

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL



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Letter from the Moderator



Dear Members and Friends of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill,

Along with words like “mask” and “vaccine” and “variant” and “TikTok” and “Crypto” (still not sure what it is), one of the most used – and perhaps overused – words from 2021 was “pivot.”

Pivot indicates a kind of intentional change of direction, more than a turn. It’s a term used in the business world, and in other settings.

When I think of pivot I return to my athletic youth. It was a basketball term, used both in offense and defense when a player makes a very intentional change of direction.

2021 was a year of pivoting – for you, for me, for our world, for the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill.

Our pandemic response began in March of 2020. As long as the numbers stayed at crisis level, and as long as vaccines were not available, our path seemed clear, never easy, never welcome, but clear. Offer online worship, online educational and fellowship opportunities, keep our financial house in order as best we could. We didn’t like it, at all, but we had a well-established consensus.

2021, though, witnessed the coming of the vaccine, thank God. That meant we could ponder what returning to church might look like – a huge pivot opportunity. We said goodbye to our massive parking lot tent, which served us very well. We returned to in person worship in the Sanctuary in June – albeit with lots of protocols and protections and absent many in our community who either were not able to be vaccinated yet or unable or not quite ready to be back. We missed them – and still do – and are so grateful for the livestreaming capacity that welcomes many to join us.

And yet – more pivoting. Delta and Omicron caused us to pause some activities and recalibrate others. Even as we have moved into 2022, worship is not fully back. Many meetings still happen on Zoom, and my hunch is that that will be a permanent, if not partial, feature.

PCCH pivoted in other ways. We said goodbye to two valued colleagues, Esther Cole and Austin Crenshaw Shelley. We welcomed new colleagues, Megan

McGowan, Roberta Kearney and Beth Shalom Hessel.

We became a Matthew 25 congregation, joining a denominational initiative that focuses on racism, poverty and congregational vitality. Remember that along with the coronavirus pandemic, 2020 witnessed a concerted response to racism, and it is important that we continue our work.

More pivoting to come...more church activities will continue to return, slowly and mindfully. We are launching a Faith Formation Working Group that will help us envision future directions, a comprehensive and holistic approach for all ages that will seek to meet our needs in a new cultural reality.

We will need to look very intentionally at our financial landscape. We received significant federal grants that helped us bridge the pandemic gaps. That funding will not be available to us moving forward. How can we establish a sustainable financial picture that meets our needs – human and administrative – supported by your generous response?

We will never pivot back to what once was. Nor should we. That was not likely to happen anyway; COVID simply magnified and accelerated changes that were already taking place. The role of church in culture and our lives was already evolving; that evolution continues.

People talk about a “new normal.” Maybe. The notion of normal might be a stretch. Whatever comes next will certainly be new.

We are facing big questions, and we are not the only church doing so.

- What does membership look like?
- What does engagement look like?
- What balance can we find between in-person and online?
- How can we serve the world when the needs are so significant?

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill will face particular versions of these questions.

- How will our staffing profile continue to evolve to meet our needs?
- How do we communicate more effectively with one another?
- What is our financial future?
- How will we continue living into the Matthew 25 vision?
- How will we welcome new folks into our community?

I am eager, not anxious, to see how we discern our common calling and live into this new moment. I am eager to learn how we will pivot – together. Our leader-

ship in the Session and Deacons is terrific, and the staff is well-prepared and well-equipped to respond.

Matthew 25 asks the question – “when did we see you?” We have been reminded in the last year that we see Jesus everywhere and all the time. Though circumstances may change, with continual invitations to pivot, the calling remains the same. Love God. Love one another. Serve God’s world.

*Faithfully,
John Wilkinson*

Associate Pastor Messages



Last year I wrote mostly about the things that I have missed during COVID. This year I would like to tell you about the one thing I have come to even more greatly appreciate.

You. Our community here. Our lives here. Our faith here, in and as the Church.

In our time together, and in our time apart, I have never felt more closely connected to you as I do now. To a shared purpose. To a shared identity. To a shared hope for a world and time to come when we can gather again as we once knew, when we can rejoice in ways we have yet never known.

For the last thirteen years, I have journeyed with you. Sometimes hand-in-hand, sometimes at a bit of a distance. Sometimes we have been successful. Sometimes we have failed. And even more times, I have failed.

Sometimes my vocational sense seemed blurred. Sometimes it felt like I had become complacent. Sometimes it was as if the past was more comfortable to dream about than the potential of the future. But over the last year, the future has appeared to me more interesting and exciting than ever before.

There are new opportunities among us, my friends. For us. Here. And in this place. In how we worship, in how we serve, in how we fellowship and enjoy each other’s company.

And while I miss your company, especially around the donuts and coffee in Widener, especially around the hammers and saws at Habitat for Humanity, even and especially around the poker tables as we raised money for mission, I also have been inspired by the new blips

and snippets of our coming life together.

