

((fp)) **First Presbyterian Church**

2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Knowing. Loving. Blessing.



*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you,
I always pray with joy...*

Philippians 1:3-4

Seventeen years ago, I preached my first sermon at First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield. I remember looking out at the congregation, seeing only a few faces I recognized (members of the Search Team and their families). What a contrast. Now, when I look out at the congregation, I see so many faces I know. Over these years, we have done life together. We have laughed and cried; experienced successes and failures; watched children grow up and friends relocate; the economy recess and expand; we have literally been through so much together. When the New Testament paints the picture of the Church, this is what it has in mind – the people of God, together, engaging in life.

Serving as your pastor, I've had the privilege of interacting with the amazing people of First Pres. What a group of talented, gracious, and faithful people you are! Your dedication to Christ, the Church, and the people of Kern County is a deep source of encouragement. When I have interacted with folks throughout our community, the common responses went something like this:

“You're the Pastor of First Pres? I know *so-and-so* who goes to your church. Did you know they donated money to this cause; they went out of their way to quietly help; they volunteer, etc....” (you get the point).

There's a reason you are having such an impact in our community. It's your intentional commitment to the purpose for us being in the heart of the city. The church's mission statement states it so clearly, First Pres is all about *inviting people into meaningful life through knowing Christ, loving one another, and blessing the world*. And that's what you are doing.

You're seeking to live into this statement both in your private life and in your life as a member of our church. It is highlighted by the volunteer hours you generously share and in the gifts you generously give. It bears witness as you invite your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to join you either on Sunday morning or at one of our events.

And now, you begin the next chapter of the First Presbyterian Church journey. This time into an exciting future. While we may be uncertain of the specific path God is going to take you on, we have confidence the Lord **will** continue to have this community of faith powerfully impact the people of Bakersfield, Kern County, and beyond.

Finally, as I sign off, there is one more thing. On behalf of Susan, Molly, Nelson, and myself, thank you for welcoming us into your homes and into your lives. You will always be in our thoughts and prayers – asking God to grant you an extra measure of his grace and love.

Your Brother in Christ,
Dr. Jeff Chandler, TE
Senior Pastor

Dear First Pres family,

It is hard to believe that my ministry time will have come to a close by the time you read this annual report. Thank you for the 12+ years of journeying in the Christian life together! You all have been such a blessing to Rhonda, our boys, and me.

Today, as has been the case many times over the last 12 years, I stood at the hospital bedside of one of our church family as he passed from this earth into God's heavenly Kingdom. The family and I prayed, cried, hugged, reminisced, prayed, and cried some more. The thing which made these moments bearable is simple. Jesus defeated death when He rose from the dead. Illness, sin, and death are not the final victors...Jesus is!

This is why we love and care for one another: to remind ourselves and others of the hope we have in Jesus – our Resurrection and Life. Congregational Life and Care at First Pres showed itself in all sorts of ways, like: sharing a meal with others, one-on-one care, friends coming alongside one another in times of trouble or crisis and celebrating a loved one's life at their memorial service. We connected through countless personal visits, phone calls, written notes, and video calls. Our First Pres Congregational Care team and Deacons have helped to provide care to those in our church who are in need and hurting. Many of you have received and extended love and care to someone, too!

While we have once again lost members and friends of First Pres this past year, we are grateful to have been able to provide care to their loved ones and families. This is especially true of the care which has come through our Deacons Ministry, guided by moderator Cathy Cummings. They organize and facilitate our memorial service receptions. This allows grieving family and friends to focus on celebrating the life of their loved one. What a blessing!

Congregational care is also extended by our Elders, Pastors, and amazing church staff. People have dropped off items such as clothing, medication, and groceries to people in need throughout the year. The Grief Share program, a 13-week course, ran in the fall of 2022 and the Winter/Spring of 2023. This class has helped many people deal with the loss of loved ones, or grief from other losses in life. Shirley Byrd and I continued to partner in leading our Grief Share ministry. It brought God's healing, comfort, direction, and peace to each participant.

