

**GLEN RIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT
2020**



**As issued at the Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 21, 2021**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VIII, SECTIONS 1 AND 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH; THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION IS CALLED FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021, TO MEET AT 11:30 AM FOR:

- 1. THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
- 2. VOTING ON THE 2021 BUDGET**
- 3. THE TRANSACTION OF SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY COME BEFORE THE MEETING.**

Meeting held virtually by Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic and practicing abundance of caution with social distancing.

Carol Harpster

Carol Harpster

Secretary

THE COVENANT OF THE GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

We covenant with God and one another to be the church of Jesus Christ, loving God and our neighbors. With God's help:

- We shall come together to glorify and worship God, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and celebrate God's presence among us;
- We shall teach ourselves and our children the faith of the church and shall together follow in the ways of Christ;
- We shall share our beliefs by word and example and be a welcoming and caring home community where all persons may find their faith;
- We shall grow spiritually, nurture and strengthen each other, share our joys and concerns and treat each other and all people with respect, compassion, and dignity.
- We shall go where God calls us to offer faith and encouragement, extending a helping hand to all God's people.
- We shall participate in the ministries and mission of the United Church of Christ.

Relying on the power of God's Holy Spirit, we go forth to live and serve as Christians.

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*The following reports are not provided in this online version of the Annual Report:

- Pilgrim Preschool Treasurer's Report
- Endowment Fund Assets
- Treasurer's Report
- Proposed 2021 Budget

**ANNUAL MEETING
GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
February 21, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MODERATOR John Dobbs

II. CONVENING PRAYER Pastor Jeff Mansfield

III. CALL TO MEETING BY SECRETARY Carol Harpster

IV. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on February 9, 2020 were approved by the Church Council at their March 4, 2020 meeting as authorized by the congregation.

V. IN THE LIFE OF CHURCH IN 2020

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Parish Clerk Report | John Dobbs |
| a. Introduction of New Members | Stephanie Song |
| b. Remembrance of Members who died in 2020 | |
| 2. Moderator's Message | John Dobbs |

VI. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM Michael and Iryna Carey

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Approval of the 2021 Budget | Pam Figlar/Lance Cholet |
| 2. Report of the Nominating Committee | Sandra Lefkovits |
| a. Nominations by petition | |
| b. Election | |

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

This is the time for Old Business not previously reported, the *Second Mile Award*, communications, words of appreciation for the work of the retiring officers, awards, etc.

X. MINUTES OF THE CURRENT MEETING

The Moderator will request a motion to refer the minutes of this meeting to the Church Council for approval.

XI. THE INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Pastor Jeff: *Beloved, we've voted them in and now we've got to bless them in. We're going to perform an Affirmation of Ministry, which is a way that we as the church can recognize the diverse gifts of all of our members and celebrate the particular ministries that each person is called to in our church or out in the world.*

I ask the newly elected officers and all those who will serve on the ministries in the year ahead to turn on their screens and unmute themselves, please. You have been called by God in accordance with the faith and order of this church to serve among us. You have heard the voice of this congregation and have accepted their call. Do you accept the office to which you have been elected, and will you faithfully discharge its duties as set forth in the Word of God and in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Congregation?

Response: I do and I will, with the help of God.

Pastor Jeff: *Do you promise to live fully into your commitment as both a leader of the church and a faithful follower of Jesus?*

Response: I do, with the help of God.

Pastor Jeff: *Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing God's love in all you do?*

Response: I do, with the help of God.

Question to the Congregation:

Pastor Jeff: *Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters and siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Please unmute yourselves!*

Do you, the congregation of Glen Ridge Congregational Church, promise to celebrate the call of these newly elected leaders to serve our church?

Response: We do.

Pastor Jeff: *Do you promise to live in Covenant with our leaders, being partners, allies, and collaborators in their service?*

Response: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor Jeff: *Do you promise to love these leaders, to honor their work among us, to pray for their success, and to bless them in good times and in hard times?*

Response: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor Jeff: *Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that our church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.*

XII MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

XIII. BENEDICTION

Pastor Jeff Mansfield

2021-2022 NOMINATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

CHURCH OFFICERS

Position	To be Elected	Term	Class
President/Moderator	Dorothy Waldt	1 st	2022
Vice President	Marcia O'Grady	1 st	2022
Secretary	Carol Harpster	2 nd	2022
Treasurer	Lance Cholet	1 st	2022

MINISTRIES

Adult Education

Chair: Michael Carey (1st term – 2022)

Members to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Member	Term	Class
Tom Agnew	1 st	2023	Holly Eastman	1 st	2022
Rod Borden	1 st	2023	Vinicius (Vini) Ito	1 st	2022
			Nadine Pappas-Wilkes	1 st	2022

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Minister Jeff Mansfield, Janet Dickinson, Janet Mack.

Note: As per the by-laws, this Ministry should have at least six members, plus the chair.

AP&P

*Chairs: Sharon Harms (1st term – 2023; Carl Rohling (2nd term – 2023)

Members to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Member	Term	Class
Michael Brandell	1 st	2023	Caroline Bartlett	1 st	2022
David Ellertson	1 st	2023	Iryna Carey	2 nd	2022
Bob Hayes	1 st	2023			
Patrick O'Grady	1 st	2023			
Rene Lopez	2 nd	2023			

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Minister Jeff Mansfield; Deborah Brandell and Bob Hodgson for HR matters; Trustee of the Garden of Memory – Jim Watson.

Note: As per the by-laws, this Ministry should have at least six elected members, plus the chair.

In addition, a trustee of the Garden of Memory should be ex officio.

Children & Youth

*Chair: Janet Spoerl (2nd term – 2023)

Members to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Members	Term	Class
Win Ansley	1 st	2023	Meredith Busby	1 st	2022
Victoria Solarino	1 st	2023	Elizabeth Taylor	1 st	2022
Jennifer Bhujle	2 nd	2023	Jill Baker-Ansley	2 nd	2022
Elaine Carroll	2 nd	2023	Margo DiStefano	2 nd	2022
Jerry Melichar	2 nd	2023			

Youth Members: Heather Downey, Sophie Harrison, Katie Song.

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Church School Coordinator Maira Hernandez-Kinloch; Chair of Pilgrim Pre-school Board – Carol Harpster; Stephanie Song, Andy Song, Joe Kinloch.

Note: As per the by-laws, the Ministry should have eight members, plus the chair. Also, the “Church School Coordinator,” and the Chairperson of the Pilgrim Preschool Board shall be ex-officio.

Finance

Chair: Pam Figlar (2nd term – 2022)

Member to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Member	Term	Class
Mark Viehland	1 st	2023	Dennis Krien	1 st	2022
Chris Ely	1 st	2023	Gordon Hunziker	1 st	2022
			Craig Wood	1 st	2022
			Elizabeth Brewster	2 nd	2022

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Endowment Trustee – Tom Coleman; Minister Jeff Mansfield; Bart Brown, Jerry Melichar, Linda Woodbury, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers.

Note: As per the by-laws, the Ministry should have at least six members plus the chair. Committee needs an ad hoc planned giving committee. The by-laws provide for the Finance Committee to establish a sub-committee to be known as “The Memorials and Gifts Committee” and it was suggested that this mechanism be used. Sub-committee chair needed.

Nominating

Chair: Sandra Lefkovits (2nd term – 2022)

Members to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Member	Term	Class
Joan Hayes	1 st	2023	Nadine Burnett	1 st	2022
Meredith Busby	1 st	2023	Bill McConnell	1 st	2022
Marsha Watson	1 st	2023	Jerry Melichar	1 st	2022
			Lynne Palmer	1 st	2022
			Barbara Stevens	1 st	2022
			David Mitchell	2 nd	2022

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Representative of immediate past president John Dobbs; Representative of Women’s Association – Barbara Stevens; Representative of Young People’s Society – N/A.

Note: The bylaws state that Nominating should have nine members plus the chair. Membership should include the immediate past President of the Church Council or his/her designee. There should also be one representative from the Women’s Association.

Outreach & Mission

Chair: Cara Richardson Lopez (1st term - 2022)

Members to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Members	Term	Class
Nadine Burnett	1 st	2023	Amy Haggerty	1 st	2022
Linda Kerr	1 st	2023	Lynn Oliver	1 st	2022
Maira Kinloch	1 st	2023	Linda Woodbury	1 st	2022
Anne Martin	1 st	2023			
Lynne Palmer	1 st	2023			
Phyllis Connelly	2 nd	2023			

Youth Members: Jackson Martin, Jordan Martin

Ex-officio members: Minister Jeff Mansfield; Delegates to the NJ Association and the Central Atlantic Conference – Lynne Palmer and Janet Spoerl.

Note: As per the by-laws, the Ministry should have at least six members, plus the chair. Also, delegates to the NJ Association and the Central Atlantic Conference are ex-officio.

Parish Life

Chair: Karen Augis (1st term - 2022)

Member to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Member	Term	Class
Pamella Adamson	1 st	2023	Louis Augis	1 st	2022
Janet Mack	1 st	2023	Lynne Oliver	1 st	2022
Bonnie Mohan	1 st	2023	Marsha Watson	1 st	2022
Evena Pean	1 st	2023	Mabel Gantuah	2 nd	2022
			Fran Wong	2 nd	2022

Youth Member: Elaine Gantuah

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Parish Clerk – Stephanie Song; Women’s Association Delegate – Fran Wong; Stephens Ministers Representative (inactive at this time).

Note: As per the by-laws, the Ministry should have at least six members, plus the chair. In addition, there should be three ex-officio delegates representing the Parish Clerk, the Women’s Association, and the Stephens Ministers.

Stewardship

Chairs: David and Rebecca Mitchell (1st term–2022)

Members to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Member	Term	Class
John Dobbs	1 st	2023	Andy Ogilvie	1 st	2022
			Art Dawson	2 nd	2022
			Susan Hughes	2 nd	2022

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Minister Jeff Mansfield; Susan Krien, Dorothy Waldt.

Note: As per the by-laws, the Ministry should have at least six members, plus the chair.

Worship

Chairs: David Dik and Jill Simmons (1st term - 2022)

Members to be Elected	Term	Class	Continuing Members	Term	Class
Rita Ellertson	1 st	2023	Deborah Brandell	1 st	2022
Susan Hughes	1 st	2023	Michael Brown	1 st	2022
Susan Krien	1 st	2023	Josh Konetzni	1 st	2022
Jim Watson	2 nd	2023	Nicole Ramirez	1 st	2022
			Kimberlee Augis	2 nd	2022

Youth Member: Christopher Brown.

Ex-officio and volunteer members: Minister Jeff Mansfield; Minister of Music Tom Mustachio; Co-Chairs of the Music Committee - David Dik and Jill Simmons, Deb Brandell.

Note: As per the by-laws, the Ministry should have at least six members, plus the chair.

OTHER ELECTED POSITIONS

Position	Continuing Members	Term	Class
Parish Clerk	Stephanie Song		2022
Historians	Marcia O'Grady		2022
	Nancy Bigelow		2022
	Ann Bronneck		2022
	Janet Spoerl		2022
Auditor	**		
Assistant Treasurers	Bart Brown		2022
	Chris Ely		2022
	Pam Figlar		2022
	Gordon Hunziker		2022
	Dennis Krien		2022
	Linda Seyffarth		2022
	Craig Wood		2022

**David Mitchell will serve as Auditor in an unofficial capacity.

DELEGATES TO CAC AND NJ ASSOCIATION

Continuing Members	Term	Class
Janet Spoerl	2 nd	2022
Lynne Palmer	2 nd	2022

The Nominating Committee comprises:

- ❖ Sandra C. Lefkovits – Chair
- ❖ Nadine Burnett
- ❖ Bill McConnell
- ❖ Jerry Melichar
- ❖ David Mitchell
- ❖ Lynne Palmer
- ❖ Janet Spoerl – (ex-officio)
- ❖ Barbara Stevens

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve on a ministry. Your willingness to serve is truly appreciated.

SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT

Beloved,

Oh my. 2020.

There has never been less need or greater need for the Senior Minister's report than for the year we have just lived (lived?) through. There has never been *less* need because one of the jobs of the Senior Minister's report is to remind everyone what happened over the past year. "Remember when we...? Don't forget that we...!" A year can be a long time and it's easy to lose track. But this year, I think, we're all pretty much on the same page (maybe even painfully so) about WHAT happened in 2020.

But there's also never been *more* need because the Senior Minister's report is supposed to interpret the events of the past year as well. What is the congregational narrative of 2020? This year was so difficult (historically difficult) that it would be tempting to toss our memories of what happened during 2020 into the nearest dumpster fire and just hope for a better 2021. But the truth is that, in the midst of difficulty, our congregation has had some incredible successes to celebrate that I don't want us to lose sight of.

