

**PRINCE OF PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ORKNEY SPRINGS / BASYE PARISH
VIRGINIA SYNOD – ELCA**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Council Report

Members: Ann Davison, Julie Moomaw, Winnie McDermott, Kate Isom, Elaine Bennett, Steve Stuart, Pastor Sherie Hofmann

The Church Council met regularly throughout the year and was delighted to welcome two new members, Elaine Bennett, and Steve Stuart. We thank Sean Nouvel, Rich Armell, and Cathy Street who stepped down in 2022 for their service.

Among many matters addressed, the Council updated the Funeral and Property Rental policies and established short term task forces to make recommendations on needed technology upgrades and a review of the Pastor's compensation to align with Synod guidelines. We approved a special appeal for a new Clavinova (piano.) and discussed Christian education, special services, spiritual growth activities (such as Forward in Faith and Lenten suppers), and congregational caregiving needs with the Pastor.

The council frequently addressed the need to recruit individuals to serve as volunteers for Sunday worship as well as assist with bulletins and other administrative duties. The guide for worship assistants was updated and requests for volunteers were made through the church newsletter.

In an effort to be visible in the community, additional resources and time were committed to advertise events at Prince of Peace through local newspapers and the Bryce Resort newsletter. The Church also hosted a table at the resort's holiday craft fair and plans to participate in the July 2023 Bryce Fest. Our website was refreshed regularly with updated schedules and information, thanks to volunteer Scott Hofmann.

Council nominated two individuals to represent Prince of Peace at the June 2023 Synod Assembly in which a new bishop will be elected – Ann Davison and Steve Stuart. Those nominations will be voted on during the 2023 Congregational meeting.

--Respectfully submitted by Ann Davison

Finance Committee Report

Members: David Franz, treasurer, Farley Peechatka, Dick Perry, Dean Miller

A budget has been prepared which the Financial Committee discussed on 25 March, and which, in their April 23rd meeting the Council recommended be approved. This includes the Pastor's

compensation package recommended by the Compensation review committee and the recent increase in pianist compensation directed by the Council.

Currently we are on track to come close to our budget estimate for 22/23, with an expected deficit of \$11,700, based on the shortfall of pledges received last year. Expenses have been somewhat higher than budgeted, but non-pledged giving has exceeded our expectations to offset some of the impact of higher spending.

As you can see, the proposed budget calls for a significant increase in spending for the new fiscal year, with very little room to economize. Most income items other than the pledge goal are estimated based on previous history. If we were to receive a pledging total equal to what was pledged for 22-23, we would fall over \$27,000 short of expected expenses.

Our current bank and investment totals are as follows:

Truist checking (used for operations)	\$56,160.92(as of 0/30/2023)
Truist Memorial funds	\$4,524.72 (03/31/2023)
Truist Capital Improvement	\$29,432.43 (03/31/2023)
Thrivent (2 Funds)	\$36,260.35 (03/31/2023)
Mission Investment Fund (2 Funds)	\$33,466.16
Total Available monetary assets	\$159,844.58

As you can see, we can sustain that much of a deficit for maybe two, possibly three years but that would draw down our assets to the point where we would have to consider other options. It is the opinion of the Financial Committee that the time to begin investigating and considering those options is before we have reached the point that we have none remaining.

--Respectfully submitted by Dave Franz

Stewardship Committee

Members: Sean Nouvel, Dick Perry, Farley Peechatka, Pat Werner, and Ann Davison

In preparation for the Stewardship campaign, committee members participated in a Synod-sponsored series of workshops on how to help our Congregation fully live into God's abundance. The annual stewardship campaign was conducted in May and June of 2023. Several members of the Congregation shared stories about their Prince of Peace experience in Sunday services and in the weekly updates including Farley, Monika, and Pat. Two letters were sent to the congregation – one by U.S. mail and the second by email – setting a goal is for all households involved in the life of the church to make a pledge for 2022-2023 and to grow giving as an entire congregation by \$500/month. The members of the Stewardship Committee pledged to increase their giving by 15% and asked the Congregation to consider a similar increase.

Additionally, the opportunity was made for individuals to begin giving online through a Synod-endorsed online donation platform.

Pledges were made by 24 individuals and families totaling \$92,220, an increase of nearly \$5,000 above the previous year's pledged amount of \$87,387. (Note that pledge amount reflects additional pledges received outside of the Spring Stewardship campaign but during the budget year.)

- Respectfully submitted by Ann Davison

Worship and Music

Members: Pat Werner, Julie Moomaw, Karen Schmitt, Pastor Hofmann

In addition to traditional Sunday worship services, this year we held several additional services including an October Blessing of the Animals held at the Resort, a November Service of Thanksgiving honoring veterans, and a December "Blue Christmas" service. Online broadcasts of Sunday services were continued to enable worshippers to join us virtually.

