



Annual Report 2022-2023

South Presbyterian Church

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASTOR'S LETTER		1
DOCKET		3
CLERK'S REPORT		4
COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER'S REPORT		8
Church Assessment "Holy Cow" Team Report		9
DEACON'S REPORT		10
ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT		11
Solar Panel Cost Analysis		12
MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT		14
COMMITTEE REPORTS		15 – 29
Building & Grounds	15	
Communications	21	
Finance	22	
Personnel	28	
Worship	29	
SOUTH CHURCH'S MINISTRIES		30 – 49
Community Nursery School	30	
Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry	34	
The LAB	40	
Donald Gallery	44	
Roots & Wings	48	

PASTOR'S LETTER



"More Light" since 1984

Aiding one another in the work of becoming more fully human, in the ways God has given us.

Faith, Justice and the Arts

*South Presbyterian Church:
200 Years of Hope Through Service
1823–2023*



October 15, 2023

Happy 200th birthday, South Church!

Our 200th year is upon us, giving us an opportunity to look back at the sweep of our history and reflect on who South has been, what impact South has had on the community and the world around us; to reflect on who we are now; to think about who we want South to be, 200 years in the future and what we need to do now to set us on that path.

As I think back to all that has happened here in this momentous year, I find many ways that I have experienced hope through service – some large and public ways, and some that are small and meaningful to only a few people. All are important; many are lifted up in the following pages. Here are a few that stand out in my mind:

- A first-ever Epiphany party, funded by a grant from the PC(USA) to share the light of the season with neighbors in the community.
- Playing together during summer worship; watching smiles light up faces as we played games, sang silly songs, moved and created together.
- Movie Night – sharing a meal, watching and weeping through the movie *Pride* together in celebration of God's beautiful diversity and the power of partnership in overcoming injustice.
- Listening to the students of Community Nursery School play outside my window every day under the supervision and care of their dedicated, loving and joyful educators.
- Reclaiming a cluttered storage room and transforming it into a conference room in a few days with the volunteer labor of more than a dozen people in the middle of summer.
- Session members speaking with vulnerable honesty about important yet difficult issues and finding common ground.
- Deacons and others providing hospitality every week after worship, at events throughout the year, and quietly delivering food, kindness and love to folks in need of a little extra care.
- Walking the labyrinth on the front lawn amidst newly planted and lovingly tended native wildflowers as pollinators float from bloom to bloom.

South Presbyterian Church in Greenburgh | 343 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
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- Partnering with HRPQueer to attend the Greenburgh Pride Rally; collecting more than 700 names of our “Beloved Community” to create collage art made up of all of those names to hang in the Donald Gallery to celebrate Pride in the month of June; hearing the tearful gratitude of a trans person upon seeing their own name included.
- Partnering with HRPGreen to bring a grounding worship to Presbyterians attending the March to End Fossil Fuels in September 2023.
- NEW MEMBERS! The round table in the upper room was filled this past Spring as seven individuals explored faith together and discerned membership. On June 18th, we welcomed and witnessed the statements of faith of four new members.
- A community coming together to provide a gracious and hospitable welcome to Asylum Seekers who arrived unexpectedly in our midst in June 2023; the immediate response of South Church and our Food Pantry to partnership with others in our community, as well as founding the Asylum Seekers Support Network within Hudson River Presbytery with other congregations.
- Music! Our Concert for Hope in February, weekly offerings from our music ministry during worship, and the joy of teenagers in The Lab, being welcomed and offered a place to learn, express their creativity and collaborate.
- So many turning out to Greenburgh Town Hall on April 26th as South Presbyterian Church Day was proclaimed.
- The dedication, commitment and collaboration of our staff and ministry leaders, who do most of their work behind the scenes, without fanfare, but not without gratitude for doing it.

I could go on and on, but there is an entire report here to offer you hope, and multiple opportunities for you to offer hope to others through service.

I look forward to what this next year holds for us all, as we turn our attention from celebrating our past to preparing for our future, right now in our present.

In the name of God, the Alpha and Omega, the Eternal One who Was, Is and Will Be,

– Margery Rossi

DOCKET

**South Presbyterian Church of Greenburgh, NY
Annual Congregational Meeting
November 12, 2023
Docket**

Reverend Margery A. Rossi, CRE – Moderator

Ruling Elder John Gunther-Mohr, Clerk of Session

Opening Prayer

Call for the Meeting

Determination of a Quorum

Clerk / Pastor / Administrator / Music Director reports – highlights/questions

Annual Committee & Ministry Reports – highlights/questions

2022-23 Financial Reports

2023-24 Budget Presentation

2023 Terms of Call

Other Business –

Update: Solar energy production / value 2019-2023
Announcements

Closing Prayer & Adjournment

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk (John Gunther-Mohr) with the assistance of the Church Administrator (Robin Larkins) completed the required Statistical Report for 2022, see below.

Reported church membership decreased as Session worked to review and, after communicating with each person, remove individuals who had moved and/or are no longer active members. After this rigorous review, which had not been done in several years, the end number of active members was 83, down from 130 in the prior year.

Sunday services continued to draw online audience with an average of 75 Facebook engagements per service, maintaining an average of 35 people joining in person weekly.

We submitted and completed a review of annual minutes for the calendar year 2022. Paper copies of the minutes are maintained in the office.

The following served on our Session during 2022-2023:

John Gunther-Mohr (Clerk)
 Cirstin Conneely
 Patricia Fischer-Donohue
(reached six-year term limit in June, 2023)
 Kris Kliemann
 Alex Navarrete
(installed June 18, 2023)
 Lenore Lelah Person
 Linda Jo Platt



The following served as Deacons during 2022-23:

Peter Brenner
 Maureen Buckley-Fox
(reached term limit June 30, 2023)
 Anne Day
(installed June 18, 2023)
 Eric Greenberg (Chair)
 Maria Harris
(reached term limit June 30, 2023)
 Molly Rodriguez
 Andrew Smith
 Nathalis Wamba
(installed June 18, 2023)



We give thanks for each of these leaders who give so generously of their time, talent and treasure to serve God and this community.

Respectfully submitted,
 John Gunther-Mohr, Clerk of Session

Necrology 2022-23

Richard Lewis, Member – Died January 5, 2023. Born June 15, 1939
Kenneth Barton, Member – Died June 24, 2023. Born August 20, 1931

Prudence Ferrero – Died October 30, 2022
Deborah Gorman – Died Dec. 8, 2022. Memorial Service Feb. 11, 2023
Rosemary Recine – Died March 23, 2023. Memorial Service April 22, 2023
Sean Grogg – Died February 1, 2023. Memorial Service May 20, 2023

“Happy are they who die in our Go for all eternity.”

“Yes, “says the Spirit, “let them rest from their work, for their deeds accompany them.” (Revelation 14:13)

*O God, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes
 and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
 Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

2022 South Church Statistical Report (January 2022-December 2022)

Membership

Prior Active Members **130**

Gains Losses

Certificate **0**

Youth Professions **0**

Professions & Reaffirmations **0**

Total Gains 0

Losses

Certificate **0**

Deaths **0**

Deleted for Any Other Reason **47**

Total Losses 47

Total Ending Active Members 83

Baptisms

Presented by Others **0**

At Confirmation **0**

All Other **0**

Average Weekly Worship Attendance 110 (35 In Person +75 Facebook Views)

Average In-Person Weekly Worship Attendance: **35**

Ruling Elders on Session 6

Do you have Deacons? Yes



Age Distribution of Active Members

17 & Under **0**

18 – 25 **0**

26 – 40 **2**

41 – 55 **23**

56 – 70 **31**

Over 70 **27**

Total Age Distribution 83



People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment **2**

Sight impairment **0**

Mobility impairment **4**

Other impairment **4**

Gender Distribution

Women **49**

Men **34**

Non-Binary **0**



Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under **6**

Elementary School (K-5th grade) **8**

Middle School (6th-8th grade) **3**

High School (9th-12th grade) **4**

Total Youth 21



Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian **3**

Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous **0**

Black/African American/African **4**

White **69**

Middle Eastern/North African **1**

Multiracial **4**

Hispanic/Latino-a **2**

Total Racial Ethnic 83



Financial Data

Budgeted Income **\$233,771**

Budgeted Expenses **\$336,789**

Receipts

Regular Contributions **\$150,586**

Bequests **\$2,000**

Other Income **\$123,381**

Expenditures

Local Program **\$151,735**

Investment Local Mission **\$22,268**

Per Capita Apportionment **\$5,009**

Capital Expenditures **\$131,983**



Covenant Partnerships

South Church maintains a covenant partnership relationship with the following organizations:

- HRPGreen <https://www.hudrivpres.org/hrp-green>
- HRPQueer <https://www.hudrivpres.org/hrp-queer>
- More Light Presbyterians <https://mlp.org/>
- Rural Migrant Ministry <https://ruralmigrantministry.org/>



Respectfully submitted,
John Gunther-Mohr, Clerk of Session



COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER'S REPORT

Commissioned Ruling Elder Portfolio – Margery A. Rossi

Submitted annually to Hudson River Presbytery
September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

Services:

Number of Baptisms Performed	0
Number Confirmed	0
Number of Marriages Performed	1
Number of Funerals Performed	3
Number of Times Delivered Communion	2
Number of Times Officiated Communion – In-Person	10



Continuing Education:

Lectionary Study Group: Weekly virtual meetings 42 x 1.5 hours = 63 hours

Spirituality Group Book Study: Monthly meetings 8 x 1.5 hours = 12 hours

Pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine* 10/30-11/10/2022 10 days x 12 hours = 120 hours

*This trip was scheduled and paid for prior to beginning my ministry at South Presbyterian Church.

The trip was supposed to have taken place previously but had been rescheduled due to Covid.

South Church bore no financial burden for my participation in this trip. The time away was included as part of my initial contract.

Webinars:

Homebrewed Christianity: Christmas Stories w/ John Dominic Crossan 4 x 1.5 = 6 hours

PRC: Sexual Harassment Awareness training/ 2 hours

HRPQueer: Welcoming Trans & Gender Expansive People 1 hour

HRP: Family Leave 1 hour

PRC: How Community Organizing Practices Can Strengthen Congregational Life 1 hour

HRP: Refugees & Asylum Seekers 1 hour

PRC: At the Intersection of Faith and Gun Violence 1 hour

Workshops

Darkness to Light's Stewardship of Children Training 2 hours

Meg Bussert's "Bringing Literature to Life" workshop 3 hours

HRP Racial Justice Workshop at Palisades PC 6 hours

Total Hours of Continuing Education September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023: 219 hours

Leadership/Service to the Larger Church:

Co-Dean, CRE Seminar– create curriculum for seminars; lead seminars; manage communication with Co-Dean Heather Finck, HRP CPM, COM and with CREs; ex officio member of CPM. Average 5 hours/month (not part of hours for South Church).

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship – monthly national calls; coordinate actions and campaigns, writings, projects. PPF Gun Violence Prevention Working Group; PPF Activist Council; PPF Executive Committee member. Average 3 hours/week as a volunteer, outside of South Church hours.

Advisory Team Member, PCUSA Decade to End Gun Violence. Average 1 hour/month.

