When I arrived in Mena, these annual reports were given verbally by committee chairs and took nearly an extra hour of sitting after worship to hear them all. I discussed this with the powers that be, and we decided to use a packet like this instead of verbal reports (you're welcome)!

Because Annual Reports were offered verbally, I don't know if our former mission statement – the one that guided this church until the new one came to be – is recorded anywhere. Therefore, I want to offer it to you simply for the sake of historical documentation:

FPC of Mena Mission Statement (?-2016)

*To proclaim the Good News of the Gospel by word and deed,
to grow together in faith and
to witness faithfully to those who have yet to know our risen Lord.*



Elders Serving in 2023

Building & Grounds – Linda Spurgin

Christian Education – Karen Mosier

Fellowship – Mike Landry

Membership & Evangelism – Annette Hays

Mission – Garrett Lundberg

Stewardship, Finance & Administration – Wes Stiefer

Worship – Dora Venable

Other Officers Serving in 2023

Clerk of Session – Bill Hays

Treasurer – Susan Seitz

Assistant Treasurer – Chuck Schroyer

Building and Grounds Committee

2023 Annual Report

2023 Committee Members: Lois Morrow, David & Linda Spurgin, and Wes Stiefer, with Pastor Bill consulting.

We have quite a few accomplishments in 2023. The projects that were completed this past year are listed below. These are followed by projects that are “in the works.”

Project description:

1. Roof was repaired above the 2 sanctuary closets and damage inside was re-sheet rocked and painted.
2. We put a new shelving unit in the kitchen annex.
3. A new vacuum was purchased for custodian’s use.
4. Heat/air unit above youth room has been repaired.
5. Roll-out rack installed in kitchen cabinet.
6. Jason Miles repaired the water damage to the sanctuary ceiling and painted.
7. Congregants adopted various areas around the church and pulled weeds and planted flowers.
8. New hanging rod in Barham Room closet.
9. Door stops added to narthex doors.
10. Retextured and painted spot on ceiling above the buffet window.
11. Our external doors painted a muted shade of red.
12. Lock on back door to parking lot has been replaced with a key pad.
13. Dead redbud tree at manse has been replaced with Japanese maple.
14. Dead and dying shrubs in church beds were removed and replaced with 8 azaleas.
15. Extermination service Safeguard, has been employed to take care of the church and the manse.
16. Heat and air unit serving the fellowship hall breathed its last. Replaced with new unit.
17. Warm water heater installed to serve men and women’s restrooms nearest bell tower.

These are some of the projects that are currently being worked on:

1. Looking for dishwasher to replace non-functioning unit in kitchen.
2. Looking into “who” and “how” to install handicap railing along sidewalk leading to narthex.
3. Checking into purchasing and installing new curtain for the Barham Room.

4. Both church offices need painting.
5. External signage needs to be replaced.

Quite a few years have passed since there has been any extensive repairs or major updates to our church. It's our goal to make our church comfortable and to attempt to shrink the list of all the problems to a minimum. Having said that, I'll tell you that we have compiled a list of capital campaign possibilities. These range from the roof, to new windows, to a possible paving job. And the manse has had no major attention for a long time. So, there are projects like new flooring and roofing for the manse that are also being discussed.

We know we can't do it all tomorrow, but we're shrinking the list a little at a time. Many thanks to those who attended committee meetings and gave their valuable input, and also to those who made calls or otherwise worked hard to get things done.

Submitted by Linda Spurgin, 2023 Chair of Building and Grounds Committee



Membership and Evangelism

2023 Annual Report

Committee Mission Statement:

We are ordinary people learning together what it means to follow Jesus in our time while sharing the Good News of God's Love. (See Romans 13:8)

2023 Committee Members: Karen Mosier, Linda Spurgin, Judy Thompson, Mary Dixon, Garrett Lundberg, Annette Hays and Pastor Bill served on the 2023 Membership and Evangelism Committee.

