



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Sunset Hills United
Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
shupchurch.org

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SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL & CORPORATION MEETING
Sunday, January 24, 2021

- I Opening Prayer
- II Scripture
- III Necrology Report and Prayer
 - A. William Newman, May 25, 2020
 - B. Patricia Findley Patterson, June 4, 2020
 - C. Ileana Wyerman, July 9, 2020
 - D. Richard Moore, August 24, 2020
 - E. Dorothy Wolfe, November 15, 2020
 - F. Walter Jackson, December 18, 2020
 - G. Lois McMahan, December 20, 2020
 - H. Carolyn Caldwell, December 24, 2020
 - I. Janet Grosso, December 24, 2020
- IV Minutes of 2020 Congregational/Corporation meetings read and approved by the Minute Reading Committee.
- V Staff Reports
 - A. Rev. Laura Strauss - Pastor
 - B. Shelby Gracey - Director of Music
- VI Commission Reports
 - A. Administration & Personnel - Bev Knasko
 - B. Christian Education - Jenn Kennedy
 - C. Communications - Ryan Gracey
 - D. Congregational Care - Don Tang
 - E. Facilities - Keith Yanda
 - F. Mission - Jody Colby
 - G. Stewardship - Mary Abbott
 - H. Treasurer
 - I. Worship & Music - Dave Petty
- VII Receive the Budget as Information
- VIII Vote on Pastor's Terms of Call
- IX Deacons Report - Maralee Williams
- X Nursery School Report - Christine Huber
- XI Report of Church Nominating Committee - Beth Romig

- XII Recognition of Elders and Deacons Who Have Served
 - A. Session
 - 1. Debbie Edwards
 - 2. Jenn Kennedy
 - 3. Dave Petty
 - 4. Eric Stuart
 - 5. Don Tang
 - B. Deacons
 - 1. John Ellis IV
- XIII Election of Church Nominating Committee (Up to 5 members at large and 2 alternates)
- XIV Election of Minute Readers (3 members)
- XV Other Business Appropriately Brought Before the Congregation
- XVI Motion to Adjourn
- XVII Call of Order
- XVIII Election of Officers
 - A. President
 - B. Treasurer
 - C. Secretary
- XIX Election of Elders as Trustees
- XX Other Business Appropriately Brought Before the Corporation
- XXI Adjournment of the Corporation Meeting
- XXII Adjournment and Prayer

**MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
MEETING
SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020**

The congregation of Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church held its annual Congregation Meeting on January 26, 2020.

PRAYER:

Rev. Laura Strauss declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:30 am., opening with prayer and a scripture from Matthew 28:16-20.

NECROLOGY REPORT AND PRAYER:

In Memoriam:

A. Robert Wyerman	January 17, 2019
B. Harriett Elliott	January 18, 2019
C. Donna Pritchard	January 28, 2019
D. Elaine Rupp	March 26, 2019
E. Mary Ann Wahl	April 6, 2019
F. Martha Parker	April 11, 2019

Rev. Strauss prayed for those to rest with God.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the 2019 Congregation/Corporation meeting were read and approved by the Minutes Reading Committee: Jill Fako, Dottie Fleming, Karen Heim.

PASTOR AND STAFF REPORTS:

All Pastor and Staff reports are found in the Annual Report. Tim Fako moved and Debbie Edwards seconded the motion to accept the reports as found in the Annual Report. Motion passed.

RECEIVED THE BUDGET AS INFORMATION: Mike Comstock, Treasurer

1. Session has voted and approved the budget.
2. Mike presented a power point showing the following:
 - a. Membership dropped between the years 2018 and 2019 due to reducing the rolls.
 - b. Pledging also dropped between the years 2018 and 2019
 - c. Expenses between 2018 and 2019 were consistent. 2018 actual-\$314,858; 2019 actual \$309,936.
 - d. Offering History between 2010 and 2019 showed a decrease of 37%.
 - e. Changes in the CE budget were explained.
 - f. Endowments: 2018-\$1,101,038.14; 2019-\$1,085,874.84
Estimated distribution of endowment money in 2020 is (\$130,824.00).
We must determine ways to avoid using endowment funds to balance the budget. More members is one solution.

