



Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church

Annual Report, Part II

Staff, Council, and Committee Reports

June 2022 – May 2023



2022 Maine Work Camp High School Mission trip.

Call for the Annual Congregational Meeting - Part 2

The Annual Meeting Part 2 of the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, will be held in the Sanctuary on May 7, 2023 immediately following worship, for the purpose of receiving reports of the Boards and Organizations; for the election of Elders, Deacons and Members-At-Large to the Church Officer Nominating Committee, and for such other business as may properly come before the Congregation.

Tina Bramel, Clerk of Session
April 17, 2023

Call for the Annual Meeting of the Corporation

The Annual Business Meeting of the Corporation of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, incorporated by Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey in the year 1785 as the Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation at Basking Ridge in the counties of Somerset and Morris, will be held in the Sanctuary on May 7, 2023 immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. This meeting is called for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report, for the election of new Trustees and members of the Financial Review Committee, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Congregation.

Nancy Deutsch, President of Trustees
April 17, 2023

Table of Contents

Call for the Annual Congregational Meeting - Part 2	ii
Call for the Annual Meeting of the Corporation	ii
Agenda — Annual Meeting of the Congregation	4
Pastor's Report.....	5
Associate Pastor's Report	8
Director of Ministries to Children and Their Families.....	10
Director of Ministries to Youth and Young Adults and Their Families	12
Director of Music Ministries	14
Director of Children's Music Ministry	16
Church Administrator and Treasurer	18
The Tree House Child Caring Center	20
Children and Family Ministries Committee	22
Board of Deacons.....	24
Fellowship Council	26
Gifts & Memorials	27
Mission Council	28
Personnel Council	30
Session	32
Spiritual Development Council	34
Board of Trustees	35
Welcoming Team	37
Worship and Music Council	38
Youth and Young Adult Ministries Committee	40
Church Officer Nominating Committee.....	43
Slate of Nominations	44
Biographical Statements of Nominees	45
Officers Completing Terms	51
Officers Serving During the Period June 2022 – May 2023	55

Agenda — Annual Meeting of the Congregation

May 7, 2023

Call to Order	Rev. Dennis Jones, Session moderator
Declaration of Quorum	Tina Bramel, clerk of session
Reading of Call	
Declaration that Call is in Order	Moderator
Open Meeting with Prayer and Scripture	
Thanksgiving to God for our Ministry	
Appreciation to Outgoing Officers	Rev. Dennis Jones Dr. Maureen Paterson
Officer Nominating Committee Report	Jim Felter
Nominees for Elders and Deacons	
Nominees for Church Officer Nominating Committee	
Recess Congregational Meeting	Moderator
Call to Order of Corporation Meeting	Nancy Deutsch, Trustee President
Reading of Call for Meeting of Corporation	
Nominees for Trustees	Jim Felter
Nominees for Financial Review Committee	
Appreciation to Outgoing Trustees	Nancy Deutsch
Adjourn Meeting of Corporation	
Reconvene Congregational Meeting	Moderator
Other Business	Congregation
Adjournment and Benediction	Moderator

Pastor's Report

Rev. Dennis W. Jones

"Then children were being brought to him
in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray.
The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said,
'Let the children come to me, and do not stop them,
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'
And he laid his hands on them and went on his way."
— Matthew 19:13-15

"Let the Children Come to Me" was the church-wide theme for this past year. It was a year to focus anew on the vital importance of our ministry to children and youth, the profound love that almighty God has for them, and their sacred role in the life of our church. We were more intentional in recruiting children and youth to serve as Scripture readers and ushers on Sunday mornings. We re-started our Acolyte Ministry. For the first time our fall stewardship campaign invited young people to express their gratitude to God and share their gifts to enrich the ministry of our church. In November we delighted in the arrival of Toby Montgomery, our new Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults, and their Families, and are grateful for the ways that he has hit the ground running and for the energy, faith, and love that he brings. Our Middle School and Senior High Fellowship groups have returned to meeting weekly, enjoyed two weekend retreats at nearby Christian camps, and plans are underway for our two summer youth mission trips. In March we returned to our tradition of celebrating an annual Tree House Sunday and had the largest response in memory. Our children's choir has been a source of great inspiration and joy, and we look forward to the Children's Musical that will be presented on June 4.

Our newly formed Creation Care Task Force, faithfully chaired by Barbara Perkins, has challenged and inspired us in taking seriously God's call to care for and be faithful stewards of the planet that God has entrusted to us. Special intergenerational events including a stream clean-up event and Creation Care Sunday in April are among their initiatives, and there is more to come.

Following a generous financial gift from Patty and Jeff Haines to update and enhance the Westminster Hall Kitchen, a task force was formed to provide leadership and vision in bringing the project to completion. The group is capably chaired by Trustee Dave Gibbons, and I am grateful for the great blessing that a new kitchen will be to our congregation as we gather in fellowship each week, for special events, and in the outreach and hospitality we extend to the community.

Our staff team and other worship leaders showed continued creativity envisioning and leading our worship services — those offered each Sunday as well as special services like the ones celebrating our Summer Mission Trips and Vacation Bible School, the Lenten Services of Music and Meditation, and Holy Week services. We continue to see the far reaching impact of our online worship ministry, reaching more people than we would have ever imagined possible.

Approaching the 3-year mark of the pandemic, our congregation responded once again with much generosity and faithfulness to our fall stewardship campaign. Additionally, significant generosity was shown in the special gifts made through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to

Annual Report, Part II - Staff, Board, and Committee Reports

support the people of Turkey and Syria following devastating earthquakes, and in support of Refugee Assistance Partners.

Our church has an incredible staff. It is a team of caring, committed, and creative folks, who's shared aim is to give their very best in supporting and strengthening the ministry of Christ at BRPC. In addition to welcoming Toby, we welcomed Cheryl Delgado as our new Administrative Assistant and Receptionist and are grateful for the abundant gifts and experience that she brings.

Our Deacons have provided support and care during times of loss and illness. Our Trustees have been faithful stewards of our historic buildings and campus and our financial assets. Our Elders have brought spiritual guidance and leadership in supporting our ministries, caring for the flock, and listening for God's voice.

Our community and world continue to be in a liminal season, a time of rapid and significant change. Our job as a church is to adapt and respond to that change as best as we are able. One of the ways our Session is doing that is through the formation of two new councils. The role of the new Ministry Engagement Council is to bring overall leadership and vision to engaging people as fully as possible in the life and ministry of our church. Their purview includes both in person and online engagement, and those who are already members as well as newcomers and visitors. The role of the newly established Online Community Council is to nurture relationships and connection between and with those who engage with us primarily through our online ministry. The leadership of this council will be largely made up of those whose primary manner of participating in the life of BRPC is through our online ministry.

As we embrace the future that is before us, may we trust in God's promise to be faithful, to be present, and to guide us through all that is to come.

With joy in serving as your pastor,

Dennis W. Jones



Associate Pastor's Report

Rev. Maureen Paterson

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18

It is often said that actions speak louder than words, how grateful I am that here at BRPC we love with our actions as well as with our words! It has been a joy to worship, grow, learn, serve and minister alongside all of you for another year.

During this past program year we have developed some new programming and interest in the area of Creation Care and it has been educational, inspirational and challenging to take seriously the command to care for God's created world. I am thankful for those who have brought this programming to life in our church and look forward to continuing to pursue these aims in the coming years.

As well as this new area of focus we have maintained a high level of engagement in our various small group studies. I am grateful to all of those who use their time, energy and talent to lead these book groups, Bible studies, discussion groups, prayer and meditation groups and other gatherings. Not only do we grow in our knowledge and connection with God but also we form deep bonds of friendship which sustain us through our lives.

Our Deacon board and Stephen Ministers continue to offer care and concern through their ministries and I enjoy these partnerships. Each person provides a unique way to show God's love and grace in word and in action; from a listening ear and friendly visits to delivering flowers and delicious cookies and snacks at fellowship hour, we show our love for God and one another week after week and I am humbled by the depth of commitment each brings to these ministries.

Our world continues to provide many opportunities for our Mission Council to engage in meaningful partnerships both locally and globally. We are blessed with many long standing and trusted relationships with other mission groups and individuals and continue to share in doing God's work through our hands on and financial commitment to these ministries. It has been a joy to be able to host some of these mission partners again in person as well as join in mission projects that have engaged our whole congregation. The generosity of this church is astounding and it is a blessing to be able to share this love with those in need in our world.

Each passing year seems to bring both new challenges and opportunities and I look forward to discovering what God has in store for BRPC in the year ahead and hope and pray that we can continue to proclaim God's love to our community and world in word, actions and truth in the future.

