

Chestnut Hill Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
February 18, 2024

Call to Order - Marjorie Trinkle - President of Council

Mike Gane - Vice President of Council

Council Members - Craig Adams, Ed Hartzell, Curt Heck, Joan Slota, Carol Tice

Prayer of Meeting Commencement

2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Review Actions

Budget Line was added to the Annual Budget Format for Pastoral Milage

Safety Grant Status - denied

Hoff Endowment Board - added member Craig Adams

2023 Meeting - it was mentioned to pursue a bylaw as to the of distribution of the church property and possessions if the church was dissolved. No further action was initiated. This would be a legal expense that is not necessary at this time but we will pursue in the future.

Highlights of 2023

Memorial Tree Planted - donated by Emmaus Garden Club in honor Helene

Endy & Jean lobst.

Sale of Bells & Equipment

Parking Lot Pavement Repair - due to a car fire

Music on the Hill Event

Wreaths Across America

Boy Scouts continue to meet in our church - now on Thursday evenings

CPR Class was held in the church - general instruction -noncertification

Committee & Team Reports - Attached - Please raise any questions or concerns at time of report to committee members and council.

Personnel -

Finance – Reviewed at Budget Meeting in December 2023

Hoff Endowment -

Cemetery Board -

Trustee -

Visitation -

WWW -

Garden Committee – Memorial Tree was planted in memory of Jean lobst and Helene Endy.

Volunteers are needed for Spring Clean-Up – Flexible Scheduling

Council Members -A few of the members are completing a two-year term on Council in Spring. We are asking for the congregation to consider volunteering to serve on Council, a necessary and important opportunity for anyone interested. If interested in serving - please contact me - either personally, email (mtrinkle@fabconinc.com) or phone 484-515-6176.

General questions, concerns.

Pastor Linda Rapp - Pastoral Report, Comments.

Thank you for attending & giving us the opportunity to have your ideas & suggestions for the future of our church.

First Motion to Adjourn -

Second Motion to Adjourn -

All in Favor -

Meeting Adjourned . . .

Personnel Team Annual Report 2023

Current Members: Robin Shedlauskas, Curt Heck

The year began with welcoming Pastor Linda. The Personnel Committee, working with the Pastoral Search Committee, was pleased to have Pastor Linda Rapp accept the position of Worship Leader effective January 1, 2023. We are very blessed to have her.

We continued to search to find more church musicians in 2023. Lily Kubala (2-3 Sundays) and Phoebe Kelehrer (last Sunday) played guitar and sang for us each month. Lily provided special Easter music as well. Karen Heim filled in on the organ a few times too. Kyle Shedlauskas provided guitar/keyboard/ vocals 1-2 Sundays per month from March to October. We continued to look for a pianist or organist. By the Grace of God, Brian Wonderly was introduced to us through Pastor Bob Rapp. Brian came onboard in October, and he continues to provide piano music accompaniment 2-3 Sundays per month, or whenever we need him. We have been blessed with wonderful musicians who are happy to share their talents.

Becca Bogert joined our committee for a few months this year. She found that her many other commitments were keeping her too busy to stay on. Thank you for all you do, Becca.

Robin Klobosits resigned from the church secretary position in August. We were sad to see her step down. God brought Gloria Roeder to us in our time of need, and are very blessed to have Gloria take on the church secretary position, effective September 1, 2023.

Robin continues to be the contact person between church staff and Willoughby (the church payroll company) regarding hours worked by staff, reporting and record-keeping.

The Personnel Committee completed annual evaluation reviews with Pastor Linda Rapp, Karen Billger, Church Treasurer; and Sandy Eckhart, Church Sexton. We are truly blessed with all our wonderful staff members. Thank you all for the great job you do!

Respectfully submitted by Robin Shedlauskas

Hoff Endowment Board of Trustees Annual Report

Year-end 2023

Members: Emma Hoff, Cindy Buchter, Marge Trinkle, Craig Adams

This past year Larry Ender was replaced by Craig Adams on the Board of Trustees. We thank Larry for his service over the years. The Board was saddened by the death of Bill Hoff whose replacement is his granddaughter, Emma Hoff. Following Bill's wishes, a cumulative total of all funds dispersed by the Hoff Endowment since its inception will now be provided in the annual report to the Congregation of Chestnut Hill Church United Church of Christ.

