

SPRING VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



PASTOR'S REPORT 2020

Dear Members and Friends of SVPC,

This past year we all have had to adapt to the presence of the pandemic. I want to thank the work of the staff through 2020. The staff of the church worked diligently to keep our church moving forward. We closed the church office in the beginning of the pandemic in order to keep our staff safe. When we reentered the church building to work again inside, we sought to do all that we could to keep the staff, preschool, and those who came to the church building as safe as possible.

Session formed a Task Force to handle matters related to our church life in dealing with Covid-19. I thank the Task Force for their prayerful and careful work as they helped us navigate as safely as we could through these months. I want to thank our staff and members who developed our worship videos. We will be continuing the worship videos for the foreseeable future. I am thankful for the many volunteers who worked faithfully behind the scenes to enable us to worship outside, and then worked to enable us to worship back inside in Potts Hall and the Sanctuary. I want to thank the Session and deacons for their continued faithful work. Thank you to the whole church family who faithfully supported the continuing work and mission of the church as we have sought to move forward. You completed another three-year debt-reduction campaign in 2020. We will be able to service the debt for the next three years, and we are on track to be debt free by Founders Day on the church's 50th anniversary in 2027. I want to thank you for the many ways that you reached out to me personally through these months to encourage and help me.

As the vaccines continue to be administered, we are hopeful that 2021 will see us being able to come back together more in person. I encourage everyone to do everything you can to remain safe. Please take all precautions as advised by health professionals to remain healthy and keep you, your families, and neighbors safe.

May God bless you, our church, and our families and loved ones. May God continue to keep us safe in His love.

In Christ, Jack

Administration/Personnel

The Personnel/Administrative Committee is charged with using the resources provided by the congregation to fairly and reasonably compensate staff such that we can attract and retain qualified individuals for the ministries undertaken by the church. In 2020, the personnel budget was the single largest line item in the church budget. SVPC presently has nine paid staff persons: Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Director of Christian Education for Children and Youth, Office Manager/Communications, Finance Administrator, Facility Manager, Chancel Choir Director, Organist/Handbell Choir Director, and Nursery Coordinator. In addition, the church employs part-time nursery workers on an as-needed basis.



The committee is also charged with monitoring administrative expenses and reviewing church property and bus insurance policies, as well as administrative equipment purchases.

In support of the Session, the committee assists to ensure appropriate and timely performance reviews of each staff member are completed.

Ministry members: Nick Sipe (moderator), Liz Campbell and Debra Lybrand.

Building & Grounds

The past year brought new and unique challenges to our committee. With the church closed, we worked to reduce our utilities and coordinated our limited activities to keep our staff safe, which included purchasing hand sanitizing stations. It did however, allow us flexibility to replace the Atrium carpet, upgrade the lighting in the drop-off area, refinish the Sanctuary doors and clean the chairs in Potts Hall. We continued upgrading the pole lights in the parking lot, and will have the final two upgraded to LED shortly. With the reduced usage of the facility, we were able to extend the life of our HVAC systems with no major issues.



Suffering badly over the summer, the gate to the soccer field was replaced and an additional security camera installed to keep a watchful eye on it in the future.

Working with Worship, we prepared the grounds for outdoor service, planning and painting the lawn so that everyone could worship safely. When the time came to move back indoors, we again worked to prepare Potts Hall and the Sanctuary, so that everyone would have the space necessary to worship safely.



With the church closed and the need to socially distance, our regular cadre of volunteers had to be pared back. But they were still able to get the Memorial Garden looking spectacular as well as touching up the paint in the parking lot, and trimming back the hedges.

We are excited about several projects that will be under way this winter to welcome you back to a bright and welcoming Spring Valley Presbyterian.

We would like to thank everyone for their patience as we try to find new ways to use the grounds until we can return to the buildings.

