



ARDMORE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*“Transforming Lives Through the
Good News of Jesus Christ”*

ANNUAL REPORT – 2024
Annual Congregational Meeting
February 16, 2025

SESSION

Class of 2025

Pat Corl
Barry Jeffries
Frank Miller
Ben Yurchak

Class of 2026

Shirley Fishburne
Randy Lawlace
Gary Lovett
Kathy Toal

Class of 2027

Holly Frank
Elizabeth Luff
Donald Poorman
Jim Rowe

Donald Poorman, *Clerk of Session*

DIACONATE

Class of 2025

Stephanie McGrory,
Moderator
Jim Coath
Viola Terweisch

Class of 2026

Kofi Owusu
Barb Wood
Barbara McNutt

Class of 2027

Alice Miller
Anne Warner

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

Gary Lovett, *President*
Barry Jeffries, *Vice President*
Randy Lawlace, *Treasurer*
Don Poorman, *Secretary*

ARDMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Jason Grimes, *Senior Pastor*

Gary Garletts, *Director of Music/Organist*

Rev. Graham Robinson, *Parish Associate*

Irena Reynolds, *Director, Weekday Preschool*

Emily Polhamus, *Director of Administration and Communications*

Kristy Cobb, *Finance Manager*

Bill Waters, *Facilities Manager*

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Ardmore Presbyterian Church
(The First Presbyterian Church of Ardmore, PA)
Annual Congregational Meeting
February 16, 2025

Agenda

1. Call to Order (Rev. Jason Grimes, *Moderator*)
2. Appointment of the Secretary (Donald Poorman, *Clerk of Session*)
3. Business of the Congregation:
 - a. Receipt of the Annual Report
 - b. Presentation of the Annual Budget
 - c. Approval of the Pastor's Terms of Call
4. Recess to Conduct the Meeting of the Corporation
5. Business of the Corporation:
 - a. Election of Elders to Serve as Trustees of the Corporation
 - b. Approval of Amendments to the Corporate By-Laws
6. Resumption of the Congregational Meeting
7. Close of Congregational Meeting

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARDMORE, PA
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation (Part II)
Sunday, February 25, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation (Part II) of The First Presbyterian Church of Ardmore, Pennsylvania, was held on Sunday, February 25, 2024 in the Sanctuary following the worship service.

The Moderator, The Reverend Jason Grimes, having determined that a quorum was present, constituted the meeting with prayer at 11:40 a.m.

Don Poorman was appointed Clerk of the Congregational Meeting by common consent.

The Moderator read the names of those members who passed to the Church Triumphant in 2023:

Church Members

Sandra Foote
 Betty Campbell

Friends of the Church

Leslie Coath
 Margaretta Walton
 John Wilkinson
 Oscar Nofer

The Moderator invited Chip Cobb, Chair of the Session Finance Committee, to present the 2024 Operating Budget. Elder Cobb summarized the budget which had been approved by Session. Elder Cobb noted that with projected revenue from offerings at \$390,388 and total expenses at \$765,863, the budget is relying upon \$309,473 in Ardpres investment income. He encouraged the congregation to consider new ways of increasing donations in order to reduce reliance on our endowment.

Upon motion duly made, seconded as passed, the congregation received the Operating Budget together with the 2024 Annual Report.

The Moderator invited Jody Brumbach, outgoing Chair of the Session Personnel Committee, to present the Pastor’s Terms of Call as recommended by Session. Pastor Jason commented that, at his request, the Terms included a \$3,000 reduction in cash salary. He stated that he believed his salary to be sufficient and that he wanted to lead by example in responsible use of church resources. The Pastor then left the meeting to allow further discussion and vote by the congregation.

Elder Brumbach presented the Terms of Call as follows:

Effective Salary (cash salary, housing and utilities)	\$109,200
Cash Salary	\$64,000
Manse Value	\$26,000 housing \$4700 utilities
Manse Equity	\$11,500
Other (529 Plan)	\$3,000
FICA Offset -SECA Supplement (7.65% of ES)	\$8,354
FT Pension & Med 39% of ES	\$42,588
Vacation	4 weeks
Study Leave	2 weeks
Expense Allocation	\$4000
Study Leave Allowance	\$2000
TOTAL	\$166,142

Elder Brumbach moved that the Terms of Call be approved by the congregation. The Clerk allowed for discussion and called for the vote.

Upon motion duly made, seconded as passed, the congregation approved the Terms of Call of Pastor Jason Grimes as set forth above.

The Pastor returned to the meeting and resumed his role as Moderator.

There being no further business to come before the Congregational Meeting, **it was moved, seconded and passed that the meeting adjourn.** The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Donald H. Poorman
Clerk of Session

Jason Grimes
Moderator

LIFE OF THE CHURCH 2024

Baptisms

Finn McComiskie
Teddy Stabert
Henry Waters
Peter Solt
Nina Felix

New Members

Whitney Drukier
Janice and Nolan Felix
Tina Soumahoro

Weddings

Julia Wilkinson and James Sotack

To the Church Triumphant

Barbara Hibbs
Grenville Foote
William McIntyre
Elizabeth Campbell

Pastor's Report 2024

If I had to characterize 2024 at Ardmore Presbyterian Church, I would say it was the year of hospitality. The author of Hebrews writes, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it."

We started the year by welcoming the Presbytery of Philadelphia for its winter meeting in January. Ministers and elders from our region came to our church and worshipped, carried out the business of presbytery, and were fed lasagna. This was a mammoth operation, and through God's good grace, the saints of APC came together, worked hard, and made the day a success.

Then, we welcomed Rev. Carolyn Cavaness and Bethel A.M.E. Church to use our board room and spare office while their congregation underwent an extensive renovation. It was fun having "The Rev." in the building sharing our office. Just when Pastor Carolyn and I were beginning to have conversations about our congregations participating in joint missions, she was appointed as senior pastor of Mother Bethel A.M.E Church in Philadelphia. We were saddened by Pastor Carolyn's departure from our building and community but were overjoyed by her new call.