Our fellowship groups, Clipper Club and Schooners, met at various times throughout the year. What a blessing it has been to enjoy fellowship opportunities together through their programs.

Friends: thank you for being the caring servants of Christ who have reached out to so many of those in need! Thank you so much for being the loving embrace of Jesus to so many. Keep it up!

As I retire as your Associate Pastor, I am so grateful to God for seeing us through all of life's ups-and-downs, as well as providing for us in every need through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. First Pres is in the best of hands.

Blessings and love,
Rev. Scott Dickson, TE
Pastor of Congregational Life

2 Thessalonians 3:16 – “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.”

I have been a member of the First Pres family for nearly nine years, and each day I count my blessings being part of such an incredible family of faith. We have weathered some storms together with heaping helpings of grace and faith, and we have shared our joy, laughter, and love together. We have learned together, grown together, and we follow Jesus together. On behalf of the discipleship team, we are proud of you First Pres.

Here is what we have been up to in my areas of responsibility:

Family Ministry

This last year we said goodbye to our faithful youth staff Steve Gold, who had served for nearly a decade in a variety of roles, most recently as Director of Student Ministries. In June he took a key leader position with one of our mission partners, Youth for Christ Bakersfield. I served as the interim youth director until a search committee could find our next director; we welcomed Preston Henry to the team in October as our new Director of Student Ministries.

Our Family Ministry Team has been hard at work creating and sustaining all our regular programming: Sunday School, Critterland, Kid U, and Youth Group. We also hosted special family events like Jingle Jam, Married People, and we are currently preparing for our next Amplify All Church Retreat to be held in September.

We tried something new this year...wanting to create more connection between our midweek attenders, we added a "Getting to Know You" time to our dinners. We have played Family Feud, Pop Culture Trivia, and Would-You-Rather in hopes of breaking down barriers and helping people feel like they belong. Like the rest of the world, our attendance is a little lighter than it used to be, but we are hoping to create a place where people of any generation or background can feel known and loved.

This world is in even greater need of the gospel, but people will not hear it unless they know we care. So, I encourage you, invite people to join you at church and find a ministry where you can serve at First Pres to share the love.

Adult Discipleship

Our adult midweek offering tried something new this year as well. We transitioned from classes into breakout groups. The format is similar to Alpha, and it utilizes a short, shared teaching time leading into discussion groups that were broken out into men, women, and couples. The discipleship team moved to this approach in hopes that people would feel more connected with one another. We are continuing to assess if this new approach is working, but it appears to be promising.

We wrapped up the New City Catechism in December and started the Year of Prayer Challenge in January. The challenge is to try out new and different ways of praying. So far, we have raised our hands, varied our volume, got creative, got moving, and had conversations. I have heard great feedback about the experience and would love to hear how it's going for you.

The team remains committed to inviting people to meaningful life through knowing Christ, loving one another, and blessing the world.

Blessings,
Rev. Dave Constance, TE
Pastor of Young Families and Adult Discipleship

CLERK'S REPORT

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church within the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest. The session for the 2022-2023 program year was composed of eighteen ruling elders who met in ten regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month to seek God's direction as they conducted the business and spiritual leadership of First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield, California. Exceptions were the second Tuesday of December and no regular meetings in July and November. In addition, called meetings were held to conduct specific business such as the reception of new members.

Reverend Dr. Jeff Chandler, TE was our Pastor and Moderator of the session throughout the year.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation was held in June 2022 in accordance with the By-Laws. An officer training class was held for newly elected elders and deacons in July. The session was organized into working committees as follows:

Standing Committees

Discipleship
Finance
Membership and Fellowship
Missions
Music and Worship
Personnel
Property & Maintenance
Trustees

Chairs

John Bair
John Stovall
Dan Cronquist
Lisa Elliott
Tracie Monroe
John McFarland
Clayton Camp
Clayton Camp



Foundation Board
Congregation Nominating Committee

Russell Bigler
Dan Cronquist

Committee membership is on the following page.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed on the first Sunday of each month. We welcomed 7 of our family into God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Well, here we go. After 17 years with Pastor Jeff as our Senior Pastor, and 12 years with Pastor Scott, God is calling both of them to new assignments. The search process has already begun for who God is calling to succeed Jeff. It's at times like these in my life that I've discovered God has me (us) right where He wants us...dependent upon Him and Him alone. Paul wrote the Philippian church about such a time as this and it works for us now, too. Philippians 4:4-7 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. I hope these words comfort you and provide some confidence about our future like they do for me. We've got work to do and it will take some sacrifice, too, but I look forward with excitement for what God plans for us in 2023, 2024, and many more years to come.

