2022 Annual Report

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

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From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Dr. Chris Currie

Dear SCAPC community,

So much of the Christian faith is holding things in tension. That God is ruler of the universe and Lord of all and yet comes to us in the vulnerable flesh of a child born in Bethlehem. That we are called to be followers of Jesus Christ yet live out our faith in the commerce of the world and not just in the privacy of our hearts. That faith is a verb and includes our best thoughts and beliefs, but also our best actions and witness in the world. Another thing that we hold in tension is that life together in Christian community is both an end in itself and also provides us many enriching and gratuitous benefits. Worship is both for God, but also lifts our hearts, feeds our minds, and stirs our souls. Our financial resources support this church's operations and the many and various people who make up our wonderful staff, and our gifts also impact hurricane relief, mission projects in Cuba, vulnerable neighbors in New Orleans, and the ongoing maintenance of our facility. We are both a community of people and ties that bind, but we are also a community committed to this building and this neighborhood and offering a space of welcome, hospitality, sanctuary, and belonging.

I hope you find that creative tension in the pages of this annual report. An annual report is designed to show where and how we deploy our resources, use our gifts, and impact our world. That happens through our personnel, that happens through the worship, music, and preaching that fills our sanctuary and chapel, that happens through our community partnerships across the city, that happens as we travel to Cuba and fill backpacks for refugees in Texas, that happens as we sit at table at Wednesday Night with members of a different generation who are not related to us. This last example may be one of the most critical and least thought about ways we live in creative tension and contribute hope to our world. We are a community with people of different generations, backgrounds, zip codes, politics, and worldviews, and find common ground, common hope, and a common mission. We need each other and are lesser without the combined witness of us all. I hope you see that shining through the pages, faces, and yes, numbers of this annual report, and that you pause and reflect and give God thanks for where we have been and what we have been able to accomplish this past year; at the very same time may your prayers also call for fresh creative tension and momentum to propel us onward and to inspire us to reach ever higher in 2023.

Grace and peace,

Chris

Annual Meeting of the Congregation
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
New Orleans, Louisiana
Sunday, February 5, 2023

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER	Chris Currie, Moderator
DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND PURPOSE OF MEETING	Hallie Boh, Clerk of Session
DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT	Buddy Cambas, Usher Captain
REPORT OF 2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN	Hardie Edgecombe, 2022 Chair, Stewardship
PRESENTATION OF 2023 CHURCH BUDGET	Curtis Cunningham, 2022 Chair, Finance
ELECTION OF CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Kate Prechter, Leadership Development

Session, 2023	Kate Prechter, Chair
Session, 2024	Richard Seelman
Session, 2025	Libbie Reiss
Youth	Camille McCann
PW	Jennifer Steck
Staff	Michele Murphy
YAF	Annie Wilson
Senior Adults	Ken Kneipp

APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN PASTORS' TERMS OF CALL	Dawn Talbot, Chair, Personnel
ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER	Sarah Chancellor-Watson, Vice Moderator

COMMUNITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Chair: Elizabeth Artigues | Vice-Chair: Avery Beuerman

The CM Committee continues to support our community partners and programs this year as many emerged from pandemic related restrictions and resumed pre-pandemic modes of operation. This task has been more difficult for some than others who have had to replace staff due in part to the shutdown.

Kinship Center was closed for fourteen months and reopened in mid-2022 with a new Program Director and additional services offered to its elder clients. Liberty's Kitchen is conducting a search to replace its long term CEO. Under its acting CEO, it has resumed its Chef Dinners but not yet reopened its cafe which is planned for sometime 2023. Cafe Reconcile has reopened and Crescent City Cafe has transitioned from handing out to go meals to again serving breakfasts in a restaurant setting. This year they expect to reach their 20,000th meal served. Okra Abbey has resumed its Grace and Greens lunches and is now serving more families than before the pandemic. CM contributed an extra $1500 from our benevolence fund to help support the increase in meals.

Carrollton Camp once again held its two-week summer program in July and August. Over 20 congregants supported the efforts of the camp through the donations of supplies on the Amazon wish list, provided breakfast or lunch meals, or came out to read a story each morning to start the day.

RHINO continues to respond to the needs of those still recovering and rebuilding from Hurricane Ida. We have partnered with Louisiana Just Recovery Network to help reroof homes and rebuild community spaces like churches. We hosted nearly 70 campers over the summer, where they volunteered around New Orleans and out in the river parishes with Louisiana Just Recovery. In the fall we began a new partnership with the YAV program where 2 YAVs work in our RHINO office supporting our mission and helping to coordinate our efforts.

