

# South Church Annual Report 2024-25



Dobbs Ferry, NY  
October 5, 2025

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## 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

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

-Lyrics from: *How Can I Keep from Singing? (My Life Flows On)*,  
Hymn #821 Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal

October 1, 2025

Greetings, South Church,

As I read over the reports that follow this letter, my own monthly reports to session, and my letter to you from the 2024 Annual Report, the words to the song above sprang to mind.

This past year, 2024-25, has indeed been filled with tumult and strife - in the world around us, *and* within our congregation.

When we met for our last annual meeting, the USA was still in the midst of a very contentious and anxiety-producing election season; so much so, that many of us came here to South Church on Election Night to hold vigil and watch the returns together, in community with friends from the First Unitarian Society of Westchester. In the few short months since the Trump administration took office in January 2025, many of those anxieties have been validated; consuming our attention as, for example, we worked to ensure that we could keep immigrant congregants and neighbors safe while on campus; or showed up for faithful witness at protests, rallies and informational sessions related to a variety of topics as federal programs have been shut down, defunded or destabilized.

Personally, my family was impacted by these federal budget cuts when Andy was laid off in April, due to cuts to Medicare and Medicaid that his employer relied on to pay staff. And, as I write this letter today, our entire federal government has shut down again due to another negotiation impasse among our elected officials, causing further chaos and destabilization of systems and programs on which many rely, especially the most vulnerable among us.

With this as backdrop, in the span of *one year*, our congregation has also experienced tumult and strife: intensive pastoral care needs and the deaths of beloved congregants; leadership and other changes in our ministries; and notably, we have had to navigate our way through a sewage back-up, 2 floods, a lightning strike, 2 earthquakes and a series of security breaches, all of which have impacted multiple spaces and systems across the campus, on top of the “routine” maintenance and repairs; all of which demand attention, finances, urgent decision-making, scheduling changes and coordination with space users, insurance, contractors, etc..

It really has been a hard year.

And yet, our life flows on, in endless song - sometimes we have needed to stop, to join in the lamentation, sometimes, we have continued to flow above it. At times this year, the need to continue flowing has been demanding, draining and exhausting; at others, it *is* the continued flowing or actual music ringing that has helped us find our inmost calm and join in the singing - sometimes literally, in worship; sometimes, metaphorically - as we held each other up and found ways to carry on amidst the strife.

As the world around us becomes less stable and reliable, the call in this hymn, to cling to Jesus as Lord of heaven and earth, becomes clearer and more urgent. What might that look like for us, going forward into 2025-26?

- With this level of intensive energy and time demands this year, the worship team wisely decided to spend the summer in quieter, more reflective worship, offering rest and refreshment to our weary souls. I believe that we need to intentionally plan time for this kind of sabbath rest much more often than we are usually inclined, given our proclivity toward “doing stuff.” What might that look like for us this year?
- This year, we trained liturgists, new elders and deacons to build up and expand our leadership. We also continued our project of strengthening the infrastructure of the congregation; constituting committees, conducting deep analysis of our income and expenses, and crafting policies that will help inform our operations going forward. What other opportunities might be in store for us this coming year for sharing these oversight responsibilities and engaging in new ministry?

- The demands of the world will likely continue to escalate around us. How will we maintain our center, continue to cling to the Rock of our faith, and continue to cling to one another, all while joining in the endless song of life?

I give great thanks to the elders, deacons, staff, volunteers and members here at South, for all you have done and endured this past year to continue the flow of life and cling to faith. It is my honor to be in ministry with you.

There is much for us to consider and much for us to do this year. I urge you, friends, not to lose heart. A new creation *is* at hand, and if we believe that Christ *is* Lord of heaven and earth, how can *we* keep from singing?

Join the endless song - and maybe the choir. (It would sure make Amir's day!)

In the Name of the One who Is, Was and Always Will Be,

*Margery Rossi*

-Margery Rossi, Pastor

## DOCKET

Reverend Margery A. Rossi, CRE – Pastor, Moderator  
Ruling Elder John Gunther-Mohr, Clerk of Session

Opening Prayer

Call for the Meeting

Determination of a Quorum

Church Operations

Clerk of Session

Pastor / Commissioned Ruling Elder

Church Administrator

Music Director

Financial Results

Committees

Communications

Facilities (Buildings & Grounds)

Finance

Manse

Stewardship

Worship

Ministries

Community Nursery School

Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Donald Gallery

Faith and Justice Leadership Lab (Church School)

The LAB (Open Mic Night)

Roots and Wings

Finance

2025 Financial Reports

2026 Budget Presentation

2025 Pastor Terms of Call

Other Business

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 2024, see below. Church membership increased with four new members joining the Congregation, offsetting the loss of one member for a net gain of three members.

Sunday Worship attendance averages 40 in person and 80 online views per week.

We submitted and completed without exception a review of annual minutes to the Hudson River Presbytery for the calendar year 2024. Paper copies of the minutes are maintained in the office.

Session: The following served on our Session during 2024-2025:

- John Gunther-Mohr (Clerk)
- Tristan Gravenor (as of June 2025)
- Kris Kleimann (Treasurer)
- Kay McCoy
- Alex Navarrete (President)
- Lenore Lelah Person
- Linda Jo Platt (completed term June 2025)



Deacons: The following served as Deacons during 2024-2025:

- Peter Brenner (completed term June 2025)
- Anne Day, Co-Chair (as of June 2025)
- Murphy Halliburton, Co-Chair (as of June 2025)
- Tsha Gregory (as of June 2025)
- Molly Rodriguez
- Andrew Smith
- Katy Gravenor (as of June 2025)
- Eric Greenberg, Former Chair (completed term June 2025)



### BAPTISMS

- Rosemary Short - Baptism October 26, 2024
  - (approved by Session/ special circumstance)
- Robin Smith-Thoene - Baptism November 10, 2024
- Tamsin Willard - Baptism, Profession of Faith: Nov. 17, 2024



### WELCOME INTO MEMBERSHIP

- Tristan Gravenor - Profession of Faith, November 17, 2024
- Ellen Cowhey - Reaffirmation of Faith, November 17, 2024
- Tsha Gregory – Reaffirmation of Faith, November 17, 2024

### Necrology 2024-2025

- Christine Cole-Elsewski, Member, July 1, 1961 - April 3, 2025  
Memorial Service Thursday, April 10, 2025
- Daniel Greenberg, December 9, 1944 - June 28, 2025  
Memorial Service: Saturday, September 13, 2025



# 2024 Statistics

## 2024 Church Statistical Report

<b>Church</b>	South Greenburg	<b>PIN</b>	6057
<b>Presbytery</b>	Hudson River		
<b>Address</b>	343 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522		
<b>Phone</b>	914-693-0473	<b>Fax</b>	
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:office@southpres.org">office@southpres.org</a>		
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.southpres.org">www.southpres.org</a>		



<b>Membership</b>			
Prior Active Members	86	Adjusted membership	86
<b>Gains</b>		<b>Losses</b>	
Certificate	0	Certificate	0
Youth Professions	0	Deaths	1
Professions & Reaffirmations	4	Deleted for any Other Reason	0
<b>Total Gains</b>	4	<b>Total Losses</b>	1
<b>Total Ending Active Members</b>	89		
<b>Baptisms</b>			
Presented by Others	1	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	60
At Confirmation	1	Friends of the Congregation	55
All Other	0	Ruling Elders on Session	6
		Do you have Deacons?	Yes
<b>Age Distribution of Active Members</b>		<b>People with Disabilities</b>	
17 & Under	2	Hearing impairment	3
18 - 25	0	Sight impairment	0
26 - 40	4	Mobility impairment	3
41 - 55	27	Other impairment	0
56 - 70	36		
Over 70	20	<b>Gender Distribution</b>	
<b>Total Age Distribution</b>	89	Women	54
		Men	34
		Non-Binary	1
<b>Youth in Congregation</b>			
Age 4 and under	9	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	3
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	14	High School (9th – 12th grade)	3
		<b>Total Youth</b>	29
<b>Racial Ethnic</b>			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	3	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Black/African American/African	5	White	74
Middle Eastern/North African	0	Multiracial	5
Hispanic/Latino-a	2		
		<b>Total Racial Ethnic</b>	89
<b>Budgeted Income</b>	321,000		
<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	409,537		
<b>Receipts</b>			
Regular Contributions	137,521	Bequests	75,000
Capital Building Fund	0	Other Income	155,130
Investment Income	74,400	Subsidy or Aid	13,000
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Local Program	400,129	Investment Expenditures	1,449
Local Mission	13,000	Per Capita Apprt	3,386
Capital Expenditures	40,608	Other Mission	324

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

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## Covenant Partnerships

South Church maintains a covenant partnership relationship with the following:

- HRP Green <https://www.hudrivpres.org/hrp-green>
- HRP Immigration Partnership (founding congregation) <https://www.hudrivpres.org/hrp-immigration-partnership>
- HRP Queer <https://www.hudrivpres.org/hrp-queer>
- HRP Racial Justice Partnership <https://www.hudrivpres.org/racial-justice-team>
- More Light Presbyterians <https://mlp.org>
- Rural Migrant Ministries <https://www.hudrivpres.org/rural-migrant-ministry>



## PASTOR - COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER'S REPORT

### **Sacraments and Occasional Services:**

Baptisms:	3
Confirmed/ New Members	4
Marriages:	0
Funerals/Memorials:	2
Delivered Communion:	2
Officiated Communion:	13

### **Continuing Education:**

Lectionary Study Group: weekly virtual meetings  
Andrew Root: The Church in the Secular Age, FPC New Caanan, CT 9/21/24  
HRP Pre-Presbytery Workshop with Meg Bussert at Holmes Camp 9/23/24  
HRP Retreat at Honor's Haven 11/6-8/24  
Plant-based Eating Workshop with Dr. Jen Cadenhead 10/24/24  
Sexual Harassment Prevention training 10/30/24  
Rev. Dr. Kim Wagner – webinar on preaching after trauma 11/14/24  
Peacemakers Summit, RAWTools Philadelphia 11/22-24/24  
HRP Boundary Training 12/9, 12/30 & 31/24  
PCUSA Office of Public Witness Advocacy Hours, monthly  
HRP Nurturing Leadership conference 5/17/25  
PRC Webinar – Church Culture 5/22/25  
HRP Polity Pal webinar 6/17/25  
PRC Webinars – Boundary training for Sessions 7/10/25

### **Leadership/ Service to South and the Larger Church:**

Liturgist Trainings - new this year! Fall 2024 and Spring 2025  
New Member classes November 2024  
Elder/Deacon trainings with newly elected individuals May/June 2025  
Member, HRP Faith and Order Committee through end of term 12/24/24

Steering Committee Member, HRP Immigration Partnership (formerly Asylum Seeker Partnership); HRPGreen, HRP Racial Justice Partnership, HRPQueer, local Immigration Support Network

Advisory Team Member, PCUSA Decade to End Gun Violence; Grants Subcommittee Minister for Gun Violence Prevention, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, staff position of 15 hrs/week - includes monthly national calls; coordinate actions and campaigns, writings, projects, including the oversight and coordination of the James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage (annual conference to provide training to congregants and clergy in gvp ministry).

First annual - 8/21-24/24; second annual - 9/24-27/25.

\*HRP = Hudson River Presbytery

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The South Church Administrator oversees the operations of the Church and its campus, 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. Part time position: 30 hours per week – in person and virtually.