The members of the Board of Trustees met several times (via Zoom) during 2023, following the purpose and goals of the Hoff Endowment as documented below:

Purpose: To follow what has been outlined in the document, "Vivian's Fund" which was established to provide financial support to Chestnut Hill Church United Church of Christ beyond its usual operating or capital budget. "Vivian's Fund" is to serve as a means through which to extend and enhance church programs and to reach out to the broader community which it directly serves primarily through its youth ministry but also through its adult education ministry and its music ministry.

Goals: To follow what is outlined in the governing document by releasing funds via scholarship or grants which address the needs in the following areas: Christian Education, Community Service and Outreach. Additionally, the Board of Trustees of "Vivian's Fund" (also known as the Hoff Endowment) are to oversee the Endowment's investments and accounting.

To that end, the Hoff Endowment provided scholarship funds, grants and/or financial assistance to the following persons/organizations/groups this past year:

The Kindness Project	\$1,250.00
Lehigh Valley VAST (Valley Against Sex Trafficking)	\$1,250.00
Chestnut Hill Church Grief Support Group	\$ 647.81
Medical Supplies for person in need serviced by Betty Lou's Pantry	\$ 200.00
Sponsorship of Wreath Across America (Chestnut Hill Church Cemetery)	<u>\$1,870.00</u>
Total funds dispersed 2023	\$5,217.81
Total funds dispersed since the inception of the Endowment	\$91,241.81

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Buchter

CHESTNUT HILL CHURCH CEMETERY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MEMBERS: SAM LEH – PRESIDENT, BRETT KODER – VICE PRESIDENT, JOAN SLOTA – SECRETARY, JEFF BOGERT – TREASURER AND SALES COORDINATOR, MARTIN KLOBOSITS – MEMBER –AT- LARGE

THE BOARD APPROVED THE HIRING OF NATURE VALLEY LANDSCAPING LLC TO MOW THE CEMETERY WITHIN THE PERAMETERS OF THE HEADSTONES FOR A FEE OF \$425 PER MOWING TO BE DONE BY-WEEKLY OR AS NEEDED. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 13 MOWINGS FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$ 5525.00. THE GENERAL RESPONSE FROM THE CONGREGATION WAS POSITIVE. JEFF, MARTY AND BRETT MOWED THE PERIMETER OF THE CEMETERY BI-WEEKLY.

THERE WERE 2 PLOTS SOLD @ \$ 1000.00 EACH.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 22 BURIALS.

THE WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2023. KAREN BILLGER AND JEFF BOGERT TOOK CARE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS AGAIN THIS YEAR. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 163 VETERANS RECOGNIZED, AN INCREASE OF 10 FROM 2022. THE HOFF FUND COVERED THE COST OF THE WREATHS AGAIN THIS YEAR. PASTOR LINDA RAPP AND HER HUSBAND, REVEREND BOB RAPP, ALONG WITH SCOUT TROOP 334, PARTICIPATED IN THE CEREMONY.

THE MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION THIS YEAR WAS THE CONDITION OF THE WALL. EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION HAD A SAY IN WHAT SHOULD BE DONE MOVING FORWARD. MANY OPTIONS WERE MENTIONED INCLUDING; KNOCK IT DOWN AND COVER WITH TOPSOIL AND GRASS, POSSIBLY ADDING BOULDERS, TREES AND BENCHES. THE OTHER OPTION IS TO REPLACE IT WITH ANOTHER WALL, INTERLOCKING BLOCKS, ABOUT THE SAME DIMENSIONS AS THE CURRENT WALL. WE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM SAM SINCE HE HAS CONSTUCTED THIS WALL IN THE PAST. THE COST WAS OVER \$20,000 FOR MATERIALS, SO IT WAS CONSIDERED. THERE MAY BE SOME RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COVER THE COST.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Bogert

Trustees Report for 2023

These are some of the future projects we are considering:

- * Phase III is the brick work inside the steeple area which needs to be re-pointed.
- * New Roof on the church
- * Covered Pavilion out back with concrete floor, picnic tables, electric and water.
- * Outside of Church to be painted
- * New furnace - future