We were delighted to welcome Karen Schmitt as our accompanist and appreciate the other talented musicians who frequently supported our worship services including Barbara Strong, Susan Edelman, and Joe Kittle. The tone chimes continued providing beautiful music for special services.

The Council authorized a special appeal to fund a replacement of our Clavinova which was beyond repair. The congregation responded generously, and we were able to inaugurate a new instrument during Holy Week and Easter.

During the course of the year the Committee also purchased new linens for the altar and music books for our piano and guitar accompanists.

Church Library

The purpose of the Prince of Peace library is to make available to members of the congregation and to local residents materials relevant for religious study, spiritual growth and church based education.

During fiscal year 2022-2023, the library added 21 new books and now has a total of 815 catalogued items. This increase was due to generous book donations by Diane Hanson and Faye Williamsen and book purchases using the Prince of Peace library budget. There was also a modest increase this past year in checkouts from the library due in large part to Pastor Hofmann's use of library materials in her various Bible study programs.

Special thanks to Marty Harding for donating her bookshelves to the church library and thereby facilitating an expanded display of library books in Stidley Hall.

Members of the church are encouraged to make use of the library materials as well as provide suggestions for purchase and feedback to the church librarian.

--Respectfully submitted by Don Kienzle

Social Ministry Committee

Members: Don Kienzle, Monica Kienzle, Ann Davison, Pat Werner, Yoshi Gildark, Winnie McDermott, Delores Coffman

Over the course of the year, the Social Ministry Committee continued fulfilling our role of facilitating opportunities for members of Prince of Peace to respond to needs outside of the church walls in our local and global community. During the summer of 2022, in lieu of the annual “Drop Your Drawers” campaign, we joined with WECA to collect socks for donation to local nonprofits that support families in need.

In late November the Congregation participated in the Empty Stocking Fund, fulfilling the Christmas wishes of 10 girls and boys.

Committee and church members remain active in the Shenandoah Valley Lutheran Ministries efforts including ongoing collection of items for Luke’s Backpack and managing the inventory, packing, and dissemination of household items for the Good Shepherd Ministry that are distributed to local seniors in need.

During the 2023 Lent season, we collected essential items for 36 Personal Care Kits to be disseminated by Lutheran World Relief

--Respectfully submitted by Ann Davison

The Good Samaritan Fund

Committee Members: Judy Franz, Kate Isom, Don Kienzle Ron Moomaw and Cathy Street

The Good Samaritan Fund was established in September 2013 after an anonymous donor contributed a substantial sum of money. The Fund is governed by the policies and procedures set forth by the congregation. A Good Samaritan Fund Committee, appointed by the Church Council, fields requests for assistance and monitors the needs of our community.

The direction for the Fund comes from Christ himself who has challenged us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the prisoner and heal the sick. The Committee's mission is to respond to God's call to help those with needs in our congregation and in our local community.

The Fund has disbursed over \$88,000 and currently has a balance of \$31,600.96 thanks to fundraisers and donations.

Since last May we have helped recipients pay heating and electric bills. We continue to help one individual with car insurance payments. One family was helped with the cost of rehab care after a hospitalization and also helped to pay for prescription medications. The fund has also helped with rent payments.

The primary goal of the Fund for the coming year is to raise awareness of the availability of funds to help those in need. In this, we need your help. If you know someone who needs help with medical bills, credit card debt, car repairs or replacement , or has other financial needs, tell

them about the Good Samaritan Fund. We are here to help our neighbors in the community , not just members of Prince of Peace.

The committee expresses its appreciation to the initial donor and subsequent donors and hopes that others will prayerfully consider supporting the fund in the future.

--Respectfully submitted by Cathy Street

Property Support Committee

- A. Hose Bib – Hose bib between the Sanctuary and Stidley Hall replaced in May 2022. The old hose bib was leaking and could not be repaired.
- B. Emergency and Exit Lights– Replaced all batteries in lights in May 2022.
- C. Thermostats– Two new thermostats replaced in Stidley Hall. The new thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and provide the capability to change settings remotely using an app. Work completed December 2022.
- D. HVAC Units– All HVAC units were serviced April 2023 by Mountain Valley Home Comfort under our annual service contract. All units were found to be working satisfactorily and no repairs were carried out. The A/C unit for the Sanctuary was installed in 1997 and has obsolete freon. Any significant problem with this unit will require replacement of the entire system. At this time, the unit is working fine, but we must be prepared for a \$11K to \$15K cost for a new unit.
- E. Spring 2023 Spruce-Up – A number of projects have been identified for the outside grounds. As of this report, several projects have been completed. Our goal is to complete all work prior to Memorial Day. Those who are able and willing to help are encouraged to volunteer.