At the beginning of the year, we were vaguely aware of some virus in China, but none of us had any inkling of what we were in for. In January I finished up my second round of four weeks of paternity leave. (Thank you, Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks for your pastoral coverage!) We had a wonderful Baptism Sunday for my son, Romey Mohan, and for Tucker Cammerota. By February, Bonnie and I were officially joining the church (along with seven more of you).

We were all looking forward to a productive and exciting year! It would be my first full year as your new pastor. And we had big plans for Church Council and our Ministries to begin to do the work that you all called me here to lead you through—a fresh take on leadership development, ministry priorities, community engagement, and congregational growth.

We were going to kick it all off with a full-day Church Council retreat on Saturday, March 14. But we all remember what happened that week instead: A statewide curfew was put in place because of COVID-19 and everything started to shut down. By Friday, our retreat was cancelled, Sunday worship was moved online, schools and businesses were closing, and we were a week away from a stay-at-home order.

But I want to point out that already in this narrative we have had an incredible success—we listened to public health officials and experts, and (though we agonized over it) we cancelled our Church Council retreat and we moved worship online. Success? Really? Absolutely! Because it turns out that I and my family were early adopters of COVID-19.

By the Tuesday after that first weekend of cancelations, I was feeling under the weather. And by Wednesday morning I was full-on ill—fever, cough, chills, tightness in my chest. There wasn't a test to be had in the whole state unless you had traveled to China or were being admitted to an ER, but later antibody tests confirmed it—I (and the rest of the Mohansfield family) had COVID-19.

Now, can you imagine what would have happened at our retreat if we hadn't canceled? I was facilitating the retreat, so I had about 6 hours of talking and clearing my throat and who knows what else ahead of me in a stuffy room with the church's full council and staff. And then what would have happened on Sunday in worship? I would have been preaching and super-spreader singing and shaking hands with all of you. We didn't know yet about six feet apart. We still thought elbow bumping was going to keep us safe. We didn't have masks.

It could have been a disaster for us. But it wasn't because we were prudent and because we acted with the best interests of our members and our neighbors in mind. And I have no doubt that we have saved lives by doing so and by continuing to do so. It's a sort of invisible success because nothing bad happened, but it deserves to be remembered and honored with gratitude.

It's hard to believe that we haven't met in person for worship in almost a year. This has undoubtedly been the most difficult cultural change we've had to endure as a church since the pandemic started. We decided to move worship online on *Friday the 13th*. And then Tom and I scrambled. We had one day to totally rearrange worship, figure out the technology and the platform for streaming, and to communicate to all of you about where and how to meet.

On Sunday the 15th we had a recently unlost iPad on a half-broken camera tripod streaming worship through Facebook Live. The camera work was shoddy. The sound quality was bad. And the wifi signal was always just on the verge of vanishing. But it worked! And that's what mattered!

Within a few months (thanks to the ministrations of the ministerial staff and AP&P), the iPad that used to be our everything now serves as the wireless controller for our fancy new camera. The camera connects to an encoder that streams simultaneously to Facebook and YouTube. The church sound system (improved with new microphones and Bluetooth connectivity) also runs into the encoder so you can hear what we're saying. And a new wireless router ensures that we have enough bandwidth to run multiple devices at the same time. We now have a solid foundational video system for livestreaming worship services that we really needed *before* the pandemic.

This system will continue to evolve and grow to serve our members near and far because we've all discovered just what a powerful tool online worship can be. Before the pandemic most of us would have said, "Livestreaming worship? Who needs that?" And now we see that, actually, we all need it. While some of us at first understandably felt that livestreamed worship was keeping us *away*, we quickly found that it was also bringing many of us closer.

Old friends who had moved a little too far away to make it to church on Sundays were now showing up every week. We've had visitors from places like Florida, California, and South Africa. Some of those visitors became regulars. And some of those regulars have become members! And we've had quite a few visitors from right here in Glen Ridge—some of whom have said that they might never have worked up the courage to actually walk into a new church for the first time in person and that online worship lowered the barrier to their participation. And many of us who were regulars before the pandemic have now worshiped on Sunday mornings with our community at times and in places we couldn't have before—from a hospital bed, from a vacation, at 11 a.m. after oversleeping.

We will always be a local community, but now we see that online worship is a wonderful tool for a local church. And it provides us with unique opportunities to also provide worship and community to people wherever they are. Online worship is here to stay and the crash course in online worship we got in 2020 will serve us well far beyond the pandemic. These new tools and this new vision for how to use them is a success that 2020 helped us to achieve.

I'd like to remind us all here of the very difficult months we faced in particular from mid-March to the beginning of June. COVID-19 was surging in New Jersey, we were under a stay-at-home order, and our local hospitals were nearly overwhelmed by the crush of patients requiring ICU beds and ventilators.

During this time, we suffered one of our deepest felt losses as a community. In April, Glen Ridge resident, GRPD officer, and friend to many in our congregation Charles "Rob" Roberts contracted COVID-19 on the job. Eventually this led to him being rushed to the hospital unresponsive. The whole community rallied around this beloved friend and public servant with online prayers, community porch cheers, and by putting up blue hearts on doors and windows. We prayed our guts out, we cheered our loudest, and we put up two giant blue hearts on the church lawn. When Officer Roberts died in May, our whole community and many in the church were devastated by the loss. Of course, part of it was that Rob was a great person, father, officer, neighbor, and friend who was deeply respected and loved. The other part of it was that many of us were realizing that we weren't going to be able to get through this pandemic without loss and mourning and sacrifice—none of us. I felt it at Officer Roberts powerful and moving funeral—just how much we all might have to give up because of COVID-19.

At the very same time that we were rallying around and then mourning for Officer Roberts, we as a church (even as we had to learn to physically distance ourselves from one another) were refusing to socially remove ourselves from one another or from our wider community. We saw the pain, we saw the need, and we stepped up. One of the best examples of this has been the Helping Hands Initiative. During the spring peak in COVID-19 cases, we organized ourselves and our neighbors to put together care kits for our local hospitals (Mountainside and Clara Maass). Each kit contained 2 protein bars, an electrolyte drink, and (most importantly) a note of support to our healthcare workers.

Between April and June we delivered more than 7,000 kits! We stepped up and we gave as a church. And by using social media and a sign on the church lawn we encouraged our neighbors to do the same. We partnered with other community groups like the Glen Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Squad. And we established a strong relationship between our church and our two local hospitals. In November, Kelly Rossiter from Clara Maas joined us in worship to thank us and to tell us just how much those notes of support and those prayers of encouragement meant to the hospital staff. People carried them with them, hung them up at their workstations, and passed many of them around to their colleagues to spread the love.

And that was just one half of what Helping Hands was up to! The other half was focused on organizing the church to step up for those especially in need at this time. And we haven't let one another down. We continue to buy groceries, cook meals, send take out, and run errands for the most vulnerable and the most impacted members of our community. The incredible successes of Helping Hands were due in large part to the leading efforts of John Dobbs, Dorothy Waldt, and Carol Harpster.

But Helping Hands is just one example of how we've stepped up this year to serve our community. I hope you'll read other examples in reports from our Church School Coordinator Mrs. H-K, our Ministry of Children & Youth, our Ministry of Mission & Outreach, and our Ministry of Stewardship. Everywhere you look in this report, you'll see examples of successes wrestled out of the difficult circumstances and the pressing needs of 2020.

I want to thank all of you for your continued support of your pastor, your church, your wider community, and one another. It's been hard. We've experienced truly devastating losses. But we have seen what a blessing Jesus' Church, our church, can be to us and to the world. I have no doubt that the losses and the successes of 2020 will make us a stronger, more compassionate, and more grateful church in 2021 and beyond.

Submitted respectfully and with love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev Jeff Tansler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being particularly prominent.

Pastor Jeff

MINISTER OF MUSIC'S REPORT 2020

I am grateful to all who participate in our ministry of music – choir members, committee members, and members of the congregation. The congregation is the *Great Choir* of the church. We sing together the great hymns of the church, including music from a variety of styles and periods. We sing in praise, confession, meditation, prayer and proclamation of our faith. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were not able to sing in person for most of 2020. I pray we will be together again soon. Our music is *people . . . to . . . people*. Thank you for 12 years of mutual ministry.

Choirs

Choral music is the heart of our program. I am grateful for the ministry of all our choirs. The following individuals have participated in our music ministry during all or part of 2020, which includes portions of two academic years. I apologize for any inadvertent name omissions. Cherub Choir names in **bold** were promoted to the Carol Choir in September 2020.

JOYFUL NOISE (Ages 3–6)

Henry Ansley	Luke Melichar	Maeve Taylor
Miriam Ansley	Rose Melichar	Stuart Taylor
Ashlyn Busby	Avery Ramirez	Audrey Viehland
Nicole Ito	Noelle Schaller	Landon Viehland
	Will Schaller	

CHERUB CHOIR (Grades 1–2)

Daniel Jackson	Gabriel Ramirez	Heston Rohling
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CAROL CHOIR (Grades 3–8)

Christianne Burnett	Mason Kamil	Gabriel Ramirez
Andy Cholet	Tyler Kamil	Hema Rohling
Ben Cholet	Ayla Konetzni	Vivian Taylor
Victor Ito	Kate Machemer	Elisabeth Weber
Elizabeth Jackson		Gabriella Weber

CHAPEL BELLS (Grades 3–7)

Christianne Burnett	Victor Ito	Vivian Taylor
Andy Cholet	Elizabeth Jackson	Elisabeth Weber
Ben Cholet	Mason Kamil	Gabriella Weber
	Kate Machemer	

TOWER RINGERS (Grades 8–12)

Brendan Blake	Vincent Gantuah	Abby Song
Christopher Brown		Chloe Waldt

CARILLON BELLS (Adults–H.S.)

Karen Augis	Andrew Dik	Dennis Krien
Kimberlee Augis	David Dik (sub)	Anne Martin
Deborah Brandell	Patti Gsell	Nicole Ramirez
Tom Coleman	Susan Hughes	Jill Simmons
Janet Dickinson	Gordon Hunziker	Wynne Zalewski
	Linda Kerr	

CHANCEL CHOIR (Adults–H.S.)

Louis Augis	Susan Hughes	Genya Muzyczka
Ruth Block	Tom Jeszeck	Nikki Ramirez
Deborah Brandell	Arlene Kansky	Todd Russell
Michael Brown	David Kerr	Diane Schaming
David Dik	Susan Krien	Jill Simmons
Rita Ellertson	Bill McConnell	Janet Spoerl
Bob Hodgson	David Mitchell	Bruce Turner
Shannon Hubbard	Karen Momary	Dorothy Waldt

GLEN RIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY (Adults–H.S.)

Members of the Chancel Choir, plus:

Lee Adams	Margo Garrison	Elizabeth Perryman
Alina Benfield	Elizabeth Honer	Patrick Preblich
Jennifer Bhujle	Karen Kaplan	Linda Ruesch
Robyn Burns	Chrysanthia Kaputsos-Kanter	Bill Schaller
Tom Coleman	Kathleen Kelly	Cia Siebert
Robert Cook	Mary Lou Malyska	Jean Siegel
Carmen Delgado	Lesley McDonald	Matt Tulleson
Paula Ely	Beth Mead	Amy Whitmer

Special Thanks to:

- Deborah Brandell, for her continuing faithful service as Chancel Choir President.
- The members of the Music Committee for their support: Deborah Brandell, *chair*; Bart Brown, David Dik, Pam Figlar, Nancy Gage, Arlene Kansky, Lynn Ritchkoff, Jill Simmons, Dorothy Waldt.
- Jill Simmons, for her dedicated service as our Music Librarian and Vestment Supervisor.
- Diane Schaming, who serves as our outstanding Cantorial Soloist on Sunday mornings.
- Linda Kerr, who organized the lovely receptions which were enjoyed following the Glen Ridge Community Concerts when we were in-person.
- Janet Spoerl, who helped me with the children's choirs through March 2020.
- Nikki Ramirez, who has served as Chapel Bell Assistant since September 2020.
- All our choir parents, who regularly make choir a priority for their family.
- My colleagues – Pastor Jeff , Mrs. H-K, Alma, Mary D, Octavio, Vernon, and Mary J – who share our mutual ministry.

