

PEACEPRESS



Pastor's Perspective

Well, here we are in the new year. 2023 is upon us! The year past has been busy, and in the life of our church, cautiously promising.

While I don't want to spend time here discussing the positives of the past year (new members, successful fundraisers, expanding community engagement), I do want to place front-and-center two of the challenges that we committed ourselves to going forward.

First, at our 2022 Annual Meeting we committed to our "Looking to the Future: A Plan of Intentional Faith" goals which included membership growth, well-funded community outreach/advertising, and stewardship growth. Here, as a reminder, is what we committed to:

Three Year Plan of Growth:

1. Peace Church will set a net goal of 3 new pledging units per year. These three new pledging units would be over and above the units that are lost to attrition. So, if we lost 3 pledging units due to the death of three church members in a given year, our growth in total units would need to be 6 pledging units.
2. Peace Church would embark on an aggressive campaign of presence in the local Greensboro community; in print, on social media, and in person. We would commit to a well-funded advertising budget, an in-person presence at community sponsored events (for example the farmers market, Summer Solstice Fair, North Carolina Folk Festival among others), as well as church sponsored programs to draw community members to our campus (fundraisers, reinvigorated Palmer Lecture Series, Spring carnival, musical concerts).
3. We will re-engage with our current church membership with the intent to strengthen our stewardship and pledge

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commitments as well as have as broad a contingent of church members who are fully invested in our three-year revitalization plan.

Second, back on September 11th we adopted a new Vision Statement as well as a new Statement of Mission. Here, as a reminder, are those statements:

Statement of Vision:

Peace United Church of Christ is a community of people who strive to be living examples of the teachings, ethics, and values of Jesus Christ.

Statement of Mission:

The people of Peace United Church of Christ are called by God to:

- Teach and embrace the ethics of Jesus through worship, study, and prayer.**
- Invite, welcome, and love all people into our fellowship.**
- Practice good stewardship of our church, our community, and our environment.**
- Promote the healing and well-being of the human family through acts of mission and justice.**

These two initiatives are wonderful and challenging goals for us to pursue and live into as we go forward. Yet, statements, visions, and goal proposals such as we have developed and affirmed, are easily “left upon the shelf,” or filed away and forgotten. We won’t let that happen. We can’t let that happen.

So, like every church facing the new year, we have great hopes and great challenges. We continue to carry out our ministry in a difficult time. Our American social landscape remains increasingly secular, with Christian churches of all stripes facing mounting struggles and challenges. While this may be daunting, it is also, historically speaking, the way it has always been. The early church hardly had it easy, but they persevered despite the hardships. Jesus’ words to his earliest followers laid it out with little uncertainty:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.” (Luke 9: 23)

Let us take up our cross and follow. Shall we?

Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth

Somehow it seems really special for the New Year to start on a Sunday – the beginning of a year, a month, a week, a day – all on a Sunday when we focus on worshipping God. Whenever we begin anything, it’s hard not to look forward and think about what may be coming. There is great comfort in these words from John:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

John 1: 1-2 (NIV)

Such a wonderful proclamation that our Lord, Jesus, has been from the very beginning – the beginning of everything. In the beginning of our hymnbook is the “Praise to God” section and the beginning hymn is Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee. Such a powerful hymn of praise to begin our new year of life in Jesus.

Whatever the beginnings in life, Jesus is there! We need to dedicate them all to God and follow His direction knowing He will be with us throughout all of life as it unfolds.

Finally, I certainly want to be sure to express very sincere thanks to the people of Peace Church for the Christmas remembrances. Your generosity and love are so very much appreciated at Christmas and throughout the year!



HANDS-ON was blessed to celebrate Christmas with a luncheon on December 14th. By all accounts, it was an enjoyable event with good food and fellowship. Our 15 participants attendees included four visitors and we were so happy to have them with us.

But, best of all, we had already made a Nov./Dec. delivery which featured some Christmas fabrics. 80 pillows were distributed in timely fashion for the holidays.

We continue to look forward to 2023 when we are destined to hit 10,000 pillows delivered by this ministry. Go for it, Hands-On!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- **1st - Eileen Johnson**
- **2nd - Bryan Morgan**
- **4th - Ellen Mason**
- **9th - Don Willoughby**
- **12th - Kevin Hege**
- **26th - Debbie Kaynor**
- **28th - Femi Quakenbush**
- **29th - Kim Miller**
- **15th - Mike Williams**
- **23rd - Jeanne Bryan**



Card Ministry

Our monthly mailing of cards to 25-30 individuals with prayer concerns continues in 2023. We do periodically include concerns for friends and relatives of members. They need to be brought to our attention and mailing names and addresses provided to Theo Scott at 336 299-0644. Also let Theo know if you want to assist with the mailings one or two months during the year. All materials will be provided to you.

Annual Meeting: January 29th!!!

The Annual Meeting for Peace Church will be on Sunday, January 29th following worship.