General Fund Budget and Church Statistics follow. Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as the Clerk of Session and the privilege of being a member of this family.

Blessings,

Jim Conners, RE
Clerk of Session

Session and Congregation Committees 2022-2023

Discipleship

Elders	John Bair (C), Esmeralda Tully
Congregation	Barry Lillie, Tracie Monroe, Kendra Green, Susan Worley
Staff	TE Dave Constance, [** Steve Gold (resigned), Preston Henry, Carol Scheevel]

** members without vote

Finance

Elders	John Stovall (C), Sally Herald, Jennifer Randel
Congregation	Mike Abril (Treasurer), Russ Bigler, George DeBoer, Jay Ericsson
Staff	TE Jeff Chandler, John Bilotta

Membership & Fellowship

Elders	Dan Cronquist (C), Jane Galbreath, Tyson Witcher
Congregation	Delani Bair, Boyd Binninger, Shirley Byrd, Karrie Camp, Rhonda Dickson, Heather Gold, Susan Lunsford
Staff	TE Scott Dickson

Missions

Elders	Lisa Elliott (C), Edith McCormick (resigned), John Rodgers
Congregation	Bob Green, Eliot Henderson, Beth Kuney, John McCormick (resigned), John McFarland, Jeff Smith, Shanna Treanor Fan
Staff	TE Jeff Chandler

Personnel Committee

Elders	John McFarland (C), Brian Conner
Congregation	Jim Duncan, Daryl Franks, Jana Peters
Staff	TE Jeff Chandler, John Bilotta

Property & Maintenance

Elders	Clayton Camp (C), JB Hay
Congregation	Bruce Bair, Brian Branquinho, Duane Keathley, Archie Smith
Staff	TE Jeff Chandler, John Bilotta

Worship & Music

Elders	Tracie Monroe (C), Kimberly Andresen, Kendra Green,
Congregation	Catherine Brisco, Nancy Hess, Jana Peters, Leslie Roberts
Staff	TE Jeff Chandler, Kevin Brisco, Marsha Skidmore (resigned)

Trustees

Session RE	Clayton Camp (Pres), Jennifer Randel (VP)
Bylaws Officers	Mike Abril (Treasurer), Jim Conners (Secretary)

Foundation Board

Elders	
Congregation	Erika (Ricki) Jagger, Russ Bigler, Grover Waldon, Dottie Patterson, Bob Collier
Staff	TE Jeff Chandler

Congregation Nominating Committee

Elders	Dan Cronquist (C), Jane Galbreath
Deacon	Judy Camp
Congregation	Phong Han, Megan Loveridge, Susan Lunsford, Brian Tully

General Fund Budget 2023

Fiscal Year ending December 31

	2022	2022	2023
REVENUES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
GIVING	1,505,000	1,428,390	1,475,000
INCOME	67,417	58,621	56,620
OTHER (Invest gain / loss)	1,200	4,127	13,200
PRESCHOOL	-	65	-
TRUXTUN PROPERTY	120,000	161,433	148,000
Total REVENUES	\$ 1,693,617	\$ 1,652,636	\$ 1,692,820
EXPENSES			
MISSIONS	115,000	96,329	100,000
PERSONNEL	1,098,497	1,011,322	1,107,499
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	92,817	66,698	86,500
PRESCHOOL	-	20	-
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	32,000	28,498	32,340
MEMBERSHIP	22,120	26,836	26,560
PROPERTY	280,847	288,859	272,500
FINANCE	42,282	44,600	46,188
TRUXTUN PROPERTY	67,924	77,220	75,485
Total EXPENSES	\$ 1,751,487	\$ 1,640,382	\$ 1,747,072
Net Operating Total	\$ (57,870)	\$ 12,254	\$ (54,252)