Maureen Paterson



Director of Ministries to Children and Their Families

Stacy Currie

But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them!
For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”

Matthew 19:14

What a difference a year makes! Coming back after the pandemic has been a blessing in so many ways. Sunday School and our Midweek programs are back to normal, and meeting weekly in Westminster Hall.

It has been a joy for me to be teaching the children. We have been meeting all together and this has proven to be a really enriching experience for the children and myself.

Seeing how the older and younger children interact and help each other, offering wisdom to one another and sharing their amazing personalities with us is a gift and a blessing.

We have enjoyed Vacation Bible School, Advent Festival, 3rd Grade Bible Sunday, singing at Ridge Oak and lots of other planned events as well as hearing the children sing on Sundays throughout the year.

Our Acolytes have been shining bright this year, what a wonderful ministry to have back during our Worship Service.

The children’s choir has made a joyous noise many times this year and I think we can all agree that they have lifted our spirits and put a smile on our faces on Sunday mornings.

We are gearing up for the Children’s Musical in June titled “ The Sailor’s Bible” and are in full planning mode for Vacation Bible School in August 2023 entitled “Tree of Healing”.

As always, a giant thank you to my Children and Family Ministry Council and all the parents who have lifted up our Ministry and supported me throughout the year. How Blessed am I to work with such an amazing staff and the BRPC Congregation!

Much love and blessings,

Stacy Currie



Director of Ministries to Youth and Young Adults and Their Families

Toby Montgomery

Greetings to you all! This is Toby Montgomery and I am coming to you from my desk here at BRPC! I cannot believe that I have been here just over five months now. So much has happened with the youth since I have moved here in November.

One of the first things I wanted to accomplish was to make our fellowship times for Middle School and Senior High as consistent as possible. We have moved to a weekly scheduled meeting on Sunday afternoons/evenings. The Middle School group meets from 5-6:30pm and the Senior High meets from 7-8:30pm. Already, both groups have taken some fun outings as well. Both groups went bowling in January in Green Brook, NJ and both groups have just returned from a weekend at Camp Johnsonburg for a youth retreat. As of this writing, we are putting together both the Middle School Workcamp with Raritan Valley Habitat/Camp Johnsonburg as well as the Senior High Workcamp in Maine. The future is bright here at BRPC for both Fellowships and I for one am excited to get the ball rolling.

Bibles and Bagels continues to meet during worship services on Sunday mornings. We have had a strong contingent of 6th-8th graders attending as well as 6-8 devoted advisors helping to teach weekly. The youth come for a lesson, have bagels and cream cheese while sipping on hot chocolate.

Confirmation Class is going strong as well with 6 solid confirmands every two weeks or so. Many thanks to Karen Johnson, Chris Whitlock, Tina Bramel, Dennis Jones and Maureen Paterson for helping me along this journey with the Confirmation class. As we come closer to the summer, I have faith that the confirmands will be heading into the summer as confirmed members of BRPC.

As we approach the summer, I just wanted to take the time to thank all of the staff at BRPC for making me feel extremely welcome but most of all for helping me to understand the lay of the land. Each one of you have been important in this journey here in New Jersey. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of my advisors who also have made this new beginning a lot easier to adjust to. All of you have been extremely helpful in this new transition!

With many thanks,

Toby Montgomery



Director of Music Ministries

Christopher Fortin

Greetings, music lovers! We were so thrilled to be able to bring you such a full season of experiences through all of our choirs and special guest musicians. I'm so proud of everyone who made space in their schedules this year to be a part of our music program.

We kicked off the fall with choir, brass and timpani, and our Alpha and Knox Bell Choirs were ready to start fresh after a successful summer of ensemble ringing. Oratorio Choir began rehearsing shortly thereafter to prepare a stunning December program featuring Mark Hayes' *Magnificat*.

In the new year, we began rehearsing for our Spring Oratorio which highlighted all women composers. This particular program was supposed to occur in March 2020, so we were very excited to finally present it. Such a powerful performance with exquisite writing! As we began the season of Lent, we offered Lenten Music & Meditation Services on the first four Wednesdays of March at noon. These brief and meaningful moments featured some very talented area musicians as well as our own Women's Choir. Delicious lunches followed each service. These Wednesdays were very well attended! As I type this, we are in Holy Week, but we continue our plan of Maundy Thursday with choir, Good Friday with the Madison String Quartet, choir and piano using Jane Hawes' beautiful "The Seven Last Words of Christ", and Easter Sunday led by Sanctuary Choir, Knox Bell Choir, organ, flute, horn and trumpet. April 16th will be our annual Jazz Sunday, which is always a crowd favorite!

Thank you for your tremendous support of music at BRPC! If you'd like to be a part of what we do, please contact me. We're always looking for more singers, ringers and other orchestral or band instrumentalists.

With gratitude,

Chris Fortin



Director of Children's Music Ministry

Beth Donley

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Psalm 147:1

When children sing in worship, they experience numerous emotions. First and foremost, they sing to the glory of God. Second, they sing to deliver scripture or a message to the congregation. Lastly, they provide an anthem with rhythm, a steady beat, and an emotion reflecting their devotion to God. Singing to the Lord evokes feelings, emotions, and a deep understanding of the lyrics. The words the children sing echo not only in sound but also in the heart and mind. The children sing to understand who God is and how God enriches their lives.

The children sang to the Lord in person and without masks this year. Children need socialization and the enjoyment of Music and movement. They were enlightened with Bible stories and glorious Music that touched their hearts and solidified their foundation of faith. Every Tuesday, the children would appear with eager faces, recounting stories of the day and a need to pray and sing. This year, the children presented a combined effort from various ages—attendance comprised of 10 children, ages 3 to 5th grade. With our blessed parents' assistance, the children attended the Midweek program of Christian education and Music. The choir sang monthly in the worship services. The numbers were small at times, but the voices rang out with enjoyment and praise to the Lord.

The Choirs participated in the All Children-led Christmas service, "The Light Before Christmas". It was a beautiful telling of the Advent season and the coming of Christ into the world. Children read scripture, led prayers, and united their voices in song. I was so proud of their accomplishment in this service. In the spring, the children will actively sing in worship and celebrate gratitude for all mothers on Mother's Day. Additionally, the children will perform a children's musical, "The Sailor's Bible," by Allen Pote and Tom Long. Let the fun continue! The year would not have been possible without the parents and family members' support and dedication, who actively connected the children to our Midweek program. Blessing for all you do!

What a gift I receive each week singing and teaching these precious children.

Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Singing God's Word!

Beth Donley



Church Administrator and Treasurer

Cara Burchett

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13

The Church Administrator reports to the Head of Staff; acts as a liaison between the program staff, Session, and Trustees, directs the support staff to meet the objectives of the church; is responsible to the Trustees for administering the business functions of the church, manages the church facilities and administration of the cemetery. The Church Treasurer receives and disburses funds, and maintains the church financial and investment accounts. The Church Administrator/Treasurer wears many hats!

Personnel responsibilities include supervision of office Administrative Assistants Cheryl Delgado, Janice Leotti, Pastoral Administrative Assistant Lisa Fabrizio, Assistant Treasurer Elizabeth Messineo, Communication Coordinator Gary Ingram and Sextons David Brownlee and Paul Bachem. We were blessed to welcome Cheryl Delgado to our team in August, due to the departure of Michelle Lew who relocated out of state. We are so grateful that God’s timing brought Cheryl to us precisely when she was seeking a position that would allow a more balanced work and family life. Her extensive knowledge and experience as a prior church administrator made her learning curve almost nonexistent! We are blessed to have a full and very effective support team who are also a pleasure to work with and I am so grateful to have this group of caring, skilled and dedicated people. I am also grateful for the faithful volunteer service of our Counting Team, Jim Felter and Angi Looby, who graciously dedicate twice a month to the important work of counting the generous donations from friends and members.

As Treasurer, I support the Board of Trustees, work with the Stewardship Council to encourage congregational giving, with the Joint Budget Committee to administer the allocation of our resources, and with the Investment Advisory Committee to manage our investment endowment. We were profoundly blessed by the generosity of our church members and friends again in 2022, despite facing the financial headwinds of rising inflation and maintenance costs and supplies along with investment market challenges. The generosity of our members and friends, and the wise guidance of the Investment Advisory Committee, allowed us to end the year financially stronger than expected.