Member, HRP Green Steering Committee. Average 1 hour/month.

Member, HRP Faith and Order Committee. Average 1 hour/month.

Church Assessment “Holy Cow” Team Report 2022-23

In 2021, members of the South Presbyterian Church community participated in a Church Assessment survey. The results were compiled into a report that was interpreted by Hudson River Presbytery consultant, Michele Snyder, that fall. The top priorities the congregation identified as needs to address during our transitional time were as follows:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).

In summer 2022, we were assigned a coach by Hudson River Presbytery to lead us through a yearlong process to determine how we would address these goals as a congregation. A team was formed.

The Holy Cow Team launched its efforts in November 2022, at an extensive orientation facilitated by Coach Martha Spong. Since then, Coach Spong has facilitated monthly (2 hour) meetings on these dates: December 14, 2022 and January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, September 13, 2023.

Remaining coaching sessions are scheduled for: October 11 and November 8, 2023. The final coaching session will be in December, 2023.

In addition, Coach Spong meets individually with Margery Rossi each month.

Some of the team’s work has been on these goals:

- Suggest a time capsule as way to celebrate 200th Anniversary
- Meeting with Communications Committee on determining how to maximize our social media presence.
- Meeting with Buildings & Grounds and Roots & Wings Committees to improve the front exterior of Church grounds to be more inviting and approachable.

As part of these conversations, the team extensively discussed the status of the congregation, and the need to prioritize energy.

We are grateful to Hudson River Presbytery for this coaching opportunity, to Coach Spong for her insights and assistance, and to all of the team members who have made this year long commitment.

Team Members:

Cirstin Conneely
Robin Larkins
Susan Lauer
Alex Navarrete

Laurie Pyburn
Margery Rossi
Andrew Smith
Nathalis Wamba

DEACONS' REPORT

Over the previous year the Deacons have:

- Organized Soup Sunday's and Coffee Hours
- Assisted with the 2022 Advent Party
- Continued to provide assistance and support to the South Church community wherever needed or requested, e.g. the community Epiphany Party on Friday, January 6, 2023
- Coordinated 2 Breakfast Runs (July 22 & August 12, 2023)
- Provided meals, prayer and other pastoral care to members and friends of South when requested
- Began looking into the revival of the MLK Breakfast in coordination with CLUSTER, with the hope of holding the event around MLK Day of 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Greenberg, Chair



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

September, 2023 marks the completion of the first year of South Church's decision to have an Administrator position - overseeing the Church and its campus and working in concert with the Minister and Session to accomplish Church goals and objectives. The position serves as the Initial point-of-contact for church members as well as members of the public seeking information, referrals, space use, and assistance from the Church.



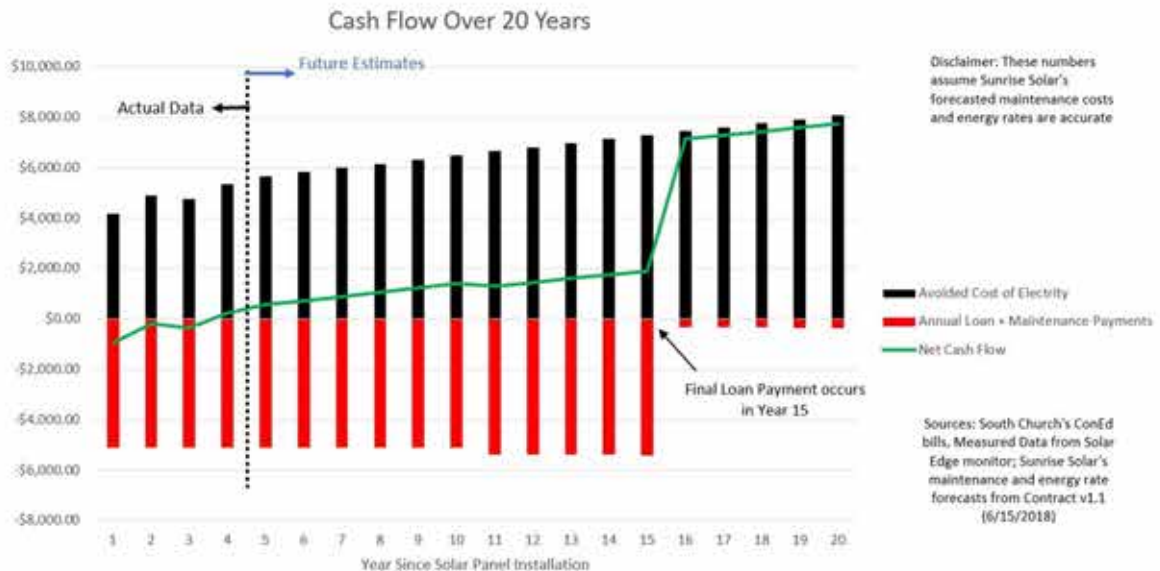
Following are major projects and initiatives of the administrator for the fiscal year 2022-23:

- Coordination of Calendar and Space Use for all campus activities events:
 - Managing over 100 reserved time slots per month
 - Securing fees and proof of insurance for all external events
- Review and management of Space Agreements for the following ongoing space users. Space use and event coordinator with regular partners and outside groups using Church campus spaces:
 - **Days of Wonder:** Updated Space Use Agreement. Annual fees: \$58,536
 - **First Unitarian Society of Westchester:** Updated Space Use Agreement for Septemeber 1, 2023 to increase fees from \$1,100 per month to \$2,100 per month. Annual fees: \$17,200.
 - **Sacred Spirit Yoga:** Annual Space Use Agreement in need of updating. Annual fees: \$6,210.
 - **Creative Hearts:** Annual Space Use Agreement in need of updating. Annual fees: \$3,040.
 - **Westchester LGBTQ+ AA:** Annual fees: \$2,400
 - **Clearwater Singers** Monthly Rehearsals: \$600
 - **OCCA Monthly Meetings:** Annual donation: \$541
 - **Sufi Meditation:** Annual donation: \$359
- Acts as a community liaison, helps maintain and build collaborative relationships with area churches, interfaith congregations, local organizations, groups, schools.
 - Beginning June, 2023, helped organize and co-lead an effort to address the needs of 71 resettled migrants who were bused to Ardsley Acres Motel by building a coalition of 20 community organizations.
 - Wrote and submitted an application to create a regional partnership within the Hudson River Presbytery. The **HRP Asylum Seekers Partnership** was approved in August, 2023.
- Support Church Officers, Session and Deacons with administering their duties; Coordinate with the Clerk of Session, Minister and other church members to organize and facilitate processing of Church records
 - Completion and submission of Church reporting of statistics to the Hudson River Presbytery
- Publish Weekly Worship Bulletin in conjunction with Pastor/Minister
- Support Social Media Committee, as needed,
- Represents best interest of South Church with vendors, service providers, contractors and visitors
 - Completed a review and analysis of South Church's **Solar Energy Contract and Cost Analysis** over time, working with Margery Rossi and Chris Bolger. NOTE: The summary of this effort follows this report.
- Review, assess and upgrading of office systems and technology
- Support of Worship Committee, Church services, events and holiday celebrations
- HOURS: 30 hours per week, working in-person and virtually.



SOLAR PANEL COST ANALYSIS

Ad Hoc Committee: Robin Larkins, Margery Rossi, Lenore Person, Chris Bolger
Presentation by Chris Bolger



Description:

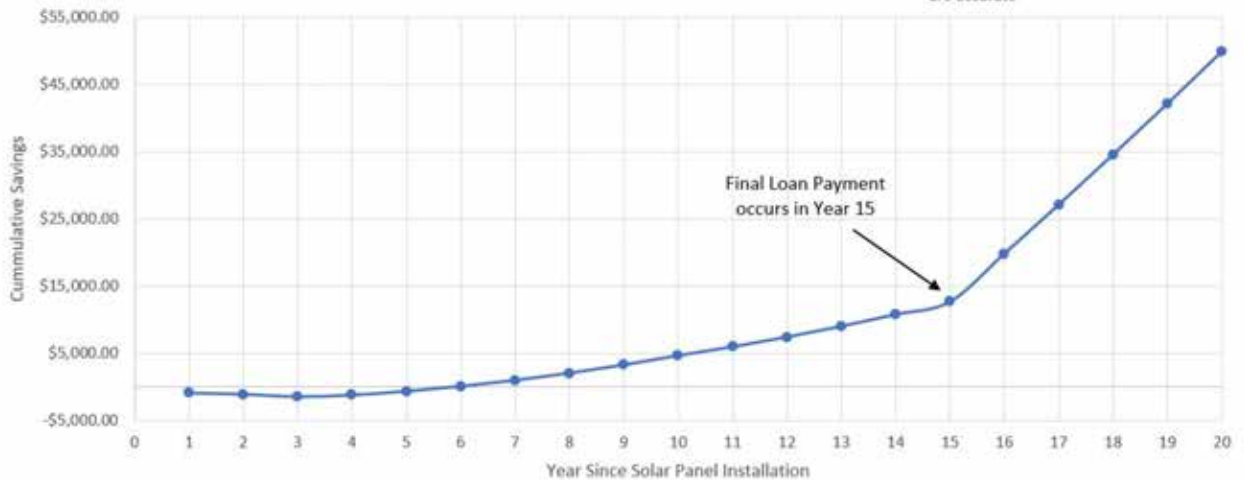
- The red bars indicate the annual cost of the Solar Panels (from South's perspective). This includes both loan payments and expected maintenance costs. The dollar values are negative since these are costs, not savings.
- For the first 10 years, the only costs are loan payments of \$5,103 per year.
- Sunrise Solar estimates that annual maintenance costs will be \$0 per year through the first 10 years. After that, they estimate annual maintenance costs from \$256 - \$349 for the next 20 years.
- After year 15, the loan payments end, leaving only maintenance costs.
- The black bars indicate the avoided cost of electricity. This is the value of the electricity generated by the solar panels that otherwise would have been purchased from ConEd. The dollar values are positive since these are savings.
- The green line represents the net cash flow. For the first three years, South lost money (-\$928.56 for year 1, -\$181.50 for year 2 and -\$351.24 for year 3), since the red bars are longer than the black ones. For the most recent year, though, the solar panels generated more value (due to rising energy costs), which resulted in South saving a net of \$237.76 for the year.
- The data to the left of the vertical black dotted line is actual data (as evidence in the ConEd bills and Sunrise Solar data), whereas everything to the right of the vertical black dotted line are future forecasts/estimates.
- Note that the black bars get larger over time, which leads the green line to grow. This is because the cost of energy is expected to climb each year. Sunrise Solar's estimates for future energy costs were used, which were found to be relatively conservative (compared to the past three years, at least).

The disclaimer calls out the two assumptions that went into this chart: that Sunrise Solar's estimates for the maintenance costs and increasing energy rates are accurate. We can't evaluate if the maintenance costs are accurate, but the energy rates seem reasonable. If, however, energy rates go down for some reason and/or maintenance costs are higher than expected, then the real world results would be different.