We continued evolving post-pandemic strategies to provide care for our membership and outreach to our community, with God's help and engagement of a fully functional committee:

1. Developed a mission statement for our committee.
2. Mena First Pres Facebook Page continues to be updated daily, including daily devotionals. Most current sermon is pinned to top of Facebook page for easy access. Upcoming events are advertised in "events" at top of page.
3. Shepherding Program has continued in full-swing, with special emphasis on keeping in regular contact with members and friends and making sure they know who their shepherd is so they can report joys, needs or concerns. We

- are still offering: odd jobs performed for members, prayer chain, meal train and bridge the gap services for ill or bereaved members.
4. Church members participated in the August Local School Prayer Walk.
 5. Worship services continue to be recorded and uploaded to You Tube, Facebook and the church website, thanks to Garrett Lundberg and Russell Smith!
 6. Several books with evangelism themes were purchased and shared among our committee and then the congregation: Art of Gathering, Secrets of a Secret Shopper and Dinner with a Perfect Stranger, all still available to borrow!
 7. Visitor bags and fresh bread gifts are being distributed.
 8. Worship Posse functioning to seek out and sit with visitors who are alone.
 9. Under Karen Mosier's able leadership, the Bazaar happened November 18, with sales of \$1142.15 designated to youth projects. LIFT Youth Group assisted in set up and cleanup. Free "Picture with Santa" drew shoppers!
 10. Gifted congregation members Christmas ornaments.
 11. Birthday Flowers from Janssen Street Florist continue to be delivered to AVANTS.
 12. Instant Church Directory App continues to be an excellent source of member contact and Pastor Bill keeps it updated.
 13. Church digital information maintained on Pulse digital church tab.
 14. Plans for 2024 include an Autism Awareness Program hosted by our church with February target date.
 15. Curated Carol Clark to speak to the congregation on evangelism in September and followed up by digesting and implementing some of the suggestions from her debriefing email afterwards.
 16. Reached out to students by finals boxes and encouragement to college members and helping pay for an ad celebrating a high school senior graduation.
 17. Instead of February meeting, we reached out to flocks and community to extend love in Christ-like ways for Valentine's focus.
 18. Community Pancake Breakfast scheduled December 30 as this quarter's Helping Hands Initiative, involving entire congregation and community.

Deceased members in 2023: Barbara Stiefer, Louella Dardar and John Forsyth

New members in 2023: Willam Gorsuch, Mira Robbins, Colton Watkins

Baptisms 2023: Willam Gorsuch

Annette Hays, 2023 Membership and Evangelism Committee Chair



Mission Committee

2023 Annual Report

2023 Mission Committee members: Garrett Lundberg (Chair), Wes Stiefer, Tricia Stiefer, Bailey Sullivant, Linda Spurgin, Linda Murphy, Chuck Schroyer, Bill Seitz, Pete Chambers and Serena Loyd.

The Mission Committee spent 2023 spreading God's love to our community through various ministries:

1. Five Helping Hands Sundays - January, April, July, October, December
 - a. ARK - Delivered 32 Baskets of Household Goods to households
 - b. Reading Group at Peachtree
 - c. Worship Group at Cottages
 - d. Cards for teachers, Christmas cards for cottages
 - e. Assembled and delivered 43 Hygiene packs to Ferncliff
 - f. Cookie Ministry
 - g. Community Pancake Breakfast
2. Started medical supply ministry, Carus Cares, secured storage unit and supplies and continue to donate appliances etc to those in need.
3. Designed and sold many different church T-shirts.
4. Filled and donated 20 Good Samaritan Shoeboxes.
5. 2023 Offerings
 - a. One Great Hour of Sharing
 - b. Solar Under the Sun
 - c. Christmas Joy Offering
6. Budgeted Donations
 - a. Polk County Family Ministries - \$1,750
 - b. Mena Police Chaplain Fund - \$525
 - c. Acts of Love Food Pantry - \$1,600
7. Committed to donate \$20 of food a week to the Blessing box.
8. Donated \$150 to the "We are Free" Human Trafficking Fund
9. Local Mission Giving - helped many people in need throughout the year.
10. Donated \$300 to the local Humane Society for supplies.
11. "Lunches of Love" (LOL) served nearly 100 lunches every week throughout the summer.

This year was spent trying many different ministries in order to see where we could do the most good, and what needs are greatest. Going forward, we will concentrate on things that worked best and pour our energy and efforts into expanding current ministries, and collaborating with other churches for mission work in our community.

Garrett Lundberg, 2023 Mission Committee Chair

Fellowship Annual Report

2023 Annual Report

Committee Mission Statement:

“The fellowship committee plans activities that will allow the congregation to gather for fellowship outside of worship, including options to involve our community.”

2023 Fellowship Committee Members: Paula Dearing, Mike Landry (chair, May-Dec.), Lois Morrow, and Pastor Bill Seitz and Dora Venable (chair, Jan. – April)

We stayed busy in 2023 hosting numerous events! Read on ...