The action plan for the year was developed during the session retreat and the first CM committee meeting of the year. Our goals were to keep the congregation better informed about CM events and activities, using social media and the quatrefoil, and to reengage the congregation in these events, particularly focusing on new members and first time volunteers. The new "Ministry Match" Survey to identify potential volunteers dovetails nicely with the goals of our committee and we continue to use this tool to be in contact with those who matched with our volunteer positions.

At the Reconnect with the Corner event in September, we were able to reach out to the congregation and recruit volunteers for our Fall events. In April and in October, we hosted Day of Service events which involved more than fifty congregants working at locations of various partners. Almost all of our partners attended CM Sunday and were able to share information about their agencies during the coffee hour. The White Gift program successfully engaged congregants using a combination approach of signup genius and ornaments on the tree in Frampton Hall.

As the Community Committee chair, I should note that throughout the year I have never failed to be impressed by the dedication and support of the individual committee members to both their liaison agencies and to the committee as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Artigues, 2022 Chair, Community Ministries

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Sheila Schwartzmann | Vice-Chair: Melissa McDonald

Objective: SCAPC'S Congregational Care Committee worked collaboratively to meet the spiritual, corporal and transportation needs of our congregation.

Committee Members: Ann Byerly, Laura Byrd, Nell Lanier, Gerlie Weinstein, Cecile Gordon, Mary Lou O'Keefe. Sheila Schwartzmann, Susie Rumsfeld, Helen Barnett, Mayson Buffington, Libbie Reiss, Chris Hazlaris, Miriam Hollar, Delia Hardie, Sally Wimberly, Jo Anne Chancey, Betty Hope, Brenda Stephens, Melissa McDonald, Jane Rasi, Sarah Chancellor Watson, Barbara Bush, Mikell Johnson, Kelsey Dolbey, Barbara Weiser, Candy Cranch, Nancy Ellis, Patricia Hardin.

Brunch and Fellowship with High School Seniors

In April, Congregational Care celebrated SCAPC's high school seniors and their impending high school graduation. Seniors and their parents were our guests for a Brunch. Seniors received a blanket embroidered with SCAPC's quatrefoil as a gift. Candy Cranch provided decorations, and the meal was prepared and served by Sheila Schwartzmann, Nancy Ellis, CeCe Gordon, and Ann Byerly. Prayer was offered at the 10:30 worship service for this young group.

Caring for Nursing Home and Homebound Presbyterians

Committee members ordered and delivered lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas to SCAPC Presbyterians and non-member Presbyterians living in nursing homes and homebound members. At the request of the residents, plants were only delivered to those members and residents who required nursing care. Recipients are living at Poydras Home, Lambeth House, The Blake, and Christ Church. Independent residents living in Lambeth House did the delivery for those residents.

Notes and Other Correspondence

Mary Lou O'Keeffe continues to write notes to SCAPC members who need prayer and spiritual encouragement.

Birthday Cards for SCAPC members ages 70 and older

Congregational Care Committee members took turns writing and sending personalized birthday cards to church members who are 70 and over.

Pantry Ministry and Meal Trains

Congregational Care organized several Meal Trains for members who were faced with extended situations requiring food. A pantry drive was held in September to restock the pantry for situations requiring only a day or two of assistance with meals. All meals were provided for families experiencing bereavement, who had a new baby, were ill, or recovering from surgery.

Prayer Shawls

Ann Byerly has continued to lead our prayer shawl ministry, despite her own surgery related difficulties, for those in need of comfort in our church.

SCAPC Reconnect with the Corner

Congregational Care had a table at Recconect with the corner with a display showing the various ministries Congregational Care provides. Several new members joined our committee that day.

Redistribution of Sanctuary Flowers

This is a new ministry of the Congregational Care Committee. It was noted that while entire bouquets of flowers were being taken to various nursing homes rather than letting them go to waste, it was felt by the Committee that we could reach an even wider group with smaller bouquets. Volunteers from the Committee started meeting on Mondays to assemble simple arrangements in bud vases to be taken, not only to residents experiencing illness, but to those who just needed a spiritual uplift as a way to show our love.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Schwartzmann, 2022 Chair, Congregational Care

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Chair: Meg Gammage | Vice-Chair: Katie Gilly

I am happy to share that "We got the Band back together!"

Wednesday Night Out - While COVID protocols did not allow for Wednesday Night Out events to be held until February, we stayed in planning mode until we got the go-ahead. We pulled off some wonderful WNO events with great speakers this year and new WNO ideas which went well. Thank you to Bonnie and Jim Hobden for a great menu all year and being so easy to coordinate with. Thank you to Ann Van Horn and Mary Lou O'Keefe for always being available to support the kitchen staff and on the floor.

After Worship Fellowship - We were over budget with all the snacks, but we will recover and ask that most be donations going forward. Please sign up to help and bring snacks so everyone can enjoy a snack along with fellowship after BOTH services in the future. $25 can cover most Sundays and anyone can pair up with a friend and host bigger Sunday snack events.