Sources: South Church's ConEd bills, Measured Data from Solar Edge monitor; Sunrise Solar's maintenance and energy rate forecasts

Cummulative Net Savings Over 20 Years

Disclaimer: These numbers assume Sunrise Solar's forecasted maintenance costs and energy rates are accurate



Description:

- This graph shows the cumulative savings that accumulate over time. Thus the total savings accumulated over 20 years is expected to be a little under \$50,000.
- Since approximately \$1,500 was lost during the first three years of operation, it is expected to take until ~year 6 to break even.
- Again, assuming Sunrise Solar's estimates for maintenance and rising energy prices are accurate, we would expect to save ~\$10,000 by year 14 and ultimately ~\$50,000 by year 20.
- The line makes a sharp upward turn after year 15 since that is the last year of loan payments.

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In celebrating the 200 year anniversary of South Church, we in the Worship Committee strove to find ways to bring this huge historical idea into our reading and musical selections. We tried to reflect on the lectionary themes or themes brought up in today's world with a lens of perspective from this 200 year milestone.

That said, we did not shy away from fun anthems for our choir – music by folk, pop, musical theater and rock composers such as James Taylor, Tina Turner, Matthew West, Peter Gabriel and Kate Bush, and Jonathan Larson. We were also blessed by many of our own talented folks to sing solos for offertories, including Meg Bussert, Doug Epstein, Patricia Fischer, Shanna Gilston, Katy Gravenor, Benny Rodriguez, Isabella Scarpati, Sam VanNess and Maisie VanNess.

For Advent, we shifted some of our scheduling around to accommodate folks' abilities and bandwidths for participation. It all amounted to a lovely Christmas Eve evening service of carols and lessons.



Looking back (though not too far back) in time at some South Church favorites, the Worship Committee chose to hold a very *Godspell* Lent, singing a different song from Stephen Schwartz's musical each Sunday. This culminated on Palm Sunday with a beautiful performance of Samuel Barber's *Crucifixion* by Jennifer Eyges, followed by a reprise of our *Godspell* selections on Easter Sunday.

In the summer months, we took a choir break. In July, the congregation focused on *Simple Gifts*. In August, we let our hair down and played together, singing songs of Joy (like "I've Got the Joy Joy Joy" and "You Shall Go Out With Joy") and playing with rounds, canons, movement and even improvisation.

We celebrated the 200 year anniversary of South Church in many ways, one of which included a piano concert given by our Music Director in February. We had a professional lighting director donate his talents, a sound/video designer donate his time, a raffle organized with some amazing local donations, as well as help from all corners of the South Church membership. It was such a joy to see all the hands of our congregation come together to create a truly special evening.

As for our instruments, we had some maintenance work done on our organ in May – tuning of some of the reed instruments, as well as a general look-over of the instrument and blower. The report from our technician is that the organ is in good shape! All our pianos were tuned in the Spring, which means they are all due for another tuning this Fall. Our Sanctuary piano is still due for a gentle regulation of the hammers, to bring down the brightness a bit.

It remains to be an absolute joy making music together at South Church in such a beautiful and reverberant space. Cheers to another great year!

Respectfully submitted,
Amir Khosrowpour

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building & Grounds

Summary

This report by the Buildings & Grounds Committee covers September 2022– August 2023.

Despite the challenges of budgetary concerns, the significant increase in use of our buildings, and the lack of volunteers, the Buildings and Grounds committee is proud of its accomplishments during this program year, especially in its more rational yet flexible approach to the deployment of scarce resources and focus on cost reduction without sacrificing its operating standards. The most urgent needs have been addressed first, and just as significantly, the future B&G program has reasonably attainable projects that will enhance operating conditions across SPC over time.



Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is responsible for maintenance and repairs of infrastructure and grounds of South Presbyterian Church. It carries out these functions through its own staff, by identifying service vendors to perform expert work when and where necessary, and by reviewing and approving bills before church payment.

B&G makes a list of recommendations based on the priority of needs, both long and short term, for Session and the Finance Committee as the annual budget is prepared. The Committee also coordinates with the Church administration in its relationship with those organizations which use its facilities, such as Days of Wonder (DoW) child care center, Community Nursery School (CNS), the Food Pantry (FP) as well as other Church and non-Church organizations using space on a regular or temporary basis.

Operational priorities follow strict decision criteria: Safety, Security, Structural Integrity and Economic Efficiency.

The Committee is headed by Linda Jo Platt, Lenore Person (both members of Session), Stan Fox (SPC attendee) and Duke Coffey, (DF Food Pantry). The outside grounds are largely handled by Church Sexton Henry Marroquin who works closely with the Committee.

Calendar:

MARCH - presents list of needs for budget preparation;

JUNE – B&G Chair is named and adds members as needed

SEPTEMBER – The Committee formally meets at the beginning of each program year. It has been our practice that one member of Session be on the B&G Committee and that one member of the B&G Committee sit on the Finance Committee to enhance communication between these committees.

B&G has begun gathering data on all major equipment in the complex to create an inspection and maintenance calendar to ensure that equipment and structures are receiving regular, scheduled inspection and service to prolong useful life and hold-down costs. We also are in the process of assessing the scope of campus building needs and gathering information in preparation for a possible grant applications in the fall of 2023.

SPC Structures:

The purview of the B&G Committee includes safety, security, structural, equipment and service matters inside and outside the Sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall complex, Wilde House (DoW), and the Manse, the latter accounting for an increasing amount of attention in 2022-23

2022-2023 Projects & Beyond:

During the period covered by this report, the Committee focused on the following actions:

MAIN BUILDING / FELLOWSHIP HALL

Office Entrance Door – Duke Coffey has purchased oak wood panels to repair and restore the front door which he hopes to have completed by September at considerably lower cost than first thought. Timing: May/June. Costs : Materials Only. Work was stalled chiefly by adverse weather (rain, heat waves, need to replace striker plate mortise, etc.), and by priorities at the Food Pantry, SPC and CNS.

We are discussing a system for cameras and entry system that will allow both Robin and Margery to view the front door and give access to entry like what CNS has at their entrance.

Security – We have installed one security camera in the Administrator’s office. The day after its installation, the camera picked up a figure crouching along the Office hallway and up to the double doors, reaching up to turn off the light, starting to walk to the second floor and inexplicably turning around and leaving the same way he or she came in. There was no evidence of forced entry or anything disturbed or taken. The Police were notified. More in-house cameras are planned to cover the FH and CNS hallways. Upon completion of the left door, a new lock cylinder will be installed. New keys with individual numbers will be issued to current holders who turn in their old key and sign a central registry maintained by Buildings & Grounds. We also have stepped up regular inspection of the windows and doors for all buildings. Days of Wonder is considering installing cameras inside their space. Codes on doors with keypad entries have been changed.

Sanctuary – Henry and Duke will re-install the baptismal font week in September

Carpet Cleaning – Carpets and mats throughout the building were cleaned by All-Pro Cleaners

New Meeting Room (former copy room) A group of volunteers converted the former copy room to a small meeting room. Begun by Laura Giannone and Anne Day, the rearrangement of the space, painting and further work was and is being done by several SPC staff and friends. A new AC unit was gifted to be installed and vented to attic. Items to fully complete the renovation include finishing the baseboard and shoe molding. A water leak that appeared in the ceiling from the attic above was traced to the flat roof that connects the Chapel and the Sanctuary. The leaks have been temporarily repaired by Canopy Roofing. The next step is to paint the entrance area to the Meeting and Community rooms and repair the crumbling plaster over the Upper Room entrance.



CNS upgrades –The railings and trim on the CNS Club House were scraped, sanded and painted. Outdoor toys and furniture were cleaned and repaired as necessary. A new sink cabinet was built and installed in one classroom. The sump pump it contains was serviced, and leaks in its plumbing repaired. The same is scheduled for two other classrooms that have sinks with sump pumps. New mulch on playground was installed

Lighting Fixture Rewiring. Matelli Electricians repaired the wiring in one light fixture in FH after bulbs repeatedly were burning out. Fixture is original to the space.

New Gallery Lighting is installed with a generous gift from SPC member. New LED light fixtures and bulbs should significantly decrease the amount of electricity used.

The Food Pantry has cleared Fellowship Hall space that was used for packing boxes as they have gone to another system of distribution.

Kitchen Sink. On March 27, 2023 the Kitchen Sink was reported leaking by Peter Brenner. This sink has continued to leak despite repeated attempts by plumbers. Over two days Henry & Duke replaced the leaking drains on the right-hand sink and dish washer. Cost – Materials only

Storage Area. On April 12, Henry and Duke removed four file cabinets and three glass doors were removed from the 2nd Floor Storage area being cleaned out by Anne Day.. This completes the general clean up that began two months ago. The plan is to use the storage room for kitchen and event supplies Henry and Duke removed boxes of recyclable papers, three useless file cabinets and the defunct

MANSE

Assessment by Preservationist. On March 2 Lenore Person arranged for Chucker Branch, a noted preservationist, to meet her, Dave Person, Margery, Linda Jo and Duke Coffey at the manse for his assessment of what might be needed to restore the third floor. After touring the third floor his advice before considering renovating the third floor was to start at the basement for any structural issues. He suggested we contact Steve Tilly (because of his former involvement) for a structural engineer and proceed from there. I have a call into Steve Tilly to assist with this as we look at grant applications.



Presbytery Manse Inspection. On March 10-12 As part of the preparation for the Presbytery's inspection of the Manse, Duke tested every outlet throughout the building marking several non-functioning and mis-wired outlets and GFCIs in the first floor bathroom, dining room and living room, and in two of the bedrooms on the 2nd floor for repair . The batteries in all smoke alarms have been changed and marked with a label stating the date it was changed. An updated 10 year Carbon Dioxide Monitor was placed in the basement next to the boiler. On March 16 – Kathryn Davis from the Presbytery Manse Committee inspected the manse with Margery, Duke, and Linda Jo using the Hudson River Presbytery Manse Assessment Form.

Manse Basement -- Beginning April 3rd, upon the recommendation of Steve Tilly, Duke and Henry opened an area 14-feet long and 3-feet wide in the ceiling of the Manse basement underneath the first floor living room to allow the use of temporary beam to support the floor along the south basement ceiling. Once in place, the temporary beam will facilitate inspection of the 10 - 3"x10" support beams that hold up the Living Room floor. We are trying to determine any deterioration in the existing beams where they fit into the stone wall. In the process, a sub-floor was discovered between the basement ceiling and the LV oak floor containing loose fill (as yet unidentified) and gravel. The purpose of which may have served as a form of insulation. This material is now being removed before the support beam is put into place. A consulting engineer or Steve Tilly will be asked to evaluate the beams and recommend the correct procedure for effecting any needed repairs. As mentioned earlier, this project has become the top priority. Mortaring the inside wall could occur at the same time and we will use Henry's mortar person at his cost.

Work at basement level to alleviate stress on floor above was interrupted by injury to Duke Coffey. Work has resumed by Henry and Duke with an upcoming consultation with Steve Tilly, architect. Sand from basement ceiling used as an early insulation method will be distributed around the campus by Henry. An industrial vacuum will hopefully remove the sand and dirt more rapidly from in between the ceiling joists, thereby relieving the tremendous weight from the Living Room floor above without having to completely remove the basement ceiling. If successful, work will then resume on shoring up the existing joists. The sifted sand will be distributed around the base of the walls of campus building to improve drainage.