Music Ministry Highlights

- ✦ **COVID-19 PANDEMIC** – One of the sad realities of the COVID-19 pandemic was the fact that in-person singing was labeled as a “super-spreader” activity and all in-person group singing had to stop. Our singing choirs switched to virtual rehearsals on Zoom beginning in September.
- ✦ **TECHNOLOGY!** Learning Zoom, video editing, audio editing, working with new livestreaming cameras and software for worship, rehearsing virtually, preparing guide recordings for each vocal part for each choral piece, learning how to create a virtual choir experience... Who could have imagined how quickly things could change, or that accomplishing the same ministerial goals virtually could take so much more time and energy than when we met in person?!

Our sound consultant visited us several times to help us get the right levels for broadcasting, advise on the purchase of new microphones and cables for broadcasting and give us an estimate on replacing the sound board, which has no more inputs available. To quote him, “If this sound board was a car, you’d have gotten a good 400K miles out of it.”

- ✦ **CHANCEL CHOIR** – our adult music leaders, whose care and dedication to their ministry is a superb example for our younger choristers. We are blessed with an exceptional adult choir!
- ✦ **GLEN RIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY** – In addition to their regular commitment every Sunday, our Chancel Choir continued to serve as the core of the Glen Ridge Choral Society. The Spring concert (Happy Birthday Beethoven!) had to be cancelled. The Choral Society resumed virtual rehearsals in the Fall, creating audio recordings of service music and virtual choir performances for our Christmas Concert. They are amazing!
- ✦ **CARILLON BELLS** – our adult handbell choir provides a first-rate example of commitment and enthusiasm for our younger ringers. They rang in January and February, providing accompaniments for hymns and liturgy, as well as at least one special handbell anthem. Due to the pandemic, rehearsals halted in March. They resumed in October, rehearsing physically distanced in the two balconies and on the floor of the Blue Room. Anthems were videoed and streamed during worship in November and December Thank you all!
- ✦ **CHILDREN’S/YOUTH CHOIRS** – Our children’s choirs include *Joyful Noise* (ages 3-6), *Cherub Choir* (grades K-2), *Carol Choir* (grades 3-8), *Chapel Bells* (grades 3-7) and *Tower Ringers* (grades 8-12). Due to the pandemic they stopped rehearsals in March. Choirs resumed in September: singing choirs virtually, using a special choir curriculum, *Keep on Singing* and Chapel Bells meeting in-person on Sunday afternoons, strictly following all safety protocols.

Our year-end pizza/ice cream party was cancelled, but end-of-the-year party bags were delivered to each choir member’s home so they could host their own party. I’m so grateful to our children – singers and ringers – for their dedication and amazing spirit.

- ✦ **JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR** – These energetic 3 through 6 year olds continued meeting weekly after Church School until the March shut-down. Their volunteer directors were Nikki Ramirez, Diane Schaming, and Elizabeth Taylor. Joyful Noise resumed rehearsals in September, meeting virtually each week with me. Thanks to our directors and parents for their support!
- ✦ **MUSIC IN WORSHIP** – Since March, when our Chancel Choir could no longer meet, we’ve had soloists from the Chancel Choir, guest singers and instrumentalists providing musical leadership each week. Soloists included Glenn Boothby, Deborah Brandell, Ted Chletsos, Marion Gayles, Bob Hodgson, Shannon Hubbard, Mackenzie Johnson, David Kerr, Lesley McDonald, Karen Momary, Thomas Mustachio, Genya Muzyczka, Elizabeth Perryman, Todd Russell, Diane Schaming, Elizabeth Herr Taylor, and Bruce Turner.
- ✦ **INSTRUMENTALISTS** – Thanks to all our congregational instrumentalists who so generously shared their talents with us: Kimberlee Augis, *percussion, cymbells*; Andrew Dik, *trumpet*; Patti Gsell, *flute*; Andy Ogilvie, *guitar*; Jill Simmons, *piano, organ, cymbells*; Craig Wood, *flute*. What a blessing to have these talented musicians in our congregation!
- ✦ **TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY** – February 23 – It was delightful to have a Dixieland themed service with banjo, clarinet, trumpet and piano, in addition to our Chancel Choir, combined children’s choirs and Chapel Bells. All that was missing was the Beignets.
- ✦ **PANCAKE SUPPER** – Shrove Tuesday, February 25: Our biggest crowd ever! Over 200 guests enjoyed freshly griddled regular and gluten-free pancakes, regular and veggie sausage and fresh fruit salad. We appreciate everyone’s support.
- ✦ **PALM SUNDAY** – No grand processional this year, but we were thrilled to have guest bass-baritone soloist, Glenn Boothby, lead us into Holy Week.
- ✦ **MAUNDY THURSDAY** – Glen Ridge viola virtuoso, Brett Deubner, presented seven musical meditations with organ for the Tenebrae portion of the service.

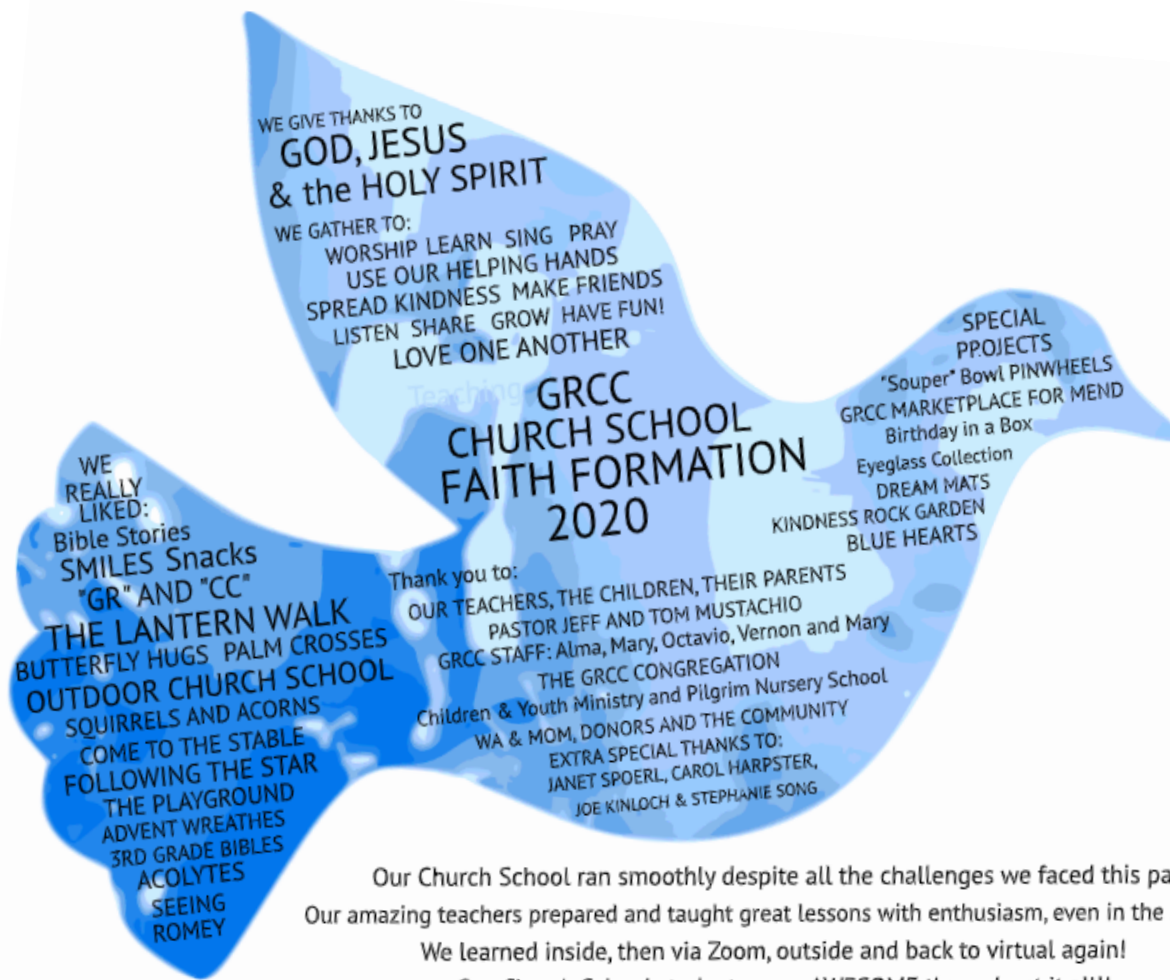
- ✦ **EASTER** – Diane Schaming shared resurrection joy with a solo from Handel’s *Messiah*.
- ✦ **MOTHER’S DAY MUSICAL** – *It’s Cool in the Furnace* was scheduled to be presented, but rehearsals had to stop in March.
- ✦ **PENTECOST/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** – May 31: It was quite festive having Andrew Dik playing trumpet as we celebrated Pentecost and confirmed our young people (via Zoom).
- ✦ **SUMMER MUSIC** – Special music was offered each Sunday during the summer months. With the livestreamed service and no choir, it was much like the previous months.
- ✦ **ORFFINATORS** – Our adult Orff ensemble presented special music in July and September. The Orff instruments are barred, pitched percussion instruments (glockenspiels, xylophones, metallophones developed by Carl Orff).
- ✦ **CELEBRATION SUNDAY** – Sunday, September 13: Who can forget Max Morden (trumpet), Andrew Dik (trumpet), Kimberly Burja (percussion) and Tom Mustachio (piano) wearing fedoras and shades, opening the service with “Celebration” by Kool and the Gang? We later became more serious with music by Lully and Bach (sans fedoras and shades).
- ✦ **FIRST WEDNESDAYS** – I continued to lead our First Wednesday mid-week musical Prayer services through October. After 10 years, and with church meetings going virtual, attendance was waning, so we decided to take a First Wednesday sabbatical.
- ✦ **ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY** – November 1: No *Requiem* this year, but we were treated to six musical meditations for harp & cello, a vocal solo, and the first videoed performance by our Carillon Bells ringing from the balconies of the Blue Room.
- ✦ **WELCOME (THE 12 DAYS BEFORE) CHRISTMAS!** – Presented virtually, with one musical gift being sent each of the 12 days before Christmas. These video recordings were all created specially for 2020: Three virtual choir pieces by our Choral Society; two pieces by the Carillon Bells, one piano/organ duet, one instrumental piece, one vocal solo. Four special pieces were added from previous concerts. The entire collection is available to view on www.vimeo.com/channels/grcc. To date the 12 offerings have been viewed over 2,900 times.
- ✦ **BELL SUNDAY** – December 20. Our Chapel Bells rang. Members of both bell choirs were present in the sanctuary to provide the much needed “jingle bell” background for the carols.
- ✦ **CHRISTMAS EVE** – Both services were pre-recorded and featured carols sung by a vocal quartet & organ. Diane Schaming presented a solo for each service, accompanied by Karen Stern, harp.
- ✦ **BANNERS** – Thanks to David Dik and John Dobbs for their continued supervision of the seasonal transition of the streamer banners that hang from the ceiling in the sanctuary.
- ✦ **CONCERTS: COMMUNITY & ADDITIONAL** – See information and data in the report of the Music Committee.
- ✦ **CONTINUING ED** – I attended several Webinars to learn about virtual choirs, Covid-19 and singing, and to share ideas with colleagues about music ministry and worship during this pandemic.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Mustachio
Minister of Music

CHURCH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT



Our Church School ran smoothly despite all the challenges we faced this past year.
Our amazing teachers prepared and taught great lessons with enthusiasm, even in the bitter cold!
We learned inside, then via Zoom, outside and back to virtual again!
Our Church School students were AWESOME throughout it all!!
I am very grateful for the parents who were always happy to help us, some who even attended lessons!
Please stay safe and be well. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

With much love, Mrs. H-K

2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL SECRETARY

2020 was a year like no other as a world-wide pandemic ravaged our country and the world. Zoom became a household word and was a much-needed technology tool for the Church Council and its ministries to continue their good work. Church worship moved online via Facebook Live and YouTube. Church school was taught outside by hardy teachers to even harder children and their families. Yet through all of this, we persevered. Throughout the year, I had the privilege of recording the business and policy decisions voted on by the Council and summarizing the dynamic discussions which took place during Council and other special meetings. The information below includes all motions and proposals made during the above-mentioned meetings and touches on other major topics of discussion or special accomplishments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting and all Council meetings were approved via motion, second and group vote. The Annual Meeting was our last in person meeting before we closed our doors in March.