Membership Statistics

Jan 1, 2022 to Dec 31, 2022

Total Active Members December 31, 2022 402

Gains:

Profession of Faith	0
Transfer	5
Reaffirmation of Faith	11
Reactivation	1
Total Gains	17

Losses:

Transfer	1
Death	13
Moved to Inactive Roll	47
All other losses	6
Total Losses	67

Total Membership at December 31

<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
506	472	452	402

New Members Joining

(during 12 month period ending December 31)

<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
24	5	16	17

Average Attendance at Sunday Worship

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Jan.-June	373	192	229	232 In Person
July-Dec.	340	200	128	118 Online
Full Year	357	392	357	350

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

The purpose of Discipleship is to equip and support all ages in our formation as fully developed followers of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this through our dependence upon the Holy Spirit, founded on the unchanging truths of Scripture, and committed to addressing the spiritual, intellectual, physical, relational, and emotional needs of every participant in our church. In short, we exist to help others know Christ in such a way that leads to loving one another and blessing the world.

PROGRAMS/LEADERS & STAFF

Student Ministries "JHM & HSM": Preston Henry
Family Ministries: Pastor Dave Constance
College Ministry: Pastor Dave Constance

Children's Ministries "FP Kids": Carol Scheevel
Foundation Scholarships: John Bair

ANCHOR EVENTS

2022 Summer Bible Blast

2022 Summer Camp for 5th/6th graders at Forest Home

2022 Summer Camp for JH/HS at Hume Lake

2022 Harvest Festival - 1500+ attenders and 115+ volunteers. Was a great turnout for the Trunk or Treat and the games/booths

2022/23 Continued Midweek classes including Alpha, Finance, Parenting, Philippians, Exodus

2022/23 Successful small group program including:

- 14 Connect Groups
- 150 total people involved in the groups
- Three leader training classes this year
- 26 new trained people to aid with leading small groups

OTHER EVENTS

2022 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes – collected 127 boxes

2022 Jingle Jam was a major event that continued to have support across the church family

2023 Spring Break Mission Trip - HSM had a successful trip to Mexico to build a house for a family in need

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Our discipleship team continues to grow in their passion to help our church family grow in knowing Christ, loving one another, and blessing the world. This last year wrapped up our New City Catechism Challenge and began our Year of Prayer Challenge. We tinkered with our midweek format to include a getting to know you time between dinner and studies to help people make meaningful connections, and we experimented with breakout groups to encourage people to move toward connect groups. Our children, youth, and adults continue to grow in their knowledge of Christ and better reflect the reality of being the family of God.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bair, RE
Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee meets monthly to review financial statements, review and recommend funding options for non-budgeted projects, interpret financial policy when necessary, and monitor the overall financial health of the church. Additionally, the committee is responsible for reviewing the budget and presenting the budget to Session.

As the 2022 calendar year came to a close, due to the grace of God and the generosity of the congregation, the church's financial condition was positive even though there were still challenges during the year, residuals of the "Covid" pandemic. While giving totals were down \$76,610 and total revenues were down \$82,414 from the amount budgeted, expenses were down \$120,401 from budget. The reduction in total revenue and expenses was due partially to the *gradual* resumption of pre-Covid activities.

The General Fund end of year, which includes the results from the Truxtun building, was \$12,524 "in the black" which was \$70,394 better than the budget of -\$57,870.

The Finance Committee accomplished the following in 2022:

- Participated in, and worked with, the Large Gift Committee to distribute funds from large gifts by donors. Large gift bequests are allocated separately depending upon the perceived intent of the donor. Last year saw allocations of \$56,000 to the Solar Panel Buyout fund, \$12,000 for air conditioning in the Christian Education building, \$21,000 for safety improvements, \$5,000 for refurbishing the chapel door, \$7,000 for patio shade, and \$8,000 for computer replacements. Allocation of \$100,000 for general fund use was made, and \$25,000 was reserved for Missions.
- Monitored the status of application for a refund of portions of the federal payroll tax in the amount of \$173,281.
- Prepared, recommended, and received approval of the 2023 budget.