The entire treasurer's report is found in the Annual report.

Mary Abbott moved and Debbie Edwards seconded the motion to accept the budget as information.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Leslie Ney moved and Carl Moeller seconded the motion to accept the reports as found in the Annual report. Motion passed.

VOTE OF PASTOR’S TERMS OF CALL:

Rev. Strauss was asked to leave for this vote.

Tim Fako expressed that the Pastor’s Term of Call can be found in the Treasurer’s report. The Salary, Expenses, etc. for 2020 total \$99,477. There being no discussion, Lynne Blanning moved and Carol McCullough seconded the motion to accept the call. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Bev Knasko, Chr., Eric Stuart, Co-Chr., Maralee Williams, Laura Flaus, Beth Romig, Rev. Strauss presented the following slates:

<u>Elders</u> -Class of 2022	<u>Deacons</u> -Class of 2022
Debbie Edwards	John Ellis III
Jody Colby	Karen Heim
Beth Romig	Maralee Williams
Ryan Gracey	Tori Vernacchio

Mary Abbott-1Yr. term (replacing Karin Daniels).

Karen Comstock moved and Ryan Gracey seconded the motion to accept the Elder’s Class of 2022 and the one yr. term of Mary Abbott. The motion passed.

Jen Bryer moved and Chris Gardner seconded the motion to accept the Deacon’s Class of 2022. The motion passed.

RECOGNITION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS WHO HAVE ROTATED OFF:

Rev. Strauss thanked the following officers for their service:

Elders: Michael Comstock, Karin Daniels, Lisa Dawson, Tim Fako

Deacons: Heather D’Amico, Terry Dawson, Ryan Gracey

ELECTION OF CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The nominating committee must contain one Elder and one Deacon. The committee must have 1-5 members. The following will serve on this committee:

- Beth Romig-Chr.
- Harriet Rickard
- Amy Caldwell
- Chris Gardner
- Alt. Jen Bryer

ELECTION OF MINUTE READERS:

The following members have volunteered to read the Congregation/Corporate minutes:

- Karen Heim
- Alice Bonim
- Carla Robinson

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE CONGREGATION MEETING/OPEN THE CORPORATION MEETING:

There being no other business, Tim Fako moved to adjourn the Congregation meeting and open the Corporation meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President: Tim Fako

Treasurer: Mike Comstock

Secretary: Leslie Ney

Pat Ellis moved and Dave Greenfield seconded the motion to accept the nominations.

Motion passed.

ELECTION OF ELDERS AS TRUSTEES:

Keith Yanda moved and Alice Bonim seconded the motion that Elders be elected as Trustees.

They are:

1-year
 Jennifer Kennedy
 Dave Petty
 Don Tang
 Keith Yanda

2-year
 Bev Knasko
 Leslie Ney
 Eric Stuart

3-year
 Beth Romig
 Jody Colby
 Debbie Edwards
 Ryan Gracey
 Mary Abbott-1yr.

ADJOURNMENT OF CORPORATION MEETING:

There being no other business before the Corporation, Dave Greenfield moved and Ray Bowman seconded the motion to adjourn the Corporation meeting. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONGREAGATIONAL MEETING:

Anna Daniels moved and Lynn Blanning seconded the motion that the Congregation meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.

Rev. Laura Strauss closed the meetings with prayer. Everyone was invited to the Troop Soup luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Rickard

Pastor Laura's Letter

The Bulwark of Courage

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9

The Rev. Dr. Calvin C. Wilson wrote in 2015's pastoral letter, "We live in interesting times - diverse, challenging, exciting, complex, complicated, thrilling, pitiless, dangerous times." Oh, how his words resonate with us today! January 2020 started predictably enough. I had been your pastor for the last four months. We'd just taken down the Christmas decorations. Plans were made for Lent, complete with Youth Group field trips to East Liberty Presbyterian Church and a monthly Young Adult Mission Project. Our matriarchs and patriarchs led us in crafting a beautiful year for Circle of Friends. The Mission Team began making plans for hosting brothers and sisters from Malawi. The Congregational Care Team looked forward to a summer food truck festival. A beautiful vision for the church took shape, and I believe most all of us were excited to be a part of it. Then 2020 happened.