We were going to welcome St. Paul's Lutheran Church and our community to our sanctuary on November 3, but our dear, sweet boiler had other plans. Well, at least our hearts were in the right place.

Throughout December, we hosted Lower Merion's Code Blue Shelter as we welcomed unhoused men into the Mill Creek Room on freezing nights. Twenty-one folks from APC volunteered for fifty-nine overnight shifts and six volunteers laundered linens each day the shelter was open. I am grateful for all the volunteers who engaged our guests in conversation, provided a warm cot for folks to sleep in, and sent them off with a warm breakfast sandwich and cup of coffee. Although December was a tough month to host such a ministry, we leaned into Jesus' incarnational ministry.

While Sherina Poorman's new Art Cupboard ministry did not begin with the Ardmore Food Pantry until January 2025, the groundwork was laid throughout 2024. The food pantry guests arrive at our campus on Wednesday mornings to learn new skills as they make frames (including cutting glass) for their artwork. Sherina will teach new ways of doing art throughout 2025. I am grateful for the way the Holy Spirit works in the lives of our members to create a fresh vision for welcoming people into our doors.

Hospitality is difficult. Peter recognized this when he wrote, "Be hospitable to one another without complaining." I'm sure he wrote this because Jesus showed us hospitality in his kingdom through his death and resurrection. Hospitality can be so difficult that I may have grumbled or complained once or twice throughout the year! Empowered by the Holy Spirit, and led by Christ, we learned that we can do hard things together at APC. I consider it pure joy to do hard and fulfilling ministry with you.

Grace and Peace,
Jason

APC Annual Report (2024) – Director of Music

Highlights of APC's Music Ministry during 2024 included:

- Lenten Midweek Services and Holy Week Services
- Easter Festival Service (with brass quintet)
- Spring Choral Festival Service (all choirs, various instruments)
- Summer Worship Services with last-Sunday hymn-sing preludes
- Commissioned Anthem, Phillips' *God Has Told Us What Is Good*
- Reformation Service with bagpipes and 26th-annual three-choir anthem
- All Saints Choral Festival (St. Paul's & APC Choirs and Orchestra), Forrest's *Requiem*
- APC Christmas Party (formerly Advent Family Night) with Youth, Children, Cherub Choirs
- Chancel Choir Cantata, Mollicone's *A Christmas Celebration* (flute, percussion, organ)
- Christmas Eve Family Service and Lessons and Carols Service
- Providing rehearsal-concert space for community (Coro da Capo, DCYO, private studios)

Chancel Choir (adults) sang at most Sunday services during the program year (Jan.-June & Sep.-Dec.). Notable were Easter anthems with brass, Spring Choral Festival, annual Reformation three-choir anthem, All Saints Choral Festival with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Christmas cantata with instruments, and Christmas Eve services. Our gratitude continues for the kind, steady leadership of staff singers Kaitlyn Waterson, Courtney Capriotti, Jim Longacre, and Tom Sitzler.

Handbell Choir (adults) played periodically in worship, including the Spring Festival. Membership has remained steady, with Maggie Reif going on leave and Richard Ehelebe joining.

Youth Choir and Youth Ringers (grades 6-12). In Fall 2023 **Youth Choir** resumed weekly rehearsals, maintained during 2024. They sang at Spring Choral Festival, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Choral Festival, Christmas Party, Christmas Eve, and a few other services. Members were Abby, Adam, Annie, Lena, and Peter; Holly Vicki assisted. **Youth Ringers** were inactive during 2024.

Children's Choir (grades 2-5) sang periodically in worship. Notable were the Spring Choral Festival, Reformation Sunday, Halloween parade and program, All Saints Choral Festival, Christmas Party, and Christmas Eve. In the spring 5th-graders Abby and Harper graduated. In the fall we added 3rd-grader Daphne, and 2nd-graders Gee and Manu. Shirley Fishburne, Elaine Giese, and Holly Vicki assisted.

Cherub Choir (grades pre-K-1), led by Carol Shih (15th year), sang in both festivals and a few services. Assisting were Tina Soumahoro & Lindsey Vogel (spring), and ChanMi Pyles & Ayaka Sakamoto (fall).

Women's and Men's Choruses sang semi-annually in worship. **Summer Soloists** included APC staff singers and guests (Rachael Long, Natalie McQuiston, Amanda Pfannenstiel, and Zachary Angus).

Instrumentalists for Worship included Shirley Fishburne and Ross Ellison (organ), Brass Quintet (Kasey MacAdams et al.), Carolyn Giardini and Becki Simon (flute), David Brown (violin), Heather Lardin (viola da gamba), Ross Beauchamp (cello), Kyle Johnson (bagpipes), and Rebecca Romussi and William Wozniak (percussion). The All Saints Choral Festival featured a chamber orchestra of violin, cello, flute, oboe, horn, harp, timpani, and organ coordinated by Elizabeth Mendoza.

My 25th Anniversary at APC (July 1, observed Sep. 29). Please know how profoundly grateful I am to all who oversaw the commissioned anthem (Shirley Fishburne and committee) and celebratory reception (Pat Corl and committee); this was truly a great honor and a complete surprise! Many, many thanks!

Respectfully submitted,
Gary P. Garletts

Preschool (APWPS) Annual Report 2024

The weekday Preschool is in its **76th** year and continues its emphasis on Christian love woven, into a traditional preschool curriculum. The preschool is the oldest Church supported preschool in the State of Pennsylvania.

STAFF:

Director—Irena Reynolds (Interim Director June-December 2024). Voted Director December 2024

Preschool Staff:

PreK—**Joanne Siciliano (3-years)**

PreK—**Laura Rossio (19-years)**

Discovery—**Danka Rauer (10-years)** and **Maggie DelGaone (first year)**

Discovery— **Karen Tolbert (8-years) until January 1,2025**

Toddler—**Sadie Clifford (2 year)** and **Irena Reynolds (7-years)**

Enrollment 42 students. It is our second year the preschool served the community by offering a 5 day 3-year-old class, called Discovery+ and four versus three-day option to stay until 2pn, (extended day).