- † Feb. 12 – We laughed through the movie “The Gods Must Be Crazy,” while dining on popcorn and chocolate at this Valentine’s Day themed event.
- † April 1 – Held a well-attended game day at the church.
- † May 14 – Mother’s Day. Male committee members organized the men of the church to create a feast for the ladies.
- † June 18 – Father’s Day. Female committee members organized the women of the church to create a feast for the men.
- † July 1 – Committee provided hot dogs and hamburgers for those gathering to enjoy Independence Day fireworks at Tapley Park.
- † July 12-13 – Provided an opportunity to go to the Sight-and-Sound Theater in Branson, MO to see “Esther!” Participants said, “PHENOMENAL!”
- † Aug. 20 – Assisted with the “Back to School Celebration” potluck and activities.
- † Aug. 27 – Another movie event, showing the hilarious and heart-wrenching “Patch Adams.”
- † October – Our committee provided lunches for the Inquirer’s Class.
- † Oct. 31 – Led the charge on a fast-paced and sugar-sweet “Trunk-or-Treat” in our parking lot.
- † Nov. 19 – Directed the effort to provide the dessert for the annual Community Thanksgiving Celebration.
- † Dec. 18 – We hosted a Christmas Caroling event.
- † Dec. 24 – Provided Wassail for the congregation prior to the Christmas Eve Service.
- † Christmas – We encouraged the congregation to exchange Christmas cards.
- † Dec. 30 – Provided the food for a Mena community Pancake Breakfast.
- † Last but FAR from least:
 - ♥ Planned and implemented 3rd Sunday potlucks throughout the year.
 - ♥ Offered a fellowship hour each Sunday. Early in the year we invited congregants to provide breakfast items, but later committee members took on the weekly role themselves.
 - ♥ Encouraged attendance at OLT performances throughout the year.

Mike Landry, 2023 Fellowship Committee Chair

Worship Committee

2023 Annual Report

Committee Mission Statement:

“The worship committee seeks to serve the Lord by helping plan worship services that glorify God and teach, inspire, and encourage all in attendance.”

2023 Worship Committee Members: Mary Dixon, Mike Landry (chair, Jan.-April), Linda Murphy, Pastor Bill and Dora Venable (chair, May-Dec.)

Here is a list of accomplishments for the 2023:

- † **A worship service** almost every Sunday of the year at 11, including communion on the first Sunday of each month (plus Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve).
- † **An online version** followed on Monday almost every week throughout the year (the time difference is necessary to give A/V specialist Garrett Lundberg time to edit and upload).
- † **Helping Hands Sunday** – Worship was held at 9 a.m. each 5th Sunday. After that we worshipped Romans 12:1 style: “... offer(ing) our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.”
- † **Ash Wednesday** – Offered a service of penitence led by Wes Stiefer.
- † **Lent**—Three Lenten “Spiritual Practices” sheets were offered: 1) Love Notes (a challenge to write one note daily to bless or encourage someone), and 2) Through the Gospel of Luke during Lent.
- † **Palm Sunday** – Palm Branches were waved once again this year.
- † **Maundy Thursday** – We returned to a “Service of Shadows,” in which candles are snuffed as passion narratives are read to illustrate the “Light of the World” going out on Good Friday.
- † **Easter Sunday** – This year’s “Flower Cross” (symbolizing life from death) adorned the sanctuary during worship, then the corner of 9th and Church for the remainder of the day.
- † **Children’s Messages** – Children’s messages are offered weekly by Linda Murphy (1st Sunday), Judy Thompson (2nd), Pastor Bill (continues to do 3rd) and Annette Hays (4th). There is no Children’s Message on Helping Hands Sunday.
- † **Mother’s / Father’s Day** – Women were given carnations; men were given cookies.
- † **“Blessing of the Backpacks”** – On the Sunday after the new school year, we offered children school supplies and “blessed their backpacks” as they enter a new year.

