



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



2021 Annual Report

Letter from the Pastor | 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

I remember the quotation attributed to many, but also to the late Desmond Tutu: “I’m not optimistic, no. I’m quite different. I’m hopeful.”

I’ll confess that when I wrote this letter last year I was optimistic. We still weren’t meeting in person at that point; we were still recovering from a winter COVID surge—still waiting on normalcy. But things on the horizon looked good. Vaccines and improved numbers promised a better future. For a while that seemed to come true. We returned to worship. We even took off masks. Come August we were going to plan a “Welcome Back to Church Sunday.”

None of that went according to plan. Instead we had another year of creative—and sometimes frustrating—ministry. We worshipped together, but sometimes over a screen, sometimes missing people important to us through health concerns, or illness, or grief. We gave more to missions, but missed the opportunities to give with our own hands. We studied scripture and read books together, although we couldn’t quite get Sunday school back to normal.

In your hands now is a record of this congregation’s creativity and faithfulness over the past year: yours. It hasn’t always been easy. But I am amazed with your patience and persistence as COVID continues a little while longer. I’m grateful to see that you are still curious and committed about how God is calling us to give a unique witness to the good news of Jesus Christ here in the heart of Dalton.

Let me confess that I’m not optimistic about the year ahead. I don’t know what COVID will bring (even though I know we’re all pretty tired of it). But I’m hopeful. I’m hopeful because I know that in this, First Presbyterian Church’s 175th year of ministry, whatever comes next, God is—and will be—faithful to us.

Peace,



Will



Church Operations and Accounts | 2021

Church Operations

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Income:			
Tithes & Offering	\$ 345,000	\$ 345,800	\$ 330,000
Investments & Other Income	<u>\$ 41,000</u>	<u>\$ 44,300</u>	<u>\$ 61,700</u>
Total Income	\$ 386,000	\$ 390,100	\$ 391,700
Expenses:			
Missions & Benevolences	\$ 77,800	\$ 86,700	\$ 68,050
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 116,200	\$ 116,600	\$ 121,500
Sessional Committees	\$ 34,250	\$ 27,500	\$ 22,300
Music Ministry	\$ 60,000	\$ 58,900	\$ 57,200
Admin & Operations	<u>\$ 97,600</u>	<u>\$ 100,700</u>	<u>\$ 122,000</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 385,850	\$ 390,400	\$ 391,050
Net	\$ 150	\$ (300)	\$ 650

2021 was a second year of unanticipated challenges and difficulty, but thanks to the Lord's blessings and your generosity giving was right on budget. Overall income was about \$4000 over the budget. Total expenses were about \$4300 more than budgeted so we ended the year with income and expenses within a few hundred dollars of each. While 2022 pledges are down slightly from 2020 and 2021, there will be adequate income to meet the needs of the church. The church has no outstanding loans or long-term debt.

Operating Reserves

Within the church's operating accounts, the Finance Committee has set a policy of maintaining a 3 month to 6-month operating reserve. Currently the church has approximately a 6-month reserve. The reserve is kept in a money market fund and CD's.

Investment Account

The church maintains an investment account separate from the operating account and operating reserves. At the end of 2021 this investment account had a value of \$1,628,000 and will provide \$61,700 toward the 2022 church budget. The account is managed by the church's Finance and Investment Committees.

1. **Clerk Description:** To take and preserve minutes of session meetings, congregational meetings, and communications with the congregation; to perform an annual review/approval of documents by Presbytery; to keep the membership rolls; to report the Annual Statistics of the church to PCUSA; maintain by-laws and policies of the church (our *Trellis*); and provide for communications within and outside the church

2. **Clerk of Session:** Hilliard Jolly

3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706.260.7089 Email: houdie518@gmail.com

4. **Membership, end of 2020:**

- Active Members: 134 We welcomed 2 confirmands during the year
- Baptized Children & Youth: 21
- Births: 1
- Baptisms: 0
- Affiliate Members* 9
- Deaths 3

* those who actively participate in our church but have their membership elsewhere

5. **Session Members:**

- Our session consisted of 5 male and 4 female Elders.