FINANCIAL: Diligence of purchases, fundraising from the Parent Group and creativity among the staff allowed us to maintain our budget. The preschool was charged with paying for cleaning of the education wing, concentrating on the heavily used bathrooms and hallways. This was an additional expense of approximately 24K.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE: Monthly meetings are held to support the preschool and its director.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF AND ACTIVITIES:

Music—Elizabet Luff, Church member and founder of moving studios serves as the Music Teacher. She offers half-hour weekly music/movement classes are offered for Discovery Classes and Pre-K Class students.

Soccer- Program are offered in Fall and in Spring for an additional fee. This program is added onto extended day.

Enrichment- Programs Fall and Spring- 10-week sessions are offered to PreK students Fridays from 12-2, -Includes STEM, Drama, Art, Cooking, Science and Music rotating weekly.

Community Helpers: Pastor Jason Grimes offered weekly Bible lessons to the PreK and Discovery classes. The Fire Company and Police Department make safety presentations. Local

Dentist visits the classes. We have Montgomery County Association for Blind and Riverbend coming in Spring of 2025.

Field Trips: Sugartown Strawberry Farm (Pumpkin farm). 28th year of going to the farm.

Special Events: Pumpkin Patch; Halloween Parades; All School Gingerbread Bake; Thanksgiving Program; Christmas Nativity Play, Spring/Easter Program, Graduation. Planting flowers in the garden, caterpillar to butterfly ending with butterfly release.

Fundraising Activities: PJ Whelihan's Parent Social Fundraiser was well attended by the church and preschool families. Cards for cause fundraiser were held and well received. Preschool also hosted our annual art fundraiser that was very successful.

Photo Shoots for families on Grandparents'/Special day. Virtual Bingo, Family Fun Day Basket raffle. Provides funds for larger purchases in the classroom: This year we were able to purchase a new train for our playground as well as provide field trips and special events. Additionally, we use these funds to purchase refreshments for parent run activities, pay for special programs listed above and contribute to prizes for Virtual Bingo.

Mission Outreach: MLK projects: Both the discovery and PreK classes collected food to provide to our partner the Ardmore Food Pantry. Breakfast bags along with sweet notes were made by the PreK classes. Nonperishable food collection was held at our Thanksgiving program to support Ardmore Food Pantry.

Parent Support: Parent Teacher Conferences; Parents' back to school information session followed by a parent social: School Photographs; Parent Handbook. Camp three-week option to extend the school year. Enrichment class for the PreK students.

Parent Group Activities: Planning various fundraisers, Playground meet and greets, garden activities. Established to support the preschool financially and build community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Irena Reynolds, Director

Communications and Administration Report 2024

Administration Highlights

In 2024, we made several small but impactful upgrades to our technology and administration processes. Technology hardware updates included a new Verizon phone system, upgraded computers for 3 staff, and ethernet hardwiring in the final upstairs rooms.

With the help of our new Finance Manager, Kristy Cobb, we researched and ultimately purchased a new church database called Church Trac. Church Trac replaces an outdated database system and will manage both our donation tracking and member records.

Communications

In 2024 we ran 3 small social media advertising campaigns. Two of these were ads promoting our Easter and Christmas worship services to local audiences. Both were successful, reaching approximately 10,000 people each. The last was launched in the spring, as a final enrollment push for the 2024-25 Ardmore Presbyterian Weekday Preschool school year, which reached a little more than 16,000 people.

In the fall, we embarked on our largest marketing campaign yet, to promote 2025-26 enrollment for Ardmore Presbyterian Weekday Preschool. This campaign included a custom postcard promoting APWPS mailed to approximately 4,300 local families with children ages 2 - 3 years old. This campaign also included a coordinating digital component. The same audiences were targeted on Facebook and Instagram ads which matched the look and style of the postcard. This ad was viewed by 84,576 people.

At the end of 2024, I had a great review and conversation regarding my work here at APC and am grateful to Session for approving my new title which I believe better reflects the scope of my responsibilities.

I continue to find this job the most fulfilling of my life. Supporting the staff, operations, ministries, and most importantly the people of APC, brings me joy every day.

I look forward to exciting new opportunities to serve God and one another in the year ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Polhamus

Director of Administration and Communications.

Building Manage/Sexton – Annual Report 2025

This has been quite a year for the facilities here at Ardmore Presbyterian Church. We have been able to make some great improvements and opened our doors to new friends. Some of the things accomplished this year are:

- The Baptismal Font has been moved from the chancel to the Montgomery Avenue side of the Sanctuary which has allowed for the organ to be tucked back a bit which makes for a cleaner look of the whole chancel area.
- Repointing of the Sanctuary masonry has been done in order to stop the leaks in the room.
- Two new air conditioning units have been installed in the back of the Sanctuary and a contract has been signed for an additional two units to be installed in the front of the Sanctuary which will double to cooling capacity than what was previously installed.
- The Sanctuary door has been stripped, sanded, and refinished.
- Because of an anonymous donation, we installed outdoor lighting around the Sanctuary which has greatly enhanced the beauty of the building.
- Under the guidance of Abby Grimes, the nursery has been reorganized and painted to bring new life back to the room while removing outdated toys.
- The Board room was cleared out and repainted. This room has been able to help our neighbors at Bethel AME Church as storage room while their facility is getting a major overhaul.
- We have been able to work with a new HVAC team to take care of some of the issues in the building. Since we have brought them on board, we have stopped the preschool from overheating and the Sanctuary from never getting warm enough. We have also had to replace several circulator pumps throughout the building to solve some of those issues.
- In preparation for the preschool starting again this autumn, we did patching of walls, installed a new toilet, painted areas, and built a good relationship with teachers.
- The Manse porch roof has been completely redone.
- APC has moved lawn mowing in house by purchasing a new ride-on mower in order to save money.
- We changed waste disposal services to Mascaro, allowing us to do more recycling rather than just adding to a landfill.
- A new fence has been installed between the manse and the parking lot which helps keep the children corralled for their safety.