When I reflect on the struggles this past year brought before us, I reflect on a myriad of complexities. Like a kaleidoscope, with one turn, I see the pain 2020 brought us. I see the names of those who continue to await proper funerals with their church family in attendance. I see the empty Finley Hall, where once copious amounts of food filled our tables. I see the empty arms of those who love a good hug. With another turn of the kaleidoscope, there are the changes 2020 brought us. There are the disposable masks sitting in our entrance way. There is the new video camera we purchased for the purposes of online worship capabilities. There is the collection of Tupperware containers outside the Finley Hall entrance, filled with Sunday School books for pickup. But with another turn of that kaleidoscope, I witness courage.

Have you considered how courageous you have been this past year, Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church? You have been courageous enough to watch our worship services on YouTube. Some of you started from scratch in that venture. You called the church office for help, seeking to learn how you might access worship services on your rarely-used devices. How courageous of you! You have been courageous enough to congregate with one another via zoom. Most of you had not heard of zoom prior to March 2020. Many of you had never engaged in a video call in your life. Yet, in spite of that, you made the decision to learn that skill. How courageous of you! You have been courageous enough to show up to worship in your car. None of you had ever done that before. None of you had lined up, row beside row, with your printed bulletin and tuned radio to watch your worship team lead under a canopy regardless of weather. It was all new, and you showed up for it. How courageous of you!

You are a courageous church, friends. You remind me of Joshua leading the Israelites into the land of promise. They are entering into a land that is difficult. They are entering a land filled with challenges, dangers, thrills, and complex situations. They are entering the land with the call from Joshua to, “be strong and courageous.” This is who you have been in 2020. And I am so proud of you.

2020 may be over, but our call to courage is not. The Lord our God continues to call us to adapt, both as this pandemic will eventually end, as well as when we begin the work of rebuilding. Be strong and courageous, beloved, and be comforted in this: the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Laura

Director of Music Annual Report 2020

The beginning of 2020 started with our usual Chancel Choir and Campanile Bell Choir rehearsals. We were planning a Palm Sunday Choir Cantata, and the bells would first ring for a Sunday in Lent. Then March 2020 came along and the world was upended by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please refer to the Music & Worship Report for a recap of how worship was handled throughout the year of the pandemic shutdowns. As we enter 2021, we still don't yet know when we can reconvene for in-person worship, or how long it will be before our Chancel Choir can resume rehearsals, since singing in public is still considered too risky. However, I'm extremely grateful for all the people who worked so hard to make sure that we never missed a week of worship – whether that was online, sitting in our cars, or physically-distanced in the sanctuary. I also appreciate the Campanile Bell Choir's willingness to rehearse and play for worship – and then to shift to recording our songs to use for online worship. Their music added so much to our services!

There are numerous, unnamed people who we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to this year, for their help in keeping our worship as intact as possible. I want to thank Keith Yanda for his research and work on the FM transmitter for our drive-in services, as well as his research on the camcorder that we purchased to record our services. Thanks also to Dave Petty for taking the individual recordings by Keith Yanda, Ryan Gracey, and himself and blending them into beautiful instrumental pieces that were shared in worship. On a personal note, I want to once again offer my most profound thanks to Ryan Gracey, who helped me produce music for our online services. Without his tech expertise, many of those services would have been “music-less.” (And, of course, for his musical talent and singing that was also included in many of our services this year.) Music plays such an important part in worship, and I'm so very grateful we've been able to “keep the music playing” throughout this challenging time. We are blessed with so many talented musicians among us! Hang on, Chancel Choir – better days are ahead, and we WILL be back together again, in God's time!

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelby Gracey, Director of Music

Administration & Personnel Annual Report 2020

When SHUP members met for a Lenten dinner on March 11, none of us could have imagined we would still be struggling with the Corona virus 9 months later, forcing us to cancel in-building services as well as the Advent services and a future still uncertain. During these months, SHUP has been blessed with a devoted staff willing to go above and beyond their assigned duties even during personnel changes. The staff continued and continues their working hours even as the building was closed and is closed. The Administration and Personnel Commission appreciate their devotion to SHUP as the months progress.