MOTION/HIGHLIGHT	MOVED BY	SECOND	DISPOSITION
January 8, 2020 Special Meeting			
The Robinson Hall Accessibility Project (new ADA bathroom and chair lift) was discussed at length. Council voted by anonymous ballot and agreed to split the project into two phases: Phase I with a new single stall ADA bathroom will be completed during the summer of 2020 funded by the Endowment Fund. Phase II will follow in 2021.	Sharon Harms	John Dobbs	Approved
January 22, 2020 Council Meeting			
John Dobbs, on behalf of Pastor Jeff Mansfield, shared the names of new members expected to join GRCC in February. The Council moved to approve the list.	Linda Woodbury	Dorothy Waldt	Approved
Pam Figlar presented the 2020 budget. After review and discussion, the Council moved to approve for inclusion in the Annual Report and presentation at the Annual Meeting.	Bob Hodgson	Lynne Palmer	Approved
February 9, 2020 Annual Meeting			
Moderator John Dobbs called the 132 nd Annual Meeting to order at 11:35 AM and welcomed Pastor Jeff Mansfield to his first GRCC Annual Meeting (happy birthday, Pastor Jeff!).			
Parliamentarians Iryna and Michael Carey reported there was a quorum present (more than double the required 52).			
John Dobbs and Linda Woodbury presented the 2 nd Mile Award to Sylvia Caldwell in recognition of her over 30 years of service. Sylvia received a standing ovation.			

MOTION/HIGHLIGHT	MOVED BY	SECOND	DISPOSITION
February 9, 2020 Annual Meeting (cont)			
John Dobbs and David Dik presented a plaque of appreciation to Minister of Music, Tom Mustachio, recognizing his many contributions to GRCC.			
The 2020 budget was presented by Pam Figlar, Finance Chair, and Lance Cholet, Treasurer. A motion to approve the budget was made.	Pam Figlar	Sherry Brabham	Approved
The 2020 Nominating slate was presented by Sandra Lefkovits. A motion to approve the slate was made.	Sandra Lefkovits	Janet Spoerl	Approved
The installation of new officers and members of the various ministries as well as the acceptance of ministry reports was accomplished with a litany of prayer and commitment.	Various members	Various members	Approved
John Dobbs moved that the minutes of this annual meeting be forwarded to the next Council for review and approval. John also thanked Parish Life for a wonderful luncheon. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.	John Dobbs	Jim O'Brien	Approved
March 4, 2020 Council Meeting			
John Dobbs welcomed new and returning Council members.			
A motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2020 Council Meeting and February 9, 2020 Annual Meeting was made.	Dorothy Waldt	Lance Cholet	Approved
Dorothy Waldt presented a proposal from the United Tastes of America (not to be confused with the Syrian Supper Club) to use the church kitchen to prepare food for their dinners. UTOA is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to serving Syrian refugees and asylum seekers. A motion to approve the use of the church kitchen on a three-month trial basis from April 1 through June 30, 2020 was made.	Dorothy Waldt	John Dobbs	Approved
David Mitchell and Carl Rohling reported that Boy Scout troops are outgrowing their space. A motion to approve the use of Robinson Hall by Troop 55 on Monday evenings was made.	David Mitchell	Carl Rohling	Approved
A Council retreat was scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at First Congregational Church in Montclair.			

MOTION/HIGHLIGHT	MOVED BY	SECOND	DISPOSITION
March 25, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
<p>COVID hits. Worship will continue online via Facebook Live. The church building will remain closed to all meetings of any size through the duration of New Jersey's stay-at-home order. We will work hard at maintaining congregational connections during this time when we cannot meet in person.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2020 Council meeting was made.</p> <p>Helping Hands, a GRCC community outreach initiative, is born. First major effort will be geared at helping local hospitals to see how we can help.</p>	Janet Spoerl	John Dobbs	Approved
April 22, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
<p>There was much reflection on the serious medical condition of Officer Charles "Rob" Roberts due to COVID.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on ramping up technology for livestream worship and continuing outreach for families, children and those suffering financial/mental hardship due to COVID.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2020 Council meeting was made.</p> <p>Pam Figlar reported that the church has been approved for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which will provide a low-cost loan for 8 weeks of payroll and other expenses. This will also include Pilgrim.</p> <p>A motion to approve funding for a camera and technology for online streaming was made.</p>	<p>Dorothy Waldt</p> <p>Michael Carey</p>	<p>Karen Augis</p> <p>Cara Richardson-Lopez</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
May 27, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
<p>Online streaming vastly improved due to installation of new camera. Now using Facebook Live and YouTube with Zoom for audio dial in and for coffee hour.</p> <p>We continue to follow gathering limit guidelines of 10 for inside and 25 for outside with no current timetable for reopening.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2020 Council meeting was made.</p>	Carol Harpster	Dorothy Waldt	Approved

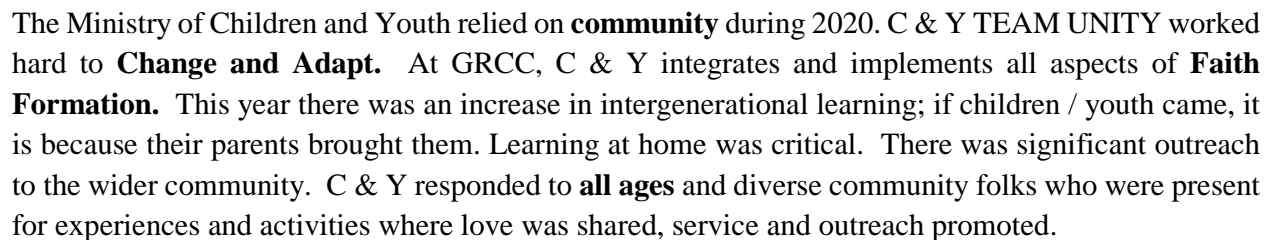
MOTION/HIGHLIGHT	MOVED BY	SECOND	DISPOSITION
May 27, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom (cont)			
<p>A motion to accept nine confirmands into our congregation was made. Welcome Aiden Arnett, Sofia Carroll, Heather Downey, Sophie Harrison, Jake Machemer, Jordan Martin, Alex Provost, Katie Song and Wesley Steele!</p> <p>Pam Figlar thankfully reported we received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) check for \$127,042. Blue Foundry Bank will provide guidelines on the loan forgiveness aspect.</p> <p>Robinson Hall Accessibility Project demolition is set to begin for Phase I which includes the installation of a single stall ADA bathroom.</p> <p>Helping Hands is winding up the energy kit program which included Mountainside Hospital and Clara Maass delivering nearly 7,000 kits. Campaign will wind down on June 5th. Helping Hands also assists with grocery shopping, errands, Meal Train, etc. Next up will be delivering small plants to congregation families who live within delivery distance.</p> <p>There was considerable discussion on the death of George Floyd and what we should be doing regarding social justice.</p>	Janet Spoerl	Sandra Lefkovits	Approved
June 24, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
<p>Pastor Jeff Mansfield provided an overview to Council on his reopening plans which is based on UCC guidelines. We are planning and will be ready to reopen when it is safe to do so. We are cautiously hopeful to be back in the sanctuary by Celebration Sunday – September 13, 2021.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2020 Council meeting was made.</p> <p>Robinson Hall Accessibility Project for the ADA bathroom has begun with an anticipated completion date of August 15th.</p> <p>Helping Hands hit their target and delivered over 7,000 energy care kits to Mountainside and Clara Maass! GRCC delivered more than any other organization. Thank you to Dorothy and Peter Waldt for the use of their driveway and porch and for all their help.</p>	Janet Spoerl	Rebecca Mitchell	Approved

MOTION/HIGHLIGHT	MOVED BY	SECOND	DISPOSITION
June 24, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom (cont)			
<p>Plant delivery program was a success, delivering over 130 small flowers to members of our congregation by a volunteer group of 17.</p> <p>A motion to authorize the Council Executive Committee to handle any issues that might arise with respect to Church operations in July and August was made.</p>	Michael Carey	Janet Spoerl	Approved
August 26, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
<p>Memorial service for Ken Underwood is planned for September 12th with private interment.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2020 Council meeting was made.</p> <p>Social justice initiative begins with Council read and discussion of “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo.</p>	Carol Harpster	Rebecca Mitchell	Approved
September 23, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
<p>After some discussion, Council decided to cancel the 2021 Antiques Show as well as the fall rummage sale. Spring Rummage 2021 is likely cancelled as well.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2020 Council meeting was made.</p> <p>A motion to rename the Geary Batastini Scholarship Fund to the Batastini Scholarship Fund was made.</p> <p>Council acknowledged the passing of Pastor Jeff’s mother, Roberta Mansfield, with a moment of silence.</p>	<p>Carol Harpster</p> <p>Carol Harpster</p>	<p>Dorothy Waldt</p> <p>Dorothy Waldt</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
October 28, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
<p>A motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2020 Council meeting was made.</p> <p>Stewardship Campaign, Generosity is Contagious, is off to a strong start.</p> <p>A motion was made to allow certain church-related groups back in the building while following CDC guidelines and with prior notification to and approval by Pastor Jeff and John Dobbs.</p>	<p>Carol Harpster</p> <p>Carol Harpster</p>	<p>Karen Augis</p> <p>John Dobbs</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

MOTION/HIGHLIGHT	MOVED BY	SECOND	DISPOSITION
November 18, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
A motion to approve the October 28, 2020 council meeting minutes was made. Social justice book talk scheduled for November 22nd.	Carol Harpster	Karen Augis	Approved
A motion to appoint Andrew Busby (term to expire 2022) and Andy Song (term to expire 2024) as trustees to the Glen Ridge Congregational Church Endowment Fund was made. Council selects February 21, 2021 as the date for the Annual Meeting which will be held via Zoom.	Carol Harpster	Janet Spoerl	Approved
December 16, 2020 Council Meeting via Zoom			
A motion to approve the November 18, 2020 Council meeting minutes was made.	Carol Harpster	Janet Spoerl	Approved
A motion to approve Thomas Coleman (term expires 2025) as a trustee to the Glen Ridge Congregational Church Endowment Fund was made.	John Dobbs	Dorothy Waldt	Approved

Respectfully submitted by Carol Harpster, Council Secretary

Change and Adapt! Engage and Enrich! That was C & Y in 2020.



- Planned and implemented Lent activities with materials mailed to homes; they coordinated with zoomed church school and those who participated independently.
- Confirmation and Senior Recognition spearheaded by C&Y.
- Arranged for and supported summer church school Mrs. H-K.
- Celebration Sunday organized with “staggered times” to meet Covid requirements. Featured an afternoon where everyone went “nutty” with squirrels, acorns, crafts, games, singing, and stories outside on the South Lawn; age configurations, number of participants, and social distancing happened. Great fall kickoff.
- “Come to the Stable” with our own Stable, craft handouts, and sets of rustic Nativity luminary gifts captured hearts and drew people in; over 150 people participated.
- Packets for Advent / Christmas were personally delivered to 52 families; they contained crafts, activities, candles, candy canes, songs, scriptures, activities ~ something for each week as well as for each youth within the family. Well worth the effort in outreach.

- Support Lantern Walk, Elder/Child Treat initiative, Spread Love and any other projects of church school. C & Y is an expansive community.

C & Y was BUSY 52 WEEKS A YEAR! In the following specific areas:

- **Church School/Faith Formation:** occurred every Sunday, even through the summer. Varied the time and format to meet needs. 9:00 a.m. outside sessions or zoom and 5:00 p.m. outside sessions have kept the program vital. Thanks to Mrs. H-K and ALL the volunteers. Flexibility is the guideline. Watch for emails and texts. Adapt & change!
- **Confirmation:** Nine young people were confirmed: Aiden Arnett, Sofia Carroll, Heather Downey, Sophie Harrison, Jake Machemer, Jordan Martin, Alex Provost, Katie Song, and Wesley Steele. From playing “The Wrongest Answer” with Pastor Jeff to service projects and writing statements of faith, they prepared for membership on Pentecost, May 31, 2020. Virtual Worship and Zoom combined for a lovely service that became a “first!” These young people and their parents worked with Pastor Jeff, Craig Wood, Margo DiStefano, and Janet Spoerl.
Thanks and welcome!
- **Baptism:** Romey (Jerome) Mohan, son of Bonnie Mohan and Pastor Jeff Mansfield was baptized and welcomed into the life of the church this year. Tucker Cammerota, son of Erin Wong Cammerota and Jason Cammerota, and grandson of Fran and Fred Wong, was also welcomed into the church this year. Welcome Romey and Tucker!
- **Senior Recognition:** Sam Auburn, Brendan Blake, Vincent Gantuah, Abigail Richardson, Gavin Robertson, Abby Song, and Chloe Waldt were recognized on Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2007. A wonderful, traditional virtual service held in the Sanctuary evolved with speakers, scholarships, and gifts wished them well. Blessings.
- **CREW (Christians Ready, Equipped and Willing):** a new youth /outreach group for 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th graders commenced and engaged in service-oriented mission projects. It is intergeneration; parents and other adults are welcome. Social justice is featured.
- **Family Faith:** Activities shifted to zoom activities, home involvement, and hybrid events. Itinerant Mrs. Spoerl visited and read. Zoom included “Differences/Racism/Diversity” studies with multiple events for kids /families and “just adults.” Exploring the UCC ~ 3GLs continued (God’s Love of Children, Neighbor, the Earth). Mission items and \$\$ were collected for Jamaica and Spanish Harlem. Members try to use “no plastic.” A Lenten Prayer group met each Wednesday. FF engages in every activity possible way to encourage faith formation and friendship through GRCC.