Porch Repairs include replacing rotted wood side planks and fascia with Trek-like materials and using diagonal plastic sheets to enclose porch railings currently not up to code - dangerous to small children. Work to be done by Duke Coffey, Henry, and available volunteers. The Keilings have looked at the main post and determined it was stable. Fascia boards, decorative wood around post and some deck flooring pieces need to be replaced. The Keilings' estimate is \$5825 for labor and materials. Duke and Henry decided to DIY and replace these pieces for the cost of the materials using some Trek type materials for fascia boards and wood where it is needed.

Potholes filled in manse driveway and dead bush in manse front yard to be removed by Henry.

Mowing Henry will resume mowing the manse backyard at the request of Roots and Wings.

Pallets The Food Pantry, which has saved pallets at the request of Roots and Wings Manse Gardener will begin removing them from the back yard a few at a time by FP food vendor. The village will not pick up pallets unless they are broken up.

Hot Water Heater no longer functional will be replaced when hot water is needed for manse.

Tree Work – Trees on that part of the property need pruning or removal by professionals but funds are not available. Henry can take down smaller trees which do not involve climbing or large trunk removal.

Broken windows – inner and outer windows on the first floor replaced. Found lacrosse ball in the dining room and suspect neighbor children.

Manse Outside Faucet – Duke repaired broken pipe.

GROUNDS

Front Yard. Several attempts by Henry this past year to reseed the front have been unsuccessful. The soil is severely compacted even as Henry used a tiller in several places. The lawn area has been neglected for decades and needs a fresh look at how we use it and what can be done. Volunteers and donations will go a long way toward that goal. Henry is consulting with Anne Day about the rhododendrons at the sanctuary entrance as to how much to prune as they are old and out of shape.

Labyrinth. Thanks to Roubie and her crew for maintaining the labyrinth which looks beautiful this year with their care.

Sidewalk Flooding. Water continues to pool at the sidewalk next to the sanctuary and the FP pumps it out after every rain. B&G is looking at possible remedies.

Tree Work – Zion Episcopal Church had one of their trees trimmed at SPC request. Trees on back playground were trimmed by staff. Ongoing conversation with Leslie Walter, Bldgs and Grds counterpart at Zion Episcopal Church concerning the state of their trees adjacent to the parking lot and CNS play area. She noted that their church is out of money, but I asked her to get Community Tree to come and assess the condition and take down the branches that might be or become dangerous. We have been paying to trim the trees off our parking lot. Henry also trimmed their bushes which blocked the sidewalk going down Oak Street.

Parking Lot. Lines were re-striped



The 2 storage sheds at the end of the rear parking lot have been repainted (Hunter Green) to match and to seal wooden parts of the structures from water.

CNS – Outside Hose. Outside hose connection pipe had broken over winter. - The drinking fountain was disconnected and capped April 13 & 14 and the leaking pipes re-arranged to feed only the two garden hoses in place. The fountain itself is beyond its useful life and poses a health risk to the children and others. The fountain will be removed and a more efficient plumbing array installed.

CAMPUS

Cedar Commons Development.

- March 2 – The Cedar Commons developer Cosmo and 2 Franks, his excavation and demolition companies, met with John Gunther-Mohr, Margery Rossi, Linda Jo Platt, Robin Larkins. Excavation and demolition is scheduled for June. The Toddler playground of Days of Wonder will need to be closed for one year to provide a safety barrier during demolition and construction. Linda Jo and/or Margery will meet with Days of Wonder to discuss. As progress continues we will conduct monthly meetings as needed.
- April 10-14 Demolition on the development project on Cedar Street is almost completed. Beginning in June the Construction company will put up safety barriers using the D of W Toddler playground. D of W understands that their toddler playground will not be accessible for approximately one year. The construction company had agreed to fund and store any equipment that needs to be moved as well as expanding their current toddler outdoor classroom to include more play area.

WILDE HOUSE – DAYS OF WONDER

Windows. replaced as per lease agreement

Electricity Use concerns over lights left on by DOW cleaning service in Wilde House overnight were addressed to the cleaner and cleaning company by myself and DOW director. Not sure if this was effective based on observations.

Mortar and Pointing Repair. On February 18, Days of Wonder reported a leak in their second floor bathroom ceiling. Henry called Plitnick to check for pipe leakage. None was found. I called Canopy Roofing to see if roof was the cause. Not a roofing issue. Henry continued to look for water entry. He found large gaps and missing mortar on the south side of Wilde House top to bottom. Pointing repair on south side of Manse completed on March 7-10 for \$4500.



Hot Water Heater Replacement. On April 11, 2023 Days of Wonder reported that they had no hot water. Henry confirmed the same. After researching whether or not Henry and Duke could just buy one from Home Depot or Lowes and install it, we discovered water heaters are on a 4-6 week delivery schedule. Plitnick has their own warehouse and could install in a couple of days. This water heater supplies hot water to Henry's apartment and D of W. A Bradford White 50 gallon with a ten year warranty was installed on Thursday April 13 Cost \$2,450.

Play Area. D of W is rearranging their play areas per licensing and replacing ground decking that had been around the tree that was taken down a couple of years ago. They are also adding a piece of equipment funded in memory of a mother who died recently. All of the above is paid fully by Days of Wonder. D of W recently put in new flooring throughout the second floor of the center at their own cost which only improved Wilde House environment

Roofing repairs totaling \$5000 will begin this fall.

Electric Service went off in selective classrooms September 5 and 6. Days of Wonder notified me and reported that the electrical box was very warm. I contacted Matelli Brothers Electric and they came within 30 minutes. Matelli reported that the current electrical box was too small to have adequate air circulation and

recommended that a new larger box with new breakers be installed. In the meantime, they replaced the 100 AMP breaker and electricity was restored. On September 7 another set of classrooms lost power. Matelli was called and over the phone he told them to throw the breaker and power was restored. The ultimate fix is a total rewiring of the building and increased amperage to the building. The Matellis anticipate this fix to cost well over \$100,000 dollars and require a company with enough electricians to do the job. They are not able to perform this service. B&G is looking for a company to give us a real time estimate for such work which could be part of the Sacred Space grant or some other grant out there.

ON HOLD -- Because of budgetary concerns, Bldgs and Grds has put the following On Hold

- **ON HOLD - Recommendation – Chapel Gutter Repair** – Have Canopy replace rotten gutter channel with new aluminum gutter to match existing color as close as possible. (see estimate below from Canopy Roofing).
- **ON HOLD Recommendation - Replace the two pump igniters** as another cold freeze like that day will probably result in igniters not working. Approx cost \$900
- **ON HOLD Recommendation - Replace Manse hot water heater.** Henry and Duke will install when need is there.

Recommended Action Report for Chapel Roof Built In Gutter Repair from Canopy Roofing

01/04/2023 ATTN: LINDA JO PLATT JANUARY 4, 2022 SOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TEL: (914) 693-0473 343 BROADWAY EMAIL: LJBERRYPL@AOL.COM DOBBS FERRY, NY 10522

RE: LARGE REAR SANCTUARY RADIUS ROOF CRS#TMQ: 22352 BUILT-IN GUTTER REBUILD (APPROXIMATELY 63 LIN. FT.)

1. Provide and install scaffolding and fall protection as per OSHA specifications to safely execute scope of work.
2. Remove existing roofing material from built-in gutter and (2) courses of tile above built-in gutter and remove from premises. (Store all good tile for re-installation).
3. Check and replace any damaged wood sheathing with matching CDX plywood to be charged additional at \$3.90/sq. ft., fascia replacement at \$16.80/lin. ft., crown molding at \$12.80/lin. ft., siding replacement at \$16.90/sq. ft. and other structural repair/replacement at \$89.00/man hour plus materials.
4. Provide and install:
 - A. Approximately 360 sq. ft. of Firestone (or equal) .060 EPDM built-in gutter liner adhered to 90 MPH wind rating and terminated up and under roof tiles, at chimney flashing areas and at new 16 oz. copper perimeter gravel stop.
 - B. New 16 oz. copper: - Perimeter gravel stop. - Drip edge at Tile roof edge. - Leader outlets.
 - C. Re-install Tiles back to their original order with new tiles to replace any damaged tile.
5. Remove all debris caused by this work.
6. Roof to be kept watertight at all times during re-roofing process.
7. Contractor to protect all landscaping, mechanical equipment and terraces during re-roofing process.
8. All materials to be installed in strict accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

Project duration: 5 consecutive working days PRICE: \$ 12,750.00

Lead time: 4-10 weeks * Provide 5 million general liability insurance with 5 million umbrella. * Proposal valid for 30 days. * Owner to provide staging area for containers, equipment, material etc. * Owner is responsible to have electrical service line wrapped by professionals (if necessary). * Tax exempt certificate required.

Alt. #1: Provide and install approximately 63 lin. ft. of 16 oz copper built-in gutter liner over EPDM under liner. ADD: \$ 2,780.00

Building & Grounds Report Submitted by: Linda Jo Platt

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

South Church Communications Committee

Lenore Person, Tanya Hunt

September 2023 Annual Report

MISSION

to communicate information to the church community and create new relationships for South by:

- showing faces
- telling stories
- reminding community about event details

TOUCH POINTS

- Monthly Miscellany: 386 email accounts. 65-70% open rate
- Additional email outreach included Advent Party, Church School, Concert for Hope, Honoring by Town of Greenburgh, Work Party, End of Year
- Social media accounts amplify information and tell our story.
 - Facebook: @southpres | 782 followers
 - Instagram: @southpresdobbsferry | 89 followers

ACTION POINTS

- Create newsletter for South's space users - to build community, share information
- Cross-post South's FB posts—except church bulletin and church streaming— on Instagram
- Add committee member, particularly a social savvy one, to generate content



we led the development of a new logo for South's 200th



suggested new church sign for Broadway - a work in progress

CHALLENGE



Incorporate South's outreach groups and campus partners—Community Nursery School, Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, Roots & Wings, Faith & Justice Learning Lab/The LAB and Open Mic—into an overall communication strategy that builds greater connection with South.



"More Light" since 1984

Aiding one another in the work of becoming more fully human, in the ways God has given us.

Faith, Justice and the Arts

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2023 RESULTS

Key Takeaway

Materially lower-than-budgeted pledges and general contributions and higher-than-budgeted expenses led to a higher-than-expected loss of \$46k. Beginning operating account liquidity of \$23k and an endowment draw of \$89k funded the budget gap.

Revenue Collected

Pledges ended at 53% of plan (down 29% y/y), general contributions ended at 58% of plan (down 62% y/y). Better-than-expected open plate (227% of plan; up 149% y/y) and PayPal (284% of plan; up 146% y/y) contributions were not significant enough to close an overall pledges and general contributions gap of 28% (72% of plan; down 15% y/y). Strong licensee (112% of plan; up 17% y/y) and fundraising (154% of plan) were also unable to close a fiscal year end revenue gap of 8% (92% of plan; up 19% y/y).

Expenses Paid

Expenses were led by buildings & grounds (116% of plan; up 12% y/y), principally utilities (117% of plan; up 14% y/y), routine maintenance & special repairs (154% of plan; up 11% y/y), and salaries and benefits (98% of plan; up 53% y/y).

