

Monthly Missions:
1st Sunday Food Drive, Breakfasts at Star Gospel
Mission & 4th Sunday BBQs with Navigation Center

Worship
in the Park

Wragg Square Park
Renovation

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
CHARLESTON AND ITS SUBURBS

2NDPC.ORG



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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

342 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403

843.723.9237
www.2ndpc.org



A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR



Dear Friends in Jesus -

2023-2024 has been quite a year - a year of transition(s) as we have emerged from a world wide pandemic and will soldier through its continuing impact on our health and institutions - together.

The reports you will find give you a snapshot of the programs and ministries. The myriad pictures bear witness to the breadth of life here at the Second Presbyterian Church of Charleston and its Suburbs.

As you page through, you'll see evidence of prayers answered and continuing challenges that we face, but you'll see that we face them together as we follow Jesus.

Share the book. Share the story. Invite any and all into a dynamic relationship with Jesus at Second Church. It's what we get to do!

With great joy in being your pastor, and in great anticipation -

ROOTS

We affirm the central truths of historic Reformed and Biblical Christian faith, seeing ourselves in a long line of generations taking part in the endless conversation between God and people. We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the voices of many who have come before us, inspired by God to pass along their poems, stories, accounts, and letters of response and relationship with each other and the living God. To know where we are going, we have to know where we have been.

REDEMPTION

We trust that God wants to bring about a new humanity by redeeming every part of us. We embrace the salvation Jesus offers as the only hope for the healing of our relationships with God, each other, ourselves and creation. We believe that all of life is spiritual, and that all of our fears, failures, and brokenness can be restored and made whole. We value the process of our journeys because we want to be fully integrated people—with all our mind, body, soul, emotions and experiences offered together to God.

CALLING

We have great confidence that God will restore all of creation under the authority of Christ. We believe that every church has to ask the question: "How are we called to live out that future reality today?" We want to constantly explore, question, and wrestle with new and creative ways to live out and communicate the teachings of Jesus. Since we see ourselves as much called to new living as Abraham was when he was called out of the Babylonian city of Ur, change is expected and rebirth is welcomed.

COMMUNITY

We value the image of God in all people, everywhere. We believe that we were created to live deeply with one another; carrying each other's burdens, sharing our resources, praying for and confessing our sins to each other, suffering and celebrating together. It is in these honest, loving relationships that God transforms us, and truth of Christ's promises becomes a reality. The way of Jesus cannot be lived alone.

SERVING

We believe that Jesus is God in human form, and that the church is God's ongoing presence in the world. Led by the Spirit of God, we are passionate about relieving suffering and fighting injustice by joining the God of the oppressed in living out the transforming message of the resurrected Jesus. Jesus calls his church to be a compelling force for good in the world, and we believe that the church is at its best when it serves, sacrifices and loves, caring about the things God cares about. We were created to live for something larger than ourselves.

CELEBRATING

We take great joy in partnering with God to change the world, embracing the truth that all of life is sacred, hope is real and that tomorrow can be better than today. We celebrate the divine in the daily, pursue lives of hope, reflect gratitude, and renew ourselves in worship. God invites everyone everywhere into this way of life, and we believe it is the best possible way to live.

WHAT WE BELIEVE





Second Presbyterian

CHURCH OF CHARLESTON

**"GOD IS LOVE AND THOSE WHO ABIDE IN LOVE ABIDE
IN GOD AND GOD ABIDES IN THEM."**

1 John 4:16





CHURCH LEADERS

ELDERS

Class of 2024 | Ken Carrington, Brittany Cogdill, Chris Olson, Patterson Smith

Class of 2025 | Brad Milner, Stuart Cochrane, Felicia Sanders, Wendy Jewell

Class of 2026 | Jessica Brock, Bill Holley, Tim Killen

DEACONS

Class of 2024 | Kelsey Cochrane, Jim Kimmitt, Dawn McCready, Debbie Smith

Class of 2025 | Sue Henderson, Lucie Medbery, Nicole Schuerman

Class of 2026 | David King, Judy Olson, Melissa Yates

NOMINATING TEAM

2024 | Gary Jaffe, Katie Luciano, Aled Pritchard, Nicole Schuerman, Wendy Jewell (session),
Brittany Cogdill (session), Lucie Medbery (diaconate), Rev. Cress Darwin (ex-officio)

SLATE OF NOMINEES

Elder for Class of 2027: Peter D'Amato, Zack Lord, Sally McDuffie, Stephen Elliott,
and **2026:** Laura Ott

Deacon for Class of 2027: Genevieve Butler, Kristen Jewell, Fred Schuh, Tina Smith,
2026: Kelsey Cochrane, and **2025:** Linda Elliott

Nominating Team for 2025: Brittany Cogdill, Erin Holley, Peter Rupert, Debbie Smith, Wendy
Jewell (session), Sally McDuffie (session), Lucie Medbery (diaconate), Rev. Cress Darwin (ex-officio)

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

President | Spence Roddey

Vice President | Patterson Smith

Secretary | Peggy Pinckney

BIOS & MORE INFORMATION:
2NDPC.ORG/CHURCH-LEADERS

SLATE OF NOMINEES



ELDERS

Pete D'Amato and his wife Lauren moved from Woodbury, Connecticut in October 2018 and joined Second Presbyterian in March 2023, transferring membership from North Congregational Church in Woodbury.

Stephen Elliott was born in northern Indiana in 1958. As the son of a United Methodist pastor he accompany his missionary parents to India for 5 years, then briefly to Switzerland, before returning "home" to Indiana. Steve studied Math & Econ at DePauw University then attained his M.Div. at Duke seminary whereupon he served as an ordained pastor in the North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church for 9 years. With his first wife he had his daughter, Erin. In 1992 he blended his family, marrying Linda, now his wife of 32 years (along with her two children, Andrew, now recently becoming Abby – and Aaron. Steve had a change of "call," attending medical school, then spending the past 24 years practicing medicine. In 2008 Steve and Linda opened a joint practice called Living with Intention (LWI), which they ran for 14 years until Steve took an unexpected opportunity to join a similar practice in North Charleston to be closer to of 3 out of 4 of their grandchildren (all girls). Steve enjoys biking, mathematics, model-railroading, reading, putzing with projects around the house, dabbling at woodworking, yard work, and cats.