Following are major projects of the administrator for the fiscal year 2024-25:

- 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
- Space use and event coordinator with regular partners and outside groups using Church campus spaces. Management of Space Agreements for the following ongoing space users.
  - **Clearwater Singers** Annual donation: \$600.00
  - **Creative Hearts:** Annual space use fees (10 months): \$9,000.00
  - **Days of Wonder:** Annual space use fees: \$58,536.00
  - **Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry:** Annual space user fees: \$12,000.00
  - **First Unitarian Society of Westchester:** Space use fees: \$12,600.00
    - September 2024 – March 2025
  - **OCCA Monthly Meetings:** Annual donation: \$745.00
  - **Sacred Spirit Yoga:** Annual space use fees (11 months): \$7,085.50
  - **Sufi Meditation:** Annual donation: \$467.00
  - **Westchester LGBTQ+ AA:** Annual fees: \$2,700.00
- Acts as a community liaison, helps maintain and build collaborative relationships with area churches, interfaith congregations, local organizations, groups, schools.
  - Chair of HRP Immigration Partnership
- Coordinator of special events and activities held on campus
- 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
  - Drafted Church Immigration Protection policy, approved by Session and presented across the Hudson River Presbytery and local community organizations
  - Drafted Capital Loan / Grant request for assistance with covering Manse insurance deductible and additional repairs
- Publish Weekly Worship Bulletin in conjunction with Pastor/Minister
- Support social media and communications efforts, as needed and able
- Represents best interest of South Church with vendors, service providers, contractors and visitors
  - Point of contact, documentation of \$147,000 Manse insurance claim
  - Point of contact, documentation of \$12,000 bank fraud insurance claim
- Review, assess and upgrading of office systems, technology and security

- Purchased, installed and serve as point of contact for BLINK campus security cameras
- Point of contact for police reporting of break-ins and intruder incidents in August, 2024, March 2025
- Serve on Worship Committee - help plan Church services, events and holiday celebrations. Worship leader when needed.
- Serve on Manse Use Committee – Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Serve on Space Use / Cost Determination Committee
- Office Hours
  - Sundays 8:30 – 12:00 noon
  - Mondays – Closed
  - Tuesdays – 12:00 noon – 6:30pm
  - Wednesdays – 11:00am – 5:00pm
  - Thursdays – 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm
  - Fridays / Weekends – By appointment



## Raffle Report

<b>135 TICKETS SOLD</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>
<b>PRIZE MONEY</b>	<b>(\$6,750)</b>
<b>PROCEEDS</b>	<b>\$ 6,750</b>
<b>DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 5,700</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ -500</b>
<b>TOTAL PROCEEDS.</b>	<b>\$11,950</b>

### WINNERS

- \$5,000 – Anne Day
- \$1,000 – John Prendergast
- \$500 – Bijal Das
- \$250 – John Gunther Mohr

### REVIEW & ANALYSIS:

- Tickets were \$100 each (reduced from \$120 from last year in hopes to generate more multiple sales, easier calculation.)
- Successful fundraising effort with minimal expenses and drain on volunteers
  - Mission accomplished! AGAIN!
- 88 individuals purchased 135 tickets – mostly from congregation and food pantry volunteers.
- Generosity of prize winners was key to success, made up for not reaching ticket sales goal.

TAKE A CHANCE! SUPPORT A 200 YEAR LEGACY OF FAITH, JUSTICE, EDUCATION, THE ARTS

**200 CLUB RAFFLE**

Only 200 tickets will be sold  
Proceeds will help restore and repair historic South Church to better serve the community

**DRAWING FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 7PM**

FELLOWSHIP HALL 343 BROADWAY, DOBBS FERRY

Dessert | Beverages | Entertainment | Door Prizes | Other Surprises

USE QR CODE TO PRE-ORDER | TICKET COST: \$100

1ST PRIZE: **\$5000** | 2ND PRIZE: **\$1000** | 3RD PRIZE: **\$500**

CONSOLATION PRIZE: \$250 | WWW.SOUTHPRES.ORG



- \$5,650 in winnings were donated back to SPC
- 65 tickets short
- Friday night drawing event
  - 30 people attended on June 20, 2025 (after date change because of scheduling mistake)
  - Entertainment – The LAB Open Mic Teen Group
  - Minimal food and beverage expenses thanks to donations by Bloomy Cheese Shop and Linda Jo Platt
- Evaluate efficacy of event going forward – for 2<sup>nd</sup> year, congregation and space users did not generate multiple ticket sales as was optimistically hoped (i. e. take 5 tickets and sell to family, friends, clients).
  - Behavior suggests individual interest and support, but uncomfortableness in promoting or asking for support beyond ourselves
- Ad placed in Rivertowns Dispatch, local newspaper. Not sure if it generated any sales



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate Raffle into an annual fundraising plan / fundraising committee
- **DECISION POINT: Do we try again next year?**
- **DECISION POINT: Goal setting** if we continue, based on learnings (brainstorming below):
  - GOAL: 150 tickets at \$100 = \$15,000 gross
  - \$5,000 in total prizes = \$10,000 net proceeds goal
    - Still pray that the winners of the cash prizes are inspired to give some back
    - Suggestion: For example, \$3,000 top prize, \$1,000 second prize, (2) \$500 consolation prizes. headline incentive, but see if other prizes of value can be donated
- Form a small committee to make recommendations. Ask top supporters from this year’s event for input.

## COMPARISON: 2024 200 CLUB RESULTS

141 TICKETS SOLD	\$16,920
PRIZE MONEY	(7,250)
PROCEEDS	\$ 9,670
50-50 PROCEEDS	200
DONATIONS	5,770
<b>TOTAL PROCEEDS</b>	<b>\$15,640</b>

## Immigration Partnership

The HRP Immigration Partnership (HRP-IP) was formed in 2023 out of the need to support newly arrived refugees who were sent to southern Westchester County. The Partnership was initially funded by a one-year Hudson River Presbytery Challenge to Change Grant of \$25,000 to cover program and services costs, events, basic needs support and personnel leadership. The grant has been administered from South Church.



When this relocation practice was abruptly halted by the government, we found ourselves in need of a new focus of engagement. The rise of harsh immigration enforcement ushered in by the new administration in 2025 reignited our 'reason for being' as the HRP-IP. As sanctuary protections once assumed in church spaces fell away and ICE agents

became a constant presence in our cities and towns, congregants and congregations across HRP reached out to our partnership for resources. They asked, 'What do we do if ICE shows up at our food pantry?' and 'How can we be good neighbors to immigrant community members facing constant threats?' and 'What is the Christian witness we are called to share amidst the violence towards immigrant communities?'



In early Summer 2024, it was confirmed that the City of New York was ending its contracts with "upstate" providers of accommodations for asylum seekers. All motel location sites would close by December 2024 (after the November



election that quickly eradicated progress and hope for progressive immigration reforms). Focus shifted to providers addressing resettlement needs and accompaniment during uncertain transitions. Closing events and supports ended this chapter and caused reflection in the context of (1) successes and failures of working within the system; (2) honest assessment of ways we could help and ways we could not help; (4) unanimous desire to improve models of engagement, education, training and support; (5) regrouping to support, advocate and mobilize in response to executive actions from the White House and increasing anti-immigrant sentiment that quickly set-in within days after the inauguration.

2025 and Beyond... The activities of the Partnership pivoted in January 2025 with the enactment of multiple executive orders of the new administration. Churches were no longer deemed "safe spaces." HRP Immigration Partnership responded and quickly developed policy guidelines for church spaces and ministries. A forum was held on February 6, 2025 bringing together over 65 interested members from throughout the Presbytery. This was followed up by leading Worship at the February 18th Presbytery Meeting and preparing updates and materials for Community Conversations at subsequent presbytery meetings, including addressing ICE Raid Preparation and the formation of Community Response Networks at the September 23, 2025 Presbytery meeting, which was attended by 18 members of the Presbytery. The Partnership and South Church will continue to facilitate the conversation and coordinate community action plans.



## Churches and Recent Immigration Policy Changes

February 6, 2025

### Manse Flooding Insurance Settlement and Restoration Work

- Administered Insurance Claim following Manse Flood incident in February, 2025
  - Total claim: \$147,220.98
- Managed all documentation and contact with Travelers Insurance and contractors providing remediation and reconstruction work
- Managed all documentation and contact with Travelers Insurance and contractors for bank funds transfer fraud claim
  - \$15,000 deposit payment was hacked and payment was made to a fraudulent account. Claim settled for \$12,500.00
- Co-manage with Buildings and Grounds use of insurance proceeds for additional repair and maintenance work at the Manse to be completed Fall, 2025.



## MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On September 8 of 2024, South Church Choir began the Fall season with the Indigo Girls song "Hammer and a Nail." The chorus sings "I gotta get out of bed and get a hammer and a nail, learn how to use my hands, not just my head." This line reflects one of the themes of the 24-25 year: what can we *do* to make this world a better place. Indeed, the South Church community has been tasked, and perhaps burdened, with this question since November. Musically, we've tried to bring what is needed to the sanctuary.



Working with our pastor Margery Rossi and the Worship Committee, we continued to choose hymns that felt appropriate for the lectionary and (usually) familiar with the SPC community. In addition, we held inspired discussions to select our choral anthems for the South Church Choir. Some of these anthems:

- Lean on Me – Bill Withers
- Closer to Fine – Indigo Girls (in anticipation of the screening of *Barbie*)
- Across the Universe – The Beatles
- Remember Me – Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
- Rise Up – Andra Day (celebrating the baptism of Andrew Smith's granddaughter)
- Waiting – Green Day (reflecting on the legacy of MLK Jr.)
- The Impossible Dream – from *Man of La Mancha* (also reflecting on the legacy of MLK Jr.)
- The Climb – Miley Cyrus (for Transfiguration Sunday)
- Pressing On – Bob Dylan
- Dies Irae – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (for Pentecost)

For Advent, we stuck with the hymnal for our anthems, selecting both familiar and unfamiliar hymns to reflect on the ideas of hope, peace, joy and love. Our South Church children blessed us with their voices on "While We Are Waiting, Come" for the second Sunday of Advent. They again sang during the Christmas Pageant which also featured a

solo by Maisie VanNess on “All Through the Night.” The spirit of solo singing continued into our Christmas Eve service with Emily Higgins, Sam VanNess, Anya van Hoogstraten, George Epstein and Gracie Epstein.

The familiar and unfamiliar theme took us through Lent and Easter, as well. Soloists included Katy Gravenor, Emily Higgins and Anne Day. Highlights:

- Vienna – Billy Joel
- Why Should I Feel Discouraged – with percussion!
- Hosanna – Soweto Gospel Choir
- In Joseph’s Lovely Garden – Clarence Dickenson
- Easter – Vincent Persichetti
- Resicitó! – Kiko Arguello

South celebrated Pride Month with hymns from the Hudson River Presbytery Inclusive Hymnal, specifically “Gather at the River” by Lindy Thompson and Mark A. Miller, and “Creator God, Your Home is Heaven” by Chris Shelton.

In the summer months with the choir off, the congregation sang “I, The Lord of Sea and Sky,” “In the Bulb There is a Flower” and “Will You Come and Follow Me” as worship focused on parables and spiritual disciplines.

Most of the choral anthems were arranged by the Music Director, who regularly plays improvisations for the Prelude, Offertory and Postludes.

While our pianos remain in good condition with regular tunings and humidity control on the Steinway, our organ suffered an electronic malfunction from a July lightning strike which has yet to be addressed.