As Facility Manager I work closely with the Trustees, our sextons and outside contractors to provide care and maintenance of our historic building and grounds. Thankful once again to receive a grant from the Willits Family Foundation, we were able to complete the renovation of one of the Church House bathrooms into a barrier free space last summer. In partnership with the Trustees, the repair and replacement of portions of the Sanctuary porch and pillar pedestals will happen this spring, upgrading the look and safety of our historic building. Special thanks to trustee Andy Nowack who has guided this project from its inception. We are also excited that the installation of the large Oak Tree slab in Westminster Hall is on target to be completed in April, thanks to the tireless efforts of the “Oak Tree Boys”, Jon Klippel and Bill Emmitt. The large piece will be presented in a museum quality display, and we are eager to welcome the congregation and community to visit the display and honor the memory of our beloved Oak Tree in this special way. Also underway is the initial planning for a potential church kitchen renovation, a project that has long been on the to-do list, and which has been brought to the forefront due to a generous gift from Jeff and Patty Haines. In order to determine an accurate budget and complete wishlist, the Kitchen Task Force is hard at work compiling

congregational feedback, visiting other church kitchens and working with an architectural and design studio to determine next steps. We are grateful that trustee Dave Gibbons has agreed to serve as the project manager for this inspiring work! Safe and Sound, the Women's Shelter, required some significant maintenance this year including repairs to their garage roof, chimney and HVAC system and the repair of collapsed sewer pipes in the basement of the building. We are grateful to our Mission Council for graciously funding the sewer work.

Further issues addressed on campus this past year include repairs to the gutter systems of the Sanctuary, Tree House and church house, patching the main kitchen ceiling, and various plumbing, HVAC and painting work.

As gatekeeper of the facility I navigate the challenges of shared space, juggling our ministry and program needs with those of the Tree House as well as the many outside groups and organizations with which we share our space. The many groups we continue to host on campus include the Bernards Township Library Leisure Learning program, Al-Anon, Debtor's Anonymous, AA, Boy Scouts and Shelter Friends, as well as the Charter Day art exhibit and the annual cookie walk for Atlantic Health. We are also home to many spring recitals. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve the community in these welcoming ways!

As Human Resources manager I work with the Personnel Council to develop and implement employee policies and benefits for the church and Tree House staff.

Managing the cemetery offers me the humbling blessing to assist families during their most difficult moments, and it is with gratitude that I am entrusted with this caring and compassionate work.

It is a privilege and joy to work with colleagues and faithful volunteers who rejoice in serving God together in this beloved church. I am blessed beyond measure to be part of this church family.

With Gratitude,

Cara Burchett

The Tree House Child Caring Center

Jen Nowack, Director



The Tree House is currently in its 40th year of operation. The Center was established by the authority of the Session through the Children and Family Ministry Committee. The Government of the Center is vested in a Board of Directors, the majority of whom are Church members, currently under the leadership of President Betsy Fryling. The Board meets once a month.

In September, the Tree House opened its doors to 105 students for another school year. This year the school continued to adjust its expectations as restrictions from the pandemic were lifted. It was wonderful to sense a return to our normal welcoming culture as our halls were once again filled with families. Parents, siblings, grandparents, etc. were invited into the school as mystery readers, classroom helpers and knowledgeable experts on topics of study. Our families have so much to offer, we are thankful to have their support within our school walls once again.

The Tree House staff continues to be an integral part of the success of the school. Over the past three years, the staff has remained committed to the school and community. They have continued their professional development so that they offer the highest quality of education and support to their students. Each staff member actively participates in all school activities and enjoys the support and participation of the families in their class. The Tree House is lucky to have such a dedicated group of individuals.

The Tree House is proud to provide a competitive program and a valuable learning experience for all of its children. The school's objectives remain the same in that it encourages the individual potential and social development of each child and helps him or her to achieve a positive self-image.

The current center enrollment is 107 preschool children. While the center is licensed for maximum attendance of 140 children at a given time, this year, due to a COVID-related cutback, the center is considered fully enrolled with 112 children. The Tree House employs a total of 25 employees including teachers, teacher assistants, afternoon child care providers, an office manager, and director.

Jen Nowak

Photos From The Year



Children and Family Ministries Committee

Lindsay Healy, Elder

Members: Stacy Currie, Kate Balboni, Lindsay Healy (Elder), Amanda Hughes (Chair), Rebecca Mauro, Betsy Stout, Elizabeth White

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

Psalm 118:29

“Let the little children come to me, Let them come and gather at My knee, Let them come, dear friends for don’t you see, This is how God’s kingdom ought to be? This is how God’s kingdom ought to be” ~ Helen Kemp

The Children and Family Ministries Committee continues to feel God’s presence as we work to bring God’s message to current and new children and families at BRPC. It has been a wonderful year worshiping together in Sunday School, Midweek, and at community events.

The spring of 2022 provided fun for all! Children participated in an outdoor Palm Sunday Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt. Children were able to collect filled eggs for their Easter basket while trying to decode a secret Easter message. Children also enjoyed the flower arranging station and Easter treat at the snack station. Children delivered a Pentecost message during the worship service on June 5th through singing and speaking. An ice cream party to celebrate their hard work during the service as well as throughout the year was enjoyed by the children and their families!

Vacation Bible School ran from August 8-12, 2022 and was back in the church building after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The River of Life theme focused the Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and snacks around God’s many messages about the importance and power of water. It was a fun week filled with God’s love, energy, and new friendships! We enjoyed sharing with the congregation about our week at VBS Sunday on August 14th.

This year’s Sunday School theme: Let the Children Come, kicked off on September 11th. After Sunday School, children enjoyed face painting, games, and an ice cream truck visit. Sunday School continues to meet in Westminster Hall with consistent numbers. The children enjoy learning about God from Stacy and one another, through finding Bible verses, reading passages, discussion, and activities. Children have been empowered by participating in the worship services as acolytes on Sunday mornings. We are also fortunate to have two loving women providing care in the nursery every Sunday.

This year’s third graders received their Bibles on October 23rd during the worship service. Seven 3rd graders received their Adventure Bibles. The youth choir also sang during the service this Sunday and added to the celebration.

To start the season of Advent, CFM provided children and families with the Advent Festival on November 27th. There were six activity stations of crafts and games, as well as a large spread of delicious snacks and drinks. After the worship service on Sunday October 18th, Sunday School children and their families drove to Ridge Oak for an hour of Christmas Caroling, Christmas cookie eating, and fellowship. Children had made cards during Sunday School and hand delivered these cards to the Ridge Oak residents as well.

The Children and Families Ministries Committee was thrilled to provide a catered Lenten Lunch on Wednesday March 8th. Those who attended the Lenten music performance in the sanctuary were then welcomed to Westminster Hall for fellowship and food. The children of the Midweek program, which meets weekly on Tuesdays, helped to set the tables and decorate for the Lenten lunch. We are thrilled to have children attend Midweek to read Bible stories, play games, and complete crafts. We are blessed that Beth Donley continues to provide our children with her time and talent during Midweek. She conducts the children's choir who have been able to sing during the worship services each month. It is a gift to listen to the children make a joyful noise!

Sunday March 19th was Tree House Sunday. We were thrilled to have so many Tree House students, families, and teachers in attendance with us in the sanctuary, Sunday School, and for the Bubble Show. Children and adults all enjoyed the Bubble Man, and we hope he comes back for a visit during VBS this summer! VBS will take place August 7-11, and this year's theme is "Tree of Healing."

We are looking forward to another busy spring season! On Palm Sunday, we will host an Easter Scavenger Hunt outside after Sunday School. In addition to the scavenger hunt, Easter eggs, snacks, and flower arranging, the Easter Bunny will hop over to BRPC for a visit! With Beth Donley at the helm, the children are working hard to prepare for their rendition of "The Sailor's Bible" which will take place during the worship service on June 4. God continues to bless our Ministry. We feel called to welcome all of God's children and families to BRPC and help teach them about God's Kingdom.

Board of Deacons

Beth Cleary, Moderator

The Deacon Board supports 11 geographical clusters of our church membership by getting to know the members of their group and keeping in touch with cards, notes, calls, and offers of support should it be needed as well as coordinating the connections of help as the needs arise. Additionally, the Deacons support the following ministries throughout the year:

Greeter Ministry – This past year the Deacons each took a month to greet or line up greeters for each Sunday worship service to ensure that each guest was welcomed.

Sunday Morning Coffee - Edna and Mark Barnard and Jan Hedden have stepped up tremendously to enrich the coffee hour and enhance opportunities for congregants and guests to get to know each other after the worship service. Each week 2 Deacons are in charge of getting servers or serving coffee themselves. The Barnards and Jan make sure all items needed for our refreshment time are stocked in the pantries and fridge. We also give thanks to the fellowship committee that takes over in the summer, serving lemonade in the shade of the patio.