Zack Lord is originally from Westport, Connecticut but in the past years has become a Mount Pleasant resident and local commercial real estate broker at NAI Charleston. Zack enjoys spending time with his family's dog "Summer" on Sullivans Island and traveling up to NYC to see his family in his free time. Zack spent his early 20s in Manhattan working in financial services sales and moved to Charleston in 2020 to pursue real estate full time. In his free time, Zack enjoys meeting other members of Second Presbyterian Church, working out and being outdoors.

Sally McDuffie was born in Norfolk. She graduated college with degrees in Chemistry from Elon University, Appalachian State University, and Western Carolina University finishing with a PhD from UNC at Greensboro. While attending universities she also enjoyed teaching at various places including Montreat College and College of Charleston. After retiring, Sally and Genevieve did some traveling, mostly camping in the US and Canada and being tourists in Paris, London, and Dublin, and then hiking on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in North Carolina, and the Camino de Santiago and The West Highland Way in Europe. Sally took a part-time job at H&R Block that turned into a 19 year second career. She enjoys beach walks, biking, gardening, Planet Fitness, hiking, and attending Charlie's T-Ball games. Genevieve and Sally discovered Second Presbyterian 20 years ago and were immediately attracted to Cress's dynamic manner, the friendly people and the inclusive philosophy. She has felt very welcomed and has enjoyed being in the Bell Choir, and the Book Club and helping with the Tea Room, Hands of Christ, the Care Team, and providing free tax service. She looks forward to being of continued service.

Laura Ott grew up on Lady's Island in Beaufort, SC where she was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort and the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery Youth Council. She graduated from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA where she earned a double major in music and political science. She later moved to Charleston to attend graduate school at the University of Charleston/USC where she earned a Masters of Public Administration. After earning her MPA, she moved to Washington, DC and worked in both the Legislative and Administrative branches of the federal government focusing on healthcare policy. It was there she met her husband, Christopher (a Charleston native). Laura and Christopher have two children, Michael and Ava-Elizabeth – both of whom attended SPK. The couple has their own legal and consulting firm based in Washington, DC, and they split their time between Charleston, DC and Germany.

SLATE OF NOMINEES



DEACONS

Genevieve Butler spent 30 years in public education as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal in grades K-12. My lifelong mission has been to improve the lives of the disenfranchised and voiceless. I enjoy volunteering and participating in the following activities: tax preparer during tax season, Tea Room, Star Gospel Mission, Pride Walk, Tywanza Sanders Donut Dash, Care Team, Book Club, and Hands of Christ. Love to travel with memorable trips being: backpacking the Camino and RV-ing Canada. Rain or shine, daily events include contact with my niece, and Sally and I taking Mannie and Sweetie (Shih Tzes) on their daily walks and cooking special food for them. Sally and I knew we had found the right church when we visited Second Presbyterian 21 years ago due to the friendliness and the inclusivity philosophy.

Kelsey Cochran has been married to her husband Stuart since 2017. She is a dental hygienist and an Air Force Reservist. In her spare time she loves going on walks with her two dogs, reading, and cooking. She and Stuart joined 2nd Presbyterian shortly after moving to Charleston from West Virginia and she has been active in Bible studies and church events and serves as a deacon.

Linda Elliott was raised in northern Indiana, the eldest of 3 girls. She attended Indiana University and received a BS in Business, majoring in Management and minoring in Marketing. During her first marriage she was blessed with Andrew in 1982 and Aaron in 1984. Linda was previously a member of the United Methodist Church in her hometown where she served as a youth group leader, women's circle leader, taught women's bible studies and book clubs, and served as Associate Lay Leader for the congregation of 1200. She was also active in mission trips as an adult leader and as a participant in international trips. Linda has worked in long-term care administration as well as sales & marketing in rehabilitation services. She was fortunate to have a seven year "stint" as a stay-at-home mom while pursuing her MA in Counseling Psychology as her "empty-nest plan". She returned to the work force, first as a school-based therapist and then entered private practice until she retired in the fall of 2022. She married Steve Elliott in 1991 and they blended into a family of five. Together Steve and Linda opened "Living with Intention" a medical and counseling group in the fall of 2008, which we closed this spring, prior to moving to Charleston. She served as a working therapist and as the practice's Executive Director. Linda and Steve are blessed to have four beautiful granddaughters and she loves being a grandmother! They have missed having a church home the past few years and are looking forward to becoming part of a church community again.

Kristen Jewell brings her passion for community development, entrepreneurship, and the outdoors to her role as Director of Development at East Cooper Habitat for Humanity. Kristen is from Louisville, Kentucky. She moved to Summerville with her dog Kingston in early 2023 and joined the church in March 2023. In addition to her dedication to Habitat for Humanity's mission, Kristen owns a marketing company, where she applies her expertise to help businesses thrive in a competitive market. Outside of work, she can often be found exploring the Charleston coastline or cultivating her green thumb in her garden.

Fred Schuh was born and raised in Teaneck, New Jersey, a suburb of Manhattan. He went to Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut and medical school at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, New York. While there he married Sallie Schuh, MD, and they both had residencies at St. Luke's Hospital. He finished in general surgery and she in pediatrics. They moved to Charleston to teach at the Medical University, he then entered private practice of plastic and reconstructive surgery and retired after 40 years. Fred's hobbies are woodturning and gardening. He and Sallie joined Second Presbyterian Church in 1969 and both served as deacons and elders. They had 5 children all of whom grew up in this church. Ten grandchildren; and proud of them all. Sallie died in November 2022.