Shout-outs to all of our amazing and dedicated choral singers; to always-game guest percussionists Ted and Anna Maria Epstein and Jonathan Torres-Rossi; to save-the-day musician subs Doug Epstein, Jeff Pittson and Linda Herring; to all of our talented soloists; to Robin Larkins for creating worship bulletins, and printing and hole-punching copies of the choral music every Sunday; and to Margery Rossi for being a thoughtful, open, kind and wise collaborator. Cheers to another great year together!

Submitted with gratitude and respect,

Dr. Amir Khosrowpour

## DEACONS' REPORT

The following served as Deacons during 2024-2025:

- Peter Brenner (completed term June 2025)
- Anne Day, Co-Chair as of June 2025
- Katy Gravenor - ordained June 2025
- Eric Greenberg, Former Chair (completed term June 2025)
- Tsha Gregory - ordained June 2025
- Murphy Halliburton, Co-Chair as of June 2025
- Molly Rodriguez
- Andrew Smith

Deacon meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7pm via Zoom.

During the 2024 – 2025 period the Deacons Supported the following events:

- Robin Smith-Thoene (Andrew's Granddaughter) baptism reception
- Advent Party
- Christmas Caroling to our homebound friends
- Reception after Christmas Eve Service
- MLK Breakfast benefitting CLUSTER Community Services
- Chris Cole Olsewski's memorial reception
- Soup Sundays: heat, serve soups and clean up.
- Coffee Hours: set up details and clean up.
- Easter Sunday Reception
- First Unitarian Society of Westchester Send Off reception
- Celebration of new Deacons/Elders
- Mother's Day reception
- Church Picnic
- Betty Perkins' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!
- Midnight Run summer support and sandwich making

The deacons continued in our role of providing visitation and support to members, friends and family of South Church wherever needed, including: Betty Perkins, Katherine Groth, Isabel Valencia, and Chris Cole-Olsewski and family.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

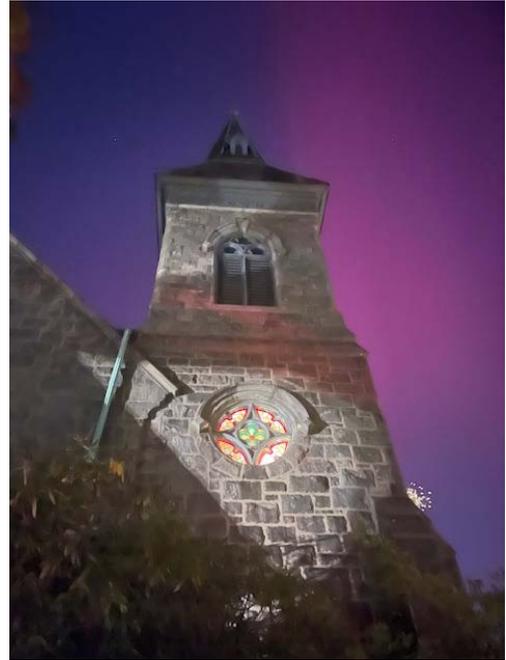
- Buildings & Grounds
- Communications
- Finance
- Manse
- Personnel
- Stewardship
- Worship

## Buildings & Grounds

Chair: Linda Jo Platt

Members: Duke Coffey, Les Radoman, Anne Day, Lenore Person, Roubi Eliopoulos, plus other assorted and welcomed volunteers

Staff: Henry Marroquin, Church Sexton



### Summary – September 2024– August 2025

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 and volunteers, by identifying and coordinating service vendors to perform expert work when and where necessary, and by reviewing and approving bills before church payment. Operational priorities follow strict decision criteria: Safety, Security, Structural Integrity and Economic Efficiency. On a daily basis Buildings and Grounds deals with small and large issues that are too numerous to detail in this report. Monthly minutes are available for anyone who wishes to read them; contact Linda Jo Platt.

Despite budgetary limitations, significant increase in the use of our buildings, a small crew of volunteers, and extreme weather, Buildings and Grounds has accomplished critical campus projects, working to keep buildings and grounds functioning with a focus on cost reduction without sacrificing operating standards. Most urgent needs are always addressed first. Looking toward the future, other reasonably attainable projects are in progress that will enhance operating conditions across SPC over time. While we have repaired and improved much at little or no expense, the list—and the cost—of critical maintenance requirements continues to grow.

### Campus Maintenance Yearly Contracts

- **Canopy Roof** Maintenance and gutter cleaning Fall and Spring: **\$3,260.00**
  - Manse, Wilde House, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- **American Minute Men** Sewer Maintenance - **\$1,100.00**
- **JP McHale Pest Control** (including rat and mouse elimination) **\$3,150**
  - Exterior and FH Building
- **Campbell Fire Protection** Update kitchen fire suppression system and fire extinguishers throughout building and Sanctuary
- **Plitnick Plumbing** - **\$468** Annual Contract for Wilde House gas and oil boilers. Individual service and repair costs separate.
- **Phoenix Mechanical** for church gas boiler (not on contract but on call).
- **All Pro Cleaners** Carpets and mats in Chapel, Office, Gallery Hallway, and Sanctuary were cleaned by All-Pro in late August

## SPC STRUCTURES

The span of the B&G Committee includes safety, security, structural, equipment and service issues 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 2024-25.

### Sanctuary

Accomplished:

- Designed and installed new wrought iron railing at the main entrance.
- Volunteer designed, built and installed railing to the top step of chancel area.



- Bridal Entrance Repair and Restoration: Duke Coffey and Les Radoman began restoration of the right-hand door and arch, which careful investigation showed had experienced significant and irreparable damage from direct sun and rain exposure. The left side is sound). Replacement parts (decorative moldings and structural panels) will be made from wood and PVC, respectively. Lessons learned from the ongoing project will inform a decision as to how best to restore the Sanctuary main doors.

### **To Do List for 25-26:**

- Complete Bridal Entrance door restoration.
- Install repurposed wainscoting and re-install memorial plaques in bridal entrance.
- New steeple hatch with insulation to the tower to save on heating costs.
- Restore all brass kickplates and doorplates on entrance ways.
- Refinish main table at the rear of the chancel.

### Chapel

Henry devised and built a way to vent air conditioners through the stained glass windows in the chapel for Summer Sunday Worship and other Chapel activities.

### Fellowship Hall Building

Accomplished:

- Stage curtain pulley repaired.
- Windows and skylight overlooking front lawn causing leaks in CNS classroom below were repaired with concrete sealing in the gap between the stone wall and skylight. Scraped and puttied window sills on outside of FH - Painting of window sills by volunteers and staff.
- Church Outdoor Mailbox - Henry and Duke installed a new locking mailbox to the right of the main entrance at Fellowship Hall, to ensure security of all mail received.

- Front Door – A new entry security system and hardware was installed by the Matelli Brothers Electricians. Robin has access to the camera in her office and on her phone, which allows her to see who is at the door from her office, both in her office as well as remotely, and then open the door as needed. An Allen wrench key allows the door to remain open for some events, and then locked.
- New lock cylinders installed after break-in.
- Security cameras purchased.

**To Do List for 25-26:**

- Front Door Entrance - As time and weather allow, volunteers plan to begin work replacing the upper exterior wood work of the entrance. The material is already on hand.
- Repair the hem of the stage curtain in Fellowship Hall.
- Install more security cameras to replace those stolen during break-ins and add more for additional campus coverage.

**Manse**

Flood / Water Damage

- On Monday, February 24, the failure of a faucet handle in the second-floor bathroom flooded two bedrooms, the first-floor dining and living rooms, and basement below, which resulted in significant damage to the ceilings, walls and floors. We filed an insurance claim, which was approved, and engaged a testing and a mitigation company before repairs could begin. Supervised work of restoration contractor and provided documentation necessary to administer and settle the claim.

Accomplished:

- Volunteers installed code-required fire board on the basement ceiling around the boiler.
- Engaged New Crystal Restoration for lead and mold remediation and building restoration.
- Removed damaged items from Manse and secured a Pod to store Food Pantry shelves, carts and supplies
- Sought and received \$25,000 Presbytery interest-free loan to cover insurance deductible.
- New flooring in master bedroom, restored flooring in living and dining rooms
- In living and dining rooms: ceilings, walls, upper moldings, and baseboards replaced or painted where water damage occurred.
- New hot water heater ordered.
- Larger capacity electrical box installed in basement
- Electricians have installed 3 wire lines on the first floor of manse.
- Volunteers painted the rear porch.

**To Do List for 25-26:**

- Roof repairs recommended by Canopy Roofing
- Complete basement beam project
- Replace rotten wood on the back porch; install code-required height screening of the porch railing to be done by volunteers. Repaint porch after repairs.
- Paint Pastor Study room and kitchen cabinets - volunteers.

## **Wilde House - Days of Wonder**

Accomplished:

- Both the gas and oil burners were repaired by Plitnick and new certificates have been issued. The next boiler inspection will occur in January/February 2027
- Henry repaired and replaced rotten bathroom flooring and rotten kitchen drain in his apartment
- Replaced rotten wood floor in DoW kitchen

### ***To Do List for 25-26:***

- Complete permanent porch spindles and railings
- Replace 2 windows in DoW space

## **SPC GROUNDS**

### **Sewage Line Repaired**

On February 25 bathrooms in the nursery school began overflowing flooding and leaking sewage throughout school and back yard. Plitnick was called. After a day of investigation and rotor rootering, it was determined that the Cedar Commons sewer line connection to our sewer line had disconnected due to ground shifting. Cedar Commons took responsibility for the work and cost to the church.

Accomplished:

- Stewartia Tree planted on front lawn on September 20 in memory of Bruce Platt
- Rainwater Drains Repaired by volunteers
- Large dead tree on manse front lawn removed
- Church Outdoor Mailbox permanently installed by staff

### ***To Do List for 25-26:***

- Dead tree on DoW playground to be removed
- Significant tree work needed to prevent damage to neighboring property
- Wish list: Seek solutions to worn grassy areas
- Wish list: Sprinkler System for front yard and gardens

## Communications

Lenore Person, Chair

South's communication is committed to greater consistency this year. The responsibility for the church newsletter has circled back to a volunteer-led initiative. Lenore and Church Administrator Robin Larkins are exploring a platform that allows everyone to share news.



### Touch points:

**Email**, via Constant Contact, is the cornerstone of South's outreach about church news and events. Our goal is a monthly Miscellany newsletter. South's community is receptive to our newsletter: 74% of our emails are opened. There are cards in all pews which give visitors a way to subscribe to our newsletter.



**Website:** Lenore updates the homepage of Southpres.org regularly, announcing key events, and the Donald Gallery page. Church Administrator Robin Larkins maintains a comprehensive calendar of events at South.

**Social Media @southpresdobbsferry:** South Church maintains a Facebook and an Instagram presence. Weekly services are streamed and posted on Facebook. News of the Church and activities held on campus are posted regularly with some views, but without much interactivity or engagement. Both Facebook and Instagram are underutilized.

**Banners:** Hanging a sign between the two maple trees in front of South is perhaps the best way to communicate our community events. We typically hang one for our Advent Party and other events.

### Goals for 2026:

1. Identify and set up a digital platform, such as a Google group, that allows all members of South's communities to connect, making us more resilient and informed and giving each of us access to the group.
2. Give our key programs (Roots & Wings, Food Pantry, The LAB, Donald Gallery, CNS) more prominence on the website's homepage. Create a southpres.org page for each.
3. Find a social media coordinator volunteer and enhance use of South's social media to be outwardly focused. Encourage collab posts on Instagram with our key programs (see above).