6. **The *Trellis*:**

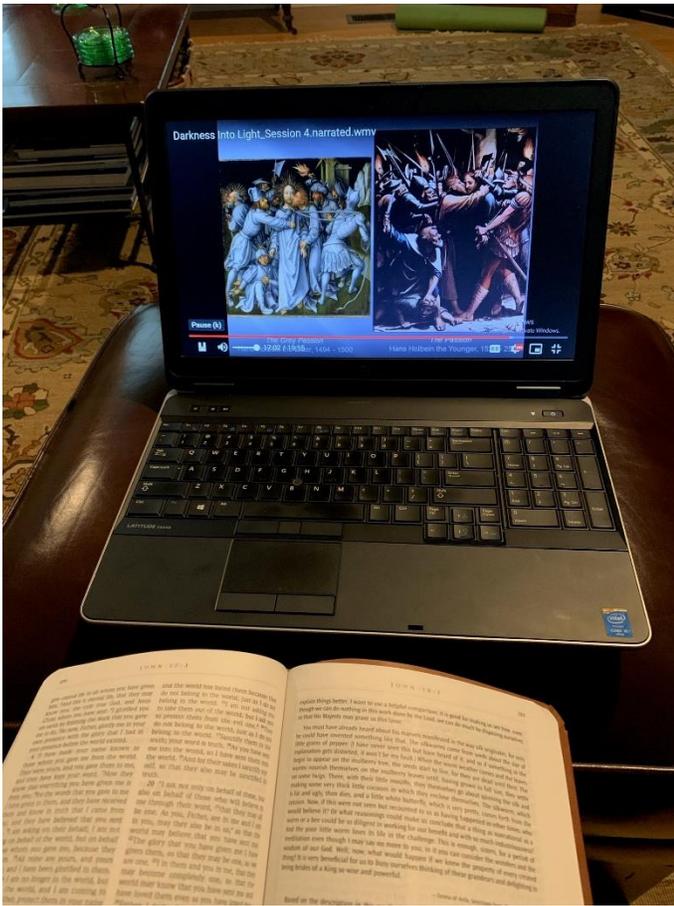
- Legal records and copies of session minutes and reports for recent past years are maintained in the church office.

Clerk of Session | 2021



1. **Team Description:** To enhance the environment and opportunities for our congregation to grow in personal knowledge of Jesus Christ through prayer, Sunday School, and fellowship.
2. **Team Chair:** Laura Goins
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 404.550.9699 Email: lkgoins@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - March 16, 2021
 - July 11, 2021
 - November 21, 2021
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Return of the nursery during the worship hour to have a space for the youngest members to be together as parents worship.
 - Easter Egg Hunt for children's fellowship.
 - Completed Confirmation in May for two confirmands.
 - Blessing of the Backpacks as the children and educators of the church returned to school this fall.
 - Hired a Director of Christian Education to promote learning and spiritual growth for our members.
 - Advent devotionals to reengage members during the Advent season culminating in a group discussion.
 - Held a Family Advent Festival with fellowship, singing, and crafts for the children.
 - Invested in a new Sunday School curriculum for children that can be used both in person or virtual as needed.
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Planning for the safe return of Sunday School Classes for all ages and develop a plan to easily transition to virtual classes when needed.
 - Updating Children's activity bags for worship.
 - Continued long-range planning for both in-person and virtual activities to engage the congregation.