Special Events and Activities

- Snowball Sunday– was so fun! Thank you, Michele for coordinating.
- Annual BBQ - a great fall day that was enjoyed by about 100.
- Speakers - Dana Ennes, David Bottner, Bob Gamble, Thompson Graves, and Kay Lee the Scottish dance teacher
- Big WNO turn outs were - Broadway Night, Talent Night, King Cake tasting, Cake Walk, trivia and White Gift-Wrapping Night.

Thank you to those who delivered Sunday Snacks, Mazzanti's, Prechter's, Alpaugh, Edgecombe's, O'Keefe's, Amanda Berger and family, the Sundmakers, and Gilly's and a BIG thank you to Percy for organizing it all every Sunday morning. A HUGE thank you to Ann Van Horn and Miriam Schulingkamp for organizing the Annual BBQ setup. Heartfelt thanks to committee members, Ann Van Horn, Mary Lou O'Keefe, and to other volunteers who constantly helped, and to the dedicated church staff, especially the tireless sextons who make sure everything is ready for anything special we are trying to do. I am forever grateful for your support this year.

Blessings to all,
Meg Gammage, 2022 Chair, Congregational Life Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Curtis Cunningham / Vice-Chair: Charlie Carson

Attached are the following reports as of December 31, 2022:

- Operating Income Statement, including the approved 2023 budget
- Operating Account Balance sheet
- Visionary Fund Activity and Net Assets

Operating Results of 2022

Church budgeted operations resulted in a surplus of approximately $5,300 ahead of our 2022 budget. Total operating revenue was approximately $283,600 short of budget. Total operating expenses were approximately $288,900 short of budget. Most departments were under budget, most notably the Property department due to the deferment of multiple necessary major maintenance expenses onto 2023.

Total pledge receipts were approximately $81,000 short of budget. Pledge revenue receipts failing to match the pledge commitments is a concern. The Stewardship and Finance Committees will address the pledge shortfalls within the next few weeks.

The Payroll Protection Program loans received in 2020 and 2021 were forgiven. These funds allowed the church to continue paying the staff during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue operations. The church was the beneficiary of a generous bequest from Sandy Hartman which is restricted for the church's outreach programs. Gift & Memorial and Visionary Fund accounts will be created in Ms. Hartman's name.

The Committee reviewed the Financial Authority, Finance and Visionary Fund policies. The Financial Authority policy was updated, and the Finance and Visionary policies will be updated in 2023.

Visionary Fund

Visionary Fund net assets decrease from $13,232,633 to $10,403,048. A second progressive payment of almost $500,000 for the new organ and new Visionary Fund contributions totaled $176,400.

Looking Ahead at 2023

About $600,000 in major maintenance projects will have to be completed in 2023. Each of these projects has been deferred for multiple years and the resulting damage is too great to defer any longer. The Mary Riess Visionary Fund designated for major maintenance projects will be used for these expenses. To rebuild this fund for future major maintenance projects, the annual draw for the Mary Reiss Visionary Fund will be reduced over the next five years.

As a result of static pledge receipts, increasing operating expenses, and compounding major maintenance projects, we will have to make significant withdrawals from the Visionary Fund during 2023 to balance the budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis Cunningham, 2022 Finance Chair

GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Chair: Scott Montgomery | Vice-Chair: Cindy Bush

In 2022, Global Ministries has evolved in several ways since the COVID pandemic. As COVID restrictions over the past 2 plus years have limited the activity and opportunity for connection with our Global Ministry partners, the Global Ministry committee has taken this past year to refocus our mission and scope with an eye to the future and a drive to foster enthusiasm and connection between the congregation and our GM partners.

In this past year, we have begun important evaluations of each of our current partnerships, as well as exploring new projects and organizations that help us in our goals to serve our global neighbors and our congregation in meaningful and faithful ways.

The committee adopted the following as a formal goal to guide our discernment work - to connect our congregation with opportunities to assist our global neighbors in need, whether citizens of other nations or those seeking a better life in the United States.

A set of criteria reflecting our new charge were likewise adopted to be used in the evaluation of both new and old projects.

- Affords the opportunity to develop a meaningful relationship with leaders and/or participants
- Offers a chance for hands-on activity in the project
- Provides our members a better understanding of the foreign culture and/or specific problem being addressed
- Has the potential to significantly improve the life of participants (by education, training, health intervention, etc.)
- Provides a reasonable return on our investment
- Has a proven track record of success

Our work has led us to begin to scale back our support of some partnerships, mainly in Africa where it is most difficult to travel and communication can be difficult. We are also evaluating where and how we might bring some sort of completion to the projects we are supporting and celebrate the good work done between our congregation and our partners. Part of our motivation to scale back our level of support on some projects and partnerships is our desire to enter into new partnership and explore new programs to engage the congregation in Global Ministry.