Ministry members: Robin Brackett, Brian Hall, Normand St. Onge (moderator)

Christian Education

Suffice it to say that Christian Education did not unfold in 2020 the way we would have predicted it. We are pleased to say that not even a global pandemic could keep the Spring Valley team from spreading God's word. In January of 2020, the youth of Spring Valley continued their long time relationship with the Souper Bowl of Caring. Things looked more traditional at that time with monetary and canned food collections as well as a day of service at Harvest Hope Food Bank. Three of our own youth, Scott Dillon, Lizzie McCallum and Will Sherman were selected for the regional youth board. For Will this is clearly a family affair – his mom Wendy was a Spring Valley youth back when the Souper Bowl was formed at our church.



It wouldn't be business as usual for long. While March saw the hiring of our new Director of Christian Education, Meredith McDowell Orel, it also saw the arrival of COVID 19, making Meredith's first year anything but ordinary. On what turned out to be the last possible weekend, the Junior Highs took a successful mission trip to Asheville Youth Missions. Little did we know it would be the last "normal" event for a good while. We soon found out, however, that Christian Education doesn't go away, it simply changes in form. Relying on a mix of socially distanced, outdoor learning; online video meetings; and any time, on your own activities, Spring Valley was able to adapt and continue many of our great programs. Senior High and Junior High youth groups went virtual, as did Senior High and Junior High Sunday School. There were virtual scavenger hunts and devotions, energizers and prayers. SVPC even had a virtual prom.

Youth Sunday looked very different from both a timing and location standpoint. Moving the service outdoors allowed us to safely hear the sermons of our graduating seniors, the talents of our young musicians, and the oratory skills of our junior worship leaders. As an added bonus, since this service was also virtual, parents, grandparents, and friends could enjoy it again and again.

The fall brought new sets of challenges, with each group of youth seemingly having its own set of needs. Safety remained a priority. Confirmation Sunday transpired on September 20th. Elizabeth Ogorek, Thornwell Family Specialist, presented a virtual workshop for the WILD program. Some Sunday Schools met outside in person, others were virtual, some were "asynchronous", and we got better with the technology as the fall passed.



All in all, things were more the same than different. Trunk-or-Treat was a success, a socially distanced "Friendsgiving" still transpired, and what we hope will be a new tradition was born in the live Nativity. Advent festival took place "in a box" to great fanfare. It was a great year!

Ministry members: Natalie Hogue, Andrea McCallum (moderator), Jennifer Raley, Marjie Roper, Matt Sherman

Congregation

The Congregation Ministry is in many ways the “social committee” of SVPC. This ministry works to offer numerous opportunities for the members of the congregation to get together in more relaxed church and social environments in order to foster deepened relationships and friendships. Many of the different small clubs fall under Congregation Ministry. Men and Women of the Church (including Circles), Book Club, JOY Group, Thursday Morning Breakfast Group, and many other various clubs for all ages and interests allow many opportunities to join together and follow common interests. In addition, events such as Wednesday Night Café, the Christmas Cheer reception between Christmas Eve services, New Member Luncheon, Founders Day celebrations are longstanding events that have served to bring the congregation together.



While our groups have not been able to meet in person in 2020, we are finding ways to stay connected by email and with technology platforms such as Zoom and Google Meet. With policies for distancing in place, we also enjoyed our annual Montreat Family Retreat. The beauty of the Congregation Ministry is that it is always developing and expanding, and always welcomes new groups and opportunities to reach out and connect, even while we are not able to meet in person. We have some great ideas in store as things open up in the future!

Ministry members: Becky Coulter (moderator), Laura Shah, Kristin Simmons

Missions & Outreach

Meals on Wheels: SVPC is the host site in Northeast Columbia for the Meals on Wheels Senior Resource program. Since the start of the program at SVPC in January 2018, the program has grown from 140 meals per week (7,300 meals per year) to 350 meals per week (18,000 meals per year). Seventy-five volunteers package and deliver hot meals to seniors five days per week and cover senior citizens' needs with frozen meals for the weekends.

These statistics show the continued support of this church and the community for the needs of seniors and homebound citizens. Community involvement includes Spring Valley High School, Fort Jackson, Spring Valley Rotary, Woodcreek Rotary and many local multi-denominational churches.



For 2021, the SVPC distribution site will grow an additional 30-40% to over 25,000 meals per year. In 2021, SVPC's distribution site will continue to humbly serve those senior citizens in our community in need.