Ministry members: Jill Baker-Ansley, Jen Bhujle, Meredith Busby, Elaine Carroll,
Megan Downey, Margo DiStefano, Anne Martin, Jerry Melichar, and
Elizabeth Taylor.

Exofficio members: Carol Harpster, Maira H-K, Stephanie Song, Andy Song.

Janet Spoerl, Chair of Ministry of Children & Youth

PILGRIM PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pilgrim echoes each Committee's reporting in this GRCC Annual Report that "it was a year like no other" and "all programming was slashed". However, with the tremendous help from so many at GRCC, the Pilgrim Board, the teachers and the parents, Pilgrim was able to provide a solid finish to the school year March – June 2020 and a very terrific start of the 2020-21 school year; September-December 2020.

January – June 2020

Pilgrim was actually in its mid-year point in January 2020. Pilgrim was enjoying full enrollment and a busy calendar filled with special programming such as Spanish, Music, and Yoga. We had visits from local community helpers and other professionals. Pilgrim's 64th year was in full swing and humming along!

- * Pilgrim abruptly closed starting March 16, 2020
- * Pilgrim's yearly and fruitful fundraising Gala was cancelled on March 13, 2020
- * Teachers scrambled to learn how to hold lessons on the Zoom classroom and read stories on our private YouTube channel. Communication changed overnight. Everyone knows that there is no adequate substitute for in-person early childhood learning and engagement. Pilgrim came very close with the outstanding and phenomenal dedication from all of the teachers who cannot adequately be thanked enough:

Karen Nisenson, Laurie Lisovicz, Karen Gomez, Mary Loder, Ingrid Kozlowski,
Colleen O'Keefe, Faythe Hansen, Linda Malik, and Michele Rollo.

- * Maggie Kramer, a parent on the Board, spearheaded a children's art campaign/poster design to hang on the playground fence thanking First Responders. This followed the tragic passing of Officer Roberts from Covid-19. The Robert's three children attended Pilgrim and Officer Roberts visited Pilgrim every year for over 14 years for Community Helper Week.
- * In June, Pilgrim closed the school year out with slide show tributes of all the children dedicated to all of our families in thanks and gratitude for their support.

September 2020-December 2020

The summer of 2020 was spent trying to plan if Pilgrim could open and if so, how, given the new stringent and complicated Covid-19 health and sanitizing regulations for Child Care Centers. The regulations stipulated a significant reduction in the number of children allowed in a class thus having serious financial consequences.

- * After several plans, the idea to have the "outdoor" classroom was chosen. Pilgrim has always focused on spending as much time as possible outdoors given our large and engaging playground. Four canopies were purchased along with outdoor storage bins, outdoor mats and other materials. Thankfully, The State of NJ and The NJ Department of Families and Children provided a good measure of relief via grants.

We cannot thank the Mohan-Mansfield family enough for allowing one of our outdoor classroom canopies in their back yard!

- * The children thrived in the outdoor classroom and many lessons were learned and not always about letters and numbers!
- * The enrollment was significantly lower under this model but we know that the families that were and continue to be served are grateful and we are in turn, are thankful for their support. Several new families joined Pilgrim under this configuration due to the reality that many families have immuno-compromised family members and their children would otherwise not be able to attend any school.
- * The remainder of the 2020 school year ended well by returning to the Zoom classroom when the weather turned too cold for the outdoor classroom. However, weekly playground sessions were planned for each 'pod' to allow for the safest possible in-person gatherings.

Looking Ahead

Pilgrim looks forward to a continued safe yet engaging program for January-June 2021.

- * We are indebted to The Executive Pilgrim Board for their invaluable support and guidance:

Carol Harpster, Marsha Watson, Paula Ely and Lorraine Brown

- * Pilgrim is grateful for our "upstairs friends" who always keep Pilgrim in mind:

Pastor Jeff, Alma, Maira and Tom

- * Appreciation to our support friends, Octavio and Vernon

With Gratitude,

Mary Duus

MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION, PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL

Overview

This ministry, AP&P, maintains and improves buildings, the parsonage, and grounds plus provides Human Resource and Information Technology support to the ministers/ministries. We provide general management support for our administration and maintenance staff plus vendors. We manage rentals, marketing and support special events.

2020 Highlights

1. Hired a new part-time sexton (Vernon Oliver) who is working in the mornings to both support Pilgrim and general church sexton duties.
2. Octavio Morales is a part-time sexton and begins in the afternoon from 3-6.
3. We will interview and hire a Sunday Sexton. Refer any recommendations to either Carl Rohling or Sharon Harms.
4. Installed and extended Wi-Fi access in the church in both the Sanctuary and Robinson Hall.
5. Upgraded internal church systems to Microsoft One-Drive for collaboration and ability to share documents among church committee members.
6. Added a new state-of-the-art video system for virtual streaming and recording of Sunday services and other church related events.
7. Robinson Hall Accessibility Project Phase 1 - completed. Handicap accessible bathroom has been added to bathrooms between the classroom wing and Robinson Hall.
8. New ventilation system for Pilgrim/Robinson Hall bathroom.
9. Additional painting and updates were done in the bathroom
10. Digital kiosks (wireless) installed in both the Blue Room and Robinson Hall.
11. Considerable number of contractor projects have been in-sourced to our Sexton.
12. New A/C condenser unit installed due to failure
13. Updates for COVID sanitization readiness
14. Refresh painting in hall of first floor of classrooms
15. Repair of ceiling tiles in second floor of classroom wing
16. Updates of Fire Detection system,
17. Sewage piping cleaning/ repair.
18. Door security improvements.
19. Annual organ maintenance and special floor maintenance
20. Set up tents and outdoor operation with Pilgrim
21. Routine house maintenance assistance for parsonage.

Looking Forward

Continue to execute long term initiatives in areas of accessibility, safety, and security funded by the Building Maintenance Fund which is funded by our Endowment. In the area of accessibility to Robinson Hall, a chairlift installation is projected to be completed as part of an initiative started in 2019. We are looking at increasing rentability of spaces within our properties to increase our income possibilities. The intention is to insource this work to our custodial staff as much as possible.

A new initiative in communications/ marketing is in early discussion with Carl Rohling and Pastor Jeff. Any creative input/potential talent is welcome. This could be seeded in AP&P and then moved to another organization construct as we learn more.

Use of Funds

Our improvement projects are funded by the Building Maintenance Fund, which is in turn funded by our Endowment Fund. Special improvements requested by users of our space are generally funded by the requesting organization with our approval. Day-to-day operational support is funded by our Operating Fund, which comes largely from pledged contributions, rental revenue, and some fundraisers. We continue to balance providing services through employed staff and outsourced services as requirements demand. We are trying to insource services as much as possible so we can keep a more employment environment for our staff and we are ready for more full operation when we get past this pandemic situation.

Our Appreciation

AP&P thanks our staff and partners for all their support. In addition to Alma Amendola, our Parish Administrator, Mary Jones continues to provide bookkeeping support in the evenings. We have two part-time Custodians who came on board very efficiently. Octavio Morales (afternoon) is a self-starter and has a wide breadth of skills to bring to the job. Vernon Oliver (morning) has had a strong start as well.

Pastor Jeff has been a very welcome on-site supervisor and has adapted our new performance planning process to his own management style.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Rohling and Sharon Harms

AP&P Ministry

MINISTRY OF ADULT EDUCATION

The Ministry of Adult Education has been affected by the shutdown of in person meetings in March of 2019. The Ministry is hoping that new programs can be offered remotely this Spring with potential in person programs in the Fall of 2020.

One program that is being considered is a continuation of the Book discussion that the Church Council had participated in this past Fall. The Book is Titled “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Olva. The book was first published in January 2018.

The members of the Ministry include the undersigned, Holly Eastman, Vinicius (Vini) Ito, Nadine Pappas-Wilkes, Pamela Adamson, Ex-Officio and volunteer members, Minister Jeff Mansfield, Janet Dickinson and Janet Mack.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Carey, Chair

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association is an organization of service and fellowship composed of all the women of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church.

This past year was a unique and difficult year for the Women's Association just as it was for all of the church; but we still tried to strengthen our church and contribute to the greater community.

Fundraising

We are best known for our two largest undertakings; the Rummage Sales and the Antiques Show. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were unable to hold either the Spring or Fall Rummage Sales. We were however able to raise \$462 by selling items online. Thanks to Paul Harrison for helping us with this and to all who helped sort in anticipation of a sale.

The 74th Annual Antiques Show, the longest running church sponsored show in Northern New Jersey (under the direction of Annie Rohling with Dorothy Waldt's assistance, dealer-manager Debbie Turi and Treasurer Pam Figlar) was a tremendous success, raising \$18,000. I thank all the volunteers who came together to ensure success and contribute to the greatest profit we have ever seen. We also express our gratitude to Pilgrim Preschool for vacating their classrooms and to the volunteers from Integrity House who helped by serving as porters.

We were fortunate to receive two generous donations, one as a thank you gift and one as a Christmas gift. This money will help us continue to support our benevolences and fulfill our financial commitments.

Benevolences

We dispersed a total of \$1,000 to outside charities this year. Donations were made to MEND and to MOM to support Star of Hope Ministries with their Box of Love Thanksgiving food drive. While our monetary giving was significantly lower this year, we more than made up for this with material donations. When the church shut down in March, we were two weeks from our Spring Rummage Sale leaving us with the question "what do you do with rummage when you don't have a Rummage Sale?" We answered this question by giving 85% of the collected donations to other organizations to sell or distribute to people in need. The remaining 15% was picked up by Tuesday's Children, an organization which provides services to families and children impacted by tragic events. While we did not raise any money for our benevolences as we have in the past, we were able to aid the following businesses and organizations:

- Anne Mary's Place thrift store in Harlem. 4 carloads of items: 11 boxes of children's books, 22 boxes of assorted items (housewares, china, notions, electronics, jewelry), 12 bags of bedding/linens and 3 lamps.
- Twisted Vintage thrift store in Bloomfield. 2 truck and several van loads of a variety of everything except books. In a thank you note from the owner, she stated that had it not been for our generosity, she probably would have been forced to close her store.
- Apostles House in Newark. 20 bags of warm clothing.
- Market Street Mission in Morristown. 7 bags of men's clothing and 18 men's suits.

- Boy Scouts Troop 22 in Bloomfield. 40 bags of clothing for their clothing drive.
- Transition Professionals in Hackensack (a reentry from prison program). 4 bags of men's casual clothing.
- Star of Hope Ministries Thrift Store in Paterson. 42 bags of clothing, 35 boxes of housewares, china, shoes, electronics, notions, and other assorted items including a stroller and scooter.
- Bloomfield College Career Closet in Bloomfield. 9 bags of women's pants.
- Tuesday's Children. All remaining items (mostly books and toys).

In addition to these organizations, 7 large bags of children's clothes are being sent to the Dominican Republic thanks to Octavia Morales, our afternoon sexton.

We are appreciative of all the help we received on this huge undertaking.

As we have in past years, we continue to invest in Kiva loans. Kiva is an international non-profit, the mission of which is to alleviate poverty through small loans to grow or start a business, go to school or to access clean energy. As the loans are repaid, we have reinvested the money in additional loans with our focus being on women with businesses in disadvantaged areas. This year we were able to make 22 new loans, bringing the total number of active and satisfied loans to 60. Thank you to Fran Wong for her willingness to oversee this and for the time and energy she spends researching the loans.

In addition to external benevolence, we made memorial contributions in memory of Pastor Jeff's mother, Roberta Mansfield, and in memory of Norma Batastini, a past President of the Women's Association. We supported the church by buying 13 new tables, covering the cost of the food for Mrs. HK's GRCC marketplace and giving \$7,500 to GRCC. The Women's Association pays 50% of the Sunday sexton's salary, provides the coffee for Fellowship Hour and funds the weekly kitchen cleaning. While all of these are on hold as of now, we intend to continue to fund them when church reopens.

Please see the Women's Association Treasurer's Report for a complete list of disbursements and expenditures.

Fellowship/Service

We gather in fellowship to relax, share a meal and enjoy the company of one another as well as to donate our time in support of other Church ministries.