One such area of exploration is along the US/Mexico Border working with Presbyterian-run agencies who are assisting refugees and asylum seekers arriving into the US. As the US/Mexico Border is about a day's drive away, there is potential for meaningful trips and connections where some of the unique skills and talents of our congregation members may be used to support communities along the border. Additionally, we have begun a new project – "Backpacks for the Border," which provide essential supplies for newly arrived migrants as they travel to their new residences and begin their new life in the United States. This project allows us to involve folks of all ages in our church to participate as we assemble the backpacks here at the church and have them delivered to our Presbyterian partners along the border.

Finally, we hope as pandemic restrictions ease, we will now able to be able to welcome our mission co-workers to our church while they are back in the United States (as we have in the past) in the coming the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Montgomery, 2022 Chair, Global Ministries Committee

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Jenny Baldwin | Vice-Chair: Kate Prechter

In 2022, the Leadership Development Committee accomplished the following goals:

- Planned and executed the Elder Retreat in January, 2022
- Led the Congregational Nominating Committee in recruiting the Elder Class of 2025
- Enlisted Elders to serve as Commissioners to the Presbytery of the South Louisiana meetings
- Provided funding for training materials for the Elder Class of 2025
- Provided funding for gifts to the retiring Elder Class of 2022
- Assisted with annual church membership roll review
- Participated and helped execute "Reconnect with the Corner" in September, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Baldwin, 2022 Chair, Member Involvement

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Margaret Ann Lindsey | Vice-Chair: Lou Hoffman

This has been a great year for the Membership Committee. Through the work of the Holy Spirit and with each of our 23 dedicated committee members putting forth much energy and enthusiasm, we received 61 new members, including our 12 confirmands. The committee met every Sunday after church in the Phifer Library. These meetings were always well-attended by the committee members. Also, we had one meeting in July and another in December to assess what we had accomplished and how we could achieve more.

In October, we hosted a well-attended new member brunch. Louellen Berger was very gracious to open her home for the event. Gwen Wertz was the chair for the brunch, and the entire committee participated by providing food and welcoming our honored guests.

Every Sunday morning, committee members kept their eyes open for newcomers to the church. When we found a visitor, we immediately went and introduced ourselves and told them some good things about the church and how they could become involved.

New and prospective members were all offered the opportunity to learn more about the traditions of our faith through our Presbyterian 101 classes which were well-led by Sarah Chancellor-Watson and Chris

Currie. Many of our new members also accepted our invitation to attend Wednesday night dinners on our New Member nights.

Each committee member worked hard all year long to make visitors feel that they could have a church home among us, and each of them deserves a special word of thanks for their service. Among them several performed special tasks:

- Elizabeth McGough made hundreds of phone calls to prospective members, approximately 30 to 35 each week. That personal touch always makes a positive impact.
- Margaret Maxwell wrote notes to all prospective members.
- Philip Luchsinger took pictures of the new members as they joined.
- Sarah McHarg took on a number of special assignments.
- Michele Murphy administered the ministry match survey to identify the best places for new members to participate in the various ministries of the church.
- Camille Zander took care of all our lists.
- Special thanks are also due to our two pastors Sarah Chancellor-Watson and Chris Currie for always supporting the work of the committee.

We will be in good hands as Lou Hoffman leads the committee in 2023 and Christy McCann succeeds her as chair in 2024. With gratitude for all who helped with the membership committee and all who joined the church in 2022, we look forward in the new year to welcoming many more new members to join us in worship, fellowship and service.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Ann Lindsey, 2022 Chair, Membership Committee

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair: Randy Evans | Vice-Chair: Dawn Talbot

2022 was the first full year at SCAPC of Rev. Dr. Chris Currie and Lynn Hoffman as the Director of Administration. It was also the year in which SCAPC returned to full staffing. The results were impressive, including excellent reviews by the Session of SCAPC Staff performance and by the SCAPC Staff of morale and of the functioning of the Church. The Pastors and Staff are to be commended for their hard teamwork, communication, collaborative processes, and willingness to pitch in and help other Staff, Committees, and other groups within SCAPC.

Among the goals that we adopted last January were:

- Address staffing needs, especially for a new Operations Manager.
- Work with the Director of Administration to review and update the Policies and Procedures of the Staff and of the Pastors.
- Explore more ways to provide feedback in addition to the annual end-of-year reviews.
- Explore better employment benefit plans.