"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 2025 RESULTS

#### Key Takeaway

**Funding of operations is increasingly reliant on endowment contributions and unlikely to abate in the near term.** Core operations (e.g., programs, utilities, general maintenance, salaries & benefits) continue to outpace revenue sources (e.g., pledges, offerings, fundraising), giving rise to a structural deficit forcing endowment assets to be spent down. The current financial path is not sustainable and requires a significant change in the operating budget, fundraising strategy, or both. Fiscal year 2025 ended with net earnings of circa \$23k, due principally to endowment support. Absent endowment draws, revenue collected was driven by better-than-anticipated event-driven general contributions and other licensee revenue. Expenses paid were led by significant above plan buildings & grounds expenses.

#### Revenue Collected

Revenue Collected (114% of plan; +17% y/y) exceeded budget and was led by unanticipated material draws from the Endowment (135% of plan; +67% y/y) to cover operating costs and relatively strong Pledges & General Contributions (114% of plan; +13% y/y) items including: General Contributions (316% of plan, +65% y/y), Open Plate Collection (156% of plan; +57% y/y), and Pledge Receipts (95% of plan; +2% y/y). Licensee Contributions (102% of plan; -2% y/y) and Fundraising (96% of plan; -6% y/y) lagged prior years' strength, with the former impacted directly by the departure of FUSW and the latter impacted by competing fundraising events.

#### Expenses Paid

Expenses Paid (107% of plan; +6% y/y) exceeded budget and was impacted by greater than anticipated General Administrative Expenses (101% of plan; +51% y/y) and Buildings & Grounds (128% of plan; + 5% y/y), with the latter including greater than plan Utilities (108% of plan; +9% y/y) and Routine Maintenance & Special Repairs (205% of plan; -1% y/y). Salaries and Benefits (96% of plan; -1% y/y) came within budget.

#### Operating Account

The operating account ended with a balance of \$172k (+3,340% y/y). The sizeable end of fiscal year balance reflects non-recurring deposits totaling \$172k, including an insurance claims disbursement of \$147k related to the Manse and a general donation of \$25k.

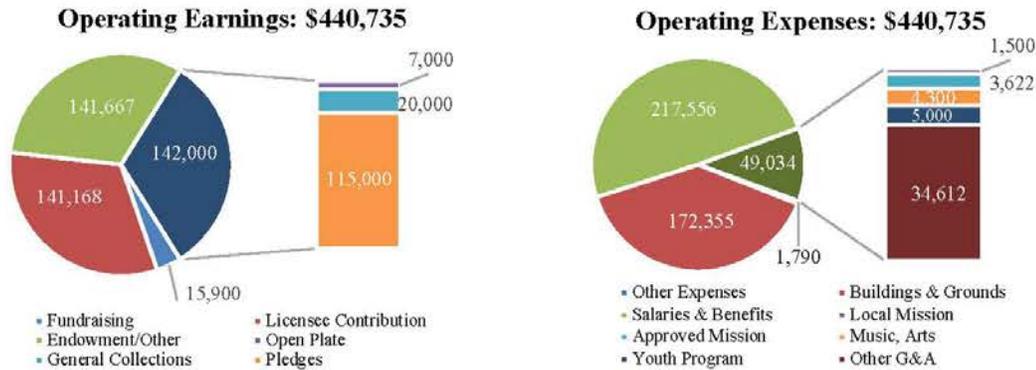
#### Endowment

Endowment ended with a balance of \$483k (-7% y/y). While the endowment's annual rate of return ended August 31, 2025, was 13.7%, the material drawdown to fund operations resulted in an overall reduction in the endowment's ending balance. Asset allocation of endowment is set at 90% equity, 9% bonds, 1% cash.

#### Property Valuations & Taxes

The Town of Greenburg valuation of the Church campus and Manse for tax year 2025 is \$7.222 million (+9% y/y) and \$869k (+ 56% y/y), respectively. North Yonkers District taxes paid for the Church campus and the Manse were \$4,240 (+17% y/y) and \$497 (+63% y/y), respectively.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET**



Note: Read pie charts counterclockwise and legends from left to right.

**FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET – ASSUMPTIONS**

No.	Budget Item	Comments
1	Pledges & General Contributions	Conservative level of \$142,000 (-9% y/y) reflects Open Plate of \$7,000 (-25% y/y), Pledge Receipts of \$115,000 (0% y/y), and General Contributions of \$20,000 (-37% y/y)
2	Community Nursery Licensee	Monthly licensee rate of \$3,386 (0% y/y)
3	Community Nursery Other	CNS covers 33% of Sexton salary (covered 35% in FY2025A)
4	Days of Wonder	Monthly licensee rate of \$4,878 (0% y/y).
5	Other Licensees	Aggregate monthly licensee rate of \$3,000, includes \$2,600 from recurring licensees and \$400 from event driven licensees; recurring licensees include AA (\$200), Creative Hearts (\$900), Sacred Spirit Yoga (\$500), Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry (\$1,000)
6	Licensee Contribution	Total \$141,168 (-7% y/y), reflects net changes in licensee roster
7	Fundraising	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A fundraising of circa \$16,000 and reflects Midnight Run Gala of \$1,500 (-3% y/y), Per Capita Receipts of \$400 (+5% y/y), and Raffle of \$14,000 (+2% y/y)
8	Funding of Operations by Endowment & Other	Circa \$140,167 (+14% y/y) set to cover anticipated budget gap; Other amount of \$1,500 reflects Midnight Run Gala
9	Total Income	Targeting \$440,735 (-2% y/y)
10	Worship, Music, Arts	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A expense of circa \$4,300
11	Approved Mission	Base per capita of \$3,622 on 86 (0% y/y) membership and estimated rate of \$42.12 (+3% y/y)
12	Local Mission	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A local mission plus Midnight Run Gala
13	Youth Programming	Rollover South commitment to FJLL of \$5,000 (+40% y/y) not covered in FY2023, FY204, and FY2025

No.	Budget Item	Comments
14	Office Expenses	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A expense of circa \$11,140 (+2% y/y)
15	Advertising & Media	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A expense of circa \$4,630 (-1% y/y)
16	Professional Services	Estimated legal counsel expense of \$1,500 in connection with Manse use cases vis-à-vis South's tax exemption
17	Other Administrative	Annual estimate of \$9,000 includes monthly QuickBooks (\$300), Constant Contact (\$40), ADT (\$85), Breeze (\$72), Amazon Prime (\$16), PPS Payroll (\$140)
18	Fundraising Expense	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A fundraising expense percentage of circa 50% (mainly Raffle) proceeds
19	General Administrative Expense	Decrease to circa \$49,000 (-2% y/y) based on lower Approved Mission, offset by increased Youth Programs carryovers
20	Utilities	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A utilities expense of circa \$48,600 (+1% y/y)
21	Insurance Expense	Increase quarterly premium to \$13,815 (+10% y/y) from \$12,560 (+8% from FY2024A)
22	Housekeeping Expense	Align FY2026 budget to FY2025A housekeeping expense of circa \$4,000
23	Tax Expense	Approximating \$4,800 (+1% y/y)
24	Routine Maintenance	Annual estimate of \$23,000 (-4% y/y)
25	Special Repairs	Annual estimate of \$37,000 (-2% y/y)
26	Petty Cash	Approximating \$960 (+1% y/y)
27	Buildings & Grounds	Estimating an increase of circa \$3,800 (+2% y/y due to expected increase in Utilities, Insurance Expense, and Tax Expense
28	Employer Payroll Taxes	Align FY2026 budget to COLA increase of 2.5%
29	General Benefits	Projected level of \$3,100 (+67% y/y) includes Church's anticipated contributions to Disability Insurance, Workers Compensation, and NYS Unemployment Insurance
30	Organist/Choirmaster Gross Salary	Align FY2026 budget to COLA increase of 2.5%
31	Minister Gross Salary	Gross amount of \$58,360 reflects taxable cash salary (+2.5% y/y) plus non-taxable housing allowance (+2.5% y/y)
32	Minister Net Salary	Imputed from gross amount of \$58,360 (+2.5% y/y) less estimated 403B election of \$16,924 and FSA election of \$3,300
33	Minister 403B Election	Estimated at \$16,924 (+2.5% y/y)
34	Minister Medical, Pension, D&D	Align FY2026 budget to Board of Pensions pastoral medical, pension, temporary disability, death & disability, dental, and vision estimates
35	Ministers SECA Allowance	Reflects FY2026 Terms of Call amount of \$4,465

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

No.	Budget Item	Comments
36	Minister Educational Allowance	Reflects carryover of FY2023 amount of \$2,250, FY2024 amount of \$2,400, and FY2025 amount of \$2,400 for a total of \$7,050
37	Minister 403B Employer Match	Set to the estimated amount of \$7,234
38	Administrator Gross Salary	Align FY2026 budget to COLA increase of 2.5%; FSA election (\$2,700) projected to remain the same
39	Administrator Health Insurance	Estimate of circa \$21,500 (+12% y/y)
40	Sexton Gross Salary	Align FY2026 budget to COLA increase of 2.5%
41	Salaries & Benefits	Estimating an increase of circa \$15,000 (+7.5% y/y) reflecting increases to Minister Benefits and Administrator Health Plan
42	Donald Gallery	\$1,790.31 reflects FY2025A amount collected on behalf of Donald Gallery in the Church's operating account