Food Angels – Dolly Tharp coordinated volunteers to make and deliver meals to our church family as needed. Deacon members help to prepare and deliver meals along with former Deacons and church members that enjoy helping in this capacity. Meals are provided as families have needs of temporary support and were much appreciated by the notes of thanks we received.

Memorials – Susan Felter and Joan Aurnhammer are in charge of this important ministry. Volunteers are organized to set up, serve, and clean up for our guests. Bakers participate from within the board as well as church members and former Deacons.

Deacon Secretary – Maggie Aloisio served as our secretary this year keeping notes of our meeting discussions as well as attendance each month. The minutes are thorough and concise and shared with the Deacons in a timely manner after each meeting. The meetings now take place in person with a virtual option and we appreciate the set up that allows these meetings to **run smoothly**.

Flower Delivery – Deacons share the sanctuary flowers with at least 4 recipients each Sunday after worship. Jean Sorabella led this ministry by coordinating a rotating schedule of 2 Deacons each Sunday for making the floral arrangements and delivering them to church members and friends in need of cheer. Jean also kept tabs on the supplies needed to coordinate these tasks making sure things were well stocked. The Deacons also deliver Poinsettias and Easter Lilies to parishioners for special reasons.

Correspondence – Patty Haines monitors the communications that were sent to the Deacons via the church. Many notes of thanks for meals, flowers, memorial support, and visits were collected this year as support and care were provided.

Maureen Paterson is such an asset to this ministry who is always so responsive, articulate with any needs for members of the congregations and supportive of the Deacons with various duties. She is always ready to step in and provide guidance as needed and we appreciate her leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Cleary

Photos From The Year



Fellowship Council

Sally Pickle and Julie Conway, Co-chairs

Council members are: Elaine Coulthart, Ann Marie Nixon, Judy and Duncan Ewald, Dawn Rhodes, Kris Emmitt, Florence Henry, Debbie Schaub, Joy Schmitt, Joelle Strona, and Jean Wadsworth.

The Fellowship Council works with an aim of nurturing community and fostering friendships among our members and guests through the planning and execution of festive events. We strive to plan a mix of familiar favorites while integrating new ideas throughout the year.

This past year we were excited to host multiple events coming out of Covid. We were able to host events inside the church again, serve food and gather as a community.

Lemonade in the Shade after our summer Sunday services is a great way to converse with new and old friends at the beautifully shaded patio of the Church House. Cold lemonade, fruit and treats are standard fare, with a special ice-pop assortment added mid-summer to keep everyone cool

We kicked off the year with a Welcome Back Brunch. We celebrated Dennis returning from his sabbatical and summer coming to an end. The event was a huge success and Westminster Hall was filled with laughter and fellowship.

This year we also held a reception during the documentary of "Under The Great Oak," in Westminster Hall. All members and friends joined us to watch the movie about our beloved great oak tree.

In December we hosted a Oratorio Choir Concert Reception and a gathering after the Walk to Bethlehem with all churches invited for cookies and cider.

We also were excited to host Eggstravaganza, a time of fellowship and a delicious brunch in Westminster Hall immediately following worship.

For Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner this year, we were able to celebrate together in-person. It is a crowd favorite that serves pancakes, sausage, curried fruit, and brownie sundaes.

We also hosted a Spring Oratorio Choir Concert Reception.

The Council also works collaboratively with other committees to support programming.

Our group is largely comprised of highly Council-experienced individuals, who have planned, brainstormed and executed events for many years, and who share their wisdom freely. We are grateful to the many volunteers who help with events throughout the year— those who bake, cook, shop, set-up, clean-up and serve—we couldn't function without you!

We welcome anyone who would like to help-out or join our planning meetings, which are on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm on zoom or at the Church House library. Hope to see you at a meeting or one of our events soon!

Gifts & Memorials

Jean Wadsworth, Chair

The Gifts and Memorials Committee is a committee of, and responsible to, the Session. Gifts to the fund are received in memory of a loved one or in honor of a celebration or a loved one.

There were no requests for funds this year; therefore the committee did not meet. As the impact of the pandemic recedes, I anticipate that there will be requests for funding for projects around the church.

Mission Council

Carol Skidmore, Chair

Council Members: Maureen Paterson (Pastoral leader), Ruth Bashe, Josh Felter, Susan Frantz, Ellen Greenhorn, Evelyn Gruening, Debra Jones, Michael Pasnik, Debbie Schaub, Carol Skidmore (Chair) and Suzanne Van Loon

The goal of the Mission Council is to provide financial assistance and to coordinate and deliver hands-on help to local and international partners, especially those organizations whose primary focus tends toward the assurance of food, housing, education, security, and maternal health. During the second half of 2022, the pandemic impacts became less severe and we were able to provide more hands-on support. Thanks to the pledges of the BRPC family, which provided the Council with a \$155,000 budget and supplemented with funds held in Mission reserves, we were able to maintain our financial goals.

During this past year we continued our work with our newest partner, the Refugee Assistance Partners of NJ. RAPNJ provides financial and hands-on assistance to refugee individuals and families who are beginning resettlement in Union County. Several BRPC members are continuing to volunteer in various capacities and RAPNJ is grateful. In October we held a toiletry drive to collect much needed basic personal supplies. The BRPC family contributed enough to supply 50 families with basic personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and more. In November we held a coat drive for RAPNJ and collected over 50 coats for children and adults.

We continued to maintain support of our long-term partners that were established prior to the redistricting of the presbyteries in NJ, including the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, the Institute of Music for Children, Homeless Solutions, Good News Home for Women and Restore Ministries. We continued to provide support to God's Co-op Pantry, Somerset County Food Bank, Raritan Habitat for Humanity and the VNA Adult Day Center. In 2022 Home of Somerset County (formerly IHN) began reaching out to churches to resume hosting guests in local houses of worship. In September we opened our doors to house a family at BRPC for the first time in about three years. The program is just beginning to welcome back clients and we plan on hosting HOME guests for another three times through the end of 2023.

In December, our local hands-on mission, God's Co-op Pantry, was told that they would have to leave their current location at Good Shepherd's Church in Bernardsville. After looking at many other possible locations, the pantry is pleased to have the support of the Trustees of BRPC who agreed to let them convert one of the two-car garages on E. Allen Street next to the Tree House Nursery School for their new pantry location. They are waiting for a use variance from the town and hope to be relocated early this summer.

We provided financial assistance to those in disaster situations, including those suffering the effects of the Kentucky floods, Hurricane Ian, and the devastating earthquakes in Turkey/Syria.

We met with our first BRPC-LEP (Link Education Partners) scholarship recipient and his mother via ZOOM to review his progress and awarded him \$4,000 for his second year of high school, funded from the SCEEP Scholarship endowment funds. Our goal is to continue to support that individual through his high school and possibly post-high school education. We will meet with him again this spring to determine if his progress warrants further support. Educational support was provided for several other students for their post high school endeavors through the Verburg Scholarship fund.

Council and Committee Reports

During the Christmas season, church members selected and contributed gifts and ShopRite gift cards through the Angel Tree collection. Almost \$2000 in ShopRite gift cards were collected for the pantry and most of the other items requested on the giving tree were for Homeless Solutions families and another family that we have been helping for years.

Internationally, we continued our partnerships with World Hope Int'l-Malawi, Village2Village in Uganda, Haiti, and PeaceWorks. We continued to support our missionaries Nadia Ayoub, serving people in Greece, Cheryl Barnes assisting people in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Jhanderys Dotel-Vellenga and Ian Vellenga, serving those in Nicaragua.

With Covid waning, we hope to resume hands-on work in Ecuador soon and to continue supporting the Maine Work Camp mission trip. We are also considering new partnerships identified through the experience and insight of Council members. All we do is made possible through the continued generosity of the BRPC family that allows us to put our passion for mission into action. Thank you.

Personnel Council

Mike Gallegly, Chair

Members: Nancy Bedner (session), Lee Horner (session), Tina Bramel (clerk of session), Mike Gallegly (chair), Dave Gibbons (trustee), Dennis Jones (senior pastor), Betty Hahn, Rudy Hyzer, Ronna Storm, and Jim Sinni.

Following the previous two years of operating in the coronavirus pandemic environment, the 2022-2023 program year began with a continuation of the ongoing staffing challenge due to the Director of Ministries to Youth, Young Adults, and their Families vacancy. Through the extensive and prayerful efforts of Ministry Architects and the search committee, the position was successfully filled in October. Staffing of the youth director position and other notable personnel matters, including policy, compensation and benefits that occurred throughout the program year, are summarized below.