From Session meetings about Matthew 25, from communion services at our retirement communities, from youth conversations with families of Souls Shot, there is something new happening at PCCH. And while it may be slow moving, and somewhat confusing and uncertain, there is a real opportunity for us to more fully define just what this place and faith has always meant to you, and to me.

And in church, there is no me, and there is no you, without first having us. We are rightly called a priesthood of believers; and so together, in shared community, I believe we can emerge from this nightmare of time renewed and stronger than we ever were before.

No, it won’t happen overnight. Nor with this message. And yes, it will take a lot of energy, creativity, and time. From you and from me. But together, I believe in us. For we are family.

Hope to see you soon, and may God bless you all. With great appreciation and love,

*Brian D. Russo,
Associate Pastor for Youth and Senior Adults*



I am delighted by the Session’s invitation to be a part of PCCH’s ministry for fourteen months to lead children and adult ministries and to help shape a new vision and plan for faith formation. Arriving at PCCH on November 1, there were just twenty days to plan the kick-off of Advent with the making of Advent wreaths and the delivery of reverse Advent boxes to our children’s homes. As children ages 5 to 12 were just getting vaccinated in December, it seemed wise to plan a children’s gathering shortly after Christmas – with a celebration of Epiphany. Little did we suspect that Omicron would send us all back into our homes. (But, more on that in next year’s annual report.)

In the last two months of 2021, I began leading the Wednesday Adult Bible study and an Advent retreat; planning children’s lessons for Sunday morning; organizing the Christmas pageant; and meeting with many faithful people who serve as teachers, members of the children’s education committee and the adult education committee. Together we are talking about past practices

and current needs, while anticipating a different kind of future following COVID.

In a desire to meet the needs of children during COVID, lots of organizations (especially schools and churches) began sending activity boxes to parents in the hopes of helping the children stay connected. I also designed and delivered such activities only to find it added to the stress of parents who were and continue to feel so overwhelmed with navigating the constant safety practices around COVID. We are truly in a time of rethinking our practices and how to engage all ages in being formed to know the love of God and to express love in the world.

Looking forward to the new year, when a Faith Formation Working Group begins its work, we will be looking for new practices that fit the children, youth, families, and adults of PCCH.

I continue to pray for all of us, as we move into a new era of ministry. Let us pray for peace and wisdom in the year ahead.

*Roberta Kearney,
Interim Associate Pastor for Faith Formation*

Session Update

The Session

Class of 2022

Martha Agate	Melissa Montgomery
Ryan Cavanaugh	Jeffrey Podraza
Matthew Eastman	Alison Rudolf
Ryan Mann	Taylor Slaughter

Class of 2023

Rebecca Bernstein	Katherine Magid
Gregory Dickinson	Christen Webber
Robert Fles	Kevin Welsh

Class of 2024

Linda Amsterdam	James Lutz
Jill Bown	James Spause
Jack Evans	Margaret Spencer
Lisa Guyer	Beth Nell Vaccaro
Kate Houstoun	

PCCH MEMBER DEATHS

John Greenawalt
Marianne Mebane
Barbara Spaeth
Nicholas Thomas

PCCH BAPTISMS

Theodore Atkinson	Brooke Schneider
Robert Boyd	Ethan Shachtman
Shirley DuBois	Graham Storm

Highlights

January: Reviewed compensation proposals

February: No meeting

March: Reviewed stewardship updates and discussed COVID response

Hired Megan McGowan as our new church administrator

April: Heard Church Life plans and other activities designed to bring people together – reviewed Holy Week

May: Approved a plan to “return to church” in June!
Discussed steeple window replacement
Continued positive response to food needs for our mission partners

June: PPP and Return to Church plans discussed

September: (in person meeting!)
Hired Roberta Kearney as Interim Associate Pastor for Faith Formation

Welcomed Beth Shalom Hessel as Parish Associate
Agreed to become a Matthew 25 congregation

October: Discussed racial justice statement; discussed fall plans

November: Discussed stewardship plans

December: Discussed Preschool activities and hired Diana Rodgers as Interim Director



Deacons and Senior Adult Ministry

Class of 2022

Alison Abernethy
Karen Asper
Emily Barth
Beth DeSoo
Jesse DeSoo
Cynthia Hillsley
Barbara Olson
Linda Pettengill
Deborah Robinson

Class of 2023

Rebecca DePasquale
Sara Eastman
Debby Evans
Courtney Franklin
Trish Franklin
Jane Kaufman
Kristin Lawton
Edna Russo
Beth Vaccaro

Class of 2024

Kelly Baughman
Beverly Heimbach
Lyn Huertgen
Jane McGill
Amy Raphael
Dominick Rebeck

COVID has disrupted many of the things we would have normally been doing (visiting continuously with folks in their homes and in the hospitals, hosting our Deacons Brunch in January, etc.), but we have returned to our post greeting at the doors as we gather for worship on Sunday, delivering meals to those in need, and presenting flowers to celebrate birthdays, Christmas and Easter.