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET

Budget Item	Over/(Under)			Pct of			
	FY2026 Budget	FY2025 Actual	FY2025 Actual	FY2025 Actual	FY2025 Budget	FY2025 Budget	
<b>Income</b>							
6-00000 Revenue Collected							
6-10000 Pledges & General Contributions							
6-10100 Open Plate Collection	7,000.00	(2,360.25)	74.78%	9,360.25	6,000.00	3,360.25	156.00%
6-10200 Pledge Receipts	90,000.00	1,082.55	101.22%	88,917.45	86,000.00	2,917.45	103.39%
6-10210 Current Year Pledges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-10240 PayPal Collections	25,000.00	(1,179.20)	95.50%	26,179.20	35,000.00	(8,820.80)	74.80%
<b>Total 6-10200 Pledge Receipts</b>	<b>115,000.00</b>	<b>(96.65)</b>	<b>99.92%</b>	<b>115,096.65</b>	<b>121,000.00</b>	<b>(5,903.35)</b>	<b>95.12%</b>
6-10300 Gen. Contributions (non-pledge)	20,000.00	(11,604.00)	63.28%	31,604.00	10,000.00	21,604.00	316.04%
<b>Total 6-10000 Pledges &amp; General Contributions</b>	<b>142,000.00</b>	<b>(14,060.90)</b>	<b>90.99%</b>	<b>156,060.90</b>	<b>137,000.00</b>	<b>19,060.90</b>	<b>113.91%</b>
6-20000 Licensee Contributions							
6-20100 CNS Licensee Contribution	40,632.00	-	100.00%	40,632.00	40,632.00	-	100.00%
6-20110 CNS Non-Licensee Contribution	6,000.00	(160.00)	97.40%	6,160.00	9,600.00	(3,440.00)	64.17%
<b>Total 6-20100 CNS Licensee Contribution</b>	<b>46,632.00</b>	<b>(160.00)</b>	<b>99.66%</b>	<b>46,792.00</b>	<b>50,232.00</b>	<b>(3,440.00)</b>	<b>93.15%</b>
6-20200 Days of Wonder	58,536.00	-	100.00%	58,536.00	58,536.00	-	100.00%
6-20300 Other Licensee & Bldg Fees	36,000.00	(10,087.50)	78.11%	46,087.50	39,600.00	6,487.50	116.38%
<b>Total 6-20000 Licensee Contributions</b>	<b>141,168.00</b>	<b>(10,247.50)</b>	<b>93.23%</b>	<b>151,415.50</b>	<b>148,368.00</b>	<b>3,047.50</b>	<b>102.05%</b>
6-30000 Fundraising							
6-30200 Donald Gallery Income	1,500.00	(289.68)	83.81%	1,789.68	-	1,789.68	-
6-30300 Per Capita Pledge Receipts	400.00	20.00	105.26%	380.00	-	380.00	-
6-30600 Raffle	14,000.00	250.00	101.82%	13,750.00	-	13,750.00	-
<b>Total 6-30000 Fundraising</b>	<b>15,900.00</b>	<b>(379.68)</b>	<b>97.67%</b>	<b>16,279.68</b>	<b>17,000.00</b>	<b>(720.32)</b>	<b>95.76%</b>
6-40000 Other Revenue							
6-40150 Midnight Run	1,500.00	(50.00)	96.77%	1,550.00	750.00	800.00	206.67%
6-40300 Funding of Operations by Endowment	140,167.00	16,667.00	113.50%	123,500.00	91,400.00	32,100.00	135.12%
6-40900 Uncategorized Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total 6-40000 Other Revenue</b>	<b>141,667.00</b>	<b>16,617.00</b>	<b>113.29%</b>	<b>125,050.00</b>	<b>92,150.00</b>	<b>32,900.00</b>	<b>135.70%</b>
<b>Total 6-00000 Revenue Collected</b>	<b>440,735.00</b>	<b>(8,071.08)</b>	<b>98.20%</b>	<b>448,806.08</b>	<b>394,518.00</b>	<b>54,288.08</b>	<b>113.76%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>440,735.00</b>	<b>(8,071.08)</b>	<b>98.20%</b>	<b>448,806.08</b>	<b>394,518.00</b>	<b>54,288.08</b>	<b>113.76%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>440,735.00</b>	<b>(8,071.08)</b>	<b>98.20%</b>	<b>448,806.08</b>	<b>394,518.00</b>	<b>54,288.08</b>	<b>113.76%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
7-00000 Expenses Paid							
7-10000 General Administrative Expenses							
7-10100 Worship, Music, Arts							
7-10110 Music & Choir	560.00	20.00	103.70%	540.00	750.00	(210.00)	72.00%
7-10120 Guest Artists/Preachers	2,700.00	9.00	100.33%	2,691.00	1,000.00	1,691.00	269.10%
7-10130 Flowers / Decorations	900.00	(68.45)	92.93%	968.45	300.00	668.45	322.82%
7-10140 Worship (Misc)	140.00	18.79	115.50%	121.21	740.00	(618.79)	16.38%
<b>Total 7-10100 Worship, Music, Arts</b>	<b>4,300.00</b>	<b>(20.66)</b>	<b>99.52%</b>	<b>4,320.66</b>	<b>2,790.00</b>	<b>1,530.66</b>	<b>154.86%</b>
7-10300 Approved Mission	3,622.00	(3,781.31)	48.92%	7,403.31	7,592.00	(188.69)	97.51%
7-10400 Local Mission							
7-10410 Midnight Run	1,500.00	-	100.00%	1,500.00	750.00	750.00	200.00%
<b>Total 7-10400 Local Mission</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>750.00</b>	<b>750.00</b>	<b>200.00%</b>
7-10600 Youth Programming							
7-10610 Youth Programs	5,000.00	1,430.00	140.06%	3,570.00	8,570.00	(5,000.00)	41.66%
<b>Total 7-10600 Youth Programming</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>1,430.00</b>	<b>140.06%</b>	<b>3,570.00</b>	<b>8,570.00</b>	<b>(5,000.00)</b>	<b>41.66%</b>
7-10700 Office Expenses							
7-10710 Office Supplies	1,300.00	3.50	100.27%	1,296.50	400.00	896.50	324.13%
7-10730 Office Machines	5,103.97	238.08	104.89%	4,865.89	5,020.00	(154.11)	96.93%
7-10740 Office Serv. / Maint	550.00	10.00	101.85%	540.00	-	540.00	-
7-10750 Telephone/ SecurityExpense	4,186.03	21.42	100.51%	4,164.61	4,200.00	(35.39)	99.16%
<b>Total 7-10700 Office Expenses</b>	<b>11,140.00</b>	<b>169.55</b>	<b>101.55%</b>	<b>10,970.45</b>	<b>9,620.00</b>	<b>1,350.45</b>	<b>114.04%</b>
7-10800 Advertising & Media	4,630.00	(64.85)	98.62%	4,694.85	1,100.00	3,594.85	426.80%
7-10900 Bank Charges							
7-10910 Service Charges	367.00	10.88	103.06%	356.12	140.00	216.12	254.37%
7-10920 Finance Charges	-	(94.73)	0.00%	94.73	-	94.73	-
7-10930 PayPal Fees	900.00	(44.78)	95.26%	944.78	1,300.00	(355.22)	72.68%
<b>Total 7-10900 Bank Charges</b>	<b>1,267.00</b>	<b>(128.63)</b>	<b>90.78%</b>	<b>1,395.63</b>	<b>1,440.00</b>	<b>(44.37)</b>	<b>96.92%</b>
7-11000 Professional Services	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.00%
7-11100 Miscellaneous Administrative Expenses							
7-11140 Other Administrative Expense	9,000.00	(74.30)	99.18%	9,074.30	8,550.00	524.30	106.13%
<b>Total 7-11100 Miscellaneous Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>(122.49)</b>	<b>98.66%</b>	<b>9,122.49</b>	<b>8,550.00</b>	<b>572.49</b>	<b>106.70%</b>
7-11300 Fundraising Expense	7,075.00	127.00	101.83%	6,948.00	7,500.00	(552.00)	92.64%
<b>Total 7-10000 General Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>49,034.00</b>	<b>(891.39)</b>	<b>98.21%</b>	<b>49,925.39</b>	<b>49,412.00</b>	<b>513.39</b>	<b>101.04%</b>

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Budget Item	Over/(Under)			Pct of			
	FY2026 Budget	FY2025 Actual	FY2025 Actual	FY2025 Actual	FY2025 Budget	FY2025 Budget	FY2025 Budget
<b>7-20000 Building &amp; Grounds</b>							
7-20200 Utilities							
7-20210 Utilities - Church	48,000.00	591.21	101.25%	47,408.79	44,000.00	3,408.79	107.75%
7-20230 Utilities - Manse	500.00	16.02	103.31%	483.98	490.00	(6.02)	98.77%
<b>Total 7-20200 Utilities</b>	<b>48,500.00</b>	<b>607.23</b>	<b>101.27%</b>	<b>47,892.77</b>	<b>44,490.00</b>	<b>3,402.77</b>	<b>107.65%</b>
7-20300 Insurance Expense	54,005.00	4,918.50	110.02%	49,086.50	48,470.00	616.50	101.27%
7-20400 Housekeeping Expense	4,090.00	8.81	100.22%	4,081.19	4,640.00	(558.81)	87.96%
7-20500 Tax Expense	4,800.00	63.42	101.34%	4,736.58	4,300.00	436.58	110.15%
7-20600 Maint / Repair / Cap. Expense							
7-20610 Routine Maintenance Exp.	23,000.00	(863.13)	96.38%	23,863.13	10,000.00	13,863.13	238.63%
7-20620 Special Repairs	37,000.00	(926.44)	97.56%	37,926.44	20,000.00	17,926.44	189.63%
<b>Total 7-20600 Maint / Repair / Cap. Expense</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>	<b>(1,789.57)</b>	<b>97.10%</b>	<b>61,789.57</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>31,789.57</b>	<b>205.97%</b>
7-20700 Petty Cash	960.00	10.00	101.05%	950.00	200.00	750.00	475.00%
<b>Total 7-20000 Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>172,355.00</b>	<b>3,818.39</b>	<b>102.27%</b>	<b>168,536.61</b>	<b>132,100.00</b>	<b>36,436.61</b>	<b>127.58%</b>
<b>7-50000 Salaries and Benefits</b>							
7-50100 Employer Payroll Taxes							
7-50110 Employer SSEC Tax	5,558.78	145.90	102.70%	5,412.88	5,462.48	(49.60)	99.09%
7-50120 Employer MEDI Tax	1,299.95	34.19	102.70%	1,265.76	1,277.40	(11.64)	99.09%
7-50130 Employer SUTA Tax	900.00	99.93	112.49%	800.07	822.94	(22.87)	97.22%
<b>Total 7-50100 Employer Payroll Taxes</b>	<b>7,758.73</b>	<b>280.02</b>	<b>103.74%</b>	<b>7,478.71</b>	<b>7,562.82</b>	<b>(84.11)</b>	<b>98.89%</b>
7-50200 General Benefits							
7-50210 Workers Compensation	300.00	300.00			294.39	(294.39)	0.00%
7-50220 Disability Insurance	2,000.00	138.59	107.45%	1,861.41	1,818.51	42.90	102.36%
7-50230 Unemployment Insurance	800.00	800.00			762.63	(762.63)	0.00%
<b>Total 7-50200 General Benefits</b>	<b>3,100.00</b>	<b>1,238.59</b>	<b>166.54%</b>	<b>1,861.41</b>	<b>2,875.53</b>	<b>(1,014.12)</b>	<b>64.73%</b>
7-50400 Organist/Choirmaster							
7-50410 Ch/Master Gross Salary							
7-50411 Ch/Master Net Salary	20,889.19	509.47	102.50%	20,379.72	20,379.72	-	100.00%
7-50413 Ch/Master MEDI Tax	335.67	8.19	102.50%	327.48	327.48	-	100.00%
7-50414 Ch/Master SSEC Tax	1,435.53	35.01	102.50%	1,400.52	1,400.52	-	100.00%
7-50415 Ch/Master SWTNY Tax	493.23	12.03	102.50%	481.20	481.20	-	100.00%
<b>Total 7-50410 Ch/Master Gross Salary</b>	<b>23,153.62</b>	<b>564.70</b>	<b>102.50%</b>	<b>22,588.92</b>	<b>22,588.92</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total 7-50400 Organist/Choirmaster</b>	<b>23,153.62</b>	<b>564.70</b>	<b>102.50%</b>	<b>22,588.92</b>	<b>22,588.92</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
7-50500 Minister Compensation							
7-50510 Minister Gross Salary							
7-50511 Minister Net Salary	38,136.24	977.80	102.63%	37,158.44	37,225.10	(66.66)	99.82%
7-50516 Minister 403B Election	16,923.84	412.80	102.50%	16,511.04	16,511.00	0.04	100.00%
7-50517 Minister FSA Election	3,300.00	33.32	101.02%	3,266.68	3,200.00	66.68	102.08%
<b>Total 7-50510 Minister Gross Salary</b>	<b>58,360.08</b>	<b>1,423.92</b>	<b>102.50%</b>	<b>56,936.16</b>	<b>56,936.10</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
7-50520 Minister Benefits							
7-50521 Minister Medical, Pension, D&D	15,526.32	10,077.12	284.93%	5,449.20	5,449.20	-	100.00%
7-50522 Minister SECA Allowance	4,464.54	108.93	102.50%	4,355.61	4,355.61	-	100.00%
7-50523 Minister Educational Allowance	7,050.00	7,050.00			7,050.00	(7,050.00)	0.00%
7-50526 Minister AD&D	201.00	(201.00)	50.00%	402.00	201.00	201.00	200.00%
7-50529 Minister 403B Employer Match	7,234.00	(9,277.04)	43.81%	16,511.04	16,511.00	0.04	100.00%
<b>Total 7-50520 Minister Benefits</b>	<b>34,475.86</b>	<b>7,758.01</b>	<b>129.04%</b>	<b>26,717.85</b>	<b>33,566.81</b>	<b>(6,848.96)</b>	<b>79.60%</b>
<b>Total 7-50500 Minister Compensation</b>	<b>92,835.94</b>	<b>9,181.93</b>	<b>110.98%</b>	<b>83,654.01</b>	<b>90,502.91</b>	<b>(6,848.90)</b>	<b>92.43%</b>
7-50600 Administrator							
7-50610 Administrator Gross Salary							
7-50611 Administrator Net Salary	36,375.08	1,039.04	102.94%	35,336.04	35,130.60	205.44	100.58%
7-50612 Administrator FWT Tax	6,377.16	148.40	102.38%	6,228.76	6,260.52	(31.76)	99.49%
7-50613 Administrator MEDI Tax	703.98	19.62	102.87%	684.36	681.48	2.88	100.42%
7-50614 Administrator SSEC Tax	3,010.10	83.74	102.86%	2,926.36	2,913.96	12.40	100.43%
7-50615 Administrator SWTNY	2,083.72	59.20	102.92%	2,024.52	2,013.48	11.04	100.55%
7-50616 Administrator FSA Election	2,700.00	(100.00)	96.43%	2,800.00	3,000.00	(200.00)	93.33%
<b>Total 7-50610 Administrator Gross Salary</b>	<b>51,250.04</b>	<b>1,250.00</b>	<b>102.50%</b>	<b>50,000.04</b>	<b>50,000.04</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
7-50620 Administrator Health Ins.	21,503.92	2,300.48	111.98%	19,203.44	19,203.44	-	100.00%
<b>Total 7-50600 Administrator</b>	<b>72,753.96</b>	<b>3,550.48</b>	<b>105.13%</b>	<b>69,203.48</b>	<b>69,203.48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
7-50700 Sexton							
7-50710 Sexton Gross Salary							
7-50711 Sexton Net Salary	16,310.78	397.82	102.50%	15,912.96	15,912.96	-	100.00%
7-50713 Sexton MEDI Tax	260.26	6.34	102.50%	253.92	253.92	-	100.00%
7-50714 Sexton SSEC Tax	1,113.15	27.15	102.50%	1,086.00	1,086.00	-	100.00%
7-50715 Sexton SWTNY	269.25	6.57	102.50%	262.68	262.68	-	100.00%
<b>Total 7-50710 Sexton Gross Salary</b>	<b>17,953.44</b>	<b>437.88</b>	<b>102.50%</b>	<b>17,515.56</b>	<b>17,515.56</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total 7-50700 Sexton</b>	<b>17,953.44</b>	<b>437.88</b>	<b>102.50%</b>	<b>17,515.56</b>	<b>17,515.56</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total 7-50000 Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>217,555.89</b>	<b>15,253.60</b>	<b>107.54%</b>	<b>202,302.09</b>	<b>210,249.22</b>	<b>(7,947.13)</b>	<b>96.22%</b>
7-70000 Other Expenses							
7-70050 Donald Gallery	1,790.31	(3,395.94)	34.52%	5,186.25	5,190.00	(3.75)	99.93%
<b>Total 7-70000 Other Expenses</b>	<b>1,790.31</b>	<b>(3,395.94)</b>	<b>34.52%</b>	<b>5,186.25</b>	<b>5,190.00</b>	<b>(3.75)</b>	<b>99.93%</b>
<b>Total 7-00000 Expenses Paid</b>	<b>440,735.00</b>	<b>14,784.66</b>	<b>103.47%</b>	<b>425,950.34</b>	<b>396,951.22</b>	<b>28,999.12</b>	<b>107.31%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>440,735.00</b>	<b>14,784.66</b>	<b>103.47%</b>	<b>425,950.34</b>	<b>396,951.22</b>	<b>28,999.12</b>	<b>107.31%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(22,855.74)</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>22,855.74</b>	<b>(2,433.22)</b>	<b>25,288.96</b>	<b>-939.32%</b>