At the beginning of the virus, Pastor Laura prepared our weekly services from her living room, broadcasting via YouTube. As the months progressed, the broadcast service was taped in the Sanctuary and finally in mid-summer to a “drive in” format. The A and P Commission, Session and the entire SHUP congregation is forever grateful to Keith Yanda and Ryan Gracey for their electrical system work making this possible. Pastor Laura, who has mentioned several times that she has served SHUP longer in a pandemic format than in the months prior to March, has been instrumental in seeing that SHUP has continued to serve our congregation, in many instances, making day to day decisions and last-minute changes as necessary. She is willing to do whatever is needed and whenever it occurs. Pastor Laura has continued her participation in SHUP's activities, meetings, youth activities, Sunday school teaching and introduced us all to zoom; all the while continuing to nurture our congregants. We have been given a gift.

Shelby Gracey has worked closely with Pastor Laura in preparing SHUP's weekly services as the months away from the building continue. Along with Ryan, they have been able to insert music from previous songs performed by the Chancel Choir, on-line music and a “live” performance by the Campanile Bells in October and recorded 2 songs in December. Once again, a grateful congregation gives its thanks to Shelby for providing the music which has been such an integral part of our Sunday services.

2020 saw several staff changes – we were sad to say goodbye to Mike and Karen Comstock, Treasurer and Financial Secretary respectively, Bill Ney our custodian and Barb Clark our Christian Education Director. After interviewing prospective candidates for all positions, Jasmine Pirl began as Financial Secretary on October 24; Jim Hudak took over as custodian on November 5 and the search will begin in early 2021 for a Christian Education Director. We welcome Jasmine and Jim to our SHUP family.

Karin Schein, our Administrative Secretary, has become an integral member of our staff as she is generally the first contact to our members and well as outside communication. She has been consistent in her service to SHUP as well as flexible as the pandemic continued. Our emails, bulletins, session meeting, commission reports, etc. are distributed thanks to her careful review of the calendar. We owe Karin a great measure of gratitude for her devotion to SHUP.

We are looking forward to a healthy 2021, a return to our beloved building and fellowship with our SHUP family and friends and a continuation of SHUP's mission with our outstanding staff.

Respectively Submitted,

Beverly Knasko
Chair, Administration and Personnel Commission

Christian Education Commission Annual Report 2020

Members of Board: Jennifer Kennedy, Barb Clark, Jen Bryer, Jill Fako, Christa Tang, Beth Romig

Feb: Monday mission, youth club, Legos and the Lord, JAM, Bible studies, Adult Sunday school, Produce to People, Confirmation classes: Ryan Stuart, Riley Farabaugh, Robert Tang, Ben Kennedy meet with Pastor Laura. Breakfast with youth during Sunday School- cancelled due to low attendance. Mehaffey applications sent out.

March: Monday Mission: Last one March 2nd Ronald McDonald house- cancelled due to Covid and transitioning to Mission on the Move. Lenten Nights (Dinner with a Purpose) 4th, 11th MOPS, Bible Studies, Adult Sunday School, Kids Club, Youth Club, Confirmation; Cancelled: Tweener retreat, Confirmation retreat, MOPS, Lenten nights 18th, 25th Apr 1st. Moved many programs online due to Covid: Bible studies, youth group, kids club, adult sunday school

April: all youth events have been postponed or cancelled. Online youth club, and bible studies

May: Senior Recognition- Drive by, adopt a senior; Confirmation started back via zoom; Flamingo fundraising

June: VBS- cancelled; online Storytime- recorded bible stories for children to replace VBS; Men's Bible study- via zoom; Monday bible study- going on hiatus through summer; Children's Church- zoom; Confirmation completed- 4 confirmands

July: Celebration of Seniors: 8 HS, 2 College; Mehaffey Scholarships- Andrew Kennedy, Ryan Pocheck, Ethan Stuart, Colby Sembrat; Senior High Mission trip- cancelled