Fortunately, the Personnel Committee is a very dedicated group with wonderful insights and knowledge and handled each of these objectives. We are pleased that we:

- Conducted a Survey of the Session Committee Chairs in April of the performance and responsiveness of the SCAPC Staff.
- Worked on the details of the Senior and Associate Pastor Terms of Call.
- Researched and approved the move of the Staff health and retirement benefit plans to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions.
- Updated and obtained Session approval of a new Staff Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Conducted a search for a new Operations Manager. Fortunately, we found the right person for the job-SCAPC member April Weiser.
- Considered individual staff requests for a sabbatical, salary adjustment and staffing as openings and opportunities occurred.
- Held meetings in October with each Staff member to better understand their work and how it can best be accomplished.
- Provided a platform for the recognition of Staff members.

In 2023, we will continue our work on the Pastor's Policies and Procedures Manual. We also anticipate hiring a two-year Pastoral Resident from Austin Theological Seminary to provide them with practical knowledge and experience of how Churches function and to help us expand SCAPC's pastoral service to our Congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Evans, 2022 Chair, Personnel

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Moderator: Harriet Riley | Vice Moderator: Sarah Edgecombe

2022 was a busy year for Presbyterian Women as we gathered for fellowship and spiritual growth and, most importantly, helped many others in our community and the world. In 2022, we supported mission partners: Living Waters for the World in Cuba, Eden House, Program of Hope, Carrollton Camp, Raintree Children and Family Services, and Okra Abbey with activities and supply drives, as well as donations. We also supported the local Young Adult Volunteers, the Mission Co-Worker Missionaries of the PCUSA, and contributed to the Rowena McMillan Scholarship at Union Seminary in memory of the female members of SCAPC who died in the previous year. We also donated supplies purchased for the PW Synod Gathering to the SCAPC kitchen.

Presbyterian Women had a busy spring with our re-scheduled Simple Elegance event on April 5 hosted by Jennifer Steck and Katie Porter. The event, with about 130 ladies in attendance, honored Stephanie Currie and was co-chaired by Margo Phelps and Nancy Jane Carson. Next, we planned and sponsored the annual churchwide Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Louellen Berger along with Allison Tiller and Amanda Berger. Laura Abrams and Stephanie Carter DiSalvo co-chaired the very successful event on April 10 with more than 2,500 stuffed eggs for the 200 people in attendance. Next up was the PW Retreat chaired by Michelle Baker, Nancy Davis, and Christina Carlisle on May 15-16 at the Solomon Conference Center. The retreat speaker was the Rev. Lori Raible on the topic "The Courage to Claim Your Voice." About 40 women attended this overnight event.

Summer for PW brought our biggest event - July 21-23 – the PW Synod Gathering hosted by the Presbytery of South Louisiana at our church. Mary Monsted headed the planning team along with Kathy Randall, Ann Van Horn, Emily Fleshman, and Laura St. Clair with lots and lots of help from everyone at SCAPC. The three-day event drew 130 participants from presbyteries in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. The group participated in services, workshops, city tours, mission work and more under the theme "Remember the Sabbath."

Fall was time for another Simple Elegance gathering, back at the normal October date, at the lovely home of Patricia Brinson. Lacy Edgecombe and Ella Landis co-chaired the event with almost 140 women attending the lovely evening event. Winter brought the annual PW Christmas Worship and Reception led by Sarah Chancellor-Watson and Steven Blackmon, with Beth Wren coordinating and Stephanie November hosting the reception in her lovely home.

Throughout the year, with some taking summer breaks, PW groups met for the Monday Noon Circle, Lambeth House Circle, and Tuesday Evening Circle once a month. Weekly PW groups include the Contemplative Practices Group led by Miriam Hollar, and Spiritually Hungry Women led by Beth Poe. The PW Book Club continues to meet monthly led by Elizabeth Artigues.

PW collected churchwide special offerings for the Thank Offering in November and the Birthday Offering in May. As usual, our congregation gave faithfully and generously to support impactful charities throughout the world. Throughout the year, Cents-Ability funds were collected at churchwide and PW meals to support the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Presbyterian Women are truly grateful for the support of all the members of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Riley, 2022 Moderator Presbyterian Women

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chair: Sydney Lawder | Vice-Chair: Harper Johnson

Committees were asked to develop an Action Plan for 2022 and report to the Session. The Property Committee's top items were:

1. Assist in hiring the Operations Manager
2. Get estimates to replace the ladder to the Sanctuary attic
3. Get estimates to repair the Land Building 2nd floor back porch railing and deck
4. Obtain suggestions for the sanctuary recessed lights issue

During the year the committee addressed these by participating in:

1. Hiring the Operations Manager by outlining the needs for this committee related to that position and interviewing a candidate
2. Obtained estimates and approval for creating new access to the Sanctuary attic via the 3rd floor choir room; that work was completed in December
3. Repaired the Land Building 2nd floor back porch railing and deck
4. Obtained recommendations for the Sanctuary recessed lights; the project remains incomplete due to cost and uncertainty of the best solution