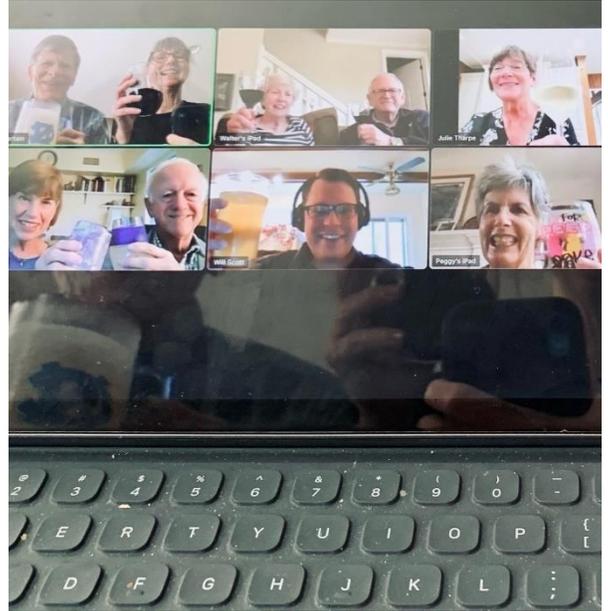
Christian Education Team | 2021



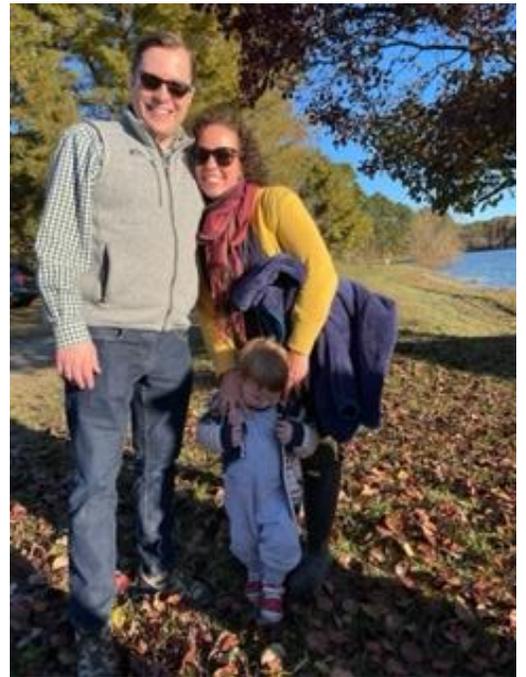
Congregational Life Team | 2021

1. **Team Description:** A team made up of any member of the congregation who wants to participate in any or all the activities of the Congregational Life Team. This team's goal is to maintain, nurture and increase the spirit of fellowship within the community of faith.
2. **Team Chair:** Betty Steinmetz **New Chair:** Laura Allgood
3. **Contact Info (Laura):** (Cell) 706.537.8070 Email: cyalja@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - March 17, 2021
 - June 16, 2021
 - October 20, 2021
 - November 20, 2020
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Held a Fall Festival at Smith Farm on Sunday, November 7, 2021. We provided hot chocolate, cider and refreshments; tractor rides and games.
 - Provided a book of prayers and handmade quilt and a meal for one family with new baby.
 - Decorated Sanctuary and church facilities for Advent/Christmas on Sunday November 21, 2021 and also provided pizza and beverages.
 - Provided refreshments for the Family Advent Festival on Sunday, December 5.
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Congregational Care Captain selected each month to correspond/visit shut-ins and persons who are ill and to co-ordinate meals if needed: 5 recipients of meals.
 - Ladies book club met April, May, August, September and November.
 - Outdoor planters watered weekly during summer months.
 - Birthday and anniversary cards sent to members

Congregational Life Team | 2021



Connection Team | 2021



1. **Team Description:** To maintain all church facilities and property in good order and repair, to provide for the safety and security of buildings and church activities conducted on or within church property, to provide for aesthetic additions, and to assist in making church facilities available to outside groups upon request.
2. **Team Chair:** Robert Smalley **New Chair:** Kathryn Sellers
3. **Contact Info:** (cell) 706-217-8962 Email: kosellers@optilink.us
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - Business conducted by email
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Installed new push bars on main floor exterior doors, including sanctuary
 - Inspections of essential systems coordinated (fire suppression, sprinkler system, elevator, security and HVAC)
 - Completed minor repairs throughout the facility
 - Repaired the sub pump motor
 - Completed elevator repairs
 - Replaced dehumidifiers
 - Completed roof leak repairs
 - Replaced rotten windows in the parlor
6. **Projects under contract or in the planning stages:**
 - Sanctuary: sound/video to commons and Hollis hall; hearing assist technology
 - Various repairs to walkways
 - Sign for front walk
 - Art and other items to complete interior décor and furniture need
7. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Repair/replace rotting wood on second story porch
 - Reseal asphalt driveway and alley
 - Providing for routine maintenance



1. **Team Description:** To administer all financial matters of the church.
2. **Team Chair:** Charles Allgood **New Chair:** Tommy Johnson
3. **Contact Info:** (Home) 706-226-0496 Email: tommyjohnson@optilink.us
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - April 20, 2021
 - August 23, 2021
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - 2022 Budget has been reviewed and approved by the team and has been presented to the Session with the recommendation that it be approved.
 - The Investment Team has met by email and reviewed the TD Ameritrade account and reviewed its performance during the pandemic. The Committee decided to remain with TD Ameritrade based on its performance and investment fees. The Committee also recommended that investment distribution percentages remain the same and that the investment percentages be rebalanced when benevolences are invested.
 - The 12-month CD at Bank of the Ozarks has been renewed.
 - Discussed and made plans for appropriate disbursement of Miller estate gift.
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - The team continues to meet as needed to review and discuss church financial information to ensure that funds are being spent and managed properly. The church treasurer provides regular reports to the team. The team's review includes:
 - Review of income
 - Review of expenses
 - Consideration of future expenses
 - Monitoring of any special giving opportunities (i.e. organ fund, hymnals, etc.)
 - Discussion of insurance
 - The team oversees the yearly stewardship campaign, the results of which are used to determine future budgeting.
 - The team reviews and considers on an ongoing basis the financial benchmarks for the church and makes recommendations for any changes to session.
 - Managing the weekly deposit and maintaining procedures for that deposit.
 - Review and consideration of the yearly budget. (December of each year).