Tina Smith was born in Pittsburgh, PA, graduated from Georgetown with a BS in nursing, and eventually settled with her late husband, Ralph, in Bethesda, MD where she lived for 30 years. She is now retired from the Medical University Hospital Authority and resides in West Ashley near her two daughters. Born and raised in the Presbyterian Church, she has been a member at Second Presbyterian since 2009.

SLATE OF NOMINEES



NOMINATING TEAM

Brittany Cogdill is originally from Spartanburg, SC. She first started coming to Second Presbyterian in 2006, when she attended the College of Charleston and MUSC College of Pharmacy. After graduating residency in 2012, she was lucky enough to stay on at MUSC as a clinical pharmacist. Brittany officially joined the Second Presbyterian family in 2018 and has served on the Session. She lives in North Charleston with her daughters Ember and Madison. In her spare time, she loves reading, scrapbooking, live music, and going to hockey games.

Erin Holley is a CofC alum and group sales manger for Ojai Valley Resort in CA. Erin and her husband Bill, along with their children Teagan and Finn live on James Island with their 2 dogs and 2 cats. She and the kids drag Bill to the beach when the weather is nice and Bill drags them on hikes through the Smoky Mountains when the weather is bad. The Holleys joined Second Presbyterian in December 2022.

Peter Rupert is a retired attorney from Albany, New York who has been a member of Second Presbyterian since 2010. He has served on the Session and as Church Treasurer for 3 years. He lives in West Ashley and is on the Board of Sea Islands Hunger Awareness Foundation that helps the economically disadvantaged on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands since 2015. He enjoys golf, travel and the arts in Charleston.

Debbie Smith is a native of Charleston and is retired from MUSC. She has been a member of Second Presbyterian Church since 1985 and has served and volunteered in various ways throughout the years. She is an avid gardener, enjoys word games, playing in the bell choir, and serves as co-chair of the annual church Tag Sale. She loves traveling and spending time with family and friends. Debbie has also volunteered her time in the community tutoring young children in reading. She lives on James Island with her husband of more than 50 years, Patterson and their two Chihuahuas.



BY THE NUMBERS

2023 CHURCH STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership: 234

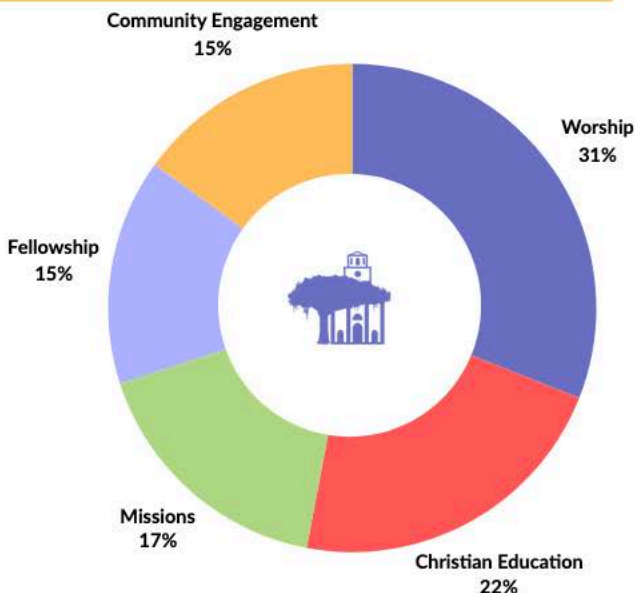
New Members: 6

Baptisms: 4

Certificate Transfer Loss: 1

Deaths: 2

A narrative budget reveals the impact of your personal giving at and through Second Presbyterian Church because our budget is more than paying bills and funding an institution, it is doing the work of Jesus. The story of the narrative budget unfolds week to week as evidenced by the pages of this annual report.



NARRATIVE BUDGET

FUELING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday worship, online church and special services

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Spiritual development on Sundays and midweek

MISSIONS

Meeting local, national and global organizations at their point of need

FELLOWSHIP

Providing opportunities for fellowship through hospitality, pastoral care, and special events

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Providing use of the church space for the wider community

The life of the church is reflected within Second Presbyterian through worship, fellowship, Christian education and missions opportunities, and as the body of Christ out in the world through our everyday lives.

We get to respond to needs directly through community partnerships, special offerings, and missionary partnerships. Through service and giving we get to engaging our congregation in the care of our neighbors at home and abroad.

Your generous giving and volunteer hours also allow Second Pres to be an integral part of the community, opening our doors for concerts, special services, panel discussions, and BBQ suppers for the Navigation Center, to house the Second Presbyterian Kindergarten and Preschool and camps like Vacation Bible School and Camp Wanza, and to provide rehearsal space for Charleston Gospel Choir, Taylor Festival Choir, Spartina Consort, and office space to Colour of Music Festival and Charleston Academy of Music.





MUSIC & WORSHIP

Your Music and Worship team works with the pastor in planning all worship experiences of Second Presbyterian Church. The Music and Worship team roster includes; Sarah Mitchell, Wendy Jewell, Tina Smith, Ken Carrington, Ellen Moryl, Carol Howe, Peggy Pickney, Kelsey Cochran, Sally McDuffie, Bill Holley and Judy Olson. Ex-officio members include Dr. Julia Harlow, Lee Lingle and Ken Carrington. We would encourage anyone who has ideas on deepening the spiritual experience of our worship and music, is able to attend three fourths of our meetings and available to assist with our weekly and special services please contact Wendy Jewell. The roster for voting purposes will close July 1st for the 2024-2025 calendar year. Everyone is always welcome to attend any meeting throughout the year to offer input.

Ushering- "People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but people will never forget the way you made them feel."- Maya Angelou. Christianity and hospitality go hand in hand, so each person who enters God's house needs to feel welcomed and cared for. This initial responsibility falls to our ushers as the face of the church. Therefore, being ready to serve others by being welcoming, covering any need that may arise and remaining alert to respond in case of an emergency are our duties. Ushering teams are three fourths in place for the remainder of 2024, but we still need help on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month and we are always in need of alternates. It is a great way to meet new people!