- † **Evangelism Sunday** – The Membership & Evangelism Committee drew the Rev. Carol Clark (a Presbytery leader) to offer an Evangelism Workshop, and we took advantage of her presence to preach for us as well (Sept. 10).
- † **World Communion Sunday** – We again offered a variety of breads from different cultures, and a beautiful array of chalices.
- † **Advent** – Volunteers gathered to decorate the church as the season began. A Christmas pageant was offered on Christmas Eve morning (a Sunday), and we are again so grateful that members of the “Ouachita Strings Ensemble” annually enhance our Christmas Eve service.
- † **Pulpit Supply** – When Pastor Bill was absent during the year, our pulpit was filled by the Rev. Tom Wisdom (3 times) and our own Elders Annette Hays (1 time) and Wes Stiefer (2 times). Our gratitude is immense!
- † **Usher News** – David Spurgin received the mantle to be “Head Usher” in 2023 and has our deep appreciation!
- † **Audio Visual Team** – Much gratitude to Elder Garrett Lundberg and Russell Smith for running our sound and video throughout the year!
- † **Music Team** – Our gratitude to pianist Mary Dixon, guitarists Linda Murphy, T. J. Thompson and Colton Watkins, and vocalist Bill Hays.
- † **Children’s Worship Boxes** – Linda Murphy created and stocks these boxes. Thank you, Linda!
- † **Pew Prep** – New member Willam Gorsuch has accepted the role of assisting custodian Lois Morrow by tidying our pews.
- † **Piano Tuning** – In the sanctuary was done by Mr. Jeremiah Brewer in April.

Dora Venable, 2023 Worship Committee Chair



Christian Education Committee

2023 Annual Report

Christian Education Committee Mission Statement:

*To guide hearts and minds in the teachings of Christ
to compel all to be active in the Kingdom of God.*

The 2023 Christian Education Committee consisted of: Karen Mosier (chairman), Annette Hays, Georgia Landry, Serena Loyd, Judy Thompson and Pastor Bill. Meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month, 10:30 a.m.

GriefShare, a program for those grieving the loss of a loved one, is co-facilitated by Serena Loyd and Pastor Bill. Ordinarily, there are 4 to 6 participants who have formed a camaraderie. GriefShare was moved to Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m. in 2023.

Inquirers' Class led by Pastor Bill with three people participating. All were presented to the congregation for membership. They are Willam Gorsuch, Mira Robins and Coltin Watkins.

Sunday School Classes for all ages take place each Sunday.

- † **Children:** Dora Venable serves as teacher for our youngest children using a Presbyterian curricula called "Follow Me." The children were all given a personal Bible upon completion of a memory assignment.
- † **Youth:** Annette Hays and Georgia Landry lead the teen class using a variety of teaching methods, including books (like Lee Strobel's "The Case for Christ"), podcasts (many excellent speakers), and a fantastic devotional.
- † **Adult:** Earl Harrell leads the adult class using incredible self-made curricula. For several months he focused on "The Evolution of the Bible," and is now sharing "The Presence Beyond the Veil," a study of the Book of Revelation. Earl starting teaching in March and his class quickly outgrew its original location (the parlor) and was moved to the larger Helen Barham Room.

Youth Group (AKA "**LIFT**," Living in Faith and Truth) Activities:

- † "**Jesus Revelation**" **Movie** – (March 12) This great film was shown at our local theater and our youth went together to see it.
- † **City of Mena Cleanup** (March 20) – Our teens volunteered to help less able members move items to their curbs for city pickup.
- † **Easter Egg Hunt** (April 8) – Yes, a person is never too old to enjoy finding the goodies in the plastic eggs ... especially when one had a \$20 bill in it!
- † "**Foods of the Bible**" **Fundraiser Lunch** – (May 7) The Youth Group was surveyed and they decided that this year's "Cinco de Mayo" meal should be changed to "Foods of the Bible." Our youth served and many adults helped prepare, but special mention of Serena Loyd's tireless effort must be made! There was a great variety of foods found in the Bible, and they were delicious! Those who missed this event should weep! There was no cost for the meal, but donations were accepted.
- † **Crystal Mining and Campout** – (June 16-17) In June, LIFT went crystal mining at Ron Coleman's mine, near Hot Springs Village. Not much was found, sadly, but camping on an island at Lake Ouachita made up for it! A beautiful night and event!

- † Weekly Meetings – At long last, our youth group is meeting weekly as of September! Youth leaders are Earl Harrell, Annette Hays, Georgia Landry, Serena Loyd, Tricia and Wes Stiefer, Colton Watkins, and Pastor Bill. These adults rotate as needed, although Colton is primary and serves each week. A meal is offered at each meeting as well; many thanks to Serena Loyd for leading that effort!
- † Presbytery Events – (Sept. 15-17) The Youthquake is an excellent annual retreat for teens in our presbytery. Four of our teens attended. Three of them were on the planning team for the event also.