Backpack Program: Despite the closing of schools because of COVID, food insecurity continues to be a problem, a problem that was actually magnified because of the virus. Despite the issues with social distancing, Coordinator Marilyn Dillon continued to make the Backpack Program work and continued working with the school social workers. Every week throughout the school year, 50 backpacks are filled with weekend food for dissemination to children in preschool at Jackson Creek Elementary, Forest Lake Elementary and Windsor Lake Elementary (Richland 2). At this time, the program, which fills a void for some of the neediest children in our area, is completely funded by

food donations by church or preschool members as well as direct donations made by church members or raised by SVPC.

Live Oak Counseling Center: We continued to provide financial support and facility space as needed for Live Oak's work in providing professional and affordable mental health counseling and outreach services. Two SVPC members serve on Live Oak's board. A donation of \$750 was made to Live Oak Counseling from Missions & Outreach.

Blood Drives: We sponsored two blood drives during the year, providing much needed life-giving blood to the Red Cross.

Thornwell Building Families Program: 2020 was a unique and at times challenging year for the Building Families Program at SVPC. Elizabeth transitioned her in-home sessions to virtual telehealth appointments. She created informational videos for parents as they adapted to working from home and supporting their students' eLearning. Elizabeth led interactive workshops online for church and community members. She was able to deliver school supplies and Angel Tree gifts collected by SVPC members to families through porch drop-offs.



Multiple families expressed their gratitude for the gift cards that they received from SVPC at Christmas. Because of the generosity of members, Elizabeth was able to send small gift cards to families who did not necessarily need financial assistance but were encouraged to use the gift to create a family memory. One mother shared that she let her teens plan the way that they would use their gift card. They decided that since they were curious about meatless/vegan burgers, that they would like to try to make them at home. Mom reported that while the activity sounded silly and frankly unimportant to her at the time, she looks back at it as a significant bonding moment with her kids, one that they are still talking about!

Throughout the year, SVPC members have donated clothing, furniture, gift cards, and toys to families in our community as well as the Thornwell campus. Thank you for your continued support for the families served by Building Families Program.

Sistercare: Despite COVID, SVPC continued its support of Sistercare. Sistercare provides services and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and their children. During 2020 because of COVID, Sistercare was unable to accept collections of food, clothing, toys, etc. However, SVPC donated \$1,000 from the Mission Budget, and members donated grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas gift cards for the families served by Sistercare.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Some of us remember when Souper Bowl of Caring (SBOC) started at SVPC 30 years ago with a simple prayer. We are amazed at what the movement has been able to accomplish, year after year. SVPC collected 1,063 cans and \$1,704.67 in January of 2020. Additionally, Missions & Outreach also sent \$1,500 to Souper Bowl from its 2020 budget. Nationally, 2020 saw Souper Bowl set an all-time record generating \$10.5 million in food and monetary donations. Over \$163 million has been collected since Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990.



Habitat for Humanity: In October of 2020, over 20 SVPC members worked together on two Habitat homes in Cayce with October Peach Builds" (Peach St. in Cayce). Habitat helped to keep our members safe with COVID-19 Construction guidelines. Missions & Outreach donated over \$1,000 to Habitat during the year.

Migrant Ministry: The Migrant Ministry was put on hold this year due to COVID. The employers of the migrant workers at the campsites in Batesburg-Leesville were concerned about the health and safety of the workers and declined our offer of a meal and gifts. The Missions Committee remains committed to the ministry and hopes to resume our work in 2021.

Kairos Ministry: This outreach continues to involve Pastor Heinsohn and men from the church and plans for future visits to the Broad River Correctional Institution. We have continued through the pandemic getting men's clothes to inmates being released. We also collected 20 men's personal hygiene kits and other personal men's hygiene items to Destiny House, a home for integrating ex-inmates back into society.