August: Rummage sale- cancelled; Fall Sunday School- via Zoom

September: Rally day

October: Barb puts in notice- last day November 8th; Women's retreat Crestfield

November: Continue online CE programs

December: Cancelled: Live nativity, cookie exchange, Christmas eve outdoor service Zoom- Nativity play youth; Advent candle lighting- church families; Evergreen fundraiser; Young adults running youth club online

Online/Zooming of CE programs have for the most part been successful and will continue online until pandemic dictates otherwise. Hiring a Christian Education Director also on hold due to pandemic and session discussions of job description.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Kennedy
Chair, Christian Education Commission

Communications Annual Report 2020

Well, it's been a year...I felt I should split up the information into the way the year was split, Pre-Pandemic (i.e. the simpler times) and Current life (the slightly more challenging times)

January-March 2020

The communications team was formed, the members are:

Lyssa Allison, Jen Bryer, Betty Coffey, Anna Daniels, Chris Gardner, Luke Obarsky, and Beth Romig

We had our first meeting in February to discuss streamlining communication in the church with each person taking a certain aspect, (scouts, nursery school, youth etc.) but our number one focus was to get the website up and running. We devised a plan and agreed to meet back on March 15th.

Needless to say...that meeting never happened. Unfortunately, it's been a tough year for us when communication was especially important!

March 2020-January 2021

Thankfully even through all of the strife, our team has worked hard and the following things were accomplished:

- Getting the website up and running, tell your family, tell your friends, shout it from the mountaintops! Head on over to <https://www.shupchurch.org/> and find out what's happening in your church today!
- Use that main page to access weekly events, view Sunday Worship Services, and get the current weeks' bulletin.
- Establishing an online offering through the *Tithely* service. Simply click here <https://www.shupchurch.org/donate> or download the Tithe.ly app. Set up your account and get started
- Switching the messenger over to an online platform available on our website <https://www.shupchurch.org/messenger>
- We were featured in an article in the November issue of Mt. Lebanon Magazine discussing our various mission outreach across the community (try to find a copy, it's pretty cool!)
- Recording, editing and posting our recorded services for each Sunday is something we are very proud of! This will continue even when we are in person again. The YouTube channel is a big success and can be found by going to our website and clicking the YouTube button, or clicking the "Sunday Worship" button or by clicking here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9tb5GEhVRA

Huge thanks are in order to Karin Schein who has helped me update the website and disseminate information via email and really is my central line to communication for all of

you! As always, a big thank you to Pastor Laura for her unwavering commitment, faith, and positivity through all of this.

Thank you to all who have been such great members of this church despite the year we have had.

As always, if there is anything you would like more information, questions, concerns, feedback, or insults, please...COMMUNICATE!

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Gracey
Chair, Communications Commission

Congregational Care Annual Report 2020

Year 2020 will be a year not many people will forget. The biggest headline of the year of course was the COVID pandemic. Like all churches around the world, Sunset Hills Presbyterian Church was no different in dealing with the challenges of navigating the pandemic. Questions always arose about how the committee could tend to the congregation without direct physical contact or how to help people who were isolated or alone. It was a very difficult prospect with so many fears and uncertainty surrounding the virus as well as being socially responsible to members and the community at large. Several events were planned in hopes of the pandemic but because of state wide closures and the climate of the virus, most were cancelled. Events planned and other doings by the Congregational Care Committee were:

- Food Truck scheduled for June 7, 2020 was cancelled
- Movie Night in the church's parking lot Sept 18, 2020 was cancelled
- Light Up Night at the church with Food Trucks Dec. 20, 2020 was cancelled
- Flu Shots at the church was cancelled
- Bake Goods exchange Oct. 17, 2020 was able to happen
- Approval to pay MRTSA for annual coverage for anyone needing ambulance services while on church grounds
- Making visits to a few members with all precautions to help them with accessing online services
- Weekly drop off of goodies to a member under hospice care and eventually passing
- Chili Cook Off 1/18/2020 (before pandemic)- attended by 25 people
- Annual Ski Trip Feb 29
- 2020 Church Directory was completed

2020 was also marked by the passing of several long time church members. Again, a year that many will not soon forget. We pray for a better and healthier 2021. Members of the Congregational Care Committee were Jenn Kennedy, Ryan Gracey, Victoria Vernacchio, Harriet Rickard, Pat Ellis, Karen Comstock, and Don Tang.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Tang
Chair, Congregational Care Commission

Facilities Commission Annual Report 2020

The Facilities Commission's primary responsibility is for the maintenance and repair of the church building and all of its property. Our responsibilities also include coordination of building inspections, capital improvements and expenditures, supply inventory, insurance, scheduling of building use, as a liaison for the Scouts and other community groups.