We resumed visiting with our members, led multiple communion services at our retirement communities, and hosted an educational forum at Normandy Farms with Roberta about the future of Christian Education at PCCH.

If you are ever in need of assistance, prayer, or even just a friendly phone call, please let Brian know.

Brian Russo, Associate Pastor



Adult Education

The purpose of the Adult Education Committee is to provide resources that foster spiritual growth in our congregation. The start of 2021 found us worshipping from home as COVID continued to prevent us from meeting together in person. However, as Rachel Held Evans once wrote: “...Christianity isn’t meant to simply be believed; it’s meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people.” In that spirit, we held virtual Second Hour sessions via Zoom each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. We took time to share our experiences of life during the pandemic. David Stevenson, a bereavement coordinator and counselor, discussed strategies for coping with grief in the age of COVID and Austin led a discussion of practices that might help us to continue to grow our faith, even in times of physical isolation. We also began a PCCH Book Club that met one Sunday each month to discuss *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, by Bruce Feiler, which helped us to explore the intersection of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faith communities. We also had Second Hour sessions that explored where the lectionary would be taking us and had a local artist take us on a virtual tour of Christian faith as expressed in classical and modern art.

With the fall, we celebrated a return to in-person worship and our Second Hour programming returned to the Reception Room. John took time to explain our recent move to become a Matthew 25 congregation and what that means for each and all of us as we work to be faithful disciples. In that spirit, we chose “*Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*” as a book to read for the upcoming program year. This work is an anthology, written by eighty authors from different fields, and should help us all to better understand some of the challenges before us as we strive for racial equity. We also began a new series called “Caring for God’s Creation” that seeks to under-

stand how we are called to be stewards of the Earth. This series began with a discussion of sustainability and basic ecological principles before continuing to discuss topics like food and water in the new year.

Jill Bown, Greg Dickinson, Bob Fles, Alison Rudolf, Edie Russo, Donald Todd, Sarah Wright, and Roberta Kearney (staff)



Children's Education

Ministry with children occurs in many forms and activities. From child care, children's chats in worship, Sunday school, Joyful Noise rehearsals, to special events for families and Vacation Bible School. A second year of COVID has meant continuing to find alternative ways to reach our children.

During 2021 Sunday school was offered online, until in-person, Sanctuary worship resumed in June. In the fall, a team of teachers reviewed various curriculum and chose the "Growing in God's Love" curriculum to accompany the children's Bible, "Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible," delivered to all families in 2020. A team of teachers – Rebecca DePasquale, Brenda Phillips, Linnea Johnson, Gregory Dickinson, Dom Rebeck, and Virginia Rebeck – planned and led those lessons in the chapel, where children were properly distanced and masked. Attendance in Sunday school averaged between six and fifteen children ranging from ages three to eleven. After two units of the chosen curriculum and a growing span of ages among the children, a shift was made to using a storytelling curriculum, "Godly Play," in which all ages can find their own age-appropriate meaning.

Sunday school attendance blossomed in December, creating hope we would soon have enough children to have a younger and an older children's group.

Vacation Bible School, VBS, was held in person in August. For the first time VBS was held in the evening and involved parents and children. The curriculum, Compassion Camp, focused on the importance of compassion for ourselves, our community, and one another. Thanks to Amy Raphael and Julie Snyder for their leadership.

The Reverse Advent boxes underwent a bit of revision, encouraging families through a weekly devotional as Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem. We identified the needs they would have and then during each week of Advent placed similar items in the box to meet the current needs of people being served by West Kensington Ministry (winter clothing), Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry (canned meat and hearty soups), Face to Face (toiletries), and Philadelphia Interfaith Housing Network (newborn and baby items). Children were provided plain white paper bags to decorate for their baby gifts to bring forward to the manger during the Christmas Eve pageant.

Included in the Reverse Advent boxes was a Santa gift bag prepared and decorated by Beth Lutz, Helen Lutz and Elisa Lutz to include hot chocolate, marshmallows, candy and a letter to be used for writing to Santa. Children sent or returned their letters to the Santa mail box outside the Reception Room.

Thanks to all who participated in giving through the Reverse Advent boxes.

Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry picked up close to 10 boxes of food. Face to Face received 2 boxes of toiletries. West Kensington Ministry accepted 3 boxes of warm socks, shirts, hats. Philadelphia Interfaith Housing Network (PIHN) accepted 6 boxes of diapers, wipes and other infant items.

Thanks to the members of the Social Witness Committee who sorted the items and delivered the boxes to benefit folks in our community.



The Christmas pageant generated lots of enthusiasm as twenty-five children and youth, including some college students, narrated and acted out the Christmas story in person. Beth Lutz, Helen Lutz, Linnea Johnson, Brenda Phillips, Rebecca DePasquale and others all helped with the costumes and staging as children sat up front on the floor, drawing pictures for baby Jesus, while waiting for their part in the pageant.

Finally, we continue to offer pastoral care and referrals to professional counselors for families and children during this time of ongoing and increased stress. If you feel you or your children are struggling, you are not alone. Please contact your pastors for help navigating a way forward.