In addition, the committee:

1. Obtained an updated quote from Durable Slate to do major maintenance on the Sanctuary and Educational Building exterior, including repair of stonework, roof work, cleaning and addressing water intrusion issues
2. Replaced the carillion (church bell)
3. Replaced the compressor for Chapel air conditioning
4. Upgraded to LED lighting on 2nd and 3rd floor using EnergySmart grant for some of the cost
5. Repaired and refinished shutters and the front door of the Land Building
6. Installed landscaping at the Land Building front porch beds and improved patio area
7. Identified the Land Building plumbing problem but tabled action due to cost
8. Obtained a storage shed for the Land Building yard
9. Installed security lights in play yard
10. Installed lights in fans on Land Building porch
11. Obtained a bid to caulk and repaint Education Building windows but tabled that task until more crucial work is complete

The committee has a list of items additional to the issues left unfinished. Included are an upgraded phone system, LED lighting in the parlor and Bloomfield rooms, a backflow system for the fire suppression system and columbarium fountain, improved drainage in the play yard, and identification of a computer program to track maintenance projects. They will be addressed as funds allow.

The Property Committee will end the year within budget, with a surplus in the Major Maintenance line item to be used for work to be done in 2023.

Hardworking and skilled committee members were Anderson Baker, Michael Bell, Catherine Dunn, Lyn Fabacher, Tom Favrot, Carla Fishman, Lawrence Hoffman, Harper Johnson, Jeff Mazzanti, Frances McCall, John Morton IV, Kevin Murphy, J Pegues, and Matthew Wilson.

They are to be commended for devoting a great deal of time and thought on the projects required to keep the aging facility functioning well and continuing to look its best as our historic property deserves.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Lawder, 2022 Chair, Property

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Children

2022 started with limited Sunday school offerings for children. Students were divided into three groups, 3 yrs – K, 1st – 3rd grades and 4th -5th grade which is one fewer than we had pre-Covid-19. We had 15 volunteers leading the classes. Attendance slowly got stronger and the children who attended enjoyed learning the stories of the Bible. By the end of the year, although attendance was not at pre-pandemic levels, classes were well attended and volunteers were excited to get involved. The Challenger Class (4th and 5th grade) was able to hold their annual retreat in Tickfaw State Park. 13 students and 2 chaperones enjoyed a weekend learning the power of prayer and got to spend the afternoon at trampoline

park. We hosted a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon at NOLA Brewery for our dedicated volunteers in the spring.

In the summer, our Vacation Bible School hosted 90 children and 25 youth volunteers. Our youth were given greater responsibilities and lead several of the workshops themselves. Summer Sunday School was held in the month of June during the worship service then going on summer break until our return with the Reconnect to the Corner kickoff in September.

Reconnect with the Corner was our kickoff event which showcased the work of the church. We had a block party on Benjamin St with Aiden Morriss' (SCAPC youth Alum) band playing on the front porch of the Land Building. The congregation enjoyed Lucky Dogs, snowballs, a bounce house and lots of tasty treats. All session committees were given tables to display what they do and allow members to get involved.

Youth

This past year, SCAPC's youth had many opportunities to grow their faith and know their worth as God's children. Despite a spike in COVID cases in early January, Youth Group was able to resume via in-person gatherings on Sunday evenings later in the month. By mid-February, Youth Group was able to safely resume community dinners by serving the meals outdoors on the Land Building lawn. Both middle school and high school students enjoyed community-building events including an Instagram scavenger hunt at Audubon Park, a spring crawfish boil, an anime movie night, an Interfaith Earth Day celebration at Joe W. Brown Park, a day trip to Dauphin Island, a fantasy football draft pizza party, a new student "Welcome Wednesday" at City Putt at City Park, a back-to-school pool party, a Youth Olympic Games event at Audubon Park, a kayaking tour on Bayou St. John, a high school "Refresh Retreat" at Tall Timbers Baptist Camp, and a Christmas party with White Elephant gift exchange and talent show.

Sunday school resumed in person on Sunday mornings and virtually on Instagram @Scapc_youth with occasional lessons throughout the week. Between the in-person and online classes, approximately 20 youth participated in Sunday School weekly. Youth Group on Sunday evenings welcomed around 30 youth each night. Youth Group's spring semester closed out its curriculum on "Being Transformed" as children of God and started a new curriculum in the fall entitled "Know Your Worth." Each week from September-December, middle and high schoolers focused on a different way in which God, both in the Bible and today, loves them, blesses them, challenges them, and forgives them.