As I am coming up on completing my second year here at Ardmore Presbyterian Church, I would like to say that I greatly enjoy working here and I hope the members of the church are pleased with me also. 2025 is gearing up to be another interesting year and I'm looking forward to working on the next big projects.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Waters

Children's Ministry Coordinator – Annual Report 2024

I continued my service as Children's Ministry Coordinator before offering my resignation effective July 31, 2024, in order to return to school in the Fall of 2024. I am grateful for my time at APC and the opportunity to work with the children as they grow in faith and fellowship. I believe it is a privilege to be trusted with a child's education, especially their spiritual education. I am constantly struck by the depth of faith in the older and younger children at APC, and how their insights offered me new perspectives on familiar stories.

Vacation Bible School: I selected the curriculum "Camp Firelight" and worked with station leaders on adapting it to their interests (crafts, science, Bible). 69 children attended, with an average daily attendance of 63 children (up from an average of 54 children/day in 2023). We were assisted during the week by 18 adult volunteers, 18 youth volunteers, and 6 staff members, and during set-up by an addition 6 adult volunteers. We raised \$100 and 77 lb. of food for the Ardmore Food Pantry. With the increased attendance, a logistical challenge for 2025 will be reconfiguring the current structure to accommodate 6 groups instead of only 5 groups, which will require more volunteers.

Middle School Youth Group: We continued the new youth group in the spring, adapting the Matthew 25 congregation liturgy materials as a syllabus. Attendance dropped in the late spring, but was consistent with approximately 5 attendees. After making handmade cards to distribute with Christmas poinsettias, the youth group continued the practice and made cards for the deacons to distribute along with easter lilies. We ended the year with a picnic, inviting parents and volunteers. All of the end-of-year youth group attendees volunteered at VBS.

Children's Church: We had consistent attendance, usually around 5-8 children, with peaks on days that the Cherub Choir or Children's Choir performed. Finding new volunteers continues to present a challenge, though I was able to get assistance from some parents of regular attendees. In my last month at APC, I prepared Children's Church kits for August and was able to find volunteers for September.

Children in Worship: I prepared backpack tags in anticipation of a second Blessing of the Backpacks on September 8. During the Spring, I kept the Children's Church stocked with coloring sheets and switched out the books to align with holidays. I continued to print copies of the Children's Bulletins and give them to families with children. We also invited the children back up to the sanctuary for special Sundays, such as welcoming new members and celebrating baptisms.

Children's Library: I continued to maintain the children's library, whose catalog can be found here: <https://www.libib.com/u/apclibrary>. A future goal is to find a better avenue to connect the children in the APC community with the books beyond swapping them out with the holidays. Wednesday PLUS would most likely be the best venue.

Transition: At the time of my resignation, I prepared materials for the Christian Education Committee detailing my ongoing projects and what gaps currently exist until a replacement for my position is found. The most-challenging aspects are administrative and making sure that programs (Children's Church, Youth Group) have volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Reif

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Report 2024

The Building and Grounds Committee oversees the ongoing maintenance of our church building, Parish House, and property. It also makes long range plans for major improvements and renovations. We have historically been assisted by the Shine-Up Saturday volunteers who in prior years did repair projects, so that outside vendors do not need to be hired.

Committee and Management

Bill Waters has been the Building Manager since early 2023 and continues to address a long list of improvements, fixes, and projects. Committee Membership in 2024 included the following people. We greatly appreciate their time, dedication, and guidance. This has been steadily shrinking over time and we could use new volunteers.

- Elaine Giese, Jim Rowe, Jason Grimes, Carol Fritz, Bill Waters (as Building Manager), and Ben Yurchak (Moderator)

Significant Initiatives in 2024

Projects

1. Replaced the rear AC Sanctuary units. The new ones have twice the capacity as the prior units (10 tons vs ~5 previously). Before this replacement, the total capacity for the Sanctuary was 10 tons.
 - a. Unfortunately, the front units failed this summer. They will be replaced in March 2025 with units totaling an additional 10 tons of capacity.
 - b. The net capacity of all the units will be 20 tons, twice what we previously had. In 2025, the Sanctuary should be reasonably cool even on hot days.
2. New Landscape Lighting of the front of the Church, thanks to an anonymous donor (\$10,000 donation). It looks beautiful
3. Repairs: many repairs, such as pump replacements, toilet repair, lighting replacements, painting, Manse porch roof, stone repointing (church and both Manse chimneys), new fence and fence repair, etc.
4. Landscaping and Lawn Mowing: we have gone from fully outsourcing this to a significant portion DIY.

Initiatives in 2025 and beyond

1. 2025
 - a. Heating system – New Boiler. Two boilers are the primary source of heat for the building. (They were installed in the 1980s).
 - i. Both are near the end of their service life, which means they will need more repairs as they continue to run. The biggest issue is that parts can be difficult to find which delays repairs.
 - ii. Actions planned for 2025:
 1. Add a new, high efficiency boiler. This will be the primary boiler used for most normal heating loads.
 2. Retain one of the existing boilers and continue to use it. Remove the other and use it for spare parts for the unit we retained.
 - a. Multiple HVAC companies said that this approach is cost effective.
 - b. This existing boiler will run when there are high heating loads that cannot be handled by the new boiler.
 - b. Front Sanctuary AC Units - Replacement
 - i. Replace in March 2025 as described above.
 - c. Mill Creek Room Kitchen: we plan to overhaul the kitchen. This includes some DIY to save on cost. Full redo with standard materials to save on cost.
 - d. Snow Removal: turn this into a mostly DIY operation

- i. Snow removal is high cost per hour of work (due to high demand in a short period of time. Cost has exploded since Covid – about 2-3X higher than before). B&G has approved a large snowblower.
- 2. Top future initiatives, expected in the next five years:
 - a. Replace low sloped roof (this is what is causing the leak in the elevator area)
 - b. Overhaul Chapel Roof
 - i. The slate chapel roof is over 100 years old. It needs major work as identified by our roofing expert consultant (Jeff Levine from WJE). Cost is likely to be \$500,000+

We invite anyone in the church family with an interest in our building and grounds to join us on the committee. The Building and Grounds Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Yurchak, Moderator

Christian Education Committee Annual Report for 2023

Our Mission: By the grace of God the Christian Education committee strives to equip members of Ardmore Presbyterian Church as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ by providing excellent educational opportunities for all. Affirming the central role of Scriptures, we encourage the strengthening of our faith, our growing together as a community of believers, and our bearing witness to the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.