Ryan Mann, Greg Dickinson, Brenda Phillips, Michelle Shachtman, Rebecca DePasquale, Roberta Kearney (staff)

Church Life

The COVID pandemic and pesky variants continue to make it challenging for the Church Life Committee to focus on its regular mission - visitor welcome, new member recruitment, and member engagement. We have our fingers crossed that we will have opportunities to safely do so in the very near future!

We have focused on outdoor events that allow individuals and families to gather together, such as our fire pit gatherings and our August trip to see the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs. We are filled with ideas for gatherings and events, waiting for the time that it's safe for everyone again.

We're encouraged that return to worship in the second half of 2021 also gave opportunities for folks to visit PCCH. As the year came to a close, we had our



first in-person gathering for potential new members and were pleased to welcome Nicolette Cobbold, George Henderson, and Fred and Connie Lewis into membership - and look forward to introducing them to the congregation soon.

We thank everyone who helps to create and maintain a welcoming environment at PCCH, and we encourage your thoughts and comments relative to activities and programs of interest to you and your family.

Jeff Podraza (chair), Martha Agate, Mark Bernstein, Rebecca Bernstein, Steve Bishop, Kate Houstoun, Ryan Mann, Liz Podraza, Edie Russo, Jim Spause, John Wilkinson (staff)



Theology on Tap

As could be expected, we spent a good deal of time this last year on Zoom and meeting outside under the PCCH Tent, in addition to some events outside at the Chestnut Hill Brewery. But no matter the location, the conversation has not suffered! We hope to return to the Upper Room at Campbell's Place as soon as the pandemic permits, and if you would like to engage in conversations about The Modern Christian Family, The Future of the Church, God's Role in Evolution and Medicine, etc. then carve out the third Tuesday of every month on your calendar at 7:30pm. Follow up with Brian with any questions you may have.

Brian Russo, Associate Pastor

Music and Arts

The Music and Arts Committee continued to meet by Zoom during 2021. We were thrilled to bring back

Melody and Comedy to the tent in June. Joyful Noise, our youth choir, John, and many other regulars came together for a welcome live music performance. Before the Omicron surge, we were also able to send two groups of carolers to PCCH members' homes. The committee is busy planning for a hopeful full return to programming during 2022, including our spring arts festival in March and a more robust Melody and Comedy production with auction.

Matt Ward (chair for part of the year), Beth Vaccaro and Taylor Slaughter (co-chairs), Harry Spaeth, Jim Spause, Joan Demme, Julie Bishop, Margaret Spencer, Mark Conti, Mark Bernstein, Rebecca Thornburgh, Dan Spratlan and Ken Lovett (staff)



For the first half of 2021 our musical life at PCCH continued to involve sharing the experience of worship and music through edited recordings of choral music, hymns and organ voluntaries. While Dan and Ken recorded most of the music (and sermons), Brian Russo edited and produced the weekly videos. Brian's expertise and artistry added greatly to the high quality of our video recordings.

During this period we convened a handbell ensemble. Participants rehearsed weekly and participated in the weekly videos, as well as played during worship services in the tent.

In March, we once again erected a large tent in the parking lot to host services and group meetings and rehearsals. Gratitude to our soloists and volunteer singers and ringers for leading the music for these services.

The PCCH Youth Choir rehearsed and sang intermittently, as COVID restrictions and attendance allowed. The young people performed at Melody and Comedy in June and again in December, after regular rehearsals resumed.

The Gallery Choir returned to worship services on

June 13, and after a break in July and August was back this fall. In addition to Sunday morning services, we had our first joint concert with our neighbors at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The combined choir of nearly 70 voices along with a professional chamber orchestra presented two wonderful performances of Faure's *Requiem*, one at PCCH and one at St. Martin's. The concert was dedicated to those lost to COVID-19 and gun violence, and took place over All Saints weekend in conjunction with our fifth annual Souls Shot Portrait Project which memorializes victims of gun violence in our city.

During the winter and spring, the Cantatas and Chamber Music series presented live-streamed concerts from the Sanctuary by two or three performers without an audience. In October, the series returned to live performance with an audience for a concert of music by Josquin, di Lasso, and Ockeghem by the PCCH soloists. Our resident ensembles also resumed their respective concert series this fall, as we hosted performances by the Pennsylvania Girlchoir, The Crossing, Tempesta di Mare, and Piffaro.

Our new professional live-stream and audio systems are up and running after significant supply chain delays, and we now offer a comprehensive live-stream option for all of our worship services and concerts. Thank you to our youth for training on and running the equipment each Sunday morning.

Dan Spratlan, Director of Music and Ken Lovett, Organist/Associate Director of Music

In January and February of 2021, Joyful Noise met on Zoom on Sunday mornings. Beginning in March, we resumed in-person rehearsals in the tent and worked to rebuild a feeling of community through songs and musical games. The children sang several pieces at a tent worship service in May, and also performed the song *We're All in This Together* at Melody and Comedy in June. After a summer break, Joyful Noise returned to regular weekly rehearsals in the chapel in September and sang for worship in November, December, and at the Christmas Eve pageant. We continue to work on vocal technique, ensemble singing, song repertoire in a variety of styles, and understanding the connection between our song texts and the scriptures.

