2024 Annual Report

First Presbyterian Church
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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2025

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 in 2024

Dr. Robert (Bob) Jorgensen	September 15, 1949-April 16, 2024
Roen Mallory	October 14, 1933-April 16, 2024
Geraldine Loomis	September 15,1930-December 8,2024
Ronald Anderson	October 24, 1942-June 29, 2024

Friends of the Congregation:

John Niukkanen

Jerry Ball

Tom Wisdom

2025 CHURCH OFFICERS:

SESSION:

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027
Marsha Jeffries	Jody Stickels	Paul Beadleston (2nd)
Jim Jeffries	Leo Lanigan	Larry Robinson
	Kathy Hart (2 yrs)	Pat McAdoo

TRUSTEES OF THE CORPORATION:

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027
Jim Jeffries		

BOARD OF DEACONS:

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027
Pat Long	Julee Estes	Vacant
Marsha Robinson	Vickie Owen	
Cathy Hollenback		

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jody Stickels-Active Elder & Chair
Cathy Hollenback-Deacon
Dede Raisanen-At Large
Holly Lanigan-At Large
Steve Worthen-At Large

2024 Nominating Committee annual report:

2024 Nominating Committee

- John Carrick
- Cathy Hollenback
- Pat Long
- Marsha Jeffries
- Jody Stickels
- Dede Raisanen

Nominating Committee recommended and Session approved the nominations of:

- Steve Worthen for Nominating Committee 2025
- Holly Lanigan for Nominating Committee 2025
- Patt McAdoo for Session Member Class 2026
- Leo Lanigan for Session Member Class 2026
- Kathy Hart Session Member Class 2026
- Paul Beadleston for a second, three-year, term for Sessions Class of 2027
- Larry Robinson for Session Member Class 2027

Deacons: The Deacons have no new members. Pat McAdoo is moving off of Deacons and is nominated for Sessions.

Final Committee Slates for 2025:

Sessions:

Class of 2025:	**Class of 2026**:	**Class of 2027**:
• Marsha Jeffries	• Kathy Hart • Leo Lanigan • Jody Stickels	• Pat McAdoo • Larry Robinson • Paul Beadleston

Nominating Committee:

• John Carrick • ~~Cathy Hollenback~~ • Marsha Jeffries • Jody Stickels	• Dede Raisanen • Holly Lanigan • Steven Worthen

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Stickels
Nominating Committee Chair

2024 Lay Leaders

Lay Leaders

Holly Hawkins
Bob Jorgensen
Isabel Rogerson
Kathy Hart
Julee Estes
Sid Long
Printha Worthen
Cindy VanWormer
Cathy Hollenback
Paul Beadleston
Steve Worthen

Greeters & Ushers

Paul Beadleston
Jim and Marsha Jeffries
Marsha and Larry Robinson
Cathy Hollenback
Suzanne Olsen
Lori Cole

Coffee Hour Hosts

Cindy VanWormer
Pat Long
Marsha and Larry Robinson
Vicki Owen
Julee Estes
Cathy Hollenback
Pat Tilley
Marsha Jeffries
Kathy Hart
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
Sandra Carrick

Money Counters

Cathy Hollenback
Mary Sue Rhoads
Julee Estes
Pat Tilley
Sid Long
Pat McAdoo
Printha Worthen

2024 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:	TBD 10:00 am
Chancel Choir:	Thursdays 3:30 pm
Mission and Outreach:	TBD
Worship Committee:	2nd Tuesday 3:00 pm
Session Meeting:	3rd Thursday 4:30 pm
Facilities Committee:	2nd Sunday 11:30 am
Christian Ed Committee:	Not Currently Meeting
Finance Committee:	
Nominating Committee:	
Personnel Committee:	

Pastor's Annual Report 2024

This is our sixth year of ministry here in Fort Bragg! We have much to celebrate and many people to remember with thankful hearts. During the year, I officiated at memorial services for John Niukkanen, Jerry Ball, Marcia Williams (a second memorial service), Ron Anderson, Roen Mallory, Tom Wisdom, Bob Jorgensen, and on January 18th we will celebrate the life of Geraldine Loomis who passed away on December 8, 2024. We also said farewell to several people who recently joined the church but then moved away from Fort Bragg; including, Carol Eschom, Don and Lillie Forfang, Eddy, Monika and Shine Stephen. We grieve the departure also of Nancy Jorgensen back to New Jersey after Bob passed away and Rosemary Niukkanen after John passed away. Sheri Smith also moved to be close to family. We have welcomed some new folks who are attending regularly, but we have not taken in many new members.