- June 2022: Staff recognition brunch held on 6/7 in conjunction with the beginning of the new program year. Celebrated the 5-year service anniversary of Janice Leotti. Blessings and prayers provided during the 6/12 worship service for the commencement of the 12 week sabbatical for Dennis. Welcomed Dave Gibbons as the newly appointed trustee representative to the personnel council.
- July: Continued partnership with Youth and Young Adult Council to ensure contingency leadership plans in place for middle school and high school youth programs during the ongoing search for the youth ministry director position. Celebrated the 15-year service anniversary of Maureen Paterson during the 7/31 worship service.
- August: Welcomed Cheryl Delgado as the new hired administrative assistant filling the position previously held by Michelle Lew. Began planning for staff and pastoral salary recommendations for 2023 budget.
- September: Presented recommendation for the annual budget with Nancy Bedner as council representative on the Joint Budget Committee. Proposed budget based on a 4% salary increase and maintaining current employee/church benefit contribution levels of 19%/81%.
- October: Toby Montgomery hired as Director of Youth, Young Adults, and their Families Ministry, effective 11/15. Celebrated the 50th anniversary of Bruce Schundler's ordination during the 10/23 worship service and following fellowship hour.
- November: Recommendation provided to Session for changes in the 2023 Pastoral Terms of Call involving 4% annual salary increases for both Dennis and Maureen. Planned for Paul Bachem's upcoming 5-year service anniversary.
- December: Recognition event during Dennis' 12/6 staff meeting to thank all staff for their ongoing teamwork and flexibility, especially during staffing vacancies, and to finally celebrate being fully staffed. Distribution of annual Christmas gifts and cards for staff members.

Council and Committee Reports

- January 2023: Recommendations for annual personnel budget and maintenance of current benefit contribution levels were approved by JBC and Session and subsequent notification provided to Board of Pensions. Cara Burchett joined the monthly council meeting and provided a review of how staffing vacancies had been covered during the past year. Recommendation of change in Pastoral Terms of Call presented and unanimously approved at 1/29 Annual Congregational Meeting.
- February: Completed the annual review of the Personnel Policy Manual to ensure all policies and documentation are current.
- March: Completed the annual review and incorporated updates to the Personnel Council Handbook to ensure it too is current and up to date. Reviewed the process, forms and timing of the 2023 annual reviews for pastoral, program and staff.
- April: Preparation and submission of the Personnel Council 2022-2023 Annual Report.
- May: Planned for Personnel Council member participation and brunch preparation for annual staff recognition event, to be held during Dennis' June 6 staff meeting.

BRPC continues to be blessed with such a talented, faithful and dedicated staff, and now especially blessed with all positions finally being filled. The Personnel Council thanks each staff member for their dependable flexibility and teamwork. We ask for ongoing prayers and blessings upon the staff, as well as the entire BRPC family, for the 2023-2024 program year.

Session

Christina Bramel, Clerk Of Session

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) consists of the Book of Confessions (Part I) and the Book of Order (Part II). The Book of Order contains the new Form of Government, which defines the responsibilities, and powers of the Session. These responsibilities are fulfilled through several councils and committees, each of which has a separate report elsewhere in this Annual Report. The Session currently consists of seventeen Elders plus our Pastor, who acts as Moderator, and our Associate Pastor. The Clerk of Session is elected each year to faithfully record the minutes of meetings and maintain vital statistics of the Church. An Assistant Clerk and General Mission Treasurer may also be elected each year. The Session diligently seeks to give guidance to the spiritual life and development of our Church.

The arrival of 2022 showed signs of returning to normalcy for BRPC and the Session. Our December 2022 meeting was the first in-person meeting since March of 2020! We were excited to meet again in person and to get back to some of our familiar routines which were interrupted by the Pandemic. We have been able to maintain a strong and open communication between members of Session, Council Chairs and Pastors. I am amazed and proud of the following actions which have been discussed and voted upon during these past 12 months.

Following are some of the highlights for the church year April, 2022 through April, 2023;

- In May, Session welcomed the new officers who will serve until 2025.
- In June, Session approved the new Church-wide theme to start in September “Let the Children Come”.
- Session approved a motion from the Youth and Young Adult Council to disperse \$12,500.00 in scholarship funds to twelve deserving candidates who are pursuing careers in “helping” professions.
- Six young people of the Confirmation Class were examined by Session and received into membership in June.
- In September, Session approved the hiring of Toby Montgomery to become our Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults and their Families.
- In October, Session approved the Spiritual Development Council’s recommendation to form a Creation Care Task Force.
- In December, Bonnie Kelley, Executive Director of Ridge Oak Senior Housing, attended our meeting and provided Session on updates and news from Ridge Oak, one of our most important Mission Partners.
- Our Session members have become increasingly active in our new Presbytery of the Highlands which celebrated its second anniversary at its March 14, 2023 meeting. Three members of our Session attended this important meeting as well as two Session members attending the January 28, 2023 Presbytery Meeting.
- In March, the elders reflected on ideas for the Church-wide Theme for 2023/2024.

Photos From the Year



Spiritual Development Council

Roger Greenway, Chair

Committee Members: Joan Eichhorn, Peggy Eicher, Helen Hoens, Margaret Greenway, Roger Greenway, Carol Skidmore, Chris Whitlock, and Rev. Maureen Paterson (pastoral advisor)

The Spiritual Development Council has met on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 PM via Zoom since Fall 2019.

The council creates and supports programs that nurture the spiritual development of the adult members of our congregation. Thank you to everyone in our community for your support and attendance at our council's activities and other special events. Also thank you for sharing ideas with us for guest lectures, special events, books, library enhancement and small groups for continued spiritual development.

The council benefits from the care and constancy of its members who would welcome you to join us for one of our council meetings.

Our ongoing offerings for spiritual development are available through 11 small groups:

Sunday 11:30 Group, Early Bird Study, Monday Afternoon Walk and Talk, Meditation Group (4 different groups), Seeking Strength (2 different groups), Tuesday Evening Study, and Wednesday Women's Bible Study.

The Council also hosted special activities to enhance spiritual development during Advent and Lent.

Christian Yoga Classes were offered during Advent and Lent. A small group study on the Last Days of Christ was offered during Lent, as was a Good Friday prayer vigil. Our council supported the Maundy Thursday toiletry drive for the Refugee Assistance Program.

The Spiritual Development Council has been supporting the Creation Care Task Force, including helping to fund guest speakers.

We hope you will consider joining with us for a small group or special activity: we think you will find they brighten the path on your spiritual journey!

Board of Trustees

Nancy Deutsch, President

Trustee Members: Bill Adams, Bill Emmitt, Jim Felter, Dave Gibbons, Henry Kane, Barbara Knudson, Andy Nowack, Sue Pape, Cara Burchett (Church Administrator and Treasurer) and Don Grossman (Secretary)

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the stewardship of the church's property and has fiscal responsibilities for receiving, disbursing and managing church funds. In addition to meeting eleven times a year, Trustees serve on or liaise with Session and several other councils, committees or boards of the church. Our church facilities include the Sanctuary, Westminster Hall, the Chapel, the Education building, the Cemetery, the Church House, and the Allen Street and Maple Avenue properties.

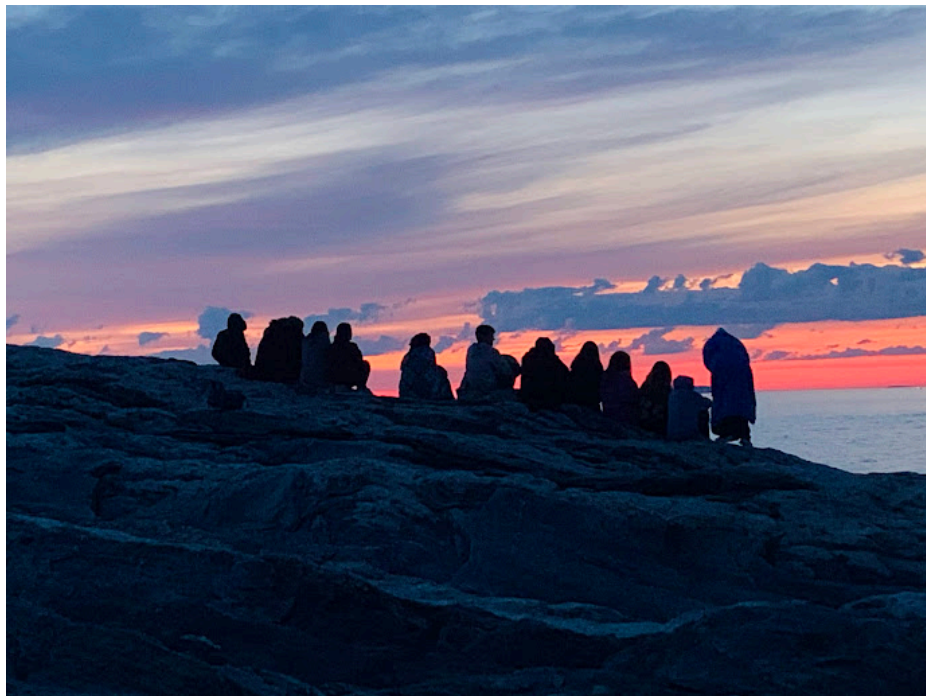
First and foremost, the Trustees express our sincere appreciation for the entire church staff, who unwaveringly support the Church's most important missions and activities year in and year out. The Trustees could not do our job without their insights and support.