Safety- To improve our readiness, we have purchased new first aid kits, one for each building and a second AED to be hung near the restroom in the Sanctuary building. The education building has an AED in the lower hall way, where new pads have been purchased. If anyone is interested in learning how to administer CPR or how to use the defibrillator, please notify Wendy Jewell and we will arrange another class.

Parents with Infants- In order to meet the needs of our growing number of parents with young children, we have placed a rocking chair in the narthex so a child may be comforted without the parent having to miss the service. We now also have a foldable changing table available in the sanctuary building in the old session room to your left.



*“People will forget
what you said, forget
what you did, but
people will never
forget the way you
made them feel.”*

Maya Angelou



Incorporation of Presbyterian Creeds-
In The Constitution of the Presbyterian
Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions,

the church declares to its members and to the world what it is, what it believes and what it resolves to do. Each creed comes from a particular time, place and circumstance in history and are intended to guide the church in its study of the scriptures thereby directing the church in maintaining sound doctrines. We have included The Theological Declaration of Barmen, The Confession of 1967, A Brief Statement of Faith, the Belhar Confession in addition to the Apostle's Creed thus far in our services. Each has a clarification to our beliefs in direct response to the injustice of the time. The Presbyterian Theocademy offers additional tutorials on the various creeds and catechisms that can be viewed on YouTube or offered if there is an interest.

Outdoor Services- Two outdoor services were held this past year during cooler weather in the spring and fall. We look forward to doing so again once the lawn in Wragg Park has had a chance to take root and settle.

Community Services- Thanksgiving and Maundy Thursday continue to bring area churches together in our sanctuary. It is a reminder that we are not alone in this world. We have many sisters and brothers of all walks of life open to sharing their talents as we worship the same God.

Special Services- World Wide Communion Sunday we incorporated various types of breads from around the world and All Saints Day we added the ringing of the bell and a moment of silence in memory of those we lost in this past year.

Music- Gospel Sundays continued to be enjoyed and a few new artists have joined the ranks. Our musical staff have included updated melodies to some of our old favorites. If you play an instrument and would like to share your talent in worship please contact Dr. Julia Harlow. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Lee Lingle.

Offering- On the back of each pew we now have an array of ways to contribute your offering; text, Venmo or a QR code.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Jewell
Chair of Music and Worship



The music program at Second has been busy since last year. The choir sang in services nearly every week and we have had a Gospel music Sunday every month. We were fortunate to hire Melody Butcher, of CSU, in November 2023, to serve as choir soprano section leader, and also to direct our children's choir. She has served admirably in both of these capacities, and has also recently joined the Bell Choir. Her boyfriend Nate Grav has also contributed significantly to worship services here, as a tenor in the choir, but also in the Bell Choir (where he's had a lot of prior experience) and also playing trumpet. They have both recently joined the church, and we are grateful to both of them.

We hosted joint services with other churches for Community Thanksgiving in November, and Maundy Thursday in March. The Gospel service on the fourth Sunday of the month has featured singers Grace Ramsey, Michelle Lincoln, Dakare Chatman and Lacy Miller, Jasmine Crowder and the Charleston Gospel Choir (three times, in June and December, 2023 and April 2024) as well as keyboardists Anna Brock and Victor McKelvey. The Gospel service music was incorporated into the budget this year so that musicians can be paid.

We also hosted C of C Student recitals, Piccolo Spoleto concerts, as well as Charleston Symphony Orchestra youth concerts and Dr. Young Woon Cho, pianist from Boston. We've had guest musicians as well: clarinet; trumpets, flute, Charleston Southern University flute choir; violin, student organists. Tripp Carrington sang solos for worship and did wonderful duets with brother Beckett in the Christmas Eve service.

Handbell Choir played monthly in the service and at special services in the year. We continue to improve skills and add joyful sound to worship. We welcome new members as well.

As Charleston Academy of Music is in residence here, we have many young musicians and their families coming and going weekly for lessons, classes and studio recitals. Second Presbyterian Church is becoming known as a music hub in Charleston. Musicians who play in our sanctuary consistently comment on the fine acoustics.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Julia Harlow
Director of Music



From Melody Butcher, children's choir director:

I started working with the Children's Choir in November of 2023. With Lee's assistance, we sang I Got the Joy in service. In December, the kids were preparing for the Christmas Pageant in which they sang songs such as Silent Night, The First Noel, Joy to the World, O Little Town of Bethlehem, and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. After Christmas, we began learning about some music theory, including solfège and rhythms. In January, they sang This Is the Day, with piano accompaniment. During the Easter service, the kids were featured in On This Holy Easter Morn, with the adult choir.

From Lee Lingle (choir director):

The choir at Second Presbyterian continues to faithfully support the church's mission thru music. We have worked hard on larger musical endeavors for special services such as Christmas Eve, Easter, and Holy Week. Two of the largest musical offerings in the church year are the Good Friday Tenebrae service and the Christmas Eve service. Last year I encouraged the congregation to consider attending these highly spiritually moving services and I am pleased that the challenge was accepted and fulfilled.

The choir works very hard on these two services specifically and they continue to be the musical and spiritual highlight of the year for me. However, we also joyfully spread the good news of Christ's message weekly during worship.

The choir has made tremendous improvements in their ability to learn new music and present it at a high level considering only having one rehearsal a week. The choir achieves this by working to polish and shape musical themes, while also welcoming newcomers to the ranks and supporting them in their musical growth as well.

We are always looking to add more members to our choir family. I say this several times a year and the call has been answered by some. Brother King has recently joined us as well as Karen Lee. They both have been amazing additions to the choir family, but we have room for more! It is such a special opportunity to come together to create something greater than we can on our own to glorify God. We have a lot of fun while working hard at this and welcome anyone of any ability to join us.

All that is required is a love of music and a desire to sing. Please send me a message at lee.lingle@2ndpc.org if you are interested in joining us. Working with such wonderful musicians here at Second Presbyterian is an honor and privilege.





CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The "norms" that we looked for after the pandemic are slowly returning. This does not mean we will ever return to what things were like before everything changed. Our nursery continues to operate from the hours of 9:45 Sunday mornings until 11:45. We have welcomed parent volunteers in the nursery this year and we've had so many willing helpers for which we are grateful. We did hire a new nursery worker for Sunday school to replace the student worker we had. We now have one "adult" worker. This worker has afforded us consistency that we had not had for several years. Children's Chapel has continued to grow this year. After Children's Time in church kids are once again, invited to Chapel for a time of fun and faith formation to learn songs, Bible basics, and how worship is a continuous response to God's grace. We then leave chapel and head to the classroom for a time of coloring and discussion and hopefully, fun. We have also continued with Children & Youth Sundays every Sunday from 4-6pm. We have searched for a mission and, as of now, we have begun feeding the unhoused the 4th Sunday of every month. Other Sundays are filled with games, activities and hopefully the broadening of our Christian beliefs. The children have helped to bring awareness and raise funds for Thornwell, Souper bowl Sunday and Tywanza Sanders Legacy Foundation. We also pushed for Walk for Water and held bake sales which raised over \$500 which will go toward CE initiatives like VBS and fixing up the youth room. Speaking of the youth room, it has been fixed up to include a basketball shooting game, ping-pong, air hockey, and foosball. We have been able to get back to in-person events too this year, including a monthly Kid's Night at the church. In October we again hosted a Trunk-or-Treat which we held in conjunction with SPK. The parking lot was full, the candy overflowed and SPK families and so many congregants decorated cars and dressed up for the event. We look forward to more partnerships with SPK during the upcoming year. Our children's Christmas pageant was held in service in December with a more complete presentation. It was, again, designed to work with limited practice. We were able to find a time for rehearsal and fun. We continued a family-friendly Christmas Eve service Christmas Eve afternoon. We had our youth sing during the prelude and any child was able to join in for a processional pageant at the beginning of the service. This service was a resounding success. We were able to host SPK Sunday with our preschool children and families. The Easter Egg Hunt was supported by several groups who helped to stuff eggs and the congregation who brought in candy. We held the event on both playgrounds because of the work being done in Wragg Square.



This semester we have been busy with planning and coordinating things for Vacation Bible School for the week of June, 2024. It will run from 9am till 12:30. Please sign up, invite people and volunteer if you're available those mornings. We need the congregation to make this the most meaningful community event possible! We have begun blocking time for both adults and children for the fall and next summer. If you have a student interested in youth summer camps, please let me know and we will get you the information.



Adults , if you are interested in going to either Montreat or Bethelwoods, please let me know. It is time for us all to try and find ourselves in a Christian community with our friends from other areas. Growth is such an important part of our Christian lives, and it is up to all of us to make that happen.



If anyone has thoughts regarding our youth and Christian Education I would appreciate sitting down and discussing those thoughts with you. We are at an exciting time in the life of our church and we can make our church lives more fulfilling. If you are looking for a way to get more involved this church is full of possibilities. I hope to speak with you soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Carrington
Director of Children and Youth CE

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult small groups are a great way to get involved, grow spiritually, and build relationships.

Regularly meeting groups offer a great opportunity to invite new people into fellowship and meaningful conversation, growing closer to God and one another. If you haven't had the chance to attend a small group, I encourage you to come sometime. They are great spaces to be known and nurtured.

The 2023 Advent devotions went out weekly online written by Ken Carrington meant to serve as a glimpse for the congregation into the ways that the children and youth were engaging the themes of the season. Each week hope, peace, joy, and love devotionals were paired with corresponding quotes and scripture. A daily social campaign continued from Advent through Epiphany.

Ash Wednesday came early this year, and a daily *Stickin' with It* Lenten devotional series was provided as a printed booklet and as a series online that took us through Easter. The series offered scriptures, quotes, and reflection questions based on the Nietzsche quote, "a long obedience in the same direction." The original production of this Lenten devotional was comprised of contributions from the Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell, former Senior Pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Each day's devotional was provided via email in weekly sets, and daily on the church website and Facebook page.

I love getting to work with small group leaders to develop curriculum and build community around the good news of the gospel. I am grateful for each of you who have been a part of the conversations and belonging offered through these community spaces.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Pritchard
Director of Community and Communications

"The hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self – to encounter another human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it."
– Barbara Brown Taylor



Presbyterian Women's Circle Bible Study

From September to May, women met monthly at Robbie Staubes' home to consider and discuss Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people following the PW/Horizons Bible Study *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. Over We considered the message to the early Christian community (and to us) as radical, inclusive, and hope-filled. These monthly meetings provided an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship.

Inclusive Community Group

The monthly Tuesday small group, our LGBTQ+ focused gathering, has enjoyed fellowship and fantastic conversation during its third year meeting. We were happy to have Joshua Hall move back to the area and he has helped Sarah Harbin lead the discussions. This group discusses theology and Christian life as LGBTQ+ and ally people, focusing this year on topics of meaning to the group. About 10 people from our group volunteered at We Are Family's Giving Tuesday phone drive in December. We had a group of ~30 walk with the church in the 2023 Charleston Pride and we're looking forward to the next Pride parade on June 1, 2024.

Thursday Night Bible Study

In the third year of this small group, we met weekly and discussed a variety of subjects and studied *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the spring and engaged the church-wide Lenten devotionals at the beginning of each meeting during Lent. We met many weeks at different members' homes and some weeks at public spaces, including restaurants for dinner. We lost Amy King who helped to lead the group the two previous years as she moved to Savannah in the fall to teach at SCAD. Our group has shifted and grown this year; we generally have 6-8 people mixed from a group of closer to a dozen, with 25 people in our online community. We discussed a range of topics again this year and this group continues to be a space of belonging for a community of believers to wrestle together with faith and make sense of what is happening in the world. We grappled with scripture and how it applies to our experience in the world today and enjoy the opportunity to celebrate and grieve together and welcome others into belonging.

