2023 Annual Report

First Presbyterian Church
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2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2024

Opening Prayer, Pastor John Carrick

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Closing Prayer, Pastor John Carrick

In Loving Memory

John 11:25-26 Jesus said [to her], "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

The Following Members Joined the Church Triumphant

Members who passed away in 2024

Rev. Wayne Johnson	April 3, 2023
Marcia Williams	June 17, 2023
Chuck Viggers	October 27, 2023
Claudelle Zack	November 29, 2023

2024 CHURCH OFFICERS:

SESSION:

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Bob Jorgensen (2nd)	Bea Strickland	Cindy VanWormer
Paul Beadleston	Jim Jeffries	

TRUSTEES OF THE CORPORATION:

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Bob Jorgensen	Jim Jeffries	

BOARD OF DEACONS:

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Nancy Jorgensen (2nd)	Pat Long	Julee Estes
Pat McAdoo	Marsha Robinson	Vickie Owen
	Cathy Hollenback	

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Larry Robinson-Active Elder & Chair
Nancy Jorgensen-Deacon
Kathy Hollenback-At Large
Marsha Jeffries-At Large
Pat Long-At Large

2023 Nominating Committee Annual Report

Committee Members:

John Carrick	DeeDee Raisanen
Marsha Jeffries	Pat Long
Cathy Hollenback	Larry Robinson

Committee recommended and Session approved the nominations of:
Julee Estes and Vickie Owen as Deacons for 2024.

Committee has no recommendations for new Session members for 2024.

Possible Nominees for 2024 Nominating Committee:

Cathy Hollenback	Marsha Jeffries
Pat Long	DeeDee Raisanen
TBD Active Session Member, Chair	

Respectively submitted,

Larry Robinson, Chair

2023 Lay Leaders

Lay Leaders

Lori Cole
Nan Halstead
Sid Long
Isabel Rogerson
Steve Worthen
Cindy VanWormer
Julee Estes
Cathy Hollenback
Jacque Moore
Marcia Williams
Kathy Hart
Tara Estes
Bob Jorgensen
Eve Nighswonger
Printha Worthen
Paul Beadleston

Greeters & Ushers

Paul Beadleston
Jim and Marsha Jeffries
Deegan Olson
Cathy Hollenback
Suzanne Olsen
Marsha and Larry Robinson
Lori Cole
Tara Estes

Coffee Hour Hosts

Cindy VanWormer
Marsha Jeffries
Kathy Hart
Carol Eshom
Vicki Owen
Julee Estes
Pat Long
Marsha and Larry Robinson
Charletta Evans
Pat Tilley
Linda Cristman
Cathy Hollenback
Tara Estes
Marcia Williams
Pat McAdoo

Media Room

Kathy Orsi
Sandra Carrick
Ian Carrick
Marsha Robinson
Kathy Hart
Pastor John Carrick
Matt Long

Newsletter

Sid and Pat Long
Larry and Marsha Robinson
Pastor John Carrick
Sandra Carrick

Website

Pastor John Carrick
Kathy Hart

2023 ANNUAL REPORT:

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor John Carrick	Pastor
Linda Cristman	Director of Music
Cindi Hood	Bookkeeper
Sandra Carrick	Secretary
Socorro Jara	Custodian

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Morning Worship:	10:00 am
Holy Communion:	First Sunday Monthly

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Deacons:	3rd Sunday 11:30 am
Chancel Choir:	Thursdays 3:30 pm
Mission and Outreach:	2nd Mondays 4:30 pm
Worship Committee:	2nd Tuesday 3:30 pm
Session Meeting:	3rd Thursday 4:30 pm
Facilities Committee:	
Christian Ed Committee:	
Finance Committee:	
Nominating Committee:	
Personnel Committee:	

Pastor's Annual Report 2023

I am thankful to have begun our 5th year of ministry together. How the time flies! We have experienced both blessings and sorrows across these 12 months. Some of the blessings have included the ecumenical services during Lent and Advent, which seems to have increased in attendance and enthusiasm among the participating churches. We have served our greater community with another record-breaking Community Thanksgiving Dinner and a growing Pie Sale event to provide funds to critical partner programs that make life changing differences to many on our coast. The new format of the Christmas Bazaar was also a tremendous success in both fund raising and drawing community artisans and holiday shoppers into the orbit of the church. Our worship continues to be available both in person and through video recording to those at home and away. The pastor's Thursday study was well attended with material to help us grow in faith, forgiveness, and connection with people of other faith traditions.