--Respectfully Submitted by Farley Peechatka

WOMEN OF THE ELCA AT PRINCE OF PEACE

Officers carried over were as follows: Judy Franz - President; Patricia Werner – Vice President; Cathy Street – Secretary/Treasurer; Ann Davison– Sunshine. Members make up the Altar Guild and provide meals following funerals or memorial services, and quarterly clean the kitchen in Stidley Hall. We also provide a prayer shawl ministry.

During this past fiscal year, the Women of the ELCA at Prince of Peace toured the Corhaven Slave cemetery in Quicksburg, enjoyed Faye Williamsen’s presentation of devotional books by Joyce Rupp, shared Cookies and Carols with the residents of Luther Crest; visited the Holy Land via pictures and stories by Rev. Tom Williamsen; heard the amazing story of work done by a Day for Girls; had a fun Easter project of decorating eggs with residents of Luther Crest; and worked on the Synod’s Project Hope. That project includes making bears for counselors to use when working with children who have been abused.

The women of the church made and served breakfast at the Lions Club meetings twice a month to benefit the church budget. Our community outreach this year also included the annual fall and spring Spaghetti Dinners co-hosted with the Lions Club of Basye/Bryce. The annual Ruritan dinner was served at their meeting in October. Funds from that enabled us to donate money to

the Orkney Fire and Rescue and Response. Something special for Father's Day will round out our year.

--Respectfully submitted by Judy Franz

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members: Janice Phoebus (Secretary), Farley Peechatka (Treasurer), Jack Fansler, Margaret Fansler, Charlie Fravel, and Rich Armell

History and Facts

Total plots available = 99 (#27, 40, 47, 60 used for road. #99 does not exist)

Gravesites per plot = 2 – 5, (4 sites per plot is the most common)

Gravesite = 4.5' x 9'

Gravesites total = 433 (10 plots are not usable for various reasons and are removed from the total.)

Gravesites sold = 236 (54.5% owned/occupied)

Gravesites sold since last report = 2 Gravesites returned to cemetery = 0

Burials since last report =

Laura Louise Bowers (cremains) – between 23B & 23C

Barbara S. Lloyd (cremains) – 33B

Hal Clark Ferguson (cremains) – 34E

Dorothy Peterson (cremains) – 95D

Gregory K. Peterson (cremains) – 95A

Treasurer's Report

Regular Checking = \$6507.48 at First Bank (includes recent donations of \$1,800) Memorial Fund (Savings) = \$2503.46

CD = \$21,000 ELCA Mission Funds Investment (quarterly interest is deposited automatically in the checking account for operating expenses. Interest of \$870.04 for this year.)

Committee Decisions

- The committee decided to provide a footstone for the Bowers family as the parents, Bill and Kay, and all three of their children are deceased. The two gravesites (23B and 23C) are the resting spot for the whole family, but no clear markings for the children are on the monuments the family had installed. The committee approved the purchase of the footstone for \$125 with all three children's names and birth year and death year. The stone has been installed.
- We provided information to the "Wreaths Across America" of our veterans. The hope is that this Christmas we will receive wreaths for their gravesites.

Action Items for 2023-24

- Cemetery Annual Fund Appeal – The appeal never came to fruition this past year. Currently, we have operating funds available for the next two years because of the sale of plots and donations. There are no immediate plans for this appeal.

- The committee needs to draft a regulation to establish a policy for succession of ownership in the event of the owner's death and the process to follow when a plot is unclaimed and no heirs can be identified. These additions to the regulations will be presented to the congregation at a future annual meeting for approval.
- Working on methods to maintain monuments that have darkened or are growing lichens and such.
- Need to recruit an additional member for our committee.
- Continue flag placement on veterans' graves on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veteran's Day.

Prince of Peace Church Cemetery Fund					
Financial Report					
26-Apr-23					
<u>Checking Account</u>					
Balance as of 01/01/2022					(\$ 3,487.44)
<u>Receipts</u>					
Donations					\$1,800.00)
Sale of plots					(\$ 1,500.00)
Investment Interest					(\$ 870.04)
Total					(\$ 4,170.04)
<u>Disbursements</u>					
Mowing					\$1,025.00
Stone for Bowers family					\$125.00
Total					\$1,150.00
Balance as of 04/26/2023					\$6,507.48
<u>Savings Account Detail</u>					
Statement Savings					(\$ 2,503.46)
CD (Mission Investment Fund)					(\$ 21,000.00)
Total					(\$ 23,503.46)

--Respectfully Submitted by Farley Peechatka

Mutual Ministry Committee

Members: Pastor Hofmann, Judy Franz, Ann Davison, Jack Fansler, Pat Werner, Rich Armell

The Mutual Ministry Committee met frequently throughout the year to provide a confidential forum for discussion. This new Committee has proven vital in creating a healthy opportunity to address any matters of concern and to seek opportunities to provide our minister with congregational support.

--Respectfully submitted by Ann Davison