“Children’s Worship Bulletins” were made available for our youngest Christians, starting in April. Examples of their work may be found in the sanctuary, or at www.ChildrensBulletins.com.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 took us back to the home of Mary Dixon ... and her new husband, Tommy Myers! Hundreds of prize, candy or money filled eggs were hidden around their home by church volunteers for the various age groups. Games and refreshments followed. Several guests participated. Much gratitude to Serena Loyd for finding lots of great activities and games for the event!

College Student Care Packages – All congregants were invited to add items to these packages, sent in April. The response was so great that we had to find bigger boxes!

Miranda Burt Graduation – We co-hosted a reception for Miranda to celebrate this great milestone!

Church Camp – Six of our young people went to Ferncliff on varying weeks during the summer.

Vacation Bible School – VBS was held August 7-11, 9:00- noon for kindergarten through fifth grade. We used a “Group” curricula called “SCUBA,” standing for “Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventure.” It was a churchwide effort – decorations were in many rooms, and a huge number of volunteers served. Some awesome highlights: the front of the sanctuary became an ocean (complete with Davy Jones!), a “Yellow Submarine” was created for photo ops, and a huge whale was created for the story of Jonah (kids sat inside it for the lesson ... there was even the smell of fish)! Nineteen children were enrolled, and there was a brief graduation program on Friday after VBS classes. Many thanks to especially-gifted director, Judy Thompson!

Karen Mosier, 2023 Christian Education Chair



Presbyterian Women

2023 Annual Report

Purpose: Everything we do as an organization and as a community is guided by our PW purpose which includes ministry, resources and relationships.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- ♥ to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- ♥ to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- ♥ to work for justice and peace,
- ♥ to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and
- ♥ to witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

Activities for 2023:

- Hannah's Closet – This is a program where local school nurses call the PW designee. She then goes shopping and makes the delivery to the school. We had a few calls from schools needing hygiene products to be distributed by the school counselor or nurse.
- Vacation Bible School – this year PW participated in VBS which was held the first week of August, Monday through Friday, 8 am till noon. We had about 25 students and 20 volunteers. We used the SCUBA – Super Cool Under the Sea Bible Studies. PW donated \$600 to help with expenses for VBS.
- We sent approximately 25 greeting cards to church and community members monthly, (Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy).
- We held a reception for two of our congregants who got married.
- We held youth fundraisers to help our youth pay for camp.
- We held a Father's Day Luncheon on May 14.
- We held a graduation reception for one of our members' graduation.
- PW helped with the Annual Bazaar held in November.
- PW helped with food for those attending the Ouachita String as they played Christmas Music for the community.
- PW made Christmas bags for 34 Head Start Students and for 29 Jumpstart students. Additionally, 5 students were identified as needing jackets, 2 students needed shoes, 2 more needed shirts and 2 needed pants. PW spent \$553 on Christmas for these kids.
- We provided a reception after the funeral service for one of our members.
- We held a Salad Sunday fundraiser in June, made \$295. Then in October we held a Souper Sunday fundraiser, made \$707.

- Every PW meeting is started by our group studying the Bible through lessons from PW/Horizons Bible Study Course.

Two centuries after Presbyterian women first gathered to pray and give their money to the church, women have voice in the church and in the world. Presbyterian Women exists today because women are adaptable, determined, proactive, charitable, generous, and dedicated to God.

Cindi Hernandez, 2023 Presbyterian Women Moderator



†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†

Nominating Committee

2023 Annual Report

The Nominating Committee for 2023, comprised of Karen Mosier (chair), Mike Landry, Gini Burt, Chuck Schroyer and David Spurgin were assigned to seek two elders for the class of 2026 and five nominees for the 2024 nominating committee.

Called to serve as elders in the 2026 class were:

1. Mike Landry (2nd Term)
2. Karen Mosier (2nd Term)

Called to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee:

1. Linda Spurgin – chair, elder
2. Garrett Lundberg – elder
3. Cindi Hernandez
4. Delta Reed
5. Judy Thompson

Stewardship, Finance and Administration Committee

2023 Annual Report

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

*“This, then, is how you ought to regard us:
as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.
Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”*

2023 Committee Members: Leon Myers, Delta Reed, Chuck Schroyer (Assistant Financial Secretary), Susan Seitz (Financial Secretary), and Wes Stiefer (Chair). Counting Team: Delta Reed and Linda Spurgin. Bank Deposits: David Spurgin.