As the church has been returning to the full resumption of church activities, the Trustees continue to monitor the physical plant while supporting the BRPC's virtual, online presence. Trustees do this by:

- Monitoring the Church's financial operations, and reviewing with Cara Burchett, the Church's monthly budget and disbursements.
- Development of the 2023 operating budget as part of the Joint Budget Committee. The Church staff has returned to full levels, including the addition of our new youth director, Toby Montgomery. The budget reflects this, and the resumption of activities and program in the church. It will have a particular focus on music and youth activities.
- Working with the church's Investment Advisory Council as they continue to guide the church's holdings during these uncertain times.
- Financially supporting specific repairs at Safe and Sound.
- Supporting the efforts of Mission Council to relocate God's Co-Op Pantry from their current base into a church building on Allen Street.
- Continuing to support the Oak Tree Boys, Bill Emmitt and Jon Klippel, whose efforts, this spring, will result in the installation of the mounted oak tree slab in Westminster Hall.
- Considering the feasibility of updating the Westminster Hall kitchen, which dates from 1960.
- Monitoring and supporting the Tree House facilities. We continue to be grateful for Jen Nowack's faithful and inspiring leadership.
- Authorizing several maintenance and improvement projects that will be reviewed in the Church Administrator's report.

Finally, the Trustees express our sincere appreciation and thanks to retiring Trustees Jim Felter and Barbara Knudson. We thank them for a job well done!

Photos From The Year



Welcoming Team

Marilou Howe and Josh Felter, Co-chairs

Last year was a good year. It has been nice to see more in person worshipers and faces again without masks.

We had a successful Charter Day last June. There was a constant stream of parents who enjoyed watching their children, who enjoyed picking out adorable wooden boats donated by Stacy.

It is wonderful to see our congregation growing. We have thirteen new members and by the end of May we should have eight more.

Dennis and Maureen are now greeting the worshipers again at the doors as they leave the church.

Worship and Music Council

Jeff Johnson, Chair

Members: Sue Brewer, Rob Brown, Beth Donley, Chris Fortin, Betsy Fryling, Dennis Jones, Charles King, Scott Lakefield, and David Pasnik

We believe that our members and non-members have enjoyed many meaningful and enjoyable services and musical events in the last year at BRPC. We are excited about our future.

We are grateful that we have been able to restore components of our church services and fellowship put on hold during Covid. As examples, we are pleased with the reinstatement of the traditional form of serving Communion. We are happy to see the growing numbers of attendees enjoying coffee hour, numerous delicious desserts, and in-person fellowship after our services.

We are building a team of volunteers to help with the preparation of the communion elements and invite anyone who wants to be part of this opportunity to let us know.

We are excited that there is a substantial and growing online attendance. We are committed to this form of ministry as a permanent feature of BRPC. Though the council believes in the value of in-person attendance, as well as the importance of inviting and encouraging those who are able (and many are not) to attend in person, we are thrilled with the success of this important online outreach and are thankful for the development of our technical skills and commitment of our volunteers who help make this form of ministry effective and meaningful.

We will be continuing to assess ways to increase our in-person worship. We believe that invitations to individuals to perform specific tasks during our services, including invitations to our youth and their families, is one way to foster in-person attendance. We invite anyone who wants to be a participant in some aspect of our services to let us know.

The Worship and Music Council is open to new ideas as it works to foster and enhance the worship, musical and spiritual experiences provided by BRPC to members and visitors attending in-person and virtually. Please feel free to contact members of the council for any suggestions you may have.

See you at Church!

Jeff Johnson

Photos From The Year



Youth and Young Adult Ministries Committee

Herb Ryder III, Chair

The Youth and Young Adult Council joyfully reports on another year of fun and faith-filled activities.

The most notable event of the year was the calling of Toby Montgomery as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Toby began his ministry with our church in November 2022. To date he has reestablished weekly meetings for the Middle School Fellowship and Senior High Fellowship and led a successful retreat for both groups at Camp Johnsonburg during the last weekend of March 2023. He has taken charge of the Bibles & Bagels and Confirmation classes and is already heavily involved with preparations for the Maine work camp and the in-state work camp for middle school youth. Toby is excited to continue to grow the church's youth ministries and is looking forward to his first work camps with our youth.

Our Council was also excited to return the Senior High Fellowship to Pemaquid, Maine for its July 2022 work camp, thanks to Maureen Paterson's faithful leadership in New Jersey and a top-notch group of advisors who donated a large amount of time before and during the work camp to make it a success. Thanks also go to the Middle School Fellowship's advisors for leading a very successful work camp in August 2022, during which the group partnered with the Raritan Valley affiliate of Habitat for Humanity to work on local construction and maintenance projects, and then enjoyed service and fellowship opportunities for a few days at Camp Johnsonburg.

The youth ministries of BRPC opened their programs for the 2022-2023 school year with the help of several teams of committed advisors. After several postponements that dated back to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, both the senior high and middle school youth enjoyed a retreat in Canadensis, Pennsylvania in late September 2022. The youth groups also resumed their in-person Souper Bowl Sunday tradition this year and received over \$2,000 toward the work camps. The middle school Bibles & Bagels Bible study has continued a steady attendance, and the Confirmation class is a small but mighty group of about six candidates that looks forward to Confirmation Sunday in June. Both Middle School Fellowship and Senior High Fellowship are undertaking service projects during the spring, including fellowship time at Ridge Oak and a stream cleanup, and will prepare its Youth Sunday service in May.

In July 2022, under Charlotte's McGuire's leadership, we were excited to award scholarships totaling \$12,500 to twelve applicants, seven from Princeton Seminary and five in helping professions from the BRPC / Somerset Hills community. We look forward to assisting more students as we gather applications this spring.

Herb Ryder III served as Council chair this year and acknowledges the tireless efforts of our continuing members Tina Bramel, Charlotte McGuire, James Protopapa and Karen Twill. With regret and thanks for their service, the Council said good-bye to Kim Pagano, David Rogers, Katie Ryder and Eric Skoglund, but happily welcomed new members Teresa Jones, Jon Klippel, Alex Ryder and of course Toby Montgomery. The Council also gives thanks for the support of the church's pastors, and to the advisors and volunteers who kept the youth programs up and running prior to Toby's arrival and who continue to serve our youth going forward.

We welcome anyone who wants to be a part of this dynamic committee! Please reach out if you would like to speak to any one of us about joining!

With the Love of Christ,

Herb Ryder III

Photo From The Year



Church Officer Nominating Committee

Joan Eichhorn, Chair

Members elected by the Congregation: Kerry Boquist, Sue Brewer, Dottie Dameo,
Jim Felter, Jan Hedden, Sue Ryder, and
Debbie Schaub

Appointments: Dottie Dameo – Deacons, Jim Felter – Trustees, Joan Eichhorn – Session

Church Officers (Elders, Deacons and Trustees) are elected by the Congregation at the annual meeting. Also elected are members serving on the Nominating Committee and the Financial Review Committee. A slate of nominees is presented by the Church Officer Nominating Committee, having been selected in accordance with the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church Guidelines for Nominating Church Officers:

Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church Guidelines for Nominating Church Officers

In connection with its responsibility to nominate individual active members for election to church officer positions, the Nominating Committee shall use the following general guidelines in its deliberations:

1. Consistent with the words of the Book of Order, candidates for officer positions "should be persons of faith/spiritual character, dedication, exemplary lives, honest repute, and sound judgment." In addition, candidates for deacon should reflect "brotherly/sisterly love and warm sympathies."
2. Equal representation of the congregation should be generally reflected in the composition of the various boards. This notably includes age, gender, racial and ethnic backgrounds, disability status, length of membership at BRPC, focus of participation at BRPC, occupational skills and interests, and marital and family status. Note that, except where the congregation has voted otherwise, the Book of Order indicates that officers should be 25 years of age or older.
3. Terms of service
 - a. No officer shall be elected for a term of more than three years at any one time.
 - b. No officer shall serve consecutive terms, either full or partial, for more than six years.
 - c. After serving a total of six years, no officer shall be nominated for reelection to the same board for a period of one year.
4. Whenever possible at least one half and preferably more of the nominees for each board should be persons who have not previously served on that board at BRPC.
5. In considering candidates for any of the officer boards, evidence of voluntary service to the church (BRPC or former churches) and regular attendance at worship are desirable and financial support of BRPC is essential (unless there are special circumstances).
6. Requests for persons having special skills and/or experience by any Church leader shall be considered. As an example, the chair of the Nominating Committee may request that at least

Annual Report, Part II - Staff, Board, and Committee Reports

one member of the nominating committee should be familiar with the youth of our church and potential youth nominees.