Operating Account & Endowment

Endowment and operating account ended with balances of \$518k (up 2.57% y/y) and \$17k (down 26% y/y), respectively. Endowment balance includes a \$40,000 deposit as part of an unplanned donation of \$50,000, with the balance of \$10,000 earmarked to the Food Pantry. Asset allocation of endowment is set at 73% equity, 13% bonds, 14% cash.

Outstanding Loans

The loan in the original principal amount of \$85,885 in connection with the solar panels dated May 30, 2019, and maturing April 28, 2034, has a remaining principal balance of \$64,791 and a current interest rate of 3.058%.

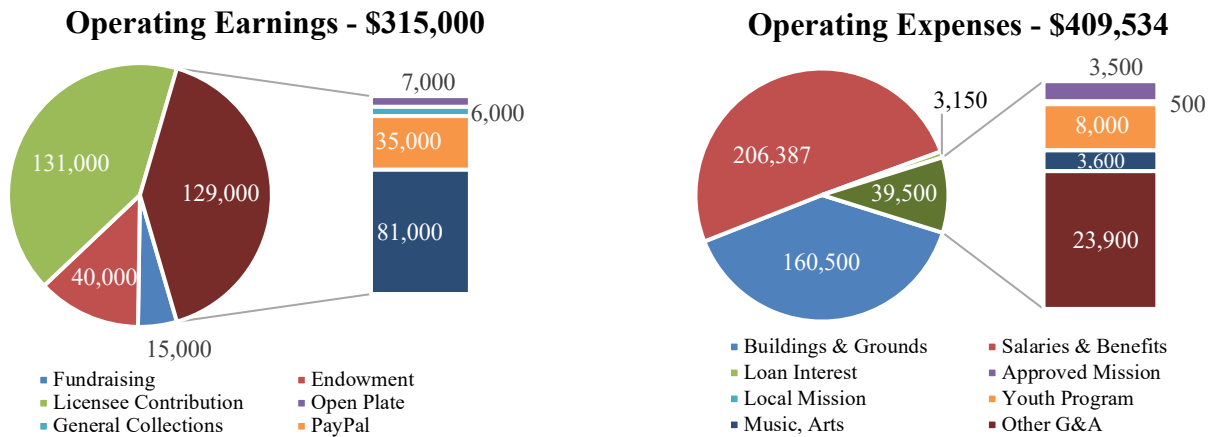
The loan in the original principal amount of \$65,000 in connection with Manse renovations dated September 30, 2014, and maturing August 25, 2029, has a remaining principal balance of \$30,279 and a current interest rate of 3.750%.

Property Valuations & Taxes

The Town of Greenburg valuation of the Church campus and Manse for tax year 2023 is \$6.636 million (land valuation of \$2 million and building valuation of \$4.636 million) and \$522 thousand, respectively. North Yonkers District taxes paid for the Church campus and the Manse were \$3,595 and \$282, respectively.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET

Budget Item	FY2024 Budget	Over FY2023 Actual	% of FY2023 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2023 Budget	Over Budget	% of FY2023 Budget
Income							
6-00000 Revenue Collected							
6-10000 Pledges & General Contributions							
6-10100 Open Plate Collection	7,000.00	167.00	102.44%	6,833.00	3,000.00	3,833.00	227.77%
6-10200 Pledge Receipts	81,000.00	1,597.35	102.01%	79,402.65	150,000.00	-70,597.35	52.94%
6-10300 Gen. Contributions (non-pledge)	6,000.00	-2,720.00	68.81%	8,720.00	15,000.00	-6,280.00	58.13%
6-10400 PayPal Collections	35,000.00	964.12	102.83%	34,035.88	12,000.00	22,035.88	283.63%
Total 6-10000 Pledges & General Contributions	\$129,000.00	\$ 8.47	100.01%	\$128,991.53	\$180,000.00	-\$51,008.47	71.66%
6-20000 Licensee Contributions							
6-20100 CNS Licensee Contribution	40,632.00	-6,450.00	86.30%	47,082.00	40,620.00	6,462.00	115.91%
6-20110 CNS Non-Licensee Contribution	7,368.00	-430.05	94.49%	7,798.05	6,900.00	898.05	113.02%
Total 6-20100 CNS Licensee Contribution	\$ 48,000.00	-\$ 6,880.05	87.46%	\$ 54,880.05	\$ 47,520.00	\$ 7,360.05	115.49%
6-20200 Days of Wonder	58,536.00	-3,430.96	94.46%	61,966.96	56,880.00	5,086.96	108.94%
6-20300 Other Licensee & Bldg Fees	24,464.00	-4,789.50	83.63%	29,253.50	25,600.00	3,653.50	114.27%
Total 6-20000 Licensee Contributions	\$131,000.00	-\$ 15,100.51	89.66%	\$146,100.51	\$130,000.00	\$ 16,100.51	112.39%
6-30000 Fundraising	15,000.00	-396.54	97.42%	15,396.54	10,000.00	5,396.54	153.97%
6-40000 Other Revenue							
6-40300 Funding of Operations by Endowment	40,000.00	1,300.00	103.36%	38,700.00	38,700.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 6-40000 Other Revenue	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 1,300.00	103.36%	\$ 38,700.00	\$ 38,700.00	\$ 0.00	100.00%
Total 6-00000 Revenue Collected	\$315,000.00	-\$ 14,188.58	95.69%	\$329,188.58	\$358,700.00	-\$29,511.42	91.77%
Total Income	\$315,000.00	-\$ 14,188.58	95.69%	\$329,188.58	\$358,700.00	-\$29,511.42	91.77%
Gross Profit	\$315,000.00	-\$ 14,188.58	95.69%	\$329,188.58	\$358,700.00	-\$29,511.42	91.77%
Expenses							
7-00000 Expenses Paid							
7-10000 General Administrative Expenses							
7-10100 Worship, Music, Arts							
7-10110 Music & Choir	200.00	-15.00	93.02%	215.00	800.00	-585.00	26.88%
7-10120 Guest Artists/Preachers	2,600.00	-5.00	99.81%	2,605.00	2,000.00	605.00	130.25%
7-10130 Flowers / Decorations	400.00	-16.20	96.11%	416.20	800.00	-383.80	52.03%
7-10140 Worship (Misc)	400.00	-28.51	93.35%	428.51		428.51	
Total 7-10100 Worship, Music, Arts	\$ 3,600.00	-\$ 64.71	98.23%	\$ 3,664.71	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 64.71	101.80%
7-10200 General Ministry							
7-10210 Session	150.00	19.15	114.64%	130.85	200.00	-69.15	65.43%
7-10240 Other General Ministry	50.00	15.99	147.02%	34.01		34.01	
Total 7-10200 General Ministry	\$ 200.00	\$ 35.14	121.32%	\$ 164.86	\$ 200.00	-\$ 35.14	82.43%
7-10300 Approved Mission	3,500.00	-1,509.07	69.87%	5,009.07	5,100.00	-90.93	98.22%
7-10400 Local Mission	500.00	0.00	100.00%	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.00%
7-10600 Youth Programming							
7-10610 Youth Programs	8,000.00	8,000.00			8,000.00	-8,000.00	0.00%
Total 7-10600 Youth Programming	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 8,000.00	-\$ 8,000.00	0.00%
7-10700 Office Expenses							
7-10710 Office Supplies	2,000.00	-1,546.24	56.40%	3,546.24	2,000.00	1,546.24	177.31%
7-10730 Office Machines	4,900.00	311.45	106.79%	4,588.55	4,320.00	268.55	106.22%
7-10750 Telephone/ SecurityExpense	4,200.00	210.26	105.27%	3,989.74	5,000.00	-1,010.26	79.79%
Total 7-10700 Office Expenses	\$ 11,100.00	-\$ 1,326.49	89.33%	\$ 12,426.49	\$ 11,320.00	\$ 1,106.49	109.77%
7-10800 Advertising & Media	2,300.00	-104.73	95.64%	2,404.73	275.00	2,129.73	874.45%
7-10900 Bank Charges							
7-10910 Service Charges	180.00	4.10	102.33%	175.90	360.00	-184.10	48.86%
7-10930 PayPal Fees	1,000.00	101.98	111.36%	898.02	390.00	508.02	230.26%
Total 7-10900 Bank Charges	\$ 1,180.00	\$ 106.08	109.88%	\$ 1,073.92	\$ 750.00	\$ 323.92	143.19%
7-11000 Professional Services	\$ 0.00	-\$ 3,235.00	0.00%	3,235.00	500.00	2,735.00	647.00%
7-11100 Miscellaneous Administrative Expenses							
7-11140 Other Administrative Expense	6,620.00	-1,398.45	82.56%	8,018.45	6,900.00	1,118.45	116.21%
Total 7-11100 Miscellaneous Administrative Expenses	\$ 6,620.00	-\$ 1,398.45	82.56%	\$ 8,018.45	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 1,118.45	116.21%
7-11300 Fundraising Expense	2,500.00	157.62	106.73%	2,342.38		2,342.38	
Total 7-10000 General Administrative Expenses	\$ 39,500.00	\$ 660.39	101.70%	\$ 38,839.61	\$ 37,145.00	\$ 1,694.61	104.56%
7-20000 Building & Grounds							
7-20200 Utilities							
7-20210 Utilities - Church	42,000.00	-764.12	98.21%	42,764.12	36,000.00	6,764.12	118.79%
7-20230 Utilities - Manse	1,230.00	-34.27	97.29%	1,264.27	1,600.00	-335.73	79.02%
Total 7-20200 Utilities	\$ 43,230.00	-\$ 798.39	98.19%	\$ 44,028.39	\$ 37,600.00	\$ 6,428.39	117.10%
7-20300 Insurance Expense	48,070.00	7,066.00	117.06%	41,064.00	46,116.00	-5,052.00	89.05%
7-20400 Housekeeping Expense	4,000.00	335.85	109.17%	3,664.15	4,000.00	-335.85	91.60%
7-20500 Tax Expense	4,000.00	122.20	103.15%	3,877.80	3,500.00	377.80	110.79%
7-20600 Maint / Repair / Cap. Expense							
7-20610 Routine Maintenance Exp.	20,000.00	121.59	100.61%	19,878.41	16,000.00	3,878.41	124.24%
7-20620 Special Repairs	40,000.00	4,461.42	112.55%	35,538.58	20,000.00	15,538.58	177.69%
Total 7-20600 Maint / Repair / Cap. Expense	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 4,583.01	108.27%	\$ 55,416.99	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 19,416.99	153.94%
7-20700 Petty Cash	1,200.00	1,200.00			1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.00%
Total 7-20000 Building & Grounds	\$160,500.00	\$ 12,448.67	108.41%	\$148,051.33	\$128,416.00	\$ 19,635.33	115.29%



FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET – ASSUMPTIONS

No.	Budget Item	Comments
1	Revenue Collected	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 revenue collected of circa \$129,000
2	Community Nursery Licensee	CNS to remain at monthly rate of \$3,386
3	Community Nursery Other	CNS to continue to cover Sexton salary at 45%
4	Days of Wonder	DOW to remain at monthly rate of \$4,878
5	Other Licensees	Other licensees include FUSW (\$1,100), AA (\$200), SSY (\$500), CH (\$150), other (Sufi, Walkabout at \$600 p.a.) total \$2,000 per month
6	Licensee Contribution	Circa \$15,000 difference from FY2023 actuals refers to FY2022 deposits in FY2023
7	Fundraising	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 fundraising of circa \$15,000
8	Funding of Operations by Endowment	Slight increase to \$40,000 from FY2023 actual of \$38,700
9	Total Income	Lower in FY2024 by circa \$15,000 due mainly to FY2022 licensee contributions deposited in FY2023
10	Worship, Music, Arts	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 Worship Music Arts expense of circa \$3,600
11	General Ministry	Slight increase to \$200 from FY2023 actual of \$165
12	Approved Mission	Base per capita on 83 membership and estimated rate of \$42.17 (+6.2% of last year's rate of \$39.70)
13	Local Mission	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 local mission expense of \$500
14	Youth Programming	Rollover South commitment to FJLL of \$8,000 not paid in FY2023
15	Office Supplies	Reduce to \$2,000 from FY2023 actual of circa \$3,600

No.	Budget Item	Comments
16	Office Machines	Increase to \$350 from \$310 per month and maintain annual usage charge at \$700
17	Telephone/Security	Round up to \$350 per month charges totaling \$332.25, including SPC Verizon (\$139.13), FUSW Verizon (\$117.25), ADT (\$75.87)
18	Advertising & Media	Annual estimate of \$2,300 includes Constant Contact (\$21.68), Breeze (\$67), Audible (\$14.95) totaling \$103.65 and rounded up to \$125 per month. Additional amounts includes: MyQRCode (\$59 per quarter), Zoom (\$300 p.a.) and The Enterprise (\$200 p.a.)
19	Other Administrative	Annual estimate of \$6,620 includes QuickBooks (\$216.75), Amazon Prime (\$16.25), PPS Payroll (\$2,100 p.a.), other (\$1,700 p.a.)
20	Fundraising Expense	Annual estimate of 15% of fundraising revenue
21	General Administrative Expense	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 general administrative expense of circa \$39,000
22	Utilities	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 utilities expense of circa \$44,000
23	Insurance Expense	Increase premium to \$12,500 (+18%) from \$10,570 (+12% from prior premium)
24	Housekeeping Expense	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 housekeeping expense of circa \$4,000
25	Tax Expense	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 tax expense of circa \$4,000
26	Routine Maintenance	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 routine expense of circa \$20,000
27	Special Repairs	Increase to \$40,000 from FY2023 actual of circa \$36,000
28	Buildings & Grounds	Estimating an increase of circa \$12,500 from prior fiscal year due to increases in insurance premiums, maintenance, and special repairs
29	Employer Payroll Taxes	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 employer payroll taxes of circa \$8,000
30	General Benefits	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 general benefits of circa \$800
31	Organist/Choirmaster Gross Salary	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 organist/choirmaster gross salary of circa \$23,000
32	Minister Gross Salary	Gross amount of \$55,171 reflects salary (+6.70%, \$42,439) plus housing (6.7%, \$12,732). Additional amount of \$1,163.42 is a rollover of 403B election owed from FY2023
33	Minister Net Salary	Imputed from gross amount of \$55,171 (+6.7%) less 403B election of \$15,999
34	Minister 403B Election	Equals the 403B matching contribution set to the estimated medical insurance benefit amount of \$15,999
35	Minister Medical, Pension, D&D	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 minister medical, pension, d&d of circa \$5,500

No.	Budget Item	Comments
36	Ministers SECA Allowance	Reflects FY2023 amount of \$3,957 and FY2024 amount of \$4,221 for a total of \$8,178
37	Minister Educational Allowance	Reflects FY2023 amount of \$2,250 and FY2024 amount of \$2,400 for a total of \$4,650
38	Minister 403B Employer Match	Set to the estimated medical insurance benefit amount of \$15,999. Additional amount of \$1,163.42 is a rollover of 403B match owed from FY2023
39	Office Manager Gross Salary	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 office manager gross salary of circa \$50,000
40	Office Manager Health Insurance	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 office manager health insurance of circa \$16,000
41	Sexton Gross Salary	Align FY2024 budget to FY2023 sexton gross salary of circa \$17,500
42	Salaries & Benefits	Estimating an increase of circa \$22,000, with rollovers (403Bs, allowances, SECA) totaling circa \$7,000, new money totaling \$8,000 (salary and 403B increases), and others totaling \$7,000 (new allowance and SECA)
43	Interest Expense	Decrease to \$3,150 from FY2023 actual of circa \$3,300 in line with lower outstanding loan principal
44	Net Operating Income	Resulting gap of circa \$95,000 results from lower estimated revenue (\$15,000), higher buildings & grounds (\$12,500) and salaries & benefits (\$22,000) expenses, and baseline budget FY2023 actual net loss (\$45,000)
45	Other Income	Imputed to cover budget gap of \$95,000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

The Personnel Committee was formed in January 2023 and included Pastor Margery Rossi (who serves as head of staff), Patricia Fischer and Cirstin Conneely. Cirstin completed her service at the end of South's 2022-23 program year.

The committee created HR processes and paperwork to complete annual performance reviews for South Church employees. The new system includes evaluations that are completed by South Church community and staff members and self-evaluations.

The process was implemented for our Director of Music and Sexton.

We were assisted in significant ways by Kris Kleimann, a representative of the Pastor Nominating Committee to complete this work as it related to our minister, Margery Rossi.

A new contract and change of status from Transitional Pastor to Stated Supply Pastor for Margery was approved by Session on August 23, 2023; the Hudson River Presbytery approved this status change on September 19, 2023.

The committee recommends the agenda of the next Personnel Committee includes:

- Complete review for Robin Larkins, Church Administrator; her one year employment anniversary was in September, 2023.
- Expand scope of committee's work to include administration:
 - if this change is authorized by Session (and committee becomes Personnel and Administration), we recommend assessing and identifying possible ways to improve South's organizational culture, and reviewing and updating South's Policy and Procedure Manual
 - Recruit new committee members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship

Committee Members: Amir Khosrowpour, Kris Kliemann, Robin Larkins, Margery Rossi, Cirstin Conneely from 9/22 – 4/23; Anne Day as of 9/23

Services were held faithfully on all Sundays throughout this year. The committee maintains a working google sheets doc for planning purposes. With a few exceptions (due to technological issues mainly) the Sunday services are streamed on Facebook. Throughout this year we were helped by Aden Greengrass, with Amir as overall tech expert (as of September 2023, we do not have a tech intern). Bulletins and recordings of the service are available on Facebook in perpetuity.



Abundant gratitude for everyone who joined us and special thank you to those who took a leadership role and led us in inspiring, thought provoking and meaningful worship: Hugh Bowen, Maureen Buckley-Fox, Meg Bussert, Cirstin Conneely, Rev Susan DeGeorge, Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, Murphy Halliburton, Mary Horgan, Amir Khosrowpour, Kris Kliemann, Robin Larkins, Marie Louise Miller, Rev Dorothy Muller, Jeff Pittson, Doug Epstein, Linda Jo Platt, Roots and Wings, Rev Rachel Thompson, AND MANY OTHERS. Of course, Worship at South would not be complete without our amazing hospitality leaders Jean Greenberg and Laura Giannone.

Communion was offered once per month; during the year we celebrated the Food Pantry and Roots and Wings; we blessed animals. Christmas included a 7 pm service on Christmas Eve; LGBTQIA+ people and inclusivity were celebrated in October for Coming Out Day and in June for Pride Sunday. Sundays in Lent were themed around TS Eliot's question: "Do I Dare Disturb the Universe?" Palm Sunday included a protest and street theater. Summer services were themed around *A Hidden Wholeness* by Parker Palmer (for June/July) and *Happy Now* by Courtney Ellis (for Aug/Sept). In addition, during this year, new members were welcomed, new deacons and session members were installed in June.

The Worship committee offered a training on Reading Aloud, led by Meg Bussert who trained us in the art of reading effectively, which enhanced worship presentations on several occasions. The chancel, the vestibule, pews were often decorated and adorned beautifully to reflect the themes of worship. And music flowed in our sanctuary – the gorgeous, sensitive, and inspiring piano and organ from Amir enhances everything that happens on Sundays. The exuberance of the choir and soloists is a special treat, and the inclusion of other instrumentalists, drummers, guitarists, bass and viola are also an important aspect of what makes worship at South Church a deep and lovely experience.

In gratitude for worship committee members and their dedication.

Submitted by Kris Kliemann

SOUTH CHURCH'S MINISTRIES

Community Nursery School

For a fuller description of the CNS program please visit our website at <http://cnsdobbsferry.com>

The Community Nursery School of Dobbs Ferry was established in 1945 under the auspices of South Presbyterian Church as a non-sectarian community service to parents and children. We welcome all families knowing that the inclusion of families from many different ethnicities, religions, cultures, abilities, and family structures enhances our program and the lives of the families and communities we serve.



Upon opening in October 1945, Community Nursery School occupied Wilde House until 1954 when the brick addition opened, creating Fellowship Hall on the first floor with Sunday School and Community Nursery School housing on the floor below.

CNS is wholly owned by South Presbyterian Church. The CNS staff of 12 are employees of South Presbyterian Church of which 10 are teaching staff, one director and one office manager.

CNS has a separate operating budget which covers:

- All salaries and benefits for its employees
- All CNS related supplies and equipment
- All CNS maintenance supplies
- All repairs and painting inside and outside needed at CNS.
- All required insurance – Disability and Workman's Comp, Liability and Student Accident
- All upgrades to the CNS including new floors, lighting and equipment
- Annual waxing and stripping of floors and all rug cleaning.
- Cleaning services provided by SPC Sexton is paid to SPC as part of his cash salary.
- Annual space donation to SPC
- All updates for technology and security systems
- Note: All heat is controlled by thermostats used by occupants of the 2 floors above CNS.

When they exist, CNS uses any surplus funds to benefit the SPC Facilities. In the past CNS has funded all the replacement windows on both floors of the 1954 addition, a sprinkler system for the playground and side gardens, foundation sealing of infrastructure in front of church, and reconstructing for usable space two rooms under the sanctuary in the basements. And has given back excess funds totaling \$15,000 + in 2021 to the South Church budget

A LOOK BACK ON 2022-2023

In 2022- 2023 CNS had an enrollment of 65 students in 7 classes down from 81 students the previous year. The 2022-2023 enrollment included 7 SPRING students with CNS funding 80% and SPRING (Spring Community Partners) funding the rest with a small monthly amount from their parents. We had expected that more students would enrolled throughout the year but that did not occur.

We offered the following classes: Tuitions reflect a 4% tuition increase.