As of the close of March 2023, the financial position of the church, by the grace of God and the generosity of the congregation, has weathered the difficulties created by the multi-year Covid pandemic. Challenges still remain in that giving through the end of March is down about \$23,000 from the same period in 2022; however, we believe that the Lord, through His people, will provide adequate funding for the ministerial, outreach, and charitable programs of His church.

As we continue to monitor our financial standing, we are ever thankful for the faithful stewardship of our congregation. Without your financial support, it would not be possible to provide the care and outreach to which we are called. We take very seriously our obligation to each member and the session to ensure that each dollar is spent in a manner that supports our vision of inviting people into MEANINGFUL LIFE through KNOWING Christ, LOVING one another, and BLESSING the world.

Respectfully submitted,

John Stovall, RE
Chair

MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership and Fellowship Committee serves as a pathway for inviting members, friends, and visitors into knowing Christ, loving one another, and blessing the world. The committee is made up of Associate Pastor Scott Dickson, Elders Jane Galbreath, Tyson Witcher, and Dan Cronquist, and at-large members Rhonda Dickson, Heather Gold-Women's Ministry, Boyd Binninger-Men's Ministry, Karrie Camp-Schooners, Shirley Byrd-Clippers, Susan Lunsford, and Delani Bair.

John 15:12 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." This verse epitomizes what our committee seeks to do through food, fun, and fellowship. Here is a brief summary of our year.

- **Women's Ministry** hosted many events this year including summer events, monthly coffee socials, and participating in the "IF: Gathering" conference.
- **Men's Ministry** has continued holding a weekly Bible study and serving a monthly breakfast. They were also responsible for decorations in the sanctuary during Lent/Easter, Advent/Christmas, and Pentecost. Volunteers from the Men's Ministry also served at various church events, such as Harvest Festival and memorial services.
- Our **Schooners**, thanks to the hard work of Karrie Camp and her team, put on fun fellowship events this year that included the Boot Scootin' BBQ in October, Progressive Dinner in December, and the Pirate Treasure Heist in April.
- **Clipper Club** also put on a great event in October with an organ concert by our own Meg Wise, and met in March, as well.
- Many thanks go out to Jane Galbreath, her committee, and volunteers that made the **Father Daughter Dance** a reality in February.
- Our **welcome team**, thanks to all the hard work of Susan Lunsford and the team, have done a great job in greeting members, attendees, and visitors.
- Our **congregational care team** has continued to love on our members by dropping off written cards, making phone calls and compiling a list of our members so that we can better track member attendance.
- Lastly, we are grateful for Pastor Scott Dickson and Shirley Byrd for hosting two rounds of **Grief Share** this year. It has been a blessing to many who are experiencing loss.

Thank you for a great year and we look forward to serving with you next year. All the praise and glory be to God!

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Cronquist, RE
Chair

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee continues to support our mission partners who are dedicated to growing the Lord's Kingdom by shining the light in a dark world. Over the past year, First Pres giving has allowed us to bless the world in many ways.

Local: Our FP food pantry continues to be a shining light in the heart of downtown! Over the last year, the pantry has provided meals for over 5,000 households! Every week, volunteers (allies) spend one-on-one time with visitors to hear their prayer requests. Any prayers and praises are included on a weekly prayer list which the allies pray over during the week. Bible study series have been created specifically for the food pantry guests and more than 80 people are participating. More and more guests have started attending midweek and Sunday morning worship, and several completed the new members class and have joined FP.

National: Gleanings for the Hungry in Dinuba, CA is one of our national mission partners. In the last year, we sent an adult team of 11 to pack dried soup, and we were also able to help them purchase a much needed, new-to-them vehicle. Through funds provided by First Pres, InterVarsity staff Kelsey and Dane Schuett were able to scholarship college students to attend Urbana student missions conference – 20 students from Dane and Kelsey's chapter were able to attend. Following the conference, three of the students committed to work with mission outreach organizations in the next year!