2023 Projects				
1-Dec	Pendulum lights in Sanctuary - all 5 changed to LED bulbs	\$0.00	Lewis Chip Shupe	Shupe ?
1-Sep	New battery for Defib M5070A	\$0.00	CPR Savers	175.00 Koders
1-Aug	outside storm windowflippers replaced on all 8 windows - scissor rental n/c	\$0.00	Lewis Chip Shupe	Shupe ?
5-Aug	CPR purchased new defib pads	\$0.00	CPR Savers	93.50 paid Koders
18-Apr	Additional sign letters purchased letters A,D,M	\$0.00	Horizon Signs	72.00 paid Koders
2-Apr	parking lot repaired from car fire \$2900.00 (insurance paid from car owner)	\$0.00	Lenny Wells Paving	\$0.00
1-Apr	Walker Fuel - annual maintenance on furnace	\$334.95	Walker Fuels	\$0.00
22-Mar	Fellowship digital thermostat and guard box	\$0.00	Koder's	\$49.44 paid Koders
23-Mar	Kistler fire extinguisher protection - (8)	\$138.36	Kistler O-Brien	\$0.00
17-Mar	Water pipe leak in basement near furnace	\$488.76	Coopersburg Plumbing	\$0.00

Of course, most of these improvements would have cost the church some money, but thanks to the generosity of our members and non-members who had donated their time and the materials that were needed, we were able to save a few thousand dollars on repairs and upgrades. As your home is an investment that needs to be repaired and upgraded; Our church also needs improvements.

Considering that our church was built in 1880's, we have a lot of repairs that need to be completed each year.

Please consider donating additional funds to our Improvement Fund on your envelope. It adds up!

Please help us to continue to make our church a wonderful place for worship and friendship.

We are looking for additional volunteers to help us with the maintenance of the church, see Debbie, thanks.

Trustees: Mike Gane, Ed Hartzell, Debbie Koder, Terry Miller, Harry Rupp and Lewis (Chip) Shupe

Chestnut Hill Church Visitation Committee -2023

Due to the absence of a Pastor, as of January 2022 a visitation program was set up to keep the church in touch with our shut in members.

As of January 2023, we had 10 members unable to attend services due to illness, age or physical disabilities. Our number is now at 8 due to the loss of 2 members.

Every one to two months a call or requested visit takes place. Most would just like a call since the age of Covid. Calls are also made to some members who we have not seen in a while but are not on the shut in list.

Shut in Communion – Every 3 months and at the Christian Holidays, communion is sent out to be self administered with instructions. If requested, the Pastor and a visitation member will visit the home and administer communion. There were 4 requests in 2023.

Newsletters are sent out to those requesting due to no computer skills or availability. Only one shut in has requested since 2023.

Christmas cards and Easter cards are sent out with a small token with a scripture. Get well or encouragement cards are also sent as needed.

Summary:

3 - want a phone call only or request visit

Donations from WWW for 2023:

Chestnut Hill Church fuel bill: \$579 + \$1500 = \$2,079

\$500 to Family Promise to help reunite Sam's Family

\$550 to BLP for Christmas gift cards for kids/seniors

\$200 to Lower Milford Fire Hall for electric and use of hall for raffle. Not a charge—a donation.

- **Local Family in Need (Meskos), \$1000.** (Their story and how to help them is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Canaries Football Program:** inner city kids with no substantial family support or meals. The coach (a family member of one of our church families) is trying to give these kids some purpose and keep them off the streets and out of gangs, etc. The coach and his extended family (our church members) are providing food and snacks, etc. WWW has donated \$500 towards gift cards for them to purchase food in bulk, etc.
- **Essential Café** in Bethlehem pay-as-you-can café. WWW donated \$300 to purchase 25 gift cards for 25 meals given to those who cannot pay for a meal.
- **Tails of Valor:** trains service dogs to help veterans. We have a desire to help our veterans however we can. A donation for \$500 has been sent to help defray some costs as they train the dogs.
- **Love Ran Red:** local organization that employs all Autistic young adults to make dog food and dog treats in Whitehall. WWW donated \$500 to help as they look for a place to expand to include housing for their Autistic employees.
- **Bethlehem Emergency Shelter:** we are requesting more info about how we might provide weekend bagged lunches.
- **800+ filled Easter eggs and Winter Coats, scarves, etc.,** to Children's Home of Easton
- **55 filled shoeboxes for LV Holiday Hope Chests**