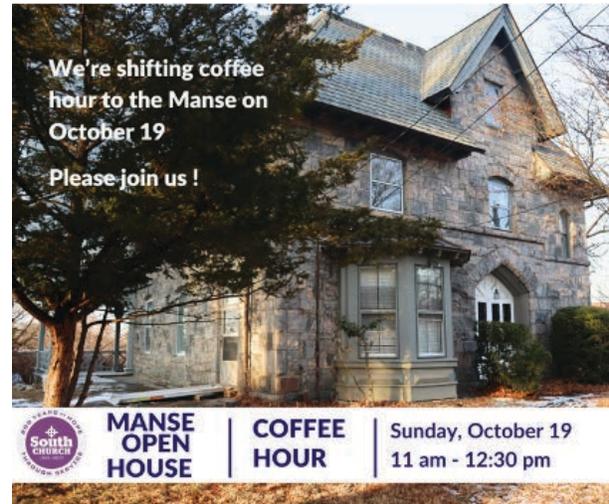
# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Budget Item	Over/(Under)		Pct of	FY2025 Actual	Over/(Under)		Pct of
	FY2026 Budget	FY2025 Actual	FY2025 Actual		FY2025 Budget	FY2005 Budget	FY2025 Budget
<b>Other Income</b>							
8-00000 Other Income	-	(590.61)	0.00%	590.61	-	590.61	
8-10700 Special Collections	-	(2,744.50)	0.00%	2,744.50	-	2,744.50	
8-10900 Loan Proceeds	-	(25,000.00)	0.00%	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	
8-11000 Insurance Proceeds	-	(147,220.98)	0.00%	147,220.98	-	147,220.98	
<b>Total 8-00000 Other Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(175,556.09)</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>175,556.09</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>175,556.09</b>	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(175,556.09)</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>175,556.09</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>175,556.09</b>	
<b>Other Expenses</b>							
9-00000 Other Expense	-	(3,132.45)	0.00%	3,132.45	-	3,132.45	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,132.45)</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>3,132.45</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,132.45</b>	
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(172,423.64)</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>172,423.64</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>172,423.64</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(195,279.38)</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>195,279.38</b>	<b>(2,433.22)</b>	<b>197,712.60</b>	<b>-8025.55%</b>

## Manse

What is the next life for the graceful granite building on the north side of our campus, formerly used as a home for our minister?

South's session formed a Manse Use Committee in February 2025 to creatively consider this exciting and important question. The Committee met in the Manse – once. The next week, a compromised sink faucet on the second floor of the Manse caused a substantial flood. The building has been closed since, due to lead and mold remediation and building repair.



Guided by Committee Chair George Epstein, the Committee agreed that the building should be mixed use, allowing some access for South's events, and that the use must align with South's mission, vision and values.

The committee presented the result of their four-month inquiry to Session at the end of May, 2025. Ideas to be explored included affordable housing, a café on the bottom floor, office and administrative use on the second floor, and a healing and wellness center.

The creative envisioning continues with the Manse Use Committee | Phase 2. Its charge is to research recommendations, engage stakeholders and (1) present a specific, fiscally sustainable option regarding the future of the Manse (understanding that South Church wishes to maintain ownership of the building and property), and (2) determine an actionable path forward for short-term use.

The Manse Use Committee Phase 2 will share its progress at the October 9 Session meeting. The Committee hopes to host the October 19 coffee hour after Worship in the Manse if restoration continues at its current pace!

### Phase 1

Chair: George Epstein

Church members: Laura Giannone, Katy Gravenor, Tristan Gravenor, Kay McCoy, Lenore Person

Community members: Melanie Dobbs, Janet Donat, Emily Higgins and Malcolm MacDougal

Staff: Robin Larkins, Administrator; Pastor Margery Rossi

### Phase 2

Co-Chairs: Tristan Gravenor and Lenore Person

Church members: Laura Giannone and Linda Jo Platt

Community members: Melanie Dobbs and Malcolm MacDougal

Staff: Robin Larkins, Administrator; Pastor Margery Rossi

## Personnel

On behalf of the Session, John Gunther-Mohr and Margery Rossi conducted personnel reviews in May 2025 for:

Amir Khosrowpour, Music Director  
Robin Larkins, Administrator  
Henry Marroquin, Sexton  
Linda Jo Platt, Director, Community Nursery School

Process:

- All staff members received a self-evaluation to complete in April 2025.
- In addition, 3 people with knowledge of each staff member's work were asked to complete and submit an evaluation in April 2025.
- John and Margery reviewed all submitted evaluations for each staff member.
- John and Margery met with each staff member to discuss evaluations and set goals for the coming year.
- Summaries of each meeting were written and circulated to each staff member for their review.
- Staff members signed and returned these summaries.

Submitted by: Margery Rossi & John Gunther-Mohr



## Stewardship

Stewardship Team:

Kay McCoy, Margery Rossi, John Gunther-Mohr, Kris Kliemann, Alex Navarrete

The Stewardship theme for September 2024 – August 2025 has been fulfilling the passions of our members as shown in the leaves on the Stewardship Tree.

The poster of the tree was presented in September last year as a graphic presentation of the services, programs, missions, community groups, teachers, students, church members, friends, and guests who are touched and supported by South Presbyterian Church.

The leaves represent your favorite use of the church or service provided. Messages on the leaves included: Midnight Run, the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, Worship, Music, and Fellowship, Learning Lab, Soup, LGBTQ support, Social Justice, and more.



Our financial and volunteer giving has allowed SPC to continue to support our overall mission “to become more fully human, in the ways that God has given us, through constant learning, justice work, the arts and inclusion.” The needs this past year have been demanding, requiring unexpected payouts for security and property, just to name a couple. The Session and Committees have spent many hours in stewardship of the resources we have available; we have applied for and received grants, been conscientious about filing insurance claims as appropriate, and have repaired, renovated, and maintained the facility without sacrificing services or worship.

Last September, Kay McCoy on behalf of the Stewardship Committee asked for commitments to donate (pledges), and 34 people made that formal commitment. That is way more than the “10% of the people do all the work” stereotype that we often hear. Thank you for giving us your financial intention for the year and thank you for your contributions. The first helps us make the budget, and the second helps us meet the budget that we made.

Submitted by Kay McCoy

## Worship

Committee Members: Amir Khosrowpour, Kris Kleimann (ending June 2025), Robin Larkins, Margery Rossi, Anne Day, Meg Bussert, Laurie Pyburn (beginning August 2025).

Services were held faithfully on all Sundays throughout the 2024-2025 church/ school/ fiscal year. The committee meets regularly to plan weekly services and other events. A working Google Sheets document is used for planning and documenting events.

Worship at South is a group effort with Pastor Margery Rossi leading the way. Her role as pastor is a 75% position

which requires us to offer alternatives for approximately one weekend per month in worship. In Pastor Rossi's absence, worship is led by Worship Committee members, church members, outside pulpit supply ministers and guest speakers. As always, we are so grateful for everyone who offers ideas and leadership during these services. We continue to seek involvement from anyone in the congregation who has ideas and a desire to participate in worship that will contribute to inspiring, thought provoking and meaningful worship.

In Oct. 2024, South began an experiment to engage congregants who wished to participate more actively in Sunday worship service. In the spring of 2024, Meg Bussert gave a workshop offering simple tools used by professional speakers and readers. The ideas excited a number of congregants who then began asking about the possibilities of contributing to Worship. Thus, the Liturgist List began. We experimented with several plans and agendas throughout the year. We grew to a list of 30 active Liturgists. Readers now bring their voices to Scripture, special readings, mini "readers theater" and pageant presentations. A big thank you to all involved.