A class of 13, 8th grade Confirmands attended a series of ten classes in the spring. This concluded with a retreat and service project in Mobile over the summer. Finally, they each drafted a personal Faith Statement which they presented before Session before being confirmed in late August. This year, each confirmand was assigned a confirmation mentor. The mentors were asked to keep their student in prayer and to connect with them throughout the semester by letter, email, phone or one-on-one meetings.

Youth Sunday in February offered SCAPC's young people the opportunity to prepare and lead a worship service. They wrote prayers, chose the Bible readings and hymns, served as ushers and even gave sermons.

Service Saturdays provided our youth with meaningful volunteer opportunities the first Saturday of most months. Some of the service projects were: making blessing bags to offer folks who come to church asking for help, a tree planting event with SOUL (Sustaining Our Urban Landscape), making sandwiches for members of the community who face food insecurity, a morning spent gardening and weeding at Eden House (an organization that offers housing and other support to the victims of human trafficking), making care packages for SCAPC college students, and volunteering at Jefferson Presbyterian Church to assist with their food bank program.

One of the highlights of the summer for both middle school and high school students was the opportunity to attend a youth conference. A group of 5 middle school students travelled to Mo Ranch Junior High Jubilee Conference for several days in mid-July. Later in the month a group of 12 high school students travelled to Montreat for a week of study, worship and recreation. These trips gave our youth the chance to engage in fellowship and worship with their peers from other parts of the country as members of a larger community of faith and to feel loved and accepted just as they are.

Finally, SCAPC reinvigorated its college ministry in 2022. Bolstering a relationship with Zoë Garry, a local Presbyterian minister leading the NOLA Wesley Campus Ministry, our church made strides to connect with local university students across the greater New Orleans area. SCAPC held a beach retreat for 19-22 year olds in the summer, facilitated semesterly college zooms, and held an end of the year college dinner. They prepared to send, for the first time in recent memory, a group of 9 to Montreat's College Conference at the start of the new year.

Young Adults and Family (YAF)

YAF enjoyed a wonderful year in 2022 providing a welcoming community for young adults and their families through weekly and monthly fellowship opportunities. As pandemic restrictions have continued to ease throughout the City, we have fully returned to in-person events and activities. We welcomed new members with coffee visits and also provided meals for families welcoming newborns or experiencing difficult times.

Throughout 2022, YAF was led by three different coordinators: Bria Rault, Catherine Karas, and Tyler Wheeler. Bria, who served as YAF Coordinator for over three years, helped Catherine transition to the role officially in February. Catherine continued to grow and support the YAF program over the next six months before then transitioning the role to Tyler in late August. Each of these transitions went smoothly with each previous coordinator offering support and training for the new leader. Additionally, membership engagement remained strong, and we continued to welcome new members to our weekly and monthly events. We are very grateful for both Bria and Catherine's dedicated work to the YAF program and for their continued support as they remain YAF members.

Each week during regular SCAPC programming, YAF offered opportunities for spiritual formation on Wednesday evenings at PINTS as well as during the Sunday School hour. PINTS continues to offer a variety of topics related to faith from articles, books, and podcasts. YAF also supported Adult Spiritual

Formation by offering two podcast-based classes: Only You Forever in the spring and Parents Take Five in the fall. Both PINTS and the Sunday School classes saw regular attendance, with the former drawing around 10 and the latter around 8 engaged participants weekly.

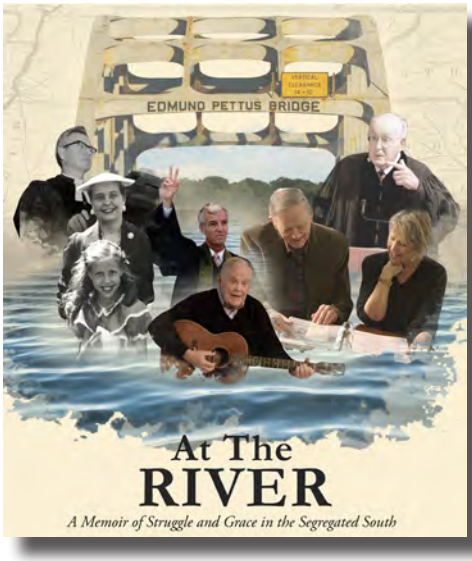
YAF sponsored a variety of social events throughout the year, providing opportunities for fellowship and community development. In January, we held our annual 12th Night Party and King Cake Tasting as well as a trivia night at Dat Dog. In the spring we coordinated a tree planting project with SOUL in March and had our annual Crawfish Boil at the Land Building in April. We started the summer with kayaking on Bayou St. John and an evening at the trampoline park in June, and ended the summer with a cocktail competition and also a potluck picnic in August. We enjoyed several classic YAF events throughout the fall, including a Saints watch party in September, pumpkin carving party in October, Friendsgiving Feast in November, and our annual Holiday Brunch and White Elephant Gift Exchange in December. Some of these gatherings saw crowds of more than 40 young adults and children! We've had great attendance from both current and prospective SCAPC members, who are grateful for these opportunities for friendship and fellowship.