International: In our partnership with Children to Love (CTL) we sent an inaugural adult team to MaeSot, Thailand to work with the 54 children who live in Grace Boarding House (GBH) and to minister to refugees living in "the dump". Team members also provided wellness checks on the children, both at GBH and in some areas of the community. During that trip, FP team members noticed that the covered area at GBH used for homework and worship was unstable and did not have walls. After returning, two of the team members talked with CTL about what it would take to build a new building on that site. After bids were obtained, we were able to fund a new and safe building at the Boarding House!

Hands-on opportunities and other partner support:

- Bakersfield Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Drive – First Pres raised \$6,000 for BPC!
- CTL-Grace Boarding House (MaeSot, Thailand) – we sent a team of 5 with CTL on their inaugural trip to Thailand!
- FP Food Pantry – nearly 16,000 shopping trips through our pantry!
- Gleanings for the Hungry (Dinuba, CA) – a team of 11 adults from First Pres packed over 13,000 meals of dried soup mix that missionaries will distribute to people in need around the world!
- Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes – we will bless more than 120 children with shoeboxes full of God's love and provision!
- Yugo Ministries (Ensenada, Mexico) - our high school students built a home for a family in need!

Your generous gifts to Missions allowed us to support the work of great missionaries and organizations that are acting daily as the salt and light in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Elliott, RE
Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Your Personnel Committee is comprised of two elders, three at-large church members, our Senior Pastor, and the Director of Operations. We meet monthly and serve in an advisory capacity.

Our tasks are: 1) to oversee Human Resource policies, procedures, and decisions affecting FP staff; 2) ensure compliance with state and local labor laws and regulations, referring to professionals when necessary; 3) review and approve health insurance packages and workers' compensation insurance; and 4) recommend and approve salary changes, including recommendations to Session concerning compensation packages for Pastoral and Executive staff.

The elders of the committee oversee the annual pastoral performance reviews. In fulfillment of the above, the Personnel Committee reports the following for 2022: A proposed personnel budget was submitted to the Finance Committee. To comply with California minimum wage requirements, minimum wage employees were increased to \$15.50 per hour effective 01/01/2023. No known increases in state minimum wage exist at the time of this report, however, minimum wage is under continued review by both Federal and California legislatures and as such, is subject to change. Additional merit increases were implemented for those that did not receive a minimum wage increase for calendar year 2022 and holiday bonuses were provided in December 2022.

The Lord's financial provisions were poured into the FP staff by way of the Employee Retention Tax Credit and the generous giving of our congregants. All FP staff members remained employed during the continued duration of COVID-19 challenges in its third year. FP staff continued the successful implementation of all CDC, State, and local guidelines during COVID-19, preventing work-related outbreaks.

We hired a new Director of Worship Arts, a Director of Student Ministries, an Early Childhood Coordinator and filled all Nursery open positions. One critical staff position remains open (Director of Missions) as of the date of this report. Normal attrition and hiring in non-leadership staff positions continued.

The Personnel Committee remains grateful to the Director of Operations for providing detailed information regarding personnel needs so the committee can make prayerful and informed decisions.

We truly appreciate our amazing staff who remained energized and persevered during 3-years of the COVID-19 pandemic. They not only served each of the committees that relied upon them for support, but they continued to encourage and minister to those in need that frequented FP as a beacon of hope in Downtown Bakersfield. The FP staff truly exemplifies Knowing Christ, Loving One Another, and Blessing the World.

Respectfully submitted,

John McFarland, RE
Chair

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The Property and Maintenance Committee is responsible for the maintenance and modernization of the campus grounds and vehicles, the custodial staff, as well as the safety and security of the campus occupants. The committee's charge is to be good stewards of what God has entrusted us, balanced with serving our members with guidance from Session.

The committee is responsible for preparing annual budgets for both the main campus and the Truxtun office building. We review our financial position monthly against the budget. The property expenses for 2022 were \$289k; worse than plan by \$8k and worse than last year by \$10k. The Truxtun property had a net profit of \$84k which was \$32k better than planned and \$12k better than last year. So far in 2023 through April, the two areas are a combined \$5k better than planned.