We have also experienced sorrow in the form of the unexpected death of Marcia Williams who was so beloved and brought such vital leadership to our Worship Committee. We also lost other beloved members who had lived long and full lives; Rev. Wayne Johnson, Chuck Viggers, and Claudelle Zack. We said farewell to several who have moved away; Annelle and Ken Karlstad, Carol Eschom, Beverlee and Gary Bronson, and Jan Sleigh. On the other hand, we have welcomed new friends; some of whom may become members and we have some who worship with us who remain members elsewhere. We do face a shortage of people who are able and willing to take on the roles of Elder and Deacon and so we have continued with vacancies on these boards and in our committees.

I have continued to participate in the Presbytery through its meetings, and now as a member of the Committee on the Preparation for Ministry (CPM). I also belong to a Cohort group of pastors which meets once a month either in person or by Zoom. Two of our church members are participating in a Cohort group for lay leaders (Cathy Hollenback and Kathy Hart). We have other opportunities through our Presbytery for Women's retreats and Summer Camps and we ought to encourage this involvement.

I pray that we continue to seek new ways of reaching and serving our community. We live in a time of great transition, where the traditional churches cannot rely on the methods and practices of the past. For many in our culture, the church has become irrelevant at best. The only way to reach the younger generations today is going to require us to be genuine followers of Christ who live our faith in compelling, authentic love, serving our community and world in Christ's love and doing that in ways that are flexibly adapting to a world changing ever more rapidly.

In Christ, *John*

Worship Committee Annual Report 2023

Worship the Lord with gladness, come before Him with joyous songs!- Psalm100:2

The year 2023 has been a challenging one for Worship Committee due to the sudden death of our chairperson Marcia Williams in June. Marcia was enthusiastic and extremely creative. She brought a wealth of ideas and energy to worship along with a special charm and sense of humor. She is missed.
During the year we welcomed Printha Worthen to the committee and she assumed the responsibility for the 4 special offerings which we receive throughout the year. These are One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness and Christmas Joy. She also agreed to work on the bulletin board.
The audio- visual room and videotaping camera has been "manned" faithfully each week by Sandra Carrick, Kathy Hart, Kathy Orsi, Marsha Robison, Matt Long and Ian Carrick. A new sound board, computer and camera were purchased.
The choir has been ably led by Linda Cristman who organized combining with Mendocino Presbyterian choir during Lent and 2 services in October. Some special music events also took place. Caroling during Advent was limited to one day because of inclement weather.
During Lent and Advent, midweek ecumenical services were held at which attendance was excellent. Several churches in the area were involved and Pastor John took the lead in communication with other pastors. Refreshments were served following each service.
In September we held a Blessing of the Animals which unfortunately was sparsely attended.
The children's sermons were replaced by "One Minute Sermons" as there have been few children attending. Various members have been presenting stories.
Towards the end of the year the committee was challenged further when Pastor John had to take some compassionate leave for a family medical emergency. This necessitated Worship Committee being tasked with various parts of the service including prayer time and coordinating liturgists etc. Fortunately with the wonders of technology John was able to link in "online sermons" from YouTube. For the 3 Sundays that John was away everyone was remarkable in their response to the challenge.

Many thanks to the committee who meet monthly, John Carrick, Lori Cole, Linda Cristman, Marsha Jeffries, Sid Long, Isabel Rogerson, Claudelle Zack. Also thanks to all who participated in any way to make the worship services a meaningful part of the life of the church.

R.I.P. Marcia Williams and Claudelle Zack.

Isabel Rogerson.