As always, this year we worked closely with church secretary Karin Schein and financial secretaries Karen Comstock followed by Jasmine Pirl to keep abreast of inspection due dates and reviewing the budget and insurance information each month. Thanks to Karin, Karen and Jasmine for all their assistance during the year.

The Commission also wishes to sincerely thank Sextons, first Bill Ney, then Jim Hudak and also members Dottie and Dick Fleming along with the Monday Morning Marvels for all their hard work keeping the building functioning and safe on a daily basis. Without their help, it would be almost impossible to keep the building operational. Thanks very much Bill, Jim, Dottie, Dick and the Marvels.

A few of our accomplishments this year include:

- As the COVID-19 pandemic hit us in the middle of the first quarter, we needed to improvise to provide a safe worship environment during the warmer months. Thanks to modern technology and a lot of behind-the-scenes planning, we were able to provide weekly drive-in services. Utilizing our parking lot, an FM transmitter and individual members' automobile audio units, we created a "mobile sanctuary". Thanks to all who made it possible.
- A new security door was installed on the Crystal Drive entrance with a grant award from the Mt. Lebanon Foundation.
- A glass security door was installed just inside the parking lot entrance funded using part of the Rinald endowment.
- ADT Security Services are currently installing a security system throughout the church building also through part of the Rinald endowment.

Going forward into 2021, the Commission's priorities will be:

- Ongoing planning for the most effective use of church space by various groups and congregation members.
- Continued regular maintenance and compliance with all inspections, to ensure that the building remains in top operating condition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Yanda
Chair, Facilities Commission

Mission Commission Annual Report 2020

The Year 2020 began with a YRS/Mission reorganization. Christian Education and Mission will operate independently with 50% of the mission tithe. The following organizations received allocations from the Mission Commission:

*2020 Mission Tithe

Greater Pittsburgh Community Foodbank:	\$750
Meals for Meds (Childrens' Hospital and Paramount Sr. Center)	\$360
GAGM Border Ministry-Mark Adams-Mexico	\$750
HELLO NEIGHBOR (serving local Immigrants & refugees)	\$1000
Presbyterian Disaster Relief to Malange Hospital in Malawi (Newman Memorial)	\$500
Navigators-Matt Hale Ministry	\$250
Presbyterian Give828	\$250
SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement- Rinald Memorial)	\$500

World Vision-sponsored child Pabatso	\$415
CCO (Coalition for Christian Outreach-campus ministry)	\$1000

*Designated Mission:

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$295.34
Pentecost	\$75
Meals for Meds(Childrens' Hospital and Paramount Sr. Center Staffs)	\$360
Cups of Love (Border Coffee Ministry)	\$117.51
Baby Shower for Hello Neighbor (from Deacons)	\$250

In addition to these financial donations, Mission solicited the congregation for 15 gifts to the **Angel Tree** for residents at the Baptist Home. We also held a **Baby Shower for Hello Neighbor** which serves local immigrants and refugees. Members and Deacons donated new infant clothing items, towels, and blankets, as well as needs of nursing mothers. **Meals for Meds** were individual donations from members of the congregation as a thank you to hospital and nursing home staffs during the pandemic.

*These are not final accounting figures for 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Colby
Chari, Mission Commission

Stewardship Commission Annual Report 2020

2020 Has been a year of ongoing transition for the Finance/Year-Round Stewardship Commission. Regrettably both the Treasurer and the Finance Secretary resigned their positions in August. We have been blessed with a new Finance Secretary, but we all continue dealing with transitioning and learning how the SHUP finances work.