We have faced many challenges this year in maintaining enough elders and deacons to fill out our leadership structure. Many of our members and leaders have faced consequential health concerns. We have a great lack of children attending or participating in the life of the church. These challenges are common in churches across the country as we find ourselves more and more marginalized in our culture. Statistics for church attendance continues to rapidly decline across America. In the last 25 years, "40 million people have stopped attending church. More people have left the church… than all the new people who became Christians from the First Great Awakening, Second Great Awakening, and Billy Graham crusades *combined."* (*The Great Dechurching,* Jim Davis and Michael Graham, p.5). This "Dechurching" is hitting small congregations proportionally much harder than larger churches. 70% of people still going to church in the US attend churches with more than 250 people even though 70% of churches are under 100 people (*Dechurching,* p.12*).* There is a growing shift within churches as well that is pushing evangelicals toward a right-wing civil religion (i.e. Christian White Nationalism), while mainline churches are focused on social justice leaves both less unified and even incomprehensible to each other.

Despite all our challenges we have worshiped joyfully pointing toward the inexhaustible love and grace of God, we have served our own community in many significant ways; feeding the hungry, supporting seniors, welcoming people who feel unwelcome in many churches, comforting those in grief, contributing to many agencies doing good work around our community. As a member of the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), I was glad for the church to have the opportunity to hear Paul Slaikeu preach while I was on vacation. Paul has been ordained as a Certified Ruling Elder and commissioned to carry out a ministry toward the LGBTQ population. I was privileged to serve as Paul's liaison to the CPM as he made his way through the system. Paul represents the inclusive vision of God's love that I think we need to lean into even more fully in our community. I also served as a co-liaison for Sally Swan who was also ordained and commissioned as a CRE. Sally will be able to serve here when I am away, preaching and officiating during communion.

As people of faith, hope and love, let us not give up striving to be, to reveal, and to offer God's love through Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

John

Worship Committee Annual Report 2024

This year offered many opportunities for the Worship Committee to be involved in the life of the church. Sandra Carrick joined the committee as the chair due to a unfilled vacancy. We have a small but mighty group who work in the background to make Worship more meaningful.

Printha Worthen has worked hard to keep our bulletin boards up to date. The committee purchased new fabric for the hall boards, which gave a much-needed update to our boards. She was also responsible for organizing and presenting the special offering. We have four per year, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy.

One new thing we tried this year was purchasing the Sacred Art program for Easter. We also hosted a Seder meal, organized by Kathy Hart and Alan Foss. We continued to share Lenten services with the churches in the area.

We provided flowers for Mother's Day and cupcakes for Father's Day, made by Sandra Carrick. The Church Birthday this year was celebrated by Mission and Outreach with a special Indian meal.

Advent included our Sacred Art program with devotionals. Three Ecumenical services were held in celebration of our common faith. We also had our traditional Christmas Eve service. Our final service of the year was part of the Sacred Art program called Lessons and Laughter. This included Christmas hymns and fun activities.

Linda Cristman continued to lead our choir. They sang several times during the year, mostly concentrating on the Holy days of Easter and Christmas. She also, once again, organized an ecumenical choir for the Lent and Advent services. Linda has "threatened" to leave us by moving away, but so far, we are fortunate to still have her.

Thank you to our committee: Sid Long, Linda Cristman, Printha Worthen, Isabel Rogerson (secretary) Marsha Jeffries (Session Representative), Pastor John Carrick, Lori Cole and Sandra Carrick (Chair). Thank you also, for all those who serve as liturgists, preparing communion, media room, and many other ways of service.

In Christ's Service,

Sandra Carrick

Christian Education Report 2024

We give thanks to Eve Oliphant who has worked toward reviving a program of children's church. Eve has done creative programs including music and lessons and games with the children when they are in attendance.