Adult Christian Education

We were able to offer two adult classes each week. First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God was continued from the previous semester and was recorded and available hybrid. Our young adults continued with their podcast class, Marriage Class for Smart People.

A single adult class was offered during the month of June on the subject of Pentecost, taught by John Dunlap. This was the first year our summer programing took a summer break for the months of July and August which worked well. After a summer break, we began the fall with both in person and hybrid classes. Our young adults began a parenting podcast class, Parents Take 5, which was well received. Our other adult class was offered both in person and via zoom. We started the semester with a class led by Michael O'Keefe about the history of SCAPC and then continued with Exploring the Book of Confessions and the History of Christmas.

Our Selley Series was scheduled to return with John Kuykendall, Presbyterians & Southern Religion but due to illness, he was not able to make it, and instead our speaker was the Reverend Dr. Thomas W. Currie III, father of our own Chris Currie, who is Professor of Theology Emeritus from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, NC, where he served as Dean from 2001-2014. The Selley Series culminated Sunday night with the film a viewing of *At the River: A Memoir of Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South*. Film Director Carolyn Crowder joined us to talk about the film and to share her firsthand experiences.



We were able to continue the Lupberger Lecture with Amy Plantigua Pauw for a talk based on her book Church in Ordinary Time: A Wisdom Ecclesiology. She taught a Sunday School class on 'Scripture and Wisdom Literature' then she talked on her book, followed by questions and discussion. During Advent season, Luminary Memorials and Honorariums were created and set up outside the front of the church in memory or honor of friends and family. Over 300 luminaries were placed.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Hardie Edgecombe | Vice-Chair: Stewart Peck

The Stewardship Committee for the 2023 campaign consisted of Hardie Edgecombe, Stewart Peck and Megan Guy. We have been mightily supported by Hallie Boh, Katie Brendler, and Chris Currie with their guidance on the theme, brochure and other printed materials. Emily Fleshman and Lynn Hoffman were a great help in their accounting for the campaign. The campaign theme was "Rooted Standing Strong." The campaign kicked off on Sunday October 4th during both services and was followed the next 3 weeks of worship with messages that reinforced the theme along with personal testimonials about why they contribute to the church. As of today we have totaled $1,429,599 pledges representing 310 families.

Respectfully submitted,
Hardie Edgecombe, 2022 Chair, Stewardship

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair: Frances McCall | Vice-Chair: Carol Mahler

This year saw our congregation return to in person worship after a quarantine last year for COVID restrictions. The services were also available via YouTube. 10:30 worship services continue to be livestreamed each week with recordings averaging about 90 views.

Libbie Reiss continued her diligent service organizing the flower contributions, so we were greeted with beautiful floral arrangements each Sunday. Geoff Snodgrass and Bonnie Shoemaker kept our ushers on track each week. Mayson Buffington prepared the communion elements for both the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

We baptized 16 children and 1 adult and observed communion at the 10:30 service on the first Sunday of each month.

Our choir, under the direction of Steven Blackmon, provided us with outstanding music. Orchestra Sundays were held on Palm Sunday and the fourth Sunday of advent. The children's choir also returned for the first time since COVID, under the leadership of Peggy Crain, and were even able to join in with the orchestra for one song during the Advent Orchestra Sunday.

On October 30 we celebrated Scottish Heritage Sunday, complete with bagpipes and tartans under the guidance of David Grissett. We also honored four new heritage members (50+ years of membership), Beth Hassinger, Bill Banta, Carole Banta, and Barbara Montgomery.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances McCall, 2022 Chair, Worship and Music

A special thanks to our Elder Class of 2022 for three years of hard work!

Elizabeth Artigues
Sheila Schwartzmann
Meg Gammage
Curtis Cunningham
Scott Montgomery
Jenny Baldwin
Margaret Ann Lindsey
Randy Evans
Sydney Lawder
Lynn Hoffman
Becky Knight
Hardie Edgecombe
Frances McCall
Laurie Young

Youth Elders:
Sophie Frankowski
Madeline Heymann

Welcome to our Elder Class of 2025!

Tom Allen
Laura Avery
Christina Carlisle
Scott Crabtree
Elizabeth Favret
Ruthie Frierson
Eric Holtzman
Gail Kaliszeski
Denise Morse
Jill Nalty
Libbie Reiss
Kristin Rich
Bob Vorhoff
Jennie Wimbish

Youth Elders:
Lock Gottsche
Molly Talbot
Ava Zander

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