Thank you all for another prosperous year. I’m so proud to be part of a church family who provides the necessary support for so many mission and ministry opportunities in Mena, Polk County and beyond. Your generosity is overwhelming and allows First Presbyterian Church in Mena, AR to be “small but mighty” as we were quoted in the local newspaper this year. The dedication and fire inside each and every one of you is being noticed throughout our community!

Thank you to our committee members, counting, and bank deposit team, listed below. Your continued dedication is truly appreciated.

Abbreviated financial statements can be found on the following pages. Detailed financial statements are always available by request.

We ended the year with an operational deficit of \$5,387, after choosing to slightly draw down our reserves to do some much-needed maintenance and repairs of our property. Due to a large stock gift during 2023, our investment income and stock portfolio totaled \$150,218. After depreciation of \$12,762, we ended 2023 with a Net Income of \$132,069 and a total of \$324,299 in Cash, CDs and Stock reserves at year-end.

Accounting

Quite a few upgrades and enhancements were made to the accounting system this year. We have a QuickBooks annual subscription which will allow the church to keep its software current as well as perform all payroll and both federal and state payroll tax functions in-house. All checks are now produced and printed via QuickBooks for both vendors and payroll, reducing duplicate record keeping. In addition, we now use Vision2 stewardship and giving solutions to record pledges, giving, and to communicate with donors and new methods were installed for our Counting Team. In 2024, enhancements to this system will allow the church to accept electronic donations via ACH, debit and credit cards. Be on the lookout for an exciting announcement in the near future. New

vendor payment and member reimbursement procedures were put in place early in the year and corporate credit cards were added mid-year to both streamline the purchasing process and cut down on reimbursements to members. Lastly, there have been numerous additions to the Balance Sheet as the accounting system was converted from cash to accrual accounting for bookkeeping purposes, pushing us closer to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) acceptability and a better ability to interact and report to financial institutions.

Technology

In July, a new technology subcommittee was formed under SFA.

We implemented new church email addresses for both staff and session to provide professional, branded visibility as we communicate with each other and outside sources, as well as to draw attention to our web and social media platforms and electronic giving opportunities. The church phone and internet provider was changed from AT&T to Vyve Broadband and we installed Wi-Fi capabilities throughout the whole building, opening up near infinite possibilities for future mission and ministry. Also, in conjunction with upgrading internet capabilities, we purchased new office computers for administrative, financial, and pastoral use. Lastly, we installed three 70-inch monitors in the sanctuary and work began on updating our audio and visual resources for worship as we now project electronic worship information via a new MacBook pro computer.

Insurance

A thorough insurance review was conducted early in the year, which revealed the church was underinsured by 1/3. Corrections were made and our overall coverage was increased by over \$1 million, bringing us in line with true replacement cost should a catastrophic event occur.

Staffing

Thanks to Lily Langlin, Lois Morrow, and Bill & Susan Seitz for their dedication and support of our church, much of which happens “behind the scenes”. You are truly appreciated and loved!

Long overdue, in November, we hired Pastor Bill as our full-time pastor, removing the “transitional” tag. PB: we look forward to many more years of wisdom, leadership, and love for all!

Submitted by Wes Stiefer, 2023 Chair, SFA Committee

Financial details on the following pages.

Statement of Income & Expense		
<u>Operating Income</u>		
Operating Income		\$ 144,813
Operating Expense		\$ 150,200
<i>Net Operating Income</i>		\$ (5,387)
<u>Other Income & Expense</u>		
Interest Income		\$ 1,617
Stock - change in value		\$ 24
Stock - donation of stock		\$ 148,577
<i>Total Other Income</i>		\$ 150,218
Depreciation Expense		\$ 12,762
<i>Total Other Expense</i>		\$ 12,762
Net Income		\$ 132,069

Balance Sheet		
Assets		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		\$ 324,299
Prepaid Insurance		\$ 2,770
<i>Total Current Assets</i>		\$ 327,069
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Buildings & Land		\$ 833,531
Other Fixed Assets		\$ 15,670
- Less Accumulated Depreciation		\$ (561,878)
<i>Total Fixed Assets</i>		\$ 287,323
Total Assets		\$ 614,392
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		\$ 9,291
Fund Balances		\$ 16,538
Pass-Through Obligations		\$ 1,161
Payroll Liabilities		\$ 2,120
<i>Total Liabilities</i>		\$ 29,110
Equity		
Beginning Balance		\$ 453,213
Net Income		\$ 132,069
<i>Total Equity</i>		\$ 585,282
Total Liabilities & Equity		\$ 614,392