Second Edition Book Club

The book club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month to discuss a variety of books. The average attendance is approximately 12, comprised of members of the church and other guests. This is a social gathering and there is no official membership. Books are selected 6 times a year. - Respectfully submitted by Carol Howe



Presbyterian Women

On September 9th, Sarah Mitchell and Lucie Medbery attended the Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering of the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery, entitled "Sisters of Faith: Past, Present, Future". It was held at St. James Presbyterian Church. Attendees participated in an Opening Worship Service, followed by break-out sessions on church leadership and resources. This gathering provided opportunities for fellowship and spiritual enrichment.





MISSIONS

- As in the Easter season of every year, we at Second Presbyterian joined others of the PC(USA) in the One Great Hour of Sharing. This gift feeds the hungry around the world, aids in repairs in disaster areas, and helps those in crisis in self-development projects.
- On Mother's Day, we remembered those living in the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina who have outlived their retirement savings. With other churches around the state, we gave to allow them to remain in their residences.
- At the end of May, we were thrilled to have the Seconds Please Tea Room back in business. This is a way we raise funds for specific local and global mission projects. We were able to send checks to Star Gospel Mission, where homeless men get a place to stay, good meals, and a fresh start in this Christ-centered place, to Sea Island Hunger Awareness Foundation, which supports several meals and grocery programs, and to the Shaw Center down the street, serving neighborhood children and youth. Our church has, for most of Medical Benevolence Foundation's sixty years, supported this medical missions organization, started by medical missionaries who realized the necessity of training local medical personnel.
- The Pentecost offering, usually in June, is the second of our four denomination-wide special offerings. The emphasis is support for work with children and youth. A portion of the offering can be retained for use by the congregation.

*Jesus said,
"I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me...
Whenever you did one of these things to
someone overlooked or ignored,
that was me - you did it to me."*

Matthew 25: 35, 36, 40 (MSG)

- As summer progressed, we began preparing for the Hands of Christ event, when we give out school clothing and supplies to children in kindergarten through grade 8. The congregation gave an abundance of supplies or money to buy more of what was needed, and the clothing was supplied by the purchasing team at Westminster Presbyterian, central to all the distribution churches. On distribution day the second week-end in August, each child was greeted by her/his "personal shopper", and they made the rounds of the different stations to pick out their clothing and supplies. We were able to serve 179 children of 73 families. This is a meaningful way to volunteer for the Kingdom of God. This year we'll do it again, so look for the sign-up poster!
- We started hosting Fourth Sunday Barbecue in conjunction with the Navigation Center in August of last year. The Navigation Center works to empower the most vulnerable to navigate from crisis to sustainable, independent living. Centralized services and resources, tailored plans, and intensive case management are staples in their model to help vulnerable populations navigate from crisis to sustainable, independent living. The 4th Sunday Barbecue dinners are held the fourth Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall, which is part of building relationships and trust with those in need.
- The First Sunday Food Drive happens each month. Bring donations for our "First Sunday Food Drive" this Sunday! Members of the congregation donate non-perishable food and toiletry donations for our neighbors at The Canterbury House, who live on a fixed income in the non-profit senior living community downtown. Also, desserts are collected in the church kitchen to be included with lunches for Meals on Mondays, an outreach program that delivers meals to folks on Wadmalaw.
- Third Sunday Breakfasts are served at the Star Gospel Mission on the third Sunday of each month. The Mission works to transform lives through Jesus Christ by compassionately providing resources for people experiencing hardships. Please contact Sally McDuffie or the church office to volunteer.
- On the first Sunday of October, we gave to the third church-wide special offering, Peace and Global Witness. Twenty-five percent of the offering stayed with local congregations, twenty-five percent went to mid councils to unite congregations to promote peacemaking in their regions, and half of it went towards work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians being done across the globe.
- November is Remember Thornwell Month. Thornwell has expanded its work as a home for orphans to being a center for building strong families. We gave our offerings of support on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
- In December, the fourth church-wide special offering, Christmas Joy, was given the Sunday before Christmas. This goes to retired pastors and other church workers who find themselves in need of extra support for an emergency or other life change. It also goes to students in Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools who are preparing for serving in the church.
- Also in December, Fourth Sunday Barbecue held a Christmas Eve dinner for vulnerable and unhoused families served by the Navigation Center at St. John's Chapel. The dinner included a short children's service and gift bags for men, women, and children. In addition to necessities, there were fun items included in the bags for kids. There was wide support for this event from the congregation, local businesses, and local restaurants (we didn't have to cook this time!). The needy children loved having somewhere to go on Christmas Eve.
- In February, we hosted the Souper Bowl Chili Cookoff, raising almost \$1,000 to support our 4th Sunday BBQs.
- In March, we came full circle as we "Walked for Water" to support Water Mission. Twelve members signed up to join Team Captain Jessica Brock in the Second to None team. They raised over \$400 to support this local organization which does so much around the world to help people have safe drinking water!
- Also in March, Fourth Sunday Barbecue hosted the Navigation Center's Easter Celebration & Carnival at the church for families served by the Navigation Center. It included lunch, an egg hunt, a children's message delivered by Ken Carrington, crafts, and kids' activities and was a big hit with the children.
- We welcome any member of Second to join the Mission Team. There are so many ways to serve Christ as we serve his people. Please contact Tim or Elizabeth Killen, Sarah or Marion Mitchell, or Patterson Smith.

Respectfully submitted,
 Tim Killen
 Chair of Missions



DEACONS

Members of the Diaconate provide care, hospitality, and service to the Congregation of Second Presbyterian. During 2023-2024, the Diaconate met quarterly to address and provide service to the church family. This year, Deacons (organized by the Care Team), ministered to those in need through visits, meals, cards, and prayers. The Diaconate (organized by the Hospitality Committee) provided meals, refreshments, and receptions for the Congregation, creating opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. New events included: "Chili Cook-off" (February) and "Bingo and Brunch" (April). The Deacons also organized the reception for the dedication of the renovation of Wragg Square (April). Deacons for the 2023-2024 year were: Kelsey Cochrane, Sue Henderson (Hospitality Co-Chair), Carol Howe (Secretary), Jim Kimmett, David King, Cynthia LaRoche, Dawn McCready (Vice Moderator), Lucie Medbery (Moderator), Judy Olson (Hospitality Co-Chair), Nicole Schuerman, Debbie Smith (Care Team Chair), and Melissa Yates.