This year we partnered with the Ministries of Outreach and Mission and Children and Youth to work on the Dream Mat project led by Mrs. HK and to provide a day of service activity on MLK Day.

- January:**
- Women of the d'Vine at the Hughes'. Thank you to Susan for hosting.
 - Pizza luncheon to learn how to make plarn (plastic yarn from recycled grocery bags) for the Dream Mat project.
 - MLK Day of Service.
 - Kitchen cleaning and organizing in anticipation of the Antiques Show.
 - Farewell reception for Rusty Eidmann-Hicks.

February: • Antiques Show.

- Dream Mat gathering.

March: • Spring Brunch. We recognized International Women's Day by making a Pledge Wall. Mrs. HK presented a program on Kindness Gardens and how they began. We then painted rocks to be placed in the Kindness Garden on Clark Street.

August: • Readied the sanctuary per Covid-19 protocol in anticipation of reopening in the Fall.

We hosted one memorial service for George Haug, long time staff member of GRCC. A special thank you to Linda Kerr and Phyllis Connolly for their continued willingness to oversee and coordinate the receptions and to Nancy Bigelow and Arlene Kansky for always being willing to pour tea and coffee. Also, a huge thank you to Lynn Ritchkoff and Nancy Bigelow for overseeing the Cards of Concern campaign and for faithfully writing cards every week of the year.

I am appreciative of all the support I have received from the women of the church and want to thank Linda Kerr and Phyllis Connolly for serving as Treasurer and Secretary (respectively) of the Women's Association.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Bronneck

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE ON HAND - JANUARY 1, 2020

\$ 9,007.71

RECEIPTS:

Antiques Show	\$18,000.00
Rummage Sale	\$ 462.00
Donations	\$ 2,650.00
Total Receipts	<u>\$21,112.00</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Benevolences	.\$ 1,000.00
In-Church Benevolences	\$10,603.54
Kitchen Maintenance & Supplies	\$ 975.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 220.42
Memorial Receptions	\$ 75.00
Special Gifts to Staff	\$ 550.00
Sunday Sexton	\$ 487.50
Miscellaneous	\$ 314.00
Total Disbursements	<u>\$14,225.46</u>

BALANCE ON HAND - DECEMBER 31,2020

\$15,894.25

2020 WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENCES

MEND	\$ 500.00
Donation to MOM	\$ 500.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>

2020 IN-CHURCH BENEVOLENCES

Mission Projects	\$ 345.08
Tables	\$ 2,758.46
Glen Ridge Congregational Church	\$ 7,500.00
Total	<u>\$10,603.54</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Kerr
Treasurer

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

I am writing this annual report as I witness the inauguration of the 46th President of the USA, Joe Biden. I find this a perfect opportunity to reflect upon this turbulent year. A year marked by the lethal COVID19 virus as well as shocking political unrest and violence in our country. These ongoing tragedies have touched all of us, changing how we live every aspect of our lives. It is through this lens that I compose the annual report for the Worship Ministry.

As we are all aware, worship at GRCC has been transformed in an effort to keep every congregant and officiant safe while keeping our spiritual and communal lives supported. We have all witnessed the commitment and unflagging effort put forth by Pastor Jeff and Minister of Music Tom Mustachio to create moving, restorative, stimulating, challenging, comforting, joyous, hopeful, accessible, and memorable virtual services for what will be a full year by the time of the annual meeting. Longer than any of us could have predicted when we first went virtual in March of 2020.

As Worship co-chair, it has become painfully obvious that the success and future of our church is dependent on our technology capabilities to not only meet the needs of our congregants to extend our reach to an even wider community. Our ability to reach all of our congregants in a safe manner has elevated technology to equal importance with our “brick and mortar” structure. It is our belief that worship at GRCC will not and should not set the goal of getting back to normal. We will be entering a time of the “new normal”, a hybrid combination of in-person and virtual worship with congregants worshipping as their personal needs dictate. This demands a dedication and investment in the upgrading of our tech capabilities, expanding the ability to pre-record, archive, and reach ever increasing numbers of members and friends.

Though it would not appear to be a Worship Ministry concern, in essence everything at GRCC should connect back to worship since it is the main mission of the church. GRCC needs to professionalize its support of our technology infrastructure and in 2021 we advocate for a dedicated technology support person to build capacity among the GRCC staff and as a permanent member of the GRCC outreach team.

Worship would like to especially acknowledge and thank Tom Mustachio for his non-stop dedication to creating varied, liturgically rich, musically varied services, safely incorporating live participants playing bells and Orff instruments, singing solos and duets, making each Sunday a unique, living, worship experience for all who tuned in.

We would also like to thank Pastor Jeff, who had the unique challenge of preaching to an invisible audience and finding the inspiration to keep it real and fresh each week. He has been able to bring inspiration and comfort to all of us during this time of loss, fear and uncertainty.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Simmons and David Dik, Worship Ministry Co-Chairs

MUSIC COMMITTEE

A subcommittee of the Ministry of Worship, the Music Committee was created in 1983 to serve as a sounding board for the Minister of Music, to provide liaison between the congregation and the music program, and to receive input from other staff members and the congregation on matters involving the music program. Over the years, the work of the Committee has evolved to support and facilitate various aspects of our music program. (See Minister of Music Report)

Most of our concerts are presented under the auspices of the Glen Ridge Community Concerts Series, now in its thirty first season. We offer members of the community at large the opportunity to participate in concerts given by the Glen Ridge Choral Society, which is composed of the Chancel Choir plus other interested singers. The group typically numbers approximately 45, with 24 Chancel Choir members, and 24 members from the community and congregation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on Glen Ridge Congregational Church and the music program has been hit especially hard. All musical rehearsals, presentations and gatherings were halted. Musical presentations had to be imagined in a new and virtual way.

The herculean efforts of our exceptional Minister of Music, Tom Mustachio, are appreciated more than ever. Tom has had to really think outside of the box and developed new and creative ways to continue the music ministry at GRCC. The Chancel Choir and Choral Society began to meet virtually via Zoom in September and created presentations for All Saints Sunday and Welcome Christmas!. The Carillon Bell Choir and Orffinators were able to rehearse and record pieces in a responsible, safe, and socially distanced way. Tom, thank you for all your contributions to the ministry of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church.

The Glen Ridge Community Concerts outreach program is self-supporting. The financial sponsorship by church and community members continues to provide essential financial support for the concert series. 2020 concerts presented:

- March 10 – Christopher Lee, violin, Merynda Adams, harp – In this Blue Room concert, Lee and Adams performed works created for and adapted to their instruments. A reception followed the recital, offering an opportunity to meet the artists. 66 people were in attendance.
- April 26 – Spring Concert: *Happy Birthday Beethoven*, Mass in C and other vocal and instrumental works, **cancelled**
- October 26 – November 1 – *Halloween Pipe Organ Spooktacular!* featuring three silent short films with original improvised accompaniment by Tom Mustachio:
 - *The Haunted House (1921) - Buster Keaton*
 - *The Adventurer (1917) - Charlie Chaplin*
 - *Habeas Corpus (1928) - Laurel & Hardy*The video was available to rent (\$10) or purchase (\$20) on Vimeo. 29 Vimeo transactions were recorded.
- December 13 - 24 – *Welcome (the 12 Days before) Christmas!* – The traditional annual Holiday Concert and Carol Sing presented in a virtual way. One musical gift was shared each day and distributed via email and Facebook. The recordings were presented through Vimeo which

housed the library of pieces. Contributions were from the Glen Ridge Choral Society (both newly created virtual choir pieces as well as a few select recordings from prior concerts), Carillon Bells live recordings from the Blue Room and additional instrumentalists from both past and present.

Other musical events for which the Music Committee provided assistance:

- February 25 – Mardi Gras Pancake Supper – Members of the Chancel Choir, Carillon Bells and Choral Society joined together to prepare and serve pancakes, sausage and fruit for 220 members of our church and the community at large.
- November 3 – All Saints’ Sunday – Virtual presentation/Carillon Bells video
- December 23 – Community Holiday Sing-along –not held this year.

Since the Spring concert was cancelled, special efforts were made to offer additional virtual musical presentations free of charge in 2020, via Facebook Live and YouTube:

- May 21 – Recital of *Hymn Improvisations* by Thomas Mustachio. Hymns were requested by members and friends.
- July 24 – *Anything Goes*: A concert of Jazz Standards, presented by a quartet: Brett Deubner, viola, Allison Franzetti, piano, Roger Wagner, bass, James Musto, percussion.
- August 6 – *Don’t Get Around Much Anymore: Songs of Quarantine*, presented by Diane Schaming and Thomas Mustachio.
- December 15 – *I’ll be Home for Christmas*, presented by Diane Schaming, Thomas Mustachio and Jill Simmons
- December 23 – *Reflections: A Winter Solstice performance*, presented by Brett Deubner, viola and Allison Brewster Franzetti, piano.

The Concert Fund receipts and disbursements for the calendar year 2020 are:

Concert Fund Balance – December 31, 2019.....	\$23,458
Concert receipts and subscriptions	\$ 1,144
Sponsorships by members and friends	7,489
Glen Ridge Film Fund Grant	1,000
Other receipts	<u>350</u>
Total receipts in 2020	<u>\$9,983</u>
Payments to musicians & engineers	\$ 4,910
Printing, mailing, advertising, signs	115
Music scores	2,038
Transfers to Operating Fund	2,120
Other (equipment, ASCAP fees, receptions, etc.)	<u>2,066</u>
Total disbursements in 2020	<u>\$11,249</u>
Concert Fund Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$22,192

In 2020, the Committee included the following members in addition to the chair: Bart Brown, David Dik (co-chair), Pam Figlar, Nancy Gage, Arlene Kansky, Tom Mustachio (ex-officio), Lynn Ritchkoff, Jill Simmons (co-chair) and Dorothy Waldt. My sincere thanks to all the Music Committee members and to all the others in the congregation and community who support the music program in various ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Brandell, Co-Chair

MINISTRY OF PARISH LIFE

Members are responsible for the fellowship and service functions of the church. They oversee publicity and public relations efforts (newsletter, directory, and seasonal brochures) and coordinate other activities of the various groups concerned with caring for the congregation. The Marketing Committee is part of Parish Life.

Accomplishments

1. Presented the annual high school scholarships in June to Sam Auburn, Vincent Gantuah, Abigail Richardson and Abby Song.
2. Our Marketing Committee has been busy working on a new church website. The basic design has been completed and we are finalizing the content for specific pages. We expect to launch the new site shortly. Additionally, we have added an Instagram account (in addition to Facebook) for spreading the good news and will continue to work on adding and improving Church signage in and outside the building.

Future Goals

1. Expand and develop responsibilities of Parish Life beyond food preparation.
2. Assign “buddies” to new church members as we welcome them into our church family.
3. Continue to find new ways to expand the church’s presence in the community.

Ministry members:

Karen Augis, chair,

Marlene Feimster, Fran Wong, Mabel Gantuah, Marsha Watson, Lynne Oliver and Louis Augis.

PARISH CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JANUARY 1, 2020 **431**

Admitted during 2020 by:

Confession of Faith	9
Confirmation	9

+18

Lost during 2020 by:

Death	5
Transfer to Other Churches	1
Put on Inactive List	

-6

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JANUARY 1, 2021 **443**

CEREMONIES

Rev. Jeff Mansfield officiated at:

Baptisms	2
Funerals/Memorials	1
Interments	4
Weddings	N/A

DEATHS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

June	Ken Underwood
July	JoAnn Borden
August	Norma Batastini
	Merle Herbstreith
December	Dale Litvany

NEW MEMBERS

February 9, 2020	Andrew and Meredith Busby
	Amy Haggerty
	Jeff Mansfield and Bonnie Mohan
	Doug and Rachel Steele
	Elizabeth and Van Taylor

May 31 (Confirmation)	Aidan Arnett	Jordan Martin
	Sophia Carroll	Alex Provost
	Heather Downey	Katie Song
	Sophie Harrison	Wesley Steele
	Jake Machemer	

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS

Our Senior Members

Jim Waters, born 1918, member 70 years
Carolyn Watson, born 1924, member 63 years
Nancy Bigelow, born 1926, member 62 years
Tatsuo Honma, born 1932, member 41 years
Bob Hayes, born 1933, member 59 years

Our Long-Term Member(s)

Bart Brown, member 72 years
Joan Hayes, member 72 years
Barbara Stevens, member 71 years

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH AND MISSION

What a year it has been for the Ministry of Outreach and Mission (MOM). A worldwide pandemic couldn't stop the members of MOM and our amazing congregation to stay on course by supporting the neediest of our worldwide community. This year we reached 100's of families who suffered gravely due to the Pandemic. It is with great pleasure and a heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed to our great work that we were able to support the following:

M.E.N.D - Monetary donation to help offset the need for diapers. The organization that normally donates 6,000 per month discontinued its support due to Covid.