Adult Christian Education Annual Report 2023:

January:
4 Evening for Couples- A Marriage Enrichment, 4 session class
Listening, Conflict, Forgiveness, and Decision Making

Memory Group met 5 times in January and February to discuss ways to help care-givers and those who struggle with memory issues.

May
Listening Class:
Listening to others, Listening to yourself, Listening to God and Listening to the world.

October:
Happiness Habits from Action for Happiness in England
6 week course intended for hybrid (zoom and in Person), however ended up just being on zoom.

Pastor John Carrick led several Book studies throughout the year:

Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor
Inspired by Rachel Held Evans
Alternative Orthodoxy by Richard Rohr
Embracing Forgiveness by Barbara Cawthorne Crafton

Bea Strickland

Facilities Annual Report 2023

Our biggest project is a new roof on the flat areas of the church. This is on hold until Spring 2024. We have paid the $1,000 deposit and $16,000 for the special ordered sky lights to be manufactured and ready to go for Spring installation.

- The piano music holder repaired.
- A defective valve was replaced on the irrigation system
- Repaired fellowship hall outside door locking device
- Social Hall carpet was cleaned professionally
- We happily accepted a gift of a used riding lawn mower from Tom Estes.
- Exterior front fellowship doors were repainted.
- Repaired and reprogramed interior light switch in Fireside room and replaced the outside motion detector light at the entrance
- Installed new blinds in the Social Hall and Classrooms
- Broken window replaced in the Fireside room
- Steve Worthen organized the kitchen, refurbished the chopping block, and repaired the meat slicer.
- Fixed dishwasher
- Fixed freezer in the kitchen
- Thanks to Cindy VanWormer, we have a new coffee maker
- Broken outside power outlet and current interrupter replaced
- Thank you, Linda Cristman, for donating a "new to us" refrigerator
- Dave Hautala installed a new controller in the pump house to get the well functioning again
- Broken gate post replaced on back deck
- Leaking S.W. sprinkler pipe repaired
- Fire extinguishers refilled and certified
- Furnace Rooms cleaned
- Richard Loomis repaired our vacuums
- A large portion of the westside fence was rebuilt by Tommy McComas after a winter storm blew it down. He also capped a broken pipe at the BBQ sink.
- A shelf was installed in the radio room to store hearing devices.
- Paul Beadleston maintains plants in our front yard.
- Dan Macy continues to mow the front lawns.
- Saul Witz continues to plant new plants in the overflow parking lot.
- Mowing, weed wacking, pruning and parking lot cleaning continue weekly. THANK YOU, Larry and Marsha Robinson

Submitted by : Jim Jeffries, Chair

Mission and Outreach Committee
2023 End of Year Report

The purpose of this committee includes international as well as local missions. Specifically, it is charged with the allocation of 2023 Pie sale proceeds to our local nonprofit organizations that support our community.

During 2023 members of the committee worked to accomplish the following:

Another successful pie sale: 335 pies sold between 8:50AM and 11:30AM. New silent auction and higher priced speciality pies along with many hardworking hands made this another success.

Plans for a changeable sign to publicize our church events have not been successful, as we have already exceeded the allowable signage per City of Fort Bragg.

Allocated unspent 2022 pie sale funds of $3,400+ began allocating 2023 funds of $4,028.70:

Purchased good quality backpacks for FBHS students in need. We bought 15 but received 23!

Food BankTurkey Challenge ($200) + it's Season of Sharing ($200)--leveraged with donor matching funds.

Committed $500 to 2024 Adopt a 5th Grader scholarship in partnership w/Rotary and Mendocino Community College.

Provided Noyo Food Forest with a new Tiller and website upgrade to inform people of their program encouraging volunteers and donations.

CV Starr Center $300 for individuals in need of showers and facility use.

$260 in Subway gift cards for the police to give to people in need. Many police pay out of pocket so a needy person gets a fresh meal.

Church's International Mission:

Allocated $490 toward PCUSA clean water technology directed towards poor nations.

Compassion International: the church supports 3 international children.