One 2 day AM program for 2s	Tuition \$4,212
One 3 day AM program for 2s	Tuition \$5,792
One 3 day AM program for 3s	Tuition \$5,688
One 3 day PM program for 3s	Tuition \$4,534 20% discount for PM 3s/no class for 2022-2023
One 4 day AM program for 3s	Tuition \$6,520
One 5 day AM program for 3s	Tuition \$7,238
One 5 day AM program for 4s	Tuition \$6,728
Two 5 day PM programs for 4s	Tuition \$7,488

Enrollment and Re-Enrollment Fee is \$100. Ten percent of yearly tuition due at contract signing and non-refundable. Sibling discount in the 3s and 4s is 10% for second child
 In 2022-2023 South Presbyterian Church raised our annual donation of \$40,632 by 5%.
 Our budget for the 2022-2023 school year(which closed in August 31, 2023) had a deficit of about \$50k which was covered by interest from our Vanguard account and money from our savings account designated for softer enrollment years, and fundraising efforts.

Enrollment	2s	3s	4s	Total
2018-2019	20	31	33	84
2019-2020	15	34	35	84
2020-2021	0	17	30	47
2021-2022	16	35	30	81
2022-2023	12	22	31	65
2023-2024	13	18	15	46



A LOOK AHEAD FOR 2023-2024

I want to share with you the changes we have made to our program for 2023-2024. Enrollment for pre-schools and primary schools in general are lower for several reasons. We are seeing a drop in children born in late 2020 and in 2021 which has affected our 2s and 3s classes, combined with families moving, seeking a longer day, or needing specialized programs for their children. All of these factors have affected the enrollment in our programs. **Consequently, we made the difficult decision to operate morning programs only for 2023-24 school year.** A decision will be made for the 2024-25 school year in early 2024.

This decision, along with the wonderful response to our BINGO fundraiser event, private donations, and our tuition will keep us financially sound for this school year. What we don't have are the children to fill the classrooms. What this means for our staff is difficult and I am grateful for all the support that they each give to keeping CNS one of the best pre-schools in Westchester.

2023-2024 Classes

TWOS – We will be having 2 TWOS classes next year. One will operate 2-3 mornings per week (T-W-Th) and the second class will be held 4 days per week (M-Th). Both classes will follow the extended time of 9:15 – 11:30 AM. We have changed the cut-off birthdate from September 1 to December 31. Both in a effort to attract more families.

THREES – We continue our M-F 3s with an option for 4 mornings and the 3 morning 3s class (T-W-Th) will continue. We have extended the times for both THREES classes to 9:00 – 11:45 AM. Again in an effort to attract more families.

FOURS – Due to low enrollment, we have suspended our afternoon FOURS programs for the 2023-34 school year

2023-2024 tuitions reflect a 10 % tuition increase for this year:

One 2/3 day AM program for 2s	Tuition \$4,630/\$6,370
One 4 day AM program for 2s	Tuition \$8,500
One 3 day AM program for 3s	Tuition \$6,370
One 4/5 day AM program for 3s	Tuition \$7,170/7,960
One 5 day AM program for 4s	Tuition \$8,240



Enrollment and Re-Enrollment Fee is \$100. Ten percent of yearly tuition is due at contract signing and non-refundable. Sibling discount in the 3s and 4s is 10% for second child.

The Director salary for the 2023-2024 school year September 2023- August 2024 is set at \$31,432 for 4 -5 days per week 8:30 – 1:30.- including all weekend and evening events 12 months a year. South Presbyterian Church provides no salary or benefits for the Director's Position.

2023-2024 Enrollment as of September 30, 2023

Total number of children enrolled for the 2023-24 school year is 46 out of a possible 110 spots, 43% capacity (2022-2023 was 65 out of a possible 110 spots, 59% capacity).

In a typical year, we enroll 2-3 SPRING children; for the 2022-2023 school year we enrolled 7, and for the 2023-2024 school year we have enrolled 3.

We rebounded nicely after the pandemic in 2020-2021, but that trend did not continue into 2022-2023:

Enrollment for 2023-2024 is down 34% year – over – year, the lowest enrollment in 25+ years Low enrollment this year is not unique to CNS – schools across lower Westchester are experiencing the same problem.

Revenue and Funding

Tuition is our largest source of revenue. In addition, we rely on in-person fundraising events for additional funding, which we brought back last year for the first time since 2019 and raised \$10k. We are planning to host a fundraiser again in March 2024.

CNS is fortunate to have a staff of dedicated employees; more than half of our staff have been here for 20+ years. Staff salaries are a constant cost, which without revenue of typical class size leads to budget deficits.

The staff received a 1% raise in September 2021. In the Spring of 2022, we had an online fundraising campaign, which netted \$31k that directly covered pay for a much-deserved staff raise of 2%, which was implemented in January of 2022. In 2023-2024, the staff again received 0% raise; with hourly and salary reductions of 45-50% for the director, office manager and four teaching staff.

Budget

In 2023-2024 we raised tuition costs 10%. Our budget for the 2023-2024 school year with unprecedented low enrollment has a predicted loss of less than \$10,000 due to tighter budgeting for fewer classes, which we can cover with savings. Historically we enroll a few children after the year has begun. Noting that our operating costs do not fluctuate if additional children are enrolled, each new child only adds revenue without additional overhead.

The donation amount to South Presbyterian Church for 2023-2024 will remain at \$40,632

We have additional funding in the Vanguard endowment fund as of June 30, 2023 of \$104,518.



We will know by January 2024, after our initial enrollment for the next school year, how the future looks for CNS in 2024-2025 and what, if any, changes need to occur.

Submitted by Linda Jo Platt, Director

Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry



For a fuller description of the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, please visit our website at <https://dobbsferrypantry.org/> Following is a recap post from August 31, 2023

This newsletter is a volunteer appreciation post. The only reason we're able to feed more than 100 families each week is because of our dedicated team of around 30 lovely humans who show up week after week. We've had very little turnover in our crew for the last couple years because we have become a family, working together to accomplish a feat each and every week.



From teenagers to octogenarians, our family arrives each Wednesday ready to haul, unpack, display, and distribute our bounty of produce, canned goods, shelf stable items, food donated and purchased.



But most importantly, they take the time to learn the names of our neighbors in need, they greet them with smiles and hugs, ask about their week, their health, their families. Our volunteers learn what kind of bagels a client likes and sets some aside for them. One volunteer knew that one of our clients missed his home country of Iran and started buying dried fruits and nuts for him that remind him of home. When we

started getting an influx of refugees from Ukraine, one of our volunteers hung a Ukrainian flag each week to show support.



I have been told many times by our clients that our volunteers see them as human, not as a statistic. Our volunteers show respect and serve our clients with the dignity they deserve. After being thanked by a client, I overheard one volunteer say, “who knows, next week I could be in this line and you could be serving me.”



We have also recently begun delivering food on a weekly basis to the asylum seekers living in Ardsley. Our volunteers have tried to provide culturally appropriate foods to ease their transition. They have collected clothing, grills, and baby items - all above and beyond their work at the food pantry.

It takes a village - in our case, several villages: Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Ardsley and Irvington.

I would also like to thank the Elmwood Day Camp of Ardsley for collecting two vans full of shelf stable food and diapers; the Scarsdale Womens Club, Ardsley Methodist Church, Irvington Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth Shalom, Zion Episcopal Church, and Deep Roots Farm for their monthly support and of course, South Presbyterian Church.



And a special thank you to the Peluso/Fader family and their friends For the second year in a row, they have spent their summers purchasing and packing our “SOS” bags - School’s Out Supplements. These are extra bags we give families with school-age children who are no longer receiving two free meals a day at school while school is out. The

generosity of the Peluso/Fader family over the last few years to our pantry cannot be overstated and we are so very grateful to all of them.



We're also so grateful to **Stop & Shop, MOM'S Organic Market, Panera, The Shop Ardsley, and New York Bagel Authority and Temple Beth Shalom** for their wide variety of wonderful donations every single week!

A SPECIAL NOTE:

The Rivertowns pulled together this summer to meet an extraordinary challenge: the arrival of 35 families of asylum seekers and migrants shipped from Texas to New York City, who were later sent to the Ardsley Acres Motel Court. The challenge arrived with little notice. Initially, South Presbyterian Church and the food pantry took the lead in organizing a supply channel that provided food, clothing and other necessities to support the asylum seekers and migrants. SPC Pastor Margery Rossi and church administrator Robin Larkins realized that our food pantry was the only organization at hand that had the experience and equipment to handle the logistical challenges. Pantry co-directors Vera Halpenny and Gretchen Skaggs agreed and, along with pantry volunteer Donna Assumma, they got things rolling. Rossi quickly joined other synagogues and churches in the Rivertowns to organize in support of the asylum seekers and migrants. This work will continue as the need continues.

The LAB and Faith + Justice Learning Lab

For a fuller description of The Lab and Faith + Justice Learning Lab, please visit our website at <https://www.southpres.org/learninglab/>

October 1, 2023

Report on The Lab & FJLL

This has been a year of development for The Lab.

In late June, we were notified we won an Arts Westchester Grant to provide workshops for teens performing at the Open Mics and elsewhere.

The grant application effort included testimonials from teens who have benefitted from their time at the Lab, and a fabulous collaboration with a parent of one teen who wanted to give back.

We have run two workshops, one in sound engineering and one for song development as of October 1, 2023. We plan to offer a second round of workshops in the same fields this winter. Teens are also asking for sign writing and emcee/ stand up workshops.

About 1/3 of our producing/ organizing teens graduated last year. We were happy to see a new group of kids step up this August at our first meeting and how now expanded our group of teens involved in leadership positions at the Lab from three kids at our inaugural Open Mic to 12 as of September 2023.

This will be our 3rd year of the Open Mic series.

We started the season with a sound engineering workshop. We had three kids come to learn the board and the set up. Marie-Louise borrowed three speakers and stands from the music community and we got to work. The speakers created a new sound and changed the feeling of the space. Teen can now control the sound mixing and performers are learning to communicate with both an audience and the sound engineer. The Lab has upgraded its space and its ability to offer more opportunities for teens to learn. Additionally, The Lab inherited LED lights. A very grateful and well supported teen went on to college this year and left us his lights. So we were able to put on quite a show. We had 10 performing groups/ acts and about 35 audience only members and about 10 parents.



October 1 was the first vocal workshop, with seven teens participating.



The workshop ran about 3 hours. Teens were led through vocal exercise, imagination building exercises, physical exercises and spent a lot of exploring and adding depth to their songs.

The workshop leaders each spend 3-4 hours with the teens and attend at least one Open Mic to give help, feedback and support.

We are currently planning to buy our own speakers & stands for the next Open mic on October 29th. 7 pm. We will begin fund raising to this end to defray the costs. Other music related expenses the drum kit was re-skinned, and we need to buy cymbals.

This year we have teens managing the sign up, the Instagram posts and new teens participating as emcees, performers, tech directors and snack makers.

Looking back on last year, our reach expanded into Ossining and we now have teens from all the River Towns coming on a monthly basis to perform and collaborate.

Last year, in addition to hosting Open Mic Nights every month, The Lab supported a Rock Night in September, led by three teens from Dobbs Ferry, new play with music development, titled *Murder Birds* which cast teens from three towns and was a collaboration with a professional

local playwright, Melanie Hoopes. Ms. Hoopes had music written from leading songwriters on



Broadway, in the folk scene, and new undiscovered talent. The teens participated in readings, feedback sessions where the difficult issues of race and gender discrimination were being addressed.