7. For deacons, geographic spread within the communities served is desirable. Deacons serving a particular cluster should reside in that cluster if at all possible.

Slate of Nominations

For the Annual Meeting on May 7, 2023, the Church Officer Nominating Committee, with joy and thanksgiving, submits the following slate for the Congregation's approval:

Session (class of 2026)		
Nancy Bedner	Beth Cleary	Jim Felter ('24)
Marilou Howe	Jeff Johnson ('24)	Andrew Pasnick (youth) ('24)
Peter Ward		

Deacons (class of 2026)		
Anita Attridge	Judy Ewald	Carey Kane
Margaret Klippel	Connie Ledder	Ally Pellegrino (youth) ('24)
Annie Quincy (youth) ('24)	Annie Schulenburg	Steve and Dolly Tharp
Ron and Bert Whalin		

Trustees (class of 2026)		
Nancy Deutsch ('24)	Jay Link	Ken Skoglund

Financial Review Committee (class of 2026)		
Mark Barnard		

Nominating Committee (1 year term)		
Edna Barnard	Susan Felter	Gary Ingram
Cathi Reckenbeil	Alejandra (Alex) Ryder	

Biographical Statements of Nominees

Elders (Session)

Nancy Bedner

Nancy joined BRPC in 2003 along with her husband, Dick. She served on the BRPC Pastor Nominating Committee when Dennis Jones was called. She has served as an elder, and has served as the chair of the Membership Council (Welcoming Committee), and the Nominating Committee. She is currently a member of Session, and serves on the Personnel Council. Nancy is an RN, having retired from Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights, where she was the Director of Admissions and Nursing Recruitment.

Beth Cleary

Beth grew up in Basking Ridge and has been active in our congregation since 1990 when she began attending youth group. She was then confirmed and has enjoyed being a member of the congregation. Beth has two daughters, Annabella, 17 and Rachel 14. She has previously served as an Elder on the Children and Young Adult Ministry Council and as a Moderator of the Deacons. She has been a youth group and Maine Workcamp advisor and Sunday School teacher. Beth works as a manual physical therapist with children and adults. She enjoys travel, dance, soccer, boating, hiking and spending time with her friends.

Jim Felter

Jim grew up in Basking Ridge and has been active in our congregation since the 1980s. Susan Stine, a life-long member, and Jim were married at BRPC by the Rev. Felmeth and Jim defected from Bishop Janes United Methodist church. Jim and Susan's three adult children - Chad, Josh and Katie - have all been active in BRPC's church school and choir activities. Jim has previously served terms on session, trustees, and several search committees, was editor of Oak Leaves, and is a member of the Knox Bell Choir. Jim is an independent consultant helping elderly or recently widowed and divorced clients manage their finances. He is an officer in the Dartmouth Club of Suburban New Jersey, recently served on the 40th class reunion committee at Wharton Graduate School, and is administrator for several local business networking groups. Jim plays trombone in the Plainfield Symphony and the Phantom Trombone Choir. He serves as the coordinator for the annual Christmas Eve community carol sing for which he has played in the brass choir since sixth grade.

Marilou Howe

Marilou grew up in Basking Ridge and in our church. She served in SCEEP, was a Deacon and an Elder. Marilou was a trustee on the board of Southern Ocean Hospital and also a legal advocate counseling victims of domestic violence for the Superior Court in Somerville. She loves our church and looks forward to serving on the Session again.

Annual Report, Part II - Staff, Board, and Committee Reports

Jeff Johnson

Jeff grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois and moved to New Jersey with his family in 1990. He has been a member of BRPC since 2004. Jeff previously served as Elder at a Presbyterian church in Illinois and has participated in Stephen Ministry at BRPC. Jeff and his wife Karen are empty-nesters with two adult children: Stephen who lives in San Francisco and Julie who lives in Mendham. Jeff works as an executive consultant exclusively for Enstar Group, and enjoys hiking, biking and golfing in his spare time.

Andrew Pasnik (youth)

Andrew grew up in Basking Ridge and has been active in our congregation since 2018. Andrew's family has been in our church for 5 generations. Andrew will be working as the new youth Elder and has previously been in the bell choir and helps with Sunday School. Andrew attends Ridge High School as a sophomore and enjoys playing volleyball, running, and music.

Peter Ward

Peter Ward moved to Basking Ridge with his wife Susan in 2004. Peter and Susan joined BRPC in 2008 and both their children, Kevin (15) and Violette (10), were baptized at BRPC. Peter previously served on Session and was a member of the Welcoming Team and the Planning Committee. He and Susan also enjoyed many years serving as Sunday School teachers. Peter is a practicing attorney. He enjoys running and gardening whenever he can.

Deacons

Anita Attridge

After attending BRPC for six months, I knew this was the church for me. I moved to NJ when I accepted a position as Director, Organization Development with Merck. Then I started my own business as a Career and Executive Coach 20 years ago. As a member of the church for 12 years, I have participated in many of the programs and volunteer opportunities and became a Stephen Minister. I enjoy the opportunity to support others. As I am winding down my Career and Executive Coaching business, I look forward to the opportunity to become more involved in working with and supporting others in the church.

Judy Ambrose Ewald

Judy moved to Basking Ridge and joined the church 1973. She commuted to New York City for many years, living in South Orange, where she taught Sunday School in her local church. She was thrilled to retire close to home in Harding last year, and to rejoin BRPC. She has been a member of Food Angels, as she loves to cook and bond with church members through that mission. Judy and her husband Duncan were married in BRPC thirty-five years ago; the church has also been a site for many Ambrose family weddings, baptisms and memorial services. Judy and Duncan have two grown children, Elizabeth and Connor, and an infant grandson, Nate. Besides cooking, Judy loves to read, ski and travel.

Carey Kane

Carey has been a member of BPRC since 2003 although she has been singing with the Oratorio choir since 1998. She is married to Henry Kane, and has 3 children, Henry – 26, Elizabeth – 21 and Abigail - 19. In addition to singing in the Oratorio Choir she has taught Sunday School and has served on the Nominating Committee. She is the director of Saint John's Nursery School in Bernardsville and loves reading and spending time in Beach Haven with her family.

Margaret Klippel

Margaret has been an active member of our congregation since the late 1990's. Margaret and her husband Jon have two grown children – Brad and Alex. Margaret has previously served as an Elder, and has served on Children and Family Ministries Committee as well as the Youth and Young Adult Committee. Margaret works for Stryker Orthopedics as a regulatory manager. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with family.

Connie Ledder

Connie has lived in Basking Ridge since 1972 and has been active in the church for over 40 years. She is a widower and has 2 grown children, Erika and Jason and one grandchild, Anna. Connie has previously been a Deacon and also involved with the Church School, Tree House, and the Fellowship Council. She enjoys swimming, biking, walking, a little golf and reading in her spare time.

Ally Pellegrino (youth)

Ally grew up in Basking Ridge and has been a member of the congregation for her entire life and is also a part of the Senior High Youth Group. Ally is a student at Ridge High School and is a part of the sailing team there. She enjoys cooking, baking, and reading in her free time.

Annie Quincy (youth)

Annie grew up down the street from BRPC in Basking Ridge. She was baptized in this church as a baby, attended The Tree House preschool, sang in the children's choir, participated in the Children's and Youth Ministry and attended her first work camp in Maine last summer. She is a sophomore at Ridge High School and plays soccer and is a member of the Ridge sailing team (which is coached by BRPC's own Stu Conway!) She loves visiting her extended family in Pennsylvania and Cape Cod. And she has an older sister, Ella, who is a freshman at Belmont University in Nashville.