We continue to pray that God will call on someone to offer their services as Treasurer. In the meantime, we have asked for assistance from the Presbytery offices for guidance.

The annual stewardship campaign in 2020

YRS's main job is to conduct the stewardship campaign. While Covid-19 impacted all facets of church life, we used the theme **“Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks.”** Our inspiration was 1Thessaloinians 5, verses 16-18. Our goal was to remind us all that, despite the hardships of 2020, we should rejoice in God's gifts, pray continually in all we do and give thanks for all of God's blessings.

As of early January 2021, 35 pledges have been received. That number last year was 49. The total amount pledged was \$118,746 with the average pledge being \$3393. While the total number of pledges was down considerable, the average amount pledged increased by a little over 4%.

Commission members for 2020 were Mary Abbott and Debbie Edwards.

Thank you to everyone for the gifts of your time, talent or treasure.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Abbott
Chair, Stewardship Commission

Treasurer Annual Report 2020

Due to personnel changes and ongoing Covid-19 restrictions the Treasurer's report will be issued at a later date. We appreciate your understanding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Abbott

Worship & Music Annual Report

2020

Normally, the Worship & Music Commission oversees the order of worship, baptisms, music, hymnals, worship folders, pulpit supplies, guest ministers and musicians. Worship & Music prepares the elements and secures the servers for Communion service. During the Christmas season, Advent candle lighters are also scheduled through the Commission.

With the onset of the worldwide pandemic, many of these activities were brought to an abrupt halt - but thankfully the church was able to quickly adapt and continue to provide a form of worship posted online for the congregation. Initially this was viewed as a temporary measure that would carry us over for a limited number of weeks in mid-March, pending the resumption of regular services. However, when Pennsylvania went into lockdown, we knew our doors wouldn't open for a while. Pastor Laura started recording an abbreviated worship service from her home, and Shelby, assisted by Ryan, posted musical pieces to our newly-created SHUP Music YouTube channel. These services were "advertised" to our congregation via the SHUP Facebook page. Worship continued in this format throughout the season of Lent, Easter, and the months of May and June.

In July, we started the first week of "Drive-In Parking Lot Services," with the help of the FM transmitter that was purchased. (Many thanks to Keith Yanda who did the necessary research and then ran the sound board each week for our outdoor services.) A canopy was erected for Pastor Laura, the liturgist, the portable keyboard, and the soundboard. People were asked to stay in their cars and tune their radios to a designated station to listen to the broadcast. These services were video recorded on a newly-purchased camcorder (also researched by Keith Yanda). Ryan Gracey then edited and uploaded the services to our SHUP website and YouTube channel by Monday morning, so those who didn't participate on Sunday morning could still watch the worship services. These outdoor services continued through mid-October, when the Session voted to return to in-person worship in the sanctuary. The Campanile Bell Choir also started weekly rehearsals in the sanctuary.

During this phase, we were also able to resume monthly Communion service thanks to an innovative self-contained wafer and juice "packet" dubbed "The Miracle Meal". Although the composition of the wafer in particular is no match for our home-made Communion bread, we are nonetheless grateful for being able to use the Miracle Meal to lend a further degree of normalcy to the services in 2020.

Our indoor worship was done safely, with pews marked off to distance everyone, and masks were required. The Campanile Bells played for our first service in the sanctuary, and services were well-attended, considering the ongoing pandemic. However, by mid-November, with cases spiking, the difficult decision was made to close our doors once again. The Campanile Bell Choir recorded their music to be used for Advent, and the week of Christmas, and those recordings were edited into our worship recordings for the appropriate weeks. Pastor Laura, Shelby, and Ryan met weekly to record the worship services, and Ryan had them edited and posted to our website by each Sunday morning. We were also able to include Chancel Choir anthems that had been recorded in previous years, to add our beloved choir's voices into the morning worship. For the Christmas season, seven of our Chancel Choir members participated in the Virtual Singing Christmas Tree concert that was produced by composer Joseph Martin and offered as a concert that we shared with the SHUP family.