Pastor John has led some adult learning opportunities on Thursday mornings, including a study of these two books:

Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy*

Brian Zand's *The Wood Between the World*

And in the fall, John led a Bible study based on the Scripture text for the upcoming Sunday sermon.

Bea Strickland has advanced a program called, *Empathy Circles*, for becoming better listeners and to deepen our conversations even when we may disagree. This program has made a great difference for Bea and she would love to see more of the congregation experience its benefits.

Bea Strickland

Facilities Annual Report 2024

Committee members: Jim Jeffries, (Chair), Pastor John Carrick, Paul Beadleston, Jody Stickels and family, Leo Lanigan, Mike Oliphant, Larry and Marsha Robinson, and special helper, Tommy McComas, Steve McMillen had to resign due to a schedule conflict

In 2024, the Facilities Committee met on an "as needed basis."

Dan Macy is paid monthly to mow the large lawns. The Robinson's prune the shrubbery on church property. Jim Jeffries cleans the parking lot. Leo Lanigan and Steve McMillian mowed the backyard. The Stickels' maintain the strip north of the parking lot. Paul Beadleston maintains the front yard plants. Thanks to Mike Oliphant for his efforts to secure stand by generator bids. Holly Hawkins waters front yard plants. Saul Uitz removed his materials and vehicles from church's back lot to comply with zoning requirements. **One pick-up truck is still there.**

Jan. 22nd, one window screen was destroyed in an attempted break in. The screen has been replaced.

Jan. 30th, kitchen water supply valve was tampered with. Feb. 2nd, Tommy McComas insulated the supply pipe to deter vandalism.

Feb, 4th, Power Outage, Feb. 5th Robinson's connected their generator to kitchen freezers.

Push lawn mower cleaned up and sharpened. 2 new basketball nets were installed. New locks purchased for gates and tool shed.

Loose and unattached letters on the "First Presbyterian Church" rock wall repaired by Tommy McComas.

Larry and Marsha provided at least 8 pick-up loads of chips added to swing and slide area

Furnace filters changed in April and November. Kitchen stove pilot light adjusted. Dishwasher guides replaced.

Stain glass windows washed. Saul Uitz spread a load of crushed rock at the back gate driveway.

Robinson's painted parking lot stripes, curbs and handicap areas. Playground equipment was power washed. Chip retainer boards installed at slide end and chips added.

Tommy gave the red shed a professional paint job.

Sanctuary furnace intake louvers cleaned and painted. Furnace room door painted.

Larry installed a new sprinkler timer behind the back deck.

Women's toilet repaired. Leaking urinal repaired. Rotten faucet post north of sanctuary braced up and defective faucet replaced.

Phoenix Fire Defense filled fire extinguishers and certified suppression system.

Don and Lilly Forfang donated 3 ladders, a carpet shampooer and a post hole digger.

Robinsons shampooed the Fellowship Hall carpet after the pie sale.

Usher's room repairs complete. Thank you, Tommy for painting it.

Our largest project was a new roof on the low pitch areas, 5 new skylights, 44 feet of new gutters and 3 new down spouts were installed.

Pastor's office also got a new roof.

Tommy spackled nail holes in pastor's office and painted over water stains on the office wall.

Faucet removed from city water kitchen supply line and plugged to discourage water theft.

Larry sprayed for ants on the south side of church.

New flag pole for our "Love" banner has been ordered.

Some of the desired future projects are: Stand by emergency generator, new back deck, reseal and paint parking lot, pave problem area on west end, new roofs for classrooms social hall and west storage room. Stain replaced redwood siding.

THANK YOU, committee members for all your work.

Submitted by: Jim Jeffries, Chair

Mission and Outreach End of the Year Report
2024

This committee is focused on local and International missions of First Presbyterian, Church Fort Bragg. It seems that this was a very busy year!

For our International Mission the Church supported three International students monthly through Compassion International. One graduated this year! We are awaiting the name and country of our next student to support. Please check the bulletin board for information about these students.