M.E.N.D. - We collected roughly 1,400 non-perishable items to support the 20+ pantries that M.E.N.D helps throughout Essex County.

M.E.N.D. - helped families receive Thanksgiving Meals.

M.E.N.D. - Star Tree Program - we delivered a Christmas Miracle to 19 families at The Apostle House in Newark. We were able to give each family member a store gift card and each family a shop rite gift card. This year these families were able to buy presents for their families and have a delicious Christmas meal to their liking. Amazing!

UNHCR - matching gift from Mrs. HK & Olivia.

United Church of Christ - Covid Disaster Relief Fund.

Bloomfield Food Pantry - in support of the need for additional food due to the pandemic.

Interfaith Hospitality Network - Covid Support - Woman's Association and MOM came together to provide a monetary donation to help house homeless families. Churches closed and were unable to host the families. Our contributions helped these families be housed in hotels.

New Eyes for the Needy - we collected approximately 130 used eye glasses in good to excellent condition to be distributed worldwide. Their specially trained volunteer teams test and sort the glasses into different categories - after which the glasses are distributed through aid organizations and missions.

Star of Hope Ministries - Covid support to help schools purchase computers for students that had to go to remote learning due to the pandemic.

Star of Hope Ministries - We contributed to the "Thanksgiving Box of Love" initiative where 2,000 boxes of non-perishable food items and the distribution of 1,500 turkeys were received by our friends in Newark so they could have a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

Together we rise - Covid Support backpacks.

Clara Maas - 50 bags of candy were distributed to children in the pediatric unit for a Halloween Surprise.

Family Promise of Essex - gift cards to purchase Halloween costumes and food.

Stewardship Generosity Initiative.

Family Promise of Essex County Film Donation to support homeless children and families in the program.

Bloomfield College Emergency Fund Donation to expand opportunities for low-income students to achieve their personal and academic goals.

Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Toni's Kitchen - matching Christmas offering donation for food.

The members of the Ministry of Outreach and Mission are honored to serve Glen Ridge Congregational Church and the wider community. We look forward to welcoming our new members and to continuing our great work in 2021.

A special thank you to Ann Bronneck and Linda Seyffarth for their dedication and commitment to this committee. You will be sorely missed.

Respectfully submitted:

Cara Lopez Richardson, Chair

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP

As you can imagine, when we took over as co-chairs of Stewardship last February, we never envisioned that we would be running our annual Pledge campaign in the midst of a pandemic! We are so proud of how our Stewardship team and the Congregation rose to the occasion.

In October we introduced this year's Stewardship theme of "Generosity is Contagious", praying that it would grow to be true, and having concluded what was an incredibly inspirational Stewardship Season, we have clearly proven this hypothesis.

We kicked off the Stewardship Season with a \$20 "Generosity Giveaway" where the team hand-delivered \$20 bills for folks local to GRCC to donate as they saw fit. These dollars grew exponentially as people added to the seed money themselves or reached out into their communities for support – one even grew to be a \$1,000 donation! Equally important, as people shared with Pastor Jeff where they had donated and how it made them feel, we heard repeatedly how *good* it felt to be generous and these days, good feelings are a special gift.

On November 8th, Kelly Rossiter from the Clara Maass Medical Center Foundation spoke during the service and shared how GRCC's effort to rally the wider community to collectively provide thousands of energy kits and notes of support so positively impacted her hospital's staff. Working together we can start ripples of generosity that change lives.

Consecration Sunday was on November 15th and pledges received as of that date were blessed during the service. This is an unprecedented time and while we haven't quite reached the level of last year yet, 39% of recurring pledges increased and we have received 13 new pledges to date. We are grateful for the time, talent and treasure that everyone put forth to keep our church family moving forward. Stewardship is not a few weeks a year, but a state of mind!

Lastly, we would personally like to thank Pastor Jeff for his great ideas and ongoing support, our stellar Stewardship team for their efforts in making this season a success – particularly Andy Ogilvie for designing our wonderful materials, Pam Figlar, Carol Harpster, John Dobbs, Alma Amendola, and others who helped with this year's campaign including reviewing and preparing printed materials, website and social media updates, stuffing envelopes, home delivery of over 130 Stewardship packets, accounting, and so much more. It takes a village of Stewards!

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca and Dave Mitchell

Co-Chairs, Ministry of Stewardship

GARDEN OF MEMORY COMMITTEE

The Garden of Memory Committee was established in 1970 to operate and maintain the Garden of Memory on the south lawn of the church property. The flagstone patio is the repository for the ashes of church members and their families. The names of those interred are inscribed on two plaques which are mounted in the narthex of the sanctuary. The flagstone patio in the Garden has 134 stones each of which covers a space. In each space there are 4 sections for a total of 536 sections. Each section holds 2 urns for a total capacity of 1,072 urns. There are 316 persons interred. There are 54 spaces fully available, providing 216 sections capable of holding 532 urns. In addition, there are a number of spaces which are partially occupied or reserved. Over the past 20 years, the Garden of Memory has sold an average of 4 spaces per year, but the last three years have seen a down turn in sales. In 2018, 2 spaces were sold. In 2019, 1 space was sold and no spaces were sold in 2020.

The Committee attempts to make the Garden a peaceful, attractive and dignified part of the church grounds that compliments the total appearance of our facility while providing an inexpensive alternative to traditional burials. The price of a section, which will accommodate two urns, is \$400. At the time of an interment there is an administrative fee of \$175 which covers the costs of the urn, plaque, and the opening and closing of the section. Since its inception, the Garden of Memory has been entirely self-supporting.

There were three internments in the Garden of Memory in 2020:

- Jo Ann Borden
- Norma Batastini
- Ken Underwood

Norma Batastini and Ken Underwood were both members of the Garden of Memory Committee. Their work and effort on behalf of the Garden were always appreciated by the other Committee members and by those who have enjoyed the Garden as a quiet, peaceful space for prayer and introspection. They are missed.

Jim Bronneck resigned as a member of the Committee, but he continues to work in the Garden and to help maintain it. We thank him for his commitment and effort on behalf of the Garden and the Committee.

Because of the additional work required to maintain the Garden, the Committee is exploring the possibility of retaining a professional gardener for occasional consultation and assistance with maintenance.

The current members of the committee are Nancy Bigelow, Susan Hughes, Susan Krien, Jeff Mansfield, Joanne Meeker, Tom Meeker, Cherry Provost, Jim Watson and Linda Woodbury.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Watson, Chair

GARDEN OF MEMORY TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand December 31, 2019

Checking BOA	\$ 4,008.01	
Perpetual Care Vanguard	27,435.27	
Checking Vanguard	<u>5,337.56</u>	
		\$ 36,780.84

Receipts for 2020

Plots sold 1 Healey	\$ 400.00	
Interment Fees – prepay Healey	175.00	
Maintenance Donation	<u>2,000.00</u>	
		\$ 2,575.00

Disbursements 2020

Ground care	\$2,340.47	
Interments	300.00	
Safety Deposit Box	90.63	
Engraving	84.20	
Interment Supplies	127.91	
Misc Error	<u>6.00</u>	
		\$ 2,949.21

Investment Return

\$ 5,782.20

Balance on Hand December 31, 2020

Checking BOA	\$ 3,633.80	
Perpetual Care Vanguard	33,193.39	
Checking Vanguard	<u>5,361.64</u>	
		\$42,188.83

Respectively Submitted,

Linda M Woodbury
Treasurer

GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Endowment Fund of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church was established in 1984 with the goal of generating income to support the maintenance, repairs and capital needs of our Church. In 2020, the Fund achieved these goals by contributing \$100,000 to the Building Maintenance Fund. In addition, the Fund provided an additional \$50,000 special contribution to support the ADA improvement project and bathroom renovation in the Lower Hall.

Since inception of the Endowment, accumulated contributions to the church are \$1,146,500, with \$685,000 provided since 2010.

For 2021, the Endowment Fund has committed to maintain its annual funding level at \$100,000, flat relative to 2020. In addition, the Fund has committed to an additional \$50,000 special contribution for the completion of the ADA Lower Hall improvement project.

2020 Fund Performance

The Endowment Fund Investment Policy dated May 17, 2001 establishes an investment weighting guideline for the portfolio of 65% for equities and 35% for cash and fixed income products. The guideline further states that equity investments will be diversified and in large, liquid, U.S.-based public companies with a market capitalization of over \$500 million. Fixed income investments will be restricted to investment grade securities rated no lower than “A.” Based upon these guidelines along with their current market outlook, our investment advisor, Neuberger Berman, as of 12/31/2020, has our account invested approximately 71.8% in equities, 27.0% in fixed income and 1.2% in cash. A specific breakdown of the portfolio has been included for review.

2020 was a volatile year for the financial markets but it ultimately ended on a positive note. The Fund’s market balance was adversely affected in the 1st Quarter due to the economic impact and uncertainty resulting from the onslaught of COVID-19. The economy and our Fund recovered throughout the 2nd and 3rd quarters as a “new normal” was figured out, but started the 4th quarter with some down months. However, optimism took over at the end of the year and November and December provided excellent returns.

For the 12-month timeframe, the overall return for the portfolio, net of fees, was 10.25% compared to a return for the S&P 500 of 18.40%. When we look at each specific asset class, on a gross of fee basis, our returns underperformed both from an equity perspective with a 14.48% return (versus 18.40% for the S&P 500) and a fixed income perspective with a 3.17% return (versus 6.43% for the Bloomberg/Barclays US INT Government and Credit Index), but represented a great result nonetheless. The goal of our portfolio is to achieve returns close to or better than the S&P 500 while maintaining exposures with lower risk and volatility.

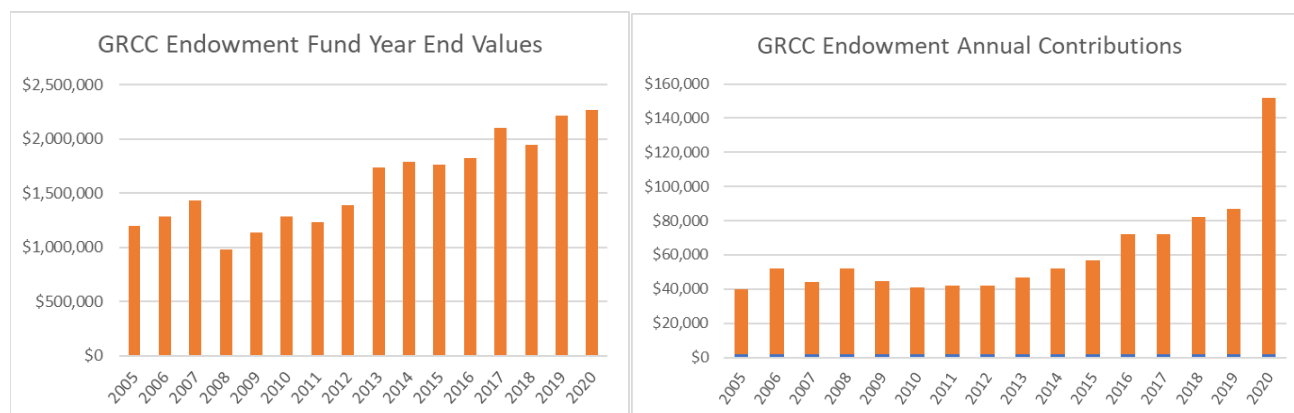
Since the 9/17/2001 inception of our relationship with our investment manager, the portfolio has generated an annualized return (net of fees) of 7.03% versus the S&P 500 return of 9.05%. Our equity portfolio continues to significantly outperform the S&P (10.64% vs. 9.05%), while our fixed income portfolio has underperformed its corresponding index (3.35% vs 4.03%). While overall our return is still very acceptable, our asset allocation requirement and the performance of Neuberger Berman are continually evaluated by the Endowment Trustees.

Fund Balance

As of 12/31/2020, the value of the Endowment Fund was \$2,262,140.59, an increase of \$50,056.36 when compared to year-end 2019. It is noted that this increase includes the Fund's contribution of \$150,000 to the Building Management Fund as well as associated fees, taxes and charges.