Communion was offered once per month, typically on the first Sunday of the month. We rejoiced and celebrated the baptism of Robin Smith-Theone, Andrew Smith's granddaughter; as well as Thomasin Willard. We held a funeral to mourn and commemorate the passing of beloved friend and church member Chris Cole-Olsewski.

In the Fall, we held an outdoor service which included the blessing of the animals. We had a 7 p.m. Longest Night service on December 20 (the longest night of the year). Our Christmas pageant was held during Sunday service this year with lots of congregants organizing and participating. We continued the tradition of 7:00 p.m. Christmas service filled with lessons and carols.



In January we continued with our special celebration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King during worship. After worship, South Church hosted the 34th Martin Luther King Breakfast benefiting CLUSTER Community Services. The fundraiser breakfast was well attended and benefitted Cluster's Summer Camp Program.

Lent into Easter included Sunday services as well as Ash Wednesday and Holy Week (Maudy Thursday Tenebrae, Good Friday) and Easter Sunday sunrise service at the river and Easter Sunday 10:00 worship.



Our commitment to LGBTQIA+ people was celebrated and talked about in worship throughout the month of June and especially during the Sunday Pride Worship and culminating with our participation in the Greenburgh Pridefest at Dobbs Ferry riverfront park.

Summer services were moved into the chapel this year and we explored the stories and parables of the Gospel of Luke with shared reflection. Being in the chapel created an intimate space for people to share their reflections and was very well received. In July, we also participated in an interfaith worship at the Dobbs Ferry Lutheran Church with Aldersgate United Methodist Church and Ardsley Methodist Church. What a wonderful way to spend a Summer Sunday morning.

The chancel, vestibule, windows and pews were often decorated and adorned beautifully to reflect the themes of worship. And music flowed in our sanctuary with the gorgeous, sensitive and inspiring piano and organ from Amir, which enhances everything that happens on Sundays. The exuberance of the choir and soloists is a special treat, and the infusion of other instrumentalists - drummers, guitarists, and more - are also an important aspect of what makes worship at South Church a deep and rich experience.

In gratitude for worship committee members and their dedication.

Submitted by Laurie Pyburn

## **SOUTH CHURCH'S MINISTRIES**

- Community Nursery School
- Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry
- Donald Gallery
- Faith and Justice Leadership Lab (Church School)
- The LAB (Open Mic Night)
- Roots and Wings

## Community Nursery School

Director: Linda Jo Platt



### CELEBRATING 80 YEARS



Celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 (with an 80's theme party), The Community Nursery School of Dobbs Ferry was established in October 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.

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.

South Presbyterian Church wholly owns CNS. The part-time CNS staff of 10 are employees of South Presbyterian Church; 8 are teaching staff, one director and one office manager. CNS has a separate operating budget and funds all salaries, space, supplies, repairs and custodial cleaning through tuition and fundraising.

### A LOOK AHEAD FOR 2025-2026

Two years ago, we made the difficult decision to operate morning programs only and we will do the same for the 2025-2026 school year. This decision, along with the wonderful response to our BINGO fundraiser event, private donations, and our tuition kept us financially sound this last 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 the support they give to keeping CNS one of the best pre-schools in Westchester.



Enrollment for pre-schools and primary schools in general are lower for several reasons. A drop in children born in late 2020 and in 2021 has affected our 3s and 4s classes, combined with families moving, seeking a longer day, or needing specialized programs for their children as well as limited real estate inventory. This year, Springhurst saw their Kindergarten enrollment dip to the low 80s (compared to a typical size of 110-120).

### 2025-2026 CLASSES

**TWOS** – We have one TWOS class this year with the option for children to attend 3 or 4 mornings per week (M-T-W or M-Th down from two separate TWOS classes in 2023-2024). This class follows the extended time of 9:15 – 11:30 AM and we have changed the cut-off birthdate from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, in an effort to attract more families.

**THREES** – We continue our M-F 3s and the 3 morning 3s class (T-W-Th), both meet 9:00-11:45

**FOURS** – Due to low enrollment, we continue to operate one FOURS program in the morning.

While 2024-2025 tuition reflected a 2-6% increase, the 2025-2026 tuition reflects a minor 3% tuition increase:

One 3/4 day AM program for 2s	Tuition \$7,000/\$9,000
One 3 day AM program for 3s	Tuition \$6,500
One 5 day AM program for 3s	Tuition \$8,500
One 5 day AM program for 4s	Tuition \$8,500



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

We operate an Extended Weeks program in June and a Summer Session in July funded by tuition only. We are closed for cleaning and repairs in August.

The Director salary for the 2025-2026 school year (September 2025-August 2026) is set at \$32,061 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, which is paid solely from the nursery school budget.

**2025-2026 ENROLLMENT as of September 29, 2025**

Total children enrolled for the 2025-26 school year: 45 out of a possible 50 morning only spots, 90% capacity (2024-2025 was 40 out of a possible 50 spots, 80% capacity).

For the 2025-2026 school year we enrolled 2 SPRING children with CNS funding 80% of tuition, SPRING (Spring Community Partners) funding \$1,500 per child, and the families contributing a small monthly amount of \$50 per month. We also gave two additional non-SPRING children a smaller scholarship of \$1000 each.

Enrollment for 2025-2026 is up 10%.

<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>2s</b>	<b>3s</b>	<b>4s</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
2024-2025	9	17	14	40
2025-2026	10	21	14	45



## **REVENUE AND FUNDING**

Our expected 2025-2026 revenue is projected at \$353,950 with expenses of \$361,834, operating with a deficit of \$7,884.

Despite lower enrollment and revenue, CNS is committed to keeping our annual donation amount to South Presbyterian Church for 2025-2026 at \$40,632.

Tuition is our largest source of revenue. In addition, we rely on in-person fundraising events for additional funding, which we brought back for the second year in a row last year (after a big break from 2019 to 2023) and raised \$12k with an 80's themed BINGO Night party in honor of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We are planning to host a fundraiser again in April 2026.



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 3% raise for the 2025-2026 school year, covered through a 10% increase in enrollment and our fundraising and donation appeals.

We have additional funding in a dedicated Vanguard endowment fund of \$137,354 as of June 30, 2025.

We will know by January 2026, after our initial enrollment for the next school year, how the future looks for CNS in 2026-2027 and what, if any, changes need to occur.

**For a fuller description of the CNS program, please visit our website at [cnsdobbsferry.com](http://cnsdobbsferry.com)**

## Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry



For more information about the Food Pantry, see [www.dobbsferrypantry.org](http://www.dobbsferrypantry.org)



### We're Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Led by Co-Directors Donna Assuma and Vera Halpenny, and a team of 30 weekly volunteers, the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry feeds more than 100 families per week. On average, **the Pantry serves 275 children, 625 adults, 180 seniors, from a total of 450 households. That's over 1,100 people per month.** The number of new clients seeking assistance has grown by 15% over the past year.



The Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry is one of 60,000 pantries and meal programs that are part of the Feeding America network. That's a whopping number, and it means that food pantries play an important role in communities across the country, especially in low-income areas that lack stores offering healthy, affordable food, or areas that have supermarkets that are hard to get to if you don't have a car.

At our food pantry, clients are young and old. Many are women with young children. Our clients are in between jobs or work several jobs. Some have a life-threatening illness and can no longer work, or struggle with mental illness. Older clients who've lived here for much of their life but can't keep up with rising costs also depend on our pantry for assistance. And then there are the clients who fled war, but dream of returning home.

### Ever Evolving

Food pantries have long emphasized quantity, efficiency and fairness, handing each client a box or bag packed with canned goods, beans, pasta, sauce and peanut butter. Sometimes this box is offered with other foods.

But we knew we could do better. In an effort to give clients more choice, stress nutritional value, reduce the waste of unwanted food, and save money spent on boxes

and the time needed to pack them. A client doesn't eat peanut butter? Do they have trouble digesting dairy? No problem. Our clients choose what they want; we work to offer them healthy foods that appeal to as many people as possible, and provide a dignified experience.

After checking in, the first thing our clients see are tables lined with a beautiful display of fresh vegetables and fruit, emphasizing the importance of a healthy diet.



Next, they visit the breakfast table, choosing the type of milk they prefer — whole, low-fat or nondairy — and cereal, ideally low-sugar or oats, and then it's on to the protein table where they can often take eggs plus a choice of chicken, fish or another protein. Clients continue visiting tables loaded with options.

Federal budget cuts enacted by the new administration in early 2025 have had a deep impact on fresh produce supplies provided by Feeding Westchester, our primary food bank supplier. Over a million pounds of food is no longer available to the 175 food pantries served by Feeding Westchester. As a result, the Dobbs Ferry Pantry has had to increase fund raising efforts to pay for now having to purchase more food and produce from local distributors.

Several fundraising appeals and three major fundraising events have been held to help cover these extra costs cause by these drastic cuts. A Jazz Concert, featuring pianist *David Janeway and Friends* performed in the Sanctuary in February. *The Hendersons*, country-rock band performed at Hudson Social in August, planned by former South Church deacon Anilla Cherian. And local favorite band, *Greetings From Anywhere* donated a performance in the Sanctuary in early September. These artists all donated their time and talent and brought the community together in support of the Pantry.



### A Safe and Welcoming Place

The beginning days of the second Trump administration saw the enactment of several executive orders that caused fear and concern among the immigrant families the Pantry

serves. South Church enacted policies designed to protect everyone who came to the Pantry to pick-up food and worked with local police and Village government to advocate and assure the safety of our clients. After consulting with our clients, the Pantry hosted a discussion with the Dobbs Ferry Chief of Police to answer questions and build trust. We are grateful for the partnership we share with local police and Village leadership



### **A Community Effort**

Several villages of residents, organizations, faith communities, businesses and schools work in partnership to serve our neighbors in need, including: Ardsley Methodist Church, Scarsdale Women’s Club, Temple Beth Shalom, Woodlands Community Temple, Zion Episcopal Church, Irvington Presbyterian Church, and of course, South Presbyterian Church. Local businesses, including Stop & Shop, MOM’s Organic Market, Panera, The Shop Ardsley, New York Bagel Authority provide weekly donations. Cabrini of Westchester, Elmwood Dah School and Camp, Springhurst Garden and Dobbs Ferry Schools are regular contributors. And many other families and community groups.

From the December 2024 newsletter: Volunteers were asked to share their most memorable moments of the past year -- the things they did or witnessed that epitomized the extraordinary extra-step efforts for our clients. Three responses stood out.

*“Seven volunteers work together to ensure that our homebound clients receive a delivery every Wednesday. Typically, a volunteer delivers to the same clients every week, often forming friendships, like Les Radoman and a client who is very ill and spends most of her day resting in bed. I tagged along on one delivery and listened as Les and the client talked about her fears as her disease progresses. Les wanted to know more, and reassured her that he’ll be back next week. To this client, Les is a true friend and a connection to the world outside her apartment.” — Kimberly Janeway*

*“Kristy Fitzgerald remembering to keep a loaf of gluten-free bread aside for the client with celiac, and the volunteer who helps a woman with a baby to her car.”  
— Roubi Eliopoulos*

*“When you work here long enough, you develop a kind of tunnel vision that prevents you from seeing what’s right in front of you. Mark Rabinowitz doesn’t have that. In the blazing heat of early summer, as we were racing to get set up for the Wednesday distribution, Mark was walking down the line of waiting clients with a big jar of cold water and paper cups, offering each a drink. Some had been waiting in line for two hours.”  
— Duke Coffey*

## Donald Gallery

Gallery Committee: Kris Kliemann (Session member) | Nick Herring| Katie Gravenor

The Donald Gallery had a full season of shows for 2024/25:

- Sept/Oct: **Pivotal Moments in Caring for the Earth | Jennifer Madelin Burns and Patrick Burns IV**
- Oct/Nov: **Between River and Sky | Martin Munroe**
- Dec/Jan: **Cross Pollination | Five Artists/One Studio**
- Jan/Feb: **This Heart Contains | Katie Reidy**
- Mar/May: **Fleeting Light | Rachel Weatherford Whitlow**
- May/June: **Bending Nature | Erin Treacy**

In addition to 6 successful shows, the big news for the gallery in this year was about the design and implementation of a new logo:

The Gallery's [Facebook page](#) and the [Instagram account](#) now feature the new logo. The front of church signpost (newly painted) now features a gallery sign and we have yard signs which we will put out on the days when we have an opening. Thank you to Jennifer Holiday and Howard Grossman for their amazing work!