Members: Cathie Calkins, Dan DelDuca, Laura Goetsch, Don Poorman, Cathy Stewart, and Kathy Toal.

Staff: Pastor Jason Grimes and Maggie Reif

We thank Don Poorman for chairing the committee these past several years, as well as for his willingness to stay as a member. Kathy Toal now chairs the committee.

The committee lost Maggie Reif as our Christian Education staff support as Maggie left in August to pursue a law degree. We were blessed to have her as support for Christian Education for a year and a half. We intend to hire a new Children's Ministry Coordinator in 2025. This role oversees Sunday School, Youth Groups, and Vacation Bible School. For the new coordinator we hope to find someone interested in a full-time position that has responsibilities in both the Preschool and Christian Education.

The Christian Education Committee has contributed to or had oversight for the following ministries:

- Children's Sunday School (Kindergarten through 8th grade) – Throughout the year, from January - December, the children attended worship with their parents through the Children's Message and then adjourned to meet with volunteer teachers in the Mill Creek Room for their own Children's Church, where they focused each week on a bible story, a related craft and child-friendly worship, including learning child-friendly hymns and scriptures. On communion Sundays, the children stayed in the sanctuary with their parents to participate in the communion liturgy. A monthly Children's Bulletin was provided to help guide children in the worship service. Maggie Reif organized the scheduling of teaching volunteers until August and Laura Goetsch volunteered to coordinate Children's Sunday school after Maggie left. On Homecoming Sunday in September, there was a "Blessing of the Backpacks" during worship.
- An Easter egg hunt was held on March 30th. Along with the Sunday school children, children from Wednesday Plus and Preschool were invited to participate. It was very well attended.
- "Wednesday Plus" meets on Wednesday evenings for music and education. "Cherub Choir" is offered from age 3 to 1st grade and is led by Carol Shih. "Children's Choir" is offered from 2nd to 5th grade and is led to Gary Garletts. We are blessed to have Sherina Poorman, Anne Foote and Viola Terwiesch lead the older children in the non-music portion, which usually involves hearing and discussing a bible story with a craft connected to the story. Wednesday Plus is one of our most successful programs. Wed Plus has had an increase in attendance, with more than 30 children participating, 15 of those in regular attendance. Sherina led a 2-week session on working in the fall. We are blessed that she shares her skills with our children.
- Middle School Youth Group – Under the leadership of Maggie Reif, this group began meeting on an every-other-week basis until summer break. During the first half of the year, the youth group made up snack bags and distributed them to the Welcome Church. The youth also made-up cards to be delivered to homebound members by the deacons. When the Youth group resumed after summer break, we were blessed that Dan Delduca and Dilshani Grimes volunteered to take over this ministry. The group meets monthly on a Sunday

from 5 to 7 pm. The meetings are activity based. One popular activity was a trip to the Riverbend Environmental Education Center. The response has been good with up to 10 students in attendance.

- Vacation Bible School - VBS for years has been a popular week-long program (preschoolers through 5th grade, including Middle and Senior High students as volunteer leaders) that is offered annually in June. The theme this year was "Camp Firelight" and it was held June 17th – the 22nd. Maggie Reif led the week with the help of 35 volunteer youth and adult leaders. 66 children were in attendance from the church, preschool and local community. A "thank you" campfire with smores was held afterwards to thank the volunteers.
- Children's Library – the library for our children is located on the second floor of the CE wing, near the Parlor. Maggie Reif organized the collection and updated it with new books. The book catalogue has been digitalized and is accessible at <https://www.libib.com/u/apclibrary>. Plans are to have open library hours and weekly story hours that meet the needs of the children in the congregation, Wednesday Plus, and preschool. We invite our children to visit the library at any time.
- Adult Sunday School Class (9:00 am) — This Group met in person in the Mill Creek Room with Zoom available on request. This year, the group studied (1) Biblical Monsters with Schaunel leading (2) Tim Keller's book Encounters with Jesus which was recommended to the congregation for Eastertide. (3) the Book of Acts was studied along with the book "Acts for Everyone" by N.T. Wright.
- After-Church events - For Lent, the committee made 30 copies of Tim Keller's book "Encounters with Jesus" available to church members and held an after-church luncheon and book discussion led by Pastor Jason. After-Church events for Christmas time, the committee selected "A Charlie Brown Christmas" as our Christmas movie to be scheduled on December 1st and to include a pizza lunch and popcorn. Don introduced the movie with information about how the movie came to be and what Christian lessons we can take away from the themes. This event was our second and was well attended with about 35 adults.
- Adult Small Groups involved in Christian Education Ministry in 2023 included Weekly meditative walks at Stoneleigh, weather permitting; and the Thursday Noon Bible Study, led by Elaine Giese.
- Weekday Preschool - under the direction of Michele Butera and later Irena Reynolds continued to be an important part of our church's mission and outreach to other Christians. Pastor Jason meets with the children once a week. Preschool children make up significant portions of the Wednesday Plus and Advent Family Night and VBS participants. (See the Preschool Annual report.)
- APC Christmas Party on December 8th from 3-5:00- in Fellowship Hall, where CEC coordinated a craft table that involved making Christmas ornaments. Members from CEC assisted the children in making the ornaments. CEC also contributed sweet snacks. The event was well attended and included preschool families.
- Criminal background checks – on file for all volunteer teaching staff, including VBS staff, as well as preschool teachers and preschool staff as part of APC's continuing program for protection of children and youth under our care. Laura Goetsch worked with Emily to update all records and ensure all volunteers working with children had the proper paperwork.

Going forward, we invite anyone with an interest in Christian Education for children, youth, or adults or intergenerational families to join our committee or to work on a task force for an individual educational project. The CE Committee meets at 7 PM every first Wednesday of the month. The Task forces meet as needed.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Toal, Chair for the Christian Education Committee

FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The mission of the Fellowship & Outreach Committee is to offer hospitality, friendship and connection among members of the Church and community.