Julie Snyder, Director, Joyful Noise

Flower Guild

The mission of the Flower Guild is to bring the beauty of God's world into our worship space, even if the worship space is a tent. Flower Guild members were asked to make small arrangements using their own containers and flowers to brighten our tent space during early spring.

We were especially eager to return to our live arranging for services in the sanctuary starting in June. We appreciate the continued support from our members and friends who donated to the Flower Fund in memory of loved ones throughout 2021.

In August, we helped out at the unique Vacation Bible Camp at night event that brought together kids and families for fun activities. The flower arranging session was a surprise hit with the boys and girls. Participants selected their own flowers from those provided and did some great arranging! Thanks to Diane Cornely for coordinating.

On October 30, we held a Fall Workshop in Widener Hall demonstrating new designs, led by Diane Cornely, Ken Lovett, Liz Podraza and Suzan Willcox.

A weekly project of the Flower Guild is providing small arrangements for the Deacons to take to homebound or hospitalized members. These arrangements are put together directly after church using flowers from the large sanctuary pedestal arrangements. Additional arrangements are made to place in other locations around the church including the office and the Center on the Hill.

Thanks go to our intrepid Guild members for sharing their enthusiasm and boundless talents.



Guild Members:

Jill Bown
Cathy Brzozowski (New Member)
Katie Connelly
Sandy Connelly
Debby Evans
Barbara Frazier
Linnea Johnson
Jane Kaufman
Ken Lovett
Barbara Olson
Linda Pettengill
Liz Podraza
Alison Rudolf
Sue Shuchat
Barrett Stewart
Mary Ann Van Blarcom
Susan White
Suzan Willcox

Grace Stewart and Diane Cornely



Personnel

The Personnel Committee is charged with overseeing our diverse staff and working with the Pastor on all matters relating to human resources. This typically includes position descriptions, compensation matters and benefits for the staff.

The committee is grateful for the staff and its outstanding work as it continues to adapt to the coronavirus pandemic. We will look for continued ways to support these talented people.

There were several staff changes in 2021. In the spring, we celebrated Church Administrator Esther Cole's well-earned retirement and welcomed Megan McGowan as our new administrator. Megan has been a blessing to us and we are excited about her contribu-

tions to our church! In July we said goodbye to Austin Crenshaw Shelley, our Associate Pastor for Christian Education. While we miss Austin, we were thrilled when Roberta Kearney joined us in November as our Interim Associate Pastor for Faith Formation. Roberta will spend 2022 helping us define the future of our Christian Education program. We also welcomed Beth Shalom Hessel as our Parish Associate, a non-compensated pastoral position that provides worship and other leadership.

Kevin Welsh (chair), Rebecca Bernstein, Kate Magid, Christin Webber, John Wilkinson (staff)



Social Witness

2021 continued to present our world, our community, our church and our committee with challenges that we could not have imagined. However, in 2021 our congregation continued to bear witness to God’s love through mission work to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, witness lives lost to gun violence, bring joy to children in poverty, welcome refugees, provide a safe harbor for victims of domestic violence, educate children, free the innocent, and so much more.

Despite the changes in how we worked with our partners, we continued to provide donations to many of our partners via several food and supply drives throughout the year. Highlights included 70 backpacks filled with school supplies for PIHN, coats and gloves for West Kensington Ministry, toiletries and personal products for Face to Face and PIHN, Christmas gifts for forty children for Achievability, food for Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, Face to Face, PIHN, and West Kensington Ministry. We changed our monthly interaction with Face to Face to provide baked ziti, which allowed us to join together in our kitchen and prepare

the meals.

While in-person activities were limited, we joined with our brothers and sisters at West Kensington Ministry to help distribute food, coats, gloves and blankets, as well as sponsoring a hole and participating in their Golf Outing. We also hosted the new Souls Shot Portrait Program exhibition.

Finally, we were able to continue to financially support many of our other partners, including Heeding God’s Call, Dawn’s Place, Centurion Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Anti-Violence Partnership, Our Brother’s Place, Broad Street Ministry, and Souls Shot Portrait Program.

Melissa Montgomery (chair), Jeff Podraza, Liz Podraza, Beth Vaccaro, Bob Fles, Margaret Spencer, Laura Brobyn, Suzan Wilcox, Susan Brunel, Emily Camp-Landis, John Wilkinson (staff)



Stewardship

Once again, the biggest question your Stewardship Committee faced was how to conduct a stewardship campaign during a global pandemic? Though we were partially “back” in Fall 2021, we still worked hard to get our message to our broader community, Using the theme “Gather*Bless*Serve” (based on Matthew 25), we heard presentations from a variety of members and program areas that were compelling and inspiring. We were overjoyed to host our traditional stewardship pancake breakfast on November 21.