Gifts and bequests are very important to the continued growth of the Endowment Fund and are appreciated by the trustees. Please keep the Endowment Fund in mind when making your short and long-term giving plans. As highlighted in the past, the financial strength that a strong and growing Endowment can provide to an institution is key to its longevity as it reduces the amount of funds that need to be raised on an annual basis. The continued security and growth of our Endowment Fund will provide the foundation and financial strength needed for the GRCC to thrive over the long-term. While it is tempting to tap into an Endowment to help with short-term expenses during lean years, doing so weakens an Endowment's growth and financial strength, ultimately putting its ability to provide consistent and growing annual contributions in jeopardy.

The below charts provide details regarding the growth of the Endowment along with contributions provided to the Church since 2005. These figures exemplify how important a conservative investment management and an appropriate distribution strategy can be to maintain a strong and growing Endowment Fund.



Endowment by-laws prohibit distributions when the account balance is below the “distribution threshold”, which is defined as the sum of \$1 million dollars plus gifts received after the fund initially achieved the \$1 million dollar level. The intent is for the Endowment to only distribute income and gains without invading principal and the trustees remain committed to this tenet. Donations given to the Fund will remain intact to provide for the long-term financial strength of the church.

Historically, when deciding on the annual contribution amount, the Endowment Trustees, target a percentage between 3.00% and 4.00% of the Endowment's Net Asset Value (NAV). In general, the picks have been in the 3.50% range, but in 2020, it was decided to increase the level to a figure closer to 4.68% due to the financial challenges of the church. In addition, a special contribution of \$50,000 was made to support the ADA Lower Hall Improvement Project. For 2021, it has been agreed to continue contributions at this level including an additional \$50,000 contribution to support completion of the Lower Hall project.

Please be reminded that future contribution amounts and any potential increases or decreases will be dependent upon the continued growth of the Endowment Fund. It is our goal for the Endowment Fund to continue to grow while still achieving its mission of providing funds for the upkeep of the physical plant of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Alden Provost

Alden Provost
Endowment Chair (2016-2020)

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES:

Peter Waldt	Term ending 2021
Andrew Song	Term ending 2022
Clark Machemer	Term ending 2023
Andrew Busby	Term ending 2024

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the financial operation of the Church to enable its ministry and mission. Responsibilities of the Finance Ministry include (1) overseeing the collection of all receipts and payment of all expenses, (2) managing the Church's investments that are not part of the Endowment Fund, (3) keeping detailed financial records, (4) preparing monthly financial reports, (5) issuing quarterly contribution statements, and (6) preparing annual budgets.

Financial Highlights of 2020

We started 2020 optimistically, feeling we were on the road to recovery from a few years of financial difficulty after steadily bringing down our deficits. With Pastor Jeff Mansfield, our new minister, in place, we were anticipating more good news as we began to grow the congregation.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit! We really had no idea how that would affect us. We are pleased to report that we had a surprisingly good year financially, ending with a deficit of only \$14,803. Many things made this happen, but there were two main causes. First of all, thanks to those who were able to continue paying their pledges and, in some cases, a little more! Secondly, the pandemic itself forced us to curtail activities in the building resulting in a significant reduction in expenses.

The highlights of the 2020 finances are further discussed in the Operating Fund section below. (Please see the Treasurer's Report on the pages immediately following this report for more details about the 2020 finances.)

- **Operating Fund**

Here is a summary of the actual Operating Fund activity for 2020 compared to the 2020 budget.

Operating Fund		
Summary of 2020 Receipts and Disbursements		
	2020 Actual	Annual Budget
Receipts		
2020 Pledges and Other Support from the Congregation	\$377,257	\$405,000
Year-end and Deficit Reduction Contributions	\$15,010	15,000
Other Giving (Arrears, Offerings and Special Gifts)	\$7,574	\$13,600
Fundraisers	\$0	\$1,000
Other Income before Investment Earnings (Building Use Fees and Pilgrim Contribution)	\$53,739	\$59,000
Net Investment Income	\$12,401	\$5,000
Total Receipts	\$465,981	\$498,600
Expenses	\$480,784	\$521,700
Net Excess (Deficit)	(\$14,803)	(\$23,100)

Operating Fund receipts fell short of the budgeted amount by \$32,619, primarily attributable to a reduction in Pledge payments and Other Support from the Congregation. We understand that the pandemic may have had an impact on charitable giving as some jobs were cut back or eliminated. In addition, since the building was closed, some anticipated rental income did not materialize.

Operating Fund disbursements were also down, coming in lower than budgeted by \$40,916. This savings is primarily a result of not being able to use our building for church activities due to the pandemic. Ministry expenses were below budget by \$12,973. The remaining \$27,943 of the expense savings was in administrative and maintenance categories.

The result is that even though we fell short of our receipts goal, the deficit of \$14,803 is smaller than budgeted and definitely smaller than expected once the pandemic hit.

- **Building Maintenance Fund**

The Building Maintenance Fund received \$100,000 from the Endowment Fund in 2020 plus an additional \$50,000 to build the new accessible bathroom on the first floor of the Church School wing. The Ministry of AP&P took great care in managing the expenses while making sure needed repairs and upgrades were made to the buildings. The entire \$50,000 was spent for the new bathroom and \$40,790 was spent on other building repairs and improvements in 2020, with the rest being held over for large scale projects slated to be done in 2021 and future years.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan.

GRCC, including Pilgrim Preschool, was granted a loan in the amount of \$127,042 under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) of the CARES Act. The primary purpose of the loan was to enable us to keep employees, such as Pilgrim teachers and choir section leaders, on the payroll during the coronavirus lockdown through June, even if they were unable to actually do their jobs due to closures. In addition, we could use the loan proceeds to pay utility expenses.

Under the PPP terms, a portion of the loan will be forgiven if the number of employees did not decline, compensation levels were maintained and at least 60% of the loan was used to pay employees during the loan forgiveness period, which for us is the eight-week period from May 7 through July 2, 2020. We believe that we have met these requirements and will be applying in 2021 to have about \$114,700 of our loan forgiven. For any amount that is not forgiven, the loan terms are very favorable: a term of two years (negotiable to five years) at 1% interest and deferral of the first payment for up to 10 months.

Budgets for the Year 2021

Although we came through 2020 in relatively good shape financially, the expectation is not as rosy for 2021. The Proposed 2021 Operating Fund and Building Maintenance Fund budgets, prepared by the Ministry of Finance and approved by the Church Council, reflect the challenges caused primarily by the coronavirus pandemic.

The full proposed 2021 budgets are presented on the last four pages at the back of this Annual Report. Here are the highlights:

- **Operating Fund Budget**

A significant decrease in receipts for 2021 required Finance to work diligently to reduce expense budgets without reducing staff or compensation to the extent possible.

Receipts: For the 2021 Operating Fund Budget, receipts totaling \$438,360 are based on \$388,000 in pledges and other support from the congregation plus \$50,360 from other sources such as arrears, offertory, church school, investment income, Pilgrim Preschool and St. Francis of Assisi. This is a decrease of \$60,240 from the 2020 budget. Approximately half of this decrease is from reduced expectations of pledges and other giving and half is attributable to reduced payments from Pilgrim Preschool and other building usage.

Pilgrim has been especially hard hit by the pandemic and cannot guarantee paying more than \$8,000 in 2021, a decrease in their contribution to the church of \$27,000. If things improve as the year goes on, Pilgrim will contribute more if they can.

Disbursements: The 2021 Operating Fund Budget disbursements of \$488,260 is a \$33,440 decrease from the 2020 Budget. One of the primary components of this decrease is a total reduction of \$17,657 in pay for our two part-time sextons. This is a result of a reduction in their hours while the building is closed. (Note that both of them have full-time jobs elsewhere.) There are no reductions for other professional or administrative staff members.

The other primary component of our expense decrease is a \$14,140 reduction in the amount the ministries will have to spend. The Council and Finance worked hard and were successful at maintaining the funding level for the Music and Children & Youth Ministries. However, Outreach & Mission (MOM) was impacted the most, with a \$9,600 decrease in their budget for 2021. Note that there is a balance of \$6,900 in the Local Benevolences Fund, which represents unspent MOM budget allocations from prior years. Although this amount cannot be moved into the budget, it is available to be spent and along with the generosity of the membership and local community members in responding to our special appeals, we feel we can continue to provide much-needed support to our neighbors in need.

Deficit: The Proposed 2021 Operating Fund Budget shows a deficit of \$49,900 for the year. We are not stopping here. Finance and the Council will continue looking for additional sources of income to reduce this deficit.

- **Building Maintenance Fund Budget**

The proposed 2021 Building Maintenance Fund Budget reflects total receipts of \$100,000 derived solely from the Endowment Fund contribution, which is the same amount they gave for 2020. Thanks to the Endowment Fund Trustees for their generous contribution. In addition, the Endowment Trustees have committed to providing \$50,000 to fund the second part of the accessibility project in Robinson Hall. The budget assumes expenses in 2021 will be equal to the receipts for the year.

The Bottom Line

We expect 2021 to be a challenging year. Once the pandemic stabilizes, allowing for better planning, a clearer picture of how to proceed will arise. Until then, our financial situation may be uncertain. We hope 2021 is an aberration and we will be able to get back on track toward growing our income and achieving a balanced budget as the Church rebuilds.

Operating Fund Reserves: In spite of all the mayhem caused by the pandemic, the stock market performed very well and closed 2020 in a good position. Our Operating Fund reserves (our rainy-day funds used to cover cash shortfalls) ended the year with a balance of \$105,844. Since the reserves are invested, the value will vary with market conditions.

Cash Flow: The PPP Loan helped immensely with our cash flow this year. Since we anticipate receipts will be lower in 2020, we may experience cash flow shortages throughout the year. This situation may continue to necessitate the deferral of spending, especially in the Building Maintenance Fund, to facilitate payment of recurring bills during periods of cash shortage.

Spending Down Church Assets: For the last two years, we have been using some of the Special Purpose Funds to cover part of the expenses of some of our ministries. This chart shows what funds were used in 2020 and what is proposed for 2021.

Ministry	2020	2021
Outreach & Mission (MOM)	\$10,000 from Memorials & Gifts Fund	\$10,000 from Memorials & Gifts Fund
Children & Youth (C&Y)	\$6,900 from YPS Fund	\$6,130 in total from these funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,000 from YPS and CIA Funds • \$3,130 from SMART Support Fund • \$1,000 from SCEEP Challenge Fund
Music	\$2,120 from Concert Fund	No fund offset

This approach cannot be continued year after year as it will spend down our assets. Once we come out of the pandemic shutdown, we need to keep the momentum going in order to grow our membership and income so we will not be forced to explore making painful choices as a congregation.

What you can do to help: Thanks to everyone who helped make 2020 a better year than anticipated. It looks like we will once again have to climb out of a less than optimal financial situation. But we were successfully doing so before the pandemic and we can do it again. This year we did a lot of outreach to the local community to help those in need during this difficult time: not only through Helping Hands and food drives, but also with donations from the MOM budget to local benevolences. We want to continue this outreach, but we need help to do so.

Each of us has the ability to help improve the Church's situation in some way. We realize some of our members may be impacted by the pandemic. For those of us who can, fulfilling our pledges to the Church is a good start. If you haven't yet made a pledge for 2021, please do so. Or, if you have made a pledge, consider increasing it if you can. Sign up for recurring electronic pledge payments through your bank or Tithe.ly to help the Church better anticipate and control cash flow. Lastly, and most importantly, help spread the word of the Church's good deeds and mission throughout the community. Invite friends and family to join us for Sunday worship and other events.

Thanks

Many people deserve thanks for their active participation in the effort it takes to manage the finances of the Church. In particular, much appreciation goes to our dedicated committee members, whether elected members, volunteer members or ex officio members:

Bart Brown	Gordon Hunziker	Rebecca Mitchell (Stewardship)
Liz Brewster	Dennis Krien	Carl Rohling
Lance Cholet (Treasurer)	Pastor Jeff Mansfield	Mark Viehland
Tom Coleman	Jerry Melichar	Craig Wood
Sharon Harms (AP&P)	Dave Mitchell (Stewardship)	Linda Woodbury

Extra thanks to Bart, Craig and Dennis for the many hours they devote to our bookkeeping, accounting and reporting requirements. The following people also deserve thanks.

- John Dobbs, our Council President, who participated in as many of our meetings as he could.
- Chris Ely who offers invaluable service in handling the payroll responsibilities.
- Mary Jones for her continued support in working closely and patiently with Bart, Craig and me.
- The Sunday morning counters who handled the weekly offering under Dennis' supervision when we had in-person worship at the beginning of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Figlar
Finance Chair

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*The following reports are not provided in this online version of the Annual Report:

- Endowment Fund Assets
- Pilgrim Preschool Treasurer’s Report
- Proposed 2021 Budget
- Treasurer’s Report