We will do a review of 2022, vote on the proposed 2023 budget (still in development), and carry out any other business central to the life and ministry of Peace Church.

Please plan to join us for this critical meeting in the life of our congregation...

Creation Care Committee: Climate Change

The Creation Care committee would like to make an extension! This extension would be focused on the issue of Climate Change - an issue that Peace Church is involved heavily in! If you would like to be informed or join this extension of the Creation Care committee, you can reach out to Jane Ford at (336) 908-7829.

MLK-Day Memorial Breakfast

On Monday, January 16th there will be a Martin Luther King Day Memorial Breakfast at the Koury Convention Center. Sponsored by the Greensboro Human Rights Commission, the breakfast begins at 7:30am and will feature keynote speaker Niketa Green, the Director for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at Cone Health.

Tickets are \$20 per person. Those who are interested in attending this annual event should please contact Pastor Tom by January 7th so that tickets may be reserved.

McLaurin Farms Outing!

On December 18th, some of our church youth and their families took an outing to McLaurin Farms! They were able to interact with characters such as Anna and Elsa from Frozen, and Olaf too! Although it was very chilly, they enjoyed a hayride, a meeting with Santa, and making Christmas ornaments as well. Thank you to the families who were able to attend this fun outing - we look forward to doing more in the future!





Mission of the Month

For the past 7 years Peace Church has been supporting the ministry of the Lavastida Christian Center in Santiago, Cuba. This center, founded by Revs. Elmer and Gisela Lavastida, recently celebrated their 27th anniversary of service and education to the churches and people of Santiago de Cuba and the surrounding rural areas.

After 3 years of Covid disruption, the UCC Cuba Study Seminar, led by Pastor Tom and Kim Miller, will be traveling once again to Cuba from February 10th-19th. There are 19 participants scheduled to go on this years' trip. As part of this trip, the Lavastida Center will host the group and Tom and Kim will hand deliver the funds we raise.

Cuba has been going through a very difficult time these past three years, and our funds are critical to the continued ministry of the Lavastida Center. Please give generously. Thank you!

Solar Power... at Peace Church?

A conversation has begun about possibly investing in solar panels to help power our church building. On the heels of a generous gift given to the church with the expressed intent of it being used for solar panels, the Consistory has approved the exploration of what it would entail to purchase and install a solar panel system. As a first effort to gain some knowledge of solar panels, we will be meeting with the Rev. Paul Davis of Congregational United Church of Christ to see first hand their new solar panel system and learn what it cost them, various rebates and grants they acquired to lower the cost, and what they hope to save in electrical bills over the long run.

We will be meeting on Friday, January 13th at 10:30am at Congregational UCC located at 400 West Radiance Drive here in Greensboro (about 1 mile from our church). We invite anyone who is interested to come to this meeting and encourage you to let Jane Ford or Pastor Tom know that you are interested in attending this meeting.



Don't Forget!

Hands-On will be meeting at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall on January 11th.

Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex for pickup! If you cannot pick up your envelopes in person, we will mail them to you.

Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC
Treasurer's Report as of November 2022 for General Fund

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	8,380.95	105,596.67	118,228.00	12,631.33
4003	Loose Offerings	107.00	1,185.98	500.00	(685.98)
4004	Initial Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non Pledge Offerings	885.00	7,818.00	4,000.00	(3,818.00)
4007	Sunday School	0.00	(29.98)	100.00	129.98
	Total Offerings	\$9,372.95	\$114,570.67	\$122,828.00	\$8,257.33
Fundraising					
4102	Jambalaya	0.00	3,430.53	2,500.00	(930.53)
4104	Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4106	Brunswick Stew	2,767.40	2,827.40	1,500.00	(1,327.40)
4121	History Room	0.00	1,540.23		
	Total Fundraising	\$2,767.40	\$7,798.16	\$5,000.00	(\$1,257.93)
Special Offerings					
4009	Communion	10.00	57.85	500.00	442.15
4108	Birthday/Thank You	0.00	400.00	100.00	(300.00)
4110	Christmas	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
4112	Easter	0.00	20.00	50.00	30.00
4114	Memorials	400.00	623.45	0.00	(623.45)
4116	Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Total Special Offerings	\$410.00	\$1,101.30	\$850.00	(\$251.30)
Other Services					
4118	Weddings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Other Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income					
Facility Use Donations					
4124	New Arrivals Institute	0.00	18,050.00	18,000.00	(50.00)
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	859.00	900.00	41.00
4128	Alliance Church	0.00	2,750.00	3,000.00	250.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	300.00	1,200.00	500.00	(700.00)
	Total Facilities Use Donations	\$375.00	\$22,859.00	\$22,400.00	(\$459.00)
4122	Miscellaneous Income	(4,147.13)	(10.00)	0.00	10.00
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Miscellaneous Income	(\$3,772.13)	\$22,849.00	\$22,400.00	(\$449.00)
4107	Second Mile Donations	40.00	40.00		
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
4129	Online Worship	0.00	1,000.00		
	Total Offering Income	\$8,818.22	\$147,359.13	\$151,078.00	\$6,299.10