Many activities were conducted including:

1st Taco Sunday, 9/23/23 bring a friend event + recognition of Mexico's Independence Day (9/16) This event was well attended and special thanks to brothers, Jose and Henry May who did so much to make this a success.

Engaging over 1,000 youth and representing the church at the popular "Trunk or Treat" Halloween event. Monies collected in 2022 covered costs 2023 and will cover 2024 costs, as well.

Provided "Love My Church" signs to our new members

Looking ahead, special new bring a friend to church Sundays planned for 2024.

Jan 7, Soup Potluck thanking our Community Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteers

February: 11th Valentine Event	March: Lent Spaghetti provided + potluck sides
June : BBQ	July: Hot Dogs, salads + watermelon
August: Pie Making	September : Tacos

October: International Food Festival

We welcome your ideas on how we might best share the love of Jesus Christ and grow our church family. We invite you to join us on this journey and participate as a member of the Mission and Outreach committee.

Our current committee members include Eve Nighswonger (chair), Gary Champlin, Bob Jorgensen, Jose May, Vickie Owen, Larry and Marsha Robinson (new chairs for 2024) and Pastor John Carrick.

DEACON YEAR END REPORT FOR 2023

"It is the duty of the Deacons first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and any who may be in distress. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the Session."

We have had a very busy year! Here are the highlights: The Deacons were given the task by Session of distributing the funds gathered by the Pie Sale and the Christmas Bazaar for the years of 2019 and 2020. We have completed that task this year. Some of the non-profits receiving these funds are: Mendocino Coast Children's Fund, Food Bank, Pay it Forward Pantry at FBHS, Redwood Coast Seniors, Cancer Resource Center and the Care Response Unit at the Police Dept.

Pat Long is the leader for "Bill's Beans". This is a huge pot of beans for the Hospitality House. Each month Pat recruits a helper to prepare this meal, always encouraging people to be involved with the church. Emmitt and Deagan helped many times along with others. In November we delivered gift bags for the residents at Hospitality House. This year there were 20 men and 4 women. These bags included hats, scarves, socks, gloves, toiletry items and a small bible to fit in their pocket. We also provided HH with new towels and dishes. Then we had a very successful mug drive that delivered 126 mugs for HH.

We continue to prepare snack bags to hand out to hungry people. This year we also delivered 6 bags twice a month to the city police to help with their Care Response Unit. Pat McAdoo brought a need for cereal and pasta for the Fort Bragg Food Bank. Mission and Outreach helped with funds too . We lined our church windows with the Cereal and Pasta! It was a great success and the Food Bank was very happy!

We hosted memorials for Wayne and Pat Johnson, our beloved Marcia Williams, Ernie Moretti, Claudelle Zack and Chuck Viggers. Roses were given to Isabel Rogerson for the birth of her great granddaughter Regan, Chrystal's granddaughter Emma and Larry and Marsha's twin grandsons Lou and Wade. Deacons prepared and served the elements for Communion each month. Deacons managed the Centsibility Offering each month and sent these funds to Presbytery for their Hunger Relief program.

We send a representative to the Session meetings each month so the two entities can stay connected. We provide a welcome gift to new visitors to our church service. We send birthday cards to our youth with gift cards to popular Cowlicks Cards are also sent to members for Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and birthdays. We hosted the Advent Service at our church with many churches in attendance .Each Deacon has a group of members called a parish. We try to keep in contact with each of these members by cards, phone calls, e-mails or personal visits. We hosted an Advent service at our church with many churches in attendance.