Respectfully submitted by Lucie Medbery



The Deacons started a monthly food drive collecting donations this past year for our neighbors at The Canterbury House living on a fixed income in the non-profit senior living community downtown.

HOSPITALITY

This is a part of the Diaconate activity at Second Presbyterian. Fortunately led by Sue Henderson, a member who has good history and devotion to all church matters. This year numerous social opportunities attempted to give life and spirit to our church. Receptions often follow funerals of current and former members when desired. This social time in the fellowship hall allows for remembering those who have passed.

Luncheons were prepared during activities in the fall. Homecoming as well as SPK events. Fun, spirited events like our chili cook-off with 11 entries and post-church fun with bake sales and more.

A Palm Sunday luncheon gave us time to prepare for Easter activities. In April, there was a wonderful, well-attended reception following the Wragg Square Park renovation attended by city dignitaries, church members, and many family and friends of Patti McGee, whose legacy inspired the garden renovation and plant selections. The committee was happy to serve refreshments for the event.

The weekly contributions from the Diaconate and Care Team members who participate in the time after services is always appreciated. All the treats and smiling, friendly faces give a sweet welcome to all our visitors and church attendees. The creation of an opportunity to linger and incentive to connect is the spirit of our committee. Suggestions for future activities is always welcomed!

Judy Olson
Hospitality committee Co-chair







CARE TEAM

The goal of the Congregational Care Committee (Care Team) is to strengthen bonds, love, and support for members of our Church family. We realize that the needs of the congregation are constantly changing and try our best to stay in touch with those that need help and/or support with whatever comes their way. We help our congregation through difficult times, and we celebrate the many joys along the way as well.

Over the past year the Committee has assisted with transportation to and from Church & doctor's appointments. We have provided meals and visitation in the home and hospital. The Committee also sends encouraging notes and cards and reaches out to members with telephone calls, an email or text. We continually contact homebound members and offer support to those that may need encouragement through a difficult time.

The Committee continues to develop new ways to increase the care and interactions of our Church family. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to participate in Congregational Care Committee activities throughout the year. The Committee includes members of the Diaconate as well as members from the congregation at large.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Smith

CONNECTIONS

The Connections Committee is tasked with engaging and connecting people to the life of the church and the needs of the community, offering a space of faith, inclusion, honesty, service, belonging, and hospitality.

The Connections Committee continued to find ways on how to reach out to the community and to members to disseminate what we are doing at the church. Second Presbyterian has an active presence on social media with regular posts portraying the heart of the church and providing awareness to upcoming events. There is a weekly "Snapshot" e-newsletter that goes out regarding Sunday service and announcements. Postcards go out for big events and we engage online marketing through local papers and the presbytery. An Opportunities Fair was held in September to increase interest and volunteers in each of the different opportunities and committees at Second Presbyterian.

Community-oriented opportunities occur at and through the church throughout the year, including Camp Wanza, Race4Achievement, Tywanza's annual birthday party service and lunch, walking in the Pride parade and the monthly Pride community group the meets to discuss LGBTQ+ issues in an affirming Christian context in order to foster a safer, more inclusive world for all God's people.

We welcome any member to join the Connections Committee- especially if you have a background or interest in event organizing, marketing, writing or graphic design.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Cogdill
Connections Committee chair





Second Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten has nearly completed our 47th year of offering young children in the Charleston Area a safe, happy environment for learning. We welcome children ages 18 months through five to participate in the program. Our teachers provide positive discipline and teaching skills and they take pride in making the classrooms inviting and in the careful planning of developmentally sound learning activities.

We have a very active Parents' Guild to help with events and fundraising. Our main fundraising events are the annual Christmas Wreath Sale and the Spring Auction.



- The Guild helps maintain the back entrance to the grounds and the play areas which includes twice yearly mulch installation. This group pays for our mosquito/gnat control treatments monthly. This year they paid for the repairs and painting of our windows. We are very grateful for the fundraising efforts and contributions that our school family provides to help make the campus safe and attractive.
- The Guild paid for additional security cameras so that Erin and Sue have the ability to watch the entire perimeter of the school at all times from the office.
- The Parents' Guild helps teachers feel appreciated by sponsoring Teacher Appreciation Week and also providing lunch for teachers on workdays. They also stock our refrigerator with healthy snacks and drinks. They honor teachers at Christmas with gift cards and gifts. The Guild provides special gifts and meals for our staff throughout the school year.
- Our parents provide for classroom improvements and fill teachers' wish list requests for learning materials and educational toys.

The Weekday Program serves 65 children. The school is a Christ-centered program and the Christian atmosphere is most visible on Wednesday mornings when we gather to worship in the Chapel. Parents sometimes join us at this joyful time to praise God through the Word, music, prayers and stories. Ken Carrington, provides a special child friendly teaching from the Bible and we sing, pray and praise! Pastor Cress is on hand also and gives our children the closing blessing. The church staff and the staff of the weekday program work closely together spread the gospel to young children. The school organized Kindergarten Sunday with special music lead by our music teacher, Ms. Sarah Morrison. Over 200 church members and kindergarten families were present for this celebration. Our Deacons provided assistance and wonderful food for the reception. What a joyful day!

We are grateful to be a part of this fine program at Second Presbyterian Church.