We are very thankful for everyone who has worked so hard to ensure that we can still offer worship each Sunday morning. We can't say enough thanks to Ryan Gracey for his videography and editing skills for our services. While the pandemic forced us into this new age of online worship, we're eager for the day when we can worship together once again in person. But even when that day arrives, we know that the online services will continue to be an important resource that can be viewed by any who are unable to attend in person. What a great way to reach out to the community and beyond!

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Petty
Chair, Worship & Music Commission

Board of Deacons Annual Report 2020

The Board of Deacons with 13 members fulfilled many responsibilities, activities, and initiatives throughout 2019:

Ongoing ministries included the weekly distribution of chancel flowers, providing greeters for Sunday worship, transportation for seniors, and monthly collection of foods for the SHIM food Bank, among other things. In addition, when needed the Angel Network would see to meals and transportation for seniors in need.

COVID – Certainly COVID caused a major disruption in our normal yearly activities. Cancelled events included, Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper, Easter Brunch, Easter Baskets for shut-ins, Harvest Festival, and the Cookie Sale, to name a few. We met only once during the shutdown, but productively determined to participate where we could, including the Angel Tree at Baptist Homes.

Special activities involving or led by Deacons included:
Scholarship Money for the Nursery School (\$500)
Blood Drive
Special Food Collection for SHIM at Thanksgiving.
Angel Tree at Christmas for Baptist Homes

Risks: Transportation ministry. We are limited in driver volunteers.

The Deacons have missed the opportunity to meet monthly on the second Sunday to discuss and prepare for ways to serve in Christ's name, but look forward to opportunities that might arise in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maralee Williams
Moderator, Board of Deacons



SUNSET HILLS NURSERY SCHOOL

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020 was a year like no other at SHNS! We shut down on March 13th, 2020 due to Covid 19 for the remainder of the school year. We were able to pay the nursery school staff with the preschool budget and the PPP loan through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

We decided not to open in September for safety and health concerns.

We opened in November for morning 4s and 5s only with health and safety guidelines in place approved by the Board and Session. It went well. We had a total of 14 students and 4 staff. We closed at the end of the month due to increasing Covid cases in the county. We are hoping for a February 1, 2021 start.

Prior to the shutdown. Here is the status of the Nursery School for the 2019-20 School year.

Enrollment - The Nursery School had 107 children enrolled.

Staff - Susan Dunay and Deanna Niggel left. Helene Hollingsworth moved from her assistant position to become the other 4s teacher. Chrissy Daube was hired as the new 2s/3s teacher. Maha Alahmad was hired as the new 2s/3s assistant.

Classes - We offered our full class list of two morning 2s, 3s, 4s classes, one morning 5s class and one afternoon 3s,4s, and 5s class. We had a busy Lunch Bunch, JAM, Spanish program. We offered Music, Spanish, Library as well as other inviting visitors to the classrooms for the students. We had planned field trips and fundraisers. It was shaping up to be an enriching year for the students.

I am hopeful with the thoughtful and safe approach that we have taken during the Covid 19 pandemic we have set Sunset Hills Nursery School up for future success to maintain the warm and loving environment for which we are known.

Thank you for your support in this trying year.

Christine Huber, Director

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Nominating Committee consisted of: Beth Romig – Chair, Harriet Rickard, Jen Bryer, Amy Riley and Chris Gardner

We met via Zoom several times during the Fall of 2020.

The following names are being presented to the Congregation for election to serve as Elders:

Class of 2023 – 3 Year term

- Carla Robinson
- Betty Coffey
- Luke Obarsky

Class of 2022 – 2 year term (replacing Debbie Edwards who resigned in 2020)

- Kara Burian

Class of 2021 – 1 year term Replacing Eric Stuart who resigned at the end of 2020)

- Ginny Bowman

The following names are being presented to the Congregation for election to serve as Deacons:

Class of 2023 – 3 Year Term

- Jenn Kennedy

Class of 2021 – 1 year term

- Amy Riley

The committee would like to thank the following Elders whose term of service ended in 2020:

- Debbie Edwards
- Jenn Kennedy
- Dave Petty
- Eric Stuart
- Don Tang

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Romig
Chair, Nominating Committee Commission