We continue to look for ways in which we can be supportive of our members, giving them fellowship time in which to get to know each other better, while we also familiarize those new to our congregation. Communication promotes companionship as we all share our lives and love of following Christ.

You are invited to join us! We meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Our current members are Jane Boyle, Jody Brumbach, Jim Coath, Pat Corl, Holly Frank, Carol Fritz, Dilshani Grimes, Alice Miller, Sally Moore, Catherine Schreiner, Barbara Wood.

This past year found us focused on the following:

Lemonade on the Lawn in the warm months is Lemonade and Coffee in the Narthex in the cooler months after Sunday service. We encourage APC members to volunteer as hosts. The Committee supplies drinks and snacks. Volunteers set up and host the table. This is a choice opportunity to meet new attendees and to get to know each other better.

We staffed and assisted in coordinating two funeral receptions as the members' families requested.

Homecoming Sunday was quite popular in the Fall. F&O provided hoagies and drinks while members of the congregation brought a lovely plethora of desserts!

The annual greening of the Church was a fun morning at the beginning of Advent. Members of the congregation were invited to join the committee as we had the joy of decorating our Church Home for Christmas. And then, of course, we did the reverse after Epiphany.

F&O also participated in our Advent Family Party. Old fashioned wassail was made and served by our very own Dennis Wood to accompany the snacks.

Cooking and serving Easter Sunday breakfast for our congregation is a tradition.

The Committee facilitated and served a special reception for the 25th anniversary of our Organist and Choir Director.

Our mission project was to create a Welcome Home kit for a member of the Welcome Church, which Shaunel Steinnagel serves. Each F&O member purchased one of the specified items, i.e., bed pillows/linens, trash cans, dishes, drinking glasses, flatware, pots & pans, thereby assisting an unhoused family to develop a home to call their own.

Submitted by Pat Corl, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Report to the Congregation for 2024

The Committee’s Purpose. The Finance Committee provides Session oversight of APC’s financial status by developing and funding the annual budget and monitoring church receipts and expenses in order to carry out APC’s mission and ministry.

2024 Financial Position. The 2024 Operating Budget anticipated total revenues of \$1,044,327 and total expenses of \$1,039,832 for a projected surplus of \$4,495. Actual results for 2024 showed total revenues of \$1,508,681 and total expenses of \$1,381,271 for a net gain of \$127,410. This strong positive performance was due in part to several factors:

Earnings on the funds held in ARDPRES, the church’s endowment, totaled \$389,556. Net distributions from ARDPRES equaled \$12,168 compared to the 2024 budget which assumed distributions of \$309,000 to cover operating expenses.

The Church received bequests from deceased members of \$264,875 during 2024 in addition to the expected annual distributions from the McCarty Trust of \$40,000.

Total offerings exceeded budget by \$22,859, thanks in part to contributions to support building repairs of \$11,043, including a donation for the exterior lighting of the church.

ARDPRES. The 2024 budget anticipated that we would withdraw \$309,473 from ARDPRES to balance the budget and cover any revenue shortfalls. We were able to use the funds received from the bequests to offset the need for withdrawals from ARDPRES. Overall changes to ARDPRES for 2024 were as follows:

Balance 1/1/2024	\$3,748,865.51	
Net Additions/(Distributions) to Capital	(\$12,167.99)	Bequests & Distributions for Operating Expenses
Dividend Income	\$114,848.28	
Realized Gains/(Losses)	\$163,351.65	Short-term and Long-term Capital Gains
Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	\$111,499.35	Change in unit price
Balance 12/31/2024	\$4,126,396.82	

ARDPRES funds are invested in Vanguard’s LifeStrategy Moderate Growth Fund which seeks to provide capital appreciation and a low to moderate level of current income. The fund holds 60% of its assets in stocks, a portion of which is allocated to international stocks, and 40% in bonds, a portion of which is allocated to international bonds.

OUTLOOK. We benefited from the very strong performance of financial markets in 2023 and 2024 which increased the overall value of ARDPRES and provided revenues in the form of increased investment returns; there is no guarantee that 2025 will bring similar returns. The 2025 budget assumes that we will withdraw **\$240,869** from ARDPRES (exclusive of dividend income) to cover shortfalls.

Several capital projects, including boiler replacement and renovation of the Mill Creek Room kitchen, will need funding in the near future, either from additional withdrawals of principal from ARDPRES or from contributions from the congregation designated for these projects.

Serving on the Committee during 2024 were Harry Hannigan, Tim Patterson, Sarah Schreiner, Katharine Anne Matt and Randy Lawlace and staff members Jason Grimes and Kristy Cobb who succeeded Scott Welden as Finance Manager this year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Randolph Lawlace, Committee Chair

**First Presbyterian Church of Ardmore
2024 Financial Results & 2025 Operating Budget**

	2024 Actuals	2024 Budget	Budget 2025
Revenue			
Offering Income	\$ 417,426	\$ 394,567	\$ 394,727
Preschool Income	\$ 252,607	\$ 278,464	\$ 284,200
Hospice Grant	\$ 114,000	\$ -	\$ -
Other Operating Income	\$ 30,217	\$ 21,824	\$ 18,250
Total Regular Revenue	\$ 814,250	\$ 694,855	\$ 697,177
Expenses			
Human Resources Expenses	\$ (474,715)	\$ (491,480)	\$ (461,159)
Preschool Expenses	\$ (270,192)	\$ (255,223)	\$ (270,121)
Building & Grounds Expenses	\$ (167,024)	\$ (78,190)	\$ (99,005)
Administration Expenses	\$ (142,846)	\$ (121,418)	\$ (120,649)
Hospice Expenses	\$ (112,247)	\$ -	\$ (34,624)
Mission Expenses	\$ (50,819)	\$ (39,039)	\$ (52,770)
Worship & Music Expenses	\$ (40,736)	\$ (37,260)	\$ (39,400)
Fellowship & Outreach Expenses	\$ (6,798)	\$ (8,792)	\$ (7,750)
Christian Education Expenses	\$ (3,062)	\$ (8,430)	\$ (5,900)
Total Expenses	\$ (1,268,438)	\$ (1,039,832)	\$ (1,091,378)
Bequests	\$ 304,875	\$ 39,999	\$ 33,333
Endowment Earnings	\$ 389,556	\$ 309,473	\$ 120,000
Income/(Deficit)	\$ 240,243	\$ 4,495	\$ (240,869) *

* Operating Deficit to be funded by ARDPRES Distribution

Notes:

The overall 2024 financial performance was ahead of the budget. The key contributing factors include:

- Offerings received were higher than the budget by almost \$23,000
- Earnings from the ARDPRES Endowment were \$389,556.
- Bequests received of \$304,875

The 2025 budget projects a shortfall of \$240,869, which will be funded by distributions from the ARDPRES endowment.