Angel Tree: COVID changed the Angel Tree tradition somewhat this year, but SVPC was able to help make Christmas a little more enjoyable for Thornwell and Sistercare families. Two Christmas trees were setup at church adorned with adorable Christmas angels decorated by our wonderful Junior High Youth Group. (We hope these decorations will become a yearly tradition!). Also Sign-up Genius and announcements online were used to publicize the Angel Tree. In the past the Angel Tree ornaments would have contained gift ideas for our families, but this year with COVID precautions, the ornaments contained ideas for gift card amounts or DOPP kits for Destiny House. Over \$1,200 was collected in Gift Card donations and although 10 DOPP kits were requested, SVPC members donated 20 kits.

Missions of the Month: Monetary donations and ‘need awareness’ continued in 2020 through our Missions of the Month and other announcements, which included Souper Bowl of Caring, Heart Month (Blood Drive), Nutrition Month (Backpack Program, food pantry), Environmental Awareness Month, Mental Health Month (Live Oak Counseling Center), Richland 2/Sistercare school supply drive, One Warm Coat, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Sistercare), Christian Assistance Bridge (food pantry).

New Mission: Family Promise: Missions & Outreach added Family Promise as a new ministry for our congregation. Family Promise addresses family homelessness, providing homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, workforce development, education, financial capability, health and wellness, and more. Little did we know in early 2020 when Session approved Family Promise as a new focus for our committee how COVID would change the face of homelessness and how Family Promise would have to adapt amid the dangers of the spread of this virus. Initially our plans were to work with other host churches who would actually provide families in the program with a place to sleep in their churches. COVID changed that plan, forcing Family Promise to find hotel rooms for their clients (many who have jobs but have not been able to afford housing) during this pandemic. The visits we had planned as a part of our Family Promise Mission were impossible. We were able to donate \$2,800 to Family Promise from our budget to assist with the costs of these hotel rooms and SVPC families also donated gift cards to families for Thanksgiving dinners. We look forward to working with Family Promise in 2021 as Family Promise moves families from hotels into apartments and pray the restrictions of COVID will be eased and our congregation may interact with these families and help them escape the cycle of homelessness.

Ministry members: Elizabeth McCallum, Chris McMenemy (moderator), Jane Staines

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry has completed our Debt Reduction and Stewardship campaigns in a very challenging year. Our ministry and more importantly, our congregation has “risen to the occasion”. Our campaigns were successful thanks to the Stewardship Ministry Team, the extended Team, the Church Staff, Dr. Heinsohn, and all members of the Session and Deacons.



Our campaign results are outlined below:

(Annual Stewardship pledges are for the 2021 operating budget and the Debt Campaign pledges are for 2021, 2022 and 2023 years). The current campaign metrics as of February 15, 2021 are:

| | 2020 pledges received | 2020 amount | Goal | % |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|-----|
| Debt Reduction campaign | 110 | \$550,426.00 | \$700,000 | 79% |
| Stewardship campaign | 143 | \$535,536.00 | \$700,000. | 77% |

Please keep in mind we have a portion of our congregation who contributes to our budgets but do not pledge and the data is listed below for the prior three years unpledged contributions:

2020 \$ 71,000 **2019** \$121,000 **2018** \$128,000

Our Ministry believes we will continue receiving unpledged gifts in 2021, an estimate for 2021 yearend Stewardship contributions is \$600,000 based on pledges received and projecting \$71,000 for “unpledged 2021 contributions”.

Our Ministry is very satisfied with the campaign results when we consider our current “environment” and continued social distancing. The Stewardship Ministry continues monitoring pledge receipts while providing timely updates.

Ministry members: Bart Bartlett, Ronnie Johnson (moderator), Ruth Seigler



Worship Ministry

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our church building was closed shortly after our March 8, 2020 worship service and remained closed throughout most of the year. The building closure challenged us to find creative, alternative forms of worship that allowed our congregation to experience worship in a safe environment. To that end, the worship ministry took the following measures:

- Recorded weekly worship services which were posted on YouTube and our church website.
- Recorded special instrumental, soloist, virtual choir, and praise band music videos for inclusion in our weekly recorded services.
- Developed and sponsored safe, socially-distanced outdoor worship services (two each Sunday) throughout the summer and early autumn. The outdoor services were also broadcast via an FM radio transmitter to people remaining in their automobiles in the parking lot.
- Developed and sponsored a safe, socially-distanced indoor series of worship services throughout November and December.
- Revised communion procedures to utilize sterile, sealed juice and wafer packets.
- Replaced the speaker system in the Sanctuary which enhanced the quality of sound experienced by worshippers as we returned to indoor services.
- Experienced two beautiful Christmas Eve services in Potts Hall and the Sanctuary following our return to indoor worship.
- Upgraded the Sanctuary's audio-visual system to enable live-streaming of our traditional services, weddings, and funerals.
- Successfully live-streamed our traditional Christmas Eve service for at-home worshippers – the first live-streamed event in the history of our church.



The Worship Ministry is especially thankful for the leadership and support of:

- Bill Johns, our Creative Director and Chancel Organist for his superb work in creatively editing each segment of our recorded weekly services and the beautiful piano and organ music provided each week for our outdoor and indoor worship services.
- Ann Perry, our Music Director, for the creative musical segments recorded by members of the Chancel and Handbell choirs.
- The Joyful Noise Praise Band, for the weekly recordings of contemporary music for our worship videos and the Revelations service.
- Tom Sanderson and Nathan St. Onge for their weekly outdoor worship setup, outdoor sound system support, and weekly praise band sound recordings.
- Jonathan Ewaldz and the Chancel Guild team of ushers for their support of all outdoor and indoor worship services.
- Joel Atkinson, for video-recording the pastoral segments of each weekly worship service.
- Elizabeth Dillon, for creating safety videos for indoor and outdoor worship protocols.
- Sandra Moscato, for ensuring each weekly recorded worship service was posted on YouTube and for assembling the ProPresenter slide deck and music videos that support our Revelations service.
- Our pastoral staff, Reverend Dr. Jack Heinsohn and Reverend Ruth Roberts, who, in addition to leading Sunday morning worship services, devoted large amounts of extra time each week recording our online worship services.
- Our congregation, who have so patiently supported the efforts of our worship ministry and adapted so well to worshipping in new ways.

We are thankful for the many ways God has blessed our church. We pray for his continued blessings and a safe return to a more familiar worship pattern in 2021! Ministry members: Brian Clark, George Foard (moderator)



BY THE NUMBERS

| Spring Valley Presbyterian Church | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2020 Budget & Actual | | |
| Revenues | 2020 Budget | 2020 Actual |
| Pledged | 606,100 | 618,983 |
| Non-Pledged | 120,000 | 71,763 |
| Faith | | |
| Other | | |
| Café | 8,000 | 2,064 |
| Facilities Use | 7,000 | 3,480 |
| Flowers | 2,000 | 516 |
| PPP Loan Forgiveness | - | 81,299 |
| Other | 5,000 | 250 |
| Total Other | 22,000 | 87,609 |
| Total Revenues | 748,100 | 778,355 |
| Expenses | | |
| Community - Personnel | 448,087 | 430,715 |
| Community - B&G | 149,526 | 134,057 |
| Community - Administration | 77,180 | 84,726 |
| Community Ministry TOTAL | 674,793 | 649,498 |
| Worship | 10,460 | 5,402 |
| Congregation | 15,000 | 6,369 |
| Christian Education | 20,000 | 14,942 |
| Stewardship | - | 164 |
| Missions & Outreach | 24,000 | 18,856 |
| Total Expenses | 744,253 | 695,231 |
| Net | 3,847 | 83,124 |
| Fund Balances | | 12/31/2020 |
| Ministry Fund | | 240,621 |
| Building Fund | | 112,501 |
| Restricted Fund | | 117,730 |
| Total Cash on Hand | | 470,852 |

Our YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/SpringValleyPresbyterianChurch had 131 new subscribers in 2020 with 14,420 views and 2,400 hours of watch time! 75.2% were viewers who are not regular subscribers, and 24.9% are our regular subscribers.

We had 74,300 impressions. YouTube recommending our content summed up for 32.6% of these impressions and 67.4% were from viewers seeking our content.