This past year we have accomplished a lot, bringing many projects to closure. They include:

- Computer replacements
- Gym floor resurfacing
- Installation of outside light timers
- Gym stage extension
- Dumpster enclosure
- Backflow preventer protection
- Steeple repair
- Shade structures on the patio
- Replaced corner sign of Truxtun building
- Installed new AC unit for 2 CE rooms

The projects for the year ahead include:

- Painting of the Sanctuary on the H street side
- CE Renovation inside
- Chancel remodel research providing information to Session
- Roof replacement on the Steeple, Choir room, and Bride's room
- AC unit(s) replacement as needed

Some items of interest:

Increased vandalism of our campus is causing us to consider measures of prevention. Even though we are across the street from the Bakersfield Police Department, we are affected regularly by acts of vandalism.

Concerning the two Chevrolet vans we own, we evaluated and noted that our usage is minimal annually and have decided to sell one and keep one for short trips and use around town.

We have a beautiful campus, and our intent is to improve and preserve it while accommodating our members and attracting new attendees to our church. We thank God for the privilege of worshipping at First Pres and want all to share a safe, effective place of worshipping our Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton Camp, RE
Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The role of the worship committee is to coordinate the various aspects of the worship ministry of First Presbyterian Church and lead and develop the congregation into an active, vital worshipping community. Those serving on the committee for the 2022-2023 program year were Pastor Jeff Chandler, Kimberly Andresen, Kendra Green, Tracie Monroe (3 Ruling Elders), Kevin Brisco II (Director of Worship Arts), Catherine Brisco, Nancy Hess, Jana Peters, and Leslie Roberts (4 At-Large Members). The Sunday Morning Welcome Team under the leadership of Jana Peters, Susan Lunsford, and Kendra Green falls under the Worship Committee as a sub-committee.

Sunday Services - First Pres has two Sunday morning services. Classic Service meets at 9am and Contemporary Service meets at 10:45am, both in the sanctuary. First Pres hired Kevin Brisco II in October of 2022 as full-time Director of Worship Arts. Both services have seen an increase in participation and development of Westminster Choir and the contemporary praise band from members of the congregation, which was a goal of hiring a single full-time director of worship arts in lieu of 2 part-time positions. The children's choir and the brass band have contributed to the music in both services on a more frequent basis. Both services are broadcast live on the FP YouTube channel.

Sermons - The guiding theme for this year's sermon series has been "Conversations." September started with Gospel Conversations in which we were encouraged to turn everyday conversations with friends and neighbors into "Gospel Conversations." October consisted of sermons around "Critical Conversations" covering the topics of politics, social justice, sexual identity, and abortion. Round table discussions with Pastor Jeff and elders following each of these sermons were well-attended. We finished the fall season with sermons on Generosity and the Advent series called "Colors of Christmas." In January we presented a sermon series on "The Lord's Prayer", followed by "Touched by Jesus" during Lent, and the book of James following Easter.

Special Events - The worship committee presented three services for Christmas Eve at 4pm, 6pm, and 9pm. The 4pm service was live-streamed. The Children's choir sang at the 4pm service under the direction of Esther Lee and Judy Camp, the praise band led worship at 4pm and 6pm, and the choir led worship at 9pm. Night of Renewal was held in January with the theme "The Will of God." Special worship was provided by Kevin Brisco II, Marsha Skidmore, and the praise band. Pastor Dave led the congregation in creating an art project reflecting on God's Word. The worship committee coordinated a Prayer Vigil for Good Friday/Holy Saturday during Holy Week, with a prayer guide written by Pastor Jeff.

The Worship Committee continually seeks new opportunities to engage the congregation in deep and meaningful worship as we seek to Know Christ, Love One Another, and Bless the World.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracie Monroe, RE
Chair

BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacons are entrusted to be the hands and feet of the First Presbyterian family. As such, your deacons come from various backgrounds, lengths of service, and life experiences which help us to serve the unique needs of our FP family.