Mission Awareness Committee – Annual Report 2024

The Mission Awareness Committee (MAC), subject to the oversight of the Session, acts on behalf of the Ardmore Presbyterian Church (APC) to disburse benevolence funds to our mission partners, develop and grow awareness of the ministries we support and enable and promote opportunities for APC members to participate in various mission-related activities in our community.

The Mission Awareness Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Mill Creek Room. This year we supported The Welcome Church, Family Promise, Teachers Teammates, Medical Benevolence Fund, Kuwadzana Presbyterian Church, Ardmore Food Pantry, West Kensington Ministry, Overbrook Presbyterian, APC Preschool Scholarship Fund and Welcoming the Stranger.

We hosted a luncheon for the Souper Bowl for Caring in February and ran a toiletry collection drive in support of Gift of Life during April, which is Organ Donation month. We ran the Alternative Gift Market in November/December with great success. We chose to focus on supporting local organizations with Alternative Gift Market.

The summary of the outreach giving is listed below.

The Mission Awareness Committee members are John Abrams, Kate Brooks , Barry Jefferies, Robie Lawlace, Kofi Owusu, Joanne Poorman, Rev. Schaunel Steinnagel, Sarah Schreiner, and Cathy Stewart.

Respectfully submitted,

Robie Lawlace

OUTREACH GIVING SUMMARY

GENERAL/LOCAL MISSION GIVING BY PARTNER

Ardmore Food Pantry	3,000.00
APC Preschool Scholarships	3,500.00
Presbyterian Mission	3,000.00
Welcome Church	5,250.00
Welcoming the Stranger	3,000.00
West Kensington Ministry	5,000.00
Teachers Teammates	1,500.00
Kuwadzana	5,132.00
Masseys	1,000.00
Medical Benevolence Fund	3,979.00
Overbrook Presbyterian	2,000.00

(includes \$1,327 collected from congregation)

Total

35,034.00

Alternative Gifts

APC Preschool	1,040
Ardmore Food Pantry	1,070
Montreat	315
The Welcome Church	984
West Kingston Ministry	1,025
Teachers' Teammates	690
<hr/>	
Total	5,124

The Nominating Committee
Annual Report for 2024-2025

The Committee reported to the Session that the following individuals, having been asked and consented, would be advanced for congregational vote for the positions indicated.

For Elder, Class of 2027

Don Poorman
Jim Rowe
Holly Frank
Elizabeth Luff

For Deacon, Class of 2025

Viola Terwiesch (filling the remainder of the term of Jan Terwiesch)

For Deacon, Class of 2027

Anne Warner
Alice Miller
Kate Brooks

For Congregational member of the Nominating Committee, one year terms:

Jody Brumbach, Christian Terwiesch, and Sarah Schreiner. The Committee requested, and Session approved, that the Congregation be asked to modify APC's by-laws so that Nominating Committee members may serve one three-year term rather than three one-year terms. This will go to the congregation at its annual meeting in February.

For the record, no suggestions for nominations were received from the congregation despite numerous announcements that such were welcome.

The Congregation approved this slate in a called meeting after worship on November 17, 2024.

As Committee chair I want to recognize and thank the Committee members for their service: Jodi Brumbach, Christian Terwiesch, Holly Vicki, Dan Del Duca and Shirley Fishburne.

Submitted on behalf of the Committee
Frank Miller

Preschool Committee Annual Report 2024

The Preschool committee is comprised of APC elders, Chip Cobb, Shirley Fishburne, Jim Rowe and Kathy Toal with Jason Grimes and Irena Reynolds serving as staff support.

The committee will meet monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00.

The inaugural meeting of the Preschool committee was held February 29, 2024. Attending were co-chairs Jim Rowe and Kathy Toal, Shirley Fishburne, Pastor Jason Grimes and the Preschool Director.

The mission of the committee is to be responsible for reviewing and recommending policies and procedures of the Preschool, which is recognized to be an integral part of the church's ministry, to share Jesus' love to the community. Responsibilities include working with the Director of Preschool to provide recommendations on budget, hiring, enrollment, facilities and other matters relevant to Preschool operations. The committee also acts as a liaison with the Preschool parents' group and other outside supporters of the Preschool and consults with them on advice and requests. The Director of Preschool shall attend the committee meetings as an ex officio member. Non-member parents of Preschool students may attend the committee meetings without vote, upon recommendation of the Director of Preschool.

In June, Irena Reynolds accepted the position of Interim Preschool Director.

The Preschool Committee was busy over the summer interviewing candidates for three positions at Ardmore Preschool. In December the Preschool and Personnel committees recommended to Session that Irena be hired as Preschool Director after she successfully fulfilled the role during the fall term. Irena was offered the position of Preschool Director that month, and she accepted.

There was an orientation for parents on Sept. 6 with school officially starting on Sept 9th. The enrollment is the same as last year, approximately 40 students.

New long-lasting playground equipment was delivered and installed over the summer.

A proposal was accepted by the committee from Irena to advertise our preschool and expand our mailing list of prospective families. Emily Polhamus APC's Communication Director worked with Irena and the committee to initiate the advertising campaign.

Irena investigated opportunities for fund raising to update the Rainbow Room. A fall fundraiser was very successful and was able to raise \$1800 towards the refurbishment.