Annie Schulenburg

Annie grew up in Basking Ridge and has been active in the congregation since the early 2000's. She and her husband Enzo Pitagora were recently married and have a dog named Blue. Annie has previously served as a member of the Pastoral Nominating Committee and participates with the Knox Bell Choir and the Sanctuary Choir. Annie works in Long Island City as an Elementary Music Teacher and enjoys hiking, enjoying nature, and being with friends and family in her free time.

Annual Report, Part II - Staff, Board, and Committee Reports

Steve/Dolly Tharp

Dolly (Margaret) Tharp grew up in Brooklyn and in the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York where her family was very active. She was first introduced to BRPC through its Christmas Oratorio and then participated in mission trips to St. Thomas and the Senior High School Maine Workcamp where she served as "Martha" for five years. She has been blessed to be a member of the Wednesday Women's Bible Study and, more recently, the Creation Care Committee. This will be her second term as a Deacon. She eagerly looks forward to continuing as Coordinator of the BRPC Food Angels and extends heartfelt thanks to all of the Food Angel volunteers. She enjoys traveling, reading, and cooking. Steve Tharp was born in Chicago, Illinois and lived in nine states as a child and adult before settling in Bridgewater, NJ in 1992. He feels blessed to have found a church home at BRPC. Steve has been an adult leader/carpenter in four Senior High Maine Workcamps and will be starting his second term as a Deacon. He enjoys ham radio, history programs, old-time radio, and country music. Dolly and Steve have two adult children, Kat and Ron, and an affection-hungry dog, Zoe.

Ron and Bert Whalin

Bert and Ron Whalin have been residents of Fellowship Village and members of BRPC for approximately 10 years. Recently celebrating 62 years of marriage, our family, including ten greatgrands, live in Arizona and New Jersey. We will be starting our second term as Deacons at BRPC. Currently, we serve on various committees at Fellowship Village and Ron is serving on the Fellowship Village Board of Directors.

Trustees

Nancy Deutsch

Nancy and her husband Ed joined BRPC in 1985. They have a daughter, Lydia, who has grown up in BRPC, and who, in fact, is getting married here on May 13. In addition to previously serving as Trustee, Nancy was a member of the Tree House Board, and has served as a Deacon and Stephen Minister. She is a long time member of the Choir, including Oratorio Choir. Nancy volunteers for the Transitional Housing Project of Homeless Solutions, as well as volunteering for St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center. She enjoys playing golf and gardening in her spare time.

Jay Link

Jay is a native of rural South Carolina. He and his wife Stephanie have lived in Basking Ridge since 1998 and have been active in our congregation since 2006. They have one teenage daughter (Georgia, 16). Jay has previously served as a Trustee, including as President in 2019/2020. Jay works for Bank of America as head of fiduciary investment solutions, and in his spare time enjoys golf, travel, music and spending time with family.

Ken Skoglund

Ken has lived in Basking Ridge since 1995 and has been a member of our congregation for nearly 30 years. He and his wife Karen (who is a choir member and past Deacon Moderator) were married in our church on April 24, 1993. Ken began volunteering for functions such as coffee hours and as a greeter as well as being involved with Boy Scout Troop 351 which the church sponsors. More recently he ran the 300th anniversary parade, was on the Tree House Committee, the Planning Committee and the Board of Trustees. Ken is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has worked in the Data Processing and Telecommunications industry for companies such as Data General, AT&T and Polycom.

Financial Review Committee

Mark Barnard

I grew up in Northern Michigan, have moved numerous times through the years and eventually ended up living in NJ in 2007. My wife, Edna and I have been active in the BRPC congregation since 2018 when we joined the church. We have two adult children, Jason, 25 and Elissa, 33. Edna and I currently are serving as Deacons and are co-chairs of the Coffee Hour. I work for Horizon BCBS of NJ and enjoy motorcycle riding and woodworking.

Nominating Committee

Edna Barnard

My husband and I have been members of BRPC since 2018 and Deacons beginning in 2022. As Deacons, in addition to the regular duties of the position, we are Coffee Hour Co-chairs and regularly support the needs of the Memorial Reception Committee and the Food Angels Program. My previous experience in Church life has been varied. I received my Masters in Christian Education from Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE), which recently folded into Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. I have worked as an Assistant Director of Christian Education, Director of Christian Education, and a Children's Program Director. I have been a volunteer teacher on all age levels. Previous career path experience has been in two areas: Supervisory in Health Insurance and Department Management in retail. On a more personal level, my husband I have two grown children. Together, we have been immersed in the total renovation of an 1890's Victorian home for the past thirteen years. In my spare time, I become 'distracted' by all things Christmas -- I love to decorate trees! And, in case it's not evident from the above, my husband and I love to entertain!

Susan Felter

Susan (nee Stine), grew up in Millington, and has been a lifelong member at BRPC. "Gosh, we gathered more than our fair share of acorns under the oak tree after children's choir with Nancy Knobloch!!" I can also remember Dad being very unhappy as we baby-boomers banged on the

Annual Report, Part II - Staff, Board, and Committee Reports

metal columns beneath the sanctuary in Sunday School during the service...hmmm. After college and working overseas and in Philadelphia, she married Jim Felter from Basking Ridge. (They were actually introduced when at Dartmouth by a church-school classmate). Susan started playing bells in 1984 and has previously served as a Trustee and on the Stewardship, Worship & Music, Cemetery Heritage, and the 300th Anniversary Committees. As a local realtor with Coldwell Banker for the past 35 years, Susan has enjoyed helping people with their housing needs. She is also a passionate cook and world traveler. Susan and Jim have three children: Chad (38), Josh (35), and Kate (33), and three grandchildren: Charlie, Juniper, and Theodore.

Gary Ingram

Gary has been a member of BRPC since 1995. He has served as a Youth Fellowship Advisor, Elder on Session, and member on several committees: Education, Youth & Young Adult, Nominating, Welcome Team, and Computer. He is currently on staff as the Communication Coordinator.

Cathi Reckenbeil

Cathi joined BRPC as the Director of Youth and Young Adult ministries in April 2017. She worked at BRPC until she retired in October of 2021, after 25 years working in churches, and 7 years teaching school. She is married to Don, and they have three grown children and 2 grandchildren. They moved to Solivita, a 55 + Community in Florida this past June. Cathi has become active in Pickleball and exercise classes, joined 2 weekly Bible studies, and became a volunteer Travel Coordinator. She is currently planning 3 trips: a bus trip to Branson, a Panama Canal Cruise and a Mediterranean cruise. Cathi is using her many experiences with leading mission trips, and hopes that leading trips solely for adults will be as rewarding.

Alejandra (Alex) Ryder

Alex was born in Argentina and lived in Ecuador, Colombia and Belgium before coming to NJ. She joined BRPC in 2001 and has served as a member of the choir, youth advisor and Deacon. She and her husband Herb Ryder have 3 children; Katie, Andrew and Daniel. She is a Regulatory Affairs professional in the Pharmaceutical Industry and enjoys knitting, hiking, and rafting.

Officers Completing Terms

We offer thanks for these members who have served God and our Congregation with outstanding dedication:

Elders	Deacons	Trustees
Nancy Bedner	Maggie Aloisio	Nancy Deutsch
Dave Govan	Beth Cleary	Jim Felter
Josh Felter	Chad & Rachel Felter	Barbara Knudson
Marilou Howe	Betty Mills	
Jeff Johnson	Steve & Dolly Tharp	
Teresa Jones (youth)	Melissa Rachofsky (youth)	
Kim Pagano	Angus Rankine (youth)	
	Jean Sorabella	
	Ron & Bert Whalin	

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Officers Serving During the Period June 2022 – May 2023

Elders

2025	2024	2023
Roger Greenway	Ashley Bastow	Nancy Bedner
Lee Horner	Betsy Carlo	Dave Govan
Jon Klippel	Joan Eichhorn	Marilou Howe
Carol Skidmore	David Fahey	Teresa Jones (youth)
	Josh Felter	Jeff Johnson
	Sally Pickle	Kim Pagano

Trustees

2025	2024	2023
Dave Gibbons	Bill Adams	Nancy Deutsch
Henry Kane	Bill Emmitt	Jim Felter
Sue Pape	Andy Nowack	Barbara Knudson

Deacons

2025	2024	2023
Beth Adams	Mark & Edna Barnard	Maggie Aloisio
Jean Aurnhammer	Becky Creswell	Beth Cleary
Marcia Bird	Dotty Dameo	Chad & Rachel Felter
Sue Felter	Patty Haines	Betty Mills
Margaret Greenway	Debra Jones	Steve & Dolly Tharp
Jan Hedden		Ron & Bert Whalin
Sue & Herb Ryder		Melissa Rachofsky (youth)
		Angus Rankine (youth)
		Jean Sorabella