It has been a busy year in the life of our church. We couldn't complete our mission without the support of our giving members, providing us with donations and helping us along the way. We love you all and we thank each one of you from our hearts. Pat Long, Pat McAdoo, Cathy Hollenback, Julee Estes, Nancy Jorgensen, Chrystal Newman and Marsha Robinson

DEACON"S YEAR END REPORT
2023

INCOME:

Donations	3,529.14	
Centsibility	85.01	
Memorial Donation	900.00	
Total		4,514.15

EXPENSES:

Supplies	60.00	
Gifts, & Flowers, Youth Birthday	60.00	
Postage and cards	271.20	
Church Celebration (cake)	72.99	
Hospitality House/Homeless	90.00	
Snack Bags	50.95	
Bean Meal	489.45	
Holiday Gifts	675.02	
Special: Pie funds distribution		
Mendocino Coast Children's Fund	1,000.00	
Food Bank/Pay it Forward Pantry	500.00	
Redwood Coast Seniors	1,500.00	
Cancer Resource Center	1,500.00	
Ending Balance		3,033.45

HOLIDAY HUNGER: Community Thanksgiving 2023 Annual Report

2023 marked the 27th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by our church. It is our mission to provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner in the spirit of love, caring, and community with any of our neighbors who, regardless of finances, would not otherwise have had a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. This year we were blessed to serve almost 1,200 free meals from Albion to Westport!

The event continues to evolve. Event leadership was expanded as Kathy Hart took the role of Co-Director with Printha Worthen. Kathy's expertise in event planning and task management greatly enhanced the organizational scheduling and tracking. New roles of leadership were developed and many of our volunteers enjoyed the clarity of their assignments.

This year we provided meals via 3 main options: home delivery, curbside pick-up, and indoor dining. Although our in-house guests were not as plentiful as we had hoped, the indoor event was cheerful and joyous, and re-established the tradition of indoor dining!

We used a good share of our funds to purchase a 3 door commercial refrigerator and three portable steam tables for the church. These additions helped immensely in storing and preparing our increased number of meals! We hope other events will find them useful as well.

We are so very thankful for the outpouring of financial support from within our congregation, community neighbors, local businesses and Dessert Dollar supporters.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the participation and encouragement of our church members and our many community volunteers who shared their time and talents.

Respectfully and Gratefully Submitted,

Printha Worthen and *Kathy Hart*, Co-Directors

2023 Community Thanksgiving Dinner Financials

2022 Fund Balance Forward:		**$ 8,064.85**
Income:	**$ 4,540.00**	
(includes Presbytery Grant $ 700.00 & MCHFndation Grant $ 200.00)		
Expenses:		
Food, supplies, publicity, decor	($6,034.09)	
Kitchen Equipment (refrigerator, warmers)	($2,884.73)	
Computer Consultation/data base fixes	($ 585.50)	
	($9,504.32)	
Net CTD 2023		($4,964.32)
2023 Ending Fund Balance		**$ 3,100.53**

2023 Annual Report
Budget and Finance

Our financial outlook at the end of 2023 is a lot more optimistic than in the previous two years. Total revenue for 2023 exceeded $293k. The major components of this total include donations from pledges, plate offerings and special activities, such as the Thanksgiving Dinner, pie sale, craft sale, etc. ($161k), an increase in the value of our investment portfolio ($125k), and income from building rental ($7k).

We plan to withdraw funds from our investments to cover pastor housing expense, building improvements and cover operating budget shortfalls. The total withdrawn this year was $81k. Since the value of our investments increased $125k, we more than covered the withdrawals, which is what we pray for. While we have yet to attain the market valuation we had before the market downturn of the last two years, we are cautiously optimistic that the current trend will continue.

Total expense for the year was $235.9k, which was 1.5% over budget ($232.6k). A joy offering for MacKenzie Burtleson, granddaughter of Marcia Williams, was received from the congregation; this resulted in higher than budgeted revenue and higher than budgeted expense. Our financial support for the Thanksgiving Dinner was higher than budgeted due to an increase in the quantity of meals served and higher raw material costs. Partially offsetting these unfavourability's were fewer Outreach expenses, a non-repeat of the front-end costs of implementing a new accounting system, and less than expected Other Pastor Expense.

Members of the Budget and Finance Committee continue to audit our financial operations. The audit completed March 2023 revealed no major issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Champlin
Eve Nighswonger
Kathy Orsi
Larry Robinson
Joel Stickel
John Carrick, pastor
Paul Beadleston, Chairperson