Newly formed in 2024, the Preschool Committee is committed to maintaining the long-standing tradition of outstanding early childhood education APWPS has always been known for. The committee had a busy year hiring new staff, updating the employee handbook and policies, and working with our staff who have an exciting vision for the future of our school.

We are grateful for God's guidance and blessings throughout 2024 and for the commitment, creativity and devotion of the committee members.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Toal

Stewardship Committee
Annual Report for the 2025 Campaign

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our APC family, the Stewardship Committee is gratified to report a very successful 2025 campaign.

As part of this we sought to foster increased fellowship among APC's members by encouraging them to wear nametags on Sundays with the intent of helping newer members to learn the names of older members and vice versa. We have been pleased with the overall success of this effort.

By the campaign's close APC received 57 pledges (down from 61 last year) but the total pledged was nevertheless almost \$1500 higher than last year: \$314,847. A significant number of members increased their pledge from last year.

The Committee wants to express its thanks to APC's congregation.

As committee chair, I want to express my personal thanks to the Committee's members for their service and contributions: Dick Corl, Shirley Fishburne, Pastor Jason Grimes, Elizabeth Hamilton, Emily Polhamus, Jim Rowe and Anne Warner.

Frank Miller

Worship Committee Report- 2024

The goal of the Worship Committee is to encourage the people in the worship of God and to strengthen and nurture the faith journey of the congregation. Under the Presbyterian form of government, the Session's Worship Committee shares the responsibility for worship with the Pastor. Consistent with their special calling, the Pastor is given full authority to select Scripture and preach the Word of God. The mission of the committee is advisory to the Pastor and Music Director and includes recommending the time and location of worship, Holy Communion and special musical events. Responsibilities include the care and maintenance of the worship space, the care of the organ and pianos, recommending music under the leadership of the Pastor and guidance of the Music Director, organizing ushers, conducting live-streaming, recording and amplification of the worship services.

HIGHLIGHTS- We celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion 13 times in 2024 including the first Sunday of each month, (excluding December) and on Maundy Thursday, and at our evening Thanksgiving Day Service.

WORSHIP SPACE- In 2024 we witnessed several changes to the church's chancel area with the relocation of the stone Baptismal Font to the alcove area under the Ralston Memorial Window. This move occurred after much discussion about the best location for the choir to perform. It was decided that going forward the choir would remain in the pews and come forward to sing anthems from the chancel steps. Moving the font provided the needed space to allow the organ to be moved back against the wall, creating a safer step-off area for the organist and more space for the choir on the chancel steps. Concurrent with this move, the Session approved the acquisition of a baptismal bowl to be placed in the chancel area and plans are underway to design and acquire a bowl from a New Jersey based stain glass artist. With the choir loft now vacant, plans are in the works to create liturgically inspired banners. This initiative is being led by the newly formed Banner Committee. Banners which are appropriate for the liturgical season will be created and placed in the upper steps of the loft.

MINISTRY-We are grateful for the continued leadership of Pastor Jason as he challenges our congregation to share Christ's message of love, grace and kindness in all things we do and say. Jason's compassionate and caring leadership is a great blessing to us. Several 4-part Sermon series were offered during the year including: 'Jesus- Prophet and Priest'; 'Ecclesiastes- Seasons in the Life of the Church' and 'What it Means to Be Life Giving'. Our celebration of Advent this year was especially meaningful and challenging as we hosted the Lower Merion CODE-Blue Shelter for un-housed men, in the midst of the preparations for Advent and Christmas Eve services. We are grateful for the Rev. Graham Robinson, Rev. Schaunel Steinnagel, Elder Ben Yurchak and Pastoral Intern Kofi Owusu in leading us in worship during Pastor Jason's time-away.

EVENTS- In 2024 several notable worship and musical events occurred:

- On January 23rd – Our church hosted The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia for its day-long meeting. Many hands helped to make this a meaningful and successful event for the Presbytery.

- During February and March, we observed the Lenten season with a 7pm Wednesday evening service where the Rev. Jason Grimes offered reflections on the Book of Jonah.
- On September 29th, we honored Gary Garletts, Director of Music for his 25 years of faithful service with a wonderful reception and a special surprise. The members of Ardmore Presbyterian Church and the Chester County Choral Society commissioned an original piece of music to celebrate Gary's 25 years with each organization. Special Thanks to Shirley Fishburne and Marsha Core for organizing, rehearsing, and conducting our combined choirs! A choral piece was premiered based on Micah: 6 - of "God Has Told Us What Is Good" by Joel Phillips.
- On November 3rd, a joint concert was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wynnewood with their choir and the Ardmore Presbyterian Church choir. The choirs and a small orchestra performed 'Requiem for the Living' by Dan Forrest to commemorate All-Saints Day.

VOLUNTEERS- We are grateful for all our volunteers: those who serve communion, the liturgists, the live-stream team and all persons who assist in many ways to make our worship experience one that honors our Creator. We are grateful and give thanks to Gary Garletts, Music Director and his leadership in our music ministry. This includes the Cherubs, the Children's, and Youth Choirs, the Handbell Choir, the Chancel Choir and the Quartet/Section Leaders (Courtney, Kaitlyn, Tom and Jim). We are grateful for Shirley Fishburne for sharing her musical talents in assisting Gary and playing both the piano and organ.

LIVESTREAM- We continue to live-stream our worship services and 'Service of Witness of the Resurrection' services under the leadership of Gary Lovett and crew. We are averaging +/- 25-35 views per service, many who view later on YouTube. We are seeking additional volunteers to assist us in the 'in-person' audio controls and the live-streaming work -- it takes 2 people to effectively accomplish this important work. Presently, we have only a few volunteers trained in the operation of our audio and live streaming equipment. More volunteers are needed to ensure that this service continues in the absence of the current volunteers. The training is straight-forward with an easy-to-follow instruction manual. We ask you to please consider assisting us in this work to ensure a rich worship experience in 2025.

2024 Worship Committee Members- Don Poorman, Peggy Leneis, Viola Terwiesch, Gary Lovett. Staff members- Rev. Jason Grimes and Music Director Gary Garletts.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Jeffries, Moderator