Pledging is the heartbeat of our financial life, and the Stewardship Committee is grateful for the support of so many. Thank you. If you have yet to pledge for 2022, do it, whether as a renewal or for the first time. Thank you, again, for your support.

Linda Amsterdam, Mark Bernstein, Matt Eastman, Jim Lutz, Laurie Meny, John Wilkinson (staff)



Youth Ministry

As much as COVID has disrupted our normal way of life, in some shade of the truth, it has yet to derail our youth group. Sure, the variety of our activities has been reduced and we have been unable to exchange hugs, not to mention cheese curls and pizza slices. But warm or cold we have continued to meet, safely outside or inside with masks and social distancing. We gathered around fire-pit nights, gift exchanges, and devotionals; we have hiked throughout the Wissahickon, partnered with West Kensington Ministry on food deliveries, and initiated contact with families of victims of gun violence. We went to New York City at Christmas, drove to Ithaca, NY for a comprehensive college tour, and spent a week in Virginia for a spiritual retreat.

The pandemic would have been a perfect excuse for our numbers to go down, and our enthusiasm for each other's company to wane, but that has not been the case. This group of young people is simply amazing. They have endured so much. They have had to deal head-on with uncertainty and loss. And yet, they have preserved and remained hopeful.

Please continue to support them in all the ways you do. They both need it and deserve it.

Kelly Baughman, Katie Connelly, Beth Lutz, Jeanette Quirus, Kevin Welsh, Brian Russo (staff)

Center on the Hill

The Center on the Hill, the place for active adults at PCCH, spent its 11th year offering a variety of programs, events, activities – both virtually online and in person – that enriched the lives of the seniors in Chestnut Hill and our surrounding communities. January, February and March of 2021 the Center was complete-

ly virtual, offering Zoom classes in Tai Chi, Sketching and Watercolors, Colorful Collage, Decluttering, Writing Your Life Story, Golden Yoga, Good Sleep Habits, and Avoiding Online Scams, among many others. We also continued to post fitness videos, watch and learn presentations, interactive games, art lessons, community resources and more, online completely FREE for anyone to access on our website.

In April of 2021 we were able to return to in person activities, many of which took place under our big tent outside in the parking lot during the spring. Some examples of programs we offered in person during the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2021 include:

- Tai Chi
- Golden Yoga
- Health and wellness lectures on topics like:
 - Sleep Habits
 - Understanding Parkinson's
 - Keys to Posture and Balance
 - The Art of Mindfulness
 - There is No Place Like Home
- Collage Art
- Basics of Android Phones
- Bridge Lessons
- Watercolor Painting
- Bingo
- Horticultural Therapy
- iPhone/iPad Classes
- Name That Tune
- Learn and Play Croquet
- Movie Musical Virtual Cabaret
- Computer Classes
- Diabetes and Nutrition
- Grief Counseling
- Medicare Counseling
- Qigong
- Well Spouse support and Alzheimer's support groups



In August the Center was awarded a \$5000 Covenant Fund Grant from the Presbytery of Philadelphia to be used as scholarships for seniors who would benefit from some of our fee-based programming but are living on a fixed income. In the Fall we were able to offer scholarships to 32 people who would not have been able to attend some of our activities had it not been for this generous grant. These funds will be used throughout 2022 to continue helping many seniors from our surrounding communities participate in our paid programs.

February 2022 marks my third anniversary as Director of The Center on the Hill. So much has changed in the last three years, but one thing remains the same – active adults in our community are thriving! Being able to stay true to the Center’s mission to offer a wide variety of programs, events, activities, and resources that enrich the lives of seniors in Chestnut Hill and surrounding areas during these ever changing times has been a challenge, but extremely rewarding. I have profound gratitude to all the church staff who support the Center, and all our instructors, partners and volunteers who make programs and events possible. The Center on the Hill and the community we serve continue to flourish through our combined efforts. I am looking forward to more growth for the Center in the year ahead.

*Mariangela Saavedra,
Director, The Center on the Hill*

Forum on the Hill



The Forum on the Hill (formerly the Speaker Series) is a monthly event (September-June) presented in collaboration with The Center on the Hill which appeals to our neighbors and the members of PCCH as well. It is a part of the Church’s outreach efforts and is a means to offer relevant and thought provoking information presented by speakers who are knowledgeable and accomplished in their particular fields. PCCH’s history of inviting guest speakers goes back nearly forty years. Subjects presented by our speakers over these years have included the arts, science, athletics and current events. In the Fall of this year we re-branded the monthly event

to be more representative of the programming we offer, now calling it The Forum on the Hill. The Forum seeks to present speakers who can engage our attendees in conversations and shared dialog about their topics.