The gallery hallway was completely renovated in August (old paper stripped off and walls were re-conditioned and repainted). Baseboards are going to be replaced during the fall. And doorways will be repainted by South Church volunteers in the near future. Thank you Dave Person and crew for the work that hot week in August when the church was mostly closed. We love the new smooth clean walls! And the artists love it too!

The pics below give an idea of what it looked like “in process.” We invite everyone to stop by to see the finished gallery soon!



Both the branding / logo and renovation initiatives were paid for out of the gallery funds: when an artist sells work during a show, the church receives a commission and we have built up some funds over the past few years that have allowed us to do this work to keep our gallery looking sweet!

At the end of 23/24 the fund was approx. \$9000. In 24/25 the commissions totaled \$1780. So the total is approx. \$10,780. Final billing for expenses for Logo and sign creation and renovation are yet to come, but expectation is that total may be \$4500.

Our first show for the 25/26 season is up (until October 19): **Interface | Matthew William Robinson**, and we are contracting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> show of the season now. The plan is to have 6 shows once again by end of June 2026.

Anyone interested in working with the gallery can be in touch with any of us on the committee and/or email us at [gallery@southpres.org](mailto:gallery@southpres.org)

## Faith & Justice Learning Lab

Submitted by: Marie-Louise Miller, Director

The Learning Lab Church School started the year with four dedicated families and a middle school helper. Our numbers remained steady at 6-10 kids for most of the October-June season.

The Learning Lab kids participated in services around Advent, Christmas and Easter.

We connected with the natural world as the seasons changed, including a visit from Gardner Greg Rosen. Here are some highlights of our year:

Celebrated the seasons of change, outside after attending the first part of a Church service.

After a lesson, we made airplanes and flew them, building a sense of belonging, helping and teaching each other how to fold and fly the planes .



Celebrated together at the annual Advent Party.



Shared the gift of music during the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent during the Christmas pageant.



In March, we visited the Donald Gallery and met artists throughout the year whenever a new show went up. We made our own paintings to reflect what we saw on the walls.



In the Spring, we bid farewell to our Unitarian friends who moved to a new home.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Easter morning together – the kids sang, and participated in the annual egg hunt afterwards.



We add to our paper chain of values and hopes almost every Sunday.



## The LAB Open Mic

The Open Mic ran monthly, September - June

We had big adjustments and successes in terms of quality of music being performed. Kids are taking the opportunity seriously and working harder to prepare before they come. We welcomed back alumni over the breaks and collaborated with Hastings KIDS at the River Arts Music Tour on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

This is the only place teens can gather and produce music as a collective. And we hear every year that this space has become a place where teens find themselves.

As a way to give back on June 20<sup>th</sup>- Open Mic teens, "Lilly on the Roof", performed for South Church's Raffle Drawing Event. The LAB also donated \$100.00. This is money we collected from small donations to the Open Mic over the course of the year. The Open Mic is free to all teens.



This year, we qualify for an Arts Westchester matching grant, October – December 15<sup>th</sup>.

We need new lights and we would like to upgrade the drum kit. We started the year in September with a Flea market and raised \$250 to donate to South Church.

## Roots & Wings

Steering Committee: Nick Herring, Marta Dospiva Legan, Lenore Person, Greg Rosen, MJ Wilson  
Rivertowncommunitygardens.com | @rivertowncommunitygardens on Instagram

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Roots & Wings looks for ways to support sustainability--from growing food to composting, connection and community. We are not experts—we are learning by doing, as well as learning from people who are further on the path of "people care, earth care and fair share." Each step of the process is open to all.

We maintain three gardens on South's campus. All are welcome.

- Kitchen Garden – garden manager Nick Herring. Weekly communal gardening Saturdays 10 am - noon
- Manse Garden – garden manager Greg Rosen. Weekly communal learning garden time Fridays 4 – 5 pm
- Labyrinth – garden manager Roubi Eliopoulos

We host a summer CSA with Deep Roots Farm, CSA Manager Marty Davey, and offer sporadic public programs.

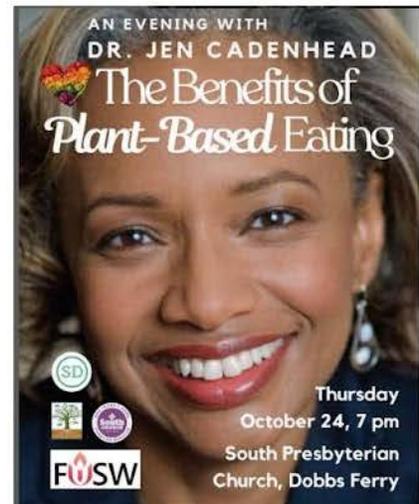
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### 2024-2025 Highlights

**October 2024:** We cohosted **The Benefits of Plant Based Eating** led by Dr. Jen Cadenhead, with South Church, FUSW and Sustainable Dobbs. Attended by two dozen people. Suggested donation \$10, given to Pantry.

**November 2024:** We hosted a **Sourdough Bread Workshop**, led by Arnie Adler, for a dozen people. \$35. Proceeds to the baker, donation to Church Administrator.

**January:** The Manse Garden received veganic certification from North American Veganic Certification Standard.



**February - March 2025: SOUTH SYRUP!** Led by Greg, we tapped Norway Maple trees in the Manse backyard and Sugar Maples in the church's front yard. It took several people to keep up with the sap production and boil it to syrup consistency. Greg led workshops for Days of Wonder, Community Nursery School and the Lab. Roots & Wings hosted a pancake breakfast on March 29 / \$10 with the local syrup. The event raised \$500 for Roots & Wings.

## 2025 PASTOR TERMS OF CALL

	<h1>2025 Terms of Call</h1>				
	<p><i>For Installed Pastors</i></p> <p><a href="#">Link to Committee on Ministry Manual</a></p>				
<b>Legend:</b>					
<b>Informational:</b>		<b>User Input:</b>		<b>Automated Calculation:</b>	
<b>Part-Time:</b>					
<p>*Additional information regarding terms and process can be found at the end of the document.</p>					
<b>Effective Dates of Terms of Call:</b>	<i>Beginning</i>	9/1/25		<i>Ending</i>	8/31/26
<b>Church Name:</b>	South Presbyterian Church in Greenburgh		<b>Address:</b>	343 Broadway	
<b>Minister's Name:</b>	Margery Rossi			Dobbs Ferry	
<b>Position Type:</b>	(Click Cell for Menu) ->		Pastor		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full-Time (40 hr/wk)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time		If PT # of hrs/wk	30
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired			

	2025	2024	% Change
<b>1 Cash Salary</b>	\$ 44,892.00	\$ 43,797.00	2.50%
*2.5% mandated COLA increase in min. from '24. Mandated minimum for FT is:			\$49,825
**Part-Time minimum cash salary based on hrs/wk is:			\$ 37,368.75
<b>2 Housing Allowance</b>	\$ 13,468.00	(Skip if a manse is part of the terms of call.)	
*If used, must be at least			\$ 14,947.50 based on mandated Full-Time minimums.
**Part-Time minimum			\$ 11,210.63
<b>3 Deferred Compensation</b>			
*Examples: 403b, tax sheltered annuity.			
**Effective 1/1/08 - Church matching contributions to the BoP Retirement Saving Plan (RSP) should not be included in Line 3.			
<b>4 Other Allowances</b>	\$ -		
*Does not included vouchered expenses.			
**Includes FSA or HSA accounts, furnishings, utility allowances and reimbursements of SECA in excess of 50%			
<b>5 Mane Value</b>	\$ -	Greater than/= 30%?	-
*If Line 5 is used there is usually no entry on Line 2.			
**MUST be the GREATER OF: 30% of total Lines 1,3,& 4; or average rental cost of comparable housing in county where church is located.			
	2025	2024	% Change
<b>6 Effective Salary</b>	\$ 58,360.00	\$ 56,936.00	2.50%
*Mandated minimum for Full-Time:		\$64,773	
**Mandated minimum for Part-Time:		\$ 48,579.38	
<b>7 Benefit Plan Dues</b>			
Board of Pensions coverage is required for installed pastor (member):		\$ 16,647.76	
**BOP for members includes medical, death and disability, tempoary disability, EAP, and pension.			
***Enter cost of Board of Pensions Plan in the Yellow Cell.			
Is family coverage needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, enter the family cost to the church in the Yellow Cell.			
<b>Total cost of benefits and medical to the church:</b>		\$ 16,647.76	
<b>8 SECA Allowance</b>	(Normally 7.65%)	\$ 4,464.54	

ITEMS NOT NORMALLY INCLUDED IN EFFECTIVE SALARY OR TAXABLE INCOME  
(VOUCHERED EXPENSES)

<b>9a Professional Expense Allowance</b>	(min. \$3,000)	\$ 7,050.00	Carry over
*Including auto, continuing education, books, fellowship, etc.			
<b>9b Other Vouchered Expenses</b>	\$ -	<b>Indicate Vouchered Expenses</b>	
<b>9c Presbytery Group Life</b>	\$ 201.00		
<b>Total Vouchered Expenses:</b>	\$ 7,251.00		
<b>Total Pastoral Compensation:</b>	\$ 86,723.30		

OTHER ITEMS TO BE COVERED BY TERMS OF CALL

<b>11 Vacation Time:</b>			
<b>FT</b> minimum 31 calendar days including 5 Sundays.	# of Days	23	
	# of Sun.	4	
<b>PT</b> minimum 4 weeks including w/ 1 additional Sunday.	# of Weeks		
	# of Sun.		
<b>12 Study Leave:</b>			
Minimum 14 calendar days including 2 Sundays.	# of Days	11	
*To be non-taxable, vouchers must be submitted.	# of Sun.	2	
<b>13 Relocation Allowance for New Calls:</b>	\$ -		
*This expense is no longer non-taxable as per 2017 IRS changes. Churches should keep this additional tax expense in mind as they choose this number.			
<b>14 Is there a shared equity arrangement?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
*If yes, please provide details if new (attached report).	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>15a</b> When was the last time your pastor had a sabbatical leave?	Enter Year		
<b>15b</b> Have both the pastor and Session read and affirmed the HRP sabbatical policy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		
<a href="#">(Link to the Sabbatical Leave Policy)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>16</b> Have both pastor and Session read and affirmed the HRP family/medical leave policies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		
<a href="#">(Link to HRP Family/Medical Leave Policy)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>17 Manse Use Agreement</b>			
If pastor lives in a church manse, has a manse agreement been filed with the presbytery?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
<a href="#">(Link to HRP Manse Use Agreement)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> No		