Sue Henderson and Erin Kerr, Co-Directors

SCHOOL STAFF

Sue Henderson and Erin Kerr: Co-Directors

Sarah Morrison: Music

Sarah Elizabeth Crow: Discovery Time

Kristi Meeuwse: Kindergarten Teacher

Ken Carrington: Asst. Kindergarten Teacher

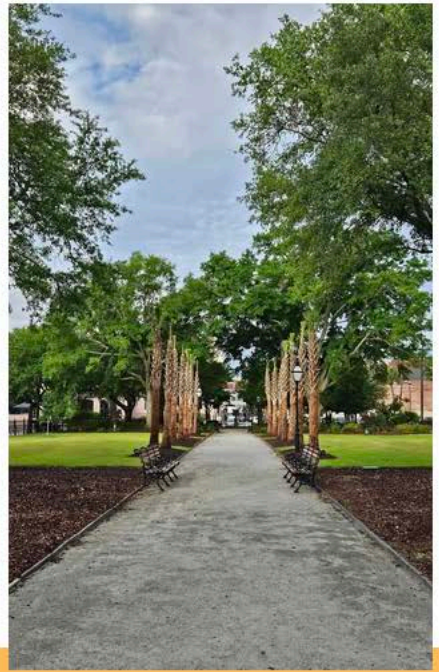
Allie Wilkins and Anna Hartman: Pre-K (4) teachers

Chris Bailey and Amy Prause: Preschool (3) teachers

Sue McManus, Rosie Whibley,

Alston Knaus and Ellie Stoney : Preschool (2)





FINANCE

The 2nd Presbyterian Church finance committee wishes to report on the status of the church's finances. For the 2024 calendar year the church received pledges totaling \$262,812. We had hoped to have \$300,000 in pledges and will emphasize giving when pledge season comes around this year.

We have budgeted \$510,900 in total income for 2024 against budgeted expenses \$526,182 for a shortfall of \$15,282. This projected shortfall does not include pay raises for the staff which will go into effect in the next month.

The good news is for the first time in several years the church balanced the budget in 2023. This occurred because of gifts to the church, income from leasing the parking lot and income from weddings which we host as well as savings from renegotiating the church's insurance policies.

We have concentrated on performing maintenance on the church itself and on the education building. There is currently maintenance needed on the graveyard side of the church around the gutter and the need for paint and caulking on the entire side. There is similar maintenance required for the rear of the church building and the graveyard side of the education building. We are in the process of getting an estimate for these costs as well as determining how the maintenance will be funded.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Olson And Patterson Smith

- **PARK RENOVATION:**

A long-awaited renovation of Wragg Square in front of our Sanctuary began in January 2024 after workdays were organized in memory of Patti McGee in early 2023. The Wragg Square Renovation Committee was formed (comprised of members of the McGee family, city officials, members of Garden District Neighborhood Association, the Charleston Parks Conservancy and Rev. Darwin) and met on a regular basis seeking input and approval from all parties involved to design a lasting memorial to the legacy of Patti and Peter McGee in Wragg Square.

After much work, study, and consultation with arborists and park designers, four diseased water oaks were removed to create an open and inviting green space for all Charleston residents and visitors to enjoy. New live oak and palmetto trees were added among the existing live oaks, along with stone pathways, flowering plants, sod, irrigation, seating, brick repointing, and LED lighting to liven the space.

A celebration was held on Sunday afternoon, April 7 that was a well-attended reception and dedication. We were happy to host the event which brought together city dignitaries, church members, and many family and friends of Patti McGee, whose legacy inspired the garden renovation and plant selections. We are all grateful for this beautiful addition to our landscape over Meeting Street. The McGee and Colbert families made this effort possible in honor of longtime Second Presbyterian Church members, Peter and Patti McGee.

- **GRAVEYARD WALL**

The bulging wall on Charlotte Street that surrounds the church graveyard collapsed in November 2022 after having been cordoned off; the bricks were preserved to be reused. Since City Council had earlier approved the settlement between the City and our business neighbor The Dewberry Hotel and its owner John Dewberry to restore the compromised wall, assessments were able to be made without delay to move the project forward. The City, The Dewberry, and Second Presbyterian Church have been able to work together toward the rebuilding of the wall, with restoration of the wall beginning in Fall 2023. The project is expected to be completed by the end of June 2024.

- **SANCTUARY & FRONT UPDATES**

The 2023 Tag Sale funds have gone toward beautification efforts around the sanctuary building and the committee is grateful for the team who made the Tag Sale such a success to fund the care of the church. In September, the Sanctuary doors were refinished by hardworking craftsmen, Omar Lima and his father. New signs along the church fence replaced wooden boards that were beginning to rot. A stand-alone sign has also been added out front of the sanctuary to welcome people into church life here at Second Church.

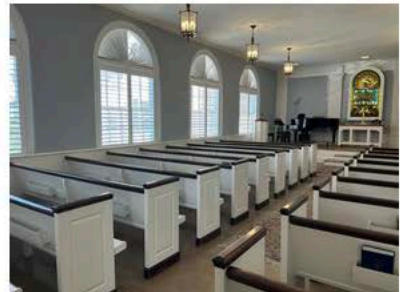
- **EDUCATION BUILDING**

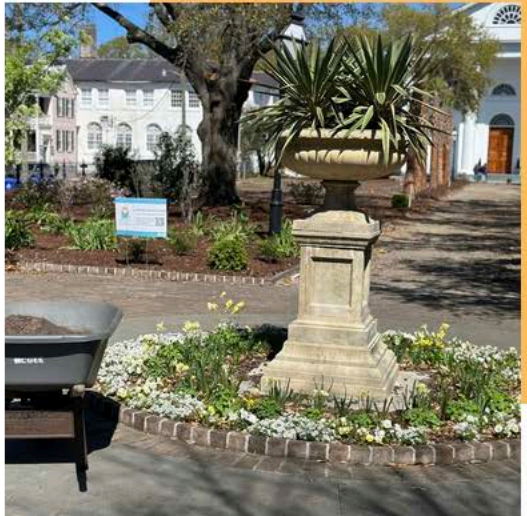
New interior shutters in the conference room and the Chapel were generously donated by two Second Presbyterian families and the refrigerator was replaced in the church kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Property Committee chairs: Rob McCready & Patterson Smith

PROPERTY





SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

342 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403

843.723.9237
2ndpc.org

ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2023-APRIL 2024