2021 began with online only speakers such as David Thornburgh from the Committee of Seventy, author Thomas Hine and sports journalist Mike Sielski. For the months of April - June speakers presented online to people joining on Zoom and those watching the stream live in Widener Hall. Topics covered included Digital Data Security, Philadelphia’s Water Supply, and The Power, Fragility, and Future of our Extraordinary Lungs. In September we began hosting these speakers live in person under our new name, The Forum on the Hill, and then sharing the recorded version later online. Our Fall Forum topics included: Creating the Path for Gene Therapies, Serving Our Neighbors during the Pandemic and Beyond, and Forgiveness and Reconciliation: The Great Work of Love in a Wounded World. Those participating as presenters this year included Church Members, Community Leaders, CEO’s, Doctors, Authors, and Educators.

Mariangela Saavedra, Coordinator. Thanks to Stan Elwell and Jeff Podraza for programming support. We also remember with gratitude Jack Loughridge, who founded this series years ago as the Men’s Luncheon.

PCCH Preschool

Every day is an exciting one at the PCCH Preschool! Our expert faculty provides high quality, research-based, and developmentally appropriate lessons in literacy, numeracy, social-emotional development, social studies, science, art, and music. We are living our mission to partner with parents to help children become kind, creative, curious, courteous, and kindergarten-ready.

Each month, we, as an entire school, choose one theme in which to root our studies. In January, all of the classrooms explored community helpers. They built fire trucks out of moving boxes, learned about the human body and



health care heroes, and wrote and delivered letters like postal workers. This month we're focusing on transportation, and I've heard lots of renditions of "Wheels on the Bus" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." We'll finish out the year by studying weather, baby animals, and the ocean.

We are excited to, for the first time, offer caregiver-and-me classes during the week. Our current families, many of whom have younger children, mentioned the lack of programming available for very young children, so we hope to fill that gap. Julie Snyder is offering music, and we have connected with licensed nature and yoga teachers to offer caregiver-and-me classes in those fields. Anyone in our community is welcome to register on the Preschool website and we hope to see church members enroll with their children and grandchildren.

As we begin to look to the summer, we will be offering four weeks of camp. Our faculty will teach traditional camp, but we are also piloting kindergarten-readiness camp for students entering kindergarten and gentle separation camp for children who have never been in a formal school environment and who will begin preschool in the Fall. Both of these programs are open to the community.

Finally, the Preschool is your school and we want you to feel welcome visiting our classes and seeing our incredible programming in action. You financially support our refugee children, who would not be able to afford an early childhood education without the Church's generosity. You allow us to use Widener Hall for our Holiday Pageant, Halloween Parade and Graduation. We exist because of your support, so please come see it for yourself. I know that you'll be charmed by our pre-Kers practicing their "polite greetings," touched by witnessing the children's love for each other, and impressed by our faculty's creativity and dedication.

Diana Rodgers, Interim Director

***NOTE: The Session appointed Diana Rodgers to serve as the Preschool's interim director beginning January 1, 2022. We thank Diana for her service, and lift up the dedicated service of all of our teachers, especially as they have navigated the challenges of COVID.

We have also re-instituted the Session Preschool Committee, whose task is to offer support and guidance for the preschool. To learn more about the preschool, please visit <https://pcchpreschool.org>.

Christen Webber (chair), Lyn Huertgen, Lisa Guyer, Beth Vaccaro, Kristen Lawton, Jill Bown, Liz Podraza, Alison Rudolf, Becky Welsh, John Wilkinson (staff)



Administrator's Report and Property Update

2021 started out quietly but turned into a busy year here at PCCH. Preparing to safely reopen the building for congregants and visitors was challenging and rewarding. After being somewhat dormant for over a year, the building needed some work. In March, a section of the steeple's windows blew out in a wind storm which necessitated replacement of all of the lower steeple windows. There were also multiple HVAC, plumbing and appliance repairs. We lost a few trees around the property, but thankfully, it remains picturesque. Some building improvements included new carpeting and a freshly painted first floor hallway, courtesy of Felix. The Sanctuary has a beautiful new handcrafted brass rail leading up to the lectern. New signs are on the way, too. Supply chain and staffing issues have plagued many of our vendors, but we were still able to maintain the building and property to PCCH's high standards.

We are planning some landscaping to restore the small hill between the parking lot and the path to the playground. The ivy has mostly died off and been replaced by weeds and poison ivy. Doug and Linda, the landscape team at Springfield Greenery, suggested dividing some of the large, healthy hostas from around the property and transplanting them to this nice, shady hill. If anyone would like to help out this Spring, please contact me.

The return of music and dance was a definite highlight of 2021. The Crossing led the way with their wonderful return concert on September 11. We also hosted Tempesta di Mare, Piffaro, Lyric Fest, Coro Mundi,



Pennsylvania Girlchoir and the Cantatas and Chamber Music concert. The music and camaraderie were enjoyed by all. Judging by the many concert bookings through 2023, people are eager to perform at PCCH again.

In addition to the many congregational activities which take place each month, we also hosted blood drives, weddings, garden exhibitions, a conference on mosaic art, instrumental and vocal recitals, Scout meetings, Mount Airy Learning Tree classes, the Rotary Club, the Royal Scottish Country Dancers, a Souls Shot exhibit and more. PCCH remains a vital hub of activity in Chestnut Hill.