At the close of the year, The Lab hosted the workshop production of *Putnam County's 25th Annual Spelling Bee*, led by a senior from Dobbs Ferry. The project was his senior intern project, and The Lab was able to bring in professional actors to observe and provide feedback to the young director.



In November, The Lab hosted the Sesa Wu Suban Project, led by Marie-Louise, Kofi Donkur and Anne Boccato. This is a storytelling project for 3-6 grades which uses tales from Gahana, Brazil and Western Europe.



FJLL (K-5 program) will offer Sunday morning programming beginning October 8. This will happen during the worship service and in Fellowship Hall.

Last year we started the season strong with 8 children in the Fall. By Christmas, we saw families traveling to see relatives and by Spring we had just a few kids showing up sporadically.



Donald Gallery

The Donald Gallery at South Presbyterian had a full and successful 2022/2023. We continued on with our decades long mission to support and show local Rivertowns visual artists of varying media and level of experience. Part of the gallery's mission is to try to include at least one artist per season that has never before had a solo art show. For the second consecutive year four of our six shows went to first time solo showing artists.

Yearly Shows

We mounted six solo shows in total, as per our usual schedule of running mid September to end of June. The shows in order of appearance were-

Kathleen McCarthy Udoff

If You Are Quiet: An Artistic Journey for Joy, Discover and Nature

Her photographs and collages delve into the simple beauty that surrounds us in the natural world. "I'm a visual artist and educator," said Udoff. "Painting and photography have provided me an inner peace and allowed me to quiet myself and communicate in a new way in a digital age. My art is driven with a powerful force of curiosity filled with a synergy of freedom."

Charles Green

For Those Who Love the Sea

Charles Green, a self-taught artist and native of Ardsley, exclusively paints seascapes. His work is largely inspired by fellow seascape artists Fred Waugh and Earl Daniels.

"For me the sea is the most beautiful of subjects to paint," said Green. "Its eternal restlessness, its many moods, the contrast between surf and shoreline where they meet, all combine for a fascinating subject to capture on canvas with endless possibilities. I like to say that 'I have romanced the sea for so many years, that I know her face by heart.'"

Green has a unique approach to his craft: "I have been a powerlifter since the 1980's and have my training room and art studio together in the same room. I would often sit painting and then go and do a weight set and then return to the easel and paint, keeping this pace up for a couple of hours, which earned me the moniker 'the painting powerlifter' from fellow lifters."

Alison Cimmet

Kaleidoscopia

Hastings-on-Hudson actress and artist Alison Cimmet's main focus is mixed-media painted collage, with vibrant colors and curious textures that invite the viewer to always look closer, deeper. She uses a collection of curated papers, vintage ephemera (including old sheet music and literature) and also prints a lot of her own papers using a gelli/acrylic printing process. Final touches are done with acrylics, markers and gold leaf.

The themes that run through much of her work are resilience, renaissance, and joy.

Cimmet has performed in numerous television shows, feature films and seven Broadway productions. During the pandemic, when her industry was devastated, she tended to her soul by leaning into another love - visual art.

She is constantly experimenting with new mediums, styles, and subject matters and hopes that her varied and eclectic collection will make it a fun journey for viewers.

“My art explores what is both brutal and beautiful about being human,” said Cimmet. “Lately my heart has had to hold both joy and grief all at the same time, and that dichotomy has come through my art making. I try to celebrate my wholeness - the light and dark parts of myself - and explore what it means to be alive.” www.AlisonCimmet.com



Raine Gifford

Days Like This

First solo show for Hastings-on-Hudson artist Raine Gifford—an offering of hopeful reminders that spring will return!

The watercolor and acrylic pieces explore an evolving theme related to found moments in time and space. “These moments represent aspects of strength, solace, reverie, and reprieve,” said Gifford. “They express something of the balance between internal and external space; inside the self, and outside among the natural world, especially the garden. Some of the work is inspired directly by observed still life or prompts; some by memory as well as by surprises of medium and process.”

“Raine’s work is such a delight to the senses on many levels,” said The Donald Gallery Curator Donna Thompson. “Her subtle use of color and mastery of watercolors, her connection to plants and the sacredness of nature is a gift, especially during the long, bleak winter months.”

Naomi Gilbert

Microcosm

Works on paper inspired by nature and the energies that run throughout the cosmos.

Naomi Gilbert’s work is inspired by the natural world, focusing on the patterns and particles that run throughout the cosmos rather than the distinct forms that make up the material world.

The Irvington resident is a classically trained artist with a BFA in painting from Boston University and an MA in art and art education from Teachers College. After teaching high school art for 28 years, she retired in 2021 to have more time in the studio.

“My foundation in observational drawing informs my art, as do my years of experience teaching refreshingly creative young people,” said Gilbert. “For the past several years, I’ve been interested in drawing imagined realities of the natural world, based on glimpses afforded me through science and technology. I am fascinated by the fundamental oneness of the universe. Nature repeats itself:

images of microscopic life resemble galaxies which resemble deep sea environments. Atoms flow through everything. It is these energies, and a sense of connectivity, that inspire me to create.”

Anne Day

Leaf, Petal, Line & Color

“Leaf, Petal, Line & Color” features 22 works in acrylic/collage/mixed media and pastel. Each explores Day’s love of plant forms and her passion for rich color.

“Making art for me is like writing a love letter to Nature, especially the Plant World,” said Day. “She has given me so many gifts, so much beauty and joy, I have to respond with gratitude to Her.” Beyond being a visual artist, Day is an energy healing practitioner. These dual interests inform her work, leaving the viewer with a heightened sense of well-being.

Day is a former co-curator of The Donald Gallery and a long-time member of South Church, where The Donald Gallery resides. “It’s a pleasure to show Anne’s art,” said Curator Donna Thompson. “Anne’s talent for color and shape has transformed South Church’s spaces many times over for special events. Now her art is bringing beauty and light into The Donald Gallery.”



When she is not painting, Day helps clients find spiritual and emotional balance using energy work informed by studies at The Four Winds Society and the Great River Craniosacral Institute. She is a Board Member at Sacred Spirit Yoga and Healing Arts Center, in Dobbs Ferry, has a BFA in Textile & Ceramic Design at Virginia Commonwealth University and has worked in Product Development/Technical Design at Eileen Fisher.

**All of our Donald Gallery shows are archived on the SPC website under the Worship & the Arts section.*

Ongoing Projects

The Donald Gallery is finally *More Light* like the rest of SPC! This year the gallery is boasting brand new lighting fixtures. After consulting with several lighting experts, a decision was made to keep our existing track system and purchase new LED fixtures. Robin Larkins provided instrumental project management to see this job through to completion. It is truly wonderful to have our gallery and hallway so well lighted.

In other wonderful news for the Donald Gallery - we have a new gallery committee member, Katy Gravenor. Katy recently became an SPC member and has graciously agreed to help out with the gallery by handling our press releases, both in-house, as well as distributing them to the local press agencies. Welcome aboard, Katy!

Budget

Currently, the Donald Gallery fund has a balance of \$5,551.25. The gallery had \$4,587.50 in 2023 calendar year deposits, including the \$4,000 from SPC member Ernie Howell, who graciously gave funding towards the new lighting project.

All six artists who showed at the gallery sold work, which was extraordinary. It is so gratifying for an artist to sell and it helps our ongoing efforts as well.

Operating expenses of the gallery are usually minimal and include things like tools for hanging shows (step stool, mounting hardware, etc.) and memberships with local arts organizations (such as Riverarts) to promote artists' shows.

The next major expenditure will most likely need to be attending to the gallery walls which are still in need of an upgrade. No decision has been made about how to repair the existing damaged holes or painting the walls.

As noted in last years report-

It has been many years since the space has been painted. Also there are several areas which have damage that is not easy to address since the under layer is very old textured wallpaper which is torn. The walls have been painted over numerous times so removing the wallpaper would be a major undertaking.

Summary

Looking ahead to this season there are currently five shows scheduled with one remaining show slot to be filled for the 2023/2024 season.

Any church members interested in getting involved in any capacity with the gallery please contact Donna Thompson 914.837.4398.

No prior gallery experience is necessary, simply an interest and appreciation of the arts.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Thompson



Roots & Wings

For a fuller description of Roots & Wings

<https://www.rivertowncommunitygardens.com/>



Roots & Wings: Growing Community

2023 Report

Iris Hiskey Arno, Chris Cole Olsewski, Lenore Person, Greg Rosen, MJ Wilson
Rivertowncommunitygardens.com

Highlights of our 12th year include helping launch the Dobbs Ferry Pollinator Pathway, offering foraging workshops on South's campus, and the wonderful people who manage and tend our three gardens on South's campus and lead and participate in our Sunday morning CSA.

The Kitchen Garden, behind South, grows food and shares the harvest with the Food Pantry. Report by Garden Manager Iris Hiskey Arno.

This season, we welcomed new gardeners and said farewell to those who moved away or whose lives took them in other directions. In the spring, we built up our food pantry plots with bricks and filled them with a new organic soil/compost mixture. The bricks plus the items we used to construct the supports for our cucumbers and squash were reused or repurposed from donations and found objects. We tried a new system of supporting our tomatoes, with some success. Our eleven gardeners, ranging in age from forties to seventies, harvested lettuce, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, tomatillos, carrots, chard, beets, and herbs for the food pantry. We shared some of our bounty with at least one small rabbit who, despite our best efforts, was undeterred by our fence. Our fruits and vegetables supported a healthy array of pollinators (bees, wasps, butterflies), which we spoke about at the opening of the Dobbs Ferry Pollinator Pathway.



The Kitchen Garden was recognized by LoLud this summer as a Dobbs Ferry destination.

Labyrinth Garden, on South's front lawn, is a welcoming spiral of pollinator-friendly plants. Report by Garden Manager Roubi Eliopoulos.

Our growing season began when Peter Brenner planted beautiful yellow flowers on Earth Day. I didn't think they would make it after the deer mowed them down, but I sprayed them with deer repellent and, sure enough, they now look great. In early spring, Liz Gabay and I thought we could help make the garden more educational by writing the plant's names on rocks, but the children who play there in the afternoon keep hiding them. The garden is a lot like life. You make plans for it and sometimes those plans get derailed. Flowers die. Seeds don't sprout. But overall, the garden has survived and even thrived this summer because Liz and I took turns watering it and people were kind enough to donate their extra plants to it.

The Manse Garden, behind the Manse, is a design in progress. Garden Manager Greg Rosen is creating soil by composting, considering the sun and water's path through the property, finding what plants flourish, and looking for ways to keep animals from eating everything. The vision is

creating a hands-on outdoor classroom that empowers community members to learn to grow food.

Roots & Wings CSA is 35 members strong with new partner farm Deep Roots. CSA Manager Gretchen Skaggs is at each pickup, along with farmer Stormie O'Rourke. Pop-ups from baker Arnie Adler and local cheese monger Jessica Galen, plus a CSA member's pickle-making demonstration, have been opportunities for members to connect. All unclaimed produce gets donated to the food pantry weekly.

Programs:

Roots & Wings has offered several Foraging Workshops across the seasons this past year, led by naturalist Greg. We have had approximately 30 participants.