We had another successful pie sale this year. These net funds provide support to our local community.The pie sale had a new wrinkle this year, a ticket lottery for 5 huckleberry pies. One man that had a winning ticket came to pick up his pie but instead donated it back and said, "sell this pie for $30".The man behind him said,"I'll buy that pie for $30!". Thanks to Printha and Rebbie for selling the tickets. Some of the recipients of the pie sale proceeds include: Cancer Resource Center, Mendocino Coast Senior Center, CVStarr Center, FBPD CRU program, health and personal products for Dana Gray School Drive, Mendocino Coast Children's Fund, Food Bank: Turkey Challenge, Season of Sharing and Seder Celebration.

We once again supported the Adopt a Fifth Grader Program in conjunction with RotaryClub and the Mendocino Community College.

We hosted many lunch meals this year: Jan.- Soup, Feb.- Salad, March-Spaghetti, June- India meal, July-picnic, Sept. Taco Sunday and Oct.- International Foods. We love to eat! Hopefully next year we will have more guests join us.

We hosted the Texas 4,000 and the Illinois 4,000 bike riders. Texas came in June and Illinois came in August. Their motto: 4,000 miles, two wheels, one cause, fight cancer. These University Students are all such an inspiration! We provided showers and refreshments upon their arrival, dinner, breakfast and sandwiches/ snacks for the road. This year for the first time the FB Police and Fire Dept escorted them into town!

We paid for membership to the Chamber of Commerce and encouraged all committees to take advantage of this membership to invite the community to their projects.

We started something new this year, Brunch Sunday. Our First Brunch was November 3.

We welcome your ideas on how we might best share the love of Jesus Christ and grow our church family. Our current committee members include Larry and Marsha Robinson, Jose May, Vickie Owen, Rebbie Thomas and Pastor John Carrrick

Congregational Life Report – 2024

The purpose of this Team is to oversee various activities including coffee hour, educational sessions, Labor Day Weekend Pie Sale, annual tea, progressive dinners, summer barbecue/picnic, movie nights, and other ideas generated by Church members or other Teams. Activities don't happen unless someone volunteers to Chair the event.

The following are events that occurred during 2024:

1. Weekly Coffee Hour - we could still use more people to serve as currently everyone must serve once per month.
2. Several after church gathers occurred throughout the year.
3. The Community Tea well attended and enjoyed by all. This year's tea had a May Day theme.
4. The Pie Sale was a huge success again this year. Funds were raised to donate to several worthwhile community charities.
5. Thanksgiving Dinner – roughly 1200 meals were served.
6. Community Holiday Bazaar was not as successful this year. Not sure if it was because of competing events or the bad weather.

Due to continuing health issues I resigned from Session mid-term so was not present at Session meetings for the last few months of the year. I apologize if I missed any events in the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy VanWormer

Deacon's Year End Report for 2024

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

In 2024, on a regular basis, we were involved in the life of the church in many ways.
>prepared the elements of communion for worship on the first Sunday of every month
> made the famous Bill Keller casserole for residents at Hospitality House every month.
>sent a representative to session meetings
>provided flowers for new members
>provided prayer shawls to members of our congregation who were experiencing crisis.
>sent @Cents a meal funds to Presbytery of the Redwood's Hunger Fund
>provide snack bags to the Police Department to help with their outreach program.
>In November we provided gift bags to the residents at Hospitality House. Included in these bags were hand knit hats and scarfs, warm socks and gloves.

Some specific money donations were given to Circle of Horses, Senior Center, CRU outreach program with the police department, Backpacks for needy students at Fort Bragg High School, and funds to help with a club at the high school focusing on English Language Learners. We bought throw blankets for residents at Sherwood Oaks and for Xmas gifts for residents who were not receiving any family gifts.