Finance Team | 2021



Mission and Service Team | 2021

1. **Team Description:** The team is to have as members an active elder and not fewer than six members at large. Its responsibilities are to communicate foreign and domestic mission opportunities to the congregation, to sponsor specific mission projects directly involving the congregation, to encourage the congregation to respond to the needs of the greater church and outside our community, and to try to involve members of the congregation in mission projects “so as to make known the good news of Jesus throughout the world.” On behalf of the congregation of the Church, the team disbursed more than \$60,000 for mission and service projects. Numbers have been rounded.

2. **Team Chair:** Margaret Venable **New Chair:** Alice Ensley

3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706-280-2213 Email: ensleyalice@gmail.com

4. **Meeting Dates:**

- January 20, 2021 • April 14, 2021 • August 25, 2021
- February 24, 2021 • June 9, 2021 • November 10, 2021

5. **Projects Accomplished:**

Due to ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, our efforts were more similar to 2020 than 2019 but we continued to serve those in need through grants to many of the same organizations we usually support. Although many of these organizations operated differently this year, the needs of the people they serve were not diminished. Using a simple grant application form, we were able to better understand the needs of organizations and fund specific projects rather than sending general donations without a clear understanding of the purpose. In addition to making donations, we also collected items from the congregation for a “shower” for the Northwest Family Crisis Center and disinfectant wipes for Dalton Public Schools teachers. Although other funds were expended, the primary use of our budget was for these grants. We funded projects for the following organizations: (rounded numbers in some cases)

• DOCUP	5,000.00
• Deo Clinic	5,000.00
• Salvation Army	5,000.00
• Kid City	3,500.00
• Presbyterian Mission (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund)	8,000.00
• Family Support Council (Camp AIM)	3,000.00
• Mental Health Court	2,500.00
• Drug Court	2,500.00
• Veterans Court	1,000.00
• NW GA Family Crisis Center	3,000.00
• Domestic Violence Court	2,500.00
• Books (approximate)	2,500.00
• Walmart Gift cards for needy families	4,500.00
• After School Program (Park Creek School)	500.00
• Sharing is Caring	6,000.00
• Rent for families with children in extended stay hotels (approx.)	3,050.00
• Red Cross (Afghanistan evacuees)	5,000.00
• Fifth Avenue gift cards (approximate)	6,000.00
• Dalton HS Band (meals)	500.00
• MUST Ministries (Homeless Shelter Presbyterian Room)	1,000.00
• TOTAL GIFTS	\$70,050.00

7. Ongoing Projects (on hold at this time):

- Reading at Park Creek Elementary School's Book Club and food bags
- Seasonal book and food project for JoAnn Lewis Park neighborhood
- Dalton Senior Housing (Easter and summer socials)



Staff & Administration Team | 2021

1. **Team Description:** To provide the Session an organized approach in fulfilling its responsibilities to all the staff employed by the church.
2. **Team Chair:** Tate O’Gwin **New Chair:** Sarah McCown
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 706-217-5118 Email: sjmccown@optilink.us
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - April 14, 2021
 - November 2, 2021
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Received annual church staff feedback and made pay recommendations
 - Hired Audio/Visual technician, Alex Andrews
 - Hired new Director of Christian Education, Jean Strain
 - Concluded search for new nursery worker
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Continuation of FPC Staff feedback process



1. **Team Description:** To relate our worship life to the total work and witness of our congregation.
2. **Team Chair:** Wesley Sanders **New Chair:** Leanna Granillo
3. **Contact Info:** (Cell) 423-710-5934 Email: leannagranillo@gmail.com
4. **Meeting Dates:**
 - January 12, 2021
 - May 18, 2021
5. **Projects Accomplished:**
 - Added two new scholarship singers, Kristen & Chance Passmore
 - Assisted Pastor making transition back to in-person worship
 - Provided feedback and ideas for ways to engage congregation in virtual worship
 - Added new worship banners
6. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Began providing professional images of banners for cover art for bulletin.
 - Providing ushers/greeters, liturgists, communion preparers, and communion servers
 - Provide flower arrangements for worship
 - Maintaining all candles with liquid wax
 - Maintaining all objects used in worship
 - Maintaining hymnal racks with pens, pencils, cards, fellowship pads
 - Welcoming, introducing and assisting visiting pastors and organists
 - Meeting four times a year to plan new tasks and to evaluate worship



Worship Team | 2021



Worship Team | 2021