I am fortunate to work alongside the talented and dedicated PCCH staff: Evelyn Carpenter, Felix Delgado, Mariangela Saavedra, Leslie Lefer, Owintier Charles, Donna Marciel, Joan Foster and her team, Debbie Lambeth and Icilda James. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Esther Cole for preparing for her departure so thoroughly. I'm grateful for her time and expertise.

Megan McGowan,
Church Administrator

Finance and Treasurer's Report

The Finance Committee and the Treasurer are responsible at PCCH for overseeing the Operating Budget, the Senior Adult Ministry Budget, the Capital Campaign cash flow, financial oversight of the Preschool, and the various restricted funds that help the Church in its mission. Once the budget is established for the year, the Finance Committee meets monthly to review our progress, and on an as-needed basis with a representative from Main Line Accounting, our third-party accountants. Cash flow management for the church is also reviewed and monitored to coordinate with the Investment Committee to time the draws from the endowment that need to take place. The Finance Com-

mittee's monthly review and any recommendations are then reported to Session regularly.

A summary of 2021 financial results as well as the Session-approved budget for 2022 are included below for review and comparison. We clearly could not have anticipated or budgeted for the COVID-related uncertainties that 2021 would throw our way, but we managed to navigate our way through it all financially quite well. While the pandemic impacts did have some adverse impacts to our building rental incomes (some of which returned this past year, partially) and likely contributed to some shortfalls to our pledge receipts, these challenges were offset by lighter expenses and the benefit of a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. This PPP loan enabled us to maintain payrolls at both the Church and the Preschool, and we have met the requirements for loan forgiveness. As always, unfilled pledges from 2021 or any prior year are always welcomed in subsequent years. Thank you one and all for your continued dedication to the financial stewardship of the Church.

Steve Bishop, Christen Webber, Harry Spaeth, Linda Amsterdam, Jim Lutz, Graeme Frazier, John Wilkinson (staff)

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee continues to faithfully oversee the endowment funds of our church. Our committee is responsible for investments that are managed by Merrill Lynch and PNC.

The 2021 Endowment Funds provided funds of \$126,614 to support the operating budget and \$111,074 to support the Senior Adult ministry of the church. This past year continued to be a challenging year due to COVID and the Investment Committee made sure that the funds were available throughout the year to support the budget. The upcoming year will continue to bring volatility as the Federal Reserve begins to increase Interest Rates in the face of rising Inflation.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Investment Committee, please contact John Lawton. We meet four times a year on the fourth Monday after Quarter End to discuss performance and set strategic direction.

John Lawton (chair), Stephen Bishop, Harry Spaeth, Mark Nottingham, Matt Abernethy, Linda Amsterdam, John Wilkinson (staff)

Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

Session Approved 2022 and 2021 Recap

	2022 Budget	2021 Actual	2021 Budget
Revenue			
Congregational response	\$703,000	\$616,772	\$680,000
Building Use and Other Revenue	\$149,200	\$128,098	\$102,200
	\$852,200	\$744,870	\$782,200
Draws Against Endowment Income:			
Designated Draws	\$83,619	\$66,942	\$66,942.00
Other Draws	\$68,568	\$59,672	\$68,568
Total Endowment Draws	\$152,187	\$126,614	\$135,510
Total Revenue	\$1,004,387	\$871,484	\$917,710
Expenses			
Ordained Ministers	\$335,824	\$253,237	\$270,248
Lay Personnel Salaries & Benefits	\$270,001	\$269,434	\$247,755
Other Personnel	\$63,977	\$51,544	\$63,977
Personnel Total	\$669,802	\$574,214	\$581,980
Music and the Arts	\$20,700	\$17,627	\$20,700
Church Life	\$12,500	\$53,514	\$21,200
Christian Education	\$21,550	\$17,426	\$20,541
Administration	\$102,000	\$101,441	\$119,000
Building and Grounds	\$17,200	\$194,513	\$169,500
Mission	\$82,020	\$83,160	\$82,020
Total Expenses	\$1,085,772	\$1,023,895	\$1,014,941
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	(\$81,385)	(\$152,411)	(\$53,350)
FOOTNOTE ON BUDGET SHORTFALL COVERAGE:			
PPP Wave 2	\$38,027		\$53,350
Sr. Adult Ministry			
Carry over previous year	\$11,952	\$21,865	\$21,865
Gifts/Grants	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$5,000
Other Income	\$13,000	\$23,066	\$13,000
Draw from SAM endowment	\$123,181	\$111,074	\$111,074
Total Revenue	\$153,133	\$161,505	\$150,939
Expenses			
Personnel	\$105,804	\$98,998	\$98,998
Operating Expenses	\$15,000	\$30,555	\$15,000
Contribution to Church Overhead	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Expenses	\$140,804	\$149,553	\$133,998
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	\$12,329	\$11,952	\$16,941