In June we hosted the celebration of life for Marcia Williams. In August we hosted gatherings in the social hall for Bob Jorgenson and Roen and Norm Mallory after their memorial services.
We deeply appreciate the generous contributions of church members and friends. Besides money, people step up to help with dinners, special foods for shut ins, memorials and receptions. Thank you to this loving and caring congregation to help deacons carry out their mission.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Long, secretary

DEACON'S YEAR END REPORT
2024

Balance forward from 2023.		3,033.45
INCOME:		
Donations.....	4,661.00	
CentsAbility.....	1,343.56	
Memorial.....	1,000.00	
Total.		7,004.56
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		10,038.01
EXPENDITURES:		
Bank Fee.....	60.00	
CentsAbility to Presbytery	1,169.95*	
Gifts and flowers.....	240.00	
Supplies and Postage.....	80.98	
Hospitality House/Homeless		
Snack Bags.....	194.44	
Bean Meal.....	396.11	
Holiday Gift Bags....	487.50	
Special Needs.....	1,000.00	
Texas 4000.....	449.84	
Memorials.....	279.98	
Community Support		
Circle of Horses.....	500.00	
Friends of Health...	500.00	
Redwood Coast Seniors	500.00	
High School Bilingual Prog	500.00	
Sherwood Oaks Christmas	300.00	
Total		6,658.80
ENDING BALANCE.....		3,379.21

*Includes carry over from 2023 issued in Jan '24

HOLIDAY HUNGER: Community Thanksgiving Dinner 2024 Annual Report

2024 marked the 28th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by our church. Our mission continues to be providing a Thanksgiving meal in the spirit of love, caring, and community with our neighbors who, regardless of finances, would not otherwise have a Thanksgiving dinner. This year we served **1,211** free meals from Albion to Westport.

Additional impressive figures:

- **575 meals** delivered by **27 pairs of delivery drivers**. A pair of delivery drivers left late afternoon to catch any meals that did not get delivered in the morning. Quite successful, yet we still know of a few families that did not receive their meal.
- 116 cars arrived to retrieve appx. **450 meals** as part of our curbside pick-up.
- **65 diners** arrived at our church to participate in in-house dining.
- **1,116 meals** were counted and bagged by the food distribution line team.
- We served **92 meals** to our unhoused population, almost a 300% increase from 2023. Thank you to the invaluable assistance of the Fort Bragg Police Department Care Response Unit (CRU) improvements of our mobile delivery routes, a pop-up delivery of meals at the Food Bank, and the creation of a meal ticket to the unhoused that helped track food supplies.
- There were **200 (+)** volunteers that participated in this year's event.

Great news – 3 people have agreed to head up a 2025 planning team. This begins our journey towards succession planning and continuing this tradition into the future.

2024 Community Thanksgiving Dinner Financials

2023 Fund Balance Forward:			$9,764.85
Costs	**2023**	**2024**	
Income: (Does not include Harvest Dessert Dollars.)	$4,540.00	$4,043.50	
Expenses:			
• Food, supplies, publicity, décor	($6,034.09)	($4,948.83)	
• Computer Consultation/data base fixes	($585.50)	($776.25)	
• Kitchen Equipment	($2,884.73)	$0	
Total Expenses	($9,504.32)	($5,725.08)	
NET CTD Costs	($4,964.32)	($1,681.58)	
2024 Ending Fund Balance			$8,083.27

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

Total resources for 2024 were $259k. This amount exceeded our budget of $129k by $130K. Of this increase $96k is due to our investments. Consistent with prior years, we do not budget for investment returns due to the difficulty in forecasting the market. In comparison with 2023, our investment returns this year were down $30k. However, over the last ten years our investment returns have more than covered all our withdrawals.

Another $27k in resource favorability vs. budget came from pledges and plate offerings. All other resources for specific activities remained flat.

Expenses for the year were $357k, which was $117k greater than budgeted. Effectively all this difference was due to our roof replacement projects. We knew that our roofing projects would occur in 2024 and we had an initial estimate of its cost. Since this project was being funded by our investments, and hence a wash in general operations budget, we left the amounts out of the budget. We currently do not have any roofing projects scheduled for 2025. There are several roofs remaining to be replaced but we are taking a breather in 2025, hoping to build up our building fund. For point of comparison we took a breather in 2023 following activity in late 2021 and in 2022.

The Finance Committee will be meeting with our investment advisor later this month, and we will be conducting an internal audit of our financial operations, as required, later this quarter.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Orsi
Larry Robinson
Jody Stickels
John Carrick, pastor
Paul Beadleston, Chairperson