The Board of Deacons currently consists of 33 individuals who meet monthly. Each member serves a 3-year term and participates in one of three subcommittees. The officers for the 2022-2023 term are Cathy Cummings, Moderator; Jana Peters, Vice-Moderator; Matt Andresen, Treasurer; and Heather Gold, Secretary.

Ministry to Congregation, chaired by Kevin Beer, manages the welcome center, making sure that it is staffed on Sunday mornings for first and second service and break time in between. They also prep communion for both services, as well as the communion kits that are delivered to those who are homebound. The delivery service was discontinued during Covid but will start up again soon. At this point I would like to commend Kevin and Sandie Beer for their tireless work regarding the Communion service - they have trained and organized the setup for several years now and will be passing the torch to David & My Le Diosi starting next year. This committee also facilitates the Maundy Thursday Agape Supper. In the past, the FP blood drive in conjunction with Houchin Blood Bank was organized by this committee but due to rules changed by Houchin we will no longer have blood drives on campus. In future if you are donating blood, you can reference First Presbyterian Church and it will be credited to our church.

Ministry to Families, chaired by Judy Camp, manages Meals to Bless, financial aid, gift cards, and coordinating celebration of life service receptions. This ministry is privileged to help the members of our congregation in times of need. If a congregant is in need they can speak with any member of the deacons or church staff; this confidential information will be passed on to the members of the committee for consideration.

Ministry to Individuals, chaired by Katie Irwin, coordinates outreach to homebound, correspondence, flower dedications, ministry to college students, hospital waiting room bags, and hosting the Christmas Eve refreshments for the worship team at each service. Homebound refers to members of our church who are unable to attend in person services. Currently Pastor Scott has handled much of this on his own. In future, with his retirement, it will be shared by all three committees. Correspondence responds to the yellow card praise and prayer requests that are submitted each week, ministry to college students sends greeting cards with a \$15.00 Starbucks gift card to the students each quarter.

The beginning balance in the deacons account as of April 31, 2022, was \$61,350.45 and the ending balance as of April 31, 2023, is \$51,463.37. The income is derived from church offerings and family donations. Expenses went to financial aid, celebration of life receptions, communion, correspondence supplies, gift cards, and flowers for special events.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cummings
Moderator

BAKERSFIELD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

The specific objective of the Foundation is to provide a vehicle through which gifts, donations, contributions, and bequests can be received for support of specific and general goals of the First Presbyterian Church Bakersfield, California as they relate to missions, capital improvements to the church facilities, scholarships, and pastoral education. These distributions are determined, authorized, and made by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

The board members each serve a term of five years with a replacement of one board member each year. The current board members are Ricki Jagger, Russ Bigler, Grover Waldon, Dottie Patterson, and Bob Collier. Members of the Board are nominated by the Board of the Foundation, affirmed by the Finance Committee of Session, and approved by the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Bakersfield.

Since March 1, 2019, investments have been managed by Mestmaker & Petry. Proceeds from investments are distributed for scholarships, capital improvements, pastoral training scholarships, mission projects, and Foundation Corpus. This year \$22,000 was distributed for scholarships and spiritual formation to the First Presbyterian Church. Note: It is a policy of the Foundation not to use Foundation Corpus Funds, only the proceeds; however, if special needs occur, then limited corpus funds may be used upon approval by the Board.

The Foundation provides scholarship funds to the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee reviews applications for the scholarships and determines the scholarship amount awarded to each individual. The Foundation has no participation in the individual amounts of the scholarships or the selection of the recipients.

Since 1996, the Foundation has distributed \$465,719 for Capital Improvements, \$134,361 for Missions, \$351,000 for Scholarships, and \$29,985 for Pastoral Training Scholarships, for a total distributed amount of \$981,065. The total value of the Foundation's assets as of 12/31/22 was \$1,089,656 with designated uses for:

-Ministries:

- Pastoral & Spiritual Training \$171,145
- Special Needs Ministries \$106,667
- Capital Improvements \$155,716
- Scholarships \$439,539
- Undesignated \$216,589

Foundation President for the term July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, is Russell Bigler.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Bigler
President