Expenses

Missions

5001	OCWM	1,000.00	3,000.00		
5003	Community Outreach Publicity	11.99	179.96	400.00	220.04
5005	Community Outreach Events	109.10	109.10	100.00	(9.10)
	Total Missions	\$1,121.09	\$3,289.06	\$500.00	\$210.94

Consistory

5101	PeaceCare	28.50	316.60	350.00	33.40
5103	Membership Growth	0.00	185.80	500.00	314.20
5104	Membership Support	46.94	786.60	500.00	(286.60)
5105	Worship Committee	0.00	1,537.60	1,600.00	62.40
5106	Stewardship	49.21	207.39	250.00	42.61
	Total Consistory	\$124.65	\$3,033.99	\$3,200.00	\$166.01

<i>Christian Ed</i>					
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies	95.86	86.62	400.00	313.38
5119	Youth Fellowship	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total Christian Ed		\$95.86	\$86.62	\$900.00	\$813.38
<i>Property</i>					
5210	Janitorial	700.00	7,900.00	8,800.00	900.00
5212	Grounds	416.67	4,583.37	5,417.00	833.63
5214	Property Insurance	938.18	11,867.62	15,000.00	3,132.38
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance	400.43	7,500.25	10,000.00	2,499.75
5217	Boiler Maintenance	728.04	13,485.03	3,000.00	(10,485.03)
5219	ADT Security	48.86	524.71	600.00	75.29
5221	Supplies	226.71	857.46	900.00	42.54
Total Property		\$3,458.89	\$46,718.44	\$43,717.00	(\$3,001.44)
<i>Administration</i>					
5401	Postage	90.70	798.13	1,300.00	501.87
5403	Office Equipment Lease	457.49	3,233.03	4,000.00	766.97
5405	Computer Software/Maintenance	119.88	619.88	500.00	(119.88)
5407	Telephone/Internet	249.18	2,744.72	3,000.00	255.28
5409	Office Supplies	57.63	1,168.56	1,500.00	331.44
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	80.00	1,000.00	920.00
5412	Bank Charges	54.84	416.76	500.00	83.24

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Administration		\$1,029.72	\$9,061.08	\$11,800.00	\$2,738.92
<i>Utilities</i>					
5301	Gas	789.00	9,849.14	15,000.00	5,150.86
5303	Electricity	737.93	8,842.96	10,500.00	1,657.04
5304	Water	408.12	4,297.92	4,900.00	602.08
Total Utilities		\$1,935.05	\$22,990.02	\$30,400.00	\$7,409.98
<i>Pastoral Compensation</i>					
5501	Cash Salary	2,790.84	30,699.24	33,491.00	2,791.76
5503	Housing Allowance	1,416.66	15,583.26	17,000.00	1,416.74
5505	Social Security Reimb.	321.88	3,540.68	3,862.00	321.32
5507	Annuity	336.60	3,702.60	4,040.00	337.40
5509	Insurance	1,616.62	17,782.82	19,500.00	1,717.18
5510	Medical Reimb.	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
5511	Mileage Reimb.	0.00	318.02	500.00	181.98
Total Pastoral Compensation		\$6,482.60	\$74,126.62	\$80,893.00	\$6,766.38
<i>Personnel</i>					
5601	Organist/Dir of Music	800.00	9,000.00	15,600.00	6,600.00
5603	Secretary	1,350.00	14,085.00	15,600.00	1,515.00
5605	Nursery Attendant	82.50	691.90	1,800.00	1,108.10
5607	Youth Leadership	594.00	2,538.00	10,750.00	8,212.00
Total Personnel		\$2,826.50	\$26,314.90	\$43,750.00	\$17,435.10
<i>Personnel Benefits</i>					
5612	Social Security Exp.	216.25	2,013.17	2,713.00	699.83
5614	Worker's Comp Insurance	871.00	266.00	1,300.00	1,034.00
5618	Conference & Meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Personnel Benefits		\$1,087.25	\$2,279.17	\$4,013.00	\$1,733.83
<i>Fundraising Expenses</i>					
5701	Jambalaya Expense	63.50	1,269.08	1,000.00	(269.08)
5703	Yard Sale Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
5705	Brunswick Stew Expenses	323.25	323.25	500.00	176.75
5707	History Room Expenses	0.00	3,772.13		
Total Fundraising Expenses		\$386.75	\$5,364.46	\$1,700.00	\$107.67
5107	Online Worship Expense	0.00	97.52		
Total Expenses		\$18,548.36	\$193,361.88	\$220,873.00	\$34,380.77
Difference		(\$9,730.14)	(\$46,002.75)	(\$69,795.00)	